

Karine Keys

From: FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>
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To: Karine Keys
Subject: FCM Voice: Upcoming Collective webinars | Emergency Treatment Fund | and more

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October 14, 2025



NEW Modular momentum: Accelerating new home construction



As Canada faces an urgent housing crisis, modular and prefabricated construction methods are gaining attention as scalable, cost-effective solutions to rapidly build new homes. Despite their promise, these approaches face persistent barriers—from fragmented regulations and inspection standards to financing challenges and public misconceptions.

On November 5, join FCM and the CSA Group for this timely webinar exploring how municipalities can unlock the full potential of modular construction.

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NEWS

Emergency Treatment Fund: Call for proposals 2025

Last week, Health Canada announced the launch of the Fall 2025 Call for Proposals for the Emergency Treatment Fund. The program is open to municipalities and Indigenous communities seeking short-term funding to support rapid responses to emergent, critical needs related to the substance use and overdose crisis.

The application window is open until November 4, 2025, and projects must be ready to implement before March 31, 2027. Municipalities are encouraged to review eligibility criteria and apply promptly

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Nature-based solutions for more resilient Tunisian communities

The Inclusive Climate Action for Tunisian Municipalities (ICATM) project hosted its first meetings on nature-based solutions in Tunis, bringing together municipal partners, researchers, experts, and decision-makers from Tunisia and Canada. The meetings provided a platform to discuss tools for effective local climate planning and explore innovative solutions for climate adaptation and territorial resilience.

Canadian municipal partners played an active role, with the participation of representatives from the MRC Marguerite-d'Youville, the City of Vancouver, the City of Selkirk and the City of Shippagan, demonstrating how sharing municipal expertise can support local climate action internationally.

The ICATM project is implemented by FCM and CILG and funded by Global Affairs Canada.

EVENTS

Next week: Water systems financing to support housing growth

Municipal water infrastructure is critical for growing communities. There is still time to join us for a free webinar on October 22 in partnership with the Canada Infrastructure Bank to learn how their flexible financing helps deliver critical water infrastructure in some of the country's fastest-growing communities.

A house isn't a home without running water, yet local leaders are left with tough choices on how to maintain and expand water and wastewater services while keeping fares and water rates affordable.

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Webinar: Advancing climate goals with organic waste-to-energy

Did you know that municipality can turn organic waste into renewable energy and healthy soil through a process called anaerobic digestion? Join us on October 23 at 2 pm (ET) for an anaerobic digestion introductory webinar presented by Azura Associates. You will learn how to harness biogas, explore the benefits of digestate and access available funding. You will also see how it can complement composting and reduce landfill waste.

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FCM IN THE NEWS

» [Building more homes is a shared vision. Now we need the infrastructure to make it real | The Hill Times](#)

FCM's President Rebecca Bligh writes about the importance of investing in housing-enabling infrastructure like roads, bridges and public transit to address the housing crisis. "With appropriate tools and support, municipalities can transform local aspirations into substantial national progress," said Bligh.

» **For isolated seniors, Canada Post delivers more than mail | CBC News**

Amid the ongoing Canada Post strike, seniors across the country are growing concerned as they rely on the delivery service more than most Canadians. Sometimes, those postal workers can even serve as a lifeline for the seniors on their route, warn advocates.

» **Liberal government to deliver all future budgets in the fall | CBC News**

On October 6, the federal government announced that it will present its budget in the fall going forward, rather than in the spring. Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne explained that this change was made partly at the request of the House of Commons Finance Committee and the Parliamentary Budget Officer.

» **Manitoba launches financial assistance program for communities hit by wildfires | Global News**

Manitoba has launched a disaster financial assistance program for municipalities affected by this summer's wildfires. Financial support will be available for municipalities that were involved in pre-emptive preparation efforts, emergency response, relief and recovery support, and restoration activities, as well as long-term strategies to mitigate future wildfires

RESOURCES

GMF's 2024–25 Annual Report: An inspiring success story in Alberta

In Alberta, families are feeling the benefits of more comfortable, energy-efficient homes and lower utility bills thanks to the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP). Supported by GMF's Community Efficiency Financing program, 27 municipalities are helping residents install energy-saving upgrades that reduce energy use and lower utility bills.

More than a home retrofit program, CEIP is a catalyst for stronger communities. By establishing a network of over 550 qualified contractors, it creates a job, supports local economies, while setting the stage for cleaner, more sustainable future.

This project, like other inspiring success stories featured in GMF's 2024-25 Annual report, shows how impactful investments across the country over 25 years are improving the quality of life for Canadians everywhere.

» **READ THE REPORT**

New funding for Prairie communities to plan and manage trees

Does your Prairie municipality want to expand your canopy cover while improving the well-being of residents through cleaner air, access to green spaces and stronger

ecosystems? An urban forest management plan or study can support your efforts by mapping tree equity and prioritizing planting zones for neighborhoods with low canopy cover.

You can access up to \$175,000 through GMF's new *Urban forestry plans and studies funding*. This support helps local governments create or update plans to manage existing trees, grow canopy cover and build policies that bring health and resilience benefits to all residents. Applications are due April 15, 2026.

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Toolkit: Improving Alberta's community buildings

Responsible for 60% of the province's public infrastructure, municipalities across Alberta are reducing energy costs and extending the service life of their community buildings with energy retrofits.

GMF's new toolkit highlights energy monitoring and retrofit projects from six communities: St. Albert, Canmore, High Level, Provost, Two Hills and Chauvin. It also shares recommendations to help you save money and streamline the retrofit process.

» [EXPLORE THE TOOLKIT](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Follow FCM on social media to keep up to date with the latest municipal news, resources, and more! Find us on:



FCM 1st VP [@TimTierney](#) was in Saint John this weekend for [@MunicipalNB](#)'s Annual Conference, hearing from local leaders on issues that matter most to their communities.

With the federal budget to be unveiled in less than a month, now is the time to deliver for municipalities in



Infrastructure might not be the trigger for the housing crisis, but it's a major piece of the puzzle that can't be ignored – and we can't turn housing aspirations into reality without it.

More from FCM President [@rebeccaeebligh.bsky](#).
social: <https://bit.ly/4q6vtRy>

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As a member of UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality, [Kathy Jeffery](#), Councillor in Collingwood, Ontario, and FCM board member, joined the panel "Reshaping Power for Equality: Women's Political Participation and the Future of Democracy" in Sweden.

New Brunswick and across the country. This means tackling the housing affordability crisis, investing in infrastructure and ensuring safe, climate resilient communities.

[@hilltimes.com](https://www.hilltimes.com)

Reflecting on her 19 years in local government, Kathy emphasized that “women bring a distinct and essential voice to leadership. We lead with community in mind. We bring people together. And often, we are the first to see the human impact behind every policy decision.”

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