

Karine Keys

From: FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>
Sent: December 15, 2025 3:10 PM
To: Karine Keys
Subject: FCM Voice: Build Communities Strong Fund | Pulse check | Collective webinar | and more

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December 15, 2025



FCM ensures municipal input on design of new Build Communities Strong Fund

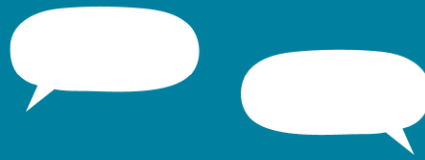
Last week, FCM delivered detailed recommendations to the federal government on the Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF), the central infrastructure program announced in last month's federal budget.

FCM's recommendations focused on the crucial design aspects of BCSF: ensuring the vital flow of funding to communities, how to best leverage the fund's different streams, and maximizing existing mechanisms like the Canada Community-Building Fund.

These recommendations were expressed via a letter to ministers' offices, an in-person meeting between our CEO and President and Minister of Infrastructure and Housing Gregor Robertson, and in roundtable meetings between our Municipal Finance, Infrastructure and Transportation committee and parliamentary secretaries McKelvie and Desrochers—ensuring the federal government hears municipalities loud and clear on this crucial program's design. Our advocacy is powered by local voices.

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Pulse check



Introducing FCM's *Pulse check*—a new way to engage directly with our work. Look out for this section in future editions of FCM Voice where we'll be seeking your input on top municipal priorities. Take this quick survey to share your insight on shovel-ready housing and housing-enabling infrastructure projects in your municipalities.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

NEWS

Deadline approaching: Apply now to join FCM's Green Municipal Fund Council

FCM is seeking an elected municipal official from Alberta, Manitoba or the Territories to join the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Council. The GMF Council plays a key role in national sustainability, combining funding and capacity-building to help municipalities implement projects with the highest potential for economic, community and environmental impact.

If you're passionate about sustainability, governance and supporting municipalities, this is your chance to help shape decisions that have already delivered strong economic outcomes and national impact, contributing \$1.53 billion to Canada's GDP and \$853 million in wages and salaries for Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Apply by January 12.

[» APPLY NOW](#)

Inspiring leadership: Women councillors driving change across Sri Lanka

Over the past few weeks, the PMI-WILL project—implemented by FCM and funded by Global Affairs Canada—supported the orientation and leadership training for the newly elected leaders of 25 districts' Women's Caucuses in Sri Lanka.

The sessions brought together passionate women elected to local councils in 2025, who are shaping collective plans to strengthen collaboration across districts. Through these networks, the women's caucuses aim to build mutual support for women's decision-making in local government and drive meaningful, community-led change. Their experiences also inspired Canadian municipal leaders, highlighting shared challenges and innovative ways to advance women's political leadership and inclusive governance globally.

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EVENTS

Last chance to register: Bloomberg Cities Idea Exchange

Local governments across Canada are constantly seeking innovative ways to address local challenges and improve residents' lives. This Collective webinar—delivered in partnership between FCM and Bloomberg Philanthropies—introduces local governments to the Bloomberg Cities Idea Exchange, an initiative to accelerate the spread of successful civic solutions between communities around the world.

On December 18, attendees will learn how their communities can engage with the Idea Exchange—whether by lending or borrowing successful ideas—and explore inspiring examples from participating local governments that demonstrate how peer-learning and adaptation lead to measurable results.

» [REGISTER](#)

FCM IN THE NEWS

» FCM lauds bail reform, long-term funding for affordability | Municipal World

FCM President Rebecca Bligh said municipalities welcome federal commitments to bail reform but warned deeper systemic changes are still needed to ease the burden on local governments. Bligh also welcomed the federal government's recognition of municipal infrastructure as central to Canada's economy, housing and community resilience in this year's budget. She highlighted the importance of rural and northern communities in future plans.

» Ottawa seeks to toughen laws on gender-based violence | The Globe and Mail

The federal government has moved to toughen the Criminal Code for the second time this fall, taking aim in a new bill at violence against women and children, as well as court delays that have derailed many serious cases in recent years.

» Mayor says federal infrastructure spending likely to fall short of Whitehorse's needs | Yukon News

Whitehorse officials are scrutinizing the federal budget for infrastructure opportunities as climate change, aging assets and rapid population growth strain local resources. "We are concerned that there will not be sufficient funding available to meet Whitehorse's basic infrastructure needs as we continue to manage significant population growth," said Mayor Kirk Cameron.

RESOURCES

Amendments to the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations

In August, Transport Canada announced changes to the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations that will provide local authorities with a faster and more efficient process to manage issues like excessive speed and shoreline erosion in their communities. By modernizing the process, local authorities will be better equipped to respond quickly to safety and environmental issues on their waterways.

Local authorities must submit complete applications to Transport Canada by mid-November of each year to have restrictions in place before the next boating season. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed upon receipt.

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Guide: Creating an urban forest management plan for your community

An urban forest management plan is a blueprint for creating a thriving urban forest. Our guide will help you develop and implement a plan that promotes long-term sustainability and wellbeing for your community's urban forests. This comprehensive guide will help you bring in right people to do proactive research, collect and assess key data and set clear goals for your urban forests.

» [DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE](#)

Resident stories: Home energy upgrades from coast to coast to coast

Homeowners from across the country are seeing the difference that local home energy financing programs can make. In Saanich, BC, Purnima accessed funding to replace her oil furnace with a heat pump system. She now enjoys a healthier, more comfortable and affordable home. In Calgary, AB, Zeynin and her husband turned to solar power to keep their home comfortable and future-proof while managing costs.

These results are possible because local governments are choosing practical solutions that deliver real benefits for households while moving communities toward shared goals.

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Destination Development Toolkits

Looking to strengthen your community's visitor economy? Destination Canada's Destination Development Toolkits are now available on the FCM website—in both English and French! Explore practical resources to help guide your local visitor strategy and reach out to Destination Canada for advice and support along the way.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with us on social media

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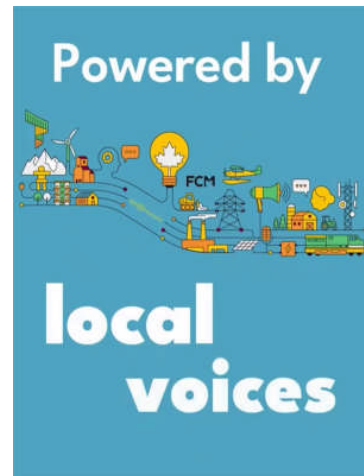


FCM President [@blighrebecca](#) spent this week in Ottawa meeting with key federal decision makers to ensure municipal priorities remain top of mind.



FCM welcomes the federal government's newly tabled legislation to address gender-based violence. A strong federal role is essential in addressing the growing nationwide crisis of gender-based and intimate partner violence.

We look forward to engaging with the #GoC to ensure this crisis is tackled effectively. In order to better protect victims and create safer communities, FCM calls for permanent federal funding for women's shelters and transitional housing—including housing appropriate for Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and persons with disabilities,



The best parts of being an FCM member?

- 👉 a strong, unified voice in Ottawa
- 👉 access to critical resources

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