

**Karine Keys**

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**From:** FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** January 26, 2026 2:56 PM  
**To:** Karine Keys  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: Parliament returns | FCM membership benefits | Upcoming webinars | and more

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January 26, 2026



**Parliament returns: What 2026 means for municipalities**



As Parliament resumes today, the federal government continues advancing priorities in economic resilience and trade diversification, building the country, affordability for Canadians and defending Canadian sovereignty. However, these initiatives rely heavily on strong local infrastructure and robust municipal services. Across the Prairies and Territories, communities are focused on strengthening trade and energy corridors, addressing infrastructure gaps and supporting rural and northern service delivery needs. FCM continues to position municipalities as essential partners in delivering on these national goals, highlighting the need to make faster, more predictable investments in municipalities. This year, FCM will continue ensuring municipal priorities are reflected in federal decision-making—and together, we're ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

## NEWS

### Unlock your FCM member benefits today

Did you know an FCM membership brings you the following benefits? As an FCM member, you gain:

- Access to practical tools, tips, programs and analyses.
- Curated policy insights, social media content and news to help your community thrive.
- Opportunities to connect with federal officials, stakeholders and FCM's corporate partners.
- Exclusive discounts with Canada Post and preferred rates for FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show.

All this through one membership.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

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## **Deadline extended: Apply now for a seat on FCM's GMF Council**

FCM is seeking an elected municipal official in Alberta, Manitoba or one of the Canadian Territories to join the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Council. 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 February 9.

» [APPLY NOW](#)

## **EVENTS**

### **NEW Collective webinar: What a national Buy Canadian policy means for local procurement**

Municipalities collectively represent one of the largest public procurement vehicles in the country—purchasing even more goods and services than the federal government annually. Local governments across Canada have been introducing procurement policies to support Canadian suppliers, but challenges in fully embracing a Buy Canadian approach remain.

In collaboration with Canoe Procurement, this Collective webinar will uncover the economic and legal implications for municipalities with the adoption of a new federal Buy Canadian policy. Join us on February 11 at 12 p.m. ET to assess how to best move forward with this approach and harness the tools to leverage it for your local economy.

» [REGISTER](#)

### **Last chance to register: Partnering for impact with YMCA Canada**

This Wednesday, we're partnering with YMCA Canada to explore practical insights into partnership models, lessons learned and strategies for aligning municipal priorities like affordable housing or expanding recreation options with YMCA programs to achieve shared goals.

Join us to hear from YMCA leaders in Calgary and across Canada to highlight the breadth of YMCA services and demonstrate how partnerships with municipalities amplify impact. By working together, municipalities and YMCAs can strengthen communities across the country.

» [REGISTER](#)

### **Workshop: Rooting Reconciliation in urban forestry efforts**

For municipalities, engaging in Reconciliation is essential to moving from broad commitments to real, on-the-ground actions. Join us for Rooting Reconciliation in urban forestry efforts, an in-person workshop in Smoky Lake, AB, from March 11–12. Gather practical information and nurture connections that will help you incorporate traditional ecological knowledge, advance Reconciliation and sustainably manage your urban forests. Register before February 13.

» [REGISTER](#)

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### Strengthen climate adaptation projects with inclusive engagement

Climate adaptation projects are more successful when communities are meaningfully involved. Our upcoming virtual workshops on equitable and inclusive engagement support municipal teams in building trust, applying equity-informed approaches and working respectfully with Indigenous communities. By strengthening how engagement is designed and delivered, municipalities can support clearer decisions, reduce future barriers and advance climate adaptation projects that reflect community needs and priorities.

» [REGISTER](#)

## FCM IN THE NEWS

» **Would municipal bonds be a fix for aging infrastructure? | Ottawa Sun**  
Ottawa Councillor Tim Tierney, FCM's First Vice-President, and Brampton Councillor Rowena Santos, the chair of FCM's Standing Committee on Municipal Finance, Infrastructure and Transportation, spoke to the Ottawa Sun about municipalities using tax-free municipal bonds to help address Canada's large infrastructure deficit. "It would help us get shovels in the ground faster," Santos said.

» **Small and remote towns across Canada are struggling with a surge in homelessness | The Globe and Mail**  
Rural municipality mayors across Canada discussed the homelessness crisis and the rise of homelessness in their communities with *The Globe and Mail*. At the national level, the most recent count in 2024 revealed nearly 60,000 people in 74 communities across Canada experiencing homelessness on a given day—a 79 percent increase since the previous count, which was conducted between 2020 and 2022.

» **More than water: Calgary infrastructure woes putting pressure on city hall | CBC News**  
The recent water main break in Calgary underscores the city's infrastructure needs, with a funding gap that was estimated at over \$7.7 billion in 2020. FCM President Rebecca Bligh told CBC that Canadian cities are currently struggling to find the funds to update or replace aging infrastructure. Municipalities own about 60 percent of the country's infrastructure, but their revenue is mainly limited to property taxes, which Bligh said are "archaic."

## RESOURCES

### Understanding climate budgeting: A guide for Canadian communities

Has your municipality adopted a climate plan? Let us help you put it into action. For local governments, it's crucial to understand what actions are needed every year to stay on track with climate targets—and how much that will cost. That's where climate budgeting comes in.

The Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership has created a guide to support Canadian municipalities as they incorporate climate commitments into decision making on policies, actions and budget allocation. The guide is designed to help municipal leaders and staff at a range of knowledge levels, as well as organizations and advocates in the community.

» [DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE](#)

### Funding for clean energy systems: Keep the lights on and costs down

Use GMF funding to explore and implement clean energy solutions that work best for your community. Eligible projects include:

- Renewable energy systems—such as solar, wind and geothermal—that help stabilize energy prices and manage peak demand hours when combined with energy storage solutions.
- District energy systems that offer local control over heating and cooling, with the added benefit of being able to recover quickly after natural disasters.

Funding is open to municipalities and their partners.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

## CORPORATE PARTNER



# DESTINATION CANADA

### Win AC2026 registration and help shape tourism's future

Tourism fuels local economies and strengthens communities—and your insights matter. Complete this short, five-minute survey for a chance to win a complimentary registration to the FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show. Destination Canada wants to hear from municipal leaders shaping the future of sustainable economic tourism development and help to ensure communities like yours play a leading role in Canada's visitor economy.

» TAKE THE SURVEY

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Connect with us on social media

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



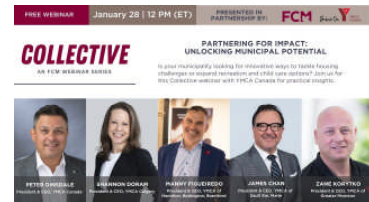
In Ontario and across the country, rural municipalities face unique challenges in strengthening infrastructure and economic opportunities—but local leaders know that a stronger Canada starts with robust, empowered rural communities.

1st VP [@TimTierney](#) is representing FCM at [@ROMA\\_Ont](#) this week where these important discussions, and more, are on the table. Learn more [#CDNMuni](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



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On January 28, join this panel of experts for our first Collective webinar of 2026, exploring how municipalities can work with their local YMCAs to strengthen their communities and create lasting impact.

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