

## Karine Keys

---

**From:** FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** February 17, 2026 1:15 PM  
**To:** Karine Keys  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: Advocacy update | Upcoming webinars | Rural Development Action Plan | and more

[View email in browser](#)



February 17, 2026



## Advocacy update: Reduced trade barriers would strengthen local economies

Last week, FCM President Rebecca Bligh was joined by Rural Forum Chair Amy Coady and Vice Chair Joe Masi for a meeting with Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald. This engagement was focused on agriculture's role as a cornerstone of rural employment and economic stability, and the need for continued federal support as pressures on the sector grow as well as ways to improve domestic market access.

As Canada navigates economic uncertainty and looks to diversify our economy, local governments must be engaged in national efforts to boost domestic procurement and improve economic productivity.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

**NEWS**

## Help shape Canada's Rural Development Action Plan – Deadline extended

A stronger Canadian economy begins with robust, empowered rural communities and as local leaders, you play a key role in making that happen. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is developing a Rural Development Action Plan and FCM is encouraging rural members to participate in this important federal consultation to ensure local priorities are reflected.

FCM has sent a submission to the federal government to inform this plan (to request a copy, please contact [action@fcm.ca](mailto:action@fcm.ca)). The consultation is open until February 20. FCM's [rural report summary](#) may help guide your submission.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

## EVENTS

### Webinar: Methane Generation Assessment Report

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is hosting a webinar on the Methane Generation Assessment Report, the first requirement under the federal [Landfill Methane Regulations](#).

The webinar will outline which landfills are required to submit a report, the Landfill Methane Modelling Tool, the contents of the Methane Generation Assessment Report and how to report using ECCC's [new reporting platform](#).

This session will be delivered in English on February 24 from 1:30-3 p.m. (ET) and in French on February 25 from 1:30-3 p.m. (ET).

» [REGISTER FOR ENGLISH SESSION](#)

» [REGISTER FOR FRENCH SESSION](#)

### Webinar: Take the first steps on climate resilience

Small municipalities across Canada are facing growing climate risks, but knowing where and how to start can be challenging.

Join us on February 27 at 2 p.m. (ET) for the webinar *Moving Climate Adaptation Projects into Action*. This webinar is designed to help small municipalities identify a clear first action, plan next steps and move towards implementation. You'll discover new toolkits to support you and hear how communities like yours have successfully taken tangible steps to strengthen climate resilience.

» [REGISTER](#)

## FCM IN THE NEWS

» **Climate-proofing infrastructure could save taxpayers billions | CP24**

A new report from the Canadian Climate Institute, conducted in collaboration with FCM and other partners, emphasizes that climate-proofing public infrastructure could save Canadians over \$10 billion annually. The analysis recommends increasing government spending by \$3 billion per year, which is 2.5 percent more than current levels.

---

» **Housing market faces possible recession in 2026 amid ‘subdued’ demand: CMHC | National | Global News**

In its latest housing market outlook, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation states that the market is expected to remain quiet throughout the year amid ongoing economic uncertainty due to the trade war.

---

» **Regina Mayor Chad Bachynski joins calls for acceleration of federal funding to Canadian cities | CTV News**

Following the recent FCM Big City Mayors’ Caucus meeting with Prime Minister Mark Carney, Regina Mayor Chad Bachynski said that large cities are negatively impacted by delayed federal funding, especially for infrastructure. According to FCM, there is a sense of urgency to get that funding into the hands of Canadian cities.

---

## RESOURCES

### **Biodiversity strategies for resilient urban forests**

If you want to learn about biodiversity-focused urban forestry practices, watch our webinar recording of *Biodiversity strategies for resilient urban forests*. From discovering the benefits of planting diverse native species to understanding the connections between urban forestry projects and broader biodiversity goals, this webinar will help you explore real-life examples and principles that you can integrate in your urban forestry plans and projects.

» **WATCH THE WEBINAR RECORDING**

---

### **Create a tree maintenance and monitoring plan**

Maintaining a healthy urban forest takes consistent care and planning. Use our tree maintenance and monitoring template to better manage trees in your community. This template will help you outline a long-term maintenance schedule, monitor tree health, survival and site conditions, define roles responsible for managing your trees and more.

» **DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE**

---

## 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:



Over the past year, Canadian municipal leaders have been working with [@usmayors](#) to strengthen cross-border collaboration and help communities on both sides of the border navigate the impacts of this trade challenge.

Yesterday's bipartisan vote in the U.S. reflects what local leaders know well: tariffs hurt people, businesses and communities—whether in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

[LEARN MORE](#)



[READ MORE](#)



What happened yesterday in Tumbler Ridge is tragic and devastating. Municipal leaders from coast to coast to coast are sending their thoughts to the families affected, first responders, community leaders and the whole Tumbler Ridge community.

[SHARE THE POST](#)



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS



24 Clarence Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3  
[fcm.ca](#)

[info@fcm.ca](mailto:info@fcm.ca)  
[Privacy Policy](#)

© 2026 Federation of Canadian Municipalities

[Unsubscribe here.](#)  
24 Clarence Street | Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3 CA