

Karine Keys

From: FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>
Sent: February 23, 2026 3:29 PM
To: Karine Keys
Subject: FCM Voice: FCM responds to CPTF cuts | AC2026 launching soon | New federal actions targeting extortion | and more

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February 23, 2026



FCM urges reversal of federal public transit cuts that will make life harder for Canadians



When we invest in public transit, we ensure that Canada's economy can grow, and that Canadians can rely on a vital public service—it's a win-win. That's why, in our submission last week to the federal government, FCM called for the reversal the 16% cut to the Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF), as well as a federal commitment to streamline long-term transit funding.

FCM also clearly highlights how these cuts will undermine economic growth at a crucial time, impede homebuilding and make Canadians' lives harder in both our urban centres and rural regions. The federal government has recognized the need for the CPTF as a standalone fund—and it must remain as such. With every \$1 invested in public transit generating \$2.40 in economic activity, this transit investment will help Canada's domestic economy grow while reducing the amount of time Canadians spend in traffic and congestion.

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NEWS

AC2026: Registration opens on Thursday!

Save the date: FCM's 2026 Annual Conference and Trade Show registration opens on February 26. Join us from June 4 to 7 in Edmonton as municipal leaders from across the country will explore innovative ideas, partnerships and solutions that strengthen Canadian local governments. As we celebrate 125 years of municipal leadership, we will gather under this year's theme, *Building the future together*, reflecting our shared commitment to strong communities.

Before registration opens, take a moment to browse the AC2026 webpages. Learn about our upcoming study and companion tours and start planning your travel and

accommodation. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect and help shape Canada's future from the ground up.

» [START PLANNING YOUR TRIP NOW](#)

New federal actions targeting extortion

Last week, the federal government unveiled new measures to address serious criminal activity, including extortion. This announcement comes at an important time as extortion grows more visible, more violent and increasingly coordinated across jurisdictions and in our communities. A strong, coordinated response is needed.

FCM will continue working with the federal government to strengthen community safety and well-being for Canadians, including on issues related to extortion and bail reform, and to ensure that municipal perspectives help shape practical and effective solutions.

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Have you renewed your FCM membership yet?

FCM is the national voice of local governments, powered by over 2,000 members across the country. For 125 years, we've turned local priorities into national progress—delivering results like funding programs, housing initiatives and climate solutions. Renew your membership today to keep receiving practical tools, insights tailored to your local realities and exclusive resources to help your community thrive. Together, we can we amplify municipal voices in Ottawa and shape decisions that matter.

» [LEARN MORE](#)



Municipal momentum: A new path out of homelessness in Gatineau

Over the past four years, Gatineau has experienced the highest increase of homelessness in Quebec. So local leaders like Mayor Maude Marquis-Bissonnette have decided to think outside the box.

This episode of *Municipal momentum* explores Gatineau's Village Transitiôn,

an innovative transitional housing solution the first of its kind in Quebec and made possible through partnerships across orders of government, a community organization and the private sector. This project is already inspiring other municipalities across the country in their homelessness response.

» [WATCH TO LEARN MORE](#)

EVENTS

Women in leadership: breaking barriers and building support

On March 11, join FCM and the Canadian Labour Congress for a Collective webinar exploring how generosity, mentorship, and shared experience strengthen women's leadership in local government. We'll be joined by elected officials who have taken part in FCM's Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) program to reflect on the realities of women's leadership in municipal governance.

» [REGISTER NOW](#)

FCM IN THE NEWS

» **Carney unveils 'Buy Canadian' defence plan, says security can't be a 'hostage' | National | Global News**

Prime Minister Mark Carney recently announced the federal government's new Buy Canadian plan to supply the military and grow Canada's domestic defence industry. The \$6.6-billion plan promises to prioritize domestic military equipment production, increase the share of defence contracts awarded to Canadian firms, and create up to 125,000 new jobs over the next decade.

» **Gordie Howe Bridge Delay | FCM's VP Tim Tierney | CTV Your Morning | YouTube**

FCM's First Vice President Tim Tierney appeared on *CTV Your Morning* to discuss U.S. President Donald Trump's latest threats regarding the imminent opening of the Gordie Howe Bridge, connecting Windsor to Detroit. Tierney discussed the importance of Canada-U.S. trade relations, particularly for the State of Michigan, and FCM's ongoing work with U.S. counterparts.

» **Territorial capitals look to form 'united front' to advocate for defence spending | CBC News**

The mayors of Iqaluit, Yellowknife and Whitehorse, are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding by the end of this month to ensure their cities benefit from military spending planned for the North, including through early engagement in Canadian Armed Forces activities and NORAD operations.

» **Saskatoon Mayor on attending Big City Mayors' Caucus | CTV News**

Saskatoon Mayor Cynthia Block appeared on CTV to discuss her recent trip to Ottawa for FCM's Big City Mayors' Caucus, including a meeting with Prime Minister Mark Carney, calling for more support for municipalities to tackle homelessness, the housing crisis and outdated infrastructure.

RESOURCES

Helping municipalities respond to extreme heat

Extreme heat creates risks for residents, services and public spaces. The Community Heat Resilience Toolkit helps municipal teams understand local heat risks, compare response options and decide how best to move forward. It supports choices ranging from heat safety outreach to investments in cooling centres or shade projects and provides tools to support implementation.

» [EXPLORE THE HEAT RESILIENCE TOOLKIT](#)

Create a tree maintenance and monitoring plan

The health and sustainability of your community's urban forests depend on a well-executed tree maintenance and monitoring plan. Use our *Create a tree maintenance and monitoring plan* template to ensure your community's trees survive and thrive in the long term.

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

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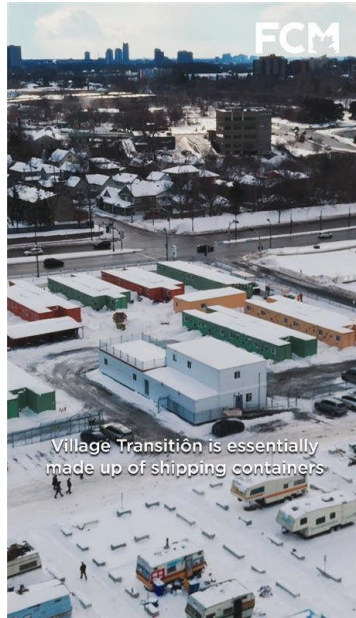
Follow FCM on social media to keep up to date with the latest municipal news, resources, and more! Find us on:



Communities feel the impact of tariffs first—it's our residents, workers and industries who pay the price. FCM has been calling for the elimination of tariffs imposed by the U.S. Administration, and we have been actively

engaging with American municipal leaders and national associations to defend local economies, supply chains and jobs on both sides of the border.

In this period of heightened uncertainty and geopolitical instability, FCM's focus remains on ensuring the economic prosperity of all Canadian communities. We'll keep working with the federal government to support local economies and ensure that municipal infrastructure can help Canada diversity global trade.



FCM CEO Carole Saab was in Montreal today for Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada's inaugural address as President of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM).

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24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3
fcm.ca

info@fcm.ca
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24 Clarence Street | Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3 CA