

Karine Keys

From: FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>
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To: Karine Keys
Subject: FCM Voice: AC2026 | Pulse Check | Upcoming webinars | and more

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March 16, 2026



Building the future together at AC2026

**Building the
future *together***

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW
Edmonton • June 4-7, 2026



FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show returns to Edmonton June 4–7 with our most comprehensive program yet. With many travel options available to access Edmonton, this year's conference offers exceptional value and opportunities you can bring back to your community. Join us for a week of high-impact workshops, inspiring keynotes, thought-provoking plenaries and family-friendly companion tours—all designed to make your

experience truly rewarding. Alongside incredible networking opportunities and a full slate of interactive sessions, AC2026 will equip you with practical tools, fresh insights and the strategies to help you build the future together.

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NEWS

Women leaders recognized in Sri Lanka

As part of the PMI-WILL project, funded by Global Affairs Canada, women leaders in Sri Lanka were celebrated during the Abhimani 2026 Awards, organized by our partner the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, to mark International Women's Day.

In her remarks, Isabella Martin, Canada's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, highlighted historic milestones for women in leadership while emphasizing the need to further strengthen women's political representation and participation. The ceremony recognized women mayors, chairpersons, councillors, administrators and civil society leaders advancing inclusive local governance.

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Pulse check



Does your municipality plan on submitting a proposal for consideration to the **Trade Corridors Diversification Fund** or the **Arctic Infrastructure Fund**?

We want to hear from you.

[SHARE YOUR SHOVEL READY PROJECTS](#)

EVENTS

Mentorship in action: reflections from women in local leadership

Strong local governance depends on strong leadership, and mentorship is one of the most effective tools for cultivating it. Organized by the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation–Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) initiative, a FCM project funded by Global Affairs, this webinar will spotlight mentorship as a strategic driver of women's political participation and leadership advancement. Speakers will share insights and lived experiences from Sri Lanka, Zambia, and Benin, highlighting how

mentorship models are advancing women's leadership in different governance contexts. Join us on March 25 at 8 a.m. (ET).

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Planning for thermal energy networks: a municipal guide

Municipalities across Canada are advancing thermal energy networks (TENs) to lower energy costs, reduce emissions and strengthen local resilience. TENs use shared infrastructure to heat and cool buildings efficiently, delivering scalable, community-scale energy solutions.

Join us on March 26 at 2 p.m. (ET) for a practical session designed to strengthen your municipality's capacity to implement thermal energy networks. Experts and climate advisors will connect insights to real municipal experience including business case development, resource assessment, municipal roles and funding pathways.

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FCM IN THE NEWS

» 'It's outright degrading': Regina councillor speaks out on treatment of women in municipal politics | Global News

As part of International Women's Day on March 8, Global News highlighted the challenges women in municipal politics continue to face, such as harassment and degrading comments. The reporter interviewed several women who serve as elected officials, including FCM President Rebecca Bligh.

» Canada announces nearly \$1B in defence investment with Bombardier | CTV News

Last week, the federal government announced over \$900 million for defence innovation in Canada as part of Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy, which will focus on supporting local production, doubling Canada's defence exports, and creating 125,000 new jobs over the next decade.

» Rural leaders gathered in Regina for the annual SARM convention | CTV News

Saskatchewan's rural leaders gathered in Regina for the annual Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) convention, where topics such as fuel costs and government policies were discussed. SARM President Bill Huber pointed out that rising gasoline prices, especially considering the conflict in the Middle East, are an issue affecting all members across the province.

» Price tag pegged at \$49B for Calgary's capital infrastructure needs over next decade | CBC News

The City of Calgary estimates that it will require \$49 billion over the next decade to build, replace and maintain municipal infrastructure, including roads, bridges, rail lines and water supply networks.

RESOURCES

Funding to tap into the power of trees

Apply for up to \$10M to plant new trees in your community. New trees are essential to improving quality of life for all Canadians, delivering shade and shelter that lowers community energy bills, improves public health and increases resilience to floods and extreme heat. Our tree planting funding supports projects in communities of all sizes.

To ensure your community receives the most value from its planting project, you can also apply for up to \$175,000 in funding to update a tree planting strategy, develop a new urban forestry policy, or analyze canopy cover. Build on the work you're doing with our funding, coaching and resources.

- » [APPLY FOR TREE PLANTING FUNDING BY JUNE 16](#)
- » [APPLY FOR URBAN FORESTRY PLANS AND STUDIES FUNDING BY APRIL 15](#)

Helping residents achieve home-energy savings

Rural municipalities are making energy upgrades more affordable for homeowners, helping them save money on utility bills and cut emissions.

In the Heiltsuk Nation, BC, homeowners are replacing oil furnaces with electric heat pumps to improve comfort and save an average of \$1,500/year, and in the town of Rocky Mountain House, AB, homeowners are completing cost-effective retrofits that will save them about \$800/year on utilities.

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A proud partner of FCM, Municipal World has supported Canadian municipalities since 1891 with trusted insights and practical tools. To mark our 135th anniversary, new members can access limited-time introductory offers—including savings on Essentials+ memberships and an additional job posting with new Executive memberships. Members

also enjoy expert-led webinars, leadership insights, as well as preferred pricing on recruitment support and accessibility on demand services.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

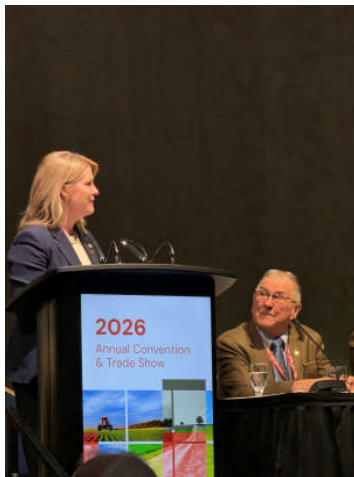
Connect with us on social media

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



Nominations are open for our FCM Awards! Help us celebrate outstanding leadership and innovation in local leadership across Canada and abroad. Award recipients will be celebrated at our 2026 Annual Conference and Trade Show, taking place June 4-7 in Edmonton. Nominations are open for FCM members. The deadline is April 7.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Canadian communities are going through an intense period of change. In Saskatchewan, and across the country, municipalities of all sizes are stepping up to strengthen Canada's economic resilience, support national defense and keep international trade moving.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Local governments bring a measure of certainty when the world does not, and we will keep putting forward solutions that deliver for Canadians.” - FCM President Rebecca Bligh

More on last week's Board of Directors meeting in St. John's

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