

## Karine Keys

**From:** FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** March 30, 2026 4:07 PM  
**To:** Karine Keys  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: Survey on trade | BCSF updates | FCM Awards | and more

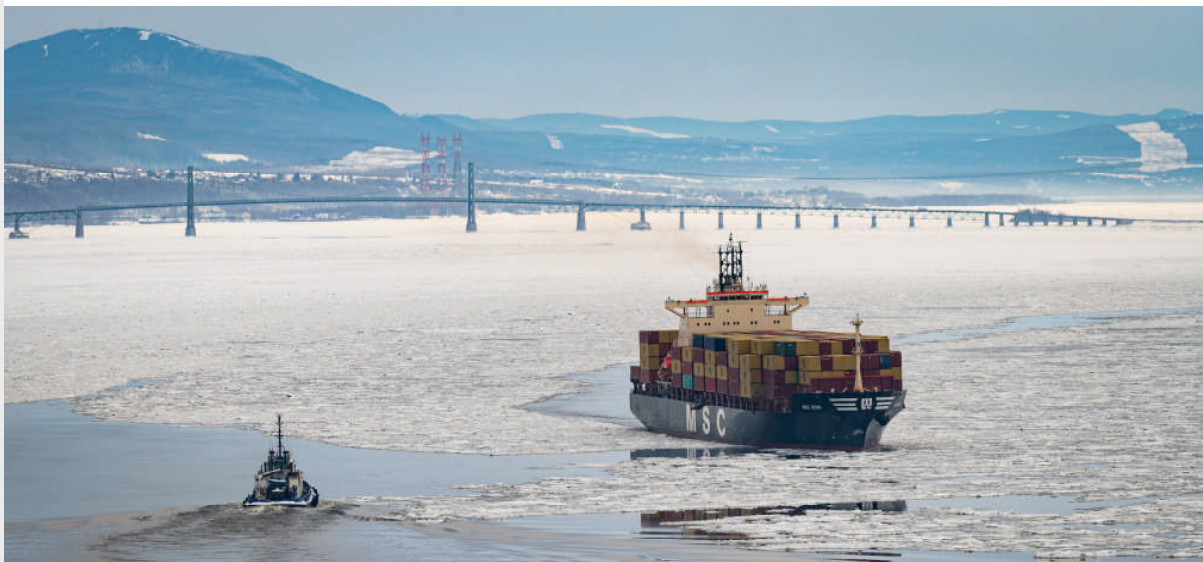
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March 30, 2026



## Survey on trade uncertainty and tariffs



Canadian municipalities are experiencing direct and indirect economic pressures from ongoing trade negotiations and tariff measures. FCM is conducting research to capture how Canadian communities are coping with trade uncertainty. The goal is to provide governmental decision-makers with local examples of the impacts communities are experiencing, the resilience strategies they are pursuing, and how they coordinate with governments and business communities. FCM is asking local governments to take this survey led by the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management (Ivey Business School) and the City of London. It takes 30 minutes and the deadline is April 15.

» **TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY**

## NEWS

### **BCSF and DC reductions: FCM urges further action nationally**

Today's announced deal between Ontario and the federal government will jointly provide \$8.8 billion over 10 years, through the provincial and territorial stream of the new Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF). Some of this funding will be used to partially compensate municipalities for development charge reductions of up to 50 percent. It is anticipated that the federal government will continue to negotiate and sign deals with other provinces and territories in the months ahead.

Development charges (DCs) are essential for critical public infrastructure like roads, bridges, fire stations, and water and wastewater facilities that municipalities deliver to support new housing.

As the federal and Ontario governments move to reduce DCs, FCM notes today's announcement falls short of ensuring municipalities will remain whole. Since this funding is intended to replace existing DC revenues, this announcement will result in no net new community infrastructure, including in small and rural municipalities.

At a crucial moment for Canada, further investments in core public infrastructure are urgently needed. FCM will continue to advocate for federal housing-enabling infrastructure funding that flows to all municipalities in every province and territory, including in jurisdictions that charge little to no development charges.

### **FCM urges BCSF direct delivery stream intake in 2026**

Further to today's announcement, FCM continues to urge the federal government to ensure that all BCSF streams deliver for Canada, including the direct delivery stream. To date, the federal government has indicated that only projects previously submitted under the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the Green and Inclusive Communities Building Fund and the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund will be considered for direct delivery stream funding in the 2026/27 fiscal year.

FCM is deeply concerned that missing the opportunity to open a new intake of BCSF's direct delivery stream in 2026 will delay projects in 2027. Ongoing uncertainty around the fund's design—particularly access for rural communities with smaller tax bases—further risks undermining its impact.

FCM will continue to advocate for the prompt opening of an intake of the direct delivery stream for new projects in 2026 that supports Canadian communities of all sizes.

Notably, BCSF's community stream, formerly known as the Canada Community Building Fund, remains the most cost-effective and streamlined way to renew municipal infrastructure across the country. That's why FCM continues to strongly recommend that the federal government at least double the community stream, index it to GDP and secure matching dollars from the provinces and territories. FCM also continues to call for dedicated infrastructure funding for rural and northern municipalities.

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### **Reminder: FCM Awards nominations are now open**

Help us celebrate outstanding leadership and innovation in local governments across Canada. Eligibility varies by category, so take a moment to explore each award's criteria and consider nominating someone whose work is making a difference in the municipal sector.

Award recipients will be celebrated during the Host City Closing Gala and Awards Show at our 2026 Annual Conference and Trade Show in Edmonton, taking place June 4-7. Recipients will receive free admittance to AC2026 but will be responsible for their own travel costs. The nomination deadline has now been extended to April 17.

**» [SUBMIT A NOMINATION NOW](#)**

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### **Budget 2025 has become law**

On Thursday, the federal government's Budget 2025 received Royal Assent, becoming law in Canada. While this is a significant milestone for Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal government, FCM remains concerned that current federal infrastructure investments do not match the pace and scale necessary to meet the moment and reach municipalities in time for the upcoming construction season.

The federal government must course correct and accelerate investments in local infrastructure, including by at least doubling the Community stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund (formerly Canada Community-Building Fund). This will be central to FCM's advocacy leading up to the 2026 Spring Economic Update.

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### **New federal measures to lower cost of homebuilding**

Last week, the federal government announced a new \$1.7-billion fund to help provinces and territories lower the cost of homebuilding and speed up construction. FCM has welcomed the new measures, but notes that there is still much work to do to truly make housing affordable for all.

While municipalities are doing their part to speed up approvals and lower the costs to build homes, Canadians are struggling with affordability, housing and homelessness crises. FCM will continue pushing for further investments in non-market and supportive housing through Build Canada Homes and the renewal of the National Housing Strategy.

**» [READ OUR REACTION](#)**

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## EVENTS

### What to do about the resilience infrastructure funding gap

Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change and know what it takes to build climate resilience. Join FCM, Addenda Capital and Co-operators on April 23 at 12 p.m. (ET) to explore Co-operators' Resilience Acceleration Lab—an innovative investing initiative designed to help Canadian municipalities finance climate-resilient infrastructure. Hear how other municipal leaders are thinking creatively about resilience projects, including how to address the growing infrastructure gap, and how this resource can help you move towards climate resilient communities and economies.

» [REGISTER](#)

## FCM IN THE NEWS

### » [Former FCM president preparing for life beyond council | Municipal World](#)

After decades serving Halton Hills, Ontario, veteran councillor and former FCM president Clark Somerville reflects on his public service and his decision not to run in the upcoming municipal elections.

### » [Ottawa plans \\$1.7-billion boost in housing transfers to provinces, territories | The Globe and Mail](#)

FCM President Rebecca Bligh said in a statement that the organization welcomes the federal efforts to increase the housing supply. "While this will help new buyers access the housing market, there is still much to do to make housing truly affordable for all," Bligh said, adding that homelessness continues to rise at alarming rates.

### » [Infrastructure: "We are all in trouble," according to Bruno Marcand | Radio-Canada](#)

While in Alberta for meetings with municipal counterparts, Quebec City Mayor Bruno Marchand said that all Canadian cities are facing major challenges in maintaining and renewing their infrastructure. At a recent FCM meeting in Ottawa, mayors from the country's biggest cities met one-on-one with Prime Minister Mark Carney to discuss this issue.

### » [Aalbers heads east for FCM board of directors meeting | Meridian Source](#)

Lloydminster Mayor Gerald Aalbers recently spent some time advocating for local issues in the Atlantic as part of FCM's Board of Directors meetings. The focus was on issues that have long plagued municipalities, such as the ever-growing infrastructure gap and trade.

## RESOURCES

### New funding: Accelerating circularity in construction

The Green Municipal Fund has launched Accelerating Circularity in Construction Materials (ACCM), a funding and peer learning opportunity to help Canadian municipalities cut construction, renovation and demolition (CRD) waste and advance circular solutions.

Across Canadian municipalities, CRD materials make up over 30% of landfill waste, putting pressure on landfill capacity as construction activity grows. ACCM support municipalities focused on stronger source separation and increased recovery, reuse and recycling. Applications are open until June 26.

» [APPLY NOW](#)

### 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, as they bring various benefits like lower energy bills, improved health and increased resilience to floods and extreme heat. Our tree planting funding supports projects in communities of all sizes. Build on the work you're doing with our funding, coaching and resources. The deadline to apply is June 16.

» [APPLY NOW](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Connect with us on social media

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The federal government's efforts to increase the housing supply will help new buyers access the housing market, but there is still much to do to make housing truly affordable for all. Homelessness continues to



On Friday, Budget 2025 received Royal Assent, becoming law in Canada. Congratulations to the federal government on this milestone.



Congratulations to [@avilewis.ca](#), new leader of the [@ndp.ca](#). On behalf of local leaders across the country, FCM looks forward to working together to advance municipal priorities at the federal level. Let's

rise at alarming rates, more than doubled since 2018, and we look forward to further investments in non-market and supportive housing through Build Canada Homes and the renewal of the National Housing Strategy.

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As we look ahead to the federal government's Spring Economic Update, FCM remains concerned that current federal infrastructure investments do not match the pace and scale necessary to meet the moment and reach municipalities in time for the upcoming construction season.

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