

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

FCM Voice: Build Canada Homes | AC2025 Digital Magazine | Collective webinar | and more  
September 15, 2025 2:59:56 PM

[View email in browser](#)



September 15, 2025



### **Just launched: Build Canada Homes**

Yesterday, FCM's CEO Carole Saab participated to the federal government's announcement to launch Build Canada Homes (BCH). This announcement shows a clear commitment to working with municipalities and other essential partners to deliver practical, results-driven solutions that meet the urgent housing needs of Canadians.

FCM was glad to see inclusion of supportive and transitional housing for Canadians experiencing homelessness and emphasized the need for sustained federal-provincial funding to make lasting progress on homeless encampments. Through BCH, municipalities can contribute land, support modular construction, and continue leading on zoning, approvals, infrastructure, and community planning.



Reaching the federal goal of building 500,000 homes per year will require new investments in infrastructure needed to support housing, like roads, water systems and public transit through proven tools like the Canada Community Building Fund. FCM will continue to monitor and engage with the development of BCH and other housing and homelessness-related federal initiatives.

Further analysis on Sunday's announcement will be shared in coming days.

[» READ MORE](#)

## NEWS

### AC2025 Digital Magazine

You can now read the special Municipal World publication entirely dedicated to our 2025 Annual Conference. Produced in collaboration with FCM and published by Municipal World, this digital magazine highlights the key moments of the conference held in Ottawa under the theme *Stronger Together: Local Strength, National Prosperity*.

If you haven't already, take a moment to explore the impactful discussions, innovative ideas and municipal initiatives that shaped the country's largest gathering of local elected officials. Read the magazine and share it with your network!

[» DOWNLOAD YOUR COPY](#)



### Are you an elected municipal official from BC?

FCM is seeking a dedicated elected municipal official from BC to join the GMF Council and help build sustainable communities and a more prosperous Canada.

We're looking for recognized champions of sustainability to bring their leadership to help shape strategic decisions and guide high-impact municipal projects that deliver tangible, lasting results—creating jobs, fostering environmental stewardship, and strengthening community resilience. To lead the change, apply by September 29.

[» JOIN THE GMF COUNCIL](#)

---

## Strengthening women's leadership in local government in Zambia

The Partnership for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership project is working with the Local Government Association of Zambia to strengthen women's leadership in local government. A recent workshop with the Local Government Gender Equality Committee focused on leadership skills, public speaking and building confidence for active participation in local governance.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities joined the Local Government Association of Zambia to support this knowledge exchange. This collaboration shows how Canadian municipal expertise can support inclusive governance and strengthen women's leadership globally.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

---

## International partnerships driving stronger local governance at home and abroad

Through the Partnership for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership project, our overseas partner, the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG), undertook a study tour to Canada last week. Four NALAG representatives took part in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference and engaged in exchanges with peers from Ontario municipalities.

The study tour focused on sharing experiences on gender equality and social inclusion in local leadership, exploring ways to strengthen organizational sustainability through events and membership development. This collaboration highlights the value of international partnerships for Canadian municipalities—creating opportunities for shared learning and strengthening local governance at home and abroad.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

---

## EVENTS

### Last chance: Explore safe and sustainable railway operations

Our first Collective webinar of the year is tomorrow! In partnership with CN, this webinar will help community leaders to better understand the strategies and technologies used to ensure safe and sustainable railway operations. Wildfire threats are a growing reality as unprecedented hot, dry conditions persist across Canada. Participants will learn more about CN's Fire and Suppression fleet, a custom-designed in-house fleet of five trains that can deploy firefighting resources to remote and inaccessible areas.

» [REGISTER TODAY](#)

---



## FCM IN THE NEWS

### » **Carney's fall fiscal plan to focus on defence, housing, and infrastructure, say advocacy groups | The Lobby Monitor**

FCM's Executive Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Matt Gemmel, discussed the upcoming federal budget and FCM's pre-budget submissions, looking for progress on key issues, from housing to infrastructure. "The key to doubling housing construction is fixing what we feel is an outdated model for how we fund housing and the growth of the country," Gemmel said.

---

### » **Carney unveils 'Buy Canadian' plan and canola tariff help amid trade war | Globalnews.ca**

The federal government unveiled a new "Buy Canadian" strategy. The measures announced include a \$370 million package for canola farmers, who are currently facing a 75.8 percent tariff from China. Prime Minister Mark Carney has also proposed a \$5-billion Strategic Response Fund for companies affected by U.S. tariffs.

---

### » **Not fast enough: More homes are being built, but targets still far off, says CMHC | Globalnews.ca**

New data from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation shows a slowdown in housing starts in Canada's biggest cities. The City of Toronto is on track for its lowest number of housing starts in three decades.

---

### » **City of Vernon submitting grant application to plant trees at Kin Park | Castanet.net**

The City of Vernon will submit a grant application to FCM's Growing Canada's Community Canopies program to support tree planting. The grant will fund up to 50 percent of eligible costs for a tree-planting project, with a minimum project cost of \$50,000.

---

### » **Vancouver Mayor credits seven-month police 'surge' in Downtown Eastside for declining crime rates | The Globe and Mail**

Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim stated that a seven-month police "surge" in the Downtown Eastside has significantly reduced crime in the area. He announced that a new policing district will be created for the area. Nationwide, Statistics Canada reported that crime decreased by four percent in 2024 compared to the previous year, and that crime rates have generally declined since peaking in 1992.

---

## RESOURCES

**Webinar recording: Urban forest management plan for your community**

Every community can benefit from a well-managed urban forest. Watch our webinar Develop an urban forest management plan for your community to discover expert insights on why a strong plan matters and how to build your own. Watching this webinar will help you understand what makes a strong plan, how to ensure the plan is tailored to your community's needs and what benefits an urban forest management plan can offer to your community.

» [WATCH THE WEBINAR TODAY](#)

## CORPORATE PARTNER



### **Learn how Indigenous led initiatives advance tourism innovation**

Destination Canada invites you to Destination Dialogues 2025 on October 8—a free webinar focused on Indigenous tourism and export ready models. Learn from real examples of Indigenous led innovation and explore practical tools that can support rural, remote, and northern communities. Co-presented with the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, this session is an opportunity for FCM members to engage in advancing economic reconciliation. An interactive workshop will follow for hands-on learning

» [REGISTER HERE](#)



## 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:



**Sept 10:** FCM's Collective webinar series is back!

These webinars—delivered alongside partners from the most cutting-edge leaders in the private sector—will help you re-examine your community's needs and develop new solutions to stay ahead of the curve.

Our first session, in partnership with [@CNRailway](#), is next Tuesday. Learn more and register now: <https://t.co/p6A3wh9BBY>

**Sept 12:** “You can build homes, but unless you have the water and the sewer and the wastewater as all part of that, it’s not a home yet. It’s just a structure.” - Joe Masi, [CityofPortage](#) councillor and FCM Board member.

<https://t.co/ACwSWspqTV>

The federal government has an ambitious goal of building 500,000 new homes per year. Municipalities are key to making that happen, but streamlined and predictable investments are needed to build supporting infrastructure like pipes, roads, bridges and more.

**Sept 14:** FCM welcomes the federal government's Build Canada Homes initiative as strong leadership on the housing crisis. This announcement shows a clear commitment to working in partnership with municipalities to deliver practical, results-driven solutions that meet the urgent housing needs of Canadians. In particular, the carve-out to increase supportive and transitional housing to address homelessness is a direct answer to FCM's key recommendations.

This is an opportunity to work together to build the housing Canadians need. Municipalities are already

#CDNMuni #cdnpoli

delivering housing solutions, and with the right federal tools—like infrastructure investments that keep pace with growth and proven delivery models like the Canada Community-Building Fund—we can build lasting solutions across the country. Our full response:

<https://t.co/lo0vaGWjuc>

#CDNMuni #cdnpoli



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

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

© 2025 Federation of Canadian Municipalities

[Unsubscribe here.](#)

24 Clarence Street | Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3 CA