



Building back better together

Municipal recommendations for
Canada's post-COVID recovery

November 2020

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Ce document est aussi disponible sous le titre
Reconstruire en mieux, ensemble

Building back better starts now

COVID-19 changed everything. Seemingly overnight, it throttled our economy and confined millions of Canadians to their homes. Federal and municipal leaders alike moved swiftly to protect people, businesses and communities. And we all found ourselves reflecting on what really matters: safety, connection, quality of life. This shared experience continues to remind us how *vulnerable* we can be—but also how *capable*, when we work together.

When it comes time to drive Canada's post-COVID recovery, it won't be enough to return to the status quo. Canadians will want us to build their country back *better*. After seeing inequality on such vivid display in these tough times, they'll want an *inclusive* recovery whose benefits are widely shared. They'll want a country that's more *sustainable* and resilient to the next threat, be it a virus or climate change. And they've shown they're willing to embrace bold leadership—when it's focused on building better lives and better communities.

That makes this a generational opportunity for our governments to come together to drive Canada forward—and municipalities are ready. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) unites 2,000 cities and communities of all sizes, representing more than 90 percent of Canadians. These front-line local leaders turn national investments into real outcomes—in the places where people live, work and raise their family. FCM itself is a proven implementation partner with substantial program infrastructure and decades of expertise in funding delivery.

Today, we are ready to work with the federal government to kickstart Canada's economy

and put people back to work. Municipalities are uniquely capable of doing that in ways that will drive progress on key national goals, from achieving net-zero emissions and universal Internet access to ending chronic homelessness. And that work starts now, even as we continue working flat-out to keep Canadians safe from COVID-19. We can work together to tackle today's urgent pandemic challenges, with solutions that deliberately lay ground for tomorrow's recovery.

No order of government succeeds alone in this country. But together in partnership, we can drive the inclusive, green recovery Canadians deserve. Because we really are in this together.



Garth Frizzell
FCM President



Carole Saab
FCM CEO



Building an inclusive recovery

This pandemic has laid bare how unequally people thrive or struggle. While tackling inequality in this country is a long-term challenge, Canada's economic recovery can be a meaningful turning point on that path to a more inclusive future.

Canadians have seen so many faces of inequality on vivid display in these times—whether it's people without homes forming tent encampments near vital services, seniors facing startling infection rates in long-term care, or the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and on Indigenous,

Black and racialized Canadians. These are not new realities; these are intensified signs of persistent inequality. And kickstarting Canada's post-COVID economy is a chance to build a country where safety and opportunity are more inclusively shared.

Driving that inclusive Canadian recovery requires a multi-dimensional approach, bold federal leadership and strong partners on the ground. Those partners include local governments across the country—the ones working closest to people's daily lives, hopes and challenges. We stand ready to contribute once again, starting in priority areas where local expertise is indispensable to meaningful progress.

Most urgently, Canada's recovery is an opportunity to end the scourge of homelessness that pre-dates the pandemic but is so harshly intensified by it. We can do this by significantly scaling up steps that federal and municipal governments have already started taking together. And we can move quickly to expand truly affordable housing options for Canadians—especially for those living in inadequate or overcrowded housing—a critical first step in addressing inequality in our cities and communities.

Housing investment works

- Every dollar spent on housing and supports for those who are chronically homeless saves \$2.17 in costs related to health care, the justice system, shelters and other supports. (*Homeless Hub*)
- A 2011 five-city study of 990 people who were homeless and living with mental illness placed per-capita costs of services consumed at \$53,133. Supportive housing builds better lives and saves money. (*Mental Health Commission of Canada—At Home/Chez Soi*)
- Each dollar invested in dedicated-site supportive housing in British Columbia generated nearly \$5 in social and economic value, according to a 2018 study. (*BC Housing*)
- Each dollar invested by the Société d'habitation du Québec—the agency responsible for affordable/social housing—generated \$2.30 more for Quebec's economy in a 2011 study. (*Canadian Housing Renewal Association*)
- Every dollar government invested in residential building construction in Ontario boosted Canada's GDP by \$1.52, according to 2014 study. (*Mowat Centre*)
- Average costs to operate shelters bed in Toronto have doubled with COVID-19. Moving 3,000 people into permanent supportive housing could save \$15 million per month. (*City of Toronto*)
- In 2019, there were 1.3 million jobs across Canada in home construction, renovation, and repair—making the sector one of our largest employers. (*Canadian Home Builders' Association*)



Ending homelessness: targeted action

From leasing motels to retooling arenas as COVID-safe shelter space, municipalities have moved swiftly to protect Canadians with no home of their own, including many living with mental illness and substance use challenges. The new federal Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) responds to FCM's call for more sustainable solutions, and two emergency top-ups to the community-based Reaching Home homelessness initiative are helping as well.

RHI funds will help community housing providers put available buildings, land and modular housing to work for up to 3,000 vulnerable Canadians—as permanent supportive or deeply affordable housing. It also provides an effective federal-municipal partnership model that could be scaled up soon to meet the ambition voiced in the Throne Speech—to end chronic homelessness in our cities and communities.

Recommendations:

- **Quickly scale up the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)** by allocating \$7 billion for no less than 24,000 additional supportive and deeply affordable housing units over the National Housing Strategy's seven remaining years. With 3,000 units committed through the existing RHI, this is a path to achieving the goal of ending chronic homelessness, currently experienced by at least 27,000 Canadians. Keys to success: maintain the RHI's efficient delivery model (including a direct allocation to cities), and support stick-built construction as well as acquisition and modular-housing opportunities.
- **Grow the Reaching Home initiative** by adding \$282 million annually, or approximately \$2 billion over seven years.

This will empower cities and communities to develop and deliver the local systems, supports and services needed to end homelessness—essential complements to the physical homes to be developed by a scaled-up RHI. This additional funding should specifically include an expansion of the rural/remote stream of Reaching Home

- **Prioritize the provision of existing Canada Housing Benefit rent subsidies** to people experiencing homelessness, providing a critical stopgap until they can access permanent housing through RHI. For a subset with less complex needs, this subsidy may provide a sufficient path out of homelessness into the rental housing market.



Preventing homelessness: housing solutions

Our governments are working together to tackle the growing disconnect between income and rent levels, especially through the National Housing Strategy (NHS). But the pandemic has exposed the sheer depth of Canada's housing crisis and the work that still lies ahead. For millions of Canadians already paying too much of their income on shelter, any shock or layoff can put tremendous strain on family life.

Beyond throttling savings for retirement or kids' education, the affordable housing shortage collides with other factors to drive too many Canadians toward homelessness. That is why durably ending homelessness includes preventing the flow *into* homelessness. And that is why growing and protecting the affordable housing supply—in particular for Canadians living in inadequate or overcrowded housing—should be a centrepiece of an inclusive Canadian recovery.

Recommendations:

- **Launch a non-market housing construction program** targeting 90,000 new units of mixed-income, multi-unit housing over the seven remaining years of the NHS (\$15 billion). These should be owned/operated by the community housing sector, whose mission-driven approach best assures housing security, needed density and permanent deep affordability. And to address overcrowding faced by larger households, family-sized units should be included. Keys to success include streamlined access to deeper grants to get shovels in the ground quickly; a commitment to deeper sustained affordability; flexibility to adjust per-unit costing if construction costs grow significantly; and an explicit goal of bolstering the sector's financial position so it is better equipped to meet future repair and development needs.

 - We specifically recommend targeting 20,000 of these units (\$3.3 billion of the total) for Indigenous households in cities and communities, through an initiative developed in consultation with the **Indigenous housing** sector.
- In **Quebec**, this initiative should flow funds directly to existing provincial "non-market" housing programs (which support municipal agencies, non-profits and cooperatives), in cities that participate in such programs.
- **Strengthen Canada's existing affordable housing supply**, both non-profit and market rental:

 - **Enable community housing providers to acquire existing low-rent market rental properties** to ensure rents remain relatively affordable (targeting 10,000 units over three years at a cost of \$585 million), by developing a new stream of the Rapid Housing Initiative.

Recommendations continue next page.



- **Protect and improve social/affordable housing** by investing an additional \$600 million over 4–5 years through the Green Municipal Fund’s Sustainable Affordable Housing initiative—to energy-retrofit up to 11,000 units, lowering emissions and operating costs
 - **Improve and preserve market rental housing** by launching a CMHC-delivered program providing tax incentives and grants to encourage landlords to repair and energy-retrofit 35,000 units over seven years (\$1.75 billion), without increasing rents beyond or provincial guidelines, whichever is lower, for 20 years.
- **Expedite existing NHS commitments** by 1) accelerating approval for funding applications already received; 2) allocating all uncommitted funding within existing program envelopes to specific projects within 12 months; and 3) making more low/no-cost land available to community providers by doubling the Federal Lands Initiative (costing \$140 million over seven years), empowering municipalities to identify surplus federal lands, and ensuring the Canada Lands Company prioritizes affordable housing.
 - **Expand municipal tools and housing innovation** through an intergovernmental approach aimed at addressing barriers that often prevent cities and communities from considering the wide range of levers that could help increase housing choice, affordability and low-carbon outcomes.



Strengthening community infrastructure

Investing in community, cultural and recreational infrastructure promotes social inclusion along with economic growth. By increasing access to services, these facilities help to reduce poverty as well as social and geographic disparities. From seniors' and recreation centres to parks and libraries, these are venues for face-to-face interaction and support. Right across the country, this is glue that holds communities together.

Increasingly, municipalities are establishing community hubs that intentionally integrate services and amenities under one roof—efficiently generating positive social, economic and health outcomes. They are designed by communities and accessible to all, particularly underserved and marginalized populations. And they underline how job-creating investments in community infrastructure can be a centrepiece of an inclusive recovery.

Recommendation:

- **Invest directly in community, culture and recreation infrastructure** through the proposed Municipal Economic Recovery Fund (see “Strengthening Today’s Direct Funding Tools”).





Building a green recovery

We have a generational opportunity to protect Canadians and their communities from inevitable effects of climate change—while setting Canada on a clear path to achieving a net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

Day by day, COVID-19 reminds us what vulnerability means. Canadians everywhere want to emerge from this pandemic with a country that's more resilient to the next threat—be it a virus or extreme weather—and with leaders

who tackle milestone challenges proactively. Municipalities are ready to work with the federal government to answer that call, starting with bold action on climate change.

Across the country, local governments are on the front lines as floods, wildfires and new climate extremes threaten families and businesses, costing our economies billions each year. We're also on the forefront of delivering solutions to keep people safe and to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. And Canada's recovery is an opportunity to scale up these local solutions for nation-building progress.

Progress starts with expanding the public transit systems that are so integral to the transportation modal shift we'll need to reach net-zero. Now is the time to enable Canada's next generation of transit expansions with a permanent transit fund. For additional deep GHG reductions, FCM's proven Green Municipal Fund can deploy recovery funds directly to the municipal front lines—to drive ambitious building retrofits, vehicle-fleet upgrades, natural climate solutions and more.

Green investment works

- Every dollar invested in local infrastructure boosts Canada's real Gross Domestic Product by \$1.20–1.60. (*Conference Board of Canada, Finance Canada*)
- Every dollar invested in public transit generates \$3 in economic growth—and reclaims more of the \$15 billion in productivity we're losing each year to traffic congestion. (*Canadian Urban Transit Association, Conference Board of Canada*)
- Every dollar invested in climate adaptation saves \$6 in future costs—at a time when annual property damage costs from extreme weather have already risen from \$405 million (1983–2008 average) to \$1.8 billion in 2018. (*National Institute of Building Sciences, Insurance Bureau of Canada*)
- Proposed new investments through FCM's Green Municipal Fund would create 26–41,000 person-years of employment over a 3-year period, rising to 51–81,000 over five years. That represents GDP boosts of \$2.5–4 and \$5–8 billion, respectively. (*EnviroEconomics methodology*)
- Investments in energy efficiency retrofits have been proven to create 16–30 direct and indirect jobs for every \$1M invested. (*Task Force for a Resilient Recovery*)



Modernizing public transit

Transit is the backbone of livable, competitive cities—and key to the modal shift in transportation that we'll need to reach net-zero emissions. The allocation-based transit stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan has been a game-changer for system expansions. It also forms a template for the Permanent Transit Fund the federal government envisions, and FCM welcomes the Thone Speech's renewed ambition to move forward on transit.

The Safe Restart Agreement recognizes transit's vital role in daily life, and we need to ensure operating cost pressures continue to be addressed for the duration of the pandemic. Moving forward, municipalities are ready to make transit growth and modernization a centrepiece of Canada's recovery. If we layer on bold investment in zero-emission vehicles, this is a winning strategy for GHG reductions, along with manufacturing job growth.

Recommendations:

- **Continue to provide public transit operating funding through the duration of the pandemic** to ensure financial viability and high-quality service going forward, building on the funding delivered to transit agencies through the Safe Restart Agreement.
- **Enable major transit expansions by launching the promised Permanent Transit Fund.** Work with FCM to design this new funding mechanism for transit expansion and state of good repair, and expedite its implementation to give municipalities the assurance and predictability required to plan the next generation of transit projects.
- **Accelerate the adoption of low and zero-emission transit vehicles (ZEV) across Canada** to drive deeper emission reductions and manufacturing job growth.
- FCM estimates that \$2.7 billion in federal grant funding will support replacing half the 14,000 diesel buses currently on the road with fully electric or other ZEV models by 2030, reducing annual GHG emissions by 10.5 MT.
- Near-term federal grant funding as part of the economic recovery should complement the role of the Canada Infrastructure Bank and support a full range of costs—including garage facilities, charging/refueling infrastructure, system interconnection, and planning and design—that will lay the foundation for a full transition to ZEV transit.
- **Support rural and regional transportation** by creating a new federal funding program—\$350 million over three years—for eligible capital costs for inter-city and regional mobility services across the country.



Scaling up community climate action

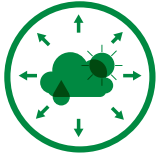
Municipalities are increasingly setting ambitious climate targets and leading on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With cities and communities influencing half of all emissions, scaling up local action is key to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. And we can strengthen Canada's green recovery by leveraging the proven delivery mechanism that is FCM's federally-endowed Green Municipal Fund (GMF).

Since 2000, GMF has brought life to 1,360 local sustainability projects, inspiring many more. Its mature administrative infrastructure includes a peer-reviewed project evaluation and investment financing structure, with robust performance monitoring and governance accountability. Funding recovery through GMF will create jobs while making measurable progress toward Canada's 2030 and 2050 climate targets.

Recommendations:

- **Rapidly deliver \$2.5 to \$5 billion of economic recovery funding directly to the municipal sector** to help communities finance and scale proven climate change mitigation and resilience solutions. FCM's Green Municipal Fund is positioned to deliver up to \$2.5 billion over 2–3 years and up to \$5 billion over 4–5 years.
- **Target new GMF funding to six priority areas to drive measurable GHG reductions:** 3.2 MT in 2030, for a cumulative reduction of 25 MT by 2030, achieved through programming over the next five years.

1. Support deep energy retrofits and clean energy generation in 200–300 arenas or recreation/community centres.
2. Improve the environmental performance of 7,000–11,000 new and existing social and affordable housing units.
3. Build up to 2,600 km of multi-use active transportation pathways, 50 pedestrian bridges and 100 multi-modal transportation interventions like bike share, e-bike and cargo bike initiatives.
4. Deploy 3,500–8,000 new zero-emission and low carbon vehicles in core municipal and community service functions (over and above federal investments in zero-emission transit and school buses).
5. Support 30–50 projects to capture municipal landfill gasses, divert organics and reduce plastics and other waste.
6. Plant 50 million trees and fund other natural infrastructure like parks, wetlands and rain gardens.



Strengthening community resilience

Municipalities are on the front lines of new climate extremes, making the most of tools available to protect homes, businesses and communities. The federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) has been key, but the \$2B available for 2018–2028 is already almost fully committed. Research by FCM and the Insurance Bureau of Canada estimates the need for local adaptation investment at no less than \$5 billion per year.

Municipalities are ready to do more, and unlocking that potential now will deliver significant stimulus as we gird communities against the next flood or fire. Municipalities of all sizes are also increasingly turning to natural infrastructure, parks and protected areas to improve residents' access to nature, support biodiversity, and improve overall community resilience. Canada's recovery phase presents an opportunity to ramp up our work together—to answer Canadians' call for a more resilient country coming out of this pandemic.



Recommendations:

- **Drive more local adaptation projects** by doubling the proposed new federal investment in DMAF to \$2 billion, and accelerating it to a three-year window—seizing this moment to create jobs while strengthening the climate resilience of more communities.
- **Enable municipalities to acquire land for parks, protected areas and natural infrastructure**, leveraging DMAF and other federal programs.
- **Optimize DMAF to support communities of all sizes** by eliminating the \$20 million project eligibility floor that excludes many smaller, rural and remote communities—as well as natural infrastructure projects.



Building a resilient partnership

The COVID-19 experience sheds light on deep vulnerabilities in our social, health, economic and intergovernmental systems. Canada's recovery must boost our resilience on all these fronts—and that includes the resilience of our deepening federal-municipal partnership.

Canada's orders of government come to the table with unique strengths and limitations. The federal government has a mandate to promote a national vision and fiscal flexibility to back it up. Local governments bring unmatched

expertise in Canadians' daily realities and they turn investments into outcomes on the ground. Together in partnership, we are building better lives for Canadians in communities of all sizes.

However, the tools and authorities available to local leaders simply do not match the modern role municipalities now play in supporting Canadians and our economy. When weeks into pandemic restrictions, cities and communities find themselves on the brink of insolvency—facing stark decisions about essential service cuts—then it's clear there's a problem to solve. To honour the lessons of this pandemic, Canada's recovery is the right

moment to resolve to modernize the municipal toolbox in this country.

Moving forward now is about preparing municipalities to carry Canadians through the next major disruption—and indeed, the next phase of this pandemic. But it's also about empowering the governments closest to Canadians to do more to improve people's quality of life, in good times as well as bad.



Ensuring immediate stability

Municipalities are working flat-out to protect Canadians, from [rebalancing streets](#) to leasing motels as COVID-safe shelters. But with costs rising against falling revenues—and no ability to run deficits—they've faced a crisis of non-recoverable financial losses. By answering FCM's call for emergency operating funding, the Safe Restart Agreement recognizes municipalities and transit systems as key to Canada's pandemic response and recovery. And we welcome the Throne Speech's commitment to continue supporting communities: to avoid major service disruptions, municipalities will require additional operating support as the pandemic stretches through 2021.

Recommendations:

- **Protect frontline services, public transit and the municipal role in recovery** by proactively working with provinces, territories and municipalities (through FCM) on successor arrangements to the Safe Restart Agreement, which must include funding support for municipal operations and public transit through 2021.





Strengthening today's direct funding tools

Municipalities own 60 percent of the public infrastructure that supports Canada's economy and quality of life, and it requires continual renewal. Our best tool for that has been the federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF), which directly and predictably empowers municipalities to move projects forward. Some 18–26 percent of Canada's roads, bridges and water systems need upgrades, and half of our community, culture and recreation infrastructure is more than 25 years old. Building on this direct funding tool will deliver rapid job-creating stimulus, build better lives for Canadians—and double down on a consistently productive pillar of our federal-municipal partnership.

Recommendations:

- ▶ **Double the GTF allocation for three years through a new investment: the *Municipal Economic Recovery Fund***—to rapidly deliver infrastructure stimulus funding and job growth for Canadians.

Combined with the existing GTF, annual transfers would reach \$4.4 billion in direct, effective stimulus investment.

Partnering on national challenges

With the frontline insight that local governments bring to the table, our orders of government can strengthen Canada's recovery by working together to tackle a full range of challenges with national impact.



Universal Internet access

When millions of Canadians could not move online for work or school, it underscored the digital divide that holds back so many rural and remote communities. Substantial federal investment is needed to achieve basic CRTC Internet service standards by expanding backbone and last-mile infrastructure, both fixed and mobile. FCM welcomed the recent launch of an expanded Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) plus financing through the Canada Infrastructure Bank's Growth Plan. Now the priority is to deliver funding as quickly and efficiently as possible to meet the urgent need for rural connectivity—and achieve the goal of truly universal Internet access.

- **Maximize investment outcomes by ensuring effective coordination** among Internet service providers; the local government sector through FCM; provincial/territorial governments; and federal departments and agencies delivering broadband funding (e.g. ISED, CRTC, INFC and the CIB).
- **Deliver on the commitment to expedite funding delivery** through streamlined application processes and a one-window intake.
- **Continue to measure and report on progress** and regularly reassess the timelines and level of public investment required to achieve the urgent goal of connecting all Canadians.



Western economic solutions

Well before the pandemic, communities across Western Canada were facing very real economic uncertainty. That's why rural and urban municipal leaders joined forces last fall to launch FCM's Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST). This April's \$1.7 billion federal investment to clean up orphaned and inactive oil and gas wells was a direct response to a WEST recommendation. Continuing to work with WEST will support a truly nationwide economic recovery—while concretely recognizing the expertise that municipalities bring to national challenges.

- As part of the federal government's plan to transition to net-zero GHG emissions by 2050, create a new **Energy Transition Community Infrastructure Fund** that helps municipalities in energy-producing regions diversify their economies by investing in local and regional infrastructure projects.
- **Support communities on the road to net-zero** by (a) investing in R&D, non-emitting power, industrial efficiency and methane/carbon capture to reduce the emissions intensity of Canada's energy exports; (b) positioning Canada to be a top global hydrogen exporter; and (c) working with FCM to future-proof the manufacturing, natural resource and agricultural sectors.

Recommendations continue next page.

- To support trade and economic growth, expand the **National Trade Corridors Fund** by \$1 billion over three years. And to improve rail safety in our communities and contribute towards compliance with the Grade Crossing Regulations, invest \$100 million through the **Rail Safety Improvement Program**.
- Scale up the impact that **Western Economic Diversification Canada** is having and set up the Grow West Strategy for success by doubling the agency's budget from \$200 to \$400 million for each of the next three years.



Ensuring long-term municipal resilience

Mere weeks into the pandemic, municipalities and transit systems were forced to the brink of cutting back essential services that Canadians rely on. A first tranche of emergency funding ultimately came through the Safe Restart Agreement, but months of uncertainty exposed the sheer precariousness of the municipal financial foundation. Long before this pandemic, it was clear that the tools and authorities available to municipal leaders do not match their modern role in supporting Canadians and our economy. To honour the lessons of this pandemic—to build better lives for Canadians—we'll need to move forward faster to modernize them.

Recommendations:

- **Commit to a dialogue with FCM on municipal resilience**, including steps required to modernize municipal finances and authorities, to align with local governments' contemporary role in Canadians' daily lives and national economy.



About FCM

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is the national voice for Canada's local governments.

FCM unites 2,000 municipalities of all sizes, representing more than 90 percent of Canadians. That gives us unparalleled capacity to convene Canada's local order of government, and to help design and implement municipal-federal initiatives that build better lives for Canadians.

Municipal leaders work with FCM to collaborate on solutions that boost our economy and quality of life. We have a track record of constructively shaping federal policy—from the Gas Tax Fund to the National Housing Strategy to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. Every year, FCM staff and its elected board of directors connect hundreds of times with federal officials at all levels, from policy specialists to the Prime Minister.

We're driving local solutions to national challenges.

FCM's **Big City Mayors' Caucus** (BCMC) convenes 22 large Canadian cities. BCMC mayors meet to drive action on national challenges—from affordable housing to cannabis legalization. Similarly, FCM's **Rural Forum** is a powerful advocate for rural communities and provides local governments in rural areas with greater access to FCM and federal decision-makers.

For more than 30 years, FCM has partnered with the Government of Canada to deliver **national and international programs**. These programs are building municipal capacity on everything from climate resilience and asset management to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Since 2000, FCM's **Green Municipal Fund (GMF)** has brought life to more than 1,360 sustainability initiatives. In 2019, the Government of Canada entrusted nearly \$1 billion more to scale up GMF's drive to boost cost-saving energy efficiency in communities across the country.

Budget 2019 also reinvested in FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP), which helps communities optimize long-term planning to make infrastructure dollars go further. Similarly, our Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP) provides funding, training and tools to municipal practitioners and local sustainability leaders.

FCM's international programming brings Canadian expertise to municipalities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe—and fresh ideas back to Canadian local governments.





Local governments are on the front lines of daily life and commerce.

Canadians benefit every day from the services and infrastructure managed by local governments. Their work drives economic prosperity, promotes citizen engagement and makes our communities livable.

Municipal responsibilities include:

- 60 percent of Canada's public infrastructure
- local policing and public safety measures
- local transportation, including road maintenance and public transit
- local social services and housing
- water and wastewater services
- waste management and recycling
- sustainability initiatives
- parks, recreation, libraries and culture
- public health, including school outreach programs and community vaccinations

Shared municipal-federal priorities include:

- job creation
- economic growth and productivity
- infrastructure renewal and expansion
- housing affordability
- disaster mitigation and climate adaptation
- environmental and climate stewardship
- immigrant and refugee settlement
- partnership and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples
- emergency management
- community safety
- crime prevention

Whether they are big cities that serve as hubs for business, innovation and tourism, or smaller communities that serve our resource, agricultural and manufacturing sectors, municipalities help drive Canada's long-term prosperity.

