

**From:** [FCM Communiqué](#)  
**To:** [Kelly Lush](#)  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: FCM Board targets federal budget | 3 new webinars | Major progress in active transportation | more  
**Date:** March-15-21 1:56:24 PM

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logo NEWS | March 15, 2021



## FCM Board targets federal budget

FCM's elected Board of Directors met online last week to shape national priorities for the road ahead. From Tuesday through Friday, members of our committees, forums and regional caucuses rolled up their sleeves in the policy trenches. Board members welcomed Halifax councillor Lindell Smith as chair of a new Standing Committee on Anti-Racism and Equity and adopted FCM's annual corporate plan.

A big theme all week: shaping Federal Budget 2021. This next budget needs to empower municipal leaders to continue protecting Canadians on the front lines of COVID-19. But it also needs to gear up for a strong, community-rooted national recovery. FCM's recommendations include building on proven funding tools—from the Gas Tax Fund to the Rapid Housing initiative—to reliably create good jobs and build better lives in communities of all sizes, in every part of the country.

**[READ FCM's POST-BOARD STATEMENT](#)**



### **[New webinar on rural strength and innovation](#)**

Don't forget to register for FCM's next edition of the Collective webinar series, Thursday, March 18 at 11:00 a.m. ET, focusing on Rural Canada's leadership in innovation and collaboration, in finding new avenues for economic growth, and environmental stewardship.

The Strength and Innovation in Rural Canada Collective webinar will explore:

- How Canada's rural communities are innovating every day to strengthen Canada.
- Where rural communities can explore right now for the greatest economic growth potential.
- New and emerging best practices for environmental stewardship in rural communities.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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### **Advancing circular economy in Canadian municipalities**

Is your community looking for more information on how to transition to a circular economy? There is still time to sign up for the **Circular Cities & Regions Initiative (CCRI) kickoff webinar and information session** on Thursday, March 18. Cities and communities of all sizes who are interested in advancing circular economy within their municipality are encouraged to register.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CCRI AND THIS INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP](#)

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### **Webinar: How to ensure your green projects last**

Are you interested in how to build and adapt green municipal projects to make them sustainable for the long term? Attend our free webinar on Tuesday, March 30 and learn how to convert current costs into opportunities for future development. We'll also discuss how to take advantage of GMF funding and capacity-building opportunities to generate triple bottom line benefits.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

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### **Active transportation: major progress**

FCM members are working hard to support Canadians who want to safely walk, bike and roll in our communities—and new federal support is coming. Friday's news of Canada's first national active transportation fund is a clear response to FCM's advocacy. This will help municipalities of all sizes meet local needs—whether it's a multi-use path, nature trail or pedestrian bridge. There's also a commitment to shape federal policies to support local efforts to promote green and healthy active transportation.

[FOLLOW FCM'S RESPONSE ON TWITTER](#)

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### **New partner joins FCM's Regional Energy Coaches pilot project**

FCM is thrilled to announce our newest partner in the **Regional Energy Coaches (REC) pilot project**: the BC Non-Profit Housing Association.

Part of FCM's Sustainable Affordable Housing initiative, RECs will help affordable housing providers initiate and plan energy efficiency retrofits and new builds. During the two-year partnership, coaches will be active in British Columbia, the Prairies, and the Atlantic and Quebec regions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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### **FCM intervenes in Supreme Court case on cuts to Toronto City Council**

Tomorrow, FCM will be intervening at the Supreme Court in a case surrounding the Ontario government's decision to unilaterally reduce the size of Toronto City Council. Bill 5, also known as the Better Local Government Act, redrew Toronto City Council's electoral structure, reducing the number of city wards and councillors from 47 to 25. Enacted in 2018, Bill 5 made these significant changes while Toronto was already in the midst of a municipal election. Our intervention is funded by FCM's Legal Defense Fund.

## READ MORE ABOUT OUR SUPREME COURT INTERVENTION

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### New video: "FCM makes us bigger"

Municipal leaders from across Canada have come together in a compelling new video to share how being an FCM member makes their community stronger. Like Councillor Taneen Rudyk from the Town of Vegreville AB, who said:

*"FCM makes us bigger than who we are by being able to access advice, resources and input, as well as being able to bend the ear of elected officials in the federal government to ensure our needs are being met at the local level."*

### WATCH THE VIDEO NOW

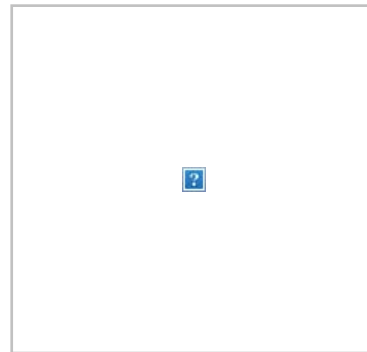
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### Your kid's guide to local government is here

It's never too early to start learning about what makes your city tick. *Tucker Goes to City Hall* is an easy-to-read story, written especially for little ones! With a fun tale crafted by former FCM President George Cuff and daughter Jill Lewis, this chapter book pulls back the curtain on how municipalities "work." Perfect for inspiring our youngest generation of leaders!

### GRAB YOUR COPY—AND RECOMMEND TO YOUR SCHOOL BOARD



As part of FCM's collaboration with Statistics Canada to improve access to local data and help build member capacity to use data on a regular basis, each week we will share updates and opportunities for you to learn more about relevant data and tools, including tailored webinars on important products.

### Upcoming webinars

A series of webinars will be available to members over the coming year about key products and capabilities that support local, evidence-based policy decisions. The next webinar on Census 2021 will provide an overview of this critical product for municipalities, including new content to address emerging trends and issues. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the webinar, so feel free to come prepared with questions. The session will be recorded except for the question and answer period, in case you are unable to join.

### CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO REGISTER

French: March 17 at 11:00 a.m. (ET) - [Registration link](#)

English: March 17 at 1:30 p.m. (ET) - [Registration link](#)

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**Mar 12:** FCM welcomes the

**Mar 10:** Proud to announce

**Mar 14:** FCM's next edition of

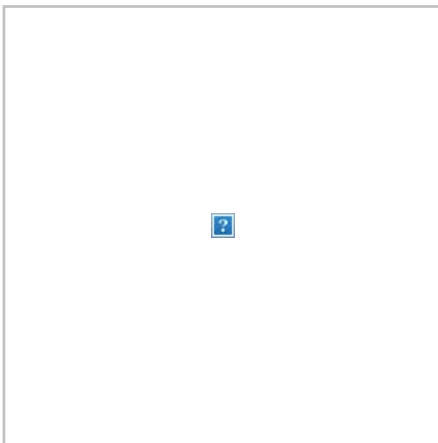
announcement of Canada's 1st dedicated National Active Transportation Fund & Strategy Framework. Municipalities of all sizes have been leaders in developing safe opportunities for Canadians to walk, bike + roll.

[#cdnmuni](#) [#cdnpoli](#)  
[@cathmckenna](#)  
[@AndyFillmoreHFX](#)

**MORE**

[@LindellSmithHFX](#) is the chair of FCM's new Standing Committee on Anti-Racism + Equity. Councillor Smith is a bold + visionary leader who's been breaking barriers since his election as Halifax's 1st Black city councillor in 20 yrs + joined the FCM Board in 2020.

the Collective webinar series explores rural Canada's leadership in innovation & collaboration. Register & discuss innovation and perseverance, economic growth, as well as climate change and the natural environment, March 18, 11:00AM ET.  
<https://bit.ly/3rPjEd>



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**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** FCM Communiqué <communiqué@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** March-08-21 5:44 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** New video: local leaders salute FCM | Two new webinars | Celebrating International Women's Day | more

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**FCM** NEWS | March 18, 2021



# FCM VOICE

Canada's voice of local government



**Lynn Napier**  
Mayor, Fort Smith, NT

**With FCM, we've really felt included and a part of the decision-making,**

**New video: local leaders salute FCM**

Since day one of this pandemic, FCM has been there to support our members. Convening frontline expertise. Bringing local realities to Canada’s COVID-19 response. Securing vital investments for cities and communities of all sizes.

Municipal leaders from across the country have come together in a compelling new video to share what FCM’s efforts have meant to them—and what local leaders can achieve when they work together.

This video is a must-watch.

FCM gets results because we bring together thousands of municipal leaders from coast-to-coast-to-coast. With our strong and united national voice, we will continue to support municipalities of all sizes through this pandemic—and position them at the heart of tomorrow’s nationwide recovery.

► [WATCH THE VIDEO NOW](#)

## EVENTS

### How to create a home energy upgrade financing program

Ready to improve home energy efficiency in your community? We have new funding available to help. Don’t miss our free info session on Wednesday, March 24 at 1 p.m. ET to learn about this offer from FCM’s Green Municipal Fund. Discover how efficiency financing programs can help achieve your community’s sustainability objectives and help your residents improve the performance, comfort, and affordability of their homes.

► [REGISTER TODAY](#)

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### Advancing circular economy in Canadian municipalities

Is your community looking for more information on how to transition to a circular economy? Participants in the new [Circular Cities & Regions Initiative \(CCRI\)](#), a one-year pilot, will:

- receive one-on-one support while transitioning to a circular economy,
- connect with peers across the country, and
- hear from leading experts in the sector.

Register for [CCRI’s kickoff webinar and information session](#) on Thursday, March 18, 2021, to learn more.

## Celebrating International Women's Day

Today, we are celebrating women leaders in local government, both in Canada and around the world. We need women in leadership roles in order to achieve gender equality and open doors for women across all diversities. Together with local, national and international partners, we're developing strategies and tools to ensure that municipal councils are representative of the communities they serve.

► [LEARN MORE](#)

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## National Day of Observance for COVID-19

The Government of Canada has announced that it is designating Thursday, March 11 as a National Day of Observance to commemorate the people who lost their lives and the significant impacts we have all felt because of COVID-19. Staying home and away from loved ones, and losing more than 22,000 Canadians to this virus, has made this a difficult year like no other in recent memory. FCM will be sharing social media posts across our channels on Thursday, thanking front-line workers, municipal staff, elected officials and volunteers.

► [WATCH FOR OUR POSTS](#)

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## Celebrating six successful years in Ukraine

Last month, the Partnership for Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance (PLEDDG) project in Ukraine held its final conference, Changing Cities: Achievements and Prospects. The online event highlighted the achievements of 16 Ukrainian partner cities in the areas of democratic governance, SME development and intergovernmental dialogue. FCM CEO Carole Saab addressed the conference and commended Ukrainian and Canadian partners for promoting principles of good governance, particularly the political and economic empowerment of women leaders.

► [FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FCM'S WORK IN UKRAINE](#)

## Telesat and Govt. of Canada partner to bridge Digital Divide

Affordable Internet connectivity has never been more important as all aspects of life – from Healthcare, Education and work to connecting with family and friends – have become virtual. Telesat and the Canadian Government have partnered to affordably bridge the Digital Divide using Telesat’s next-generation Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite network, Telesat Lightspeed. This partnership dedicates affordable Internet connectivity to rural, Northern and Indigenous communities across Canada.



► [LEARN HOW TO GET YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED](#)

### LOCAL DATA

As part of FCM’s collaboration with Statistics Canada to improve access to local data and help build member capacity to use data on a regular basis, each week we will share updates and opportunities for you to learn more about relevant data and tools, including tailored webinars on important products.

#### Upcoming webinars

A series of webinars will be available to members over the coming year about key products and capabilities that support local, evidence-based policy decisions. The next webinar on Census 2021 will provide an overview of this critical product for municipalities, including new content to address emerging trends and issues. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the webinar, so feel free to come prepared with questions. The session will be recorded except for the question and answer period, in case you are unable to join.

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FCM TWEETS 



**Mar 4:** Cities and communities are all in this together. Hear from municipal leaders from across Canada, talking about the impact of FCM's efforts throughout the #COVID19 pandemic—and about why it's so important for #cdnmuni to remain united. Full video: <https://bit.ly/3ciWxrl> #cdnpoli

**Mar 8:** THREAD: It's #IWD2021, and FCM salutes all of the women who work hard to make communities work: councillors, staff members, community workers, volunteers. You #ChooseToChallenge inequality and we are right here with you.

**Mar 4:** Great news. Low and zero emission public transit is a win-win for the economy and the environment. Investments in #publictransit keep Canadians moving + reduce GHGs. This is building better lives in communities. #cdnmuni #cdnpoli @cathmckenna @FP\_Champagne

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**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** FCM Communiqué <communiqué@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** March-25-21 4:56 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** Critical new support for municipal infrastructure

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**FCM** March 25, 2021



# COMMUNIQUÉ



## Critical new support for municipal infrastructure

Dear FCM members,

Earlier today Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland announced a doubling of next year's federal Gas Tax Fund transfer to municipalities, growing it by \$2.2 billion. The federal government is also proposing to rename this tool—as the *Canada Community Building Fund*—to reflect its essential value.

**Today's announcement is an important step toward the strong, community-rooted recovery Canadians deserve—and it responds to one of FCM's key recommendations for the upcoming federal budget.**

As you know, the GTF is the most proven and reliable tool we have to strengthen municipal infrastructure. Every year, it directly empowers communities of all sizes—rural, urban, northern and remote—to move the best local projects forward. Whether

that means fixing a local bridge, upgrading a wastewater facility, or retrofitting a recreation centre.

The GTF works because it recognizes our frontline expertise as the governments closest to daily life. Doubling next year’s transfer means more local jobs, real economic growth, and better lives for the people we serve. And that’s exactly what we’ll need to drive a strong and truly nationwide post-pandemic recovery.

Today’s announcement responds to FCM’s recommendation to grow the GTF transfer as a key tool for economic recovery. That’s one part of our wider call for a national recovery that’s rooted in cities and communities—the places where Canadians live, work and raise their families, and where people continue to live the realities of this pandemic.

Looking ahead, FCM will continue to advocate for a community-led recovery—starting with the April 19 federal budget. [Our budget recommendations](#) include bold action to tackle housing insecurity, support local disaster mitigation, strengthen rural communities and tackle western economic anxiety. And we continue to call for a durable solution to municipal budget shortfalls, for the duration of the pandemic.

Today’s announcement is thanks to FCM’s collective strength—and to your hard work. It reinforces what we’ve been saying all along: that municipalities are essential partners in driving Canada’s recovery. Together, local leaders stand ready to turn this investment into good jobs and better lives in communities of all sizes across the country.

**Garth Frizzell**  
FCM President



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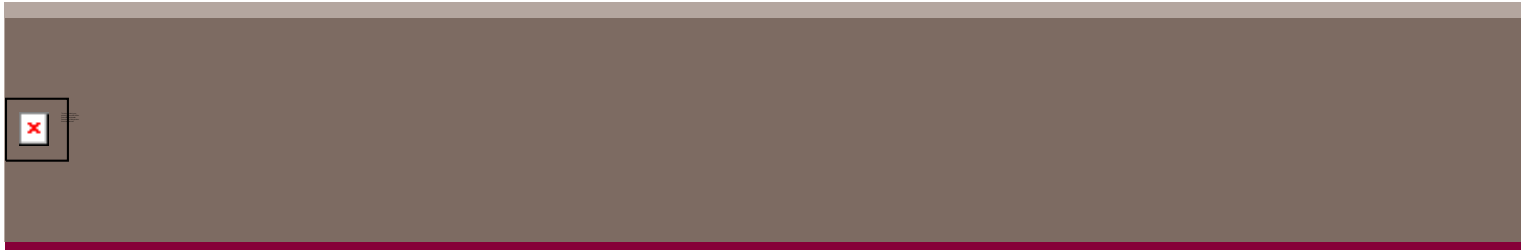
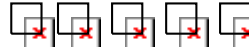
## Kelly Lush

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**From:** FCM Communiqué <communiqué@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** March-22-21 2:56 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: Nominations for FCM's Board of Directors | Community Efficiency Financing info session | WEST op-ed | more

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 NEWS | March 22, 2021



## Nominations are open for FCM's Board of Directors

The nomination process is now open for those wishing to run for FCM's 2021-2022 Board of Directors. Are you interested in making local priorities heard at the federal level? Put yourself forward as a candidate for a Director or a Table Officer position so you can drive change on a national scale. We all benefit from a strong FCM Board.

Check out our [Board election page](#) to learn more about the commitment these positions require, as well as to find nomination and consent forms. Elections will take place online during FCM's virtual Annual Conference and Trade Show, May 31-June 4, 2021.

We encourage you to put your name forward.

► [LEARN MORE AND RUN AS CANDIDATE](#)



## Want to help homeowners in your community save money on energy costs?

Our new funding offer helps create financing programs for home energy upgrades in municipalities across Canada. Join us on Wednesday, March 24 for a free info session about the Community Efficiency Financing

initiative. Learn how to design and implement a program that will help your community save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and drive investment in the local economy.

▶ [REGISTER TODAY](#)



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### **WEST op-ed: priorities for Budget 2021**

The chairs of FCM's Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST) have published an op-ed calling on the federal government to take immediate action in Budget 2021 to support western communities. They also highlighted WEST's budget recommendations to help protect western jobs, families, and industries.

The op-ed has appeared in a number of newspapers, including the *Regina Leader-Post*, *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*, *Edmonton Journal*, *Edmonton Sun*, *Edmonton Examiner*, and *Calgary Herald*. This widespread publication shows the importance of WEST's budget asks, as well as the strength of our collective voice.

▶ [READ THE OP-ED](#)

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### **FCM argues for local democracy at the Supreme Court**

On March 16, FCM intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada to defend local democracy in the City of Toronto's appeal against Bill 5, which completely re-wrote municipal electoral boundaries during an ongoing election. The hearing reflected the active conversations happening across the country about the modern role of local governments in our national architecture, with leading rights advocates from across the country calling on the Supreme Court to protect free and fair elections at the local level.

▶ [READ MORE](#)

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### **New Feminist Response and Recovery Fund**

The pandemic has deepened the already existing inequalities women face within our system including significant job losses, reduction in work hours and unpaid responsibilities in the home. In response to these ongoing challenges, Status of Women Canada has issued a call for proposals for the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund. Funding is offered to eligible organizations responding to the current impacts of COVID-19 on women through systemic change projects.

▶ [READ MORE AND SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS](#)

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### **LC3 Centres will accelerate urban climate solutions in Alberta**

The Alberta Ecotrust Foundation announced the receipt of their \$43.4 million endowment from the federal government on March 17. Part of the Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) network, they will host two LC3 Centres in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, supporting both cities as they reach their carbon emissions reduction targets and achieve their respective climate goals.

*The LC3 network is made possible by an endowment from the Government of Canada, with funds distributed by FCM's Green Municipal Fund.*

► **FIND OUT MORE**

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### **New video: local leaders salute FCM**

Municipal leaders from across the country have come together in a compelling new video to share what FCM's support during the COVID-19 pandemic has meant to them—and what local leaders can achieve when they work together. This video is a must-watch.

In the words of Roddickton-Bide Arm, NL Mayor Sheila Fitzgerald: "Being a part of FCM made me feel, as a community leader, that I was not alone, and that my challenges and my struggles were not just mine."

► **WATCH THE VIDEO NOW**



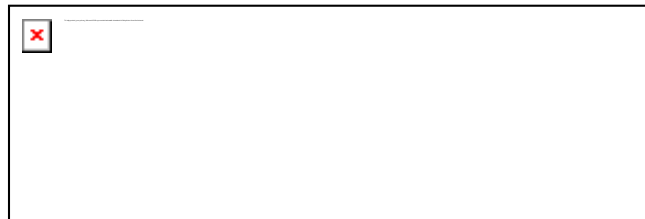
### **Digital transformation best practices for municipalities**

Learn about real-world strategies, best practices, and techniques to help you ensure the successful delivery and execution of your municipal digital transformation projects with Ceridian's Gianluca Cairo, Industry Principal, Public Sector and Tom Noorkah, Director of Financial Systems at the City of Columbus.

► **WATCH THE WEBINAR TO LEARN:**

- Best practices on securing internal resources to drive success
- What to expect from a best-in-class technology partner
- Change management during times of crisis

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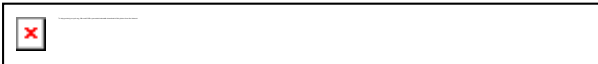


**Mar 19:** Are you interested in making local priorities heard at a national level? Put yourself forward as a candidate for a position on FCM's 2021-2022 Board of Directors. We all benefit from a strong FCM Board that helps communities across Canada thrive. <https://bit.ly/3saY8pT>

**Mar 21:** Today is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We remain committed to fighting racism, both within our organization and in the [#cdnmuni](#) we represent. This includes a new Standing Committee on Anti-Racism and Equity. <https://bit.ly/3cVcaFN>

**Mar 21:** "As this pandemic continues, millions of Canadians are depending on municipalities to keep essential services running. And many municipalities are still taking extraordinary measures for residents". -- FCM, CEO [@carolesaab](#)

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