

**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** FCM Communiqué <communiqué@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:01 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** Budget 2021: Significant news for rural communities

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**FCM** April 20, 2021



# COMMUNiqué



## Budget 2021: Significant news for rural communities

Dear members,

**Yesterday's federal budget** delivered on FCM recommendations that will significantly empower rural communities on the road to a strong post-COVID recovery.

From the beginning, we've called for a national recovery plan that empowers the rural and remote communities that drive a third of this country's economy. We're now seeing that play out in the effective advocacy your communities are doing through FCM. Make no mistake: yesterday's wins are a sign that rural Canada is being heard.

Federal Budget 2021 includes:

- **Major broadband funding:** \$1 billion over six years for the Universal Broadband Fund, for a new total of \$2.75 billion in direct funding to improve rural and remote Internet access.
- **Climate adaptation funding:** \$1.4 billion over 12 years for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund—setting aside \$670 million for smaller projects (\$1–20 million) to ease access for rural and remote communities (responding to FCM’s recommendation).
- **Community infrastructure funding:** \$500 million for local projects to be administered by the regional development agencies.
- **Compensation for farmers:** \$100 million in support for farmers in provinces where the federal carbon tax applies (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario).
- **Employer supports:** \$57.6 million in 2021-22 to expand the Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program to help employers offset costs associated with temporary foreign workers fulfilling isolation requirements upon entering Canada.
- **Community Workforce Development Program:** \$55 million over three years in this new program, serving local and regional economic priorities as well as national priorities like de-carbonization and supporting workers in transforming sectors, with a focus on under-represented groups.

These steps add to major progress achieved just before the budget. On March 25, the federal government committed to doubling next year’s Gas Tax Fund transfer. This \$2.2 billion injection will directly empower communities of all sizes to move more infrastructure projects forward. Four days later, our federal partners announced the first-ever dedicated fund for rural transit needs.

We’ll be working with our federal partners on the design and implementation of new commitments—to ensure programs work for municipalities and maximize impact on the ground. That includes ensuring the rollout of new investments through the Reaching Home program includes targeted supports for rural and remote homelessness, as FCM has strongly recommended.

This budget is a clear sign that the federal government understands that *municipalities of all sizes are essential partners on the road to recovery*. That puts us in a very strong position ahead of a federal election that could come as early as this spring.

Our communities are where Canadians are living, working and raising their children through the pandemic. They’re also where Canada’s post-COVID recovery needs to take root. Thanks to our strong and united voice—led by FCM—this budget is a step toward that goal.

Sincerely,

**Garth Frizzell**  
FCM President



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**From:** FCM Communiqué <communiqué@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** April-26-21 3:30 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: Building on Budget 2021 | AC2021 early-bird extended and keynote announcement | Two webinars | more

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# FCM VOICE

Canada's voice of local government



# Building on Budget 2021

By responding to several key FCM recommendations, last week's federal budget will help municipalities build a stronger post-COVID Canada.

Big-ticket items include billion-dollar-plus investments in the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, Universal Broadband Fund, Rapid Housing Initiative and National Trade Corridors Fund. This budget heeds FCM's call for measures that empower communities of all sizes—from boosting rural broadband, to reserving significant adaptation funding for smaller projects, to actioning proposals from FCM's Western Economic Solutions Taskforce.

From here, FCM will work hard to ensure the rollout of these commitments works for municipalities. We'll continue pressing recommendations that were not actioned at the scale we need—including on housing. And we'll do that with eyes on a federal election that could come as early as this spring.

► [READ FCM'S STATEMENT ON BUDGET 2021](#)

## EVENTS

### AC2021 early-bird extended and keynote announcement

We're thrilled to announce our keynote speaker for FCM's 2021 Annual Conference and Trade Show: Super Bowl Champion and pandemic frontline worker [Laurent Duvernay-Tardif](#). He'll share why he paused his football career last year to put his medical training to work on the pandemic's front lines. And he'll offer his unique insights on perseverance, resilience and community service. We're so excited to welcome Laurent—and we know you will be too. That's why we're **extending our early-bird rates to May 14**. That's two more reasons to join us, May 31 to June 4.

► [LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW](#)

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### Webinar: Guide to climate action in small and rural communities

Curious about how the new *Small and rural communities climate action guidebook* can help your community take climate action and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? On May 4 at 1:00 p.m. ET, the Partners for Climate Protection program, delivered by FCM and ICLEI Canada – Local Governments for Sustainability, will be hosting a free webinar dedicated to breaking down the guidebook and how it can help you develop realistic climate initiatives that can benefit both residents and the economy.

► [REGISTER TODAY](#)

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## Don't miss the Community Buildings Retrofit info session

If you're looking for high-impact solutions that generate significant long-term GHG reductions, consider our Community Buildings Retrofit initiative. Join us this Wednesday for an introduction to GMF's new initiative designed to help municipalities of all sizes upgrade community buildings to a higher energy performance standard. You'll hear success stories from municipalities who have completed similar projects and learn how retrofitting can lower operating costs, create local jobs and preserve important community hubs.

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## NEWS

### Last chance: Still time to apply to join the Circular Cities & Regions Initiative's peer network

There is still time to apply to join the Peer to Peer Network, part of the Circular Cities & Regions Initiative (CCRI). Submit your application by April 30, 2021, and connect with leading experts in the field and gain access to knowledge and tools to accelerate circular economy solutions and approaches in your community.

CCRI is a one-year pilot developed in collaboration with FCM's Green Municipal Fund, the National Zero Waste Council, the Recycling Council of Alberta and RECYC-QUÉBEC.

► [APPLY TODAY](#)

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## RESOURCES

### New insights on asset management

Do you want to know how Canadian municipalities are integrating asset management into policy and governance activities to improve their infrastructure decision-making practices?

Check out our new *Asset management insights: Policy and governance report*. This web-based report is the first of a series that will provide information on the impact of the Municipal Asset Management Program and blends key findings with real examples of what communities are doing to improve their decision-making on infrastructure.

► [DISCOVER ASSET MANAGEMENT INSIGHTS](#)

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## LOCAL DATA

## Capacity building: Online data boot camp starting May 4

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, we will share updates and opportunities for you to learn more about relevant data and tools, including tailored webinars on key products and capabilities that support local, evidence-based policy decisions.

### Capacity building: Online data boot camp starting May 4

Statistics Canada just launched an online bootcamp series to improve data literacy for public servants, including a self-paced seven-week training program consisting of weekly, 20-minute training sessions.

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#### FCM TWEETS

**April 19:** STATEMENT: Read FCM's statement on the 2021 federal budget: <https://bit.ly/3sJ2ST9> #Budget2021 #cdnmuni #cdnpoli

**April 23:** We're thrilled to announce NFL star and @Snow Sports person of the Year @LaurentDTardif as a keynote speaker at #FCM2021AC. Join us May 31-Jun 4 to hear Laurent's inspiring reflections on a year spent on the front lines of the pandemic. <https://fcm.ca/Forward2021>

**April 22:** Achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 starts local. There's a lot of work to do and FCM's #GreenMunicipalFund is here to help. Learn how #CDNmuni and GMF are rising to the challenge. <http://fcm.ca/gmf> #NetZero2050 #Earthday2021 #EarthDay

► MORE



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