

Advocacy update – 2025 federal election

On April 28th, Canadians elected a Liberal minority government led by Prime Minister Mark Carney to govern Canada's 45th Parliament. FCM stands ready to partner with the federal government to advance the interests of municipalities nationwide. We are also ready to engage all opposition parties, including the Conservative Party of Canada, the Bloc Québécois, the New Democratic Party of Canada and the Green Party of Canada, given the balance of power in this minority context and to hold the federal government to account.

Throughout this campaign and on our website, [Stronger Together](#), FCM advocated to all parties for a **National Prosperity Partnership** so we can:

- Support local economic growth and resilience
- Invest in infrastructure renewal
- Achieve housing affordability
- End homelessness with local solutions
- Keep communities safe
- Build climate-resilient communities
- Support thriving rural, remote and northern communities

Central to FCM's advocacy is a call for national dialogue on modernizing the municipal fiscal framework. To build a stronger Canada we need to modernize how we invest in the very places where economic activity happens —our communities. We look forward to working with the federal government to advance this work and to address other key challenges facing Canadians as strategic partners in building a more resilient and prosperous Canada. **Through local strength, we can achieve national prosperity.**

Liberal platform commitments of interest to municipal governments

Prime Minister Mark Carney led the campaign with a four-pillar plan to Unite, Secure, Protect and Build a Strong Canada. The Liberal platform contains many commitments that align with municipal priorities.

FCM called for support for local economic growth and resilience, including a modernized fiscal framework, the removal of interprovincial trade barriers, new trade-enabling infrastructure, streamlined infrastructure approvals and the establishment of National Utility Corridors.

On economic resilience, the Liberal Party commits to:

- Build business and trade-enabling infrastructure like ports, railways, airports, and highways with \$11.8B over four years combined for a Nation-building Projects Fund and a Trade Diversification Corridors Fund,
- Provide \$1.5B to build out Canada's east-west electricity grid, a nation-building transmission project developed with provinces, territories, Indigenous partners, and stakeholders,

- Unleash free trade in Canada by July 1st by tabling legislation to eliminate all federal barriers to interprovincial trade and labour mobility and to remove all federal exceptions under the Canada Free Trade Agreement,
- Reduce red tape by requiring all relevant federal departments to take steps to eliminate outdated or unnecessary rules, reduce duplication or overlap with provincial rules, and streamline the administration of rules and the delivery of regulatory decisions, and
- Get big projects built quickly by establishing “One Window” project decisions through a Major Federal Project Office, require the new Major Federal Project Office to render final decisions on projects on a maximum two-year timeline, and move forward with One Project, One Review.

FCM will continue to advocate for a modernized fiscal framework for municipal governments to ensure our communities have the resources we need to build a stronger Canada. We will also closely monitor efforts to support trade, build an effective impact assessment regime and establish national utility corridors.

FCM called for investment in infrastructure renewal to repair and upgrade core infrastructure, support rural communities, improve digital connectivity, expand transit and lay the groundwork for increased housing supply.

On infrastructure, the Liberal Party commits to:

- Provide \$2B over two years to build community infrastructure, working first with municipalities that are making progress on housing,
- Cut municipal development charges in half for multi-unit residential housing for five years by working with provinces and territories to offset lost municipal revenue with \$6B in federal funding for housing-enabling infrastructure,
- Invest in nation-building and trade diversification infrastructure as well as rural transit solutions and disaster mitigation infrastructure, and
- Continue the previous government’s existing commitments, including on the Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF), the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) and the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF).

FCM supports stronger infrastructure for a stronger Canada. We will be staunch advocates for a National Prosperity Partnership to upgrade core infrastructure, invest in rural and northern communities, and invest in transit, water and waste-water infrastructure that supports communities.

FCM called for support to achieve housing affordability by stimulating housing construction, overcoming rural housing challenges and expanding non-profit housing. **FCM also called for ending homelessness with local solutions** that increase affordable and supportive housing, funding for shelters and wraparound services, support for refugee housing and the creation of a housing benefit for at-risk individuals.

On housing and homelessness, the Liberal Party commits to:

- Create Build Canada Homes (BCH) and fund the new organization with \$11.8B over 4 years to enable the federal government to act as a developer, build on federal land, invest in the building industry, and to train the workers needed to increase housing supply, by:

- Providing over \$25B in financing to innovative prefabricated home builders in Canada, and
- Injecting \$10B in low-cost financing and capital for homes that support middle- and low-income Canadians. This will include housing for students, seniors, Veterans, people with disabilities, and Indigenous housing and shelters,
- Cut GST for first-time home buyers at a cost of \$1.57B over 4 years,
- Reintroduce a multi-unit residential building (MURB) tax incentive for home builders at a cost of nearly \$1.13B over 4 years,
- Facilitate the conversion of existing structures into affordable housing with \$138M over 4 years,
- Build on the success of the Housing Accelerator Fund, further reducing housing bureaucracy, zoning restrictions, and other red tape, and publicly report on municipalities' progress to speed up permitting and approval timelines, and
- Speed up approvals by reforming and simplifying national building codes, and eliminate duplicative inspections and streamlining regulations for prefabricated and modular housing.

Municipalities are essential partners in developing housing and addressing homelessness. FCM will ensure that the next Parliament not only supports housing construction but also makes homelessness prevention programs permanent and closes the homelessness funding gap. The federal government must address refugee housing needs and enact preventive measures like establishing a portable housing benefit for at-risk individuals.

FCM called for solutions to keep communities safe, like evidence-based approaches to bail reform, optimizing RCMP staffing levels while engaging municipalities on reform and keeping costs sustainable, improving mental health and substance use care, and working together to tackle crime.

On public safety, the Liberal Party commits to:

- Provide \$1.17B in new RCMP funding to hire 1000 more RCMP personnel and make capital investments to end drug and human trafficking,
- Crack down on drugs, including fentanyl and its precursors, illegal guns, and stop gangs from smuggling stolen cars out of the country, including by strengthening the CBSA with more personnel and technology to boost border security,
- Toughen sentencing guidelines so they are stricter for repeat offenders of car theft, as well as violent and organized crimes, and
- Add \$500M to the Emergency Treatment Fund for municipalities, Indigenous communities, and local health organizations to support urgent responses to the toxic drug and overdose crisis.

FCM will continue to advocate for fixing Canada's bail system, easing the financial load on municipalities through a modernized fiscal framework, and improving mental health and substance use care. The Federal Government must commit to meaningful consultations with municipalities on decisions affecting the future of RCMP contract policing.

FCM called for support to build climate resilient communities including investment in resilient infrastructure, disaster response measures, disaster financial assistance and support for nature-based solutions.

On climate resilience, the Liberal Party commits to:

- Provide \$500M in disaster mitigation and recovery funding to help communities get back on their feet after natural disasters,
- Retrofit homes to lower household risks to floods and wildfires, and other extreme weather events,
- Provide \$450M to stand up Canada's high-risk flood insurance program by April 2026 to support homeowners in reducing their exposure to future climate risk,
- Federally supported housing will not be built in areas that are at high risk for floods and wildfires,
- Fund \$756 million over 4 years to advance the creation of at least ten new National Parks and Marine Protected Areas, and support the creation of fifteen new urban parks and green spaces in municipalities, and
- Prioritize natural infrastructure, like forested areas and wetlands and rehabilitate sensitive ecosystems with \$500M in new funding.

Canadian communities need long-term, predictable access to disaster mitigation infrastructure funding with limited administrative burden to support communities of all sizes. FCM will continue to advocate for actions that save Canadians money and prevent tragedies. When wildfires, flooding and other disasters occur, all orders of government need to work together to support recovery and allow impacted communities to build back better.

FCM called for support for thriving rural, remote and northern communities, including improved infrastructure, improved safety and connectivity, and better housing options.

On promoting a thriving rural, remote and northern Canada, the Liberal Party commits to:

- Provide \$2B to build the Arctic economy with more ports, highways, railways, and energy infrastructure, with a focus on dual-use infrastructure that grows our economy, reinforces our partnership with Indigenous communities, and secures our sovereignty,
- Reversing a previous cut in the Rural Transit Solutions Fund with \$250 million in new funding, and
- Provide \$2.5B over two years for digital infrastructure, including AI infrastructure, digital supply-chain solutions, rural broadband and reliable cell service to connect and keep communities safe.

FCM will closely monitor the implementation of these commitments and continue to advocate for improved infrastructure for rural and northern communities as well as better housing options that meet the unique realities of smaller communities.

Next steps

FCM welcomes election commitments aimed at investing in local strength, including new funding for critical municipal infrastructure as well as the commitment to continue and enhance existing funding streams.

Over the course of the next Parliament, we will engage the federal government to advance key municipal priorities and to champion the interests of the communities we serve. Central to these efforts will be ensuring municipal governments remain whole and have the necessary resources to build stronger and more resilient communities. We are stronger together – FCM is ready to work with the federal government as a strategic partner in Team Canada.

FCM encourages all members to build constructive and meaningful relationships with re-elected and newly elected Members of Parliament. Working together, we can ensure a brighter and more prosperous future for all Canadians.