

Federal election 2025

Stronger together: Local strength, national prosperity

- Canada's strength has always come from within—from our people, our natural resources, our industries, and foremost from the communities that make up this country. But right now, Canadians are navigating deep uncertainty. A trade war with our closest neighbour and largest trading partner means it is time to have long overdue conversations about the future ahead.
- From coast to coast to coast, across rural, northern and urban Canada, local communities are the engines of economic prosperity that maintain the vital infrastructure and essential services that underpin our nation—enabling trade, powering industry, and connecting people.
 - As an order of government, municipalities are essential to economic success and must be at the table as partners alongside provinces, territories and the federal government.
- As Canadians head to the polls to decide who will form our next government, safeguarding the long-term prosperity of all our communities must be paramount. We need a smarter long-term approach that moves beyond crisis-reaction mode towards a stronger future for all Canadians.
- To strengthen our nation and maintain Canada's ability to control its economic future, we must invest in our local communities—that is what will create national prosperity. Canadians need a National Prosperity Partnership in which all orders of government work together to move our nation forward.
- We need a structural conversation about how Canada funds and enables economic growth. A modern National Prosperity Partnership will ensure municipalities—who create the conditions for this growth—can build a stronger, more resilient Canada.
 - This partnership will help to position municipalities to better advance Reconciliation goals and build ties between all communities.
- By investing in local strength we can:
 - Support local economic growth and resilience
 - Invest in infrastructure development and renewal
 - Achieve housing affordability
 - End homelessness
 - Keep communities safe and support vital emergency services
 - Ensure climate resilience to protect our communities from natural disasters; and
 - Support thriving rural, remote and northern communities.

- As Canada's voice for local governments, FCM and our members are ready to work with the federal government to stand up for Canada and to move our nation forward. It's time to reinvest in our foundations—so we can create jobs, break down barriers to trade, and ensure opportunities in urban, northern and rural communities for every Canadian.

Advocacy priorities

Support local economic growth and resilience

- National prosperity starts in our local communities. Municipalities are the engines of Canada's economic growth and resilience.
- Canada faces significant economic headwinds for the foreseeable future—weathering the storm requires a Team Canada approach. We need a National Prosperity Partnership in which all orders of government work together to get ahead.
- We are stronger together: reducing inter-provincial trade barriers will help Canadians get ahead.
- Trade-enabling infrastructure—from roads and highways, to airports, rail and deep-sea ports—is vital to getting Canadian goods to market, both domestically and internationally.
- Whether it's critical minerals, steel and aluminum, agriculture, meat and dairy, forestry, the fisheries, oil and gas or the automotive & advanced manufacturing sectors, it's time for all levels of government to focus on our economic foundations and long-term strength.
- Streamlining approvals for infrastructure projects and establishing national utility corridors while continuing to protect our environment while advancing Reconciliation will also help move Canada forward.

Invest in infrastructure renewal

- We need a National Prosperity Partnership in which all orders of government come together to advance municipal fiscal reform, invest in local strength and make our nation more economically resilient.
- Stronger infrastructure enables trade, drives local job creation, boosts productivity and lays the groundwork for increased housing supply. This means roads, water and wastewater infrastructure, public transit, fire stations, community facilities, and more.
- Municipalities own more than 60% of Canada's core public infrastructure yet only collect between eight to ten cents of every tax dollar.
- In Canada, the backlog for local infrastructure repair and replacement is at over \$240 Billion.
- When local infrastructure can't keep up with population growth, local economies suffer, and our communities become less resilient.

Achieve housing affordability

- Our nation is in the grip of a housing and affordability crisis.
- 44% of Canadians say housing affordability is their biggest worry, and an entire generation feels locked out of home ownership.
- Municipalities are stepping up; however, homes cannot be built without the infrastructure that underpins it.
- A new National Prosperity Partnership will ensure local governments have long-term, predictable funding to support what Canadians need for new homes: pipes, water and wastewater treatment plants, waste facilities, fire halls and more—services that make a house a home.

End homelessness

- Over the last 10 years, there has been a 20% rise in homelessness across Canada.
- Homelessness is now an everyday reality in Canadian communities, including rural communities, despite increased investments over the past decade.
- Adequate funding would enhance homelessness interventions, unlock transitional and low-barrier shelters and ensure lasting solutions. We need a National Prosperity Partnership between all orders of government to address this crisis and end homelessness in our communities.

Keep communities safe

- Canadians need to feel safe for local communities to prosper and drive economic prosperity. A National Prosperity Partnership would ensure community safety and address the rising cost of emergency services.
- Municipal police forces face growing challenges, such as increasing rates of violent crime, property theft and issues linked to mental health.
- Canada's bail system must be strengthened by working with all levels of government and through evidence-based decision-making. Repeat offenders pose significant risks to community safety.
- RCMP recruitment and retention remains a concern for communities.
- Meaningful, transparent consultation with communities is required for a financially sustainable future for contract policing.

Invest in Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

- 2024 was Canada's costliest year on record for severe weather-related events, costing taxpayers \$8.5 billion in damages.
- To ensure our communities remain prosperous places to live and work, we need a National Prosperity Partnership in which all orders of government work together to invest further in disaster mitigation.
- Every \$1 invested in climate adaptation saves up to \$13-15 in economy-wide benefits.
- For communities to prepare for extreme weather, an immediate investment in disaster mitigation and adaptation is necessary. Long-term, predictable funding with limited administrative burden is critical for small, rural and northern communities.
- These projects have a strong return on investment, reducing the risks posed by extreme weather that cause serious disruptions to our local economies.

Support Thriving Rural, Northern & Remote Communities

- Rural, northern & remote communities are the economic foundation of the Canadian economy. Mining, agriculture, meat and dairy, oil and gas, fisheries, forestry and tourism are all key to national success.
- With small tax bases but generally large geographic areas of responsibility, rural communities face particular challenges in relation to core infrastructure such as roads, water and wastewater infrastructure and fire stations.
- Growing communities require foundations for success, such as adequate public safety resources and reliable broadband connectivity.
- With the right investments, our rural, northern & remote communities can drive growth and innovation—a National Prosperity Partnership is needed to build a stronger, more resilient Canada.