

A better life for all Canadians

Municipalities are known for turning shared federal-municipal aspirations into action on the ground. We're renewing job-creating infrastructure and retrofitting buildings to cut emissions. We're making this country more resilient to extreme weather. We're working to enhance community wellbeing by promoting housing affordability and fostering inclusivity.

We're doing all of this and more in ways that are efficient, cost-effective and that make life better in this country.

That's why every year during its Advocacy Days event, FCM mobilizes federal officials of all political stripes around core municipal priorities, so we can deliver solutions together that improve the quality of life of Canadians across the country.

Here is a brief summary of our priorities for Budget 2023.

A resilient quality of life



From fires to storms and floods, communities are on the front lines of extreme weather. FCM has led the charge in calling for action and investment to protect communities from devastating weather events, including:

- Welcoming the release of the **National Adaptation Strategy** (NAS) and the significant investment – through the Green Municipal Fund – in local climate adaptation projects and risk assessment.
- Building on the progress demonstrated through the National Adaptation Strategy's top-up to the **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund** (DMAF), and emphasizing the importance of long-term, predictable funding for climate resilient infrastructure.

Municipalities are expecting to see new investments in Budget 2023, including an immediate **increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund** (DMAF) totaling \$2 billion and at least **\$1 billion per year** in ongoing funding for disaster mitigation infrastructure (inclusive of new funding announced in the federal NAS Action Plan).



We are FCM

FCM is the national voice of municipal government since 1901. We unite more than 2,100 cities and communities of all sizes, from big cities to rural and northern communities, as well as provincial and territorial municipal associations.

Together we represent more than 92 percent of Canadians. That gives us an unparalleled ability to convene Canada's on-the-ground leaders, and to help design and deliver federal initiatives that build better lives for Canadians.

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An affordable quality of life



Municipalities have a critical role to play in addressing housing affordability. Like so many national policy challenges of our time, Canada's housing crisis requires local governments to dedicate more resources than ever before to deliver solutions across the country. But no order of government can do it alone. Municipalities are urging the federal government to:

- Prioritize a predictable, up-front and allocation-based model for the **Housing Accelerator Fund** to begin unlocking supply immediately.
- Optimize and continue to invest in critical National Housing Strategy programs such as the **National Housing Co-Investment Fund** and **Rental Construction Financing Initiative** to create more affordable rental supply.
- Continue to scale up the **Rapid Housing Initiative** and **Reaching Home program** to end chronic homelessness by committing to long-term funding and supports.
- **Prioritize the development of an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy** in partnership with Indigenous housing providers across Canada, and commit at least \$3 billion over the next five years for new Indigenous housing units.

A secure quality of life



Community wellbeing is the foundation of livable cities and municipalities. There are critical steps the federal and municipal orders of government can take together to keep communities safe for all Canadians. In Budget 2023, we're looking to make progress on:

- Preventing serious repercussions on community services with a federal commitment to absorb all **retroactive costs** associated with the signing of the new RCMP bargaining agreement.
- Tackling the opioid crisis by building on **emergency funding** through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program, **supporting access** to pharmaceutical alternatives to the illegal drug supply, and moving toward more stable, long-term funding.
- Increasing access to **mental health and addictions services** in rural, remote and underserved communities.

A growing quality of life



So many national challenges, including increasing housing supply, depend on core infrastructure being in good condition. Yet according to Statistics Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey, 14% of municipal waste and water infrastructure and 12% of municipal transportation infrastructure is currently in "poor" or "very poor" condition. FCM has estimated that the cost of addressing all municipal assets currently in "poor" and "very poor" condition is more than \$175 billion. As current infrastructure programs end or renew, FCM is advancing recommendations for the future of federal infrastructure funding. We are looking to Budget 2023 to advance key priorities such as:

- Permanently doubling the proven **Canada Community Building Fund** (formerly known as the Gas Tax Fund) to \$4.4 billion per year to renew core municipal infrastructure.
- Establishing a new federal program for **water infrastructure** valued at no less than \$1 billion per year.
- Modernizing public transit by launching the **Permanent Public Transit Fund** in 2023, and implementing a comprehensive plan for inter-community transit in partnership with provinces and territories.
- Bolstering **rural and northern infrastructure** by adding a needs-based stream to the **Universal Broadband Fund**, investing in the rural water infrastructure, roads and bridges, ports and airports.
- Closing the **Indigenous infrastructure** gap to improve quality of life for Indigenous communities.

Let's work together to ensure all Canadians experience a better quality of life in our communities.

For more information on FCM and local government priorities, contact us at advocacydays@fcm.ca or visit our website fcm.ca.