

CCBF Package for Members **Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND - KEY MESSAGES

These key messages can be used when you post about the CCBF on social media, in conversation with your local MP or when discussing the CCBF's relevance with community stakeholders.

- With a new federal infrastructure plan at a standstill, the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) is currently the only federal infrastructure program that municipalities can rely on to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and develop new community assets to help accommodate growth.
- Canada's municipalities are going through a period of historic growth and must be able to count on a flexible and predictable CCBF at the end of the current renegotiation process between the federal government and signatories.
- The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) provides more than \$2.4 billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism, and municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing critical core public infrastructure, including water infrastructure, local roads, public transit and community, and cultural and recreational facilities.
- In the near-term, FCM is calling on the federal government to renew this critical program and maintain the CCBF as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities.
- FCM has also called on the federal government to leverage this proven funding mechanism as a vehicle to deliver increased funding directly to municipalities, as part of a new Municipal Growth Framework that would better link municipal funding with national population and economic growth.

RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

Please feel free to use the below template to draft a resolution for adoption by your own municipal council to participate in our advocacy efforts:

[month, day, year]

Federal infrastructure funding not keeping pace with population growth

WHEREAS, Canada is experiencing record population growth, having welcomed 1.25 million new Canadians last year alone; and

WHEREAS, According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) we need to build at least 3.5 million additional homes by 2030, and municipalities need to build or expand the infrastructure to accommodate this growth; and

WHEREAS, FCM has estimated that the cost of the municipal infrastructure required support housing development is, on average, in the range of \$107,000 per unit; and

WHEREAS, According to Statistics Canada the cost of upgrade *existing* municipal infrastructure so that it is in a state of good repair is in the range of \$170 billion; and

WHEREAS, Non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure project without a corresponding growth in revenue; and

WHEREAS, Unlike federal and provincial revenue, municipal tax revenue has not increased in recent years along with inflation, economic growth or population growth; and

WHEREAS, Municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end, the Canada Community-Building Fund is being renegotiated and the Permanent Public Transit Fund is set to start in 2026;

WHEREAS, The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which was formerly known as the federal Gas Tax Fund, provides more than \$2.4 billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism, and municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing critical core public infrastructure, including water infrastructure, local roads, public transit and community, and cultural and recreational facilities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the federal government work with agreement signatories and municipalities to maintain the CCBF as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the federal government commit, in Budget 2024, to the next generation of infrastructure programs, including a new program for water and wastewater infrastructure and an increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the federal government convene provinces, territories and municipalities to negotiate a “Municipal Growth Framework” to modernize the way that municipalities are funded in order to enable Canada’s long-term growth.

[Municipality of xx, Province (abr.)]

SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR MP

Please feel free to use the below template to inform your local MPs of the adoption of a CCBF resolution:

March [xx], 2024

[Mr./Mrs./Ms./Mx. (full name), M.P., or for Ministers: The Honourable (full name), P.C., M.P.]

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON

K1A 0A6

Subject: Urgent call for federal commitment to renew the Canada Community Building Fund

[Dear Minister or Dear Mr./Ms. (last name of MP)]:

I write to you today to bring your urgent attention to an issue of growing concern to our municipality.

On March [xx], 2024, the council of the municipality of [xyz] unanimously resolved to urge the federal government to dedicate funds in the 2024 Budget to the next generation of infrastructure programs, including a new program for water and wastewater infrastructure and an increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund.

The federal government must step up in Budget 2024 and solidify its commitment to new housing by channeling investments into the supporting infrastructure. The housing crisis is not something any single order of government can solve. Our municipality, along with others across the country, has been accelerating housing construction, fast-tracking permit approvals, and coming up with innovative zoning solutions to get more housing built faster.

However, the absence of a comprehensive housing and infrastructure plan brings uncertainty to the lives of individuals, particularly those searching for affordable housing. An immediate housing and homelessness plan is essential, one that extends beyond new housing units to include the infrastructure required to service these units and encompass a renewed commitment to invest in complete neighbourhoods with robust public services.

Moreover, our municipal council is concerned that the **Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)** is currently the only federal infrastructure program on which we can rely on to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and develop new assets to accommodate growth. It is crucial for Canada's growing municipalities to have access to a CCBF that is flexible and predictable as the renegotiation process concludes.

While municipalities are working hard to get housing built, they own and maintain most of the infrastructure that Canadians rely on every day. Yet, they only collect between 8 to 12 cents of every tax dollar. It is time to empower municipalities with the tools they need to support growth. Alongside the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, our municipality is advocating for all orders of government to come together to modernize the way that municipalities are funded to enable Canada's long-term growth, to ensure economic development and to provide a great quality of life for every Canadian.

The municipality of [your municipality] looks forward to working with you to ensure a future where Canadians see their communities growing confidently, with scale and ambition that delivers what Canadians need now — more affordable housing, support for the most vulnerable, core infrastructure that can support generations of residents, and reliable, efficient transit we can rely on into the future.

Yours sincerely,

[name of signatory]

[title, municipality, province]