



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 26-049**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Councillor Conny Glenn
Date of Meeting: December 16, 2025
Subject: 2025 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Parliament Hill
Advocacy Days Update

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

On October 28 - 30 the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) held their annual advocacy days on Parliament Hill to advance municipal priorities with federal decision makers. 'Advocacy Days' include meetings with federal senators and Members of Parliament, keynotes from leaders of all parties and presentations from FCM staff. Councillor Conny Glenn is Kingston's elected member on the FCM board. As a board member she serves on several FCM subcommittees including the Rural Forum, the Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention, and the Standing Committee of Municipal Transportation, Finance and Infrastructure. This report is intended to provide an overview of FCM's 2025 advocacy days and priorities with the federal government.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Options/Discussion:**Background**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901. Members include more than 2,100 municipalities of all sizes, from Canada's cities and rural communities to northern communities and 20 provincial and territorial municipal associations. Together, they represent more than 90 percent of all Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

Canadian municipalities came together in 1901 as the Union of Canadian Municipalities. The Dominion Conference of Mayors was established in 1935 and by 1937 the two national bodies joined as the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities - renamed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in 1976. FCM advocates to ensure municipal needs are reflected in federal policies and programs.

The FCM Board of Directors has 75 elected municipal officials and affiliate members from across Canada. They develop policies and set priorities that reflect their members positions on issues that concern municipal governments across the country.

In May 2025, Councillor Conny Glenn was elected to the FCM Board at their Annual General Meeting representing Kingston on FCM's Ontario Caucus, Rural Forum, Standing Committee on Municipal Transportation, Finance and Infrastructure and Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention. This is a two-year elected position and gives the City an opportunity to be at the forefront of federal decision making, policy and advocacy. As part of their work, FCM hosts an annual FCM advocacy Days on the Hill, where members meet with federal decision makers on municipal priorities.

Analysis

FCM Advocacy Days are a cornerstone of FCM's federal government advocacy strategy, bringing together municipal leaders from across the country to engage directly with federal decision-makers. 2025 marked significant changes in the federal landscape with the election of a new Prime Minister and Cabinet trying to advance their agenda within a minority government context. FCM is calling on the federal government to fix local infrastructure, tackle homelessness and make housing more affordable.

FCM's 2025 advocacy days took place on October 28 - 30 in Ottawa in advance of the government's first budget on November 4. Advocacy days included over 90 meetings with ministers, MPs, and senior officials, and brought together close to 200 local leaders representing communities of all sizes. Councillor and FCM Board Member Conny Glenn participated in several meetings over the course of three days. More information on FCM's central priorities to the federal government during advocacy days is below.

Local governments own more than 60 percent of Canada's core public infrastructure - roads, bridges, water systems, and transit - yet only receive 8 to 10 cents of every tax dollar. With a

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national infrastructure deficit estimated at \$270 billion, FCM municipalities are calling for urgent federal action to modernize the systems Canadians rely on every day.

FCM is calling for federal action on three strategic priorities:

- Support core infrastructure by doubling the Canada Community-Building Fund and indexing it to GDP growth and secure matching dollars from the provinces and territories.
- Advance nation-building by launching a NextGen infrastructure program to follow the \$33 billion Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, which ends in 2028. This successor should include targeted investments in rural, Northern, and Arctic infrastructure to support local economies and protect Canada's sovereignty.
- Protect and grow essential municipal programs that support our most vulnerable and that communities rely on to tackle local growth including homelessness, welcome newcomers and keep people moving. These programs like Reaching Home, the Interim Housing Assistance Program, and the Canada Public Transit Fund are vital to building a stronger, more resilient Canada.

Canada's ever-changing relationship with the United States also played a critical role in this year's Advocacy Days because of the escalating economic tariff uncertainty. FCM for its part is working with several US municipal organizations to strengthen cross-border municipal relationships to impact Federal U.S. decision-making. FCM will meet next in February for virtual committee meetings, followed by a March Board meeting in Newfoundland.

Contacts:

Holly Wilson, Manager of Government Relations, 613-546-4291 extension 1402

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted

None

Exhibits Attached:

None