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CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
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CHAIR, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE TORONTO ZOO
CHAIR, FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES
CHAIR, TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

Date: November 20, 2025

To: Mayor Olivia Chow, Chair and Executive Committee

Re: Federation of Municipalities (FCM) October 2025 Advocacy Days

Recommendation:

1. Toronto City Council receive the Federation of Municipalities (FCM) October 2025 Advocacy days report to Council for information.

Background:

I am pleased to advise of my participation on behalf of the City of Toronto at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Advocacy Days on Parliament Hill, meeting with federal decision-makers to emphasize that Canada's housing and economic goals depend on strong local infrastructure. Municipalities own over 60% of core infrastructure but receive only 8–10 cents of every tax dollar, while facing a \$270B infrastructure deficit. Without urgent federal investment, housing plans and supply chain growth risk stalling before they start. [News: Canada risks stalling nation-building without strong local infrastructure](#)

FCM is urging the Federal Government for action on three priorities:

- **Double the \$2.4B Canada Community-Building Fund** and index it to GDP growth, with matching provincial/territorial contributions.
- **Launch a NextGen infrastructure program** to succeed the \$33B Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program ending in 2028, with targeted investments for rural, Northern, and Arctic communities.
- **Protect and expand essential municipal programs** like Reaching Home, Interim Housing Assistance, and the Canada Public Transit Fund to support vulnerable populations, manage growth, and build resilient communities.

Guided by FCM's advocacy priorities, I emphasized the City of Toronto in my discussions with Ministers

1. **Deliver Municipal Infrastructure that supports jobs and economy amid the trade war**
 - Support increased infrastructure funding to enable sustainable, complete communities alongside new housing.
 - Boost funding for the Canada Permanent Transit Fund (CPTF).
 - CPTF will provide \$3B annually for transit and active transportation starting in 2026–27. \$3B per year is insufficient to meet national transit state-of-good-repair and expansion needs.
2. **Enable more affordable housing in Urban and Rural Communities**
 - Delays in housing benefits, like COHB, immediately stop the flow of people exiting the shelter system, proving their critical role.
 - Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) housing is overwhelmingly reported by those with lived experience as the most effective tool to prevent their homelessness.

- The Affordability Gap has ballooned due to a 62% increase in average market rent versus only a 4% increase in social assistance shelter allowances since 2014.

3. **Ensure Safer Communities through investment in policing, crisis resourcing and bail reform**

- Since March 2022, Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS) has handled over 29,000 calls, resolving 78% without police, fire, or paramedics—proving the effectiveness of non-police crisis teams.
- In 2023, Toronto Police saw a 4.5% drop in person-in-crisis calls, showing TCCS's growing impact in diverting appropriate calls and easing pressure on emergency services.
- Continued investment in TCCS will improve public safety, reduce ER strain, support vulnerable residents, and build a more equitable crisis response system.

4. **Protecting Canadians from the impacts of climate change and extreme weather.**

- **Infrastructure Investment:** The federal and municipal governments are investing over \$700M to upgrade the Black Creek sewer system, enabling 63,000 new homes and supporting 130,000+ residents and 65,000+ jobs.
- **Climate Resilience:** FCM urges \$2B immediately and \$1B annually for climate-resilient infrastructure to address extreme weather impacts—2024 alone cost \$8.5B in damages.
- **High ROI:** Every \$1 invested in climate adaptation yields up to \$15 in economic benefits, protecting communities, public health, and local economies.

I attended the: Committee of the Whole meetings, Board meetings, Reception with Parliamentarians and meetings with the following Members of Parliament:

- **Member of Parliament, Hon. MP Robert Oliphant**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- **Member of Parliament, MP Tim Louis**, Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy.
- **Member of Parliament, MP Leslie Church**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretaries of State for Labour, for Seniors, and for Children and Youth, and to the Minister of Jobs and Families.
- **Member of Parliament, MP Vince Gasparro**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State.
- **Member of Parliament, MP Maggie Chi**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.
- **Member of Parliament, Hon. MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith**, Member of Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group (CEUS).

Please visit to review the upcoming board events for 2026 on fcm.ca

Sincerely,



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