

2026 FCM Conference – Workshops

*Note: exact start/end times for Workshops are not included in this attachment, as the Agenda for the 2026 FCM Conference has not yet been finalized and is still subject to change.

Wednesday, June 3

- Thinking Beyond the Market – A Film About Genuinely Affordable Housing
 - Join us for FCM's inaugural AC movie night for a screening of Dr. Brian Doucet's documentary *Thinking Beyond the Market: A Film About Genuinely Affordable Housing*. This film takes you across Canada to learn about policies, programs and projects that are having a positive impact on addressing the housing crisis. Featuring interviews with more than 30 planners, policymakers, politicians, developers, residents and housing advocates, the film inspires and challenges us to think about both the root causes of the housing crisis and transformative solutions. A Q&A with the filmmaker will follow the screening.

Thursday, June 4

- Addressing Homelessness in Your Community: The Empathy Project
 - An experiential learning exercise, designed and led by people with lived experience of homelessness, this session will make social policy accessible and digestible. Participants will be assigned a fictional but realistic case study representing a pathway through the housing and homelessness system. Following the simulation, participants will be guided through a facilitated discussion designed to help them connect these experiences to tangible action they can take in their communities. Space is limited and participation will be on a first come, first served basis.
- Collective Luncheon: Why Domestic Food Systems Matter to Our Communities and Canada's Future
 - Shoring up domestic food production is not only the key to maintaining reliable access to an affordable, nutritious food supply, it is also critical in ensuring resilient municipal economies and bolstering our national security. Join us for a discussion exploring the role of domestic farming—producing food in Canada, for Canadians—in driving both urban and rural economic growth, supporting employment and nurturing community wellbeing. The session will also highlight vulnerabilities in our food system and how

collaborative efforts between municipal leaders and the agricultural sector can deliver stronger outcomes for your constituents and our country as a whole.

- Building the Future: Equity & Inclusion as Engines of Growth, Resilience and Nation-Building
 - Municipalities play a critical role in nation building. Equity and inclusion are critical to their success. This session frames Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion (AREI) as a strategic economic driver and a critical tool for sustainable community development. Through practical examples, municipal success stories and peer-to-peer dialogue, participants will explore how embedding equity and inclusion into decision-making strengthens local economies, supports long-term resilience, and helps communities thrive. The workshop will also feature the launch of a new municipal guide to support the development of equity and inclusion plans, offering key strategies and ideas that leaders can take back to their councils and organizations.
- Winning the Investment: How to Structure Policies that Build Destinations
 - Is your community "Investment Ready"? Attracting tourism assets requires aligning municipal policy with investor needs. Join Destination Canada and JLL for this interactive skills-building workshop. This workshop will examine real-world case studies to identify specific incentives that secure private capital. Learn how to craft an investment prospectus, utilize non-monetary levers like expedited permitting, and de-risk projects. Participants will leave this session with the practical tools needed to facilitate tourism growth, ensure community benefit, and close the deal.

Friday, June 5

- Lunch and Learn: Legal Update on Case Law and Legislation
 - This workshop will dive into the most significant recent cases shaping local governments' decision-making all while unpacking legislative and regulatory developments that matter to them. Participants will gain practical insights and clear guidance based on the latest legal updates, equipping them with the tools they need to tackle emerging challenges with confidence and clarity.
- Municipal Den
 - Join some of Canada's leading innovators and municipalities as they present their groundbreaking ideas to enhance municipal services. In this interactive session, presenters will have five minutes to captivate the audience and ignite

enthusiasm for their project, service or big idea. The event aims to foster collaboration, inspire action and propel Canadian communities forward.

- **Accelerating Impact: Municipal Solutions to Unlock Housing Now**
 - Discover practical municipal strategies that are accelerating housing supply across Canadian communities. This workshop highlights tangible examples that are helping local governments unlock new homes faster. Participants will hear from peers on actionable tools and lessons learned to bring back to their own communities. Ideal for municipal leaders, policymakers, planners, and housing leaders driving immediate, on-the-ground change.

- **Addressing Anti-Government Hate and Harassment in Times of Global Crisis**
 - Spurred by rising anti-government and anti-establishment sentiments coupled with global spikes in extremism and intolerance, local officials across Canada increasingly find themselves the target of hate and violence often preventing them from performing their duties and discouraging others choosing a career in local government. Strong Cities will facilitate an interactive workshop to share best practices for addressing these challenges and for FCM members to share and learn from each other.

- **Future-Proofing Communities: Prioritize Your Investments in Flood and wildfire Prevention**
 - Municipal leaders play a vital role in preparing communities for rising flood and wildfire risks, even as limited resources and competing priorities make preventative action challenging. In this session, experts will share new Canadian polling data on public attitudes toward climate resilience and offer clear, practical guidance that supports municipal planning and investment decisions. Participants will leave with actionable tools to assess hazards, prioritize resilience investments, and benchmark progress in managing flood and wildfire risks—helping communities strengthen their resilience today and into the future.

- **Leading Our Way Out of Incivility: Tools and Advice for Effective Local Governance**
 - There is no magic solution to resolve the incivility currently experienced in local governments. To fix it requires leadership at all levels, deliberate and disciplined use of tools and practices and a concerted, sustained effort. Hear from George Cuff, municipal governance consultant and former FCM President, Brenda Orchard, President of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and experienced CAO, and seasoned municipal leaders. Together, they'll share candid tales from the trenches and unpack

what works, what doesn't, and the lessons every leader can carry forward. Delegates will have the opportunity to learn from their experience, pick up tools and advice on how to lead through and out of incivility, with actionable steps you and your colleagues can bring back to your teams and put to work immediately.

- **AI in Action: Real World Wins for Municipal Service Delivery**
 - Municipalities in Canada are already putting AI to work—streamlining industrial and operational processes, improving day to day service delivery, and accelerating new home construction. In this workshop, participants will explore practical, real-world examples of machine learning in municipal contexts and leave with a clear picture of what AI is (and isn't), what's possible today, and what needs to be true for municipalities of all sizes to follow suit.

- **Building Canada's Future: Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Insights**
 - Hear from diverse lineup of speakers as they explore what it takes to build tomorrow's communities today. This panel will dig into how municipal leaders can strengthen collaboration with industry partners, private finance, other orders of government and their own staff to accelerate community building. Together, they'll unpack popular topics and share proactive solutions for today's challenges when it comes to building, maintaining, and paying for the local infrastructure that keeps communities running.

- **Making Municipalities Work for Women**
 - Municipalities shape women's access to services, safety in public spaces, and participation in leadership, yet municipal systems are not neutral. If municipalities were designed with women in mind from the start, what would be different? Presenters will highlight practical, actionable solutions that municipalities of all sizes can implement, while also unpacking the systemic barriers women face, viewed through three lenses: financial systems, physical design, and institutional culture. Participants will leave with concrete steps they can champion to make their communities more inclusive and responsive to women.

Saturday, June 6

- **Delivering Better Water and Wastewater Services in Your Community**
 - Communities of all sizes are growing across Canada and yet, the infrastructure deficits continues to grow. As new and often denser housing is

build, communities are grappling with how to provide a high quality of service standards from their water and wastewater, community recreation, and transportation infrastructure. In this session, hear from experts, municipal leaders, and asset managers on how strong service delivery, effective asset management, and operational efficiencies can help your community get the most value from every infrastructure dollar.

- How to Pay for Growth: Alternatives to Property Taxes and Development Charges
 - As housing demand accelerates, municipalities are rethinking how to finance the infrastructure required to support growth without being overly dependent on development charges or the existing property tax base. This workshop will explore practical alternatives, including municipal bonds, diversified revenue tools and private capital opportunities. Drawing on expert insights from federal partners, financial institutions and FCM's own staff, panellists will discuss implementable solutions that can help communities sustainably pay for growth.

- How Satellite Technology is Advancing Cellular and Internet Connectivity for Rural Communities, and Enabling Enhanced Safety for Government Employees and Remote Solutions for Critical Infrastructure Management
 - Rogers Satellite, which provides three times more coverage than any other provider, and leading connectivity to rural, remote, and Indigenous communities, while empowering government and business with the solutions they need for enhanced emergency services, and Internet of Things products and services for connected transportation, asset tracking, and automated monitoring for essential infrastructure.

- Own Your Story: Social Media Strategies for Municipal Elected Officials
 - Discover how municipal elected officials can use social media to strengthen public trust, demystify how municipalities work and share their story with authenticity. Featuring practical tips, lessons learned, and inspiring case studies, this workshop will equip participants with the tools to build an effective, genuine approach they can bring back to their community. Participants will leave feeling inspired and ready to transform their online presence where it matters most—at home.

- Immigration Restrictions: The Ripple Effects on Local Communities and Economies
 - The federal government has made dramatic cuts to immigration and student visas in the last 2 years. These cuts have had a direct negative impact on municipalities, particularly in smaller communities where there have been

layoffs and program closures at post-secondary institutions, as well as in long-term care, health care and the service industries, where immigrants have historically been the backbone of these low-wage, essential services. This session will discuss the impacts of recent immigration cuts on municipalities and present alternatives for future policy.

- International Municipal Cooperation as a Driver of Inclusive Climate Resilience and Economic Opportunity
 - FCM's international work is built on durable, trust-based relationships between municipalities, local government associations, and global partners. These connections enable communities to share expertise, collaborate on challenges like climate resilience and infrastructure, and strengthen Canada's international presence. In this session, you'll learn how municipal leaders engage abroad in an official-to-official capacity, how this work reinforces Canada's bilateral relationships, and how local governments help diversify partnerships and advance development goals in today's global context.

- Municipal Systems at the Core of Climate Competitiveness: Investing for Resilience, Growth and GHG Reduction
 - Energy, transportation, water, building, and natural infrastructure systems sit at the front line of Canada's climate competitiveness, where climate impacts are felt first and economic performance is determined. This session explores how targeted investment in municipal-scale climate solutions can simultaneously advance greenhouse gas reduction, climate resilience and long-term economic value. Drawing on real-world Canadian examples, this workshop will examine opportunities across low-carbon infrastructure, climate-resilient assets and enabling services that lower household costs, reduce risk, protect insurability, improve municipal balance sheets and provide strong investment opportunities. Let's reframe municipalities not as passive implementers of climate policy, but as critical platforms for investable, scalable climate outcomes.

- Urban Reserves & Additions to Reserve: Partnerships in Practice
 - Urban Reserves and Additions to Reserve (UR/ATR) are creating new opportunities for economic growth, intergovernmental collaboration and community development across Canada. This session provides a practical overview of the UR/ATR process, outlines the benefits for First Nations and neighbouring municipalities and clarifies the important role municipalities play in supporting successful outcomes. Participants will explore how municipal

service agreements help define responsibilities, ensure cost recovery and build strong, lasting Nation–municipality partnerships.