



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 26-105**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Councillor Conny Glenn
Date of Meeting: April 7, 2026
Subject: March 2026 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board (FCM)
Meeting Update

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) held their recent board meeting from March 3-5 in St. John's. This meeting is the last meeting before the FCM AGM and took place prior to the federal spring Economic Statement (anticipated in April). This board meeting was to help focus FCM advocacy efforts with the federal government ahead of that federal economic statement. Councillor Conny Glenn participated in the board meeting over the three days. The intent of this information report is to provide a high-level overview of the meeting to help keep council informed of the work of FCM.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Options/Discussion:

Canada's municipal leaders gathered for the FCM March Board meeting in advance of the federal spring economic statement to align advocacy efforts amid ongoing economic uncertainty. During this meeting, FCM focused on the vital role municipalities are playing in Canada's economic landscape. This includes the vital importance of municipal infrastructure and contributions being made on the municipal level to Canada's international trade and defense.

FCM municipal priorities remain focused on housing, infrastructure, public safety and climate change and in the immediate strengthening the economy for the long term. The Committee of the Whole meeting began on Wednesday March 4 with a detailed advocacy session to members to outline FCM's advocacy planning and strategy in advance of the 2026 federal budget. This was followed by a trade and defense session, to talk about municipal perspective on the latest developments in the Canada-US relations.

This comes on the heels of Canada's Big City Mayors meeting in Ottawa with the Prime Minister in February to talk about federal infrastructure funding and delays in getting money to cities. During that meeting the provided the Prime Minister with recommendations to keep projects moving including:

1. Increase the community stream of the Building Communities Strong Fund. This is the most direct and proven way to get local infrastructure projects started quickly.
2. Develop a long-term national infrastructure plan. Canada needs a coordinated plan that supports housing, trade and economic growth.
3. Strengthen supports for vulnerable residents. Work with provinces and territories to improve supportive housing, mental health services and community-based policing.
4. Renew the federal-provincial-municipal funding partnership to modernize how we fund local governments in line with their growing responsibilities.
5. Protect and streamline transit funding by reversing the \$5 billion cut to the Canada Public Transit Fund. Predictable transit funding contributes to the federal government's goal of making life more affordable for Canadians while reducing congestion that limits trade and business in our cities.

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In terms of Kingston specific information, Councillor Glenn was asked to co-chair an FCM working group on defense given the federal government's increased emphasis on defense spending and changes to Canada's military.

She also brought forward a motion to the Municipal Finance, Infrastructure and Transportation Committee to re-affirm FCM's position on Alto. The motion was:

1. Direct FCM staff to write a letter to the Minister of Transport that:
 - a. Reaffirms FCM's rail policy positions and emphasizes the importance of meaningful municipal consultation in the planning and implementation of passenger rail projects, including the proposed Alto rail initiative and its impact on current VIA rail policy;
 - b. Calls upon the federal government to work collaboratively with municipalities to improve passenger rail service reliability and frequency, including addressing ongoing deficiencies in existing VIA Rail service, as part of a coordinated national rail strategy;
 - c. Highlights recent municipal concerns raised by the City of Kingston, the Township of South Frontenac, and several other communities in Eastern Ontario regarding the proposed Alto passenger rail alignment; and
 - d. Reaffirms that municipalities must be recognized as essential partners in the planning, alignment, and implementation of passenger rail infrastructure to ensure projects support community well-being, economic growth, and national cohesion.

Background

FCM represents over 2,000 municipalities across Canada and serves as the national voice of local governments, advocating to the federal government on issues like infrastructure, housing, climate adaptation, and economic development. The Board meets quarterly to set policy priorities and advance municipal interests at the national level. Councillor Glenn was elected to the FCM Board (Ontario Caucus) in 2025 for a two-year term.

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Exhibits Attached:

None