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OF CANADIAN
MUNICIPALITIES

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August 19, 2025

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance and National Revenue
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: FCM's Priorities for Budget 2025

Dear Minister,

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents over 2,000 municipalities of all sizes in every province and territory—home to more than 92 percent of Canadians. Municipal governments are where housing gets built, infrastructure is delivered, and federal priorities take shape on the ground. Our collaboration is critical for Canada's success.

This budget comes at a pivotal moment for Canadians. We are ready to work with you to ensure Budget 2025 fundamentally strengthens Canada's economy and delivers for Canadians. **Housing and housing-enabling infrastructure must be front and centre** if we are to build 500,000 new homes a year within the decade. Canadians consistently identify housing affordability as a top concern, and municipalities are critical to delivering the solutions. To that end, we recommend that Budget 2025:

- Ensure *Build Canada Homes* is effective at accelerating affordable, non-profit housing construction—leveraging federal lands, low-cost financing, and prefabricated modular housing,
- Provide sustained and streamlined investments in the *core municipal infrastructure* that underpins our homes and our communities—roads, bridges, transit, water and wastewater systems—through an enhanced, GDP-indexed *Canada Community-Building Fund*. This is the most efficient and cost-effective way to unlock housing supply at scale, and
- Take a flexible, pragmatic approach to *development charges* to ensure municipalities have the necessary resources to fund essential housing-enabling infrastructure.

Alongside these housing measures, Budget 2025 should advance the other building blocks of strong, resilient communities:

- Strategic investments in trade-enabling, rural, and northern infrastructure,
- Scaled-up climate-resilient infrastructure funding to prepare for extreme weather,



- Support for ending chronic homelessness and refugee housing needs,
- Targeted measures to improve public safety through urgent bail reform, a strengthened RCMP, and mental health supports,
- Reduced internal trade barriers and streamlined federal approvals, and
- Continued success through the Green Municipal Fund and partnerships that expand Canada's global leadership.

With modernized, predictable and streamlined funding, municipalities can deliver the homes, infrastructure, and services Canadians need—while driving economic growth, climate resilience, and community well-being.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how these priorities can be reflected in Budget 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bligh', followed by a horizontal line.

Rebecca Bligh
City of Vancouver, BC
FCM President