

FCM KEY MESSAGES FOR FEDERAL BUDGET 2015

Overarching:

- **Today's budget contains a really important investment that demonstrates the federal government is ready to partner with municipalities in building the economy and strengthening the quality of life for Canadians.**

Transit

- **The transit investment in this budget is good news for Canadians and marks a significant achievement on a key issue they face every day.**
- **This level of permanent, ongoing funding has the potential to be transformative for public transit across this country.**
- **We want to thank Minister Oliver and the government for recognizing the importance of this issue.**
- **It points the way toward a new era of partnership with cities through long-term investments that will improve our quality of life, generate significant economic return, and improve our environment.**
- **There remain unknowns such as: flexibility on private sector involvement and the federal share of individual projects. We look forward to working with the government to get these pieces right.**

Housing

- **We saw some progress on housing. As FCM recommended in its federal budget submission, annual investments of \$1.7 billion for social housing are being maintained.**
- **This is a first step; however with only a 4 year commitment and many outstanding details, it is unclear how much pressure will actually be relieved on growing waitlists for affordable housing in municipalities from coast to coast to coast.**

Wastewater

- **The government's new national standards for Canada's more than 3,500 wastewater systems will cost more than \$18 billion dollars over the next three decades.**
- Municipalities across the country continuously and publicly supported the new regulations. But this is a shared goal across orders of government and we need to approach it as partners. We need to see movement on this issue.

Closing

- **The transit commitment is the beginning of a broader partnership with the federal government. It shows what we can achieve when municipalities and the federal government work together to ensure a strong future for Canada. We need to build on this success on other shared priorities such as clean water and housing.**