



Canada

150

Toolkit





INTRODUCTION

Canada 150 is quickly approaching; bringing excitement and a sense of pride and unity nation-wide. And as cities and communities of all sizes prepare for this historic year, celebrations are being planned from coast to coast to coast.

THE FOUR CANADA 150 THEMES ARE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS, RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT.

This toolkit aims to help municipalities leverage existing resources and build their capacity to contribute to our national celebration. It outlines opportunities for cities and communities to get involved, identifies funding sources, and highlights strategies to get youth involved in local celebrations and initiatives to promote reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

This toolkit was developed by FCM's 2016 Jack Layton Fellows. The Jack Layton Fellowship (JLF) Program honours the legacy of Jack Layton by engaging young Canadians in politics. The JLF program advances the idea that by engaging youth in local government, and in your Canada 150 celebrations, we can equip them to make positive change in their communities.

GETTING INVOLVED

Canada 150 Community
Leaders Network

Our communities are filled with vibrant and diverse leaders. As Canada prepares to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, FCM has recruited a network of Community Leaders who will play a key role in delivering and promoting festivities in their communities and engaging community members in the celebrations. Whether it's through youth leadership,



Indigenous collaboration, engagement with new Canadians or interaction with our elders, Community Leaders are the key to making Canada's sesquicentennial a success! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate how far we've come as a country and to reflect on what we want the next 150 years to look like. Our strength is our diversity, and through coming together and celebrating our story, Canadians will learn from one another through celebration. Community building is nation building, the local fabric of Canada will be centre-stage throughout the 2017 celebrations; this is your opportunity to be the one who unites your community.

Becoming a Community Leader can take many forms. Starting a committee to engage members of the community in local and regional events, planning individual events and promoting community culture, are all great initiatives. Organizing committees can be a tedious task that requires patience and time; however, it can be simplified with the use of technology, social media and eager community members.

FOR EXAMPLE, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO, HAS CREATED A CANADA 150 TASK FORCE WITH A VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY'S CELEBRATIONS AND IS TAKING STEPS TO BRING THAT VISION TO LIFE. COMMITTEES ARE GREAT WAYS TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY AND TO DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, LESSENING THE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FROM MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS.

For more information on becoming a Canada 150 Community Leader, visit [www.fcm.ca/Canada 150](http://www.fcm.ca/Canada150).

"As we prepare to celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial, it is our municipal leaders who will unite their communities to come together and celebrate."

– Clark Somerville, FCM President, Regional Councillor for Halton Region





“Though Canada, as a young nation, remains a work in progress, we can be an example to the world by having become stronger and more resilient through diversity.”

– Don Iveson Chair of FCM’s Big City Mayors’ Caucus,
Mayor of the City of Edmonton

What others are doing

Whether you’re looking to get involved in events in your community, province or nation-wide, there’s something for everyone. There are events of all sizes and scope that will appeal to those interested in everything from arts and culture, to entertainment, to sports.

150Alliance is an open network of individuals and organizations looking to connect and engage in celebrating Canada 150. You can register your community for free and share your celebrations, see and keep up with what others are doing and find inspiration for your community’s own Canada 150 events and celebrations. Visit the 150Alliance website for more information, to register or to browse other events.

Indigenous peoples in Canada over the past 150 years

There is a diverse history of Indigenous peoples in our country, beginning long before Canada became the country it is today. Before the arrival of European settlers, generations of Indigenous peoples were thriving on this land with their distinct practices, spiritual beliefs and governance structures. It is important to recognize this history while celebrating Canada 150, and to be mindful of the impact the arrival of Europeans had and still has on Indigenous people in Canada today. As with all communities, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit have experienced Canada over the past 150 years in different ways and have distinct histories, languages and cultural practices. There are over 600 Indigenous communities across the country, representing more than five per cent of the Canadian population. It is essential to include and collaborate with Indigenous communities in your region for your Canada 150 initiatives and celebrations. We encourage all municipalities to use this landmark year as a starting point for reconciliation and relationship building to start Canada’s next 150 years with a step in the right direction.





FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

TO MARK THIS IMPORTANT NATIONAL MILESTONE, THERE ARE NUMEROUS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY CELEBRATE ITS HERITAGE AND BEGIN BUILDING THE COMMUNITIES OF TOMORROW.

Here are just a few examples of funding and programs to support projects and festivities in your community:

The Canada 150 Fund...

...aims to leverage and facilitate the participation of Canadian individuals and communities in local, regional and national celebrations that contribute to a sense of national pride. The Fund continues to accept applications for projects requesting \$50,000 or less.

For more information and to apply for funding visit the [Canada 150 Fund website](#).

The Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Fund...

...will support projects under two common themes: a clean-growth economy or a better future for Indigenous peoples. The rules and deadlines vary through the six regional development agencies that administer the program. The program will provide up to 50 per cent of funding to provincial, territorial, municipal and regional governments, Aboriginal organizations and non-profit organizations to renovate, expand or rehabilitate community and cultural infrastructure, including trails and bike paths. Projects must be completed by March 2018, although preference may be given to projects that can be completed by the end of the 2017 construction season.

For more information and to apply for funding, visit the [Canada 150 Canada Infrastructure Fund website](#).



The Community Foundations of...

Canada's Community Fund for Canada's 150th...

...is a small grant program designed to support local projects that help strengthen communities. The fund aims to spark a deeper understanding about our communities and our country, and to encourage participation in community initiatives connected to Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. In particular, a number of grants are available to build relationships of trust and understanding with Indigenous people.

For more information, visit the [Community Foundations of Canada website](#).

The Canada Council for the Arts

...has created a special program to support sharing art and literary works. The Council views investment in the arts as a way to celebrate Canada's diverse culture and encourage public engagement in the arts.

For more information, visit the [Community Foundations of Canada website](#).



The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation...

...provides funding to a broad variety of youth-led organizations whose activities engage in addressing major social issues.

For more information, visit the [Foundation's website](#).



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONFEDERATION REPRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSCORE THE ROLE OF YOUNG LEADERS IN SHAPING THEIR COMMUNITIES AND OUR NATION AS A WHOLE.

Municipalities are encouraged to engage with youth in their community as young leaders inspire, motivate and inform future municipal leadership. Working in partnership with FCM member municipalities, adjacent Indigenous communities and other community champions, young leaders can make a tangible difference and drive important local change.

This section provides tools and best practices to help municipal governments engage youth in their communities and their Canada 150 celebrations.





Youth engagement how-to:

1. ASSESS

Make sure that your community has the internal capacity to support a youth engagement program or initiative. Assess available resources and current initiatives in place. Communities should consider the following:

- ★ Coordination: ensure that you have staff or volunteers to coordinate and facilitate youth engagement initiatives.
- ★ Facilities: assess what space is available to host meetings and other necessary events.
- ★ Finances: determine the amount of funding at your disposal to invest in youth engagement and the costs associated with proposed initiatives.
- ★ Promotion: consider the ways in which your community already recognizes youth leaders and engages youth in the community as a starting point for promotion and creation of new initiatives.
- ★ Program Maintenance/Future: consider the reasons why youth would want to get involved with your specific initiative or program. From there, consider also how to retain their interest and engagement. This includes recognition, support and incentives.

2. PLAN

- ★ As a community, identify the following:
 - Purpose: Why are you engaging youth?
 - Goals: What role do you hope to have youth play in your community?
 - Outcomes: What impact do you hope to have on youth as well as on your community?
 - Evaluation: How will you measure the success of youth engagement initiatives?
- ★ Identify opportunities to engage young people, including existing programs, activities or issues involving youth.
- ★ Reach out to clubs, organizations, school boards, and leaders within your community to discuss the potential for collaboration or partnership for a youth engagement program or initiative. If your municipality is adjacent to an Indigenous community, consider reaching out to see if they have a junior chief or council member who may be interested in collaborating with your municipality to add an Indigenous voice to your celebrations.



“Canada 150 is an opportunity to celebrate our heritage as well as our diverse indigenous communities in a celebration of mutual understanding and acceptance.”

– Jenny Gerbasi, FCM First Vice President,
Councillor for the City of Winnipeg

3. CREATE

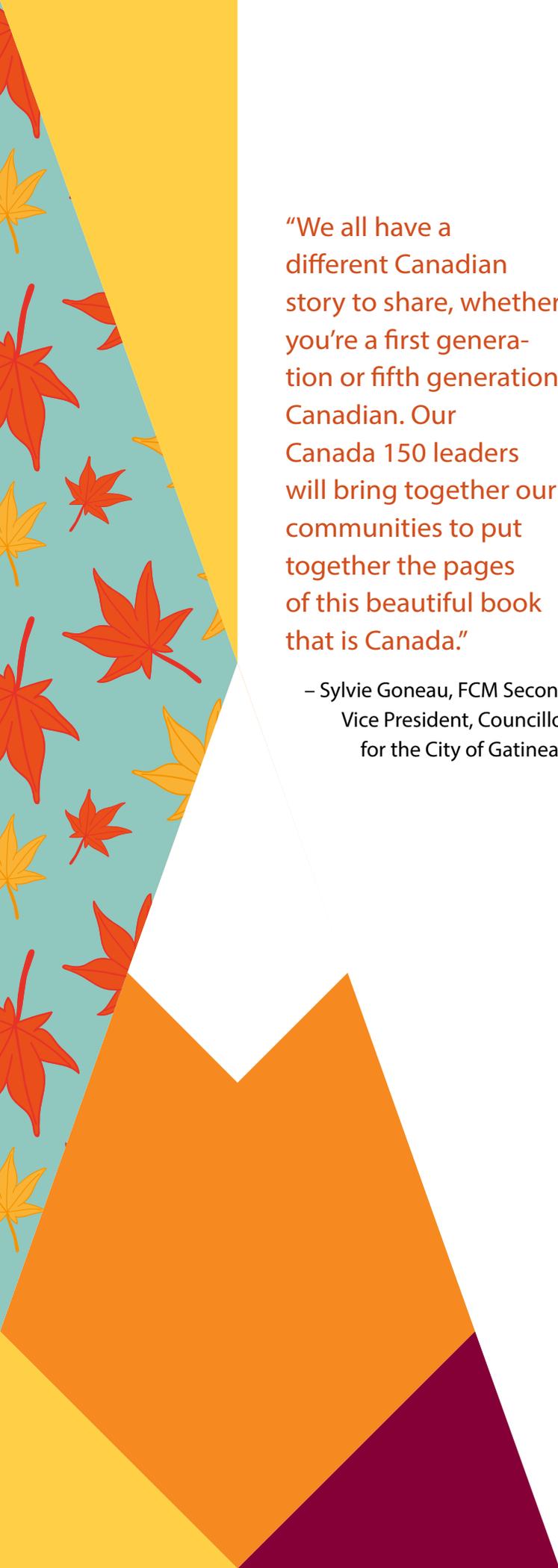
- ★ Form a working group or committee to assess what strategies will work best to engage youth in your community and develop an action plan for moving forward.
- ★ Ask youth to identify what is of interest or concern to them, and use this feedback to develop a youth engagement lens to your decision-making.
- ★ Reach out to youth through a variety of communications channels, including through online and social media.

4. IMPLEMENT

- ★ Take the time to build relationships with young leaders in your community and design programs to strengthen these relationships.
For example:
 - Establish a youth council or a youth advisory committee.
 - Develop a mentorship program.
 - Invite youth to address your municipal council on a regular basis as guests or through other forms of committee participation.

For more information:

- [Volunteer Canada](#)
- [Volunteer Toronto](#)
- [Youth engagement 101](#)



“We all have a different Canadian story to share, whether you’re a first generation or fifth generation Canadian. Our Canada 150 leaders will bring together our communities to put together the pages of this beautiful book that is Canada.”

– Sylvie Goneau, FCM Second Vice President, Councillor for the City of Gatineau

BEST PRACTICES

Consider the following best practices and suggestions:

1 Create a strong online presence: Social media is interactive, easily accessible, and the most cost-effective way to connect with youth in your community. Here are seven strategies used by big brands that are easy to integrate and tailor to municipal level affairs. To save you time and to help you make the most of your social media, consider using these helpful templates.

One Five Oh is Canada’s digital campfire. It’s the place where we can share our stories. It’s asking Canadians to submit 150 stories on its website, app and travelling story booths and studios. Stories can be up-voted and the most popular will be turned into 150-second films with the help of up-and-coming filmmakers, musicians, performers and animators. In 2017, 150 of those stories will be screened across Canada.

2 Put youth at the heart of your community: Youth are eager to get involved, to give back and to make a difference. By opening up opportunities in volunteer roles or allowing youth into different events, meetings or committees you are not only helping youth find their voice and purpose, but helping secure the future of your community.

150 Activate in Action Projects is training 150 youth to begin their ACTIVATE in Action physical activity initiative in their community. The intention of the program is to have 150 youth leaders, each motivating 150 other young people through their workshops to be active and acquire physical and social skills.



3 Build positive relationships: Stronger relationships are crucial to building stronger communities. Providing opportunities for mentorship and networking between young people and municipal leaders will pay dividends as you prepare for Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation and continue building sustainable communities.

Over three years, Junior Team Canada Towards 150 will lead Regional Round Tables across the country, engaging over 1,500 young Canadians. The Round Tables provide youth with the unique opportunity to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to succeed in the global economy while increasing their knowledge of Canada's rich national heritage. Youth work alongside business, government, education and community leaders to learn more about their region and propose innovative solutions to local challenges. One hundred youth leaders will then be selected from a national competition to showcase their ideas for local community events celebrating Canada's 150th birthday in 2017 at the National Youth Ambassador Caucus held in Ottawa each June.

4 Involve youth in the decision-making process: Giving young people a strong voice will get them interested, engaged and involved in your community. Polls, surveys, youth committees, reports and event planning are ways to help give them this voice. Consider allowing youth to be active contributors in the design, development and implementation of your Canada 150 programming.

A national model, City of Edmonton Youth Council is one of the strongest and best established youth councils in Canada. It allows

youth to voice their opinions on a range of community issues through monthly General Assemblies. The council works closely with City Council and the municipal government to respond to the key issues identified at these meetings.

5 Create an environment that fosters growth, innovation and engagement: A welcoming and accessible environment is essential for increasing youth participation and for retaining young people throughout the planning and delivery of your Canada 150 initiatives.

The Millennial Network's 2017 conference in Ottawa will help under-35 leaders of various faiths to nurture a healthier vision of pluralism that does not fear religious devotion nor erase religious differences. To promote the event and identify the most promising conference delegates, the lead-up to the conference will be punctuated by a series of smaller events held across Canada, hosted in the homes of notable Canadians and facilitated by community leaders.

6 Consider celebrating Canada 150 with First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities in your region: Reach out to the chief and council of a nearby Indigenous community, or contact an Indigenous organization in your area to seek out opportunities for collaboration. Many communities have a junior chief that could be involved in planning an event or project. By striving to increase participation and inclusion of Indigenous people in community events, your municipality can build stronger relationships leading towards reconciliation in Canada.



Land Acknowledgements are an important first step towards reconciliation. [Check out this guide](#) to see which traditional territory or treaty territory your municipality is on, and how to respectfully acknowledge this traditional land use at your Canada 150 celebrations.

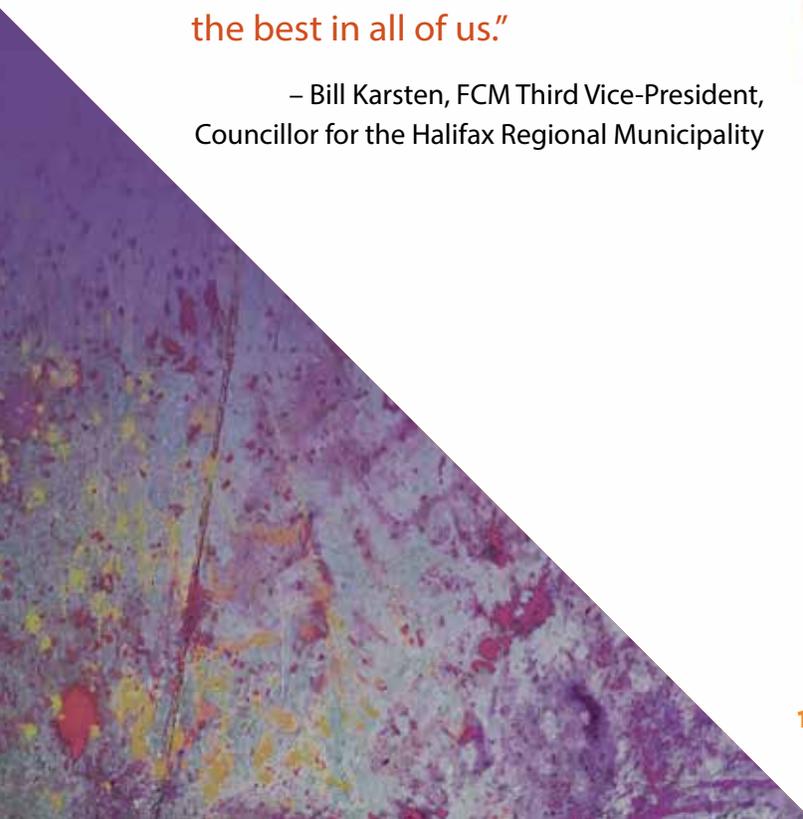
Your community could host a variety of collaborative events as part of your Canada 150 programming, including the Truth and Reconciliation Reading Challenge, sharing teachings, [the blanket exercise](#), pow-wows, or crafts with kids.

“Canada’s municipalities represent the best our country has to offer. Canada 150 is a time to reflect back on our proud history through joyous and educational festivities of celebration that will bring out the best in all of us.”

– Bill Karsten, FCM Third Vice-President, Councillor for the Halifax Regional Municipality

Organized by the Rotary Club of Peterborough Kawartha, [Adventure in Understanding](#) is a six-day, 100 km canoe trip that aims to engage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in the Peterborough and Kawartha region. This fun learning experience is designed to build greater cultural understanding and work towards reconciliation.

7 Follow Up and Monitoring: Regular program evaluation and feedback is critical to ensure that these initiatives are successful and worthwhile investments.





TESTIMONIALS

LONDON YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

“What the LYAC gave me, that nothing else in the city could, was a place to not only connect with other like minded individuals, but to feel like my voice, opinions, and ideas were respected and heard. The LYAC for me, really helped London feel like home. It has been a place where I can speak honestly and openly, a place where I can make friends, and a place where I can actively engage in learning[...] All in all, the LYAC has made me feel at home because it gives me a voice, a group of other committed individuals, a safe place to grow, and finally, the ability to feel like I can finally make change.”

– Olivia Smith Rodrigues, Ward 13 Youth Councillor, London Youth Advisory Council, London, ON 2014-2015

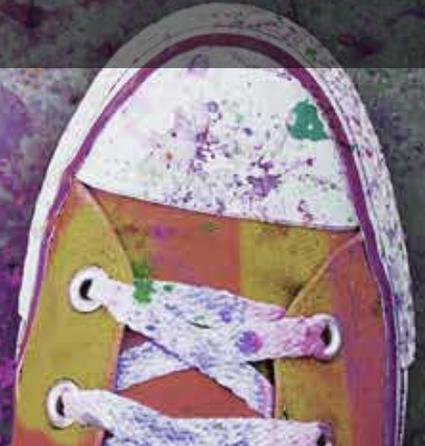
“Being involved in the London Youth Advisory Council has been a very empowering and humbling experience. Empowering because it has given me a space to express my opinions and ideas; as well as a confidence to do things I wouldn’t normally feel the capacity to do. Humbling because of the knowledge and wisdom that is shared in each of our focus groups; and the relationships that I have built with many inspiring constituents and dedicated peers.”

– Nicole Worozbyt, Ward 4 Youth Councillor, London Youth Advisory Council, London, ON 2014-2015

“They don’t want to go to a community meeting... they want to ‘plug in’.”

References

- Engaging youth in community decision making: <http://passthrough.fw-notify.net/download/842221/http://www.cssp.org/community/constituents-co-invested-in-change/other-resources/engaging-youth-in-community-decision-making.pdf>
- <http://www.halifax.ca/youth/YLP.php> (Halifax)
- <http://www.vancouveriyouth.ca/node/2286> (BC)
- <http://ottawa.ca/en/ott-youth/community-engagement> (Ottawa)



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

ENGAGING LOCAL RESIDENTS IN MUNICIPAL ISSUES CAN BE A DIFFICULT TASK, BUT SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS SUCH AS FACEBOOK, TWITTER, LINKEDIN, INSTAGRAM AND YOUTUBE ARE GREAT TOOLS FOR MARKETING, COMMUNICATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INCREASING TRANSPARENCY. SOCIAL MEDIA IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR PLANNING CANADA 150 CELEBRATIONS — IT'S USER-FRIENDLY, CAN BE TARGETED AT SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES OR FOR NATION-WIDE PROMOTION.

Consider the following approaches when planning a social media campaign:

- Understand your audience: Canada's communities are diverse, so it's important to leverage what you know about your community members to create content that will spark interest
- Integrate your social media platforms: Social media management programs, such as Hootsuite, allow for sharing content across platforms. This helps to ensure consistency and extend the reach of your posts.
- Create a content strategy: Reposting other groups' and users' content can improve your account's visibility.

Consider the following creative ways to engage your community and use your social media platforms:

Facebook

- Set up an interactive and user-friendly page and regularly post interesting content that encourages a two-way dialogue.
- Create individual Facebook events for each Canada 150 activity and invite surrounding communities and local organizations to promote the events.
- Respond to all messages and comments in a timely manner.
- Make sure your profile includes complete information, including a description, location and contact information.



- Check out the official Canada 150 Facebook page for inspiration and to help promote your community and your celebrations nation-wide.

Ask Me Anything (AMA) session

An AMA offers participants an opportunity to ask high-profile personalities about their work, receive answers in real-time, and learn more about municipal initiatives in their community.

Twitter

- Follow local businesses and stakeholders to monitor and engage in discussion on civic issues in your community.
- Keep tweets brief, interesting and informal, and don't shy away from light humour.
- When promoting local events, don't be repetitive, but try to start a conversation with other users.
- Create your own hashtag or use one that is trending. This will give you a wider reach and jumpstart discussions on local issues.
- Check out the [official Canada 150 Twitter feed](#) and search #Canada150 to see what others are doing.
- Use #FNPoli and #FNMI to connect and share ideas with First Nation, Metis and Inuit communities in your region.

Tweet Chat

A Tweet Chat is a planned Twitter conversation that includes a predefined hashtag to link those tweets together in a virtual discussion on a specific issue. You can generate a number of pre-arranged questions or use the Tweet Chat as an opportunity for a free-flowing discussion

with interested stakeholders. This is a convenient way to encourage residents to share their opinions without a formal public consultation.

Instagram

- Create an account and aim to make a daily post.
- Follow and support local businesses and ask that they do the same.
- Have followers from other social media outlets submit photos for sharing.
- Share photos of local events and use it to show followers and users what goes on "behind the scenes". You can post pictures of your community and events in real-time, or profile local organizations or leaders.
- Leverage hashtags to gain exposure and to build a diverse following.
- Check out the [official Canada 150 Instagram account](#) to see what is going on nationwide and to generate exposure for your community.

Web portals for youth

By developing an interactive web portal, municipalities can offer a more interactive and user-friendly platform to share information and gather feedback from a broader audience. Residents will be more responsive to a website designed especially for them and including information relevant to them. These portals act as a space for residents to discover opportunities for employment, volunteering, and training and to learn more about municipal services and community events.



OVERCOMING BARRIERS

Some municipalities may face challenges in promoting Canada 150 celebrations such as:

- Rural and northern communities that may have limited resources, fewer people and can be isolated.
- Many municipalities are facing budgetary constraints, and available funding sources can be limited and difficult to obtain.
- Identifying people to organize and attend Canada 150 programming can be difficult in many communities.
- Ensuring that programming is inclusive and celebrates the diversity of our communities can be challenging and requires additional planning.
- Identifying opportunities to partner with indigenous communities and groups.

There are a number of ways to overcome these obstacles to Canada 150 celebrations.

Collaboration

Joining together with other municipalities to celebrate Canada 150 is a great opportunity to get to know neighbours, share ideas and maximize events and celebrations. FCM offers a useful network for connecting with other municipalities.

Smaller municipalities can often benefit from the resources and reach of larger communities around them. Leveraging the events of neighbouring communities is a cost-effective way to celebrate. Organizing public transportation, promoting the events and donating in-kind services are great ways to contribute to these celebrations.

BREAKING BARRIERS

BUILDING BRIDGES IN ARUNDEL, QC, IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF COLLABORATION. THIS INITIATIVE INVOLVES CITIZENS FROM FOUR COMMUNITIES, BOTH FRENCH AND ENGLISH SPEAKING, WHO WILL BE INVITED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE MAYORS TO JOIN THEM IN A 4 VILLAGES GATHERING ON THE LARGE BRIDGE THAT SPANS THE ROUGE RIVER. THIS INTERACTIVE SESSION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY TRADITIONAL SQUARE DANCING AND A FAMILY PICNIC IN THE NEARBY PARK. THIS PICNIC WILL THEN BE HELD ONCE A MONTH IN ALTERNATING COMMUNITIES.

IN ALBERTA, THE COMMUNITIES OF BANFF, CANMORE, EXSHAW, MORLEY AND LAKE LOUISE, IN COLLABORATION WITH ELDERS FROM STONEY NAKODA, ARE ALSO COMING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE STREET ART WORKSHOPS FOR YOUTH WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF FIVE PAINTED MURALS THAT TELL THE STORY OF THE AREA'S HISTORY.

Youth engagement

Engaging youth helps to bring creative ideas and enthusiasm to municipal projects. Cities and communities can benefit from including youth in planning their Canada 150 events to reach a larger audience, while also providing an opportunity for young people to learn about local government. See pages 6 and 7 of this handbook for ways in which to engage youth in your community.

Social Media

Social media is a cost-effective and efficient marketing tool. Using social media platforms will allow municipalities to promote diversity and to create visibility for smaller communities. A number of innovative social media strategies are discussed on pages 8–10.

Conclusion

In preparation for the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the Canada 150 Community Leaders network represents a unique opportunity to engage representatives from municipalities across the country. These community leaders will be the liaison between their local community and the nation-wide sesquicentennial festivities. By connecting with other community leaders across the country, sharing resources and inspiring others, these community leaders will bring the municipal voice to celebrations throughout 2017 and beyond...

“Canada 150+ is a time to reflect on what we want the next 150 years of this great country to look like. It’s through our diversity and creativity that we are strong and prosperous as a nation.”

– Raymond Louie, FCM Past President,
Acting Mayor of the City of Vancouver



APPENDIX A: TEMPLATE NEWS RELEASE DRAFT

[INSERT MUNICIPALITY NAME] PROUDLY CELEBRATES CANADA 150 AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BUILDING A STRONGER CANADA

For immediate release

[INSERT LOCAL COMMUNITY NAME], [INSERT DATE] – As Canadians celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the municipal sector is coming together for these celebrations to acknowledge its contribution to building strong communities and a stronger Canada.

“The history of Canada is one of strength, determination and resilience, and we can be proud that all orders of government are partners in these celebrations,” said [INSERT NAME]. “As Canadians celebrate in their respective communities, we know that local priorities and services will be showcased from coast to coast to coast and recognized as critical to the quality of life that defines our communities and our country.”

Municipalities vary across Canada in size and geography, with more than 3,000 local governments actively serving Canadians. The municipal sector is rich with dedicated leaders, young and old, who work hard every day to make their communities welcoming and inclusive to all. Through FCM, Canada’s municipalities have been recognized both in Canada and abroad for their work to build more sustainable communities, to help marginalized women and young people get involved in local government, and strengthen economic partnerships with Indigenous communities.

[INSERT LOCAL COMMUNITY NAME] is ready to continue shaping the next 150 years of Canada, working in partnership with all orders of government and through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.



APPENDIX B: TEMPLATE OP-ED

Communities such as (INSERT NAME OF COMMUNITY) Make Canada Great:
Let's celebrate

With Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation fast approaching, the country and the (INSERT NAME OF COMMUNITY) are gearing up for an exciting year ahead. Countless events, programs and initiatives are being planned to celebrate the success of our country from coast to coast to coast. In our community, (INSERT 1-2 EVENTS) are being planned to celebrate this important milestone. Canada 150 presents a unique opportunity for all municipalities, big or small, to engage with youth; reconcile with indigenous communities; and focus on environmental sustainability.

Our (INSERT NAME OF COMMUNITY) is rich with dedicated and talented individuals who have developed new programs or initiatives, set up innovative projects, or have been the voice of sustainability, innovation, growth and diversity. Examples of such leadership include (INSERT EXAMPLES) and these serve to illustrate how communities are central to our quality of life, and our future.

Young leaders are playing important roles in shaping our communities and Canada as a country. Through youth councils or committees, mentorship programs, youth parliaments or youth driven initiatives, municipalities are promoting the voices of youth as future leaders and advocates. In our community, we are proud of (INSERT YOUTH INITIATIVES) which is helping our community as a whole and driving a high level of engagement.

Every community in Canada, including (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY), is the result of individuals who assumed the civic responsibilities of building, innovating, and advocating for the needs of families, seniors, youth and workers. With support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), municipal leaders are building stronger communities and a stronger Canada for our next 150 years. Through FCM, Canada's municipalities have been recognized both in Canada and abroad for their work to build more sustainable communities, to help marginalized women and young people get involved in local government, and strengthen economic partnerships with Indigenous communities.

From the smallest to the largest municipality, our cities and communities have played a critical role in shaping Canada's history and we will continue to define its future. [INSERT LOCAL COMMUNITY NAME] is ready to continue shaping the next 150 years of Canada, working in partnership with communities across Canada.

(INSERT YOUR NAME)

