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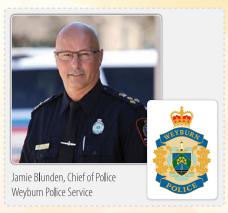
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Redefining our future

AC2024: Empowering municipalities, enhancing lives

From June 6-9, over 3,100 participants from coast to coast to coast came together in Calgary for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM's) largest and most impactful annual conference and trade show yet: AC2024 - Redefining Our Future.

As Canada's premier gathering of elected officials, delegates delved into panel discussions, engaged in hands-on workshops, explored the bustling trade show and fostered valuable connections with colleagues and partners.



Elder Clarence Wolfleg Miiksika'am (Red Crane) addressed the audience during the conference opening ceremony.



The Four Winds Powwow Showcase, featuring local singers and dancers, kicked off the FCM 2024 Annual Conference and Trade Show (AC2024) with a vibrant performance.



Delegates, content experts, and FCM's Green Municipal Fund staff met up "in the park" to explore best practices, make new connections, and receive help to advance community sustainability goals. The Park Place program was designed to facilitate connections in an informal space through a variety of meet ups.



Outgoing FCM President and Mayor of Gore, Que., Scott Pearce (left) extends his congratulations to incoming FCM President and Deputy Mayor of Colchester, N.S., Geoff Stewart (right).



Minister Sean Fraser (right) addressed Canada's most pressing challenges in infrastructure and housing during a fireside chat with Coun. Taneen Rudyk, Town of Vegreville, Alta.





Delegates connected and engaged in pressing issues throughout the conference, including the resolutions plenary and political keynote addresses. Photos: Audience members lining up to present their questions (left) and Brampton Coun. Rowena Santos at the resolutions plenary (right).



AC2024 closed with an important panel discussion tackling the pressing issue of harassment faced by elected officials, led by AC host Catherine Clark (left).

Political Keynotes

As is tradition at FCM's annual conference, political keynotes addressed delegates, recognizing the importance of engaging with municipal leaders. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for delegates to participate in Q&As and have their questions answered directly by key political figures. Despite covering diverse topics, these keynotes consistently echoed a powerful message: supporting municipalities is crucial for enhancing the lives of Canadians nationwide.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (right) – featured with moderator and Halifax Mayor Mike Savage (left) – addressed delegate questions across a range of topics, including housing, mental health and homelessness, infrastructure, and more.



Conservative MP Scott Aitchison talked about the importance of finding adequate solutions to Canada's biggest challenges, including the housing crisis.



NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh virtually connected with delegates through a keynote address, where he discussed the imperative for adequate investments in infrastructure and affordable housing.



Green Party of Canada Leader Elizabeth May discussed the importance of giving municipalities a seat at the table - along with federal, provincial, and Indigenous governments to address Canada's shared challenges.

Trade Show Floor

With 176 booths and 152 exhibitors, this year's trade show was a resounding success. Delegates had the opportunity to connect with experts and professionals from various sectors, gather valuable insights, and network - all in one spot.

This experience allowed them to bring back new ideas and innovative solutions to their communities, enhancing the quality of life for Canadians from coast to coast.













Learning Opportunities

Canada's municipal leaders are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for their residents by focusing on local solutions, investments, and innovations. AC2024 offered a diverse range of carefully selected workshops, ask-the-expert sessions, and plenaries aimed at equipping delegates with the tools and insights necessary to drive positive change in their communities and contribute to a better future for all Canadians.



The Global DEI Benchmarks and Equity Impact Statements workshop delved into the importance of anti-racism, equity, and inclusion (AREI) initiatives in diverse communities.



FCM hosted two mainstage rural plenary sessions that explored rural resiliency and extreme weather events.

New Municipal Growth Framework

Throughout the conference, participants focused on shaping a future that delivers top-notch services and an enhanced quality of life for Canadians.

In response to the diverse challenges municipalities face across the country, FCM is leading the charge with a new Municipal Growth Framework, designed to empower municipalities to overcome today's obstacles and thrive in the future.



Panellists discussed the need for innovative solutions to address housing and infrastructure challenges through a new Municipal Growth Framework.

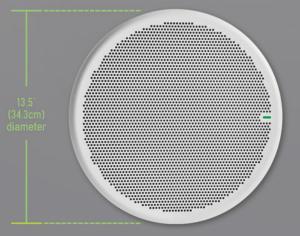


FCM CEO Carole Saab explained how a new Municipal Growth Framework will empower local governments to deliver the quality of life Canadians deserve.



Outgoing President Scott Pearce discussed the most pressing challenges facing cities and communities, including the need for a new Municipal Growth Framework to tackle pressing issues like housing, homelessness, climate change, transit and more.





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"Municipalities need more support and they need it to be predictable"

Federation of Canadian Municipalities CEO Carole Saab



Municipal funding reform tops agenda at FCM annual conference

by Municipal World Staff

Carole Saab, CEO of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), says that amid Canada's record population growth, a much-needed new way to fund municipalities via a Municipal Growth Framework (MGF) was top of mind at FCM's recent Annual Conference and Trade Show in Calgary, last June.

In an interview, Saab says that significant progress is being made for Canadian communities on this urgent issue, but more work needs to be done.

What do you consider to be the highlight of FCM's 2024 annual conference?

There are a lot of highlights to choose from. Our delegates have been incredibly engaged and excited around the concept of a new Municipal Growth Framework (MGF). We've been really championing this advocacy, and it's been a major highlight for me to see that throughout the event, in our mainstage plenaries, in our workshops, and in countless conversations with members, just how dialed in on this need our members are. Canada's municipalities are united behind this goal, and we're fired up.

It was our largest conference ever, but a highlight has been the quality of what we've provided. Delegates experienced an incredible selection of study tours and training sessions that gave them tangible tools and strategies that they can bring back to their communities. I'm really proud of the calibre of programming we've curated for all participants this year.

What is the Municipal Growth Framework?

Right now, many Canadian communities are growing at a rapid rate, with a record number of new residents joining us. Canadians rightfully expect safe communities, a home to raise their family in and the appropriate infrastructure to allow them to thrive. But the current funding framework doesn't reflect what municipalities really do to support our quality of life. While local governments are facilitating most of the economic growth that is happening in this country, the residents of those communities are not seeing the benefits of that economic activity and growth.

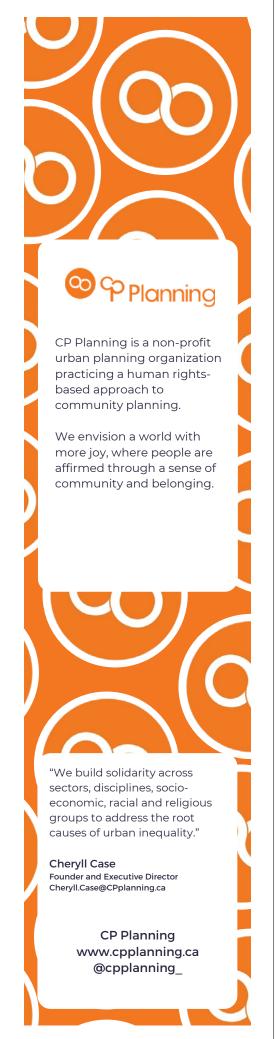
Municipalities play a vital role in delivering the services Canadians expect and deserve. A Municipal Growth Framework is the key to properly resourcing our communities so we can move beyond the status quo and ensure a better quality of life for all Canadians.

Is it about creating a new set of revenue tools?

Yes. We need a revenue tool for municipal governments that grows with the economy and that fits the 21st century. Municipalities are working diligently with the limited funds



"It's a good strategic decision to be interested in the municipal sector," Saab said. "... this is where the key to implementation and successfully delivering the outcomes we're talking about are national objective live."



available but are being stretched thin. The current model does not account for future challenges and a growing national population.

FCM has presented a range of options and models that could inspire us in how we define a new funding framework. What's vital is that we land on a funding model with buy-in from the federal government, provinces and territories, that is long-term and sustainable. For example, we have an excellent transfer-based program in the Canada Community-Building Fund. The substantial impact this has already made is inspiring: it could form the basis for a game-changing tool for municipalities that is both modernized and dependable.

What should be the role of provincial and territorial governments?

We are looking for the federal contributions to Canada's communities to be matched at a provincial or territorial level. We want to see leaders from all three orders of government sit down at the table, bringing their resources and ideas into the conversation.

At the provincial and territorial level, that looks quite different in each jurisdiction. Accordingly, it's a pretty flexible suite of tools that we've looked at in our new advocacy paper, Making Canada's Growth a Success. We've presented a host of potential tools that provincial and territorial governments could consider that would basically share some growth revenue with municipalities.

How would that work?

There's a number of ways that could happen - for example, through allocating a portion of provincial sales taxes for municipalities, or by modernizing municipal taxation options. It needs to be agreed via real conversations across all orders of government because it's clear that the status quo is no longer working for Canadians. What is sure is that it needs to happen and it needs to happen at scale.

Municipalities need more predictable fiscal tools that are indexed to the growth trajectory the country is on right now. Growth is good and positive for Canada, but we must be able to plan and deliver the much-needed services and infrastructure our communities need accordingly. Municipalities simply can't keep doing more with less.

Is it really all about predictability?

Predictability is huge. FCM has forever advocated for more predictable and long-term tools for municipalities because it enables us to plan. The best, most efficient outcomes that we are going to deliver for Canadians are the ones that we can plan. Providing communities with predictability and a long-lasting solution are key.

The meeting of the Big City Mayors Caucus (BCMC) kicked off the FCM annual conference. What are the key takeaways from that?

I have to say, in all sincerity, this was one of our best ever engagements. It was a pivotal moment in our work around the Municipal Growth Framework. It echoed similar conversations we've had with provincial and territorial associations and leaders from rural and northern Canada.

The Big City Mayors Caucus were very engaged in that conversation around the realities that need to be driven by a new growth framework going forward. We also had some exciting opportunities to hear from various members about some real innovation and progress that they're driving locally.

For example, Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer shared how new leveraging of innovative tax policy locally can drive impressive climate outcomes.

What were some of the top-of-mind issues for the mayors?

The topics ranged from housing and homelessness, which of course is a priority right across this country, along with climate change and adaptation. There were conversations on the challenging issues playing out around the opioid crisis, and there was discussion on the issues of public safety and public transit.

It was a very active and productive dialogue with the mayors and it was emblematic of local government's focus on problem-solving. Municipalities don't have the luxury of waiting for other orders of government: these crises are real and on their streets.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, plus representatives of other federal parties, spoke at the annual conference. Why is that so important? Federal decision-makers from all parties attend our conference because it's a unique opportunity to engage directly with municipal leaders on the joint issues that matter most to Canadians on a daily basis. It's a good strategic decision to be here!

I'm a big believer that those who aspire to do well and really make a difference in the lives of Canadians are best served by engaging with them. If municipalities do well, Canada does well. If you're a federal leader, this is your opportunity to hear from and speak to the local leaders who are taking on those issues that matter to Canadian voters. It's a great opportunity to communicate and to engage with the order of government closest to Canadians.

What's next for FCM?

Our members, Canada's communities, can lead this country towards a brighter and better future. However, to get there, we need municipalities to be properly funded and empowered. This means providing consistent, reliable and long-term funding for the quality of life priorities that matter most to Canadians.

We need the federal government to convene this vital conversation with the provinces and territories. Local governments are ready to have this conversation. It certainly appears to us the federal government is also ready to engage in this conversation.

Everyone needs to come to the table. We are ready to go. We need the provinces and territories to show up. That's the next step. We need this conversation for the future of Canadian communities to happen, in good faith, in earnest and it needs to start now. MW

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Getting to know FCM's new president, Geoff Stewart

On June 9, 2024, Colchester County, N.S., Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart became the president of Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Taking on the mantle from now immediate past president Scott Pearce, Stewart gave an impassioned speech on the urgent need for a new Municipal Growth Framework to support the services that Canadian communities deliver in 2024. We took the time to ask Stewart nine key questions to get to know him and learn what he's got planned for his presidency.

Why Did You Run for Municipal Office?
I've been a volunteer in my community of

I've been a volunteer in my community of Colchester County my entire life. I've been involved in the labour union at my work, in minor and junior sports teams, and as the fire chief with the local volunteer fire service. Running for municipal office, well it was pretty much the same: a good opportunity to get involved and to give back to the community.

Why Did You Get Involved with FCM?

I remember going to my first FCM conference about a decade ago, in Niagara Falls. It really made an impression on me. That event introduced me to the real influence that FCM has on the national stage, and the value of municipal leaders coming together. After that, I thought, "Hey, this is an organization that's really worth getting involved with - where I could make a real difference."



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What Are the Best Things about Attending FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show?

I've always found it eye-opening to get the perspectives of other municipal leaders from all across the country. You can so easily share ideas at the annual conference, and the workshops are just a great way to learn. It's also a great opportunity to exercise your voice with the resolutions plenary and the annual general meeting, and make sure you tackle the kinds of issues that affect all communities.

What Are Your Main Priorities as FCM President?

As president, I really want to focus on the important work done by municipal leaders across this country. I want to build on what Scott has done to put a spotlight on the value of our profession, and to get out and visit communities from coast to coast to coast so we can better reflect their needs and priorities as an organization.

What Are the Three Most Important Issues Facing Canadian Municipalities and How Is FCM Helping to Tackle These Issues? I think the really big issues we are facing right now are the

impacts of operating under an outdated fiscal model. When I talk to my municipal colleagues, that need for a new Municipal Growth Framework is so clear. Local governments also need to be able to tackle Canadians' big priorities, like housing and homelessness and new infrastructure. There is also the pressing need for better climate adaptation in our municipalities. We are only receiving between 8 to 10 per cent of the tax dollar: it's time to bring all orders of government together on this and that's what FCM is focusing our advocacy on right now.

What Is the Most Valuable Thing You Learned from Your Parents?

That would be taking the time to listen and learn from people. As I said in my inaugural speech (which you can view in full on FCM's YouTube channel), my dad told me you have two eyes, two ears, and one mouth: try to remember which one should be used the least! (laughs)

To this day, I'm trying to live up to that.

Pineapple on Pizza, Yes or No?

Oh, I definitely eat it! I don't really see the problem, it tastes good to me and that's all that matters.

Best Hockey Player of All Time?

For me that's got to be Boby Orr. A Canadian of course, from Parry Sound, Ontario. Just a phenomenal player. Ten seasons with the Boston Bruins, and he's got to be one of the top scoring defensemen in the league ever. I have a lot of great memories of watching him as a kid and a teenager.

What's Your Favourite Place in Canada?

You probably know I was going to say this, but let me lay out why it's Colchester County. It's the hub of the beautiful province of Nova Scotia, we're spoilt with the Bay of Fundy right there, our lakes, some of the best hiking and walking trails in the world, amazing hunting and fishing, and then there's just the incredible hospitality of the people.

Success stories shared in the hallways at FCM annual conference

by Municipal World Staff

There are a lot of important and interesting sessions that happen at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual meeting, plus a lot of training, workshops, and study tours. But equally important are the informal meetings that happen between scheduled sessions in the hallways at breaktime.

It is an opportunity for delegates to meet and compare notes and success stories. With over 3,100 delegates from across Canada, that is an opportunity for a lot of sharing.

"It's a really unparalleled opportunity for local leaders to really engage with one another at that scale," said Carole Saab, FCM's CEO.

Transforming Transit Systems

Karen Redman, chair of Waterloo Region, pointed to her community's ION Light Rail Transit system connecting Kitchener and Waterloo, which this year is celebrating its fifth anniversary of operation.

The ION LRT has helped spur revitalizing development in the core areas and all along the 19-kilometer route, said Redman.

"It's transformative in terms of what's happening throughout the downtown areas of both cities," Redman said in an interview.

The community is now seeking funding to extend the ION LRT to Cambridge, Waterloo Region's third city.

"That's always been the vision," said Redman. "We are hot on the business plan to get funding going for the second phase of the LRT which will take us down to Cambridge, and that will be the entire system."

Donna Reardon, Mayor of Saint John, N.B., also has transit on her mind. Her community's transit system recently initiated a "FLEX service," doing away with scheduled fixed routes in some areas in favour of on-demand bus service, allowing people to use their phone or tablet to schedule rides.

The flex routes are served by smaller and more efficient electric buses, which also supports the city's plan to be carbon neutral by 2040.

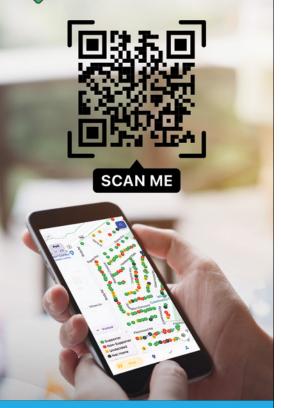
"Ridership is up, and the electric buses are far cheaper to run," Reardon said in an interview. "It's a win-win."



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Saint John, N.B., recently initiated "flex" transit services, doing away with scheduled fixed routes in some areas in favour of on-demand bus services.

Essential Housing Acceleration

Mairin Loewen, a councillor with the City of Saskatoon, was focused on housing.

Saskatoon grew by 14,000 people last year but homebuilding only resulted in 2,600 new units. Apartment rents are up nine per cent, while rental vacancy rates are at an historic low of two per cent.

The city undertook a wholesale review of its planning bylaw, with proposed changes necessary to become eligible for \$41 million from the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund. That will allow 960 additional affordable units to be built.

Saskatoon is now undertaking a public consultation on the proposed changes.

"It's all new territory and it's all happening quickly," said Loewen in an interview. "So it's very interesting stuff."

Moving quickly has resulted in some "push back" from the public. Loewen said, but consultations are nonetheless essential.

"The federal government, when it's contemplating a policy change, doesn't rent the school gym and have coffee and cookies and let people come in and tell them what they think," Loewen said. "But that's how we make decisions at the local level. And there is a high expectation from the public about having a chance to weigh in and having a chance to provide feedback."

Collaboration Between Governments

Patty Cuttell, a council member with the City of Halifax, said the FCM meeting underlined for her the need for a change in the relationship between municipalities and other orders of government.

"Like everywhere, we're dealing with a housing crisis and a homelessness crisis at the same time," Cuttell said in an interview. "But we can't solve that on our own. So the collaboration with the province is of course super critical."

Cuttell said governance is an issue that needs to be tackled and she appreciates that FCM is taking it on.

"It's also our political frameworks - the way it's designed and operated - that creates polarization," Cuttell said. "We need to move beyond that. We need to think about how we structure ourselves from a governance perspective, because the barriers are there and they're not just going to magically disappear through good will." MW



This year, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2024 Annual Conference and Trade Show marked a significant milestone, with record-breaking participation and diverse programming aimed at tackling pressing challenges and embracing opportunities for a stronger Canada.

Here are some highlights:

3,100+ participants from coast to coast to coast

16 workshops and ask-the-expert sessions

Over **50** study and companion tour options showcasing Calgary's innovations and attractions

330 kilometres run in the Allons-y wellness challenge

4 resolutions adopted by members

4 main-stage plenaries on critical topics

4 federal representatives gave political keynotes

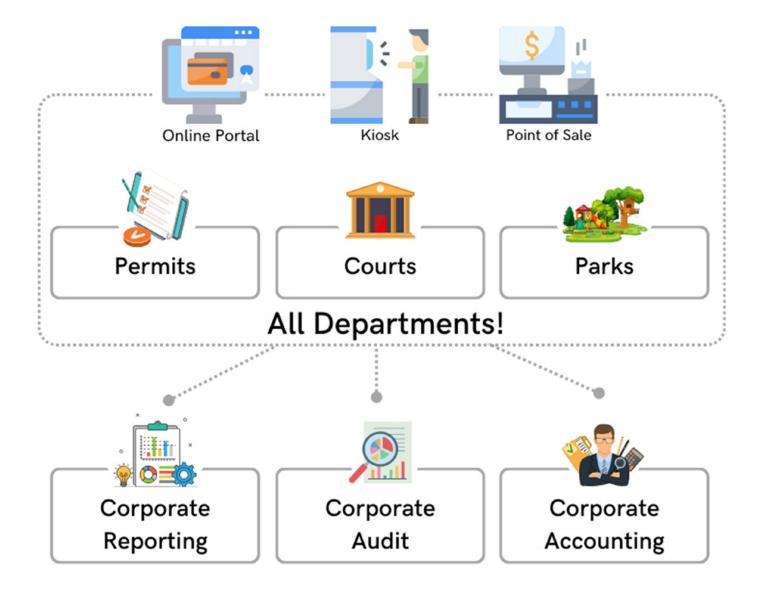
1 essential advocacy paper launched: FCM's new Municipal Growth Framework report

176 booths and **152** exhibitors at the Trade Show

8 networking activities

286 uses of **#FCM2024AC/ FCM2024CA** on social media during the week of Annual Conference

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The wide range of study and companion tours offered at AC2024 allowed participants to fully explore Calgary, immersing themselves in its vibrant culture.

Exploring Calgary: AC2024's host city

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the City of Calgary proudly partnered to offer delegates an unparalleled experience at this year's conference (AC2024).

At an exceptional venue at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre on bustling Stephen Avenue, attendees enjoyed exciting networking events and inspiring remarks from Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek on why cities' funding model needs to be updated.

The thoughtfully integrated activities showcased the best of Calgary, from its dynamic downtown to its character-filled neighbourhoods, creating the perfect backdrop for a memorable conference. These engaging experiences added depth and richness to the event, ensuring that delegates left with a genuine appreciation for the city's unique charm.



At the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre, Calgary Mayor Jyoti Condek remarks on why cities' funding model needs to be updated.





Study Tours: Discovering Calgary

The wide range of study and companion tours offered at AC2024 allowed participants to fully explore Calgary, immersing themselves in its vibrant culture.

These tours highlighted the city's innovation, showcasing interesting projects that have the potential to be scaled for municipalities across the country. From these visits, delegates gained concrete insights and practical knowledge that could be applied to their own communities, fostering growth and development inspired by Calgary's successful initiatives.

"This year, we offered 37 unique tours from the City of Calgary, our civic partners, and other community entities. We truly had something for everyone – our tours ranged from highlighting Reconciliation, social wellness, and inclusion programs to the more standard bricks-and-mortar infrastructure, with everything in between," said Allison Chan, senior intergovernmental relations consultant with the City of Calgary. "We wanted delegates to actively experience Calgary firsthand, so we included e-bike, e-scooter, and rafting tours for a totally different experience. These were the first tours to fill up!"



Member Spotlight: Using AI to reduce chronic homelessness

by Municipal World Staff

The housing crisis was at the forefront of municipal leaders' minds at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2024 Annual Conference and Trade Show. Across Canada, local governments are innovating with out-of-the-box solutions to help their most vulnerable citizens.

The City of Ottawa is collaborating with researchers and students at Carleton University to develop an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that can help identify when a person is at risk of falling into chronic homelessness. The research project, led by Majid Komeili, an associate professor at Carleton's School of Computer Science, aims to provide social workers with more timely information to enable them to help people more quickly.

In 2020, Ottawa became the first city in Canada to declare a housing and homelessness

emergency. The city's homeless shelters use a digital intake system for people utilizing emergency housing, and social service workers are responsible for monitoring each person's status. That's a big task for often under-resourced and under-funded facilities.

"The tool will help social service workers provide the necessary resources in a timely manner to stabilize their housing, enhance social inclusion, and ultimately reduce the likelihood of the recurrence of homelessness," Komeili said.

More Responsive, Flexible Housing System Working with Carleton computer scientist Olga Baysal and students in Carleton's Institute of Data Science, Komeili is developing an intelligent screening tool that can help provide unbiased assessments of people's needs.



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"It's important to understand what is causing homelessness in order to determine who is in urgent need of those resources," Komeili said.

"It's an assistive technology that will help social services better optimize their resources," Komeili said. "It's a new tool for their toolbox."

The AI program is on track to be implemented in the fall, and will be piloted at the Ottawa Mission, the Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre, Shepherds of Good Hope, and the Cornerstone Housing for Women.

The AI tool will be implemented into the shelters' existing database. It will use data collected from intake forms and cross-checked against the external risk factors identified through Komeili's research. It will then automatically rank each persons' risk and flag those in need of urgent help to support workers.

"No one individual, organization, or level of government can address the local housing and homelessness crisis alone," said Vinh Nguyen, manager of social policy, research and analytics with the City of Ottawa. "By working with academics and evaluating solutions through research, we can work toward making our housing and homelessness system more responsive, flexible, and tailored to the emerging needs of the community."

Plan to End Homelessness

The collaboration with Carleton is part of Ottawa's 10-year plan to end homelessness by 2030. The plan aims to end unsheltered and chronic homelessness, as well as reduce the number of people entering homelessness.

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness estimates that around 235,000 people experience homelessness each year in Canada - and many of them are chronically homeless, which means they have spent at least six months unhoused or in temporary accommodations.

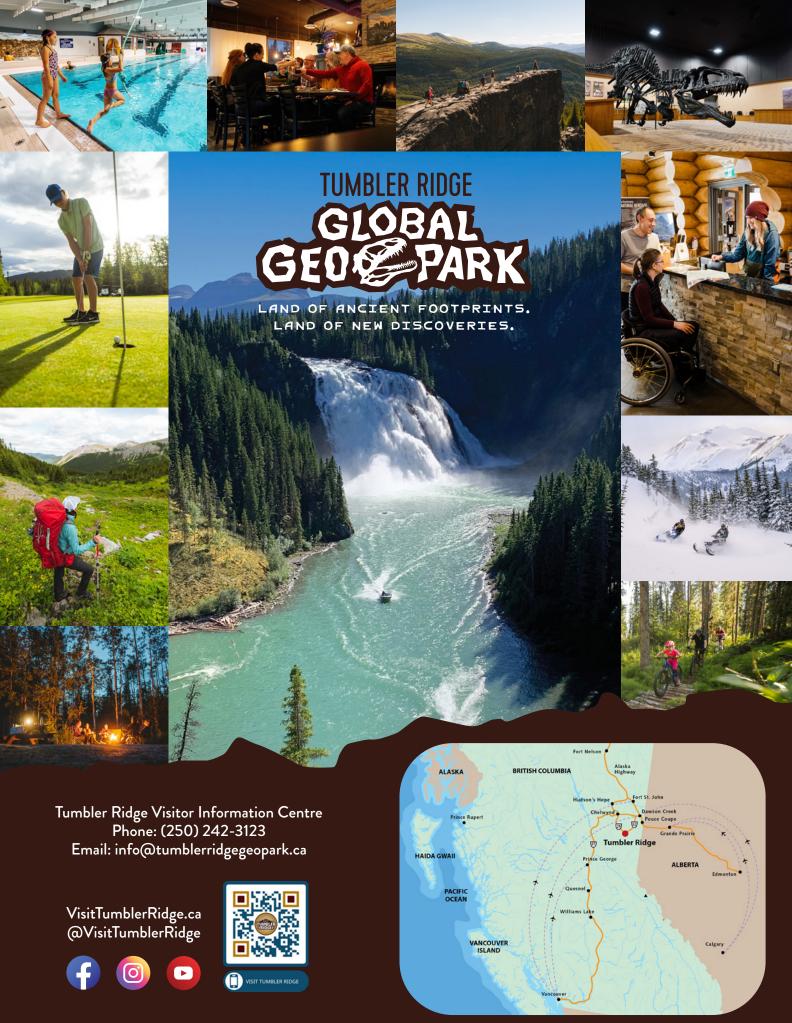
"The City of Ottawa is committed to ending chronic homelessness through our 10-year housing and homelessness plan," said Kale Brown, manager of homelessness programs and shelters for the City of Ottawa. "With this project, we are hoping to understand whether our administrative data can provide deeper insights into the community's needs and how those can be addressed."

Komeili's research is aiding that effort by identifying the factors and patterns that often lead to a person becoming homeless. Some of the factors include economic indicators like unemployment, inflation, and GDP. The project also looks at the impact of weather and seasonal changes.

"It's important to understand what is causing homelessness in order to determine who is in urgent need of those resources," Komeili said. "It can also help work toward preventing it in the long term."

Ultimately, Komeili hopes his work will help bring more immediate help to people and inform more long-term policymaking on homelessness.

"Helping with homelessness means contributing to creating a society where everyone has a place to call home, where individuals are not just statistics," he said. "It's about fostering empathy, compassion, and understanding, and working toward a society where no one is left behind." MW



Municipal Den showcases city hall development that comes with affordable housing

by Municipal World Staff

In October 2023, the City of Rossland, B.C., completed its Rossland Yards project, a mixed-use development that hosts the new city hall as well as new affordable housing for residents. Rossland, in the West Kootenays region, was one of the communities to present at the Municipal Den session hosted at this year's Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show.

This new activity provided space for municipalities to showcase innovative projects within their

communities. Local governments across Canada are adopting creative strategies to enhance the quality of life for their residents. These initiatives go beyond addressing immediate needs to build a sustainable and bright future.

The event aimed to foster collaboration, inspire action and propel Canadian communities forward. Rossland Mayor Andy Morel shared with delegates and attendees the ins and outs of the city's Rossland Yards project.



The Rossland Yards project integrated Rossland City Hall with affordable rental housing units, as well as council chambers and community meeting spaces.



During the Municipal Den, a space for municipalities to showcase innovative projects, Rossland Mayor Andy Morel told delegates and attendees about the city's Rossland Yards project.



Integration of City Hall and Affordable Housing

Rossland, a city of around 4,000 sits just north of the Canada-United States border. Rossland Yards is situated on a historically significant site, once home to the Red Mountain/Great Northern Railway station and later a highways maintenance yard.

In addition to housing the new city hall, the project is designed to provide affordable housing for the community. It offers a total of 37 affordable rental housing units. These include 21 one-bedroom units, 12 two-bedroom units, and four three-bedroom units, which are managed by the Lower Columbia Affordable Housing Society (LCAHS). The building also houses council chambers and community meeting spaces.

"Strategically integrating the new city hall with affordable housing showcases a creative approach to civic planning, maximizing the use of available space," said Rossland CAO Bryan Teasdale. "This integration signals a shift from standalone civic infrastructure projects to a more interconnected and community-oriented development model."

The \$16.4-million project was developed with funding from LCAHS, the FCM Green Municipal Fund, Columbia Basin Trust, and the City of Rossland. Aligned with the city's official community plan and council strategic initiatives, the project emphasizes key priorities, including:

- growth management
- · environmental stewardship
- · community services
- housing

"Rossland Yards represents a great example of what is possible when we work across sectors to address our region's housing challenges. With this project, we have taken a big step toward improving access to affordable workforce housing for Rosslanders," said Morel. "We look forward to welcoming community members into our new city hall. A debt of gratitude is owed to our funding partners and the team at the Lower Columbia Affordable Housing Society for bringing this project to life."

Example of Municipal Excellence and Collaboration

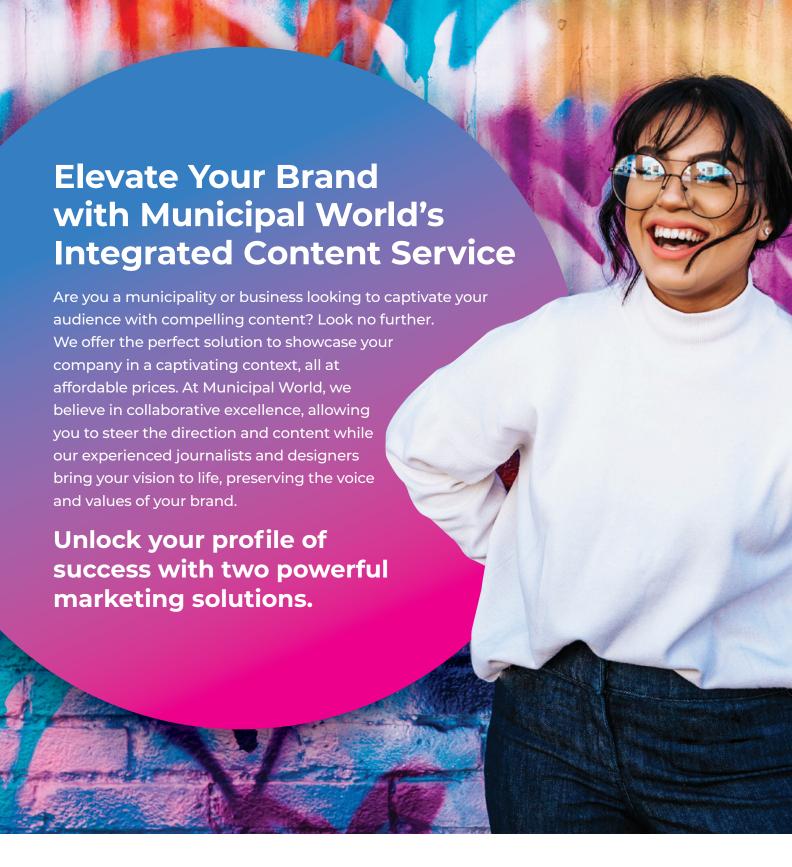
In early June, Rossland won the 2024 Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) Award for Collaboration with External Organizations for the Rossland Yards project.

The award recognizes innovative and collaborative initiatives where the outcome has demonstrated mutual benefits to all partners. Projects must result in one or more of the following outcomes:

- · a significant improvement in service to both partners
- developed new or improved processes
- improved the quality of life for residents

According to the LCAHS, the target population for housing are individuals, couples, and families with incomes ranging from \$30,000 to \$80,000. Tenants at Rossland Yards must work in the city or be recently retired after working in the community.

"CAMA is pleased to recognize Rossland for the municipal excellence and collaboration demonstrated by this project," said CAMA President Tony Kulbisky. "This innovative effort not only resulted in a new city hall, but affordable workforce housing for the community." MW



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