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# Advocating on a national level: FCM's 2025 federal election strategy

Presentation to the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick

UMNB Advocacy Days 2025

# Challenging time for New Brunswick Communities

- ▶ Fiscal reform
- ▶ Rural infrastructure needs
- ▶ Community policing requirements
- ▶ Housing and homelessness
- ▶ Extreme weather and coastal erosion
- ▶ Trade war with our closest ally, U.S.
- ▶ And more!



Photo credit: UMN

# Context

- ▶ High political and geopolitical volatility
- ▶ Cost of living crisis, lagging productivity
- ▶ Trade war with the United States as backdrop
  - ▶ Local diplomacy efforts in the United States as part of Team Canada
  - ▶ February FCM Virtual Listening Tour on Canada-US relations to hear from members on local impacts
  - ▶ Cross-cutting advocacy domestically to safeguard municipal interests
  - ▶ Need to partner across all orders of government to navigate the uncertainty
- ▶ **Increased focus on the need to build a stronger, more resilient Canada**
- ▶ The Honourable Mark Carney sworn in as PM March 14, new transitional cabinet, CPC rebranding
- ▶ **Writ has dropped, election April 28<sup>th</sup>**





# Narrative: *Stronger Together — Local Strength, National Prosperity*



Building a prosperous and resilient Canada starts in our local communities. It's time for a modernized **National Prosperity Partnership** to improve economic resilience and quality of life for all Canadians.

# Our strategic objectives



Promoting local communities as Canada's engines of prosperity



Positioning municipalities as trusted and responsible frontline government partners focused on Canadians' priorities



Empowering and engaging our members



Building government, public and stakeholder awareness and support for key municipal priorities



A true **National Prosperity Partnership** will ensure that municipalities—who create the conditions for economic growth—can reinvest in building a stronger, more resilient Canada.

**Long-term  
investment certainty**



**Prioritizing  
local needs**



**A direct link between municipal  
investment, economic growth  
and resilience**



# Our advocacy priorities

*A true **National Prosperity Partnership** will move Canada forward by ensuring all orders of government work together to:*

- ▶ **Support local economic growth and resilience** so communities can attract businesses and ensure good jobs for Canadians.
- ▶ **Invest in infrastructure renewal** to drive productivity and competitiveness.
- ▶ **Achieve housing affordability** so Canadians (especially young Canadians) can look to their future with confidence.
- ▶ **End homelessness** with solutions that work at the local level.
- ▶ **Keep communities safe** and support vital emergency services.
- ▶ Reduce economic disruption by **investing in climate-resilient infrastructure**.
- ▶ Support thriving **rural, northern and remote communities**.



# Local economic growth and resilience

*Municipalities are ready to partner for prosperity with the federal government and the provinces and territories to safeguard our local economies.*

*FCM's recommendations to federal parties:*

- ▶ Invest in local strength by advancing a **modernized municipal fiscal framework**, including:
  - ▶ **Increasing direct annual transfers to municipalities**
  - ▶ Working with provincial and territorial governments on a comprehensive **municipal finance reform package**
- ▶ Reduce **interprovincial trade barriers**
  - ▶ Reduce CFTA exemptions
  - ▶ Improve labour mobility
  - ▶ Advance building code harmonization
- ▶ Invest in **trade and business-enabling infrastructure**
  - ▶ Roads, highways, bridges, rail, airports, deep-sea ports
  - ▶ Municipal infrastructure that keeps our communities running
  - ▶ Broadband infrastructure
- ▶ Streamline **federal permits and approvals**, while continuing to protect our environment and advance Indigenous Reconciliation
- ▶ Establish **national utility corridors**



# Infrastructure development and renewal

*Further to advocating for a true National Prosperity Partnership to advance a modernized municipal fiscal framework, FCM's recommendations to federal parties on infrastructure include:*

- ▶ Invest in **housing-enabling infrastructure**
- ▶ Establish a new dedicated \$3B over three years federal **water and wastewater infrastructure** fund
- ▶ Invest \$500M annually for 10 years in **core rural and northern infrastructure**
- ▶ Accelerate progress towards **universal internet access** and **cellular coverage**
- ▶ Provide long-term **public transit capital funding** starting in 2025 at \$3B per year, indexed annually
- ▶ Immediately increase investments in **disaster mitigation and adaptation** by \$2B, with an additional \$1B earmarked each year for the next decade

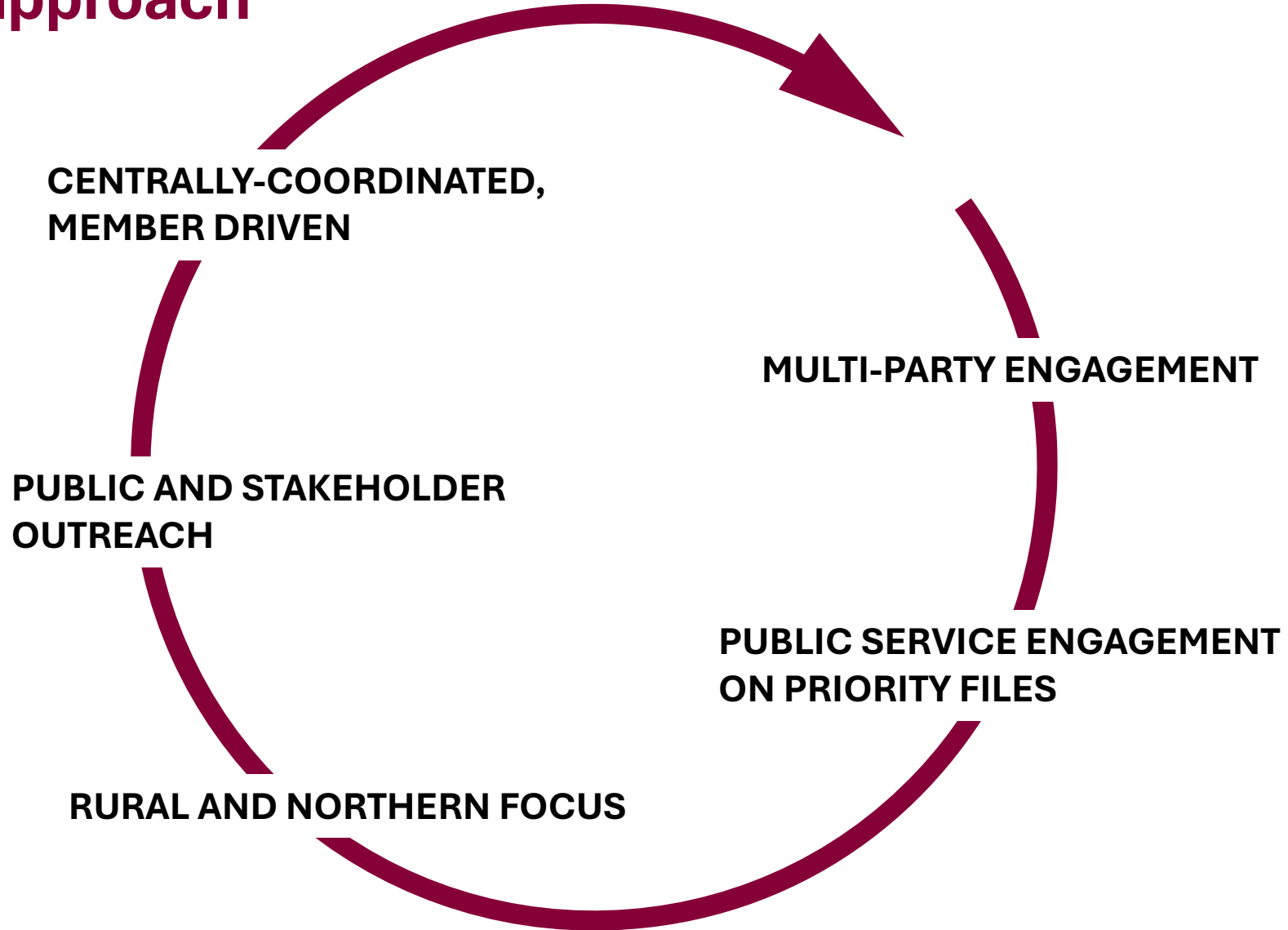
# A thriving Rural, Northern, Remote Canada

*Local economic growth & resilience and infrastructure development & renewal, including to advance universal internet access and cellular coverage, are essential for strong local communities in New Brunswick.*

*Additional FCM recommendations to federal parties:*

- ▶ **End rural homelessness** and fix the rural housing crunch
- ▶ Strengthen Canada's bail system to **address repeat offending**
- ▶ Strengthen efforts to ensure optimal **RCMP staffing and service levels**
- ▶ Commit to **meaningful consultation** with municipalities on the future of RCMP contract policing

# Tactics & approach





# Election Website



**[strongertogether.fcm.ca](https://strongertogether.fcm.ca)**  
**[plusfortsemble.fcm.ca](https://plusfortsemble.fcm.ca)**

# Conclusion



The election is a critical opportunity for municipalities to shape Canada's future.

Strategic advocacy efforts will keep municipal priorities top of mind.

Let's get ready to drive municipal leadership in the next federal government.

**Comments and  
questions are  
welcome!**



For more information visit **[strongertogether.fcm.ca](https://strongertogether.fcm.ca)**



