



NEWS RELEASE

ABmunis' position on federal government's Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF)

January 2, 2026

EDMONTON – *The following statement is issued by Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) President Dylan Bressey and the Board of Directors:*

Alberta Municipalities welcomes the Government of Canada's commitment to invest in local infrastructure through the Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF), as announced in its Budget 2025. Federal funding of infrastructure like roads, water and wastewater systems, transit, and community facilities that enables more housing to be built will help communities across Alberta respond to the urgent growth pressures and affordability challenges they face.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned that access to BCSF's Provincial/Territorial funding stream hinges on "substantially reducing development charges" (known in Alberta as off-site levies) and other similar constraints. The federal government's "one-size-fits-all" approach risks undermining the very infrastructure that enables new housing in Alberta. Our members use off-site levies responsibly and transparently to ensure growth pays for growth. Reductions to these development charges would shift costs to local taxpayers, slow project delivery, and erode municipal autonomy.

The conditions that accompany the BCSF raise serious questions about fairness and effectiveness. We believe that the BCSF will address housing affordability in other provinces but won't be effectively deployed in Alberta. This means Albertans could miss out on considerable amounts of much-needed federal government funding. We urge the federal government to fund infrastructure in municipalities throughout Alberta without imposing conditions.

Our association, which represents 264 municipalities across Alberta, respectfully encourages the federal government to:

- Provide BCSF dollars to municipalities in Alberta without imposing mandatory reductions to development charges/off-site levies or other prescriptive conditions.
- Recognize Alberta's proven offsite levy regime and municipalities' autonomous decision-making powers.
- Prioritize water and wastewater systems, public transit, and recreation facilities that unlock housing supply and improve livability throughout Alberta.
- Ensure BCSF allocations reflect Alberta's rapid growth and the need to keep pace with housing demand.
- Ensure BCSF allocations are delivered efficiently via predictable channels.



We look forward to working with the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to tailor BCSF in ways that accelerate housing in communities across Alberta while protecting municipal fiscal sustainability.

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