SMLG·SMAL

Secretariat of Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government 2026–2029 Strategic Plan

MISSION

We work collaboratively across all provinces and territories to advance local government affairs through research, shared expertise and knowledge, a common voice, and innovative best practices.

VISION

Be the leading national source for strategic, objective, and relevant knowledge and advice for local government.

VALUES

- Agility – We monitor emerging issues in the local government sector and offer timely and proactive guidance, tools and resources.
- Integrity – We are committed to organizational and professional excellence through our objective and client focused approach.
- Capacity – We enable effective decision-making and high performance in the local government sector by providing quality information, policies and resources.
- Collaboration – We are committed to hearing views from all jurisdictions, sharing our work and best practices, and reaching decisions based on consensus.

Strategic Direction 1: Local Governance

Share knowledge on local governance issues facing Canadian municipalities.

Local governance was identified as a priority by ten jurisdictions in the 2026–2027 priority survey conducted by the Secretariat.

- Help provincial and territorial government as they work to strengthen local governance by providing communities and local governments with the tools and resources they need, reviewing accountability mechanisms.
- Continue to build on work underway and to understand issues and experiences in other jurisdictions as different approaches are implemented across the country.
- Share information on challenges in the relationship between municipal councils and CAO's.
- Address extreme weather resilience integration into municipal decision making and;
- Explore solutions put forward to resolve capacity issues.

Strategic Outcome 1: The work on local governance contributes to sharing information, lessons learned and best practices among all jurisdictions. The Secretariat supports cross-jurisdictional collaboration on local governance issues and its work helps ministries responsible for Local government in the development of policies.

Strategic Direction 2: Infrastructure and Growth

Develop common messaging on infrastructure funding and identify lessons learned pertaining to municipal infrastructure challenges.

Infrastructure and Growth was identified as a priority by eleven jurisdictions in the 2026–2027 priority survey conducted by the Secretariat.

- Help develop a joint PT position to advocate for long-term, predictable federal infrastructure funding;
- Contribute in highlighting PTs position regarding the need for stable, flexible long-term funding that is linked to provincial and territorial priorities;
- Research northern and remote infrastructure funding models;
- Research the need and construction standards for infrastructure that is resilient to climate-related hazards;
- Share best practices in asset management that will help municipalities build capacity;
- Study cooperation mechanisms and partnerships between municipalities and First Nations on joint infrastructure funding applications.

Strategic Outcome 2: Work on infrastructure helps coordinate the development of common messaging on infrastructure programming that reflects provincial and territorial priorities. Share information on local infrastructure and growth-related issues among all jurisdictions.