

October 30, 2014

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Dedicated Fund for Wastewater Treatment Upgrades Needed

Wastewater treatment upgrades required by federal regulations will be unaffordable for many municipalities across Canada. FCM needs your assistance to tell the federal government that a long-term dedicated federal fund is needed for these upgrades.

Over the past several months, FCM has met with senior government officials regarding our concerns. We also addressed this issue in our pre-budget consultations with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance.

It is important that key ministers and local Members of Parliament hear from you. They need to hear from the people on the ground keeping our water systems safe.

We are asking you to write to Denis Lebel, Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs highlighting this additional cost and to request a dedicated fund. Further, we are asking you to copy this letter to Finance Minister Joe Oliver, Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq, the MP(s) in your municipalities and FCM.

We have included [a template letter](#) for your use.

Thank you.

Brock Carlton
Chief Executive Officer

Template letter to the Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs

Please adapt this template as appropriate

The Honourable Denis Lebel, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs
Infrastructure Canada
Suite 1100, 180 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 0B6

Dear Minister:

The new federal *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations* establish national standards that will require nearly one quarter of all wastewater treatment systems in Canada to be substantially retrofitted or replaced.

[Insert name of municipality here] supports the federal government's goal of protecting Canadian waters. Municipalities across Canada want to partner with the federal government to ensure that these new federal regulations can be effectively implemented.

A conservative estimate by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) shows that meeting the regulations will require capital expenditures in excess of \$18 billion dollars, with at least \$3.4 billion of those costs being incurred before 2020.

Based on our latest assessment, [Insert name of municipal/regional government here] will incur [insert current cost estimate here] in order to be in compliance by [insert date here].

While wastewater treatment is an eligible category under the New Building Canada Fund, this funding mechanism alone will not be sufficient to enable municipalities to comply with the new regulations without cancelling other local infrastructure priorities that are critical to sustained economic growth and job creation, or unfairly increasing property taxes and utility rates on local taxpayers.

[Insert name of municipality here] joins FCM in calling for a new long-term dedicated federal fund matched by local and provincial governments to assist communities with the capital cost of rebuilding their wastewater systems.

FCM together with communities across Canada affected by the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations, look forward to partnering with your government to deliver jobs, economic prosperity, and a clean environment for all Canadians.

Sincerely,

Municipal Representative

- c: The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment
- c: the Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Finance
- c: Regional Member of Parliament
- c: Local Members of Parliament
- c: Brad Woodside, FCM President