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.

- Continue to build on work underway and to understand issues and experiences in other jurisdictions as different approaches are implemented across the country and provide an update on new development pertaining to codes of conduct;
- Contribute to strengthening local governance by providing communities and local governments with the tools and resources, including the training elected officials and staff need;
- Identify challenges in the relationship between municipal councils and CAO's;
- Recommend solutions put forward to resolve capacity issues of municipalities;
- Explore municipal transparency challenges surrounding accountability and municipal reporting.

Strategic Direction 2: Infrastructure and Asset Management

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.

- Share best practices in asset management that will help municipalities build capacity, improve sustainable service delivery and develop risk informed infrastructure plans;
- Research alternative forms of infrastructure financing and new municipal revenue tools.
- Develop a joint PT position to advocate for long-term, predictable federal infrastructure funding in the context of discussions between the Table of PT Ministers and the federal Minister.