

NEWS

Somerville hoping there will be something for Halton in next week's federal budget

Returning from a Board of Directors meeting of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Halton Hills Wards 1 & 2 Regional Councillor and Vice President of FCM, Clark Somerville said that the March 22 federal budget will be an important turning point for local communities like Halton.

More than 100 mayors and councillors from across Canada met in Sherbrooke, Quebec, where the federal budget was a key topic of discussion. The municipal leaders emerged more united than ever to address national challenges by working closely with the federal government to build a strong Canada.

Local leaders representing municipalities of all sizes met in Sherbrooke to discuss FCM's pre-budget submission, *Rising to the Moment*, and its companion piece, *A Thriving Rural Canada*. Together, these documents provide a blueprint to turn the federal government's bold election commitments into real action for Canadians.

"Our communities are in the best position to determine which infrastructure investments will serve our residents, now and in the long-term," said Somerville. "Whether we're talking about affordable housing, maintaining and building good roads, or fighting climate change, we are ready to work closely with our federal partners to build great hometowns."

During the meeting, municipal colleagues welcomed Prime Minister Justin



CLARK SOMERVILLE

equally committed to addressing a slow economy and improving the quality of life of Canadians.

Halton Region has taken steps to ensure Halton's priorities figure prominently in the upcoming federal budget. "

Halton Region has been advocating for a Strong Halton, highlighting to our MPs and the Minister of Finance, through our federal budget submission, the issues that are important to our residents," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

"Canadians expect all levels of government to work together on their behalf with one common goal, which is building a better Canada," said Somerville. "Canadian municipalities are ready to make the strategic infrastructure investments this country needs."

For more information, visit halton.ca/advocacy.

Trudeau's announcement of \$75 million to expand the municipal role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Board applauded the leadership of the federal government in addressing climate change, and confirmed that municipal leaders are



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