Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I hope you and your family are staying safe during these difficult times. As a fellow elected official, I know that you have been doing everything possible to help our community during this pandemic and I would like the opportunity to discuss how we can continue working together.

We appreciate your party’s commitment to help deliver the right measures to support all Canadians during the COVID-19 crisis. I would like to applaud this ongoing cross-party collaboration to help our country get through this crisis.

Municipal leaders are working flat-out to get through this. We’re turning arenas into shelters, deploying portable hygiene stations, and deferring property taxes. We’re keeping essential services running—from fire and policing to clean water and garbage removal. Meanwhile, costs to keep people safe, including our most vulnerable, continue to rise.

With few fiscal tools available and no legal ability to run operating deficits, municipalities are facing a financial crisis that puts our constituents at risk. That is why I am asking you to support **FCM’s call for at least $10 billion in targeted emergency operating funding for municipalities nationwide**—to keep essential services running and keep our constituents safe and supported. FCM is proposing a hybrid allocation formula based on the Gas Tax Fund, with a ridership-based allocation for cities that operate transit systems. The proposal also calls for a commitment to revisit the need for additional operating funding in four months’ time.

We also need the provinces to work with us. But the crisis is too serious and urgent and it won’t wait for a jurisdictional debate. FCM is calling on all orders of government to work together in partnership, starting with an appeal to national leadership.

Our federal-municipal partnership has delivered remarkable results. Deepening that partnership now will protect Canadians through this pandemic. And when the time comes, local leaders will be ready to help lead Canada’s recovery. I encourage you to read the full submission at [fcm.ca](https://data.fcm.ca/documents/resources/reports/protecting-vital-municipal-services.pdf).

If you would like to discuss FCM’s recommendations for emergency municipal operating funding, I am available for a phone call at your earliest convenience.

Thank you once again for your continued partnership with municipal leaders and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[name/title/municipality]