

## FCSS Moves to Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women

The move to the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women affected the entire FCSS portfolio, as well as the provincial FCSS team, and took effect in early June.

In FCSS's 60 years, we have seen these types of changes and shifts before, but we know it is natural to wonder what *this* change means for the future of FCSS. We can confirm that there are no planned changes to the FCSS program, legislation, accountability framework, or funding as a result of the ministry shift.

Shortly after the announcement, President Kayla Blanchette met with Kindy Joseph, Assistant Deputy Minister. We were pleased to have our partners Marilea Pattison-Perry, Executive Director, Civil Society & Community Initiatives (Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women), and Dana Mackie, CEO of Alberta Municipalities, join the conversation.

Together, we emphasized the long-term sustainability of FCSS and the need for a multi-year plan to support funding growth.

**To support continuity during this transition, FCSSAA will maintain regular standing meetings with provincial leadership.**

### FCSSAA Advocacy Bulletin

We are pleased to share this update on FCSSAA advocacy efforts in this issue of the FCSSAA Advocacy Bulletin.

Please share this with your local representatives, boards and councils.



Overall, the discussion was very positive. Ms. Joseph shared her extensive experience within the Alberta Public Service and expressed genuine enthusiasm to learn more about FCSS and the vital role it plays in communities across the province.

We have requested a meeting with Minister Tanya Fir, Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women, and will continue to share updates as they become available.



# ADVOCACY BULLETIN

JUNE 2026

## Funding Requests and Government Activities

### Minister Nixon Meeting

In February, FCSSAA met with Minister Jason Nixon in advance of the provincial budget to reinforce the importance of increased investment in prevention and early intervention services. The conversation focused on the growing pressures facing FCSS programs, including population growth, rising costs and increasingly complex community needs. We also discussed the continued relevance of the FCSS model in delivering locally responsive supports and the opportunity for ongoing dialogue with government on long-term funding sustainability.

### No Funding Increase in Budget 2026

Despite our collective efforts with Alberta Municipalities and Rural Municipalities of Alberta to advocate for increased provincial investment in FCSS, Budget 2026 maintained funding at previous levels. While this was not the outcome we had hoped for, our commitment to advancing this conversation remains unchanged.

### Minister Nixon appointed President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Through previous engagement with FCSSAA, Minister Nixon has demonstrated an understanding of the important role FCSS plays in communities across Alberta. We will continue to build on the relationships and advocacy efforts established in recent years as we advance the priorities of FCSS programs.

## Reaction to Budget 2026

### President's Public Statement

Following the release of the provincial budget, FCSSAA President Kayla Blanchette issued a statement on behalf of the Association expressing disappointment that FCSS funding did not see an increase this year.

[Read the Statement](#)

### Cross Border Podcast

The Association's President also participated in an interview with Cross Border Network to share perspectives on how flat funding impacts prevention efforts in communities across the province.



[Watch the Podcast](#)

### Media Event with ABMunis

We joined ABMunis in a media event to address questions on FCSS in the budget.

### Continued Government Relations

We continue to work closely with our new Minister and Ministry to explore every opportunity for progress in the next budget cycle.



# ADVOCACY BULLETIN

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## Sharing the FCSS Story

### Impact Site

This spring, FCSSAA invited all FCSS programs to take part in a short survey about their experience with the FCSS Community Impact Tool. Respondents affirmed the value of the tool for advocacy and reporting, noting that it provides a centralized way to showcase FCSS impact.

At the same time, programs identified key challenges, including duplication with the provincial annual report, limited ability to edit or review submitted data, and a need for clearer definitions.

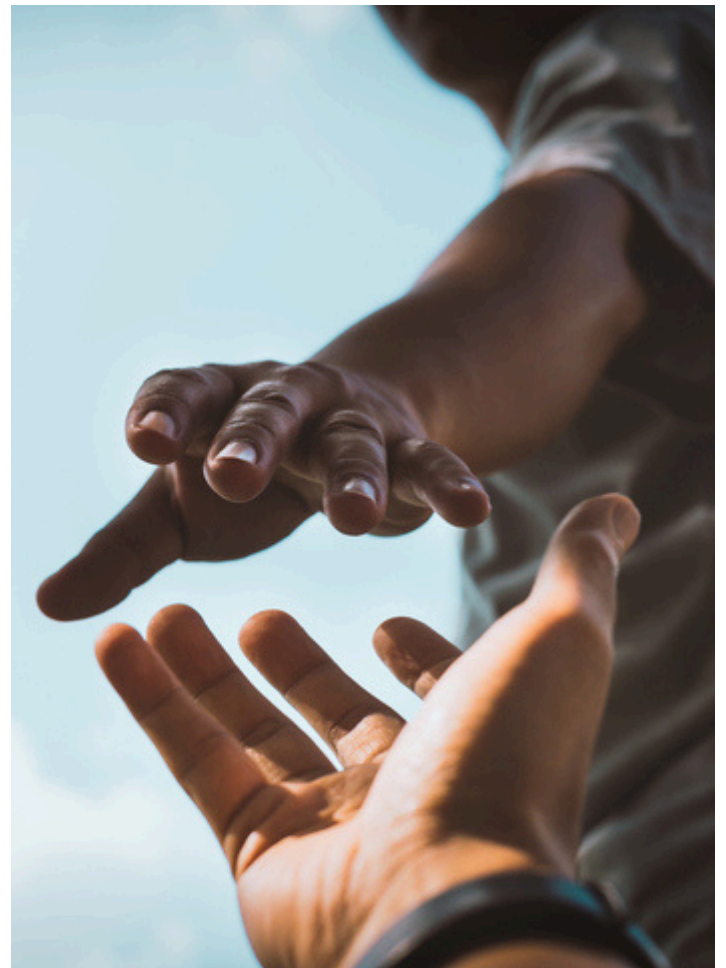
Several suggestions for additional supports such as templates and training were provided as a method to reduce barriers to using the public-facing side of the tool.

Overall, the survey results point to strong support for the tool alongside clear priorities for improving usability, alignment and functionality. We are evaluating the full report and will use these insights to help guide the coming updates and improvements.

**Thank you to everyone who participated.**

### RMA

FCSSAA participated in a session at the RMA's spring convention. We had the opportunity to meet with many rural municipal leaders and share about FCSS.



## Education

The FCSSAA hosted webinars with Alberta Supports to share information about the Income Support program and the upcoming changes to AISH and ADAP. Be sure to [bookmark this webpage](#) and check back often for the most up to date information.



June 2026

# ADVOCACY BULLETIN

## Resolutions: Guiding Advocacy Efforts

Approved resolutions help guide the Association's advocacy efforts, driving potential changes in policy or legislation to strengthen and streamline FCSS work across the province.

### All Resolutions Closed

The 2026 Resolution Committee met in January. As a result of the committee's recommendations, the Board formally closed the last open resolutions.

While the Association has no remaining open resolutions, the Board remains committed to understanding emerging challenges and evolving community needs.

### Resolution Call for 2026 Open

Resolutions play an important role in shaping the FCSSAA's work each year. They help the Board understand what matters most to FCSS programs across Alberta, including the challenges you're seeing, the opportunities emerging in your communities and the issues that need a stronger provincial voice.

As we look ahead, now is a great time to start thinking about the issues, trends or system-level conversations you'd like the FCSSAA Board to consider.

Your insights drive this work. Your resolutions shape the path forward. Check out the resolution manual for more details. When you're ready, check out how to submit your resolution to the Board.

[Review the Resolution Manual](#)

[Reach the Submission Details](#)

### Submission Deadline

September 26, 2026 at noon.  
This is 60 days prior to the AGM, in accordance with FCSSAA Bylaws.

**Stay tuned for more updates  
in future bulletins.**

#### Questions?

Please email FCSSAA's Executive Director at [director@fcssaa.org](mailto:director@fcssaa.org).

**Connect with us!**



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