

From: Minister of Infrastructure <Minister.MOI@ontario.ca>

Date: May 21, 2025 at 1:56:53 PM EDT

To: Rick Champagne <Rick.Champagne@eastferris.ca>

Cc: vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org

Subject: A Message from the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure

His Worship Rick Champagne

Mayor

Municipality of East Ferris

rick.champagne@eastferris.ca

Dear Mayor Champagne:

On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure, I would like to thank you for attending the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference. It was a pleasure to meet with you and your delegation.

The 2024 Ontario Budget introduced the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP), a \$1 billion initiative aimed at supporting core municipal infrastructure projects to help unlock more homes and promote growth in communities. This program focuses on the construction, repair, rehabilitation, and expansion of essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and water systems to sustain housing needs. Under this program, Ontario is investing \$400 million in 58 projects across 60 municipalities through the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing (HECS) Stream that aims to build, maintain, and repair core assets such as municipal roads, bridges and culverts that will enable new housing opportunities and ensure communities have reliable roads and bridge assets.

Ontario has also announced the launch of the \$175 million Health and Safety Water Stream under MHIP. This funding aims to protect communities by supporting municipalities and First Nations to build, repair and expand aging water, wastewater, stormwater, flood, and erosion infrastructure that address health and safety risks to the community. The province began accepting applications for this new stream on April 17, 2025 and will close on June 26, 2025.

Ontario's small, rural, and northern communities play a vital role in the province's growth and prosperity. The Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) supports this by providing 423 communities with funding to repair and rehabilitate core infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water, and wastewater systems projects. By addressing these critical needs, OCIF is fostering economic growth and job creation across the province. Additionally, recipients of OCIF grants have the flexibility to accumulate their formula-based funding for up to five years to address larger core infrastructure projects. Starting in 2022, the government increased OCIF funding by an additional \$1 billion over the next five years. In 2022, 2023 and 2024, the ministry allocated \$400 million annually under the OCIF, representing an increase of \$200 million per year compared to 2021. For 2025, the ministry is continuing to provide \$400 million in funding under OCIF to eligible communities.

Ontario recognizes that upgrading community infrastructure is vital to support a growing population as well as to provide dependable services people rely on. We also recognize that the need for municipal infrastructure investment is far from fully met. We encourage all municipalities to call on the federal government to request more infrastructure funding to help address local needs of municipalities across the province.

Thank you again for meeting with the Ministry of Infrastructure. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Amarjot Sandhu

Parliamentary Assistant to the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure

CC MPP Vic Fedeli

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