

May 17, 2021

Via email pm@pm.gc.ca

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Federal COVID support for Ontario Municipalities

The recent federal Budget made a very important investment in the essential role of municipalities in leading Canada's economic recovery. The additional infrastructure funding provided in 2021 under the soon to be renamed Canada Community-Building Fund, is a substantial investment in economic recovery. This additional investment will speed-up important infrastructure projects with immediate resources and improved access to project financing. Ontario municipal governments appreciate this important investment.

The infrastructure funding builds on Canada's investment in the 2020 Safe Re-Start Agreement which, together with matching provincial funds, offset additional municipal operating costs and transit losses created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This life-saving investment supported municipal governments in every part of Ontario. Coupled with federal and provincial economic stabilization efforts, this funding sustained communities and local economies, and bolstered the confidence of Canadians in a safe and sustainable economic future.

In 2021, Ontario municipalities continue to face pressures due to COVID-19 response and economic recovery efforts. The Financial Accountability Office of Ontario estimates the financial impact on Ontario municipalities in 2021 to be \$2.7 billion.

AMO was pleased that the 2021 Ontario Budget provides more than \$900 million in COVID-related financial assistance to municipalities for operational costs, the increased costs of homelessness services, and transit. \$500 million of the funding is allocated for municipal operations, with an expectation that the amount would be matched with federal investment. The funding will protect vitally important municipal services and related jobs essential to the economic recovery. These are the services that people and businesses rely on most.

We look forward to an announcement by the Government of Canada that it will match this important investment in the future of our communities. Resilient local economies are the foundation of provincial and national prosperity. Our residents are eager to participate in a strong economic recovery and a prosperous Canada.

Thank you for supporting municipal government in Ontario.
Yours truly,

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graydon Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graydon Smith
AMO President
Mayor of the Town of Bracebridge

Cc

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board
Garth Frizzell, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Fred Hahn, President, CUPE Ontario