

Minister of Infrastructure
and Communities



Ministre de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6



Ms. Kristen Newman
Director of Legislative and Legal Services
Town of Lakeshore
419 Notre Dame Street
Belle River, Ontario N0R 1A0

FEB 17 2020

Dear Ms. Newman:

I am writing in response to your letter of August 16, 2019, to the Prime Minister, regarding a resolution of the Council of the Town of Lakeshore pertaining to the federal Gas Tax Fund.

The Government of Canada has a long history of making strategic investments in a wide range of infrastructure categories. Infrastructure is the foundation of sustainable and inclusive communities—it removes barriers, brings people together and allows all Canadians to be active participants in their community. Moreover, good infrastructure fosters an environment where the best of Canadian innovation can grow.

The Government of Canada's *Investing in Canada* plan is providing more than \$180 billion over 12 years. Our priority is to promote infrastructure that will create good, well-paying jobs that can help the middle class grow and prosper. Key areas for investment include public transit, green and social infrastructure, transportation infrastructure that supports trade, and infrastructure in rural and northern communities.

The Plan is investing \$28.7 billion to improve public transit infrastructure throughout Canada, helping transform the way Canadians live, move and work; \$26.9 billion towards green infrastructure; and \$25.3 billion towards social infrastructure that will strengthen our communities, and build a better quality of life for our children and grandchildren. Additionally, the Government will invest \$10.1 billion towards trade and transportation investments that will help Canadian businesses compete and grow, and \$2 billion to support a broad range of projects in our rural and northern communities. The Plan also includes \$92.2 billion in funding that is available through existing programs.

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The agreement in place with the Province of Ontario will provide over \$11.8 billion in federal funding dedicated to infrastructure projects in the Province over the next decade. This new funding will see the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario make unprecedented investments in public transit, green infrastructure, communities, recreational and cultural infrastructure, as well as rural and northern communities.

The federal Gas Tax Fund delivers over \$2 billion every year to more than 3,600 communities across the country. In recent years, the funding has supported approximately 4,000 projects each year.

Budget 2019 included a one-time transfer of \$2.2 billion through the federal Gas Tax Fund to help address the short-term infrastructure priorities of municipalities and first nations communities. This doubled the Government of Canada's commitment to municipalities last year and provided much-needed infrastructure funds for communities of all sizes, all across the country.

As Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, I have been mandated by the Prime Minister to advance new infrastructure initiatives, such as the National Infrastructure Fund, support communities that are transitioning from fossil fuels, and make the federal commitment to fund public transit permanent. These investments will create good, middle-class jobs, keep our economy strong, and deliver a better quality of life in our urban and rural communities.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities