

Office of the Minister

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October 4, 2013

Mayor Roy Avis
Town of Fort Frances
town@fort-frances.com

Dear Mayor Avis:

As promised in the 2013 Budget, the Ontario government is now making available a new \$100 million municipal infrastructure fund. Available starting in the 2013/14 fiscal year, *the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund* is designed to help small, rural and northern municipalities address roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure.

As of October 1, 2013, through this new fund, eligible municipalities can apply for \$71 million in funding for capital projects. Your municipal CAO/Clerk will soon receive a letter outlining how to apply. The deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest is November 1, 2013.

In addition, 20 proposals for critical projects that were previously submitted under the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) have now been allocated funding. This is in addition to the 89 MIII projects announced over the summer. In total, 109 MIII projects have received funding. The new recipients were recently notified and will receive more detailed, funding-specific information.

The new fund also includes \$4 million to support ongoing asset management planning for municipalities with populations under 5,000. Your CAO/Clerk will also soon receive a letter outlining the eligibility criteria.

Finally, we have reviewed the feedback from our summer infrastructure consultations. Going forward, the invaluable information our municipal partners provided will form the basis of a permanent program for consideration through the 2014 budget process.

If you have any questions, please contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre by telephone at 1-877-424-1300 or you can send an e-mail to ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Leal".

Jeff Leal
Minister of Rural Affairs