

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des
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OCT 05 2017

Your Worship
Mayor Roy Avis
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor Avis: *Roy*



17-74995

I would like to thank you, your fellow council member, Paul Ryan and Chief Administrative Officer Doug Brown, for taking the time to meet with me at the 2017 Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Conference in Ottawa.

Your input and knowledge of local matters are important to me, I appreciated hearing about your concerns regarding the need for an additional Assistant Crown Attorney and a sitting Judge for the Rainy River District, as well as Connecting Link funding. I trust you have raised these issues directly with the Ministers responsible. I will also bring these matters to their attention.

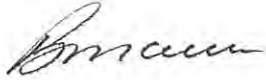
We have put our focus on restoring the important partnership between the province and our municipalities. Funding provided through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and municipal uploads has had a positive impact on municipalities in all corners of the province. The province was asked to stop downloading costs to Ontario's limited property tax base. Instead, we have uploaded significant costs. AMO asked for a new permanent fund for municipal infrastructure and we responded with the largest infrastructure investment in the province's history. We're investing \$190 billion over 13 years. We launched the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund which helps build and repair critical roads, bridges, water and waste water systems in small, rural and northern municipalities.

The fund was first introduced in the 2014 budget. It is set to triple to \$300 million per year by 2018/19, including \$200 million per year in stable formula based funding. This is predictable, bankable, stackable money. And we're cost matching a portion of the funding set aside in the federal government's clean water and waste water fund. This fund has provided over \$569 million in federal infrastructure investments across the province.

If your staff would like to discuss these matters further, ministry staff would be pleased to assist them. Please feel free to contact Susan Fraser, Manager, Local Government and Housing in the Northern Municipal Services Office (Thunder Bay) at 475-1653 or susan.fraser@ontario.ca.

Once again, thank you for meeting with me at the conference. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Mauro", written in a cursive style.

Bill Mauro
Minister

c. The Honourable Steven Del Duca,
Minister of Transportation

The Honourable Yasir Naqvi,
Attorney General of Ontario

Sarah Campbell, MPP
Kenora – Rainy River