

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des
Transports**

Bureau de la ministre

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MAR 12 2020

Mayor June Caul
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances ON P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor Caul:

I am pleased to announce the launch of the 2019/2020 Gas Tax Program and to advise you of your funding allocation.

Our government is committed to working with municipalities to improve Ontario's transportation network and support economic growth. Investing in transit will reduce traffic congestion, create jobs and help businesses to develop and prosper.

The Town of Fort Frances will be eligible to receive an allocation of \$71,372 for this program year.

In the coming days we will be forwarding the electronic versions of your Letter of Agreement, along with program guidelines, reporting forms and the Canadian Content for Transit Vehicle Procurement policy to the primary contact at the Town of Fort Frances.

Please return a scanned copy of the signed Letter of Agreement, in pdf format, the required supporting by-law (if applicable) and the 2019 Reporting Forms to **MTO-PGT@ontario.ca**.

In the 2019 Budget, the province committed to reviewing the current program, in consultation with municipalities, to identify opportunities for improvement. This review is informed by the goals of responsible planning and a more sustainable government to ensure taxpayer dollars are being spent as effectively as possible.

Following a careful consideration of municipal and transit stakeholder feedback, the ministry has implemented two changes that were identified as areas for improvement to the 2019/2020 program:

- The baseline spending requirement has been removed. This will allow municipalities with declining ridership/expenditures and declining fare revenues to use their Gas Tax funding.

- Municipalities are now permitted to submit a scanned copy of the municipal by-law instead of a certified copy. This will expedite the flow of funding and will reduce the administrative burden to municipalities.

Additional changes to the Gas Tax Program are being considered and are anticipated to be announced in 2020 for the 2020-2021 program year and beyond.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Anita Hooper, Director, Strategic Investments & Programs Branch, at (416) 585-7637.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Mulroney".

Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation

c. The Honourable Greg Rickford, MPP, Kenora—Rainy River