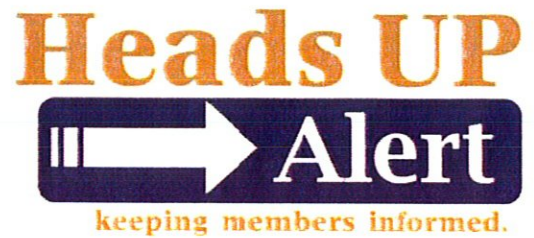




Working for Municipalities



April 26, 2013

Ontario Announces Plan for New Infrastructure Fund

Small, Rural and North Municipalities to Benefit If 2013-2014 Budget Passes

Earlier today, the Government of Ontario announced its intention to create a \$100 million fund to address the road, bridge and critical infrastructure needs of small, rural and Northern municipalities. The fund will be part of the 2013-2014 provincial budget.

The program, which recognizes the unique needs of small, rural and Northern communities, is the government's first step toward implementing a wide-ranging transportation plan for Northern and rural Ontario. The government also sees this program as the next step of its plan to "create jobs and build a prosperous and fair Ontario".

The new fund would be available by October 1, 2013. In announcing the program, the Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne also committed to having the province consult on the components of a permanent program for roads, bridges and critical infrastructure investments in small, rural and Northern municipalities.

"This initiative recognizes the unique challenges that confront rural, small and Northern communities" said Joanne Vanderheyden, OGRA President. "Along with the decision to mandate asset management plans, this is an important next step in developing the modern infrastructure that Ontario needs to succeed in the 21st century."

The implementation of this program will be contingent on the passing of the 2013-2014 budget.

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