

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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www.ontario.ca/transportation

Ministère des
Transports

Bureau du ministre

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March 7, 2024

107-2024-247

William C. Steele
Mayor
City of Port Colborne
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne ON L3K 3C8
c/o: Gail.Todd@portcolborne.ca

Dear Mayor Steele:

Thank you for your letter in support of creating an Ontario Shortline Track Maintenance Tax Credit in Budget 2024.

My ministry is committed to supporting the rail sector as an important part of our province's multimodal transportation system. I understand that in December 2023, the Railway Association of Canada met with my ministry staff to discuss potential supports for shortline railways including a proposed provincial tax credit. I also understand that a subsequent meeting was held with staff from the Ministry of Finance and the Railway Association of Canada regarding support for the railways.

Existing opportunities to support the railway industry include the Rural Economic Development program, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Federal Government's Renewed Federal Gas Tax Fund, and the National Trade Corridor Fund.

I look forward to exploring opportunities to support shortline railways within the multimodal transportation system.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria".

Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation

- c. The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, President of the Treasury Board
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs