

From: Minister of Infrastructure <Minister.MOI@ontario.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 10:35 AM

To: Mayor <mayor@portcolborne.ca>

Subject: A Message from the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure

His Worship Bill Steele
Mayor
City of Port Colborne
mayor@portcolborne.ca

Dear Mayor Steele:

On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure, I would like to thank you for attending the 2023 Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Conference. It was a pleasure to meet with you and your delegation.

I am following up on the discussion regarding issues related to aging water and sewer infrastructure in your city.

Thank you for sharing your challenges with regard to the need for water distribution pipes and pumping station replacements. I understand that your City has already received funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and that you are still experiencing challenges with capital costs.

I understand the pressure the City is facing and that the City has not made a funding request for this type of project before; unfortunately, the intakes under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) are now closed, and funding has been fully committed. The federal government has not made any commitments to provide additional funds. However, I encourage you to continue calling on your federal counterparts for more funding under ICIP.

I also understand that the City is interested in a funding program similar to the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF), which provides funding for projects that contribute to the rehabilitation of both water treatment and distribution infrastructure and existing wastewater and storm water treatment systems. As you may know, OCIF is a formula-based program that provides eligible municipalities with funding to repair and rehabilitate core infrastructure including road, bridge, water, wastewater and stormwater projects. Recipients may accumulate their annual grant funding for up to five years to address eligible larger projects to renew and rehabilitate core infrastructure.

I understand the City has already received funding from the Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Loan Program, which offers affordable, long-term fixed-rate loans to help municipalities, universities and other eligible public sector partners renew and build Ontario's public infrastructure. The City may also consider continuing to explore the program. More details can be found on the IO website: <https://www.infrastructureontario.ca/en/what-we-do/infrastructure-lending/>.

The government has one of the most ambitious capital plans in Ontario's history. Thousands of infrastructure projects are being planned or are under construction across Ontario. Ontario's Plan to Build includes the most ambitious capital plan in Ontario's history, with planned investments over the next 10 years totalling \$184.4 billion, including \$20.6 billion in 2023–24.

This plan is getting shovels in the ground to build highways, hospitals and other critical assets, laying the foundation for a strong Ontario.

Ontario recognizes that upgrading community infrastructure is vital to support a growing population and to provide dependable services people rely on, and that the need for municipal infrastructure investment is far from fully met. We encourage all municipalities to call on the federal government to request more infrastructure funding to help address the local needs of municipalities across the province.

Thank you again for meeting with the Ministry of Infrastructure. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Amarjot Sandhu

Parliamentary Assistant to the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure

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