



Naturally Yours

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March 3, 2026

Department of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities  
180 Kent Street  
Suite 1100  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 0B6

Attention: Honourable Gregor Robertson, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

Email: [gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca)

Re: Request to Expand Eligible Expenditures Under the Canada Community-Building Fund

Dear Minister Robertson,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Warden of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne in Southwest Nova Scotia.

Our municipality, like many others across Canada, has greatly benefited from the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF). The program has been foundational in supporting critical infrastructure investments that strengthen communities and improve quality of life for residents.

While we recognize and appreciate the value of the CCBF framework, we respectfully submit that the current structure of qualifying expenditures limits municipalities' ability to respond to their most pressing capital priorities. **We are therefore requesting that the federal government expand the list of eligible expenditures under the CCBF to permit municipalities the flexibility to allocate funds toward any municipal capital project deemed necessary by their respective councils.**

Municipalities across Canada differ significantly in geography, economic drivers, demographic pressures, and infrastructure realities. A one-size-fits-all eligibility framework, though well intentioned, can unintentionally restrict communities from addressing urgent and strategic capital needs. In our case, we face important infrastructure priorities that are not currently eligible under CCBF guidelines, despite maintaining available fund balances.

While our municipality maintains balances within the Canada Community-Building Fund, the current restrictions on eligible expenditures mean these funds cannot be applied toward some of our most pressing infrastructure priorities. **If this flexibility is not provided, the Municipality may face the difficult position of needing to increase local tax rates in order to finance essential capital projects, despite the fact that federal funds intended to support municipal infrastructure already sit in our account but remain inaccessible for these purposes.** Allowing municipalities the discretion to apply these funds toward locally determined capital priorities would help prevent unnecessary financial pressure on rural taxpayers.

The broader principle remains paramount: municipal governments are best positioned to understand the infrastructure priorities within their own communities. Local councils are accountable to their residents and are uniquely informed about both immediate needs and long-term strategic planning objectives.

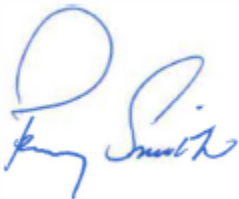
Providing municipalities with full capital flexibility under the CCBF would:

- Enhance responsiveness to evolving local conditions
- Improve efficiency in infrastructure planning and delivery
- Reduce administrative constraints
- Maximize the economic and social return on federal investments

We respectfully urge the federal government to modernize the CCBF framework to allow municipalities the authority to direct funds toward any municipal capital project as determined by council resolution. Such an approach would recognize the diversity of communities across Canada and affirm trust in local governance.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore how increased flexibility under the CCBF can better serve municipalities nationwide.

Sincerely,



Warden Penny Smith

c: Jessica Fancy, MP – South Shore-St. Margarets