



March 31, 2022

Rick Perkins, M.P.
South Shore–St. Margarets
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Rick Perkins:

Thank you for your letter of January 5, 2022, regarding amending the eligibility criteria of the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and of the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), formerly known as the Gas Tax Fund, to allow funds to be applied to multi-purpose municipal buildings that include municipal administrative offices or council chambers.

The Government of Canada continues to be focused on overcoming the greatest health crisis of our time. It is taking strong and quick action to stabilize our economy and support communities across Canada, while protecting the health and safety of all Canadians.

The Government of Canada's *Investing in Canada* plan is providing over \$828.4 million in federal funding dedicated to infrastructure projects in Nova Scotia. This funding will see the Government of Canada and the province make unprecedented investments in public transit, green infrastructure, communities, recreational and cultural infrastructure, as well as rural and northern communities.

Through the ICIP Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure stream, the federal government is investing in projects that: improve cultural infrastructure, such as museums and Indigenous heritage centres; support upgrades to recreational facilities, such as arenas and indoor and outdoor recreational spaces; and improve community infrastructure, such as community centres and libraries.

The CCBF provides \$2.3 billion per year of predictable, long-term funding that supports municipal priorities and helps them build and revitalize their public infrastructure with broad eligible categories of investments such as public transit, local roads and bridges, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, community energy systems, culture, recreation, disaster mitigation, fire halls and capacity building.

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For the 2019-2024 period, the CCBF will deliver a total of \$289 million to communities of all sizes in the Province of Nova Scotia.

To further support Nova Scotia communities and help address unexpected challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Infrastructure Canada advanced the full federal CCBF annual funding for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 years in a single payment, as well as allocated two top-up payments totaling close to \$87 million to Nova Scotia communities in 2019 and 2021.

Infrastructure Canada is working with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts, Indigenous leaders and municipalities to move forward on meeting immediate infrastructure needs, and determine what can be rolled out in the short term to support jobs, and how we will restart our economy as quickly as possible while respecting public safety guidelines. The Department is also continuing to accelerate project funding approvals that create jobs and improve the quality of life for Canadians across the country, and is working diligently to process reimbursement of claims received from its partners so that they will have the funds they need to continue moving projects forward and employing Canadians.

Currently, multi-purpose municipal buildings that include municipal administrative offices or council chambers are not eligible for funding under either ICIP or CCBF. However, we thank you for sharing your views and we have made note of your recommendation for future consideration.

Together, we will work to ensure that infrastructure plays a vital role in promoting economic growth, job creation and improving our quality of life in the coming months and years.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.