

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Office of the Minister

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APR 18 2016

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON



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APR 15 2016

Your Worship
Mayor Paul Gowing
Municipality of Morris-Turnberry
41342 Morris Road
Morris-Turnberry, ON N0G 1H0

Your Worship
Reeve Neil Vincent
Township of North Huron
274 Josephine Street
PO Box 90 Wingham, ON N0G 2W0

Dear Mayor Gowing and Reeve Vincent:

I would like to thank you, your fellow council members, and staff for taking the time to meet with my Parliamentary Assistant Lou Rinaldi at the 2016 Ontario Good Roads Association / Rural Ontario Municipal Association Combined Conference in Toronto.

Your input and knowledge of local matters are important to me, and PA Rinaldi shared with me your plans to enter into a two-year shared services pilot project. I want to offer my congratulations to both of your councils and staff. It is a pleasure to hear about municipalities proactively pursuing innovative opportunities to provide a more effective and efficient service to ratepayers, while reducing the costs of service delivery. The scope of your planned project is very ambitious and I look forward to hearing success stories about this partnership. As indicated by PA Rinaldi, I encourage your staff to work with ministry staff to explore any ways that the ministry might be able to assist with your shared services partnership.

Our government is committed to continue building a strong provincial-municipal relationship to support resilient communities across Ontario. We have a very solid record of supporting and working with municipalities. As a result of provincial uploads, municipalities will benefit from more than \$1.8 billion in reduced costs in 2016 alone. The province's uploads have ensured that more property tax dollars are available for important municipal priorities, including investments in infrastructure.

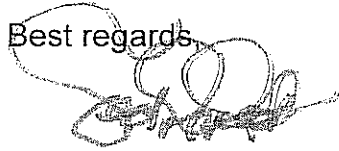
At the OGRA/ROMA Combined Conference, Premier Kathleen Wynne announced the expansion of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and the Connecting Links program. OCIF will triple from \$100 million to \$300 million per year by 2018-19, with \$200 million in predictable, formula-based funding and \$100 million in application

based funding. The Connecting Links program will also provide \$20 million in 2016-17, up from \$15 million announced in the 2015 Budget. To that end, I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the months ahead.

If your staff would like to discuss these matters further, ministry staff would be pleased to assist them. Please feel free to contact Roger Moyer, Local Government Manager in the West Region Municipal Services Office at 519-873-4028 or roger.moyer@ontario.ca.

Once again, thank you for meeting with PA Rinaldi at the conference. Together we will help build a stronger Ontario.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ted McMeekin', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Ted McMeekin
Minister

c: Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce