



Naturally Yours

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May 23, 2024

Department of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Attention: Honourable Sean Fraser, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

Email: sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca

Re: Expanding Qualifying Expenditures for the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)

Dear Minister Fraser,

I am writing to you as Warden of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, located in Southwest Nova Scotia. Like many others nationwide, our community has significantly benefited from the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF). This support has been instrumental in developing crucial infrastructure across various sectors.

Recognizing the CCBF's profound impact, we propose an expansion of the fund's qualifying expenditures to better address specific, pressing needs in our community: housing, municipal building improvements and the enhancement of port, wharf and waterfront facilities. These areas are crucial for the continued welfare and economic stability of our community.

Housing: Our region faces a critical housing shortage that threatens the stability and welfare of our residents. Funding housing projects through the CCBF would provide essential relief by increasing the availability of safe and affordable housing.

Municipal Buildings: Our municipal facilities, including administrative offices and public works buildings, require modernization to keep pace with our community's growth. CCBF support for these projects would greatly improve our service delivery and operational efficiency.

Port, Wharf and Waterfront Facilities: Developing our maritime and waterfront infrastructure would not only propel local economic growth but also expand recreation and tourism, sustaining our community's long-term prosperity.

In addition to these specific areas, we propose providing Municipal Councils the authority to determine their infrastructure priorities and allocate CCBF funds as they see fit. This flexibility would empower local governments to address the most immediate and critical needs of their communities, ensuring that the funds are used in ways that provide the greatest benefit.

We respectfully request that you consider both the proposed expansions of qualifying expenditures and the empowerment of Municipal Councils to direct these funds. These changes would enable a more dynamic, responsive approach to local infrastructure development, reflecting both immediate needs and strategic, long-term planning.

Thank you for considering this multifaceted proposal. We are keen to discuss these suggestions further and explore how they can be implemented to benefit communities across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Penny Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".

Warden Penny Smith

c: Rick Perkins, MP – South Shore-St. Margarets