

WHEREAS on December 9, 2013, the Township was advised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Rural Affairs that it was not successful recipient under the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund (SRNMIF) Capital Program;

AND WHEREAS several municipalities, either through correspondence or resolution have expressed concern with regard to the evaluation criteria of being measured by property assessments and incomes;

AND WHEREAS additional evaluation criteria should be established that considers among other matters quantity and state of infrastructure, tax increases and debenture financing a municipality has already implemented in order to deal with infrastructure deficit;

AND WHEREAS there are concerns with regard to the amount of time to develop and choose a project and develop an Expression of Interest;

AND WHEREAS the timing to express interest occurred while municipalities were working on their municipal asset management plans and preparing for their 2014 budget deliberations;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been expressed with the definition of "small and rural" including municipalities with a population of up to 100,000;

AND WHEREAS AMO has recommended a fair and equitable method to distribute the \$100 million Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund;

NOW THEREFORE Council for the Township of Puslinch respectfully requests that the current evaluation criteria be reviewed; and

That the method advanced by AMO to distribute funds through the program or a comparable method be implemented.

AMO - Advocacy

Today the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, announced the intake of applications for infrastructure projects from small, rural and northern municipalities. Municipalities with 100,000 or fewer residents; 25 per cent or greater rural residents; or located in Northern Ontario are eligible to apply.

The announcement comes at the end of summer consultations led by the Ministries of Infrastructure and Rural Affairs which sought advice on the design/allocation for the 2013 \$100 million funding program and advice on options for a permanent fund to be considered in next year's Budget.

Details of the 2013 Program:

The \$100 million fund for 2013 will be allocated as follows:

- \$25 million for 21 projects which passed the pre-screening process for the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative in 2012 but were not funded because the program was fully allocated;
- \$71 million for applications for new projects, including applications re-submitted from the 2012 MIII; and
- \$4 million for municipalities under 5,000 population to complete asset management plans (AMO understands this funding can also be used to develop applications to the competitive fund).

The deadline for submitting an expression of interest for the competitive fund is November 1, 2013.

Similar to the feedback given by many municipalities during the summer consultations, the AMO Board advised the government to use a formula based methodology which would have provided funding to all of the eligible local governments – providing jobs and helping maintain the lifecycle of some of the infrastructure assets across most of Ontario. It would have allowed immediate funding to be applied to such local priorities as upgrading culverts to prevent future road closures due to

Contact

Craig Reid
Senior Advisor
creid@amo.on.ca
T 416.971.9856 ext. 334
TF 1.877.426.6527
F 416.971.6191

Links

Small Rural & Northern Municipal
Infrastructure Fund

washouts such as those that occurred in rural and northern Ontario this year. Today's announcement of a competitive program for 2013 does not reflect this advice. However, AMO will work with the government to pursue a predictable allocation formula approach for a permanent program.



Advocacy

- Economic Development
- Energy
- Finance
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Labour
- Planning
- Risk Management
- Social Services
- Waste Management

Events & Training

- Conferences
- Councillor Training
- Symposiums
- Webcasts
- Workshops

About Us

- Accessibility
- AMOMobile app
- Annual Report
- Awards
- Board of Directors
- By-Law
- Careers
- Contact Us
- History
- Membership
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Municipal 101
- Products & Services
- Volunteering
- Watch File

Related Sites

- FONOM
- Gas Tax at Work
- LAS
- MEPCO
- NOMA
- OMKN
- OSUM
- ROMA

Programs

- Gas Tax
- MIDAS

Working to make Ontario municipalities stronger

© 2013 Association of Municipalities of Ontario | [website policy](#)

MUNICIPALITÉ · EAST FERRIS · MUNICIPALITY

390 Hwy. 94
CORBEIL, ONTARIO
POH 1K0



TEL.: 705-752-2740
FAX: 705-752-2452
email:municipality@eastferris.ca

October 16, 2013

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

I.G.# 2

Dear Premier Wynne:

Re: The Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund

I am writing to advise you of my great disappointment and concern with the recent announcement regarding the distribution of the \$100 million Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund. We received the announcement late Friday October 4th 2013.

Municipalities individually and collectively through AMO and ROMA/OGRA have provided honest and quantitative input to your government over the past year regarding the best method to distribute these monies. We have all put a great deal of effort into this process but obviously the consultations were a complete waste of everyone's time and energy. We are back to the hat in hand/lottery system for the distribution of funds. This is a total disregard for the input of the municipalities of this province.

In addition, municipalities are being given less than one month to choose a project and develop an Expression of Interest. Municipalities are currently working on their municipal asset management plans and preparing for their 2014 budget deliberations. Many asset management plans will not be completed before the end of this year yet we are all being asked to submit an Expression of Interest by November 1st 2013 which promotes poor priority planning and provides little time for proper decision making.

The proposed process is once again geared to larger urban municipalities which have the capacity to quickly respond to the Expression of Interest call and application submission rather than to the very Small, Rural and Northern municipalities which it is supposed to help.

We have been told that this program was truly going to be for small, rural and northern communities but the definition of 'small and rural' has been confirmed to include municipalities with a population of up to 100,000. We wonder how a city of 100,000 can be considered to be a small and rural community. This also means that 95 per cent of our municipalities will qualify.

Our Municipality was shut out of the first round of MIII funding last year and had to move forward and complete the selected road project this year, at our cost, which resulted in a tax increase for our ratepayers (3.4% this year).

We appreciate the funding that we have received over the years and more recently in 2009 through a Building Canada Fund Program and the NOHFC for the renovation of the East Ferris Community Centre/Arena which extended its life and allows us to continue to serve our residents and those of the surrounding communities. However, the Municipality of East Ferris has not received any substantial funding for our roads for over 5 years and we are in a difficult position. We were completely shut out of both the Stimulus Fund Program and the last Building Canada Fund (BCF) program for roads projects. We have seen the list of approved projects from that round of funding and are aware that while municipalities were told to submit no more than three stimulus fund applications and one BCF application many received far in excess of that number. One municipality received hundreds of approvals for millions of dollars. The total number of approved projects for the northern region was small in comparison to the number of approvals and the total value of approved projects for southern Ontario.

The Municipality of East Ferris has always managed its finances in a very responsible manner. However, we have been told the following on many occasions over the past few years:

1. Your reserves are too high, use them for infrastructure projects;
2. You have never borrowed, borrow for infrastructure projects; and
3. Your residents have a high income level, raise taxes for infrastructure projects.

Premier Wynne, we have been doing all that has been asked of us by the Province and more yet we continue to be shut out of infrastructure funding. The Municipality has:

1. Reduced our reserves by approximately 41% over the past five years by using the monies for various infrastructure projects;
2. Changed from the pay as you go system of budgeting and borrowed last year for the first time ever (\$1.2 million) for roads projects which we had to complete; and
3. Raised our taxes at a level comparable to or greater than the cost of living for each of the past five years.

We have also developed a long term economic development strategy, a facilities master plan, a reserve funds policy and we are nearing the completion of our long term capital asset management plan.

We are trying our best to be creative and innovative in our approach to our planning in an attempt to become financially healthier and move towards greater sustainability in the future. Now we can say that we, together with AMO and most of the other municipalities, are not even being listened to.

We, like many other municipalities, are also being faced with continuing decreases in our funding through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF); and, significant increases in our policing (OPP) costs. We are also facing the high costs associated with our share of the future redevelopment of the Cassellholme East Nipissing District Home for the Aged (\$60 million dollar project).

We have been and continue to ask for a source of sustainable infrastructure funding for all municipalities. We fully understand that many municipalities, including East Ferris, will have significant infrastructure projects whether they be roads, bridges, water or sewer and that there needs to be monies set aside for these larger projects as well.

AMO has recommended a fair and equitable method to distribute the \$100 million Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund and it or some similar formula should be considered.

Premier Wynne, we are in a very difficult situation as are most small rural communities in this Province.

We are respectfully requesting the following:

1. that this announcement be rescinded and that either the method advanced by AMO to distribute funds through the program or something comparable to it be implemented instead; and
2. to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss options and opportunities for the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Original signed

Mayor Bill Vrebosch, Municipality of East Ferris

Cc. Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs
Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Transportation
AMO and all Municipalities
OGRA
Jay Aspin, MP Nipissing Temiskaming
Vic Fedeli, MPP Nipissing
All residents of the Municipality of East Ferris