

Federal Infrastructure Investment

WHEREAS, Canada is experiencing record population growth, having welcomed 1.25 million new Canadians last year alone;

WHEREAS, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) we need to build at least 3.5 million additional homes by 2030, and municipalities need to build or expand the infrastructure to accommodate this growth;

WHEREAS, FCM has estimated that the cost of the municipal infrastructure required to support housing development is, on average, in the range of \$107,000 per unit;

WHEREAS, according to Statistics Canada the cost of upgrade existing municipal infrastructure so that it is in a state of good repair is in the range of \$170 billion;

WHEREAS, non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure project without a corresponding growth in revenue;

WHEREAS, unlike federal and provincial revenue, municipal tax revenue has not increased in recent years along with inflation, economic growth or population growth;

WHEREAS, municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end, the Canada Community-Building Fund is being renegotiated and the Permanent Public Transit Fund is set to start in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which was formerly known as the federal Gas Tax Fund, provides more than \$2 billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism, and municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing critical core public infrastructure, including water infrastructure, local roads, public transit and community, and cultural and recreational facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send correspondence the Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and any other relevant ministry, expressing Niagara Regional Council's support of the CCBF, while also urging the federal government to take action on the following priorities:
 - a) Collaborate with agreement signatories and municipalities to maintain the CCBF as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities;

- b) Commit in Budget 2024, to the next generation of infrastructure programs, including a new program for water and wastewater infrastructure and an increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund;
 - c) Convene a meeting of the provinces, territories and municipalities to negotiate a “Municipal Growth Framework” to modernize the way that municipalities are funded in order to enable Canada’s long-term growth.
2. That the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to send a copy of this motion to all of Niagara’s local municipalities for their consideration and support.