



To: Tracey Ramsey, M.P.

Further to your request to the Library of Parliament, here is information regarding all current funding programs that are available to municipalities for infrastructure, internet and initiatives that can assist residents.

I will be giving you information about the following federal programs. Most of them are open to applications from either municipal governments or non-profit organizations in your riding. The hyperlinks will provide additional online information.

- Connect to Innovate
- Gas Tax Fund
- The Green Municipal Fund
- Farm Credit Canada's AgriSpirit Fund
- Federal employment programs
- Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)
- Canada Cultural Spaces Fund
- Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage
- Enabling Accessibility Fund
- New Horizons for Seniors
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this response. I hope the following information will be useful to you or to your constituents. Note that I have attached a printable copy to this email.

### **Connect to Innovate**

The internet was mentioned in your request. The *Connect to Innovate* program is an important new program for bringing internet to rural and remote areas of Canada but unfortunately it is now closed for applications (see: [Funding to bring high-speed Internet for Canadians in rural and remote communities—Overview](#)).

## Gas Tax Fund

The [federal gas tax fund](#) is an important program that provides a per capita funding allotment to Ontario's municipalities who automatically receive their grants on an ongoing basis as a permanent source of funding for municipal infrastructure.

The Gas Tax Fund is administered by a third-party organization, the [Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). Only municipalities can benefit from this program. Unlike some of the other programs on this list, non-profit organizations are not eligible.

## The Green Municipal Fund

The Government of Canada has endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with funding for the Green Municipal Fund (GMF). Through the GMF, capital funding is available to municipal governments for innovative and sustainable projects related to the following five sectors of municipal activity: brownfields, energy, transportation, waste and water (see: [About GMF](#) and [What We Fund](#)).

In addition, the FCM offers other federal funding for infrastructure in the following two programs:

- ✓ [Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program](#)
- ✓ [Municipal Asset Management Program](#)

Should any constituents wish more information about these programs, they could contact the FCM toll free at 1-877-997-9926 or by email at [gmf@fcm.ca](mailto:gmf@fcm.ca).

## Farm Credit Canada's AgriSpirit Fund

Farm Credit Canada's *AgriSpirit Fund* has a mandate to enhance life in Canada's rural communities. If a municipality is raising money for a capital project (equipment, buildings) and has fewer than 150,000 people, it may qualify for a donation between \$5,000 and \$25,000 to supplement other fundraising efforts (see: [FCC AgriSpirit Fund](#)).

Non-profit organizations that partner with a municipal government are also eligible to apply.

Applications will be accepted from March 1 to 29, 2018. If constituents would like to know more, they could email questions to [AgriSpirit-AgriEsprit@fcc-fac.ca](mailto:AgriSpirit-AgriEsprit@fcc-fac.ca) or contact the FCC business office that serves the communities in your riding.

## Federal employment programs

These employment programs are offered by [Employment and Social Development Canada](#) through the federal government's Service Canada portal. All three are open to municipal governments, businesses and non-profit organizations.

- [Skills Link – Youth Employment Strategy](#) : provides funding for employers and organizations to offer eligible activities to youth facing barriers to employment. Skills Link was developed to assist youth in various circumstances, including those who are recent immigrants.
- [Career Focus](#) provides federal funding for employers and organizations to create career-related work experiences for post-secondary graduates.
- [Canada Summer Jobs](#) provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students.

### **Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)**

FedDev Ontario works with communities, businesses, not-for-profit organizations and other levels of government in southern Ontario to build a strong foundation of investment and partnerships to help secure the region's economic growth and long-term prosperity.

The [Investing in Regional Diversification](#) program is designed to build stronger, more diverse economies in southern Ontario communities.

The [Economic Development Initiative](#) supports business and economic development activities that encourage sustainable growth in southern Ontario's Francophone communities.

For more information about these and other FedDev Ontario programs, constituents could [contact](#) the agency's Waterloo office at 1-866-593-5505 or [send an email](#) using the online form.

### **Canada Cultural Spaces Fund**

The *Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF)* supports the improvement of physical conditions for artistic creativity and innovation. The fund supports the improvement, renovation and construction of arts and heritage facilities, as well as the acquisition of specialized equipment. Municipalities as well as non-profit arts and heritage organizations are eligible to apply (see: Department of Canadian Heritage, [Canada Cultural Spaces Fund](#)).

Your constituents can contact Canadian Heritage for more information by email at [PCH.info-info.PCH@canada.ca](mailto:PCH.info-info.PCH@canada.ca) or by telephone at 1-866-811-0055.

### **Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage**

The *Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage* program increases opportunities for local artists, artisans, heritage performers or specialists to be involved in their community through festivals, events and projects. It also allows local groups to commemorate their local history and heritage (see: [Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage](#)).

The three components of this program are the [Local Festivals](#) component, the [Community Anniversaries](#) component and the [Legacy Fund](#). Municipal governments are eligible to apply (with the exception of the

Festivals component which is not open to municipalities). [Celebrate Canada](#) is a different program that also provides funding for events.

For more information about these programs, your constituents can communicate with the department by email ([PCH.bcah-dcap.PCH@canada.ca](mailto:PCH.bcah-dcap.PCH@canada.ca)) or by telephone (1-866-811-0055).

### **Enabling Accessibility Fund**

The Community Accessibility Stream of the federal government's *Enabling Accessibility Fund* is designed to provide funding to eligible recipients for projects that improve accessibility in communities across Canada. Eligible projects can include the constructing of community facilities where programs and/or services are offered to people with disabilities (see: Employment and Social Development Canada, [Funding: Enabling Accessibility Fund](#)).

The deadline for applications was July 26, 2017 and this year's application period may follow a similar schedule. Constituents should regularly monitor the above web page for the announcement of the 2018 deadline for applications. Anyone wishing more information could contact Service Canada by telephone at 1-800-622-6232 or by using the [online contact form](#).

### **New Horizons for Seniors**

The federal government's *New Horizons for Seniors* program helps to ensure that seniors can benefit from, and contribute to, the quality of life in their communities through active living and participation in social activities. Capital assistance for infrastructure projects falls under the *Community-Based Projects* component (see: Employment and Social Development Canada, [Community-Based Projects for Seniors](#)).

The deadline for applications was June 23, 2017 and this year's application period may follow a similar schedule. Constituents should regularly monitor the above web page for the announcement of the 2018 deadline for applications. Anyone wishing more information can [contact](#) the department by telephone at 1-800-277-9914.

### **Environment and Climate Change Canada**

The federal department of Environment and Climate Change Canada has [several programs](#) to which municipalities can apply for funding. The deadlines for applications and contact information can be found in the following webpages:

Through the [Great Lakes Protection Initiative](#), the Government of Canada takes action to restore and protect Great Lakes water quality and health.

The [Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk](#) allocates funds to projects that conserve and protect species at risk and their habitats and help to preserve biodiversity as a whole.

The [National Wetland Conservation Fund](#) supports on-the-ground activities to restore and enhance wetlands in Canada.

The [Environmental Damages Fund](#) uses funds received as compensation for environmental damage to support the restoration of natural resources and environment, and wildlife conservation projects in the same geographic area where the damage originally occurred.

[Science Horizons Youth Internship Program](#) supports green jobs for youth by providing wage subsidies to eligible employers to hire interns in the environmental sector. Interns must be recent college or university graduates in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).

### **National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places**

The National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places supports the owners of national historic sites, heritage lighthouses and heritage railway stations that are not owned by the federal government. The program supports Parks Canada Agency's mandate of protecting and presenting places of national historic significance (see: [National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places](#)).

For more information, your constituents can contact Parks Canada by telephone (1-866-377-1947) or email ([partagedesfrais.costsharing@pc.gc.ca](mailto:partagedesfrais.costsharing@pc.gc.ca)).

### **Homelessness Partnering Strategy**

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness. Of particular interest to municipalities in your riding could be the funding for [Regional projects - Rural and remote homelessness](#). Anyone interested in this program could [contact the HPS representative](#) in your region to find out how to apply.

Also of interest could be the [Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative](#) which makes surplus federal real properties available to eligible recipients for projects to help prevent and reduce homelessness.

### **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)**

CMHC offers financing programs for those who wish to [develop new affordable housing](#).

One is seed funding for municipalities that want to build affordable housing in Canada. Proponents may apply for seed funding to help cover some of the soft costs of their proposed affordable housing project such as incorporation, developing a business plan and project development. Inquiries can be made through an online form on the program homepage (see: [Contributions and Interest-Free Loans: Seed Funding](#)).

The goal of the *Affordable Rental Innovation Fund* is to encourage new funding models and innovative building techniques in the rental housing sector. With this program, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is looking for “unique ideas that will revolutionize the sector moving forward”. Online applications are accepted (from municipalities) on an ongoing basis (see: [Affordable Rental Innovation Fund](#)).

For more information, constituents could [contact CMHC](#) at 1-800-668-2642 or by email at [contactcentre@cmhc.ca](mailto:contactcentre@cmhc.ca).

### **Additional information**

While every effort has been made to provide you with a thorough list of federal funding programs for municipalities in Ontario, there may be other programs that exist that do not appear in the above list. If your constituents would like to do more research on this issue, the following lists of programs could be helpful:

- [Canadian Heritage - Funding](#)
- [Employment and Social Development Canada – Funding programs](#)

Yours sincerely,



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