

**Ministry of Infrastructure**

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May 21, 2025

Her Worship Amy Martin  
Mayor  
Norfolk County  
officeofthemayor@norfolkcounty.ca

Dear Mayor Martin:

On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure, I would like to thank you for attending the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference. It was a pleasure to meet with you and your delegation.

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your successful application to the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing (HECS) stream. This is a significant achievement, and we are pleased to see your municipality taking proactive steps to support housing development through critical infrastructure investments. Your project's approval under this stream reflects the important role it will play in enabling growth and improving services for your community.

The Province of Ontario is investing nearly \$2.3 billion in housing and community-enabling infrastructure as part of its over \$200 billion capital plan to build critical infrastructure and support growing communities. This funding is being delivered through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) and the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP), complementing existing provincial investments such as the Building Faster Fund (BFF) led by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Through HEWSF, the province is investing nearly \$1.3 billion, which includes \$120 million from the BFF to assist small, rural, and northern municipalities without housing targets. In its first intake, HEWSF allocated \$970 million to 54 municipal water projects across 61 municipalities. To address oversubscription and expand funding opportunities, the government launched a second intake, which has now allocated \$325M to another 23 municipal water projects. In total, these 77 water infrastructure projects will enable municipalities to build approximately 600,000 new homes. Notably, the Ontario government is investing \$700 million through HEWSF to help build up to 160,000 new homes in 54 small, rural and northern municipalities without provincially assigned housing targets.

The 2024 Ontario Budget also introduced MHIP, a \$1 billion initiative aimed at supporting core municipal infrastructure projects to help unlock more homes and promote growth in communities. This program focuses on the construction, repair, rehabilitation, and expansion of essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and

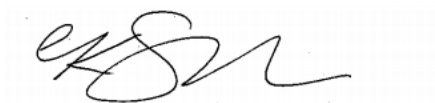
water systems to sustain housing needs. Under this program, Ontario is investing \$400 million in 58 projects across 60 municipalities through the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing (HECS) Stream that aims to build, maintain, and repair core assets such as municipal roads, bridges and culverts that will enable new housing opportunities and ensure communities have reliable roads and bridge assets.

In addition, Ontario has announced the launch of the \$175 million Health and Safety Water Stream under MHIP. This funding aims to protect communities by supporting municipalities and First Nations to build, repair and expand aging water, wastewater, stormwater, flood, and erosion infrastructure that address health and safety risks to the community. The province has begun accepting applications for this new stream on April 17, 2025 and will close on June 26, 2025.

Ontario recognizes that upgrading community infrastructure is vital to support a growing population as well as to provide dependable services people rely on. We also recognize that the need for municipal infrastructure investment is far from fully met. We encourage all municipalities to call on the federal government to request more infrastructure funding to help address local needs of municipalities across the province.

Thank you again for meeting with the Ministry of Infrastructure. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Surma', is positioned above the printed name of the Minister of Infrastructure.

The Honourable Kinga Surma  
Minister of Infrastructure