



Township of North Kawartha

Connie Parent, Clerk

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February 14, 2025

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3
Minister.mah@ontario.ca

The Honourable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure
777 Bay Street
5th Floor, Room 5E200
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Minister.MOI@ontario.ca

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7
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Sent Via Email

Dear Ministers,

As you know, municipalities provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day. The fiscal framework that enables municipalities to do this work is broken. Failing to fix this problem fails residents, small businesses, health and public safety partners, and major industries.

Since last fall, AMO has called on your government to commit to working with municipalities on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review to put municipalities on solid fiscal footing for the benefit of Ontario's competitiveness and quality of life. The review calls on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together to conduct a joint review of revenues, costs and financial risks, as well as an analysis of



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Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs. Since its launch, more than 150 municipalities and organizations have supported this work – *and counting*.

AMO and its members remain committed to this important initiative. The review is critical to Ontario's ability to make progress on the issues people care about most, including housing, healthcare, cost of living and public safety. The municipal fiscal sustainability challenge is urgent, province-wide, and central to Ontario's social and economic prosperity.

Small rural municipalities such as North Kawartha do not have the same tax base expansion as larger towns yet are competing with them for services and resources. The budgetary strains felt by rural municipalities will only worsen with this negative compounding. Provincial support is critical to avoid "haves" and "have not" communities with regards to essential services.

This work has received support from the opposition, who recognize the importance and urgency of a conversation on the state of municipal finances and the need for a comprehensive review of provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements. All three opposition leaders have committed to a New Deal for municipalities if elected in the next election.

Municipalities continue to call on Premier Ford to do what taxpayers expect – work together with municipal governments to get it done for Ontarians. We urge your government to commit to this review at the upcoming AMO conference.

Working together, we can build a better Ontario.

Sincerely,

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte
North Kawartha Council

cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario, policy@amo.on.ca