



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

December 5, 2025

*Honourable Doug Ford,
Premier of Ontario*

Re: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their December 1, 2025 Council meeting:

WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality and quality of life in Ontario’s rural and small urban communities;

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities;

WHEREAS in 2022 the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026;

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities’ ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt;

WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing;



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WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1. The Town of Smiths Falls calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.*
- 2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.*
- 3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.*
- 4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.*
- 5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding.*
- 6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.*



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7. *The Clerk of the Town of Smiths Falls forward this resolution to:*
- o The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario*
 - o The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure*
 - o The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
 - o The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance*
 - o Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)*
 - o Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)*
 - o Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)*
 - o All municipalities in Ontario*

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,



Kerry Costello
Town Clerk