



April 17, 2024

Mr. Kody Blois, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Subject: Urgent call for federal commitment to renew the Canada Community Building Fund

Mr. Blois,

I write to you today to bring your urgent attention to an issue of growing concern to our municipality.

On April 16, 2024, the Council of the Municipality of East Hants unanimously resolved to urge the federal government to dedicate funds in the 2024 Budget 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.

The federal government must step up in Budget 2024 and solidify its commitment to new housing by channeling investments into the supporting infrastructure. The housing crisis is not something any single order of government can solve. Our municipality, along with others across the country, has been accelerating housing construction, fast-tracking permit approvals, and coming up with innovative zoning solutions to get more housing built faster.

However, the absence of a comprehensive housing and infrastructure plan brings uncertainty to the lives of individuals, particularly those searching for affordable housing. An immediate housing and homelessness plan is essential, one that extends beyond new housing units to include the infrastructure required to service these units and encompass a renewed commitment to invest in complete neighbourhoods with robust public services.

Moreover, our municipal council is concerned that the **Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)** is currently the only federal infrastructure program on which we can rely on to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and develop new assets to accommodate growth. It is crucial for Canada's growing municipalities to have access to a CCBF that is flexible and predictable as the renegotiation process concludes.

While municipalities are working hard to get housing built, they own and maintain most of the infrastructure that Canadians rely on every day. Yet, they only collect between 8 to 12 cents of every tax dollar. It is time to empower municipalities with the tools they need to support growth. Alongside the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, our municipality is advocating for all orders of government to come together to modernize the way that municipalities are funded to enable Canada's long-term growth, to ensure economic development and to provide a great quality of life for every Canadian.

The Municipality of East Hants looks forward to working with you to ensure a future where Canadians see their communities growing confidently, with scale and ambition that delivers what Canadians need now—more affordable housing, support for the most vulnerable, core infrastructure that can support generations of residents, and reliable, efficient transit we can rely on into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Warden Eleanor Roulston
Municipality of East Hants
Nova Scotia