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GARY McNAMARA

DEPUTY MAYOR – SOUS MAIRE
TOM BURTON

COUNCILLORS - CONSEILLERS
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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF TECUMSEH



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February 28, 2008

To the Municipalities of the Province of Ontario

Please be advised that the Council for the Town of Tecumseh at its meeting of February 27, 2008, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas on November 15, 2004, the Government of Canada and the Ontario Government entered into a five (5) year partnership under the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) Agreement committing the Governments to each invest up to \$298 million dollars to improve public infrastructure in rural and small urban communities;

And whereas the COMRIF Agreement is an important trilateral partnership for Canada, Ontario and municipalities as it demonstrates that investment in municipal infrastructure is a shared responsibility that creates tangible economic and environmental benefits locally, provincially and nationally; in addition to providing municipalities with the long-term support needed to renew essential infrastructure in their communities;

And whereas COMRIF is a competitive, merit-based program which assesses safe drinking water, wastewater, significant local road and bridge improvements and waste management projects against three (3) criteria; namely, health and safety, public policy priorities, and value for money;

And whereas the COMRIF Program Intake Three closed in September 2006, and was funded in the amount of \$46 million from both the Canada and Ontario Governments, however, many of the applications did not receive funding;

And whereas in early 2007, the Canada Government allocated an additional \$200 million as a “top-up” of the national Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program (MRIF) program, of which Ontario’s share is to be \$64 million and is to be matched by an additional \$64 million from the Province for a total additional funding under the original COMRIF program of \$128 million;

And whereas AMO expressed concern in an October 22, 2007, Alert for the potential manner through which the \$64 million “top-up” funding may be administered in Ontario as there is debate over whether there should be a new COMRIF Intake Four or whether only those applications that did not receive funding under the September 2006 COMRIF Intake Three should be eligible for consideration;

And whereas since COMRIF Intake Three, there has been a municipal election and new Councils may have different priorities than those expressed in the Third Intake;

And whereas on February 14, 2008, the Canada Government announced:

- it would be funding projects from the \$200 million MRIF “top-up” funding;
- that since the announcement of the additional MRIF funding, in February 2007, it has signed agreements with every province and territory - except Ontario;
- it is proceeding to allocate the funding share for Ontario of \$64 million under the MRIF “top-up” to unfunded existing applications for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure from the last round of COMRIF Three Intake applications;

And whereas the COMRIF Agreement states that “in order to maximize the resulting infrastructure benefits to Canadian communities, Canada is negotiating with the provinces and territories to develop new joint agreements for the purpose of delivering the \$1-billion MRIF and to leverage this investment with provincial, territorial, municipal and non-governmental financial contributions.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh request:

That the Ontario Government and Government of Canada enter into an agreement for the purpose of delivering Ontario’s share of the \$64 million Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program (MRIF) “top-up” funds announced in February 2007 and committing the Ontario Government to contribute matching funds of \$64 million as agreed to under the November 15, 2004, Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) Agreement;

And that allocation of funding to Ontario Municipalities be determined in the same equitable manner as COMRIF Intakes One, Two and Three and in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Management Committee appointed to administer and manage the COMRIF Agreement, in a timely manner, and to reflect the joint nature of the COMRIF;

And further that a Joint Secretariat be established to support the Management Committee in the administration of the Agreement, including the timely production and sharing of information about Applicants, Projects, financial cash flows and other information;

And furthermore that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, Ontario Premier, Federal and Provincial Ministers of Finance, for action; and to local MP’s and MPP’s, all local and Ontario municipalities, AMO, FCM, and AMCTO for support.

The Town of Tecumseh respectfully requests support of this resolution from all Ontario municipalities.

Sincerely,

_____ A.M.C.T.