

E-Mail to Councillors and Heads of Councils
RE: Provincial-Territorial Meeting on Infrastructure
September 20, 2006

Administrative staff: Should this e-mail from Minister John Gerretsen reach you instead of the elected officials for whom it is intended, please forward it along. Thank you.

Dear Heads and Members of Councils,

Today in Yellowknife for a provincial-territorial meeting of ministers of local government, I presented federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Lawrence Cannon, with a number of recommendations on infrastructure renewal.

From Ontario's perspective, the priority is that the federal government address the fiscal imbalance in a way that is fair for all Canadians, including the 39 per cent who live in Ontario.

Ontario must be allocated its fair share of infrastructure funding if Ontario and Canada are to continue to compete and prosper in a global economy. Ontario also supports the move to make the federal gas tax transfer to municipalities permanent.

My colleagues and I made a number of other recommendations to Minister Cannon on federal infrastructure funding and program development, including greater consultation on program design, recognition of local priorities and respect for existing reporting and accounting mechanisms.

I know many of you share our government's position on the fiscal imbalance issue. Infrastructure funding is an important component. To date, more than 100 municipal resolutions have been passed supporting Ontario's position on the fiscal imbalance.

In the coming weeks, Minister Cannon will make recommendations to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty regarding the future of federal infrastructure programs which affect us all. I encourage you to join me in calling on these Ministers to deliver permanent, fairly distributed infrastructure funding to ensure our long-term economic and service sustainability.

I hope you are finding these electronic updates useful. To change your contact information or to remove your name from the distribution list, please send an e-mail to jennifer.fong@mah.gov.on.ca (Ministry staff will not receive your e-mail if you simply reply to this message.) If you would prefer to receive my updates by fax, please let us know that as well.

Finally, to reach me on ministry matters, please email me at minister@mah.gov.on.ca or send a letter to

John Gerretsen, Minister
Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Sincerely,

John Gerretsen