## Minister of Infrastructure and Communities



## Ministre de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

SEP 1 3 2016

His Worship Fred Eisenberger Mayor City of Hamilton 71 Main Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 28, 2016, to my colleague the Honourable William Francis Morneau, Minister of Finance, requesting federal assistance for the construction of the Ancaster Performing Arts Centre.

Infrastructure is the foundation of sustainable and inclusive communities – it removes barriers, brings people together and allows all Canadians to be active participants in their community.

Although the vast majority of public infrastructure in Canada falls under provincial, territorial or municipal jurisdiction, the Government of Canada has a long history of making strategic investments in a wide range of infrastructure categories. We are working closely with all of our partners and stakeholders to deliver an ambitious plan that will significantly increase federal infrastructure investments and build strong communities.

The proposed project may be eligible for funding under the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component of the New Building Canada Fund. Under this program, provinces and territories receive an allocation which they then prioritize projects and nominate for federal funding. The Province of Ontario has nominated projects to the federal government for review that, if approved, would use their entire allocation. As a result, the Province of Ontario has indicated that they are not considering new projects for nomination at this time.

Your proposal may also be eligible under the renewed and indexed Gas Tax Fund—the largest component of the New Building Canada Plan—provided that the City of Hamilton, as the ultimate recipient under the program, chooses to apply its allocation to this project.

Phase 2 of the Government's \$120-billion infrastructure plan will provide investments toward eligible cultural and recreational infrastructure projects under the social infrastructure component. Phase 2 will be developed in the coming months and announced in the next year following consultations with provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous partners to ensure funding responds to the needs and priorities of communities across the country.

The Government is currently engaging all Canadians on the development of Phase 2; please visit <u>infrastructure.gc.ca</u> and have your say. The Government wants to know what areas of investment are important to Canadians to help shape our communities and our country for future generations. Additional details and updates on the Government's future infrastructure investments and funding programs can also be found at the above website.

Thank you for writing on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Amarjeet Sohi, P.C., M.P.