

Minister of Infrastructure
and Communities



Ministre de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

March 27, 2019

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main St. W., 2nd Floor
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am pleased to inform you that, in accordance with the commitment in Budget 2019, the Government of Canada will provide an additional \$2.2 billion to the Gas Tax Fund. This one-time top-up will provide additional support to municipalities that face infrastructure deficits to support improved productivity, economic growth, a clean environment, and help to build strong cities and communities.

This special funding will be provided to Ontario recipients under the Canada–Ontario–Association of Municipalities of Ontario–Toronto Gas Tax Fund Administrative Agreement. An amount of \$819,443,895 will be provided to Ontario as well as individual signatories, and will then be distributed to ultimate recipients in accordance with the allocation formula used for gas tax payments made in 2018, as follows:

• Ontario:	\$819,443,895
○ Association Municipalities of Ontario	\$649,940,923
○ City of Toronto	\$167,421,424
○ Province of Ontario	\$2,081,548

Funds must be used in accordance with all the terms of the current Gas Tax Fund Administrative Agreement. Information on Ontario's federal Gas Tax Fund allocations per community prior to Budget 2019 can be found on Infrastructure Canada's website¹.

The gas tax top-up funding is expected to be transferred following royal assent of Budget 2019.

March 14, 2019 marked one year since the Canada–Ontario Integrated Bilateral Agreement was signed.

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2018/background-ontarios-2018-19-federal-gas-tax-fund-allocations.html>

As I know you appreciate, under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, proposed projects must first be prioritized by the province before they are submitted to Infrastructure Canada for consideration.

As a reminder, through the Integrated Bilateral Agreement with Ontario, \$11.9 billion is available to the province and is broken down as follows:

- \$8.3 billion for public transit;
- \$2.8 billion for green infrastructure;
- \$407 million for community, culture, and recreation infrastructure; and
- \$250 million for infrastructure in rural and northern communities.

The one-time top-up to the Gas Tax Fund adds substantial dollars to this Agreement. More importantly, those dollars flow to you.

We believe this is an important step to take to ensure your local priorities have the resources needed so projects can get moving and, crucially, the summer construction season is not missed. We all know how important that season is to make real progress on projects, not to mention job creation locally.

In the meantime, we continue to press the Ontario government to open intakes for all four streams so as to maximize the number of projects we can build together for Ontarians in 2019 and the years ahead.

We know you have proposals ready, and last week's announcement in Budget 2019 is a clear signal that we are there to support you.

Spring is already (at last) in the air. It is time to get projects moving so we do not lose a historic opportunity to build our communities and create good-paying jobs now.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on our shared infrastructure interests.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

c.c. City Clerk and Council

Enclosure – Gas Tax Fund fact sheet

THE FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND IN ONTARIO

The federal Gas Tax Fund delivers over \$2 billion every year to over 3600 communities across the country. For the 2018-19 fiscal year, this represents an investment of more than \$819 million from the Government of Canada to Ontario municipalities.

The **federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF)** is a permanent source of annual funding to provinces and territories, who in turn flow this funding to their municipalities to support local infrastructure priorities.

Every year, municipalities benefit from the support and flexibility of the federal Gas Tax Fund. They can pool, bank, and borrow against this funding — providing significant financial flexibility to plan infrastructure projects over the long term. Projects are chosen locally and prioritized according to the infrastructure needs of each community.

Communities select how best to direct the funds and have the flexibility to make strategic investments across 18 different project categories.

Because many municipalities across Canada continue to face serious infrastructure deficits, **Budget 2019** proposes a **one-time transfer of \$2.2 billion** through the federal Gas Tax Fund to address short-term priorities in municipalities and First Nations communities. This will double the Government of Canada's commitment to municipalities in 2018–19, with **Ontario municipalities of all sizes sharing an additional federal investment in local infrastructure of over \$819 million, for a total of approximately \$1.64 billion.**

QUICK FACTS:

- The federal Gas Tax Fund is allocated on a per capita basis for provinces, and provides a base funding amount of 0.75 percent of total annual funding for Prince Edward Island and each territory.
- On-reserve First Nations communities in provinces also receive an allocation on a per capita basis.
- The federal Gas Tax Fund has been indexed at two percent per year, meaning that it will continue to grow to provide additional support to municipalities.
- To date, more than \$23 billion has been invested in municipalities through the federal Gas Tax Fund.

THE FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND

Eligible projects include investments in infrastructure for construction, renewal or material enhancement in each of the following categories:



1. **Local roads and bridges** – roads, bridges and active transportation infrastructure (active transportation refers to investments that support active methods of travel. This can include: cycling lanes and paths, sidewalks, hiking and walking trails).
2. **Highways** – highway infrastructure.
3. **Short-sea shipping** – infrastructure related to the movement of cargo and passengers around the coast and on inland waterways.
4. **Short-line rail** – railway-related infrastructure for carriage of passengers or freight.
5. **Regional and local airports** – airport-related infrastructure (excludes the National Airport System).
6. **Broadband connectivity** – infrastructure that provides internet access to residents, businesses, and/or institutions in Canadian communities.
7. **Public transit** – infrastructure that supports a shared passenger transport system which is available for public use.
8. **Drinking water** – infrastructure that supports drinking water conservation, collection, treatment and distribution systems.
9. **Wastewater** – infrastructure that supports wastewater and storm water collection, treatment and management systems.
10. **Solid waste** – infrastructure that supports solid waste management systems including the collection, diversion and disposal of recyclables, compostable materials and garbage.
11. **Community energy systems** – infrastructure that generates or increases the efficient usage of energy, including energy retrofits of municipal buildings.
12. **Brownfield redevelopment** – remediation or decontamination and redevelopment of a brownfield site.
13. **Sport infrastructure** – amateur sport infrastructure (excludes facilities, including arenas, which would be used as the home of professional sports teams or major junior hockey teams, e.g. Junior A).
14. **Recreational infrastructure** – recreational facilities or networks.
15. **Cultural infrastructure** – infrastructure that supports arts, humanities, and heritage.
16. **Tourism infrastructure** – infrastructure that attracts travelers for recreation, leisure, business or other purposes.
17. **Disaster mitigation** – infrastructure that reduces or eliminates the long-term impacts and risks associated with natural disasters.
18. **Capacity building** – investments related to strengthening the ability of municipalities to develop long-term planning practices (e.g., including local asset management planning, public transit network planning, etc.)

Note: Investments in health infrastructure (hospitals, convalescent and senior centres) are not eligible.