



# SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

December 5, 2025

*Honourable Doug Ford,  
Premier of Ontario*

**Re: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their December 1, 2025 Council meeting:

*WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality and quality of life in Ontario's rural and small urban communities;*

*WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities;*

*WHEREAS in 2022 the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026;*

*WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities' ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt;*

*WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing;*



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*WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

- 1. The Town of Smiths Falls calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.*
- 2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.*
- 3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.*
- 4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.*
- 5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding.*
- 6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.*



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*7. The Clerk of the Town of Smiths Falls forward this resolution to:*

- o The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario*
- o The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure*
- o The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
- o The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance*
- o Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)*
- o Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)*
- o Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)*
- o All municipalities in Ontario*

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello  
Town Clerk