

From: Minister (MMAH)
Sent: Wed, 20 Mar 2019 13:06:51 +0000
To: Hicks, Selwyn
Subject: A message from Minister Steve Clark

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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March 20, 2019

Warden Selwyn "Buck" Hicks
County of Grey
selwyn.hicks@grey.ca

Dear Warden Hicks:

Our government for the people was elected to restore trust, transparency and accountability in Ontario's finances. As you know, the province has undertaken a line-by-line review of our own expenditures, and we have been clear that we expect our partners, including municipalities, to take steps to become more efficient as well.

Municipalities play a key role in delivering many provincial services that people across Ontario rely on. Taxpayers deserve modern, efficient service delivery that puts people at the centre and respects hard-earned dollars.

Transforming service delivery and identifying more modern, efficient ways of operating is critical and complex work. As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I recognize that many of Ontario's small and rural municipalities may have limited capacity to plan and manage transformation, depending on the resources they have available and how far they have moved on their own modernization agendas.

That is why we are providing a one-time payment in the 2018-19 fiscal year to support small and rural municipalities' efforts to become more efficient and reduce expenditure growth in the longer term.

To ensure that this investment is targeted to where it is needed most, municipal allocations are based on a formula, which takes into consideration the number of households in a municipality and whether it is urban or rural.

While this investment is unconditional, it is intended to help modernize service delivery and reduce future costs through investments in projects such as: service delivery reviews, development of shared services agreements, and capital investments. Our government believes that municipalities are best positioned to understand the unique circumstances and determine where and how this money is best spent.

I am pleased to share that County of Grey receive a one-time payment of \$725,000 which will flow in this fiscal year.

Staff from our regional Municipal Services Offices will be in touch in the coming days for your acknowledgement of this letter and to discuss any questions that you might have. I encourage you to work with ministry staff as you begin to think about the best way to proceed for your community. The Municipal Services Offices can offer advice and point to examples that may be helpful as you contemplate local solutions. In the future, we would be interested to hear about your modernization success stories.

Thank you once again for your commitment to demonstrating value for money. I look forward to continuing to work together to help the people and businesses in communities across our province thrive.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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