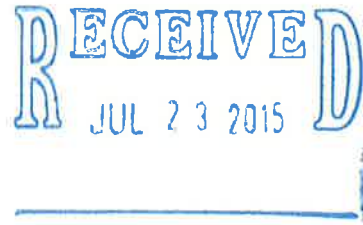




Ontario

Randy Pettapiece, MPP

Perth-Wellington Constituency Office Perth-Wellington
Stratford, Ontario



July 21, 2015

Sharon Vokes
County Clerk/Director of Council Services
County of Grey
595 9th Ave E
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

Dear Ms. Vokes:

Re: Resolution for Fairness in Provincial Infrastructure Funds

I am writing to inform you of my upcoming private member's resolution in the Ontario legislature and to formally request your support. It reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should guarantee that government-held ridings and opposition-held ridings be given equal and transparent consideration on infrastructure funding, and that when funding decisions are made, should guarantee that all MPPs, whether in government or opposition, be given fair and equal advance notice of the official announcement.

The basis for my resolution is simple: When municipalities apply for provincial infrastructure funding, you should expect that your application would be evaluated based on merit. You should expect that it would be evaluated promptly, based on well-defined and transparent criteria. Finally, you should expect that the decision to approve your application would never depend on your MPP's political stripe.

There is, after all, no such thing as Liberal, PC or NDP infrastructure money; there is only *public* money. That money comes from taxes that we all pay; everyone in the province should expect a similar quality of infrastructure and services, regardless of where they live.

Because municipalities rely on provincial partnerships to fund critical infrastructure projects, the consequences of provincial funding decisions can be far-reaching. The provincial government must respect this partnership and ensure that government and opposition-held ridings are given equal consideration when it comes to infrastructure investment decisions. Too often, however, there is at least a persistent perception that public infrastructure dollars have, in at least some cases, been directed according to politics and not according to need.

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Having served as a municipal councillor, I know that the process to apply for infrastructure funding is a major—and sometimes frustrating—undertaking. It often entails significant red tape and investments of staff time and resources. Before making those investments, municipalities need some assurance that, based on clear criteria, your application has a reasonable chance of success. You also need to know that your MPP will advocate on your behalf and, most importantly, decision-makers will be receptive to that advocacy no matter if the MPP serves in government or opposition.

The final section of my resolution deals with infrastructure announcements themselves. These announcements must, I believe, be depoliticized in order to address the perception that opposition-held ridings are disadvantaged—or worse yet, being punished—for voting against the government.

If your municipality supports the intent of my resolution, I would encourage you to consider passing a formal resolution to support it. If your Council decides to proceed in this way, I would appreciate receiving a copy of your resolution as soon as possible. Debate on this resolution is scheduled for October 8, 2015.

I would appreciate your views on this matter, and your own experience in your municipality concerning access to provincial infrastructure funds. If you have any feedback on this issue, or if you require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 519-272-0660 or by email: randy.pettapiececo@pc.ola.org.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Pettapiece". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Pettapiece, MPP
Perth-Wellington