

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Parliamentary Assistant

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September 24, 2020

Paul McQueen
Warden
Grey County
mayormcqueen@greyhighlands.ca

Dear Mr. McQueen:

Thank you and your delegation for meeting with me during the 2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference. I am very glad that we were able to make accommodations, in the face of our respective COVID-19 challenges, to meet virtually to address municipalities' concerns.

I want to assure you of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' and my own renewed commitment to working with you to strengthen and build your community.

This government is committed to ensuring that communities across Ontario have access to critical broadband and cellular connectivity. Our government knows that affordable broadband connectivity is essential in rural areas to allow families to stay in touch, connect businesses with the world, and make rural communities investment-ready so they are able to do business.

In support of this commitment, Ontario has developed *Up to Speed*: a five-year Broadband and Cellular Action Plan. The \$315 million plan will leverage private sector and other partner funding and has the potential to expand access to up to 220,000 homes and businesses.

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Good things grow in Ontario
À bonne terre, bons produits

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As a part of the Plan, Ontario has committed up to \$63.7 million for the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project. The SWIFT project plans to expand high-speed broadband internet to approximately 50,000 homes and businesses that are currently underserved. This commitment includes a commitment of up to \$5.3 million for the Grey County portion of the SWIFT project.

Thank you again for our discussion. Please accept my best wishes for continued safety and health, for both you and the members of your community.

Sincerely,



Randy Pettapiece
Parliamentary Assistant