

April 28, 2025

Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Flr, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

RE: Support for AMO's Infrastructure and Housing Stimulus Request

Dear Minister Flack,

Congratulations on your re-election and renewed mandate to protect Ontario's economy and enhance its competitiveness. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) looks forward to working collaboratively with you and your government to drive inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

As you recognized in the election campaign, rising geopolitical tension and trade disruptions are already taking a toll on Ontario's businesses and economy. Tariffs are disproportionately impacting trade-exposed sectors, such as construction, resulting in growing cost pressures on municipal infrastructure projects. Immediate action is needed to secure these projects, which are critical to Ontario's competitiveness.

As outlined in our [March letter](#) on trade and tariffs and our Infrastructure Policy Council's [post-election priorities](#), new infrastructure investment is an urgent imperative.

Investments in municipal infrastructure are a strategic way of deploying stimulus funds quickly and effectively across all parts of the province to support economic growth during downturns.¹ We see a significant opportunity to accelerate the more-than-\$250 billion of capital works projects that municipalities have planned over the next decade to protect jobs and investment while driving economic growth and future productivity.

To be effective, it will be important to explore and pursue funding models that avoid placing undue cost pressures on businesses and households, including public-private partnerships, and **ensure funding is from new dollars that do not reduce existing programs or allocations.**

That is why the Ontario Chamber of Commerce supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) [request](#) for stimulus of **\$3.45 billion annually over five years for Ontario municipal infrastructure and social housing.**

According to economic modelling and [analysis](#) conducted by Oxford Economics on behalf of AMO, this stimulus could:

- Reduce Ontario's GDP contraction by 28% over the same period;
- Result in over 14,000 fewer jobs lost in 2026, including almost 5,000 in the construction sector; and,
- Drive productivity gains and housing affordability over time through the construction and renewal of important public assets.

Investing in growth-enabling municipal infrastructure and social housing serves as a fundamental building block for a strong and competitive provincial economy, providing businesses with:

- The transportation networks needed to move goods, access markets, and enable workforce mobility, including port, airport, rail, and roadway infrastructure;
- Reliable services, including water and wastewater necessary for offices and industrial operations;
- Affordable housing for workers to live where there is demand for skills and labour, reducing labour market mismatches and lost time due to long-distance commuting; and,
- Livable communities and attractive main streets to draw workers and customers alike.

On behalf of the OCC and our members, I want to thank you for your strong leadership as we navigate the ongoing uncertainty around tariffs and international trade. We look forward to continuing to work closely with your government to ensure Ontario businesses emerge even stronger and more resilient.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tisch

President & CEO

Ontario Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Hon. Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
Doug DeRabbie, Chair, OCC Infrastructure Policy Council & Director, Government and Stakeholder Relations, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Ontario

ⁱ <http://www.c4se.com/documents/Ontario%20Public%20Infrastructure%20Final%20Report.pdf>