

January 22, 2021

RE: Item for Discussion – Infrastructure Funding

At its meeting of January 20, 2021, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion 21-GC-024, regarding Infrastructure Funding, as follows:

“WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has reported that municipal governments own more of Ontario’s infrastructure than any other order of government, and most of it is essential to economic prosperity and quality of life;

AND WHEREAS municipalities deliver many of the services that are critical to residents in every community, and these services rely on well-planned, well-built and well-maintained infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Government has stated that universal asset management will be the foundation of its municipal infrastructure strategy because effective asset management planning helps ensure that investments are made at the right time to minimize future repair and rehabilitation costs and maintain assets;

AND WHEREAS Federal and Provincial infrastructure funding models now contain requirements for recipients to demonstrate that comprehensive asset management planning principles are applied when making decisions regarding infrastructure investment;

AND WHEREAS infrastructure funding limits need to be large enough to support significant projects that have a lasting community impact over multiple generations;

AND WHEREAS targeted funding for critical infrastructure is inconsistent with the principle foundation of an asset management strategy which prioritizes needs over wants and has resulted in underfunding of the wide range of infrastructure that municipalities are responsible for maintaining, such as arenas and libraries;

AND WHEREAS the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program received demand of almost \$10 billion for a \$1 billion funding envelope;

AND WHEREAS broad eligibility for funding is more appropriate as municipalities best understand their infrastructure needs together with the needs of their community;

AND WHEREAS no and/or insufficient funding programs currently exist to fund the demonstrated need for the building, restoration and enhancement of community, culture and recreation assets;

AND WHEREAS funding the replacement of these needed capital assets is beyond the financial capacity of most communities;

AND WHEREAS the age of the Town of Bracebridge arena is greater than 70 years old, and the Library greater than 110 years old, requiring immediate replacement;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Bracebridge was recently denied any funding under the Community, Culture and Recreation stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, despite clearly meeting the tests of proper asset management and identifying needs over wants;

AND WHEREAS the economy of Ontario has been negatively impacted by the ongoing measures implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge resolves as follows:

1. THAT the Federal and Provincial Governments provide immediate broad and substantial municipal funding opportunities for well-planned, shovel-ready projects already prioritized under municipal asset management plans to provide immediate stimulus to the local, provincial and the federal economies in order to rebound from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada; the Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of the Finance; the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); the Local Member of Parliament (MP); the Local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Municipalities in Ontario.

In accordance with Council's direction I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for your attention.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graydon Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graydon Smith
Mayor