



DAIENE VERNILE, MPP

Kitchener Centre

Ontario Making \$3.2 Million Infrastructure Investment in Minto

Province Creating Jobs, Building Up Critical Infrastructure in Small and Rural Communities

NEWS

April 1, 2016

Ontario is providing the Town of Minto with up to \$3.2 Million through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and Connecting Links Program to build and repair important infrastructure, stimulate the economy and create jobs.

The province is providing the Town of Minto with up to \$1.3 Million through the [Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund](#) to reconstruct sections of Jane St. and Inkerman St., including water main and sewer line replacement and road rehabilitation – one of 59 approved projects across the province that will receive new funding.

Additionally, the province is providing Minto with \$1.9 Million in funding through the [Connecting Links](#) program to improve road safety and create jobs through the reconstruction of Elora Street – Clifford. This funding is part of a \$20 Million annual commitment to supporting Ontario roads and bridges.

Through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, the province is also providing small, rural and northern municipalities like Minto with expanded access to predictable, stable, annual funding to build and repair roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure. As announced in the 2016 Ontario Budget, funding for the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund will triple from \$100 million to \$300 million per year by 2018-19, which will include \$200 million in predictable, formula-based funding and \$100 million in application-based funding. This will allow smaller municipalities to apply for investments in critical infrastructure projects to create jobs and support local economic growth.

Through the Connecting Links program, Ontario is helping municipalities repair their roadways and bridges that connect two ends of a provincial highway through a community or to a border crossing. Funding will be provided for up to 90 percent of total eligible project costs. Funding is provided for the design, construction, renewal, rehabilitation and replacement of connecting link infrastructure.

Ontario is making the largest investment in public infrastructure in the province's history — about \$160 billion over 12 years, which is supporting 110,000 jobs every year across the province, with projects such as roads, bridges, transit systems, schools and hospitals. In 2015, the province announced support for more than 325 projects that will keep people and goods moving, connect communities and improve quality of life.

QUOTES

“I’m proud that our government is investing in various infrastructure projects in the Minto community. The province’s commitment to investing in small and rural infrastructure will help keep our communities strong while creating jobs.”

— Daiene Vernile, MPP for Kitchener Centre

“We are thrilled the Province has chosen to fund our Connecting Link and the Ontario Community Investment Fund applications. Elora Street in Clifford and Jane and Inkerman

Streets in Palmerston are both high priority projects in our asset management program. This work upgrades aging infrastructure and helps us make significant progress on our infrastructure deficit.”

— George Bridge, Mayor of the Town of Minto

“By expanding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund from \$100 million to \$300 million, our government is showing municipalities across Ontario that we’re committed to working with them to address the critical infrastructure they need in their communities through predictable, stable funding. The province is laying the foundation for sustainable economic development, creating jobs and new economic opportunities in rural and northern communities across Ontario.”

— Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

“Our Connecting Links program is one way we show our long-term commitment to Ontario’s rural and northern communities and to the families who live there. These highways are essential links in many communities, connecting people to jobs, managing local congestion and improving the economy and residents’ quality of life.”

— Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation

QUICK FACTS

- To date, 137 critical infrastructure projects have been approved through the OCIF’s application-based component for a total investment of \$174 million. In addition, 425 communities have received formula-based grants for a total provincial investment of \$50 million per year.
- The new changes to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund reflect consultation feedback from municipal leaders from across Ontario about improvements to the program.
- There are about 350 kilometers of roads and 70 bridges along connecting links in 77 municipalities across Ontario.
- The Connecting Links program was launched in November 2015, and applications were received in early 2016. Successful applicants will receive funding starting in spring 2016.
- In February 2016, the Premier announced increased funding for Ontario’s Connecting Links Program. The program will provide \$20 million in 2016–17, up from \$15 million announced in the 2015 Budget. Funding for this program will increase to \$25 million in 2017-18 and \$30 million per year by 2018–19.

LEARN MORE

- Find out more about the [Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund](#)
- [Connecting Links](#)

Contact Information:

Jill Kolb | Office of MPP Daiene Vernile | 519-579-5460