



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

STEVE CLARK, MPP
Leeds-Grenville

February 9, 2016

Hon. Brad Duguid
Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure
Hearst Block, 8th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1
BY EMAIL ONLY

Constituency Office:
100 Strowger Blvd., Suite 101
Brockville, Ontario
K6V 5J9
Tel. (613) 342-9522
Toll Free: 1-800-267-4408
Fax (613) 342-2501

Dear Minister Duguid:

I'm writing to express my shock upon learning the Village of Westport's application to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Application Based Component has been denied.

I fail to understand how this critical work to bring the village's waste water treatment plant into compliance with Ministry of Environment and Climate Change standards was not considered a priority.

You and your ministry staff would have known the importance of this project through meetings with and correspondence from me and Westport's Mayor Robin Jones. Among other factors, both Mayor Jones and I have repeatedly stressed the following :

- The village's small tax base makes it unreasonable to think they could complete a project of this magnitude without financial support from upper levels of government.
- Modernizing the aging wastewater treatment system is necessary to mitigate a significant potential risk to the World Heritage designated Rideau Canal waterway.
- An updated and compliant system is essential for the village to take advantage of future growth opportunities.

For these reasons, I'm asking you to review this decision. As part of that review, I would appreciate an opportunity to join Mayor Jones in meeting with you to discuss our shared concerns. I suggest the upcoming ROMA/OGRA conference provides a perfect opportunity for this meeting and I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Steve Clark, MPP,
Leeds-Grenville

