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**John Nater, MP**  
Perth—Wellington

March 24, 2016

Dear Mayors and Councillors,

As part of my efforts to keep our municipalities informed on matters of importance, I will periodically provide updates to Councils on events from Parliament Hill. On March 22, 2016 the new Liberal Government tabled their first budget of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament.

During the election campaign, the Liberal Party promised to run modest deficits of \$10 billion over the next three years to pay for infrastructure projects. For the 2016-17 fiscal year the federal deficit will be \$29.4 billion and the vast majority of spending will not be allocated to infrastructure. Instead the federal budget is focused on increasing spending for ongoing programs. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be any new funding for road and bridge infrastructure projects beyond what was previously committed in the New Building Canada Fund.

The federal government has allocated \$11.9 billion total for infrastructure spending over the next two to five years. \$3.4 billion will be spent on public transit. However, Finance Minister Morneau has not specified how or if smaller municipalities would benefit.

There are some infrastructure funds that may benefit Perth—Wellington. The Government has said they will create a \$342 million Cultural and Recreational fund. Details on this fund are currently unknown. There is also a commitment of \$2 billion over 4 years for a Clean Water and Waste Water Management fund. It is expected that projects will be funded at a 50 percent ratio.

The Liberal government has provided few details on how projects will be chosen or how they will receive funding. We have been informed that Statistics Canada will begin to collect more detailed data on infrastructure, but it is unclear if this will change the current funding formulas.

As I have said since I was elected, I am willing to work with the government cooperatively and collaboratively on matters that benefit the people of Perth—Wellington. However, I am concerned that the proposed infrastructure funding may not benefit municipalities in Perth—Wellington.

Please continue to keep me informed of your municipality's infrastructure needs and any applications you may submit. I would be very pleased to offer my support in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Nater', written in a cursive style.

John Nater, MP  
Perth—Wellington