

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2021-648

February 23, 2021

Your Worship
Warden Larry Martin
County of Oxford
lmartin@norwich.ca

Dear Warden Martin:

I would like to thank you and your fellow council members, Mayor Marcus Ryan and Mayor Stephen Molnar, for taking the time to meet with me and the Honourable Ernie Hardeman at the 2021 Virtual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference. We value our strong partnerships with municipalities and know how important they are, now more than ever.

I appreciated hearing your insights about the Safe Restart Agreement as a dependable funding solution for your municipal needs, and your thoughts about how to best address broadband deficiencies in your region.

As discussed during your delegation, I will share your insights about funding models with my colleagues the Honourable Christine Elliot, Minister of Health and the Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure. I also understand that ministry staff have shared your concerns related to the one-time funding Oxford County recently received for paramedic services with Ministry of Health staff. For further questions related to provincial funding for paramedic services, please feel free to contact Stuart Mooney, Acting Director at the Emergency Health Program Management and Delivery Branch. He can be reached at 1-807-475-1294 or Stuart.Mooney@ontario.ca.

If you or your staff would like to discuss these matters further, ministry staff would be pleased to assist. Please feel free to contact Saif Sumbal, Manager, Local Government and Housing in the Western Municipal Services Office at 519-873-4028 or Saifullah.Sumbal@ontario.ca. You can also contact my Senior Policy Advisor for Municipal Affairs, Stephanie DiNucci, at Stephanie.DiNucci@ontario.ca.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the hard work you are doing enforcing the public health measures in your community put in place to safeguard the health and safety of Ontarians. Together, we will make our communities stronger and put them on the path to recovery and resilience. Our government will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with municipalities and we will continue to engage with you and listen to your ideas of how we can forge ahead on our recovery together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark".

Steve Clark
Minister

c. The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford Ernie.Hardeman@pc.ola.org