



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Learning and Living in Faith*

## **Memorandum**

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education  
Date: April 26, 2021  
Subject: **Correspondence from Minister Catherine McKenna**

## **Recommendation**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information the following correspondence:

- Email from Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, dated March 23, 2021.”

## **Rationale**

As attached.

TB:eb

Attachment: Email dated March 23, 2021

**From:** [Minister / Ministre \(INFC\)](#)  
**To:** [Liz Beckstead](#)  
**Cc:** [Minister Champagne / Ministre Champagne \(IC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Office of Minister McKenna  
**Date:** March 23, 2021 11:06:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [2021-03-05 Ministers Scott and McKenna.pdf](#)

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Dear Morgan Ste. Marie and Tracy Barill:

I am writing in response to your letter of March 5, 2021, also addressed to the Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure of Ontario, requesting increased federal funding to improve broadband delivery. Thank you for taking the time to write. Please be assured that your comments have been carefully reviewed.

The Government of Canada is delivering a range of initiatives in coordination with provinces, territories, federal arm's-length institutions and private partners to improve broadband access that will benefit communities across Canada.

The Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) recently announced its Growth Plan, a \$10-billion investment plan focused on high impact infrastructure, including broadband projects, which will strengthen Canada's capacity to grow now and in the future. The CIB will deliver its Growth Plan over the next 24 to 36 months, contributing to the economic recovery and long-term resilience of the country.

Broadband projects are also eligible under the federal Gas Tax Fund, provided that the municipalities involved, as the ultimate recipients under the program, choose to apply their allocation to the particular project. Broadband projects may also be eligible under the recently introduced COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) if they directly link to the pandemic response. Under the ICIP, proposed projects must first be submitted to the province so that it may determine whether the project should be prioritized for funding consideration.

Since the matter of high-speed Internet projects across the country also falls under the purview of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne and the Honourable Maryam Monsef, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to their offices for consideration.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities