

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2021-648

February 23, 2021

Your Worship
Mayor David Bylsma
Town of West Lincoln
dbylsma@westlincoln.ca

Dear Mayor Bylsma:

I would like to thank you and Chief Administrative Officer Bev Hendry for taking the time to meet with me and MPP Sam Oosterhoff 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 learning about the proactive efforts the Township of West Lincoln took to mitigate negative cost impacts and revenue shortfalls when facing the financial pressures of COVID-19.

As discussed during your delegation, our government is committed to supporting municipalities in a way that is sustainable and responsible. We look forward to continuing to work with the federal government as we navigate through these challenging times, to ensure the people of Ontario have the supports they need for a safe economic recovery. Thank you for sharing the township's concerns regarding loss of revenue since the most recent lockdown. As mentioned in the meeting, please feel free to share documentation of your efforts and cost containment measures as it is helpful to see the financial impacts of COVID-19 from a small rural perspective.

If you or your staff would like to discuss these matters further, ministry staff would be pleased to assist. Please feel free to contact Laurie Miller, Regional Director in the Central Municipal Services Office at 437-855-6078 or Laurie.Miller@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. Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West Sam.Oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org