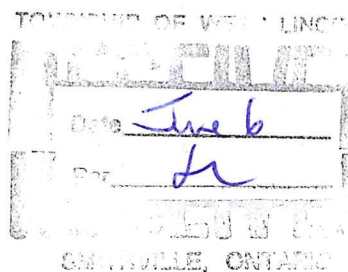




MAYOR DAVID BYLSMA
PO BOX 400 318 CANBOROUGH ST.
SMITHVILLE ON L0R 2A0



Ottawa, June 2022

Dear MAYOR DAVID BYLSMA and Council,

The economic contributions from rural communities are integral to Canada's success. Rural areas are home to many key industries such as manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, and energy.

Yet, municipalities under 20,000 residents receive less support from the federal government in comparison to their much larger counterparts. Red tape duplications and certain application requirements disproportionately burden small rural communities with very few staff.

This is unfair, unjust, and needs to be addressed urgently. As such, Conservative Shadow Minister for Rural Economic Development and Rural Broadband Strategy, M.P. Shannon Stubbs, Deputy Shadow Ministers M.P. Damien Kurek and M.P. Jacques Gourde, are seeking to convene a townhall with you to address federal funding for rural communities.

Rural Canadians must band together for fairer and more robust funding for communities all over rural Canada.

It is integral to our economy that the federal government works for everyone no matter where they live. The voices of rural Canadians need to be heard. We kindly ask you to express the three most important issues impacting your economic development as a rural community. We will use this feedback to ensure our work for rural Canada is as productive as possible and will determine the agenda for our proposed townhall. This is an opportunity to network, share your priorities, and solutions to the challenges we face.

We value hearing from you and should you wish to attend our forum, please email M.P. Stubbs at shannon.stubbs@parl.gc.ca, M.P. Kurek at damien.kurek@parl.gc.ca, or M.P. Gourde at jacques.gourde@parl.gc.ca.

Thank you for your time.

Shannon Stubbs, M.P.
Shadow Minister for Rural Economic Development
and Rural Broadband Strategy
Lakeland

Damien C. Kurek, M.P.
Deputy Shadow Minister for Rural Economic
Development and Rural Broadband Strategy
Battle River—Crowfoot

Jacques Gourde, M.P.
Deputy Shadow Minister for Rural Economic
Development and Rural Broadband Strategy
Lévis—Lotbinière