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Mayor Maire

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January 26, 2022

The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc,
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure & Communities
180 Kent Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B6
minister-ministre@infc.gc.ca

RE: Support for Ottawa Energy Evolution Strategy

Dear Minister Leblanc,

Climate change is the biggest threat facing our generation, and ambitious action to fight it presents significant economic opportunities for all Canadians. Municipalities now realize the importance of their position to catalyze climate action.

In October 2020, Ottawa City Council unanimously approved the Energy Evolution Strategy, an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ottawa to zero by 2050. Reaching this target will require an unprecedented scale of action and investment. It also estimates to yield \$12 billion in net returns to the community over the life of the investments, along with health and resiliency benefits. This colossal work cannot be done without support from senior levels of government.

Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada can support GHG reductions led by municipalities the following ways:

- **Provide funding for Ottawa's zero emissions Concept Transit Network;**
- **Support the development of a gasification demonstration project for forestry, leaf, yard waste, and other relevant organic waste; and**
- **Provide support for municipally-run programs for building retrofits including reinstating the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program.**

Transportation accounted for 42% of GHG emissions in Ottawa in 2020. The Energy Evolution Strategy identified the following actions:

- Reducing the 24-hour mode share for cars by 19% by 2050;
- Building the Concept Transit Network with zero emissions vehicles; and
- Assuring that 90% of new vehicles are zero emissions by 2030.

These actions will build on the commitment to convert all buses in Ottawa to electric over the next 15 years. By working with municipalities, the Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada can help realize significant GHG reduction from transportation.



The existing buildings sector accounts for 46% of Ottawa's community GHG emissions. Meeting Council's emissions targets will require deep retrofits of 98% of these buildings by 2040. The City of Ottawa is rolling out programs to support energy retrofits of buildings and, in order to avoid municipal debt limits from thwarting retrofit programs, the City of Ottawa requests federal funding programs and loan backstops for retrofit investments.

Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change impacts. Reducing GHGs will ultimately reduce the risks and impacts on municipalities and will improve the health and safety of our residents. Municipal infrastructure and operational expenses are significantly impacted by the increased severity of extreme weather events and the responses required to restore public health and safety. Recognizing this threat and feeling pressured by their constituents to act, Ottawa, along with more than 400 municipalities in Canada, declared a climate emergency in April 2019.

Through land use, transportation, and infrastructure decisions, municipalities have influence over 50% of emissions. The support requested above will allow the City of Ottawa to take a leadership role in implementing community GHG reductions while ensuring efficient use of public funds.

Steve Willis, General Manager for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, would be pleased to meet with your Deputy Minister to discuss more thoroughly how we can work together to achieve a net-zero country by 2050.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson'.

Jim Watson

Mayor

City of Ottawa

c.c: Kelly Gillis, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
Carol Saab, Chief Executive Officer at FCM
Michael Savage, Mayor of Halifax and Chair of BCMC
Jamie McGarvey, Mayor of Parry Sound and President of AMO
Stephen Willis, General Manager, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development