May 3, 2006

To: All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Canadian - Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF)

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington passed the following resolution at its meeting held Monday, May 1, 2006. Your support of this resolution would be appreciated.

No. C-167-06

Whereas, The Canadian - Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) was established to enhance and renew Ontario’s aging infrastructure; improve the quality of the environment; protect the health and safety of citizens; support long term economic growth and build strong sustainable communities by giving municipalities the tools they need;

And whereas most small municipalities go to great lengths and expense to utilize consultants and limited municipal resources in building a strong business case to meet the goals and objectives of COMRIF;

And whereas during the first two rounds of COMRIF announcements, the majority of submissions where not supported because of limited funding;

And whereas the selection process for COMRIF is to be seamless and non political;

And whereas there are some communities who have had their applications approved for round one and round two of COMRIF;

And whereas those communities that have met the COMRIF criteria, but whose projects where not approved because of limited funding are at a disadvantage as they will have to fund their projects by raising municipal taxes;

And whereas the existing methodology of selecting projects eligible for funding pursuant to the COMRIF program does not provide for sustainability of aging infrastructure for the majority of rural communities in Ontario;

And whereas Ontario municipalities through their respective Councils are more than capable of identifying aging infrastructure in their community;

And whereas Ontario municipalities could upgrade their aging infrastructure and develop long range plans if a program was developed which provided funding to all municipalities on a yearly basis;

Now therefore be it resolved that The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington request AMO and the Federal and Provincial Governments to develop a program that will support infrastructure sustainability by providing a yearly stream of funding to all rural municipalities without the municipality having to expend funds and exhaust limited resources in developing businesses cases;

And further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities, local MP’s and MPP’s and AMO Board of Directors seeking their support.

Yours truly,

Kim Siddall
Manager of Corporate Services