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December 23, 2008

The Honourable James Flaherty
Minister of Finance
140 O'Connor St.
Ottawa ON K1A 0G5

The Honourable John Baird
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure & Communities
Tower C - 330 Sparks St.
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Flaherty and Minister Baird,

I am writing at the request of Guelph City Council to express Council's strong support for the acceleration of federal infrastructure funding to stimulate the economy.

As you know, like other communities across the country, Guelph has been impacted by the recent economic crisis. An acceleration of infrastructure funding is urgently needed to help create jobs and stimulate our local economy. At the same time, the funding would allow us to invest in quality municipal infrastructure, which is the foundation of a strong economy into the future.

Infrastructure funding dedicated to housing programs would also help us improve access to much-needed affordable housing, while supporting the residential construction and development industry.

Ministers, as you know, time is of the essence in providing a stimulus package that can help maintain and create jobs in our local communities. We request that federal infrastructure programs be streamlined so that funding can flow and projects can begin as quickly as possible. The City of Guelph has a number of infrastructure projects that are ready to proceed when funding is available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Farbridge
Mayor