
WHAT RURAL CANADA NEEDS FROM OTTAWA — A RENFREW COUNTY PERSPECTIVE

As Canada heads into a federal election, the County of Renfrew urges all parties and candidates to recognize the unique needs of rural communities. These federal priorities reflect the pressing issues and opportunities facing our region — and the supports we need to deliver services, build infrastructure, and strengthen our communities.

Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Rural Municipalities

Ask: Long-term, predictable federal funding for roads, bridges, broadband, active transportation, water and/wastewater systems.

Why it matters: Rural infrastructure is aging, and communities need stable, multi-year funding to plan, maintain, and grow — not just one-off programs.

Affordable and Attainable Housing

Ask: Increased investment in affordable and non-market housing, and ensure funding is accessible to rural municipalities.

Why it matters: Housing costs are rising in Renfrew County. We need support to build seniors' housing, workforce housing, and transitional housing — particularly in small and remote communities.

Health Care Access & Paramedicine

Ask: Increased investment in rural healthcare, including long-term care, home/community care, and support for community paramedicine.

Why it matters: Geographic barriers and workforce shortages make rural health-care delivery complex. Flexible, innovative, locally driven solutions are key.

National Child Care that Works for Rural Families

Ask: Ensure \$10-a-day child care includes targeted rural infrastructure and workforce supports.

Why it matters: Many areas of Renfrew County are 'child-care deserts.' Without investment in facilities and Early Childhood Education recruitment, the promise of affordable care won't reach rural families — limiting workforce participation and community growth.

Rural Economic Development & Workforce Innovation

Ask: Support rural skills training, tourism development, green industries, and entrepreneurship.

Why it matters: Renfrew County has untapped potential. With federal partnership, we can grow a modern, inclusive rural economy.

Climate Resilience & Disaster Mitigation

Ask: Increased funding for flood mitigation, wildfire protection, emergency planning, and climate adaptation infrastructure.

Why it matters: Climate change is already impacting Renfrew County through floods, fires, and extreme weather. Federal investment must support preparedness, the disaster management and resilience.

Transportation & Rural Transit Innovation

Ask: Fund pilot programs for rural transportation solutions, including the use of underutilized school buses.

Why it matters: Mobility is a critical equity issue. Many residents lack dependable transportation to work, school, health-care appointments, and social services.

High-Speed Internet & Digital Equity

Ask: Accelerated rural broadband access and support for digital literacy and inclusion.

Why it matters: Reliable internet is essential for business, education, healthcare, and public services. Gaps in service are holding communities back.

Support for Garrison Petawawa Infrastructure and Expansion

Ask: Increased federal investment in the modernization and expansion of Garrison Petawawa's facilities and infrastructure.

Why it matters: Garrison Petawawa is a cornerstone of the regional economy and national defence, employing thousands and supporting hundreds of families. Strategic investment ensures operational readiness, contribution to National Security, response to International events, quality of life for military families, and local economic vitality.

Advancement of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories at Chalk River

Ask: Continued and increased federal funding for the revitalization and expansion of CNL's Chalk River Laboratories, including support for clean energy research and infrastructure modernization.

Why it matters: As a key player in achieving Canada's net-zero future and rural innovation leadership, CNL drives innovation in clean energy, including small modular reactors, hydrogen and fusion technologies, while supporting economic development through major infrastructure investment.

For more information or to connect with County leadership, contact:

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