



Barry Devolin, MP
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

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June 15, 2009

Dear Reeve Harrison,

It was great to see you and other members of Haliburton County Council in Minden last Friday for my joint announcement with MPP Rick Johnson of \$3.9 million in federal and provincial support for infrastructure projects. This follows on the \$6.4 million announced for Haliburton County in February, and means that *more than \$10 million* in federal and provincial dollars will be pumped into our county's economy this year and next.

It is clear to me that Canadians want their elected officials – from all parties and all three levels of government – to work together during this global economic crisis to get projects that create jobs underway as quickly as possible.

As the federal member for this riding, I want to thank all my provincial and municipal colleagues for their hard work and assistance with the accelerated process we have used to submit and approve these project applications. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for further direction from the Algonquin Highlands Council regarding the proposed rehabilitation and expansion of Stanhope Airport.

As a resident of Haliburton County, I know there has been much debate, disagreement and rancor related to this project. It is also my understanding that rehabilitation of existing facilities is not the issue. Rather, it is the proposed expansion that seems to be the focus of debate, environmental and technical assessment, and even potential legal action.

As such, if I am asked to do so by Algonquin Highlands Council, I would be pleased to ask the federal government to consider this project in two phases: the first dealing with rehabilitation of existing facilities; and the second dealing with proposed expansion, including a second runway.

Like you, I want to see shovels in the ground this summer. I don't need to remind you that the primary objective for stimulus spending is to get infrastructure dollars into local economies as quickly as possible.

I would hate to see a major project in Haliburton County delayed so that we miss out on \$2.5 million in federal and provincial investment. I want to remind everyone there is no guarantee such funding will be available again in the near future.

As such, I respectfully suggest that we move ahead immediately with what we can, and we continue to work on those elements of the project that have proved problematic.

I believe it is my job as MP to support local governments and the priorities they identify for their communities. I respectfully await direction from your municipal council.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Devolin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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