

FW: Your Letter to the Liberal Party of Canada

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To: **Minnes, Sarah** | sam880@mail.usask.ca

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Hi Sarah,

Thanks for your letter regarding the Liberal Party of Canada's commitments for Canada's Rural Communities. After 10 years of the Conservative Party taking rural Canadians for granted, Justin Trudeau and the Liberal government are making important progress to create new jobs, stand up for rural communities, and offer real help for middle class families.

A cornerstone of that progress is our new Minister of Rural Economic Development, whose role is to focus on the issues that matter most to people living in rural and northern communities and to address their concerns. We're tackling these issues head on, by enhancing high-speed internet access so thousands of rural households can innovate, learn, grow their businesses, and stay in touch with their loved ones. In our last budget we committed to get 50% of Canadian households connected to high speed internet by 2025 and 100% by 2030.

We are also investing \$2 billion in rural and northern infrastructure projects to support food security, local roads, and renewable energy. We've increased the federal contribution for infrastructure projects in smaller communities from 50% to 60%, which will directly benefit over 3,000 small municipalities. Because many municipalities across Canada continue to face serious infrastructure deficits, we're investing \$2.2 billion through the federal Gas Tax Fund to address short-term priorities in municipalities and First Nation communities. This doubles the Government's commitment to municipalities in 2018–19 and will provide much needed infrastructure funds for communities of all sizes, all across the country.

And we're working with farming families to create a modern, sustainable, and prosperous agriculture sector through a \$3-billion Canadian Agriculture Partnership with the provinces and territories. We know farmers are among the first to feel the effects of climate change, and that's why we are working to safeguard our agriculture sector from a changing climate, and protecting the environment for our children and grandchildren.

More broadly, rural areas are benefitting from increases to the Canada Child Benefit, giving more money to 9/10 Canadian families and lifting more than 300,000 children out of poverty. It's been so successful in supporting Canadian families, we've announced we will give up to \$1,000 more to families to help when the costs of raising kids are highest, by boosting the Canada Child Benefit by 15 per cent for children under the age of one. We've also lowered taxes for 9 million middle class Canadians, and raised them on the wealthiest 1%. To these

important changes we have also added the strengthening of the Canada Pension Plan, so Canadians can count on a safe and secure retirement after a lifetime of hard work.

Our Liberal government will continue to stand up for Canada's rural communities and we hope we can count on your support.

Best,

Mike Jones

Team Trudeau

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