



774-2026-202

July 7, 2026

His Worship Rick Champagne
Mayor
Township of East Ferris
rick.champagne@eastferris.ca

Dear Mayor Champagne,

Thank you for your continued leadership and the dedicated work you do every day to support your residents and help build strong communities across Northern Ontario. The success of our region is rooted in your commitment to local priorities and the people you serve.

As we face economic and trade challenges, the path forward is clear. It is more important than ever that we work together to ensure that economic development efforts create resilience and long-term prosperity across our region.

Last year, we announced a strategic refocusing of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation to ensure these resources are concentrated on projects that create jobs and can be economic catalysts for your communities and regions.

As Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth and Chair of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), I have witnessed first-hand the meaningful impact strategic NOHFC investments can have. From supporting local businesses to unlocking new opportunities for growth and innovation, NOHFC-supported projects are helping to create good-paying jobs, contribute to long-term economic development and move our region forward in a tangible way.

As leaders in your communities and regions, you understand where these opportunities are emerging, where challenges are limiting prosperity and where targeted investments can accelerate growth.

I ask you to work with your partners and bring these types of prospective proposals forward to the NOHFC. Whether it is helping local businesses grow or pursuing new economic opportunities, our team is ready to work with you to help advance strong projects that create jobs and strengthen your regions.

One strong example of what can be achieved through collaboration is the growing success of the Northern Ontario tourism campaign. Working with municipalities, local tourism partners and community organizations, we've been promoting your submitted outdoor adventures and must-see destinations to help draw more visitors to the North and support local economies. It shows that we can accomplish great things when we pursue a shared goal.

As a proud northerner, I am honoured to serve as a voice for Northern Ontario and appreciate the potential of our region. I am confident that by working together we can align your local knowledge and leadership with our government's support and continue to establish a more resilient, self-reliant and prosperous North for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George Pirie', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

The Honourable George Pirie
Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth
Chair, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation

c: Jason Trottier, CAO, Township of East Ferris, jason.trottier@eastferris.ca