



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Frank Caputo, MP
Kamloops-Thompson-Nicola

August 27, 2025

The Hon. Francois-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance and National Revenue,
90 Elgin Street,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Champagne,

Subject: Pre-Budget Consultations for District of Barriere

I write in regard to pre-budget consultations.

This is a time of great stress and financial pressures for both the smaller and larger communities in the Kamloops-Thompson-Nicola. I hear daily from people who feel left behind by your government.

With this in mind, I enclose a letter from the District of Barriere. As you can see, Barriere has a number of needs that have been overlooked by the federal government. Rural communities often feel overlooked by your government's inaction and Barriere is no exception.

To summarize, Barriere still struggles economically from the after-effects of the devastating 2003 McLure-Barriere wildfire. Its largest employer at the time (the Tolko sawmill) was destroyed, and to this day residents live in fear that their homes and rebuilt businesses will be lost again to wildfires.

As such, they are asking for support to replace the Barriere Fire Hall (\$4.5 million) and a new ladder truck (\$1.5 million), both of which will assist their volunteer fire department in protecting the community going forward. Barriere is located at the epicenter of B.C. wildfire outbreaks. This funding is critical.

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These issues have been overlooked for far too long. I believe that many Western Canadians, particularly those in Conservative-held ridings, feel neglected by your government. The 2025 Budget is the time to make this right. I implore you to commit to funding Barriere's requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank Caputo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Frank Caputo, M.P.
Kamloops-Thompson-Nicola
Shadow Minister for Public Safety