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# Keeping Blue Box funding flowing

Posted by WDO Admin on April 21, 2015

by Michael Scott

On April 16, the WDO Board made important decisions to ensure Blue Box funding continues to flow to municipalities while the 2015 steward financial obligation is being determined.

Stewards are the brand owners, first importers or franchisors of the products and packaging materials that are collected through the Blue Box Program. The 'obligation' is the financial amount the stewards contribute to the costs of this program.

WDO is responsible for approving the annual steward obligation for the Blue Box program. Historically, the Municipal Industry Program Committee (MIPC) recommends this amount to the WDO Board.

MIPC includes representatives from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the City of Toronto, and Stewardship Ontario.

Last year MIPC could not agree on a recommendation for the 2014 Blue Box steward obligation and it was ultimately determined by arbitration. This year, MIPC has not yet been able to reach a recommendation on the 2015 steward obligation.

The first 2015 Blue Box payment to municipalities is due at the end of June. With the clock ticking, the WDO Board was faced with the challenge of balancing the need to ensure funding continues to flow to municipalities for the Blue Box program, with the need to look at ways to help facilitate MIPC's negotiations.

That's why the Board decided to direct MIPC to mediation, and to direct Stewardship Ontario to start paying municipalities interim 2015 Blue Box funding beginning with the first payment on June 30, 2015, should the final 2015 steward obligation not have been determined before then.

Interim 2015 Blue Box funding will be calculated using the arbitrator's method of determining the 2014 steward obligation.

WDO is making every effort possible to help facilitate MIPC's negotiations on the 2015 steward obligation. As overseer, we believe it is important for the parties to explore all available options, with the help of a mediator.

We will keep all stakeholders informed as this process continues to unfold.

## Tags

[Blue Box \(/blog/blog-archives/?akID\[14\]\[atSelectOptionID\]\[1\]=14\)](/blog/blog-archives/?akID[14][atSelectOptionID][1]=14)  
[Stewardship Ontario \(/blog/blog-archives/?akID\[14\]\[atSelectOptionID\]\[1\]=35\)](/blog/blog-archives/?akID[14][atSelectOptionID][1]=35)  
[Municipalities \(/blog/blog-archives/?akID\[14\]\[atSelectOptionID\]\[1\]=50\)](/blog/blog-archives/?akID[14][atSelectOptionID][1]=50)  
[Michael Scott \(/blog/blog-archives/?akID\[14\]\[atSelectOptionID\]\[1\]=143\)](/blog/blog-archives/?akID[14][atSelectOptionID][1]=143)  
[Blue Box Funding \(/blog/blog-archives/?akID\[14\]\[atSelectOptionID\]\[1\]=202\)](/blog/blog-archives/?akID[14][atSelectOptionID][1]=202)  
[Steward obligation \(/blog/blog-archives/?akID\[14\]\[atSelectOptionID\]\[1\]=203\)](/blog/blog-archives/?akID[14][atSelectOptionID][1]=203)  
[Interim funding \(/blog/blog-archives/?akID\[14\]\[atSelectOptionID\]\[1\]=204\)](/blog/blog-archives/?akID[14][atSelectOptionID][1]=204)

**Head, Clara, Maria - M. Reith**

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**From:** "christine leduc" <cleduc@ofia.com>  
**Date:** April-28-15 12:55 PM  
**To:** <twpshcm@xplornet.com>; <lhubder@khrtownship.ca>; <info@blrtownship.ca>; <naw@nalgonawil.com>; <mwildman@amprior.ca>; <rmcgee@deeperiver.ca>; <email@petawawa.ca>; <kbulmer@town.renfrew.on.ca>; <info@admastonbromley.com>; <admin@eganville.com>; <admin@greatermadawaska.com>; <mmclaren@hortontownship.ca>; <info@laurentianhills.ca>; <laurentian@laurvall.on.ca>; <info@madawaskavalley.ca>; <info@mcnabbraeside.com>; <info@whitewaterregion.ca>  
**Attach:** Ste-Thérèse de la Gatineau.pdf; Girardville.pdf; Bois-Franc.pdf; Maniwaki resolution\_ENG.docx; Maniwaki.pdf; RESOLUTION - April 2015 - Ont Forest Sector Plans for Generations Resolution.docx  
**Subject:** OFIA request to Municipal Leaders - support for QUEBEC MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION

Dear Municipal Leaders,

In light of growing frustration over campaigns against responsible forest management, Quebec municipalities are passing resolutions to bring attention to the socio-economic impacts these campaigns are having and to ask special interest groups to stop their campaigns. I have attached some examples and an English translation of the Maniwaki resolution for your consideration.

OFIA has developed an English template version for Ontario- which you will also find attached.

We are hoping to similar resolutions passed in Ontario to match Quebec's efforts. We are hoping that different regions will cater their resolution to their local forest industry and the interest groups that are specifically targeting forestry. Please see below a draft for an 'Algonquin Park' themed resolution. You are free to modify as you see fit to accommodate your regional objectives.

Would your municipality consider passing a supporting resolution?

If you have any questions, just give me a call. I'm happy to discuss,

Thank you,

**Christine Leduc**

Director of Policy and Communications  
Ontario Forest Industries Association  
416.368.3827 – [cleduc@ofia.com](mailto:cleduc@ofia.com)  
@OFIA\_info – [www.ofia.com](http://www.ofia.com)

**April 2015 Resolution – Ontario's Forest Products Sector Plans for Generations.**

A resolution to inform Environmental groups of the impact of its actions on families, communities and the economy.

WHEREAS the forest products sector is Ontario's second largest industrial sector that has been growing a stronger greener Ontario for generations;

WHEREAS Ontario's renewable natural resource supports 200,000 direct and indirect jobs in over 260 communities;

WHEREAS all forest product companies operating in Ontario are governed by a world-class forest management regime, the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) with its obligatory environmental standards and under this stringent regime, all forest products made in Ontario are sustainable;

WHEREAS the objective of sustainable forest management is to maintain or to improve the long-term health of forest ecosystems, so that the generations of today and tomorrow can enjoy the environmental, economic and

social benefits of such ecosystems;

WHEREAS in Ontario less than 0.5% of the forest in the Boreal region is sustainably harvested annually and 44.2% of the forest in the Boreal is unavailable for harvest;

WHEREAS organized activist campaigns targeted at forest products sourced from Canada's Boreal forest are negatively impacting local economies and threatening the future livelihoods of hardworking Ontario citizens, WHEREAS the Township of South Algonquin supports Quebec's Boreal Forest Alliance's objective to inform Environmental groups and other like organizations of the negative effects of their actions and activist campaigns;

AND WHEREAS two communities in South Algonquin, and seven communities in Renfrew County have substantial employment related to the forest industry and wood processing facilities that receive a significant portion of wood volume from Algonquin Park. Many of these businesses are multi-generational, with the longest running in its 7<sup>th</sup> generation, and are heavily invested in the sustainability of forestry in Algonquin Park;

AND WHEREAS over 2,700 jobs are directly associated with wood harvested from Algonquin Park and an additional 8,000 jobs are indirectly associated with the support of these activities;

AND WHEREAS approximately 40% of wood volume harvested from Algonquin Park is delivered to Renfrew County wood processing facilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Environmental groups and other like organizations be made aware and held accountable for the impacts of their campaigns that cost Ontario forest companies their customers, their reputations and their viability as well as the damaging consequences to forest company workers and their families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Environmental groups and other like organizations cease and desist all campaigns targeting consumers of renewable forest products sustainably harvested from Ontario's Boreal Forest region.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario;

Minister Mauro, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry;

Ontario Forest Industries Association.

MPP John Yakabuski

MP Cheryl Gallant

Minister of Canadian Heritage  
and Official Languages



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien  
et des Langues officielles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

Dear Sir/Madam,

Since 2012, our Government has been building momentum toward the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation with the theme **Strong. Proud. Free.** We continue to commemorate historic nation-building anniversaries and individuals such as the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, the 100<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the First and Second World Wars, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Flag of Canada, the Fathers of Confederation, Sir John A. MacDonal(d) and Samuel de Champlain. On the Road to 2017, we are building knowledge and understanding of our history and the remarkable story of this country.

Our Government is now launching the *Canada 150 Fund*, a funding initiative that aims to promote Canadian values, culture and history, generate national pride and bring citizens together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017. The primary focus of the *Canada 150 Fund* is to support initiatives that will be delivered during the 150th anniversary period in 2017, with special consideration given to initiatives that will both build momentum in the period leading up to the anniversary and have on-going impacts in 2017 and beyond.

The *Canada 150 Fund* is open to a wide variety of Canadian organizations, including not-for-profit organizations, business corporations (for non-commercial projects), schools and municipalities and their agencies.

The *Canada 150 Fund* will support activities that:

- Encourage participants to give back to Canada through gifts or time and energy, in ways that leave a lasting legacy;
- Provide Canadians with opportunities to actively participate and/or celebrate together, promoting and building a deeper understanding of Canada, its people and what it means to be Canadian; and
- Recognize and promote exceptional Canadian people, places, achievements and events that continue to shape our country.

.../2

Eligible projects under the community-driven activities include:

- Celebratory or commemorative activities and events;
- Community-building activities and events;
- Sport and active-living activities and events;
- Exhibits, commemorative plaques, monuments and permanent installations;
- Site dedication ceremonies, interpretive programming and tours;
- Documentary films, learning materials and activities;
- Theatrical or musical performance; and
- Large-scale artwork contests and projects.

A limited number of high-impact, large-scale projects that are national in scope will be supported through the *Canada 150 Fund* as Signature Initiatives. Projects may be considered as candidates to be Signature Initiatives if they are:

- Specifically designed to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation;
- National in scope and reach;
- Unique and innovative; and
- Participation-oriented.

For more information about the *Canada 150 Fund*, including information on obtaining the Applicant's Guide and application form, please consult the Government of Canada website at [www.canada150.gc.ca](http://www.canada150.gc.ca).

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelly Glover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shelly" and last name "Glover" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Shelly Glover, P.C., M.P.

**Head, Clara, Maria - M. Reith**

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**From:** "Algonquin, Cottages (MNRF)" <AlgonquinCo@ontario.ca>  
**Date:** April-27-15 5:11 PM  
**To:** "Algonquin, Cottages (MNRF)" <AlgonquinCo@ontario.ca>  
**Attach:** MNRF - Notice of Completion - Record of Category B Project Evaluation - April 27 2015.pdf  
**Subject:** Algonquin Provincial Park: Notice of Completion for a Category B Project Evaluation

**RE: Notice of Completion for a Category B Project Evaluation (Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves)**

**Project Proposal - *Renewal of Existing Disposition: Extending the Term of Occupation for Existing Cottage Lots in Algonquin Provincial Park***

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Ontario Parks, would like to inform you that the project evaluation for a proposal to extend the term of occupation for existing cottage lots in Algonquin Provincial Park from the current expiry of December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2038 (21 years) has been completed.

Please see attached 'Notice of Completion' for a Category B Project Evaluation. The Notice contains a brief summary of the proposed project, including how to submit comments and opportunities to inspect the project file.

**Jim Murphy | Park Planner**

Algonquin Zone | Ontario Parks | Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
451 Arrowhead Park Road, Huntsville, ON P1H 2J4  
Tel: 705-789-1770  
Email: [jim.m.murphy@ontario.ca](mailto:jim.m.murphy@ontario.ca)



**ONTARIO  
PARKS**

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28/04/2015

Renewal of Existing Disposition: Extending the Term of Occupation for Existing  
Cottage Lots in Algonquin Provincial Park

**Notice of Completion for a Category B Project Evaluation**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Ontario Parks has completed a project evaluation for a proposal to extend the term of occupation for existing cottage lots in Algonquin Provincial Park from the current expiry of December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2038 (21 years).

A Category B project evaluation and consultation process was carried out in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA), and it identified no significant net negative environmental effects associated with extending the term of occupation for existing cottage lots in Algonquin Provincial Park. Potential negative environmental effects associated with the proposed project would be mitigated by limiting certain activities carried out on the cottage lots. In addition, the MNRF would proceed with development and implementation of an ecological monitoring plan to monitor the aquatic and terrestrial health of the ecosystems in the vicinity of cottage development. The monitoring plan will assess the effectiveness of implementation and mitigation measures. The plan would also identify compliance monitoring objectives to assess whether tenure conditions are being met.

For further information on the proposed project, to submit comments or to inspect the project file during regular office hours, please contact:

Jim Murphy, Park Planner  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Parks, Algonquin Zone  
451 Arrowhead Park Road, Huntsville, ON P1H 2J4  
Tel: (705) 789-1770 Fax: (705) 789-5948  
Email: [AlgonquinCo@ontario.ca](mailto:AlgonquinCo@ontario.ca)

If there are concerns about this proposed project that cannot be resolved in discussion with MNRF, interested persons, government agencies or Aboriginal communities may request that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change issue a Part II Order requiring an individual environmental assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). For information on what a Part II Order request should contain, consult the Class EA. Requests must be received by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change within the 30-day comment period, which expires on May 29, 2015, and copied at the same time to MNRF at the above address. The address of the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change is: Ferguson Block, 11th Floor, 77 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, ON, M7A 2T5.

If no request for an individual environmental assessment is received within the 30-day period, or if a request is successfully resolved, MNRF may proceed to complete the Category B process under the Class EA by preparing a Statement of Completion for the proposed project. However, please note that MNRF would not proceed with implementation of the proposed project unless any required changes are first made to relevant MNRF policies and regulations under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*.

*Please note that all personal information included in a Part II Order request submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location of requester– is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the EAA or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s. 37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). Personal information that is submitted will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless a request is made that personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the MOECC's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at (416) 327-1434.*

**Head, Clara, Maria - M. Reith**

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**From:** "AMO Communications" <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Date:** April-27-15 4:03 PM  
**To:** <twpshcm@xplornet.com>  
**Subject:** AMO BREAKING NEWS - AMO Releases Policing Modernization Report

April 27, 2015

## AMO Releases Policing Modernization Report

Today the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) provided the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Honourable Yasir Naqvi, with a Report on Policing Modernization. The Report contains 34 recommendations centred on providing ideas and a vision for the future of how this critical public service can be delivered.

AMO established a Task Force of Mayors and Police Board representatives from across the province to explore key questions about policing. The Task Force interviewed experts, reviewed some of the best academic research available, sent representatives to the 2015 Summit on the Economics of Policing and Community Safety in Ottawa and had thorough discussions on specific issues.

This process was been driven by the undeniable need to ensure that all Ontario communities can afford policing, along with all the other public programs and services that keep people not only safe but healthy. The Task Force explored fundamental questions that every society should ask from time to time: How do we want to be policed? How can we improve on what we do now? What can we in Ontario do to build a public safety model our children can afford?

AMO's recommendations fall into four key themes: **Partnership, Productivity, Performance, and Personnel**. For the most part, change strategies fall into two broad categories: managing public demand for services and increasing operational effectiveness.

Municipal governments are encouraged to consider the Report's findings. AMO President Gary McNamara and the Association look forward to continuing to work with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, police officers and their associations in the pursuit of building a new public safety model in Ontario.

President McNamara thanks Task Force Chair Al Spacek, the Mayor of Kapuskasing and the Task Force members for their time, insight and effort in delivering this critical Report.

**AMO Contact:** Matthew Wilson, Senior Advisor, E-mail: [mwilson@amo.on.ca](mailto:mwilson@amo.on.ca), 416.971.9856 ext. 323.

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28/04/2015



Ministry of Community Safety  
and Correctional Services

Ministère de la Sécurité  
communautaire et des Services  
correctionnels



Office of the Fire Marshal  
and Emergency Management

Bureau du commissaire des incendies  
et de la gestion des situations d'urgence

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Télécopieur : 647 329-1143

December 17, 2014

Dear Mayor in Council:

This letter is a follow-up to prior letters sent to you or the previous Mayor in Council on February 12, 2014, and June 17, 2014, respectively.

Effective January 1, 2014, Ontario became the first province to enact a series of regulatory changes intended to improve fire safety in vulnerable occupancies. Although the requirement for owners of these occupancies to retroactively install automatic sprinklers received the majority of the media coverage, a number of additional regulatory changes were enacted that impose requirements on municipalities and Chief Fire Officials. I would like to clarify what this means for municipalities like yours:

- Three years to complete mandatory training for all Chief Fire Officials responsible for approving facility fire safety plans (**New; deadline is January 1, 2017**);
- Observation of annual fire drills based on approved scenario (**New and in effect as of January 1, 2014; first fire drill to be completed by December 31, 2014**);
- Annual fire safety inspections conducted by the Chief Fire Official, based on a standardized checklist (**New and in effect as of January 1, 2014; first inspection to be completed by December 31, 2014**);
- Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies (**New and in effect as of January 1, 2014; entering information about facilities to be completed by December 31, 2014**).

The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) committed to provide support to municipalities through advice, assistance and training. The following are a list of items demonstrating how the OFMEM kept this commitment.

**1. Training program/course acceptable to the Fire Marshal**

To meet the requirements for this mandatory training, Chief Fire Officials must complete a training program/course, acceptable to the Fire Marshal, no later than December 31, 2016. The course became available on line effective April 30, 2014. In addition, traditional class room courses commenced in the fall of 2014.

**2. Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies**

As part of the new regulatory requirements, the fire department is mandated to enter specific information about vulnerable occupancies within their municipality into the OFMEM Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies following the completion of the mandatory inspection. The OFMEM has commenced the Registry and municipal fire departments have begun populating the registry.

**3. Training for Municipal Fire Departments**

The OFMEM completed both webinars and forty two (42) full day training sessions across the province; these training opportunities were attended by over 1400 fire service personnel.

## **Committed to Working Together**

The regulatory changes, incorporating a balanced approach of enhanced inspections, training and fire code retrofits, will help reduce the probability and consequence of fire on occupants and property as well as decrease the risks encountered by firefighters who are called to respond to fire emergencies in these occupancies. The value of these fire safety enhancements have already been demonstrated through recent fire incidents in which all residents were safely evacuated, that occurred in municipalities where the fire department had already undertaken the mandatory inspections and observation of fire drills.

It remains the responsibility of facility owners and operators in all municipalities to ensure their buildings are in full compliance with the changes to Ontario fire safety regulations. Similarly, it remains the responsibility of municipalities and Chief Fire Officials to ensure they are in full compliance with the new Regulations and Fire Marshal Directives.

The OFMEM continues to support municipalities and Chief Fire Officials by providing advice and assistance, training and ongoing communication regarding prescribed timelines to help municipalities and Chief Fire Officials to be in compliance with the law.

The OFMEM is commencing a monitoring program in January, 2015 to confirm and validate the status of compliance of municipalities and Chief Fire Officials with the new regulations and Fire Marshal directives. I have delegated the Field and Advisory Section of the OFMEM this responsibility. If you have any questions regarding the monitoring process, they can be directed to Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal Pierre Yelle, who can be reached by e-mail at [Pierre.Yelle@ontario.ca](mailto:Pierre.Yelle@ontario.ca) or by telephone at (705) 725-1825.

To learn more about the work that has been accomplished to date and regulatory responsibilities, visit the OFMEM Web site portal for care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies and retirement homes, or contact the OFMEM at (647) 329-1100.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter. We all have a role and duty to play in keeping seniors and vulnerable Ontarians fire safe.

Sincerely,



Tadeusz (Ted) Wieclawek  
Ontario Fire Marshal and Chief of Emergency Management

CC: All Ontario Fire Chiefs  
Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Jim Jessop, Director, Field and Advisory Services / Deputy Fire Marshal, OFMEM  
Al Suleman, Director, Prevention and Risk Management, OFMEM  
Barney Owens, Director, Response, OFMEM  
Mary Prencipe, Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal, Technical Services, OFMEM  
Pierre Yelle, Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Protection Services, OFMEM  
Chris Williams, Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Investigation Services, OFMEM

**Head, Clara, Maria - M. Reith**

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**From:** "AMO Communications" <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Date:** May-05-15 5:00 PM  
**To:** <twpshcm@xplornet.com>  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Province Releases SAMS Report

May 5, 2015

## Province Releases SAMS Report

Since its implementation in November 2015, the provincial Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) has proved problematic for municipal governments and District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) in delivering social assistance benefits. Several months into the implementation of the new system, the Ministry of Community and Social Services announced plans to commission an independent, third party advisor to assess the Ministry's response to SAMS and to provide recommendations on go-forward actions to return the system to a steady state of operations. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) was selected as the advisor.

Minister Helena Jaczek committed to publicly disseminate the final report of the advisor. It is now posted on the Ministry website: [Final Report on Social Assistance Management System \(SAMS\)](#).

In the report, the advisor noted that municipalities and DSSABs "actively responded to the challenges associated with SAMS while maintaining a strong focus on client service delivery". Further, PwC noted that in "many cases, front line staff have placed their client needs ahead of their own and have taken actions to reduce the impact of SAMS on service delivery".

The advisor made 19 recommendations on go-forward actions that the Ministry should take. Recommendations were made in the areas of:

- planning and governance
- change management and stakeholder engagement
- technology
- process.

The recommendations include that the Ministry should appoint a provincial Program Manager, establish an integrated transition plan, and work more with municipal and DSSAB partners to return to a steady state of business operations.

The government has not yet stated how it will proceed from this point given the recommendations. However, it is expected that AMO and other municipal sector organizations will be engaged in the discussions going forward.

AMO's position is that the government must expend the necessary resources to fix the problems associated with the implementation of SAMS and continue to reimburse municipalities and DSSABs for all ongoing costs until all short and long-term problems are resolved. The advisor's report and recommendations are silent on the issue of reimbursement of costs to municipalities and DSSABs.

AMO will continue to monitor the situation and work with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) in order to assess the ongoing impacts of SAMS on social assistance operations.

To view previous correspondence from AMO's President to the Minister concerning SAMS, please see:

06/05/2015

Letter dated April 1, 2015 [Minister of Community and Social Services re: SAMS April 1, 2015](#)

Letter dated March 16, 2015 [Minister of Community and Social Services re: SAMS March 16, 2015](#)

Letter dated February 5, 2015 [Minister of Community and Social Services re: SAMS February 5, 2015](#)

**AMO Contact:** Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, E-mail: [mjacek@amo.on.ca](mailto:mjacek@amo.on.ca), 416.971.9856 ext. 329.

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8

Sylvia Jones, MPP  
Dufferin-Caledon

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1-800-265-1603  
E-mail: [sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org)

March 2015

RECEIVED  
APR 08 2015

Reeve Jim Gibson and Council  
Townships of Head, Clara and Maria  
15 Township Hall Road  
Stonecliffe, ON K0J 2K0

Dear Reeve Gibson and Councillors:

I wanted to let you know that my private member's bill, Bill 36 the *Respecting Private Property Act* passed second reading in the Legislature with all-party support. It has been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy for public consultation.

Bill 36 has received support from residents and a wide range of stakeholders, including the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

If enacted, Bill 36 would amend the *Trespass to Property Act* by creating a minimum fine of \$500 for trespassing and increase the maximum compensation for damages to \$25,000. Currently the *Trespass to Property Act* has no minimum fine for those who trespass, and has a maximum limit of \$1,000 on compensation for damages.

Bill 36 would ensure property owners are fairly compensated for destruction of their property, and signal that trespassing is a serious issue that will not be taken lightly in the justice system.

I would like to hear your thoughts on Bill 36 the *Respecting Private Property Act* and would appreciate your support. If you are interested in reviewing the bill and have any questions please visit [www.sylviajonesmpp.ca](http://www.sylviajonesmpp.ca) or call 416-325-1898.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Jones, MPP  
Dufferin-Caledon

Encl:





9

Lisa Thompson, MPP  
Huron-Bruce

RECEIVED  
APR 08 2015

Queen's Park Office:  
Room 430, Legislative Building  
Toronto, ON M7A1A8

Tel. (416) 325-3467  
Fax (416) 325-3490  
E-mail: [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org)

March 27, 2015

RE: *Bill 66: Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015*

Dear Mayor and Members of Municipal Council:

I am writing to you today with regard to *Bill 66: Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015*. The stated purpose of the bill is "protect and restore the ecological health of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin" and "to create opportunities for individuals and communities to become involved in the protection and restoration of the ecological health of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin."

It goes without saying that the Ontario PC caucus is fully supportive of improving and protecting our Great Lakes eco-systems. However, Bill 66 has raised questions with regard to the duplication of governance, the absence of funding to implement initiatives, uncertainty surrounding stakeholder representation at meetings of the Guardians' Council and the potential for further erosion in the power of local planning authorities and municipalities.

As you consider the impact of Bill 66 I would encourage you to apply the Rural and Northern Lens created by the AMO Northern & Rural Working Group. The lens is meant to be employed by provincial ministries to assess the impacts of new policy initiatives or changes in existing programs before they are implemented. I have attached a copy of ROMA's rural lens for your reference. I have also included a map that shows that 105 out of 107 ridings across Ontario are affected by the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Basin Watershed.

As Bill 66 progresses I invite you to submit your feedback so that I can bring your views on Bill 66 forward during debate and committee hearings.

Please visit [www.bill66feedback.ca](http://www.bill66feedback.ca) to find a copy of the bill and to submit your amendments, concerns and suggestions. I encourage you to share this with your council and colleagues as well.

I look forward to hearing from you.

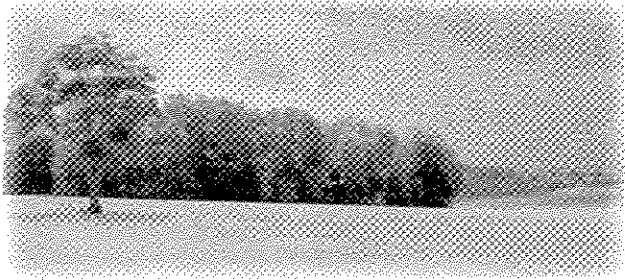
Sincerely,

Lisa Thompson, MPP  
Huron-Bruce



# The Rural and Northern Lens: A Dozen Questions

*For Rural and Northern Ontario does the proposed initiative:*



1. Benefit or hinder the fiscal realities of Rural and Northern Ontario?

2. Have a business case that accounts for low and sparse populations?

3. Enhance opportunities in Rural and Northern Ontario?

4. Help or hinder goals of sustainability blending environmental, social and economic factors?
5. Consider how and if rural people will be able to access it?
6. Consider all options for delivery, ensuring efficiency, the potential for co-delivery and an acceptable administrative impact on municipalities?
7. Account for the needs of special populations (such as youth, elderly and immigrants)?
8. Have adequate human and financial resources to be effective?
9. Ensure that Rural and Northern communities are receiving equitable treatment or services relative to others in the province?
10. Recognize the geography, weather and scale of Rural and Northern Ontario and include adjusted program criteria to accommodate these realities?
11. Accommodate the aspirations of residents from rural communities and the north?
12. Build upon the input and advice of rural residents, communities and municipalities?



# The Rural and Northern Lens

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) is committed to the betterment of Rural and Northern Ontario. ROMA acts as the rural municipal voice in Ontario when considering and responding to proposed legislation while proactively working with the Government on solutions. ROMA takes pride in promoting, supporting and enhancing strong and effective rural governments.

The ROMA discussion paper - A Voice for Rural and Northern Ontario, serves as a reference point for future provincial policy development and implementation. The paper reflects the interests of rural and northern municipal governments in order to call attention to their communities' needs and requirements so they can thrive and succeed.

The paper provides a "lens" by which policy can be questioned, evaluated and decided upon.

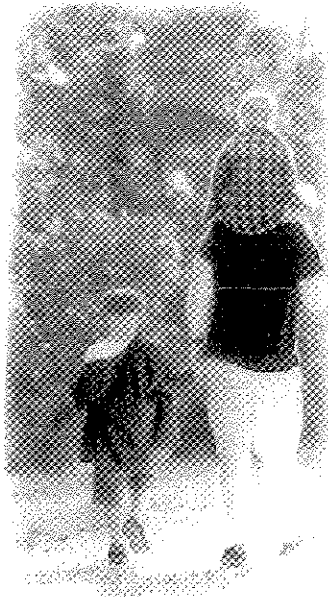
The "Rural Lens" brings focus to the potential impacts of proposed policy, decisions and new actions on rural municipalities. It helps to ensure that questions are asked in a structured, objective and consistent manner. It helps to assess impacts in advance of decisions. It promotes education and understanding of issues by staff and elected officials at all levels of government.

ROMA requests that the Province filter all policy decisions and legislation through this lens to help ensure that rural and northern communities thrive and succeed. The Lens will also be used by ROMA and is provided to rural municipalities for their use.





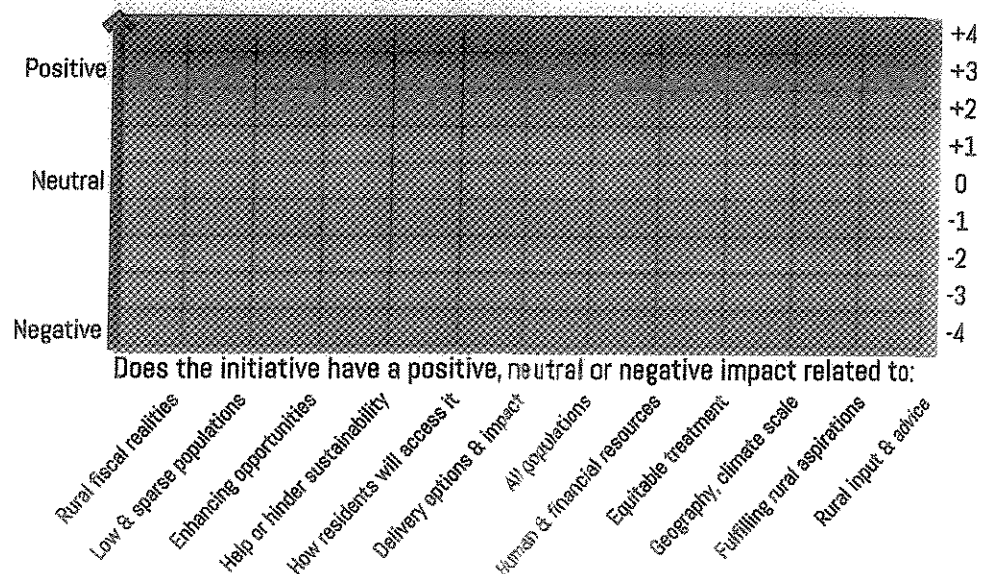
# The Rural and Northern Lens: A Way Forward



At the end of the day the rural and northern lens is about people. It is about the livelihoods of nearly 2 million people who call rural and northern communities their home. It is about the communities these people live within, their jobs, their built and natural environment, the services they receive and the quality of their lives.

The Rural and Northern Lens provides us with an invitation. An invitation to all levels of government to do better with what they have and to ensure that the needs and requirements of rural and northern residents are met so that they may thrive and succeed. The Lens is particularly important for the provincial government. Various ministries must accommodate the needs of a large and urbanizing province and it is critical to ensure that Rural and Northern needs are not lost in the development of policy. This Lens can help.

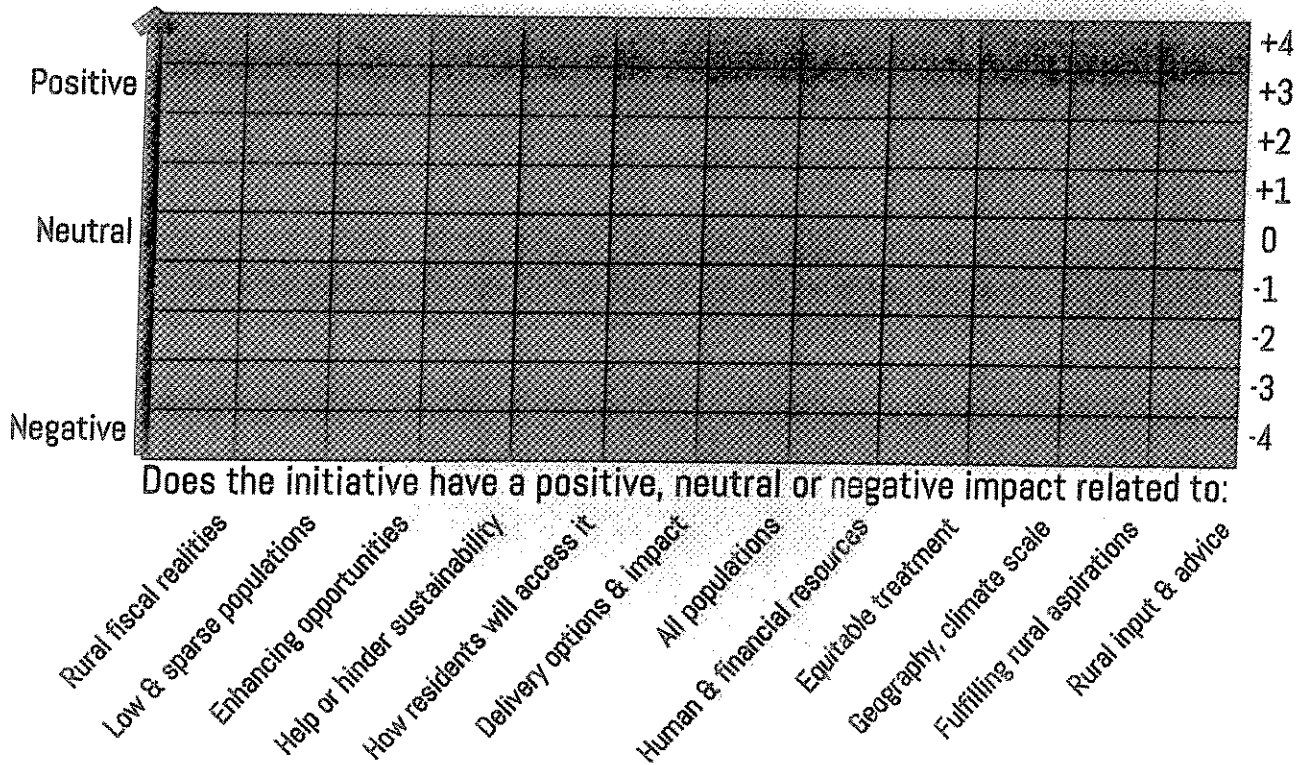
It is a tool culminating in the sample chart below. It provides a quick visual representation of the positive and negative impacts of public initiatives. The need is obvious.

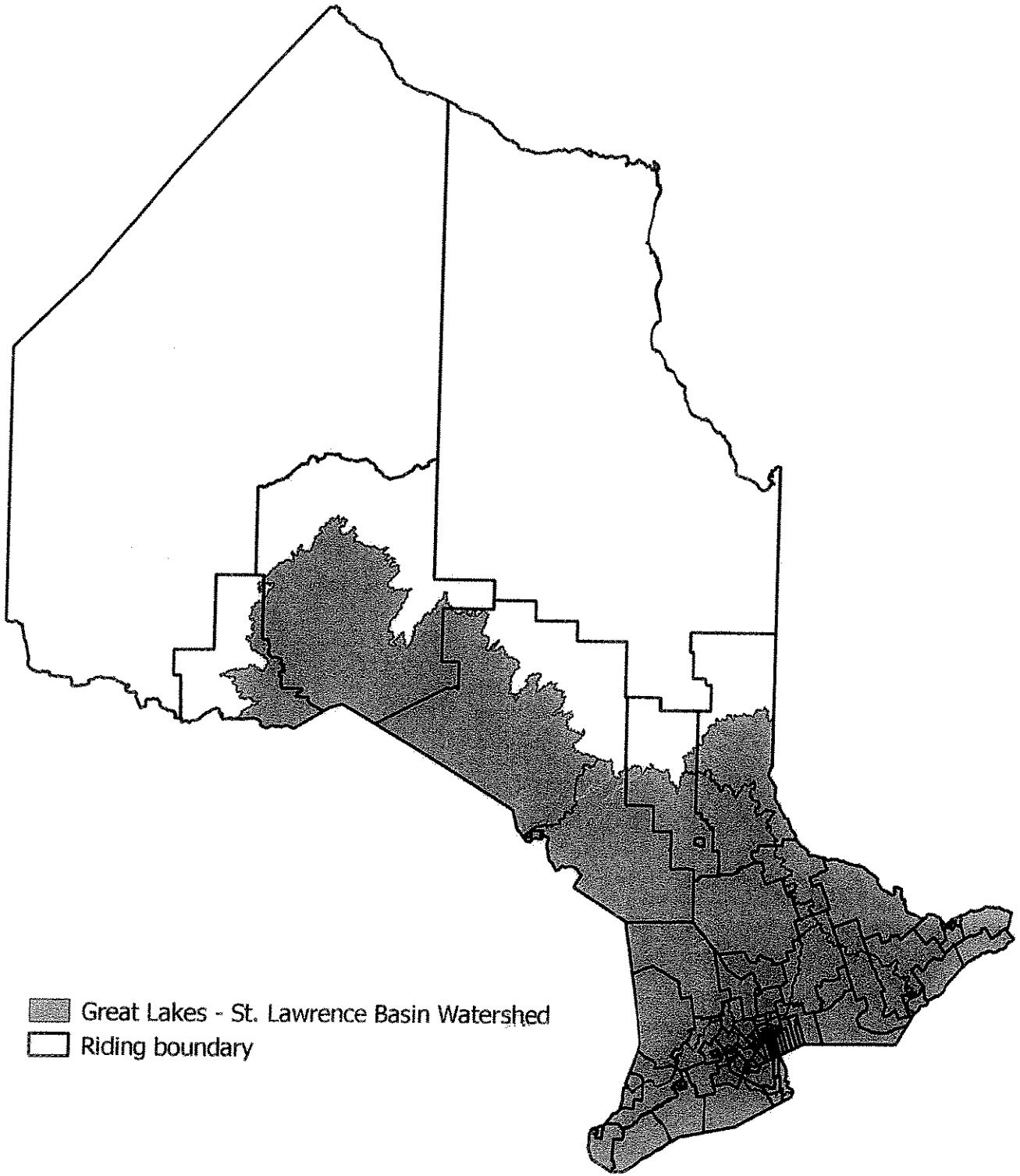


# Using the Lens:

Respond to the 12 questions.

Score your response as Positive, Neutral or Negative, using the +4 to -4 scoring system.





Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Basin Watershed  
Riding boundary

10



HUMAN RESOURCES  
LAW AND ADVOCACY

FTR  
NOW



APRIL 13, 2015

## HRTO CLARIFIES THE SCOPE OF EMPLOYER AND SERVICE PROVIDER CODE OBLIGATIONS

BY: JULIA M. NANOS

Two recent decisions from the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario (“HRTO”) provide helpful guidance on the scope of employer and service provider obligations under the *Human Rights Code* (“Code”), including the proper scope of the duty to accommodate and the question of who may bring a Code application.

In this *FTR Now*, we review these decisions and their practical implications for employers and service providers.

### THE CODE DOES NOT REQUIRE CHANGES TO EMPLOYEES’ ESSENTIAL DUTIES

In the recent decision *Pourasadi v. Bentley Leathers*, argued by Hicks Morley’s Jodi Gallagher Healy, the HRTO clarified that the duty to accommodate under the Code does not require employers to change the essential duties of their employees’ jobs.

In this case, the Applicant served as a Store Manager at a Bentley Leathers’ (“Bentley”) retail store in Thornhill, Ontario. Approximately 65-70% of her job included sales and customer service work. The remaining 30-35% involved duties such as merchandising, display, housekeeping, and operational matters such as employee training and development.

A number of years after becoming employed with Bentley, the Applicant suffered a work-related injury for which she received WSIB benefits. As a result of this incident, the Applicant suffered from restrictions that prevented her from performing certain duties required by her job, including assisting customers. Notwithstanding her injury and ongoing restrictions, the Applicant was able to continue working full-time due to the accommodations that Bentley gratuitously provided, including scheduling a second employee to

work with the Applicant for a number of years. Eventually, Bentley determined that it could no longer offer these modified duties to the Applicant, and further that no other accommodations were available to enable her continued employment with Bentley. The Applicant was therefore referred to a WSIB work-transition program, and her employment with Bentley was terminated.

The Applicant took the position that Bentley failed to accommodate her workplace injury, and therefore that her termination from employment violated the *Code*. While the Applicant conceded early that the *Code* did not require Bentley to schedule a second employee in the store to perform her duties, at the hearing, she asserted that Bentley ought to have allowed her to: (a) defer certain of her duties and responsibilities to other employees; and (b) require customers who need assistance to return to the store at another time to be assisted by other Bentley employees.

The HRTO reviewed the scope of Bentley's duty to accommodate the Applicant's workplace injury. Referencing the Supreme Court of Canada's seminal decision in *Hydro-Quebec*, the HRTO noted at paragraph 28 that,

"[T]he duty to accommodate may require arranging an employee's workplace in a way that enables the employee to perform the essential duties of his or her work. **However, it does not require permanently changing the essential duties of a position or permanently assigning the essential duties of a position to other employees. The duty to accommodate also does not require exempting employees from the essential duties of their position**"  
[emphasis added].

The HRTO held that it was an essential duty of the Store Manager position that the Applicant be able to assist customers, and that she be able to do so whenever such assistance was required. Notwithstanding that the Applicant may have been able to assist customers "most of the time," the Applicant could not assist customers whenever there was a need for it. Therefore, she could not perform the essential duties of her position.

The HRTO held that the accommodations requested by the Applicant would not have enabled her to perform the essential duties of her job. Instead, the Applicant was seeking to be exempted from performing the essential duties of the Store Manager position, which the HRTO confirmed is not required by the *Code*. More specifically, the HRTO confirmed that the duty to

accommodate did not require that Bentley permit the Applicant to tell customers that, if they needed assistance outside of her restrictions, they must return to the store at another time to be assisted by other Bentley employees.

#### STANDING TO COMMENCE A HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION

In order to have standing to commence a human rights application under the *Code*, an individual's *Code* rights must be impacted by the alleged discriminatory conduct. While in most cases an individual's standing to commence an application will be apparent on the face of the application itself, in other cases it may be less obvious. Recently, the HRTO released an important decision clarifying what is required in order to have standing to commence an application under the *Code*.

The case, *R.C. v. District School Board of Niagara and Eden High School Spiritual Life Centre*, concerned the activities of the District School Board of Niagara (the "Board"), and in particular those applicable to Eden High School ("Eden"), a public school operated by Board. The Applicant, an adherent of Secular Humanism, was a parent of a student who attended another high school operated by the Board (i.e. not Eden).

The Applicant asserted that, by "showing a preference for Protestant Christianity," the Board violated his right under section 1 of the *Code* to be free from discrimination on the basis of creed with respect to the provision of services. More specifically, the Applicant alleged that the Board violated the *Code* by: (1) operating Eden, which he alleged was perceived by many in the community to be a Christian school; (2) allowing students at Eden to participate in extra-curricular activities of a religious nature; and (3) organizing student "home builds" with the charity Habitat for Humanity.

At the hearing, the Board (represented by Hicks Morley's Michael Hines), argued that the Applicant lacked standing to commence an application under the *Code* because his personal rights were not affected by the conduct complained of in the Application. The Applicant did not himself attend Eden, nor did his child.

As a result, neither were exposed to any form of discrimination on the basis of creed. Importantly, neither the Applicant nor his child ever made a request that comparable Secular Humanist services be made available for students either at Eden or at the school attended by the Applicant's child. Since there was no denial of services, the Board asserted that the Applicant and his child suffered no disadvantage as a result of the manner in which the Board



operated Eden. In any event, the Applicant did not seek to bring the Application on his child's behalf.

The HRTO agreed with the Board, and held that the Applicant's rights under section 1 of the *Code* were not engaged by the conduct alleged to be discriminatory in the Application. As the Applicant had no "direct personal legal interest" in the operation of Eden or the Board's partnership with Habitat for Humanity, he lacked the legal standing required to commence an application under the *Code*. In order to have standing to bring an application, an individual's personal rights under the *Code*, or the rights of the individual(s) on whose behalf the Application is commenced, must be engaged by the allegedly discriminatory conduct. The *Code* does not grant "public interest standing." As the HRTO explained at paragraph 34 of its decision:

"Whether the applicant characterizes himself as a 'taxpayer' or a 'citizen' or a 'member of the community' is in my view of no moment. **The *Code* permits individuals to enforce their own rights, not to complain about matters occurring in their communities that do not involve them.** In any event, [...] being a 'citizen, resident or taxpayer' does not convey private interest standing on an individual" [emphasis added].

Importantly, the Board also provided clarity on the issue of perception. The Board found that the Applicant's "perception" that the Board had engaged in inappropriate activities was not a proper basis upon which to determine standing. While the *Code* protects against discriminatory treatment, it does not protect against perceptions of discriminatory treatment, which may or may not be accurate. In order to have standing to bring an application under the *Code*, an Applicant must be able to demonstrate that his or her own rights under the *Code* were personally impacted by actual conduct allegedly perpetrated by the respondents.

The Applicant in this case did not make allegations of improper conduct by the Board that impacted his own *Code* rights, and so his Application was dismissed by the HRTO.

#### IMPLICATIONS

The HRTO has provided helpful guidance to employers and service providers in determining the proper scope of their duties under the *Code*, including

their duty to accommodate. It has also clarified that the scope of the *Code's* protection in terms of who may properly commence an application alleging discriminatory conduct. Employers and service providers are reminded that their duties under the *Code* are not endless, but rather are limited with respect to both content or application.

For further information on these decisions, please contact Julia Nanos at 416.864.7341 or your regular Hicks Morley lawyer.

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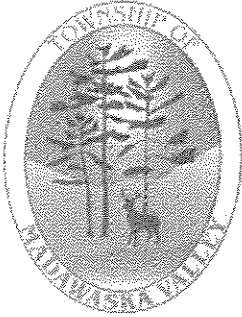
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W



THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF MADAWASKA VALLEY

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E-MAIL - info@madawaskavalley.ca.

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Dear Municipal Leader,

The Township of Madawaska Valley recognizes the struggle that many of its ratepayers in our rural area are experiencing with rising hydro rates and feels that, as a collective of municipalities, we must let our voices be heard to the Province. Similar to many municipalities across Ontario, we have an aging community, many on a fixed income, who have a decreasing ability to make ends meet. Similarly, industrial and commercial growth in rural Ontario is becoming increasingly difficult because of rising hydro rates; it is preventing younger families from relocating to our communities to help them grow. To that end, the Council of the Township of Madawaska Valley, at their March 23, 2015 regular meeting of council, passed the following resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Bromwich 14-2303-15  
Seconded by: Councillor Archer 23 March 2015

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

**WHEREAS** the cost of hydro has doubled and in some cases more than doubled in the past five years; and

**WHEREAS** the costs of electricity in the Province of Ontario is forcing businesses to consider leaving the area; and

**WHEREAS** many families are having difficulty keeping up with their monthly payments; and

**WHEREAS** the Province's Long Term Energy Plan anticipates that consumers will face hydro rates that will rise by 42% over the next five (5) years; and

**WHEREAS** it is essential that the residents and businesses of the Madawaska Valley to have access to affordable hydro to thrive and prosper; and

**WHEREAS** Council urges Provincial relief to Ontario Hydro One Customers to reflect the means of rural residents to reasonably access hydro through a review of Provincial policies and their agencies that set Ontario rates for electricity, distribution charges, debt retirement, global adjustments costs and carbon taxes. Council requests, that this review would include consultation with rural and urban municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** Council reminds Rural municipalities to advocate the investigation by the Ontario Ombudsman regarding the major systemic issues identified by complaints involving overcharging of hydro, an explanation of line items on billing and, resolve of related matters; and

**WHEREAS** it is imperative that the Province of Ontario review their energy policies and utilize The Rural and Northern Lens advocated by the Rural Ontario Municipal Association to evaluate and assess the needs of rural municipalities so that they can succeed and thrive. Many rural municipalities have a population of 50% or more seniors on fixed incomes who are struggling to keep warm in low population density communities with colder temperatures that do not benefit from the heat retention in

condominium residences and whom are challenged by geography and climate scales. Our core sectors of economic development in our region, lumber mills and farming, are often under-employed and are subject to rates that are higher than other provinces due to impact of high delivery charges and global adjustment fees (that can be up to 2.5 times higher than the actual hydro used) and threaten the sustainability of families and agro-food sectors in rural Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** all municipalities that have a significant amount of citizens moving into the seasonal residences, that they are encouraged to inform those residents to seek relief from seasonal hydro rates through direct communication of such to their electrical utility provider;

**WHEREAS** all municipalities should be encouraged to monitor, through specific data categories, smart meter electrical fires and/or smart meter malfunctions that have resulted in explosions, and further to better assess their impact and the potential need of CSA approved meters employing codes and standards used globally by regulators and industry to facilitate safer and more sustainable products.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Madawaska Valley CALL ON Premier Wynne and the Province of Ontario to take immediate action to prevent these and any other rate increase from being implemented; and

**THAT** Premier Wynne and the Province of Ontario be encouraged to do something to bring these rates down to a reasonable level and to do so as quickly as possible; and

**THAT** this motion be circulated to all Ontario municipalities for support.

The Township of Madawaska Valley is a smaller municipality, in the western quadrant of Renfrew County with approximately 4300 permanent residents, with a larger summer population. For more information on our municipality, please visit us online at [www.madawaskavalley.ca](http://www.madawaskavalley.ca).

Like many rural Ontario municipalities, we are faced with increasing adversity to growth. It is the Council's desire to show support for the Township's homeowners by passing this resolution and asking for immediate relief from the Province.

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Madawaska Valley, please endorse our resolution and send it to the appropriate representatives at Queen's Park.

Sincerely,



Kim Love

Mayor, Township of Madawaska Valley

cc.

Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Province of Ontario

MPP John Yakabuski, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Peter Emon, Warden, County of Renfrew

**Head, Clara, Maria - M. Reith**

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**From:** "Hardeman, Ernie" <ernie.hardeman@pc.ola.org>  
**Date:** April-14-15 5:26 PM  
**To:** <twpshcm@xplornet.com>  
**Subject:** Update on Housing Services Corporation Accountability Act

I'm writing to update you on my private members bill, the *Housing Services Corporation Accountability Act*, which would save municipalities money on social housing by allowing them to buy natural gas and insurance at the best price.

On Thursday afternoon this bill will be coming forward for second reading debate in the Legislature.

I appreciate all the support that municipal leaders have provided for this bill – through emails, letters and resolutions.

As you know Bill 74, the *Housing Services Accountability Act*, will allow housing providers purchase natural gas at the best price – whether that is directly, jointly with their municipality, through Local Authority Services or Housing Services Corporation (HSC). Currently it is mandatory for providers to purchase the gas through HSC even if the cost is higher.

Bill 74 would also ensure housing providers have the opportunity to get the best price on insurance. Currently some housing providers who purchase equal or better insurance at a lower price are required to pay HSC a fee equal to 2.5% of the premium for the ability to do so. Bill 74 would eliminate the need to pay this fee.

The *Housing Services Corporation Accountability Act* would also give the provincial Auditor the authority to audit HSC to ensure that affordable housing dollars are spent wisely and require HSC to report salaries on the sunshine list as municipal and provincial governments do. Since I introduced this bill additional questions about spending at HSC have come to light including more international travel and money invested in a shell corporation in Manchester, England.

I will continue to update on the progress of the *Housing Services Corporation Accountability Act*. I would appreciate your support as we continue to move forward.

If you have any questions or would like to attend the debate on Thursday afternoon please feel free to contact me.

Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford  
PC Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Ontario  
Provincial  
Police**      **Police  
provinciale  
de l'Ontario**



**Communications and Technology Services  
Bureau**  
Bureau de gestion de communication et technologie

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File Number/Référence:

(705) 329-6177  
(705) 329-6176  
GOV 3750 00

April 13, 2015

Dear Mayor / Reeve,

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) introduced Citizen Self Reporting (CSR), an internet-based reporting system, as an alternate means of reporting non-emergency incidents to police from the traditional phone call to a Communications Centre. Utilizing this system is completely optional and has been introduced as a simple and convenient method to use a computer or mobile device to report specific incidents that are not deemed to be an emergency, or where there are no suspects or no injuries involved.

Since the program was implemented, the OPP has received hundreds of online reports from citizens across Ontario. With this information, police have been able to use these online reports to make linkages to property crime investigations, some of which have led to the arrest and charging of suspect(s).

The OPP is constantly looking for ways to improve efficiencies and increase public safety and we are confident that online reporting has greater potential moving forward now that citizens can report non-emergency incidents anywhere, anytime.

The OPP are collaborating with our municipal partners to promote and support Citizen Self Reporting throughout the province. Citizen Self Reporting will be instrumental in allowing members of the public to report less serious occurrences on their own time. As members of the public engage the Citizen Self Reporting system more frequently, it will permit valuable front line resources to be focused on more serious crimes and community based projects.

Municipalities can assist in supporting this system by posting the enclosed web information on your municipal website. The following link will take you directly to the CSR website:  
<http://www.opp.ca/reporting/>

Community safety and well-being in Ontario is everyone's responsibility. Your ongoing support will make a difference.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Barnum", written over a horizontal line.

R. W. (Rick) Barnum, Chief Superintendent  
Bureau Commander  
Communications and Technology Services Bureau  
Ontario Provincial Police



## **Head, Clara, Maria - M. Reith**

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**From:** "AMO Communications" <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Date:** April-16-15 5:28 PM  
**To:** <twpshcm@xplornet.com>  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Premier's Advisory Council on Government Assets Reports

April 16, 2015

### **Release of Premier's Advisory Council on Government Assets Reports**

Today Ed Clark spoke to two reports coming out of the Premier's Council, *Improving Performance and Unlocking Value in the Electricity Sector in Ontario*, and *Modernizing Beer Retailing and Distribution in Ontario*.

The mandate of this panel was to assess certain provincial assets to seek ways to maximize value, including possibly selling these assets, in order to generate money to allocate toward infrastructure investments. Today, the government announced that it would implement the panel's recommendations.

#### **Use of Assets for Infrastructure**

The government intends to introduce legislation that would, if passed, guarantee that net proceeds from the ownership changes to Hydro One and any net proceeds from the merger will go to the Trillium Trust and be used to finance transportation (transit, roads, and bridges) and other priority infrastructure projects across the province.

Higher than anticipated revenues from assets, including GM shares, mean there will be an additional \$2.6 billion for the Moving Ontario Forward plan for a total of \$31.5 billion in dedicated funds available over 10 years. The government has indicated that about \$16 billion will be allocated for infrastructure projects within the GTHA and about \$15 billion in the rest of the province. These amounts are higher than set out in last year's budget (\$1.4 billion for the GTHA and \$1.2 billion for elsewhere in Ontario). Municipal governments will be anxious to see the funds put to work across all of Ontario.

#### **1) Energy Assets**

The report on the electricity sector focuses on extracting one-time capital plus ongoing financial benefits from Hydro One. First, as the result of a mutual agreement, Hydro One Brampton will be merged with three local distribution companies (Enersource Corporation, PowerStream Holdings Inc., and Horizon Holdings Inc.) to create a new large-scale company (MergCo Inc.) serving the central/western portion of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

Second, Hydro One, as an integrated entity (both distribution and transmission) will be subject to partial sale through a phased Initial Public Offering (IPO) process. There are a number of recommendations concerning how to maintain the interests of Ontario in terms of rates, service quality, governance, and impacts to pensions.

A third initiative is to suspend the transfer tax (which was to help pay down stranded debt in the sector) and the departure tax for municipal electricity utilities under 30,000 customers on a three-year basis to encourage and facilitate acquisitions and mergers between Local Distribution Companies.

Clark argues that these steps will protect the public interest, stimulate LDC consolidation, and extract the best ongoing value for these assets.

There is little detail on the recommendation related to strengthening the mandate and powers of the OEB so that upward pressure on rates as a result of these changes in the industry can be managed. As well, the numbers provided in the report are theoretical; the market realities may alter the planned outcomes.

The AMO Energy Task Force will be meeting soon to examine today's announcement in detail and to seek greater clarity around elements of implementation. An update will be provided as further information is available.

## 2) Beer Store

The report outlines a new retail and distribution framework that is part of a negotiated agreement with The Beer Store. Among other matters, the sale of beer will occur in up to 450 grocery stores across the province and in a segregated portion of grocery stores on top of the current outlets. There are other elements of the agreement that focus on consumer convenience, pricing, supplier treatment, and The Beer Store governance.

The current bottle recycling program between The Beer Store and LCBO is being extended, although funded differently. The impact of this change is not expected to change current recycling behaviours. AMO is working with a number of organizations on recycling related issues and will be working to ensure that this change does not result in a greater amount of glass in blue boxes.

Copies of the Premier's Advisory Council Reports are available here:

[Premier's Advisory Council on Government Assets](#)

**AMO Contact:** Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, E-Mail: [Cathiebrown@amo.on.ca](mailto:Cathiebrown@amo.on.ca), 416.971.9856 ext. 342.

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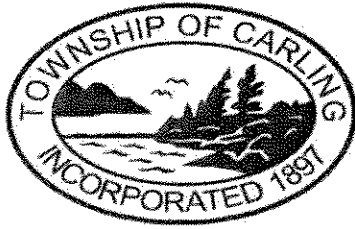
**PLEASE NOTE:** AMO Breaking News will be broadcast to the member municipality's council, administrator, and clerk. Recipients of the AMO broadcasts are free to redistribute the AMO broadcasts to other municipal staff as required. We have decided to not add other staff to these broadcast lists in order to ensure accuracy and efficiency in the management of our various broadcast lists.

**DISCLAIMER:** Any documents attached are final versions. AMO assumes no responsibility for any discrepancies that may have been transmitted with this electronic version. The printed versions of the documents stand as the official record.

**OPT-OUT:** If you wish to opt-out of these email communications from AMO please click [here](#).



15



The Corporation of  
**THE TOWNSHIP of CARLING**

2 West Carling Bay Road, RR #1, Nobel, ON P0G 1G0  
Ina Watkinson, Administrative Assistant  
Email: [iwatkinson@carlingtownship.ca](mailto:iwatkinson@carlingtownship.ca)  
Phone: 705-342-5856 Ext 402 • Fax: 705-342-9527

April 22, 2015

Kim Love, Mayor  
Township of Madawaska Valley  
85 Bay Street, P.O. Box 1000  
Barry's Bay, Ontario  
K0J 1B0

Dear Mayor Love,

**RE: Resolution 15-057 – Ontario Hydro One Rates**

---

This is to advise you that at the regular meeting of Council of the Township of Carling, held on April 20, 2015 the following resolution was enacted:

**15-057**

**Moved by Councillor Crookshank  
Seconded by Councillor Harrison**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council of the Township of Carling support the resolution enacted by The Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley which calls on Premier Wynne and the Province of Ontario to take immediate action to prevent these hydro rate increases from being implemented;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that Premier Wynne and the Province of Ontario be encouraged to do something to bring these rates down to a reasonable level and to do so as quickly as possible;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that this motion be circulated to all Ontario Municipalities for support.

Carried.

Yours truly,

Ina Watkinson  
Administrative Assistant

c.c. Premier Kathleen Wynne  
Parry Sound Muskoka MPP, Norm Miller  
All Ontario Municipalities

16

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**Attach:** OPP Letter.pdf  
**Subject:** OPP Initiatives

The OPP is pleased to announce the expansion of the citizen self-reporting program and the new capacity to receive emergency calls for service via *Text with 911* (T9-1-1) from people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired (DHHSI) and for which the OPP is the Primary Public Safety Answering Point (P-PSAP).

The OPP's *Citizen Self Reporting* is an easy to use internet reporting tool that provides members of the public with the option of reporting minor incidents to police by completing an online report on their computer or mobile device.

Please see the enclosed attachments, including a letter from Communications and Technology Services Bureau Chief Superintendent Rick Barnum and information for your Municipal website on the citizen self-reporting initiative, and the media release on *Text with 911* initiative.

Thank you for your continuous support and collaboration.

Regards,  
R. A. (Rick) Philbin  
Superintendent  
Bureau Commander  
Municipal Policing Bureau  
Ontario Provincial Police





PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2015: MUNICIPAL IMPLICATIONS

Date: April 23, 2015

1. BUDGET AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Click here to access the 2015 Provincial Budget: Building Ontario Up

2. PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2015 PRIORITIES

The Province has a four-part plan to building Ontario that includes:

- Investing in people's training and skills development,
- Building public infrastructure such as roads and transit,
- Creating a positive business environment, and
- Building a secure retirement system.

3. MUNICIPAL HIGHLIGHTS

The budget includes summaries of prior commitments. The summary below is largely intended to identify new initiatives.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- For a summary of existing investment initiatives related to infrastructure see chapter 1, section B of the budget.
- The Province has increased dedicated funding to priority infrastructure projects from \$29.0 billion to \$31.6 billion, an increase of \$2.6 billion (p 420).
- The budget reaffirms the Province's commitment to *Building Together*, a \$100 billion commitment over 10 years (p 38).
- The budget notes that the Province launched its first issue of Green Bonds in October of 2014 (\$500 million). It will continue to build the Green Bond market. The Eglinton Cross Town Light Rail Transit project was the first to be funded by Green Bonds (p 39).
- Inside the GTHA:
  - Metrolinx will continue to plan, design and construct improvements across the GTHA commuter shed under the "Regional Express Rail" (RER) program (p 46).
  - This system will also be the foundation for Toronto's SmartTrack proposal.
  - The budget indicates that some priority projects will require funding from the federal government (p 49).
- In 2015, the Province will consult with regions, communities and the private sector to develop a framework to prioritize and evaluate infrastructure needs based on their

economic, social and environmental returns. The framework will be used to select the next generation of infrastructure projects (p 57).

- The budget identifies other public infrastructure funding commitments and proposals, most of which are not new. These include infrastructure for education, post-secondary institutions, health and social facilities, justice and energy (pp 58-64).

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#### UNLOCKING VALUE IN PROVINCIAL ASSETS

- The 2014 Budget announced that the Province would begin to examine ways to unlock the value in its various assets. A target of \$3.1 billion was set (pp 73-86). This budget increases that target to \$5.7 billion, or an increase of \$2.6 billion. The increase will allow the Province to:
  - Accelerate service enhancements to the GO transit system
  - Launch a new connecting links program to provide funding to municipal roads that connect provincial highways
  - Develop a new program to expand the natural gas network to assist communities in generating jobs and economic growth, and
  - Invest in Metrolinx's Next Wave of transit projects such as the Hurontario-Main Rail Transit project and rapid transit in Hamilton (pp 442-443).
- All proceeds from asset sales or related initiatives will be placed in the Trillium Fund and used to support infrastructure investments under the Moving Ontario program.

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#### PROVINCIAL LAND TAX

- The budget notes that in 2013 there was a provincial commitment to review the provincial land tax (PLT). Significant consultations took place and were summarized in *Provincial Land Tax Review: A Summary of Stakeholder Consultations*, released in December of 2014.
- Proposals in the budget would reduce PLT inequities, beginning in 2015, through a number of "stage 1" initiatives:
  - For residential taxpayers, the PLT rate would be adjusted by \$10 per \$100,000 of assessment in 2015 and an additional \$40 per \$100,000 of assessment in 2016.
  - Businesses in unincorporated lands would make a proportionate contribution, and
  - The minimum per property PLT would be set at \$50 in 2016.
- Measures will be introduced to ensure tax relief for low-income seniors and low-income residents with disabilities (pp 336-339).
- Additional PLT reforms will be forthcoming following a new round of consultations with northern municipalities.

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#### POWER DAMS

- In 2001, power dams became exempt from property taxation. The Power Dam Special Payment Program provides mitigation to municipalities related to the former property tax on power dams.

- The 2014 budget announced reductions in the mitigation program of 25% over three years.
- In the fall of 2014, the Province announced that the planned reduction would be deferred. The province is working with stakeholders and MPAC to strike a balance between revenue predictability for municipalities and stability for ratepayers. The outcome will be communicated before the 2016 tax year.

#### *SPBPAR*

- The 2014 budget announced the Special Purpose Business Property Assessment Review. A final report and recommendations were released in December 2014.
- The objectives of the recommendations were to improve transparency, accuracy and predictability of the assessment system. The province is proposing a first round of changes to achieve this:
  - A new advanced disclosure system for special purpose business properties
  - A next phase that will focus on market factors and analytics that go into the assessment of properties, and
  - A third stage that will result in the release of property specific values in early 2016, well in advance of the roll return (p 340).

#### *SOCIAL SERVICES*

- Social assistance rate increases will take effect in October 2015 for ODSP and November 2015 for Ontario Works. Municipalities will not be required to cost-share the Ontario Works rate increase until January 2016 (p 174).

### **4. OTHER INITIATIVES**

#### *MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES*

- In 2009, the Province announced a permanent exemption from the transfer tax for transfers of electricity utilities within the public sector.
- A municipal electricity utility (MEU) is subject to a 33% tax on assets sold to the private sector.
- The Province proposes time-limited relief from transfer taxes on MEU transfers, including to the private sector.
- Between January 1 2016 and December 31, 2018, the Province will:
  - Reduce the transfer tax from 33% to 22%
  - Exempt MEUs with fewer than 30,000 customers from transfer tax, and
  - Exemption from capital gains arising from the PILs deemed disposition rules (pp 334-335).

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#### FINANCIAL REPORTING

- Through the Transfer Payment Administrative Modernization program the Province will implement a common registration process for all transfer recipients that enables transparency and oversight while resulting in less administrative burdens for transfer partners (p 206).

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#### JOB CREATION

- In January of 2015, the Province launched a 10 year, \$2.5 billion Jobs and Prosperity Fund to partner with business to increase productivity and innovation and to grow Ontario exports.
- The budget will add \$200 million to the Fund and extend eligibility to the province's forestry sector (p 93).

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#### ONTARIO YOUTH JOBS STRATEGY

- The budget increases funding for the Ontario Youth Jobs Strategy by \$250 million over the next two years. This will bring total investment in youth employment programming to approximately \$565 million (p 25).

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#### FORFEITED CORPORATE PROPERTIES

- The Province will introduce new legislation dealing with forfeited corporate properties. The intent of the legislation will be to bring forfeited properties back into productive use more quickly.

### 5. PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

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#### OVERVIEW (P.233)

The Ontario economy is projected to grow at a faster pace than most of its provincial counterparts over the next two years. Lower oil prices, stronger US growth and a more competitively valued Canadian dollar will support stronger growth in Ontario.

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#### INFLATION (P.249)

- The 2.4% Ontario CPI increase from 2013 to 2014 was partly due to higher import prices in response to the declining Canadian dollar.
- Lower fuel prices are expected to help CPI inflation moderate to 1.2% in 2015.
- CPI increases for 2016 – 2018 are projected to return to the 2% long term trend rate.

%	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CPI inflation	1.4	1.0	2.4	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.0

*INTEREST RATES (P. 244)*

- The Bank of Canada lowered the target overnight rate to 0.75% in January citing the decrease was in response to the sharp drop in oil prices and the corresponding risk for Canadian economic growth and inflation.
- Many market participants expected the US Federal Reserve to begin increasing its policy interest rate by mid 2015. Softening global growth, a strong US dollar and weak CPI inflation may delay the announcement.

%	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
3 Mo. Treasury Bill rate	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.6	1.1	N/A	3.4
10 Yr. Canada Bond rate	1.9	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.7	3.8	4.2

Highlighted rates are from 2014 budget

- Both the 3 Month T-bill and 10 Year Canadian bond yields have eased in 2015.
- In 2016 the short term rate is projected to rise slightly higher than 2013-14 and reach 3.4% by 2018
- The longer term rate is expecting to rise steadily from 2016, reaching 4.2% by 2018.

*GDP (P.233)*

The budget projects Ontario GDP to grow 2.7% in 2015 and then moderate to 2.1% by 2018.

%	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Real GDP	1.7	1.3	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.1
Nominal GDP	3.2	2.4	3.6	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.5

- Stronger US growth, lower oil prices and a more competitive Canadian dollar are cited as the reasons for relatively strong GDP growth in the medium term.

*EMPLOYMENT (P. 250)*

Employment growth is expected to average 1.4 % from 2016 through 2018.

%	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Employment Growth	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4

Highlighted rates are from previous budget

- Steady employment gains through 2018 are projected to bring the unemployment rate from 7.3% in 2014 to 6.3% in 2018

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*HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND DEBT (P. 250 – 252)*

- Household income increased by 3.4% in 2014 and is projected to grow on average by 4.2% from 2015 through 2018.
- Debt service cost as a percentage of household disposable income fell to 6.9% in Q4 of 2014 from the 2007 high of 9.2% reflecting historically low interest rates

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*CANADIAN DOLLAR (P.243)*

- Through early 2015 the Canadian dollar continued to fall now trading around 80 cents after averaging 97 cents and 91 cents in 2014 and 2014 respectively
- Falling oil prices and the recent interest rate cut by the Bank of Canada are cited as reasons for the declining value of the Canadian dollar
- The lower dollar equates to stronger export growth and higher costs for imported goods.

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**6. PROVINCIAL FINANCES**

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*DEBT (P. 347)*

- The 2014/15 provincial borrowing program totaled \$39.8 billion, \$4.8 billion over the 2014 budget.
- That \$4.8 billion took advantage of low interest rates and is to be used to prefund the 2015/16 requirement.
- The net debt to GDP ratio is expected to peak at the end of 2014/15 at 39.8%.
- Over the forecast period net debt is expected to increase 12.3%.

DEFICIT

- The table below projects a balanced budget by the end of the forecast period
- From 2015/16 revenues are projected to grow 8.0% while program expenses remain virtually constant

Medium -Term Fiscal Plan and Outlook (\$B)

Table 2.21 (p.287)

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	% change 2014/18
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>118.5</b>	<b>124.4</b>	<b>129.4</b>	<b>134.4</b>	<b>13.42%</b>
Expense					
Programs	118.8	120.5	120.6	120.0	1.01%
Interest on Debt	10.7	11.4	12.4	13.2	23.36%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>129.5</b>	<b>131.9</b>	<b>133.0</b>	<b>133.2</b>	<b>2.86%</b>
Reserve	0.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>-10.9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-4.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
Net Debt	284.4	298.9	311.5	319.5	12.34%
Accumulated Deficit	186.3	194.8	199.7	199.7	7.19%

Percentage change column added

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**FEDERAL BUDGET 2015**

Date: April 21, 2015

**1. BUDGET AND RELATED DOCUMENTS**2015 Federal Budget: Canada's Economic Action Plan**2. FEDERAL BUDGET 2015 PRIORITIES**

The budget stresses a number of themes, some of them present in previous budgets:

- tax reduction measures are identified in this and previous budgets since 2006 (p 4)
- lower taxes for businesses are said to enhance competitiveness and job creation (p 7)
- steady economic growth (pp 8-10)
- financial stewardship (pp 11-13)

The Economic Action Plan will continue to:

- support jobs and growth
- provide assistance to families and communities through tax relief
- ensure security through support of the military

**3. MUNICIPAL HIGHLIGHTS***INFRASTRUCTURE*

- The budget contains an extensive summary of the government's contributions to infrastructure over the last decade, including contributions from the Building Canada Fund, Federal Gas Tax, the new Building Canada Plan, stimulus funds and support for P3s (see Ch. 3.4). These contributions are significant. The summary below is limited to new initiatives. For details on existing and ongoing undertakings see ch.3.4 of the budget.
- It is noted that 95% of core public infrastructure is owned by provinces, territories and municipalities
- Most of the discussion on infrastructure is for existing programs. However, the budget announces \$750 million, over two years, starting in 2017-2018 and \$1 billion annually thereafter for a new Public Transit Fund. This funding will flow through PPP Canada (p 186). Funding will be allocated on merit to projects that demonstrate alternative finance



and funding mechanisms involving private sector partners that deliver value for money. (p 188). Further details are promised for later in the year.

- There is also a promise of a new dedicated infrastructure fund to support the renovation, expansion and improvement of existing community infrastructure in all regions as Canada approaches its 150 anniversary (p 190). Funding will be cost shared with municipalities, community organizations and not-for-profit entities. Further details will be announced in the coming months for the new “Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.”

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### *HOUSING*

- The budget proposes to provide \$150 million over 4 years starting in 2016-2017 to support social housing in Canada by allowing social housing providers to prepay their long-term, non-renewable mortgages without penalty. This will permit refinancing of higher interest mortgage without penalty (p 278).

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### *SENIORS*

- Seniors in particular are identified as benefiting from increased limits on tax free savings accounts (p 236). Close to 2.7 million seniors had a TFSA as of the end of 2013. Nearly 60 per cent of seniors with a TFSA had annual incomes of less than \$40,000.
- New home accessibility tax credit for seniors and persons with disabilities to retrofit homes (pp 245-247).
- Reduction of minimum withdrawal factors for Registered Retirement Income Funds to assist seniors in managing their retirement income by drawing down funds more slowly (pp 242-245).

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### *TAX RELIEF*

- The budget claims to provide assistance to families through tax relief
  - increasing the limits on tax free savings accounts to \$10,000
  - reaffirming a commitment to reduce employment insurance premiums in 2017
  - extending Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefits from 6 weeks to 6 months to support Canadians providing care for family members. This will cost \$37 million annually.
- The budget indicates that the cumulative impact of tax relief measures since 2006 has been \$37 billion (p 227).

## **4. OTHER INITIATIVES**

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### *SMALL BUSINESSES*

- The budget proposes to reduce the small business tax rate from 11% to 9% by 2019 (p 120).

- 10.5 per cent effective January 1, 2016;
- 10 per cent effective January 1, 2017;
- 9.5 per cent effective January 1, 2018; and
- 9 per cent effective January 1, 201
- Employment insurance reform will result in lower premiums for small businesses (p 119)
- The budget proposes to amend the Canada Small Business Financing Act to allow more small businesses to apply for financing (p 123).
- The Business Development Bank of Canada is developing a number of new initiatives in support of small business, including measures to increase productivity (pp 125-126). Initiatives to support small business are also being developed by Export Development Canada to assist small business in bringing products and services to international markets (pp 126-127).

#### *MANUFACTURING*

- The budget proposes to provide manufacturers with an accelerated capital cost allowance of 50% on a declining-balance basis for eligible assets acquired after 2015 and before 2026 (p 77).
- The budget provides up to \$100 million over 5 years, starting in 2015-2016, to support product development and technology by Canadian auto parts suppliers through a new Automotive Supplier Innovation Program (p 83). Some of the funds will come from the existing Automotive Innovation Fund.
- The government will develop a Defence Procurement Strategy to stimulate jobs and growth in Canada (p 89)

## **5. STATE OF THE ECONOMY**

### *OVERVIEW*

The Canadian economy continues to grow, in the context of a global recovery that remains fragile. Crude oil prices have declined sharply since mid-2014, largely reflecting increased supply. For Canada, as a producer and net exporter of crude oil, lower oil prices have led to a significant downward revision to the outlook for economy-wide prices and therefore, nominal GDP. Despite the sharply lower oil prices, economic growth is expected to be resilient, with real GDP expected to grow by 2.0 per cent in 2015 and 2.2 per cent in 2016 (p. 28).

There are also some important offsetting factors that are largely external to Canada. The global economy will benefit from lower crude oil prices, in particular the U.S. economy as it remains a significant net importer of crude oil. A stronger U.S. economy will benefit Canada as it is the destination for nearly 75 per cent of Canadian exports (p. 55).

- Despite a weak global economic environment, Canada continues to lead all other G-7 economies in real GDP growth over the recovery (p. 43).
- Reflecting this solid domestic performance, over 1.2 million more Canadians are working now than at the end of the recession in June 2009—one of the strongest job creation records in the G-7 over this period (p. 45).
- Further, the depreciation of the Canadian dollar has improved the international competitive position of Canadian firms. This, along with expected stronger U.S. economic growth, points to stronger production and exports in non-energy sectors going forward (p. 48).

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## *GLOBAL OUTLOOK*

The global economy expanded at a modest rate in 2014. This softness reflected very modest growth in the euro area, a continuing downshift in Chinese growth, and either contraction or stagnation for much of the year in Japan, Russia and Brazil. The U.S. economy, however, has shown signs of strengthening, which is an encouraging sign for Canada, as the United States is Canada's largest export market.

In the context of ongoing modest global growth, a key development has been the decline in crude oil prices of about 50 per cent since mid-2014. As most countries are net importers of oil, this should support global growth in 2015 through lower energy costs and hence real income gains for households and firms (p. 29).

Despite an expected improvement in its near-term outlook, the euro area continues to face risks of stagnation and prolonged low inflation. Inflation continued to slow throughout last year and the most recent data showed a fourth consecutive monthly fall in consumer prices in March 2015. Further, while core inflation remains positive, it has also drifted well below 1 per cent, raising the risk of deflation (p. 30).

In Japan, economic growth exhibited large swings during 2014, in large part reflecting the impacts of recent policy changes. In particular, real GDP contracted in the second and third quarters of 2014 following the April 2014 consumption tax increase before rebounding to 1.5 per cent in the fourth quarter. Overall, the economy recorded no growth in 2014 following an increase of 1.6 per cent in 2013 (p. 31).

Growth in emerging economies eased in 2014, driven by negative developments in a number of large economies. In particular, growth in China slowed, Brazil's economy stagnated and the Russian economy is now likely in recession. Looking ahead, the IMF expects overall growth in emerging economies to be 4.3 per cent this year, slightly lower than its 2014 pace, before picking up to 4.7 per cent in 2016 (p. 32).

In China, real GDP growth eased to 7.4 per cent in 2014 from 7.8 per cent in 2013, compared with growth of about 9 per cent on average over the previous five years. In the first quarter of 2015, growth continued to slow to 5.3 per cent. Looking ahead, growth is expected to be 6.8

percent in 2015, in line with the revised official growth target of about 7 per cent for the year, and to slow further to 6.3 per cent in 2016 (p. 33).

In the face of global challenges, the U.S. economy continues to show a pickup in underlying growth. Despite a temporary setback at the start of 2014, the economic expansion has subsequently strengthened, averaging almost 4 per cent growth over the last three quarters of the year. On an annual basis, growth is projected to be 3.1 per cent in 2015, up from 2.4 per cent in 2014, and to remain close to 3 per cent in 2016 (p. 33-4).

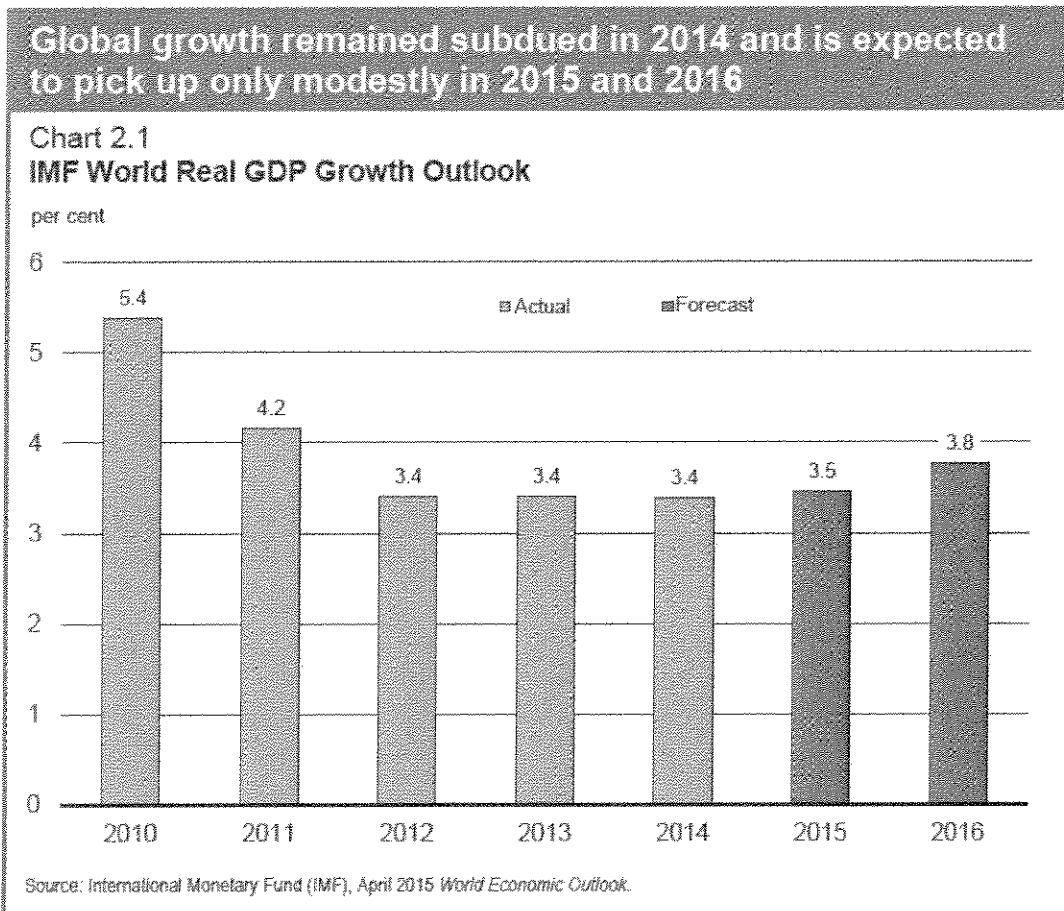


Table 2.2  
**Average Private Sector Forecasts**  
 per cent, unless otherwise indicated

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015– 2019
<b>Real GDP growth</b>							
Economic Action Plan 2014 <sup>2</sup>	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	-	-
September 2014 survey <sup>2</sup>	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.3
March 2015 survey	2.5	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.2
<b>GDP inflation</b>							
Economic Action Plan 2014 <sup>2</sup>	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	-	-
September 2014 survey <sup>2</sup>	2.0	1.6	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9
March 2015 survey	1.8	-0.4	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.7
<b>Nominal GDP growth</b>							
Economic Action Plan 2014 <sup>2</sup>	3.9	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.2	-	-
September 2014 survey <sup>2</sup>	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.3
March 2015 survey	4.4	1.6	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.2	3.9
<b>Nominal GDP level (billions of dollars)</b>							
Economic Action Plan 2014 <sup>2</sup>	1,968	2,056	2,150	2,244	2,339	-	-
September 2014 survey <sup>2</sup>	1,978	2,063	2,155	2,251	2,347	2,444	-
March 2015 survey	1,976	2,008	2,106	2,204	2,299	2,396	-
Difference between March 2015 survey and September 2014 survey <sup>2</sup>	-2	-55	-49	-47	-47	-48	-
<b>3-month treasury bill rate</b>							
Economic Action Plan 2014	1.0	1.5	2.7	3.6	4.0	-	-
September 2014 survey	0.9	1.2	2.1	2.9	3.4	3.6	2.6
March 2015 survey	0.9	0.6	1.0	2.0	2.7	3.0	1.9

## 6. STATE OF FEDERAL FINANCES

Under the Government's Economic Action Plan, the deficit has been reduced from \$55.6 billion at the height of the global economic and financial crisis to a projected surplus of \$1.4 billion for 2015–16 (p. 327).

Compared to the Fall Update, projected budgetary revenues are lower over the forecast horizon. This decline is primarily due to lower projections for tax revenues driven by weaker-than-expected year-to-date results and the lower forecast for nominal GDP. Budgetary revenues are also negatively affected by a lower expected rate of return on interest-bearing assets—recorded as part of other revenues—as a result of a lower forecast for interest rates. (p. 355). Overall, expenses are expected to be lower than the level projected in the Fall Update

over the forecast horizon, with an increase in direct program spending being more than offset by lower projected major transfers to persons and public debt charges (p. 356).

Over the remainder of the forecast horizon, revenues are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 4.0 per cent, roughly in line with growth in nominal GDP (p. 364).

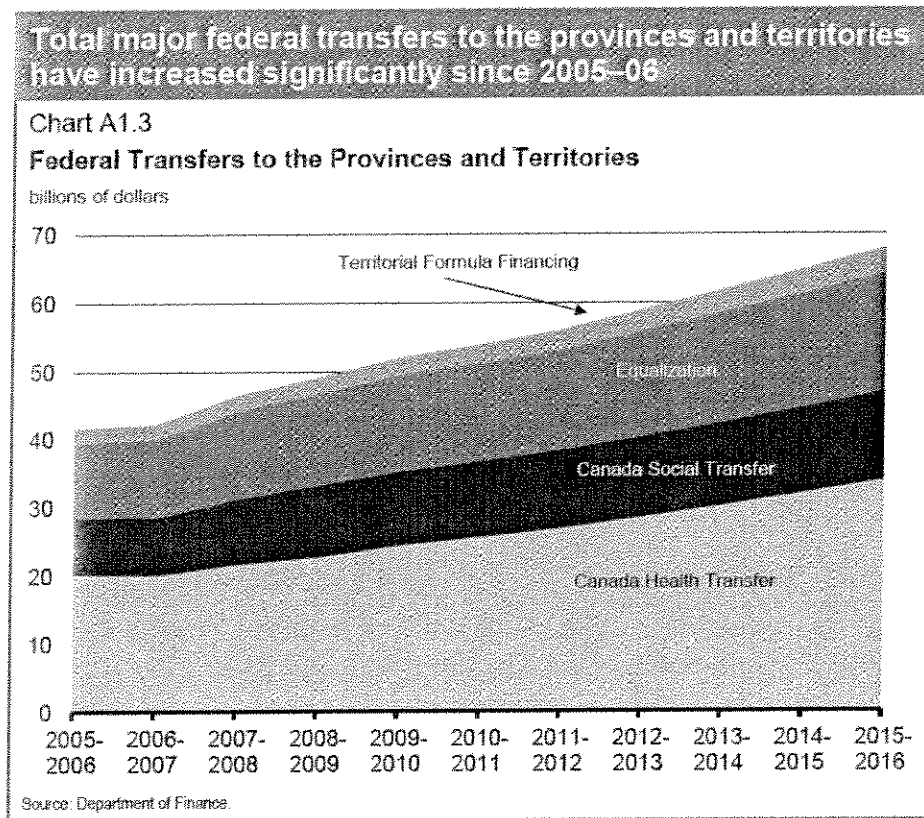
As a share of GDP, program expenses are projected to decline from 13.1 per cent in 2013–14 to 12.7 percent in 2019–20, which is below its pre-recession level (p. 371).

*FEDERAL TRANSFERS*

**Federal Transfers (p. 387)**

<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Details</b>
Canada Health Transfer (CHT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will grow at an annual rate of 6 per cent for two more years and, beginning in 2017–18, it will grow in line with nominal GDP, with a guaranteed minimum funding growth rate of 3 per cent per year.</li> </ul>
Canada Social Transfer (CST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Canada Social Transfer will continue to grow at its current rate of 3 per cent per year in 2015–16 and beyond. It will also be reviewed in 2024.</li> </ul>
Gas Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will grow by \$1.8 billion over the next decade, with close to \$22 billion to flow over the 10-year period of the New Building Canada Plan. (p. 181)</li> </ul>
Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Going forward, Equalization will continue to grow in line with nominal GDP, and Territorial Formula Financing will continue to grow based on its current formula.</li> </ul>

## Four Major Transfers to Provinces and Territories



It should be noted that the increases shown do not necessarily reflect the actual increases in individual provinces or territories as the data are for Canada as a whole.

## Appendix A: Revenue Outlook

Table 5.2.5  
**Revenue Outlook**  
 billions of dollars

	Projection						
	2013– 2014	2014– 2015	2015– 2016	2016– 2017	2017– 2018	2018– 2019	2019– 2020
<b>Income taxes</b>							
Personal income tax	130.8	134.2	143.4	151.8	159.3	165.9	172.9
Corporate income tax	36.6	37.9	36.8	39.5	40.4	40.9	42.5
Non-resident income tax	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.9	7.3	7.7
<b>Total income tax</b>	<b>173.8</b>	<b>178.5</b>	<b>186.4</b>	<b>197.8</b>	<b>206.6</b>	<b>214.1</b>	<b>223.0</b>
<b>Excise taxes/duties</b>							
Goods and Services Tax	31.0	31.5	32.7	34.6	36.5	38.0	39.5
Customs import duties	4.2	4.5	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.9	5.1
Other excise taxes/duties	10.9	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.3
<b>Total excise taxes/duties</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>55.9</b>
<b>Total tax revenues</b>	<b>219.9</b>	<b>225.9</b>	<b>235.4</b>	<b>248.8</b>	<b>259.2</b>	<b>268.4</b>	<b>279.0</b>
Employment Insurance premium revenues	21.8	22.6	23.1	22.5	19.8	20.6	21.4
Other revenues	30.0	30.9	31.7	31.2	34.4	37.2	39.2
<b>Total budgetary revenues</b>	<b>271.7</b>	<b>279.3</b>	<b>290.3</b>	<b>302.4</b>	<b>313.3</b>	<b>326.1</b>	<b>339.6</b>
<b>Per cent of GDP</b>							
Personal income tax	6.9	6.8	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3
Corporate income tax	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Goods and Services Tax	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
<b>Total tax revenues</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.7</b>
Employment Insurance premium revenues	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
Other revenues	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7
<b>Total budgetary revenues</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.3</b>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.



## Appendix B: Expense Outlook

Table 5.2.6  
**Program Expenses Outlook**  
 billions of dollars

	Projection						
	2013– 2014	2014– 2015	2015– 2016	2016– 2017	2017– 2018	2018– 2019	2019– 2020
<b>Major transfers to persons</b>							
Elderly benefits	41.8	43.7	45.7	48.1	50.8	53.6	56.5
Employment insurance benefits <sup>1</sup>	17.3	17.8	18.4	19.0	19.5	20.2	20.9
Children's benefits	13.1	14.2	18.0	18.0	18.3	18.5	18.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>96.1</b>
<b>Major transfers to other levels of government</b>							
Canada Health Transfer	30.3	32.1	34.0	36.1	37.4	39.1	40.9
Canada Social Transfer	12.2	12.6	13.0	13.3	13.7	14.2	14.6
Equalization	16.1	16.7	17.3	18.0	18.6	19.5	20.4
Territorial Formula Financing	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9
Gas Tax Fund <sup>2</sup>	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2
Other fiscal arrangements <sup>3</sup>	-3.5	-4.0	-4.5	-4.8	-5.1	-5.3	-5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>76.3</b>
<b>Direct program expenses</b>							
Operating expenses	74.7	74.9	76.1	78.3	80.2	82.5	84.3
Transfer payments	36.7	36.0	34.0	36.7	37.3	38.3	39.1
Capital amortization	4.5	5.2	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.4	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>115.9</b>	<b>116.1</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>123.5</b>	<b>127.2</b>	<b>130.1</b>
<b>Total program expenses</b>	<b>248.6</b>	<b>254.6</b>	<b>263.2</b>	<b>274.3</b>	<b>282.7</b>	<b>293.0</b>	<b>302.6</b>
<b>Per cent of GDP</b>							
Major transfers to persons	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
Major transfers to other levels of government	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2
Direct program expenses	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.5
<b>Total program expenses</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>12.7</b>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup> EI benefits include regular EI benefits, sickness, maternity, parental, compassionate care, fishing and work-sharing benefits, and employment benefits and support measures. These represent 90 per cent of total EI program expenses. The remaining EI costs relate mainly to administration and are part of operating expenses.

<sup>2</sup> The Gas Tax Fund is a component of the Community Improvement Fund.

<sup>3</sup> Other fiscal arrangements include the Youth Allowances Recovery; Alternative Payments for Standing Programs, which represent a recovery from Quebec of a tax point transfer; statutory subsidies; transitional payments; transfer protection payments in 2013–14; payments under the 2005 Offshore Accounts; assistance regarding sales tax harmonization; the Wait Times Reduction Transfer; and other health-related transfers.

**Prepared by:**

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Office of the  
County Warden

April 22, 2015

Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Sir/Madam:

**RE: Bill 73 – An Act to Amend the Development Charges Act, 1997 and the Planning Act**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Bill 73. Our comments are related to the proposed changes to the *Planning Act*. The section numbers below refer to the section numbers in the proposed legislation.

1. Subsections 26(1)-(1.2) – We agree with the proposed changes that would extend the review interval of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and new official plans from every 5 years to every 10 years. The five year review cycle comes around very quickly and places a strain on the resources of municipalities and puts them in a constant state of review at the expense of other planning initiatives. The 10-year cycle provides a balance between ensuring stability of the documents while ensuring they are updated appropriately to reflect changing trends. Unfortunately, the benefits of these changes are somewhat undermined by the continued requirement in Bill 73 that official plans be reviewed every five years thereafter. Since most updates to official plans are through the five year review process, the proposed changes to the *Planning Act* will have negligible impact. In order to fully realize the benefits of the 10-year review cycle all official plans, new and updated ones, should be reviewed every ten years. Since the PPS itself is proposed to be reviewed every ten years, and since the main purpose of official plan updates is to ensure consistency with the PPS, it only makes sense in our mind to make the 10-year timeframe standard across all reviews. The option of reviewing all or parts of its official plan sooner than the 10-year timeframe would always be available to a municipality and would strengthen local autonomy, which is a stated objective of Bill 73.
  
2. Section 8 – We are opposed to making planning advisory committees mandatory at the upper tier. We are also opposed to requiring at least one member of the public sit on these committees. Most, if not all, of our County colleagues have standing committees of County Council which have served their communities well as reporting vehicles on planning matters. It is difficult to see how requiring the creation of another committee at the upper tier streamlines the planning process or enhances local autonomy. We also fail to see how having one member from the public on a committee engages the wider public. The *Planning Act* already requires extensive public engagement and public consultation. It is important to acknowledge that elected officials play a significant role in representing the public interest. The Bill should be amended by making planning advisory committees optional at the upper tier, as is proposed for lower tiers. The decision to have citizen representation on these committees should also be left to the municipality, thus enhancing local autonomy.

3. Subsections 22(2.1) and 34(10.0.0.1) – We do not agree with the proposed change that would prohibit amendments to a new official plan or global replacement to a zoning by-law in the first two years except those initiated by the municipality. This has never been an issue in the County of Renfrew and we do not see the need for this change.

We would also like to point out a possible discrepancy in what is intended by the proposed legislation and what the legislation actually states. The backgrounder on Bill 73 dated March 5, 2015 prepared by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) states that, once a municipality establishes a new official plan, it would be frozen and therefore not subject to new amendments for two years **unless changes are initiated by the municipality** (emphasis added). We note, however, that the wording in the proposed legislation in Section 22(2.1) states that 'no person or public body shall request an amendment..' Under the *Planning Act* public body includes a municipality. Therefore, a straight reading of the proposed legislation would lead one to believe that no amendments, including those by a municipality, would be permitted within two years. The legislation should be amended to reflect the true intent.

4. Subsections 45 (1.2)-(1.3) – This would prohibit a minor variance to an owner-initiated, site specific rezoning within two years unless council passes a resolution permitting such an application. We find this an unnecessary complication of the process without any perceived gain. This and other various changes to time-frames and notice procedures sprinkled throughout Bill 73 (e.g., subsection 34 (18.1) requiring a brief explanation in the notice of passing of a zoning by-law of the effect, if any, that written and oral submissions had on the decision) add more administrative complexities to the *Planning Act*, making the implementation of planning matters all the more difficult for municipalities without resulting in commensurate benefits.

We would like to conclude by noting some of the proposals in Bill 73 which we fully support. These include clarifying what is meant by "minor" in minor variances, requiring greater explanation of appeals in certain cases, removing the requirement to review employment land policies in five year official plan reviews, and removing the ability to appeal entire new official plans.

Once again we thank you for the opportunity to comment on Bill 73 and hope that you will take our comments into consideration in your further review of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,



Peter R. Emon, Warden  
County of Renfrew  
warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

c: John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke  
File

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# Bill 36 – Respecting Private Property Act

## SYLVIA JONES, MPP Dufferin-Caledon

**PASSED 2ND READING**

244 Broadway  
Orangeville ON L9W 1K5  
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12596 Regional Road 30  
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## Support Sylvia Jones' Private Members Bill Bill 36, Respecting Private Property Act

Currently there is no minimum fine for trespassing on private property and the Trespass to Property Act limits the maximum compensation a property owner can receive for damages due to trespassing to \$1,000.

The Respecting Private Property Act will make necessary changes to the Trespass to Property Act. This bill will establish a minimum fine of \$500 for trespassing. As well, it would increase the limit for compensation on damages to \$25,000 from the current limit of \$1,000.

*"We must find a way to discourage trespassing on private property and create a system of fair compensation for individuals who experience damage on their property as a result of trespassing."*  
- Sylvia Jones MPP, speaking during 2nd reading of Bill 36

*"The Respecting Private Property Act will make necessary changes to the Trespass to Property Act. Increasing the limit on compensation for damages allows property owners to be fairly compensated for destruction of their property, and a minimum fine will also send a message that trespassing is a serious issue and will not be taken lightly."*  
- Sylvia Jones MPP, speaking during 2nd reading of Bill 36

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has been asking for changes to be made to the Trespass to Property Act. The OFA would like a minimum fine for those who trespass and an increase in the limit for compensation for damages.

Increasing the limit on compensation for damages allows property owners to be fairly compensated for destruction of their property. A minimum fine will also send a message that trespassing is a serious issue and should not be taken lightly.

One of the problems that arise when people trespass on private property is they can end up damaging the property, including crops, livestock and fencing. Unfortunately, it is left to the property owners to repair these damages, and the costs can quickly add up to thousand's of dollars.

## How YOU Can Help

- If you support the intention of Bill 36 I encourage you to contact the Chair of the Committee on Justice Policy MPP Shafiq Qaadri at [sqaadri.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:sqaadri.mpp@liberal.ola.org) to ask that public hearings are scheduled. Please be sure to cc the Clerk Tamara Pomanski at [tpomanski@ola.org](mailto:tpomanski@ola.org), and myself at [sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org).
- To get a copy of Bill 36, go online to [www.sylviajonesmpp.ca](http://www.sylviajonesmpp.ca) or call 416-325-1898.
- Share this information with friends, family, and anyone interested in promoting the protection of property owner's rights.
- If you have questions, please email [sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org).

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## Support for Bill 36

*"The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is proud to support Sylvia Jones MPP's Bill 36, the Respecting Private Property Act. The OFA has been working with government and policy makers to amend the Trespass to Property Act for many years. We need this act updated to reflect the severity of trespassing and the damages that result from thoughtless or reckless behaviour."*

*- Keith Currie, Vice President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture*

*"Our members are seeing an increase in trespassing, both on foot and on motorized off-road vehicles. Crops are damaged, animals have escaped from gates left open. All the garbage left behind is left for us to clean up. There is also an increased risk in liability to our members, if injury occurs on their property. We fully support this bill, it will encourage deterrence from exposure to such cases, and we thank Sylvia Jones MPP for all her efforts."*

*- Randy McLeod, President, Peel Federation of Agriculture*

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**If you would like more information or have questions about Bill 36, please contact the office of Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon at:**

Room 443, Legislative Building, Queens Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A8, (416) 325-1898 or  
244 Broadway, Orangeville, ON, L9W 1K5, 1-800-265-1603 or  
12596 Regional Road 50, Bolton, ON, L7E 1T6

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APR 01 2015

2015-065977

Melinda Reith  
Municipal Clerk  
The Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria  
15 Township Hall Road  
Stonecliffe, ON K0J 2K0



Dear Ms. Reith:

I am pleased to acknowledge the letter and resolution of the United Townships of Head, Clara, and Maria in support of the resolution of the Municipality of Greater Madawaska regarding the City of Ottawa council resolution requesting the initiation of a Places to Grow exercise for Eastern Ontario.

I appreciate the points raised and I am aware that there have been some past discussions about how best to find solutions to the economic development and infrastructure challenges facing Eastern Ontario.

I note the history of close cooperation and economic partnerships between the City of Ottawa and the many surrounding counties. I believe in an approach where municipalities work together collaboratively to resolve local issues and capitalize on economic and other opportunities. In the coming months I will seek to learn more about the views of other municipalities in the region.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with me, and I look forward to working with you to support the health and prosperity of the communities in Eastern Ontario.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted McMeekin".

Ted McMeekin  
Minister

Cc: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Ontario Premier  
Mr. Jim Wilson, MPP Interim Leader of Ontario PC Party and Official Opposition  
Mr. Ernie Hardemen, MPP Oxford and PC Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Mr. John Yakabuski, MPP Refrew-Nippissiong-Pembroke  
Warden Eric Duncan, Chair, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus  
AMO – Association of Municipalities Ontario  
Warden Peter R. Emon, County of Renfrew  
The Township of Greater Madawaska  
Ottawa Councillor Stephen Blais  
Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson