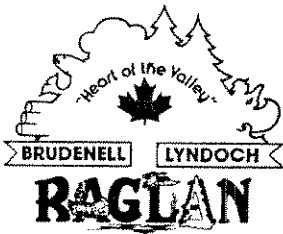


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TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, P.O. Box 40
PALMER RAPIDS, ONTARIO K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 • FAX: (613) 758-2235

RECEIVED
NOV 15 2012

November 11, 2012

Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Please find attached a copy of a resolution from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan which was passed at its regular Council Meeting of November 7, 2012 recommending that the Province of Ontario upload Highway 62 to the Provincial Road System.

It is our hope that your office will consider this resolution and take the necessary steps to implement the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Mantifel
Clerk-Treasurer

- cc. The Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Transportation
- Andrea Horwath, NDP Leader
- Tim Hudak, PC Leader
- John Yakabuski, MPP
- County of Renfrew
- Local Municipalities

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDPOCH AND RAGLAN

DATE: November 7, 2012

RESOLUTION NO.: 4

Moved by **Steven Jessup**
Seconded by **Heather Phanenhour**

WHEREAS Highway 62 is a vital transportation link to southern Ontario for local businesses and manufacturers located in the western sector of Renfrew County;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Hasting Highlands plans to implement half load restriction on Highway 62 in the Spring of 2013 which would prevent fully loaded trucks from using this road;

AND WHEREAS this restriction would have disastrous effects on the trucking industry and would have negative impacts on the significant number of trucks that use Highway 62 to travel to Toronto and Southern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS this restriction would also have disastrous effects on the local forestry industry which has been through many hardships in the last few years by preventing fully loaded log trucks and lumber trucks from using this road;

AND WHEREAS this restriction would force trucks to use alternate routes such as Schutt Road, increasing the number of heavy vehicles and may cause deterioration to these road;

AND WHEREAS Hasting Highlands is a lower tier municipality which has been burdened by the downloading of a major transportation route and does not have the financial resources to maintain Highway 62, which is significant to the entire region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDPOCH AND RAGLAN PETITION THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO UPLOAD HIGHWAY 62 TO THE PROVINCIAL ROAD SYSTEM.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Dalton McGuinty, the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Transportation, MPP John Yakabuski, Opposition Leaders, the County of Renfrew and local municipalities for their endorsement and support.

Carried.

2



November 16, 2012

Ms. Melinda Reith
The United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria
15 Township Hall Road
Stonecliffe, Ontario K0J 2K0

Dear Ms. Reith :

Thank you for submitting an application for the Farm Credit Canada (FCC) AgriSpirit Fund. This year, 1079 worthy applications were submitted and \$1 million will go to community enhancement projects across the country on behalf of the FCC AgriSpirit Fund.

A significant amount of time and consideration goes into evaluating these applications. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide funding for your project at this time.

We encourage you to re-apply for the next round of AgriSpirit funding as you move forward with this project and future projects. You can submit your new application online at www.agrispirit.ca . Information on project eligibility for next year will be available online in February 2013.

We applaud your commitment to your community and wish you great success with your project.

If you have any questions, please email us at agrispirit-agriesprit@fcc-fac.ca.

FCC AgriSpirit Team

Farm Credit Canada

3

**Ministry of Citizenship
and Immigration**

Minister

6th Floor
400 University Avenue
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tel.: (416) 325-6200
Fax: (416) 325-6195

**Ministère des Affaires civiques
et de l'Immigration**

Ministre

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Tél. : (416) 325-6200
Télééc. : (416) 325-6195



RECEIVED
NOV 29 2012

November, 2012

Dear friends,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the 2013 Volunteer Service Awards program. Since its inception in 1986, the VSA ceremonies have become a long-standing tradition in Ontario.

Volunteering is the most fundamental act of citizenship in our society. Every day thousands of Ontarians of all ages voluntarily give their time and talent to thousands of community organizations. By caring and contributing their time, volunteers help hold our communities together.

The VSA program recognizes volunteers from all sectors for their continuous years of service in a community organization. It provides a way for your organization and the Ontario government to thank them in a meaningful way.

This year, in recognition of the important role our youth play currently and in the present and the future of volunteering, the nomination process has been enhanced to encourage more youth nominations. Each organization may nominate up to 9 volunteers, 3 of whom must be youth. If all your nominees are adults, the number you may nominate remains at 6.

Please take this opportunity to nominate your volunteers and feel free to share this letter with other organizations that may be interested in recognizing their volunteers at a VSA ceremony. By submitting your nominations you can help ensure that your volunteers receive the recognition they deserve.

Nomination forms and program information are available on the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website at www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards. You may also contact the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat by phone at: 416-314-7526 or 1-877-832-8622; by TTY at 416-327-2391; or by fax at 416-314-7743.

The deadline date for submissions is **January 25** of each year, but you may submit nomination forms at any time. Nominations received after the deadline will be considered for the following year.

I look forward to celebrating the achievements of Ontario's volunteers.

Sincerely,

Michael Chan
Minister



MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

December 4, 2012

To: Heads of Council
All Ontario Municipalities

From: Dan Mathieson
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors

Subject: Update from MPAC

I am writing to provide you with an update on the work we are doing at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

In September, we began our delivery of the 2012 province-wide Assessment Update with the first mailing of Notices. Our primary focus in 2012 has been the delivery of updated assessed values for Ontario's nearly five (5) million properties to both municipalities and property owners. In support of this work, we have undertaken a number of new initiatives including the relaunch of AboutMyProperty™ as well as the first MPAC *MarketSnapshot* reports.

We also continued our work to deliver assessment growth to municipal rolls, process Requests for Reconsiderations and manage the disposition of Assessment Review Board Appeals.

We are also continuing planning for 2013, and beyond, with a new four-year strategic plan focused on finding cost savings and creating operational efficiencies; a new approach to municipal payment for assessment services; and, laying the groundwork for improvements to our next enumeration event.

2012 Province-wide Assessment Update

Overall, average residential values have increased 18 per cent in Ontario since the 2008 Assessment Update.

Some of the most significant assessment change was seen in the value of farmland, which rose by an average of 34 per cent. When residential values applied to farm homes are taken out, the value of Ontario farmland rose by an average of 46 per cent. Increases in farmland values were seen across Ontario, driven primarily by the continued demand for land for dairy producers and intensive livestock operations, and the loss of farmland to development.

In 2012, MPAC released several editions of its new *MarketSnapshot* report. These reports, with commentary from MPAC's Chief Assessor, Larry Hummel, provided context for property owners about the change in Ontario's property market as reflected in the Assessment Update.

MarketSnapshot and our launch of AboutMyProperty™ played key roles in our efforts to increase public understanding of assessment and MPAC's role.

From the start of our mailing of Property Assessment Notices this fall, our Customer Contact Centre has handled approximately 103,000 enquiries received by phone, email, fax and in writing. Drivers for enquiries include assessed value, information available through www.aboutmyproperty.ca and data-related matters. The number of enquiries received during this year's update represents a 29 per cent decrease when compared to the same point in the Notice mail schedule in 2008. In terms of Requests for Reconsideration (RfR) submitted for the 2013 property tax year, approximately 8,300 RfRs have been filed to date.

Since the previous Assessment Update in 2008, MPAC has held more than 6,300 meetings with Municipal Councils, property taxpayer groups and other stakeholder groups.

In support of the 2012 Update, we also continued to meet with Municipal Councils and staff to provide details of assessment changes and the impact in their communities.

In addition, we have been providing every municipality with information through the Notice-based Market Change Profile (MCP). The MCP provides a set of reports to which Municipal staff can refer, as they prepare to understand the impacts of the Assessment Update in their community. A final Roll-based MCP will be made available to coincide with the Assessment Roll Return, on or before December 11, 2012.

Overall, we are seeing an increased public and media understanding of current value assessment, the four-year phase-in program, and the role both assessment and MPAC play in Ontario's property tax system.

In keeping with our responsibilities to ensure all property in Ontario is accurately assessed and classified, we regularly review our processes and consult with stakeholders. As we prepare to

deliver the 2012 Assessment Roll to municipalities, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on some key assessment matters.

- *Landfills* – During 2012, MPAC undertook a review of its valuation methodology for landfill sites across Ontario.

Over the coming months, we will be undertaking a further in-depth consultation process with all stakeholders, including landfill operators, municipalities and the Ministry of Finance on valuation changes as well as the implications before proceeding with changes. We look forward to this review process and its findings and will continue to keep affected municipalities updated on our progress.

- *Common Lots* – On November 5, 2012, an amendment to Ontario Regulation 282/98 was filed providing direction on the assessment of a certain type of common land parcel within residential communities.

For 2013, and subsequent tax years, this new provision provides direction that there will be no separate assessed value of the common land parcel, but the value is to be included in the value of the residential property that the owners of the common land parcel also own in the community.

We were not able to reflect this change for the 2012 Property Assessment Notices/Assessment Rolls due to the timing of the amendment. As a result, and where applicable, MPAC will implement this change through a post-roll Amended Notice in early 2013.

- *Billboards* – MPAC and the Ministry of Finance continue to review the assessment of billboards in Ontario. We will continue to share updates as details on the results of this review are available.
- *Provincial Parks* – The Ministries of Natural Resources (MNR) and Infrastructure Ontario filed Requests for Reconsideration/appeals, respectively, for 19 Provincial Parks (2009-2012 tax years). As a result of our review, MPAC determined a more equitable approach was required to value Ontario's 337 parks for the 2012 Assessment Update. Using up-to-date data provided by MNR, MPAC established 2012 assessments for the parks using six

(6) key criteria: geographic location; regulated park acreage; waterfront access; development zones; campsites; and building costs.

Over the last month, MPAC hosted meetings with affected municipalities to provide an update of the changes. Province-wide, the 2012 assessments for Provincial Parks has increased by approximately \$110 million since the last update in 2008. Although the total value has increased province-wide, 78 municipalities will see an increase in the assessments; however, 57 municipalities will experience a decrease in their park assessments.

As an update, MNR has withdrawn their Requests for Reconsideration based on the result of our review and MPAC continues to work with the Ministry of Infrastructure to settle outstanding appeals.

- *Wind Turbines* – To date, MPAC’s analysis of sales has not indicated that the presence of wind turbines that are either abutting or in proximity to a property has either a positive or negative impact on its value.

MPAC is currently undertaking a study using its January 1, 2012 current value assessments for 2013 taxation to determine if the distance from a wind turbine affects the assessed value.

To complete this review, MPAC will compare the 2012 assessed values to recent sale prices to determine if the ratio between the assessments and sales prices differs between homes near wind turbines and those further away. This is referred to as a level of assessment study. This study will be completed in early 2013.

AboutMyProperty™ (www.aboutmyproperty.ca)

AboutMyProperty™ was relaunched in support of the 2012 Assessment Update earlier this year with a completely new look and navigation. Openness, transparency and convenience were all key in developing this secure, self-serve web application. Starting this fall, owners of all property types – residential, farm and business properties – have had access to detailed information through AboutMyProperty™.

AboutMyProperty™ allows property taxpayers to quickly and easily find out more about how their property was assessed and to confirm its accuracy. It demonstrates how we are leveraging technology to improve openness, transparency and service to property taxpayers while keeping costs as low as possible.

By using the Roll number and Access key found on their 2012 Property Assessment Notice, property taxpayers can register and log on to www.aboutmyproperty.ca and compare their property to other properties in their neighbourhood. Using an interactive map of their community, they can create a Properties of Interest list with access to as many as 100 property snapshots – selected by them – and up to 24 detailed property reports – all free of charge.

This web application features detailed reports and interactive map imagery for almost every property in the province, under secured accessibility. Property owners also have the option of submitting updates to the information MPAC has on file directly through the application.

When designing AboutMyProperty™, MPAC took a Privacy by Design (PbD) approach. The PbD framework, created by [Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner \(IPC\)](#), seeks to embed privacy into the design specifications of information technologies, organizational practices and networked system architectures, to achieve the strongest protection possible, as the default condition. MPAC also applied the IPC's Privacy in the Cloud principles in its development of AboutMyProperty™.

As of November 23, nearly 140,000 property owners have registered on AboutMyProperty™ to access information.

MPAC's *MarketSnapshot*

This summer, MPAC launched the first edition of *MarketSnapshot*, an online report to underscore the link between a property's sale price and assessed value. The report was released and provided a snapshot of residential sale price trends in Ontario – an important factor in the determination of assessed values. Commentary from local real estate boards across the province was included in this report to help explain trends in local sale prices over the past four (4) years.

A second Assessment Update edition of *MarketSnapshot* was released in September to coincide with the mailing of Property Assessment Notices. In mid-November, a Farm Property Values edition was released and a Business Property Edition is now underway.

MarketSnapshot has been well received, particularly by real estate professionals, and we plan to publish additional reports in 2013.

Review of Requests for Reconsideration (RfR) and Assessment Review Board (ARB) Appeals

MPAC received over 17,000 RfRs for the 2012 tax year, representing approximately 0.3 per cent of Ontario's nearly five (5) million properties. All 2012 RfRs received by March 31 were completed by the legislated deadline of November 30.

We also continue to work collaboratively with property taxpayers to resolve their RfR and ARB appeal matters, and to answer their questions or provide the information they need to better understand their property's assessment. As a point of interest, over 13,500 appeals for all property types were disposed of from July 1 to September 30, 2012.

The ARB's objective is to dispose of all outstanding appeals (i.e., the 2009-2012 assessment cycle and prior) by March 31, 2013. MPAC is supportive of the ARB's undertaking and continues to work collaboratively with the Board to identify opportunities to streamline the Board's processes while balancing our other operational pressures such as the 2012 Assessment Update.

Supplementary and Omitted Assessments for 2012

MPAC continued its focus on fieldwork in communities across the province completing inspections and property data reviews. I am pleased to advise you that we surpassed our assessment growth forecast of \$23.5 billion and delivered \$24.4 billion in assessment growth to our municipal stakeholders.

As a result of our partnership with Ontario municipalities, we now receive information electronically in a standardized format for approximately 85 per cent of the 165,000 building permits we receive and a majority of the occupancy permits issued annually across Ontario. Previously, we only received 15 per cent of permits in the standard electronic format. Increasing the electronic transfer of this information was one of the recommendations in the 2011 Auditor General's Report and we are very pleased with the results of our partnerships with municipalities and municipal building permit suppliers.

We also continue to work with third parties, such as building permit system vendors and the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) to assist us in capturing and delivering assessment growth in a more efficient manner.

Agreement reached with Ontario Digital Cadastre Corporation

Earlier this fall, MPAC reached an agreement with the Ontario Digital Cadastre Corporation (ODCC) to acquire Property Dimension Reports for plans of subdivisions, also known as M-Plans, directly from land surveyors.

The ODCC is a wholly owned, for profit subsidiary of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors (AOLS). Receiving this information directly from the source is integral to MPAC's ability to provide timely and consistent assessment of new construction in Ontario.

By receiving this data directly from surveyors, MPAC will be able to improve the accuracy and consistency of the information used to assess properties. Receiving this critical information in a format that requires no transcribing or calculation by our staff means we can add growth to municipal assessment rolls in a more timely manner.

The agreement with the ODCC is significant for the organization as almost half of all residential assessment growth in Ontario can be attributed to subdivisions.

In addition to the efficiencies that this agreement helps bring to our internal work processes, it is also an important first step for MPAC as part of one of the Victory Statements included in our new four-year strategic plan. Specifically, it reflects our commitment to capturing 100 per cent of available assessment growth within 12 months of commencement of use by 2016.

Stakeholder Outreach Activities

MPAC has continued its successful community outreach initiatives to help raise awareness of assessment-related matters. In 2012, MPAC has held approximately 1,085 outreach activities across the province with various property taxpayer and stakeholder groups and attended over 20 municipal association conferences and trade shows.

Some of the most recent events or activities include:

- MPAC staff attended the **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference** from August 19-22, 2012 in Ottawa. MPAC hosted a joint session with the Ministry of Finance on August 21, 2012. The Board of Directors, senior management and Municipal Relations staff were in attendance to meet with AMO delegates.
- **Ontario Municipal Taxation and Revenue Association (OMTRA) Annual Fall Conference** was held from September 9-12, 2012 at Cleveland's House in Muskoka. MPAC hosted a plenary session as part of the agenda and the MPAC booth was on display with MPAC staff in attendance to answer questions.
- **Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA)** was held from September 19-21, 2012 at the London Convention Centre. MPAC hosted a presentation and interactive panel session and the MPAC booth was on display with staff in attendance.
- MPAC staff attended the **2012 Toronto Fall Home Show** from September 20-23, 2012 at the Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place. Over 300 property taxpayers visited the MPAC booth with assessment-related enquiries.
- The **46th Annual Canadian Property Tax Association (CPTA) National Workshop** was held from September 30 to October 3, 2012 in Banff, Alberta. MPAC staff attended the

conference with President and Chief Administrative Officer Antoni Wisniowski delivering a presentation on 'innovation' that included MPAC's web application AboutMyProperty™.

A Look Ahead to 2013

New Four-Year Strategic Plan

As you are aware, public sector agencies are being challenged to provide greater value to all stakeholders. In September, we launched our new four-year strategy focused on creating cost savings and operational efficiencies. The strategy has the potential to save as much as \$20 million over the next four (4) years. These savings are expected to be passed on to municipalities, which fund the cost of MPAC.

This strategy will have an impact on how every MPAC employee does his or her job. Some examples of the improvements planned as part of the strategy include the reduction of office space, reduction of the operating and capital expenses of our fleet, as well as making more services available online to property taxpayers.

In support of this new strategy and as part of MPAC's commitment to support Ontario's communities, MPAC has partnered with Habitat for Humanity Canada and will corporately support the organization through payroll donations, local fundraising and team builds. The new strategy will formally roll out in January 2013 and we will share updates on our progress as we implement initiatives.

2013 Payment for Services

The Board of Directors has approved MPAC's funding requirements for 2013 and, for the first time, also approved a targeted four-year expenditure plan for 2013 – 2016. I am pleased to inform you that the funding requirements approved for 2013 represent an increase of less than one per cent over the 2012 funding level.

In addition to setting an increase of 0.95 per cent for 2013, MPAC is also forecasting a proposed increase of 0.95 per cent for each of 2014, 2015 and 2016.

In determining our funding requirements, we consider a number of factors including the work activities that MPAC must complete, the continued growth of the number of properties that MPAC assesses and classifies and the various fiscal pressures on the organization including wages, benefits, pension costs and utilities. The organization's ability to continue to deliver its operations with incremental funding requirements set at less than one (1) per cent for each of the next four (4) years is only possible due to our commitment to expenditure constraint as well as our ability to

achieve the \$20 million of projected savings outlined in our new four-year strategic plan.

This forecast is based on the status quo in terms of MPAC's mandate and services and may need to be revisited if there are unplanned changes to the organization's workload or responsibilities as the result of legislative or regulatory change.

Municipalities will experience varying increases in their individual 2013 payment for services due to the changes in their assessments and property counts on the 2012 Assessment Roll.

We will confirm the actual impact to your municipality in January 2013, following the return of Assessment Rolls. As in 2012, municipalities will be billed in equal quarterly installments on the first day of each quarter.

MPAC to host 2012 Voters' List Forum

On December 5, 2012, MPAC will co-host a Voters' List Forum. The purpose of the Forum is to engage in a broader discussion on the fundamental questions raised in the Discussion Paper by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), in late 2011. This initiative is being held in cooperation with AMCTO and our election partners.

Representatives from a wide range of organizations are expected to attend the Forum including municipalities, school boards, Elections Canada, Elections Ontario, Ontario Ministries of Education, Finance and Municipal Affairs and Housing, and private sector firms that provide election and data management services.

It is anticipated that formal results will be issued on behalf of the Forum participants that would provide a road map for moving forward and will address the valid and important questions, and issues raised in the AMCTO's Discussion Paper.

As an elected municipal colleague and as the Chair of the MPAC Board of Directors, you have my assurance that we will continue to deliver on our commitment to property assessment excellence and outstanding service to our municipal partners, government stakeholders and the property taxpayers of Ontario.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact your local Municipal Relations Representative or Arthur Anderson, Director of Municipal Relations at 905 837-6993 or 1 877 635-6722, extension 6993. If you would like to speak with me directly, I can be reached at 519 271-0250, extension 234.

Yours truly,



Dan Mathieson
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors

Copy Municipal Chief Administrative Officers, Clerks and Treasurers
Municipal Liaison Group – Assessment
MPAC Board of Directors
Antoni Wisniowski, President and Chief Administrative Officer, MPAC
MPAC Executive Management Group
Arthur Anderson, Director, Municipal Relations, MPAC
Account Managers and Municipal Relations Representatives, Municipal Relations, MPAC

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Ministry of Finance

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RECEIVED
NOV 21 2012

November 15, 2012

Dear Head of Council:

We are writing to provide an update with respect to the review of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and program allocations for 2013.

As you know, in February the government announced that the OMPF would be reviewed and phased down to \$500 million by 2016, as agreed to through the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR). Since this past spring, we have had several discussions with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on the review of the OMPF, and have also received advice from many municipalities.

Based on the feedback received to date, the government is announcing that 2013 will be a transition year for the OMPF, during which the province will provide municipalities with \$575 million in stable funding. This Transition-Year Stable Funding will ensure that in 2013 municipalities receive a guaranteed level of support based on their 2012 OMPF allocations.

In 2013, municipalities in the north will receive at least 95 per cent of their 2012 OMPF allocation, while municipalities in other regions of the province will receive at least 90 per cent. These minimum levels of support will be enhanced up to 100 per cent for eligible municipalities with more challenging fiscal circumstances.

The transition year is allowing us to announce 2013 funding allocations earlier than in the past in order to support the municipal budget planning process. This will also provide the opportunity to continue the dialogue with our municipal partners on the redesign of the program.

Following further consultation with municipalities, a redesigned OMPF will be announced for the 2014 program year. Based on what we have already heard, the government acknowledges that there continues to be a need for ongoing assistance for municipalities, particularly those with more challenging fiscal circumstances. As a result, the redesign of the program for 2014 is expected to improve the targeting of funding for northern and rural municipalities.

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We understand that the details regarding the redesigned program will be an important aspect of the 2014 municipal budget planning process. With this in mind, we plan on announcing those allocations as early as possible next fall.

Furthermore, we understand that some municipalities have raised the issue of OMPF reconciliation. As you may know, reconciliation is an annual decision.

We have examined the issue of OMPF reconciliation and are confirming that the government will proceed with the reconciliation of the 2010 OMPF. However, given the province's fiscal challenges, and the significant level of support that has been provided to the municipal sector, this will be the final reconciliation payment under the OMPF. Additional details are expected to be communicated to municipalities in the coming weeks.

In addition to announcing the review of the OMPF, the government also confirmed that it will continue to honour its commitment to the uploads, in accordance with the timetable agreed to through the PMFSDR. The province will continue the phased upload of Ontario Works benefits and court security and prisoner transportation costs in 2013. This builds on the previous upload of Ontario Drug Benefits and Ontario Disability Support Program. As a result of the uploads, Ontario municipalities will benefit from almost \$1.4 billion in reduced costs.

These uploads, together with the \$575 million in OMPF Transition-Year Stable Funding, will provide municipalities with a combined benefit of over \$1.9 billion in 2013. This is more than three times the level of funding provided under the previous program in 2004. Despite the adjustments to the OMPF, the combined benefit will continue to increase, with provincial uploads more than offsetting the reduction to the program.

The following table identifies the increase in the combined benefit along with the phase-down schedule for the OMPF program, which was confirmed in the 2012 Ontario Budget.

Provincial Support Continues to Increase as OMPF is Phased Down (\$ Millions)				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Provincial Uploads	1,360	1,490	1,630	1,770
OMPf	575	550	525	500
Combined Support	1,935	2,040	2,155	2,270

Source: 2012 Ontario Budget, Chapter I: Transforming Public Services, page 51.

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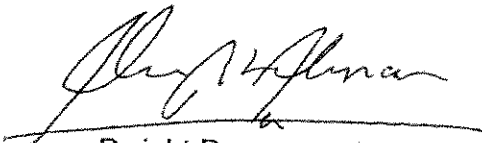
The Ministry of Finance's (MOF) Provincial-Local Finance Division will be providing your municipal Treasurers and Clerk-Treasurers with further details regarding the 2013 OMPF Transition-Year Stable Funding. This information and other supporting materials will be posted in both English and French on the MOF website:

<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ompf/2013/>

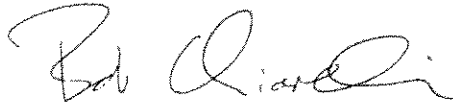
<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/fr/budget/ompf/2013/>

Our government has a very strong record of supporting and working with municipalities. Together with other provincial initiatives, we will increase our ongoing support to municipalities to approximately \$3.4 billion in 2013. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership with municipalities as we move forward to address our shared challenges.

Sincerely,



Dwight Duncan
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance



Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Minister of Infrastructure
Minister of Transportation

6

Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Ministère des Affaires autochtones

Information Centre
Algonquin Land Claim

Centre d'information
Revendication territoriale



31 Riverside Drive
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Tél: (613) 732-8081
Numéro vert: 1-855-690-7070

website: <http://www.Ontario.ca/landclaims>

TO: Committee of External Advisors (list attached)
Municipal Advisory Committee (list attached)

DATE: November 22, 2012

Since my last report dated September 20, 2012 (copy attached), a number of negotiation sessions have taken place and a great deal of technical work has been done on an Agreement in Principle.

We have continued to meet with a number of groups and organizations, including municipal councils and staff in Eastern Ontario. In addition, a workshop on fisheries in Algonquin Park was hosted by MNR on October 31 for interested members of the CEA and the Algonquins. Next week a parks workshop is scheduled for the harvesting focus group.

I mentioned in my last report that it was our intention to release a Preliminary Draft of the Agreement in Principle by the end of 2012. We are now hoping to have the Draft and plain language summaries available by mid December. We are planning regional public information sessions in the New Year to explain the various chapters of the draft AIP, including the proposed lands package. We expect these to take place in various locations in late February and we will provide you with the locations and dates as soon as they are confirmed.

The Negotiation Team is planning to set up individual meetings, as required, starting in January. Members of the Ontario team will be offering meetings with anyone who currently holds legal tenure on Crown lands proposed for transfer to Algonquin ownership, and information sessions will be arranged as required. As always, members of the team will be available to meet with groups that have interests that may be affected by the proposed settlement. The Ontario team's contact information for various types of inquiries is set out in the attachment to my letter of September 20.

We expect that the text of the Preliminary Draft Agreement in Principle will be edited and revised as required in the New Year. After approval by the Chief Negotiators it will then be submitted to the Algonquin electors for a ratification vote which is expected to be held later in 2013.

We anticipate holding a general meeting of the CEA/MAC in early 2013 to present an overview of the Preliminary Draft Agreement in Principle package if there is an interest in having such an event. Please let us know if this would be useful.

Brian Crane
Ontario Chief Negotiator

c.c. Al Stewart, Co-Chair Committee of External Advisors
Norm Lemke, Co-Chair Municipal Advisory Committee

Ministry of Infrastructure

Ministère de l'Infrastructure

Ministry of
Transportation

Ministère des
Transports

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement

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www.ontario.ca/infrastructure
www.mto.gov.on.ca
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MC-2012-682

November 15, 2012

Ms. Tammy Lea Stewart
Reeve
Townships of Head, Clara and Maria
15 Township Hall Road
Stonecliffe ON K0J 2K0

Dear Reeve Stewart:

I am very pleased to be able to write to you today and provide an update on Ontario's Municipal Infrastructure Strategy. My announcement of the strategy on August 16, 2012, and speech at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference in August emphasized the importance of good asset management planning. As indicated in the strategy, the policy going forward is that municipalities requesting provincial infrastructure funding will need to show how projects fit within a comprehensive asset management plan.

Asset management planning helps us make smart decisions about building, operating, maintaining, renewing and replacing infrastructure over the long term. Working collaboratively to focus on the most pressing needs and to show that we have done our homework with respect to addressing those needs will put us in good stead as we negotiate future funding programs with the federal government.

To support municipalities, we have made available a guide and an online web portal. *Building Together: Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans* sets out the information and analysis that asset management plans should include, at a minimum. The online asset management toolkit is available to help municipalities develop or refine their plans (ontario.ca/municipalinfrastructure).

In addition, Ontario is providing \$60 million over the next three years to municipalities through our new funding program, the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII). Up to \$9 million is being made available this year to help municipalities prepare their plans, while the remaining funds will help address critical projects identified in those finalized plans.

The uptake for asset management funding has been exceptional – nearly 100 per cent of eligible communities submitted expressions of interest for funding by the October 22nd deadline. Interest in this program tells me that we are on the right track with our focus on asset management planning. Municipalities that met eligibility will be receiving notification and their funding very soon.

.../cont'd

I am also pleased to inform you that we have launched the next phase of this work – the MIII Capital Program. This \$51-million program is now available to all Ontario municipalities and is intended to help address critical road, bridge, water and wastewater projects identified through asset management plans. I certainly appreciate that this infrastructure funding program is relatively modest when compared to the need for investment. As I communicated in August, we are working hard to find ways to extend the duration of this program and to expand the envelope.

While additional program details can be found in the Capital Program Manual posted online at ontario.ca/municipalinfrastructure, I would like to draw your attention to the key features of this program, many of which will be new to municipalities.

- The first step will be a pre-screen. This will help identify projects that have the greatest potential for alignment with the objectives of the MIII Capital Program and to minimize time spent preparing applications. Expressions of Interest are due by January 9, 2013.
- Asset management plans are the tool by which applicants can demonstrate that proposed projects are top priorities and that the full range of local infrastructure financing tools has been explored.
- The share of provincial funding that may be requested is flexible up to a maximum of 90% of total project costs or \$2 million, whichever is lower. Applicants will need to put forward a rationale for the amount of funding requested and demonstrate that they are doing what they can financially to move forward with the project.

We have been hearing concerns that municipalities will not have enough time to complete asset management plans before applications are due for the capital funding. We certainly appreciate that it will take time to prepare asset management plans that are consistent with the content outlined in the Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans. In cases where a municipality or Local Services Board with only a partial asset management plan has an urgent road, bridge, water or wastewater project that it cannot address on its own, it may put the project forward for funding consideration under the MIII Capital Program. As part of this, we will be looking for strong commitments from applicants to completion of asset management plans by the end of 2013.

Our government has made unprecedented investments in infrastructure across the province. We will continue to partner with all municipalities to invest in local infrastructure to support economic growth and enhance quality of life.

Sincerely,



Bob Chiarelli
Minister



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

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Canadian Forest Service

Service canadien des forêts

Assistant Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre adjoint

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0E4

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Ms. Tammy Lea Stewart
Reeve

Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara, and Maria
15 Township Hall Road
Stonecliffe, Ontario
K0J K2O

Dear Ms. Stewart:

Thank you for your letter of September 13, 2012, to the Honourable Joe Oliver regarding the importance of urban forests, and the role of the federal and provincial governments in supporting urban forestry in Canada. As the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Canadian Forest Service, I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that trees and forests contribute to the health and well-being of all Canadians. While Natural Resources Canada (the department) does not have a specific program dedicated to urban forests, the Canadian Forest Service supports sustainable forests within the urban landscape in a number of meaningful ways.

In partnership with the Canadian forest community, a vast amount of scientific research on pests and diseases, exotic and introduced species, and forest management practices are conducted by federal, provincial and territorial governments. The results of many of these projects can be applied in the context of urban forestry.

For example, scientists of the Canadian Forest Service have recently published findings that advance our knowledge of the behaviour, detection and management of the emerald ash borer, the Asian longhorn beetle and other species specifically within urban landscapes.

In partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Canadian Forest Service has led scientific research aimed at slowing the spread of the emerald ash borer and protecting valuable ash tree resources in Canada. Much of this research involved collaborative work in urban areas and resulted in the development of early detection

Canada

methods for trees infested by the emerald ash borer, which is of particular interest to urban areas with high-value ash trees. The Canadian Forest Service and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have also conducted field studies to determine the efficacy of a systemic bio-insecticide for use against the emerald ash borer.

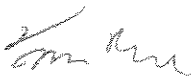
Scientists of the Canadian Forest Service also conduct research on tree diseases, which has direct application to urban forestry.

Natural Resources Canada is committed to the continued leadership in science and innovation that supports the development of policies related to the emerald ash borer and other forest diseases and pests. The department will continue to strive to find innovative scientific responses to address the impact of the emerald ash borer in urban areas. We will also continue to work closely with provincial and territorial governments and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to promote the development of pest mitigation tools and increased public awareness.

For more information on our research about the emerald ash borer, I encourage you to consult the Canadian Forest Service Web page (<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pages/318>), which includes links to recent research and publications such as *A guide to Planting Trees for Urban Residents* that helps urban residents ensure their trees have the best possible start and is distributed free of charge.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your views concerning this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Rosser



Minister of Public Safety

Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

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NOV 14 2012

Ms. Melinda Reith
Municipal Clerk and CAO
Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria
15 Township Hall Road
Stonecliffe, Ontario K0J 2K0

Dear Ms. Reith:

The Office of the Prime Minister has forwarded to me your correspondence of August 20, 2012, regarding the federal government's decision to eliminate the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) and the Canadian Emergency Management College.


Our Government recognizes the importance of an integrated and resilient approach to emergency management. Emergency management is a shared responsibility between all levels of government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and individual citizens. We also recognize that most emergencies in Canada are managed by municipalities or at the provincial or territorial level. As such, the Government of Canada has supplemented provincial emergency preparedness since 1980 by investing over \$175 million in emergency planning, training and specialized equipment through the JEPP. Please note that JEPP funding remains in place for projects submitted for consideration in 2012-13.

Moving forward, our Government is developing a long-term National Disaster Mitigation Program through engagement with provinces and territories, recognizing that mitigation can lessen the impact of natural disasters and reduce the costs associated with these events. In addition, Budget 2012 will provide funding of up to \$99.2 million over three years to assist provinces and territories with the cost of permanent flood mitigation measures undertaken for the 2011 flood season.

Please be assured that Public Safety Canada remains committed to working with provinces and territories to ensure the safety and security of all Canadians.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vic Toews".

Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

c.c.: Ms. Cheryl Gallant, M.P.
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, M.L.A.
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, M.P.P.
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services (ON)

Mr. John Yakabuski, M.P.P.
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

The County of Renfrew

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Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

NOV 15 2012

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Ms. Tammy Lea Stewart
Reeve
Corporation of the United Townships of Head,
Clara and Maria
15 Township Hall Road
Stonecliffe, Ontario K0J 2K0

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Dear Ms. Stewart:

I am writing in response to your correspondence to the Right Honourable Stephen Harper regarding a resolution approved by the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria on March 9, 2012, on the subject of the emerald ash borer (EAB). I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Council's concerns.

The Government of Canada takes the threat posed by invasive pests such as EAB seriously, and it recognizes the hardships and challenges that this pest presents to all affected stakeholders. Under the authority of the *Plant Protection Act*, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) undertakes actions aimed at preventing pests of quarantine significance from entering into or spreading within Canada. This includes creating regulated areas that are determined based on scientific information.

Given EAB's current distribution in Canada, the CFIA is no longer pursuing eradication of the pest; however, the CFIA believes that there is continued merit in slowing the spread of EAB within Canada in order to protect this country's ash resources. This is important both to protect other areas with ash populations and to protect Canadian industry's continued domestic and international market access for ash products. This slow-the-spread strategy is supported by our partners, including Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Environment Canada, and some provinces that are concerned about the risk posed by EAB if it should spread to them.

Consistent with the slow-the-spread approach and the Government's direction in Budget 2012, the CFIA's response to EAB is focused on a strategic approach to regulated areas, which could include reducing the number and increasing the size of regulated areas in order to control the movement of wood products that present a risk for spreading the pest. The Agency will continue to undertake surveillance to detect the pest's spread and distribution; provide effective communication of the CFIA's regulatory approach; and support continued research, through the

.../2

Canadian Forest Service, on the insect's biology, life cycle, and possible biological control. For example, the CFIA continues to consult with federal, provincial, and municipal partners and stakeholders on science-based strategies for the detection and control of EAB. Biological control and natural tree resistance may play increasingly important roles in managing EAB populations.

I can appreciate your request for financial support. However, because the CFIA's approach to EAB has changed from eradication to slowing its spread, the Agency is no longer providing compensation to stakeholders affected by this pest. This is consistent with the approach taken in the U.S. and allows for the program's long-term sustainability.

The CFIA recognizes the impact of EAB on affected municipalities and that continued collaborative effort and co-operation of all partners are essential to protect Canada's valuable forest resources. Sustainable management of commercial and urban forests is the responsibility of provincial and municipal governments. The CFIA is prepared to support this responsibility by continuing to work collectively with all partners to ensure that its regulatory and surveillance activities are effective components of an overall approach to managing this pest.

This approach is in line with *An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada*, which was developed through the collective efforts of several federal government departments and agencies, as well as of numerous provinces. Further information on the Strategy is available at the following website: www.ec.gc.ca/eee-ias/98DB3ACF-94FE-4573-AE0F-95133A03C5E9/Final_IAS_Strategic_Plan_smaller_e.pdf.

The CFIA understands that strong partnerships are critical to combat the impacts of EAB as this pest continues to spread. In this respect, the Agency will undertake consultation efforts over the next year to develop a collaborative response strategy for EAB, in which all stakeholders would play a role in its overall long-term management. Rest assured that municipalities such as the Municipality of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria will be consulted in the development of the strategy.

Thank you for writing on this important subject.

Sincerely,



Gerry Ritz, PC, MP