



Feb 13, 2014

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

I am writing to you today with an update on the state of policing billing and the sense of unease in rural Ontario as we contemplate the horrific financial impact of the implementation in 2015. The Township of Greater Madawaska is 1000 square kilometers with approximately 60% of the land mass being comprised of Crown Land. Approximately 91% of our levy is collected from our residential sector.

Greater Madawaska is a rural, recreational community with a bedroom community component as well as a sizeable fixed income senior and retired population. We have a population of approximately 2700 and an estimated 340,000 annual visitors to a variety of community and commercial attractions.

We do not have a contract with the OPP. In 2013 we paid \$312,094 and it has been suggested we will pay \$911,430 in 2015 for the same officer who serves our community. I can inform you in 2010 the OPP provided 3259 hours of services to Greater Madawaska at a cost of under \$300,000. In 2011 there were 603 occurrences investigated and in 2012 672 occurrences were investigated. I would suggest to you in no way does this translate into a nearly \$1,000,000 expenditure by any reasonable application of an open, fair and transparent formula.

We do not have any say in the level of service required for our community. We do not determine the focus of enforcement i.e. lowering or raising the speed limit or the pursuit of cannabis. I would draw your attention to the comments of various members of your government when the Federal government instituted changes in minimum sentencing levels for convictions. The prevailing tenor of the comments from your government at the time - was the unfairness of a senior level of government imposing law or policy which then drives your expenditures i.e. the increased costs of incarceration and bricks and mortar costs to develop more capacity to service the population. I would suggest to you the new Police billing model mirrors the federal and provincial dynamic of 2012 and would suggest your government should intercede and restore the situation to one whereby rural municipalities can acquire affordable police services.

To further demonstrate the unusualness and unfairness of this proposed model I can offer the following information. Then Town of Deep River has a nine member municipal police force. It has been in existence for over 50 years. The cost of this department in 2014 is budgeted at approximately \$1.4 million. Deep River has 1990 households with a population of 4,086 and they also provide policing to the nearby AECL campus which has approximately 3000 employees on site.

Our community and council requests you delay implementing the new OPP payment demand model and install a Rural, Small Communities Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review panel under the auspices of the Finance Minister, Minister Meilleur and Minister Leal to review the ability of municipalities to pay and service delivery levels of the OPP in rural and small town Ontario. This would allow an in depth review of the partnership between the OPP, the province of Ontario and the level of funding municipalities are able to contribute.

Our community does not feel comfortable with the AMO Steering Committee speaking on behalf of rural Ontario. We would suggest to you they have not included members from Eastern Ontario. An area which contains over 100 communities and 40% of the population of Ontario when one excludes the GTA population. Respectfully, we would submit to you this omission is not allowing an accurate read on the level of policing in our communities and ability to pay.

I have been granted the opportunity to meet with Minister Meilleur at OGRA and will be presenting this and other information for her consideration.

Respectfully



Peter R. Emon
Mayor

cc. Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, MPP
John Yakabuski, MPP
Municipalities of Renfrew County