



Sent via e-mail: ynaqvi.mpp@liberal.ola.org

April 19, 2016

The Honourable Yasir Naqvi
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
18th Floor, George Drew Building
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Naqvi:

I wish to express my concern regarding the current OPP billing model and the impacts of specific structures being included in the property count as households, including seasonally occupied recreational trailers, mobile homes, and wind turbines.

The financial impact of the OPP billing model has been raised by municipal governments across the province in the Council decisions, media articles and in meetings of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA). In the last five months, ROMA has received over 15 municipal Council resolutions regarding OPP billing.

The OPP billing of recreational trailers, mobile homes, and properties where wind turbines are located exceeds municipal tax revenue when they are deemed assessable by MPAC and counted as households by the OPP. For example, the wind turbine properties in Frontenac Islands Township were assessed and billed at the household rate, at an additional cost of \$26,000.

In my own Township of Rideau Lakes, there are over 100 assessed recreational trailers in campgrounds, contributing \$4,264 in taxation in 2015. Yet since these trailers are charged the household cost by the OPP, Rideau Lakes will experience a net loss of \$16,008.30 after paying the OPP charges for the trailers. An additional loss of \$5,717.95 is also realized on mobile homes in the Township.

The Municipality of Trent Lakes is also experiencing concerns with the billing of temporary trailers, which pay very little in property taxes, yet are charged the full tax amount in OPP charges.

Accordingly, I would ask that your Ministry review options to address this matter.

One option I may offer would be to implement a 'minimum assessed value benchmark' for the purposes of determining the inclusion of specific properties under the OPP billing formula. This benchmark should be indexed annually to keep pace with inflation.

This is a matter of fairness. If a trailer, mobile home, wind turbine or other such property is to be counted as a household for the purposes of the base OPP service charge, it should, at the very least, be a breakeven proposition for the municipality.

The OPP billing formula as currently established accordingly creates a disincentive for municipal governments to support the future development of lower cost housing options, such as mobile home parks and alternative housing models, such as tiny homes. The OPP billing model appears to be at odds with the generation of affordable housing options and supporting an end to homelessness which is a priority of your government.

On behalf of ROMA, I ask that your Ministry review this issue to ensure that the process remains fair for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald E. Holman".

Ronald E. Holman
ROMA Chair