

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des  
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et du Logement**

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*cc Mayor, Council, Mark  
Janine Waterspoon  
2013-06-10*

**JUN 04 2013**

13-59779

Your Worship  
Mayor Roy Avis  
Town of Fort Frances  
320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances ON P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor Avis:

Thank you for your letter of March 26, 2013, describing the town's current challenges related to a recent reassessment matter and the town's efforts undertaken to date.

As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I thank you for sharing your concerns about assessment changes in northern Ontario communities. Assessment and property tax policy in Ontario are the responsibility of my colleague, the Honourable Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance. I will bring your letter to his attention and ask him to respond to you directly.

As announced in the 2013 Budget, the Province will be working with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), municipalities and taxpayer representatives to review options to further strengthen property assessment processes and the property tax system in Ontario. The review will be led by Parliamentary Assistant Steven Del Duca, Ministry of Finance, and will be supported by staff in the Ministries of Finance, and Municipal Affairs and Housing.

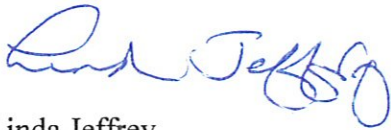
Our government believes that it is critical that property assessments be determined in a fashion that is fair, accurate and predictable. To that end, Parliamentary Assistant Del Duca's review will focus on areas such as clarifying and refining assessment methodologies applied to properties such as mills, review timelines for the assessment appeal process and consider other opportunities to strengthen MPAC.

To assist in this review, Parliamentary Assistant Del Duca has also convened a working group that will work co-operatively and expeditiously with affected municipalities to explore options for addressing the concerns that have been raised by the recent ARB decisions.

While there are no funds available from the ministry to assist the municipality to address these financial issues, my staff here at the Ministry are working with Ministry of Finance and your municipality. Ministry staff are available to provide advice with regard to managing financial issues like a review of services, shared services options and financial best practices.

If you would like to discuss these matters further, staff in our Northern Municipal Services Office in Thunder Bay are available. Please contact Susan Fraser, Manager, Local Government, at 807-475-1653, or by e-mail at [susan.fraser@ontario.ca](mailto:susan.fraser@ontario.ca) .

Sincerely,



Linda Jeffrey  
Minister

c: The Honourable Charles Sousa  
Minister of Finance