

**Ministry of Northern Development  
and Mines**

Office of the Minister

99 Wellesley Street West  
Room 5630, Whitney Block  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tel: 416-327-0633  
Fax: 416-327-0665

**Ministère du Développement du Nord et  
des Mines**

Bureau du ministre

99, rue Wellesley ouest  
Bureau 5630. Édifice Whitney  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tél. : 416-327-0633  
Télec. : 416-327-0665



Ontario

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

Dear Mayor/Avis: *Roy*

It was a pleasure meeting with you and delegates from the Town of Fort Frances at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference on January 22, 2018 in Toronto.

As Minister of Northern Development and Mines, your input and knowledge of Northern Ontario municipal matters are important to me. Certainly, I appreciated having the opportunity to hear your thoughts and concerns regarding the pulp and paper mill, physician shortages in Fort Frances, the Connecting Links funding application, the current model for railroad-land taxation, the loss of your resident Crown Attorney, and the discontinuation of the Summer Jobs Service Program. I understand that you will send follow-up correspondence to my ministry outlining these issues.

Our government is committed to working with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and local industries of the North to take advantage of emerging opportunities for jobs and growth, while addressing the unique challenges facing the North.

I encourage you to work with Ms. Leanne Mose, Northern Development Officer, in Fort Frances. Ms. Mose would be pleased to assist you with information on the programs of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, as well as other applicable Ontario government programs and initiatives available. She can also help you get in touch with other provincial ministries, as may be required. Ms. Mose can be reached by telephone at 807-274-5320, or by email at [leanne.mose@ontario.ca](mailto:leanne.mose@ontario.ca).

Once again, thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns. It was a pleasure meeting with you at ROMA. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

Michael Gravelle  
Minister of Northern Development and Mines