



MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 08, 2013

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 addition to the Assessment Update activities that MPAC has been focused on, the corporation also launched a four-year strategic plan (2013-2016). The new plan is an ambitious one and it has the potential to save as much as \$20 million over the next four years. The savings will be achieved through 18 strategic initiatives which we plan to implement over 2013-2016. These initiatives directly impact the product and services that MPAC delivers to the property owners of Ontario as well as our municipal and government stakeholders. I will take the opportunity to highlight some of our initiatives throughout this report.

2012 Province-Wide Assessment Update

Last fall, MPAC delivered its second province-wide Assessment Update as part of Ontario's four-year assessment cycle. This represented placing new values on Ontario's almost five million properties as of the legislated valuation date of January 1, 2012.

For the 2012 Assessment Update, MPAC received 110,000 Request for Reconsiderations (RfRs). In comparison, 195,000 were filed for the last update in 2008, representing a decrease of 85,000 RfRs or 44 per cent. MPAC is committed to completing 100 per cent of this year's RfRs by the legislated deadline of September 30, 2013.

In large part, this reduction in RfRs filed can be attributed to the public outreach undertaken last fall along with the relaunch of a new and improved [aboutmyproperty.ca](#) and release of Market Snapshot.

The first edition of Market Snapshot was launched prior to the mailing of Notices and highlighted the market changes. The report was well received by stakeholders and the media. More than 85 outlets covered the release of the report with the overall tone being positive.

I am pleased to report that property owners have embraced the opportunity to visit aboutmyproperty.ca to learn more about their assessment. From the start of the mailout of Notices to June 2013 (September 2012 – June 2013), more than 205,000 property owners registered on AboutMyProperty™, representing close to 240,000 properties. More than 2.4 million property snapshots were viewed and over 310,000 Properties of Interest were selected.

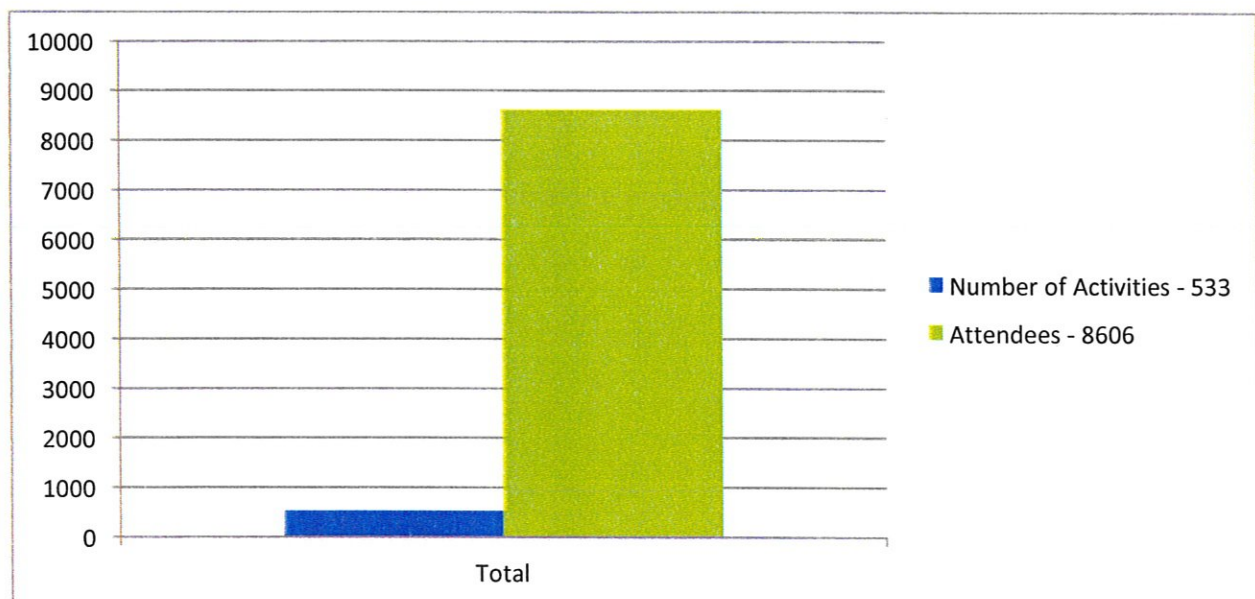
As of March 31, 2013, there were 79,568 outstanding Assessment Review Board (ARB) Appeals. Of this number, 7,785 are residential and 71,783 are non-residential. Over the first quarter, the ARB disposed of more than 11,000 Appeals.

One of the strategic initiatives in MPAC's new strategic plan directly addresses our commitment to respond and resolve all outstanding appeals within the four-year assessment cycle.

Public Education & Outreach

MPAC continues its community outreach activities in support of assessment related activities.

This year, MPAC has held more than 517 outreach activities across the province with various property taxpayer and stakeholder groups including municipalities. MPAC also attended 16 municipal association conferences and trade shows. In total, MPAC has connected with over 8600 stakeholders across the province.



2013 Growth Update

This year, MPAC is committed to processing over 160,000 building permits, with an anticipated taxable assessment growth, through Supplementary Assessment Listings, of approximately \$23 billion.

2013 Estimated Assessment Growth – By Geographic Zone	
Southwestern Ontario	\$2.8 billion
Golden Horseshoe	\$4.1 billion
Central North Eastern Ontario	\$4.9 billion
Greater Toronto Area	\$5.8 billion
Central Ontario (Cottage Country)	\$1.8 billion
Eastern Ontario	\$2.6 billion
Northern Ontario	\$0.7 billion

In 2012, we delivered approximately **\$24.3 billion** in assessment growth through Supplementary Assessment Listings delivered to municipalities throughout the year.

MPAC staff have also been following up with municipal partners to ensure there is an understanding of growth targets in your community in support of the municipal budget process.

2013 Ontario Budget: Strengthening Ontario's Property Tax System

In the 2013 Spring Budget, the government identified the need to review the timelines for the assessment appeal process as well as clarify and refine the assessment methodologies applied to special purpose business properties such as mills, industrial lands and billboards.

MPAC understands the concerns raised by municipalities about these properties and we look forward to working with all stakeholders to implement recommendations to strengthen the property tax system.

Transforming Relationships into Partnerships

As an elected municipal colleague and 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.

The cornerstone of MPAC's four-year strategic plan is to transform its relationships with stakeholders into partnerships. I encourage you to call your local Municipal Relations Representative if you have any questions about the assessment activities in your community. You may also contact 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.

I hope we have the opportunity to meet at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference this August in Ottawa. MPAC will be holding a concurrent session at the conference and I encourage you to attend our session if your schedule permits to hear an update from myself as well as MPAC President and Chief Administrative Officer Antoni Wisniowski.

Yours truly,



Dan Mathieson
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors

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