

Ministry of Northern Development  
and Mines

Office of the Minister

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Ontario

OCT 20 2017

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



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Dear Mayor Avis: *Roy*

I am pleased that Mr. Joe Dickson, my Parliamentary Assistant and ministry staff met with you and delegates from the Town of Fort Frances at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference on August 15, 2017, in Ottawa.

As Minister of Northern Development and Mines, your input and knowledge of Northern Ontario municipal matters are important to me. Certainly, Mr. Dickson and ministry staff appreciated having the opportunity to hear your thoughts and concerns regarding the appointment of a permanent sitting court judge for the Rainy River District courts; the railway right-of-way tax-rate adjustment; Connecting Links funding; the Enhanced Sustainable Forest License Program; the potential sale and restart of operations at the idled Resolute Forest Products pulp and paper mill; as well as the shortage of physicians in your community. Ministry staff were also pleased to receive an update on the progress made on the market square.

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 my ministry's Fort Frances office. She would be pleased to assist you with information about the programs of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, as well as other applicable Ontario government programs and initiatives available. Ministry staff can also help you get in touch with other provincial ministries, as may be required. You can reach Ms. Mose 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. In closing, please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

Michael Gravelle  
Minister of Northern Development and Mines