



Ontario

Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7
Telephone: 416 325-3581
Facsimile: 416 325-3453

Édifice Frost Sud, 7^e étage
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7
Téléphone: 416 325-3581
Télécopieur: 416 325-3453



AUG 15 2013

Craig Nuttall, Mayor
City of Dryden
30 Van Horne Avenue
Dryden, ON P8N 2A7

Mike Lehoux, Mayor
Town of Espanola
100 Tudhope Street, Suite 2
Espanola, ON P5E 1S6

Roy Avis, Mayor
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P0

Terry Fiset, Reeve
Township of James
P.O. Box 10
Elk Lake, ON P0J 1G0

Keith Hobbs, Mayor
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street E.
P.O. Box 800
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5K4

Coalition of Victims of MPAC
P.O. Box 10
Elk Lake, Ontario
P0J 1G0

Dear Mayors and Reeve:

Thank you for your letter, following up on the Mills Assessment Working Group meeting in June. I have appreciated the opportunity to meet with you all directly to discuss options for addressing the mill assessment issues.

I understand that the decreases in assessment and property taxes as a result of recent Assessment Review Board (ARB) decisions are challenging for affected municipalities. The Working Group meetings have been productive and helpful in developing a mutual understanding of the facts to inform recommendations to the Minister of Finance (MOF) and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing as part of the Special Purpose Business Property Assessment Review.

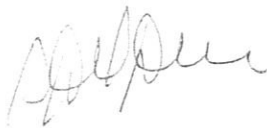
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With respect to the follow-up questions and information requests that you have raised, please be advised that staff are reviewing the questions and responses will be forthcoming either through future working group discussions or additional documentation.

As we discussed at the June 13th working group meeting and again when we met in Espanola on July 29th 2013, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) will be returning in August with a detailed presentation regarding assessment methodology and service to municipalities. Staff will work with MPAC to confirm their presentation addresses the assessment questions you raised.

I appreciated the opportunity to visit Espanola and Elk Lake and to meet with you all in a working group meeting in Espanola. This visit will help contribute to the broader Special Purpose Business Property Assessment Review (SPBPAP) process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Steven Del Duca', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steven Del Duca, MPP
Parliamentary Assistant

- c. Steve Orsini, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
William Forward, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing