



Ontario
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ERNIE HARDEMAN, M.P.P.
Oxford

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Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
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Dear Premier,

As you will recall two months ago at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference, municipalities spoke to you about the challenges that your changes to the Power Dam Special Payment Program would cause. They explained the impact that reducing the payments would have on their budgets and asked that power dams once again be subject to municipal taxes.

During your speech at AMO you told municipalities that this needed to be fixed. In fact during the bear pit at the conference you stated clearly that you had directed finance officials to make taxation part of the discussion.

However, Premier, municipalities tell me the opposite has occurred.

I was recently told by one of the municipalities who will be significantly impacted by the reduction that the Ministry of Finance is pushing ahead with a decrease, but refusing to discuss taxation of the power dams until a later date. Premier, if a solution is to be found it must be done before the reductions occur.

Premier, for many of the 111 municipalities who will face reductions this represents a significant loss of revenue. It is not fair or sensible to put them through this hardship and then try to find a solution at a later date.

I ask you to maintain the Power Dam Special Payment Program payment level until a new sustainable plan is in place and to direct Ministry of Finance officials to ensure that that they are having full and open discussions with municipalities, looking at every option as you committed.

Sincerely,

Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford
PC Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing

