

Good Morning,

Your Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association (KLCA) does not usually become involved in political issues; however, this is one exception that I think you will agree is appropriate and called for.

The OPP was tasked by the Ontario Provincial Auditor in 2012 to review and improve the costing model used to generate the bills they present to the municipalities they provide policing services to, Algonquin Highlands and Dysart et al being two such municipalities. A new model has been developed by the OPP and appears to be in the final review stages. It is, in our opinion and those of a great many municipalities across Ontario, seriously flawed and will result in very significant tax increases that are simply unfair and unwarranted.

The Coalition Of Haliburton Property Owners Association ("CHA") represents 72 cottage lake associations in Haliburton County – the KLCA is a member and was approached by the County through the CHA to inform our membership of the issue and request your support in opposing this new model. The KLCA Board of Directors has reviewed this request and is fully supportive, hence this email to you. The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations ("FOCA") is also requesting your support in opposing this new model – more details are covered on their website (http://www.foca.on.ca/Policing_Costs).

There are a very large number of reports covering the background and providing several assessments of the proposed model and the impact upon the tax bills we would receive available to you on the Haliburton County website (<https://haliburton.civicweb.net/Documents>). The CHA has prepared a briefing note which is attached and all of this can be summarized as follows:

- Proposed OPP municipal policing cost model is based upon a fixed rate of \$ 369 per house in the County plus a charge per type of service call. This represents a significant cost increase per household as per the table below:

OPP Costs	Algonquin Highlands	Dysart et al	Highlands East	Minden Hills
2012 cost / household	\$ 72.87	\$ 144.00	149.63	187.01
2012 total cost	\$ 329,955.36	\$ 1,092,096.00	\$ 688,447.63	\$ 1,225,102.51
2015 cost / household	369.00	369.00	369.00	369.00
2015 total cost	\$ 1,670,832.00	\$ 2,798,496.00	\$ 1,697,769.00	\$ 2,417.319.00
% Cost increase / household	406 %	156 %	147 %	97 %

- One of the biggest flaws in the tax proposal is that a per household model was used and is based on the MPAC property list, which includes seasonal residents and well as full-time residents. Policing costs, simplistically put, are largely driven by the number of people to be policed as in the more there are the greater it costs to police them. Given that the Townships in Haliburton County have a large percentage of seasonal residents (as per the table below) this translates into a smaller population

to be policed when compared to other Townships and Counties that don't. As a result it is unfair to charge the same rate per household for Haliburton County as used for households in areas of the Province where there are very few seasonal residents. This flaw is further compounded by the absence of any consideration upon the policing costs caused by commercial, industrial and institutional activities all of which have an impact upon policing costs. Haliburton County has very little of these yet is expected to pay the same per household as other Counties which do.

Household Type	Algonquin Highlands	Dysart et al	Highlands East	Minden Hills	County Total
# of Permanent	929	2,779	1,588	2,761	8,057
# of Seasonal	3,599	4,805	3,013	3,790	15,207
Total	4,528	7,584	4,601	6,551	23,264

- There is no question this model if implemented in its current flawed format will cause significant increases to your tax bill in 2015 when it would come into effect. The table below shows the potential impact upon your 2015 tax bill if your cottage is assessed at \$ 500,000:

OPP Costs	Algonquin Highlands	Dysart et al	Highlands East	Minden Hills
Impact to 2015 tax bill on \$ 500,000 of assessment	\$ 458	\$ 310	\$ 473	\$ 294

It is important to remember the above projected tax increases are beyond the control of the Townships as this is a cost forced upon them by the proposed changes in the OPP costing model. They simply do not have the capacity to absorb increases of this magnitude without draconian and permanent cuts to services. There is no question, when I look at the different costs charged per Township now that the OPP costing model requires some work – however let's not see it replaced with one that is even more flawed.

Our elected officials at the Township and County levels are working hard with their counterparts from other municipalities across Ontario towards the development of an OPP costing model that would be fair and equitable to all. They are asking for help as it has become quite obvious the Provincial Government and the OPP are reluctant to accept input and implement changes.

Your KLCA Board of Directors strongly supports their actions and is asking that if you also agree to please make your concerns known. A letter has been drafted that you could use (or adapt to meet your preferences) to email, or fax or mail via Canada Post to:

- the Premier,
- the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services (this is Minister responsible for the OPP)
- your MPP from your home area as this will reach more MPPs than just sending to the one representing the Haliburton County. Their contact information is listed at the bottom of this letter.

We are asking that you deal with this promptly while there is still time to effect the outcome and to send something to all 3 officials listed above.

Thank You !

John

John McHardy, President
Kawgama Lake Cottagers' Association

Att: CHA Briefing Note
Sample letter

Contact Information:

Premier:

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Premier
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Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1
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Email: kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Hon Madeleine Meilleur
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
18th Floor, George Drew Building
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y6
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How to find the contact detail for the MPP for the riding your home is located in:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members_current.do;jsessionid=c72d607930d6c6a355bb082649f2a5a4b0570cbb7224.e3eRb3iNcheNe34ObxiNahyRaNf0n6jAmIjGr5XDqQLvpAe?locale=en&ord=Riding&dir=ASC&list_type=all_mpps