

OPP Tax Increase Update # 4 (2014.07.06)

Background:

The OPP is proposing to change the way in which it generates the bill to each Township for the policing services they provide. The proposed method is badly flawed and contains serious inequities which, if implemented, will result in significant increases to the ***municipal*** portion of your tax bill. Current estimates are this will add approximately \$ 90.00 to the municipal portion of property taxes for every \$ 100,000 of assessment in Algonquin Highlands. For example, this will add \$ 450.00 on properties assessed at \$ 500,000. Similar increases are forecast for properties in Dysart et al.

Update:

The letter writing and emailing efforts to the Premier and other members of the Provincial Legislature along with County and Township lobbying efforts voicing concerns over the inequities of the proposed changes have paid off ! I participated as a member of a team from Haliburton County representing the 4 Townships that made a presentation to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Mr. Yasir Naqvi Thursday July 3, 2014.

The Minister now clearly understands our issues with the proposed model and how it will result in unfair and extremely large increases in the OPP Policing costs to this area for the same level of service. He also understands how these costs will have to be passed on the residents by the Townships resulting in significant increases in municipal property taxes. He was obviously well prepared and asked several insightful questions as we presented our material. A press release was issued by the County and can be found at (<http://haliburtoncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/20140704-press-release.pdf>). The presentation material can be found on the County website (<http://haliburtoncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Presentation-to-Minister-July-3-2014-PDF-version.pdf>).

The Minister committed to reviewing the proposed model to ensure it is fair, equitable, transparent and that it is consistent with recommendations made in the 2012 Provincial Auditor General report. We anticipate there could be more discussions with Ministry staff before the model is finalized.

Bottom Line:

We are cautiously optimistic following the July 3rd meeting with the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Service, Mr. Yasir Naqvi, that there will be changes made to the proposed OPP Billing model that could address our concerns. Given all of the competing pressures on this issue there are no guarantees and we will continue to monitor this closely and update you as appropriate.

John McHardy, President
Kawagama lake Cottagers' Association