



P.O. Box 129, 1 Bailey Street, Port Carling, Ontario, P0B 1J0
Website: www.muskokalakes.ca
Phone: 705-765-3156
Fax: 705-765-6755

May 26, 2021

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Y7

Dear Honourable Bethlenfalvy,

After a positive AMO delegation last August with Ministry of Finance Parliamentary Assistant MPP Stan Cho last September, I wrote to former Minister Phillips regarding the matter of correcting the inappropriate billing process imposed upon lower tier municipalities for costs related to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). For your reference, I am providing a copy of a resolution passed by the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes on September 16, 2020 regarding a request to amend Section 12 of the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act, 1997*.

At the most recent ROMA conference, MPP Cho suggested we (Township Staff) meet with staff from the Ministry of Finance and Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss the matter. During that discussion, ministry officials suggested we could solve the issues between our upper tier and the 6 affected lower tier Municipalities under the District of Muskoka. In discussions with Treasury staff at the District and each lower tier Municipality, we are of the belief that due to the wording of the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act*, this is not possible. I again refer back to my discussion with MPP Cho where he indicated a request to amend the wording was something that was "reasonable".

Please understand across the Province there are several lower-tier municipalities in a two-tier system that are negatively affected by the current legislative wording. Other lower-tier municipalities such as the City of Mississauga, City of Waterloo, and the Town of The Blue Mountains, are just a few who would benefit from a simple change in wording.

.../2

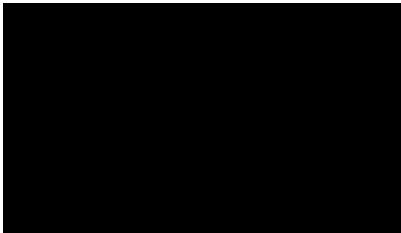
As a remedy to bring about fairness for lower-tier municipalities, we are asking that the following legislative amendment to the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act, 1997* be brought forward for consideration:

12 (1) The Corporation shall require each ~~municipality, other than a~~ **single and** lower-tier municipality, to pay the amount required by this section in respect of each taxation year, beginning with the ~~1998~~ **2022** taxation year.

This simple change would in fact correct the inappropriate billing imposed by the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act*. As you are well aware, the local municipalities bill taxes and work closely with MPAC to get the property assessment valuation correct, as well as provide them with building permit and residency change information. Local municipalities do the work – they should pay the appropriate cost apportioned bill to MPAC, not their respective upper tier governments.

I look forward to your positive influence and change regarding this longstanding inappropriate billing practice.

Yours truly,



Phil Harding
Mayor
Township of Muskoka Lakes

cc. Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka
Stan Cho, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, MPP, Willowdale,
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga
Dave Jaworsky, Mayor, City of Waterloo
Alar Soever, Mayor, Town of The Blue Mountains
Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia
Brian Ropp, Mayor, Municipality of North Middlesex



P.O. Box 129, 1 Bailey Street, Port Carling, Ontario P0B 1J0
Website: www.muskokalakes.ca
Phone: 705-765-3156 Fax: 705-765-6755

September 23, 2020

Hon. Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Y7

Dear Honourable Phillips,

Please find attached a copy of a resolution passed by the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes on September 16, 2020 regarding a request to amend section 12 of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act 1997.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Yours truly,


Mark Donaldson
Director of Financial Services

cc. Ministry of Finance Parliamentary Assistant Stan Cho
Town of the Blue Mountains
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Town of Innisfil
Town of Lakeshore
City of Mississauga
Municipality of North Middlesex
Township of Puslinch
City of Sarnia
Town of Saugeen Shores
Township of South Frontenac

Town of Tecumseh
City of Waterloo
Lower Tier District of Muskoka Municipalities
 Town of Bracebridge
 Town of Gravenhurst
 Township of Georgian Bay
 Town of Huntsville
 Township of Lake of Bays

Encl
/ch



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Item 8.h.

Date: September 16, 2020

C- 11 -16/09/20

MOVED BY: Councillor Kelley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Jaglowitz

Whereas single and upper-tier municipalities are required to pay annually for the services of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation ("MPAC") in accordance with section 12 of the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act, 1997* (the "Act");

And Whereas the formula prescribed under section 12 of the Act used to calculate the annual payment gives equal weighting to the proportion that the total assessment on all property in the municipality and the proportion that the total number of properties set out in assessment rolls returned in the municipality relative to the Province of Ontario;

And Whereas when payment of these costs when apportioned by upper-tier municipalities removes the equitable distribution contemplated under section 12 of the Act (assessment by municipality and total number of properties) introducing significant unfairness to the residents of the lower-tier municipalities which have disproportionately higher assessment values;

And Whereas, in the interest of fairness, lower-tier municipal residents should pay an amount that is consistent with the formula as set out in the Act;

And Whereas this item was discussed with Parliamentary Assistant Stan Cho at the recent AMO Conference with representatives from the District of Muskoka and all lower-tier Municipalities within;


Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes request The Minister of Finance to:

1. Amend section 12 of the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act, 1997* to bill single and lower-tier governments directly pursuant the current formula prescribed in the legislation prior to the 2021 MPAC billing cycle, or alternatively;
2. Amend section 12 of the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act, 1997* to direct those upper-tier municipalities required to pay the prescribed amounts, to distribute the costs to the residents of lower-tier municipalities using the same formula currently prescribed in the legislation.

RECORDED VOTE:	NAYS	YEAS
COUNCILLOR BRIDGEMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS (Deputy Mayor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR HAYES (Acting Deputy Mayor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR JAGLOWITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR KELLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR MAZAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR ROBERTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR ZAVITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MAYOR HARDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS		
Recorded Vote Requested by: _____		

DEFEATED ☐

CARRIED ☒



MAYOR