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January 10, 2017

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
via e-mail

Dear Premier Wynne:

Re: **Resolution to Address the Inequity in Property Taxation on Railway Right-of-Way's Collected by Municipalities in Ontario.**

At the recent meeting of Council held on Monday, January 9, 2017, the following resolution was approved:

"WHEREAS it has been identified that Railway Companies in the province of Ontario, do not pay a proportionate share of municipal property tax as compared to other properties in their class, or compared to any other municipal tax class; and;

WHEREAS in other provinces and jurisdictions the railway companies do remit a more equitable share of taxes to the local tax base; and;

WHEREAS taxes in other jurisdictions for railway properties are calculated using a ton-mile concept; and;

WHEREAS said fees are reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis according to inflation and ongoing current conditions; and;

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has continued to fall further and further behind in their approach to railroad property taxation over the past 112 plus years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Fort Frances call upon the Minister of Finance for the Province of Ontario to implement a new system of municipal property taxation for railroad right-of-way properties based on utilizing a per ton-mile concept; and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the new tax system when implemented, be reviewed on a regular basis, similar to the MPAC four-year assessment cycle; and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to every Municipal Council within the Province of Ontario seeking their support, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance of Ontario, Ontario MPPs, Local MPs, RRDMA, NOMA, AMO and FONOM."

Yours very truly,

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION



Elizabeth Slomke, Clerk

ES/kl



c.c. (via e-mail)
Hon. Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance
Ontario MPP's
Local MPP's
RRDMA
NOMA
AMO
FONOM
Mayor and Council
D. Brown, CAO