

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF TEMAGAMI**
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Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Delegation, January 2021

Good Morning

Thank you for agreeing to meet with us today. While you have no doubt heard a great deal about Temagami recently, for context, we are located at the northern edge of the District of Nipissing and are separated from most other District municipalities by a large area of unorganized municipalities.

We would like to start by thanking you for your involvement in the approval of the Temagami Forest Management Corporation. While there is still structural work that needs to be completed we believe that this Corporation will provide good stewardship for our forests and, with the restarting of harvesting operations, there will be more regular ‘maintenance’ of forest access roads which will benefit recreational users of crown land and those who rely on these roads for access. While we are aware of the restrictions given the pandemic we are presently experiencing, we would like to extend an open invitation to you and your Ministry to use our community to host any announcements and, when we can gather once again, we would be pleased to be your host for any area meetings you may hold.

We continue to have a positive relationship with your Staff at your North Bay office. Lately, they have been very helpful in explaining the process for Crown Lands to be acquired by the Municipality for development or residential purposes. With the various studies and plans required the estimate for this process is 4 to 5 years, provided everything goes well. Especially with lands adjacent to our Industrial Park, this seems to be in conflict with statements made by your government that we are ‘open for business’. We have no available lands in our Industrial Park and there are some Crown Land in close proximity that would be ideal for expansion. While we are soon to start the process to attempt to acquire lands for present and future growth, if there was a way that the time frame could be shortened, we would be appreciative. We are ready and able to discuss any possibilities that may exist.

Our Treasurer/Administrator started his employ with the Municipality in July 2018. Since that time, in addition to other duties, he has attempted to reduce the amount owed to the Municipality by various provincial ministries. At the end of 2020, our records show that there is an amount owed of \$67,161.92 related to lands with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is shown as the owner. As a municipality, we are bound by the provisions of the Municipal Act and must calculate our tax rate, and levy taxes on the basis of the assessment roll prepared by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Included in the assessment values are amounts for those properties where payment in lieu of taxes is expected. When payments are not received, not only have we, in essence, not levied appropriate amounts to fund our budget but, in cases where there is a land use permit, we are paying money to the school boards. We have supplied the listing

of properties where amounts have not been paid but have not received a reply. While, ideally, we would appreciate amounts be paid as assessed, alternatively, if payment is not forthcoming we would like to receive notification and we can then make the necessary adjustments for past years as well as asking MPAC to review the properties so this situation does not continue into the future. It should be highlighted that there are no penalties and interest charged provincial land accounts and even with this, over 10% of our taxes receivable relate to properties owned by various provincial ministries. Our Staff is eager to work with the appropriate Ministry personnel to resolve this situation.