

**Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des Richesses  
naturelles et des Forêts**

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March 23, 2021

His Worship Dan O'Mara  
Mayor  
Municipality of Temagami  
[dan.omara@temagami.ca](mailto:dan.omara@temagami.ca)

Dear Mayor O'Mara:

I would like to thank you and your delegation for meeting with me at this year's Rural Ontario Municipal Association meeting. I appreciate being able to learn about issues that are important to your community.

We had a chance to discuss several different items including continuing to work with the municipality to develop an application to acquire Crown land for industrial park or residential area expansion. All applications to acquire Crown land follow a review process that considers several factors, including socio-economic benefits, environmental effects, municipal planning direction, and existing legislation and policy.

Crown land can form part of a successful undertaking, along with financial capital, sound business plans, expertise and community leadership. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) staff are committed to working closely with the municipality to provide a timely review of your proposal and can provide technical advice on completing the information needs of a full application. I encourage you to continue to work with local staff at the North Bay District Office.

The unauthorized occupation of Crown land by Temagami Barge Inc. is still in front of the courts. Ministry staff continue to support the court proceedings and we will keep you informed as proceedings progress.

I understand you have been in direct contact with Julie Robinson, Resources Operations Supervisor for North Bay District, regarding the broadband project and she has extended an invitation to meet with you. I am told you are exploring an option that may not involve my ministry as a first step. However, if you need to seek an alternative location on Crown land, please connect with the North Bay District again at 705-475-5580 so we can support the municipality on this exciting project.

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the outstanding taxes owed to the Municipality of Temagami by my ministry. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) makes payments to municipalities on behalf of MNRF. Ministry staff have contacted MMAH to advise them of this situation and asked them how to help resolve this matter.

MMAH has asked that the municipality provide the roll numbers associated with the MNRF lands, along with the dollar amounts outstanding, to either Evelyn Cruz ([evelyn.cruz@ontario.ca](mailto:evelyn.cruz@ontario.ca)) or Suzette Pallasigue ([suzette.pallasigue@ontario.ca](mailto:suzette.pallasigue@ontario.ca)) at MMAH. They might also be able to provide advice on how the Municipality of Temagami can manage this annual payment process.

We are unable to provide direction on whether the municipality should write off the payment in lieu as that would be a municipal decision.

Thank you again for meeting. I look forward to working with you on issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



John Yakabuski  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming-Cochrane [jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca)  
Craig Davidson, Treasurer-Administrator, Municipality of Temagami  
[craig.d@temagami.ca](mailto:craig.d@temagami.ca)  
Mitch Baldwin, District Manager, North Bay District  
Julie Robinson, Resources Operations Supervisor, North Bay District  
Evelyn Cruz, MMAH  
Suzette Pallasigue, MMAH