

# DoKURA NEWS

Spring 2018

## DoKURA UPDATES

Welcome to the Spring 2018 newsletter for DoKURA (The District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association).

Over the winter the association has continued to work towards its key objectives of improving communications between unincorporated communities in the District and promoting a better understanding of the unique problems each area faces.

As part of this work the association's website – [www.dokura.com](http://www.dokura.com) – was updated including a rewording/revamping of the various sub-sections and inclusion of many past newsletters/AGM minutes and financial statements.

Several association directors attended the annual meeting of the KDMA (the Kenora District Municipal Association) and a letter of support was drafted and sent to the province endorsing municipal calls for improved capital funding for fire departments. Representatives will also be attending the annual NOMA (Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association) conference in early May.

The association has also signed a contract with the Kenora District Services Board to conduct local elections this fall for the four publicly elected members on the board.

## TAX RATES SET

Following up on the province's Fall Fiscal Update that included provisions for further changes to the Provincial Land Tax rates, Ontario Regulation 25/18 was enacted in February setting out PLT rates over the next four years.

Education tax rates – under Ontario Regulation 400/98 – were also set for the year.

Rates and levies for Local Roads Boards and Local Service Boards are generally set later in the year by those boards.

Provincial property tax bills mailed in March are calculated at 50 per cent of 2017 total bills with the option of two installment payments for those who wish to spread out their payments. The second tax bill in mid-summer will contain a detailed breakdown of the

tax rates and tax totals for the Provincial Land Tax and, if applicable, Education, Local Roads Board and Local Service Board rates, fixed levies and tax totals.

An information sheet included with the bills gave an overview of the phased-in PLT increases that will result in a single residential PLT rate of \$250 per \$100,000 of assessed value by 2021, commercial and industrial properties will pay \$300 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Farm Land and Managed Properties will continue to be levied 25 per cent of the residential rate.

The increased rates will have the biggest impact on residential properties outside of school tax areas where rates for 2018 are \$155 per \$100,000 of value, compared to \$237 for properties within school tax areas. Pipelines will continue to pay the highest PLT rate, \$850 by 2021 per \$100,000 of value as determined by pipe diameter and length, compared to \$661 in 2018. Acreage rates for corridors for private utility line companies and railroads will also increase, rising to \$1.03 per acre by 2021 for corridors outside school tax areas and \$10.92 in school areas.

Overall, the new rates are projected to increase PLT revenues to \$40 million annually by 2021, addressing a key government concern that unincorporated area property owners needed to contribute more towards the local share of PLT funded service costs.

Coupled with separate levies by Local Roads and Local Service Boards, unincorporated property owners will be paying approximately \$50 million towards \$100 million in total core local service costs. This is comparable to the percentage paid by property owners within rural municipalities towards their core service costs.

### PLT Rate changes/per \$100,000 of assessment

Property Class	2013	2018	2021
Residential (School)	\$162	\$237	\$250
Residential (Non-School)	\$25	\$155	\$250
Commercial	\$54	\$215	\$300
Industrial	\$39	\$215	\$300
Pipeline	\$190	\$661	\$850

### Railway/Utility Corridors (per acre levies)

Non-School Areas	\$0.09	\$0.71	\$1.03
School Board Areas	\$2.05	\$7.23	\$10.92

Provincial education rates (approximately two-thirds of the unincorporated area properties in the Kenora District pay these), have been set at \$170 per \$100,000 of assessment for residential properties and \$1,090 for commercial/industrial properties.

In some parts of the district the commercial/industrial rates differ as the province continues its long-term process of moving to a uniform province-wide tax rate for those properties. As in past years the education rate has been lowered in step with the average annual province-wide assessment increase.

## A DUAL ELECTION YEAR

Voters will be called on this year to cast ballots in two elections. A provincial election on June 7, and local elections for municipalities, school boards and district social service boards on Oct 22.

Major changes are in place for voters in the district for the provincial election.

In the fall of 2017 the province approved the division of the Kenora-Rainy River Electoral District into two districts, a southern one retaining the former name and a new district roughly north of the CNR line named Kiiwetinoog.

The changes stem from the expansion of the provincial legislature to 124 seats from 107, based on federal district changes and the 2016 census population count. For voters in unorganized areas the new boundaries place the municipalities of Sioux Narrows Nestor Falls, Kenora, Dryden, Machin, Ignace and their surrounding unorganized areas in the Kenora-Rainy River District, while Red Lake, Ear Falls, Sioux Lookout and Pickle Lake and their surrounding areas are in the Kiiwetinoog District which extends north to Hudson's Bay.

In this area, the dividing line between the two districts in unorganized areas is generally the northern boundary of the unorganized townships near the CNR line.

Detailed maps and other information about the new election districts can be found at [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca) People can also register to vote, or check and correct their voter information at the Elections Ontario website.

In general, Canadian citizens, age 18 or older on election day and permanent residents of the province are eligible to vote.

Voting is done by polling station on election day with advance polls and mail-in ballots available to those unable to vote in person on June 7.



## Call for Proposals

### Re: Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment Funding

The Kenora District Services Board invites proposals for “Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment Funding”, in new or enhanced programs, benefits and/or services which meet the previous NCBS reinvestment objectives and will benefit those persons residing within the jurisdiction of the Kenora District Services Board.

The Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment Objectives are:

- to help prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty; and
- to promote attachment to the work force, resulting in fewer families relying on social assistance and ensuring that families will always be better off working. Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment funds must be used to create new programs or build on existing funding rather than replacing current program spending.

For those who wish to make a submission, a copy of the proposal document is available upon request from the Kenora District Services Board by calling (807) 223-2100, Ext. 2225, or faxing (807) 223-6500, or emailing [rmcmillan@kdsb.on.ca](mailto:rmcmillan@kdsb.on.ca).

**Proposals should be submitted to the undersigned on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27, 2018:**

**Sarah Stevenson,  
Director of Integrated Social Services  
Kenora District Services Board  
211 Princess St.  
Dryden, ON P8N 3L5**

The Kenora District Services Board reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. All proposals received become the

Sarah Campbell, the incumbent MPP announced last fall she would not be seeking re-election in either of the two new ridings.

While the official campaign for the election doesn't begin until May 7, as of late March, Greg Rickford, the former federal member for the Kenora Electoral District and Clifford Bull, chief of Lac Seul First Nation, are the PC Party candidates for the two new ridings; Matt Soprovich of Fort Frances is a declared candidate for the NDP in Kenora-Rainy River and Terrace Wreggitt and Daniel Tisi are the designated candidates for the Libertarian Party for the two districts. Nominations for the election close May 22.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

For unincorporated area residents, the October local elections include selecting representatives for the Kenora District Services Board, and in school tax areas, district school boards.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board oversees the school trustee elections for all boards in the district and uses a vote-by-mail process. Canadian citizens 18 years of age and older who are residents, tenants or own property in the various school districts are eligible to vote.

The nomination period for Ontario's local elections runs from May 1 to July 27.

Vote-by-mail packages are usually mailed to voters in September.

Voters can use the website VoterLookup.ca to check on the status of their voter registration and make any corrections.

Voters need to enter their full name, birth date, address and property tax roll number (which can be found on your property tax bill) to find their name and status in the system. Under the municipal name entry line, unincorporated area voters enter the area in which their property is located, rather than a municipality or township name.

The choices are *Kenora Dist (Pat) PLT (Townships)*, for those in the former Patricia school board areas around Dryden, Red Lake, Ear Falls, Sioux Lookout and Pickle Lake and *Kenora Dist PLT (Townships)* for those in named townships in the former Kenora school board areas and *Kenora Dist (Pat) PLT (Unsv)*, *Kenora Dist (Pat) PLT (Unsv)* - for those with property in those areas not in a named township.

DoKURA, will again be acting as the election agent for the Kenora District Services Board voting, with Jack McKenzie serving as Chief Election Officer.

Unincorporated voters elect four members to the Kenora District Services Board, one each for the Lake of the Woods South, Lake of the Woods North, Oxdrift and Lac Seul wards.

Anyone with questions on the Services Board election can contact Jack McKenzie at [lawsouth@hotmail.com](mailto:lawsouth@hotmail.com), or DoKURA at [dokuraorg@hotmail.com](mailto:dokuraorg@hotmail.com).

The services board has requested a vote-by-mail process be used if possible and the association should know by late spring or early summer if this is feasible.

## MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

DoKURA continues to look for people - year-round or seasonal residents - from the unincorporated areas interested in serving on, or working with the board.

The DoKURA board makeup allows for two directors from each of its four wards or areas, Directors At Large are elected (two each year) at Annual General Meetings and serve two-year terms, the district's four publically elected Kenora District Service Board members serve as the second director for each ward or area and serve for their term office on the KDSB.

If you are interested in serving or working with the DoKURA board please contact us at [dokuraorg@hotmail.com](mailto:dokuraorg@hotmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

DoKURA has no membership fee, membership is open to all in the Unincorporated Areas of the Kenora District. It receives no regular government funding and its directors serve as volunteers, efforts are made to keep general operating costs under \$1,000 a year. But there is a need to cover costs for sending representatives to meetings with various levels of government to promote and/or defend issues of local concern.

That's where you can help, as an individual or community group, through a voluntary donation to the association. Donations can be sent to: DoKURA, Box 1245, Keewatin Post Office, Kenora, Ontario P0X 1C0

<http://www.dokura.com> / [dokuraorg@hotmail.com](mailto:dokuraorg@hotmail.com)