

DISTRICT OF KENORA UNINCORPORATED AREAS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

A NON-PROFIT ONTARIO CORPORATION
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Mr. Greg Rickford, MPP
Kenora – Rainy River
Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
300 McClellan Avenue
Kenora, Ontario P9N 1A8

Dear Minister Rickford,

There is an in-balance in the funding of local roads within the Kenora District, and, we suspect, within most, if not all of the ten Northern Districts of Ontario.

Presently we have a system of local roads in the Unorganized Territories outside the various municipal boundaries within the ten Northern Districts, including our District of Kenora, known as "Local Roads Boards". In the case of the District of Kenora, there are a total of 40 such Boards, serving a total of 625 km of local, public-use roads. All of these roads are located in the areas we represent.

In addition to the Local Roads Board roads, there are 41+ local Road Associations maintaining an estimated 200 km or so, of local public-use roads.

The funding for the Local Roads Board roads is provided, in part, from road taxes collected from the property owners served by such roads. The local property owners pay approximately 30% of the cost of maintaining and up-grading such roads, with the province contributing the other 70%.

In the case of the Local Road Associations, they do not have the ability to tax the properties served by their roads. Their operating costs and the cost of improvements are covered by voluntary donations collected from the property owners they serve.

We should note here that there are a few Road Associations that receive nominal public support under an old MTO program known as 50/50 specials. Unfortunately the ease of qualifying for such help is no longer available.

Local Roads Boards qualify for a share of the Federal Gas Tax Fund.

In Ontario such Federal Gas Tax Funds flow thru the Association of Municipalities for all municipalities, except Toronto, which receives it's share, directly. In the case of Territories Without Municipal Organization, the Ministry of Transportation receives and distributes their share of the funding, but only to Local Roads Boards. MTO uses a per km formula to distribute the allocated share of funding rather than the per capita formula used for municipalities

In addition to the tax revenue each Local Roads Board road receives PIL (payment in lieu of taxes) for unoccupied Crown Land on their right-of-ways based on per meter of road frontage. The current rate is \$10.00 per meter.

There is a second group of roads within the same area that do not qualify for any such government funding, nor are they allowed to collect taxes from the property owners they serve. This group is known as Road Associations.

Such roads have been developed and are maintained by local community groups who rely, for the most part, on voluntary payments collected from the property owners they serve. The odd one receives nominal funding from MTO under MTO's special maintenance agreement program (50/50) program but they don't get such funds on a consistent annual basis.

Yes, Road Associations have applied, either individually or thru the efforts of this Association, to the Ministry of Transportation for help - ie - Gas Tax Fund - or some form of status that would see them benefit from government funding similar to that of the Local Roads Boards. Unfortunately, all such requests have been un-successful.

You may be interested to know that our Association hosted an information meeting in Keewatin a few years ago. We invited MTO officials (from Kenora and Thunder Bay) to make a presentation on their 50/50 program. Approximately twenty five individuals representing a good number of Local Road Associations, attended.

In all cases, the Local Road Association roads do not meet what M.T.O. considers to be their minimum standards for either their Special Maintenance Agreement or Local Roads Boards standards, even though they are quite adequate to meet the needs of the local residents.

Mr. Minister, we have enclosed a copy of the financial statement of one of the local Road Associations, the Northern Peninsula Road Association Inc., which is located south west of the City of Kenora. There is a privately funded Association serving 68 property owners. They fund their annual operating costs by voluntary donations, assessed against their membership. They don't get a penny in the way of funding from any level of government.

We have taken the opportunity to mark (underline) the items under their expenditures, that would be covered by the province, if they were a Local Roads Board. In the case of the example, enclosed, the total comes to \$18,134.42.

That works out to \$266.68 per property owner.

Allowing for 70% being picked up by the province, if they were a Roads Board, they would receive \$186.68 each. That is without allowing for any of the dollars they would receive from M.T.O. with respect to the Gas Tax Fund or the PIL payment with respect to unoccupied Crown Land.

Mr. Minister, we have enclosed a list of the Road Associations we have identified within the four Wards that make up the District of Kenora. The list comes to a total of 41 Associations, However we suspect there are a few others out there that we have yet to identify. No government department that we have yet to find has any listing of Road Associations.

What our proposal to you, today, is, is that your Ministry provide annual funding in the amount of \$225.00 (\$200.00 in lieu of MTO funding and \$25.00 in lieu of the Gas Tax Fund dollars and the PIL allowance) per dwelling on such roads, to their local Road Association. Associations would have to serve a minimum of 10 dwellings in order to qualify (we don't anticipate providing funds in areas where we have two or three neighbors sharing a driveway and trying to call it a Road Association). Such funding would be made available only upon receipt of a request from such local groups, supported by financial records showing that the funds had actually been spent on their road. No funding would be granted, in advance.

We would be happy to work with your staff in establishing what would and what would not qualify and identifying the Local Road Associations in the Kenora District, and their contact information. While we would like to see the proposed funding expanded to all Road Associations in the ten Districts across Northern Ontario, as you can tell we are primarily interested in those within the Kenora District.

Mr. Minister, we trust you will give our request consideration and look forward to hearing from you further in this matter.

Yours truly,

District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas
Ratepayers Association

Jack McKenzie, President

Encl.

CC – DoKURA Directors

NORTHERN PENINSULA ROAD ASSOCIATION INC.
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES FOR THE TERM
OCTOBER 1ST, 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2018

REVENUE

2018

Access fees collected for Washagamis Bay Investment Corporation & Washagamis Bay First Nation (Note 4)	\$59,995.00
Association annual membership fees	10,200.00
Capital Cost payment	5,000.00
Sand Pit revenue	24.00
Interest, donations and miscellaneous income	600.00
Gate Key Sales	80.00
Fishing Derby 50-50 fund	40.00
50/50 draw	295.00
Past Due Accounts Collected	1,330.00
Late payment fees collected	825.00
S.E.R.A. fees collected (Note 5)	13,400.00

Total Revenue \$91,789.00

EXPENDITURES

Annual Access Fee payment to Obashkaandagaang First Nations and Washagamis Bay Investment Corporation of \$59,995.00	
Less receivables of	
Snow removal (2017 - 2018)	2,500.00
Grading (2017-2018)	729.02
Band Contribution to Main Road	
Repair Fund (SERA)	12,204.68
Net payment	-
	\$44,561.30
Forward of First Nations and Washagamis Bay Investment Corporation contribution to Washagamis Bay Main Road Repair Fund (SERA)	12,204.68
Road Grading expenses - Spring 2018	NIL
- Summer 2018	1,220.66
	2,500.00
Snow removal winter 2017 - 2018	NIL
Road grading of side roads	NIL
Road Grading non-recoverable expenses	NIL
Road improvements (Gravel)	4,556.84
(Paving – Used Asphalt)	NIL
(Cold pack seal coat repairs)	1,276.27
(Dust control agent)	5,629.68
(Winter road sanding)	341.83
Sand pit expenses	NIL
Insurance	1,423.44
Printing, postage and office supplies	298.37
McKenzie Portage Road Association	NIL
Legal	NIL
Bank charges	71.40
Gate/Lock Repairs/keys	NIL
Road Work Day	439.56
Road Weed Cutting	639.65
Medivac Helicopter Pad	NIL
Boat Ramp repair reserve fund	500.00
Miscellaneous - By-law changes printing/postage (\$1,225.44) + Salt for winter sand boxes (\$176.28)	1,401.72
Fire Shed & Community Fire Fighting Equipment	NIL
Bad Debt Write Off	105.20
Forward of road repair funds to SERA	13,200.00

Total expenses \$90,370.60

Excess of Income over Expenses -+\$1,418.40

LISTING OF KENORA DISTRICT ROAD ASSOCIATIONS

Lake of the Woods South Ward

- 1 Lake of Two Mountains Road Association
- 2 West Longbow Lake Road Association
- 3 Gold Pointe Road Association
- 4 Paddy Lake Road Association
- 5 Hawk Lake Road Association
- 6 Welcome Channel Road Association
- 7 East Granite Lake Road Association
- 8 Dogtooth Lake Road Association
- 9 Rock Lake Road Association
- 10 Burma Road Road Association
- 11 Deception Bay Road Association
- 12 Burnt Bay Road Association
- 13 Riley Road Road Association
- 14 Kimberly Road Road Association
- 15 Northern Peninsula Road Association
- 16 Group Four Road Association
- 17 Newkirk Road/Blindfold Bay Drive Road Association
- 18 Washagamis Bay Cottagers Road Association
- 19 Reault Bay Road Association
- 20 Turnbull Island Road Association

Lake of the Woods North Ward

- 1 Engineer Lake Road Association
- 2 East Long Pine Road Association
- 3 South Shore Royal Lake Road Association
- 4 North Shore Royal Lake Road Association
- 5 Cygnet Lake Road Association
- 6 Bell Road Association
- 7 Rice Lake Road Association

Lac Seul Ward

- 1 Snake Falls Road Association
- 2 Hopperstad Road Association
- 3 Chicago Point Campers Road Association
- 4 Van Patter Road Association
- 5 The River Road Road Association
- 6 Windfall Road Association
- 7 Tall Pines Road Association

Oxdrift Ward

- 1 Southshore Road Association
- 2 East Cedar Lake Road Association
- 3 Snake Bay Road Association
- 4 South Shore Ghost Lake Campers Road Association
- 5 Cobble Lake Road Association
- 6 Koppers Road Road Association

- 7 Mackie Road Road Association
- 8 West Arm Road Road Association