



Wednesday April 16, 2014

Hon. Yasir Naqui
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
18th Floor, 25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON, M7A 1Y6

RE: OPP BILLING REFORM

Dear Hon. Naqui,

I am writing on behalf of the Lake of Bays Association, representing 1300 property owners in the Township of Lake of Bays in the District of Muskoka. The proposed OPP Billing Reform Model, as presented in the fall of 2013, will result in an estimated 70 percent increase in policing costs for the District of Muskoka. This increase would come with no change in level of service for a predominantly rural population that is 58 percent seasonal. This level of cost increase is not sustainable in Muskoka.

We accept that the proposed billing reform is an effort to update/correct the historic disparities of the current billing model as identified in the Auditor General Report (2012). However, based on the information provided to date, the proposed OPP Billing Reform Model does not satisfy the Auditor General's recommendation for greater transparency.

We ask that the OPP Billing Reform Model:

- identify exactly what is included in BASE COSTS and validate how the split between BASE COSTS and CALLS FOR SERVICE is determined
- provide municipalities with accurate data to determine their cost of CALLS FOR SERVICE.
- consider the differences in base policing requirements for urban vs. rural municipalities
- consider the differences in base policing requirements for permanent households versus seasonal households

While any new billing model may suite the norm, there will be municipalities that are not well served by the formula and that will face cost increases that are not sustainable over time.

Therefore, we strongly support the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) OPP Billing Steering Committee recommendation below (Final Report April 10, 2014)

- Those facing increases should have the new billing model phased-in over a minimum four-year time frame, which must be accompanied with mitigation funding.

In summary, we ask that the OPP Billing Reform Model be fully transparent and sustainable.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian White".

Ian White
President, Lake of Bays Association

c.c. Auditor General, Bonnie Lysyk, Parry Sound Muskoka MPP, Norm Miller, District of Muskoka Chair, John Klinck, Huntsville Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Kelly Haywood