



4 August 2017

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of the Province of Ontario
By email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Marie-France Lalonde
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
By email: mflalonde.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Regarding: Allocation and Billing of OPP Police Services Costs in the District Municipality of Muskoka

Dear Premier Wynne and Minister Lalonde;

The Lake of Bays Association (LOBA), currently celebrating its 90th year, represents more than 1200 property owning families in the Township of Lake of Bays in the District Municipality of Muskoka.

LOBA is aware of an effort by the Mayors of the Townships of Lake of Bays, Muskoka Lakes and Georgian Bay to ensure that the cost of OPP services used in the Townships, as calculated by the Province, is the cost of OPP services that is billed to residents of the Townships in the District of Muskoka. We write this letter in support of those efforts. Along with our Township Mayors, LOBA has been aware of the OPP billing issue and communicating with our members on it since 2014 and many share LOBA's concern.

The issue is that, in the District of Muskoka, OPP costs that are calculated by the Province for our municipalities are not the costs Township residents pay. Rather, the costs of all municipalities (the three Towns and three Townships in the District) as calculated by the Province are aggregated by the District of Muskoka and then allocated according to the tax levy. The result is that the three Townships (Lake of Bays, Muskoka Lakes and Georgian Bay) pay substantially more for OPP services than they actually use (as calculated by the Province) and the three Towns (Hunstville, Bracebridge, and Gravenhurst) pay less than they use. In the Township of Lake of Bays the cost of OPP servicing as calculated by the Province is approximately \$1.2 million, but the amount that our residents are required to pay as charged by the District is approximately \$1.8 million or 50% more than the actual cost. This is not fair or appropriate and is inconsistent with the practice of virtually all of the 323 municipalities in the Province that use OPP services.

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Over the past couple of years, the Township Mayors and District Councillors have tried to work with their colleagues from the Towns on District Council to address this situation, but without result. On District Council, Township representatives have a minority of votes and we understand the Town representatives do not support the efforts of the Townships on this issue, so those efforts have been easily defeated.

With no ability to address this situation at District Council, the Township Mayors have approached you with constructive options that will ensure that our members and other residents of our Township will only be charged for the cost of OPP services that are incurred in our Township as calculated by the Province. LOBA strongly supports that effort and respectfully requests that the Provincial Government take immediate action to implement one of the options that have been proposed.

Thank you for receiving and considering this letter. We and our members will appreciate a response in due course.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian Beverley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Ian Beverley
President

cc. Carrie Sykes, Clerk, Township of Lake of Bays, CSykes@lakeofbays.on.ca
LOBA Board of Directors
LOBA Membership (Newsflash and website)