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Atikokan
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Emo*

**RAINY RIVER DISTRICT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER
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January 28, 2020

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Doug Ford, Premier:

Re: **Resolution to Address Fair and Equitable Property Taxation Revenue on Railway Right-of-Ways Collected by Municipalities in Ontario**

At the recent meeting of the Rainy River District Municipal Association on Saturday, January 25, 2020, the following resolution was approved:

"WHEREAS in 2018 the Province of Ontario adjusted the tax rate for acreage for railway right-a-ways throughout Ontario which specifically impacted Rainy River, Kenora and Thunder Bay districts in a positive fashion; and

WHEREAS in other provinces and jurisdictions the railway companies remit a more equitable share of taxes to their local tax base by using a per tonne-mile concept; and

WHEREAS rail traffic continues to increase and the train length has more than doubled, which results in rail traffic congestion, increased wait times, noise pollution and unknown environmental concerns; and **WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario should review fees based on inflation and current conditions on an annual basis to ensure that Ontario does not continue to fall further behind in their approach to railway property taxation; and

WHEREAS fair and equitable taxation revenue on railway property will reduce the financial pressure on the Province to provide financial support to municipalities going forward;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rainy River District Municipal Association call upon the Minister of Finance of the Province of Ontario to undertake ongoing consideration of municipal taxation for railroad right-of-way properties based on a per tonne-mile concept; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rainy River District Municipal Association send this resolution to every Municipal Council within the Province of Ontario seeking their support, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance of Ontario, Local MPPs, Local MPs, NOMA, ROMA AND AMO."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Peggy Johnson,
Secretary Treasurer
Rainy River District Municipal Association

c.c. (via email)

Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance

Hon. G. Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines,
Minister of Indigenous Affairs

Marcus Powlowski, MP Thunder Bay-Rainy River

NOMA

AMO

ROMA