

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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10-51222

September 10, 2010

Mr. Gary Scripnick
Chair
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
180 Brock Street
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 3B7

Dear Mr. Scripnick:


Thank you for your letter— addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable Jim Bradley — of May 18, 2010 and enclosed the resolution of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association concerning utility and rental scales under Ontario Regulation 298/01. Mr. Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka, also forwarded a copy of your correspondence to Minister Bradley.

I understand the concerns about the utility scales and the potential impact of any changes to the prescribed charges and allowances on both tenant rents and Service Manager subsidies.

Our government is moving forward on its plans to develop a long-term affordable housing strategy to improve access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing for Ontarians. Throughout public consultations for this strategy, we have heard from municipal service managers, housing providers as well as tenants that the current charge and allowance amounts do not reflect actual utility costs. I have taken note of the concerns regarding the prescribed utility scales and will give them careful consideration in this context.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,


Rick Bartolucci, MPP, Sudbury
Minister

c: Mr. Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound–Muskoka
Mr. Peter Hume, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario