

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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**OCT 23 2015**

MIN 15-67633

Ms. Janet Gawne  
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association Vice- Chair  
c/o Manitoulin Sudbury  
District Services Board  
Espanola, ON, P5E 1R9

Dear Ms. Gawne:

I would like to thank you, Les Gamble, Chair of the Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Board, and Fern Dominelli, Chief Administrative Officer of the Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Board for taking the time to meet with my Parliamentary Assistant Lou Rinaldi at the recent Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference in Niagara Falls.

Your input and knowledge of local matters are important to me, and PA Rinaldi shared with me the ideas NOSDA has for the use of other available data to indicate housing need and your concerns with the decline in federal funding for social housing.

Our government is committed to building a strong provincial-municipal relationship to support stronger communities across Ontario. We have a very strong record of supporting and working with municipalities. As a result of municipal uploads, municipalities will benefit from more than \$1.7 billion in reduced costs in 2015 alone. The province's uploads have ensured that more property tax dollars are available for important municipal priorities, including investments in infrastructure. To that end, I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the months ahead. I continue to urge all municipalities to join Ontario in asking the federal government to commit to permanent, flexible funding to address our housing needs.

If your staff would like to discuss these matters further, ministry staff would be pleased to assist them. Please feel free to contact Lynn Buckham, Regional Director in the Northern Municipal Services Office at 705-564-6858 or [lynn.buckham@ontario.ca](mailto:lynn.buckham@ontario.ca).

Once again, thank you for meeting with PA Rinaldi at the conference. Together we will help build a stronger Ontario.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted McMeekin".

Ted McMeekin  
Minister