



January 21, 2015

Minister Ted McMeekin  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2E5

Dear Minister:

**RE: Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund and District Social Service Administration Boards**

In a recent [letter, dated December 16, 2014](#), that you sent to Mayors and Reeves of northern municipalities, you pointed out that “the government will have to make tough choices... and to continue to our commitment to the uploading of municipal costs...”

In addition, you state that it is “important to acknowledge that the removal of these costs off the property tax base benefits all local taxpayers including those residing in lower-tier and northern municipalities. We encourage upper and lower tier municipalities and northern District Social Service Administration Boards to engage in discussions to ensure that the savings resulting from the uploads benefit their shared taxpayers in the most effective way possible.”

Minister, we are unable to confirm the net result of the uploading of municipal service costs. Further, while you identify District Social Service Administration Boards as a stakeholder in discussions to determine savings resulting from uploading, we feel that your letter is misrepresenting the true nature of the Uploads and the OMPF reductions that many Northern Ontario municipalities have experienced. This effectively undermines our relationships with our local municipalities which we trust is not your intent.

For instance, the Uploads include many more costs than DSSABs are legislated to administer. For example, prisoner transportation and court security costs are included in the total Uploads. No DSSAB has any control or jurisdiction over such service.

Also, the OMPF program has been significantly restructured since the 2012 Review. While the OMPF program as a whole has been reduced, the redesign of the program has resulted in a significant reallocation of funding between municipalities which has no bearing on the Uploads. Therefore, it would be false to suggest to municipalities who have seen significant reductions in their OMPF due to the redesign of the program, to look to the DSSABs to for those savings.



**NORTHERN ONTARIO  
SERVICE DELIVERERS  
ASSOCIATION**

To our knowledge, the provincial uploading was tax neutral but by no means were there any savings as the province reduced the OMPF by the same amount of the provincial upload. This is what we have been led to believe without any real proof of same by your Ministry or the Ministry of Finance. In the 2012 Allocation Notice, the Ministry of Finance added line D.2.e Ontario Works Administration Component (uploaded in 2012). NOSDA asked both the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff and the Ministry of Finance for an explanation of this line and the calculation but received no explanation. In 2014, the Ministry changed the format of the Allocation Notice which makes it even more difficult to interpret. This same format remains in place for 2015. It is difficult to sit down and discuss with our municipal partners the OMPF and the implied savings when both the municipal partners and the DSSAB's cannot interpret the calculations. Furthermore, this makes it even more frustrating when we cannot get any Ministry to sit down with us and explain the calculations and discuss the OMPF and the uploads.

NOSDA will be holding our Annual Meeting in Thunder Bay from April 15 to 17, 2015. We would like to invite both the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance to hold a meeting to discuss the OMPF calculations and the provincial uploads. Minister, we are requesting that you direct your staff to participate in such a meeting and also arrange for the Ministry of Finance to attend. If for some reason, these dates do not suit such a meeting then we request that you put forward another time and location for the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary W. Scipnick!".

Gary Scipnick, Chair

cc. Minister Charles Sousa, Finance  
Al Spacek, FONOM  
David Canfield, NOMA