



La Corporation de la Municipalité de / The Corporation of the Municipality of

ST.-CHARLES

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Good Morning Chair and Board Members,

I am here this morning with fellow councillor Phil Belanger who will be sitting at this board table next year, since it is our turn to sit out this year.

I would like to Thank You for giving me the opportunity to address some very serious financial constraints that our Municipality is facing along with many others. The Provincial Government has in place the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund. This fund is set up to help us as a Municipality to offset incurring costs of services that had been downloaded to us in the past. In the last few years our share of OMPF has been decreasing while the Provincial Government has been increasing the funds to several agencies and service providers. The Province has made it very clear that as they increase the funds like to you DSSAB our share of funds from OMPF are decreasing because our contribution to DSABB should also be decreasing. I am not going to argue on what are the true percentages, because it is public knowledge the exact dollar amounts that we are being cut back by. In a nutshell the upload and download costs are real and happening but the Municipal formula during your budgets is not showing this. We have only seen increases.

The Province has told the Municipalities to work with our DSABB boards to rectify this one sided money allocation. This is where DSABB has increase in funding from Province and also always wants a increase from the Municipalities. This is why we are here today to give you notice that from now on as you deliberate your subsequent budgets, the Municipality of St. Charles will be passing a resolution to the effect that whatever upload amount that is part of our allocation you receive we will be decreasing that same amount from our contribution. I would not consider this to be unprecedented because the Province itself has invoked net zero on money allocations to certain agencies and boards.

I would like to add a paragraph from Minister Ted McMeekin dated December 16, 2014.

(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.)

I would like to assure you that this has been deliberated on many fronts in North Eastern Ontario. The Municipality of St. Charles is in full support of all the great work you do for our citizens, but we are being financially prudent to our taxpayers. They all have limited disposable income and we can no longer expect that there is a blank check waiting for the next budget .

Sincerely,