



October 12, 2021

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
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Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Delivered by Email:
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Dear Solicitor General Jones,

RE: Central North Correctional Centre (CNCC) Policing Costs

I want to thank you for taking time to meet with both myself and our Municipal CAO, Jeff Lees at the 2021 AMO Conference on August 16, eight weeks ago. While I appreciate the opportunity to engage with you and your Ministry staff, I must say that I was disappointed to find out we had 10 minutes to outline our concerns. Aside from what appears to be a form letter from your office on September 17, we haven't had a reply about the concerns raised. To say that I continue to be disappointed and frustrated is an understatement. Our final ask from August 16 was for a more in-depth meeting with you on this significant, material and frankly inequitable matter. MPP Jill Dunlop assured us at the end of June that she would do everything possible to get us a meeting outside of the brief opportunity at the AMO Conference. As noted, we then again during our short zoom meeting in August requested the same of you directly. Eight weeks later, we feel no further ahead and as though the 9,000 residents of Penetanguishene are of little interest to the Province of Ontario. May I be so blunt as to ask, what will it take to find more than 10 minutes to discuss this very important issue?

I also want to be crystal clear on the Town's position as it relates to Policing costs at Central North Correctional Centre (CNCC). The facility generated approximately \$50,000 in 2020 for the Town of Penetanguishene by way of a Payment in Lieu of Property Taxes. While a separate issue, this funding mechanism of "heads and beds" has not been reviewed for over 35 years. With converting to the new OPP billing model for CNCC, which we were being forced to no later than 2022, the impact of the loss of the cost recovery for Policing costs at that facility is expected to be \$373,952 for the upcoming 2022 year. Have I mentioned this represents a tax levy increase of 3.3% which will be borne by 4,269 properties in Penetanguishene? This on average equates to an increase of \$87 per property for this alone. This increase doesn't factor in the cost of delivering roads infrastructure, fire services, street lights, public works services, or any other services funded by local property taxes. I struggle to see the equity in this. Our position remains the same – **Policing Costs at this Provincial facility are the single and sole responsibility of the Province of Ontario, not to be funded by the 4,269 properties in Penetanguishene.**



We understand your office has heard concerns from several other Municipalities over the years with similar Provincial facilities in their communities. There are opportunities to bring senior leaders together from all impacted Municipalities for a collective discussion and perhaps brainstorm solutions. May I ask, why has this not happened? Your Government claims to be one working for the people, but your actions (or lack thereof) on this very issue clearly suggest otherwise.

Our Municipal Council remains extremely committed to this issue and has every intention of holding the Province fully accountable to the agreement that's been in place since the inception of the building in 2000. It appears that the Province of Ontario, under your watch as the Solicitor General, is leaving the Municipality no choice but to explore additional options to pursue. While as government partners we both have important pandemic priorities to continue managing, the clear lack of care and attention to this community issue is forcing our hand.

On behalf of the residents of Penetanguishene, I look forward to hearing back from you and our locally elected MPP, Jill Dunlop.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE

Doug Leroux, Mayor
Town of Penetanguishene

CC: Doug Ford, Premier, Province of Ontario
Jill Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North
Adam Chambers, MP, Simcoe North
Steve Clarke, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
Mario Di Tommaso, Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety
Deborah Richardson, Deputy Solicitor General, Correctional Services
Thomas Carrique, Commissioner, Ontario Provincial Police
Jeff Lees, CAO, Town of Penetanguishene

