

Resolution 2021-04: Tax Rate for Railway Rights-of-Way – Per Tonne-Mile Concept

WHEREAS in 2018 the Province of Ontario adjusted the tax rate for acreage for railway rights of way throughout Ontario which specifically impacted Rainy River, Kenora and Thunder Bay Districts in a positive fashion; and

WHEREAS in other provinces and jurisdictions the railway companies remit a more equitable share of taxes to their local tax base using a per tonne-mile concept; and

WHEREAS rail traffic continues to increase, and the train length has more than doubled which results in rail traffic congestion, increased wait times, noise pollution, unknown environmental concerns, and causing small municipalities to keep open and maintain road allowances which only benefit the railroads, as well as crossing maintenance payments and inflationary costs; and

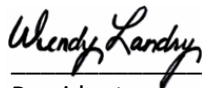
WHEREAS the Province of Ontario should review fees based on inflation and current conditions on an annual basis to ensure that Ontario does not continue to fall further behind in their approach to railway property taxation; and

WHEREAS fair and equitable taxation revenue on railway property based on the per tonne-mile will reduce the financial pressure especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery on the Province and provide financial support to municipalities taxation going forward;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rainy River District Municipal Association call upon the Minister of Finance of the Province of Ontario to undertake ongoing consideration of municipal taxation for railroad rights of way properties based on a per tonne-mile concept; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rainy River District Municipal Association send this resolution to every Municipal Council within the Province of Ontario seeking their support, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance of Ontario, Local MPP's, Local MP's, NOMA, ROMA and AMO.

CARRIED



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President