

DoKURA

DISTRICT OF KENORA
UNINCORPORATED AREAS
RATEPAYERS
ASSOCIATION
A NON-PROFIT ONTARIO CORPORATION

PRESENTATION TO

THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN
WYNNE
MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION

ON THE FEDERAL GAS TAX REBATE
PROGRAM

AUGUST 2010

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BACKGROUND

WHO ARE WE?

For READERS unfamiliar with DoKURA, we are a Non-Profit Corporation incorporated under the laws of the Province of Ontario. We were formed over fourteen years ago to represent the interests of the over 35,000 permanent and seasonal residents – taxpayers - who reside outside the organized municipalities in the Unincorporated Territories of the Kenora District of Northwestern Ontario.

Our organization is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors which is elected annually at a public meeting. We have four elected representatives who serve on the Kenora District Services Board.

With one quarter of all the provincial Land Tax accounts in Ontario (15,682 out of a total of 60,000) located within the Kenora District, we provide a substantial portion of the local funding that goes towards the operation of the KDSB and other Provincial Government services directed to the Unincorporated Areas of the District.

With the reform of the Provincial Land Tax (PLT) that took place in 2009, the share paid by the individuals we represent, towards the operation of the Kenora District Services Board, increased substantially. The following is a breakdown of the allocation, showing the changes that resulted from the new assessment figures.

It should be noted that with assessment values for the properties in the Unincorporated Territories of our Kenora District expected to out pace those of most of the Municipalities within the District, we anticipate that our share will continue to rise.

	PRE PLT REFORM	WITH PLT REFORM
Unincorporated (4 TWOMOs)	31.1%	45.2%
Kenora	26.7%	21.3%
Dryden	15.5%	11.7%
Sioux Lookout	9.0%	7.0%
Sioux Narrows/ Nestor Falls	5.9%	4.9%
Red Lake	5.8%	4.9%
Machin	2.7%	2.2%
Ignace	1.6%	1.0%
Ear Falls	1.3%	1.0%
Pickle Lake	0.5%	0.4%

Our Association operates entirely on the backs of those who serve as volunteer Directors. Yes, our Association has a small bank account. We are funded by generous donations from property owners within the District. Unfortunately such revenue provides no where near the funding required to meet the needs of the four elected representatives. They are regularly called upon for help on issues area residents have, not just issues involving the DSSAB. This particular issue is but one example of their activities outside their DSSAB responsibilities.

DoKURA conducted the first vote across the District, in 1996, and elected the first Unincorporated Territory representatives to the then, newly formed, Kenora District Services Board. DoKURA has four representatives on this

Board; one from each of the four electoral areas our Association defined. The map on page 6 details the four areas.

Subsequent elections for representatives to the DSSAB have been the responsibility of the KDSB, however they have down loaded such responsibility to our Association, under contract.

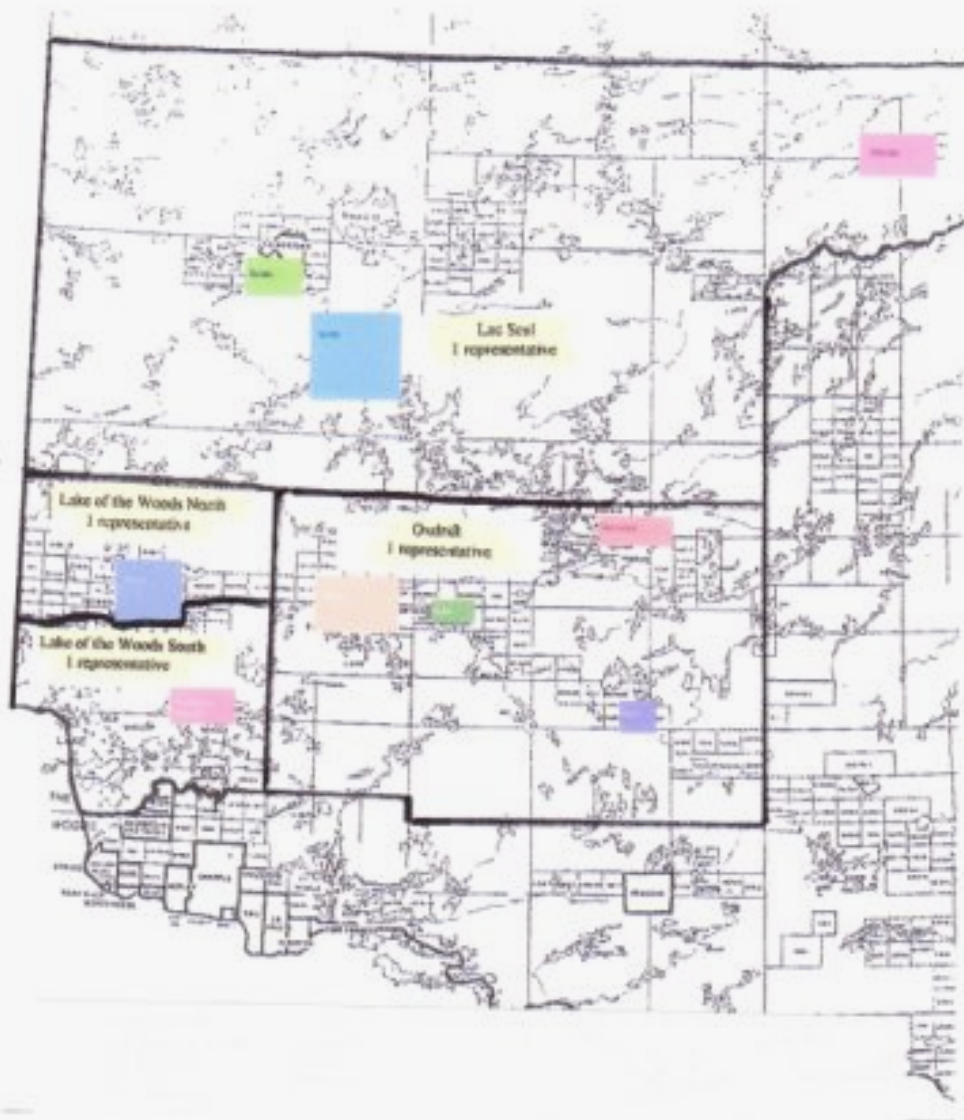
In 2001, we obtained funding from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to conduct meetings within the District to see if there was sufficient interest to form an AREA SERVICES BOARD. Numerous public meetings were held, and in the end, a public vote was taken to decide whether or not to proceed.

The Unincorporated Areas and the majority of the Municipalities voted in favor of an Area Services Board.

Unfortunately, the government of the day chose not to proceed with this much needed reform.

Our elected representatives, acting on behalf of DoKURA, have made several presentations to various Provincial and Federal Cabinet Ministers, on various matters of concern to our Unincorporated Areas.

On the following pages, we have detailed our concern and suggestions with respect to Gas Tax funding activities that appear to fall under the jurisdiction of your Ministry.



DISTRICT OF KENORA UNINCORPORATED AREAS
 RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
 ELECTORIAL BOUNDARIES ON THE
 KENORA DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD

OUR THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS

In 2005, the Federal Government passed what is commonly referred to as the Gas Tax Rebate Program. The initial funding was directed to the various Municipalities and Cities across Ontario.

The Federal Government, and the Province of Ontario negotiated with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario – AMO – to be the delivery agent who would deliver the funding.

At that point, DoKURA realized that the Tax Payers of all the Unincorporated Territories across Northern Ontario had been left out of the program.

A letter writing campaign was organized involving the various Roads Boards, Road Associations, Local Service Boards and other community groups in Ontario's Unincorporated Territories. They let the Federal Government know that they were tax payers and voters too, and were not happy about being left out of the funding.

With a Federal Election on the horizon, the Federal Government "Found" an additional \$5,800,000.00 that was earmarked for those of us in the Unincorporated Territories.

That was not the end of the problem.

Yes, the funding was available, BUT the money sat in limbo while the various levels of government fought over who should be the delivery agent.

Our organization met with Federal officials and even offered to take on the delivery and monitoring of the funding for ALL of Ontario. In the end – spring 2007 – the Federal Government convinced Ontario to handle the distribution of the funding.

AMO refused – as they were set up to deal just with the provincial Municipalities, so in the end, the Ministry of Transportation accepted the job, dividing the monies up just between the existing Roads Boards.

Yes, DOKURA was happy to see the funding start to flow, but was not happy that so many local roads in Ontario, operated and maintained by local tax payers, were left out.

Here we are referring to all the Local Road Associations who, for one reason or another, do not receive any funding as do the Local Roads Boards.

No, it can not be argued that Ministry officials were not aware of the fact prior to allocating any of the funds. DOKURA representatives had provided numerous reports to various senior staff, pointing out this very fact. They were well aware of the difference between the two groups.

The battle was lost with respect to the initial \$5,800,000.00 that was to be handed out over the first five years of the program. The funding that was provided was very much appreciated, and well used by the Roads Boards who received it.

2009 – 2010 marks the end of the initial program.

In the spring of 2007, the Federal Government announced a four year extension to the program – 2010 – 2011 thru 2013 – 2014.

Once again, DOKURA got into the act and asked for confirmation that the extension of the program included extension of the funding for the Unincorporated Territories.

We received that confirmation the funding would continue for the Unincorporated Territories. Unfortunately, no one was able to tell us how much of the funding would go to the Unincorporated Territories, and just how much each body would receive.

Everyone needed to know now, so they could plan their seasonal repair work.

FINALLY, towards the end of July 2010, the various Roads Boards were advised just how much they could expect to receive over the four year extension of the program. They are very happy with this extra funding.

We see that your department continues to be involved.

We want to point out that IN ADDITION to the Roads Boards, there is a great need by the various Road Associations across Ontario for their FAIR SHARE of the available funding.

Just because a local road in the Unincorporated Territories of Ontario is not a formal Roads Board – for whatever reason – is no reason to exclude them from the available funding.

A few Local Road Associations have been delegated as what your department calls “50 – 50 Specials”, but they receive little financial assistance from the Province. Most are not included within this definition.

Yes, we understand that MTO has little or no connection with such groups. DOKURA would be happy to work with Ministry staff in identifying such organizations in the Kenora District and making sure they receive their FAIR SHARE.

Minister Wynne, the problem is not about to go away.

Your Ministry needs to look at the problem and work with local organizations, such as ours, to work out a long term solution that will provide funding to such “non roads board” groups.

We look forward to hearing from you further.

For your reference, at the end of this presentation, we have included a listing of the various Roads Boards and the Road Associations, etc., within the boundaries of the Kenora District of Ontario.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

This presentation has been prepared, reviewed, edited and is fully endorsed by DoKURA and it's Directors.

Written questions and comments can be directed to the organization at the following address;

DoKURA
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Or, they can be sent by "E" Mail to the following address;
dokuraorg@hotmail.com

Respectfully submitted by

DoKURA

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LAKE OF THE WOODS NORTH AREA

Redditt Local Services Board

Minaki Local Services Board

East Long Pine Road Association

Cygnet Lake Road Association

Engineer Lake Road Association

N. E. Bay Subdivision Road Association

Sturgeon Road Association

Ingolf Local Roads Board

Laclu Local Roads Board

Pellatt #2 Local Roads Board

Pickerel Lake Local Roads Board

Redditt Local Roads Board

War Eagle Lake Local Roads Board

Minaki Local Roads Board

Sherwood Lake Roads Board

Gordon Lake Local Roads Board

Tannis Lake Local Roads Board

Ena Lake Local Roads Board

McConnell Lake Local Roads Board

LAKE OF THE WOODS SOUTH AREA

Spruce Lake Road Association
Dogtooth Lake Road Association
Lake of Two Mountains Road Association
Paddy Lake Road Association
Group Four - Ratuski Point Road Association
Gold Pointe Road Association
Welcome Channel Road Association
Hawk Lake Road Association
Northern Peninsula Road Association
Inglis Lake Local Roads Board
McKenzie Portage Local Roads Board
Bigstone Bay Local Roads Board
Blindfold Lake Local Roads Board
Kendall Inlet Local Roads Board
Kenricia Local Roads Board
McCallum Point Local Roads Board
Rush Bay – Woodchuck Bay Local Roads Board
Storm Bay Local Roads Board
Red Pine Ridge Local Roads Board
Burma Road Road Association
West Longbow Lake Road Association
Washagamis Bay Cottagers Association

OXDRIFT AREA

Snake Bay Road Association

Southshore Road Association

Local Roads Board of Wabigoon Redvers West

Statute Labor Board of Colenso, Redvers East & Wabigoon East

Local Roads Board of Wabigoon South East

East Cedar Lake Road Association

Local Roads Board of Aubrey East

Local Roads Board of Britton Twp.

Local Roads Board of Eton

Local Roads Board of Ghost Lake

Local Roads Board of Mutrie

Local Roads Board of Rowell

Local Roads Board of Rugby

Local Roads Board of Southworth

Local Roads Board of McIntosh

Local Roads Board of Melgund

Local Roads Board of Van Horne

Local Roads Board of Zealand 3

Local Roads Board of Zealand 1

Local Roads Board of Wainwright

Wabigoon Local Services Board

Oxdrift Local Services Board

LAC SEUL AREA

Hopperstad Road Association

Van Patter Road Association

Snake Falls Road Association

Chicago Point Campers Association

Totals – 24 Road Associations

- 42 Roads Boards and LSB's