(date), 2017

Hon. Kathleen Wynne

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building

Queen’s Park

Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

*via email:* *premier@ontario.ca*

**RE: Unfair cost-sharing of police service costs in the District Municipality of Muskoka**

Dear Premier Wynne,

As a taxpayer in the Township of Lake of Bays, I am calling on you to take immediate action to resolve the ongoing abuse of power in the District Municipality of Muskoka (DMM) with respect to its cost-sharing model for policing services.

As you know, of the 323 municipalities in Ontario that rely on the OPP for police services, the DMM *is the only municipality in the entire province* that does not use the Province’s formula for dividing police costs, or an alternative that has unanimous support from the lower tier municipalities. Instead, using their majority on the District Council, the three Towns have imposed a *different* formula – one that shifts a substantial portion of their policing costs onto Township taxpayers like me.

Premier, that’s not fair. I absolutely believe in paying my fair share of taxes to fund the services that we all benefit from in society. Those are Ontario values – ones that my family fully supports. However, this is entirely different: this scheme isn’t about fairness at all – it is designed to artificially lower taxes for one group of taxpayers in larger centres in Muskoka, while shifting the costs onto another group of taxpayers from smaller communities in our District. For me, this scheme takes hundreds of dollars *more* out of our family budget.

The impact of this action is dramatic, unfair, and represents a *continuing abuse of power* that cannot be fixed inside the District. Indeed, there have already been five attempts to adopt the Province’s formula for dividing police costs, all of which have failed. I don’t want to live in a Province where 323 municipalities follow one set of rules, and one municipality acts with impunity.

As a resident of Ontario, I expect your government to ensure fairness. There are numerous examples where the Provincial government has acted and intervened to address fairness issues in larger urban centres, but there is a perception that smaller, rural communities are often ignored.

Premier, I urge you to take action to resolve this situation and ensure that this cannot happen again – either in DMM or elsewhere in Ontario. We simply want to follow the Province’s formula for dividing OPP police services costs in our District – just like 323 other municipalities in the province do.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Township Address)

(Email)