



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

## Briefing/Speaking Note

### Crown Lands

ROMA/OGRA 2009

## **ISSUE:**

The cost of providing municipal services to lands owned by the Crown continues to be a major concern for the EOWC. There are over 11,000 square kilometers or 2,000,000 acres of such land across Eastern Ontario. These lands generate no revenues for local or county municipal governments because they are exempt from property taxation.

On the other hand they generate substantial revenues for the Province of Ontario. We understand, in normal circumstances, that more than \$100 million in stumpage fees alone. This does not include revenues from land use permits, park usage fees, recreational trails, timber cutting rights, aggregate use permits,

Counties and lower tier municipalities are required to operate and maintain a wide range of services including roads and bridges, ambulance, fire, and police that support activities in Crown lands. In addition, many provincial ministries use municipal roadways in order to carry out their mandates with Crown Lands. They include the Ministry of Natural Resources for fish, wildlife, land management, and fire protection of these valuable resources.

## **Action Requested**

The EOWC continues to urge both the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Finance to join with us to examine new options that would help to support municipalities across the region. In our pre-budget submission in 2007 we calculated what the financial impact of employing a residential property tax rate on the assessment related to these lands. This continues to be one option that is worthy of consideration but the EOWC is prepared to discuss other mechanisms that may be developed.

## Pre-Budget Submission 2007

	Crown Land Assessment	Residential Tax Rates (2002)	Municipal Taxation For County Purposes
Frontenac	22,945,400	0.003688967	\$84,660.95
Haliburton	92,343,400	0.00234524	\$216,567.44
Hastings	70,384,200	0.00466900	\$328,623.83
Lanark	114,800	0.00507084	\$582.13
Leeds & Grenville	523,900	0.00390572	\$2,046.21
Lennox & Addington	22,918,100	0.00510900	\$117,088.57
Northumberland	849,300	0.00458525	\$3,894.25
Peterborough	57,589,700	0.00394768	\$227,345.71
Prescott & Russell	1,498,600	0.00566737	\$8,493.12
Prince Edward	1,635,600	0.00954387	\$15,609.95
Renfrew	402,600,000	0.00437019	\$1,759,438.49
Stormont Dundas & Glengarry	81,200	0.00741850	<u>\$602.38</u>

## Crown Land Holdings

