



January 30, 2020

Minister Laurie Scott
Assistant to the Minister Stephen Crawford
Ministry of Infrastructure
777 Bay St., 5th Floor
Toronto ON
M7A 2J3

SENT VIA E-MAIL: laurie.scott@pc.ola.org
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Dear Minister:

It was great to meet with Stephen Crawford your Parliamentary Assistant at the ROMA Conference this week.

Minister, for years now the District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSAB) in the North have asked to be included in the list of entities that are eligible to apply for the Infrastructure Ontario's Loan program. Social Housing Non-profits and municipalities are eligible but DSSAB are not.

DSSAB's have been borrowing from chartered banks and financial institutions in order to build Community Housing, Child Care Centres, EarlyON Centres, Paramedic Stations and administration offices for years. We have also had access to CMHC Co-Investment Fund and HPC Housing Investment Corporation.

Infrastructure Ontario is also responsible for the management of properties across Ontario. They accomplish this through a partnership with the private sector that currently has CBRE managing all provincially owned and leased properties.

What we are asking is that Infrastructure Ontario consider inserting a provision for Northern Ontario in the next RFP process which is slated to occur in the next couple of years that can explore the ability to share service delivery when it comes to maintaining properties in the North. There are many municipalities and DSSAB's who have the capacity to deliver front line services through their internal staffing. This should be a two-way street where Infrastructure Ontario would manage DSSAB/Municipal properties where it makes sense and DSSAB would provide services to IO through their real estate partner for properties where it makes sense. This would be a win-win situation for the province, municipalities and DSSAB's. This could be a way for DSSAB's and municipalities to see increase efficiencies within existing staff or possibly converting part time staff into full time staff or gaining better services directly through Infrastructure Ontario.

Our Request:

- Ask Infrastructure Ontario to consider in their future property services procurement the requirement for their outsourced service provider proponents to consider DSSAB's and Municipalities for the delivery of front-line functions in Northern Ontario.
- DSSAB's be allowed to borrow from the Infrastructure Ontario's Loan program.

Again, it was great to meet with Stephan Crawford and we look forward to working with your Ministry and Infrastructure Ontario.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Gamble".

Leslie Gamble
Chair, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB

c.c. Stephen Crawford, Parliamentary Assistant