



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke NEWS RELEASE

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Yakabuski questions Minister over mitigation funding cuts

(Queen's Park) Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski questioned Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Jim Watson yesterday, regarding cuts to provincial mitigation funding. This funding provides much needed support to the County of Renfrew, and municipalities all across the province, in their administration of important provincial social programs through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).

Yakabuski demanded an answer from Watson noting that in Renfrew County alone, nine municipalities and the County will take a hit totaling over \$4 million dollars if this problem is not addressed.

“This situation is unacceptable. It will leave municipalities bankrupt,” Yakabuski said. “Will you commit to postponing these changes until a fair and equitable arrangement can be made with municipalities and not leave them hanging by a thread?,” Yakabuski said.

He went on to provide the example of Admaston Bromley Township, in his riding, who itself will lose \$268,000 from a total tax levy of \$864,000. Yakabuski said that this change will result in significant negative financial losses which municipalities can simply not afford.

“I am appalled that once again our struggling townships and ultimately, my constituents throughout Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, are the ones who will have to bear the brunt of this regressive and unfair cut,” Yakabuski said. “The Minister must understand that we cannot afford to absorb the costs that would otherwise be supported by these much needed funds.”

“I will continue to voice that message and will do my best to ensure that Minister Watson understands the impending hefty burden that will be placed upon our municipalities if this funding does not materialize.”