

The Corporation of the
MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED

255 Metcalf St., Postal Bag 729
Tweed, ON K0K 3J0
Tel.: (613) 478-2535
Fax: (613) 478-6457



Email: info@tweed.ca
Website: www.tweed.ca
facebook.com/tweedontario

April 17, 2023

MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman
Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Ivanhoe Constituency Office
11379 Highway 62
Madoc, Ontario K0K 2K0

Dear MP Kramp-Neuman:

On March 27th at Haid's Hideway Family Campground in the Municipality of Tweed, Minister Graydon Smith from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and his Parliamentary Assistant Ric Bresee, announced that \$5.5 million dollars was being directed to 22 municipalities who experienced severe wind damage due to the 2022 May derecho and the July 24th tornado.

The Municipality of Tweed, and in particular the residents impacted by the devastating EF2 tornado, are extremely grateful for the \$1.2 million in financial assistance that we received. In fact Hastings County received 49.2% of the available funds for a total of \$2.7 million. We attribute our success in large part to the MPP Ric Bresee's commitment to the residents of Hastings-Lennox Addington. Our Fire Chief Derrick Little has also successfully negotiated an enhanced forest fire agreement with MNRF's Haliburton Fire Management Headquarters.

Our Emergency Management Group will be directing our \$1.2 million to:

- removal of debris from rivers, reducing flooding risks;
- removal of debris from the 30-metre radius around structures (primarily dwellings), reducing fire risks which is in accordance with Ontario Fire Smart Program;
- removal of debris from road side ditches; and
- reforestation and planting along the 15-metre riverbank setbacks, reducing erosion concerns.

We have paid for a five year enhanced forest fire protection agreement which will provide a sense of relief to those worried about the potential for forest fires due to the tens of thousands of downed trees. This agreement :

- covers more than 20,000 hectares of private lands in the affected area including a buffer zone along and south of Highway 7;
- provides aerial fire suppression planes;

- provides airlifted firefighters into the middle of the fire area for precision fire-fighting; and
- has the Tweed Fire Department continuing to cover areas 100 feet from the centre line of the road.

On January 12th you attended our Municipal Council meeting. Your presence was very much appreciated. At that time we talked about the impacts of the EF2 tornado on our residents. We all concur that our residents have been living under an umbrella of fear...fear of forest fires and flooding. In addition to fear they have suffered financially having spent 100s of thousands of dollars on cleanup. And then there is the mental toll worrying about all of this including waking up each day and looking out your window revisiting the trauma of that horrific day. The cycle is all consuming.

I am reaching out to you to solicit matching funds from the Federal Government so that we can continue to help those in need. I am requesting that the \$5.5 million be directed to each municipality based on the attribution already determined by MNRF. Our \$1.2 million would continue to assist with addressing the potential forest fire situation in addition to providing some financial relief for costs incurred by our residents.

I would also like to pursue any reforestation initiatives that the federal government may have introduced in their quest to deal with climate change and CO2 emissions.

As we have discussed, the July 24th EF2 tornado has caused unbelievable damage. I know that typically the federal government's hands are tied due to the nature of the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Program. However, I am asking you to work with me to see how we might convince the government that there are times when you have to step up to the plate and help your citizens. It is the right thing to do.

I look forward to further discussions on this matter. I will make time for you and together we will make time for all those impacted by severe weather events. MPP Bresse has shown us that anything is possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me. Wishing you a wonderful day!

Yours Sincerely,



Don DeGenova
Mayor
Municipality of Tweed
255 Metcalf St.
Tweed ON K0K 3J0