



Municipal Court Managers' Association of Ontario

c/o Seat of the President
City of Thunder Bay
Box 1600
101 S. Syndicate Avenue (Victoriaville Mall)
Thunder Bay ON P7C 6A9

August 20, 2015

Jeremy Griggs
POA Manager
Court Services Division
Ministry of the Attorney General
720 Bay Street
3rd Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2K1

Dear Jeremy,

I write to express the concern of our members respecting the Ministry's plan to increase the cost of monitoring and adjudication services, effective January 1, 2016. In addition to the size of the increase, our members are also surprised by the timing of these changes - particularly when the Deputy Attorney General could have flagged this at our May conference.

While the transfer agreement does outline that such charges are subject to an annual review, it also says that the Attorney General shall give the Municipal Partner reasonable notice of expected increases to assist the Municipal Partner in budgeting for the Municipal Partner's next fiscal year. I am hearing from many of our members that not having notice until late July, in the middle of summer, when many municipalities are well into 2016 budget planning, is not reasonable. The cycle of municipal budget planning should be well known by Provincial staff.

My sense is that the changes being introduced by the Ministry as of January 1, 2016, unless the Ministry is willing to extend this date, will provide the Province with an additional five to six million dollars in net new revenue next year, paid by Municipal Partners from, in the majority of cases, dwindling fine revenues.

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Therefore, it is likely no surprise in my suggesting that the Ministry accelerate and conclude the work that has been underway for years with respect to increasing the regulated default fee. The work undertaken by MCMA that led to our submission to MAG over two years ago was intended to reduce the effort required by the Ministry. I am confident that this timeframe has provided the Ministry with adequate time to conclude their legal and financial reviews of the submission and in light of this new announcement, the Ministry can now take action and support MCMA's recommendations contained within our document. The delay of this work cannot continue. I am also suggesting that other regulated court costs, last amended in 2009, be immediately reviewed and increased.

On that note, increasing the current \$5 court cost to \$10 and along with increasing the late payment fee (as recommended in our above noted submission) to an amount that the Ministry's Eurig analysis determines, with an effective date of January 1, 2016, is seen as a priority response to the increases passed along to your municipal partners. Assuming the new late payment fee is in the range of \$40, fines paid, after default and those that are subject to the \$10 court cost per ticket issued would greatly offset the impact of these additional costs in many municipalities. These changes, requiring amendments to Regulations, could be accomplished before January 1, 2016, where the other initiatives we have previously discussed would require legislative changes and would take much longer to review and/or implement.

As always, the MCMA looks forward to working, in partnership with the Ministry in moving ahead with our suggestions.

Yours truly,



Kathy Dallaire
President, MCMA

cc AMO, Craig Reid
MCMA, Board of Directors