



Victoria Beef Farmers

c/o Glenna Stephenson
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March 24, 2017

To Mayor Letham, Clerk and Council,

The Victoria Beef Farmers have some concerns about the recent increase in farm values as assessed by MPAC. The increased assessments will mean that farmers will pay a greater share of the municipal tax burden at a time when our members are struggling after the recent drought and downturn in the cattle market. The value of farmland does not necessarily reflect the profitability of the farm.

Beef farmers require large tracts of owned or rented land to graze their cattle. A shift in the tax burden to agriculture and the resulting increase in land rent will make it more difficult for our producers. Our members recognize that the amount of tax they pay will increase over time so that the needs of the Municipality can be met. Farmers just do not want their taxes to go up faster than those in the urban centres.

The directors of the Victoria Beef Farmers passed a resolution at their March 20, 2017 meeting to ask council to reduce the farm tax rate from 25% to 20% of the residential rate. This measure would help to ensure that beef production remains a viable industry in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lois Batty DVM
President Victoria Beef Farmers