

December 1, 2019

Ag Advisory, City of Kawartha Lakes

Attention: Rebecca Parker, Chair

180 Kent Street West, Lindsay, ON K9V 2Y6

Dear Rebecca,

On behalf of the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture (KLHFA) I wish to bring forward an urgent matter that impacts all farmers in Kawartha Lakes. That is the disproportionate increase in taxable farmland assessment and the increase in farmland property tax burden that has taken place and will continue to get worse without action from county council.

In 2016, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) released its province wide reassessment with a four-year phase in period (2017-2020). Taxable assessment of farmland has increased by an average of 94% in Kawartha Lakes. While at the same time, the assessment of other types of property has been relatively flat. This has resulted in significant increases in the property tax burden of farmers in Kawartha Lakes. This tax burden will continue to increase if council does not vote to lower the farm tax ratio in 2020.

Kawartha Lakes Council has the authority to adjust the farm tax ratio to anywhere between 0% and 25% of the local residential tax rate. We urge council to lower the farm tax ratio in 2020 to prevent any further tax burden shifting onto local farmers.

We are hoping that we can work together and bring this to Council. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Barry Baxter, KLHFA President