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NEWS RELEASE

Municipalities Seek to Better Inform Property Taxpayers

Picton ON: The County of Prince Edward has joined eight other Eastern Ontario municipalities in an advertising campaign to better inform taxpayers about the full range of programs and services that are supported by property taxes.

"In Ontario, almost half of property tax dollars pay for Provincial programs and responsibilities, including health and social services," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "As a result, we pay property taxes that are about \$250 per person higher than other Canadians."

"It is important for people to have a transparent understanding of what their property taxes pay for, particularly when we look at challenges such as infrastructure investment and environmental protection. Current funding arrangements are not sustainable for municipalities and we are urging the Province to help us refocus property taxes back toward core municipal programs and services."

Cost sharing arrangements will be a topic of discussion during the Provincial election later this year. There is broad consensus at Queen's Park that change is needed to ensure municipalities can deliver their core responsibilities on a sustainable basis. Ontario municipalities are currently working with the Province on a joint review of how government services are funded.

"The better taxpayers understand these basic funding arrangements, the better able they are to hold governments accountable for the use of their tax dollars," added Mayor Finnegan.

The ads placed by the nine municipalities will appear in newspapers and on radio stations between now and the end of June. The nine municipalities include: the City of Belleville, Haliburton County, Hastings County, the City of Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, Peterborough County, Prince Edward County, the City of Quinte West, and the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

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