

The Corporation of the
MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED

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April 6, 2023

The Honourable Graydon Smith
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
99 Wellesley St. West
Room 6630, Whitney Block
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

Dear Minister Smith:

On behalf of the Municipality of Tweed, and in particular the residents impacted by the EF2 tornado, thank you for the \$1.2 million in financial assistance provided by your Ministry. These funds will help address some of the damage caused by the July 24th tornado. Our Emergency Management Group will be directing these funds 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 are also grateful for the enhanced forest fire protection agreement negotiated with your Fire Management Headquarters. This five year agreement will provide a sense of relief to those who are 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.

We are hoping that in 2024 this forest fire protection agreement will consider the importance of fire breaks between crown and private lands. It is my understanding that this is still being discussed.

In closing, I would like to note that your Haliburton Office has been an absolute delight to work with as has been your Parliamentary Assistant Ric Bresee. It is amazing what we can accomplish when we all pull together.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don DeGenova".

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

cc. Ric Bresee, Parliamentary Assistant
Suzy Shalia, District Manager, Peterborough-Bancroft District, MNRF