

2022 06 26

Hon. Steve Clark

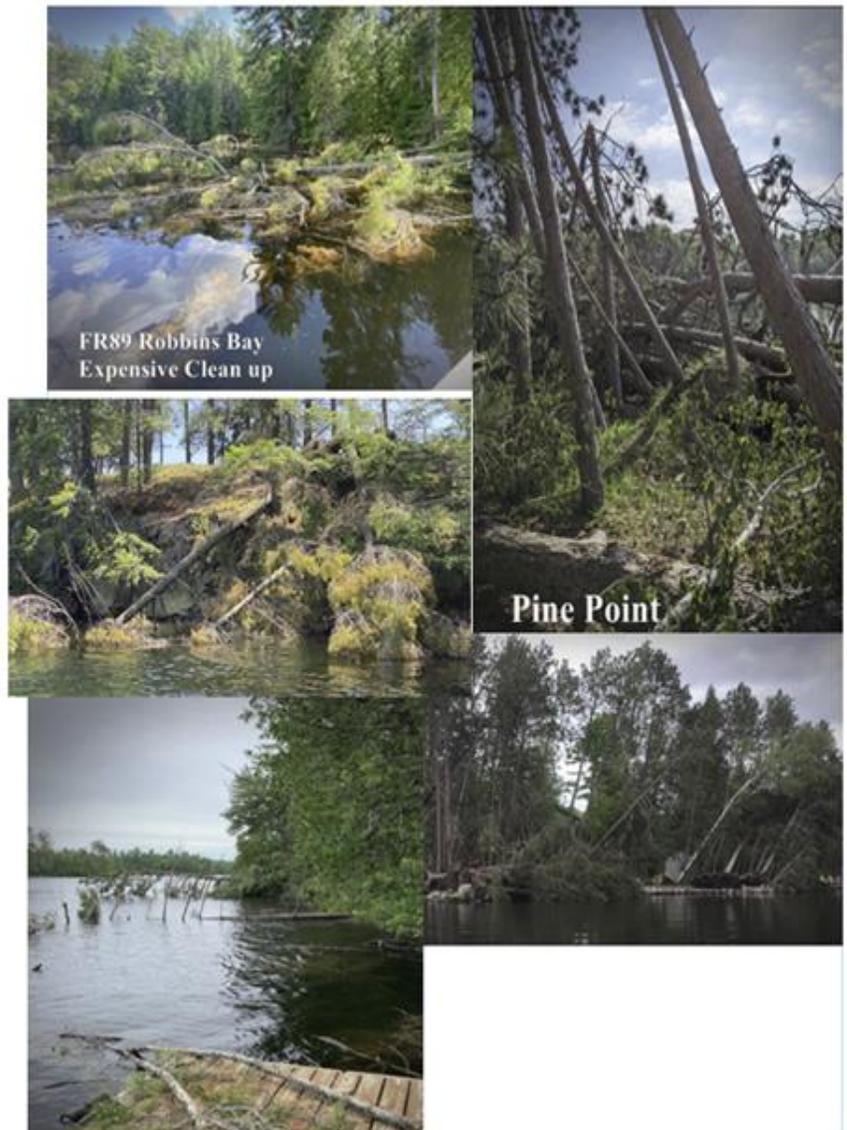
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Ontario

Re Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO)

Sir

I reside on Jack Lake, located in Northern Peterborough County, which was seriously impacted by the storm on May 21st.

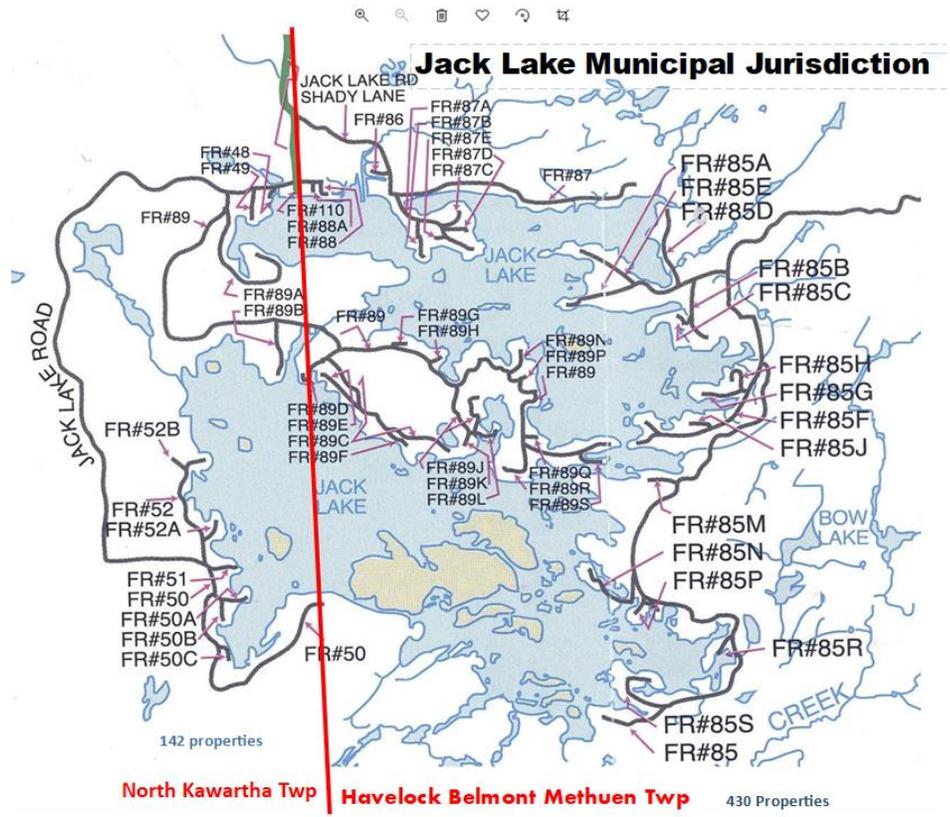
I am writing to you in my personal capacity and not formally representing any organization but have been communicating electronically with about 500 Jack Lake property owners and others regarding recovery aspects of the storm. The following link provides an overview of the scale of the damages on Jack Lake. Structural damages are generally insured but downed trees.. removal and disposal is where assistance is needed by many.



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/BNJdymP34pW2Qow86>

There has been no media coverage of the extensive damage experience by property owners on Jack Lake to both structures and trees.

This lake is located within 2 municipalities being Havelock Belmont Methuen and North Kawartha. There are approximately 142 properties in North Kawartha and approximately 430 properties in Havelock Belmont Methuen. Of the 572 properties, 35 are owned by Americans, and 31 are permanent residence.



Based on social media, we have learned that North Kawartha Mayor Amyotte has been pushing Peterborough MPP David Smith to have North Kawartha designated as a natural disaster area to qualify for financial assistance for property owners. North Kawartha municipality actual experienced minimal damage to their building and structures while Jack Lake and the North Shores of Stoney Lake were significantly impacted.

It is my understanding that there is a likelihood that both North Kawartha and Havelock Belmont Methuen are candidates to have this Provincial relief program activated in our area which is intended to help recovery cleanup cost following a natural disaster.

Having review the details of the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) it was disturbing to realize **that cottagers are not eligible to any benefits from this program**only permanent

residents. I am a permanent resident but am advocating for the many Jack Lakers who are my friends and neighbors.

Immediately following the May 21 storm, Jack lakers have been working, often with assistance of each other, in attempt to clean up their properties to make functional by removing downed trees and dealing with insurance claims for structural and vehicle damages if needed. Brush and tree removal has been a major challenge and despite request.... no assistance has been offered by either Township in establishing convenient neighborhood Brush Depots. This has stressed relationships between cottagers and the local governments. We have been awaiting the resumption of the Provincial government activities... with the hope that some disaster recovery financial assistance would be forthcoming particularly to deal with tree removal and disposal.

It is noteworthy that every cottage on Jack Lake is serviced by private roads in which the original construction cost, repair and 4 season maintenance are paid by affected property users without any government support.

Significant personal volunteer efforts and expenditures were required immediately following

the storm to open these private roads and clear tree debris without any government help or assistance.

This brings me to why I am contacting you. I want you to be aware that in the event that you as Minister activate the Disaster Recovery Assistance Program to cover Jack Lake in the two Townships



to provide prescribed financial assistance to help property owners recover cost after a natural disaster area....and the in the same announcement or subsequently it is discovered **that cottagers are “excluded” from the program benefits...** I and others anticipate a strong negative push back that you should be aware of. If cottagers are excludedthe program has truly little application to our Lake.

My request and recommendation is that you take the requires steps to modify the program before activation, under the circumstances, to ensure that both seasonal and permanent residence on Jack Lake and other lakes benefit from the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ambrose Moran', written in a cursive style.

Ambrose Moran

239 Fire Route 52

North Kawartha K0L1A0

cc list A-2 and B3

MPP David Smith