To: All Ontario Municipalities

The Council of the Town of Minto at their regular Council meeting on April 19, 2006 unanimously adopted this Resolution:

WHEREAS:
Ontario property owners and particularly ratepayers in the Town of Minto have brought their concerns regarding inconsistent, illogical and unfair levels of assessment to the attention of the Town of Minto Council;
AND WHEREAS:
Representatives of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) have appeared before this Council to explain the operations and activities of MPAC, but assessing problems still remain unsolved;
AND WHEREAS:
The Government of the Province of Ontario, in response to numerous complaints, requested the Ombudsman of Ontario, Andre Marin, to conduct an investigation into the transparency of the property assessment process and the integrity and efficiency of decision-making at MPAC;
AND WHEREAS:
The Ombudsman’s report, “Getting It Right” has now been received by the Premier, MPAC and the Minister of Finance;
AND WHEREAS:
This report reached many troubling conclusions including: the assessment process in Ontario is deeply-flawed; MPAC is not imbued adequately with the ethos and attitude of a public servant; MPAC places far too high a reliance on its own mass generated market predictions instead of actual sale prices, without proof that the market failed other than the simple fact of deviation from its model; complications that exist for taxpayers in getting access to information have created deep mistrust and suspicion; and MPAC has been woefully bad at recording decisions that favour the taxpayer and it has had a history of ignoring those decisions in the very next year and as a result, taxpayers are in a vicious cycle of assessment, appeal, victory, assessment, appeal, victory;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
The Council of the Town of Minto directs the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Dwight Duncan, to take these matters which were so eloquently outlined in the Ombudsman’s Report, “Getting It Right”; under serious consideration and to adopt a stance which will positively resolve these issues and ensure that the Report’s recommendations will be implemented with a view to creating a truly fair, transparent and accountable system of Property Assessment to taxpayers and municipalities in the Province of Ontario;
AND FURTHER THAT:
This resolution to be forwarded to The Association of Municipalities of Ontario for circulation to its member Councils.
I would request that you please present this Resolution to your members of Council for their consideration and endorsement.

Mayor David Burns