

Municipal pressure intensifies

Ontario municipalities are becoming more and more critical of the way a **downsized** and restructured Municipal Property Assessment Corporation is (not) serving their needs.

Hamilton Township CAO Peggy Cramp says MPAC is "failing and failing badly," the Cobourg *Daily Star* reports. Cramp describes a situation in which mobile home park owners are being forced to become unpaid property assessors because mobile home parks are being assessed as one property. Assessments for individual mobile homes are no longer being provided, she says.

In the Township of **Asphodel-Norwood**, the township is losing \$4 million in assessed value because 98 building permits have not been assessed for tax value by MPAC, according to a report in the Peterborough *Examiner*.

In **West Nipissing**, councillor Guy Ethier describes four near-identical houses whose tax assessments vary from a reduction of 10 per cent to an increase of 56 per cent, the North Bay *Nugget* reports. Councillor Robert Marier says MPAC promised a year ago to reassess the community of **Lavigne**, but has still done nothing. "Many of the people there are screaming blue murder now," he says.

"There's no doubt that cutting front-line staff will have a negative impact on customer service," **LaSalle** councillor John Tedesco told the Windsor *Star*.

Are you listening, Bob?

Bargaining starts today

Your OPSEU bargaining team sits down with the employer in Toronto today for the start of negotiations towards your next collective agreement.

The two sides exchanged opening proposals (without negotiating) on Dec. 3. They will bargain for three days this week (Dec. 18, 19, and 20); nine more days of talks are scheduled for January. Stay tuned for developments.

Keep in touch!

To keep in touch with your OPSEU bargaining team, contact the member responsible for communication with your office. For confidentiality, please use our home e-mail addresses, listed below:

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