

**Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

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January 19, 2024

To: Northern Ontario Municipalities

Subject: Crown Land Disposition in Northern Municipalities

I am writing to highlight our government's commitment to improving service delivery by helping northern and Indigenous communities meet housing needs and economic development goals. My ministry has established a new Crown Land Disposition Task Team to help northern municipalities and Indigenous communities with the process to purchase Crown lands within an existing municipality.

The Crown Land Disposition Task Team was established to provide direct support to communities that are interested in acquiring Crown land to advance priority projects that are critical for economic development or to support housing needs. The task team is supporting the disposition process by improving clarity, transparency, efficiency, timeliness and by providing additional capacity to help communities navigate the process. This team is available to learn about your priority projects and to help identify available parcels of Crown land that may be most suitable for sale. You can contact the team directly at [cldtt.mnrf@ontario.ca](mailto:cldtt.mnrf@ontario.ca).

Specifically, the new task team will:

- Provide support and advice to northern municipalities and Indigenous communities throughout the sale process.
- Screen available Crown lands within municipal boundaries and identify the most suitable parcels for purchase.
- Support engagement and set out processes for consultation.

My ministry has worked hard to meet your expectations around improved clarity, timeliness and capacity to navigate the process for acquiring Crown lands. We have created a new web page ([English link](#), [French link](#)) that includes:

- a one window contact process through the new task team
- process maps that clarify the process
- an application form to be used when you are ready, and
- a simplified guide that will be a resource to work through the process.

The new guide to Acquisition of Crown land within Municipal Boundaries is consistent with current policy direction and sets out two categories of dispositions:

- A simplified explanation of the process for dispositions to municipalities for municipal infrastructure that explains how environmental assessments can be streamlined.
- A clarified process for dispositions for economic development including, lands for housing or cottage lots that will improve the timeliness of approvals.

Any sale of Crown land will be undertaken with care, consistent with all applicable legislative requirements and in a manner that respects Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Consultation with Indigenous communities and relationship building remain priority obligations and of great interest for Ontario. The ministry continues to encourage municipalities to work with Indigenous communities throughout the process, and early engagement and dialogue will be important. Projects that are submitted in partnership with Indigenous communities will be considered high priority.

If you have any questions about this initiative, you can reach out directly to the Crown Land Disposition Task Team at [cldtt.mnrf@ontario.ca](mailto:cldtt.mnrf@ontario.ca). You are also welcome to contact Holly Fullager, Director of Stakeholder Relations, from my office, at [holly.fullager@ontario.ca](mailto:holly.fullager@ontario.ca) or 437-224-6690.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Graydon Smith', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing