

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEEL THE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM IS UNFAIR?

Are you concerned about rising assessments and taxes?

Is your assessment affected by high-priced sales in your area?

Do you want to do something about MPAC's unwillingness to reveal the properties it uses to assign a value to yours?

Do you want to force MPAC to carry forward reductions in assessments from one year to the next?

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**1. YOU CAN CONTACT THE OMBUDSMAN OF ONTARIO, ANDRE MARIN.**

**2. YOU CAN SUPPORT THE WORK OF WRAFT (WATERFRONT RATEPAYERS AFTER FAIR TAXATION)**

**3. YOU CAN WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MPP**

**1) CONTACT THE OMBUDSMAN:** Andre Marin has launched an investigation into whether the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's process for valuing properties in Ontario is fair and transparent. He would like people to tell him their specific concerns about the property assessment process in Ontario. If you have been unable to learn the facts relating to the assessment your property, you could focus on that. If you had your assessment reduced by the staff of MPAC or by the Assessment Review Board, only to find that the reduction was ignored in the next year's assessment, that is of concern to Mr. Marin. He needs specific information, based on real experience.

a) If you have information and can assist in his investigation, call 1-866-623-SORT (7678)

b) Or visit [www.ombudsman.on.ca](http://www.ombudsman.on.ca) ; click "Special Ombudsman Response Team (SORT)"; and at the bottom of the page click "SORT Information Form (Online Form)"; then fill out the form and submit it

c) Or write a letter to

Ombudsman of Ontario  
125 Queens Park  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 2C7

And mark the envelope “SORT Investigation MPAC” and in your letter be sure to include your first and last names, your address including postal code, your telephone number, your e-mail address (if you have one)

**2) SUPPORT WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation).**

WRAFT has recently shifted its focus away from waterfront taxation to general inequities in property taxation, and have allied themselves with a number of broadly based groups seeking tax reform. They are well-organized and hard-working. They want to halt unfair shifts in property taxation, and are looking for ways to mitigate rising property taxes.

As an individual, you can support their work by sending them a donation, and your cottage association can support them by joining and in subsequent years by sending them a donation. Lobbying the government, doing research, and analyzing data all cost money. If WRAFT is to continue its work, they need financial help.

**3) WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MPP.** Your letter should detail your personal experience with assessments, and your sense of why the system is unfair. The letter might include these points (in your own words and in relation to your circumstances):

- a review of the province’s property taxation system is needed
- your property taxes have increased much more than your income has increased
- your taxes on your cottage property have increased more than the taxes on your permanent home, even though you get fewer services at your cottage
- the government delayed the 2004 assessment realizing that there was much wrong with the property tax system. Last year’s provincial budget promised to address the problems. Nothing has been done. Tax increases should be deferred until the system has been fixed.

To get the postal and e-mail addresses of your MPP, go to [www.wraft.com](http://www.wraft.com); enter WRAFT; Email your MPP. You should write your MPP in cottage country and also your MPP for your permanent home. Garfield Dunlop, MPP Simcoe-North (including Tiny Township) can be reached at:

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