

Information Byway



NORTH WESTERN ONTARIO
TOURISM ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 2008
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Vol. 15 No.2
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Is Canada Truly Interested in Being in the Business of Tourism?

May 2008 Stats Can information shows overnight visitors to western Northwestern Ontario was the only bright spot for US visitors travelling to Canada. (Figure 1) It could be argued that the only reason this region is showing an increase is because visitors to this area are willing to put up with the many issues imposed on them to recreate amongst some of the most spectacular natural resources anywhere on the planet. If anyone in either provincial or federal government is living under the misapprehension that visitors from the US are not aware of these issues, they have their head in the sand. Visitors to western Northwestern Ontario

come from all across the US and represent all sectors of society. The minor criminal issue (first enforced at Fort Frances in the summer of 2001) is not only having a negative impact on tourism but direct foreign investment and how US businesses deal with Canadian business customers and suppliers. It is only a matter of time before its effect is felt in the entire country of Canada. It could be argued it already has.

Every year western Northwestern Ontario (two western ports of entry) receives around a quarter of a million US overnight visitors between May and October. These visitors represent every

level of the business world, from factory worker to business owner to corporate executives and they come from every region of the United States. They have all become aware of the issues including the Minor Criminality issue. The Canadian Government did not tell those visiting Canada nor the tourism industry about the Minor Criminality issue opting instead to let visitors learn about it by being rejected at the border. The tourism industry (KDCA/NWOTA) has taken the lead in providing information (Website www.canadawelcomesyou.net and hand outs) to the travelling public and to a great extent we have succeeded as both complaints and visitors are down this year.

Over the many years (since spring of 2001) NWOTA and KDCA has documented the impact of Minor Criminality issue to the economy of NW Ontario and on customers, business acquaintances and members, include the following;

1. A member lost an incentive group totaling more than \$90,000 because the project leader, a California business owner, had a DWI (Driving While Impaired).
2. Another member documented a property owner (family owned for over 50 years) who had a 30 year old minor criminality issue and was unable to get to his very

		May-08 2008 vs. 2007					
All Visitors Auto, Plane, Ttrain	Month			Year to Date			
	Visitors	Diff.	% Change	Visitors	Diff.	% Change	
RR/FF	40,753	(1,102)	-4.1%	92,976	(10,165)	-9.9%	
Ontario	1,163,112	(139,427)	-10.7%	4,142,119	(688,250)	-14.2%	
Canada	2,005,469	(229,790)	-10.3%	7,074,294	(1,056,437)	-13.0%	
Auto Same Day	Month			Year to Date			
	Visitors	Diff.	% Change	Visitors	Diff.	% Change	
RR/FF	11,051	(9,46)	-6.6%	2,396	(8,165)	-11.6%	
Ontario	596,762	(132,322)	-18.1%	2,379,519	(660,495)	-21.7%	
Canada	797,922	(181,782)	-18.6%	3,290,322	(876,714)	-21.0%	
Auto Overnight 1 or more nights	Month			Year to Date			
	Visitors	Diff.	% Change	Visitors	Diff.	% Change	
RR/FF	29,422	785	2.7%	40,510	(45)	-0.1%	
Ontario	566,350	(7,105)	-1.2%	1,762,600	(27,755)	-1.6%	
Canada	634,799	(6,003)	-0.9%	2,022,953	(98,348)	-4.6%	

Figure 1

expensive Lake of the Woods Island vacation home for the last two years. He is the owner of a major Ohio company.

3. NWOTA has documented a resort owner who could not get in to operate his business. His wife had to run the operation alone.

4. A member's guest, who is the president of a company in New Jersey that is well aware of the issues because of his visits to NW Ontario, says he must think twice about who in his company deals with Canada customers and suppliers.

All of these examples along with the many visitors who have been rejected at the border are spreading the word within the US population of what they may face if they want to visit or invest in Canada. It is also creating a view that Canada is not a friendly place to visit. As Canada's largest trading partner one wonders why the US is the only country that Canada chooses to screen for minor criminal issues.

One only needs to look at the double digit growth in resort revenues in NE Minnesota; which is located just across the border from Fort Frances, Ontario that has a similar tourism industry as NW Ontario; to see the impact. NE Minnesota has had substantial growth since 2001 which is two years prior to the decline of the exchange rate. (Documented in the April 2008 "Byway" and available at www.nwota.com)

NW Ontario is able to identify and quantify (to some extent) the economic impact of the Minor Criminality issue because we are so dependent on visitors from the US. This

may not be the case for the rest of Canada.

Border personnel have a very difficult job to do but so do policemen and other professionals who deal with the public. There is a right way and a wrong way to handle people and treating them with respect is essential. What has happened to the good old days when "Welcome to Canada" was the first thing visitors heard?

We would not be in business very long if we treated our guests as Canada has treated visitors to NW Ontario.

1. Reports of rude and demeaning treatment of visitors as they cross the border.

2. Without warning rejecting visitors with minor criminal offences.

3. Without warning sending visitors back to the US to dump raw potatoes and get back into queue to enter Canada. Same with dog food and fire wood.

Two items need attention.

1. Changes or modifications to the minor criminal code.

a. Recognize if they have done the time they have paid for the crime.

b. Implement a series of solutions to address Minor Criminality issue (e.g., surrender drivers license, surrender passport, utilize a bondsman, photograph and finger print)

2. Improve conditions at our borders.

a. Implement customer service/human relations training program. Start treating visitors professionally and with respect.

b. Institute a self-assessing program to monitor its agents (audio video monitoring components and supervisory overview) to insure adherence

to policy and standardized practices.

c. If Canada does not inform the traveling public about changes CBSA must inform the tourism industry in advance of any change that will affect visitors entering Canada so we can inform them.

It is hard to understand why so much time, effort and money is being spent by various government agencies who are trying to bring new visitors and business investors into Ontario yet there is very little interest or effort in correcting the very issue that may be chasing them away. It is time our government wakes up before the tourism industry is lost.

Who in their right mind would ever invest or vacation in Canada knowing they may not be able to cross the border in the future?

2008 Meeting Dates

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

Dates & locations are tentative;

Please check the NWOTA website or call the office for updates

NEXT MEETING:

September 4, Nestor Falls, ON

October 2, Annual Fall Meeting, Location TBA

*October 31, Location TBA
FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM*

December 4, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

OTHER MEETINGS:

NOTO Convention

October 28 & 29, 2008

Best Western, Dryden, ON

**** September 15, 2008 is the deadline for resolutions & nominations for the NOTO Board****

Email from a guest of Wilderness Air was received as the previous article was being written.

From: Kurt & Sue Lynn Melocik
To: info@great-fishing.com
Sent: Saturday, August 09, 2008 1:10 PM
Subject: Wilderness Air Web Inquiry

Dear Bob, Kelsey and Staff,

It is with regrets we will no longer be making any further travels to Canada due to the recent treatment of our son by the Canadian Customs at the Niagara Falls port of entry. Although the Canadian customs officer was polite with our son, Clayton, he was treated like a criminal and threatened to be arrested while checking through the border crossing on foot with passport in hand. He was not aware that a DUI violation under the state of Illinois zero tolerance law when he was under the age of 21 (8 years ago) would have excluded him entry into Canada. Clayton was open, honest and polite with the officer and volunteered all information. The officer told our son that if he attempted to enter Canada again that he would be arrested the next time.

Clayton is an Audio Engineer and he does a great deal of traveling in his job. On Friday, Aug 8, 2008 he had some free time and was visiting the sites at Niagara Falls. He enjoys collecting Hard Rock Café shirts and was on his way to a Hard Rock Café on the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls.

Three generations of our family have spent many wonderful fishing trips to Canada over the past 40+ years and have spent tens of thousands of dollars in your country shopping and vacationing. It troubles me and my family to think that your government now considers people like my son a threat to your national security.

Please refund our security deposit and mail it to:

Kurt & Sue Lynn Melocik, 4720 South Woods Road, Mazon, IL 60444

Sincerely,

Kurt B. Melocik

MARKETING SUPPORT FROM CANADA AND ONTARIO

The tourism industry of Western NW Ontario spends \$11.3 million marketing their individual businesses. (EIS 2001)

The northern committee of OTMPC spends \$5 million marketing Northern Ontario.

80% of visitor spending in Western North West Ontario is from the US visitors. (Figure 2)

Impact of Overnight Visitors to Western NW Ontario by Origin				
Origin	Overnight Visitors	\$/visitor	% of ttl Spending	% of ttl Visitors
Canadian	482,798	\$163	18.8%	40.5%
US	534,931	\$649	80.6%	58.8%
Overseas	5,871	\$872	1.2%	.7%

% US Visitor Spending to other Regions of Ontario			
	NW Ontario	Northern Ontario	Ontario
Canadian	38.2%	60.9%	60.6%
US Visitor	60.4%	37.2%	25.7%
Overseas	1.5%	1.9%	13.7%

(MTR 04)

Figure 2

The tourism industry of Western NW Ontario generates 26% of tourism expenditures in Northern Ontario. NW Ontario generates 43% of Northern Ontario expenditures. (Figure 3)

Many destinations are marketing on major Midwest US media outlets. They include theme parks, other States, and other world destinations. Canada is not visible at all, on any of these venues in the Mid West.

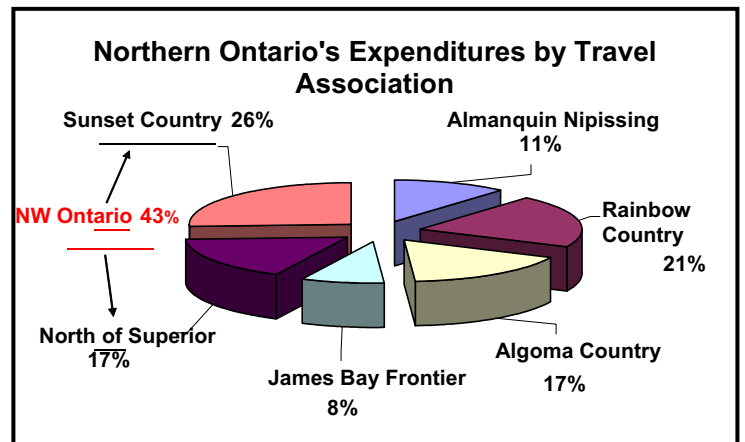


Figure 3

In the past 35 years, we have experienced zero growth in overnight visitors crossing at Rainy River/Fort Frances between May and October. All of the money spent by our industry on marketing has maintained what we have. It is felt we are simply competing with our neighbor. Canada and Ontario must market themselves as a destination. This will substantially improve the effectiveness of the tourism industries \$11.3 million spending.

In 2008 OTMPC spent approximately \$900,000 on a marketing campaign in Chicago. OTMPC kicked in \$300,000, NOHFC \$300,000 and Fed Nor \$300,000. It is expected to continue for another 2 years. They have also announced a 3 year \$500,000 marketing campaign in Minneapolis starting next year.

OTMPC should be commended as it is the first time in a long time that Ontario has spent anything on destination marketing with the intention of benefiting NW Ontario without requiring partnership buy-ins.

Three questions still remain,

1. Is Canada doing enough?
2. Is Ontario doing enough?
3. Is NW Ontario getting its fair share based on its contribution?

The answer to all three is no.



In Photo: Donna Hanson, 2007 Outstanding Person in Tourism Award Recipient. Presented by Jerry Fisher, NWOTA President

In recognition and appreciation of many years of hard work that Donna Hanson has dedicated to Tourism Industry in Northwestern Ontario she was presented the 2007 Outstanding Person in Tourism Award at the Annual Spring NWOTA Meeting held on May 1, 2008.

CANADA FALLING OFF THE MAP WITH AMERICAN TRAVELERS

Canada has an image problem south of the border. It's not that Americans have a bad impression of their northern neighbour — **it's that they have no impression at all.**

CTC's \$78.8-million budget has shrunk by almost a quarter since 2000. Worldwide government investment in tourism promotion, by contrast, jumped 11 per cent last year from 2004, according to a United Nations study.

- *Globe and Mail Aug 2006*

AULNEAU COMMITTEE REPORT

The Ministry of Natural Resources' Aulneau Committee is continuing work on three efforts at this time.

1. Turtle portage is one of these. It is being maintained at usable levels and, with careful use by boaters, is working. Public comment on a number of options for the portage is being scheduled for a future date undetermined at this time.
2. The Aulneau Committee is working on a notification protocol for development on the Aulneau. To whom notice of proposed development must be made and what type of development qualifies for such notice is currently an on-going project.
3. The Aulneau Committee continues the support for the First Nations' efforts to identify their "Native Values and Traditional Uses" of the Aulneau and how those can be protected along with proposed forest management. Funding for research and report development remains a problem and therefore continues to delay the First Nations progress.

The meeting date for the fall meeting of the committee has not yet been set.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NWOTA FOR AREA BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO BETTER THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN OUR AREA.

It is essential that NWOTA representatives attend a couple of important meetings in Toronto & Ottawa. These costs are expensive but it is critical that our issues in the Northwest be heard!

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so now.

MAKE NWOTA A STRONG VOICE FOR TOURISM

**NW ONTARIO SURVEY
ON IMPACT OF
VISITORS REJECTED AT
THE BORDER AS THE
RESULT OF MINOR
CRIMINALITY ISSUES**

In May of 2007 KDCA/NWOTA, Sunset country and Patricia Regional Tourist Council surveyed their members asking the economic impact of their guests that were not allowed into Canada. The results are shown in Figure 4.

While the study documents the economic impact of visitors that were turned back between 2002 and 2006 it does not represent the total loss to NW Ontario. It only shows the loss's our members were aware of.

The survey does not include the cumulative economic impact of someone rejected who will not be back until rehabilitated nor those who will never come back nor the bad publicity caused by those turned back.

Many of these visitors have been coming for many years and some were part of families that have been coming for generations.

These losses are only the tip of the ice berg. It is impossible to know the impact this policy is having not only in NW Ontario but all across Canada.

Loss to NW Ontario, US Visitors turned Back at Border

Results of an online survey – May 15, 2007
Reporting period 2002 to 2006

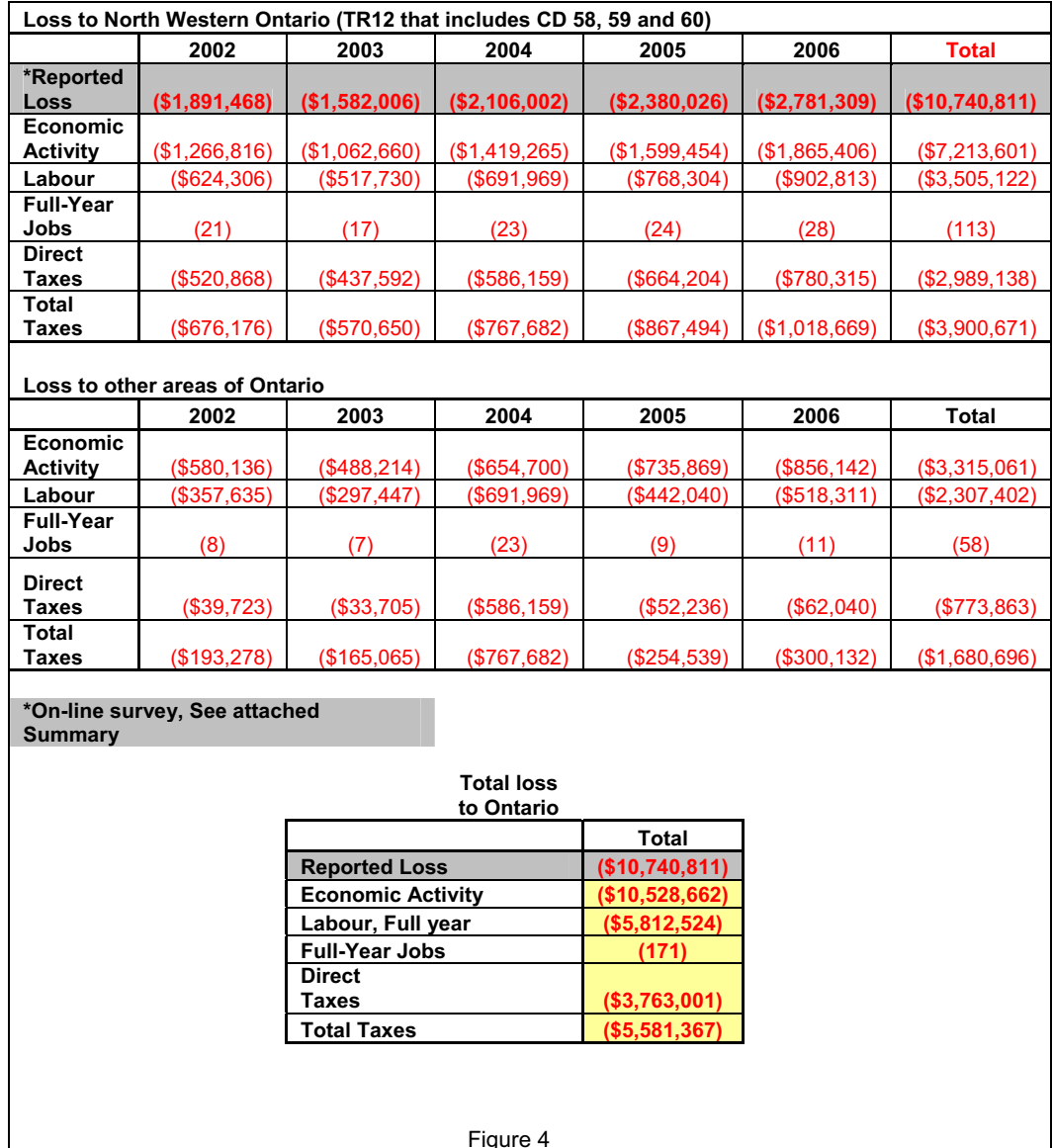


Figure 4

NMMA SURVEY

KDCA/NWOTA and NMMA have been working together to develop a survey to send to visitors of the 18 NMMA sports shows.

The survey was designed with the help of MTR and others to get an indication of any issues those traveling to NW Ontario might have.

The survey was sent out early August and the information should be compiled by early September.

Comments by Diane Ablonczy, Canada's Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism

"I was surprised by the enormous role that tourism plays in Canada," she said. "It touches every region, every community, and it makes an enormous contribution. It contributes as much to Canada's wealth as forestry, but also forestry plus fisheries, which has its own federal department, plus agriculture, which again, has its own ministry and department." (Available under articles at www.nwota.com) - (CTC June 2008)



Within Your Control

Gregory Kerr, Communications Advisor
TSSA Public Relations and Communications
416.734.3437; gkerr@tssa.org

Technical Standards and Safety Authority - "Putting Public Safety First"
www.tssa.org; toll-free: 1-877-682-8772

Sign up for free safety updates on our website: www.tssa.org

As part of a unique and respected tourist destination, Northwestern Ontario is one of the greatest outdoor adventures in the province – fishing, boating, biking, climbing, and water sports of all kinds – across countless lakes and a seemingly endless expanse of wilderness.

Meeting the demands of such an industry, NWOTA members know that nature sometimes has its own agenda, and you almost intuitively know that safety, in all its varying capacity, is vital to your business and the growing popularity of tourism. For example, you'd never send a paddler up the river without a life-jacket, would you? And you always treat fuel with the utmost care – whether for motorboats, jet-skis, ATVs or BBQs.

As the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), we couldn't agree more. Created in 1997 as a self-funded, non-government organization, TSSA provides not-for-profit safety services – as a delegated administrative authority – in several industry sectors, including the safe transportation, storage, handling and use of fuels.

Every year, in addition to inspection, enforcement and public education initiatives, TSSA gathers incident reports, analyzes data and makes risk-informed decisions to further enhance public safety. Did you know that of the 1,934 investigated reports in 2006, the majority of its 11 serious injuries and two fatalities were primarily due to maintenance and human behaviour?

What does that mean to NWOTA?

Safety is well within your control – and TSSA is here to assist.

Propane Cylinders

If you run a propane-filling facility, follow propane-dispensing practices to ensure safe storage and use of filled cylinders. Overfilled cylinders can discharge propane into a vehicle during transport or engulf an area near an ignition source. Only fill to 80 percent by volume. Such a regulation is in place – to save lives.

Renting Out a Cottage or Cabin

Have all the propane appliances such as stoves, refrigerators and heaters inspected and repaired by a qualified technician. Don't know one? Unsure of the technician's certification? Call TSSA toll-free at **1-877-682-8772**. Consider replacing old fuel-burning appliances with new ones that include safety features. Double check the batteries too in all your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Renting Out a Recreational Vehicle (RV)

Be aware of the safety guidelines for transporting and using propane to power interior appliances. Gas cylinders, relief valves and regulating equipment must be located either outside the vehicle or in a compartment gas tight to the interior. This allows any leaks to flow to the outside air.

Only a certified propane fitter may legally install or remove propane piping, tubing equipment and appliances in any RV. Be sure to look for approved products bearing the Canadian Gas Association (CGA), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Underwriters Laboratories (UL/ULC) logos on the rating plate of new appliances.

When it is time to top up the propane, shut off all interior burners, pilot lights, appliances and automatic ignition switches. In addition, be sure to shut off the RV motor and have all passengers leave the vehicle during propane refilling.



Fuel Storage

Store containers in a detached garage or shed – well away from heat sources including direct sunlight. Use only approved containers or tanks. Look for the CSA, UL or ULC symbol. Fill containers only to about 90 percent of capacity to allow some room for expansion. When filling, keep portable containers on the ground with the dispensing nozzle in full contact with the container.

Ensuring safety, performing maintenance and offering service founded on best safety practices and due diligence is not only everybody's business – it's *good* business. And isn't it refreshing to know – it's well within your control?

For more information on fuel safety and several other tips and topics, visit TSSA's public education safety website at www.safetyinfo.ca, the fuels safety program at www.tssa.org or contact TSSA toll-free at 1-877-682-8772.

About TSSA

TSSA is an innovative, self-funded, non-government organization focused on delivering public safety services. It provides not-for-profit regulatory safety services in industry sectors such as fuels, amusement devices, elevating devices, ski lifts, boilers and pressure vessels, operating engineers, and upholstered and stuffed articles. The organization's vision is to be the world leader in public safety services.

NWOTA is currently making updates to our website
www.nwota.com.

Pick up your copy of the "Information Byway" newsletter, the minutes of meetings or to view the monthly border stats.

Check out the calendar of events. Contact the office if you know of an event that is happening in your community.

If you are unable to download newsletters from our website and would like to remain on the mailing list via Canada Post, please make sure you indicate this when renewing your 2008 & 2009 NWOTA Membership.



2008 NWOTA Bursary Award Recipient, Timo Brielmann

On June 24, 2008, Timo Brielmann was awarded the 2008 NWOTA Bursary at the Rainy River High School Graduation Ceremony. Timo is pursuing a career in Environmental Consulting by taking an Environmental Science Program.

NWOTA extends congratulatory wishes to Timo as he begins this phase of life at University and best wishes in his future accomplishments.

Tourist operators – Border Crossing Q & A Fact Sheets are available at your request from the NWOTA office or at www.nwota.com in the Border Crossing Info section.

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE USING BOATS

- September 2009, Dock Side Rental Boat Safety Check list reference April 2001 Byway.
- September 2009, proof of boat safety competency. Reference August 2007 Byway.
- Commercial and guide boat requirements. Reference August 2003 Byway.

We will have complete and up to date details in the next Byway

PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

To add to the issues our visitors are dealing with they will be required to show a passport when reentering the US next year. This could prove to be a very significant deterrent to visit Canada.

LAND AND SEA TRAVEL

The following summarizes information available on the Department of Homeland Security website. www.dhs.gov/xtrvlsec/crossingborders/index.shtm

- **CURRENTLY:**
U.S. citizens need to present either (a) a passport, passport card (scheduled to be in full production beginning in July 2008), or WHTI-compliant document; or (b) a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate.
- **LATER:**
On June 1, 2009, the U.S. government will implement the full requirements of the land and sea phase of WHTI. The proposed rules require most U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry to have a passport, passport card, or WHTI-compliant document.

Your customers may be interested in **an alternative to the passport** and at less cost is the passport card. Application for the card can be made at local post offices in the US. More information is available at http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html

U.S. Department of State site
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html

2007-2009 NWOTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NON RESIDENT DEER HUNTING

MNR is coordinating a meeting scheduled for September 16, 2008 in Dryden. Representatives from each of NWOTA, KDCA, OFAH, Guides, Resident hunters along with Frank Bastone MNM and MNR staff have been invited. The objective is to develop a preferred alternative that would become the focus of internal and public consultation. NWOTA reps will be Randy Hanson and Tom Pearson. Please let them know any concerns you might have.

2008 ALLIED NWOTA MEMBERS

Please try to support the businesses that support the Tourism Industry in Northwestern Ontario

Bay Lakes Marketing (All Canada Sport Shows)
www.allcanada.com

Border Bob's www.borderbobs.com

Business Development Bank of Canada
www.bdc.ca

Canada Border Crossing Services
www.bordercrossing.ca

Dryden GM
www.drydenchev.gmcanada.com

Falls Hardware Ltd.
www.fallshardware.com

Fort Frances General Supply
www.ffgeneralsupply.com

Fort Frances Times Printing
www.ftime.com

Green's Countrywide Furniture
www.greencountrywide.com

Meyers Norris Penny www.mnp.ca

Nestor Falls Marine
www.nestorfallsmarine.com

North of Superior Travel Association
www.northofsuperior.com

Standard Insurance Brokers Ltd.
www.thestandardonline.com

Sunset Country Travel Association
www.sunsetcountry.net

Tompkins Hardware Ltd.
www.tompkinshardware.com



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Télécopieur : 416 325 0374

An Open Letter to property owners in the Unincorporated Territory

I am writing to follow up on your interest in Provincial Land Tax (PLT) Reform.

As you may be aware, the government is in the final stages of Provincial Land Tax (PLT) reform and will be completing the move to Current Value Assessment (CVA) for the Unincorporated Territory. This will create a modernized and fair property assessment system where properties in all of Ontario are assessed in a similar manner.

At least two-thirds of property owners in the Unincorporated Territory are familiar with CVA, as it is the current base for municipal, education and interim-Provincial Land taxation in Ontario. When the province moved to the CVA format in 1998, it was not applied to properties in the unincorporated territory, even though assessed values of those properties have increased since the last assessment in the 1940s.

The government has received input from residents of unincorporated territories, stakeholders, and Provincial Members of Parliament.

Recognizing the need for fairness must be balanced with an approach that does not result in significant increases, the input of Bill Mauro, MPP, Thunder Bay – Atikokan, was key in providing suggestions on behalf of his constituents to ensure property owners do not face sharp increases in required tax payments.

As a result of these discussions, the province is implementing policy that respects property owners while ensuring that the government does not increase tax revenue as a result of reassessment in unincorporated territory.

The minimum tax will remain \$6 per year. As noted earlier, while assessed values have increased since the last assessment in the 1940s, the government will reduce PLT rates to offset the increase.

For example, the pre-reform PLT rate is 1.5 per cent (.015) for all properties in the unincorporated territory. However, the post-reform PLT rate for residential property will be significantly less - no higher than 0.0023 within school boards, and no higher than 0.0004 outside school boards.

Under this reform, approximately half of properties will see a tax decrease. Of those properties experiencing a tax increase, about 90 per cent will see an increase of less than \$150.

In order to help property owners estimate the impact of reform on their own properties, I am attaching a worksheet that includes maximum tax rates for each class of property. The appropriate tax rate, multiplied by an estimate of the 2008 value of your property, will give you an approximation of the PLT payable annually for 2009 to 2012.

The enclosed tax rates are based on analysis of 2005 assessed values. They may change as a result of the 2008 reassessment. The final tax rates will not be higher than those published in the attached worksheet and may be set lower.

You may already be aware that the government will be holding information sessions to further discuss these reforms, their impacts and potential benefits. A copy of the invitation to these sessions was mailed to you earlier and I have enclosed another copy for your convenience. You may wish to contact 1-866-668-8297 for further information.

Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Yours truly,

“Original Signed By”

Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance

How to Estimate Provincial Land Tax Payable for 2009-2012

The minimum tax will remain \$6.00 per year. Table One shows the maximum tax rates for 2009-2012 based on analysis of 2005 assessed values. The tax rates may change as a result of the 2008 reassessment. The final tax rates will not be higher than those published in Table One and may be set lower.

Table One: Maximum PLT Tax Rate for each Property Class 2009-2012

Property Class	Maximum Tax Rate inside School Boards	Maximum Tax Rate Outside School Boards
Residential / Multi-residential	0.0023	0.0004
Farmland / Managed Forest	0.0006	0.0001
Commercial	0.0012	0.0012
Industrial	0.0006	0.0006

Using the formula in the table below, property owners can calculate their property tax bill by multiplying their assessment amount by the appropriate tax rate in Table One.

Estimated Value of Property in 2008 (what is the property worth?)	multiplied by	Maximum PLT Tax Rate 2009-2012 (from Table 1)	equals	PLT Payable annually 2009-2012
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Examples

If the estimated value of a residential property inside school board boundaries was \$54,000, multiply by the maximum PLT rate for residential properties inside school boards of 0.0023. The estimated PLT bill is \$124.20 per year from 2009 to 2012.

If the estimated value of a farm property outside school board boundaries was \$54,000, multiply by the maximum PLT rate for farm properties outside school boards of 0.0001. The estimated PLT bill would \$5.40, and the minimum tax of \$6.00 per year from 2009 to 2012 would be payable.

	Estimated Value of Property in 2008	X	Maximum PLT Tax Rate 2009-2012 (from Table One)	=	Estimated PLT Payable Annually 2009-2012
Residential Inside School Board	\$54,000	X	0.0023	=	\$124.20
Farm Outside School Board	\$54,000	X	0.0001	=	\$5.40 (\$6.00 minimum)

Please note that property owners within Local Roads Board or Local Services Board areas will continue to pay levies for these bodies. Property owners within school board boundaries will continue to pay education tax.

Ontario Ministry of Finance, August 12, 2008



Provincial Land Tax Reform Information Sessions

The Government of Ontario is in the final stages of Provincial Land Tax (PLT) reform and will be completing the move to Current Value Assessment (CVA). This will create a more modernized and fairer property assessment system where properties in all of Ontario are assessed in a similar manner.

The Ministry of Finance is currently planning information sessions about PLT reform and we invite you to participate in one of the following PLT sessions at the locations below:

*****NWOTA is trying to arrange for a meeting in Fort Frances. We will keep you posted when a date is set.**



Location	Closest Municipality	Date
Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre 555 Arthur Street W. Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5R5 Ph (807) 577-8481	Thunder Bay	Aug 18, 2008 10:00 – 12:00
Best Western Lakeside Inn and Conference Centre 470 1st Ave S, Kenora ON P9N 1W5 Ph (807) 468-5521	Kenora	Aug 19, 2008 09:00 – 11:00
Best Western Inn 349 Government St. Dryden, ON Ph (807) 223-3201	Dryden	Aug 20, 2008 10:00 – 12:00
Michipicoten Community Centre 3 Chris Simon St. Wawa, P0S 1K0 Ph (705) 856-2244 ext. 242	Wawa / Michipicoten	Aug 21, 2008 13:30 – 15:30
Howard Johnson Hotel 1800 Riverside Drive Timmins, ON P4R 1N7 Ph (705) 267-6241	Timmins	Aug 18, 2008 10:00 – 12:00
Hallebourg Community Hall 25 Jacques Rd. Kendall Township (Hallebourg) P0L 1N0 Ph (705) 362-0211	Hearst	Aug 19, 2008 10:00 – 12:00
Kenogami Community Hall Hwy 11, Kenogami ON	Kirkland Lake	Aug 20, 2008 10:00 – 12:00
Kynoch Community Hall Hwy 554, Iron Bridge, ON	Sault Ste. Marie	Aug 21, 2008 10:30 – 12:30
Howard Johnson Hotel 50 Brady St., Sudbury, ON Ph (705) 675-5602	Sudbury	Aug 28, 2008 13:00 – 15:00
Tilden Lake Community Centre 46 Village Road, Box 27 Tilden Lake, ON P0H 2K0	North Bay	Aug 28, 2008 10:30 – 12:30
Holiday Inn Barrie Hotel & Conference Centre 20 Fairview Road Barrie, ON L4N 4P3 Ph (705) 728.6191	GTA Area (Barrie)	Sept 3, 2008 13:00 – 15:00

Canadians Intolerant of Tourism

Tourism has the potential to impact every facet of community life through: increased employment opportunities; on-the-job training opportunity; support of business development, growth & expansion; attract “fresh” dollars; stimulate government support/funding for infrastructure (e.g., roads, sewers, water); provincial-wide, Canada-wide and worldwide identity as a tourism destination.

Unfortunate, but true! “Canadians ... have shown themselves to be intolerant of tourism development strategies that compete with the quality of life ... [and] have been remarkably vigilant about pursuing only those tourism developments that *enhance* our way of life.” *

- CTC 2006

From the office of Peter S. Allison, CMA
August 20, 2008

Ph.: 807 482-3916
Email: psacma@kmts.ca

Dear Tourist Operators,

RE: GST Rebate for Non-Residents under the new FCTIP

As you know there has been some confusion with the elimination of the Visitor Rebate Program (VRP) and the introduction of the new Foreign Convention and Tour Incentive Program (FCTIP) as to whether tourist operators are still able to credit American guests for ½ of the GST on their trips.

Under the new FCTIP non-resident consumers are eligible for a rebate of ½ the GST paid on “tour packages” only. A tour package must include short-term and/or camping accommodation in Canada and at least one service and it must be sold for an all-inclusive price. Some examples of services that qualify, as listed on GST info sheet GI-046, include a guide service, transportation services, sightseeing excursions, game capping, preparation of a hide for taxidermy, game processing (which may include skinning/plucking, cutting, wrapping, and packaging), and fish processing (which may include fish scaling, cutting, wrapping, and packaging). If your accommodation package is not sold with a service for an all-inclusive price, your guests are not eligible for the GST rebate. While the tour package including the service must be sold for an all-inclusive price, you can offer customized packages (for example, one package that does not include guiding and one that does) which would be eligible if they include a service. When invoicing your guests for a tour package with an “all-inclusive price” you are still able to list the prices for the separate components of the package for information purposes but the components (accommodation and at least one service) must be sold together as a package for a set price.

If your American guests are entitled to receive the GST rebate you can credit them for ½ of the GST paid on the tour package only if 1) the GST charged is at least \$12, and 2) a deposit of at least 20% of the total price was received at least 14 days before the first day of accommodation. When invoicing your guests GST would normally be charged at 5% on the package with a 2.5% rebate shown at the bottom of the invoice. You cannot just charge your guests 2.5% GST.

If you do credit your American guests for the GST rebate under the FCTIP, you must report the full GST from the invoice on line 103 (GST collected) of your GST return and report the amount credited to the non-resident on line 107 (Adjustments). You must also file form GST106, Schedule 2 (available at: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/gf/gst106/README.html>) which is due the same day as your GST return or is subject to interest. You are required to keep documentary evidence (such as a signed statement) that your guest is a non-resident and is entitled to the rebate.

If you do not credit your guests for the GST rebate, they can apply to have the rebate refunded to them from Canada Revenue Agency. The form they would need is GST115 available at: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/gf/gst115/README.html>

The FCTIP became law on June 22, 2007. Further reading on the FCTIP is available in Canada Revenue Agency’s GST Notice No. 221 which can be read in detail at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gi/notice221/README.html> as well as GST Info Sheet GI-046 (specific to hunting and fishing packages) at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gi/gi-046/README.html>

Feel free to contact the office if we can clarify any of the above for you.

