

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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January 26, 2011

t1-52697

Mr. Vince Brescia  
President and CEO  
Federation of Rental-Housing Providers of Ontario  
[vbrescia@frpo.org](mailto:vbrescia@frpo.org)

Dear Mr. Brescia

Thank you for your letter of January 4, 2010 concerning section 398 (2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, which allows municipalities the option of placing a tenant's outstanding charges for utilities on the tax roll for landlords. I appreciate your concerns and the arguments you have raised.

The intent of the legislation is not to relieve tenants of their responsibilities. I would also like to mention that our government believes it is important that municipalities have adequate means by which to collect the revenues that they rely on for delivering these essential services. Municipalities also have the option of reducing the supply or shutting off the supply of the utility to the property.

As you know, the legislation requires that the ministry initiate a review of the *Municipal Act, 2001* every five years. The next review is expected to begin at the end of this year. Accordingly, I will ask staff to look at the issues that you raised during the next review of the act.

In the mean time, since the decision to use this particular remedy – or other available remedies – rests with the municipality, landlords may wish to continue to express their concerns to their municipal representatives.

Once again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Bartolucci".

Rick Bartolucci, MPP, Sudbury  
Minister