



**Huntsville/Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce**

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to the replacement of the Oxtongue Lake Narrows Bridge (GWP 93-89-00) and Oxtongue River Bridge (GWP 5550-04-00) in the Township of Algonquin Highlands in the County of Haliburton.

On behalf of the Huntsville/Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce, I would like to congratulate our Oxtongue Tourism businesses for providing the incredible service that they do. It is my understanding that the replacement of the Oxtongue Lake Narrow Bridge will severely affect our members in the Oxtongue area.

Without all knowledge of the implications of the aforesaid project, I would like to extend my support to our members by way of this letter, and feel strongly with respect to advocating the importance of a healthy tourism industry in our area.

As we all know, travellers choose where they will visit based on what there is to do and see in the area. If the climate, geography and activities meet their criteria, then they will choose their travel method and accommodation. Once travellers are in any given area, the economic spin-off to regional providers of transportation, accommodation, food and beverage, entertainment, retail goods and services is exponential.

The obvious decline of tourism in Muskoka and Ontario is of huge concern to the Chamber of Commerce. Its impact on the vitality of our community is paramount. Presenting our tourism businesses with additional obstacles has the potential to take a struggling business to bankruptcy.

Although I expect the need for this bridge replacement is essential, I trust that the parties involved can appreciate the empathy that is required in this situation.

This letter acknowledges our commitment to partner with our members to enhance the experience of our region. The Huntsville/Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce looks forward to building tourism development in Muskoka and we look forward to working together as an alliance to achieve our common goals.

Yours sincerely,

Kelly Haywood  
General Manager