



May 27, 2014

Mr. Edward Barisa  
Chief Executive Officer  
OREA

Dear Mr. Barisa:

Thank you for your letter regarding the municipal land transfer tax. I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Ontario Liberal Party.

Ontario Liberals recognize the close link between a strong economy and a healthy real estate market. This is why over the past eleven years, we have worked hard to modernize our tax system, reduce red tape, and make it easier for Ontario families to realize their dream of homeownership.

We have given municipalities the support and tools they require to respond to the needs of their citizens. The City of Toronto Act, 2006, increased the city's ability and flexibility to plan for its future. The additional revenue generating tools allow Toronto to pay for public services through alternatives to higher property taxes. Ultimately, it's up to cities to decide how to balance their budgets. We have no plans to extend these powers to other municipalities.

Working together, we are committed to ensuring that Ontario families have affordable housing options. We created the Land Transfer Tax Credit for first time home buyers and partnered with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, which help Ontarians achieve the dream of owning their first home.

If we form the next government, we will continue building on our record of success. We will meet our commitment to upload \$1.5 billion annually from municipal budgets by 2018 this will make it easier for municipalities to keep taxes competitive and provide essential public services for hard working Ontario families.

The Ontario Liberal Party is the only party that is committed to investing in Ontario's economy. We will continue to make investments in schools, hospitals and public transit to help keep our communities strong.

**Ontario Liberal Party**

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Our plan is getting results and Ontario is back on track. The Hudak PCs would take us off track and put our fragile recovery at risk with their reckless cuts. Thank you for the opportunity to address the MLTT issues in your letter. We look forward to continuing to work with OREA to strengthen our economy and build an even brighter future for Ontario.

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