



# France Gélinas

La députée de Nickel Belt - MPP for Nickel Belt

August 24, 2023

## OPEN LETTER

Honourable Kinga Surma  
Minister of Infrastructure  
Via email: [Minister.MOI@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.MOI@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Surma,

I am writing to you in follow-up to your letter, dated August 11, 2023, about the issue of purchasing abandoned and Crown properties in Gogama. As Premier Ford said at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Côté Gold Mine in September 2020, "the new mine has the potential to bring economic prosperity and to change lives in Gogama". Unfortunately, without land for businesses to set up shop and houses for people to live in, Gogama continues to be missing out.

Thank you for confirming that all the surplus properties in Gogama are considered active disposition files and explaining the process, in detail. While I understand that the process must be followed and that it takes time to do due diligence, a timeline of an additional 12-24 months is disheartening. Minister, I wrote to your Premier and your predecessor over 2 and half years ago, the process has already taken over 30 months, and nothing has changed.

There are many properties in Gogama that were abandoned in the eighties and nineties. Many government properties have not been used for over a decade! The process used by your government will in many cases, cost the taxpayers more than what the properties are worth. It is too slow and does not work in Gogama. You need a new process that makes sense to the taxpayers, to the LSB and to the businesses and families who want to move to Gogama.

The housing crisis is not only a big city problem. It is a problem in many small Northern communities. I want to remind you Minister that in an unorganized area you cannot blame a city council, landlords or anyone else but yourself for inaction. The provincial government is the landlord, you are the owner of all the abandoned and surplus provincial properties. How can it be, that your government is not able to give permission to a family to purchase a lot, to build a simple family home, in the same amount of time it took a brand new Mine to go through all the permitting and logistical processes to get built and operational!

Minister, thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing your solutions to this situation.

Sincerely,

France Gélinas  
MPP for Nickel Belt

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