



# France Gélinas

La députée de Nickel Belt - MPP for Nickel Belt

NEWS RELEASE  
COMMUNIQUÉ

August 24, 2023

## Housing crisis is not only a big city problem – Northern communities like Gogama also affected

GOGAMA - France Gélinas, MPP for Nickel Belt has sent the attached Open Letter to the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure regarding abandoned and crown houses and properties in Gogama.

The MPP was in Gogama earlier today to tour the area and discuss the housing situation with local community members.

“The people and businesses of Gogama are missing out on the economic opportunities from the new Gold Mine because of government inaction”, said Gélinas.



Le 24 août 2023

## La crise du logement n'est pas seulement un problème dans les grandes villes – les communautés du Nord comme Gogama sont également touchées

GOGAMA - France Gélinas, la députée provinciale de Nickel Belt, a envoyé la lettre ouverte ci-jointe à l'honorable Kinga Surma, ministre de l'Infrastructure, au sujet des maisons et des propriétés abandonnées et de la Couronne à Gogama.

La députée s'est rendue à Gogama plus tôt aujourd'hui pour visiter la région et discuter de la situation du logement avec les membres de la communauté locale.

« Les habitants et les entreprises de Gogama ne profitent pas des opportunités économiques offertes par la nouvelle mine d'or en raison de l'inaction du gouvernement », a déclaré la députée Gélinas.



# 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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