

(Date and return address)

Hon. David Caplan  
Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal  
4th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2E5

RE: Discriminatory ORC Parking Policy

Dear Minister Caplan:

It has been announced that parking rates charged to OPS staff at an Ontario Realty Corporation building in Guelph will increase by 42% this year.

While a sudden increase of this magnitude is an issue unto itself, the ORC announcement has given light to a much greater discriminatory practice warranting your concern and attention.

The discriminatory practice involves ORC's policy of charging some employees to park while providing free parking privileges to others, depending on which government office they work from. This ORC practice amounts to a financial penalty applied selectively to employees based on where they report to work.

In the recent Guelph example, ORC and their management group, ProFac, declined a request to discuss this issue with bargaining unit representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. ORC and ProFac also refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of a similar request from the Building Users' Committee, which represents all tenants of the One Stone Road West, Guelph location.

ORC has compiled what it calls a "*Survey of Guelph Parking Fees*" to justify its parking fees. The survey omits scores of employers who provide free parking for their staff. Instead the survey relies on only two examples: the University of Guelph; and City of Guelph public parking lots.

Minister Caplan, you would be correct in assuming that most employers in Guelph accommodate their employees' mode of transportation to work by providing on-site parking. They do not rent it to them.

It is my hope that you will intervene to eliminate this discriminatory, ORC parking policy as it truly amounts to a financial penalty applied selectively to employees based on where they report to work.

Respectfully,

Name

cc: Premier McGuinty  
Tony Dean  
My Local MPP