December 7, 2017

Hon. Steven Del Duca Minister of Transportation Ferguson Block 3rd Flr, 77 Wellesley St W, Toronto, ON M7A 128

Dear Minister Del Duca,

I am writing to support the requests from numerous municipalities to continue their exemption which allows snow plow operators and other public utility employees and contractors to use two-way radios while operating a vehicle as provided under section 11 of regulation 366/09.

As you know this exemption is set to expire in just over three weeks. Municipalities have repeatedly contacted your Ministry to request that the exemption be extended and yet we have not seen any action. It is unfair to them that we are now only days away from the exemption expiring and they are still waiting.

These radios are an important tool as these employees work to ensure public safety, allowing communications about safety priorities and emergencies. Replacing this equipment while it is still functioning would be an additional financial burden on municipalities, many of whom are already facing financial constraints.

I ask you to respond to municipalities quickly to ensure they are able to plan for communications equipment to ensure the safety of their employees and the public.

Sincerely,

Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford PC Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing