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and Mines

Ministère du Développement du Nord  
et des Mines



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Greetings,

I am writing to you today to let you know of the intended transfer of the Office of the Mining and Lands Commissioner (OMLC) to the Environment and Land Tribunals Ontario (ELTO) cluster of tribunals. The transfer will not impact the powers or function of the office and is intended to align the OMLC with similar tribunals in Ontario.

To accomplish this goal, once the transfer of the OMLC to the ELTO cluster at the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) is complete, it will be renamed the Mining and Lands Tribunal (MLT). The intended date of this change will be on April 1, 2018.

The OMLC functions as an adjudicative body for many matters under the Mining Act with a primary focus to resolve disputes arising within the mining industry. The OMLC also plays an important role in making decisions on matters under a number of other statutes, including the *Conservation Authorities Act*, *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*, *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act*, *Assessment Act*, and *Aggregate Resources Act*. The OMLC receives approximately 35 cases each year, most of which are settled through mediation. Some of your members may have engaged the OMLC to resolve matters in the past, have ongoing matters before adjudicators at this time, or use the tribunal in the future.

The transfer of the OMLC from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to ELTO, overseen by MAG, supports the government's priority to modernize the province's administrative justice system. It is also in response to stakeholder feedback indicating the OMLC serves a valuable function but needs to move towards better transparency and accountability. We believe the proposed changes will help to achieve these goals.

It is important to note that no changes to the powers of the OMLC or function of the office are proposed as part of this transfer. Any matters that would normally be directed to the OMLC should be directed to the MLT following the transfer. Matters that were in progress prior to the transition will continue before the MLT, starting at the same stage of proceedings as it left off before the Commissioner.

There are still a number of steps to complete the transfer. Over the next few months the government will continue to move forward with the necessary steps to ensure a smooth transition.

If you have any questions related to the transfer, please contact Brian McMahon at (705) 670-5798 or [brian.mcmahon@ontario.ca](mailto:brian.mcmahon@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David de Launay".

David de Launay  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines