

King to receive interim payment related to ice storm impacts

By Mark Pavilons

King Township will receive an interim payment from the Province, as part of their claim for the damages caused by the 2013/14 ice storm.

The Township received news Friday they'll be getting a cheque for \$73,310.57, which is 35% of the total claim of roughly \$210,000. According to Shawn Parry, manager of the ice storm assistance program with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, once the full review of King's claim is completed, they'll receive the remaining \$136,000.

King is required to sign a grant agreement before the interim payment is made.

Parry noted timing of the final payment depends on several factors, including the complexity of the claim and the completeness of the supporting documents filed by the municipality.

While some smaller municipalities have received their full payments, most are interim offers.

The Province notes they're offering the interim payments to assist them with their budget planning while the rest of their claim is finalized. The remaining funding will be issued once the claims review is complete and eligible costs are verified.

By comparison, King's neighbours in York have also been notified of their interim payments.

York Region will be getting \$809,111; Aurora, \$102,833; East Gwillimbury, \$5,048; Bradford, \$34,552; Newmarket, \$43,548; Richmond Hill, \$1.137 million; Vaughan, \$3.579 million, and Whitchurch-Stouffville, \$109,039.

The deadline to submit a claim to the Ice Storm Assistance Program was December 31, 2014. The province is carefully reviewing each claim received and is paying the eligible funds as quickly as possible.

The province announced in February 2014 that it would pay 100 per cent of eligible disaster response and recovery costs to municipalities and conservation authorities severely affected by the December 2013 ice storm.

The Ice Storm Assistance Program is a one-time disaster relief program for the December 2013 ice storm. It focuses on costs related to the immediate emergency response, such as setting up warming centres, and the subsequent cleanup of debris necessary to protect public safety.

Ontario will be reimbursed by the federal government for a portion of the eligible response and recovery costs under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

The ice storm caused widespread damage and blackouts across southern, western and eastern Ontario. At the peak of the storm, over 800,000 hydro customers were without power.