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**Media Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
March 26, 2020

## **Property Tax Penalties for Muskoka Lakes Residents and Businesses**

**MUSKOKA LAKES** – To help residents and business owners with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province of Ontario and District of Muskoka announced this week a deferral on the need for their portions of the Muskoka Lakes property taxes. At the next meeting of Council, Township of Muskoka Lakes staff will bring forward a report recommending the waiving of penalties that would usually be charged for the non-payment of 2020 interim taxes due by March 27, 2020. It will be further recommended that this waiver would be effective until May 31, 2020.

“With both the District and Province providing flexibility to each taxpayer in Muskoka Lakes, I am confident our Council will follow suit,” said Mayor Harding. “Currently our Council has yet to schedule a meeting over the next few weeks, however, when possible and respecting social distancing with electronic meeting protocols, tax deferral will be our first item of business to confirm support of our community.”

The due date for the interim property tax payment will remain as March 27, 2020. Payments will continue to be accepted and processed by the Township. Property owners that have the means to make their payment by the due date of March 27, 2020 are encouraged to do so, as property taxes fund the many municipal services that must continue to be provided.

“The health of our residents and staff is our number one priority at this time,” said Mayor Harding. “We need money to continue to offer services like road maintenance and our fire service, but we also appreciate the economic realities people face in these unprecedented times. We will do what we can, and are asking the public to do their part and to – stay home, isolate and be safe.”

For frequently asked questions and a full list of up-to-date information on impacts to Municipal services as a result of COVID-19 visit [muskokalakes.ca](http://muskokalakes.ca). For the most up-to-date health information visit the [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website](#).

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