



Office of the Mayor

Mayor Peter J. Kelly

One Cent Now - Big City Mayor's Look for New Revenue



This May I joined with mayors from Canada's largest cities to urge the federal government to share one cent of its GST revenue with Canadian municipalities.

"One Cent Now" is a strikingly simple concept: we simply want some of the tax revenue, just a penny, that is generated in Canadian municipalities to stay in those municipalities, allowing for investments that create dynamic, competitive and liveable municipalities across Canada.

One cent of the GST would mean \$5 billion for Canadian municipalities to fix and maintain their crumbling infrastructure. With one cent of the GST now, HRM would receive approximately \$60 million to give desperately needed attention to our streets and roads, transit, policing and fire services, water and sewage systems, recreation, parks, environmental initiatives, and more.

Municipalities—and particularly large cities—are the main generators of wealth in Canada, yet we do not benefit from the proceeds of that wealth. If we want Canada to prosper, we have to adequately fund our municipalities.

Of all the taxes Canadians pay, an average of 50 cents go to the federal government while only eight cents go to municipalities. This is not feasible. The financial tools municipal governments have at our disposal are severely limited. Property taxes—our main source of revenue—do not grow with the economy and citizens should not bear the brunt of our fiscal shortfall with property tax increases.

We need access to revenues that will grow with our economy if we are going to have the fiscal capacity to keep our country's economy growing.

One Cent Now offers an easy solution that will make a world of difference. For more information, please see the Canadian Federation of Municipalities' [One Cent Now](#) outline.

For the One Cent Now campaign to work, we need people to get behind it. I invite you to talk about this effective and economically sound concept with your colleagues. Contact your MPs and let them know that we need federal government support to maintain and expand our infrastructure. To join an online petition, visit the City of

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Toronto's [One Cent Now web site](#).

They say a penny doesn't buy much anymore—but this penny would make a world of difference!

Respectfully, I remain

Peter J. Kelly

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