



Monday, December 10, 2007

Kitchener City Council endorses the following motion:

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities play a vital role in: (1) promoting the quality of life and health of our citizens, (2) strengthening our national economy, and (3) protecting our global environment.

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities have doubled their share of infrastructure costs over the past 50 years while the federal government's share has shrunk to less than half without providing adequate funding to cities to help them fund this costly shift in responsibilities.

WHEREAS the municipal infrastructure deficit is estimated to have grown to \$123 billion just to replace current and aging infrastructure, such as water and waste water systems; transportation systems; transit, solid-waste management, and community, recreational, cultural and social infrastructure.

WHEREAS municipalities currently receive only 8 cents of every tax dollar paid by Canadians, our cities are home to over 80% of the country's population, and they provide the services residents use on a day-to-day basis more than those of the federal and provincial governments.

WHEREAS Cities are the economic engines of the Canadian economy and investments in municipalities by the federal government will serve to strengthen the national economy, thereby growing its own revenues.

WHEREAS the federal government has enjoyed tens of billions of dollars in budgetary surpluses over the past ten years (\$13.8 billion in 2006-07 alone) and it is forecast to continue to produce surpluses in the future.

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities require a reliable and dedicated source of revenue that grows with the economy to significantly reduce the need for ongoing and unsustainable increases to property taxes, user fees and, water and sewer rates.

BE IT RESOLVED that Kitchener City Council endorses the proposal of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and calls on the federal government to provide Canadian municipalities with the equivalent of one cent of the GST on an annual basis to help them fund important municipal services and infrastructure to a growing population.