

March 14, 2008

Hazel McCallion

Mayor, City of Mississauga

Janice Baker

City Manager, Mississauga

DELIVERED BY E-MAIL

Dear Madame Mayor, and Ms. Baker:

Our Ratepayer Group supports Mississauga's **Cities NOW!** Campaign, which is successfully drawing attention to the need for long-term, sustainable funding for municipal infrastructure. We attended the information night on February 27, 2008, and understand the need to act before deterioration reaches a crisis point, and repair costs have escalated. We support the use of our federal and provincial tax monies to maintain our City's infrastructure.

We agree infrastructure should be a national priority, and that for this, the federal surplus should be put to productive use. The announcement on Wed. March 12, 2008 by Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan that the province will divert certain surplus funds to municipal infrastructure is, as you stated Madame Mayor, "a step in the right direction". But rather than remain dependent on the possibilities of surpluses, year-to-year, cities need a consistent funding policy. The maintenance of our City roads and bridges, in particular, should be assisted with increased allocations from provincial and federal gas tax revenues, derived from gas and fuel taxes paid by all users of the roads.

Given that the Resolution for a Special 5% Infrastructure Tax Levy, adopted in principle by Mississauga Council on Nov. 7, 2007, is an isolated and symbolic gesture, to be borne only by the City's property owners, we do not believe this tax levy can be effective in securing the significant revenue streams required for our City's estimated \$1.5 billion infrastructure deficit. Our City needs to participate with other municipalities in a coordinated and uniform strategy, and to continue to work with the citizens in approaching the other levels of government.

We are asking both our federal and provincial governments to work with the cities to resolve the municipal infrastructure deficit with a long-term and predictable funding formula.

On behalf of the TOPCA Executive,

Ian Smith, President

Town of Port Credit Association (TOPCA)

www.topca.net

Copied:

Councillors, Wards 1-11

Paul Szabo, MP, Mississauga South

Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, Canada

Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

Charles Sousa, MPP, Mississauga South

Hon. Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, Ontario

Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario

Emil Kolb, Chair, Region of Peel

Ron Lenyk, Publisher, *Mississauga News*