



TOWNSHIP OF KING

Municipal Offices
2075 King Road
King City, Ontario
L7B 1A1

Telephone: (905) 833-5321
Toll Free: 1-800-688-5013
Fax: (905) 833-2300
e-mail: online@king.ca
Website: www.king.ca

To all municipalities in Ontario:

The following Resolution was adopted by Council of the Corporation of the Township of King at its meeting of March 19th, 2007:

Re: Calling on the Upper Levels of Government to Provide Funding Assistance for Municipal Infrastructure and To Review Certain Programs

“Municipalities are required to operate and maintain a wide array of services including the provision of safe clean water and wastewater systems, effective transportation systems with well maintained roads, sustainable waste management systems, and the cultural and recreation infrastructure that are key elements in a healthy & competitive municipality;

In rural communities with slower new growth particularly in the commercial and industrial sectors accounting for a small portion of the total assessment, residential taxpayers carry the weight of the total tax burden;

The Canada Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) provided opportunities for municipalities to apply for funds to assist with infrastructure; the demand greatly exceeded the availability of funds, resulting in many municipalities receiving nothing for their efforts and resources spent in applying;

The Province has allocated a permanent 2 cents a litre for municipal transit to municipalities operating public transit and community transit systems, however, there is no comparable funding in rural municipalities where roads and bridges are the transit systems and the residents pay the same Gas Tax as those in cities and towns;

Provincial programs such as the “Farmland Tax Program” and the “Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program” which were designed to meet provincial economic and environmental policy objectives are now funded by the municipal property tax base – these formerly provincially-funded tax rebate programs were changed in 1997 to municipally-funded property tax discounts, that is, municipal tax expenditures;

The *Development Charges Act* which was enacted in 1997 imposed certain restrictions on municipalities which prevent growth from paying for itself and places the burden of growth on the tax payer;

Municipalities must start reporting infrastructure spending on an accrual basis by 2009, and will incur significant training, staffing, consultant and software costs; smaller municipalities do not have the resources to cover these costs;

Municipalities have been assigned the task of ensuring accessibility for all Ontarians through the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and are supportive of the objectives of the legislation, but have concerns given the potential impact of the costs of implementation of standards which are as yet, unknown;

It is resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of King requests the following:

1. The provincial and federal governments are urged to augment their contributions to municipal infrastructure by developing a long-term support program for stable, reliable permanent funding to assist with infrastructure investment.
2. The provincial government is requested to increase the municipal share of provincial gas tax and expanding eligibility beyond transit.
3. While the Township is acutely aware of the importance of a sustainable agriculture industry and of environment conservation efforts, the provincial government is requested to review programs such as the “Farmland Tax Program” and the “Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program” to ensure that the programs are not funded out of the municipal property tax base.
4. The current provincial government committed to ensuring that developers “absorb their fair share of the costs of new growth”, and is requested to begin the review of the *Development Charges Act, 1997* as soon as possible to ensure that municipalities do not continue to subsidize development and municipal property tax payers are not paying for growth.
5. The provincial government is requested to establish one time funding to assist smaller municipalities move to accounting infrastructure on an accrual basis and meaningful asset management.
6. The provincial government is requested to consider providing financial assistance to offset the costs of implementing the requirements of the AODA and the related standards.
7. The provincial government is requested to review the basis of apportionment of municipal/regional funding to ensure that lower tier municipalities are not inequitably requisitioned.
8. This Resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Finance, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, and to the MPs and MPPs for the Township of King, and to all the municipalities in Ontario.

Please present this resolution to your Council for their consideration and endorsement.

Yours truly,

Chris Somerville
Township Clerk
csomerville@king.ca