



Town of
East Gwillimbury

Corporate Services Department

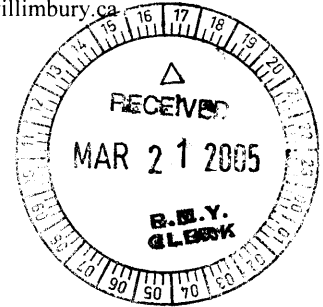
Town of East Gwillimbury
19000 Leslie Street
Sharon, Ontario L0G 1V0
905-478-4282 x 240
aknowles@eastgwillimbury.ca

March 16, 2005

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. -

P04 → CAC → Finance 21/3/05



Regional Municipality of York
P.O. Box 147, 17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Attention: Municipal Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Town of East Gwillimbury Resolution
Request for Provincial Funding Assistance**

For your information and records, at its regular meeting of Committee of the Whole Council on February 21, 2005, Town of East Gwillimbury Municipal Council adopted Resolution CWC 2005-46FIN as follows:

"Moved by: "Councillor C. Morton"

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced an additional \$45 million in business and TTC subway assistance to the City of Toronto in 2005, including a one-time payment of \$20 million towards improvements to the TTC and \$25 million in one-time assistance to promote a competitive business climate by offsetting a proposed 1.5 per cent property tax rate increase on its business tax classes;

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced that the total transit and budget assistance flowing to Toronto in 2005 is \$217 million;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has provided Toronto with unprecedented and substantial assistance to address the City's budget pressures since 2003;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has identified that all Ontario municipalities suffer an infrastructure deficit that affects the health and safety of our residents and the economic competitiveness of our communities;

AND WHEREAS certain local municipal cost increases are directly attributable to meeting provincial program standards and requirements;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury is alarmed by escalating budgetary pressures and the affordability of necessary property tax rate increases;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York and each of its nine local municipalities, including the Town of East Gwillimbury, have achieved the lowest property tax ratios in Ontario;

"Our town, Our future"

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AND WHEREAS Provincial legislation prohibits the Region of York and its nine local municipalities from increasing property tax ratios, eliminating any opportunity to subsidize the residential property tax burden through the tax burden of the business community, a practice continued in the City of Toronto;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the City of Vaughan has requested the Province of Ontario to provide financial assistance to the City of Vaughan in the amount of \$5.6 million;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury respectfully requests the Province of Ontario to provide financial assistance to the Town of East Gwillimbury in the amount of \$705,000 for the 2005 fiscal year, to prevent both a potential property tax increase in excess of the average rate of inflation and a reduction in the Town's level of service to its businesses and residents;

And further, that this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and to all municipalities in the Province of Ontario;

And further, that this resolution be sent to the Provincial Minister of Finance, Greg Sorbara; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Gerretsen, and to the Federal Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities), the Honourable John Ferguson Godfrey.

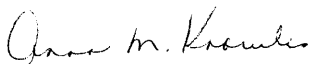
Carried.

"Signed on Original"
James R. Young, Mayor"

Also attached, please find a copy of a Town of East Gwillimbury Press Release issued on February 21, 2005, entitled East Gwillimbury Requests Provincial Funding Assistance.

If you have any further questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Anna M. Knowles
Deputy Clerk

Attach.

c.c. Hon. G. Sorbara, Min. of Finance, Province of Ontario
Hon. J. Gerretsen, Min. of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Province of Ontario
Hon. J. Godfrey, Federal Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (A.M.O.)
All Municipalities in the Province of Ontario



East Gwillimbury Requests Provincial Funding Assistance

East Gwillimbury – During their Committee of the Whole session, Council passed a resolution to submit a request to the Province of Ontario for funding assistance of \$705,000. This is in response to Toronto receiving \$217 million in transit and budget assistance from the Province.

Councillors made the request based on the fact that municipal property taxes are increasing greater than the average rate of inflation, in part due to Provincial standards and requirements. Currently, the Province prohibits the Region of York and its municipalities from increasing property tax ratios for commercial and industrial properties. High property tax ratios for the business classes continue in Toronto. Part of the Province's funding in Toronto includes \$25 million is to promote that city's competitive business climate by offsetting a 1.5 percent tax rate increase to Toronto's business class. East Gwillimbury and the other eight municipalities of York Region have the lowest tax ratios in Ontario.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has identified that the health and safety of residents and their economic competitiveness is being affected by an infrastructure deficit in all of Ontario's Municipalities. Since 2003 the Government of Ontario has provided unprecedented substantial budgetary aid solely to the City of Toronto.

The City of Vaughan has made a similar request, asking for \$5.6 million from the Province. East Gwillimbury's appeal is realistic and made in relation to the Town's needs. The requested funding would prevent a tax increase higher than the rate of inflation and would maintain the level of service residents have come to expect from their Town.

East Gwillimbury's funding request for \$705,000.00 has been sent to the Provincial Minister of Finance, Greg Sorbara; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Gerretson; and to the Federal Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities), the Honourable John Godfrey.