



TOWN OF GEORGINA

26557 Civic Centre Rd., R.R. #2, Keswick, Ontario L4P 3G1

ON OF YORK
RK'S OFFICE

10. - P04

clerk

July 29, 2009

Honourable Diane Finley,
Minister of Human Resources and Social Development,
70 Queensway West
SIMCOE, Ontario
N3Y 2M6



Honourable Minister Finley:

Re: Information Regarding Canada's Employment Insurance
Georgina Report No. DAS-2009-0042

Please be advised that Town Council at its meeting held on July 13, 2009, passed the following motion concerning Canada's Employment Insurance:

THAT TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVE REPORT NO. DAS-2009-0042 ENTITLED 'INFORMATION REGARDING CANADA'S EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE' FOR INFORMATION AND ENDORSE THE POSITION OF THE TOWN OF NEWMARKET AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IS AFFECTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS YORK REGION AND THE GTA;

AND WHEREAS ACCORDING TO CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN CANADA IS ABOVE 8.0% WHICH IS WHERE IT WAS DECEMBER 2001, MORE THAN 7 YEARS AGO; AND MANY ECONOMISTS NOW PREDICT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WILL RISE ABOVE 10% BY LATE 2009, AND AROUND 11% IN 2010;

AND WHEREAS IN YORK REGION THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS CURRENTLY AT 9.0% AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (ONTARIO WORKS) CONTINUES TO INCREASE, WITH A 1.4% INCREASE IN APRIL OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND A 17.5% INCREASE SINCE LAST NOVEMBER;

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AND WHEREAS WE HAVE ENTERED THIS NEW ECONOMIC CRISIS WITH A MUCH WEAKER EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI) SYSTEM, WHICH PROVIDES ONLY HALF THE COVERAGE IT DID IN THE LAST RECESSION BECAUSE FEWER WORKERS QUALIFY AND BENEFIT WEEKS ARE REDUCED;

AND WHEREAS A HEALTHY EI SYSTEM IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL ECONOMIC STABILIZERS, WHICH IN THE RECESSIONS OF THE EARLY '80'S AND '90'S PREVENTED DEEPER, LONGER DOWNTURNS AND REDUCED THE SHOCK OF JOB AND GDP LOSS;

AND WHEREAS THERE WILL BE AN INCREASED DEMAND FOR LOCALLY PROVIDED SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IF RESIDENTS ARE UNABLE TO ACCESS EI BENEFITS, RESULTING IN A NEGATIVE FISCAL IMPACT ON ALL MUNICIPALITIES;

AND WHEREAS EVEN THE US GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN LEADERSHIP BY MAKING MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DURATION OF EI BENEFITS AND PROVIDING A UNIVERSAL TOP-UP AS PART OF A STIMULUS PACKAGE TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT CRISIS;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA TO CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO INTRODUCE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE EI SYSTEM:

1. DURING THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS, ALL WORKERS WOULD REQUIRE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF HOURS (FOR EXAMPLE 360 HOURS) TO QUALIFY FOR EI BENEFITS IN ALL REGIONS OF CANADA.
2. INCREASE BENEFITS TO AT LEAST 60% OF NORMAL EARNINGS, USING WORKERS' 12 BEST WEEKS, RAISE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF WEEKLY BENEFIT; SUSPEND THE ALLOCATION OF SEVERANCE PAY; AND ELIMINATE THE 2-WEEK WAITING PERIOD AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE WEEKS IF THERE IS A PERSISTENT HIGH LEVEL OF LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN WORK.

AND THAT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO THE HONOURABLE DIANE FINLEY, MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CANADA; GEORGINA M.P. PETER VAN LOAN, GEORGINA MPP JULIA MUNRO, THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM), THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO) AND THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK AND ITS MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES.

Accordingly, I have enclosed a photocopy of Report No. DAS-2009-0042 entitled 'Information Regarding Canada's Employment Insurance' for your review and information and thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,
FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Lance".

Carolyn Lance
Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk

cc: Peter Van Loan, MP, 45 Grist Mill Rd, Unit 10, Holland Landing, Ontario L9N 1M7
Julia Munro, MPP, 18977 Leslie St, Box 1129, Sharon, Ontario L0G 1V0
FCM, 24 Clarence St, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3
AMO, 200 University Ave, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6
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Rebecca Mathewson, Director of Administrative Services and Treasurer
Claire Marsden, Manager of Human Resources