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June 12, 2020
REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Darrin Canniff
Mayor
Chatham-Kent

June 12, 2020

John Henry
Chair
Durham

(sent via email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca / premier@ontario.ca)

Gary Carr
Chair
Halton

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
Hamilton

Bryan Paterson
Mayor
Kingston

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Rm 281
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Ed Holder
Mayor
London

John Klinck
Chair
Muskoka

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford,

Jim Bradley
Chair
Niagara

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO). Our 16-member organization represents more than 10 million residents in Ontario – 73% of the total population of the most populous province in Canada. We request immediate and significant financial assistance for Canadian municipalities managing the dynamic and growing financial operating costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in the April 23, 2020 proposal from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Jim Watson
Mayor
Ottawa

Funding from the Federal and Ontario governments, either through the FCM proposal program or otherwise, would significantly mitigate the financial pressures and unintended consequences our member municipalities and residents are facing as a result of the ongoing health pandemic.

Nando Iannicca
Chair
Peel

MARCO members appreciate the current funding support from our senior levels of government – but this level of support is inadequate and our need for operational funding is dire. The current funding allows MARCO municipalities to provide critical, essential services for the most vulnerable residents in our communities but this funding is allocated for additional costs directly related to COVID-19 and will not offset the unprecedented loss of revenue in our municipalities.

Brian Bigger
Mayor
Sudbury

Bill Mauro
Mayor
Thunder Bay

John Tory
Mayor
Toronto

Karen Redman
Chair
Waterloo

Drew Dilkens
Mayor
Windsor

Wayne Emmerson
Chair
York

Karen Redman, Chair
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario of Single Tier Cities and Regions
The Regional Municipality of Waterloo
150 Frederick Street Kitchener Ontario N2G 4J3
519-575-4585 Fax 519-575-4440 kredman@regionofwaterloo.ca

Just as you, we are working flat-out at the local levels to get our residents through this crisis. We are turning recreation centres into homeless shelters; we are providing transit to essential workers; and, we are coordinating emergency child care for our paramedics and other essential workers in our communities. We are keeping essential services running when people need them most. While our revenues are plummeting, costs are rising as we strive to innovatively manage this pandemic in our communities.

Municipalities cannot run deficits and this is not the time to reduce services. Each of our member municipalities is facing a financial crisis of unfathomable proportion, putting our citizens at considerable risk. Unnecessary risk. We hear the mantra at both the federal and provincial levels: "we will do whatever it takes to protect Canadians and Ontarians". On behalf of the more than 10 million residents who live in the MARCO municipalities, we are calling on you to make good on this oft repeated promise.

In the event that there is an economic stimulus proposal in development, please know that the formula cannot include contributions from municipalities. The plain and simple truth is that we have no capacity to contribute. A stimulus package will undoubtedly provide a return on investment for both the Federal and Ontario governments.

On behalf of the members of MARCO, I urge you to take immediate and expedient action to provide adequate funding to protect our most vulnerable populations and to ensure that we can keep essential municipal services going strong. The funding should be straightforward, direct and flexible so that our municipalities, and those throughout Ontario, are well placed to drive economic recovery. I urge you to implement the emergency operating fund that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is calling for on behalf of municipalities country-wide.

The eventual recovery of our national economy hinges upon the actions your governments take today to financially support municipalities. I look forward to working with you collaboratively on this.

Regards,



Karen Redman
MARCO Chair 2019-2022

cc: Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance (Ont)
Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bill Karsten, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Carole Saab, Executive Director, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
MARCO members