

December 14th, 2005.

Municipalities of Ontario

Dear Councils:

Property Tax and Assessment Issues

At its meeting of December 12th, 2005, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

"WHEREAS the residents of the rural community of Sherkston in the City of Port Colborne in the Niagara Region sponsored two community meetings regarding the sharply higher market values for their homes;

AND WHEREAS municipal governments in Ontario are required to subsidize provincial health and social services programs, like welfare and employment services, disability benefits, drug benefits, social housing, child care, homes for the aged, public health and ambulances services;

AND WHEREAS many young families and seniors in Ontario are finding the municipal property tax to be a financial hardship;

AND WHEREAS other housing costs such as hydro rates, natural gas rates and costs for water and sewer treatment and virtually all costs of running a home are increasing sharply;

AND WHEREAS the incomes of working families and seniors have not kept pace with these escalating costs;

AND WHEREAS due to increases in municipal property tax and other housing costs many working families and seniors will be forced out of their homes and the communities that they love;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to provide relief and remedy for working families and seniors who are hardest hit by unacceptable spikes in the cost of living and by the likely property tax increases to come; and

THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to end its downloading of provincial programs and the use of municipal property tax dollars for the subsidization of provincial health and social services programs; and

THAT the Province of Ontario be urged to work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to develop a plan to begin the immediate uploading of provincial program costs back to where they belong to be funded through Provincial revenues.

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Minister of Finance, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario for distribution to all municipalities in Ontario, T. Hudak, MPP., and B. Saracino, Regional Councillor, for support."

Your favourable consideration of Council's request for support would be greatly appreciated.

Janet Beckett
City Clerk.
City of Port Colborne