

**Motion calling on the federal and provincial governments to provide immediate emergency assistance to municipalities**

WHEREAS the COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact on the City of Mississauga, our residents, and our businesses;

AND WHEREAS the City responded to the COVID-19 outbreak immediately by taking extraordinary measures to provide relief to residents and businesses, including deferring property taxes and waiving payment and late fees; waiving rents for tenants in City facilities; deferring payment of the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT); and offering free transit, among many other measures;

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga was forced to lay-off over 2000 workers and institute a hiring freeze, in response to the pandemic – the only level of government to do so;

AND WHEREAS as a result of decreased or lost revenues and the relief measures provided, the City of Mississauga is facing unprecedented deficit due to COVID-19 in the order of magnitude of over \$60 million for 2020;

AND WHEREAS the echo effects of COVID-19 – reduced transit revenues, GTAA PILT losses, reduced user fees, etc., - will continue to impact the City of Mississauga for at least another 2 years;

AND WHEREAS cities are not permitted to budget for deficits (nor are they requesting the ability to do so) and are only provided the property tax and user fees to operate;

AND WHEREAS cities continue provide essential services, despite the growing financial pressures of the pandemic, such as transit, fire, public health, police, building permit approval, housing, shelters, and so much more, all of which are at risk of funding cuts if municipalities do not receive assistance from other levels of government;

AND WHEREAS cities are engines for the provincial and national economies, generating billions in GDP, creating jobs, and building the infrastructure needed to keep our economy running;

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga is home to over 94,000 businesses, employing over 450,000 people, and generating \$60 billion in GDP annually, along with billions of dollars in income, sales and business taxes for the federal and provincial governments annually;

AND WHEREAS the municipal sector across Canada is facing a collective \$12 billion deficit, and through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in April 2020 asked the

federal government for \$10-\$15 billion in emergency assistance to offset these revenue losses;

AND WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have provided financial relief to almost every sector of the economy to keep our country running, totalling over \$150 billion and counting;

AND WHEREAS to date, the federal and provincial governments have not yet come to any agreement on an emergency assistance package for municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga submitted a list of projects for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to the province in October 2019, and have not yet received any approvals, which limits our ability to build critical infrastructure and adds fiscal strain to the City's budget;

AND WHEREAS the financial pressures cities are facing are real and immediate and they need certainty to plan measures to offset 2020 budget losses, as well as future budget losses;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor and Council, along with LUMCO, BCMC, AMO, and the FCM, have repeatedly called on the federal and provincial governments to provide emergency financial assistance to offset operating losses...

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The City of Mississauga calls on the federal and provincial governments to immediately provide emergency financial assistance to municipalities equal to the amount requested by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;
2. The provincial and federal governments provide timely approval of ICIP projects and flow the money to municipalities immediately;
3. The provincial and federal governments develop new stimulus funding programs to address the growing fiscal burden faced by municipalities and to spur economic recovery;
4. The Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter to the Prime Minister, Premier, Ministers of Finance, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local MPs, MPPs, FCM, and AMO outlining the fiscal situation of the City of Mississauga and reiterate our ask for immediate financial assistance;

5. The City of Mississauga specifically requests the provincial government and the Minister of Finance review the GTAA PILT formula, specifically the current 5% cap, to eliminate it; and
6. The Mayor convene meetings with local Mississauga Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament and that these meetings held in the month of July 2020 with Members of Council and Mississauga Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament shall be closed to the public to deal with an Educational Session regarding City priorities pursuant to Section 239 (3.1) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001 as amended.

Benjie Chouh