

LUMCO

Ontario's Big-City Mayors

May 14, 2020

Sent via e-mail to justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca and premier@ontario.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Prime Minister and Premier:

Ontario's Big City Mayors are grateful for the leadership and cooperation shown by the federal and provincial governments in supporting our residents through the COVID-19 crisis.

At a meeting of May 14, 2020, the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) passed the attached resolution urging your governments to bring that same approach to supporting municipalities facing unprecedented fiscal challenges as a result of the COVID-19.

LUMCO encourages and supports the approach proposed by the Ontario government of providing immediate financial relief to municipalities in a manner similar to other programs already 100% funded by the Governments of Canada and Ontario to support individuals and businesses.

These efforts will need to be sustained over time. LUMCO Mayors have proposed a three-phased approach to enable cities to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, which includes:

1. **Relief:** Immediate financial relief for municipalities facing fiscal pressure as a result of reduced revenues, with a focus on addressing the projected \$415 million revenue loss from April to June in transit systems that serve LUMCO municipalities
2. **Recovery:** A comprehensive recovery plan to address COVID-related impacts for municipalities as they work to reopen the economy, and

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3. **Reform:** A longer-term partnership agreement between municipalities and the federal and provincial governments to re-align capital and service delivery responsibilities with sustainable revenue streams for the future.

Our cities have worked hard to ensure the continuity of the services our residents rely on every day, but that effort has come with increased costs, even as revenues have declined. Municipalities plan for and deliver balanced budgets every year, but this is a crisis without precedent. We urgently need financial assistance from senior governments who alone have the fiscal capacity to manage this scale of economic disruption.

In the days ahead, LUMCO looks forward to continuing to work constructively with its partners at the provincial and federal governments and to positive announcements of support for Ontario's municipalities.

Sincerely,



Cam Guthrie
Chair, Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario
Mayor, City of Guelph

cc: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario

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WHEREAS the Governments of Canada and Ontario have been working cooperatively throughout the COVID-19 crisis to support Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the Governments of Canada and Ontario have worked swiftly to provide urgent relief to people and businesses to enable them to stay solvent and to lay a foundation for future economic recovery;

AND WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are facing plummeting revenues and surging costs as they work on the front lines of this crisis to protect health and maintain critical services;

AND WHEREAS the Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) represents Ontario's 29 largest cities with nearly 70% of Ontario's population;

AND WHEREAS LUMCO members are pleased that Premier Ford has said the Province of Ontario will be at the table to support municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has greater fiscal capacity and tools than any other level of government to provide relief in this crisis;

AND WHEREAS LUMCO has urged the federal and provincial governments to support municipalities with a three point plan that includes immediate relief, medium-term recovery, and long-term reform;

AND WHEREAS LUMCO remains steadfast in its support for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' call for federal emergency operating funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LUMCO encourages and supports the approach as proposed by the Ontario Government to provide immediate financial relief to municipalities for COVID-19 – related expenses and lost revenues, in a manner which is similar to other programs already fully (100%) funded by the Governments of Canada and Ontario to support individuals and businesses throughout the COVID-19 crisis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LUMCO urges Premier Ford and Prime Minister Trudeau to come to the table quickly and provide urgent relief to municipalities so that they can maintain solvency and continue to provide vital services to Canadians.