

WHEREAS LUMCO members represent the largest cities in Ontario

AND WHEREAS public ownership of infrastructure has shifted significantly over the past 50 years away from the Federal Government and become an increasing responsibility for cities

AND WHEREAS eighty percent of all Canadians now live in cities

AND WHEREAS cities are the economic engine of Canada and their long term sustainability is at risk without adequate infrastructure funding

AND WHEREAS national economic prosperity is inextricably linked to the economic prosperity of our cities and further that federal fiscal revenues depend on the provision of the basic municipal, physical and social infrastructure that supports the development of our economy.

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government is naturally and inextricably involved in generating the population growth that municipalities welcome but do not have the resources or tax tools to pay for, it is appropriate for the Federal Government to make a greater contribution to the financial solution

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has reported that a growing municipal infrastructure deficit of \$60 - \$100 billion exists across Canada

AND WHEREAS cities are making do with just 8 cents of every tax dollar while the federal and provincial governments together take 92 cents

AND WHEREAS the Finance Minister of the Government of Canada disclosed in his Economic Statement of October 30, 2007 that there is a projected federal surplus of \$11.6 billion for the current fiscal year and projected surpluses of \$65 billion cumulative to 2013

AND WHEREAS Canada's cities are underfunded

AND WHEREAS in June 2006, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayors' Caucus, which includes LUMCO members, released a report called, "Our Cities, Our Future", which encouraged all orders of government to realign roles and responsibilities and called on the federal government to:

- Establish a National Transit Strategy and
- Provide Canadian cities with access to long-term predictable sources of revenue that grow within the economy

AND WHEREAS on March 9, 2007, it was resolved that LUMCO support the strategy adopted in principle by the Big City Mayors' Caucus, on September 20, 2006 to address the fiscal imbalance of municipalities and pursue:

- Realignment of roles and responsibilities with appropriate funding – which in Ontario is the Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review
- Obtaining a share of revenues that grow with the economy
- Establishing a National Transit Strategy

AND WHEREAS municipalities across Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, several provincial municipal associations and the Premier of Ontario have endorsed the ongoing national advocacy campaign calling on the Federal Government to share the equivalent of one cent of GST with Canada's cities and communities

AND WHEREAS the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance has recommended that the Federal Government consider giving municipalities access to growth taxes including the GST

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister, the Premier and leading economists have stated their agreement with the principle that cities should have access to a share of revenues that are responsive to economic growth

AND WHEREAS while the Building Canada Plan includes welcome extensions to the federal gas tax transfer, the GST rebate for municipalities and project-based infrastructure the Government of Canada has not yet committed to permanent sustainable revenue sharing to assist municipal governments meet their growing responsibilities to invest in the quality of life of citizens and the productivity of businesses.

AND WHEREAS individual municipalities have initiated local campaigns, such as the Cities Now! initiative in Mississauga, to explain to residents the issues and the need for sustainable federal investment in Canada's cities

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario support the ongoing national campaign, calling on the government of Canada to fulfill its obligations to contribute to the growth and success of cities across Canada by providing long-term and sustainable infrastructure funding, including sharing the equivalent of one cent of GST with cities and communities to address their urgent infrastructure deficit needs, beginning with commitments in the next federal budget

AND FURTHER THAT LUMCO support the local campaigns within individual municipalities, including the Cities Now! campaign in Mississauga that help to explain the issues to local residents

AND THAT copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, Federal Ministers of Finance and Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Premier of Ontario, Finance Minister, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal of the Province of Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Big Cities Mayors' Caucus of FCM.