



OSHAWA  
ONTARIO, CANADA

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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### MAYOR DAN CARTER

May 11, 2020

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

#### **RE: Request for Financial Assistance to Municipalities as a result of COVID-19**

Dear Premier,

The current COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented challenge for all levels of government. The strong leadership from the Province to limit the spread of the virus, manage the disease, and provide stability and reassurance during a difficult and unpredictable time is most appreciated. The pandemic has, however, negatively impacted our economies, businesses, workers and communities. It has also had a major impact on the finances of municipal governments.

The Province has made a number of funding announcements to provide financial support to municipalities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City appreciates this financial support. However, the impact to the City's bottom line is significant due to lost revenues and increased unexpected expenditures.

In addition to losses and costs already incurred, municipalities face unknowns when the pandemic curve is flattened and physical distancing measures are lessened or no longer in place. For example, will the public return to municipal facilities and enroll in programming and how many people will default on their property taxes or other payments?

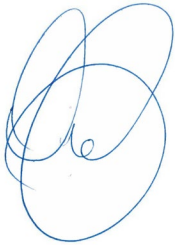
As you know, municipalities budget for the costs to provide services and programming for the year ahead. Municipalities are not legally permitted to run

deficits, nor do they have the borrowing capacity or the revenue tools of senior levels of government. I do not support running any deficit at the local level. A deficit simply puts the problem off for another year, which may result in the reduction of vital services. The alternative would be a double-digit property tax increase in 2021, which property tax payers could not absorb given the current economic climate.

The City's request is for the Province to establish a straightforward, direct and flexible municipal financial assistance program to cover the additional costs and loss in revenue experienced by municipalities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such a program is urgently needed and would be an investment in essential front-line services that help keep the economy running and advance the Province's economic recovery.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Dan Carter  
Mayor

cc: Hon. Rod Phillips, Ontario Minister of Finance  
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Jennifer French, MPP  
Lindsey Park, MPP  
Chair John Henry, Region of Durham  
Oshawa City Council  
Paul Ralph, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Oshawa  
Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Durham Area Municipalities (Clerks)  
Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO)