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February 7, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL: ksullivan@stcatharines.ca

Kristen Sullivan
City Clerk
City of St. Catharines
50 Church St., P.O. Box 3012
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7C2

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Growth Framework to Support Canadian Municipalities

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on February 5, 2024, received and supported correspondence from the City of St. Catharines dated September 27, 2023, regarding Growth Framework to Support Canadian Municipalities with the following motion:

Resolution No: RC-2024-07

Moved by Councillor JD Pachereva; Seconded by Councillor Greg Reimer

THAT Council support and endorse the resolution within the correspondence received re: Growth Framework to Support Canadian Municipalities.

CARRIED

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

Cc: Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Niagara Region
Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Chris Bittle, MP - St. Catharines
Dean Allison, MP - Niagara West
Tony Baldinelli, MP – Niagara Falls
Vance Badawey, MP – Niagara Centre
Jennifer Stevens, MPP - St. Catharines
Jeff Burch, MPP - Niagara Centre
Wayne Gates, MPP - Niagara Falls
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP - Niagara West-Glanbrook
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All local municipalities

September 27, 2023

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

Sent via email: Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

**Re: Growth Framework to Support Canadian Municipalities
Our File 10.12.1**

Dear Honourable Justin Trudeau,

At its meeting held on September 25, 2023, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS Canada, now reaching 40 million in population, continues to experience record-breaking growth, and as St. Catharines has been told by the Provincial government that we must build 11,000 new residential units by 2030; and

WHEREAS our country's successful growth is intrinsically linked to our cities, towns and communities; and

WHEREAS St. Catharines residents are facing acute challenges, including housing shortages, homelessness, a lack of mental health support, extreme weather events, concern for public safety and a reliance on aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS we want our kids to play in well-kept parks and enjoy lively community centres, our businesses to transport goods on maintained municipal roads and bridges, our senior citizens to be able to live affordably, our students to have a reliable transit system, our newcomers to find suitable housing, our families to be raised in a safe and healthy environment, and our most vulnerable to have access to much-needed support; and

WHEREAS as a city we have been forced to take on roles that are outside of our traditional jurisdictions, including public health, housing and emergency services which clearly exposed the vulnerability of our local services; and

WHEREAS emerging from the pandemic, we have seen federal and provincial sales and income taxes increase rapidly while overall municipal property tax revenue has remained flat— when accounting for inflation and population growth; and

WHEREAS municipalities are operating within a 19th century revenue system based mostly on property tax collection, to respond to 21st century responsibilities and evolving needs of Canadians; and

WHEREAS municipalities manage more than 60 percent of Canada's public infrastructure yet only receive between 8 and 10 cents for each tax dollar collected; and

WHEREAS municipalities, like St. Catharines are rising to meet these challenges with leadership and innovation but are constrained by an outdated framework that was not designed for the realities of 2023; and

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), representing over 2,000 municipalities big and small across the country, is the national voice for Canada's local governments; and

WHEREAS in May 2023, at FCM's Annual Conference, and with full support from the Big City Mayor's Caucus, FCM members passed a resolution outlining the need for the development of a new growth framework to support Canadian municipalities and the people who call our communities home; and

WHEREAS FCM's resolution gives FCM a mandate to:

- Declare that Canada needs a modernized growth framework for municipalities;
- Lead the development of a Municipal Growth Framework that links municipal financial capacity to challenges such as population growth and economic growth; and
- Call on the federal government to engage with FCM in the development of this framework; and

WHEREAS FCM's call for a modernized growth framework is consistent with St. Catharines' needs for increased support to deliver important local services and infrastructure to keep up with exponential growth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council officially endorse FCM and the Big City Mayor's Caucus' work calling on the Federal Government to develop a modernized growth framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council include FCM's call for a modernized municipal growth framework in future advocacy efforts and material to the federal and provincial governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be circulated to the Region of Niagara; local municipalities; the Prime Minister; the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; MP Bittle; MP Badawey; the Premier; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MPP

Stevens; MPP Burch; MPP Oosterhoff; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
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cc: Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Niagara Region
Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Chris Bittle, MP - St. Catharines
Dean Allison, MP - Niagara West
Tony Baldinelli, MP – Niagara Falls
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