



Community Services

Legislative Services

May 31, 2022

File #120203

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

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Federal Government's Plans to Tax Vacant Foreign Owned Properties

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of May 30, 2022 passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Federal Government proposed a tax on vacant non-resident foreign owned properties in the 2021 budget, and

Whereas the intent of this tax is to reduce speculation in the real estate market which is believed to contribute to housing unaffordability in Canada, and

Whereas Fort Erie and other vacation destinations across Ontario have a high number of non-resident American-owned vacation properties that are vacant during the tourism off-season during the winter months, and

Whereas the Federal Government signaled their intent to exempt non-resident foreign owned vacation properties in Canada so long as they meet certain requirements including being located in a Census Agglomeration with a population of less than 30,000 people, and

Whereas Fort Erie and numerous other seasonal vacation destinations across Southern Ontario are in Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations with populations well in excess of 30,000 people despite the communities themselves being small and medium-sized municipalities, and

Whereas Fort Erie and other communities across Ontario have a long history of being a vacation destination for American visitors, many of which have owned the same property for generations, and would be taxed yearly on their assessed value of their vacation property based on this proposal, and

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Whereas vacant property taxes would be allocated to the general revenues of the federal government and not directly benefit the municipalities where these properties are located and serviced, and

Whereas vacation properties that are seasonally vacant do not contribute to the speculation that is believed to contribute to housing unaffordability in Canada,

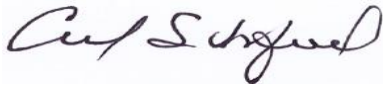
Now therefore be it resolved,

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests the Federal Government to review the proposed exemption framework for seasonal vacation properties to better reflect the reality of where these properties are located and how they are used, and further

That: This resolution be circulated to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue (Canada), Tony Baldinelli, Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities located in Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Carol Schofield, Dipl.M.A.
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

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CS:dlk

c.c. The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Minister of Finance

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The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue (Canada) diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca

Tony Baldinelli, MP, Niagara Falls tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario AMO@amo.on.ca

All Ontario Municipalities