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August 11, 2023

Climate Emergency Unit
c/o The David Suzuki Institute
201 Pringle Farm Rd
Saltspring Island, BC
V8K 2Y2

Dear Erin Blondeau, Director of Communications

Re: Climate Emergency Just Transition Transfer (JTT)

Please be advised that the Council for the Township of Severn received correspondence respecting the Just Transition Transfer (JTT) at their recent August 9th, 2023 Council meeting.

Following discussion Motion C2023-042 was passed:

Moved by Councillor - Ward 3 Phil Brennan
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Judith Cox

WHEREAS Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are slowly starting to trend downward, but the reduction trajectory remains incongruent with what science and justice demands;

WHEREAS Canada must spend what it takes to confront the climate emergency, and there is an urgent need for Canada to spend more on climate infrastructure that would drive down GHGs and hasten the transition off fossil fuels;

WHEREAS Canada needs to make an audacious and hopeful offer to those workers and communities whose employment and economic security is currently tied to the fossil fuel industry (and to a lesser extent the auto, steel, concrete, and agriculture industries, etc., all of which face substantial transition challenges), and to Indigenous communities on the frontlines of fossil fuel extraction;

WHEREAS the federal government has introduced a *Sustainable Jobs Act*, but this Act needs to be paired with and backed-up by a substantial investment in the jobs of the future;

WHEREAS much of the climate infrastructure needed will come under provincial, municipal and Indigenous jurisdiction (renewable energy, grid upgrades, public transit, zero-emission housing, etc.), and training comes under provincial jurisdiction, but it is the federal government that has the greatest capacity to pay;

WHEREAS a new federal Climate Emergency Just Transition Transfer (JTT) specifically linked to funding climate infrastructure projects that would create hundreds of thousands of jobs, along with training and apprenticeships programs for workers and those leaving the oil and gas industry -- would be a transformative program that signals that Canada is indeed entering emergency mode;

WHEREAS the JTT would be an annual transfer of approximately \$25 billion from the federal government to provincial/territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments, purpose-built to meet the climate emergency imperative to decarbonize our society, ensuring communities can fund the infrastructure and training needed to transition off fossil fuels, while creating thousands of sustainable jobs in a way that is specific to their needs and locale;

WHEREAS the JTT's distribution would be based on a formula linked to recent GHG emissions in each province (but fixed from that point onward, so as not to perversely incentivize continued high GHGs), recognizing that some jurisdictions face a more challenging task to transition their local economies;

WHEREAS the JTT would transfer federal funds to newly established just transition agencies in each province and territory -- jointly governed by the federal government, provincial/territorial governments, municipal governments, and local Indigenous nations -- and in some case directly to Indigenous nations, ensuring the transfer money is not simply absorbed into provincial or municipal budgets or used to displace other infrastructure or

training funds, but rather, ensuring the money is used for its intended purpose, and that fund are allocated in a manner sensitive to local climate action plans, the unique GHG profiles of each region, and to local labour market/training needs;

WHEREAS a JTT could provide significant, stable, multi-year funding for the climate infrastructure and training/employment needs of municipalities, Indigenous communities, energy utilities, public transit authorities and public housing authorities;

WHEREAS the federal government is welcome to title such a new transfer as they see fit (e.g. a Sustainable Jobs Transfer or a Climate Infrastructure Transfer);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Severn formally endorses the call for a new Just Transition Transfer; and

THAT the Township of Severn urges the federal government to establish a new Just Transition Transfer, starting with a major financial commitment in the next federal budget; and will write to the federal ministers concerned expressing this support;

AND THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities.

Carried

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (705) 325-2315 x 232 or by email at agray@severn.ca

Regards,

Alison Gray

Alison Gray, BAH, CMO, AOMC
Clerk

Cc Ontario Municipalities