



March 23, 2020

By Fax to: 613.941.6900 & Twitter @CanadianPM, @JustinTrudeau

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block,  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

**Re: Direct Payment of Federal Funds to Municipalities to Waive Property Taxes for the Year 2020 - Financial help to alleviate the suffering from COVID-19 Pandemic**

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It is trite to repeat the human and financial toll of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Similarly, the commitment of the federal, provincial and municipal governments toward alleviating the suffering of Canadians does not require repeating.

We, at the Town of Midland, in the Province of Ontario, are proposing what we believe to be a simple but effective solution to facilitate the delivery of our common and shared commitment to the financial and psychological well-being of all Canadians.

**Proposal:**

**1. Residential Properties (primary residence only)**

- a. Waive 100% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed at or below \$ 500,000.00 by each governing provincial property assessment body; and
- b. Waive 50% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed below \$ 1,000,000.00; and
- c. Waive 25% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed above \$1,000,000.00.

**2. Industrial, Commercial and Farm Properties**

- a. Waive 100% of the 2020 property taxes for all; industrial, commercial and farm properties currently assessed at under \$ 10,000,000.00; and
- b. Waive 50% of the property taxes for the year 2020 for all industrial, commercial and farm properties currently assessed between \$10,000,000.00 and \$ 50,000,000.00; and
- c. Waive 25% of the property taxes for the year 2020 for all industrial, commercial and farm properties assessed above \$50,000,000.00.

### 3. Federal Transfer Payment to Canadian Municipalities

- a. In lieu of the annual municipal property taxes, the Federal Government transfers funds to municipalities across Canada, as a one-time grant.

#### Advantages of the Proposal:

1. Quick and timely relief;
2. Direct relief to all Canadian homeowners and the business community;
3. Directly protects Canadians who although may be solvent, are unable to easily meet the financial pressures beyond their personal capacity due to COVID-19;
4. No additional resources required to assess individual need and delivery of the relief;
5. Negligible overhead costs for the disbursement of the relief. In fact, it may cut-down on some of the work for municipal staff; and
6. The financial stimulus received from the federal government will come into circulation immediately and will stay in the community.

There are a multitude of other direct and indirect financial and non-financial benefits that will result from the implementation of this proposal. The biggest non-financial impact is that Canadians will see an immediate financial relief respecting the pressures to make their property tax payments and be better positioned to address other essential needs. In turn, removing this added stress will provide some relief to the already strained financial and health systems.

As you are aware, Canadians are entering this time of crisis with a very high amount of house-hold debt and a great deal of financial fragility. Taking this simple step should alleviate some of those pressures. At the same time, it will keep your municipal governments, and school boards primed for continued productivity and forward momentum to address the fallout from COVID-19.

Thanking you in anticipation of a favourable response.

Sincerely,

**The Corporation of the Town of Midland**



Stewart Strathearn,  
Mayor  
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- c: Town of Midland Council  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Province of Ontario