



— **OBCM** —  
Ontario's Big City Mayors

## **Motion Calling for the Province for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

**WHEREAS** current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS** nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility, and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year; and

**WHEREAS** municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; and

**WHEREAS** unprecedented population, housing growth and climate change mitigation and adaptation will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** provincial downloading is forcing municipalities to fund strategies to address complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crisis; and

**WHEREAS** inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and

**WHEREAS** property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income redistribution programs for those most in need; and

**WHEREAS** the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration; and

**WHEREAS** Ontario's Big City Mayors supported the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) call for a new municipal growth framework in June 2023.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) joins the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in requesting that the Province of Ontario immediately begin discussions with key representatives from FCM, OBCM, AMO and other municipal associations on a new fiscal framework to ensure the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

### **And further that a copy of this motion be sent to:**

- Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
- MPP Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal and Housing
- MPP Rick Byers, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
- MPP Stephen Crawford, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
- Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister, Finance
- Councillor Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Mayor Scott Pearce, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)