



Infrastructure Tax Advocacy Tool Kit

February 15 2016

Issue Background:

On February 22, 2016 at its regularly scheduled Guelph City Council Meeting, members of council will discuss business arising from the Corporate Services Committee. At the Committee, the Guelph Chamber of Commerce presented indicating its opposition to the proposed infrastructure tax. The proposed Infrastructure Tax could harm Guelph's future prosperity.

The City of Guelph is currently considering imposing an additional 2% annual infrastructure tax over and above its annual tax increases. The Guelph Chamber of Commerce is deeply concerned about the imposition of such a tax and how it would negatively impact Guelph's competitive edge, ability to attract and retain businesses and keep its place as the number one job generator in Canada.

We presented before Corporate Services Committee on this issue and will be presenting to City Council on February 22 – we are calling on City Hall to:
Institute an immediate hiatus on the discussion on a proposed infrastructure tax until such time as:

1. An Asset Management Plan has been completed, that includes determining assets that would be considered excess and sold to the private sector as well as assets that could be developed through public-private partnerships.
2. A comprehensive outline of internal operational savings has been brought forward and approved for implementation.

What You Can Do

1. Register as a delegation and speak before City Council urging them not to move forward with discussion on an infrastructure tax. Click [here](#) to find out how to register as a delegate.
2. Email your concerns to the Mayor and Council before the February 22 City Council Meeting.

Sample Email:

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am writing to share my opposition to the proposed infrastructure tax. The tax is being proposed in the absence of an **Asset Management Plan** being completed that would determine assets that would be considered excess and sold to the private sector as well as assets that could be developed through public private partnerships. In addition there has been no comprehensive outline of **internal operational savings** that could be utilized to fund the infrastructure gap. City Council has a responsibility to ensure that we remain a competitive community in which to do business though municipal decision making that is guided by strong public policy. I am therefore asking that council halt discussions on an infrastructure tax until such time as an asset management plan has been completed and an internal services review has been conducted to determine operational savings that can be utilized to close the infrastructure gap.

City Council Contacts:

Mayor of the City of Guelph

[Mayor Cam Guthrie](mailto:mayor@guelph.ca)
mayor@guelph.ca

Ward 1

[Councillor Dan Gibson](mailto:dan.gibson@guelph.ca)
dan.gibson@guelph.ca

[Councillor Bob Bell](mailto:bob.bell@guelph.ca)
bob.bell@guelph.ca

Ward 2

[Councillor James Gordon](mailto:james.gordon@guelph.ca)
james.gordon@guelph.ca

[Councillor Andy Van Hellemond](mailto:andy.vanhellemond@guelph.ca)
andy.vanhellemond@guelph.ca

Ward 3

[Councillor Phil Allt](mailto:phil.allt@guelph.ca)
phil.allt@guelph.ca

[Councillor June Hofland](mailto:june.hofland@guelph.ca)
june.hofland@guelph.ca

Ward 4

Councillor Mike Salisbury
mike.salisbury@guelph.ca

Councillor Christine Billings
christine.billings@guelph.ca

Ward 5

Councillor Leanne Piper
leanne.piper@guelph.ca

Councillor Cathy Downer
cathy.downer@guelph.ca

Ward 6

Councillor Mark MacKinnon
mark.mackinnon@guelph.ca

Councillor Karl Wettstein
karl.wettstein@guelph.ca

Additional contact information available [here](#)

Should you require any additional information, please contact Kithio Mwanzia, President & CEO, Guelph Chamber of Commerce E: kithio@guelphchamber.com P: 519.822.8081 F: 519.822.8451 www.guelphchamber.com @chamberadvocacy



Infrastructure Tax Advocacy Tool Kit

February 15 2016