RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Mayor Barkley
SECONDED BY Mayor Runnalls

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-88
DATE June 18, 2007

WHEREAS the Farm Tax Rebate Program was previously fully financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Farm Tax Rebate Program is not a local public service but provides lower-cost foods across the Province, as well as the economic benefit of Provincial exporting, and is truly an income-redistributive program with Province-wide significance;

AND WHEREAS Rural areas do not have access to the lucrative commercial and industrial assessment and are being further penalized by being forced to absorb the loss of 75% of the taxation revenue on their farmland and managed forest properties;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) provides some municipalities with a fraction of their lost property taxation, leaving municipalities absorbing the majority of the cost of the farm tax rebate program;

AND WHEREAS the lost revenue to the municipalities is being absorbed by all properties within the individual municipality, increasing local tax rates and resulting in the local community (including farmlands and managed forest properties) paying for their own farm tax rebate program;

AND WHEREAS the Province’s battle with the Federal Government for proper financial arrangements was highlighted by the phrase “It’s time for fairness for all Canadians”; Rural Ontarians are asking for the same fairness;

AND WHEREAS removing the Farmland and Managed Forest Component from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund and establishing it as a separate program would be more appropriate since funding would be fair, easily calculated and would not be impacted by other components of the current OMPF calculations; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario be requested to separate the Farmland and Managed Forest component from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund; and, establish a separate and distinct Provincial funding program with 100% reimbursement to municipalities of their annual lost property tax revenue on farmland and managed forest properties.

AND FURTHER that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local MPPs, Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus, all Ontario municipalities and any other individual or association as deemed appropriate.

CARRIED