April 13, 2012

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Attention: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty

Dear Honourable Sir:

Re: Support City of Kingston’s Resolution Regarding Provincial Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake at their regular meeting held Monday, March 26, 2012 supported the City of Kingston’s resolution calling on the government of the province of Ontario to include in the budget now being prepared an increase to the payment in lieu of taxes; and to meet with the host municipalities for the purpose of reviewing the basis for payments in lieu of taxes, and determining a stable foundation going forward for those payments that meets associated costs prior to the 2013 budget cycle.

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to a favourable response.

Yours truly,

Holly Dowd
Town Clerk

Encl.

copy: City of Kingston
       The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance
       The Honourable John Gerretsen MPP Kingston and Islands
       The Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO)
       The Eastern Ontario Mayors Committee (EOMC)
       The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

DATE: MARCH 26, 2012

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR: 

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR: 

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake supports the City of Kingston's resolution as follows;

AND WHEREAS in 1970 the rate of provincial payments in lieu of taxes for universities was arbitrarily set at $25 per full time student;

AND WHEREAS in 1973 that was doubled to $50 per student and the payment was expanded to include hospitals and provincial correctional institutions;

AND WHEREAS in 1987 that rate was increased by 50%, still without apparent justification, to $75 per student and bed;

AND WHEREAS that rate has remained constant since that time despite the fact that inflation would in 2012 require an almost doubling the payment ($146);

AND WHEREAS at least sixty-five communities have called for an increase in payments;

AND WHEREAS heads of universities are supporting that call;

AND WHEREAS Premier McGuinty has looked to the municipalities of the province to be the economic engine of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the payments in lieu of taxes do not meet the actual costs of municipalities to provide the necessary services for the various institutions, thus placing an unfair tax burden on their property tax payers, thereby jeopardizing a municipality's ability to meet infrastructure demands, and consequently weakening their ability to act as economic engines.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Kingston calls on the government of the Province of Ontario to include in the budget now being prepared an increase to the payments in lieu of taxes; and

THAT the City of Kingston calls on the Province of Ontario to meet with the host municipalities for the purpose of reviewing the basis for payments in lieu of taxes, and determining a stable foundation going forward for those payments that meets associated costs prior to the 2013 budget cycle; and

THAT copies of this motion be sent to: the Premier Dalton McGuinty; the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance; the Honourable John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and islands; all Ontario municipalities with any of hospitals, post secondary institutions or provincial correctional institutions; the Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO); the Eastern Ontario Mayors Committee (EOMC), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

RECORDED VOTE