



**CHERYL
GALLANT**

MUNICIPALITY OF EAST FERRIS
MAY 02 2017
RECEIVED

YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE
www.cherylgallant.com

April 12th, 2017

Clerk-Treasurer
East Ferris Township
390 Highway 94
Corbeil, Ontario, POH 1K0

Dear Clerk-Treasurer,

As you may be aware, the 2017 Federal Deficit Budget raises personal taxes by targeting all municipal politicians, school board trustees, and elected members of municipal utilities boards, commissions, and corporations.

On Page 208 of the budget, the Trudeau Liberals removed the tax-exempt portion of remuneration paid to local officials.

Introduced in 1947 under the federal *Income Tax Act*, the purpose of the one-third tax-free expense allowance was to provide "an allowance for expenses incidental to the discharge of the person's duties as an elected officer."

Unlike some elected officials in cities who receive office budgets, car and expense allowances as well as six-digit salaries, this is not the case with most municipal politicians I know, with a majority of our councillors receiving a base salary of less than \$20,000.

As it was described to me by a local Mayor about this tax grab:

"Most municipal Council members in rural areas are already very poorly compensated for the work they do in their communities. As Mayor my hourly compensation is well below minimum wage. I make far less than any other municipal staff person working similar hours on behalf of the municipality. It is extremely difficult to attract good candidates into municipal politics now. Removing the 1/3 tax exemption on Council remuneration without compensating for that loss will make it nigh on impossible."

It is the expectation of debt-obsessed Ottawa that remuneration will be "grossed-up" (increasing the salary to offset the increased tax payment) so as not to impact the take-home pay received by a mayor and councillors. This in turn will boost individual tax bills for elected officials as well as costs to ratepayers, who are already struggling with increasing property taxes.

Rather than curbing the abuse of taxpayer money this tax grab claims to stop, by eliminating the tax-free provision, Municipalities will no longer be required to review their remuneration by law at a public meeting once during their four-year term.

Municipalities will now be forced to divert funds which would be spent on roads, bridges or clean water to reimbursing elected officials. This, along with the increased borrowing costs associated with the federal government's infrastructure bank scheme, will place increased pressure to raise property taxes, making home ownership more unaffordable.

This tax grab is an unfair burden on Canadian Municipalities and local ratepayers. The Trudeau Liberals need to be told their spending problem cannot be solved on the backs of home owners struggling to make ends meet.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gallant, M.P.
Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke
CG:sf

Cheryl Gallant, M.P.
Constituency Office
84 Isabella St.
Pembroke, ON, K8A 5S5
(Tel) 613-732-4404
(Fax) 613-732-4697

