



Media Release

Town of Midland proposes financial aid plan to Prime Minister Trudeau

March 23, 2020 – In an effort to provide timely relief to Canadian homeowners and the business community during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Midland has sent a letter (see Attachment 1) to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau proposing a financial aid plan that would see the Government of Canada pay a significant amount of property taxes on behalf of municipal tax-payers during the 2020 tax year.

The proposal to the Federal Government has three elements:

1. Residential Properties (primary residence only)

- a. Waive 100% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed at or below \$ 500,000.00 by each governing provincial property assessment body; and
- b. Waive 50% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed below \$1,000,000.00; and
- c. Waive 25% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed above \$1,000,000.00.

2. Industrial, Commercial and Farm Properties

- a. Waive 100% of the 2020 property taxes for all; industrial, commercial and farm properties currently assessed at under \$ 10,000,000.00; and
- b. Waive 50% of the property taxes for the year 2020 for all industrial, commercial and farm properties currently assessed between \$10,000,000.00 and \$ 50,000,000.00; and
- c. Waive 25% of the property taxes for the year 2020 for all industrial, commercial and farm properties assessed above \$50,000,000.00.

3. Federal Transfer Payment to Canadian Municipalities

- a. In lieu of the annual municipal property taxes, the Federal Government transfers funds to municipalities across Canada, as a one-time grant.

“The Town, like every other municipality, wants to alleviate the stress and financial concern of our residents and business community as much as possible during this pandemic,” said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. “What we are proposing is a simple but effective solution to provide financial and psychological relief to Canadians.”

The Town believes there are many advantages of this proposal:

1. Quick and timely relief;
2. Direct relief to all Canadian homeowners and the business community;
3. Directly protects Canadians who although may be solvent, are unable to easily meet the financial pressures beyond their personal capacity due to COVID-19;



4. No additional resources required to assess individual need and delivery of the relief;
5. Negligible overhead costs for the disbursement of the relief. In fact, it may cut-down on some of the work for municipal staff; and
6. The financial stimulus received from the federal government will come into circulation immediately and will stay in the community.

“Canadians enter this time of crisis with a high amount of house-hold debt, and many in our region are no different,” said CAO Amanpreet Sidhu. “This simple step we are proposing should alleviate some of this financial pressure and allow for residents and businesses to focus on more important matters during this time. We hope that the Prime Minister and the Federal Government will agree with us.”

The Town of Midland will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide updates on the Town of Midland website at Midland.ca, and we encourage residents to follow our social media channels for updates as well, [@MidlandON](https://twitter.com/MidlandON) on Twitter, and [@townofmidland](https://www.facebook.com/townofmidland) on Facebook.

For more information on the state of COVID-19 in our area, please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit their website at simcoemuskokahealth.org.



For media enquiries, please contact:
Randy Fee | Communications & Marketing Coordinator
Town of Midland | 575 Dominion Avenue, Midland, ON L4R 1R2
705-526-4275 ext.2264 | rfee@midland.ca | Midland.ca | Engagingmidland.ca

(Attachment 1 – Letter to the Prime Minister)



March 23, 2020

By Fax to: 613.941.6900 & Twitter @CanadianPM, @JustinTrudeau

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Direct Payment of Federal Funds to Municipalities to Waive Property Taxes for the Year 2020 - Financial help to alleviate the suffering from COVID-19 Pandemic

It is trite to repeat the human and financial toll of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Similarly, the commitment of the federal, provincial and municipal governments toward alleviating the suffering of Canadians does not require repeating.

We, at the Town of Midland, in the Province of Ontario, are proposing what we believe to be a simple but effective solution to facilitate the delivery of our common and shared commitment to the financial and psychological well-being of all Canadians.

Proposal:

1. Residential Properties (primary residence only)

- a. Waive 100% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed at or below \$ 500,000.00 by each governing provincial property assessment body; and
- b. Waive 50% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed below \$ 1,000,000.00; and
- c. Waive 25% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed above \$1,000,000.00.

2. Industrial, Commercial and Farm Properties

- a. Waive 100% of the 2020 property taxes for all; industrial, commercial and farm properties currently assessed at under \$ 10,000,000.00; and
- b. Waive 50% of the property taxes for the year 2020 for all industrial, commercial and farm properties currently assessed between \$10,000,000.00 and \$ 50,000,000.00; and
- c. Waive 25% of the property taxes for the year 2020 for all industrial, commercial and farm properties assessed above \$50,000,000.00.

3. Federal Transfer Payment to Canadian Municipalities

- a. In lieu of the annual municipal property taxes, the Federal Government transfers funds to municipalities across Canada, as a one-time grant.

Advantages of the Proposal:

1. Quick and timely relief;
2. Direct relief to all Canadian homeowners and the business community;
3. Directly protects Canadians who although may be solvent, are unable to easily meet the financial pressures beyond their personal capacity due to COVID-19;
4. No additional resources required to assess individual need and delivery of the relief;
5. Negligible overhead costs for the disbursement of the relief. In fact, it may cut-down on some of the work for municipal staff; and
6. The financial stimulus received from the federal government will come into circulation immediately and will stay in the community.

There are a multitude of other direct and indirect financial and non-financial benefits that will result from the implementation of this proposal. The biggest non-financial impact is that Canadians will see an immediate financial relief respecting the pressures to make their property tax payments and be better positioned to address other essential needs. In turn, removing this added stress will provide some relief to the already strained financial and health systems.

As you are aware, Canadians are entering this time of crisis with a very high amount of house-hold debt and a great deal of financial fragility. Taking this simple step should alleviate some of those pressures. At the same time, it will keep your municipal governments, and school boards primed for continued productivity and forward momentum to address the fallout from COVID-19.

Thanking you in anticipation of a favourable response.

Sincerely,

The Corporation of the Town of Midland



Stewart Strathearn,
Mayor
ssrathearn@midland.ca



Amanpreet Singh Sidhu,
Chief Administrative Officer
asidhu@midland.ca

- c: Town of Midland Council
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Province of Ontario