



Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Fédération canadienne des municipalités

APPENDIX A

September 23, 2008

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The Honourable James Michael Flaherty, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
L'Esplanade Laurier, 140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Minister:

I am writing to inform you of the attached resolution, **SOC08.3.07 – Federal Financial Tax Incentives for Heritage Places**, was recently adopted by FCM's National Board of Directors.

The resolution calls on the Government of Canada to establish financial tax incentives for the rehabilitation of heritage buildings which would encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic landmarks.

As you may know, every Canadian province and territory has protective legislation for heritage buildings and a range of grants and other incentives to encourage their rehabilitation. Similarly, the vast majority of Canada's urban municipalities offer financial incentives for heritage buildings. But they are missing an important partner – the Government of Canada. Among G-8 countries, Canada alone lacks a national system of funding policies and programs to preserve its heritage properties.

Incentives for the rehabilitation of heritage buildings can have many spin-off benefits: stimulate investment in Canadian projects, infrastructure and communities; create new employment in the building trades and professions; enhance cultural tourism – a huge generator of revenue from other countries; and keep historic buildings out of landfill sites.

We look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Perrault
President of FCM
Mayor of Sherbrooke

JP/si:sd
Enclosure

- c: The Honourable John Baird, Minister of the Environment
- c: The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities



Since 1901
Depuis 1901

February 12, 2008

SOC08.3.07

FEDERAL FINANCIAL TAX INCENTIVES FOR HERITAGE PLACES

WHEREAS according to the Heritage Canada Foundation, Canada has lost more than 20% of its pre-1920 heritage buildings to demolition over the past 30 years;

WHEREAS the Heritage Canada Foundation has stated that urgent action is needed to stop the demolition of Canadian landmarks, to restore and re-use them, and to acknowledge their value as a reminder of our origins and cultures;

WHEREAS heritage structures are also a valuable economic development resource, supporting re-urbanization initiatives and tourism as well as providing environmental benefits by way of reducing landfill, preserving natural resources and promoting sustainability;

WHEREAS there are currently no financial incentives to encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic properties; and

WHEREAS Heritage Thorold LACAC has requested the City of Thorold pass a resolution requesting the Federal government to introduce financial incentives which would encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic properties;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities request that the Federal Ministers of Finance and Canadian Heritage establish financial tax incentives for the rehabilitation of heritage buildings which would encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic landmarks.

City of Thorold, Ontario

SEPTEMBER 2008 BOARD DECISION: Category "A"; RESOLUTION ADOPTED