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NDP  NDP

O T T A W A
October 12, 2015

Roger Anderson
Regional Chair and CEO
Region of Durham

Mayor John Tory
City of Toronto

Co-chairs, Greater Toronto and
Hamilton Area Municipal Leaders (GTHA)

Dear Messrs. Anderson and Tory:

On behalf of the New Democratic Party of Canada, I would like to thank the municipal leaders of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area for the vital work that you have done to highlight the importance of Canada's municipalities, during the 2015 Federal Election. I have made it my priority to put municipalities and their vital needs at the centre of this campaign. You are right that our municipalities need a strong and reliable federal partner, and I believe that the NDP represents the kind of change that will allow your cities and regional municipalities to succeed in the years ahead.

Our platform was developed in close collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. That is why we are proposing to increase substantially federal support for local infrastructure, transit and housing through predictable and dedicated revenue streams, while moving away from complicated and partisan, application-based processes.

We will increase investments in your local infrastructure priorities through the existing Gas Tax Fund, which has proven itself to be the most effective and meaningful way for the federal government to invest in the needs of our communities. Under an NDP Government, these transfers will increase by \$1.5 billion annually for local roads, transit, water and green infrastructure.

The NDP will also create a *Better Transit Plan* that will invest \$1.3 billion in dedicated, annual transit funding to all municipalities across Canada operating transit systems. Funding will be predictable, stable and indexed to increase over 20 years. This will eliminate the need for complicated application forms and will allow for long-term sustainable transit planning in your region.

Together, the local infrastructure and *Better Transit Plan* transfers will invest approximately \$1.9 billion in new funding across the GTA region over the next 4 years, in addition to an expected \$1.6 billion through the existing Gas Tax Fund agreement. Over 20 years, the NDP Plan will invest a total of \$23.7 billion in transit and infrastructure across the entire GTA region. This is in addition to any expected investments through the *New Building Canada Fund* and existing housing agreements.

We have made renewed federal investments in affordable housing a major priority. We will restore and reinvest \$2.1 billion over 4 years in affordable housing agreements, and work closely with your municipalities to determine if this new funding should be invested into capital repairs, extending operating agreements or for the construction of new affordable housing. We will introduce an *Affordable Housing Act* recognizing housing as a right, and leading to the development of a national housing strategy to prioritize housing for the most vulnerable in our society. We will provide \$500 million for the construction of new affordable and market rental housing. We will boost funding for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy by \$40 million, and provide a Shelter Enhancement Program with another \$40 million investment, while ensuring that the redevelopment of federal lands include affordable housing and housing co-operatives. The NDP is committed to implementing \$15 a day childcare, and will work with our provinces to create 1,000,000 childcare spaces across Canada over the next 8 years.

Sustainability has always been a key priority for the NDP. We will invest \$1.5 billion over 4 years in sustainable infrastructure to mitigate natural disasters, produce clean energy, invest in home energy retrofits, improve passenger

rail services, and invest in Green municipal leaders. The NDP will issue \$4.5 billion in Green Bonds to allow Canadians to invest in clean energy, retrofit our industries, and adopt clean technologies with a low-risk, government-backed rate of return. We will also invest over \$650 million in other national infrastructure priorities.

You will find that the NDP plan invests more over 4-years in your communities than either the Conservative or Liberal plans. While the Liberal Plan invests almost \$17 billion over 4 years in new transit, social and green priorities, the NDP plan invests \$22.8 billion in new funding over 4 years in local infrastructure and transit, housing, childcare and sustainable development. While the Liberal plan cuts after only two years, the NDP plan increases investments sustainably and predictably each and every year.

The NDP has a detailed, concrete plan based on input from municipalities and stakeholders. We are proud that our plan delivers on your priorities, and invests in Canada's future.

NDP 4-Year Total - \$22.8 Billion

- \$7.2 billion – Local Infrastructure and Public Transit
- \$2.7 billion – Housing
- \$6.2 billion – Childcare
- \$6 billion – Sustainable Development
- \$655 million – National Priority Infrastructure

Liberal 4-Year Total - \$17 Billion

- \$5.65 billion – Public Transit
- \$5.65 billion – Social Infrastructure (Housing and Childcare)
- \$5.65 billion – Green Infrastructure

Thank you again for your shared interest on these important matters.

Sincerely,



Tom Mulcair
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada