

## **INQUIRY OF THE MAYOR**

**FROM:** Councillor Michael Walker

**DATE:** Sept 15, 2008

**SUBJECT:** EX23.23/Member Motion entitled  
“City Council Endorsement of One Cent Now Campaign”

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to inquire about your “*One Cent Now*” campaign and the June 2008 motion moved at City Council by me and Councillor Cho requesting a City Council endorsement of this campaign.

You embarked upon the “One Cent Now” campaign in February 2007 to convince the Federal government to give municipalities 1-cent (17% of GST total revenues) of the 6-cent Goods and Services Tax (GST). This campaign apparently originated in your office and City Council was not involved in its development or approval.

In 2007, \$150,000.00 of taxpayer dollars were spent on this campaign, without City Council’s consideration or endorsement – this issue has never been discussed at City Council.

As a City Councillor in support of this initiative to acquire reliable and permanent funding from the Federal government, I have been waiting for this campaign to arrive at City Council so I could, with my colleagues, add my endorsement – I would project that a City Council endorsement of this campaign would be unanimous. Strangely, this campaign has not come to City Council so that is why I and Councillor Cho moved in June 2008 the motion to endorse this One Cent Now campaign.

After being referred by City Council to your Executive Committee’s meeting of September 2, 2008, this motion (EX23.23) was referred by the Executive Committee to your office, the Office of the Mayor, for appropriate action.

Canadians are now engaged in a Federal election, precisely when the debate should be focused around this issue in Toronto and across the country.

I don't understand why you and the members of Executive Committee didn't endorse this motion and by extension, your campaign for "One Cent Now". Such an endorsement would give the campaign new life since its launch over 19 months ago. The June 2008 motion simply requests:

- 1) THAT City Council endorse Mayor David Miller's "One Cent Now" campaign; and
- 2) THAT this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada and all the members of the House of Commons and the Senate.

**Mr. Mayor, my questions are:**

- 1) Do you support city council endorsing your "One Cent Now" campaign?**
- 2) Do you endorse council taking a position on this now, and if not, why not?**

Sincerely,

Michael Walker  
Councillor – St. Paul's

September 22, 2008

Councillor Michael Walker  
St. Paul's  
Toronto City Hall  
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Dear Councillor Walker:

Thank you for your inquiry. The "One Cent Now" campaign has been an extraordinary success in focusing the public's attention on the municipal/federal fiscal imbalance. Torontonians gave me a mandate to pursue this campaign in the 2006 election. My advocacy was based on the City of Toronto's long-held position that a municipal government of our size should have access to a share of revenues that grow with the economy (e.g. sales or income taxes).

Since its inception, the campaign has been adopted by the Big City Mayor's Caucus (BCMC), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Senate of Canada, the Finance Minister of Ontario and the Premier of Ontario. The campaign has been instrumental in helping to forge a national consensus about the need for sustained permanent funding for our cities.

I appreciate your interest in the work Mayors are doing across Canada.

Yours truly,

Mayor David Miller  
City of Toronto