



# Municipality of Plovdiv Western Region

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To: David Miller, Mayor  
Joe Pennachetti, City  
Manager William Stewart,  
Fire Chief City of Toronto 100  
Queen St. W. Toronto, ON,  
Canada M5H 2N2

Dear Sirs;

## Re: Municipality of Plovdiv - Western Region Needs

As the Mayor of the Municipality of Plovdiv - Western Region, I enjoyed meeting with Richard Majkot, who was vacationing in Bulgaria. We had a very interesting discussion and exchange of information about our Municipalities, both in Bulgaria and in Canada.

Plovdiv, is an ancient Bulgarian City that is over 8000 years old with much history. Over that time, Plovdiv has evolved with much success in improving the living conditions for our citizens.

As a Municipality, our goal is to continue to improve those living conditions for our citizens. We want to offer as high a quality of health care, protection, social and administrative services as possible.

Unfortunately, our Municipality has acquired a poor inheritance of resources since the time of socialism. While that is improving with a new national democratic government, many aspects of our services to our citizens remain underdeveloped.

For instance, our fire-fighting equipment is physically dangerous to our fire fighters and extremely outdated. The personal protective equipment is insufficient and often results in injuries to them. Our limited number of Fire Trucks are ancient ( 1950's vintage), break down, and often malfunction while working to extinguish a fire. That dramatically reduces the reliability and effectiveness of the work our fire fighters do to save lives and properties.

We are also lacking in Ambulances.

During my meeting and conversation with Mr. Majkot, I became aware of the fact that Municipalities such as Toronto declare surplus vehicles, such as Fire Trucks and Ambulances, that have reached the end of their life cycle for your Municipality but may still be operational.

Mayor Miller, Mr. Pennachetti, and Chief Stewart, I ask you to please consider as the Municipality of the City of Toronto, the possibility of donating without cost, surplus vehicles such as Fire Trucks and Ambulances as well as any surplus equipment you may have to our Municipality, the Municipality of Plovdiv - Western Region. We will pay for any costs associated with packing and transporting them from Canada to Bulgaria.

Following my conversation and meeting with Mr. Majkot, in the spirit of friendship and cooperation which I cherish, I remain optimist that the City of Toronto will assist the citizens of our Municipality.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and remain,

Yours sincerely;

**ZDRAVKO DIMITROV**  
Mayor – Municipality of Plovdiv, Western Region



Cc Richard Majkot  
City of Toronto



**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**  
**Governor of Plovdiv District**

February 7, 2012

William Stewart  
Fire Chief/General Manager  
Toronto Fire Services  
City of Toronto  
4330 Dufferin Street  
Toronto, ON Canada  
M3H 5R9

Dear Chief Stewart,

**Re: Natural Disaster in Bulgaria**

Regrettably, we have never had the opportunity to meet. In spite of that, Bulgaria and I consider you to be a friend. As such, I am taking the liberty of writing to you as a friend. Our friendship was born out of our need to equip the firefighters of Plovdiv and your assistance in donating firefighting equipment for our firefighters (suits, boots and helmets), and for that we are extremely grateful.

This noble gesture is not forgotten by the Citizens of Plovdiv, our firefighters, and Fire Officials throughout the Region of Plovdiv.

The fire equipment was divided by Fire Commissioner Rumen Dimchev to all fire stations in our area. Words can't describe how much he and his firefighters appreciate the donation made by you and the City of Toronto. Fire Commissioner Dimchev has 400 firefighters and 13 Fire Stations.

Chief Stewart, I want to advise you of the dramatic weather conditions that are affecting our Country. Since the second half of January we have had many record snowfalls followed by extremely low temperatures. Plovdiv measured temperatures of -26 degrees Celsius. In other parts of Bulgaria, all time record low temperatures of -32 degrees Celsius were recorded.

Over the past four days the temperatures became higher. In many places there is a heavy 24-hour rain that melts the snow. That has resulted in a "Natural Disaster" in Bulgaria. We have 3 emergency alert levels - yellow, orange, and red.

I have just declared "Red" in the Region of Plovdiv, the highest emergency level code in Europe.

Dams have broken and water has flooded several villages. Villages have been destroyed by water sweeping them away. There are many human casualties. Whatever limited Emergency Services we have are mobilized. The Army, the Air Force with helicopters, heavy chain machines, and all services that are relevant in emergency situations are assisting in this very serious situation.

Meteorologists predict strong snow over the next 36 hours and then again higher temperatures. Chief Stewart, experts forecast a severe deterioration of conditions.

Your colleagues from the Fire Service in Plovdiv led personally by Commissioner Dimchev and a group of divers, are the first in line to rescue people in distress from the dams and the flooding in the neighboring areas around the Region. The 8000 year old City of Plovdiv is in danger of being flooded.

The equipment that you and the City of Toronto donated to your colleagues from Plovdiv is being used throughout the area and the Region I want to assure you that because of this equipment, firefighters can perform at their duties in this complex situation. However, as you know, we have limited equipment for what is now an extremely large disaster.

If you have any opportunities to assist us with a further donation of equipment and other technics, you will help your colleagues to better meet the challenges of nature that we are facing. As before, we will assume all costs. The City of Toronto will not incur any costs or liabilities.

I wish you and your family good health and good times.

Sincerely,

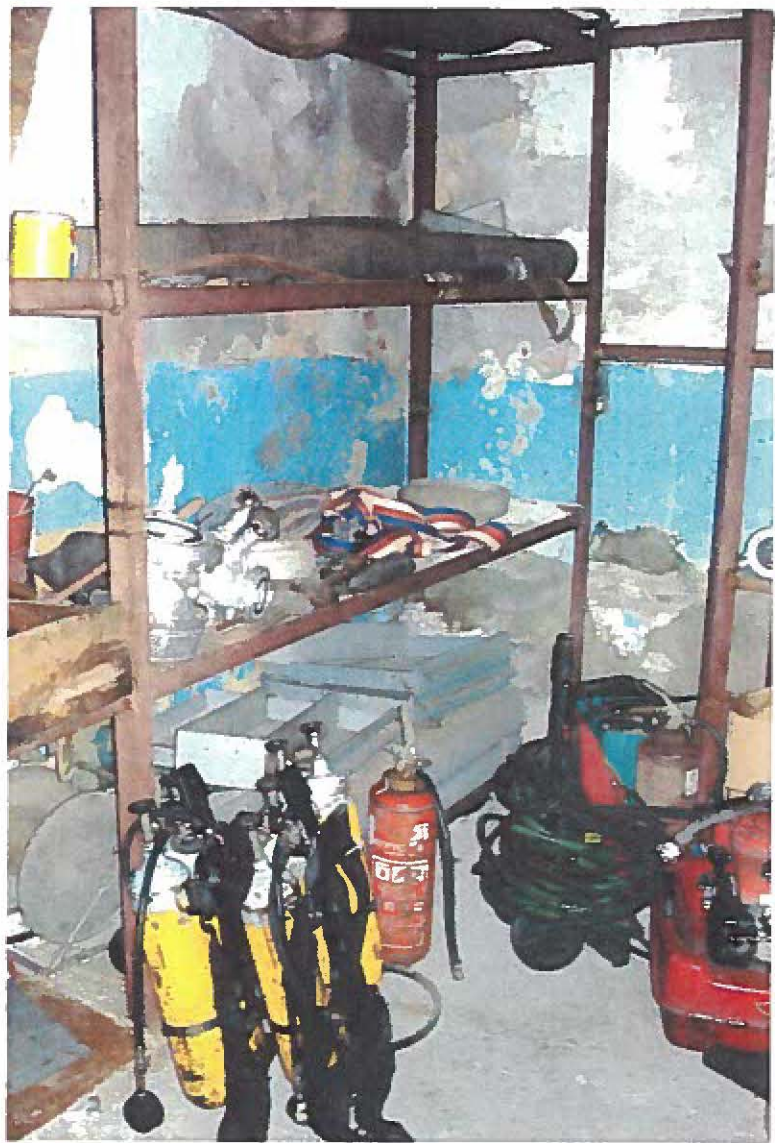
Zdravko Dimitrov  
Regional Governor  
Plovdiv Region



cc. Joseph Pennachetti  
City Manger  
City of Toronto

Richard Majkot







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