

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MONDAY DECEMBER 13, 2010

## Toronto Taxpayers Coalition Urges City Councillors to PUT BRAKES ON THE CAR TAX

The Toronto Taxpayers Coalition is today calling on all newly elected City Councillors to support Toronto Mayor Rob Ford's initiative to cancel Toronto's Personal Vehicle Tax at the next council meeting scheduled for this Thursday.

Coalition President Matthew McGuire says "Toronto residents are fed up with this unfair tax and deserve a break". He is asking that council make the decision unanimous and recognize that it was a big mistake in the first place.

Citing the unfairness of having only residents pay the tax while fleet operators, car rental companies, and owners of commercial vehicles avoid it, McGuire added "Why should a grandmother have to pay \$300 over the next five years while a large fleet operator like Budget Rent A Car pays zero. Grandma has one car on the road while the car rental companies have thousands and pay nothing. Does that sound fair and equitable to you?"

McGuire will be writing to each and every Councillor on behalf of the Toronto Taxpayers Coalition asking them to support the executive committee's recommendation to put the brakes on the Toronto Car tax.

We will encourage all of our members to call their City Councillor to urge them to "axe the tax".

The Toronto Taxpayers Coalition is a non-partisan organization founded earlier this year. Matthew McGuire is the founder and President.

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# Why is Toronto's Personal Vehicle Tax unfair?

1. It is applicable only to personal vehicles. Each resident with a vehicle will pay \$300 over the next five years, while car rental companies with thousands of cars on the road will pay zero.
2. It is not a tax dedicated to one specific item such as road repairs.
3. Residents of neighbouring municipalities who drive in Toronto do not pay.
4. Toronto got along just fine in the 174 years before the tax was introduced.
5. It is a tax on only one type of road user.
6. It is a financial burden on residents who own cars out of economic or family necessity.
7. It creates a disincentive to live in Toronto.
8. It does nothing to reduce traffic congestion or smog, or to boost public transit ridership.