



City of Toronto

Mayor Rob Ford

August 13, 2013

Right Hon. Stephen Harper,
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Parliament Hill
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister

This letter is in regards to a proposed bid to host the Expo / World's Fair in Canada, in 2025. In addition, I would again request that Canada continue its long-standing and respected involvement in the *Bureau International des Expositions*.

The Expo proposal has gained a broad and increasing level of interest and support from the City of Toronto and in the Province of Ontario, as well as from federal members of Parliament and the Senate.

Last December your government began the process to have Canada formally withdraw its membership from the *Bureau International des Expositions* (BIE.) That process is now underway and is expected to take until this coming December, 2013. We are concerned a withdrawal from the BIE would prevent Canada from being able to bid for, or to host, what is the largest event on the planet, a World's Fair / Expo.

Any possible Expo in Canada would take place almost ten years after Canada has returned to a sound, non-deficit, budgetary situation – something that we all support.

Two principal concerns have been reiterated to us.

- The relevance of Expos in an era of the internet.
- The possible scale of security costs.

The City of Toronto is now about to study the possibility of an Expo bid. The city will undertake due diligence with respect to these concerns and provide a report to enable council to make a proper, serious, responsible and informed decision.

The two very successful Expo / World's Fairs that Canada has hosted, in Vancouver in 1986, and in Montreal in 1967, were transformative for their respective cities, regions, and provinces, as well as for Canada as a nation. Both left a job creating and wealth producing ongoing legacy of waterfront improvement and transportation infrastructure, that continues to demonstrate a major increase in ongoing tourism and sustained economic growth.

Expo remains the largest global event that a nation and a city can host, and would attract a potential 40 million visitors to the site for a family-friendly event lasting six months, and having a potential \$13 billion economic impact.

Given that Canada remains a member of the *Bureau International des Expositions* until year-end, the City of Toronto would also like to request the permission of your government to allow the city to send observers to the November 26 & 27th 2013 General Meeting of the *Bureau*



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International des Expositions in Paris. It is the meeting at which the candidate city (and nation) that will host Expo 2020 will be chosen by the 167-member nations of the BIE.

The BIE has said that they would welcome representatives from Toronto in a purely observer capacity, but that it requires federal concurrence. There would, of course, be no cost to the Government of Canada, and not commit Canada to take any action whatsoever.

The City of Toronto would like to work with the federal government to help meet common goals, plans, and priorities in the areas of:

- trade and investment,
- the environment,
- transit and infrastructure,
- employment and economic development,
- Canadian arts and culture,
- promoting Canadian research, high-tech & innovation,
- waterfront re-development (to generate jobs),
- a major expansion of Toronto's tourism base,
- and showcasing Canada's diversity, citizenship and multiculturalism to the world,

It is especially relevant in that all Expo work (from 2018-2025) would be carried out in a non-deficit budgetary period, and is also projected to return a potential \$2.7 billion back to the Federal treasury.

In conclusion, we respectfully ask that your government suspend Canada's request to withdraw from the BIE until such time as the City of Toronto conducts the needed due diligence, so that all levels of government may review the results on an informed basis.

We are asking for the opportunity to meet with you personally, and with key ministers in your government, as well as for the opportunity to meet with members of the GTA federal Conservative caucus, at your convenience, to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Ford".

Mayor Rob Ford
City of Toronto