



# Janet DAVIS

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June 1, 2016

Chair and Members  
Economic Development and Culture Committee

Re: **Vacant Commercial & Industrial Tax Relief Program**

In May 8, 2014, Council considered a [report](#) entitled, "Re-designing the Vacant Commercial and Industrial Tax Relief Program to Stimulate Economic Growth." This report called on the provincial government "to stimulate economic growth and job creation and enhance local retail and employment areas by amending the legislation and/or regulations governing the Vacant Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Rebate program."

Council also requested staff to establish "a working group with community groups, BIAs, other interested non-governmental organizations that are working on innovative initiatives to incubate small business and cultural activity in vacant storefronts, to further develop new models for the Property Tax Rebate for vacant commercial and industrial buildings that encourage community and local economic activity."

More recently the City called for changes to the Vacant Commercial and Industrial Tax Relief Program as part of the City of Toronto Act discussions. Other municipalities across the province are also seeking greater flexibility under this provincial program.

The 2016 Ontario Budget announced that the Province has initiated a review of the Vacant Unit Rebate and Vacant/Excess Land Subclasses and will be introducing a legislative framework to facilitate potential changes to the programs as a result of the review.

Given the recent news from the Province, and previous Council approvals, I would request that:

**The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture report to the September 19, 2016 meeting of the Economic Development and Culture Committee with an update on the Provincial Review of the Vacant Unit Rebate policy and the status of the Working group and other actions requested by Committee and Council with respect to this policy.**

Sincerely,

Janet Davis  
Councillor, Ward 31