

**From:** [Jasmine Pickel](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor Tory](#)  
**Subject:** Deputation from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to Mayor John Tory and Toronto city council regarding increasing property taxes  
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To Mayor John Tory and Toronto City Council:

In 2014 and again in 2018, Torontonians voted for the mayoral candidate who promised not to raise property taxes beyond the rate of inflation. Although other candidates laid out their expensive plans to increase the burden on taxpayers, Toronto voters decisively rejected those plans and instead voted for the candidate with one clear promise: not to raise property taxes.

By adding a cost for the city building fund to Torontonians' property tax bills starting in 2017, you broke that promise. As the CBC [reported](#), keeping property tax increases at the rate of inflation would have allowed for a 2.55 per cent increase this year, but the so-called city-building levy has contributed to an actual increase of 3.48 per cent.

This is a blatant broken promise.

As if the original plan to increase the levy on property taxes to 2.5 per cent by 2017 wasn't enough, Toronto residents were shocked to hear the mayor's plan to ultimately raise it to 10.5 per cent.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation's supporters across the city of Toronto – including both residents and business owners – have contacted the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to express their concern and dismay at this broken promise.

This is wrong. Not only was the introduction of the city building levy a violation of your electoral mandate, it increased the cost of living on those struggling to get by in an already expensive city.

What's more, it's dishonest to suggest that this levy is not a property tax increase. Toronto property taxes already go toward transit and affordable housing, the proclaimed purpose of the city building fund. It's frankly insulting that the mayor or any member of city council would pretend that this is anything but a property tax increase and a broken promise.

Does the mayor not see the irony in this situation - that he's making life in Toronto less affordable in the name of affordable housing?

Before the mayor and the rest of city council can reasonably ask Toronto residents and businesses to give them even more of our hard-earned money, you need to stop wasting the money we've already given you.

Time and time again, you've demonstrated that you're wasteful with taxpayers' money. From opting out of provincial competitiveness legislation earlier this year which would have saved the city millions on construction costs, to fighting the provincial government to expand the size of Toronto city council and put more politicians on payroll, Toronto taxpayers have lost trust in their municipal government to manage their money prudently.

There are countless examples of waste at the city of Toronto that we've exposed to Torontonians, and we'll continue to do so if this tax hike proceeds.

**The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is calling on Mayor John Tory and Toronto city council to stop the tax hike, and restore taxpayers' trust by ending the rampant waste at city hall.**

Sincerely,

Jasmine Pickel  
Interim Ontario Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation