



Thursday, February 15, 2024

Letter to IEC

Requiring fair payment from for-profit gas utilities for use of city property

Recommendations

Councillor Dianne Saxe recommends that:

1. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend [subsection 8 of O.Reg. 595/06](#) under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and section 9 of Regulation 584/06 under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to permit municipalities to charge fair fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property, as municipalities do in most other provinces.
2. City Council request Mayor Chow to circulate this motion to other Ontario Big City Mayors and ask them to endorse the same request.

Summary

Toronto, like other major municipalities across Ontario, is in desperate need of a new fiscal framework and additional revenue tools to meet the many responsibilities that have been downloaded by the provincial government.

[Subsection 8 of O.Reg. 595/06](#) under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and section 9 of Regulation 584/06 under the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides an unjustified subsidy to for-profit gas utilities by forcing municipalities to allow them free use of public property, without compensation even for the damage their utility cuts cause to city pavement. This is a large fossil-fuel subsidy that is contrary to the public interest, in light of our climate crisis, in light of the financial crisis facing Ontario municipalities, and in light of the increasing demands on public space. Municipalities should be free to charge fair fees to for-profit fossil fuel utilities for their use of public property, and for the entire damage that utility cuts cause to public infrastructure. Toronto taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize multi-billion dollar private companies.

Municipalities in other provinces are permitted to charge such fees and receive millions of much-needed dollars as a result.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D Saxe". The "D" is large and stylized, with a loop. The "Saxe" is written in a cursive script.

Councillor Dianne Saxe

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