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May 15, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

This is to advise that City Council, at a special electronic meeting held on May 11, 2020, passed the following resolution regarding universal basic income:

“WHEREAS The World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020 declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to the growing number of cases of the coronavirus illness around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread; and,

WHEREAS in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province of Ontario and the City of Kitchener have declared a state of emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act; and,

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener has approved the Early Economic Support Plan, which provides financial and economic support measures to help reduce the financial strain on citizens and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS Statistics Canada has reported that the unemployment rate has risen to 7.8 per cent, with 1,011,000 jobs lost in March 2020, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the employment of 3.1 million Canadians; and,

WHEREAS the Federal government has announced \$82 billion in relief funding for the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, utilizing tax deferrals, subsidies, loans, and credits to support citizens, businesses, and industries; and,

WHEREAS according to a 2018 Parliamentary Budget Office report, a Canada-wide basic income of the type previously piloted in Ontario would have an annual net cost of \$44 billion; and,

WHEREAS a universal basic income would likely have many positive effects, including reducing poverty, reducing strain on health care and social assistance systems, supporting businesses and the economy, reducing crime, as well as reducing administrative complexity and creating efficiencies for those in need of financial and economic support measures;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Kitchener urges the Ontario Provincial government to pursue a partnership with the Federal government for the establishment of a universal basic income;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Local Members of Provincial Parliament; the Region of Waterloo; all Municipalities within the Province of Ontario; and, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.”

Yours truly,



J. Bunn
Manager, Council & Committee Services/
Deputy City Clerk

- c. Honourable, Doug Ford, Premier
Honourable Amy Fee, M.P.P.
Honourable Belinda Karahalios, M.P.P.
Honourable Catherine Fife, M.P.P.
Honourable Laura Mae Lindo, M.P.P.
Honourable Mike Harris, M.P.P.
Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community & Social Services
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Kris Fletcher, Regional Clerk, Region of Waterloo
Bill Karsten, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Ashley Sage, Clerk, Township of North Dumfries
Danielle Manton, City Clerk, City of Cambridge
Dawn Mittelholtz, Director of Information and Legislative Services / Municipal Clerk, Township of Wilmot
Grace Kosch, Clerk, Township of Wellesley
Olga Smith, City Clerk, City of Waterloo
Val Hummel, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Township of Woolwich
All Ontario Municipalities