

September 24, 2008

Dear candidate,

On October 14, residents from across this region will join together with their fellow Canadians to cast their ballot in the upcoming federal election. As a candidate in that election, you are to be congratulated for making such an important commitment to the democratic process and to the people of our community.

Over the past several years this region has experienced tremendous success and growth, but we have also seen first hand the difficult challenges facing Canadian municipalities. Growing demands on our municipalities to provide more complex and diverse government services, increasing economic competition on a global scale and an ever-increasing financial bill to replace, repair and maintain our aging infrastructure are all quickly becoming too much for property taxes and local user fees to fund alone.

The writing is on the wall for Canadian cities. With just eight cents of every tax dollar collected in Canada going to municipalities, we need a partner at the federal level if we are going to avoid substantial and ongoing property tax and user fee increases in the future.

In these times of economic uncertainty – as we know all too well in this community – it is now more important than ever that all orders of government come together to ensure Canadian municipalities continue to drive the engines of our national economy.

We are writing to you today to ask you to complete the attached questionnaire which focuses on issues that are important to the future of our municipalities. This questionnaire follows-up on the recent release of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' election platform which highlighting several of the important issues we are currently facing at the local level. We encourage you to visit www.fcm.ca to learn more about these issues prior to completing your questionnaire.

Responses to the attached questionnaire should be no longer than 200 words per question and should be emailed to michael.may@kitchener.ca no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 3.

To help residents become more informed on their choices in the upcoming federal election, your written responses will be shared with the local media and posted on the websites of the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge, as well as the Region of Waterloo.

If you have any questions about the attached questionnaire, please contact Michael May, director of corporate communications and marketing for the City of Kitchener at (519) 498-0945.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and your time in completing the attached questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Carl Zehr

City of Kitchener
Chair, Big City Mayor's Caucus

Chair Ken Seiling
Region of Waterloo

Mayor Doug Craig
City of Cambridge

Mayor Brenda Halloran
City of Waterloo

Kitchener Councillor Berry Vrbanovic
Vice-President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities