Staff Report

Report Title: Resolutions for Consideration July 5, 2021

Prepared By: Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk

Department: Clerk's Department

Date: Jul. 5, 2021

Report Number: CLK-2021-07-80   **File Number: C10 RES21**

Attachments: 1. Capital Gains on Primary Residence, 2. Province Fund Hospital Capital Equipment, 3. Lyme Disease

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CLK2021-07-80 prepared by Kelly Lush Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant and;

1. THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole support Fort Erie, Township of Perry, Port Colborne, Township of Scugog, and South Stormont in petitioning the Federal Government to cease further consideration of eliminating capital gains tax exemptions on primary residences AND directs staff to circulate as appropriate.

2. THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole support Tay Valley Township in their request for the Province to further consider being financially responsible for funding of hospital major capital equipment AND directs staff to circulate as appropriate.

3. THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby support the City of St. Catherines to call on the Ontario government to expand testing to all strains of Lyme Disease and improve the level of treatment and care for those diagnosed with this disease AND directs staff to circulate as appropriate.

Background:

The following resolutions were received for Councils consideration.

Discussion:

1. Capital Gains on Primary Residences
Primary residences are currently exempt from a capital gains tax and secondary and additional non-primary properties are subject to capital gains.

The Federal Government is currently looking into a primary residence capital gains tax as they have recognized that affordable housing has become a serious issue in Canada and small communities are seeing unprecedented higher selling prices that are outpacing prices in larger cities citing that many hard-working Canadians who have only a primary residence with no additional non-primary homes count on their home equity as financial aid to apply to upsizing or downsizing their home depending on their personal situation.

Fort Erie states that a change in taxation to primary residences could be a significant financial blow to Canadians and would create an unfair, two-tiered taxation which could lead to depleted savings, inter-generational disparities, disparities among diverse groups such as seniors who may have a significant portion of their savings vested in their primary residence, as well as, reducing the ability of home ownership thereby a further, higher need for rentals.

The Township of Perry, Port Colborne, Township of Scugog, and South Stormont is requesting that the Federal government look at other means to slow down the rapidly escalating housing costs to improve housing affordability; and to cease further consideration of eliminating capital gains tax exemptions on primary residences.

2. Provincial Funding for Hospital Major Capital Equipment
The Township of Tay Valley is requesting that the Province be financially responsible for the replacement costs of major capital equipment in hospitals as municipalities across the province are facing major shortfalls and are not able to directly absorb the costs of replacing major capital equipment without jeopardizing their financial stability.

3. Expand testing for Lyme Disease
City of St. Catharines is calling on the Ontario government to expand testing to all strains of Lyme Disease and improve the level of treatment and care for those diagnosed with this crippling disease.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial impacts with this report.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk

Approved By:
Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer