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MAYOR FENNELL TO ADVOCATE FOR CRUCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

BRAMPTON, ON: Mayor Susan Fennell will be meeting this week with representatives from the federal government and opposition party leaders to urge that infrastructure funding to municipalities be accelerated as a means of stimulating the Canadian economy.

These meetings are part of the 72nd annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), being held this year in Whistler, British Columbia. This forum brings together leaders from more than 1,775 Canadian municipalities to discuss policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction. Discussions at this year's conference will focus on economic stimulus measures, particularly the disbursement of federal funding to municipalities for infrastructure projects.

"The City of Brampton stands ready to move forward on building infrastructure to meet the needs of our citizens," said Mayor Susan Fennell. "If approved by the federal and provincial governments, these projects will help to create jobs and stimulate the economy."

As a member of the Big City Mayors' Caucus, composed of municipal leaders from Canada's 22 largest cities, Mayor Fennell will continue to support the position that cities are the economic engines of the nation, and that the federal government must expedite infrastructure funding to municipalities across the country to encourage economic recovery.

So far this year, City Council has approved two reports recommending that the City seek funding for high-priority infrastructure projects through stimulus programs recently introduced by the federal and provincial governments. Among other criteria, applications put forward under these new funding mechanisms will be considered based on their ability to provide economic stimulus through investments that will spur construction activity and create jobs.

Fair Trade Resolution

Mayor Fennell, as Chair of the Ontario Caucus, will also be presenting a "Fair Trade" resolution on behalf of Peel and Halton Regions to the FCM's National Board of Directors. The resolution calls on FCM members to endorse open, fair and competitive trade practices between Canada, the United States and other trading nations to ensure equal access to international markets. This is in response to "Buy American" provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the US government's recently-passed economic stimulus package.

In her presentation, Mayor Fennell will outline the threat that "Buy American" policies pose to global economic recovery, and will argue in favour of the "Fair Trade" resolution as a means to support local economies, such as Brampton, and their residents.

About Brampton: The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple 'A' credit rating by Standard & Poor for the third consecutive year, reflecting its debt-free position, exceptional liquidity levels and excellent economy. The City's 2009 operating budget is \$400.8 million and approved funding for its overall capital program stands at \$700 million. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak over 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being the Flower City of Canada and won the 2008 International Communities in Bloom competition. It is also the first city in the GTA and one of only 10 in North America to have been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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T H E C O R P O R A T I O N O F T H E C I T Y O F B R A M P T O N

Backgrounder

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Earlier this year, the federal and provincial governments committed to an economic stimulus plan that included investment in municipal infrastructure. Three distinct funding mechanisms were created and municipalities were invited to apply for funding under each of the following programs: the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, the Recreation Infrastructure Fund and the Green Infrastructure Fund.

To date, the City of Brampton has submitted three projects for approval under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, totaling \$84.8 million. These include:

- Widening of Countryside Drive from Bramalea Road to Goreway Drive, to accommodate the needs of this growing neighbourhood
- Revitalizing and updating Chinguacousy Park, Brampton's signature city-wide park
- Development of the Mount Pleasant Mobility Hub, which would include the building of further transit infrastructure, a new sheltered passenger area, and other public amenities.

Last week, Brampton City Council also put forward a list of high-priority recreational infrastructure projects. The proposal, which focuses on improving a number of city-wide facilities such as local community centres and sports arenas, will be submitted this month under the Recreation Infrastructure Fund. Recognizing the importance that recreational facilities play in the lives of residents, City Council brought forward projects that could successfully leverage federal and provincial dollars, and widely satisfy the community's needs. Approved projects will be announced in June 2009 and must be completed by March 31, 2011.

The City of Brampton also intends to pursue funding through the \$1 billion Green Infrastructure Fund, to develop municipal infrastructure that facilitates the use of sustainable energy and contributes to cleaner air, land and water. A key priority for City Council is the ongoing development of green policies that promote environmental sustainability across Brampton. While the details of the Green Infrastructure Fund application process have yet to be announced, city staff will continue to identify projects for submission under this program.

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