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**MAYOR FENNEL CALLS ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WORK
WITH MUNICIPALITIES ON POST-STIMULUS FUNDING STRATEGIES**

BRAMPTON, ON: Following today's meeting of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Big City Mayors Caucus, Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell is calling on the federal government to commit to a new long-term, post-recession partnership with municipalities that will better match roles and responsibilities, achieve measurable results in areas of shared jurisdiction, and continue to strengthen Canada's urban economic engines.

Since the introduction of Canada's Economic Action Plan in 2009, municipalities across the country have welcomed the opportunity to partner with the federal government in the creation of jobs and the funding of critical infrastructure projects that would have otherwise been deferred to future years. However, as the economy begins to improve and governments seek to reduce their budget deficits, local communities risk losing ground on these important investments without a clear indication from the federal government on its commitment to pursue a long-term, sustainable funding partnership with municipalities.

"Canada's largest cities, including Brampton, are increasingly facing a greater burden of responsibility for a wide range of community needs, from the construction and maintenance of public transit systems, to the development of strategies to address poverty and homelessness on our streets," said Mayor Fennell. "For years, the trend has been for the federal government to assess community needs and funding on a short-term, project-by-project basis. What we're asking senior levels of government to do now is to recognize the success we've had as partners in delivering on the economic stimulus plan, and further commit to a long-term partnership with municipalities to tackle the challenges of the future."

Each year, the Big City Mayors Caucus meeting serves as an informal kick-off to the FCM Annual Conference. The overarching theme of this year's conference (May 28 -31) is *Strong Cities, Strong Communities, Strong Canada*, and discussions at today's meeting focused on the need for cooperation among all orders of government to effectively solve key issues within local communities, such as job creation, homelessness and traffic gridlock, while also addressing issues of national importance, like Canada's global competitiveness. The Big City Mayors also agreed to host a National Infrastructure Summit in Regina next January to establish an intergovernmental strategy for eliminating the \$123 billion infrastructure deficit.

As a member of the Big City Mayors Caucus, Mayor Fennell has successfully advocated for more than \$260 million in federal funding to Brampton over the past 6 years. These annual meetings serve as an opportunity for leaders from Canada's 22 largest municipalities to share ideas and best practices, and engage their federal counterparts on the benefits of investing directly in local communities.

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's, reflecting its successful economy and debt-free position. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak more than 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being known as the Flower City of Canada. Brampton has been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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