

November 26, 2020

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
95 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y8

Dear Minister Phillips:

Re: Motion Regarding Property Tax Exemptions for Veteran Clubs

Each year on November 11th we pause to remember the heroic efforts of Canadians who fought in wars and military conflicts and served in peacekeeping missions around the world to defend our freedoms and secure our peace and prosperity. One way that the Province and Ontario municipalities have recognized veterans and veteran groups is by exempting their properties from property taxation.

In late 2018, your government introduced a change to the *Assessment Act* that exempted Royal Canadian Legion Ontario branches from property taxes effective January 1, 2019. Veterans clubs however were not included under this exemption. While veterans' clubs in Peel are already exempt from Regional and local property taxes, they still pay the education portion of property taxes.

To address this gap, your government has proposed in the 2020 budget bill (*Bill 229*) to amend the *Assessment Act* that would provide a full property tax exemption to veterans' clubs retroactive to January 1, 2019. The Region of Peel thanks you for introducing this change in recognition of our veterans.

At its November 12, 2020 meeting, Peel Regional Council approved the attached resolution regarding this exemption and look forward to this change coming into effect as soon as possible after Bill 229 is passed. This would ensure that veteran clubs benefit from the exemption in a timely way.

I thank your government for moving quickly to address this gap and for your support of veterans.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca,
Regional Chair and CEO

CC: Peel-area MPPs
Ontario Municipalities
Stephen Van Ofwegen, Commissioner of Finance and CFO

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

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Resolution Number 2020-939

Whereas each year on November 11, Canadians pause to remember the heroic efforts of Canadian veterans who fought in wars and military conflicts, and served in peacekeeping missions around the world to defend our freedoms and democracy so that we can live in peace and prosperity;

And whereas, it is important to appreciate and recognize the achievements and sacrifices of those armed forces veterans who served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace;

And whereas, Section 6.1 of the Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A31 as amended, Regional Council may exempt from Regional taxation land that is used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds by persons who served in the armed forces of His or Her Majesty or an ally of His or Her Majesty in any war;

And whereas, through By-Law Number 62-2017 Regional Council has provided an exemption from Regional taxation to Royal Canadian Legions and the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Clubs that have qualified properties used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds;

And whereas, local municipal councils in Peel have provided a similar exemption for local property taxes;

And whereas, Royal Canadian Legion branches in Ontario are exempt from all property taxation, including the education portion of property taxes, under Section 3 (1) paragraph 15.1 of the Assessment Act, and that a municipal by-law is not required to provide such an exemption;

And whereas, the 2020 Ontario Budget provides for amendments to the Assessment Act to apply the existing property tax exemption for Ontario branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, for 2019 and subsequent tax years, to Ontario units of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Regional Chair write to the Minister of Finance, on behalf of Regional Council, to request that upon passage of the 2020 Ontario Budget, the amendment to the Assessment Act be implemented as soon as possible;

And further, that copies of this resolution be sent to Peel-area Members of Provincial Parliament as well as to all Ontario municipalities for consideration and action.