

Received Date	July 24, 2019
Meeting Date	July 29, 2019
Open or Closed	Open Session

Deputy Mayor and
Members of Common Council

Deputy Mayor and Councillors:

Subject: Letter of support from neighboring communities

Background:

Earlier in July, my office received a letter (in consent tonight) from the mayors of Grand Bay – Westfield, Quispamsis, Rothesay and St. Martins. I would like to publically thank them for this letter and their support. This letter is extremely supportive of the current discussion being had, with regards to a First Phase of tax Reform, where by the City of Saint John would receive the provincial portion of Heavy industrial tax. Estimates from the presentation at the July 18th Finance Committee indicate, that this would generate in the range of \$9.0 million dollars per year in revenue. A request felt justified within the report and would restore balance with our Heavy Industrial companies.

Within the letter, I will highlight some key statements and I quote:

“As your regional partners, we want to make it clear that we support you in your call for tax reform.”

“Among the things we’re hopeful will be included are significant changes to the way Provincial property tax revenues are shared between the province and municipalities.”

“As it stands, it’s out-of-date and unfair. In fact taking our shared perspective one step further, we would assert that Saint John hasn’t gotten a ‘new’ or ‘special deal’. We’re talking about money that was raised in Saint John and should have stayed with the city in the first place.”

Motion:

That common council authorize the mayor to send a letter to all the communities listed above, including additionally the community of Hampton, to seek further written support for an immediate first phase of tax reform, as presented regarding Heavy Industry cost sharing. Furthermore that the following statement of support be proposed for the Mayors and councils to consider.

The towns of Grand Bay-Westfield, Rothesay, Quispamsis, Hampton and the village of St Martins, formally requests that the Province of New Brunswick implements the transfer of heavy industrial property tax revenue to host municipalities as a first phase of municipal taxation reform. We believe in a growing and thriving region of greater Saint John and need a strong Saint John, for this to be achieved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Darling
Mayor
City of Saint John

