



January 30, 2017

Chair and Members  
Corporate Services Committee

**Re: Provincial Tax Reduction Legislation – Vacant Buildings**

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The Municipal Council has previously discussed the economic problems associated with provincial tax reduction legislation pertaining to vacant buildings and how that legislation incentivizes owners of commercial properties to let them to remain empty.

Recently, the City of Toronto has been in the news requesting relief from this legislation. It may, therefore, be a timely opportunity for us to request that the Province of Ontario make a change to those laws. I would respectfully request that the Corporate Services Committee consider adopting the following motion with respect to this matter:

“That the Mayor BE DIRECTED to send a letter to the Province of Ontario requesting that the legislation governing tax relief for vacant commercial properties be revoked.”

Respectfully submitted,

Michael van Holst  
Councillor, Ward 1