



Mayor Brocanier and Members of Council  
**Town of Cobourg Municipal Offices**  
Victoria Hall  
55 King Street West  
Cobourg, ON  
K9A 2M2

May 30, 2016

**SUBJECT: Don Morrison Letter on CIVIC Business Plan**

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council,

The Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA) agrees with the conclusion provided by Don Morrison in a letter to the Municipal Clerk, Lorraine Brace, dated May 16, 2016 with regards to the CIVIC Business Plan. Mr. Morrison asks that "... the CIVIC proposal be deferred until much more information can be obtained on these many questions and issues." We concur that there are too many unanswered questions and unknowns to proceed with such an expensive initiative.

There is no evidence that using Winnipeg as a model would work here since Winnipeg has a population 35 times greater than Cobourg. No other small community has tried to take on such a large and costly project although Port Hope did implement a similar small venture: "IdeaHub". They recently closed their "IdeaHub" and admitted it was a mistake.

The Town should not be acting as a bank by borrowing and lending money to high risk businesses. With new long term debt financing for public work projects doubling, it is imperative that the Town strive to reduce its debt load, not increase it with such a risky project.

The projected financial statements provided by the consultants are incomplete. No clear assumptions have been provided. We agree with Mr. Morrison's statement that "... the projected financial statements simply do not add up, or make sense."

The CTA supports Mr. Morrison in deferring the CIVIC proposal.

Lydia Smith  
President, Cobourg Taxpayers Association