

**December 5, 2015**  
**Cobourg, ON –**

## **CTA continues fight against \$300,000 donation** ***Facts on NMAI Waiver of Development Charges***

Mayor Brocanier and several Councillors have attempted to defend the handout to Northumberland Medical Arts Incorporated (NMAI or the Clinic) with emotion and completely unsubstantiated statements, says the Cobourg Taxpayers Association.

“By allowing passion to trump logic, they have ignored the facts: said spokesperson Ken Strauss.

Following a debate last Friday between Strauss and Councillor Debra McCarthy on Northumberland 89.7 FM’s *Week in Review*, the CTA is continuing its opposition with a series of 30 second radio ads and is encouraging the public to visit its website ([www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca](http://www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca)) to learn the real facts.

Strauss said the fee waiver will cost Cobourg taxpayers over \$300,000. “That is about 1.5% of all property taxes paid by Cobourg residents plus businesses in 2014. This is not just a case of monies not collected that can be ignored as taxpayers must make up the money not collected”.

He said that of the Clinic’s seven directors, only one lives in Cobourg so the giveaway will not affect their taxes.

### **Facts**

1. The Clinic is incorporated as a not-for-profit rather than as a government registered charity that issues tax receipts. This means that the directors have the sole discretion to spend all money received as they think best. There is no requirement that money be spent only on things that will improve health care in Cobourg. As a private company, like Holdco, there is no reporting of how much money is received or how it is spent.
2. Some claim that the building will aid physician recruitment. The building is now 95% leased to physicians who currently practice in Cobourg. How much room is there for new recruits?
3. Giving \$300,000 to a group of physicians will reduce the amount available for donations to Northumberland Hills Hospital.
4. The deal is unfair to other Cobourg physicians and medical practitioners who do not get handouts.
5. If the new medical office complex will yield the net profits claimed starting in year one, there should be no need for a taxpayer-funded grant of \$300K.

**For more information, please contact**

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