

May 14, 2018  
Cobourg, ON –

## **CTA Calls for Major Changes to Council Remuneration *Time for Fair Pay***

The Cobourg Taxpayers Association in a delegation to Council this afternoon called for a substantial increase in the base pay of the next Council's Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

CTA Director Paul Pagnuelo said that Council is underpaid.

"Not only is the salary paid to Councillors below minimum wage, it's also well past the time to level the playing field by ending the wide disparity between the Mayor's base salary and that of the Deputy Mayor and Councillors," he told Council.

He noted that the Deputy Mayor's salary is currently only 63% of the Mayor's and a Councillor's salary is 50% of the Mayor's and called the spread unjustifiable.

Pagnuelo said that taxpayers must realize that you get what you pay for.

Council remuneration should be at an adequate level to attract a more diverse mix of working, self-employed and retired residents. It also should encourage a new broader pool of candidates and the retention of qualified individuals who represent top talent and the best and brightest in our community to serve in public office at the municipal level.

The CTA recommends that the Mayor's base salary be increased to \$48,100 (in line with the current salary of Port Hope's Mayor), and that the Deputy Mayor's salary be increased to \$43,290, and that the salary of Councillors is increased to \$38,480.

This recommendation adjusts the salary spread between the positions to better reflect the responsibilities of each role; the Deputy Mayor's salary is set at 90% that of the Mayor's, and a Councillor's salary at 80% that of the Mayor's.

The CTA also recommended that all members of Council be provided with office space at Victoria Hall and the tools they need to do their jobs. Serious consideration should be given to hiring a full-time council constituency assistant to be shared by the Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

Pagnuelo acknowledged that the CTA fully appreciates the difficult position Council is faced with when considering an increase in their pay. "Being paid with public money is an awkward conversation to have with taxpayers but it's a 'must have' discussion that in Cobourg's case is long overdue."

The CTA will be discussing the issue further at an Open House on May 23 at Trinity United Church from 2-4 p.m.