



TOWN OF GEORGINA

26557 Civic Centre Rd., Keswick, Ontario L4P 3G1

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FILE No. -

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- B HULLHES

July 30, 2014

Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario,
Legislative Building,
Room 281,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1



Dear Premier Wynne:

Re: Motion Opposing CETA provisions that restrict Canadian municipalities' ability to manage its resources

Please be advised that Town Council passed a motion calling on the Provincial Government to issue a clear, permanent exemption for the Town of Georgina from the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), as follows:

WHEREAS on October 18, 2013, the Canadian government announced it had concluded an "agreement in principle" with the European Union (EU) and is only months away from signing the proposed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA);

AND WHEREAS the provincial governments were involved in negotiating CETA over the past five years;

AND WHEREAS for the first time in Canadian history a trade deal (CETA) will bind municipalities to international rules on how local governments spend public money despite the fact that municipalities were not principals during negotiations;

AND WHEREAS more than 50 municipalities have already sent a clear message to the federal and provincial governments that public spending policies, as well as municipally-delivered public services like water, should be excluded from CETA;

AND WHEREAS a technical briefing on the EU deal, tabled in the House of Commons on October 29, 2013 makes it clear that municipal governments and the wider M.U.S.H. sector (municipalities, universities, school boards and hospitals) will be largely covered by new international procurement rules that significantly reduce the freedom of these public bodies to use public spending as a tool for economic development, job creation, environmental protection and support for local farmers and small businesses;

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AND WHEREAS coverage of transit and energy procurement appears to violate the fourth of seven principles for free and fair trade from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which states that: “There may be industries of strategic significance to a particular region, such as transit, or projects where considerations of quality, public benefit, environmental protection or business ethics means that a local government may wish to implement minimum Canadian-content levels”;

AND WHEREAS The Town of Georgina already has an open and fair procurement policy, and it is not the international norm for municipal governments, or even most WTO member countries, to be covered by procurement agreements such as the one proposed in the CETA;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Georgina would be negatively impacted by the provisions of the CETA which would;

- prohibit using public spending to create or support a market for innovative goods and services, including green technologies,
- prohibit spending public money in ways that support sustainability, for example through buy local food policies
- open publically owned utilities such as the water supply to foreign ownership despite our bylaw provision that it is the intent to maintain Georgina water services in local municipal control
- prevent any attempt for the municipality to directly offer services currently being provided by the private sector (including recreational services, waste collection, etc.);

AND WHEREAS other aspects of CETA related to municipally-delivered services and investment rules that could result in corporate lawsuits against municipal policy have not been disclosed in the federal government’s technical briefing on the EU deal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves the following.

1. Georgina Council requests that the Province of Ontario issue a clear, permanent exemption for the Town of Georgina from the Canada-EU CETA, and that it otherwise protect the powers of municipalities, hospitals, school boards, utilities, universities and other sub-federal agencies to use public procurement as one of many tools to create local jobs, protect the environment, support local development and maintain local priorities.
2. That the Province of Ontario disclose to municipalities and the public its procurement, services and investment offers to the EU, explain the impacts CETA would have on municipal governance, and give M.U.S.H sector bodies the freedom to decide whether or not they will be bound by CETA provisions.

3. This resolution be sent to the provincial and federal government ministers responsible for CETA negotiations, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Peter van Loan, MP for York Simcoe, and the Region of York encouraging them to pass similar resolutions.

Sincerely,
FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA,



Carolyn Lance
Council Services Coordinator

cc: The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6
Association of Municipalities of Ontario, 200 University Ave, Ste 801, Toronto M5H 3C6
Peter Van Loan, MP, York-Simcoe, 45 Grist Mill Road, Unit 10, Holland Landing L9N 1M7
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), 24 Clarence Street, Ottawa K1N 5P3
Region of York, 17250 Yonge St, Newmarket L3Y 6Z1