

September 6, 2005

**Notice of Motion**  
**Lower Gas Prices - REVISED**  
**“Why Won’t Government Act?”**

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**WHEREAS** current government taxation on gasoline accounts for approximately 15 cents/litre in Provincial Taxes, 11 cents/litre in Federal Excise Taxes; and,

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government charges 7% GST on top of all Provincial and Federal excise taxes (double taxation) which together account for approximately 40% of the pump price thereby taxing the existing tax; and,

**WHEREAS** Citizens of the City of Toronto as well in other towns and cities are consistently subjected to exorbitant and unexplainable increases in gasoline prices that have occurred to excess over this last several weeks; and,

**WHEREAS** given the vast, natural layout of our country, many citizens outside of downtown urban areas must commute long distances to work via automobile and are increasingly unable to afford this due to substantial increases in gasoline prices; and,

**WHEREAS** the auto industry is one of the largest job creators in Canada and the recent increase in gasoline prices will directly and negatively affect both the manufacturing and distribution of automobile and automobile parts; and,

**WHEREAS** domestic and foreign trade will undergo significant change as transporters will no longer be able to maintain current contracts as their variable cost of gasoline has far surpassed any normal or projected foreseeable increase; and,

**WHEREAS** individual station franchisees cannot possibly argue that gas prices reflect localized supply and demand when centralized offices set the prices for these locations (PetroCanada, Shell, Imperial Oil, Suncor, etc); and,

**WHEREAS** Canada’s Big Four Oil Cartel (PetroCanada, Shell, Imperial Oil, Suncor) raked in record profits last year of well over \$6 Billion and at today’s prices, profits are likely to be in excess of \$12 Billion this year; and,

**WHEREAS** Canada has the second largest reserves of petroleum in the world and as such should be immune to these current price fluctuations; and,

**WHEREAS** Canada exports over 2 million barrels of crude oil each day and has a refining capacity greater than its domestic consumption suggesting that it can easily maintain “Oil Self-Sufficiency”; and,

**WHEREAS** there has been an ongoing public concern as to the possibility of price fixing among the oil companies that cannot be justified in a democracy, especially in our country with its reserves and refining capacity; and,

**WHEREAS** the Federal government continuously is running up large annual budget surpluses;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** City Council demand the Federal Government to at least temporarily remove the GST on gasoline (petroleum products ); and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** City Council demand that the Federal and/or Provincial governments impose price controls on gasoline prices within the Province and the Country and develop a “Made-in-Canada” pricing system for Canadians.

Moved by Councillor MICHAEL WALKER

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Seconded by Councillor GERRY ALTOBELLO

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