

## **INQUIRY OF THE MAYOR**

**FROM: Councillor Michael Walker**

**DATE: October 11, 2007**

**SUBJECT: "ONE CENT NOW" Campaign**

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to inquire into your "*One Cent Now*" campaign you embarked upon to convince the Federal government to give municipalities 1-cent (17% of GST total revenues) of the 6-cent Goods and Services Tax (GST). This campaign apparently originated in your office and City Council was not involved in its development or approval.

I am inquiring into this campaign subsequent to Councillor Stintz's March 6<sup>th</sup> letter to you requesting information on this campaign; you did not reply to Councillor Stintz's request.

Since there is no Staff report on this campaign, I request answers to the following questions regarding the "*One Cent Now*" campaign:

- 1) How much was allocated to fund this campaign to date?
- 2) How much is budgeted to fund this campaign to its conclusion?
- 3) What was/is the source of the funding for this campaign? What account?
- 4) How much did it cost for the printed materials, stickers, pins, billboard posters (transit shelters, subway platforms), et cetera, for this campaign?
- 5) How much did the website creation cost? Who generated the content of the website? In whose name is the domain name registered, at whose cost and how much?
- 6) Was/is there any volunteer time/private funds donated to this campaign? Who are the volunteers? Who are the donors? What are the donations?
- 7) What City staff or Council staff contributed to the generation and execution of this campaign? Where do these staff work (what department/division)? How many hours were devoted?
- 8) Did any City department/division review the draft of this campaign before its commencement? Did City Legal review the final draft to clear any conflicts or copyright issues, for example? Was any legal opinion regarding this campaign obtained before commencing the campaign?

- 9) When was your office notified of the legal action by The Canadian Mint? What discussions have taken place regarding that legal action? Who has been representing the City in these discussions?
- 10) How much was spent to persuade the members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to support this initiative?
- 11) How much was spent to persuade the members of the Senate of Canada to support this initiative?
- 12) Why did you not seek the support of City Council for this campaign and its funding?

I ask these questions in the interest of transparency and responsible democratic decision-making. Many residents are concerned with the trend to shutout City Council from making decisions on public policy.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "W".

Michael Walker  
Councillor – St. Paul's

Cc// Members of City Council