

Big City Caucus Action Plan to Meet Citizen's Needs

Mayor Bronconnier and Big City Mayors Caucus Develop an Action Plan to Meet Citizens' Needs: Federal, Provincial Priorities

Toronto, Sept. 21, 2006 —This morning the Mayors of Canada's largest cities unanimously adopted an action plan to work with the federal government to meet the pressing needs in their cities. The mayors say that with so many national priorities playing out in their communities, closer working relations between governments are necessary.

Their plan expands on the three priorities in their report "[Our Cities, Our Future](#)" (1,127 KB) released in June 2006. These are: share revenues that grow with the economy; re-align roles and responsibilities with appropriate financial resources; and establish a national transit program.

"Our cities are where many issues of national importance intersect," said Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan. "In many cases, it is the municipal government that provides other governments with local service delivery capacity. In other cases, cities are simply on the front lines. It is essential that all governments be present and accounted for when comes the time to act."

The mayors will be looking for specific, coordinated action on public transit, revenue sharing, environmental protection, affordable housing, immigrant settlement and public safety.

Toronto Mayor David Miller, who chaired the meeting, said there are specific actions the federal government must undertake immediately to give cities the tools they need to attain economic, environmental and social sustainability.

"For example, Canada is the only G-8 country without a national transportation program," said Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay. "How can we be competitive if we are not on the same playing field as other world cities? We need to work with the federal government to develop a national transit program."

Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier, who co-chairs the Big City Mayor's Caucus Working Committee on the Revenue Sharing, stressed the need for governments to work together to effectively deliver the services that citizens need. "Tax payers want to see their dollars going towards their priorities—bringing all three orders of government to the table ensures we can accomplish this, while meeting national, provincial and local objectives."