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**From:** Board Chair <[MPACBoard.Chair@mpac.ca](mailto:MPACBoard.Chair@mpac.ca)>

**Sent:** September 23, 2020 3:45 PM

**To:** Office of the Mayor <[mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)>

**Subject:** Municipal Levy Letter

Good afternoon Fred,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for the work you are doing to keep our communities safe and healthy. We recognize the disruptions and challenges the pandemic has caused for our partners and, in consultation with our Municipal Liaison Group, we have continued to review our priorities, strategies and approaches to find new and efficient ways to deliver services and supports to municipalities and property owners.

Our pandemic support plan has three elements: controlling MPAC costs, supporting municipal priorities and finding new ways to deliver services.

#### **Controlling costs: 2021 Provincial Municipal Levy**

In light of the challenges posed by COVID-19, MPAC's Board of Directors has approved the corporation's 2021 operating budget with a total municipal levy increase of 0%. This budget reflects our understanding of the financial challenges faced by municipalities and the need for us to continue to deliver on our service commitments.

Like many businesses, MPAC responded to the uncertainty created by COVID-19 by putting hiring on hold and stopping travel, resulting in cost savings. We have strictly managed our cash flow and have worked to identify efficiencies and cost reductions to maintain our budget at the current level for 2021. That means the total levy amount is the same as 2020, without any reduction to service levels.

Municipal billing partners can expect to receive more details about their individual 2021 levy, which is determined by a formula based on costs, your assessment base and number of properties within each municipality, later this year. Municipalities can contact their Account Manager with inquiries in the interim.

#### **Supporting priorities: extended timeline to capture 2020 new construction and additions, renovations**

We know that funding from new construction, additions and renovations are a critical stream of new revenue for municipalities, and more so now than ever as municipalities manage the impacts of the pandemic. In response to a suggestion by our Municipal Liaison Group, we have identified opportunities to speed up our processes in order to deliver approximately \$1-billion in additional new assessment for municipalities this year.

#### **New ways to deliver services: easier, faster access to assessment data**

While the pandemic may have fueled disruptions in our communities and businesses, it has also taught us the importance of flexibility and decisiveness in decision-making. We want to support you with insightful data and analysis as you navigate the future.

We are developing the next iteration of Municipal Connect, our data-sharing tool with municipalities, in-house and have accelerated the project to meet the needs of municipalities. The new system will create the foundation for a highly collaborative, transformational tool that improves the user experience to make

information easier to access. It will also enable the opportunity to expand the ways municipalities can use MPAC's data and support municipal governments into the future.

We know that the challenges we face from the pandemic will not end overnight and we are committed to continuing to look for new ways to serve you better.

Thank you for your dedication and work in our communities.

Alan Spacek  
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors

Nicole McNeill  
President and Chief Administrative Officer, MPAC