



Hon. Helena Guergis, PC

*M.P. for Simcoe—Grey
Député de Simcoe—Grey*



FEB 3 2011

The Town of Blue Mountains
26 Bridge Street,
P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Attention: Mayor Ellen Anderson and Members of Council

Dear Mayor and Council

Attached is a copy of a letter from AMO President, Peter Hume, in support of a petition I initiated standing up for our volunteer firefighters. On October 28th during Question Period I asked the Government to give firefighters across the country a \$3000 non-refundable tax credit.

I am pleased with the support from AMO and am asking municipalities to have the petition in their offices for residents to sign.

Sincerely,

Hon. Helena Guergis P.C., M.P.
Simcoe-Grey

HG/vk

Encl: AMO letter
Petition
Hansard

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cc Fire Dept



Association of
Municipalities of Ontario

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Sent via e-mail: guergh@parl.gc.ca

February 2, 2011

The Honourable Helena Guergis, P.C., M.P.
35 Victoria Street East
Unit 5, P.O. Box 927
Allston, ON L9R 1W1

Dear Ms. Guergis:

Re: Volunteer Fire Fighter Tax Credit Petition

I am pleased to inform you that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Board of Directors are in support of the petition to the Government of Canada which calls for a \$3,000 non-refundable tax credit for volunteer firefighters.

The Association recognizes that volunteer firefighters make up a considerable portion of Ontario's overall fire services, and provide commitment and daytime availability which would be difficult to replace in many areas of the Province, which would not have the tax base for full time firefighters. We believe that this non-refundable tax credit would be a good way to recognize the importance of the contributions that volunteer firefighters make to Ontario communities.

We will be posting a statement in our weekly electronic *AMO Watch File*, notifying our members of the Board's decision to support the Petition to the Government of Canada to grant volunteer firefighters with a \$3,000 non-refundable tax credit, to help address the problems of retention and recruitment. We will provide an electronic link to the petition on your website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Hume'.

Peter Hume
President

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PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Volunteer fire fighters are critical in protecting lives and providing fire safety in small communities like Simcoe-Grey.

On average each volunteer gives 443 hours of service, the equivalent of 60 work days a year. Small communities are under severe financial stress. Replacing these volunteers with paid staff is not an option. One solution proposed by fire fighters across the country is for a tax credit to help offset their personal costs.

THEREFORE, we the undersigned call on the Government of Canada to stand up for our brave volunteer fire fighters with a \$3,000 non-refundable tax credit to help address the problems of retention and recruitment.

Signatures
(Sign your own name.
Do not print.)

Addresses
(Give your full address)

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Official, published Hansard Version. October 28, 2010

Hon. Helena Guerin (Simcoe--Grey, Ind. Cons.):

Mr. Speaker, volunteer firefighters are critical in protecting lives and providing fire safety in small communities like Simcoe--Grey.

On average, each volunteer gives 443 hours of service, the equivalent of 60 workdays a year. Small communities are under severe financial stress. Replacing these volunteers with paid staff is not an option. One solution proposed by firefighters across the country is for a tax credit to help offset their personal costs.

Will the government stand up for our brave volunteer firefighters with a \$3,000 non-refundable tax credit to help address the problems of retention and recruitment?

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Hon. Jim Flaherty (Minister of Finance, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, emergency service volunteers do receive a \$1,000 tax exemption for amounts received for their duties, and that includes emergency firefighters, of course.

That said, we listen to the concerns of volunteer firefighters across the country and take them under review.