May 22nd, 2019

RE: Audit and Accountability Fund

Mayor and Members of Council,

Our government was elected to balance the Budget responsibly, while protecting what matters most, like health care and education, for future generations. Our path to balance is supported by the government's comprehensive multi-year planning exercise. Our plan will deliver an average of about eight percent in savings and cost avoidance each year – or about eight cents for every dollar spent – until 2023–24.

How will we achieve these savings and cost avoidance?

- Consolidating procurement practices across sectors
    - *Expected annual savings of $1B*
- Consolidating the six existing provincial health agencies and the Local Health Integration Networks
    - *Annual savings of more than $350M at maturity*
- Re-focusing OHIP+
    - *Annual savings of at least $250M*
- Reforming the social assistance system
    - *Annual savings of over $1B at maturity*
- Reforming OSAP
    - *Leading to savings of at least $325M annually*

Over ninety percent of Ontario government spending goes out as transfer payments to agencies and municipalities. We are asking our partners, like the City of Barrie, to work with us and help bring Ontario back to fiscal health, while protecting core services.

Our government is offering to help the City of Barrie find savings of four cents on every municipal dollar spent. **We are committing $7.35 million for large urban municipalities like Barrie to conduct line-by-line reviews and find potential savings within their budget, while maintaining vital services through the Audit and Accountability Fund.** We are confident that with the right supports, four cents of savings is an achievable goal.

We encourage the Mayor and the council to consider this opportunity presented by the province. We look forward to hearing from you, working together, and discussing further cooperation in tackling this province-wide issue.

Sincerely,

Doug Downey
MPP for Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte

Andrea Khanjin
MPP for Barrie-Innisfil