



# City of Peterborough

## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Peterborough, ON --

### City of Peterborough Celebrates Federal Gas Tax Investment

Mayor Daryl Bennett and the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Institutions and Member of Parliament for Peterborough—Kawartha, celebrated the addition of six new City buses to the Peterborough Transit service today.

Six conventional transit buses were purchased in 2015 at a cost of approximately \$3.2 million with \$1.6 million coming from the federal Gas Tax fund. The buses were purchased in 2 phases, with the first delivery of three low-entry fully accessible buses in summer 2015. These first three buses cost \$1.6 million with \$500,000 funded from the federal Gas Tax Fund. The second delivery of three buses occurred in fall 2015. Of the \$1.6 million cost, \$1.1 million was funded from the federal Gas Tax Fund.

"Our government recognizes that strategic investments in public infrastructure help connect people, create jobs, and support economic development in our communities," said Minister Monsef. "Through the federal Gas Tax Fund, we are enabling communities across the country to make informed decisions about their infrastructure investments and how best to spend federal dollars."

The purchase of these buses contributes to achieving the target to have 100% of transit buses accessible by 2018. The City's current fleet is 82% accessible and the addition of the 6 new buses increased our ratio to 90%. The new buses provide spaces for three wheelchairs as opposed to two in older models, which improves access to conventional transit for customers with disabilities.

The bus purchases also contribute to surpassing the City's target fleet age of 10 years. The average fleet age is 9 years at the end of 2015. The buses were built in Canada and meet 2015 EPA engine emission standards.

"Public transit is greatly enhanced with the assistance provided through the federal Gas Tax Fund. In the City of Peterborough, we are achieving our goal of making 100% of our transit buses accessible by 2018, eliminating barriers to encourage more people to use this substantial public service," remarked Mayor Bennett.

“In 2016, on behalf of the Government of Canada, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario will administer \$617 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund to invest in local infrastructure,” said AMO President Gary McNamara. “The flexibility of this long-term funding agreement helps municipal governments set and achieve local priorities. Investing the federal Gas Tax Fund in local transit brings Peterborough closer to reaching an important goal.”

City of Peterborough received over \$39 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund between 2005-2015 and we continue to receive over \$4.7 million per year. Federal Gas Tax funds have been hard at work, funding various community improvement projects including rehabilitation of Lansdowne St. West, the Hunter Street Bridge Project, various road resurfacing and trail development projects and the purchase of new transit buses

This information is also available on the City of Peterborough website [www.peterborough.ca](http://www.peterborough.ca).

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