

**Speech by Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman
Canadian Club of Toronto, October 10,2000
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

PRESIDENT LINTON, DEPUTY-MAYOR CASE OOTES, MEMBERS OF OUR HEAD TABLE, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS AN HONOUR TO BE INVITED TO SPEAK TO THE CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO.

THIS CLUB HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF CANADA'S MOST IMPORTANT SPEAKING STAGES.

PRESIDENT LINTON ASKED ME TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR NEW CITY. SHE ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING.

TODAY, I CAN TELL YOU WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF DEBATE AT CITY HALL ON A CONTRACT TO SEND OUR GARBAGE TO THE ABANDONED ADAMS MINE IN KIRKLAND LAKE.

THIS DEBATE HAS BECOME HIGHLY CHARGED AND EMOTIONAL.

THE QUESTION OF WHERE TO PUT TORONTO'S GARBAGE HAS BEEN A 10-YEAR EXERCISE COSTING MORE THAN \$148 MILLION IN STUDIES.

THE ADAMS SITE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC. KIRKLAND LAKE TOLD US THEY WANTED THE GARBAGE AND NEW JOBS.

I HOPE THE CONTRACT IS APPROVED BECAUSE WE RUN OUT OF OPTIONS WHEN KEEL LANDFILL CLOSES IN 2002.

THREE YEARS AGO WHEN I DECIDED TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF TORONTO, OUR CITY WAS A DIFFERENT PLACE.

OUR ECONOMY WAS BATTERED AND BRUISED BY YEARS OF RECESSION.

WE WERE HANDED A NEW CITY WITH NO INSTRUCTIONS, NO HELP AND NO MONEY FROM THE SENIOR LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

FOUR MUNICIPALITIES HAD NO MONEY BUT LOTS OF DEBT WHEN WE AMALGAMATED.

INSTEAD, SENIOR GOVERNMENTS BEGAN HITTING OUR CITY WITH \$300 MILLION A YEAR IN CRUSHING DOWNLOADING. OUR COSTS NOW TOTAL \$900 MILLION OVER THE THREE YEARS.

THIS BATTERED OUR CONFIDENCE AND ADDED TO A SENSE OF GLOOM AND HURT.

THE CHALLENGES WERE ENORMOUS BUT WE FACED THEM WITH THE HELP OF A GREAT CITY COUNCIL. NO OTHER CITY HAS COME SO FAR, SO FAST.

WE SAID WE'D HOLD THE LINE ON TAXES. WE GAVE OUR WORD -- AND WE KEPT OUR WORD. WE'VE FROZEN TAXES IN EACH OF THE LAST THREE YEARS.

WE SAID WE'D BRING BACK GROWTH AND JOBS AND OUR ECONOMY WOULD SOAR AGAIN. WE GAVE OUR WORD -- AND WE KEPT OUR WORD.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, WE HELPED CREATE 140,000 NEW JOBS IN THIS CITY.

WE ARE THE HIGH-TECH HEADQUARTERS FOR CANADA AND THE SECOND LARGEST IN NORTH AMERICA - BEHIND ONLY THE SILICON VALLEY IN CALIFORNIA.

WHEN WE TOOK OFFICE, WE HAD MANY VACANT OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS. OUR DOWNTOWN VACANCY RATE WAS DOUBLE DIGIT AND EVEN HIGHER IN THE SUBURBS.

TODAY, THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE.

DEVELOPERS ARE BUILDING AGAIN. O&Y PROPERTIES WILL BREAK GROUND IN TWO WEEKS FOR A NEW \$120 MILLION OFFICE BUILDING AT QUEEN AND YONGE.

THAT'S THE FIRST NEW OFFICE BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED DOWNTOWN IN 14 1/2 YEARS. TWELVE OTHER BUILDINGS ARE ALSO ON THE DRAWING BOARDS FOR DOWNTOWN.

WE BROUGHT IN A NEW NO-SMOKING BY-LAW FOR THE ENTIRE CITY. WE CREATED ONE OF THE TOUGHEST RESTAURANT INSPECTION PROGRAMS IN NORTH AMERICA.

WE PUT 325 MORE POLICE OFFICERS ON THE STREETS. WE PUT A NEW POLICE HELICOPTER IN THE AIR. AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP MAKING THIS A SAFER CITY.

WE SECURED \$753 MILLION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR NEW HOSTELS AND BEDS FOR OUR HOMELESS.

NOW WE NEED A NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY TO CREATE RENTAL UNITS. THE HOMELESS NEED HOUSING.

THE FEDERAL MONEY IS COMING ON STREAM NOW. AND WE ENCOURAGED THE PROVINCE TO CREATE 523 NEW BEDS FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL PROBLEMS.

WE SAID WE'D MAKE THIS A FUN CITY AGAIN. WE GAVE OUR WORD -- AND WE KEPT OUR WORD. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, WE HAVE 326 MOOSE WHO WILL BACK US UP.

WE HAD THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION IN NORTH AMERICA IN OUR CITY AND WE HAVE CREATED A SERIES OF SPECIAL EVENTS SECOND TO NONE.

ABOUT A MILLION PEOPLE TAKE PART IN OUR SUMMER EVENTS EACH AND EVERY WEEKEND.

WE HAVE HUGE CELEBRATIONS LIKE THE TASTE OF THE DANFORTH, THE JAZZ FESTIVAL, CARIBANA, WINTERFEST, OUR CELEBRATE TORONTO STREET FESTIVAL.

THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON EVERYWHERE IN OUR CITY.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED MORE THAN ANY CITY IN NORTH AMERICA. AND WE DID ALL OF THIS WHILE MERGING SIX MUNICIPALITIES AND SEVEN GOVERNMENTS INTO ONE.

IT WAS AN ENORMOUS CHALLENGE. BUT WE TOOK A MEGA-PROBLEM AND TURNED IT INTO A MEGA-CITY.

TORONTO IS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH. WE ARE A PROUD AND UNITED CITY AND WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 20 PER CENT OF THE NATION'S ECONOMY.

TORONTO CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY OUR SENIOR LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. WE NEED A NEW FINANCIAL DEAL FROM THE PROVINCE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. OUR ONLY REVENUE SOURCE IS PROPERTY TAX.

OUR PROPERTY TAX BASE CANNOT SUPPORT A CITY OF OUR SIZE. WE ONLY GET HALF OF THE PROPERTY TAX YOU PAY LESS \$300 MILLION A YEAR THAT THE PROVINCE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS DOWNLOAD ON US.

WE NEED NEW REVENUE SOURCES OR A SHARE OF THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REVENUES. OTHER PROVINCES HAVE ADDRESSED THE NEEDS OF THEIR LARGE CITIES.

MANITOBA ALLOCATES REVENUES FROM PERSONAL INCOME TAX FOR MUNICIPALITIES ON A PER CAPITA BASIS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SHARES ITS RETAIL SALES TAX WITH MUNICIPALITIES. MONTREAL RECEIVES \$47 MILLION ANNUALLY AS A SHARE OF THE GAS TAX.

TORONTO RECEIVES NOTHING. WE ARE THE ONLY MAJOR MUNICIPALITY IN THE WORLD WITHOUT ANY FORM OF TRANSIT SUBSIDY. GOVERNMENTS IN THE U.S., EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA ALL PAY SUBSIDIES FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL. WE DON'T GET A PENNY.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO GROW, TO PROSPER AND TO LEAD THE NATION. IF YOU DON'T GROW, YOU STAGNATE.

IN 10 YEARS, IF WE DO OUR JOB RIGHT - WHICH WE WILL - THIS WILL BE AN INCREDIBLE CITY OF CLEAN AIR, SAFE STREETS, STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS, A BOOMING ECONOMY AND A QUALITY OF LIFE ENVIED AROUND THE WORLD.

THIS WILL BE A CITY ANCHORED BY 29 MILES OF BEAUTIFUL REDEVELOPED WATERFRONT - A WATERFRONT LIKE NO OTHER.

IT WILL BE A WATERFRONT OF PARKS, ACTIVE PUBLIC SPACES, WELL-PLANNED BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS AND ATTAINABLE HOUSING.

MOST IMPORTANT, IT WILL BE A WATERFRONT OF CLEAN, CLEAR WATER. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SWIM AND FISH. AND WHEN YOU CATCH A FISH IT WON'T HAVE TWO HEADS.

THIS WATERFRONT WILL BE BUILT THROUGH A CO-OPERATIVE OF THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND CITY GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE WATERFRONT WILL BE REDEVELOPED. IT IS VITAL TO OUR FUTURE!

I WON'T BE MAYOR OF TORONTO WHEN THE WATERFRONT IS COMPLETE, BUT IF I AM RE-ELECTED TO ANOTHER TERM, I WILL DEVOTE MY THREE YEAR TERM TO WORKING AND PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE.

THERE IS MUCH WE CAN ACCOMPLISH IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS:

- OUR MOVIE INDUSTRY IS HUGE AND GROWING. IT WAS WORTH \$1 BILLION, \$200 MILLION TO OUR ECONOMY LAST YEAR AND PROVIDED MORE THAN 30,000 FULL- AND PART-TIME JOBS.

MOVIE PRODUCTION IS VITAL TO OUR CITY AND WE CAN ENCOURAGE THIS INDUSTRY WITH NEW STUDIOS AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

WE CAN AND WE SHOULD CREATE A "FILM CITY" IN OUR TORONTO.

THE INDUSTRY SHOULD HAVE A HOME WHERE WE CAN GROUP TOGETHER FACILITIES, STUDIOS, SOUND STAGES AND PRODUCTION HOUSES.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE WE ARE CURRENTLY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN INDUSTRY LEADER FOR A 1.5 MILLION SQUARE FOOT FACILITY. AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING.

PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITIES SAY WE NEED THE STUDIOS WHERE MOVIES COULD BE MADE AND MINIMIZE NEIGHBORHOOD DISRUPTIONS.

A TORONTO FILM CITY WOULD ALSO BE A TREMENDOUS TOURIST ATTRACTION LIKE UNIVERSAL STUDIOS IN FLORIDA.

- OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, WE WANT TO MAKE TORONTO THE SAFEST CITY IN THE WORLD.

WE HAVE GREAT POLICE, A GREAT NEW CHIEF AND THEY HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR COMMUNITY.

CRIME IS DOWN, BUT WE CAN AND WILL DO BETTER. WE MUST GET TOUGHER ON GUNS AND GUN-RELATED CRIME, WE MUST GET TOUGHER ON VICIOUS YOUTH GANGS WHO BREAK THE LAW, WE CAN PUT MORE OFFICERS INTO COMMUNITIES.

WE WILL ARREST PEOPLE WHO VANDALIZE OUR BUILDINGS AND SPRAY PAINT GRAFFITI ON OUR WALLS. WHY SHOULD WE TOLERATE THESE PEOPLE?

WE WANT PEOPLE TO BUILD THIS CITY UP, NOT TEAR IT DOWN.

- WE HAVE TO STEP UP THE BATTLE ON SMOG AND POLLUTION. OUR ENVIRONMENT DICTATES THE WAY WE LIVE. NONE OF US NEEDS GRIDLOCK AND POLLUTION.

THE ONLY WAY TO DO THIS IS TO GIVE PEOPLE A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE CAR.

WE NEED BETTER TRANSIT AND FEWER CARS. WE NEED A BALANCED TRANSIT, NEW SUBWAYS, MORE BUSES AND MORE STREETCARS.

THESE MUST BE OUR PRIORITIES TO CUT SMOG AND REDUCE GRIDLOCK.

- OUR CITY IS GREEN AND BEAUTIFUL AND WE WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, I AM PLANNING ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS TREE PLANTING PROGRAMS IN CANADA - ONE MILLION NEW TREES BY THE YEAR 2010.

TREES PROVIDE OXYGEN, SHADE AND LIFE. WE WANT TO BUILD UP OUR CITY OF TREES.

I GET EXCITED WHEN I THINK OF THE FUTURE. THESE ARE NOT DREAMS, THESE ARE PRIORITIES.

WINNING THE OLYMPIC GAMES FOR 2008 WOULD ACCELERATE THE PROCESS. I WAS AMAZED TO SEE WHAT THE OLYMPICS DID FOR SYDNEY AND BARCELONA.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE. EVEN IF WE DON'T WIN THE GAMES - WHICH WE WILL - OUR GROWTH AND EVOLUTION WILL CONTINUE.

UNION STATION IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE FUTURE. WE BOUGHT IT THIS YEAR FROM THE RAILWAYS AFTER THE FORMER CITY OF TORONTO SPENT ALMOST 50 YEARS TRYING.

SOON, WE WILL CALL FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PROPOSALS TO RESTORE AND RENOVATE THIS BEAUTIFUL LANDMARK.

UNION STATION WILL BE TORONTO'S GATEWAY WITH DAZZLING ENTERTAINMENT, TRANSPORTATION, SHOPPING AND BEAUTIFUL DINING STEPS FROM THE LEAFS AND THE RAPTORS.

I HAVE ALWAYS SAID BEING MAYOR OF TORONTO IS THE GREATEST JOB IN THE WORLD.

IT'S A JOB THAT'S NEVER DONE AND IT ALWAYS PROVIDES THE WONDER AND EXCITEMENT OF OUR GREAT CITY.

THANK YOU.