

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT  
RAPPORT

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Our File/N/Réf.            03 07-98-0095  
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE                        13 August 1998

TO/DEST.                  Transportation Committee

FROM/EXP.                Co-ordinator, Transportation Committee

SUBJECT/OBJET            **MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO ROC RE INCOME TAX  
EXEMPTION FOR EMPLOYER-PROVIDED TRANSIT PASSES**

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### **REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**For discussion.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

On 12 August 1998, Regional Council received the attached communication dated 14 July 1998 from the Honourable Marcel Massé. The Minister's correspondence was in response to the recommendations approved by Regional Council on 8 April 1998.

Councillor Holmes requested that the letter be referred to the Transportation Committee for discussion.

*Approved by  
Rosemary Nelson*

att.

President  
of the Treasury Board



Président  
du Conseil du Trésor

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0R5

Mr. Robert Chiarelli  
Regional Chair  
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton  
Ottawa-Carleton Centre, Cartier Square  
111 Lisgar Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 2L7

Dear Mr. Chiarelli:

My colleague, the Honourable David Collette has forwarded to me a copy of your letter of April 15, 1998, in which you request that the federal government make employer-provided transit passes income tax exempt.

I concur with your Regional Council and Transportation Committee that great benefits stem from the use of public transit and that any initiative to promote it should be considered. However, I believe that, when contemplating changes in public policy, the government must pursue initiatives that serve the interest of all Canadians in a fair and equitable manner.

I understand that Minister Collette has also forwarded a copy of your letter to my colleague, the Honourable Paul Martin, as Minister responsible for tax policy issues. I trust Minister Martin will give your request his careful consideration.

Thank you for writing and I appreciate being made aware of your recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcel Massé".

Marcel Massé

Canada