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### **CAMBRIDGE MAYORAL CANDIDATE JOHNSON WILL NOT TAKE A SALARY FOR FIRST YEAR IF ELECTED MAYOR**

*Johnson declares City compensation so out of control something significant has to be done and he will lead by example.*

**Cambridge, Ontario, September 13, 2010** – Taxation, active and healthy living, customer service and transportation were the key issues Mayoral Candidate Andrew Johnson addressed during his policy announcement event on September 13 across from City Hall.

Supporters were eager to hear Johnson's views on these four key areas, and in particular, tax increases and major City spending. However, no one was prepared to hear how just how serious he was ready to get to solve the problem.

"If you are a senior on a fixed income over the last 10 years, you have lost 25% of your purchasing power due to inflation, but are expected to pay 57% more taxes with 25% less income," said Johnson.

"Executive compensation at The City is out of control. Wage settlements with staff of all kinds have led to escalating costs, year after year. The \$40 million business of this City is now a \$60 million business and the list of assets we have to show for it is not that long or enticing."

Johnson went on to stress that the only way this can stop in 2011 is with the help of voters to elect him Mayor.

"Before I can ask staff to take a freeze or a cut in pay, I must lead by example," he explained. "The problem is severe and the solution must also be significant. It is with this in mind that I make this pledge to you in 2011, if elected as your new Mayor, I will not take a salary for the first year," he announced to a room that erupted in thunderous applause.

Johnson's move to not draw a city or Regional government wage was a genuine act of leadership. It's one that voters can view as proof he will take significant steps to get The City back on track to financial stability and send a clear signal that the years of ridiculous overspending and poor management of taxes will stop under his lead.

"I expect senior staff and employee groups to follow suit, holding the line on their compensation, or yielding where possible to help the residents and businesses of our fine city weather the economic storm that is upon us," Johnson said.

Other highlights from the candidate's presentation addressed how lucky the city is to have an organization such as Active Cambridge committed to promoting physical activity and wellness. If



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ected, Johnson plans on working closely with this group to reduce the number of barriers to physical activity and increase Cambridge's capacity to offer more opportunities to get active.

The City's customer service to its residents and businesses was another key area of focus. "Whether you are enrolling children in recreation programs at pools or hockey rinks, or dealing with our building, tax, or bylaw enforcement department, we need to deliver a quality experience for our people," Johnson noted.

"After high taxes, poor customer service is the number one complaint I am hearing door-to-door when talking with hundreds of Cambridge residents. That is why I plan on working with Council and staff to implement a corporate-wide customer service experience review," he added.

As a final point, Andrew addressed transportation. The City and Region will need to focus their energy on public transportation services. In the Region twenty years from now, we will need to achieve higher participation in ridership from the next generation.

Johnson continued by stating, "For the 2011-2014 term, I will advocate no cost to use the GRT for those under 25, and a commitment to holding the line on fares for the entire term." This will give the next generation no excuse for not using public transit, and will begin to balance the absolutely massive subsidies given to cars and trucks with the comparatively small subsidies given to buses.

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### **About Andrew Johnson**

With a decade of practical business knowledge and almost another decade of political experience, Johnson has become well known for his strong strategic thinking, resourceful ideas and ability to collaborate well with others to deliver successful results. His proven political track record includes being a former Councillor with Wellington County Council and the Village of Elora, as well as acting as a school trustee, and chairman of various boards and committees.

Johnson, 46, has been married to his wife Janet for 21 years and has two sons, Liam (15) and Aodhán (11). He lives in Ward 7, is actively involved in the community, and has been a Sun Life Financial Advisor for 22 years. He is also a significant leader in the arts and entertainment industry.

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