

28 January 2025

Municipality of The Nation
958 Route 500 West, Casselman ON K0A 1M0
Attn: Nation Municipality Clerk

Subject: Resident Petition Against Municipal Budget 2025 – Taxe Increases

Dear Council, you will find enclosed an e-petition signed by 438 residents of the Nation Municipality. Of note, a total of 634 signatures were removed due to incomplete information on the petition. The purpose of this petition is to indicate that we the residents (that elected you) are not in agreement with the sudden raise in overall taxes to the amount of 10 plus percent in the 2025 Budget.

The Budget outlines several reasons for these increases, it indicates that most of these are caused by inflation of around 23% over the past 3 years. We residents are well aware of this inflation since we've also suffered these increases in our daily lives in addition to a doubling of our heating costs and foods.

What we the residents deplore the most is that The Nation has no long-term plan, being well aware that inflation took place each fiscal year, for the past three years, and despite this waited until 2025 to make us "bite the bullet" (to quote the Mayor) all at once. That is unacceptable and very disrespectful towards us the taxpayers. This raises some significant concerns by the residents as to the ability of this Council and CAO to properly forecast expenses and to apply a progressive tax increase that can be sustained by residents. Had a progressive increase in taxes by 1 or 1.5% been done annually we would not be in this unsustainable situation. This is quite a "bullet" to swallow, by the residents who are already significantly financially strained by ongoing inflation.

On the 10th of February you will be officially presented with the petition and the demands listed below from the residents. We hope that Council will recognize the significant financial strain and impact this sudden tax increase has caused. We want you to find cost saving solutions for all residents to reduce this tax burden and apply a progressive longer term taxation scheme. The petition will remain open and the final number of signatories will be provided on the 10th of February.

Resident requests:

1. That Council rescinds the Budget 2025 immediately;
2. That Administrative staff conduct increase scrutiny on the proposed budget to find more cost saving measure and efficiencies;
3. That Council consider making acceptable cuts on non-essential expenditures and services;
4. That Council consider postponing certain projects until next year;
5. That Council explore using grant money for to St-Isidore arena to help offset this tax increase;

6. That you forego any salary increases for the Council and Municipality employees for 2025 or 2026; and
7. That the Nation Municipality develop a clear and publicly consulted long term plan that outlines clearly expected costs and projects in order to apply a progressive tax scheme – essentially we don't want any further surprise unsustainable increases.

Sincerely,

Steeven Gingras
Nation Resident Petition Representative

[REDACTED]
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Enclosure (1) Petition Signatures.