

## HST Call for Action (to be sent November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

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### **Email to REALTORS®**

**Subject:** URGENT: We Need Your Help to Stop the HST

With your support REALTORS® have sent more than 14,000 emails to Members of Provincial Parliament opposing sales tax harmonization. MPPs have heard from REALTORS® and now we need your help to make consumers' voices heard at Queen's Park.

Yesterday, the government of Ontario formally launched its latest assault on homeowners, purchasers and sellers with the introduction of Bill 218, the *Ontario Tax Plan for More Jobs and Growth Act, 2009*. Every MPP has heard REALTOR® opposition loud and clear. Now they need to hear from consumers. As a hardworking REALTOR®, you have a database containing the names of consumers and clients both past and present who are going to be negatively impacted by this tax. Please circulate the attached email to all of your clients, customers, friends and family and encourage them to email their MPPs to stop the HST.

We also encourage you to send this email yourself. After all, you are a consumer too!

Thank you in advance.

### **Email for REALTORS® to send to their clients**

**Subject:** Stop the HST – Cost of buying, owning and selling a home to go up by 8%

Earlier this week, the Government of Ontario formally launched its latest assault on homeowners, purchasers and sellers with the introduction of legislation to harmonize the provincial sales tax and goods and services tax.

Homebuyers and sellers will pay 8 per cent more on legal fees, appraisals, real estate commissions, home inspection fees, and moving costs, adding about \$1,500 in new taxes to the average residential real estate transaction in Ontario.

For homeowners the HST will also add hundreds of dollars in additional tax on utility bills (gas, electricity and home heating fuel), on home renovation labour, the cost of lawn upkeep or landscaping and the cost of snow removal.

Please help Ontario REALTORS® fight this tax. In less than 30 seconds you can send an email to your MPP asking them to vote against sales tax harmonization legislation, by clicking here.

## **Call for Action email to be sent by consumers**

I'm writing today to express my opposition to the introduction of the Government of Ontario's Bill 218, the *Ontario Tax Plan for More Jobs and Growth Act, 2009* to implement a harmonized sales tax (HST). As a resident in your riding, I am opposed to the HST because it will increase the cost of day to day living and the cost of owning, buying and selling a home.

Homebuyers and sellers will pay 8 per cent more on legal fees, appraisals, real estate commissions, home inspection fees, and moving costs, adding about \$1,500 in new taxes to the average residential real estate transaction in Ontario.

A HST will also add 8 per cent more tax on a series of home related costs. Specifically, a HST will add hundreds of dollars in additional tax on utility bills, such as gas, electricity and home heating fuel, on home renovation labour, the cost of lawn upkeep or landscaping and the cost of snow removal. Moreover, a HST will increase my family's daily cost of living with 8 per cent more tax on gasoline, personal and professional services, dry cleaning, cab fares, magazine subscriptions, plane tickets, vitamins and cell phone charges.

When added together, the impact of an HST on my family's disposable income will be considerable. In short, the HST will reduce my family's quality of life by taking more of our hard-earned money to fund government initiatives.

While the Government of Ontario has tried to compensate Ontarians by offering sales tax transition cheques and a modest income tax reduction, these measures will in no way offset this new tax. A one-time payment of \$1000 (for a family of four) and a modest \$368 reduction in income tax will do very little to offset the burden of an 8 per cent tax increase on a litany of items year after year after year.

Please tell Premier Dalton McGuinty and Finance Minister Dwight Duncan that we are fed up with increasing taxes. Please vote against Bill 218 and stop the HST.