

**From:** [Greg Milosh](#)  
**To:** [Clerks](#)  
**Subject:** Correspondence for Feb. 13/24 Finance Committee meeting  
**Date:** February 12, 2024 9:59:33 AM

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please include the following as correspondence for tomorrow's finance committee meeting:

noted Globe & Mail columnist Andrew Coyne recently wrote a column on municipal taxation and included the following paragraph

'Taxation is not theft, but it does mean taking people's money from them by force. Before they decide to make so much more of our money, at a time when household budgets are already strained, the people who govern us are obliged, at the least, to show there is no better alternative.'

Which begs the obvious questions of Durham Region Council and staff.

Have they done everything they could to minimize the property tax increase?  
Have all cost reductions and revenue sources been considered.  
Have all (un)allocated reserves and the rate stabilization fund been fully utilized.  
Have hiring and wage freezes been considered?  
Has imposition of parking fees for Durham employees been considered.

Mr. Coyne suggests, and I think rightfully so, that it is your responsibility to show that there is no better alternative to the extraordinary and unprecedented property tax increase(s) you are considering for this and ensuing years.

Please rethink and reconsider the scale of your property tax increase for this budget.  
As I mentioned, when I spoke to your committee in December, failure to do so, may imperil your political future

thank you for your consideration

Greg Milosh  
Oshawa