



## **Media Advisory**

### **Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc.**

#### **Why are taxpayers funding the NDDS?**

**Newmarket, ON, June 10, 2015** – The Downtown Community Improvement Plan (CIP) – Financial Incentive Program is a grants and/or loans program for businesses within Newmarket, which specifically targets downtown Newmarket. This program does not exist in any other Newmarket neighbourhood. The Financial Incentive Program is administered by volunteers with the Newmarket Downtown Development sub-Committee (NDDS), the Ward 5 Town Councillor, and by the Town of Newmarket Economic Development Office.

From 2010 – 2014 the program provided \$1.6 million in grants to businesses within the downtown Newmarket area. It also provided two (2) \$100,000 interest free loans to downtown Newmarket businesses – a café and a private school. All monies granted/loaned is taxpayers money.

NTAG questions why...

1. Grants have been awarded that do not meet the criteria of the NDDS Financial Incentives program.

As examples, \$10,000 of grant money was awarded for a project study that resulted in the demolition of a current building, to build new multi-unit residential units.

Money was also granted to a local real estate agent to offset costs to stage artwork in empty Main Street storefront units.

2. NDDS committee members have received a total of \$87,618 for their respective businesses. Those responsible for awarding grants and loans should not be the same individuals and businesses receiving the grants and loans.
3. \$114,074 was granted to businesses that have closed or relocated outside of Newmarket.
4. \$205,020 was granted to businesses that have moved from one location on Main Street, to another location on Main Street. In some cases, businesses received two grants.
5. A senior Town executive is used to facilitate this program 1-2 days a week. The Economic Development office at the Town of Newmarket could better use their time and resources on more substantive initiatives.



This program fails to benefit the majority of Newmarket taxpayers, or other Newmarket communities, such as Davis Drive businesses. OUR tax money is better spent on initiatives that benefit all Newmarket taxpayers – both individual and business.

A copy of the Freedom of Information request that provided this information can be found at [www.ntag.ca](http://www.ntag.ca).

The Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) is a provincially incorporated non-for-profit ratepayers group in Newmarket, ON. NTAG is a non-political, non-partisan, advocacy organization dedicated to fair taxes, less waste and transparent and accountable government in all levels of government (town, region and school boards) in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada.

**For information on Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc.:**

**Teena Bogner**  
**President**  
[president@ntag.ca](mailto:president@ntag.ca)

**Doug Brown**  
**Communications Chairperson**  
[Doug@ntag.ca](mailto:Doug@ntag.ca)