

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Councillors Call for Inquiry into EFW Party Scandal.

November 7th 2011 Durham Region: Durham Regional Councillors were stunned to learn that taxpayers hosted the \$75,000 Energy from Waste groundbreaking party held in Clarington on August 17th, 2011 that they were ultimately not invited to. “While it remains unknown how much exactly was on the taxpayers tab” Pickering Regional Councillor Jennifer O’Connell comments, “what we definitely know is that this never came to Council nor was it budgeted for as part of this project.” Councillor O’Connell and Oshawa Regional Councillor John Neal want answers and are bringing forward a motion to Durham Regional Council seeking an internal inquiry as to how these funds were spent, who authorized it and by what authority? Councillor Neal who sits on the Regional Social Services committee, he hears first hand how Durham residents are struggling during these tough economic times. “To spend \$75,000 on a party is a slap in the face to our taxpayers. We need a full inquiry as to how these funds could be approved without Council’s knowledge,” says Councillor Neal.

“I find the use of public funds for an extravagant party, without any details being approved by Council is disrespectful and distasteful especially given that when the public and several Councillors asked for increased monitoring for harmful emissions from this site we were told we didn’t have the additional funds to do so” Councillor O’Connell added.

“Ultimately ensuring tax dollars are spent correctly is the responsibility of Council, and it comes down to ensuring there is accountability and transparency of every dollar spent” adds Councillor O’Connell who is also a member of the Regional Finance and Administration Committee. “Since the story broke, we have heard not just from the public but other Regional Councillors who feel, Council needs to send a strong message about the inappropriate use of public funds,” concludes Councillor Neal.

Councillor O’Connell and Councillor Neal’s motion will be coming to the next Durham Regional Council meeting being held on November 23, 2011.

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