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## What we can learn from Rob Ford

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[This should be awesome.](#)

Seeking to improve the debate around reducing government spending through innovation, the Municipal and Ottawa Taxpayer Advocacy Groups are joining forces to host a conference on government innovation and spending called the Government Innovation Conference—The Rob Ford Factor, Lessons For Canadian Municipalities.

Canada, provinces, territories and cities owe about \$1.1 trillion US. Innovation simply means achieving better long term outcomes with less taxpayer dollars.

Taking place at Ottawa City Hall—Jean Piggott Place on March 8, the Government Innovation Conference will feature expert panellists: Nick Kouvalis, Principal Campaign Research & former Chief of Staff for Toronto Mayor Rob Ford; Guy Giorno, Partner, Fasken Martineau, Municipal Governance expert & former Chief of Staff for Prime Minister Stephen Harper; Bob Plamondon, best-selling author of Blue Thunder, The Truth About Conservatives from MacDonald To Harper – Globe & Mail Columnist; and Nick Vandergragt, CFRA Talk Radio host. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson has been invited to open the event and Transit Commission Chair, Diane Deans, has been invited to participate on the panel.

Keynote speaker, Vern White, former Ottawa Police Chief turned Senator, will share his perspective on the long term sustainability of municipal police budgets and reducing the root causes of crime.



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