

Toronto tenants want lower taxes

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and operating costs. Eclipsing other popular business locales, such as Toronto's downtown core and the airport.

For instance, in the region's south end, average operating costs are \$3.47 per square foot, compared to \$12.11 in downtown Toronto and \$10.24 in north Toronto.

Commercial property taxes here were also among the lowest in the GTA.

The study, which was funded by the Toronto Office Coalition, an association of owners and tenants in high-end office buildings in Toronto, calls for a levelling of the playing field.

For instance, the province's education tax is set at a higher rate for businesses in the city than those in the 905 area.

But the report's findings aren't necessarily anything new, according to John Meakes, Richmond Hill's director of economic development.

He disagreed with the report's findings that the 905 area poses a threat to Toronto business.

"Toronto is a magnet. It will remain a major employment centre, regardless of who moves out," Mr. Meakes said.

"There's movement both ways. Companies leave York Region. I have to make sure Richmond Hill and York Region get their share of those offices."



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