

Halton and Ontario Focusing on Shared Priorities

Appendix B of MO-13-19



Halton Region is home to more than 580,000 residents in four communities. Along with its Local Municipalities (City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton, and Town of Oakville) Halton Region is an effective two-tier government recognized for its strong financial position, safe communities, natural environment, progressive approach to urban development and citizen-focused reliable services.

Shared Priorities

Halton Region shares the Provincial Government's goal to create an environment where businesses and residents thrive and taxpayers are provided with high quality programs and services in a cost effective manner. Halton is committed to supporting the Province in:

- Ensuring efficient government
- Increasing housing supply
- Reducing red tape to grow jobs and the economy
- Creating a sustainable and integrated health system
- Addressing the Province's financial situation

Collaborative Approach to Change

A strong and collaborative partnership is critical to the successful implementation of transformative service delivery and policy changes. The Provincial Government has made a number of announcements each of which have potentially significant impacts on municipalities. The level of uncertainty and pace of change related to these announcements have created considerable challenges.

Together, we need to focus on strategic changes to support our shared goals and priorities for the people of Halton.

Provincial Announcement Impacts



Ensuring Efficient Government

Halton Region effectively meets the needs of the people of Halton. Some of Halton's long standing achievements include the following:

- 98%** of residents rate their **quality of life** very high
- 97%** of residents are satisfied with the **quality of Regional services**
- 13 years** of keeping **average property tax increases at or below the rate of inflation**
- AAA Credit Rating** for 31 years
- 13 years** as the **safest municipality in Canada**
- 8 years** as one of **Greater Toronto's Top Employers**

Regional Government Review

Halton Region and its Local Municipalities have worked together for many years to meet the needs of the people of Halton while ensuring there is minimal overlap in the delivery of services. We are committed to continuous improvement and have established regular reviews of various service arrangements to identify further opportunities to reduce costs and more effectively provide services to the people of Halton.

A change to Halton Region's existing governance structure would be disruptive, wasteful and an attempt to fix something that is not broken. We are more effective, efficient and strong, together.

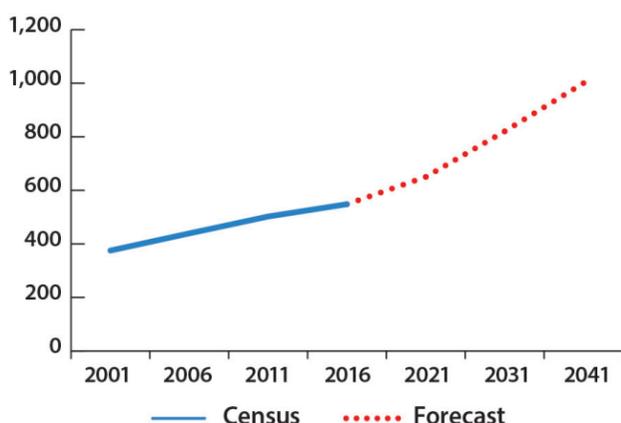
Halton requests:

- Leave the existing Halton Region structure as is. Our commitment is to an ongoing focus on continuous improvement to service delivery.

Increasing Housing Supply

Halton is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada and must grow to a population of 1 million by 2041, more than doubling its population since 2008, to meet the expectation of the Provincial Growth Plan. Halton's success in delivering this level of growth is key to achieving the Province's goal to increasing housing supply.

Population Growth (thousands)



Infrastructure to Support Growth

Achieving growth projections is dependent on the delivery of supporting infrastructure. Halton Region and its Local Municipalities have long-term infrastructure plans to ensure that municipal infrastructure is available to support planned growth.

The absence of a provincial multi-year, multi-ministry infrastructure plan that is focused on growing communities, including the delivery of schools, hospitals, highways, has resulted in obstacles to increasing housing supply and economic growth.

In addition, municipalities need appropriate funding tools that allow us to deliver infrastructure as planned to achieve provincial growth projections while ensuring that growth pays for itself. In Halton, the Region, Local Municipalities



and the School Boards, experience a development charge funding shortfall totalling approximately \$87.7 million per year as a result of limitations of the existing funding tools. This negatively impacts Halton taxpayers.

Halton requests:

- Provide for the appropriate level of funding tools and mechanisms, including development charges and the new community benefits charge that deliver sufficient, timely funding to pay for infrastructure required to support growth.
- The development of a coordinated, multi-year, multi-ministry provincial infrastructure investment plan, connected to the Growth Plan, that includes:
 - The approval and development of schools in planned growth areas.
 - Highway improvements to the 401 and QEW, including building the missing interchanges at QEW/Royal Windsor Drive and at Highway 401/between James Snow Parkway and Trafalgar Road (5 1/2 Line).
 - Completion of the GTA West study.
 - A commitment to timing and delivery of all day, two-way GO train service to Milton and Georgetown.
 - A commitment to the timing and delivery of a new GO station at Trafalgar and Highway 401 which is a key hub in Halton's Mobility Plan
 - Improved performance and capacity at the Mississauga Central Ambulance Communications Centre, including the implementation of new technology and triage tools, to ensure the safety of the people of Halton.
 - Additional Long-Term Care beds to meet the growing needs of our aging and underserved communities.
 - Investments in universal broadband internet to ensure access for all Halton residents to maintain a high quality of life and businesses to thrive in a competitive digital economy.

Reducing Red Tape

Halton Region shares the Provincial Government's goal of reducing regulatory burdens to create an environment where businesses and residents thrive.

Municipalities create a vision and framework for their communities that is consistent with provincial plans and policies. Final planning decisions should rest with municipalities that are conforming to provincial legislation rather than with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). The LPAT adds significant cost and delays to the delivery of affordable housing through expensive, time consuming hearings, contrary to the intent of the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*.



Halton requests:

- Changes to the LPAT:
 - In the short-term, restore the amendments to the *Planning Act* that mandated evaluation of appeals based on consistency and conformity with provincial policies and plans; and,
 - In the long-term, eliminate the LPAT entirely.

Sustainable Integrated Health System

Municipalities play an important role in the overall health system in Ontario. Public Health and Paramedic Services in Halton are integrated into the Halton community. Public Health and Paramedic Services participate in a number of collaborative community partnerships including Halton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, Our Kids Network and are contributors to the proposed Ontario Health Teams in Halton.

Public Health and Paramedic Services in Halton are integrated into the Regional organization. Halton has a proven model that delivers these critical programs to residents in an efficient, coordinated and cost-effective way.



Halton requests:

- Public Health to continue to be delivered by Halton Region with Regional Council serving as the Board of Health.
- Boundaries of new Regional Public Health entity to reflect Halton Region's geography.
- Paramedic Services to continue to be delivered by Halton Region.

Addressing the Province's Financial Situation

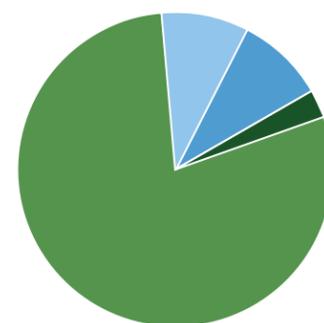
Municipal governments collect only 9 cents of every household tax dollar yet we provide many critical and essential programs and services to our residents. Provincial support to municipalities accounts for only \$4.2 billion (3%) of the \$133.7 billion in total provincial transfer payments. Municipalities are not a major contributor to financial challenges currently facing the Provincial Government.

Halton Region is supportive of creating efficiencies and ensuring the most appropriate programs and services are delivered to residents in the most cost effective manner.

Halton requests:

- That priorities for change be focused and consideration be given to their cumulative impacts on municipalities' ability to provide essential services to residents.
- Provide timely, detailed information regarding budget and service delivery changes so that Halton can effectively plan, adjust and accommodate the impacts of transformational changes announced by the Provincial Government.

Provincial spending 2017-2018



- 9% OPS
- 9% Interest on debt
- 82% Transfer payments
- 3% (of 82%) transfer payments to municipalities

Support to municipalities is \$4.2 billion (3%) of \$133.7 billion in total transfer payments.

Figure 1 Total Government Expenditures (FY17/18)