



Halton Mayors Outline COVID-19 Relief Measures and Priorities for Federal and Provincial Governments

Yesterday, the Halton Mayors and Chair met for our bi-weekly check in to discuss several issues jointly affecting our communities. We appreciate our partnership with the Provincial and Federal and COVID-19 has created numerous challenges for all levels of government. There are many factors that we all must consider and balance within our decision making.

We continue to call on our partners on the following matters:

Vaccines

We reiterate our call for the Federal Government to accelerate the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccines to support the needs and expectations of Canadians. Halton Regional Council passed a resolution on January 20, 2021 requesting that the Federal and Provincial Governments clearly and consistently communicate publicly with public health units and municipalities on the distribution of vaccine including: the receipt of COVID-19 vaccinations, the timing of delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations for each priority population, and the timing of delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations for the general population. Timely updates are necessary as we all work through the current supply chain challenges. We stand ready to provide facilities and logistical support for public vaccination efforts.

Sick pay:

We continue to advocate that the provincial and federal governments work together to urgently provide longer, better funded sick leave to help address the ongoing spread of COVID-19. To protect the essential services our residents rely on we must protect essential workers, and that includes supporting them to stay at home when they are ill, without financial penalty.

At our recent Regional Council meeting, Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hamidah Meghani, stated that: "Currently, provincial employment standards do not require paid sick days. In Canada the most recent data available reveals that 58 per cent of workers in Canada and over 70 per cent of workers making less than \$25 000 dollars per year have no access to paid sick days." (Halton Regional Council, January 20, 2021).

Safe Reopening and Business Supports:

We add our voices to the GTHA Mayors and Chairs in calling on the province to prepare plans for the safe reopening of our communities, in consultation with businesses, municipalities and other stakeholders, and guided by advice from

our Medical Officers of Health. We repeat our call for business support programs, including extension and expansion of the Digital Main Street program and the Small Business Grant program.

Safe Restart 2.0:

We thank the Provincial and Federal governments for their financial support for municipalities in 2020 and call on them once again for funding as we finalize our budgets in 2021 to offset the increasing costs of COVID-19 along with the decreased revenues in areas such as public transit and recreation services. Our municipalities will continue to do our part to find savings and efficiencies, while providing the services our residents depend on, including enhanced frontline services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Marianne Meed Ward, Mayor of Burlington

Rick Bonnette, Mayor of Halton Hills

Gord Krantz, Mayor of Milton

Rob Burton, Mayor of Oakville

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