



February 13, 2019

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay St, Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Clark:

RE: Regional Review

Thank you for providing the opportunity for us to meet with Special Advisors Michael Fenn and Ken Seiling to provide input from Halton regarding the Regional Review. We are writing to communicate to you directly the shared position of the Chair of Region of Halton, and the Mayors of the City of Burlington, the Town of Oakville, the Town of Milton and the Town of Halton Hills.

Halton Region with its four Local Municipalities is an effective two-tier government recognized for its strong financial position, safe communities, natural environment, progressive approach to urban development and reliable and citizen focused services. There is significant evidence that Halton Region together with our Local Municipalities are effective and meet the needs of the people in Halton operating within the current structure. Just a few examples include:

- Regional property tax rates at or below the rate of inflation
- Consistent growth in jobs
- Safest Region in Canada
- AAA credit rating
- 98% Resident approval rating on customer service.

In addition, each of the four municipalities in Halton has been highly ranked by MoneySense Magazine as one of the "Best Place to Live" in Canada.

As further evidence of the effectiveness of Halton region and our Local Municipalities, prior to the 2018 municipal election, we undertook an in-depth review of Regional representation. This process required several public reports at both the Regional and Local Councils and a public meeting. All Local Municipal Councils supported the by-law to change the composition of Regional Council and there were no concerns raised by the people of Halton through this process. The Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville also made representation changes prior to the 2018 municipal election.

We appreciate the Provincial Government's financial situation and commitment to reducing red tape in a cost effective manner for the taxpayers. Halton Region and our Local Municipalities share this commitment, by keeping costs as low as possible for our residents and ensuring financial sustainability of our municipalities.

We have worked together for many years to ensure that there is no overlap of services in Halton. Where the Region and the Local Municipalities are involved in the delivery of a service, the roles and responsibilities are clearly defined in legislation or where appropriate in agreements or MOUs. The Region and the Local Municipalities are committed to continuous improvement and have established regular reviews of various service arrangements to identify further opportunities to reduce costs and provide service to the people of Halton more effectively.

Halton Region and the Local Municipalities work together to ensure services are delivered in the most cost effective manner. A change to the structure in Halton by the Province would be disruptive and wasteful given the Province would be trying to fix something that is not broken.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback to the Regional Review and would welcome the opportunity to contribute further as the review process continues.

Sincerely,



Gary Carr
Regional Chair



Marianne Meed Ward
Mayor, City of Burlington



Rick Bonnette
Mayor, Town of Halton Hills



Gord Krantz
Mayor, Town of Milton



Rob Burton
Mayor, Town of Oakville

CC: Michael Fenn, Special Advisor
Ken Seiling, Special Advisor
Jane MacCaskill, CAO, Halton Region
Tim Commisso, Interim City Manager, City of Burlington
Brent Marshall, CAO, Town of Halton Hills
Bill Mann, CAO, Town of Milton
Ray Green, CAO, Town of Oakville