



Office of the Regional Chair
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

VIA EMAIL

December 23, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Doug Downey, MPP, Attorney General of Ontario
The Honourable Laurie Scott, MPP, Minister of Infrastructure
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP, Solicitor General of Ontario

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a critical issue that is of importance to Halton Regional Council.

Halton Region's rapidly growing population has stretched the current capacity of local provincial courthouses causing residents and legal professionals to feel the shortfalls of a system, which requires immediate attention. This longstanding issue has meant that Halton's current court infrastructure has not met either historic or current growth demands.

Halton Region and the Halton Police Service have long advocated for improvements to the courthouse in Milton and the need for a new consolidated courthouse. The inadequacies of Halton's court resources and infrastructure have led to a number of pressing issues including the adequacy of the facility space, which must be addressed.

On June 21, 2017, the Provincial Government announced the approval of a new consolidated courthouse in Oakville that would replace the Milton courthouse to be able to reduce time-to-trial and better serve the needs of people living and working in Halton Region. Unfortunately, on May 8, 2020, the Provincial Government announced the decision not to proceed with the Halton Consolidated Courthouse construction project, which we were very disappointed about.

The Province of Ontario currently owns the land on which the proposed courthouse facility had been designed to be located upon, in the Town of Oakville. Halton Regional Council is calling upon the Provincial Government to design and build a new court facility that is adequate to meet the needs both current and future within this Region, giving proper consideration to ongoing modernization initiatives.

Accordingly, at its meeting held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Regional Municipality of Halton

HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

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MOTION: Halton Region Provincial Court Facility

WHEREAS the Region of Halton continues to be served by an inadequate and antiquated regional court facility situated at 491 Steeles Avenue Milton, Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the regional courthouse has been found to be completely inadequate in meeting the constantly increasing demands of the Region of Halton – the fastest growing Region in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS numerous studies and reviews of the current facility have found it to be inadequate and unsafe in many measures, including but not limited to: access points, in custody prisoner holding areas, court rooms and judges' areas;

AND WHEREAS the Attorney General of Ontario and the Province of Ontario recently cancelled the project that had been approved to build a new and modern consolidated court facility that would serve the needs of the citizens of Halton currently and into the future;

AND WHEREAS Halton Regional Council adopted a resolution unanimously at its meeting of May 20, 2020 requesting that this consolidated courthouse project be postponed instead of cancelled;

AND WHEREAS Halton Regional Council adopted a resolution unanimously at its meeting of January 28, 2015 requesting the Province take immediate steps to take all necessary action to ensure that proper and adequate court infrastructure is put in place to serve Halton's existing residents and to keep pace with mandated provincial growth;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario already owns the land on which the new proposed courthouse facility had been designed to be located upon, in the Town of Oakville;

AND WHEREAS the Attorney General of the Province of Ontario has altered the manner in which many court related services are delivered as a result of COVID-19, and have moved to modernize the justice system to the greatest degree possible;

AND WHEREAS the Region of Halton will continue to require a court facility that meets the needs of our various justice sector partners, of the community of Halton and surrounding area, and addresses the many health and safety concerns voiced by those who must work within the current facility;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council calls upon the Province of Ontario to design and build a new court facility that is adequate to meet the needs both current and future within this Region, giving proper consideration to the ongoing modernization initiatives;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario work with the various partners of the justice system in designing and delivering an adequate and sufficiently scaled regional court facility for the Region of Halton;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Region of Halton ask the Province to deliver this new court facility in a timely fashion in order to address the ongoing and ever growing issues, including serious health and safety issues, with the current facility;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forward to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Minister Doug Downey, Minister Laurie Scott, Minister Sylvia Jones, Halton's MPP's, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Halton Regional Police Service and the City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton and Town of Oakville.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

cc. The Honourable Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Jane McKenna, MPP, Burlington
Parm Gill, MPP, Milton
Stephen Crawford, MPP, Oakville
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP, Oakville North – Burlington
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Chief, Stephen J. Tanner, Halton Regional Police Service
Kevin Arjoon, Clerk, City of Burlington
Suzanne Jones, Clerk, Town of Halton Hills
Meghan Reid, Clerk, Town of Milton
Vicki Tytaneck, Clerk, Town of Oakville