



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.:

Title: Resolution to Extend the Consultation Period for the Regional Official Plan Review

Date: February 1, 2021

Moved by: _____
Councillor J. Fogal

Seconded by: _____
Mayor R. Bonnette

Item No.

WHEREAS Halton Region is currently conducting a municipal comprehensive review (MCR) of its Official plan whereby decisions must be made as to how all of the population and employment growth is to be accommodated in the local municipalities for the next 30 years;

AND WHEREAS since June 2019 the Province has amended a number of Provincial Statutes and policies that impact how municipalities plan for growth including the following:

- The Provincial Policy Statement,
- A Place to Grow: The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe,
- The Development Charges Act,
- The Planning Act,
- The Environmental Assessment Act, and
- The Conservation Authorities Act;

AND WHEREAS these significant changes include:

- reduced density targets in new greenfield development from 80 persons and jobs per hectare to 50 persons and jobs per hectare,
- reduced intensification targets from 60% beyond 2031 to 50%,
- setting minimum population and employment growth forecasts that can be exceeded subject to Provincial approval,

- extended the planning horizon from 2041 to the year 2051,
- introduced market demand as a consideration in determining the housing mix, and
- revisions to how municipalities fund growth

AND WHEREAS these and other changes signal an abrupt shift from the emphasis on creating compact and complete communities to a planning regime that facilitates lower density and car dependent communities;

AND WHEREAS Halton Hills, Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Region have all declared climate change emergencies and must consider the role of land use planning in their strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions;

AND WHEREAS these changes create pressure to convert more class 1, 2 and 3 farmland in Halton to urban uses than would otherwise be necessary which is contrary to Halton's Official Plan and its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, which both have as a goal to protect a permanent agricultural system in Halton;

AND WHEREAS the change of the planning horizon to 2051 means that future municipal councils and the public will have little power to change decisions about how they will grow for the next 30 years;

AND WHEREAS Halton Hills has adopted a public engagement charter that is based on transparency, notification and participation;

AND WHEREAS the current pandemic is making effective, in person public consultation impossible at a time when robust, informed public consultation is needed more than ever.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Region of Halton be requested to delay its final report on its Official Plan Review until proper, in person, informed consultation with the public has been conducted;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be requested to suspend the timetable for municipal conformity to the Growth Plan and the Provincial Policy Statement to ensure that the public can fully participate in the process of planning their communities for the next 30 years of growth;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Halton Region, local Halton municipalities, AMO, leader of the Provincial opposition parties, MPP Ted Arnott and GTA Small Urban Mayors.

Mayor Rick Bonnette