



**SUBJECT: Resolution Regarding Regional Government Review**

**TO: Mayor and Members of Council**

**FROM: Office of the Mayor**

Report Number: MO-01-19

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 110-03

Date to Committee: n/a

Date to Council: February 25, 2019

---

**Recommendation:**

Whereas, the Government of Ontario has announced a review of Ontario's eight regional municipalities (Durham, Halton, Muskoka District, Niagara, Oxford County, Peel, Waterloo, York), the County of Simcoe, and their lower-tier municipalities by appointed Special Advisors; and

Whereas, the provincially appointed Special Advisors are to provide advice and develop recommendations for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the purpose of improving governance, decision-making and service delivery in the eight regions and Simcoe County and their lower-tier municipalities; and

Whereas, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario informed its members last August, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing began informal discussions on regional governance review, wishing to hear from municipalities about how this system of governance is working recognizing it was established in the 1970s; and

Whereas, the provincially appointed Special Advisors have included within the scope of their review, consideration of moving to single-tier municipalities or amalgamating existing municipalities; and

Whereas, neither Halton Region, nor the four area municipalities have requested a review of the current regional governance structure; and

Whereas, the City of Burlington, Halton Region and the other Halton area municipalities would receive greater benefit from a review of provincial permitting/approvals and municipal government powers and authority under the Municipal Act; and

Whereas, the regional government review including new single tier municipalities or amalgamations was not ever discussed during the recent provincial election by the Premier or our local Members of Provincial Parliament; and

Whereas, the City of Burlington is well managed and efficient with the smallest Council in Halton and for a city of its size, with only seven elected members; and

Whereas, 97 per cent of Burlington residents are satisfied with the quality of Regional services; and

Whereas, the City of Burlington has contributed to Halton Region's AAA credit rating; and

Whereas, Halton is a model of municipal efficiency through service agreements between the area municipalities and the Region, including for example the City of Burlington's operation of Halton Court Services on behalf of the four area municipalities, the operation of the Fire Communications on behalf of Town of Oakville and the Town of Halton Hills, and the Halton Co-operative Purchasing groups; and

Whereas, the City of Burlington welcomes all opportunities to improve municipal service delivery and achieve greater efficiencies and cost savings for all Burlington and Halton taxpayers and rate payers, now

Therefore, be it resolved,

That the Council of the City of Burlington endorses the current effectiveness of our two-tier municipal government as it has evolved based on mutual agreement with the Region of Halton and our partner Halton lower-tier municipalities since its inception in 1974;

That the residents of the City of Burlington value the distinct identity of their community and do not wish to have their democratic voice diluted, within a larger and less directly accountable municipal governance structure; and

That this resolution be forwarded to all Halton municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and made publicly available.

## **Purpose:**

An Engaging City

- Good Governance

---

## **Background and Discussion:**

In January of 2019 the provincial government announced plans to review Ontario's 8 regional municipalities by 2 appointed special advisors with the intention of evaluating governance, decision-making and service delivery. Within the scope of this review exists the possibility of recommending a move to single-tier municipalities or amalgamation of existing municipalities

### **Strategy/process**

In response to the regional government review being undertaken by the provincial government, the City of Burlington wishes to offer feedback on the process, relevant factors, and potential outcomes of this review with the intent to avoid amalgamation with other municipalities.

### **Options considered**

**Draft Resolution: Regional Government Review**

---

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward