

2021 AMO Minister Delegations

Ministry	Key Issues
<p>Health (MOH)</p> <p>Minister Christine Elliott</p> <p>Date: Monday, August 16 Time: 1:45-2:00PM</p> <p>Attending: Mayor Meed Ward Mayor Rob Burton Mayor Bonnette Mayor Krantz Councillor Colin Best Jane MacCaskill Mabel Watt</p>	<p>Public Health Resources to Support Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the health and safety of Halton residents has been a priority for the Region during the pandemic and will continue to be during the recovery period. As we continue to respond to impacts of COVID-19, case management, contact tracing, outbreak management, increased surveillance, producing local information for public consumption on COVID and assisting community organizations, businesses and schools with infection prevention control advice remain critical. At the same time, Halton will need to continue to meet essential requirements under Ontario's Public Health Standards as we move forward into recovery and post pandemic efforts. Under funding for Public Health in Halton Region is a long standing concern that has been further heightened by the pandemic. In addition, supports are also required from the Provincial Government to continue the response to the pandemic. Access to COVax data at the local level remains restricted, and local Public Health Units are unable to fully meet their mandate of surveillance under the Ontario Public Health Standards due to this lack of access. Having community primary care offices under the public health authorizing agreement for COVax has resulted in a lack of supports for primary care offices to operate independently and placed a larger burden on public health to provide supports and manage inventory. Primary care remuneration makes it less favorable for them to offer vaccines in their offices. <p>Halton requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased base funding for Halton Public Health to allow strengthened infectious disease control and vaccine management, and the provision of all services required under the Ontario Public Health Standards. Continuous engagement with Public Health Units, to support COVID recovery efforts that meet the needs of local realities, including long-term immunization needs. Access to COVax data for local Public Health Units, for the purposes of local surveillance. A long-term strategy to ensure that Primary Care is able and motivated to continue vaccinating the population in the future and can operate independently, as is the case for many other vaccines. <p>Public Health & Emergency Health Services Modernization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2014, the Provincial Government has only provided a base increase in Public Health funding once, in 2018. This has resulted in a significant program funding gap. Additional costs have been incurred for Paramedic Services due to similar pressures.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health and Paramedic Services provide service at a local level effectively, within the boundaries of the Region, and participate in a number of collaborative community partnerships. The ability to continue to do this will be critical to recovery and to ensure the health of the people of Halton. Paramedic Services is a key contributor through community paramedic programs to reduce hallway medicine. Public Health and Paramedic Services have worked collaboratively with all parts of the local and provincial health care system throughout the pandemic, and actively contribute to Halton's Ontario Health Teams. The Modernization reviews began pre-pandemic. Public Health and Paramedic Services have played a key role in the pandemic response and demonstrate the value of these local services. Historic under-funding of these services have created challenges in the pandemic response and must be addressed. <p>Halton requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-focus the Public Health & EMS Modernization on determining the investments required in public health and paramedic services post-pandemic to improve the health of Ontarians.
<p>Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)</p> <p>Minister Steve Clark</p> <p>Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 Time: 10:45-11:00AM</p> <p>Attending: Mayor Meed Ward Mayor Rob Burton Mayor Bonnette Mayor Krantz Councillor Colin Best Jane MacCaskill Mabel Watt</p>	<p>Investments in Housing Services and Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Halton's Comprehensive Housing Strategy, the Region has made tremendous progress in preserving existing housing stock and creating new housing opportunities for residents. Halton appreciates the investments made through the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative, however, current funding allocations for the two programs is significantly lower than the federal/provincial funding previously received. Halton Region has seen an unprecedented increase in the number of individuals and families at-risk of and experiencing homelessness. The pandemic environment has required new approaches to emergency shelter and supportive housing programs to enable physical distancing and appropriate infection prevention and control. Halton Region, like many other municipalities, has increased its footprint of physical infrastructure for homeless populations by capitalizing on one-time provincial capital funding to better meet the needs of this highly vulnerable population. Halton Region requires increased Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding to support ongoing operational expenses associated with housing and supporting homeless populations going forward. The post pandemic environment cannot be funded in the same pre-pandemic manner – costs have increased significantly and provincial funding must keep pace. <p>Halton Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide adequate capital and operational funding and flexibility to allow Halton to increase the supply of assisted housing for families.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Halton's base CHPI allocation and provide increased funding to allow us to meet operational requirements beyond the pandemic for at-risk and homeless populations and to fund increased homelessness prevention capacity. Communicate clear and timely information on funding and program changes. <p>Protecting the Health and Safety of Residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CN Rail is proposing to build a new truck-rail hub in the Town of Milton which would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and result in 1,600 truck trips to and from the facility each day. On January 21, 2021, the Federal Government approved the truck-rail hub, putting the health and safety of Halton residents at risk. Halton Region commenced litigation in the Federal Court of Canada to review the decisions by the Federal Minister and Cabinet to approve the CN Project. Halton is taking this step to protect the health and well-being of its residents. In addition, in April, the Halton Municipalities and Conservation Halton resumed their 2018 Ontario court case against the proposed Milton CN truck-rail hub to ensure CN complies with laws that protect the health of residents and the environment. Halton is seeking to ensure that should the project move forward, that all provincial and municipal bylaws and approvals are applied to the project. <p>Halton requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Provincial Government support Halton's position on the CN Truck Rail Hub in Milton, at Federal-Provincial tables and in ongoing Ontario court proceedings.
<p>Long Term Care (LTC)</p> <p>Minister Rod Phillips</p> <p>Date: Monday, August 16 Time: 12:40-12:55PM</p> <p>Attending: Mayor Meed Ward Mayor Rob Burton Mayor Bonnette Mayor Krantz Councillor Colin Best</p>	<p>Investments in Long-Term Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical need for long-term care reform as evidenced by the Final Report by the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission, and has endorsed AMO's recommendations to the Commission. Halton Region is supportive of the Provincial Government's decision to overhaul the "one-size-fits-all" funding model for long-term care homes and looks forward to working with the Province to accelerate the development of new and redeveloped beds within the region. Halton Region operates three long-term care homes throughout the region and requires long-term funding to support required service levels that respond to the Commission's recommendations. Halton requests that the Provincial Government accelerate the development of new and redeveloped long-term care beds within the region. There is currently an insufficient number of long-term care beds available to meet the needs of the current population and to implement the recommendations from the Commission. Care requirements at long-term care homes in Ontario are increasing as per the increasing Case Mix Index (CMI)

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<p>Jane MacCaskill Mabel Watt</p>	<p>Halton requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional long-term care beds in Halton to meet the growing needs of our aging residents and underserved communities. • Immediate delivery and implementation of the recommendations from the Long-Term Care Commission, in partnership with long-term care operators. • Increased assistance and support with ongoing long-term care resourcing including human resources and staffing, personal protective equipment and financial supports, in addition to those announced in Budget 2021. • Funding to support the implementation of the increase in hours of direct care for long-term care residents as announced on November 2, 2020.
<p>Infrastructure (MOI)</p> <p>Minister Kinga Surma</p> <p>Date: Monday, August 16 Time: 4:00-4:15PM</p> <p>Attending: Mayor Meed Ward Mayor Rob Burton Mayor Bonnette Mayor Krantz Councillor Colin Best Jane MacCaskill Mabel Watt</p>	<p>Growth-Related Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halton Region and its Local Municipalities have long-term infrastructure plans to ensure that municipal infrastructure is available to support planned growth and grow the economy in a responsible way. • In November 2019, Regional Council approved the 2020 Allocation Program that represents a financing plan to provide roughly \$1 Billion worth of water, wastewater and transportation infrastructure to support growth, development and new housing supply across the Region for the next 6-10 years. While this investment in infrastructure underscores the Region's commitment to advancing housing supply, the absence of a provincial infrastructure plan focused on growing communities, including the delivery of schools, hospitals and highways, has resulted in barriers to increasing housing supply and economic growth. These Provincial assets are integral to unlocking housing supply opportunities and need to be financed, planned, designed and commissioned seamlessly in time to support the needs of growth in new communities. • A strong partnership with the Provincial Government is vital to our community's long-term success. <p>Halton Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A coordinated Provincial infrastructure investment plan, connected to the Growth Plan, to support high-growth communities in advancing critical Provincial infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New schools to support families in high growth areas like North Oakville and the Boyne Survey in Milton; ○ The expansion of Hospital services in Georgetown; ○ Investments in Provincial Transit infrastructure, including enhanced GO service (as an example: all way, two way service to Milton) and new 407 Transitway Stations in Halton, including a Neyagawa Road Station. • Appropriate tools and mechanisms for delivering timely funding to pay for municipal infrastructure required to support growth.

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	<p>Immediate Access to Reliable Rural Broadband Internet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halton Region continues to advocate to the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase broadband connectivity in Halton's rural and urban communities. • Advocating and encouraging telecommunications providers has resulted in over 15 rural Halton applications for Provincial and Federal broadband funding. To date, eight projects have been awarded, addressing 1,410 or 31% of the approximately 4,631 underserved rural Halton homes and businesses. • In addition, Halton continues to plan for the coordinated implementation of next generation digital access technologies, including 5G, to ensure affordable and equitable access for Halton rural and urban homes and businesses. <p>Halton Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Provincial Government work with Halton Region on the recently announced Infrastructure Ontario – Ontario Connects program to identify, incent and implement all remaining broadband gaps in Halton as soon as possible. • Develop new strategies, funding programs and tools to ensure that the availability of next generation technologies is equitable and affordable across Halton.
<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs</p> <p>*** meeting is with PA Randy Pettapiece</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, August 17 Time: 2:20-2:35PM</p> <p>Attending: Mayor Meed Ward Mayor Rob Burton Mayor Bonnette Mayor Krantz Councillor Colin Best Jane MacCaskill Mabel Watt</p>	<p>Immediate Access to Reliable Rural Broadband Internet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halton Region continues to advocate to the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase broadband connectivity in Halton's rural and urban communities. • Advocating and encouraging telecommunications providers has resulted in over 15 rural Halton applications for Provincial and Federal broadband funding. To date, eight projects have been awarded, addressing 1,410 or 31% of the approximately 4,631 underserved rural Halton homes and businesses. • In addition, Halton continues to plan for the coordinated implementation of next generation digital access technologies, including 5G, to ensure affordable and equitable access for Halton rural and urban homes and businesses. <p>Halton Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Provincial Government work with Halton Region on the recently announced Infrastructure Ontario – Ontario Connects program to identify, incent and implement all remaining broadband gaps in Halton as soon as possible. • Develop new strategies, funding programs and tools to ensure that the availability of next generation technologies is equitable and affordable across Halton.