

April 28, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Via Email

Re: Call for Continued Election of the Regional Chair

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday April 20, 2026, adopted Resolution No. 2026-0062 regarding Call for Continued Election of the Regional Chair.

Attached for your information is a copy of Resolution No. 2026-0062.

Respectfully,



Melissa Lawr, AMP, Dipl.M.A.
Deputy Clerk – Legislation

cc. The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Leaders of the Provincial Opposition Parties
Halton MPPs
Halton Region
Town of Milton
Town of Oakville
City of Burlington
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2026-0062
Title: Call for Continued Election of the Regional Chair
Date: April 20, 2026
Moved by: Councillor C. Somerville
Seconded by: Councillor J. Fogal

Item No. 4.8

WHEREAS the Halton Regional Chair has been directly elected by residents of Halton Region since 2000;

AND WHEREAS the election of the Regional Chair has provided an important element of democratic accountability in Halton and a public mandate for the position;

AND WHEREAS on April 2, 2026, the Provincial Government introduced Bill 100, the Better Regional Governance Act, 2026, which would allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to appoint Regional Chairs in Durham, Halton, Muskoka, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo, York and the Ward in the County of Simcoe;

AND WHEREAS in connection with the introduction of Bill 100, the Provincial Government indicated it intends to provide such appointed Chairs with "Strong Chair" powers akin to the existing "Strong Mayor Powers" provided for in the Municipal Act, 2001 following the 2026 municipal election;

AND WHEREAS providing "Strong Chair" powers to Provincial appointees shifts regional decision-making to individuals not chosen by local voters and weakens democratic accountability;

AND WHEREAS under the direction of the Provincial Government, the Halton community moved to elections for the position of Regional Chair, which is a democratic process that has been in place for 26 years;

AND WHEREAS Halton Region has continued to be an effective, efficient and well-managed upper-tier municipal government which has consistently maintained a AAA/Aaa credit rating, supported significant growth as one of the fastest growing communities in Canada, and provided high-quality and fiscally responsible programs and services;

AND WHEREAS Halton Region has continued to work collaboratively with the Provincial Government to deliver on shared priorities including housing and infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the next municipal election for the 2026-2030 term of council will take place on October 26, 2026, and the term of office for the next Regional Chair and Council begins on November 15, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Halton Hills supports the Region of Halton's resolution from the April 15, 2026 Council meeting to reaffirm its preference for the continued direct election of the Regional Chair, ensuring that the Chair remains accountable to the people and reflects their interests;

AND FURTHER THAT Council for the Town of Halton Hills supports the Region of Halton's ongoing commitment to collaborate with the Province and governance practices that support collaborative decision-making and accountable leadership;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the leaders of the Provincial Opposition parties, Halton MPPs, Halton Region, Halton's Local Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO).



Mayor Ann Lawlor