

In this Together: A Strong Recovery for Halton and Canada

Halton: A Snapshot

Halton Region is home to more than 610,000 residents in four communities. Along with its Local Municipalities (City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton, and Town of Oakville), Halton Region is an effective two-tier government recognized for its strong financial position, safe communities, natural environment, progressive approach to urban development and citizen-focused reliable services. Halton Region is one of the quickest growing communities in Canada, with an expected population of 1.1 million by 2051.



Moving Forward to Address Shared Priorities

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Halton Region has remained committed to keeping our community safe and healthy through the continued delivery of essential services and by adapting service delivery models. Communities across Canada have been

significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the Federal and Provincial Governments have taken unprecedented actions to respond to the crisis. Halton Region shares the Federal Government's priority of protecting the health and safety of Canadians while working toward a safe and responsible re-opening of the economy and adapting to a new normal. In order to support long-term recovery and a strong future, Halton is requesting the Federal Government to ensure:

- Supports for a strong recovery for businesses and municipalities
- Consistent supply of vaccinations
- Investments in roads and infrastructure
- Supporting safe, affordable and accessible government-assisted housing
- Addressing climate change and supporting resilient communities
- Immediate access to broadband internet
- Finalizing a national child care plan for Ontario
- Protecting the health and safety of Halton residents

Supports for a Strong Recovery for Businesses and Municipalities

While facing unprecedented challenges, municipalities have played a vital role in supporting residents, non-profits, and businesses during the COVID-19 response and recovery. Municipalities and businesses have experienced significant increase in costs and large decreases in revenue while delivering critical services and responding to the new normal.

Canada's economic recovery will rely on municipalities continuing to deliver economic stimulus, infrastructure projects, childcare, public health services, and water and wastewater treatment while addressing increased costs in long-term care and public health in the post-pandemic world.

Halton Region's recovery relies on the Federal and Provincial Governments continuing to work together to address the long-term costs resulting from COVID-19 and beyond.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on main street businesses. The survival of the small business sector is essential to the country's recovery efforts. Online and digital channels are important tools for main street businesses to interact with customers and generate revenue. The Digital Main Street Program has supported over 1,100 businesses in Halton and a long-term investment would allow more Halton businesses to benefit from this program.

In addition, workplace transmission of COVID-19 has highlighted the crucial need for paid sick time. In November 2021, the Federal Government introduced legislation that would provide ten days of permanent paid sick leave per year to workers in the federally regulated private sector. However, many workers outside of the federally regulated private sector still do not have access paid sick days. This is a barrier to COVID-19 control measures, including testing and isolation, due to the fear of income loss and financial hardship.

Halton requests:

- The continued delivery of relief funding for 2022, to support ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.
- Renew funding of the expanded Digital Main Street program and Digital Transformation grants in 2022-23 to help Halton businesses benefit from this program.
- The Federal Government consults with provinces, territories, and other stakeholders to develop a national action plan to legislate paid sick leave across the country, while respecting provincial-territorial jurisdiction and recognizing the unique needs of small business owners.

Consistent Supply of Vaccinations

The Federal Government has the responsibility for procuring and delivering COVID-19 vaccines for use in Canada. With increasing cases and the emergence of new variants, there continues to be a demand for vaccines particularly with the roll out of 5-11 year olds and third doses/boosters for eligible groups.

COVID-19 vaccinations are an important step in Canada's response to reduce the spread of COVID-19, while keeping Canadians healthy, and avoiding further lockdowns that impact the economy.

Halton Region is committed to working with the Federal and Provincial Governments as well as our community partners to ensure timely access to vaccinations. This is not possible without a consistent supply and equitable distribution of vaccines to meet with needs of Halton.

Halton requests:

- The Federal Government procure sufficient vaccines to ensure adequate supply for vaccinating children and third doses/boosters for eligible groups.

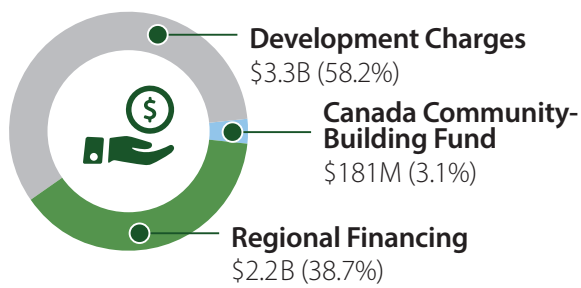
Investments in Roads and Infrastructure

Transportation and infrastructure continue to be priority issues for Halton residents. Halton Region is committed to creating complete communities that ensure a high quality of life for residents and a competitive economy. Investments in infrastructure make Halton Region a desirable place to live and do business.

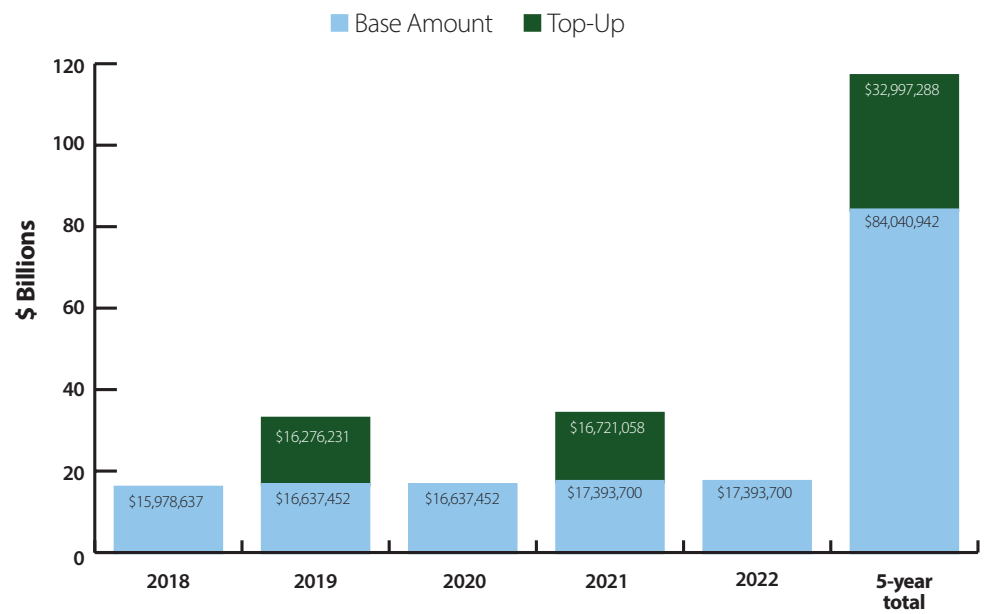
Making significant investments in infrastructure is a priority for Regional Council. In March 2021, the Federal Government proposed an additional \$2.2 billion through the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) to address short-term infrastructure priorities in municipalities and First Nation Communities. In August 2021, Halton received \$16.7 million of the \$2.2 billion one-time funding from the Federal Government, which was welcomed and will be critical in supporting the Halton community.

While Halton Region is appreciative of the Federal Government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, our 10-year capital infrastructure program totals \$5.7 billion, including \$2.4 billion to fund the state of good repair. Funding for necessary infrastructure together with outdated funding tools that do not provide long-term sustainable funding continues to be a challenge for our growing community.

2022-2031 Capital Financing: \$5.7B



Halton Region Canada Community-Building Fund



Halton requests:

- Develop updated funding tools and mechanisms for delivering long-term sustainable infrastructure funding and investments to support municipal infrastructure planning.

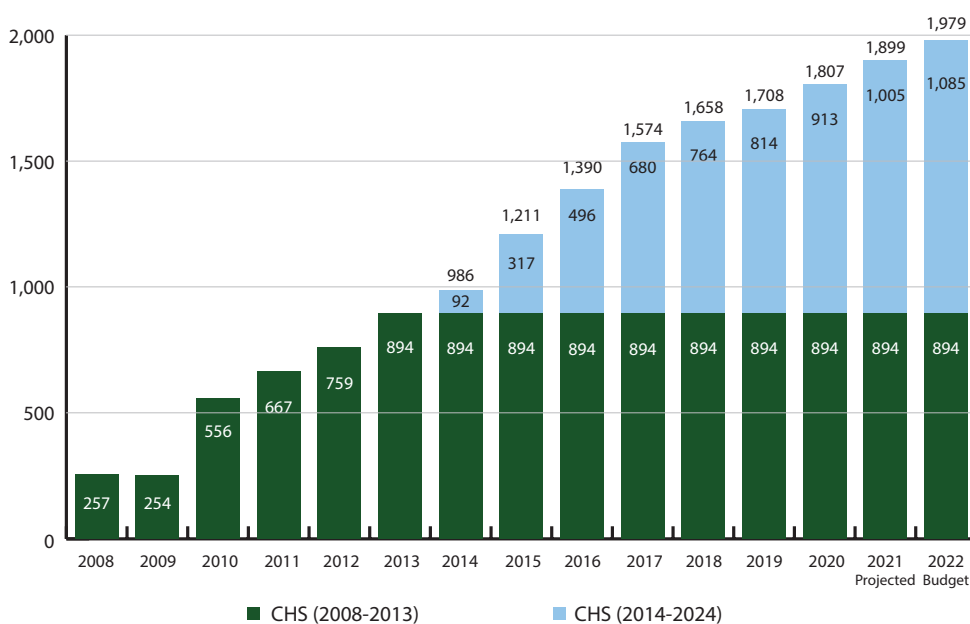
Supporting Safe, Affordable and Accessible Government-Assisted Housing

The provision of safe, affordable, accessible housing is a critical component of fostering healthy communities. For many residents, affordable homeownership remains out of reach.

Halton Region is investing \$107 million in our social infrastructure through the 10-year Comprehensive Housing Strategy (2014-2024) to provide government-assisted housing options to low income residents.

By the end of 2021, Halton will have created a total of 1,899 government-assisted housing opportunities since 2008. Halton is projecting to have 1,979 government-assisted housing opportunities by the end of 2022.

New Assisted Housing Opportunities in Halton (Total Cumulative)

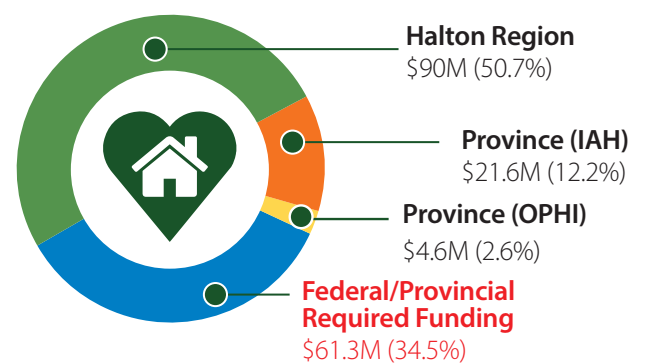


Halton Region has taken significant steps to prepare a portfolio for funding from the Federal Government, which will allow us to create more housing, faster. Halton is positioned to deliver 600 new purpose built rental and assisted units over the next 10 years, with an estimated cost of \$451 million. The Region's current Comprehensive Housing Strategy financing plan provides \$174 million to 2031. Partnering with the Federal and Provincial Governments to make up the approximately \$270 million funding shortfall to fund these projects will be essential for success.

Halton requests:

- Federal funding of approximately \$270 million over 10 years to ensure the success of all projects in Halton Region's housing portfolio.
- Predictable long-term, sustainable, allocation based federal/provincial funding to match the Region's commitment, in affordable and assisted housing.

Comprehensive Housing Strategy 10 Year Capital Funding Requirements: \$177.5M (900 opportunities)



Addressing climate change and supporting resilient communities

Halton Region is committed to responding to climate change by reducing the impacts to the environment, ensuring its infrastructure and services are resilient, and that risks associated with severe weather events are mitigated. Halton has committed \$85 million to flood mitigation strategies and continues to make this a priority as well as reducing our carbon footprint.

Halton requests:

- Ongoing, sustainable funding and climate change mitigation support to enable municipalities to deliver resilient communities.



Immediate Access to Broadband Internet

Reliable access to broadband internet drives economic investment, job creation, and enables small businesses to effectively compete in a digital world. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical need for universal access to broadband internet services to support on-line learning, mental health resources, family and government support services, and working from home capabilities.

Halton Region continues to advocate to the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase broadband connectivity in Halton's rural and urban communities which 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. Halton appreciates the Federal Government's commitment to ensure that all Canadians will have access to broadband by 2030, but this is too far in the distant future, immediate access to connectivity is needed.

Halton requests:

- The award of the remaining seven rural Halton broadband funding applications.
- Ensure awarded fiber investments through the UBF/ICON programs support 5G backhaul requirements and the 1GMbps target.
- Ensure that fiber investments include urban underserved pockets.
- The Federal and Provincial Governments and telecommunication providers ensure affordability of fiber and 5G service.



Finalizing a national child care plan for Ontario

Child care plays a key role in the economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing parents to return to work, supporting early childhood development, and improving educational outcomes. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a decrease in the number of children enrolled in care and licensed child care operators are struggling with the financial impacts of COVID-19 response and recovery.

The creation of accessible and affordable spaces for Halton families is critical to support parents' return to work and eliminates the financial barriers to high quality, inclusive child care. Halton Regional Council is encouraged by the Canada-wide early learning and child care plan and is eager for the agreement for Ontario to be signed.

The longer the negotiations take, the longer Ontario families have to wait for affordable child care. A national system of early learning and licensed child care services that are high quality, affordable, inclusive, and accessible for all families is in the best interest of all Canadians and an immediate equitable signed agreement with the Province of Ontario is necessary.

Halton requests:

- The Federal and Provincial Governments reach a timely and equitable child care agreement that acknowledges the provincial investment in full-day kindergarten and delivers affordable and accessible child care spaces for Ontario families.



Protecting the health and safety of Halton residents

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. The Federal Government's own environmental assessment panel determined that CN's Project was likely to cause six significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be mitigated, including effects on air quality and human health.

The Halton Municipalities and Conservation Halton remain committed in our opposition to this project going forward with their approval and contrary to multiple municipal and provincial laws, designed to protect the health of residents and the environment. The Halton Municipalities have commenced litigation through an Ontario Court Challenge, an application for a Federal Judicial Review that seeks to overturn the decision by the Federal Minister and Cabinet, and we are also appealing the Canadian Transportation Agency's decision to approve CN's application for railway lines required for this proposed project.

Halton requests:

- Support Halton's position on the CN truck-rail Hub in Milton.