

# CN's Proposed Truck-Rail Hub Project

## CN's Proposed Project and Status Update

CN is proposing to build a new truck-rail hub in the Town of Milton that will:

- Develop 400 acres of a 1200-acre land parcel with undisclosed plans for the remaining 800 acres.
- Exist within one km of 40,000 residents, one hospital, 12 schools, and two long-term care homes.
- Operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and result in at least 1,600 daily trips to and from the facility.

**In January 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada released a report by the Federal Environmental Assessment Expert Review Panel regarding the proposed project. The Expert Panel concluded that CN's proposed project, even after taking mitigation into account, is likely to cause significant direct adverse effects on human health.**

On January 21, 2021, despite the Panel findings, the Federal Government approved CN's proposed truck-rail hub in Milton.

To protect the health and well-being of its residents, on February 19, 2021, 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. The Halton Municipalities also brought cases on the matter forward to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Appeal. On March 1, 2024, the Federal Court of Canada ruled in favour of the Halton Municipalities and found that the decisions of the Federal Minister and Cabinet failed to fulfil their duty to protect human health. The project cannot now proceed without going back to the Federal Government for reconsideration, including a full evaluation of the effects of the project.

**It is unconscionable that after the Expert Panel found significant adverse health effects, no action was taken to consider those impacts. The Federal Government now has the opportunity to act on the findings of the Expert Review Panel, to fulfill the responsibility to protect the health of Milton residents.**



### IMPACTED COMMUNITY

Within 1 km:	Hospital: <b>1</b>
Residential Units: <b>12,116</b>	Estimated Population: <b>approximately 40,000</b>
Schools: <b>12</b>	<b>current and future</b>
Long-Term Care Homes: <b>2</b>	<b>residents</b>



**The Federal Review Panel reached the unprecedented conclusion that the project is likely to cause significant direct effects on human health that cannot be mitigated.**



**The Halton Municipalities remain opposed to the CN project because of the significant direct adverse health effects that it would impose on residents, if approved.**

## The Halton Municipalities Position

The Halton Municipalities are calling on the Federal Government to reconsider approval of CN's proposed project on the following grounds:

- 1. Any project that jeopardizes human health is too high a risk.**
  - The direct impacts to human health as a result of CN's proposed project puts Halton residents at serious risk.
  - The Expert Panel's conclusion of significant adverse effects on human health are unprecedented – in nearly 50 years of Panel reviews, never before have adverse impacts on human health been found.
  - The Milton community is well aware of the Expert Panel findings and are very concerned about the adverse health effects that the CN proposal, if approved, would bring to Milton.
  - Together, the Federal and Provincial Governments, and Regional and Local Governments share in the responsibility to protect the health and safety of Canadians. In planning for growth, our shared responsibility is to make certain that the right uses are put in the right places.

## 2. The potential adverse impacts are more numerous than the Expert Panel's findings because the mitigation required to avoid those effects is not federally enforceable.

- The Expert Panel recommended 200 mitigation measures to avoid significant adverse effects, but the Federal Government cannot enforce the majority of these.
- This proposed project will have more adverse effects on the local community and environment than predicted by the Expert Panel – CN will be effectively acting as its own regulator with little-to-no oversight.

## 3. Milton is a centre for logistics, and the Halton Municipalities are open to investment in logistics services, provided they are located in the right place.

- The proposal site is immediately adjacent to one of the fastest growing residential neighbourhoods in Canada. It will be home to approximately 40,000 current and future residents and includes sensitive uses such as schools, a hospital and long-term care facilities.
- This residential neighbourhood is key to achieving Milton's housing targets and addressing the housing crisis in Ontario and across the country. Approval of the CN proposal may impact future residential growth in this area putting additional pressure on the current housing crisis.
- The position of the Halton Municipalities is NOT a situation of "Not in my backyard" (NIMBY) politics. The proper location for such a site is in an area separated from residential and other sensitive community uses. The Expert Panel found that CN's proposal would cause significant harm to human health that could not be mitigated. Such a proposal should not be approved adjacent to a residential area, in the Halton community or in any other community.
- Building infrastructure in the wrong place doesn't build communities or strengthen economies – it threatens them.

## 4. There are other negative impacts to the local community and economy that have been entirely ignored.

- To date, the environmental assessment process has not considered the following impacts, all of which have been identified by Halton Region and its experts as significant and adverse:
  - The undermining of 20 years of Municipal and Provincial land use planning, resulting in fewer jobs for the Halton community and less serviceable employment lands.
  - Effects on regional roads and infrastructure from 1,600 truck trips, 24/7, 365 days a year.
  - Given the pace of growth in the Milton community, local economic impacts will be very different from what CN originally proposed in 2008.
- The exclusion of these impacts means that federal decision-makers lacked a full understanding of the adverse impacts that will result from CN's project.

## 5. The nearby CN intermodal facility in Brampton raises major questions about CN's foreseeable needs and ultimate plans for the proposed location in Milton.

- Continued use and expansion of CN's existing Brampton facility, which is located in an existing industrial area, has the capacity required to meet CN's future growth projections. This is just one option that would allow CN to expand its intermodal capacity, without putting the health of adjacent residents at risk.
- The Halton Municipalities are very concerned that the 400 acres is only part of what is planned, and that a much larger project is not off the table. In approving the project as proposed, the capacity of the Milton site could easily be doubled or more – all without triggering a mandatory federal environmental approvals process.

**The Federal Government must do the right thing and reconsider approval of this project. It is unfathomable that this project can be justified given the array of significant direct adverse effects on human health.**

### Get Involved and Make Your Voice Heard

You can still make your voice heard on the proposed truck-rail hub.



Write to your MP and MPP via email or letter telling them that no project is worth risking the health of tens of thousands of Canadian citizens.



Engage on social media by using #sayNO2CNhub and tagging your Mayor and Council, MP and MPP.



Visit [halton.ca/cn](http://halton.ca/cn) or [Milton.ca/cn](http://Milton.ca/cn) to learn more.

[halton.ca](http://halton.ca) 311

