



Office of the Regional Chair
Halton Region
1151 Bronte Rd
Oakville, ON
L6M 3L1

May 19, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your Government's leadership role and quick response to COVID-19. Halton Region has remained committed to keeping our community safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic and to delivering essential services when Canadians need them most. Regional staff have been working tirelessly on the frontline to contain the public health crisis and adapt our service delivery models. However, with the extension of the emergency period and the resulting economic slowdown, both upper and lower-tier municipalities are facing an imminent crisis due to unprecedented revenue losses and financial pressures associated with essential service provision. During this period of great uncertainty, Municipalities require support to alleviate the unparalleled financial hardships they are currently facing.

Though it is difficult to predict the financial impact of COVID-19 given the uncertainty surrounding the duration of the emergency period, Halton is anticipating a total net estimated financial impact of \$10.6 million in 2020. This financial projection has been modeled with the assumption that lockdown measures will continue until June 30, 2020 with a 6-month recovery period extending until December 31, 2020. Known revenue losses, increased expenditures, cost containment measures, and Federal and Provincial funding commitments have all been factored in to determine the net estimated financial impact. Before cost containment measures or savings, the COVID-19 estimated impact is \$17 million. There are further impacts that are known but cannot yet be quantified at this time, and long-term risks associated with revenues.

While Halton is appreciative of the Federal and Provincial funding announcements to date, a partnership among all three orders of government will be needed to stabilize and put our economy on the path to recovery. There are unforeseen costs yet to be determined as municipalities respond to the new normal. Areas such as Long-Term Care, Public Health and Paramedic Services will require changes which must be supported through funding, the provision of personal protective equipment, and additional human resource supports.

This is why Halton stands united with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), and the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO), which have been urging the Federal and Provincial Governments to provide emergency operating funding to municipalities to maintain municipal service levels. We support the view that increasing taxes or cutting services in the midst of the pandemic response (or recovery) would be counterintuitive since these measures would disproportionately hurt

Regional Municipality of Halton

HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

905-825-6000 | Toll free: 1-866-442-5866

the vulnerable populations that Federal and Provincial emergency aid programs have been designed to support.

Municipal governments have an important role to play in supporting residents, non-profits, and businesses during the pandemic. Furthermore, Canada's economic recovery will undoubtedly rely on municipalities continuing to deliver economic stimulus, infrastructure projects, child care, public health services, and water and wastewater treatment in the post-COVID-19 world. We acknowledge that our principal constitutional and practical relationship is with the Province however, we are calling on you and your government to take action so that municipalities can continue to deliver essential frontline services and support Canadians through this crisis.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Carr
Halton Regional Chair

CC: The Honourable Karina Gould, MP, Burlington
The Honourable Anita Anand, MP, Oakville
Adam van Koeverden, MP, Milton
Pam Damoff, MP, Oakville-North Burlington
The Honourable Michael Chong, MP Wellington-Halton Hills