

Halton Region's Submission re: Regional Governance
Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy

November 6, 2023

1) INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this submission is to provide the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy with information about Halton Region to assist in the study of regional governance. This will include an overview of Halton Region and the services it provides, the Region's role in supporting the delivery of housing and the value provided by the Region to Halton residents.

Located in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA), Halton Region is made up of four municipalities: the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville.

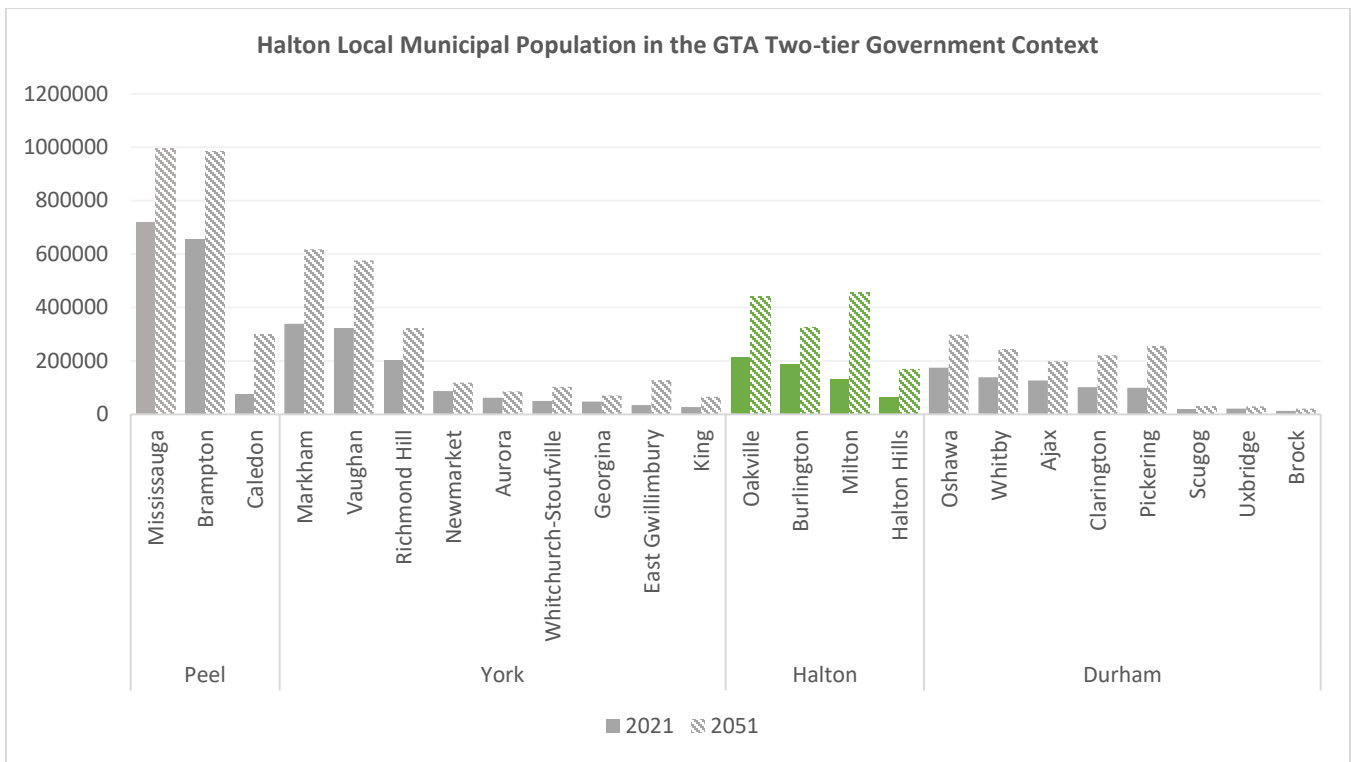


— municipalities in the “inner-ring” of the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Halton Region currently has a population of approximately 616,700 people¹, and is expected to grow to approximately 1,388,000 people by 2051². For context, the figure below shows the population for each Municipality in the Regions within the GTHA.

¹ Based on 2021 Annual Demographic Estimates as estimated by Statistics Canada

² Based on Halton Region's Joint Best Planning Estimates for population estimate as of September 14, 2023



A. Halton Region - The Corporation

The following are key statistics describing the Regional Municipality of Halton.

THE HALTON REGION ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE



3,200
Employees in
10 Bargaining Units



**\$5.8
billion**
Tangible Capital
Asset Net Book
Value (2022)



**\$6.7
billion**
10-Year
Capital Plan
(2023)



**\$1.1
billion**
Operating Budget
(2023)



**AAA/
Aaa**
Credit Rating
(S&P Global
Ratings / Moody's
Investors Service)

Halton Regional Council

Halton Regional Council is the legislated governing body for Halton Region. The 24 members of Regional Council include the Mayors of the four Local Municipalities and is composed as follows:

- Regional Chair
- 7 members from the City of Burlington
- 3 members from the Town of Halton Hills
- 5 members from the Town of Milton
- 8 members from the Town of Oakville

Halton’s Strategic Plan

The Region’s [2023-2026 Strategic Business Plan](#), which sets the stage for the focus of the term of Council, outlines the priorities for Halton, is summarized into four themes. This important document illustrates Halton’s commitment and alignment with delivering more housing, and beyond that, ensuring the services and supports are in place for the new residents that will join our communities.



B. Halton Region - Municipal Services



Residents and businesses rely on the services provided by both the Region and the Local Municipalities. The table on the following page provides a list of the services delivered by Halton Region and the Local Municipalities and identifies the corresponding legislative basis for delivery of the services.

Services Provided by the Halton Region & the Local Municipalities

Service	Regional	Shared	Local	Legislative Basis
Public Health				<i>Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990</i>
Paramedic Services				<i>Ambulance Act, 1990</i>
Policing Services				<i>Police Services Act, 1990</i>
Waste Management				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Water Treatment & Delivery				<i>Municipal Act, 2001, Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002</i>
Wastewater Treatment & Collection				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Housing & Homelessness Services				<i>Housing Services Act, 2011</i>
Social Services				<i>The Ontario Works Act, 1997, Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001</i>
Long-Term Care				<i>Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007</i>
Children's Services				<i>Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014</i>
Roads - Arterial				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Economic Development				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Culture, Parks ¹ , Recreation and Heritage ²				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Cemeteries				<i>Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Roads - Local				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Land Use Planning ³				<i>Planning Act, 1990</i>
Fire Protection & Prevention				<i>Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997</i>
Building Services				<i>Municipal Act, 2001, Building Code Act, 1992</i>
Parking, By-law and Parking Enforcement				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Animal Control & Licensing				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Business Licensing				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>
Court Services				<i>Provincial Offences Act, 1990</i>
Libraries				<i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>

¹ Regional involvement in Parks is strictly limited to funding the Regional Waterfront Parks Master Plan Program

² Regional involvement in Heritage is strictly limited to the ongoing operation of the former Halton County Museum

³ Following the Proclamation of changes in Bill 23 that identify Halton Region as an "upper-tier municipality without planning responsibilities – it will be important that the Province expedite Proclamation to realize efficiencies associated with Bill 23.

Key Regional Services

As depicted in the chart on page 4 of this document, Halton Region provides key region-wide services to residents and business. This section highlights a few of these key services most of which are directly required to support the acceleration of housing and increased population that is expected.

Water & Wastewater Services

Halton Region provides reliable clean, safe drinking water to 168,000 customers in accordance with all legislative requirements.



- Operations of **\$223.3 million** (2022)
- Treatment of more than **67 million cubic metres of water** and **86 million cubic metres of wastewater** through operation and maintenance of an integrated system made up of:
 - **12** water treatment plant and **6** wastewater treatment plants
 - **22** municipal wells
 - **1** biosolids facility
 - **2,369+ km** of watermains and **1,984+ km** of wastewater mains
 - **7** bulk water stations
 - **22** reservoirs and storage facilities
 - **15** booster stations and **83** pumping stations

Solid Waste Services

Halton Region provides an integrated and sustainable waste management system of collection, processing and disposing of municipal solid waste.



- Operations of **\$50.4 million** (2022)
- Collection and disposal of **94,824 tonnes** of residential garbage
- **57.0%** residential diversion rate, extending life of landfill by 25 years
- Curbside waste collection services to:
 - **233,400** residential dwellings
 - **8** designated business improvement areas
 - **2,200** commercial locations
- A one-stop waste service through the Halton Waste Management Site

Transportation Services

Halton Region provides for the safe and efficient operation of the Regional arterial road network, as well as implementing innovative initiatives to keep traffic moving across the region.



- Operations of **\$70.6 million** (2022)
- Operation and maintenance¹ of:
 - **1,159 lane km** of roadway
 - **91** bridges
 - **219** major culverts
 - **279** signalized intersections
 - **7,086** streetlights
 - **200+ km** of cycling facilities
- **89%** of road-related assets are rated in excellent, very good, and good conditions

¹ the Region contracts the maintenance of the Regional arterial road network to the Local Municipalities.

Social & Community Services

Halton Region delivers programs and services that enhance the health, safety, and well-being of Halton residents and works alongside other human service providers in Halton.



- Operations of **\$243.2 million** (2022)
- Financial assistance to an average of **1,862 residents** through Ontario Works per month
- Child care fee assistance to **4,997 children**
- **32,035** license child care spaces within Halton Region
- Direct care and service to older adults through **572 beds** at Regionally operated long-term care homes
- Funding for **76 community projects** and programs using one-year and multi-year funds for a total of \$3.8 million

Social Housing Services

Halton Region invests significantly in delivering assisted housing opportunities and expanding and enhancing shelter and supportive housing programs.



- Operations of **\$73.6 million** (2022)
- Oversight of **5,152 housing units**
- Operation of **2,210 housing units** by the Halton Community Housing Corporation
- Rental assistance for **1,157 units** and **3,523 units** through housing providers
- **1,021** additional community housing opportunities created from 2013 to 2022
- **Invested \$51.8 million** to create **148 new assisted housing units** in 2023

Health Services

Working in collaboration with community partners, Halton works to achieve the best possible health for Halton residents and delivers programs and services that support public health, safety, and well-being of the community.



- Operations of **\$121.7 million** (2022)
- Ambulance services through the deployment of **27 emergency vehicles** and **237 paramedics**
- Answered **57,957 paramedic calls** and transported 35,136 patients
- Distributed **111,920 influenza vaccines** to community partners (excluding pharmacies)
- completed **4,243 inspections** of food premises
- Administration of **216,833 COVID-19 vaccines** at mass clinics

Collaborating to Address Community Needs

Halton plays a strong role in coordinating and managing community partnerships across the Region. There are many important health and social services that require collaboration among community and agency partners to address core community needs.

Halton Region's [**Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton: A Plan for Collaboration and Action**](#), is an award-winning plan approved by Regional Council in 2018. It outlines a model for collaboration, planning, and action to identify and address system-level issues that impact safety and well-being in Halton Region, particularly among priority populations that may be more vulnerable to negative health or social outcomes. Community Safety and Well-Being Action Tables have been established to address priority issues identified by the community.



Significant progress has been made in many areas through the engagement of community partners and organizations. For a list of current and previous participants in the Action Tables associated with the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, please see Attachment #1 to this document. Halton Region, in partnership with Halton Region Police Services, provides leadership for the implementation of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) were introduced through the People's Health Care Act, 2019, to organize and deliver local health care services. Halton Region plays a key leadership role in both the Burlington OHT and the Connected Care Halton OHT (Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills). The memorandum of understandings (MOUs) with each OHT identify the Region as an active partner ensuring that key services the Region provides related to public health, paramedics, long-term care, and housing are integrated with broader programs and services to benefit Halton residents.

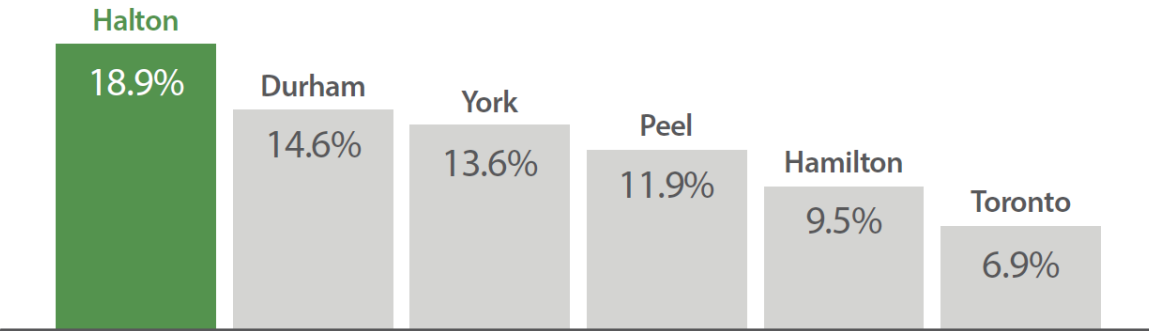
The Province's vision of the OHTs to integrate care through population health and equity approaches strongly aligns with Halton's Strategic Business Plan and the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.



2) Working Together to Achieve 1.5 million Homes in Ontario

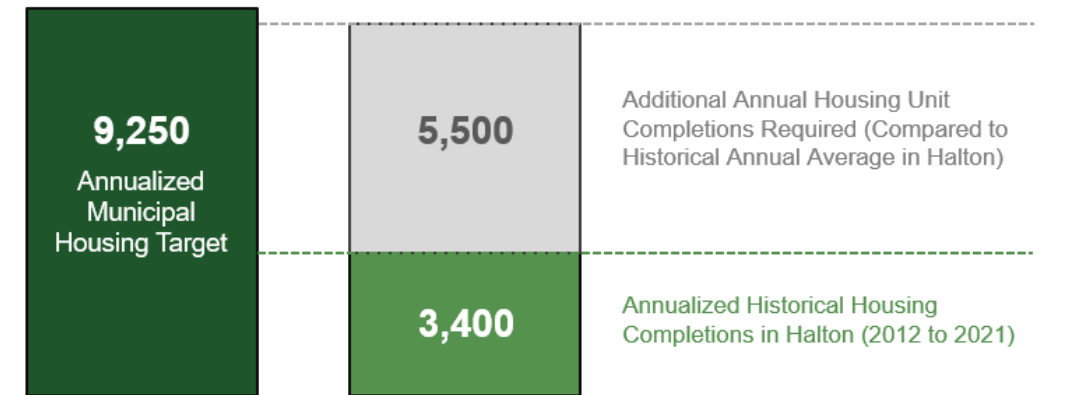
Halton Region has been and continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in Canada and in the GTHA, as depicted in the chart below.

Population (Census) Growth Rates by Upper- and Single-tier Municipalities in the GTHA, 2011 - 2021



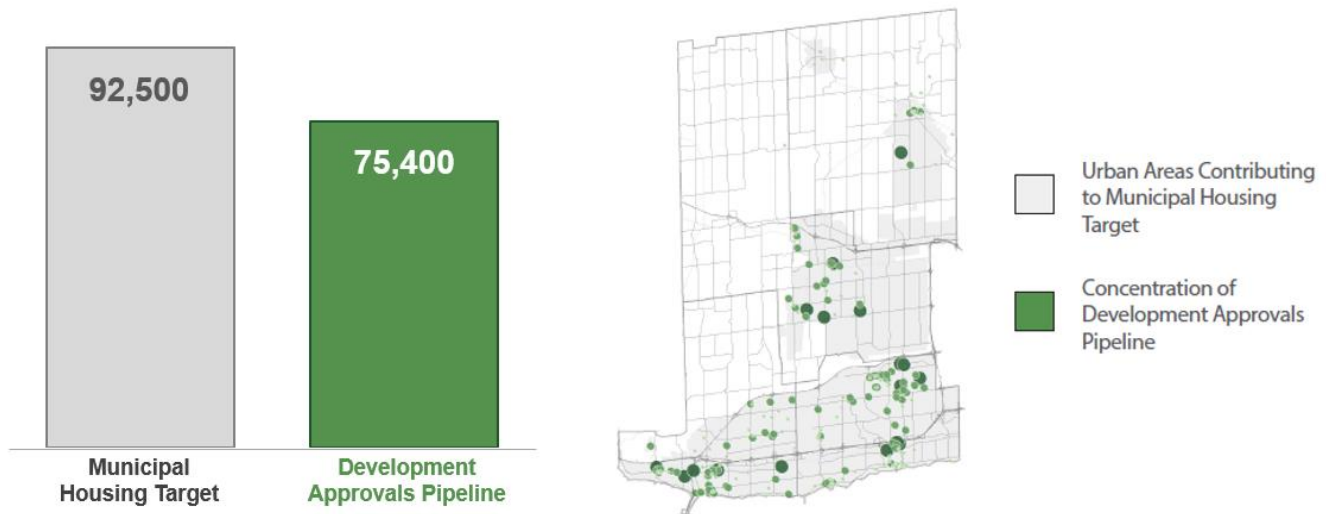
The Halton Municipalities have a strong history of supporting the construction of homes. Over the past 10 years, Halton has seen the construction of 34,000 homes for new residents by ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place to support new homes and businesses. Halton Region and the Local Municipalities all support the Provincial government’s goal of delivering 1.5 million new homes in Ontario by 2031. To achieve this goal, the Halton Municipalities will need to advance approximately 9,250 housing units a year over the next decade. This represents more than 2.5 times the number of housing units currently being delivered annually. This is a considerable challenge, but it is achievable.

Annualized Municipal Housing Target vs. Annualized Historical Housing Completions in Halton (2012 to 2021)



There is significant interest from the development community to build more homes in our communities in part because of the Region’s desirable location on the west side of the GTHA and high-quality services.

Municipal Housing Target vs. Development Approvals Pipeline in Halton



As of April 2023, there were approximately 75,400 housing units in the development approvals pipeline across Halton. These are potential future housing units that are either under review or draft approved, but not yet constructed, and many are not currently serviced. If serviced, approved and built, these housing units would result in significant progress toward achieving Halton's contribution to the Provincial goal of building 1.5 million homes.

Halton Region plays an essential role in enabling the construction of these new homes by providing the water, wastewater, and arterial road infrastructure they depend on. Halton Region has a long-standing and proven approach to delivering growth-enabling infrastructure.

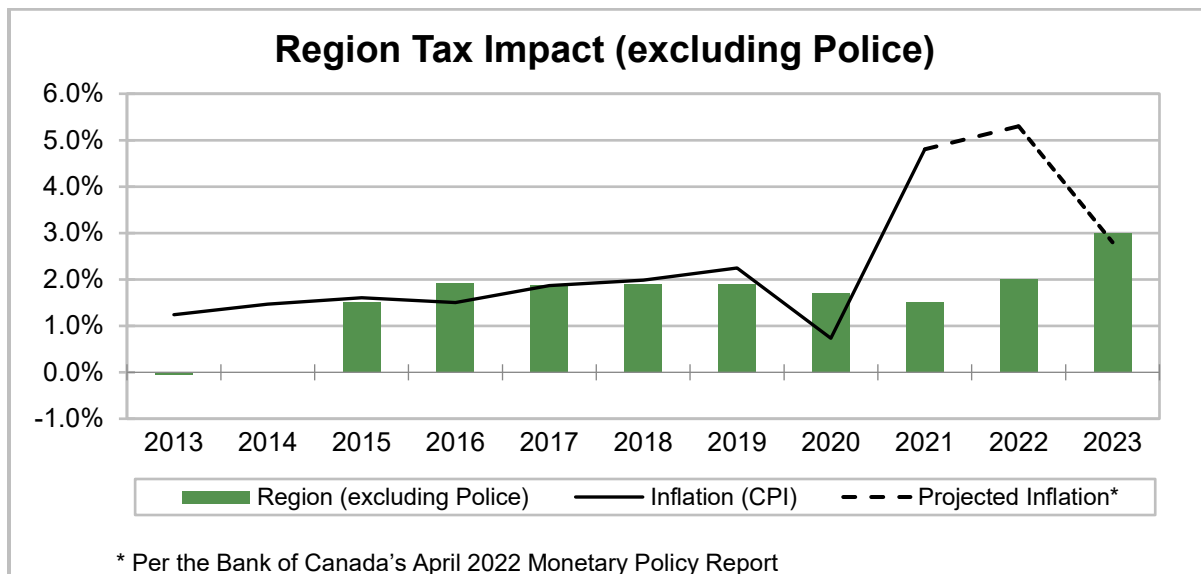
The Region has delivered significant infrastructure that has supported extensive growth across Halton. Most recently, in 2020, Halton invested over \$1.9 billion in new water, wastewater, and roads projects, funded in partnership with the development community. The Region is currently preparing to invest \$5.2 billion in growth-related Regional water, wastewater, and transportation infrastructure that is required to achieve the accelerated growth reflected in the municipal housing pledges to 2031. These investments are in addition to those Halton Region continues to make to ensure its infrastructure remains in a state of good repair.

3) Providing Value for Taxpayers

Halton Region's AAA credit rating was reaffirmed by both S&P Global Ratings (AAA) and Moody's Investors Service (Aaa) in 2023. Halton Region has maintained these AAA and Aaa credit ratings for over three decades. This is a testament to the financial position, policies, and practices.

The Region Tax Impact (excluding Police) Chart below provides the history of property tax increases for Regional services in Halton for the last 10 years. The Region has successfully

delivered an average annual property tax rate increase of 1.4% for Regional services from 2013 to 2022. This is important as it demonstrates the Region's ability to deliver critical services to our community in a cost effective and efficient manner in order to maintain affordability for residents.



4) IN SUMMARY

The information in this submission has been compiled to provide the Committee with an overview of Halton Region, the services it provides, its role in supporting the delivery of housing, and the value provided by the Region to Halton residents.

More information about Halton Region and the services it provides is available at [Halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca).

Should the Committee need any additional information, please reach out to the contacts listed below, who would be happy to assist.

Gary Carr, Regional Chair – Gary.Carr@halton.ca

Jane MacCaskill, Chief Administrative Officer – Jane.MacCaskill@halton.ca

Curt Benson, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Government Relations – Curt.Benson@halton.ca

Attachment 1: Community Partners at Community Safety and Well-Being Action Tables

Halton Region has established or strengthened relationships with community partners through the work of the Community Safety and Well-Being Action Tables. The following organizations have participated or are participating on an Action Table:

- Acclaim Health
- Acton Food Share
- Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
- Alzheimer Society of Hamilton Halton
- Bob Rumball Canadian Centre of Excellence for the Deaf
- Bridging the Gap Halton
- Burlington Fire Department
- Burlington Food Bank
- Burlington OHT
- Burlington Salvation Army
- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Halton Region Branch
- Centralized West Specialized Developmental Services
- Centre for Innovation in Peer Support
- Centre for Skills Development
- Children's Aid Society of Halton
- City of Burlington
- Community Development Halton
- Community Youth Program
- Connected Care Halton OHT
- Country Heritage Park
- Distress Centre Halton
- Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario
- Food for Life
- Food4Kids
- Georgetown Bread Basket
- Halton ADAPT
- Halton Alcohol Drug and Gambling Assessment Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT)
- Halton Catholic District School Board
- Halton Community Legal Services
- Halton Developmental Services Planning Table
- Halton District School Board
- Halton Food for Thought
- Halton Healthcare
- Halton Housing Help Centre
- Halton Industry Education Council (HEIC)
- Halton Multicultural Council
- Halton Region Public Health
- Halton Region Social and Community Services
- Halton Regional Police Services
- Halton Violence Prevention Council
- Halton Women's Place
- Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN
- HMC Connections
- Home Suite Hope
- Joseph Brant Hospital
- Kerr Street Mission
- Kerry's Place Autism Services
- Links2Care
- Milton Community Resource Centre (MCRC) Infant Food Bank
- Milton Halal Food Bank
- Milton Salvation Army
- Milton Transitional Housing
- Ministry of the Attorney General
- Mississauga Halton Health Links
- Mississauga Halton LHIN
- Nelson Youth Centres
- Nina's Place
- Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre (OPNC)
- Oakville Community Foundation
- Open Doors at St. Christopher's Church
- Radius
- Radius Child & Youth Services
- Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK)
- Restorations Canada
- Salvation Army
- Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS)
- Sheridan College
- SHIFRA Homes
- STRIDE
- Summit Housing & Outreach
- Support & Housing Halton
- THRIVE Counselling
- Town of Halton Hills
- Town of Milton
- Town of Oakville
- United Way Halton & Hamilton
- Wellington Square United Church
- Wesley Urban Ministries
- Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services
- YMCA of Oakville