

The Regional Municipality of York

Governance Task Force
March 21, 2019

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer

Governance Task Force Overview and Directions

1. Recommendations

The Governance Task Force identify priorities to advance for further consideration.

2. Summary

At the February 28, 2019 Council meeting, Council approved the establishment of a Governance Task Force.

Key Points:

- The *Municipal Act* requires Council to review their composition within 2 years of the October 2018 municipal election and every second election thereafter
- On January 15, 2019 the Provincial Government announced a review of regional governments across Ontario; this review is expected to be completed by fall 2019
- On February 28, 2019 Council approved terms of reference to establish a Governance Task Force
- On March 13, 2019 the Provincial Government requested public feedback on the Regional Government Review for residents, businesses and stakeholders

3. Background

In 2018, the Municipal Act was updated requiring Council to review its composition

In 2018, the *Municipal Act* was amended to require regional municipalities to review the number of members of its council that represent the lower-tier municipalities. This amendment requires Council to either (i) change council composition, or (ii) pass a resolution affirming the current number of members. This review must be completed by December 31, 2020 and then after every second regular municipal election.

In January 2019, the Province of Ontario announced a separate review of regional governments to be completed by Fall 2019

On January 15, 2019 the Ontario government announced a review of regional governments. The review is looking into how well the regional and municipal governments are working to ensure they are effective and efficient, and continue to provide vital services to the communities they serve.

Based on the Ontario government's announcement, the deliverables for the regional government review are well underway. Consultation is expected to be completed soon, and recommendations are to be submitted to the Minister fall 2019.

On February 28, 2019 Council approved the establishment of a Governance Task Force

At the Regional Council meeting held on [February 28, 2019](#) Council approved the [terms of reference](#) for a Governance Task Force. This is the first meeting of the Governance Task Force.

On March 13, 2019 the Province invited the public to provide input through online surveys or written submission

On [March 13, 2019](#) the Province announced online consultation for residents, businesses and stakeholders.

All people who live or work in the 82 upper and lower tier municipalities that are part of the regional government review are invited to share their thoughts through an [online survey](#) or by written submission.

The deadline for comments is Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

4. Analysis

Terms of reference for the Governance Task Force supports the Regional Government Review

The terms of reference for the Governance Task Force specifies that the composition is made up of Mayors from all nine local municipalities and the Regional Chairman.

The purpose of the task force is to provide members with information relative to Regional Governance and to recommend responses to the provincial review currently underway.

Province's Regional Government Review focuses on specific questions

The [mandate](#) for the Province's Regional Government Review focuses on a three core areas:

- Municipal governance
- Decision making
- Service delivery

These areas of review can include, but are not limited to, the items defined in Table 1.

Table 1
Areas of Review

Municipal Governance	Decision Making	Service Delivery
Size of Council(s)	Weighted voting	Efficiencies
Representation by population	Delegated authority (e.g. staff, executive committee, etc.)	Scale of services / service levels
Representation by local municipality (required under the Municipal Act by 2020)	Triple majority requirements	Duplication
Method of election of members	Upper and lower tier alignment	Migration (up-loading vs down-loading)
Method of election of Chair	Chair voting	
Two tier/single tier		
Alternate members		

The Province has invited feedback via online survey or written submission by April 23, 2019

On March 13, 2019 the Province invited feedback on the Regional Government Review. The **Province has articulated** that the outcomes of the review are not predetermined.

Specifically, the Province is looking for participant thoughts and observations on the efficiency, effectiveness and cost of various municipal services all structured around the three Areas of Review listed in Table 1.

The Province also commits to reporting back in fall 2019.

For written submissions, the Province has provided guidelines that include:

- Consider the following themes:
 - Improving representation and decision-making (for example, council size, selection process and municipal structure)
 - Improving the quality of municipal services and reducing costs (for example, land-use planning, public infrastructure, economic development and social services)
 - Where you see municipal governments in 10 years
- Limit submissions to 500 words or less – or if over 500 words, provide an executive summary to highlight recommendations

Staff have provided additional materials to support the Task Force in determining priorities and next steps

To support the Governance Task Force with identifying areas of priority for future agenda items and further discussion, staff have provided the following:

- Attachment 1: a summary of other governance task forces that are established in Regional Municipalities that are also under review
- Attachment 2: a list of collaborative opportunities currently underway between upper and lower tier municipalities in York Region
- Attachment 3: a list of services provided across York Region by upper tier, lower tier and both levels

Time and budget preclude a detailed analysis of all areas listed above. Prioritizing areas of immediate interest will enable the Task Force to respond to timelines set out in the Province's regional government review.

5. Financial

There are currently no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Local Impact

There are no immediate local municipal impacts associated with this report. However, the outcome of the Ontario government review may result in changes to local and/or regional councils and services.

It is expected that any direction to examine service delivery that impacts on local municipalities will require engaging local municipal staff in working groups informed by subject matter experts.

7. Conclusion

On February 28, 2019 Council approved the terms of reference and establishment of a Governance Task Force. The task force is requested to identify priorities to further inform future agendas and discussion items.

For more information on this report, please contact Bruce Macgregor at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71200. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Approved for Submission:

Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

March 14, 2019
Attachments (3)
eDocs# 9258567