

Formal Response to Province on Regional Government Review

On May 16, 2019 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Staff bring to Regional Council on May 16, 2019 a written submission to the Province on the Regional Government Review as generally set out in this report.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities.

Council also adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Government of Ontario has announced a review of Ontario's eight regional municipalities (Durham, Halton, Muskoka District, Niagara, Oxford County, Peel, Waterloo, York), the County of Simcoe and their lower-tier municipalities by appointed Special Advisors; and

WHEREAS, the provincially appointed Special Advisors are to provide advice and develop recommendations for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the purpose of improving governance, decision-making and service delivery in the eight regions and Simcoe County and their lower-tier municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the province requested feedback on the regional review through an online survey or written submission by May 21, 2019 and asked respondents to focus on:

- improving representation and decision-making;
- improving the quality of municipal services and reducing costs;
- where you see municipal governments in 10 years; and

WHEREAS, in response to the regional review focus on **improving representation and decision-making**:

- i. York Regional Council consists of 21 members; an increase of just four members in 48 years while the population served has grown 7 fold, from 170,000 to 1,200,000
- ii. York Regional Council's representation has been considered several times, most recently in 2016 when Regional Council discussed current membership and the issue of weighted voting with the status quo remaining on both fronts
- iii. collaboration is enhanced by double-direct election where members serve on both Regional Council and Local Councils

WHEREAS, in response to the regional review focus on **improving the quality of municipal services and reducing costs**:

- i. the scope of regional services delivered has expanded greatly with York Region assuming responsibility for housing, paramedics and court services through provincial downloading and uploads relating to Regional transit, waste processing and disposal
- ii. York Regional Council tracks and reports on key performance measures, often with independent, 3rd party verification
- iii. York Regional Council continuously builds upon a long history of partnerships, collaborative efforts and shared procurement within regional and local municipalities and is constantly evolving to strengthen partnerships and achieve additional efficiencies

WHEREAS, responding to the regional review inquiry of **where you see municipal governments in 10 years**, the Regional Municipality of York and its constituent municipalities are well positioned as municipal leaders in many areas by employing best practices that serve residents well now and in the future, including:

- i. a long term Vision (to 2051) and Regional Official Plan complemented by infrastructure Master Plans
- ii. four-year strategic planning to align with Council's term
- iii. multi-year budgeting also focused on the term of Council
- iv. reporting to the public on key performance measures that are reviewed and verified by 3rd parties and accreditation agencies
- v. a robust 10-year capital infrastructure plan reflecting growth and state-of-good-repair needs
- vi. an annual public report highlighting successes, efficiencies and a record of financial statements and fiscal strategy

THEREFORE be it resolved that:

1. York Regional Council supports two-tier government as a means to deliver critical infrastructure and consistent service levels across all York Region communities.
2. York Regional Council believes in the democratic process that enables members of the public to engage directly with locally elected public representatives in their communities.
3. The Regional Municipality of York remains strongly and demonstrably committed to drive efficiencies through continuous improvement and a relentless

commitment to incremental progress.

4. York Regional Council agrees that land use planning and the related delivery times for critical infrastructure is an area that has opportunity for further efficiencies.
5. This resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Special Advisors, local MPPs, local municipal Councils and made publicly available.