

The Regional Municipality of York

Governance Task Force
April 18, 2019

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer

Formal Response to Province on Regional Government Review

1. Recommendations

1. Council authorize 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.

2. Summary

The Governance Task Force met on [March 21, 2019](#). The Task Force is represented by nine local municipal mayors and the Regional Chair.

Key Points:

- On [March 13, 2019](#) the Provincial Government requested public feedback on the Regional Government Review
- On March 21, 2019 the Governance Task Force had its first meeting requesting staff draft a communication to the Province in response to the Province's request for feedback
- On [April 1, 2019](#) the Provincial Government extended public comment on the regional review to May 21, 2019

3. Background

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 guidelines for a written submission are:

- Consider the following themes in preparing your feedback:
 - 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

The province requested that submissions be 500 words or less, but if over 500 words, that an executive summary be provided.

On April 1, 2019 the Province extended the closing date for comments to May 21, 2019 and added an opportunity to meet with the special advisors

As of [April 1, 2019](#), meeting with the special advisors, Michael Fenn and Ken Seiling, is a new option available to people who live or work in the regions covered by the review. Individuals or organizations can submit their request to give a public deputation between April 3, 2019 to April 9, 2019 through the Province's online registration process (www.Ontario.ca/regionalgovernment).

A location in each of the regions under review has been reserved for these meetings. The meeting in York Region is scheduled for Monday, [May 6](#) from 9 am to 4 pm in Council Chambers at the York Region Administrative Centre located at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. This meeting is open to the public as space permits.

4. Analysis

On March 21, 2019 the Governance Task Force requested staff to prepare a draft submission to the Province

At the March 21, 2019 Governance Task Force meeting, members discussed a response to the Province highlighting key principles that have guided York Region historically, and will continue to be applied moving forward. These key principles include:

- Working in partnership with local municipalities – as demonstrated through a snapshot of recent collaborative opportunities and shared procurement
- Effective management of municipal organizations – including tracking and reporting of key performance measures
- Value for taxpayers – including the relentless pursuit of incremental efficiencies and continuous improvement

- Open and transparent government – including measuring, tracking and reporting of progress

These key principles are consistent with York Region’s vision of *Strong, Caring, Safe Communities* and mission of *Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow.*

Using the guidelines as set out by the Province for written submissions, staff would prepare a communication including information summarized in Table 1:

Table 1
High Level Summary of York Region Response

Themes	York Region Response
Improving representation and decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council representation has been considered several times since York Region was formed in 1971 when the original Council consisted of 17 members (1 Regional Chair, 9 Mayors and 7 Councillors) • Since 1971, only 4 additional members have been added – 2 from Markham, and 2 from Vaughan • Most recently in May 2016, Council undertook an exercise that resulted in maintaining status quo (21 members – 1 Regional Chair, 9 Mayors and 11 Councillors) – the option of weighted voting was also discussed but not advanced at this time • Collaboration is enhanced by double-direct election where members serve on both Regional Council and Local Councils. • Consistent driver for Council representation has been by population, although assessment and land area have factored into discussions
Improving the quality of municipal services and reducing costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional service delivery has changed substantially over the years due to provincial downloads (housing, paramedics, courts, etc) and uploads (transit, waste processing and disposal, additional arterial roads, etc)

Themes	York Region Response
Where you see municipal governments in 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For years, York Region has partnered with some or all nine local municipalities to reduce costs including sharing services or joint procurements. York Region’s municipalities have collaborated successfully in a number of areas to bring about cost savings and increase efficiencies • Land use planning is an area both the Region and local municipalities agree has opportunity for further efficiencies • All municipalities will be reporting to the public on key performance measures that are reviewed and verified by a 3rd party with the ability to compare against municipalities with similar populations (example: Municipal Benchmarking Network of Canada (MBNC) as well as common key performance indicators (KPIs) to drive efficiencies) • All municipalities will have 4-year strategic planning and multi-year budgeting practices to align with Council’s term to support continued accountability, transparency and efficiency with a focus on partnerships and collaboration • All municipalities will have standardized Codes of Conduct set out by the Province as a minimum requirement • There will be improved alignment of land use planning responsibilities and an outcome-focused orientation

5. Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Local Impact

The outcome of the Provincial review may result in changes to local and/or regional councils and services.

7. Conclusion

On March 21, 2019 the Governance Task Force requested staff to prepare a submission to the Province to meet the April 23, 2019 deadline for comments. The new deadline for submission is May 21, 2019.

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

April 10, 2019
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