

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: November 4, 2019

Re: Regional Government Review

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### **October 25, 2019, the Province of Ontario announced the conclusion of a Regional Government Review commenced in January**

Under the heading of "[Helping Make Municipalities Stronger](#)", the Minister of Municipal Affairs announced that the Provincial Government completed an extensive review concluding that rather than a "top down" approach, the government would continue investing in efforts that drive efficiency and effectiveness.

The announcement referenced a renewed commitment through extending the recent Audit and Accountability fund initially set at \$8.15M and applicable to large urban municipalities and school boards. The proposed funding to be made available to the 39 affected municipalities amounts to \$6M annually over the next 3 years.

The [Minister's announcement](#) also referenced a desire to explore further budget alignment through consultation on establishing a common fiscal year – April 1 to March 31 – and potential efficiencies of combining voters' lists under Elections Ontario.

### **York Region was one of nine municipalities subject to the review**

The Regional review was focused on nine upper-tier levels of municipal government having responsibility for delivering municipal and provincially-mandated services to a combined population of over 5.3 million residents – about 40% of the provincial population in 2016 or roughly double the number of residents in the City of Toronto.

Municipality	Population (2016)*	Number of local municipalities
Peel Region	1,382,000	3
York Region	1,110,000	9
Durham Region	646,000	8
Halton Region	548,000	4
Waterloo Region	535,000	7
Niagara Region	448,000	12
Simcoe County**	480,000	18
Oxford County	111,000	8
Muskoka District	61,000	6

\*Source: Statistics Canada

\*\*includes Barrie & Orillia

## **Section 218 of the Municipal Act, 2001 requires a review of representation on Regional Council to be completed in 2020**

Before the end of this Council's second year, a review of the composition of Council is required to either change or confirm the members representing each local municipality. While Council considered a change in local representation in 2016, the review did not fulfill the requirements of the Municipal Act.

The review is expected to result in one of two actions:

1. a bylaw to change, for one or more local municipalities, the number of representatives on Regional Council; or
2. a resolution affirming, for each of the local municipalities, the number of representatives on Regional Council.

Either a bylaw or resolution will require voting by Regional and local Councils to satisfy what is referred to as a "triple majority", including:

- (a) a majority of all votes on Regional Council are cast in favour of the bylaw or the resolution;
- (b) a majority of the Councils of all local municipalities passing resolutions consenting to the bylaw or the resolution; and
- (c) the total number of electors in the local municipalities that have passed resolutions consenting to the bylaw or the resolution form a majority of all the electors in the Region.

## **The process of reviewing the composition of Regional Council is scheduled to commence in March 2020**

A report to Council now planned for March 2020 will provide additional information and map out the steps required to complete a review within the mandated timeframe. In the absence of Council acting within the stipulated timeframe, the Minister may make a regulation changing the composition of Council.

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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

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