MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole
From: Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer
Date: November 4, 2019
Re: Regional Government Review

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

*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.

Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer
BM/cs

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