
February 14, 2022

To: Regional Chair Gary Carr and Members of Halton Regional Council

Re: Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce position on Halton Region Growth Plan

On behalf of the more than 450 Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce members, who are local residents and business owners across our community, we are writing to provide our input regarding the region of Halton's Official Plan and the Growth Concepts under consideration at Regional Council.

The Chamber's Board of Directors were pleased with the 700ha urban growth expansion (350 residential/350 employment lands) that was moved and approved by Halton Hills Council in July 2021. We feel that this solution allows for moderate and measured growth.

Recent developments indicate that this approved growth concept may now be in jeopardy when presented at Regional Council.

The growth of Halton Hills as part of the GTHA is inevitable. At this point in time, we have the opportunity and obligation to manage and shape that growth. The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce wants to ensure that expansion allows for increased employment lands to foster job growth and also to ensure a healthy business tax base. We are concerned that a growth plan that does not allow for any urban expansion will make that impossible in our community.

We owe it to future generations to ensure that there are affordable housing choices for families with every type of budget. We also owe it to future generations thoughtful planning that will allow residents to work and live in the same community.

In Halton Hills, we lose growing businesses every year to other municipalities due to a lack of available expansion opportunities. Lack of expansion of employment lands, not only limits job growth, but also subtracts from our current employment state. Those job and tax losses hurt the entire region.

With moderate, balanced and planned growth Halton Hills can maintain its small-town identity while offering its residents a thriving community with a modern hospital, affordable housing, green spaces, transportation options, community services and job opportunities.

This isn't a simple choice of farms over growth or vice versa. A complex issue demands nuanced solutions. We ask that you show willingness to support the needs of the business community by endorsing the 700ha urban growth expansion in Halton Hills.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with any interested parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stoute'.

Stephen Stoute
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Frazer'.

Melanie Frazer
Executive Director