



July 2nd, 2021

To: Mayor Rick Bonnette and Members of Halton Hills Town Council

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

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Committee and Board of Directors have reviewed the 5 identified growth options presented under the Regional Official Plan Amendment and extracted key elements that we believe to be fundamental to growing the economy and the efficient movement of people and goods in our community.

The following are key takeaways from the 5 growth concepts presented:

- expanded employment lands are required to support new development opportunities in Halton Hills and to provide for expansion of our existing business and tax base. Should this not be included, we risk losing this business to other regions. Any growth plan must at the very least protect existing employment uses
- the Chamber supports the focus of new employment lands along the Premier Gateway and Winston Churchill as opposed to the Mansewood area. Additional employment lands may need to be considered should the GTA West Corridor be approved
- intensification and densification of residential land and employment land use in Halton Hills will support some of this planned growth, but we recognize that intensification is not enough to accommodate the growth needs
- any future growth plan, must include careful consideration to allow for affordable housing expansion in Acton and Georgetown. Consultation with our members tell us that access to employees is a significant concern. Current housing trends in Halton Hills are a barrier to attracting and retaining a wide range of employee levels
- any planned growth must also allow for the continued preservation of rural lands for agricultural and agri-business where possible
- the Chamber supports a growth plan that allows for moderate, measured population growth that can be accommodated with a robust transportation strategy and infrastructure plan

Thank you for your efforts in making sure that all stakeholders are consulted and all options are considered.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Koc
Chair, Board of Directors

Melanie Frazer
Executive Director