

Ontario Pre Budget Consultation:

During our 2026 pre-budget conversation with Minister Bethlenfalvy, the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce highlighted key areas where provincial partnership can help ensure that our community remains competitive, resilient, and prepared for significant long-term growth. The Halton Hills business community continues to demonstrate dedication, innovation, and adaptability, and targeted provincial support can help accelerate that success.

Supporting Competitiveness for Local Businesses

We underscored the need for programs that strengthen small and medium-sized businesses. Initiatives such as the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, the Ontario Together Trade Fund, and the Protect Ontario Financing Program are making a meaningful difference for firms navigating uncertain economic conditions. These tools help stabilize operations, encourage investment, and support stronger supply chains. Continued provincial commitment, along with refinements that improve access for smaller firms, will be essential as local businesses work to grow and innovate.

Strengthening Local Economic Development Capacity

We highlighted the importance of enhanced funding through the Rural Economic Development Program. Additional RED support would provide the Town of Halton Hills with the resources required to update and implement a modern Economic Development Strategy. As our community moves into a period of accelerated growth, planning tools like this will help attract investment, prepare employment lands, and ensure businesses have the environment they need to succeed.

Infrastructure that Supports People, Goods, and Economic Activity

Reliable local infrastructure is essential for strong communities and a strong economy. Programs such as Connecting Links remain critical for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods through Acton, Georgetown, and the surrounding areas. We discussed the need for stable, predictable long-term infrastructure funding so municipalities can plan maintenance and reconstruction work that protects the economic vitality of key corridors.

Ensuring Transit Systems are Ready for Growth

We added a key priority centred on local and regional transit. Halton Hills is preparing for decades of rapid growth, and small communities need access to dependable capital and operating funding in order to build transit systems that match the pace of development. Predictable transit funding helps communities prepare for growth before it arrives. It ensures

that residents can connect to employment, healthcare, education, and services, and it keeps local economies functioning as demand increases. Sustainable transit funding also allows small municipalities to plan responsibly and support businesses that rely on the movement of workers, customers, and goods.

Planning Ahead for Healthcare Infrastructure

We emphasized the need to advance planning for the future Georgetown Hospital at the Walker Woods site. With our population and employment base expected to double over the next twenty years, early approval of a planning grant is essential. These funds will allow the hospital to be designed around community needs and ensure it is ready to serve a growing region. A modern, well-planned hospital is a cornerstone of economic competitiveness, quality of life, and investor confidence.

A Commitment to Partnership

Our message to the Minister was simple. These recommendations are opportunities to build a stronger Ontario by supporting local strengths. The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce remains committed to working with the Town of Halton Hills, with local businesses, with the Province of Ontario, and with community partners to support the prosperity and well-being of residents and employers.

This is what Building Business. Building Communities means in Halton Hills.