



## **Halton Representatives Call on Federal and Provincial Governments for immediate funding for cities and towns**

June 3, 2020

As the locally elected representatives of Halton Region we want to make a joint request for urgent financial assistance for municipalities from the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario. Monday's announcement by the Federal government was a good first step as it provides immediate liquidity for municipalities by fast-tracking Gas Tax Funds that municipalities receive annually on a per-capita basis. We appreciate the Prime Minister acknowledging that more is needed.

Municipal revenues for transit and recreation have been devastated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. There has also been additional expenditures related to Halton Region's COVID-19 response and ensuring essential Regional services continue to be delivered.

Municipalities look to the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to provide financial and economic relief.

There's an operating deficit in every region, city and town in the country as a result of multi-million dollar revenue shortfalls from transit and other fee-based services, and tax deferrals. Halton Region's COVID-19 incremental expenditures will increase for the duration of the pandemic as the Region continues to provide essential services. We have also seen costs escalate due to COVID-19 measures and that will only continue with additional reopening, and the requirement for extra staffing, cleaning and other measures to protect the health and safety of residents.

Without the joint financial support of the Federal and Provincial governments we are going to see substantial property tax increases, reduced services, and more layoffs. We can all agree that this would undermine economic recovery.

By law, municipalities can not run deficits and we soundly reject deficit financing as an option. We urge federal and provincial officials to follow through on their public promises to provide assistance to Ontario's municipalities.

We, the locally elected officials of Halton appreciate the services that Halton residents in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville rely on and we support and call for immediate support for municipalities to enable municipal services to play their vital role in restoring our economy and strengthening our communities.

**Pam Damoff, Member of Parliament  
for Oakville North—Burlington**

**Mayor Marianne Meed Ward,  
City of Burlington**

**Adam van Koeverden, Member of  
Parliament for Milton**

**Mayor Rick Bonnette,  
Town of Halton Hills**

**Regional Chair Gary Carr, Halton Region**

**Mayor Gordon Krantz, Town of Milton**

**Mayor Rob Burton, Town of Oakville**