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REGION OF PEEL
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To: Esteemed Members of Council council@peelregion.ca
Cc: MPP Sylvia Jones Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org,
[Michael Kerzner SOLGEN.Correspondence@ontario.ca](mailto:Michael.Kerzner@SOLGEN.Correspondence@ontario.ca)
From: Sheralyn Roman [REDACTED]
Date: October 23rd, 2024
Re: Agenda Item 14.1

- Overloaded dump trucks, travelling at 125 kmh on tires that were almost completely bald. A driver that did not have a proper license to operate the vehicle. When caught by the OPP and fined and told someone else had to come and drive the truck away, the driver simply made their way back into traffic with complete disregard for the law before they were stopped and charged a second time.
- Illegal trucking yards, over 350 of them by last count, popping up on zoned agricultural farmland all over Caledon and Vaughan. Even when concrete barriers were placed across the entrance of at least one such location, the offending “bad actors” simply used their own heavy equipment to remove them, right in front of the by-law officers and continued to operate their business uninterrupted.

The common denominator in both of these incidents is an utter disregard for the law, a blatant disrespect for authority AND most importantly, both of these sentiments arising because of an utter lack of meaningful enforcement tools that would mean costly consequences to the offender; up to and including not just hefty fines but business closures, actual closures of these illegal trucking yards, the impounding of every vehicle on the property and for repeat offenders the potential for jail time and more.

Municipalities have no “teeth” at the moment to enforce any actions taken against illegal trucking yards. The OPP have the tools, and the HTA to rely on, but there is no timely follow up because the justice system is woefully behind in prosecuting, and any fines are a mere hindrance - the cost of doing business. The government must step up to end the chaos now. Fatalities on Caledon roads are at an all-time high, many a direct result of collisions involving 18 wheelers. Caledon is facing a tsunami of truck traffic on roads never designed for them in the first place and with a continued emphasis on aggregate expansion and a commitment by the current government to move forward with yet more highway construction, the volume of truck traffic will only increase.

CBC Marketplace has documented evidence of drivers (both car and commercial) purchasing licenses without the proper (indeed in some cases, any) in car/truck practice or in-classroom training. Commercial aggregate vehicles are driving through villages within just metres of elementary public schools with no regard for safety or speed limits. Police chased down and charged 11 stunt drivers in just a few hours on one stretch of highway#10 recently. A newly minted G2 driver was stopped just 25 minutes after obtaining their license, speeding and with an open beer in the car “to celebrate.” Illegal trucking yards are literally popping up under cover of night and once in place, blatantly thumbing their noses at us. One such yard actually installed a large electronic sign openly advertising their business making it appear in every way legitimate to passers by. These and other stories are happening daily. We continually hear our municipal and provincial leaders refer to these

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and similar incidents arising as a result of “bad actors.” If that’s the case, this is a movie I did not audition for, have no interest in participating in and any climactic, cinematic ending where such “bad actors” are chased out of town and Caledon residents are pictured driving safely and serenely down the road has no hope of actually happening because the current script contains no adequate enforcement measures to deter said “bad actors.”

Let’s start by calling these “bad actors” what they are, criminals and let’s treat them like criminals. Let’s give the OPP, our municipal and regional partners and local by-law officials the tools and resources they need to truly and adequately address this situation. We know that traffic and trucking in Caledon is not just a Caledon problem and that systemic failures in infrastructure planning, lack of access to public transit, thousands of new homes being built and consumer reliance on goods requiring transportation are all part of the problem, as are bad drivers. We know too, that we cannot legislate away idiots on the road, but we CAN, and MUST, do everything in our power to create the conditions for safety to exist, and to meaningfully and with real consequences, punish those who don’t play by the rules. That means timely enforcement, real and costly consequences, enhanced traffic safety measures on our roads and working together to accomplish this.

It’s time to take back our roads from the chaos and carnage that is occurring daily. Too many families have been impacted. We need fearless politicians who are ready to take on the challenge of implementing unpopular but necessary road safety changes. We need fearless politicians who are willing to vote on increasing budget allocations to roads and maintenance infrastructure and fearless politicians who will vote to enhance police budgets and allocate resources to courts that will actually enforce the rules of the road and work together to close each and every one of these illegal trucking yards littering our landscape. Most of all, we need all of these politicians to work together at the municipal, regional and provincial levels to have a meaningful impact.

I’m adding my voice to the increasing calls for change before more people die. I’m aligning my voice with brave citizens of Caledon who have reached a boiling point and who are actively campaigning for safer roads, broad enforcement tools and meaningful change. Just a few of their requests and recommendations are noted below and I’m asking each and every one of you, our local and regional councillors, and our Minister of Transportation, our Solicitor General, and our MPP Sylvia Jones to work together to address the chaos on Caledon roads before one more life is lost.

With respect,
Sheralyn Roman
Alton, ON.

*attached below, list from the Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy Group

Unregulated Trucking Schools: Many trucking schools in the region prioritize passing exams over real-world safety training, resulting in an influx of poorly trained drivers on our roads.

- Fraudulent Licensing: There are troubling reports of fraudulent licenses being issued, allowing unqualified drivers to operate heavy trucks, putting all of us at risk.

- Unsafe Trucking Practices: Some trucking companies cut corners on safety, sending out trucks with broken parts and forcing drivers into dangerous situations. This must be stopped.

The Region of Peel and the Ministry of Transportation could collaborate in several ways to address these issues:

- Stricter Oversight and Regulation: The Ministry could enforce more stringent regulations on trucking schools and crack down on fraudulent licensing practices. Only accredited schools with proper training programs should be allowed to operate, and licenses should only be granted after thorough, fair testing.

- Enhanced Enforcement of Safety Standards: Joint initiatives could involve stricter roadside inspections of trucks to ensure they meet safety standards. The region could also increase the penalties for companies that force drivers to operate unsafe vehicles or violate working conditions.

- Driver Training Programs: The Peel Region could partner with the Ministry to subsidize better training programs for young drivers or international workers, ensuring they receive the necessary skills to operate trucks safely on the roads.