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December 15, 2020
REGION OF PEEL
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From: Allan Thompson <allan.thompson@caledon.ca>
Sent: December 15, 2020 10:47 AM
To: Minitier Mah <minister.mah@ontario.ca>
Cc: Lockyer, Kathryn <kathryn.lockyer@peelregion.ca>; legislative services <legislative.services@caledon.ca>
Subject: Letter from Mayor Allan Thompson on Regional Council Composition

Allan Thompson, Mayor
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REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

December 15, 2020

Sent via E-Mail: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Steve,

RE: COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL IN PEEL REGION

I am writing regarding the unprecedented and ill-timed action of removing two (2) representatives from the Town of Caledon to allow for greater representation for the City of Brampton at the Peel Regional Council table. If the new composition is enacted, the Town of Caledon will be reduced to three (3) of twenty-four (24) seats at Regional Council.

The Town of Caledon has historically acknowledged and supported the City of Brampton's requests for greater representation at the Region as long as it is not at the expense of effective rural representation. In 2016, the Town endorsed a recommendation to increase the size of the Region's Council by eight (8) seats to total thirty-two (32) to increase the City of Brampton's seats while maintaining Caledon's representation at five (5). This is consistent with the recommendations of Justice George Adam's in 2004.

During the December 14, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting, Council reconsidered its decision to request an extension to March 31, 2021 with respect to the deadline set out in Section 218 of the *Municipal Act* for the purposes of reviewing Council composition within the Region of Peel and therefore, are no longer seeking an extension. This decision was made prior to receipt of your letter received in response to the request.

At this time, I respectfully request that you carefully consider the resolution adopted by the Council for the Town of Caledon at its Special Town Council meeting held on December 14, 2020, that in accordance with section 218 of the *Municipal Act* that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing enact a regulation for the composition of Regional Council to ensure Caledon maintain its five (5) representatives at the Region of Peel. Representation of Caledon is critical to ensure effective representation of the rural population, community interests, protection of environmental sustainability and prime agricultural land, and to assist in the growth of a municipality with the largest growth trajectory in the province.

The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas Section 218 of the Municipal Act requires regional municipalities to review for each of their lower tier municipalities, the number of members of their council that

represent the lower tier within two years of the date the new Council is organized following the regular election in 2018;

Whereas if the region does not pass a by-law to change its council composition or pass a resolution to affirm, for each of its lower-tier municipalities, the number of the members of its council, then the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may make a regulation changing the composition of Regional Council;

Whereas the Region of Peel organized itself on December 6, 2018 and has since missed the deadline to pass a by-law within two years of organizing itself as required under Section 218 of the Municipal Act;

Whereas the Town of Caledon consists of 56% of the land mass in the Region of Peel and represents communities of interest for small urban/rural villages, agricultural systems, aggregate resources, protected green spaces and a large portion of natural heritage features. In addition, the Town of Caledon's complex land use planning is governed by multiple pieces of legislation including; Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe; Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan; and

Whereas in advance of the prescribed regional public process and public meeting on the composition of Regional Council, the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga on December 9, 2020 both adopted resolutions supporting the by-law related to the proposed changes to regional council composition not taking into consideration public input from the prescribed regional public meeting scheduled for December 17, 2020;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be requested to make a regulation regarding the composition of the Region of Peel under Section 218 of the Municipal Act taking into consideration; effective rural representation including size of geographic area, community interests, protection of environmental sustainability and prime agricultural land, and the largest growth trajectory in the province;

That the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing's regulation maintains Caledon's five (5) representatives at the Region of Peel; and



Allan Thompson
Mayor

That as a sitting member of the provincial government the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General representing Dufferin-Caledon, utilize her status as cabinet minister to advocate within the government to ensure Caledon maintain its five (5) representatives at the Region of Peel.

For more information regarding this request, please contact the undersigned by email to allan.thompson@caledon.ca or by phone at 905.584.2272 ext. 4156.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and I look forward to your response to our request.

Sincerely,

Allan Thompson
Mayor

Cc: Sylvia Jones, MPP – Dufferin Caledon, sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
Kathryn Lockyer, Interim Commissioner of Corporate Services,
kathryn.lockyer@peelregion.ca