

Town of Halton Hills Calls on Province to Fairly Fund Health Care Services in Ontario

Halton Hills is the 16th High Growth Community to Pass Resolution

February 25, 2009

Halton Hills: The Town of Halton Hills unanimously passed a resolution on February 23rd calling on the Ontario government to improve local access to hospital and health care services in high growth communities like Halton Hills.

The resolution asks that the Ontario government adequately fund health and social services in Ontario's high growth communities. It is the 16th such resolution to be passed by a high growth region or community in Ontario in the past year.

The resolution calls upon the Ontario government to:

1. Speed up implementation of the \$100 million hospital growth funding commitment ensuring that growth funding is targeted to high growth hospitals and provide growth funding for social services,
2. Quickly implement "Health Based Allocation Model" (HBAM) i.e., population-needs-based funding for provincial hospital and health care services and develop a population-needs-based funding formula for social services, and,
3. Develop a health care and social services growth plan for Ontario high growth communities to complement *Places to Grow*,

The results of a recent report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) were presented to Town of Halton Hills by the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance. The report shows that hospital services in high growth communities in the GTA/905 regions, Kitchener and the Waterloo Region, Simcoe County, Wellington County and Dufferin County receive \$255 less per resident in provincial funding compared to the rest of Ontario and that community-based & long-term care services received \$84 less per resident in provincial funding. For residents in these regions, this translates into a \$1.404 billion annual operating funding gap for local hospital care and a \$526 million annual operating funding gap for local community-based & long-term care services.

For residents of Halton Hills, based on the PwC report findings, the Alliance explained that residents in the Halton Region receive \$272 less per resident compared to other Ontarians for local hospital care translating into a \$272 million shortfall in annual operating funding. In addition, residents in Halton Region receive less provincial funding per resident compared to the rest of Ontario for local long-term care services, home care services, addiction services, community mental health services and community support services for seniors.

"The Premier is to be congratulated for having secured greater fairness for Ontarians and increasing federal health care funding to provide millions of dollars more for health care services in the province," said Rick Bonnette, Mayor of Halton Hills. "The Premier can and should now provide for greater fairness in Ontario when it comes to how provincial health care funding is distributed. Right now due to a lack of fairness in provincial funding, hospitals providing care to Ontarians in growing communities like Halton Hills have to reduce access to hospital care when they should actually be expanding access to keep pace with the needs of our growing communities."

“The Premier and his Minister of Finance have an excellent opportunity to invest in Ontario’s health care system that will improve access to health care, keep Ontarians healthy, maintain and create jobs in communities hardest hit by the economic downturn and build hospital and health care capacity in communities to stimulate the economy and support Ontario’s economic turnaround,” said Anne McGuire, Chair of the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance.

“Additional Federal funding will hopefully enable the Ontario government more quickly execute \$100 million hospital growth funding election commitment and by implementing the new population-needs-based funding formula announced last September, many, many Ontarians would see local access to hospital and health care services improve,” added McGuire.

“The Premier successfully secured millions of dollars from the federal government for health care through increased per capita funding and for population growth - both improve fairness for Ontario,” noted Tariq Asmi, Executive Director of the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance. “We hope that this provides the Premier with the room to better support high growth communities, further improve local access to hospital care, and move towards greater fairness in Ontario.”

The Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance works on behalf of Ontarians in high growth communities to improve their local access to hospital and health care services. High growth communities account for more than 70 per cent of Ontario’s annual population growth, growing by more than 100,000 new residents each year.

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Whereas Ontarians believe in the principle of fairness; that fairness defines who we are and how we live;

Whereas the high growth communities in Ontario grow at more than twice the rate of the provincial population growth rate and are aging at twice the provincial rate;

Whereas population growth in these regions will further intensify due to Ontario's 25-year growth plan, *Places to Grow*;

Whereas as of 2008/09 Ontarian's residing in the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) with high growth communities are receiving \$255 less per resident in provincial funding for local hospital services compared to residents in other LHINs in Ontario, which translates into a \$1.4 billion annual operating funding gap for local hospital services – and these provincial funding gaps are worsening each year;

Whereas residents of Halton Hills, as part of the Mississauga-Halton LHIN are receiving \$272 less per resident in provincial funding for local hospital services when compared to the average Ontarian, which translates into a \$272 million annual operating funding gap for local hospital services;

Whereas Ontarians living in high growth communities of the GTA/905 are receiving \$193 less per resident for provincially funded local social services when compared to the average Ontarian, which translates into a \$641.9 million annual operating funding gap for local provincially funded social services – and these provincial funding inequities also worsening each year;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has acknowledged the growing funding gaps for hospital services in high growth communities by committing during the 2007 provincial election to provide \$100 million in additional annual operating funding to high growth hospitals;

Whereas the provision of \$30 million in hospital growth funding for 2008/09 still means that the provincial funding gap for hospital care continues to widen in high growth communities;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has announced that it is developing and will implement a new Health Based Allocation Model (HBAM) to allocate new health care resources to Local Health Integration Networks based on patient care needs and to address health care funding inequities in Ontario;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has successfully secured from the federal government greater fairness for Ontario resulting in additional funding for Ontario through the Canada Health Transfer;

Be it resolved that in order to improve timely and local access to hospital care in the Region of Halton and across high growth communities in Ontario, the Town of Halton Hills Regional Council asks the Government of Ontario to:

4. **Speed up implementation of the \$100m hospital growth funding commitment ensuring that growth funding is targeted to high growth hospitals and provide growth funding for social services,**
5. **Quickly implement "Health Based Allocation Model" (HBAM) i.e., population-needs-based funding for provincial hospital and health care services and develop a population-needs-based funding formula for social services, and,**
6. **Develop a health care and social services growth plan for Ontario high growth communities to complement *Places to Grow*,**

And that this resolution is forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Finance, the MPPs in Halton Region, High Growth Communities Mayors and Chairs, and the Mississauga-Halton LHIN.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED SINCE JANUARY 2008

REGION	DATED PASSED
1 Town of Richmond Hill	March 3/08
2 City of Oshawa	March 3/08
3 Town of Ajax	April 14/08
4 Region of Peel	April 17/08
5 City of Pickering	April 21/08
6 Town of Aurora	April 22/08
7 Town of Whitby	April 28/08
8 Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	May 20/08
9 Municipality of Clarington	September 29/08
10 Town of Caledon	September 30/08
11 Town of Newmarket	November 10/08
12 Durham Regional Council	November 19/08
13 City of Burlington	December 15/08
14 Regional Municipality of Halton - Regional Council	January 21/09
15 Town of Milton Council	January 26/09
16 Town of Halton Hills Council	February 23/09