

Halton Region Joins Call On Province To Better Support Growth

February 5, 2009

Oakville: Halton Regional Council has unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Ontario government to fairly fund hospital, healthcare and social services in Halton Region and other high growth communities.

Halton Region's resolution, calling on the Ontario government to adequately fund health and social services in Ontario's high growth communities, is the 15th such resolution passed by a high growth region and 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*,

"As Halton Region is mandated to grow, it is important that the provincial and federal governments make a commitment to ensure predictable, reliable and equally important, fair funding, that will help deliver the health and social services that residents need and expect," said Halton Regional Chair, Gary Carr. "To help with province's economic recovery, the Ontario government needs to invest in Ontario's high growth communities' local hospitals, health care and social services as well as our physical infrastructure. This will help with Ontario's economic renewal as well as make *Places to Grow*, Ontario's 30 year growth plan, succeed."

"Already hospitals in high growth communities are having a difficult time maintaining existing volumes of services let alone keeping pace with the hospital care needs of a rapidly growing population," said Ann McGuire, Chair of the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance. "By more quickly acting on the \$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."

"As a result of the Premier successfully and more quickly securing greater fairness for Ontarians from the federal government, and due to population growth in the province and other federal adjustments, Ontario will receive an additional \$878 million through the Canada Health Transfer," noted Tariq Asmi, Executive Director of the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance. "We hope that this provides the Premier with the opportunity to better support high growth communities by improving local access to hospital and health care services, and equally important, bring greater fairness in Ontario."

A report recently prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), found 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 four million Ontarians 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.

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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RESOLUTION BY HALTON 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 30-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 Halton residents 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 more than four million Ontarians living in high growth communities 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;

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 Halton 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.