

Town of Milton Joins Call for Ontario to Provide Fair Funding for Local Hospitals, Healthcare and Social Services

Investing in high growth communities provides better care for a growing number of Ontarians and supports economic turnaround.

Jan 27, 2009

Milton: The Council of the Town of Milton last night passed a resolution calling on the Ontario government to fairly fund hospital, healthcare and social services in Milton and other high growth communities.

The resolution passed adds Milton, Ontario's fastest growing community, to a list of 13 other high growth municipalities and regions that have passed resolutions in the last year calling on the Ontario government to more actively support growth in Ontario, address the widening gaps in provincial funding for local health and social services in high growth communities like Milton and ensure that local health and social services receive a fair share of provincial funding.

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*,

"Providing high growth communities like Milton with a fair share of provincial funding for health and social services is about enabling and supporting growth in Ontario," said Gord Krantz, Mayor of the Town of Milton. "Building healthy and caring communities through adequate and fair funding for local health and social services helps support those Ontarians affected by the economic downturn and equally important, lays a foundation for Ontario's economic turnaround and future growth."

"At a time when the province will be investing in infrastructure, investing in high growth communities and rebuilding hospitals in Milton and Oakville will ensure adequate hospital capacity to meet the needs of the growing number of residents in these communities," said Anne McGuire, Chair of the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance. "In addition, investing in Ontario's high growth communities will help translate the government's *Places to Grow* plan into reality, create jobs in Ontario's manufacturing heartland, and lowers the costs of hospital care because community hospitals provide high quality care, close to home at lower costs."

"Right now Ontario's high growth communities like Milton receive a lot less provincial funding for local health and social services compared to other communities in Ontario because current provincial funding is based on historical allocations rather than the needs of high growth communities," said Tariq Asmi, Executive Director of the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance. "At a time when there are fewer provincial dollars to go around for hospital and health care services, now is the time to fix the way the province distributes new funding and ensure that all communities across Ontario receive a fair share of provincial funding based on their needs."

A report recently prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), *Assessing the Gap in Provincial Healthcare Funding between LHINs with High-Growth Populations and the Rest of Ontario and the Gap in Provincial Funding for Social Services in the GTA/905 and the Rest of Ontario: A 2008 Update*, found that there remains sizeable gaps in provincial funding for social services in the high growth GTA/905 regions of Durham, Halton, Peel and York. In 2006/07, social services in the GTA/905 received \$193 less provincial funding per resident services compared to the rest of Ontario. This translated into a total annual operating funding gap of \$641.9 million. The report also 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.

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RESOLUTION PASSED BY TOWN OF MILTON

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 residents of the Town of Milton, as part of the Mississauga-Halton LHIN, are receiving \$272 less per resident in provincial funding for local hospital services 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;

Be it resolved that in order to improve timely and local access to hospital care in the Town of Milton and across high growth communities in Ontario, the Council of the Town of Milton 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 MPP for Halton, High Growth Communities Mayors and Chairs, and the Mississauga-Halton LHIN.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED SINCE JANUARY 2008

REGION:	DATED PASSED:
Town of Ajax	April 14/08
Town of Richmond Hill	March 3/08
City of Oshawa	March 3/08
Town of Aurora	April 22/08
Region of Peel	April 17/08
City of Pickering	April 21/08
Town of Whitby	April 28/08
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	May 20/08
Municipality of Clarington	September 29/08
Town of Caledon	September 30/08
Town of Newmarket	November 10/08
Durham Region Finance & Admin.	November 12/08
Durham Regional Council	November 19/08
City of Burlington	December 15/08
Halton Health & Social Services Committee	January 13/09