

The Provincial Places to Grow Plan

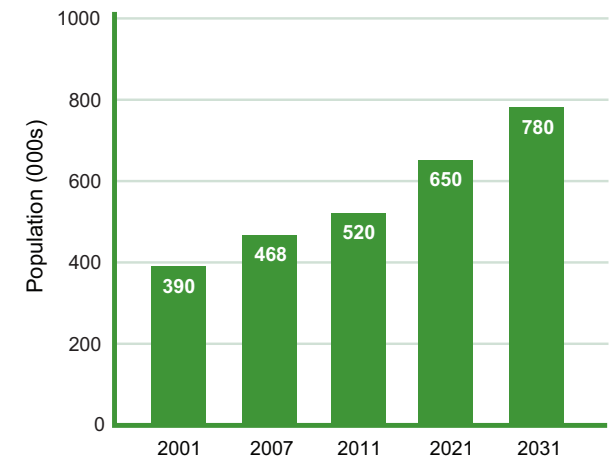
Is This Fair for Halton?

Burlington Halton Hills Milton Oakville

Why is Halton campaigning for fairness?

- Halton is a growing community committed to maintaining an excellent quality of life for its residents through the development of complete and healthy communities.
- Halton's public infrastructure and services however are not keeping pace with growth in the community
 - Highways and roads have become increasing congested
 - Hospital emergency rooms cannot accommodate demand
 - Children are being bussed to schools outside their neighbourhoods or accommodated in an increasing number of portables
 - Community centres and recreational facilities are not available in many neighbourhoods.
- The Provincial Places to Grow Plan requires Halton to grow its population by 68% over the next 25 years. Accommodating this growth will require over \$8.6 billion in infrastructure including:
 - 1100 hospital beds
 - 50 new elementary schools and 14 new secondary schools
 - 25 community centres, 8 libraries and 1650 acres of parkland development
 - 22 fire halls, 4 ambulance stations and 6 police stations
 - 2000 lane kms of major municipal roadways plus expansions to highways, bridges, interchanges
 - 11 local transit facilities and 175 buses
 - Additional Police and Court infrastructure
 - Expansion of the inter-Regional transit capacity including GO Transit
 - Expansion of electrical power facilities.
 - Landfill/waste disposal capacity

Provincial Places to Grow Plan
Halton's population doubles since 2001

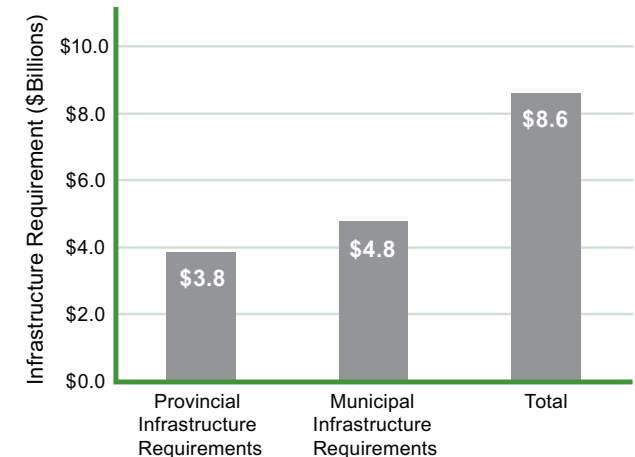


Source: Halton Region (2007)

Current funding models do not adequately reflect the cost of growth

- Existing funding models have resulted in an infrastructure deficit (roads, recreation and community centres, etc.) in Halton of over \$300 million as of January 1, 2007.
- Restrictions in the Provincial Development Charges Act limit the recovery of costs from development charges. It is estimated that these restrictions currently cost Halton property taxpayers \$32 million per year.
- Ontario is the only Province that requires Municipal Property taxes to pay for social and health programs. As a result only 54% of property taxes in Halton are available to fund municipal infrastructure and services.
- Provincial funding for Health and Social Services programs is not distributed equitably across the Province. Halton and other GTA Regions receive \$200 less per capita in Health and Social Services funding than the Provincial average.
- Halton is required to pay over \$40 million per year to support Social Service costs in the City of Toronto through GTA Pooling.
- Property tax funding for the expansion of inter-regional transit, including GO Transit is not affordable.
- Provincial infrastructure programs, which funded significant expansion of municipal infrastructure in previous decades, are no longer adequate.
- Provincial infrastructure commitments in Halton for Hospitals, Schools, and Highways do not match the demands created by growth.

Over \$8.6 Billion Required to Fund Provincial Places to Grow Plan in Halton



Source: Halton Region (2007)

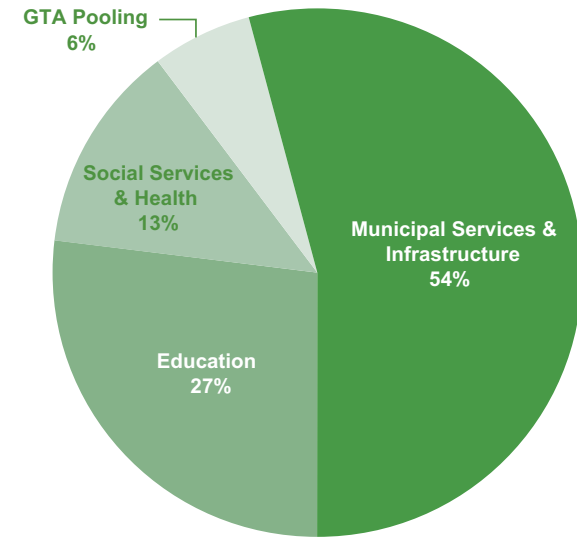
What does Halton Region want from the Province of Ontario?

- Immediate changes to the Development Charges Act to allow Municipalities to recover the full cost of growth related municipal infrastructure and GO Transit based on anticipated service level requirements.
- Immediate changes to the GTA Pooling and cost sharing requirements for Health and Social Services to provide Halton the capacity to address the existing infrastructure and service deficits resulting from growth.
- Municipal Infrastructure Funding programs targeted at the infrastructure required to accommodate growth.
- Establishment of Provincial capital commitments which address existing deficiencies and match the timing of the delivery of Provincial infrastructure (hospitals, schools, highway, power, courts) to Halton's growth requirements in the Provincial Places to Growth Plan.
- The Province's Municipal Fiscal and Services Review is not timely enough. Immediate action is required to allow Halton to address current infrastructure deficits and respond to the objectives in the Places to Grow Plan.

Support from Halton leaders and municipal associations

- Ensuring that Ontario provides the right tools to resolve the infrastructure and service deficit is supported by the Regional Chair, and the Mayors of all four Local Municipalities, the City of Burlington, the Town of Oakville, the Town of Milton and the Town of Halton Hills.
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario has cited that Ontario taxpayers have the highest property taxes in the country. In municipalities outside of Ontario social services account for only 1.2% of municipal expenditures; in Ontario, social services accounted for 25% of municipal spending from the property tax base.
- In 2006, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) stated that the property tax is regressive and an inappropriate source to fund local social services. In addition, FCM indicates the generally accepted figure for the size of the infrastructure deficit nationwide is \$60 billion.
- The provincial government, on its website fairness.ca indicates that within the next 30 years over \$100 billion will be needed to maintain Ontario's existing infrastructure and prepare for future growth.

Only 54% of Halton's Property Taxes Fund Municipal Services & Infrastructure



Source: Halton Region (2007)

Halton's message to the Province

Halton and its Local Municipalities state: The quality of life, character and the values of each community in Halton **must** be preserved through the Province's Places to Grow Plan.

The Province's Places to Grow Plan requires Halton and its Local Municipalities to grow but the Province has not delivered the necessary financial tools and Provincial funding commitments to allow the Region to achieve these requirements.

Without the necessary financial tools and commitments, we **cannot** meet the objectives of the Province's Places to Grow Plan.

