

The Province has set a long-term goal of restoring the Province's AAA credit rating. Halton Region has AAA credit which is the highest and best credit rating. Maintaining a top credit rating allows Halton and its Local Municipalities to finance major investments at the lowest possible long-term costs by providing continued access to the best capital financing rates available. These rates allow the Region to maximize investments in important infrastructure projects while minimizing costs and keeping property taxes low

TO: Chair and Members of the Administration and Finance Committee

FROM: Mark Scinocca, Commissioner, Finance and Regional Treasurer

DATE: July 5, 2017

**RE: Reaffirmation of Halton's AAA Credit Rating by S&P Global Ratings**

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On June 26, 2017, S&P Global Ratings (S&P) published its annual review of Halton Region's credit standing and has reaffirmed its highest rating of AAA. S&P continues to attribute a stable outlook to this rating indicating its confidence in Halton's ability to uphold this standing into the future. The S&P published report for this most recent review is attached as Attachment 1.

S&P's rating analysis included the following rationale in support the AAA rating determination:

- Very strong and well-diversified economy integrated within the GTA with consistent growth
- Very strong financial management with well-defined prudent and conservative financial policies, robust annual operating and capital budget disclosures, and unqualified audited financial statements
- Very strong and stable budget performance, low debt burden and low contingent liabilities
- Exceptional internal liquidity support and access to external liquidity for refinancing needs

Achieving a AAA rating status ensures that Halton Region and the four Local Municipalities that borrow under this credit rating will continue to obtain the best possible financing rates in the capital markets minimizing the longer term costs of infrastructure capital.



Mark Scinocca  
Commissioner, Finance and Regional Treasurer