

Memo

To: Mayor Burton and Members of Council

From: Planning & Development Department

CC: Jane Clohecy, Chief Administrative Officer
Ralph Kaminski, Acting Commissioner, Community Development

Date: November 2024

Subject: Ministry of Finance Population Projections

Prior to its retirement, the Growth Plan (2020) provided forecasted populations for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Halton Region's 2051 population was 1.1 million people, which when disaggregated across the four local municipalities, translated to a population of 349,990 for Oakville. This number was approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs through Regional Official Plan Amendment #49.

On 1 October, 2024, the Ministry of Finance updated its population projection for the province. The information can be found [here](#). For Halton Region, the projection is 980,000 people by 2051, but is not broken down into Halton's lower-tier municipalities.

The Ministry notes on its [web-site](#) that: "The projections do not represent Ontario government policy targets or desired population outcomes, nor do they incorporate explicit economic or planning assumptions." Each census division in the projection only includes a reference, and does not provide for a high or low scenario. What this means, is that the town can continue to use the Ministry of Finance projections as inputs to the further refinement of population forecasting that the town undertakes, but the projections are not determinative to the town's future population forecast.

As provided in the Provincial Planning Statement (2024), sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 state that municipalities may modify the projections published by the Ministry of Finance, and continue to forecast growth using population and employment forecasts previously issued by the Province for the purposes of land use planning.

Staff recently provided a revised town-wide population forecast to 2051 through a study Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. undertook as part of the Midtown Oakville Growth Area Review, which can be referenced [here](#).

The recent information published by the Ministry of Finance, and any subsequent updates, will form part of the background that Watson will be using as it continues to advance further forecast analyses for the town. The next phase of work will look at further

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population distribution among the town's other Strategic Growth Areas, accounting for the recent work specific to Midtown Oakville.

This will be helpful as the town continues to advance other Growth Area Reviews, deliver on its housing pledge for 33,000 new housing units by 2031, and looks to initiate the town's Development Charge Background study in 2025.