

REPORT

COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

FROM: Clerk's Department

DATE: September 15, 2016

SUBJECT: Regional Representation

LOCATION:

WARD:

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town of Oakville consent to the Region of Halton By-law 69-16 to change the composition of Regional Council by the addition of two (2) members for the Town of Milton and one (1) member for the Town of Oakville.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Ontario Regulation 196/16 was issued on June 13, 2016 permitting the Region to increase the size and composition of Regional Council by adding two councillors from the Town of Milton and one councillor from the Town of Oakville.
- On September 7, 2016 the Region of Halton hosted a public meeting and no submissions or comments were received.
- On September 14, 2016 Regional Council, by a majority vote, approved By-law 69-16, a by-law to change the size and composition of Halton Regional Council.
- A majority of the area municipalities (three) must now pass resolutions giving consent to the Region's by-law.
- The total number of electors in the area municipalities that have passed resolutions consenting to the by-law must form a majority of the total electors in the Region.

BACKGROUND:

Halton Region has experienced substantial growth since its formation in 1974. Initially, Burlington had the largest population, but currently Oakville has the largest population. During the 1990's the population shifted resulting in the size of Burlington and Oakville being almost equal as were Milton and Halton Hills.

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A change to the regional council composition was approved in May of 1996 to reflect this giving Oakville and Burlington 7 seats each and Milton and Halton Hills 3 seats each. No change has been made since. At the end of this term of Council, it will be more than 20 years since Regional Council has changed.

In 2007, the Region established a Regional Representation Review Sub-Committee and on March 26, 2008, the Regional Council adopted a resolution requesting that additional research be undertaken, and acknowledging that there will be no change in Regional representation prior to the 2014 election.

On February 27, 2015 Region of Halton Council passed a resolution referring the question of regional representation to the Local Councils to discover under what conditions and criteria, in addition to no loss of representation, the Local Councils would consider changes to regional representation. The Region requested a response from the Local Councils within four months.

On May 25, 2015 Oakville Council approved the following resolution

1. That Halton Regional Council be requested to increase regional representation to include one additional member for Oakville and two members for Milton, based on the 2016 and 2021 population forecast which shows all municipalities falling within the 25 per cent variance rule and is also in keeping with the past decision of Oakville Town Council to move to seven wards;
2. That staff revisit the ward boundaries to address the current inequities in representation within Oakville in keeping with future regional decisions on regional representation that were not considered in 2012;
3. That Halton Regional Council not consider weighted voting as a criteria for regional representation; and
4. That staff proceed to review a seven ward boundary configuration upon Halton Regional Council's approval of an additional member for Oakville, alternatively, should no change in representation be approved by Halton Regional Council for Oakville, staff evaluate a new six ward system of fair representation to balance ward representation for Oakville Town Council.

Upon receipt of the required support to change the composition of Regional council, the Region of Halton on November 12, 2015 requested the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to enact a regulation pursuant to Section 218 (5) of the *Municipal Act*. The regulation authorizes the Region to exercise its powers to increase the size of Regional Council with one additional member of Council from

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the Town of Oakville and two additional members from the Town of Milton. In response to the Region's request, the Minister posted notice of a proposed regulation to the Registry for a 45 day period which ended May 7, 2016. On June 13, 2016 the Minister issued Ontario Regulation 196/16 authorizing the Region of Halton to pass a by-law to increase the composition of Regional Council.

Prior to passing a by-law increasing regional representation, the Region is required to host a public meeting which took place on September 7, 2016. No submissions or comments were received.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Changes to Council composition must be finalized by December 31 of the year prior to the next regular election in order for any change to take effect for the next regular election. Therefore, in order to be in effect for the October 2018 election, changes to the composition of Regional Council, local Councils and ward boundaries must be completed by December 31, 2017.

Approval of regional representation changes requires satisfaction of the "triple majority" criteria as noted in section 219 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001 which means that a majority of Regional Council plus a majority of the lower-tier councils (3 of 4) that represent a majority of all the electors in the Region, must consent to Halton By-law 69-16.

In accordance with the section 219 of the *Municipal Act*, the Region held a public meeting on September the 7, 2016 prior to passing the By-law. On September 14, 2016, a majority vote on Regional Council approved by-law 69-16, a by-law to change the size and Composition of Halton Regional Council. A majority of the area municipalities must now pass resolutions consenting to the by-law and the total number of electors in the area municipalities that have passed resolutions consenting to the by-law must form a majority of all the electors in the Region before By-law 69-16 becomes valid.

When at least three of the four local municipalities have indicated consent to the by-law and it is determined that a majority of the electors in the Region are represented, the triple majority requirement will have been met and the by-law will be in force for the purposes of the 2018 election.

A further report will be brought forward to the November 14, 2016 Council meeting regarding the increase in the size of Oakville Town Council and to finalize ward boundaries for the new seven ward system.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The public will be notified of potential changes to Council size or structure in accordance with the town's public engagement guidelines.

(B) FINANCIAL

Any costs associated with the resulting ward boundary change are allocated from the election reserve. The new councillor positions will be budgeted for in the 2018 budget.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

All departments will be impacted by the increase in Council size and the Ward boundary changes. Information Systems, Facilities and Construction Management, Finance, and Clerk's will be involved in the plan to retrofit the Council chambers to accommodate two additional members of council and Human Resources, Finance and Payroll will take the required action in 2018 to accommodate the two additional councillors.

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- continuously improve our programs and services
- provide outstanding service to our residents and businesses
- be accountable in everything we do

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Council representation affects all four pillars of sustainability.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A - Region of Halton Letter, Report and By-law 69-16

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