

COMMENT

Halton receives AAA rating— again

Moody's Investors Service has reaffirmed Halton's AAA credit rating for the 26th consecutive year, ranking Halton at the high end of Canadian municipalities.

Their rating analysis features a wealth of high praise for Halton, highlighting our "strong governance and management characteristics", and our "forward-looking operating and capital plans" that help us proactively address challenges. It also cites the "conservative debt and investment management policies" that limit our market-related risks, as well as our "comprehensive, transparent and timely financial reporting"

These achievements confirm that Regional Council and staff continue to move in the right direction by putting residents first. Halton Region is committed to being a transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible government, and maintaining our AAA credit rating is a vital part of fulfilling this promise to residents. The plans and policies that helped us achieve this rating represent one of Council's most important priorities: ensuring value for taxpayers.

Halton's AAA credit rating supports our strategies to keep taxes low while investing in the future of our community. The rating gives the Region, as well as its local municipalities (Halton Hills, Milton, Oakville and Burlington), access to the best possible financing rates for infrastructure projects



Gary Carr
Halton Region
Chair

and other large initiatives. These savings minimize the long-term cost to taxpayers and maximize the community impact of every dollar spent.

Moody's is not the only rating agency to reaffirm our credit rating within the past year. In July 2015, Standard & Poor's Rating Services also reaffirmed the Region's top rating, indicating a stable outlook for the future. Their report included similar praise for Halton's high level of liquidity, low debt burden, strong performance and excellent reporting, reflecting our longstanding commitment to fiscal responsibility.

We are uncompromising in protecting the Region's strong long-term financial position, because this foundation is essential to Halton's continued stability and success.

We are proud to have been recognized once again for delivering on this commitment to our community. By maintaining our strong financial position and perfect credit rating, we can continue to invest in a bright future for all, keeping Halton a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

To learn more, please visit halton.ca/budget.



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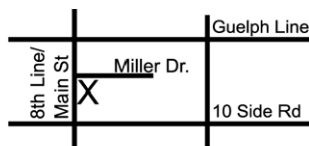


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