

Halton remains at top end of Canadian municipalities

Standard & Poor's Global Ratings has reaffirmed Halton Region's AAA credit rating, the highest possible ranking it at the top end of Canadian municipalities and provinces.

Praising Halton's strong financial management practices and budgetary performance, S&P's rating analysis describes a stable financial outlook for the Region, highlighting its excellent track record, flexibility and adherence to the detailed Strategic Action Plan.

The analysis follows a reaffirmation of the Region's top Aaa rating by Moody's Investors Service in January.

Consistently earning a AAA credit rating is a rare and significant achievement that helps us maximize investment in Halton's future, said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

While difficult economic times have caused many other Canadian jurisdictions to lose their AAA credit rating, our commitment to being a transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible government has allowed us to maintain our strong long-term financial position.

The AAA credit rating allows Halton

Region, as well as its four Local Municipalities, to finance major infrastructure and community projects at the lowest possible long-term costs by providing continued access to the best capital financing rates available.

S&P's rating analysis outlined the following credit strengths for Halton as the basis of its decision:

- strong, diverse and well-integrated local economy;
- excellent financial management policies, annual budget documents and independently audited financial reports;
- stable long-term budget performance with a low debt burden; and
- exceptional access to liquid funds for refinancing needs.

Halton Region has maintained a AAA credit rating for 28 consecutive years. Regional Council renewed their commitment to preserving this rating with their approval of the 2017 Budget Directions Report on July 13.

To learn more about the Region's financial position, visit halton.ca/budget

The Regional Municipality of Hal-



Halton Region remains at a AAA credit rating, ranking it at the top end of Canadian municipalities and provinces.

File Photo

ton serves more than 500,000 residents in the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, and the Town of Oakville. Halton Region is committed to meeting the needs of its residents through the delivery of cost-effective, quality programs and services, including water and wastewater; Regional roads and planning;

paramedic services; waste management; public health; social assistance; children's and seniors services; housing services; heritage programs; emergency management and economic development.

For more information, dial 311 or visit Halton Region's website at halton.ca



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