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- Georgetown | 324 Guelph Street | Call Fanny at 1-888-498-7523
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- Mississauga Central | 102, 101 Queensway West | Call Gorana at 1-888-503-0346
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NEWS

Mayor joins call for enhanced federal infrastructure and social housing funding

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette has thrown his support behind a call by his fellow municipal leaders to all federal party leaders to commit to a new long-term funding approach to address the chronic shortfall in infrastructure funding.

A joint letter from all Greater Toronto and Hamilton Mayors and Regional Chairs, which was also signed by Bonnette, is being sent to the leaders of the main federal parties, and it reads:

"Our municipal governments need a federal government that is a strong and reliable partner. We need long-term, sustainable, predictable and reliable federal funding which flows year in and year out and will allow us to eliminate our infrastructure deficit within a generation."

The letter, which is endorsed by elected municipal officials representing some six million people in this region, also contains an expression of profound concern the municipal leaders have over the current infrastructure deficit in the region and the need for a new fiscal partnership with the federal government to help eliminate the deficit.

"The current funding system which is project/application based, simply does not do an adequate job of funding infrastructure projects," said Bonnette. "We need a system that will provide funding assistance on an ongoing and reliable manner, so that we can make the investments required to keep our economy moving forward."

The municipal officials cite the current federal election as an appropriate time to get a new level of commitment for local infra-



MAYOR RICK BONNETTE

structure investments from the federal leaders.

"We are asking the federal government to step up to the plate and be a strong and reliable fiscal partner for municipal governments," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "We need long-term, sustainable and reliable federal funding that will allow

us to keep up with the demands of growth, meet the needs of our residents and eliminate the infrastructure deficit in our communities. Protecting our taxpayers from the financial impacts of growth is a key priority."

The letter was agreed to during a joint meeting co-chaired by Toronto Mayor John Tory and Region of Durham Chair Roger Anderson. Mayors from all 30 communities in the GTHA attended Tuesday's meeting and endorsed the letter.

In addition to calling for a revamped funding model for infrastructure, the leaders made a joint call for increased federal funding for social housing.

"Additionally, lack of adequate federal funding for social housing represents not only a compelling social concern, but an economic one as well," said the letter to the party leaders read.

A copy of the letter can be read at halton.ca/advocacy.

Region asks local candidates about growth

Halton Region sent local federal election candidates a questionnaire that profiles five of the community's growth-related issues and asks how they would address these challenges if elected.

The Region asked candidates to complete the questionnaire by Oct. 7, allowing residents enough time to review the responses before visiting the polls on Election Day.

"To protect tax payers from the cost of growth and maintain our strong financial position, we require support from all levels of government to address the increasing demand on our local services and infrastructure," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

"By sharing the candidate responses with residents, we help voters make an informed decision about Halton's future when they visit the polls."

The Region asked candidates to outline their position on the following top five

growth-related issues:

- meeting our community's infrastructure needs;
- adapting and responding to climate change;
- creating real and affordable housing solutions;
- building a strong economy; and
- ensuring adequate, high-quality child care and early learning options.

This outreach is part of the Region's ongoing advocacy efforts to address the need for increased funding and legislative changes in order to meet provincially-mandated growth targets.

The issues highlighted in the questionnaire, as well as the importance of support from all levels of government, have been identified as priorities by Regional Council.

The Region will post candidate responses, as they are received, to halton.ca/election2015.