

'ARBITRARY AND WITHOUT WARNING': HALTON POLITICIANS REACT TO FORD ANNOUNCEMENT

ALEXANDRA HECK
aheck@metroland.com

Doug Ford's Friday morning announcement left Halton Hills councillor and Halton Region representative Jane Fogal with a sense of uneasiness.

"I feel very disappointed that a brand new government would come in and do something without consultation," says Fogal. She calls the provincial government's decision to eliminate the regional chair positions in neighbouring regions, and cut Toronto city council nearly in half, "arbitrary and without warning."

The provincial government announced that they will be eliminating elections for the regional chair positions in York, Peel, Muskoka and Niagara before the Oct. 22 municipal elections, in an effort to reduce the size of government at all levels in Ontario.

This move comes with a plan to reduce the number of Toronto city councillors in half.

"One thing every politician at every level and in every region needs to remember, is that we all share the same boss," said Ford in a statement. "We all work for the people."

Fogal says that while it appears Halton Region remains unaffected by the move, it leaves her feeling uneasy about what could



Nikki Wesley/Metroland

PC Party Leader Doug Ford spoke with the Oakville Chamber of Commerce, Milton Chamber of Commerce, and Burlington Chamber of Commerce members during a luncheon at the Burlington Convention Centre on Thursday afternoon.

happen next.

"This particular action looks vindictive to me," she said, noting that the decision to have regional chair in those municipalities was one that was made by the previous Liberal government. "It's targeted."

Fogal says she fears that other programs could be radically changed or eliminated without warning or consultation.

"Ultimately, they [the province] can change everything," she said. "It's perplexing and disappointing and leaves us with a feeling of what's next."

Milton councillor and Regional repre-

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