

# HALTON REGION BUDGET FOR 2019 PROJECTS PROPERTY TAX HIKE OF 1.9 PER CENT

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Halton residents can expect a 1.9 per cent property tax hike as the region prepares to adopt a tax-supported budget of \$421.3 million early in the new year, Mark Scinocca, Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer, told council on Dec. 19.

Scinocca addressed the highlights of the 2019 budget package and business plan for 2019, circulated to councillors last week, emphasizing that the region is within its goal to keep the tax rate increase at or below the rate of inflation.

"Regional Council is committed to support the planned growth while maintaining the objective to protect Halton tax and rate payers from the impacts of the growth," he said.

The property tax impact portion of the budget takes into account both regional and police services, projecting a 1.9 per cent increase of \$291 per \$100,000 CVA (Current Value Assessment). This is based on a projected assessment growth of 1.5 per cent, which is below the more recent assessment growth percentage subsequently provided by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), of 1.95 per cent.

Assessment growth refers to the increase in property value in the region, as a result of changes that occur over the course of a year.

"It's higher than what's in the budget, which is an additional \$1.8 million," Scinocca said, adding that the recommendation will be to transfer that extra portion to the region's tax stabilization reserve.

The requested tax-supported budget for both regional and police services combined is a total of \$421.3 million net.



Veronica Appia/Metroland

Mark Scinocca, Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer, provides an overview of the 2019 budget at the regional council meeting on Dec. 19.

The budget is projected to have gross expenditures of \$547.6 million, but after factoring in subsidies and revenues, it is estimated to be reduced to \$265.9 million.

The region's projected revenue for 2019 is broken down into six sources: property taxes (49 per cent), provincial subsidies (33 per cent), investment income (nine per cent), program and other revenue (seven per cent), federal subsidies (one per cent) and supplementary taxes (one per cent).

Some of the tax budget highlights include the following budget increases from the 2018 budget to the 2019 requested budget: \$2 million in roads operations going toward addressing rising State-of-Good-Repair needs, road maintenance and three new red light cameras; \$900,000 in paramedic services to address call volumes; \$900,000 in waste management to address inflation and tonnage growth, as well as organics market pressure; \$700,000 in planning services to support growth; \$400,000 in quality and service integration, primarily to fund the Halton Region Community Investment Fund; \$1.6 million for boards and agencies; and \$2.7 million for

non-program services.

Regarding the rate-supported budget, residents can expect a change of 3.7 per cent in water and wastewater rates for 2019 (an increase to \$999 from \$964 for a typical household).

This figure is based on zero per cent consumption growth and 1.5 per cent customer growth, Scinocca said, adding that with water conservation efforts and better systems, the overall consumption rate is not growing, however, the customer base is on the rise.

The region's net expenditures for the rate-supported budget are projected to be \$205.6 million.

Halton Region will be holding a budget council meeting on Jan. 9 at 9:30 a.m. The budget will subsequently go to council for approval on Jan. 16. Both meetings will take place in Council Chambers at Halton Regional Centre (1151 Bronte Road, Oakville).

Halton residents interested in providing input on the proposed budget can register as a delegate by contacting the regional clerk, or provide comment via email at [budget@halton.ca](mailto:budget@halton.ca).

For further information on the 2019 regional budget, visit [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).

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