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Before

MEET  
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70 INCHES working  
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After



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## COUNCIL

# HALTON CONTINUES FIGHT TO MAKE GROWTH PAY FOR ITSELF

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In its ongoing crusade to make growth pay for growth, regional council is calling upon the province to beef up the Development Charges Act.

Halton councillors unanimously passed a motion during their March 27 session urging the provincial government to improve the act to ensure all growth-related costs of municipal infrastructure and services are recovered through development charges.

According to the resolution put forth by mayors Rob Burton and Marianne Meed Ward, Halton, its local municipalities and school boards have a collective estimated funding gap of \$87.7 million annually due to the inability to fully recover the cost of growth under the current legislation.

"It's really important that constituents know the stark reality that growth doesn't pay for growth," said Burlington Coun. Rory Nisan in support of the motion.

The resolution was originally penned by the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of

Ontario (LUMCO), which is comprised of the leaders of Ontario communities with a population of 100,000 or more. The group advocates to the federal and provincial governments on policies and issues that affect large urban municipalities.

The resolution responds to the provincial government's current review of the impact municipal development charges have on housing supply - a move that has some politicians worried the act will be amended in favour of developers.

"We mayors (in the LUMCO) were concerned that we might be looking at a shift of the cost of growth off developers and onto the backs of taxpayers, specifically local property taxpayers," said Burton. "The only alternative to pay for growth, aside from development charges, is taxes."

"We know that growth currently doesn't pay for itself, so any step to make growth pay even less is a step backwards," added Meed Ward.

Of particular concern to the mayors are any potential changes to Section 27 of the act, which permits municipalities to collect development charges prior to

the building permit stage. The motion deems this measure "critical in Halton for the delivery of infrastructure to support additional new housing."

Regional chair Gary Carr will now write a letter to Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark expressing council's serious concerns regarding changes to Section 27 of the act or a reduction in the use of development charges.

"Halton would welcome the opportunity to work with the provincial government to find creative solutions to increase the stock of affordable housing while ensuring that growth pays for growth," notes the motion, which will also be sent to Halton local municipalities for endorsement.

The region has long been calling for changes that would facilitate growth paying for itself through its Advocating for a Strong Halton campaign.

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