

Halton Region chair asks provincial candidates: 'What will you do for us?'

Regional Chair Gary Carr is calling on local candidates running in the October 10 provincial election to tell voters how they'll resolve critical issues facing Halton.

The candidates are being asked to respond to a questionnaire by Monday as part of the Region's Fairness for Halton campaign. All answers received will be posted on the Region's website, www.halton.ca.

"We developed the Fairness for Halton campaign to respond to the Province's Places to Grow plan, which is asking Halton to double its population over the next 25 years," said Carr. "Halton currently has a \$300-million municipal infrastructure deficit and the provincial growth targets will require an additional \$8.6 billion in municipal and provincial infrastructure. As a result we need predictable, committed funding from the Province to ensure that growth does not fall on the backs of existing taxpayers. We think voters need to know what their local candidates will do to address this."

Earlier this year regional council adopted a resolu-



**HALTON CHAIR
GARY CARR**

tion to advise the Province that the region can't accommodate the growth targets specified in the Places to Grow plan unless the Province commits to providing Halton with the necessary financial tools and funding commitments.

To accommodate the growth, Halton will need a significant investment in hospital beds, schools, community services, emergency response services and roadways.

"Halton voters should consider some key questions as the October 10 election approaches," noted Carr. "What will each candidate do to ensure that municipal infrastructure funding programs are targeted at the infrastructure required to accommodate growth? What will they do to ensure the objectives of the Fairness for Halton campaign are met? Are they willing to vote against their party if it means a better future for Halton?"

Census underscores Fairness campaign

The latest release of Census statistics on population growth underscores the importance of the Fairness for Halton campaign, according to the Region.

The numbers show Halton's population grew by 17 per cent between 2001 and 2006, with an increasing number of families with youth and children.

"Our Fairness campaign pushes for assurance that senior levels of government will be full partners in providing the necessary financial tools and funding commitments to address municipal infrastructure needs," said Regional Chair Gary Carr. "In order to anticipate what this growth will mean we are undergoing a made-in-Halton planning process called

Sustainable Halton to determine our human services and transportation, water and waste management infrastructure needs to the year 2031 and beyond."

Regional staff's initial review of the Census information confirmed that Halton's population increase is consistent with the growth targets set by the Province. The data shows the number of two-parent families with children has increased by 17 per cent and lone-parent families by 24 per cent.

Region staff indicated these figures highlight that Halton's growing communities will need increased health and social services supporting families, children and youth, such as child care, schools, hospitals, recreation and more.

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