

NEWS

JURISDICTIONAL DISAGREEMENT A CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER: PROVINCE

Continued from front

ment should be favoured," states the province's argument.

CN announced plans to build the 400-acre "intermodal" hub in January 2015; it would allow goods to be moved between trucks and trains. Company officials have stated that the hub would be adjacent to a rail line between Britannia Road and Lower Baseline Road in Milton, would feature six tracks and would operate 24 hours a day.

The region, the City of Burlington, the towns of Oakville, Halton Hills and Milton, and Conservation Halton announced they had launched a joint application in court on Feb. 21. In response, CN asked the court to dismiss the matter, saying it should have to wait until after an ongoing environmental assessment by the federal Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, and the chair of the Canadian Transportation Agency.

The Government of Ontario argues that waiting until after that review would further bog down the process, and that the federal review panel could benefit from knowing the results of Halton's case.

"If Halton and all parties were granted clarity now on the extent to which provincial and municipal laws apply to the development, that would allow the panel to proceed with the knowledge of which provincial and municipal laws apply and are therefore highly relevant to determining the threshold for adverse effects, and to inform the panel's recommendations for the federal minister," states the provincial filing.

The province has also argued that because the jurisdictional disagreement is a constitutional matter, it can only be decided by a court, and could not be adjudicated by the federal review panel.

Milton MPP Parm Gill says local resi-

THE ISSUE: PROPOSED CN RAIL HUB LOCAL IMPACT: THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT IS TAKING A POSITION THAT MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL LAWS SHOULD APPLY TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

dents' concerns over the intermodal hub came up often on the campaign trail.

"I made a promise to stand with the region and municipality and have followed through," said an email from Gill's office. "Many of those I spoke with at the doors during the election told me their frustration with the previous government for not taking a position on this ... It was clear that Miltonians were looking for support from the provincial government."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

CN has plans to build a 400-acre intermodal hub. Halton municipalities are going to court to ensure oversight in Milton CN project. Now, the province is following suit.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

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