

'Sunshine list' released

By Christina Commisso
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The yearly 'sunshine list' was released last week, showing that the number of public employees hitting the \$100,000-plus salary mark is growing.

More than 280 Region of Halton employees made the 2010 list, up from about 210 the previous year. The 33 per cent jump is well above the sunshine list's overall 11 per cent increase from 2009.

Among the Region's top earners were Medical Officer of Health (MOH) Dr. Bob Nosal, who brought in \$284,904, associate MOH Monir Taha, who made \$249,042, and the Region's CAO Pat Moyle, who earned \$253,132 plus \$25,294 in taxable benefits.

Also high on the pay grid were Halton's Police Chief Gary Crowell at \$204,862 and the Region's Commissioner of Corporate Services Jane MacCaskill, who earned \$221,547. Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr made \$157,165 in 2010, only \$95 more than he earned in 2009.

The top earner in Halton, once again, was President and CEO of Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) John Oliver, who brought in \$474,796 in 2010, while HHS Chief of Staff Dr. Lorne Martin earned \$430,067. Locally, Milton District Hospital's Chief Operating Officer Allan Halls earned \$177,626. Seventy-seven HHS employees made the 2010 list.

Halton Catholic District School Board's (HCDSB) Director of Education Michael Pautler was the board's highest earner with a \$198,944 salary. About 110 HCDSB employees earned more than \$100,000 last year.

More than 220 Halton District School Board employees found their way onto the sunshine list, with the board's Associate Director Ruth Peden earning the most at \$189,026.

The Town of Milton top earners grew modestly from 25 in 2009 to 28 in 2010.

Milton's top earner last year was Mario Belvedere, the Town's CAO, who made \$225,000 and \$6,502 in taxable benefits. His salary was up about 10 per cent from 2009.

Mayor Gord Krantz didn't make the list as he earns salaries from both the Town and Halton Region, neither of which individually was more than \$100,000.

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh, who earned \$127,040 last year, said he's concerned with the public sector "growing leaps and bounds" during the McGuinty government.

During the 2011 provincial budget reveal, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan announced that 1,500 public service jobs will be eliminated between April 2012 and March 2013, on top of the 3,400 fewer positions announced in the 2009 budget. Duncan also announced he's permanently cutting the budgets for executive offices at hospitals, school boards, universities and dozens of other public sector agencies by 10 per cent.

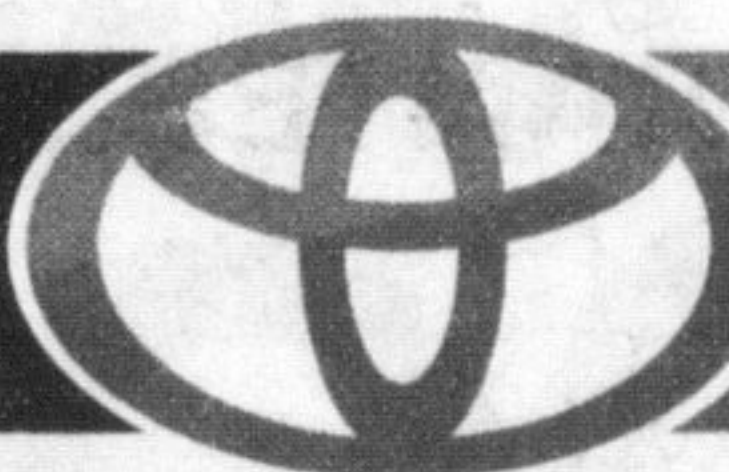
The Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act, more commonly referred to as the sunshine list, requires organizations that receive public funding from the Province to disclose annually the names, positions, salaries and total taxable benefits of employees paid \$100,000 or more a year.

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