

## **Deputation May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - Regional Governance**

Good Morning,

I am here today to represent Lakeview Ratepayers Association located in the most south east area of Mississauga at Lake Ontario

We have absorbed as much information as currently available with respect to the discussion around Regional Governance in the Region of Peel.

We attended the Resident Town Hall held by the City of Mississauga on April 8 and also the May 1<sup>st</sup> Town Hall held by our Councillors in Ward 1 and 2. We listened to the questions posed by Mississauga Councillors at Regional Council on April 25.

We have explored three opportunities with respect to the status of Mississauga on the issue of governance moving forward.

1. Independence of Mississauga from Peel Region
2. Amalgamation of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon
3. Maintaining the Region as is

### **With respect to an independent Mississauga**

It is unfortunate that the City of Mississauga has not had the opportunity due to time constraints to explore all options and provide transparent feedback to their residents. Information provided to Mississauga residents has pursued one path, that of becoming an independent city.

Too many questions have been raised on how independence would work, what costs would Mississauga and its residents incur and if the City is currently in a position to handle such a bold move. At present those questions have not been answered.

Without the complete analysis and impact to services, we cannot conclude that the residents of Lakeview would be better off financially and there is a strong possibility their individual tax bill may be greater. In addition, we are not convinced that residents will not see a financial advantage or savings to becoming independent. Therefore, we are currently not comfortable with the idea of supporting this initiative.

### **Amalgamation of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon**

Equally, amalgamation of such a large population in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon will provide a loss of identity for citizens of each municipality. Although we find the geographical divide between north and south Mississauga is already large, the geographical divide between south Mississauga and north Caledon is greater and stretches from our location at Lake Ontario to Orangeville. There is a disconnect within such a large area and this may prove difficult to administer.

### **Maintaining the Region as is**

If the province decides to maintain the Region of Peel as is, we would like to see the Region reviewed with additional adjustments that would benefit all residents and improve efficiencies of service. This should include a geographic assessment. With the provinces mandate for intensification, Mississauga's primary intensification will run east west where Brampton's will run north.

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Both the GE Booth Lakeview Wastewater Treatment facility and Lakeview Water Treatment Plant are located within the Lakeview borders. While installation of the Hanlan Water Feedermain took place within our borders along Lakeshore Road, Lakefront Promenade and Dixie Road between November 2013 to late 2016. Credit Valley Conservation working with the Region of Peel and TRCA are currently creating a beautiful conservation area, the Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation, transforming the Lakeview neighbourhood into a hub for passive waterfront recreation, a hotspot for wildlife migration and a green oasis in the heart of our city. Both Dixie Road and Cawthra Road, our main arteries in Lakeview are regional roads.

Apart from hoping that the GE Booth plant will one day be able to eliminate the odour that appears during certain times of the year, we are well serviced by the Region. Our concern would be how these services will work in the future and our wish to ensure the level of these services continue.

We do look forward to reading the Independent report currently in progress and due May 21<sup>st</sup> by the Region of Peel working with Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon Councillors. The information is extremely necessary for taxpayers to better understand the financial implications of all three options outlined above.

As taxpayers, already overburdened, we would like to hear assurance that services will not cost Lakeview residents additional funds.

We are interested to hear further from the Region and municipalities on how they can work together to improve their efficiencies, reduce taxes to their residents while continuing to provide or enhance existing services.

It is important to consider our youth and how they will be impacted in the next decade, it is important we leave our youth in a state of prosperity.

We currently ask that the Province allows more time for the regional governance issue to be studied, so that enough review is completed before making the final decision that will have decades of impact on residents.

It is imperative that all levels of government improve transparency and review their own efficiencies around the duplication of services and administration, looking for ways to streamline processes and utilize economies of scale to ensure taxpayers receive the best value for their tax dollars at all levels. Downloading or cutting services is an easy option for improving budgets but ultimately it is each local resident that pays the ultimate price.

Thank you