

Public Meeting Information Report

Clerk's Division, Corporate Services

Public Meeting: April 15, 2025 at 7:00p.m., Hybrid Meeting / Council Chamber

The Purpose of a Public Meeting:

In accordance with the recommendation made by the General Committee on March 4, 2025 and subsequently confirmed by Council on March 25, 2025, a Public Meeting is held to present options for how to proceed with the method to elect Regional Councillors for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election. Notice of this Public Meeting was posted on the Town's [website](#) on March 27, 2025 and advertised in the Caledon Citizen on March 28, 2025. This Public Meeting meets [the Municipal Act section 218](#) legislative standards to hold a public meeting if the method to elect Regional Councillors were to be decided at the Regional level. Staff are available answer or research into any questions the public or Council may have on this matter.

This matter of methods to elect Regional Councillors was scheduled for this public meeting as the only available scheduled meeting date to hold a public meeting and include results within a report directed to return to Council on May 6, 2025 General Committee. The report is required to come forward to General Committee on May 6, 2025 to keep all options available as a part of public consultation, as outlined within this report, as options for selection of methods to elect Regional Councillors to be included, as directed by Council at its March 25, 2025 meeting. Referral or deferral of this report would limit the opportunity for option 2 to request the Region of Peel to address the method of selection under [section 218](#) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Staff and Council will not make a recommendation or decision at a Public Meeting. The Staff Report that is to be brought forward and considered by Council at the May 6, 2025 General Committee will be made publicly available when the agenda is published by April 30, 2025. This report will provide public consultation results and address any outstanding questions which required further research.

Please contact the Clerk's Office at agenda@caledon.ca to request to be notified of any future Public or Council Meetings.

Legislative Context:

Peel Region passed [By-law 83-2020](#) to amend Caledon's Regional Representation to be consisting of three members. A Ward Boundary Review was completed locally at the Town of Caledon in 2020 to 2021 as outlined on the associated [webpage](#), passed through [By-law 2021-62](#). The By-law took effect for the 2022 General Election and impacted voting procedures, specifically providing a rationale for enabling the ability for the Caledon electors to vote anywhere in the Town of Caledon, regardless of their associated Ward.

An additional ward boundary review was determined necessary upon the passing of the [Hazel McCallion Act \(Peel Dissolution\), 2023](#) assented on June 8, 2023, to devolve the Region by transferring services to its local municipalities. Funding was allocated in the 2024 Town of Caledon Budget for this initiative, and subsequently removed upon the amendment of the Hazel McCallion Act in December 2023 to limit transferring of services to the municipalities and keep the requirement of elected Town of Caledon Regional representation. Discussions at the Town of Caledon's February 14, 2024 Budget meeting included an expression of interest to continue with a ward boundary review as a part of the 2025 Budget, although there was not a formal Council decision to do so.

The Council direction to complete a 2022 Post-Election report in July 2024 required a condition to include any recommendations for Council consideration on election matters, including but not limited to a recommendation on completion of a ward boundary review, prior to Council deciding on funding a ward

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boundary review or further decisions on the 2026 General Election. The associated impacts of the [Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024](#) had recently received assent on June 6, 2024 at the time of Council discussing this matter, with outstanding implications of regional municipal services being transferred to the local municipalities yet to be fully deliberated by the Transition Board. These deliberations were completed by the Transition Board through the drafting of the Peel Transition Implementation Act which 'died on the order paper,' (not seen through to receive Royal Assent and become legislation) on January 28, 2025 when the Provincial Election was called for February 27, 2025.

The determinations of the Peel dissolution or transfer of municipal services had direct associated impacts with the completion of the March 4, 2025 [2022 Post-Election Report](#) through its potential effects on the Town of Caledon representation at the Regional level. The June 2024 Council direction to not fund a ward boundary review until completion of this report caused no funding to be allocated for a ward boundary review in the adopted 2025 Town of Caledon Budget. The status of no outstanding draft legislation with the Province of Ontario impacting Town of Caledon Regional representation and a dissolved Transition Board now provides optimal timing to consider methods to elect Regional Councillors.

Options for Consideration:

[Chapter 25 of the Municipal Act, 2001](#) (*the Act*) provides the authority and process to enact changes to a municipal council, including the dividing or dissolving of wards and changing the composition of local and upper-tier councils. While the election for the two Peel Regional Councillors to the Town of Caledon is conducted on behalf of the Region by the Town, a transition from ward to general vote requires a change to the composition of Peel Region's Council.

The 2020 Peel Region decision to reduce the Town of Caledon's regional representation from five members to three, coupled with the 2021 Ward Boundary Review, materially changed how Caledon is represented at the Region of Peel from previous terms to the current Term of Council. The previous term Ward Boundary Review primarily focused on adjusting Ward boundary lines, including the addition of Ward 6 with an additional local Councillor for the new Ward, and another Councillor representing at the local level with Wards 3 and 4 respectively having their own Councillor instead of sharing one local Councillor for both Wards.

The prevalent impacts of the Ward Boundary Review on the Town of Caledon's local composition were the focus over that of the Town of Caledon's regional representation. The 2022 General Election moved from a one Regional Councillor for every Local Councillor in the 2018 to 2022 Term of Council, to a model of one Regional Councillor for every three Local Councillors in the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council, without specifically answering the question of whether the previous vote-by-ward model at the regional level remains the preferred model for the Town of Caledon's regional representation. The tri-ward regional representation model divides the Town of Caledon in-half between two Regional Councillors, while both Regional Councillors represent the whole Town of Caledon at the Region of Peel.

It is recommended with the benefit of the gained perspectives from the 2022 General Election and first half of this term complete under the tri-ward regional representation model, that Council decide whether the tri-ward regional representation remains as the ideal way to provide elected representation to the Town of Caledon residents they serve.

The alternative to the tri-ward regional representation would be to elect two Regional Councillors through a one Town-wide race, top two winner, "first two past the post," model. The top two candidates who receive the most 'at-large' or Town-wide general votes would join the Mayor in representing the Town of Caledon at the Region of Peel under this model, uniformly also through receiving the most votes in a Town-wide general vote race for the Mayoral Office.

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As outlined in this report, the outlook of Regional representation and regional services at the Town of Caledon is the clearest and most stable it has been in nearly two-years since the Province of Ontario's introduction of Bill 112 for the Hazel McCallion Act in May 2023. Further, depending on how Council wishes to proceed, there may be a need to implement the decision by end of 2025 to take effect for the 2026 General Election. The timing for Council to make this decision is subsequently most available to be made now.

There are three options to consider in determining methods to elect its Regional Councillors:

Option 1 - The Town of Caledon exercises its authority under the [Regional Municipality of Peel Act, 2005](#) to change the method of electing its regional council representatives from voting based on ward vote to an at large vote.

Option 2 - The Town of Caledon formally requests the Region of Peel address the method of selection under [section 218](#) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Option 3 - Maintain the status quo of continuing the current tri-ward based model.

With respect to Option 1, section 1(7)1 of the *Regional Municipality of Peel Act, 2005* states that The Town of Caledon may, by by-law, specify the manner of selecting their Regional Councillors. Section 3 of this same statute clarifies that nothing in section 1 limits the Region of Peel's power under section 218(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* to change the composition of its council, which includes the ultimate authority to modify the method of selecting its members. In the event of a conflict between a Town of Caledon passed By-law and a Region of Peel passed By-law under these provisions, the Region of Peel By-law prevails.

There are also limited conditions or provisions to passing a Town of Caledon By-law under the *Regional Municipality of Peel Act, 2005*. There are no legislated public notice requirements and no existing deadlines to pass the By-law prior to taking effect for the next General Election. There are currently no regulations to this legislation, however under section 4(1)(b), the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may make a regulation specifying dates for the purposes of when the Town of Caledon may by By-law specify the manner of selecting their Regional Councillors.

The only current requirement in passing a by-law under section 1(7)1 of the *Regional Municipality of Peel Act, 2005* is to provide a certified true copy to the Regional Clerk. This option can subsequently be viewed as the expedient approach to specifying the way Caledon selects its Regional Councillors, with the outstanding possibility that Region of Peel could pass a By-law under Section 218 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* rendering a conflicting Town of Caledon By-law inoperable.

With respect to Option 2, to enact a change providing for the two Peel Regional Councillors for the Town of Caledon to be elected at large rather than the currently established election by ward, the legislation requires that the Region of Peel provide notice of intention to pass a By-law be issued, a minimum of one public meeting where the matter is considered, and the following requirements of [section 219](#) are met:

- a majority of all votes on the upper-tier council are cast in favour of the By-law or the resolution;
- a majority of the councils of all lower-tier municipalities forming part of the upper-tier municipality have passed resolutions consenting to the By-law or the resolution; and
- the total number of electors in the lower-tier municipalities that have passed resolutions consenting to the By-law or the resolution form a majority of all the electors in the upper-tier municipality.

Mississauga currently has most electors in the Region of Peel at the time of the last election, and subsequently would be required to be one of the lower-tier municipalities to pass a resolution consenting to the Region's By-law if passed.

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Section 219(3) provides that where such an initiative is undertaken, the By-law would come into force and effect after the first regular election following its enactment. Further, section 219(4) provides that where the regulation is made before the year of a regular election before voting day, the election shall be conducted as if the by-law was already in force and effect.

If Option 2 is deployed, it would be by request of the Town of Caledon. While this “cooperative” approach may take longer to implement, it offers an ability to propose its case for its preferred method to the Region, legislatively requires a public meeting, and requires the regional by-law to be passed by end of 2025 for it to take effect by the 2026 General Election. Option 2 offers a greater degree of certainty and finality upon implementation, removing the possibility that the Town's by-law could be displaced by a later regional By-law.

Option 3 maintains the current tri-ward based model to regional representation at the Town of Caledon. The benefits of this option are primarily the most resource and time-friendly, however Council decision-making is recommended to focus on finding the most ideal way for the Town of Caledon to select its Regional Councillors by its electorate in the current 6 Local Councillor and 3 Regional Councillor framework.

Consultation:

In accordance with best practices, a notice of this meeting was placed in the Caledon Citizen on March 28, 2025. In addition, the meeting information was made available on the Town's website in advance of the meeting date. Additionally, a survey has been made available to the public and will be open until April 27, 2025. The survey is available on [‘Have Your Say’ Caledon website](#).

Next Steps:

The consultation gathered at this public meeting will be minuted and included on the April 22, 2025 Council agenda, and considered alongside feedback received from the survey in the report to the General Committee on May 6, 2025. The received public consultation is used to inform Council's decision on the method of electing regional Councillors for the 2026 Municipal Election. Council's decision on this matter formally occurs at it's scheduled May 20, 2025 meeting.

Contact:

For further information, please contact the representative below.

Town of Caledon Contact: Kevin Klingenberg, Municipal Clerk, Returning Officer at 905.584.2272 x. 4069 or via email to elections@caledon.ca.

Attachments:

- Schedule A: Presentation