

Method to Elect Regional Councillors for the 2026 Municipal Election

Agenda

1. Purpose of the Public Meeting
2. Methods of Electing Regional Councillors
3. Legislative Context
4. Options for Consideration
5. Next Step
6. Questions & Comments

Purpose of the Public Meeting



Purpose of the Public Meeting (1)

- A Public Meeting is being held to present options for how to proceed with the method to elect Regional Councillors for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.
 - Staff and Council will not make a recommendation or decision at a Public Meeting.
 - This presentation and report will provide public consultation results and address any outstanding questions which required further research.
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Purpose of the Public Meeting (2)


- This matter of methods to elect Regional Councillors was scheduled for this public meeting as it is the only available scheduled meeting date which provides enough time to hold a public meeting and include the results within the 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.
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Purpose of the Public Meeting (3)


- Referral or deferral of May 6, 2025 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*.
 - 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
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Methods of Electing Regional Councillors



Methods of Electing Regional Councillors (1)

- 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 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 Councillor's in the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council
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Methods of Electing Regional Councillors (2)

- Tri-Ward based Regional Representation (present method)
 - One representing Wards 1,2,3
 - One representing Wards 4,5,6
 - Mayor
 - Town-wide or At-large Model
 - The alternative would be to elect two Regional Councillors through one Town-wide race, with the top two candidates being the winners in a “first two past the post,” style.
 - 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.
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Timing of the Decision

- 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 most available to be made now.
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Legislative Context



Legislative Context (1)

- 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 and was in effect for the 2022 Municipal Election through the passing of By-law 2021-62.
 - The By-law provided a rationale for enabling the ability for the Caledon electors to vote anywhere in the Town of Caledon.
 - An additional ward boundary review was determined necessary upon the passing of the *Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution)*, 2023.
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Legislative Context (2)

- Funding was allocated by Staff in the 2024 Town of Caledon Budget for this initiative and subsequently removed by Council during February 2024 upon the amendment of the *Hazel McCallion Act* in December 2023 to limit transferring of services to the municipalities.
 - The Council direction to complete a 2022 Post-Election Report came in July 2024 and required a condition to include any recommendations for Council consideration on election matters, and not consider any election matters prior to any provided recommendations.
 - The *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024* received assent on June 6, 2024, at the time of Council discussing this matter.
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Legislative Context (3)

- The deliberations were completed by the Transition Board through the drafting of the Peel Transition Implementation Act which ‘died on the order paper,’ on January 28, 2025, when the Provincial Election was called for February 27, 2025.
 - The completion of the 2022 Post-Election Report in March 2025 and status of no outstanding draft legislation with the Province of Ontario impacting Town of Caledon Regional representation, now provides optimal timing to consider methods to elect Regional Councillors.
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Options for Consideration



Options for Consideration

- **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.
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Option 1 (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.
 - Through this option there is no legislated public notice requirements and no existing deadlines to pass the By-law prior to taking effect for the next General Election.
 - 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 of the By-law to the Regional Clerk.
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Option 1 (2)

- However, 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.
 - This would render a conflicting Town of Caledon By-law inoperable.
 - 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.
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Option 2 (1)

- 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.
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Option 2 (2)

- This “cooperative” approach would take longer to implement.
 - However, it offers an ability to propose its case for its preferred method to the Region, legislatively requires a regional 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; a Town by-law wouldn't be displaced by a later regional By-law.
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Option 3 (1)

- Option 3 maintains the current tri-ward based model to regional representation at the Town of Caledon.
 - Regional Council Representation for the Town of Caledon would continue with the three regional councillors being comprised of:
 - One representing Wards 1,2,3
 - One representing Wards 4,5,6
 - Mayor
 - The benefits of this option are primarily the most resource and time-friendly.
 - 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 framework.
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Next Step

- 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.
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Questions & Comments