



# Corporate Report

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**DATE:** September 25, 2002

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**FROM:** David S. O'Brien, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** City of Mississauga's Response to the Citizens' Task Force on the Future of Mississauga

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**Meeting Date - October 9, 2002**

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**ORIGIN:** City Manager's Office

**BACKGROUND:**

At the Inaugural Council meeting for the 2000 - 2003 Council term, Mayor McCallion announced her intention to call together a group of Citizens to review governance options for Mississauga and options for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). In February 2001, a 20 member volunteer Task Force was appointed by the Mayor and met for the first time. The Task Force was comprised of two representatives of each of the City's nine wards, plus two members appointed directly by the Mayor. Over the course of the next 16 months, the Task Force met on a regular basis to review a considerable body of research and reports written by both City of Mississauga staff and others.

The Task Force prepared an interim report which was released for public discussion in November 2001. Following the release of the Interim Report, and during the months of January and February 2002, the Task Force members held 9 separate focus sessions in each of the nine wards of the City to invite comment and invoke further public discussion. Following the conclusion of all Ward meetings, a city-wide public meeting was convened at the Civic Centre on Tuesday March 26, 2002. Despite a heavy snowfall that day, approximately 100 residents attended this meeting.

On May 10, 2002, the Task Force presented their final report, "*Securing Our Future*", to City Council. The report, which is attached as Exhibit A, contains a number of recommendations which will be dealt with individually in the comments section of this report.

On April 3, 2002, a month prior to the Task Force's presentation of their final report, "*Securing Our Future*", to City Council, the General Committee considered a report from the City Manager titled "*Ward Boundaries Review*". Following discussion, General Committee passed the following motion:

GC-0238-2002

"That consideration of Ward boundaries addressed in the report titled "*Ward Boundaries Review*" dated April 3, 2002 from the City Manager, be deferred pending Council passing a resolution expressing its position on the complexities involved in establishing Ward boundaries with equitable representation in the City of Mississauga under its current status as a lower tier municipality with the Region of Peel, and the restrictions to regional representation prescribed under the *Region of Peel Act*."

This recommendation was adopted by City Council on April 10, 2002 along with Resolution 0108-2002 which reads:

"*Whereas* the City of Mississauga has a population of 625,000 and is the sixth largest City in Canada and the third largest in Ontario; and

*Whereas*, notwithstanding this population size, it is the only City of its size in the Province of Ontario still part of a Regional Government; and

*Whereas*, in being part of the Regional Municipality of Peel, the City of Mississauga has more than 60% of the population, yet, less than 50% of the vote; and

*Whereas*, the City of Mississauga may wish to redistribute or increase the number of wards in the City in order to make the representation on City Council more equitable; and

*Whereas*, such an increase in wards would change the balance of representation at the Regional level and would require Provincial legislation to do so; and

*Whereas*, the City of Mississauga is awaiting the results of the "Citizens Task Force on the Future of Mississauga", established to make recommendations on governance in Mississauga; and

*Whereas*, this Task Force has just completed public meetings and is expected to report to Council shortly on the results of these public meetings and their own work; and

*Whereas*, the future of the City of Mississauga in relation to its position within the Regional Municipality of Peel is likely to be addressed by the Task Force; and

*Whereas*, the City of Mississauga has long held that it does not support the imbalance between population and representation that exists at the Regional level; and

*Whereas*, the City of Mississauga needs to address its own representation to reflect the growing population given the size of City Council and the distribution of population within each ward;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Report dated April 3, 2002 from the City Manager entitled "Ward Boundaries Review" be deferred, pending the receipt and consideration of the report of the "Citizens Task Force on the Future of Mississauga"; and

THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon review of the report of the "Citizens Task Force on the Future of Mississauga", the appropriate steps be taken to deal with the recommendations of the Task Force including if necessary a review of the ward boundaries and/or the status of the City of Mississauga within the Regional Municipality of Peel and consultation with the appropriate Ministries of the Government of Ontario."

As a result of this recommendation, the final review of the Task Force's recommendations has also considered the impact on the City's existing and proposed ward boundaries.

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**COMMENTS:**

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**Citizens' Task Force Report**

The conclusion of the Task Force is that there are a number of pressing issues which, if left unaddressed, will dramatically affect the overall quality of life and economic viability of Mississauga and the Greater Toronto Area. As a result, they argue that changes in government practices, structures and priorities are required. The Task Force identified a number of principles which any reforms must respect, namely, that governance be accountable, accessible, responsive to residents' concerns, efficient and easily understood.

Although the Task Force submits a number of recommendations, these can be grouped in four key areas: Governance; Services; Funding; and Representation. As a result, the recommendations will be discussed under these four headings followed by the City's response.

**Governance Recommendations:**

The Task Force concluded that the Provincial government must create a Coordinating Body for the GTA, that consists of all of the local

municipalities in the GTA, and that this Coordinating Body must be established by legislation that would provide the authority, tools and resources needed to effectively plan and coordinate the issues of the entire GTA. Continuing the practice of fragmentation on such matters as transportation or solid waste management is inefficient and a waste of taxpayers dollars.

Furthermore, the Task Force recommends that Regional governments be phased out five years after the creation of the GTA-wide Coordinating Body.

As part of the phasing out of the Regional governments, the responsibilities of the Regions would be allocated between the local municipality, the GTA-wide Coordinating Body and in some cases, inter-municipal special purpose authorities or the Provincial government.

The ultimate result would be that the City of Mississauga would remain as a separate local municipality, with expanded responsibility for service delivery.

#### **City Response:**

The governance recommendations put forth by the Task Force are supportable as they are consistent with the City's position with respect to GTA governance.

The City has taken a consistent position with respect to GTA governance going back as early as 1995 with the City's submission to the Golden Task Force. At that time, it was stated that what was needed for GTA reform was: stronger local government; the creation of a Greater Toronto Area Services Commission; the abolishment of the five Regional governments in the GTA; and, the provision of better funding opportunities for municipal government.

Since that time, the City has supported the creation of a strong GTSB, with the necessary powers to ensure the co-ordination and delivery of a number of services across the GTA. Once a strong GTSB was created, there would be no need for Regional government, as the majority of their services would be delivered either by the GTSB or local municipalities. It was recognized that the GTSB must be created first, with the other changes within the GTA occurring once service transfers are complete.

The Provincial government's most recent decision, to disband the GTSB is considered by many to be an unfortunate one. The GTSB

was never given a chance to be successful, because it was never given the tools it needed to fulfil its mandate.

### **Services - Planning and Delivery Recommendations:**

The Task Force recommends the following principles with respect to the delivery of services:

- Coordinated but decentralized services. This means that services, especially cross-boundary functions, would be coordinated at the highest appropriate level.
- Wherever possible, municipalities must be able to choose the manner in which they provide services.
- Services must be delivered effectively, with minimum duplication, to meet or exceed prescribed minimum standards.
- Economies of scale must be maximized.
- The GTA-wide Coordinating Body or the Province must carry out some functions which require special or costly expertise.
- Municipalities may choose separately, or in concert with other municipalities, to have some services provided by an independent or specially commissioned non-profit, private or public body on a shared cost basis.
- The GTA-wide Coordinating Body may provide certain services on a GTA-wide basis, either directly or through partnerships with the private or not-for-profit sectors. When this is done, municipalities should not be allowed to opt out of such GTA-wide services.

In light of these principles, the Task Force reviewed the existing services or functions currently undertaken by the Provincial, Regional and Local governments and recommended the distribution of these services between the Province, GTA-wide Coordinating Body, Special Purpose Bodies and Local governments.

The Task Force also emphasized the immediate priorities which the GTA-wide Coordinating Body should address. The identified priorities are: the development of a clear, assertive, and environmentally conscious growth management strategy; the planning and coordination of transportation/public transit. The Task Force also identified a need for the Provincial government to take action in this

area, setting, through legislation, sustainable growth principles and targets.

The Task Force recommends that the GTA growth management strategy must be completed within one year of the creation of the GTA-wide Coordinating Body, with a requirement that local plans conform within the following 18 months. In addition, the Task Force encourages the GTA-wide Coordinating Body to become involved in environmental protection and environmental infrastructure; social imperatives such as social services and housing; and economic development and tourism.

#### City Response:

The City strongly supports the Task Force's recommendation for the development of a growth management strategy and the planning and coordination of transportation/public transit in the GTA, as a first priority.

The Central Zone SMART GROWTH Panel which Mayor McCallion chairs, has 3 sub-panels: Gridlock, Solid Waste and Strategy. It is anticipated that the SMART GROWTH Panel will make its final recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the spring of 2003. In this regard, the City should continue to monitor and involve itself in the development of growth management strategies, and the planning and coordination of transportation and public transit in the GTA. In addition, the City should continue to pursue the creation of a GTA-wide Coordinating Body with the Provincial government, especially given that such a body could be charged with implementing the recommendations of the SMART GROWTH Panel, once they have been finalized.

In 1997, the City of Mississauga commented on the discussion paper on the GTSB that was released by the Provincial government. In those comments, the City made a number of recommendations with respect to the services to be provided by the GTSB. The following table compares those recommendations to those of the Citizen's Task Force.

City of Mississauga's recommended GTA-wide services (1997)	Position taken by the Task Force with respect to the same services
Regional Roads and Expressways	<p><u>Province</u> should have responsibility for the planning of Provincial highways and expressways (in conformity with Growth Management Strategy)</p> <p>The <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u> should develop and have authority to enforce a comprehensive transportation plan for the GTA (in conformity with Growth Management Strategy)</p>
Waste Management	<p>The collection of waste should be a <u>local</u> responsibility with a coordinating role for the <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u></p> <p>The <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u> should plan and coordinate the disposal, with <u>local</u> service delivery with the option for delivery by the <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u>.</p>
Sewer and Water Distribution and Management	<p>The <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u> plans and coordinates, waste water and sewage treatment with local service delivery, however there is the option for delivery by the <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u> or an inter-municipal special purpose body.</p> <p>Water distribution is <u>local</u> , however the water supply is planned and coordinated by the <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u></p>
Public Transit Integration and Co-ordination	<p>The <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u> would have authority for the GTA-wide transportation agency for transit coordination, including transit integration and development of a comprehensive transit plan.</p>
Specialized Police Services and Police Board Co-ordination	<p>Existing police services should remain in place with the existing police services boards becoming <u>inter-municipal bodies</u>.</p> <p>Specialized services should fall under the <u>Province</u> or <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u></p>

City of Mississauga's recommended GTA-wide services (1997)	Position taken by the Task Force with respect to the same services
Regional Strategic and Long Range Planning	The <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u> should develop and enforce a sustainable growth management strategy.
Infrastructure Planning	In addition, to reference to specific infrastructure the Task Force notes the <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u> must develop a growth management strategy which should encourage the maximization of existing infrastructure.
Watershed Management	The <u>GTA-wide Coordinating Body</u> would play a role in the protection of environmentally sensitive lands and the GTA-wide greenlands systems which cross municipal boundaries.
GTA-wide Economic Development and Tourism Planning and Co-ordination	Economic development should remain <u>local</u> , with a strengthened role for the <u>Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance (GTMA)</u>

Although there are slight differences between the services proposed to be allocated to the GTSB in the City's 1997 comments, and those of the Citizen's Task Force, there is a consistent theme. Both the City and the Task Force agree that services currently delivered by the Regional level of government should be transferred to a GTA-wide body to ensure that cross boundary services are delivered in a coordinated manner across the GTA.

#### **Funding Recommendations:**

The Task Force noted that funding issues will present significant challenges to the future of the GTA-wide Coordinating Body. They also identify the need for consistent sources of funding which are adequate to address the responsibilities of the GTA-wide Coordinating Body.

In this regard, the Task Force calls for a comprehensive independent study on funding and fiscal relations. Until this study is completed, the Task Force recommends the following funding principles:

- The cost of services provided by the GTA-wide Coordinating Body, must be borne by the municipalities on the basis of benefits received.



- There must be no taxing powers for the GTA-wide Coordinating Body.
- To the extent that the GTA-wide Coordinating Body is to purchase assets it would have the ability to borrow, and there must be an assured source of funding for payments.
- The GTA-wide Coordinating Body must levy the municipalities to pay for its general administration costs. The levy must be calculated based on population or other reasonable and fair means.
- Individual municipalities may elect to provide services at levels in excess of prescribed minimum standards, but be responsible for these additional costs.
- There must be reliable and consistent funding by senior levels of government for services provided by the GTA municipalities on their behalf, such as social services.
- The Provincial government must pay the costs of Provincial highways and expressways, social services and hospital support.
- The Provincial government must provide capital funds for public transit and individually approved capital infrastructure projects. The Province must consistently assist with covering transit operating costs. The Federal government must recognize its responsibility to the taxpayers with respect to transit funding needs.
- Long-term financing arrangements for capital projects must be entered into with, and supported by, the Provincial government. These must not be subject to annual budgetary pressures.
- The GTA-wide Coordinating Body must have the authority to enter into long-term borrowing arrangements with governments and others.

#### City Response:

The Task Force has very astutely recognized that the GTA-wide Coordinating Body will need to secure consistent sources of funding for the services for which it will be responsible. In fact, securing constant sources of funding is a critical issue for all municipalities.

The City supports the Task Force's call for a comprehensive independent study on funding and fiscal relations, but notes that any resultant change will depend entirely upon the willingness of the Federal and Provincial levels of government to accept their responsibility to provide a sustainable source of funding.

In the interim, the funding principles established for the GTA-wide Coordinating Body are supported. The City strongly supports the concept that there be no taxing powers for the GTA-wide Coordinating Body.

The principle that the cost of services provided must be borne by the municipalities on the basis of the benefit received, is a user pay approach, that is strongly endorsed by the City of Mississauga.

We also support the recognition that the cost of certain services such as social services and hospital support should be borne by the Provincial government. Public transit should have a consistent and sustainable source of funding from both the Federal and Provincial governments.

#### **Representation Recommendations:**

On the subject of representation, the Task Force recommended that the GTA-wide Coordinating Body be composed only of elected members of municipal governments within the GTA, in keeping with the principle of democratic accountability.

They endorsed the concept of "representation by population" and the weighting of votes on the GTA-wide Coordinating Body.

The Task Force went on to identify a concern with respect to the disparity in both the population of the wards in the City of Mississauga, as well as, with Mississauga's representation on Peel Regional Council.

The final comment with respect to representation was that the geographical area of the Coordinating Body should be limited to the GTA.

#### **City Response:**

The City supports the Task Force's recommendation that the GTA-wide Coordinating Body be composed of only elected members of the municipal Councils. This position is consistent with the position taken by City of Mississauga Council when it passed Resolution 0008-2002 on January 16, 2002, which addressed the membership of the Province's proposed Smart Growth Councils, as follows:

*"Whereas the Province of Ontario has announced the creation of Smart Growth Councils;*

*And whereas these Councils have been defined as being made up of municipal elected representatives, provincial representatives and private sector representatives;*

*And whereas these Smart Growth Councils will be dealing with the growth of the "Golden Horseshoe" area, GTA wide transportation issues and potentially other policies that affect the various municipalities within the greater GTA;*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the majority of the members of the Smart Growth Council for the "Golden Horseshoe" area be elected municipal representatives."

The City also supports the Task Force's recommendation calling for "representation by population" and the weighting of votes on the GTA-wide Coordinating Body. Given the number of municipalities in the GTA and the extreme variances in their populations, weighted voting is a much more effective means of achieving representation by population.

The structure of the former GTSB attempted to achieve a form of representation by population by providing additional members to the larger municipalities of Toronto and Mississauga. Unfortunately one of the criticisms of the GTSB was that the size of the Board caused some difficulties.

The Task Force recommends that the area of the GTA-wide Coordinating Body be limited to the current geographical area known as the GTA (the Regions of Halton, Peel, York, Durham, and the City of Toronto). In considering this recommendation, however, we note that there may be merit in using the GTA-wide Coordinating Body as one of the mechanisms to implement the recommendations of the Central Zone SMART GROWTH Panel, specifically the much anticipated growth management recommendations. We recognize that the geographic area covered by the Central Zone SMART GROWTH Panel is large and one Coordinating Body would likely be ineffective. There may be merit, however, in forming a Coordinating Body with a geographic area larger than the GTA, and this should be seriously considered by the Province.

The remaining two concerns with respect to the disparity in both the population of the wards in the City of Mississauga, as well as, with Mississauga's representation on Peel Regional Council, will be dealt

with later in this report.

#### Other Recommendations:

The Task Force identified one additional issue; the matter of dispute resolution. They call for the Ontario Municipal Board to be re-examined, specifically requesting that the Province ensure that future decisions are made in the context of the future growth management strategy.

#### City Response:

The City is also very concerned with the current operation of the Ontario Municipal Board. On May 8, 2002, City Council adopted Resolution 0128-2002 which is a comprehensive resolution outlining the City's concerns with respect to the Ontario Municipal Board as follows:

*"Whereas municipalities invest heavily in extensive land use planning and public consultation processes regarding Official Plan policies and Zoning and rely on these processes and resultant policies and regulations to support various municipal objectives and guide both public and private investment decisions;*

*And Whereas the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has power to overrule decisions of a democratically elected body: decisions that were made following an extensive municipal review and public/agency consultation process and its jurisdiction to over-ride local decisions making relegates the role of municipal councils to that of a service delivery versus a policy making body;*

*And Whereas while Municipal Councils are elected by and are directly accountable to the electorate, the members of the OMB are appointed by the Government of Ontario and have no direct accountability back to the electorate;*

*And Whereas the original intent of the OMB was to be a check against bad or biased planning but has grown into a body that may overturn sound planning decisions and reshape communities in a manner that is contrary to their will and vision;*

*And Whereas the Corporation of the City of Mississauga spends significant resources in staff time, legal fees and other related*

costs (approximately \$1,000,000.00 in 2001 alone and have escalated every year from approximately \$500,000.00 five years ago, and have already exceeded \$500,000.00 for 2002) to represent the Corporation at cases before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB);

*And Whereas* local decision making under the Municipal Act is not subject to appeal while many minor planning matters, such as site plans, minor variances and consents, may be referred to the OMB but should remain at the local municipal level;

*And Whereas* there is a desire to restore local control over planning by involving citizens and ensuring decisions are made by democratically elected officials;

*And Whereas* the Government of Ontario cannot expect 'smart growth' to occur in an environment where local planning and years of public input and debate can be overturned by an appointed body with often little knowledge of the municipalities whose future they are shaping;

*And Whereas* municipalities are concerned with the ability of applicants to use the planning process to circumvent municipal governments' review and decision-making responsibility; and proceed to the OMB before the municipality has had a reasonable opportunity to evaluate and complete a technical review of such applications, and in some instances, prior to the elected representatives considering the matter;

*And Whereas* many applicants see an appeal to the OMB as the fastest way to obtain approvals for their project and are increasingly referring matters to the Board based on the municipality's failure to act within the prescribed 90 day time frame, which is tantamount to an abuse of process in that it robs the municipality of the opportunity to undertake planning within its own community and denies concerned residents/landowners an adequate opportunity to air concerns before their elected officials by forcing them into the OMB realm;

*And Whereas* OMB referrals then become a municipal staff priority, further delaying 'legitimate' applicants who are trying to work constructively with the municipality;

*And Whereas* OMB procedures and protocol are predominantly legalistic in nature, favouring professionals but difficult for non professional participants to understand and/or participate in

hearings given the time, cost and complexity of hearings;

*And Whereas* in a recent Superior Court of Justice, Divisional Court decision, it was determined that the OMB had overstepped its authority in its ruling that a City of Toronto Official Plan Amendment relating to the demolition or loss of rental units was invalid and illegal, thereby confirming that the OMB's jurisdiction does not extend to the legislative competence of municipalities in the exercise of their powers under the Planning Act;

*And Whereas* Bill 161, a Bill to Abolish the Ontario Municipal Board was introduced and received first reading by the Province on December 12, 2001;

*And Whereas* a review of the role of the OMB should be an urgent consideration for the Government of Ontario;

*And Whereas* the Council of the Corporation of the City of Pickering, on February 4, 2002 passes a resolution urging the Government of Ontario to remove or, at the least, radically reduce the role of the Ontario Municipal Board back to a pure check against bad or biased planning;

*And Whereas* the Association of Municipalities of Ontario was requested by the same resolution to apply meaningful and lasting pressure to dissolve or radically alter the Ontario Municipal Board;

*And Whereas* the appropriate role for the OMB should be to only address matters of Provincial Policy, and approval of official plans;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the City of Mississauga requests the Government of Ontario to review the role of the OMB, the Planning Act and the Ontario Municipal Board Act such that only major planning matters which address matters of Provincial Policy and approval of official plans may be referred to the OMB; and THAT this Resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario and all Members of Provincial Parliament."

Subsequent to the adoption of this resolution, the City was advised that

the Region of Durham endorsed the City's resolution and that the Regional Chair would be forming a Task Force to prepare a report containing constructive recommendations for reforms and improvements to the OMB. They noted that GTA Councils will be asked to endorse the report of the Task Force prior to it being presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The City of Mississauga has requested membership on this Task Force.

### **Impact on the Ward Boundaries Review**

The Task Force identified a concern with respect to the disparity in both the population of the wards in the City of Mississauga, as well as, the City's representation on Peel Regional Council.

In the report titled "*Ward Boundaries Review*", dated April 3, 2002, and attached as Exhibit B, staff identified certain recurring issues with respect to the City's ward boundary structure; namely, the need for equitable population distribution, the desire for a long term solution to the number of wards, Regional representation, and maintaining communities of interest.

The report proposed, a series of ward options, based on both nine and ten Wards scenarios. It was noted, however, that the issue of what might constitute appropriate representation on Regional Council needs to be addressed as part of the governance issue in Peel. A ten ward solution, which is probably necessary in the long term, would require an amendment to *The Regional Municipality of Peel Act*. As the Act sits today, this would mean an increase to the size of Regional Council in order to maintain the voting imbalance that exists.

As the Task Force has recommended that the Region of Peel be phased out within five years of the creation of the GTA-wide Coordinating Body, we question the merits of making what would be short-term temporary changes to both the ward boundaries and to the Regional representation should the City opt for one of the ten ward scenarios. Conversely, accepting one of the nine ward scenarios would improve the imbalance of ward populations and balance the wards most affected by the growth in the northwest part of the City, however, it is unlikely that any of the nine ward scenarios would be a long term solution.

It is recognized that the Status Quo, Option 9A, would compound the current and future ward population differences. If, however, none of the nine ward solutions are considered to be long term solutions, then it should be questioned whether changes should even be contemplated for the 2003 Election, especially given that so many other significant factors are being considered and the current time frame makes it

virtually impossible.

The compelling argument for long term changes to the Mississauga ward boundaries are being thwarted by the political structure presently set out in *The Regional Municipality of Peel Act*.

Because of this political imbalance that exists on Regional Council, Mississauga cannot add an additional ward without a corresponding increase to the Brampton Council. We would not presume that anyone would suggest that Caledon's representation be increased due its disproportionately small population and equally disproportionate representation. This would do nothing more than perpetuate an already inequitable representation on Regional Council.

It is impossible to make any changes to the existing ward boundaries in Mississauga for the 2003 Election, simply due to timing. Changes to the 9 Ward scenario could be put in place for the 2006 Election, however this is still a short term solution. It is likely that in the future, we will have to increase the number of wards to accommodate our ultimate population. Mississauga needs to establish the number of wards and the size of wards for the long term which will mean accommodating an additional 100,000 - 150,000 people.

Unfortunately, we will be restricted from doing this without a corresponding restructuring of the Regional Council to maintain the required representation. The time has come for Mississauga to make these decisions independently without the need to balance the corresponding representation of Brampton and Caledon. **It is time for Mississauga to stand as a separated city, out of the Region of Peel, able to make its own decisions independently in the best interests of its citizens.**

Mississauga is now a city of 630,000 people; the sixth largest in Canada and the third largest in Ontario, and yet, it is still part of a Regional government. A Regional government comprised of only three municipalities, only one of which is dependant upon the Region and the other two being more than capable of managing their own futures. Imagine that should Mississauga need to borrow money, it could not do so without Regional approval and yet Mississauga is probably the most financially efficient municipality in Canada. What a compelling argument to eliminate duplication.

It is becoming abundantly clear that the Region of Peel is involving itself in local issues that have not traditionally been part of their mandate and in doing so, is wasting tax dollars on unnecessary duplication.



It goes without saying that the City of Mississauga can and should stand alone as a separated city. We do not need the Region in any way whatsoever to survive as a community. Keeping the Region, in the case of Mississauga, is simply a waste of money and the sooner this issue is dealt with, the sooner these savings can be passed onto the Mississauga taxpayer.

The 2006 municipal election is four years away. Our Citizens Task Force speaks of a five year program to create the GTA wide coordinating body and then the elimination of the Region. We now have an opportunity to meet that time line by implementing the changes for the 2006 Election. In addition, the SMART GROWTH recommendations will be presented in early 2003, which further reinforces the need to act. With proper review and analysis, the change can be well planned and documented and the transition can be done in an efficient manner. Four years is more than sufficient time to plan for the transition of the City of Mississauga to a separated city.

#### CONCLUSION:

The formation of the Citizens' Task Force was an excellent means of involving the citizens of Mississauga in an issue which directly affects them. The members of the Task Force contributed considerable time and commitment to the task assigned to them and should be congratulated and thanked for their dedication to the City. The Task Force was a very useful mechanism and should be considered again in the future as a useful means to engage the citizens of the City of Mississauga in the review of issues affecting the City.

The recommendations of the Task Force are consistent with positions previously taken by the City of Mississauga with respect to governance in the GTA and the formation of a GTA-wide Coordinating Body. As the Task Force recommendations reinforce positions previously expressed by the City of Mississauga, the City should take this opportunity to request that the Provincial government create a Coordinating Body to deal with the significant cross boundary issues, with the priorities being the development of a growth management strategy and the planning and coordination of transportation and public transit.

The Coordinating Body could be based either on the existing municipalities within the GTA, or could be based on a more appropriate geographical area, if this was deemed appropriate to coincide with the recommendations of the Central Area Smart Growth Panel's recommendation.

Despite the final geographical boundary, the Coordinating Body should consist of all of the local municipalities within the identified area, and should be established by Provincial legislation that provides the necessary authority, tools and resources needed to effectively plan and coordinate the area's needs.

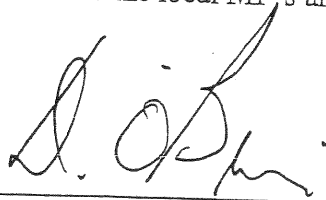
The Provincial government should be requested to phase out the Regional governments within four years of the creation of the Coordinating Body.

As a result of these significant governance changes being pursued, it is therefore questioned whether changes should be made for the 2003 Election, especially given that none of the scenarios proposed are considered to be the long term solution to the City's ward boundary structure.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

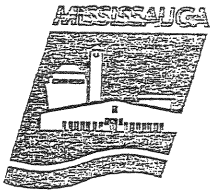
1. That the Council of the City of Mississauga thank the members of the Mayor's Citizens' Task Force on the Future of Mississauga for their intensive and respectful review of the issue of Governance in the GTA and its impact on the City of Mississauga.
2. That the formation of special citizen task forces be considered in the future as a useful means of engaging the citizens of the City of Mississauga in issues affecting the City.
3. That the City of Mississauga take no action with respect to Ward boundary changes for the 2003 Municipal Election.
4. That the Council of the City of Mississauga request the Province of Ontario to permit the transition of the City of Mississauga to a separated city in advance of the 2006 election.
5. That the Province of Ontario establish a GTA- wide Coordinating Body at the same time they consider the recommendations of the SMART GROWTH Panel.

6. That the Report dated September 25, 2002, from the City Manager, regarding the City of Mississauga's Response to the Citizens' Task Force, be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Peel Regional Council, the City of Brampton, the Town of Caledon, and the local MP's and MPP 's.



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David S. O'Brien, City Manager



RESOLUTION NO: 0297-2002 Page 1 of 8

Date: October 23, 2002

File: MG 11

Moved by: [Signature]

Seconded by: [Signature]

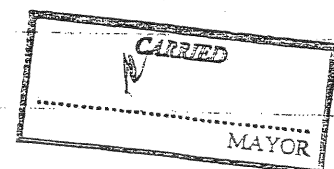
WHEREAS in 1974 the City of Mississauga was formed and constituted an amalgamation of a number of municipalities including the former Towns of Mississauga, Port Credit and Streetsville plus a portion of the former Town of Oakville;

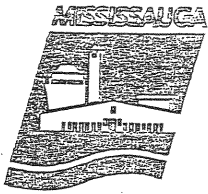
AND WHEREAS in 1974 the Regional Municipality of Peel was established as part of the Province of Ontario's initiatives on government reform that resulted in five regional municipalities being created within the GTA and, with the City of Mississauga being one of the three area municipalities that constitute the Regional Municipality of Peel;

AND WHEREAS representation on all regions was based on population, with the exception of the Regional Municipality of Peel which specifically had disproportional representation;

AND WHEREAS this resulted in Mississauga having only 49% of the vote or 10 seats on Regional Council and Brampton and Caledon having 28% or 6 seats and 23% or 5 seats respectively, in spite of Mississauga having 63% of the population of the region, and inequity that has continued until the present time;

AND WHEREAS with Metro Toronto becoming fully developed, increased pressures were put on the City of Mississauga and surrounding municipalities to keep up with increased growth demands and accompanying services and infrastructure which led to "entangled" cross border services and a lack of clarity as to who should be responsible for the cost and delivery of services;





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Date: October 23, 2002

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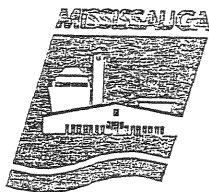
Moved by: "J. Carlson"

Seconded by: "E. Gytis" N. Lannucci"

AND WHEREAS in 1995, coinciding with the Provincial government's GTA Task Force, the City of Mississauga demonstrated its commitment to change by introducing a series of reports and recommendations on GTA reform which clearly illustrated how the GTA could change for the benefit of the entire community;

AND WHEREAS, the City of Mississauga in its 1995 report titled *"Running the GTA Like a Business"*, the City recommended that legislation be developed to abolish the five regional governments by December 1, 1997, and further, that the Greater Toronto Services Commission be responsible for developing an overall GTA strategy to coordinate urban and rural growth management and infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga has on several occasions, through the *"Report on GTA Governance"* submitted to the Crombie Panel, *"The Four Mayors Report"*, 1996, and the 1997 response to Milt Farrow's report on *"Developing a Framework for the Greater Toronto Services Board"*, stated that there is no longer a need for regional governments and that most GTA wide services can be provided through a broader, strong, effective decision making body and that wherever possible, services be provided by local municipalities;



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Moved by: "J. Carlson"

Seconded by: "N. Lannua"

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga and the "The Four Mayors Report" has clearly emphasized the need for GTA restructuring and the elimination of the regions prior to any GTA wide services body being established;

AND WHEREAS on January 16, 2000, City Council passed a resolution dealing with a report written on behalf of six GTA Mayors outlining restructuring of 905 municipalities and the under legislated authority of the Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB), stating that the structure of the GTSB should be determined after municipal restructuring and recommending, amongst other matters, that the provincial government consult with the area municipalities on municipal restructuring, re-legislating the GTSB and boundary issues;

AND WHEREAS on October 11, 2000, City Council adopted a report "Urban Sprawl and the Greater Toronto Services Board" and recommended that the Provincial government be requested to appoint a special advisor by March 2001 to review the structure and functions of the GTSB including the relationship of the GTSB with the Province and local municipalities with the objective of the new GTSB having the legislative authority and financial capability to compete in the global economy, negotiate with other levels of government and establish an effective partnership with municipalities for adoption of a growth management strategy;



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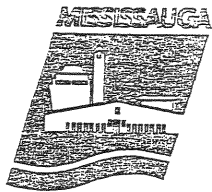
Date: October 23, 2002

File: MG.11

Moved by: "J. Carlson"

Seconded by: "N. Jannic"

AND WHEREAS in February 2001, Mayor Hazel McCallion appointed a 20 member  
volunteer Citizens' Task Force to examine and bring forward recommendations on  
governance in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), including the role of Mississauga;  
AND WHEREAS on December 31, 2001, the Provincial government dissolved the  
GTSB and subsequently appointed a Central Zone SMART GROWTH Panel, chaired  
by Mayor Hazel McCallion to address issues of gridlock, solid waste and growth  
strategy;  
AND WHEREAS on April 10, 2002, City Council considered a report, "Ward Boundaries  
Review" which, amongst other matters, states that the City of Mississauga has 63% of  
the population within the Region of Peel and less than 49% of the vote and that  
Mississauga may wish to redistribute or increase the number of wards in the City in  
order to make representation more equitable and that an increase in wards would  
change the balance of representation at the Regional level and would require Provincial  
legislation to do so;



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Date: October 23, 2002

File: MG 11

Moved by: "J. Carlson"

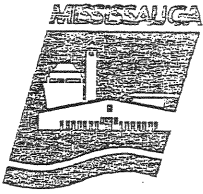
Seconded by: "N. Lammie"

AND WHEREAS on April 10, 2002 City Council adopted Resolution 0108-2002 that the "Ward Boundaries Report" be deferred, pending the report from the Citizens' Task Force and that appropriate steps be taken to deal with the recommendations of the Task Force, including if necessary, a review of the ward boundaries and/or the status of the City of Mississauga within the Regional Municipality of Peel and consultation with the appropriate Ministries of the Provincial government;

AND WHEREAS on May 10, 2002, the Citizens' Task Force presented their final report, "Securing Our Future", which made a number of recommendations on governance, services and funding including the phasing out of Regional government 5 years after the formation of a GTA wide governing body intended to provide delivery of certain services;

AND WHEREAS, on October 9, 2002 City Council considered a report titled "City of Mississauga's Response to the Citizens' Task Force on the Future of Mississauga", which concludes that the Task Force's recommendations for a legislated GTA wide Co-ordinating Body to plan and coordinate GTA wide issues as a first priority, to be followed with the phasing out of the Regions and, that the GTA wide Co-ordinating Body have representation based on population, are consistent with the position that has been maintained by the City of Mississauga since 1995;





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Moved by: "J. Carlson"

Seconded by: "M. Fennell"

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga contributes 67% of the levy of the Region of Peel and still has 63% of the population while still only having 49% of the representation;

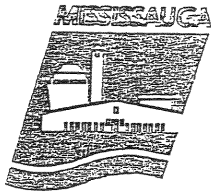
AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga is the third largest City in Ontario and is not dependant on the Regional Municipality of Peel to manage its future;

AND WHEREAS Members of Council of the City of Mississauga, all of whom also serve as Councillors at the Region of Peel have attempted to disentangle services at the local and regional level but have been unsuccessful due to the disproportionate representation at the region;

AND WHEREAS Council of the City of Mississauga is concerned that at times the Region of Peel involves itself in local issues, not part of its mandate of being a service provider within the City of Mississauga, resulting in unnecessary duplication and cost;

AND WHEREAS the average population of the 9 wards in the City of Mississauga is 70,000 and in Wards 6 and 9, the combined population is 200,000 with an expected additional future growth of more than 35,000;

AND WHEREAS the population of the City of Mississauga in 2002 is 630,000



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Date: October 23, 2002

File: MG 11

Moved by: "J. Carlson"

Seconded by: "N. Lannier"

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga should address as part of the ward boundaries, issues relating to its urban boundary both west of Ninth Line and the northern boundary, south of Highway 407;

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga needs to adjust its ward boundaries, however, changes made now to the ward boundaries or Regional government representation would only be short term solutions, and therefore the appropriateness of making any changes prior to the 2003 election is questionable;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That no action be taken with respect to ward boundary changes for the 2003 Municipal Election;
2. That the Province of Ontario be requested to permit the transition of the City of Mississauga to a separated city in advance of the 2006 election;
3. That the Province of Ontario be requested to establish a GTA wide Co-ordinating Body at the same time they consider the recommendations of the SMART GROWTH Panel;



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Date: October 23, 2002

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Moved by: MG.11 "G. Carlson"

Seconded by: "M. Fannuci"

4. That the report dated September 25, 2002, from the City Manager, regarding the City of Mississauga's Response to the Citizens' Task Force on the Future of Mississauga, be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton, the Town of Caledon, and the Mississauga MP's and MPP's.