



Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. If the City of Mississauga is no longer a part of the Region of Peel, what happens to services like housing, health and social services (homes for the aged, children's services, assisted housing) all of which are currently provided by the Region?**

Social services and health services are currently mandated and funded by the Province with programming delivered at the Regional level. These services would continue to be delivered in compliance with applicable legislation and funding arrangements.

- 2. What happens to the school boards if Mississauga separates?**

At this time, the City collects the education portion of residents' property taxes on behalf of the Province and remits it to the school boards. The City has no other responsibility with respect to education and there would be no impact as a result of separation.

- 3. What are the transition costs associated with becoming a Separated City?**

Our financial report did not specifically address transition costs and we will need to develop a comprehensive implementation plan. Mississauga as a Separated City, no longer a part of the Region, will allow us to keep the \$32 million that we pay every year to have services delivered through two levels of government. Any one-time transition costs would be more than offset by keeping those tax dollars in Mississauga.

- 4. Can we expect taxes to decline if we become a Separated City?**

Property taxes in Mississauga have been among the lowest in the Greater Toronto Area for a number of years. As Mississauga matures, the cost to maintain the City's facilities such as community centres, libraries and fire halls goes up. Those property tax dollars which currently support the delivery of services from two levels of government (City and Region) must stay in Mississauga to maintain our community and our services. The consultant's financial impact report revealed that it costs Mississauga as much as \$32 million every year to support two levels of service delivery. These dollars will be used to help minimize future tax increases.

5. Is Separation the only solution? What about joining Caledon and Brampton to become the City of Peel?

Amalgamations have not been successful and we do not believe this is the fiscally responsible way to go. In most cases, taxes have gone up and efficiencies have not been realized. In many areas, the citizens are pushing for de-amalgamation, and in Haldimand and Norfolk, de-amalgamation has occurred.

6. Will the quality of life be impacted in Caledon and Brampton if Mississauga separates? It seems like Mississauga wants to leave the other municipalities to fend for themselves?

Mississauga is concerned about delivering programs and services to its residents efficiently and in a way that enhances their quality of life. We have worked very hard at the local level to protect our environment, keep our city safe and clean and make the City a great place in which to live, work and play. To maintain the existing quality of life in Mississauga, a new deal is required that will allow tax dollars paid in Mississauga to be spent here. It will be for the Councils of Brampton and Caledon to define and fund the quality of life in their own municipalities.

7. How can you help?

The best way to help is to stay informed through our website and by contacting your MPP whose support we will need to pursue this goal. Should any further citizen assistance be required it will be noted on the Web site.

8. Why is this taking so long and what is the process now?

This initiative needs to be approved by the Province and as such all the necessary steps as governed by the Municipal Act need to be followed. We have asked for implementation in time for the 2006 municipal election.

June 14, 2004