



Hazel McCallion

Mayor's Update



April 2004

Mississauga – A Separated, Independent City

Your City Council is dealing with an issue of great importance to the future of Mississauga. It's about Mississauga becoming a separated, independent city no longer a part of the Region of Peel.

If you recall, in 2003, I sent you a newsletter to report the findings of the Citizens' Task Force on the Future of Mississauga. This Task Force recommended that the City of Mississauga become a stand-alone city. This year, Council commissioned a detailed Financial Impact Report from an independent consultant, which measured the impact on property taxes for Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon should Mississauga separate from the Region of Peel.

The Financial Impact Report told us what we have known for years – Mississauga taxpayers have always paid a disproportionately high share of the Region of Peel's costs. In fact, the report estimates that it costs Mississauga as much as \$32 million every year to deliver services from two levels of government. As Mississauga matures and the cost to maintain the City's infrastructure and services goes up, those property tax dollars must stay in Mississauga to maintain our community and our services.

Mississauga needs to have "One Voice" in managing its affairs with other levels of government. Currently, we pay 66 per cent of the property tax in the Region and have 63 per cent of the population; yet, we only have 48 per cent of the vote. That is simply not fair. It is clear that we can no longer afford to send our tax dollars to subsidize services in Brampton and Caledon.

For example, the taxpayers of Mississauga pay 2/3 or \$24,000 per year of the salary of a Councillor from Caledon at the Region, while taxpayers in Caledon pay only \$21,000 to the same Councillor to sit on their local Council!



We have presented the Task Force Report and our financial analysis to the Premier of Ontario. We believe this material makes a strong case for Mississauga as a Separated City.

Mississauga is a city with a strong reputation built on solid leadership and fiscal responsibility. We are ready to control our future in a way that will benefit all residents and businesses –

as a vibrant, mature city that can manage its affairs with one level of local government. Cities such as Barrie, London and Windsor, all of which have populations less than ours, have been separated cities for years. It's time to do it in Mississauga.

City Council needs your support to show the Premier and the Government of Ontario that you want Mississauga, your city, to be independent before the next municipal election in 2006. To achieve this, the Municipal Act must be changed this fall.

Please support our "One City, One Voice" campaign using the on-line form at www.mississauga.ca/onecityonevoice or by completing the enclosed pledge form and returning it to the City of Mississauga.

I encourage you to discuss this important issue with family and friends. You can also contact me, your Ward Councillor or Member of Provincial Parliament. See the last page of this newsletter for contact information.

The time for change is now.

Sincerely,

Hazel McCallion,
Mayor

Why a Separated City?

1 KEEP TAXES IN MISSISSAUGA

- Mississauga has always paid a disproportionately high share of the Region of Peel's costs.
- It costs Mississauga taxpayers \$32 million more every year to provide services through two levels of government.
- Money raised for the Region of Peel from Mississauga residents should not subsidize services in Brampton and Caledon.

2 ELIMINATE OVERLAP IN SERVICE

- Overlap exists in areas such as land use, transportation planning and road services.
- "One stop" shopping for all municipal services is much more efficient and saves valuable staff time and tax dollars that can be used to improve services.

3 CANADA'S SIXTH LARGEST CITY DESERVES A VOICE

- Mississauga is a mature city of 680,000.
- We are the sixth largest municipality in Canada, third largest in Ontario.
- No other city of our size in Ontario is part of a regional government.

4 MISSISSAUGA DESERVES FAIR REPRESENTATION

- Mississauga residents pay 66 per cent of the regional property tax, have 62 per cent of the population and only 48 per cent of the vote on Regional Council.

5 IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

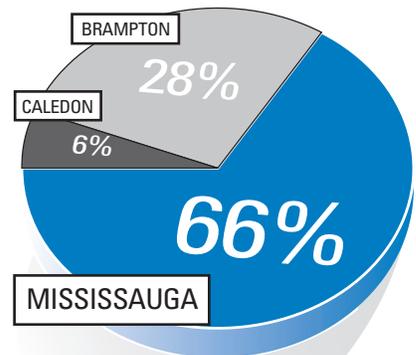
- Mississauga has strong leadership.
- We are one of the best managed municipalities in Canada. For the 4th year in a row we have been named one of Canada's top 100 employers.
- Mississauga is debt-free and has low taxes.
- We have the trust and confidence of Mississauga residents.
- Mississauga has a clear vision of the future.

6 CLOSE THE WARD POPULATION GAP

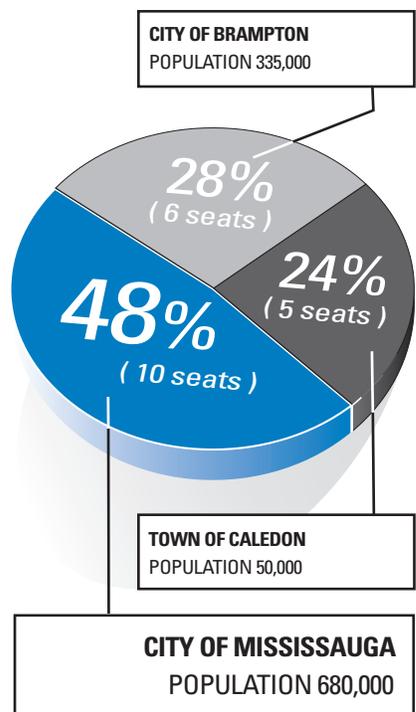
- Today, we have an inequitable representation by population.
- The average population per Regional Councillor in Caledon is 10,000; in Mississauga, the average is 75,000.
- In fact, two Mississauga wards have over 100,000 residents.
- We do not have the votes on Regional Council to give Mississauga residents a fair voice.

Did you know?

- Mississauga residents pay over 66 per cent of the property tax in the Region of Peel



- On the 21-member (elected) Region of Peel Council, Mississauga has 10 seats or only 48 per cent of the vote on how the regional budget is spent



Answers to your Questions

Who will provide police services?

The current Police Services Board presently provides services only to Mississauga and Brampton. This service would continue unchanged.

What about other regional services?

We believe that municipal services should be delivered in the most effective way, offering citizens “one-stop” shopping. The Region delivers many overlapping services that make it more confusing and more complicated for taxpayers to get things done- not to mention more expensive.

We would take responsibility for all municipal roads operations and land-use planning for Mississauga. For some services like garbage collection, we would take over the contract and manage it ourselves.

Some services such as social services and public health which are best delivered across a broad base may best be dealt with by a services agreement between municipalities.

Why is a Separated Mississauga the answer?

To deliver the right municipal services, we need to look beyond our borders. Mississauga would work with its

neighbour municipalities across the entire Golden Horseshoe to co-ordinate solutions to our land development, transportation, traffic and waste management issues.

The City of Mississauga's proposal suggests to the Province that a series of economically-viable, separate, locally accountable, yet inter-dependent and closely-linked communities will give citizens the best possible type of communities.

Mississauga has always set the example of how municipalities should be run. We want to continue making the right decisions that will protect the quality of life in our community.

Milestones on the Road towards Separation

1974 : Regional Municipality of Peel established as part of the Province of Ontario's initiatives on government reform that resulted in five regional governments being created within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The City of Mississauga became one of the three municipalities within the Region of Peel.

1995 : Coinciding with the Provincial government's GTA Task Force, the City of Mississauga demonstrates its commitment to change by introducing a series of reports and recommendations on GTA reform.

January 16, 2000 : Mississauga City Council passes a resolution dealing with a report written on behalf of six GTA mayors outlining restructuring of 905 municipalities.

February 2001 : Mayor Hazel McCallion appoints a 20-member volunteer Citizens' Task Force to examine and bring forward recommendations on governance for Mississauga and the GTA.

December 31, 2001 : The Provincial government dissolves the Greater Toronto Services Board and subsequently appoints a Central Zone SMART GROWTH

Panel, chaired by Mayor Hazel McCallion to address issues of gridlock, solid waste and growth strategy.

May 10, 2002 : The Citizens' Task Force presents its final report, "Securing Our Future," which makes a number of recommendations on governance, services and funding including the phasing out of regional government five years after the formation of a GTA-wide governing body intended to provide delivery of certain services.

February 2003 : Mississauga residents receive Mayor Hazel McCallion's first Update on the issue of independence. Over 13,000 pledge cards are returned in support of independence from the Region of Peel.

February 25, 2004 : City Council receives a report, "Financial Impact Report to the City of Mississauga on the Transition to a Single Tier," prepared by an independent consultant. Mayor Hazel McCallion shares the report with Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Provincial government requesting a decision be made before the next municipal election in 2006.



Have questions? Add them to the attached pledge card or contact the Mayor or your Ward Councillor.

ONE CITY ONE VOICE



Leading today for tomorrow

CONTACT YOUR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS AND LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU SUPPORT A SEPARATED MISSISSAUGA, INDEPENDENT OF THE REGION OF PEEL

CONTACT YOUR MAYOR

Mayor Hazel McCallion
905-896-5555
mayor@mississauga.ca

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

Councillor Carmen Corbasson, Ward 1
905-896-5100
carmen.corbasson@mississauga.ca

Councillor Pat Mullin, Ward 2
905-896-5200
pat.mullin@mississauga.ca

Councillor Maja Prentice, Ward 3
905-896-5300
maja.prentice@mississauga.ca

Councillor Frank Dale, Ward 4
905-896-5400
frank.dale@mississauga.ca

Councillor Eve Adams, Ward 5
905-896-5500
eve.adams@mississauga.ca

Councillor George Carlson, Ward 6
905-896-5600
george.carlson@mississauga.ca

Councillor Nando Iannicca, Ward 7
905-896-5700
nando.iannicca@mississauga.ca

Councillor Katie Mahoney, Ward 8
905-896-5800
katie.mahoney@mississauga.ca

Councillor Pat Saito, Ward 9
905-896-5900
pat.saito@mississauga.ca

CONTACT YOUR MPP

Harinder Takhar
MPP & Minister of Transportation
Mississauga Centre
905-897-8815
htakhar.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Peter Fonseca, MPP
Mississauga East
905-238-1751
pfonseca.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Bob Delaney, MPP
Mississauga West
905-569-1643
bdelaney.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Tim Peterson, MPP
Mississauga South
905-278-1557
tpeterson.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Vic Dhillon, MPP
Brampton West-Mississauga
905-796-8669
vdhillon.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Kuldip Kular, MPP
Bramalea, Gore, Malton, Springdale
905-799-3939
kkular.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

MISSISSAUGA-9 WARDS

Scale (Km) 0 10 20 30 40

(Km) 0 2.5 5 7.5 10



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain more information such as a copy of the Citizens' Task Force Final Report "Securing Our Future" or the Financial Impact Report, go online to the City's Web site at www.mississauga.ca/onecityonevoice



Show your support! Complete the other side of this card and mail it today.

Fold along dotted line and seal before mailing

City of Mississauga,
Communications Division
3rd Floor, North Tower
300 City Centre Drive
Mississauga ON
L5B 3C1

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

During the next few months, City Council will be asking the Premier of Ontario to make changes to legislation that will allow Mississauga to become a Separated City. We want to be independent by January 1, 2006 and we need your support to convince the Premier to take action.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Complete this pledge card and return it to the City of Mississauga

Fold along dotted line and seal before mailing



ONE VOICE



Leading today for tomorrow

I support the City of Mississauga in its goal to become a Separated City, no longer a part of the Region of Peel.

Yes _____ **No** _____

I would like to receive emails or notices on this topic.

Yes _____ **No** _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____

Question/comment: _____

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 173 of the Municipal Act, and will be used to evaluate resident support for the City of Mississauga's One City, One Voice campaign. Questions about this collection should be directed to: Freedom of Information Co-ordinator, Office of the City Clerk, City of Mississauga, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, ON L5B 3C1

