



February 29, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A1
Premier@ontario.ca

RE: Social and Economic Prosperity Review

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Office of the Regional
Chair

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John Henry
Regional Chair and CEO

Dear Premier Ford:

Municipalities across Ontario provide critical services to Ontarians that enhance their quality of life. Actively responding to the rise of homelessness, a changing climate, a growing population and the housing crisis among other complex issues come at a significant cost. Our limited municipal revenue tools are insufficient to meet required investments— property taxes do not grow with the economy and nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibilities. Municipal expenditures across Ontario outpace provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year.

To help advance our shared priorities and support the critical needs of residents and businesses, a new financial framework is needed. On behalf of Durham Regional Council, I request that the province commit to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's call for a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review, to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

Yours truly,

Original Signed by

John Henry
Regional Chair and CEO

c: Durham Members of Provincial Parliament
Durham Regional Council
Durham local area municipalities
Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer



January 31, 2024

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
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**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

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**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: Request the Province of Ontario to commit to undertaking with Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario, Our File: F00

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on January 31, 2024, passed the following resolution:

“Whereas current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life;

Whereas nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

Whereas municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

Whereas unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure

Whereas municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like supporting asylum seekers and addressing the homelessness, mental health and addictions crises;

Whereas inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

Whereas property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can’t afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact Eamonn.Rodgers@durham.ca or call 1-800-372-1102 extension 3677.

Whereas the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

Whereas municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Chair write a letter on behalf of Council to the Premier of Ontario requesting that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and

That a copy of this motion and the supporting letter be sent to the local MPPs, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the local area municipalities in Durham Region.”

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras,
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk

AH/sr

Enclosure

- c: Hon. P. Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, MPP, Pickering/Ajax
P. Barnes, MPP, Ajax
L. Coe, MPP, Whitby
Hon. T. McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service
Delivery, MPP, Durham
J. French, MPP, Oshawa
L. Scott, MPP, Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock
D. Piccini, MPP, Northumberland/Peterborough South
B. Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities
of Ontario
N. Cooper, Clerk, Town of Ajax
F. Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock,
J. Gallagher, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington
M. Medeiros, Clerk, City of Oshawa
S. Cassel, Clerk, City of Pickering
R. Walton, Clerk, Township of Scugog
D. Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge
C. Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby