



Reference: Report No. CA – 10 – 10 Update on the Process to Develop Halton Regional Council's 2011 – 2014 Strategic Work Plan

A & F Committee meeting of November 17, 2010

Chair, Members of the Administration and Finance Committee,

First we would like to thank and compliment the Halton Strategic Planning and Policy group for their recommendation for a "more effective engagement of Halton residents in providing input on the key priorities for the next four-year term of Regional Council". We believe this goal will help produce a strategic plan that is congruent with the hope and aspirations of Halton residents.

We do have some questions and concerns about the recommendations:

- The report outlines only "active engagement of the public..... through a number of means including surveys, the use of social media and web based applications". Unfortunately, it does not give any details and we wonder what will be done and when and how often to ensure that a strong, representative cross section of Halton is engaged and would ask that specifics be made available for the public's review and comment.

We would suggest that one of the key groups to be contacted would be organizations like ourselves and other community groups. These groups can provide a "one stop" source for a large number of people and provide reasoned and researched recommendations.

- The Citizens' Reference Panel again sounds like a good idea, but we wonder how it will be recruited, how many people would be on it and how a representative cross section of Halton residents will be determined. If possible, more wide spread community engagement through multiple regional meetings is more likely to determine a lot of ideas from a wide audience.
- The fourth section of the work planning process outlined in the recommendation indicates that "identification of specific and targeted activities that will be focused on" for the strategic plan priorities. We would ask that these include a rationale and also be made available for public review and comment, as they will obviously be key for the following four years.

We would like to thank you for this opportunity and tell you that we are looking forward to helping the process leading to a meaningful civic engagement.

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