



Halton County Law Association

491 Steeles Avenue East
Milton, Ontario L9T 1Y7

March 24, 2021

The Honourable Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2S9

Dear Sir:

Re: Cancellation of Halton Region Consolidated Courthouse Project

It has now been close to a year since you announced the cancellation of the Halton Region Consolidated Courthouse Project. Despite assurances from you and your staff that an announcement would be made in the fall of 2020 outlining your government's plan to address the chronic dysfunction of the Milton and Burlington courthouses, our Association have heard nothing. In fact, no one from your Ministry has consulted with us and with no mention has been made of the Halton courthouse project or any planned expenditure by your Ministry in Halton in any of the provincial budget statements released over the past year.

In your recent March 11, 2021 media release, "Plans to Accelerate Access to the Justice System", it is stated that one goal is:

Developing the 'courthouses of the future' as modern, technologically enabled community justice hubs with state-of-the-art justice services for in-person appearances, including opportunities for self-service and upgraded security and accessibility measures.

Despite these lofty goals, I note that the Halton community has yet to hear of what "courthouse" we will have to address the crumbling, and now mould-infested building that your government has ignored for so long. I understand that, as of today's date, our entire courthouse will possibly be shut down until the end of 2021, just to assess and decide what to do about the mould and other environmental issues, with no solid proposal as to how that mouldy, ancient building will serve as a "courthouse of the future" for all the Halton residents

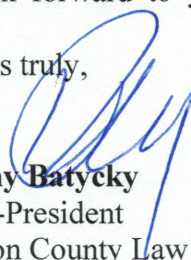
Your Ministry's continued neglect of Halton Region is a failure that needs to be rectified immediately to ensure that our residents have meaningful access to justice.

We therefore once again ask that the Halton consolidated courthouse project be revived. Our members and our other justice sector partners in Halton want to work with you to develop and build our "courthouse of the future" that will provide state of the art justice services, just as your press release promised.

The time for action was long ago, but we will settle for now.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Kathy Batycky
Vice-President
Halton County Law Association

cc The Honourable George R. Strathy, Chief Justice of Ontario
The Honourable Geoffrey B. Morawetz, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice
The Honourable Lise Maisonneuve, Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice
The Honourable Leonard Ricchetti, Regional Senior Justice, Central West Region,
Superior Court of Justice
The Honourable Paul R. Currie, Regional Senior Justice, Central West Region,
Ontario Court of Justice
The Honourable Kendra D. Coats, Local Administrative Justice, Superior Court of
Justice, Milton
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
Ted Arnott, Speaker of the Legislature and MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP Oakville North-Burlington; Vice Chair, Standing
Committee on Justice Policy
Stephen Crawford, MPP Oakville
Parm Gill, MPP Milton
Jane McKenna, MPP Burlington
Lindsey Park, MPP Durham, Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General
Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Opposition
Gurratan Singh - Member, Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Gary Carr, Chair, Halton Region
Rob Burton, Mayor, Town of Oakville
Marianne Meed Ward, Mayor, City of Burlington
Gord Krantz, Mayor, Town of Milton
Rick Bonnette, Mayor, Town of Halton Hills
Stephen J. Tanner, Chief of Police, Halton Regional Police Service
Bill Woodward, Chair, Federation of Ontario Law Associations
Teresa Donnelly, Treasurer, Law Society of Ontario
Claire Wilkinson, Benchers, Central West, Law Society of Ontario
Gary Graham, Benchers, Central West, Law Society of Ontario
Charlene Theodore, President, Ontario Bar Association
Christopher Cheung, Director, Policy & Public Affairs, Ontario Bar Association