



December 14, 2023

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
777 Bay St, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Calandra:

The Brampton Board of Trade has followed with on-going interest the municipal government reform file in Brampton and Peel. We have written you and your predecessor, Minister Clark, outlining our point of view that the status quo needs to change. We were cautiously optimistic in the spring when your government introduced the *Hazel McCallion Act*, although we had a number of significant questions about asset allocation and continuity of service delivery.

We applaud yesterday's news that your government will be repealing the legislation and halting the dissolution planned for January 1, 2025. Between May and now, it became clear that January 1, 2025 was not a viable timeline for dissolution and that the most important issues in need of resolution needed much closer analysis than the proposed timeline would have allowed.

That said, our advice that the status quo is in need of change remains, and we are encouraged to learn that your government will take a close look at regional governance and solicit recommendations for reform that guard against the unintended consequences that came into focus as full dissolution was explored in more detail. Moreover, The Brampton Board of Trade recommends the following steps:

1. Closely analyze any numbers produced by each city, or their outside consultants, before using them as the basis of decision-making. There has been significant media attention on recent claims by all sides – it is important that those reports, audits and perspectives be examined in full, rather than as political theatre, before they are incorporated into decision-making.
2. Propose a workplan and timeline to explore the most appealing reforms to regional government, allowing sufficient time to plan mitigation measures against unintended harmful consequences. An appropriate timeline to target for reforms is January 2027, the



beginning of the first full year of the 2026-2030 term of council. The declaration of office date could be moved from November 2026 to January 1, 2027 to better align governance changes with fiscal and calendar years. It is critical that business community representatives, specifically from the private sector, be included in these consultations. Our preliminary recommendation is to focus on areas of duplication between the city and region, as well as projects that are of regional importance that are currently not, but in future should be, treated as such (for instance, separate LRT projects along the same corridor of road in Mississauga and Brampton, with the Brampton portion stalled).

We reiterate that status quo or doing nothing on regional reform should not be an option. We are confident that with full consultation and careful consideration, reforms that improve the quality of local government serving residents and businesses in Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon are well within reach. The Brampton Board of Trade looks forward to participating in the next steps of this process and sharing the perspectives and pain points of our members from all sectors.

Sincerely,

Jaipaul Massey-Singh

Jaipaul Massey-Singh
Chief Executive Officer
Brampton Board of Trade

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, MPP Brampton South
Hon. Charmaine Williams, MPP Brampton Centre
MPP Graham McGregor, Brampton North
MPP Amarjot Sandhu, Brampton West
MPP Hardeep Grewal, Brampton East