

Public input sought on review

Written By JOSHUA SANTOS

Online portals have been developed by the Town of Caledon for the public to comment on the ongoing review of the Region of Peel Government

"Caledon is a distinctive mix of rural and urban and a key player in providing services and infrastructure to residents," said Mayor Allan Thompson. "In this time of change we need to ensure that our residents have a voice and that the province understands our special perspective on these issues."

Council approved a motion to initiate a public engagement strategy to gather feedback from residents on the process at an April 30 meeting.

A demand for a special council meeting was included in the motion. The special meeting will be announced following the approval of the independent financial review commissioned by the Region of Peel, according to a Town news release.

The survey can be accessed online at www.caledon.ca/advocacy.

In the survey, residents are asked to rank the importance of factors such as cost, efficiency, size of government and access to services. It also invites them to make suggestions about improving the way municipal government is structured, how decisions are made and how services are delivered.

In addition to the survey, a series of "Coffee with Council" sessions are planned for two Saturdays throughout Caledon. Mayor and council will discuss transit, traffic calming, broadband services, the regional review among many other issues.

Mayor Thompson met with the public with Ward 5 regional councillor Annette Groves and area councillor Tony Rosa at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness on Saturday, May 4 in the morning. He then met the public at the Caledon East Community Complex in the afternoon, on the same day, with Ward 3 and 4 regional councillor Jennifer Innis and area councillor Nick DeBoer.

Mayor Thompson will now welcome the public at the Mayfield Recreation Centre on Saturday, May 11 with Ward 2 regional councillor Johanna Downey and area councillor Christina Early, in the morning.

He will also talk with residents at the Belfountain Community Hall with Ward 1 regional councillor Ian Sinclair and area councillor Lynn Kiernan.

This follows a Town meeting where Mayor Thompson and Chief Administrative Officer Mike Galloway met with special advisors Ken Seiling and Michael Fenn on Feb. 8. They highlighted Caledon's economic and environmental role in Peel Region.

In March, the province opened up its own review to public consultation with the Mayor urging residents to get involved by submitting feedback either by mail or through the province's online survey.

Mayor Thompson will be delegating the provincial review in person as part of a series of meetings with the special advisors.

The Province is reviewing the operations of eight regional governments, comprising of 82 municipalities. The Region of Peel review includes Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga.