

Region supports Caledon's position to expand council

By Bill Rea

Peel Regional council has backed the Town of Caledon's position to expand the Regional body, but that position might not get very far.

There's every indication Mississauga City councillors will veto it.

Peel councillors Thursday narrowly backed one of the four options put forward by the Governance Review Task Force. This option, known as Option 2, which was unanimously supported by Caledon council Tuesday, calls for Brampton and Mississauga to each get four more representatives at the Regional council table, while Caledon maintains its current five seats.

There was general agreement throughout Thursday's discussion that Brampton deserves more councillors, but several reps from Mississauga objected to Caledon keeping five, with arguments the Town is overrepresented at the Region.

Regional Solicitor Patrick O'Connor pointed out a triple majority would be required to change the composition of council. That would include the approval of a majority of the municipal councils in Peel representing at least a majority of the registered electors (voters) in the region. That means the City of Mississauga would be able to veto any proposed change.

And that's just what will happen, according to Mississauga Councillor Carolyn Parrish.

"There's not a single councillor in Mississauga who will vote for Option 2," she declared.