

# 2022 Provincial Election

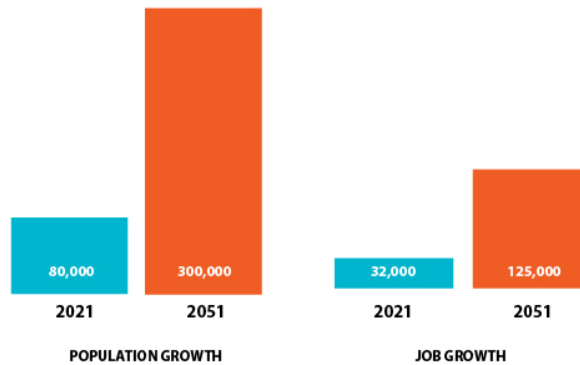
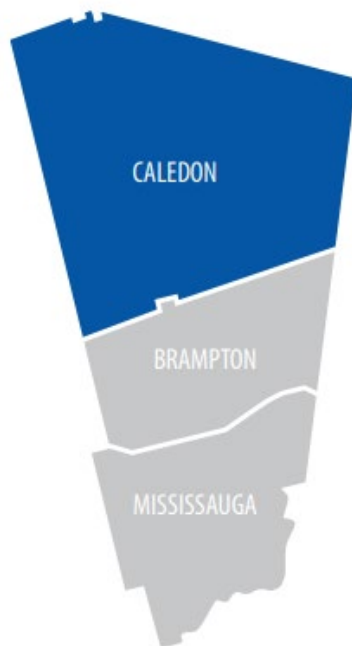
## Town of Caledon Priorities



# CONTEXT

## The Town of Caledon is...

- Approximately 688km<sup>2</sup> of land area.
- Home to around 80,000 people and 30,000 jobs as of 2021.
- Home to over 3,200 businesses, 96% of which are small or medium-sized enterprises (1-99 employees).
- Expected to grow to over 300,000 residents and 125,000 jobs by 2051.



# CALEDON PRIORITIES

## The Town of Caledon looks to the next provincial government to...



- Continue to support the Caledon-Vaughan GO Line business case to completion and include the rail service in the next Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan Update with an in-service date of before 2041.



- Provide local municipalities equity in control of local planning matters with respect to growth, settlement areas and boundary expansions, transit areas and employment areas.



- Enact policies and legislation and deliver funding programs that support municipal action on climate change adaptation and mitigation and enable a low carbon transition.



- Commit to a provincial-municipal fiscal framework that is stable, sustainable and affordable for property taxpayers.



- Invest in public infrastructure such as roads, transit, active transportation and energy infrastructure that is low-carbon, climate adaptive, accommodates growth and supports healthy and safe communities.



- Accelerate the allocation of broadband funding and address broadband gaps ensuring affordable broadband rates of residents and businesses.



- Work with municipalities to advance policies and programs that expedite a full range of affordable rental, independent living and multi-storey housing options.

# CALEDON-VAUGHAN GO LINE

**Continue to support the Caledon-Vaughan GO Line business case to completion and include the rail service in the next Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan Update with an in-service date of before 2041.**

## **Connecting Growing Communities to Downtown Toronto:**

The Caledon-Vaughan GO Line would connect Bolton and western Vaughan to Toronto with high-quality regional rail service, supporting planned growth, employment opportunities, and providing a sustainable alternative to driving. With Caledon expecting to grow from 80,000 people today, to over 300,000 by 2051, the time is now to start work on this critical transit link so that it can be operational in the 2030s.

## **How to Move This Project Forward:**

With massive amounts of growth coming to Caledon, continued provincial government support of the Caledon-Vaughan GO Line business case and inclusion of the rail service in the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan Update is needed to advance this essential project within the 2031-2041 timeframe.

## **Why This Project Now?**

Transit projects take a long time to plan and implement. Starting the planning process and negotiations with freight railways now means ensuring flexibility for its delivery in the 2030s. Additionally, demonstrating progress on advancing the Caledon-Vaughan GO Line supports transit-oriented growth at future station sites, in advance of the line opening. Finally, transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in Caledon. Having a low carbon transit system in place will increase sustainable mode shares, and be essential in meeting Provincial and local greenhouse gas reduction targets.



# LOCAL PLANNING EQUITY

**Provide local municipalities equity in control of local planning matters with respect to growth, settlement areas and boundary expansions, transit areas and employment lands.**

## **Caledon Planning Caledon:**

Caledon is looking for equity in control of:

- local planning matters,
- the distribution of future growth allocations,
- identification of settlement areas and settlement area boundary expansions,
- Major Transit Station Areas, and
- identification of employment areas.

Local planning equity would allow Caledon to manage its own unique interest and to balance growth pressures with its rural population, protection of environmental sustainability and prime agricultural land.

## **How to Move This Project Forward:**

Equity in control of local planning could be addressed most urgently through the support of Caledon's new Official Plan being created or further through establishing a new Growth Plan Sub-Area Chapter for Peel/Caledon.

## **Why This Project Now?**

The Region of Peel's level of control over local planning matters currently differs based on each municipality. As it stands, Caledon is the only area municipality in Peel that is subject to the Region's approval on boundary expansion as both Mississauga and Brampton's urban boundary is their municipal boundary. This inequity is creating a climate of undue influence and control. Regional Council has been able to influence Caledon planning matters, historically overturning decisions of Caledon Council, particularly with respect to growth and employment lands. The need for equitable planning for local municipalities in Peel is critical, especially for Caledon and as regional and local official plans are under review with 2051 plans to be established with Caledon proposed to grow substantially by 300,000 people and 125,000 jobs.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

**Enact policies and legislation and deliver funding programs that support municipal action on climate change adaptation and mitigation and enable a low carbon transition.**

## Addressing Climate Change:

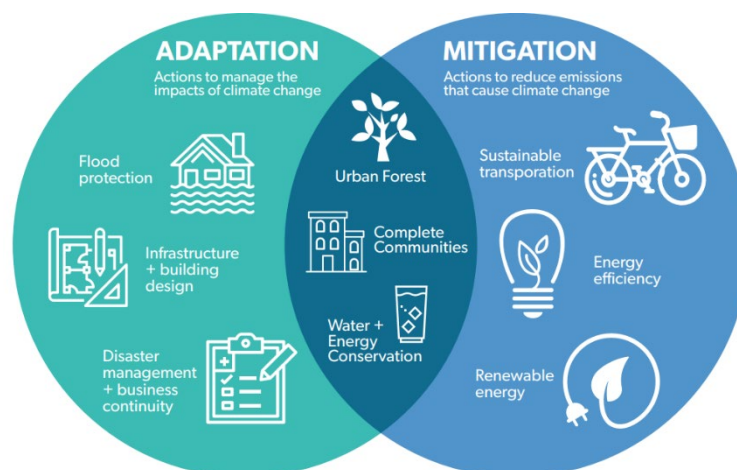
Municipalities, through agriculture, energy, transportation and other infrastructure, have direct or indirect influence over half of Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Working together governments at all levels and communities can build a more economically, socially and environmentally resilient future for communities by addressing mitigation - actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency; and adaptation - actions to prepare and respond to climate change impacts like flooding.

## How to Move This Project Forward:

Increase Provincial investment to build and maintain resilient infrastructure, to support communities to adapt to extreme heat and precipitation. In addition, provide funding and programs to electrify buildings and transportation and decarbonize energy infrastructure, including the electric grid. Furthermore, re-introduce requirements into the Ontario Building Code for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

## Why This Project Now?

Climate change is an urgent crisis that impacts all corners of the globe, posing threats to the economy, human health, public safety, and natural systems. Its impacts have already been felt in Caledon through damage from flooding, ice storms, wind storms, and extreme heat. Caledon's future climate is projected to be warmer, wetter, and more unpredictable, all of which will have implications for residents, businesses, and the Town's own operations. The pressures of growth will continue to create challenges for Caledon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the demand to build and repair infrastructure and adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.



# FINANCE

**Commit to a provincial-municipal fiscal framework that is stable, sustainable and affordable for property taxpayers.**

## **Committing to Long-term Financial Sustainability:**

Municipalities deliver an array of provincial and municipal services that residents and businesses rely on. Fiscal pressures related to regional economic disparity, growth, infrastructure deficit, climate change and extreme weather, among others affect a municipality's ability to deliver services. The Province can help ensure municipalities have the funding to continue to provide such services and maintain access for residents and businesses now and in the future.

## **How to Move This Project Forward:**

While provincial asset management legislation helps to consider and plan for these future infrastructure needs, this will require associated long-term consistent funding sources, that are innovative, and considers approaches to investing in infrastructure beyond traditional methods. Work with municipalities to develop a framework for alternative and innovative financing tools to address the growth, infrastructure and climate change pressures facing municipalities. This could include stabilizing and increasing the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). A short and long-term action plan is needed to alleviate the pressure on municipalities, increasing quality of life and supporting economic development and tourism potential.

## **Why This Project Now?**

With the province directing Caledon to grow to over 300,000 people and 125,000 jobs over the next 30 years, a stable, sustainable and affordable fiscal framework is increasingly important to address fiscal pressures and keep property taxes manageable. Overtime municipal responsibilities and demand for service, and associated expenditures have increased more than that of municipal revenue, presenting a financial challenge to the provision of municipal services. Despite receiving federal and provincial funding to deliver cost-shared provincial services, municipalities rely primarily on own-source revenue, coming mainly from commercial, industrial, and residential property taxes and user fees for municipal services. The Province has access to many more financial tools than municipalities. How these provincial tools and sources of revenue can be used in the long-run to support and empower municipalities should be explored.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

**Invest in public infrastructure such as roads, transit, active transportation and energy infrastructure that is low-carbon, climate adaptive, accommodates growth and supports healthy and safe communities.**

## **Supporting Growing and Healthy Communities:**

Infrastructure plays an important role in daily life and environmental impact, as well as contributes to the viability and success of local economic development and tourism. Investment in transportation, traffic calming, active transportation and energy infrastructure will help support the Province's reopening framework, growth, local tourism and economic development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, manage the costly impacts of preparing infrastructure to withstand current and future extreme weather events, and increase road safety.

## **How to Move This Project Forward:**

Building, maintaining and expanding infrastructure requires investment from all levels of government. Increase funding for resilient transportation and low carbon energy infrastructure, healthy communities and active transportation such as trails. Aside from continuing to support the Caledon-Vaughan GO Line, investments in infrastructure should include the extension of Highway 427 to Highway 9 on provincial transportation plans and planning for low carbon transportation such as HOV lanes and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Furthermore, implement traffic calming measures including speed limit reduction and a red-light camera to improve driver and pedestrian safety, such as at the intersection of Olde Base Line Road and Highway 10.

## **Why This Project Now?**

The long-standing infrastructure deficit of Ontario municipalities continues to increase significantly, especially when considering the challenges related to extreme weather and climate change. The pressures of growth will continue to create challenges for Caledon to meet the demand to build and repair infrastructure, attract and retain business, and adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Further, high traffic volumes, chronic speeding and increasing commercial vehicles are present a danger to all along various stretches of provincial highway in Caledon. Key transportation corridors, such as the extension of Highway 427 to Highway 9 paired with traffic calming measures need to be in place to accommodate population and employment growth in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, building capacity for commercial transportation and relieving significant traffic on local roads. It is projected that the funding required to fulfill Caledon's infrastructure needs, which includes transportation and energy infrastructure, will exceed the financial capacity of the municipality or lead to exorbitant property taxes.



# BROADBAND

**Accelerate the allocation of broadband funding and address broadband gaps ensuring affordable broadband rates of residents and businesses.**

## **Connecting Communities to High-Speed Internet:**

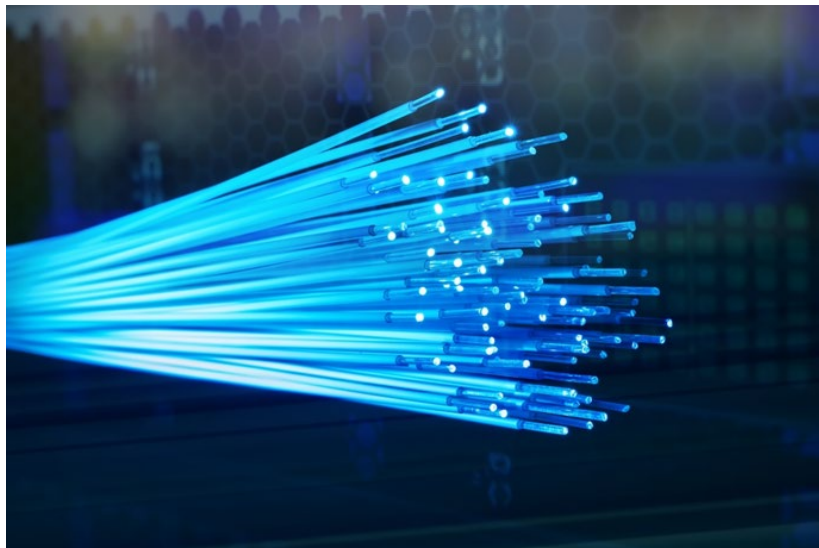
Allocating broadband funding brings residents and businesses one step closer to being connected to high-speed internet, supporting provincial priorities such as education, health care, and economic development, among social and environmental benefits as well.

## **How to Move This Project Forward:**

Both the Federal and Provincial governments have committed to broadband funding and addressing gaps. These commitments need to be delivered upon. Accelerate the roll out of provincial broadband funding and continue to advocate for the rollout of federal funding. Allocation of funding allows construction of fibre infrastructure to get underway. Where residents and businesses are not currently serviced and will not receive service through provincial programs, consult with municipalities and address the remaining gaps. There are opportunities to establish more accurate mapping and investigation of access to dark fibre.

## **Why This Project Now?**

Despite being part of the GTA, many rural, less populated areas continue to have limited or no high-speed internet. From an economic, environmental and social perspective, there is increasing reliance on people being able to access high-speed internet for work, school, and health care, among other areas. Internet access will continue to play an important role in Ontario's recovery from COVID-19.



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Work with municipalities to advance policies and programs that expedite a full range of affordable rental, independent living and multi-storey housing options.**

## Diversifying Supply to Meet Demand:

As our community evolves, the housing needs of our population also change. Older adults (55+ years of age), persons with disabilities and smaller households are increasingly looking beyond single-detached homes to rental, independent living, and multi-storey housing options. Affordable and rental housing options offer a path to home ownership and ensuring quality of life. Increasing housing options contributes to a healthy and growing community as well as local economic growth.

## How to Move This Project Forward:

Policies and programs could include providing increased capital and operational funding for affordable housing, such as for the two Caledon-specific unfunded projects in the Region of Peel's Housing and Homelessness Plan. In addition, consider the development of affordable housing options on sites within municipal settlement areas that are currently provincial lands in public ownership situated within or adjacent to a residential or mixed-use area.

## Why This Project Now?

High cost of land makes it more expensive to develop new housing. In addition, housing stakeholders are not fully aware of how they can contribute to the housing system. While the Town encourages the construction of a diverse housing supply through its Official Plan policies (built form, unit size and tenure and price), most housing provided by the private sector is single detached units. Housing projects take a long time to plan, fund and implement. Providing policies and programs now enables municipalities to accommodate the aging and growing population.

