

FAQ

1. What is the Regional Government Review?

In January 2019, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced it would conduct a review of the governance, decision-making and service delivery functions of eight regional municipalities and Simcoe County with the help of an advisory body comprised of two special advisors: Ken Seiling and Michael Fenn.

The goal of the review is to help ensure these municipalities are working effectively and efficiently and can continue to provide the vital services that communities depend on. The advisors will be making recommendations to the Ministry by summer 2019.

For more information, visit ontario.ca/page/regional-government-review.

2. Why does Mississauga want to be an independent city and leave the Region of Peel?

As the third-largest municipality in Ontario and sixth-largest in Canada, Mississauga wants the authority to control its own future, similar to other cities such as London, Guelph, Windsor, Hamilton and Thunder Bay. With a population of more than 770,000 and growing, Mississauga has outgrown the regional government model and is now being held back from realizing its full potential. Unlike Brampton and Caledon, Mississauga is focused on city-building for the next 30 years and beyond, and can efficiently and effectively provide services to its resident by eliminating an entire layer of government.

3. What would be better for Mississauga as an independent city?

Being independent means Mississauga has the authority to make its own decisions, focused on Mississauga priorities, not those of Brampton, Caledon or the Region. We would be able to deliver faster, better and more integrated decisions especially in areas such as land use, transportation planning, and financial services. For example, there is no value in having roads within the city owned by both Mississauga and the Region of Peel. Eliminating an entire layer of government means Mississauga tax dollars stay in Mississauga and do not continue to subsidize Brampton and Caledon as much as \$85 million per year (and climbing).

4. What does the transition out of the Region of Peel look like?

The details of Mississauga's transition into an independent city cannot be determined at this time given the time constraint set by the Ministry for its review. Issues like effective date of the change, whether the Province would assist with one-time costs and whether any provincial constraints would be placed on how restructuring of services could be implemented all play a role. However, we believe that a full deconstruction of all regional services is neither necessary nor prudent.

5. Will a transition towards a separated city cost taxpayers?

The transition costs will depend on the Province's decision for the Region of Peel. It is typical that one-time costs are incurred to complete this phase. It is also important to note that some phasing of financial impacts may be necessary in order to manage the transition and smooth the financial impacts for those negatively affected.

6. Will separation from the Region of Peel affect taxes?

Mississauga needs its taxpayer dollars to stay in our community and not subsidize Brampton and Caledon as much as \$85 million a year according to the City's updated financial analysis. This is an estimate only, and more detailed analysis during the transition will need to be done to determine how taxes will be affected. As an independent city, Mississauga residents and businesses would no longer subsidize two other municipalities. Decisions about where taxpayer dollars are spent would be at the sole discretion of Mississauga and not jeopardized by the competing priorities of the two other municipalities.

FAQ

7. Is Mississauga ready for to stand alone as an independent city?

Mississauga has a strong track record of sound financial management, winning numerous awards, as well as maintaining an AAA credit rating for the past 15 years. Our residents tell us consistently that they overwhelmingly approve of how money is spent in the City of Mississauga.

For instance:

- 89 per cent rated the overall quality of life as excellent or good
- 87 per cent agreed that Mississauga is an 'Open and Welcoming' community
- 84 per cent indicated they are 'Proud to say they are from Mississauga'
- 76 per cent agree that Mississauga is moving in the right direction to ensure it is a dynamic and beautiful global city
- 71 per cent continue to be satisfied with the City's municipal government

Source: <https://yoursay.mississauga.ca/citizen-satisfaction-survey/photos/4356>

8. Will the City be able to provide the same services without the Region of Peel?

We do not anticipate service disruptions as a consequence of restructuring. We believe that a full deconstruction of all regional services is neither necessary nor prudent.

For example:

- Some regional services can be absorbed by Mississauga (i.e. planning, regional roads, TransHelp) with little to no disruption to service levels.
- Peel Regional Police operates under separate legislation, and already has a Police Services Board that has representation from Mississauga and Brampton. It does not service Caledon. This model could continue.
- Water and wastewater could be managed through a utility model, as it is currently rate based.
- Social and health services (i.e. child care, Ontario Works, Office of the Medical Officer of Health) must be delivered in compliance with applicable legislation and funding arrangements from the Province. However as a principle, we would want those services to be delivered locally.

9. Wouldn't it make more sense to create a City of Peel?

Amalgamation is not the right fit for the Region of Peel and will not result in better service delivery or greater efficiencies. Amalgamation in Ontario has not shown to be successful. Our distinct Mississauga identity could be gradually lost if amalgamated with Brampton and/or Caledon.

Amalgamations Are Inefficient

- Studies done on municipal amalgamations show they do not produce greater efficiency or savings. One study found that after amalgamation, property taxes increased 50 per cent, employee pay rose 52 per cent, and long-term debt rose 111 per cent after amalgamation because services and wages "levelled up" to the highest standard.
- Suddenly combining our cities would be difficult, if not impossible. Mississauga and Brampton are the 3rd and 4th largest cities in Ontario. Each city has a unique corporate culture and conducts its operations differently. Amalgamation would likely increase labour, debt, and operational costs.

FAQ

10. Will Mississauga have to compensate Brampton and Caledon if it leaves the Region of Peel?

No. The City of Mississauga will not have to compensate Brampton and Caledon. Infrastructure built in Mississauga was paid for by developers in Mississauga.

The Region of Peel primarily builds water and wastewater infrastructure. Development Charges (DCs), previously known as lot levies, are used to pay for this infrastructure in each community. That means developers in Mississauga paid their DCs for the pipes in the ground in Mississauga, in the same way Brampton and Caledon developers did for theirs.

If Mississauga were to leave the Region of Peel, there is no reason why we would have to compensate Brampton or Caledon.

11. Some say that Brampton and Caledon paid for Mississauga's growth. Is this accurate?

No - Mississauga has always paid for its own growth and more.

Development Charges (DCs) are the best example of a municipality paying for its own growth. The notion that Brampton paid for Mississauga's growth is fundamentally false.

DCs have historically been collected for as long as the Region of Peel has existed, but even if they weren't, Mississauga taxpayers have always contributed the vast majority of funding. From 1974 to 1995, we consistently paid over 70 per cent of the regional tax levy. At present, Mississauga pays 60 per cent. Therefore, again the notion that Brampton paid for Mississauga's growth is fundamentally false.

Mississauga is currently contributing \$85 million additional tax dollars per year to subsidize Brampton and to a lesser extent Caledon. In 2004, this number was \$32 million. Over the last 15 years, this number has grown by \$53 million. As highlighted in the corporate report, the bulk of this is for Regional roads at \$20 million per year and Peel Regional Police at \$33 million per year. This is an unbalanced system that burdens Mississauga taxpayers.

12. Where can I share my thoughts on regional government or get more information about Mississauga as an independent city?

The City is hosting a town hall meeting on April 8th in Council Chamber from 7 to 9 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend and ask questions on this important matter.

In addition, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is conducting [online public consultation](#) until April 23. Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts on regional government through this channel.

Regional Government Review



FAQ

13. How can I contact my local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)?

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14. Where can I get more information?

For more information, visit mississauga.ca/regional-government-review.