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Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**RE: Regional Governance Review**

The Honourable Premier Doug Ford:

I am writing in response to the recent correspondence from Regional Chair Bob Gale requesting feedback about municipal restructuring within Niagara Region. This letter is intended to be read alongside the joint letter sent by eight Mayors, representing two-thirds of the Niagara Region municipalities.

I understand and share the Province's commitment to strengthening efficiency, accountability, and value for taxpayers. We remain dedicated to working collaboratively with our municipal partners and to advancing a governance model that is transparent, evidence-based, and supported in sound data.

**Small towns matter.**

The Town of Grimsby opposes any forced amalgamation undertaken without proper consultation with all local municipalities and their residents. In Niagara, it is essential we preserve our unique character and empower small towns to continue serving their communities effectively. There is a need to maintain local responsiveness, particularly in a rapidly growing community like Grimsby. To that end, I am supportive of the following actions:

**Limit local municipal councils**

This measure would reduce the overall number of elected officials across Niagara, streamline decision-making, and lower governance-related costs while preserving strong local accountability.

**Initiate an immediate and comprehensive review of Regional service delivery**

The review will examine water and wastewater, transportation infrastructure, planning and development, and general government administration. It will include financial

analysis, efficiency assessment, and cost-saving opportunities. This work will leverage findings from the current governance and service delivery review underway in Peel Region and other relevant municipal restructuring experiences.

### **Undertake a broader review of local governance models once the foundational steps are complete**

This phased approach ensures that any future reforms are informed, strategic, and grounded in demonstrated outcomes.

Subject to the Province's approval and necessary legislative amendments, we are prepared to proceed and commit to providing progress and preliminary findings, including an implementation roadmap for any recommended changes.

### **Grimsby's Strong Position: A growing and fiscally responsible Town**

Lastly, I want to emphasize that Grimsby has a strong and healthy financial track record that demonstrates the ability to stand confidently on our own. Through prudent fiscal management, responsible long-term planning, and a continued commitment to affordability, we have positioned ourselves as a financially stable and well-governed municipality. Our record reflects careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars and reinforces that Grimsby is capable of shaping its own future from a position of strength. Each year, Grimsby taxpayers send \$58.27 million to the Region (including funding for police services). Through service delivery agreements and municipal corporation boards, the amount contributed could be kept within the municipality. Grimsby can significantly expand service delivery and improve efficiencies if the Town is to become an independent single-tier municipality.

Key Statistics about Grimsby:

- One of the fastest growing municipalities in Niagara Region
- Town growth rate is greater than provincial and national rates
- 4.5 staff per 1000 residents (130 full-time employees)
- \$58.27M transferred to the Region annually (including police), paid by Grimsby taxpayers
- Very limited debt of \$297.70 per capita
- Replacement value of infrastructure assets in Grimsby is \$1.2B
- Replacement value of building and facility assets is \$130M
- #37 on the Globe and Mail's list of the Top 100 Most Liveable Community in Canada

We look forward to working collaboratively with the Province to advance a more efficient, accountable, and sustainable governance model for Niagara.

Thank you,



Mayor Jeff Jordan

CC: Minister Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP – Niagara West  
Bob Gale, Chair Niagara Regional Council  
Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Niagara Region  
Town of Grimsby Council  
Sarah Kim, CAO, Town of Grimsby