

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW: Jobs and the LRT

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To: letters@thespec.com

Cc: Terry Whitehead ; Donna Skelly ; Tom Jackson ; Chad Collins ; Sam Merulla ; Brenda Johnson ; Judi Partridge ; Robert Pasuta ; Arlene VanderBeek ; Lloyd Ferguson ; Maria Pearson ; Doug Conley ; Matthew Green ; Jason Farr ; Aidan Johnson ; Mayor Eisenberger ; kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org ; patrick.brown@pc.ola.org ; ahorwath@ndp.on.ca

Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 6:31 PM

Subject: Jobs and the LRT

Once again, FACTS seem to preclude the need for an LRT in Hamilton. LRT studies were based on: (a) the Transit Master Plan 2007 (target set for reducing the number of kilometres made by single occupant vehicles by 20%, increase daily trips made by transit from 5% to 12% and walking and cycling from 6% to 15% and annual transit rides per capita from 40 to 80 - 100); and (b) Places to Grow (population growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe +130,000 and 90,000 new jobs). It appears that the Transit Master Plan has been put aside (has anyone seen anything that tracks this wishful thinking?) but recent findings by Statistics Canada tell us that employment growth hasn't been growth, but rather a loss of 13,400 jobs in the last year. Result, 25,200 people are officially unemployed in the Hamilton area, up from 21,700 a year ago. 90,000 new jobs in the Greater Golden Horseshoe - REALLY?

In the recent editorial, Lessons about Hamilton's changing face (September 14), the very valid point was made that the millennial generation are not having babies at the rate they would need to drive growth. Why? The editorial says it all - precarious employment, low income and ability to rent or own adequate housing. Quote "This is just one reason economists and advocates alike are worried about the overwhelming growth of precarious employment, with its typical lack of security, low wages, no benefits and little dependability. We need to recognize this is a potential societal game-changer." So where are 130,00 new bodies coming from? Not from immigration - the editorial goes on to state that Hamilton is no longer the destination of choice for too many immigrants. Employment prospects and other more competitive jurisdictions have resulted in immigration decreasing.

As an Ontario taxpayer, with a provincial deficit of over \$300 billion, I resent a billion dollars being spent on an LRT that is totally unnecessary, and won't be the driving force behind any economic growth in Hamilton.

Dennis Martin