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Sent: January-16-17 12:13 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Bill 77, Kickstarting Public Participation Act



Friend --

Bill 77, Kickstarting Public Participation Act, 2016

At a time when municipalities struggle to balance the competing needs of their budgets, community projects often must be delayed in order to undertake higher priority obligations, leaving citizens feeling ignored or overlooked. We also see and hear from many residents that they lack appropriate tools to help them advocate and promote community projects.

Civic crowdfunding has become a popular mechanism to solve this problem by enhancing public participating in municipal and community projects across Europe and North America. By providing citizens with a method of actively engaging in the development of public projects, they are given the opportunity to take part in and see the direct benefits of community investment.

It is for this reason that I have introduced to the Ontario Legislature Bill 77, the "Kickstarting Public Participation Act", which if enacted, will lead to the establishment of a province-wide online crowd sourcing platform for municipalities and community organizations to use to raise funds for community -improvement projects.

For those who don't know, crowdfunding allows groups and individuals to solicit donations and investment for projects online by setting donation tiers, goals and in some cases rewards. While this method started as a tool to finance projects by artists and entrepreneurs, it has since expanded to become used by humanitarian groups and municipalities, and has been used to fund projects such as bridges, parks, and even the establishment of new transit routes.

I believe that a crowdfunding platform accessible to all municipalities in the province will enable local governments to secure finances and gauge interest in public projects, while simultaneously empowering citizens to be more involved in community affairs and development.

I hope that I can count on your support for Bill 77 so that together we may improve Ontario communities one project at a time. One method to show support and help me in having this Bill approved by the legislature would be an approved resolution by your council or association and copied to my office and that of the Premier.

You can view a full copy of the bill [here](#)

If you have any questions about the bill or crowdfunding in general, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Randy Hillier

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Randy Hillier · Canada

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