

From: FRANCA STIRPE [fstirpe@rogers.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 5:13 PM
To: Regional Clerk
Cc: Martin, Carrie; NoCasinoVaughan@gmail.com
Subject: Deputation request: York Regional Council, Sept.26/13

Dear Denis:

In accordance with my recent telephone conversations with your office, would you kindly schedule a deputation for me to speak at York Regional Council on September 26, 2013.

As requested, the following is a brief summary of the reason for the deputation:

It has been reported that:

- In March 2013, Township of Woolwich Council (in the Region of Waterloo), voted to be a willing host to a casino; [Vote 4-1 in favour of possible casino | 570News](#)
- In May 2013, **Waterloo Regional Council voted 10 - 5 to reject outright a new casino anywhere in the region.** It was indicated that it was perfectly right for the region to comment on this and taking a position was important because ultimately, the region would be responsible for social services and policing costs; [Public comes out strongly against casino | Your online newspaper ...](#)
- Consequently, Premier Kathleen Wynne **instructed the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation to stop and review their casino allocation process where a two-tier government system exists, because there is not enough clarity as to whose decision it should be.** She spoke to OLG regarding its process of only consulting lower-tier municipalities, notwithstanding the fact that the region pays for many of the services; Accordingly, the **OLG is now reviewing its policy** and has not given any indication as to when the review will be completed. [OLG to review casino allocation process in Waterloo Region ... - CBC](#)

The casino issue has been extensively studied and research shows that gambling addiction doubles when a gambling facility is built nearby, and for every \$1 in benefit there is a cost of at least \$3. A casino will surely increase the severity of problem gambling on individuals and families, particularly because of the expected high density of the population in the immediate vicinity of the proposed location. It will most likely cause a relapse of problem gambling to those who are now in recovery programs.

On May 28th, 2013, City of Vaughan council voted 5 – 4 to be a willing host to a casino, despite the fact that the majority of residents at the meeting were overwhelmingly against it. Discussions throughout the community and letters to the local newspaper reinforce the growing opposition to a casino and residents are calling for a referendum in the 2014 municipal election. So far, Vaughan is the only willing host in its zone. Toronto and Markham have already said no.

York Regional Council is also the Board of Health and has a duty and responsibility to consider all impacts, including those which affect the health, safety and well-being of all citizens, both at the municipal and regional level.

Accordingly, we urge that **York Regional Council follow the lead of Waterloo Regional Council and reject outright a new casino from being built anywhere within the Region of York; and also:**

- **to advise the Province and the OLG of its position;**
- **to ask the province to change its casino allocation process to require the approval of both the local and regional councils before one is built;**
- **to ask the City of Vaughan to reconsider its support for a casino;**

Thank you.
Franca Stirpe