TOWN OF CALEDON

Caledon's Strategic Plan 2023-2035 Community Organization Consultation Results Summary

What We Heard

In March 2023, the Town engaged community organizations to better understand what is most important to community organizations and their clients over the next 12 years. We asked them about their hopes and dreams for the future of Caledon to inform Caledon's 2023-2035 Strategic Plan. A presentation was provided to several community organizations with an invitation to meet with Town staff to discuss the strategic plan and their input, as well as an opportunity to share their ideas online through the Have Your Say Caledon Strategic Plan project page. A variety of community organizations were also contacted via email with such invitation. Town staff held consultation meetings with respective CEOs and key staff from two long-standing social service organizations serving vulnerable populations in Caledon, some of which are also residents. Guiding questions were sent to participants in advance of meetings. A summary of the findings is included in this document.

Results from this engagement should be treated as a snapshot into community organization viewpoints on the project and considered alongside other data sources for a full picture of community feedback.

Here's what community organizations told us:

- Rural/urban mix, agricultural nature/culture and being a community of communities are what makes Caledon unique.
- Key trends to keep in mind included:
    - Limited funding for organizations while experiencing increased demand/urgency for service and operational costs
    - Social agencies in tune with community needs, most notably, increasing food insecurity, senior and mental health issues in Caledon
    - Transportation is a significant barrier for access to services
    - Difficulty recruiting for local job/volunteer opportunities particularly young people
- An ideal Caledon 12 years from now tended to be described as healthy or vibrant, connected and accessible. Key components being equitable access to services for diverse population (ethnicity, ability, financial, family situation, etc.), particularly with support of transportation and internet; collaboration and connections among communities, community organizations, and residents.
- To move toward an ideal Caledon, it was largely suggested that the Town focus its attention on:
    - Healthy and diverse communities;
    - Transportation and mobility; and
    - Planning for growth.
- The Town could primarily take bold and positive action with respect to:

TOWN OF CALEDON

- Leverage organizations in support of a strategic and coordinated approach to addressing current and future community needs in communities including rural
- Continue to invest in and support community organizations with low-cost/free facility spaces
- Increase Council/Town engagement of and advocacy for community organizations
- Improve transportation and infrastructure (including housing options) to support diverse populations.
- Protect unique character and nature, rural and agricultural roots as the Town grows (up, not out)

Next Steps

Data collected throughout the entire consultation process will be analyzed and used to inform the 2023-2035 Caledon Strategic Plan Staff Report. The report will be discussed at a meeting in Summer 2023. Use the Q&A tool or staff contact information on the Have Your Say Caledon page to ask us questions.

Engagement Marketing & Promotion

Thank you to Caledon Parent-Child Centre and Caledon Meals on Wheels who participated in the consultation meeting and online engagement. Throughout March 2023 about 20 local community organizations were invited to participate. Invited organizations included business, cultural, health, social services, resident associations, among others.