



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

Meeting #: GRC-1/2020
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: Council Chamber, 5th Floor
Regional Administrative Headquarters
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, Ontario
Members: P. Brown, B. Crombie, S. Dasko, G.S. Dhillon, J. Downey, A. Groves, N. Iannicca, J. Innis (Chair), M. Palleschi, K. Ras (Vice-Chair), R. Santos, A. Thompson, P. Vicente

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. DELEGATIONS
5. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE
Discussion led by Keith Medenblik, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations
6. REPORTS
 - 6.1 Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities
(For information)
 - 6.2 2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference
7. COMMUNICATIONS
 - 7.1 2020 Region of Peel Federal Pre-Budget Submission
(Receipt recommended)

7.2 2020 Region of Peel Provincial Pre-Budget Submission
(Receipt recommended)

7.3 February 2020 MP/MPP Advocacy Update
(Receipt recommended)

8. IN CAMERA

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 18, 2020
Council Chamber, 5th Floor
Regional Administrative Headquarters
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, Ontario

11. ADJOURNMENT

Government Relations Update

Government Relations Committee March 5, 2020

Keith Medenblik

Manager, Strategic Public Policy & External Relations

Government Relations Update - Overview

- Region of Peel Pre-budget Submissions
- Provincial Landscape
- Federal Landscape
- Advocacy Issue Updates
- Looking Forward



Provincial Pre-Budget Submission

Key Council-endorsed priorities submitted:

Theme: ***Making Life More Affordable***

- Municipal Fiscal Sustainability
- Affordable Housing
- Early Years and Child Care System

Theme: ***Creating a More Competitive Businesses Environment***

- Sustainable Infrastructure (Program Design, Climate Change)

Theme: ***Connecting People to Places***

- Goods Movement and Transportation Infrastructure

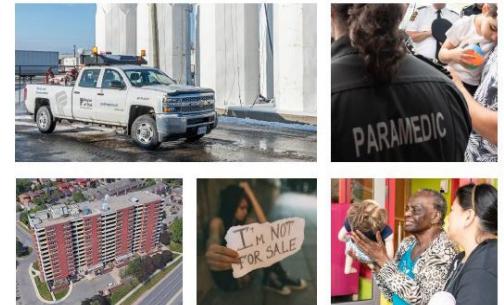
Theme: ***Building Healthier and Safer Communities***

- Human Sex Trafficking
- Public Health
- Paramedics
- Supports of Seniors
- Mental Health and Addictions Services



2020 Region of Peel

Provincial Pre-Budget Submission



Federal Pre-Budget Submission

Key Council-endorsed priorities submitted:

Theme: Growing the Economy and Strengthening the Middle Class

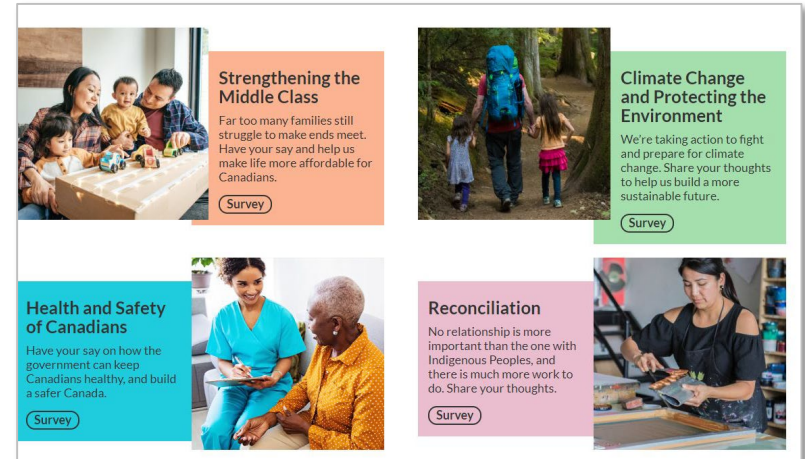
- Municipal Fiscal Sustainability
- Infrastructure
- Affordable Housing

Theme: Keeping Canadians Safe and Healthy

- Human Sex Trafficking

Theme: Fighting Climate Change

- Climate Change
- Transportation
- Waste Management



Provincial Political Landscape

- Budget 2020 – March 25
- Modernizing Public Health and Emergency Health Services
- New Provincial Policy Statement
- Poverty Reduction Strategy
- OLP Leadership – March 7



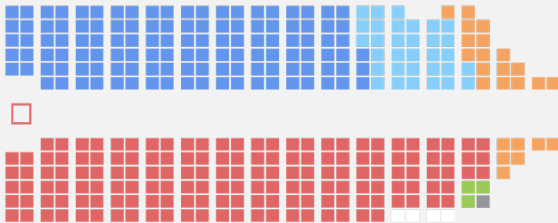
Federal Political Environment

- Minority expected to last 18-24 months
- Needs support from opposition parties to advance priorities
- Conservatives rebuilding, leadership race
- Challenging issues:
 - Climate Change
 - Pipelines
 - Indigenous Affairs

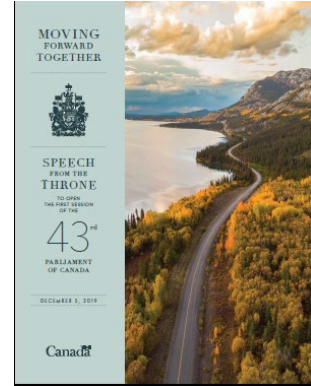
Significant Focus Areas in Throne Speech

- **Affordable Housing** – continue investments, first time home buyers
- **Climate Change** – Net zero emissions by 2050, zero-emission vehicles
- **Single use plastics** – reduce plastic pollution
- **Child care** – make before and after school care affordable
- **Public Safety** – ban handguns & funding to fight gang violence
- **Opioids & substance abuse** – getting people the help they need

Liberal Minority



***Federal priorities
present opportunity
for Peel's advocacy
objectives***



Advocacy Highlights

- Human Sex Trafficking
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Stream
- OGRA – Infrastructure, Transportation delegations

Advocating for funding to address Human Sex Trafficking



Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan



Ontario Good Roads Association Conference – Feb. 23-26

Delegation Meetings:

Minister of Transportation

- GTA West Corridor
- Growth management
- Goods movement

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure

- Increased Transparency and Process Improvements
- Climate change lens

Advocating for funding to address Human Sex Trafficking



The Region continues to advocate to the Province for support for the Region of Peel Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking



Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan

Large municipalities
awaiting opening of
Green Infrastructure
Stream

\$7.1 billion available for
Ontario through the
Green Infrastructure
Stream

Funding breakdown:

Federal 40% max
Ontario 33.3% max
Municipal 26.7% min



Advocating for
allocation-based
infrastructure funding



Ontario Good Roads Association Conference – Feb. 23-26

Delegation Meetings:

Minister of Transportation

- GTA West Corridor
- Growth management
- Goods movement

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure

- Increased Transparency and Process Improvements
- Climate change lens

Looking Forward

‘Advocating For Peel’
website refresh
Q1/Q2 2020



Advocacy Newsletter
Peel MPs, MPPs,
stakeholders

Advocacy Update

10 Peel Centre Dr., Brampton, ON L6T 4B9 | 905-701-7800 | peelregion.ca February 2020

Message from the Chair



On behalf of the Region of Peel, I'm pleased to share with you our Advocacy Update, a bi-monthly newsletter focused on the Region's priorities and progress of our advocacy efforts.

Peel residents and businesses expect all levels of government to work together to meet their needs. The Region's ongoing partnerships with the provincial and federal governments have resulted in many successful initiatives and accomplishments throughout Peel.

In this update, we have included highlights from a recent mental health roundtable the Region hosted to help address mental health service gaps and challenges in Peel. We also share key elements from the Region's 2020 Budget. Our budget establishes a responsible and focused

fiscal plan that respects the tax dollars of Peel residents and businesses without compromising the quality of front-line services. We'll be sharing our priorities with senior levels of government as part of federal and provincial budget processes.

I'd like to congratulate Peel's members of parliament who were elected and re-elected in the October federal election. We look forward to building on our strong partnerships with you to better meet the needs of our shared constituents.

At the beginning of a new year, I believe it's important to reflect on our achievements with an eye toward future opportunities and challenges. We're eager to work closely with our federal and provincial colleagues to create a healthy, safe and connected community.

Sincerely,

Nandini Ieremia
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

Mental health roundtable

The Region welcomes ongoing commitments by the provincial and federal governments to improve access to mental health services.

On Oct. 21, 2019, the Region hosted a roundtable with Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael Tsiolis, several of his caucus colleagues as well as several community stakeholders. The roundtable participants discussed what's required to support 275,000 people in Peel who self-report mental health and/or addictions disorders in their lifetimes. The conversation included important issues related to funding, service integration, technology, access and cultural sensitivity in the mental health and addictions service sector.



The Region worked with its community partners to prepare a report on the mental health and addictions sector in Peel, which has been presented to the Ontario

Stay continue on the next page

Regional Council
Nandini Ieremia
Regional Chair and
Chief Executive Officer
City of Brampton
David Evans
Mayor

Regional Council
The Honourable
Maurice Manning
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Johanna Drayton
Deputy Minister
Debbie Green
Deputy Minister
Paul Virella
Mayor

Town of Caledon
The Honourable
Maurice Manning
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Johanna Drayton
Deputy Minister
Debbie Green
Deputy Minister
Paul Virella
Mayor

City of Mississauga
The Honourable
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Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Johanna Drayton
Deputy Minister
Debbie Green
Deputy Minister
Paul Virella
Mayor



AMO Annual Conference
Ottawa, Aug. 16-19



FCM Annual Conference
Toronto, June 4-7

Thank You

For Information

REPORT TITLE: Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities

FROM: Kathryn Lockyer, Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide Government Relations Committee members with a high-level overview on the status of advocacy priorities, as outlined in Appendix I.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- This report highlights advocacy efforts undertaken by the Government Relations Committee (GRC) since the last meeting, held on October 17, 2019.
- This report provides an overview of progress on high priority Region of Peel advocacy positions, as well as next steps and potential opportunities related to these positions.
- In the current political climate, the Region will continue to be nimble and flexible in its approach to advocacy and intergovernmental relations.

DISCUSSION

This report supports the mandate of the Government Relations Committee (GRC) to develop, coordinate, implement and monitor government relations strategies, based on Regional Council endorsed advocacy positions. Over the course of 2019, there were significant shifts in the policy landscape, particularly at the provincial level, which created uncertainty and funding challenges for the Region. The GRC has worked to fulfill its mandate by pursuing various advocacy initiatives to address these challenges and advance Regional priorities by engaging with elected and departmental officials from the provincial and federal levels of government and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

In the appendix, *Region of Peel Advocacy Activity and Progress Report Table*, there is an update on 14 of the Region's priorities, providing highlights on current activity/progress since the last meeting of the GRC in October, as well as next steps and opportunities. Many of the priorities captured in this report have also been included in the Region's provincial and federal pre-budget submissions and will also be presented to GRC members, for their consideration, as part of the Region's strategy for the 2020 AMO Annual Conference.

It is important to note that this update is not inclusive of all the Region's advocacy positions but focuses on recent activity on priority issues. Given the current political environment, it is important that the Region remain nimble and responsive in its approach to advocacy, to address funding and policy changes that lead to challenges in how Peel delivers core programs and

Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities

services. As one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada, the Region of Peel continues to actively engage with its federal and provincial partners, as the Region depends on support from all orders of government to help address its critical priorities.

CONCLUSION

This report is intended to support the GRC's efforts to advance the Region's interests at the federal and provincial levels of government and to provide an overview of recent progress advocating for Regional priorities. Additional issues impacting the Region and advocacy initiatives are expected to arise from time to time and may be addressed at the Committee's discretion.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Region of Peel Advocacy Activity and Progress Report Table

For further information regarding this report, please contact Keith Medenblik, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, ext.4777, keith.medenblik@peelregion.ca.

Authored By: Patrick Mangion, Specialist, External Relations

Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:
Department Commissioner and Division Director.

Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.



N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Region of Peel Advocacy Activity and Progress Report Table

Updated: February 20, 2020

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>1. Municipal Fiscal Sustainability</p> <p>Work with federal and municipal levels of government to understand and address the financial challenges created by the changing macroeconomic environment that is shifting property tax from the non-residential to the residential sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer presented the findings of the joint Peel-Mowat Center report at the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference to municipal partners and stakeholders from all 444 municipalities in Ontario. The report findings were featured in a Public Sector Digest article Building a Field of Dreams: The Risk to Municipal Financial Sustainability in Ontario. The Region’s efforts were cited in the recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) report, The Case for Growing the Gas Tax Fund. Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) is working on publishing an article on Peel’s research and the impact of these trends on municipalities in the United States. This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial pre-budget submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Region’s Treasurer, Stephanie Nagel, has been asked to present on this topic at the GFOA’s annual conference (on the Future of Revenue) in May 2020. The presentation will occur in the United States and reaches a North American audience. Region will continue to look for opportunities to educate stakeholders and provincial and federal officials about the issue of municipal fiscal sustainability at upcoming conferences (Ontario Good Roads Association and AMO).
<p>2. Growth Paying for Growth</p> <p>Work with the Province to ensure that new initiatives and legislation such as the Housing Supply Action Plan and Bill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional staff met with local municipal staff through summer and early fall to align legislative and regulatory responses to Bill 108. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a follow-up to the Region’s meeting with the Minister of Finance at the AMO Conference, the Regional Chair has reached out to the

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>108: <i>More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019</i>, do not create unintended risks to municipal revenues and slow down growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligned with advocacy positions in previous Region of Peel Bill 108 submissions, the Province has taken positive steps to mitigate the potentially negative financial impacts of Bill 108 on municipalities. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bill 138, the Province’s budget implementation bill, which removed industrial and commercial developments from the DC deferral ○ Ontario Regulation 454/19 which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ places size and number limitations on the number of secondary suites and additional units eligible for the Bill 108 mandatory DC exemption; ○ Places a two-year time limitation on the time that may elapse between the development application and the pulling of a building permit, under the DC rate freeze. ○ The Province has not prescribed an interest rate to be charged on DC deferral installment payments. • The Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer participated in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing’s community benefits charge technical working group. 	<p>Minister’s office to continue the conversation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff is currently determining whether the Region could qualify for funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (ICIP) streams that are currently open. Staff is also reaching out to provincial and federal staff to ensure that Ontario’s Environment Plan meets the Federal criteria needed for the release of the funding under the Green Infrastructure stream. • Pending discussions with the Province on the 2046 growth forecast provide an opportunity to highlight the Region’s growth-related funding requirements.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional staff have participated in the Municipal Finance Officers’ Association of Ontario’s (MFOA) community benefits charge (CBC) working group. On December 2, 2019, the Region wrote to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance and the Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in support of the MFOA and the Ontario Regional and Single Tier Treasurers letters that recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extension to the consultation on the community benefits charge capping formula and CBC capping policy options The impact analysis results done by provincial consultants be shared with the community benefits charge working group. 	
<p>3. Long-term Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure Planning and Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that infrastructure funding programs promote the best use of funds by implementing timelines that reflect the reality of the construction and development processes. Ensure a climate change plan is in place that meets the federal government’s criteria and that the Province work with its federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2020, the Regional Chair sent a letter to Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott highlighting improvements made to provincial infrastructure funding processes and identifying areas for further improvement. Staff also met with Infrastructure Canada to attain greater clarity around ICIP funding criteria and processes from the Federal perspective. All federal funding streams under ICIP, except for the Phase II of the Green Infrastructure stream (which is for larger municipalities), have been 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff is currently determining whether the Region could qualify for funding under the ICIP streams that are currently open. Staff is also reaching out to provincial and federal staff to ensure that Ontario’s Environment Plan meets the Federal criteria needed for the release of the funding under the Green Infrastructure stream.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>counterparts to ensure that \$1.4 billion of Phase 2 federal infrastructure funding is distributed to municipalities in a timely manner.</p>	<p>opened for application in Ontario. The Green Infrastructure Stream was expected to open in late fall 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region applied to the ICIP Public Transit stream for two projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TransHelp Vehicle Replacement (\$5,312,758 between 2020 and 2029); and ○ Automotive Fare Payment Solution (\$1,121,949 between 2020 and 2029). • Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) applied for one project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heating Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) (\$590,306.50). 	
<p>4. Provide Service Managers the funding and flexibility for affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Region of Peel as Service Manager has the funding and the flexibility to provide housing for low and middle-income households by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ improving access to and increasing the funding contribution for affordable housing based on need, and established targets as stated in the Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan ○ providing greater flexibility and reducing regulatory red tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 19, 2019, the Province and Federal government announced a new Canada-Ontario Housing benefit of \$1.4 billion to directly support Ontarians who are in housing need. The Canada-Ontario Housing benefit will prioritize households in need that are on, or eligible to be on, a social housing waiting list and households in financial need living in community housing. This includes survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness, Indigenous persons, seniors and people with disabilities. • This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial pre-budget submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff is currently developing an advocacy strategy to help ensure all three levels of government contribute equally to the funding of the implementation of the Housing Master Plan, thereby achieving much-needed affordable housing supply in Peel. • As a Housing Service Manager, the Region of Peel will have a role in identifying and recommending households on the Central West List for the benefit.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>within the <i>Housing Services Act, 2011</i>, to better determine and implement priorities that address local needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ recognizing that affordable housing is key to business retention and attraction. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region has been working collaboratively with the local municipalities related to housing incentives and inclusionary zoning, aligning messaging, work plans and policies, where possible.
<p>5. Transition the blue box program to producers and develop a provincial single-use plastics strategy</p> <p><u>Blue Box Transition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind-up Stewardship Ontario in accordance with the Minister’s wind-up letter. • Develop regulations to transition the Blue Box Program, generally, in accordance with the Special Advisor’s Report. <p><u>Provincial Single-Use Plastics Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region of Peel Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee endorsed support for a province-wide single-use plastics strategy as well as participation in discussions with the Province, the Retail Council of Canada and other stakeholders to develop a harmonized, Ontario-wide strategy for single-use plastics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October as part of Bill 132, the Province proposed changes to the mandate of Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) to include digital reporting services through its registry for a wider range of waste and resource recovery programs. These changes were posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for comment. • The Region in its response to the ERO posting said it supports changing the mandate of the RPRA and RPRA’s continuing role in oversight and enforcement. Peel supports the Province’s efforts in gathering waste related data and has called for the Province to collect better data. Expanding RPRA’s mandate to include digital reporting services, fee setting and cost recovery for waste outside of their current mandate improves the efficiency and accuracy of data and reduces the administrative burden for organizations, including municipalities, that manage these materials. It will also provide the Province with access to much needed data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in consultation sessions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft Blue Box regulation ○ Proposed wind-up plan with Stewardship Ontario and the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority • Regional staff and Council to continue to advocate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the need for a speedy transition ○ ensure that the regulation doesn’t reduce environmental or performance outcomes ○ ensure adequate oversight of producers

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>6. Provincial support of regional and provincial GHG reduction targets and sustained climate change adaptation and mitigation funding</p> <p>Ensure the Provincial Environment Plan supports meeting regional and provincial greenhouse gas reduction targets and that sustained adaptation and mitigation funding programs are available to accelerate transformation to a low carbon and resilient community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 24, 2019, Region of Peel council unanimously approved its first Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP). The actions in the plan aim to reduce GHG emissions and increase resilience. At the same meeting, Region of Peel Council declared a climate change community. As part of Bill 132, the Province expanded the use of administrative monetary penalties for environmental contraventions. Funds collected from these penalties will be used to set up a fund to support local environmental activities (e.g. litter clean up, tree planting and flood prevention). The funding program will be launched in 2020. In November 2019, the Flood Advisor Report, commissioned by the Province, was released. It provided advice to government and contained 66 recommendations. The implications for municipalities will depend on the response by the government to the recommendations. Through the Peel Climate Change Partnership, the Region and local municipalities are developing flood resiliency mapping and an Electric Vehicle Strategy. This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial pre-budget submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCMP has an outcome focused on raising capital to fund the CCMP’s actions, including public funding available from other levels of government. Staff will monitor for the launch of the fund and work with its conservation partners and other stakeholders to apply. Staff will monitor how the Province responds to the recommendations in the Flood Advisor Report and work with conservation authorities and other stakeholders to determine implications to the Region. Staff from the Regional Planning and Growth Management Division have coordinated a staff review with the Conservation Authorities and Local Municipal staff for awareness.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>7. Governance, Geographic Boundaries and Funding of Public Health and Paramedic Services</p> <p>Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the existing geographic boundaries of Peel Public Health to ensure local planning and service delivery is responsive to community needs given Peel’s geography and population size. • Maintain Peel Regional Council as the Board of Health for Peel. • Achieve 75% Provincial funding and not increase the municipal share of funding. <p>Paramedics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with municipalities on possible future changes to Paramedic Services to ensure consideration of impacts from a local lens and responsiveness to community needs. • Not reduce Provincial funding for Paramedic Services in order to ensure service levels are maintained and do not adversely impact residents in Peel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December, consultations led by provincially appointed Special Advisor Jim Pine, were announced for both public health and emergency health system transformation and modernization. Discussion papers were also released with the Ministry of Health accepting written submissions until Spring 2020. • The Special Advisor conducted an in-person consultation session in Peel on January 8, 2020, which included participation from Halton Region and Regional Councillors Downey and Fonseca. Peel Public Health and Paramedic staff also made presentations. • The Region of Peel made written submissions for both consultations, which were endorsed by Regional Council on January 23, 2020. • Regional Councillors and the CAO have participated in separate consultation meetings with AMO. • This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial pre-budget submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region continues to advocate for continued consultation on changes to paramedics and public health following the Special Advisor providing his findings to the Province. <p>Paramedic Services Key Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring dispatch technologies remain a priority before new models of care are adopted to effectively deploy resources and ensure quality of care for patients. • Improving interoperability between the dispatch communications centre and paramedics for enhanced accountability and efficiency; • Exploring new models of care and integration of paramedic service in partnership with other local service providers (i.e. Ontario Health Teams) that will leverage the skills of paramedics and fill potential gaps in the system.

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ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>8. Enhance dementia supports and funding to redevelop Peel Manor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance dementia supports across the long-term care sector through funding that aligns with increasingly complex resident care needs, dedicated and consistent training related to person-centered emotional dementia care, enhanced specialized supports and supportive structural design; and Provide funding to the Region to support the redevelopment of the Seniors Health and Wellness Village at the Peel Manor long term care home, while also partnering on an innovative project aimed at improving integrated care in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Region of Peel has applied to several federal dementia grants with no success. Regional staff have been in contact with the Ministry of Long-Term Care to discuss opportunities for funding long term care redevelopment and enhancing emotional care supports in long term care homes. This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial pre-budget submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Region will continue to explore funding opportunities particularly through the Senior’s Health and Wellness Village aligned to the Province’s vision for integrated care. Staff are monitoring for any future direction from the provincial Seniors Strategy that can be leveraged to support enhancing supports for seniors in our community.
<p>9. Integrate mental health and addictions planning and service delivery across entire age continuum and address historical inequities in provincial funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate mental health and addictions system planning and service delivery to ensure seamless access to services across the entire age continuum and coordinate across ministries on the basic social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 21, 2019, the Region hosted a community mental health and addictions roundtable with the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Michael Tibollo and key community partners to understand how Peel is addressing mental health and addictions issues. On December 12, 2019, Bill 116, <i>Foundations for Promoting and Protecting Mental Health and Addictions Services Act</i>, 2019 received Royal Assent. It establishes a Mental Health and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the community mental health and addictions round table, Regional staff will continue to steward and work alongside community partners to coordinate consistent messaging and identify strategic investments that can be shared with the Province to strengthen our community mental health and addictions system in Peel.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>needs to support mental health promotion and recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address historical inequities in provincial funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel to support upstream prevention and improved access to services within the community and ensure that funding matches community needs and reflects demographic changes. 	<p>Addictions Centre of Excellence within Ontario Health and support the Province's participation in a national class action lawsuit against more than 40 opioid manufacturers and wholesalers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November the Province announced it is investing up to \$60 million to support the construction of the Garry Hurvitz Brain Sciences Centre, a new, state-of-the-art facility dedicated to brain and mental health at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. It will be the largest youth mental health service in the Greater Toronto Area. In December 2019 Region of Peel Council endorsed the Peel Opioid Strategy which includes a treatment pillar, led by service providers, focused on enhanced access to effective addiction treatment services. Coordinated with local municipalities to provide information/data support to local councillors and mayors attending conferences or events (e.g., FCM) and to support planned meetings with Ministers or government officials. On February 20, 2020 a report went to the Health Services Integration Committee (HSIC) reinforcing the importance and need for ongoing advocacy. Community delegates presented on the local data and needs in Peel. This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial pre-budget submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health and Addictions is an area of early focus of the Community Safety and Well-Being plan and an Action Table is underway to identify its goals. The Action Table is an example of cross-sector collaboration and coordination among partners who are collectively working to achieve a shared goal. Peel Public Health continues to collaborate with Peel school boards and community partners to support child and youth mental health promotion.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>10. Prohibit the promotion of vaping product and the sale of flavoured vaping products, require warning labels and introduce municipal licensing requirements</p> <p>On November 14, 2019, Regional Council passed resolution (2019-1041) related to advocacy to the federal and provincial governments on the issue of vaping and youth.</p> <p>The resolution calls on the Region to advocate to the federal government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ amend the <i>Tobacco and Vaping Products Act</i> to prohibit the manufacture and sale of vaping products with flavours and flavouring ingredients, and to align the prohibitions on the mass media promotion of vaping products with those for tobacco products. ○ limit the concentration of nicotine in vaping products to 20 mg/mL or less; ○ require warning labels for all packaging of vapour products; <p>And calls on the Ontario government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ amend the <i>Smoke-Free Ontario Act</i>, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On September 4, 2019, Peel Public Health submitted comments to the federal governments’ consultation on proposed regulations for vaping product labelling and packaging. ● On January 3, 2020, Peel’s Medical Officer of Health wrote to James Van Loon, Director General, Tobacco Control Directorate, Health Canada regarding the Region’s various vaping related advocacy positions directed at the federal government. ● On Jan 3, 2020, Peel’s Medical Officer of Health wrote to Minister Elliott about the Region’s various vaping related advocacy positions that directed at the provincial government. ● On January 7, 2020 Peel’s Medical Officer of Health, on behalf of Councillor Fonseca, submitted to FCM a proposed resolution that aims to limit the access and the appeal of vaping to youth ● On January 20, 2020, Peel Public Health submitted comments to the federal government’s consultation on proposed Vaping Product Promotion Regulations. ● Region of Peel-Public Health staff are in the process of analyzing municipal vapour product retailer licensing options and plan to contact local municipalities in the next couple of months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peel Public Health will continue to advocate for policies to protect youth and non-users of vapour products. ● Through analysis, Peel Public Health will recommend licencing options for vapour product retailers and work in collaboration with local municipalities to implement. ● Licencing vapour product retailers in Peel may identify opportunities to strengthen municipal tobacco retailer licenses in order to increase how effectively they can protect youth from exposure to and use of tobacco products.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>2017 to align penalties for e-cigarette sales offences with the current penalties for tobacco sales offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ amend the <i>Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017</i> and <i>Ontario Regulation 268/18</i> to prohibit the retail promotion of vaping products and to prohibit the sale of flavoured vaping products. <p>The resolution also calls on both the federal and provincial governments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensure advertising and promotion of vapour products not target youth. <p>Region of Peel staff will work with staff at the local municipalities to introduce licensing requirements for vapour product retailers.</p>		
<p>11. Sustainable and Integrated Transportation System</p> <p>The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel, including: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The technically preferred route as released at a Public Information Centre in September 2019 shows an extension of Highway 427 and future alignment with the GTA West Corridor. • MTO has established a Business Advisory Council on rail transit in the Innovation Corridor Employment Zone. The council will be comprised 	<p><u>GO Transit and Public Transit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to advocate for continued implementation and completion of two-way, all-day 15-minute GO rail service on the Kitchener line, from Union Station to Bramalea GO and further to Mount Pleasant GO Station

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving transit connections between the Town of Caledon and Toronto ○ Continue with the implementation of two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Regional Express Rail on the Kitchener Line from Bramalea GO Station to Union Station and further to Mount Pleasant GO Station ○ Expedite two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Regional Express Rail for Milton Line • Complete the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA) process expeditiously and move forward as soon as possible with the implementation of a highway and a dedicated transit right-of-way. • Extend Highway 427 to Highway 9 and beyond and future alignment with the GTA West Corridor. • Encourage the Province to continue its involvement with the Smart Freight Centre and lead the province-wide Off-Peak Delivery Pilot in support of the safe and efficient movement of goods. 	<p>of community, business and municipal leaders from across the Innovation Corridor who will work with Minister Mulroney, the Ministry of Transportation and Metrolinx on delivering two-way all-day GO on the Kitchener line. Brampton Board of Trade CEO, Todd Letts, is a member of the council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry has shown interest in the Smart Freight Centre’s in the Region’s off-peak delivery pilot. • This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial pre-budget submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite two-way, all-day 15-minute GO service on the Milton Line • Improved services between Caledon and Toronto <p>The Region will continue to seek opportunities to encourage ongoing provincial investments in local municipal transit in Peel such as the Hurontario LRT project. The investments are integral to Peel meeting its goal of a 50 per cent sustainable mode share by 2041 and accommodating growth over the same period.</p> <p><u>GTA West Corridor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find opportunities to continue to work with and support the Province in completing the EA by 2022. • Ministry of Transportation is working with Region of Peel and affected local municipalities to identify alternate options for the Coleraine interchange. • A report on the Coleraine interchange matter was brought to Regional Council on February 27, 2020.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>The Region of Peel also calls on the federal government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> invest in projects to support improved transportation access for people and goods around Toronto Pearson International Airport. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The confirmation of the Preferred Route is expected to be released Spring 2020. Regional Staff are continuing to work with the Ministry of Transportation through the Municipal Advisory Group meetings. <p>Smart Freight Centre (SFC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the success of the Region’s Off-Peak Delivery Pilot, the Ministry of Transportation is expected to launch a province-wide Off-Peak Delivery Pilot in March 2020. Continue advocating for increased collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation on SFC initiatives to support sound goods movement practices across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).
<p>12. Maintaining a strong Early Years and Child Care System</p> <p>The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to phase-in proposed changes to provincial funding for early years and child care in order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province recently deferred some of the expected reductions in funding that were originally planned for 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective January 1, 2021, the Province will implement a 50/50 cost share with the Region for administrative expenses. 	<p>The Province is considering making significant changes to the Early Years and Child Care program and funding formula which could impact our funding. Accordingly, the Region will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue advocating for increased collaboration with the Ministry to

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>to avoid reductions in the availability of quality child care, EarlyON and Special Needs services in Peel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively consult with the Region on funding and policy changes that impact Early Years and Child Care program delivery and service levels. Provide adequate operating and capital funding to expand access to childcare and EarlyON programs in areas of need. Continue to make childcare more affordable (e.g. updating income test formula to reflect the current cost of living, expanding affordability investments in child care, and consider enhancements to CARE). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective January 1, 2022, in addition to the 50/50 cost share, the Province will cap the amount of provincial funding the Region can spend on administration to five per cent from 10 per cent. Through the budget process Council approved an investment of \$2.6 million in order to help offset a 20-per-cent reduction in funding for child care services by the Province in 2020. The Region anticipates reduced funding for child care in 2021 and beyond will result in the creation of significant wait lists for child care fee subsidy and/or children with special needs. Similarly, the elimination of the Region’s Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative in 2020 will end supports that help make child care more affordable for working families who do not qualify for provincial subsidy. The Region received provincial support through the Audit and Accountability Fund to complete a review of the Child Care Fee Subsidy Program. This review, completed in December 2019, found efficiencies and outlined specific and actionable recommendations that could result in cost avoidance, savings and strengthen accountability. This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial pre-budget submission. 	<p>share data and provide feedback and insights on funding and policy changes that are being considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> And whenever possible, reinforce the importance of the Province providing the 2020 allocation as soon as possible so we can continue to plan and adapt. The Early Years and Child Care division will begin implementation of Fee Subsidy review recommendations in 2020 and will continue to look for efficiencies to avoid service impacts.

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>13. Sustainable Funding to Support Peel’s Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide long-term sustainable operational funding to support the costs of housing, and support services for victims and survivors of human sex trafficking in Peel Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging with the Peel School Boards to raise awareness about the issue and how the school boards can partner with other stakeholders. On September 16, 2019, the Director of Community Partnerships delegated to the Brampton Community Safety Advisory Committee, which in response approved a motion passed to train all 3000 City of Brampton staff, using the Region of Peel’s e-learning module. On December 9, the Region met with Minister Dunlop and senior staff to discuss funding opportunities and met with the Minister’s Chief of Staff on January 23. The Region delegated to the AMO Board on January 31st to increase awareness about the Region’s approach and look for opportunities to partner with AMO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Region is in the process of implementing the strategy and seeking sustainable funding to ensure the supportive services remain in the community long-term. This includes working with community partners and seeking meetings with relevant Ministers. The Region has submitted to provide a panel presentation at the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association Conference in May.
<p>14. Settlement boundary expansions for Mayfield West Phase 2 Stage 2 and Ninth Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include the settlement boundary expansions of Mayfield West Phase 2 Stage 2 in Caledon and Ninth Line in Mississauga in the Transitional Regulation for A Place to Grow, 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Region advocated for these changes through Regional comments and discussions on Growth Plan related matters, which supported local municipal positions as well. On November 14, 2019, Minister Clark issued a letter to Heads of Municipal Councils informing them that settlement boundary expansions involving lands of up to 40 hectares can occur outside of a municipal comprehensive review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are partnering with local municipal staff to coordinate work on our respective MCRs and on a number of studies, including Settlement Area Boundary Expansions. No further action on this advocacy position is required.

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ADVOCACY POSITION/PRIORITY	PROGRESS & RECENT ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The letter also stated that a municipality may undertake a municipal comprehensive review (MCR) through phased multiple amendments. This confirmation of permitted phases provides the opportunity for Ninth Line Lands and Mayfield West Phase 2 Stage 2 settlement area boundary expansions to proceed as amendments ahead of other official plan policy review processes.	

REPORT TITLE: **2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference**

FROM: Kathryn Lockyer, Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the approach outlined in the report of the Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services, titled "2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference," be endorsed.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2020 AMO Conference will take place August 16 – 19 in Ottawa.
- The Conference provides an opportunity to continue to engage with provincial ministers, parliamentary assistants, opposition party leaders and senior provincial staff.
- Regional staff will request delegations with provincial ministers with the goal of advancing Regional Council's advocacy priorities.
- This report includes proposed Region of Peel advocacy priorities that will be advanced with the provincial decision-makers, including ministers, senior staff and opposition party leaders at the 2020 AMO Conference.
- Staff is proposing that an AMO Conference preparation workshop be held in mid-July to ensure the feedback of Government Relations Committee (GRC) members can be incorporated into the briefing notes and other supporting materials (e.g., advocacy documents, speaking notes, etc.).

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The AMO Annual Conference (Conference) will take place August 16 - 19, 2020 in Ottawa. The Conference includes several keynote addresses by subject matter experts, provincial party leaders and cabinet ministers. In addition, a Ministers' Forum is usually held, during which cabinet ministers answer questions from municipal elected officials in attendance.

The Conference also offers concurrent educational sessions covering a wide range of municipal issues as well as opportunities to connect with municipal colleagues from across Ontario and to learn and share experiences from a wide range of municipal perspectives.

A key feature of the Conference is the opportunity for municipal delegations to meet with ministry representatives, including ministers and senior staff, and opposition party leaders. The Region of Peel has used these delegation meetings to strengthen relationships and advance the Region's priorities. Opportunities for ministerial delegations are expected to again be available at this year's Conference and staff will lead the coordination and

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development of materials to support discussions with relevant ministries and opposition leaders.

2. Ministerial Delegations

Delegation meetings provide Regional Councillors and staff with opportunities to:

- Develop and/or strengthen relationships with key provincial decision-makers, including ministers, parliamentary assistants, opposition party leaders and their staff;
- Promote important Regional Council advocacy priorities with the provincial government and other stakeholders; and,
- Promote the Region as an innovative and trusted partner to advance key provincial initiatives.

a) 2019 Region of Peel Proposed Advocacy Priority Themes

If this year's Conference provides opportunities to meet with municipal delegations, these meetings will focus on the continued advancement of Regional Council's prioritized advocacy positions, the majority of which align to Term of Council Priorities. Staff recommends delegation requests be made to ministries/ministers as presented in the table below.

Ministry	Minister	Advocacy Priorities
Infrastructure	Hon. Laurie Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long Term Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure Funding and Planning
Children, Community and Social Services	Hon. Todd Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Funding to Support the Region's Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking• Improving Ontario Works Service Delivery Model
Finance	Hon. Rod Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Municipal Fiscal Health and Sustainability• Sufficient Cannabis Legalization Funding (including funding for opt-out communities)
Long-Term Care	Hon. Merrilee Fullerton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced Dementia Supports across the Long-Term Care Sector• Funding Supports for Home and Community Care Services and Personal Support Workers• Funding for the Redevelopment of the Peel Manor site• Implementation of Systems-Level Coordination between Health and Social Sectors

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Health	Hon. Christine Elliott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region's Position on Public Health Transformation & Paramedic Services Modernization
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Hon. Michael Tibollo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of Mental Health and Addictions System Planning and Service Delivery Historical Funding Inequities for Mental Health and Addictions Services in Peel
Education	Hon. Stephen Lecce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase-in of Changes to Provincial Funding for Early Years and Child Care Proactive Consultations with Service System Managers on Funding and Policy Changes Human Sex Trafficking
Transportation	Hon. Caroline Mulroney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GTA West Corridor Sustainable Transportation
Municipal Affairs and Housing	Hon. Steve Clark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Fiscal Health and Sustainability Funding for Affordable Housing
Environment, Conservation and Parks	Hon. Jeff Yurek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Funding and Support for Municipal Climate Change Initiatives Blue Box Program Transition Province-wide Single-use Plastics Strategy
Solicitor General/MPP Dufferin-Caledon	Hon. Sylvia Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GTA West Corridor/Sustainable Transportation Funding for Peel Manor Improvements Human Sex Trafficking

The priorities identified to discuss with the Ministers and their staff are based on current Council endorsed advocacy positions. It is important to note that given the rapidly shifting nature of the provincial political environment, these proposed themes may have to be amended as the provincial government implements its mandate and policy objectives.

b) AMO Conference Preparation Workshop

To help prepare for the Conference, staff recommends that a workshop be held in mid-July to review the advocacy priorities and draft briefing materials with GRC members. The purpose of meeting in advance of the Conference is to ensure that staff can incorporate the feedback received from GRC members into the briefing materials and other documents being prepared. Staff leads from the various departments will also be in attendance to provide further information on the advocacy priorities, if required.

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Subject to the availability of committee members, staff recommends that the workshop be held on July 16, 2020.

c) Coordination with Local Municipalities

The Region is usually notified by Ministers' offices whether the delegation request has been accepted approximately one to two weeks prior the start of the AMO Conference. As meeting delegations are confirmed, to avoid scheduling conflicts, Region of Peel staff will coordinate Mayor/Councillor participation in the specific meetings with staff from Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga. This will also provide an opportunity to assign meetings based on Mayor/Councillor interest and availability.

The Region will also work with local municipal staff to seek joint delegations, where appropriate.

3. Additional Initiatives

Additional advocacy opportunities that will be pursued as part of the Region's process to prepare for the AMO's Annual Conference include:

- Hosting an event/meeting with all Peel-area Ministers/MPPs attending the conference to discuss Peel-specific issues;
- Requesting individual delegation meetings with leaders of the opposition parties and other key officials.

CONCLUSION

The Region of Peel has traditionally been an active participant in all aspects of the AMO Conference. The 2020 AMO Conference presents valuable opportunities for the Region to advance its priorities and strengthen relationships with provincial cabinet ministers and Peel MPPs.

Following the Conference, the Chair of the GRC and staff will provide the Committee with an update on conference activities, follow up action items and future opportunities to advance Regional priorities.

For further information regarding this report, please contact Keith Medenblik, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, ext.4777, keith.medenblik@peelregion.ca

Authored By: Sonia Mistry, Advisor, External Relations.

2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference

Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:
Department Commissioner and Division Director.

Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Polsinelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "N".

N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

2020 Region of Peel

Federal Pre-Budget Submission



REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____

Introduction

The Region of Peel is responsible for providing services and programs to a rapidly growing community consisting of the cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon. Peel is projected to grow from the current 1.5 million people to a population of nearly two million by 2041. The Region's vision for Peel is Community for Life, where everyone enjoys a sense of belonging and has access to the services and opportunities they need to thrive throughout each stage of their lives.

To meet the growing needs of Peel residents and businesses, the Region uses best practices based on evidence and risk-informed decision-making, consistently maintains a triple "A" credit rating and is the recipient of Excellence Canada's Platinum Award for continuous improvement efforts.

While the Region of Peel is recognized as a leader in service and program delivery, it relies on financial support from other orders of government. Like many other municipalities across Ontario and Canada, the Region is increasingly doing more with less. Without sustainable funding tools, the Region does not have the financial resources to maintain and build the necessary infrastructure and provide the appropriate level of services to support Peel's growth.

To that end, the Region is eager to work with the federal government to address challenges impacting Peel and has a number of recommendations that align closely with the following key priorities laid out in the 2019 Speech from the Throne:

- Growing the Economy and Strengthening the Middle Class
- Keeping Canadians Safe and Healthy
- Fighting Climate Change

Growing the Economy and Strengthening the Middle Class

Municipal Fiscal Sustainability

Municipalities are the level of government closest to the people and are therefore most familiar with their hopes, needs and challenges. The infrastructure (roads, bridges, transit, housing, water and wastewater and waste management) and services municipalities provide are essential to maintaining and enhancing the excellent quality of life enjoyed by residents.

The Region, like other municipalities, has limited revenue sources and cannot do this on its own. Existing revenue tools available to municipalities - property tax, development charges, federal/provincial funding and user fees - have remained relatively unchanged and provide limited flexibility to address the evolving needs of the municipal sector. Support from our federal and provincial partners is needed to continue to build safe, healthy and connected communities. Municipalities are vital partners for the federal government and want a modern and renewed partnership in which they are around the table and regarded as true partners.

A modernized relationship with municipalities is becoming more critical as Canada's economy shifts from being producer/manufacture-based to one that is more technological/digital-based. Technological change has automated many work processes and contributed to businesses requiring less land and fewer workers. Technology has also enabled a more mobile, globalized labour force.

In response to this transformation, building forms have become less expansive and production spaces are smaller, but used more intensely. As a result, actual business land consumption has fallen below expected levels and has affected non-residential revenue growth. As municipalities continue to work towards meeting the growing needs of their communities, it is essential that the federal and provincial governments work with municipalities to explore sustainable and predictable funding sources that go beyond property taxes.

The Region of Peel recommends that the federal government:

- Work with provincial and municipal counterparts to address the fiscal gap left between the decreasing revenues generated from outdated municipal revenue tools and the 21st century challenges municipalities face. The increased risk to municipal fiscal sustainability stemming from this gap should also be more widely understood.

Infrastructure

Long-term, sustainable investment in municipal infrastructure, such as wastewater plant rehabilitation, inflow and infiltration projects, and road construction projects, help strengthen Canada's economy by ensuring families and businesses have the infrastructure necessary to prosper and thrive.

Consider the following facts:

- For every dollar increase of GDP in Peel, Canada's GDP will increase by \$1.62.
- For every dollar of municipal revenue in Peel due to growth, federal revenue increases by \$6.22.

In addition, efficient and effective utility services require timely and purposeful mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Without this, the negative effects of climate change will have costly impacts to balance sheets of businesses and the individual family's monthly/yearly expenses.

For fast-growing municipalities such as Peel, providing and maintaining infrastructure is becoming increasingly difficult, due to unpredictable and unsustainable funding sources. The Region relies on collaboration with the federal and provincial levels of government to plan, build and maintain the infrastructure required to meet the needs of their communities.

The Region recognizes that the federal government, through Phase 2 of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (ICIP), intends to invest over \$1.4 billion in infrastructure dollars in Ontario's municipalities. While the Region looks forward to this investment, the federal government is encouraged to work with its provincial counterparts to improve funding program design to better meet the needs of the municipal sector.

As a result of the restrictive timelines and lack of flexibility under Phase 1 of ICIP, project costs were elevated by an average of 30 per cent due to the lack of available contractors, high demand for materials, and municipalities going to market for similar materials and services at the same time. A 30-per cent premium on \$30 billion in investments under Phase 2 would translate into \$9 billion in lost purchasing power. This must be avoided.

In addition, the Region would like an allocation-based approach for distributing infrastructure funding to municipalities such as the gas tax funding program. This approach is more predictable than application-based funding as it enables investments in priority projects that are consistent with each municipality's asset management plan. As a result, it helps avoid price spikes and contractor shortages associated with application-based funding.

The Region of Peel recommends that the federal government:

- Work with the Ontario government to expedite the distribution for Phase 2 funding.
- Implement an allocation-based approach for distributing infrastructure funding to municipalities similar to the gas tax.

Affordable Housing

Many of the same challenges and opportunities that have underpinned the federal government's approach to affordable housing, also exist in Peel, where families, seniors, first-time buyers and our most vulnerable residents face obstacles in simply finding a place to call home.

A collaborative approach with the private sector, non-profit sector and all levels of government will drive solutions to help ease these housing pressures, which in Peel include the following:

- 80 per cent of households can't afford to buy a home or move into a new rental unit in Peel (based on a 30 per cent of household income affordability threshold)
- Peel's current vacancy rate stands at just 1.2 per cent, whereas a vacancy rate that results in zero real rent increases is considered to be at least 3 per cent
- Home ownership prices in Peel have increased three times faster than the ability of households to own (2006 to 2018).

As a Service Manager, the Region continues advocating for affordable housing that is available for all Peel residents, as well as the prevention of homelessness in Peel. The Region has undertaken a number of initiatives with the aim of maintaining and increasing the supply of affordable housing, while also improving service for residents, including:

- Approving a housing master plan to build over 5,600 new shelter beds, supportive, and affordable rental housing units in Peel, including immediate funding to build the first two phases of this plan
- Implementing a new client service delivery model
- Planned improvements to wait list and subsidy management
- Private stock strategy to bring privately-held units already in the market into the affordable housing system

While regional and federal investments in affordable housing are improving lives in Peel, additional ongoing support from all orders of government is needed in order to continue address affordable housing needs. In particular, the federal government should provide long-term, allocation-based, sustainable capital and operational funding that does not impact the Region's borrowing ability and provides flexibility in its use towards addressing affordability through leveraging current housing stock and new rental development.

The Region looks forward to continued investments through the National Housing Strategy and is also encouraged by the recent \$1.4-billion investment by the provincial and federal governments through new Canada-Ontario Housing benefit. The Region will identify and recommend households on the Central West List eligible for the benefit.

The Region of Peel recommends that the federal government:

- Provide long-term, allocation-based, sustainable capital and operational funding for affordable housing that does not impact the Region's borrowing ability and provides flexibility in its use towards getting and keeping Peel residents housed (e.g. existing affordable housing stock, new affordable supportive and rental development, subsidies, incentives).

Keeping Canadians Safe and Healthy

Human Sex Trafficking

The Region of Peel and the federal government share a common interest in eradicating human sex trafficking, which is a growing problem. In 2017, Peel Regional Police saw the highest number of human sex trafficking charges in Peel in a decade. The most current data shows that Peel police conducted over half the human sex trafficking investigations in Canada and 62.5 per cent of Canadian cases originate in the Greater Toronto Area.

The Region has taken decisive action on this issue, demonstrating leadership through its Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking in Peel Region, which outlines three key pillars: prevention, intervention, and exits/housing. To address these pillars, a three-year pilot program is being implemented, which includes one safe/emergency house, one transitional house and wrap-around services for individuals at risk.

However, the Region of Peel cannot tackle this growing problem on its own; more can be done through partnerships with stakeholders, including all orders of government, to help drive positive outcomes for victims and survivors of human sex trafficking. The current pilot program is being funded by the Region through reserves and if these services are discontinued at the end of the pilot, the ability to address the needs of sex trafficking victims and survivors and the trust that has been built with this vulnerable population will be put at risk.

The strategies put forward by the Region and the federal government offer numerous opportunities to align shared priorities. The federal government-funded Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline is an important resource, as is the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking; the Region looks forward to hearing more about this initiative.

The Region of Peel recommends that the federal government:

- Support the leadership demonstrated through the Region's human sex trafficking strategy and provide sustainable funding to be used for capital and operating initiatives.

Fighting Climate Change

Climate Change

The complexity, urgency and scale of climate change means no single government or organization can address it alone. For more than a decade, the Region of Peel has worked closely with its local municipalities and conservation authorities on specific initiatives and through the Peel Climate Change Partnership to advance plans that together transition Peel toward a low-carbon and resilient future.

However, while municipalities are at the front line responding to increased impacts, they lack the capacity to adapt. To address this, there needs to be greater coordination across all levels of government, including the federal level.

The 2018 Federal-Ontario Bilateral Agreement and the Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change includes key climate change and infrastructure outcomes, which are aligned with the Region's climate change priorities. As the federal government moves forward in achieving these outcomes, greater consideration is needed to align federal infrastructure and climate change policies and plans with municipal priorities. This includes developing policy that establishes adaptation targets and defines municipal resilience to climate change.

In addition, to help the federal government further its goal to increase efficiency of buildings and generate clean energy, increased funding and incentives are required for municipalities to build or retrofit affordable housing building stock to achieve low-carbon targets.

The Region of Peel recommends that the federal government:

- Provide sustained funding to reduce GHG emissions and address climate change risks to critical municipal infrastructure.
- Work with the Region of Peel to develop policy that establishes adaptation targets and defines municipal resilience to climate change.

Transportation

The Region of Peel consists of some of the most diverse and fastest-growing communities in Canada. Direct access to the 400-series network of highways, GO and intermodal rail, public transit services and Pearson International Airport has shaped Peel as a destination of choice for business and for the thousands of newcomers every year who choose to make Canada their home. This diversity continues to be a strength for the Region, however, growth does not come without its challenges. Gridlock and lost productivity threaten to stall this momentum without ongoing investments by the federal government in more sustainable and integrated transportation.

The Region of Peel's population and employment is expected to grow by about 500,000 residents and 250,000 jobs, to a total of approximately two million residents and 970,000 jobs by 2041. Current travel trends show that Peel is expected to see more than 300,000 new trips during the morning peak, on a daily basis, by 2041. This will have significant pressures on the transportation network.

Sustainable Mobility

The Region applauds the federal government for continuing to make environmental issues key among its strategic priorities. Sustainable mobility is a cornerstone of the Region's Long-Range Transportation Plan. It includes more than 50 recommended actions that call for reduced GHGs and shorter trips times for residents.

Peel recognizes that the expected growth to the region cannot be met simply by adding more road lanes, rather, the Region has identified long-term solutions that includes a transportation system in which 50 per cent of peak period trips are made using sustainable transportation modes.

The Region was encouraged by the federal government's decision to double transfers to municipalities from the Gas Tax Fund, investment in the expansion of the GO network, as well as transit stream funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. These initiatives demonstrate how intergovernmental relations continue to drive the transformative change from which all Canadians benefit.

Goods Movement

Peel's economic indicators tell the story of a region that has shown significant improvements in many areas, including a growing and diverse population that benefits from an increasingly diversified economic base, spanning numerous sectors which create jobs for both residents and non-residents of Peel.

In 2019, there were improvements in key areas of Peel's economy:

- Peel's unemployment rate fell to 6.6 per cent, its lowest level since 2008.
- In June of 2019, the number of businesses in Peel was 182,477, 5.5 per cent higher than a year earlier.
- The Region issued \$3.13 billion worth of building permits from January to September 2019 – a 32.3 per cent increase.
- The number of people in Peel's labour market increased by 3.9 per cent to approximately 938,000.

Sectors with direct or indirect linkages to goods movement have been expanding in Peel. In particular, the proportion of Peel's business sector accounted for by transportation and warehousing increased from 15.4 per cent to 21.0 per cent in the last decade, while the proportion of Peel's residents working in the sector increased from 9.6 per cent to 11.4 per cent.

Clearly, the efficient movement of goods continues to play a significant part in Peel's economic success, which is supported by continued federal investments in projects to support improved transportation access for people and goods around Toronto Pearson International Airport. With a high volume of trips and movements associated with the airport, these efficiencies would align with the federal government's plan to reduce GHGs.

The Region of Peel recommends that the federal government:

- Increase funding for transit infrastructure to contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Work with the Ontario government to move forward with implementing GO Expansion in the Region of Peel:
 - Two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Expansion on the Kitchener Line from Bramalea GO Station to Union Station and further to Mount Pleasant GO Station; and
 - Two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Expansion for the Milton Line.
- Invest in projects to support improved transportation access for people and goods around Toronto Pearson International Airport.

Waste Management

Moving from a linear “take-make-waste” economy to a circular economy, that keeps resources in use for as long as possible, will generate business, economic, environmental and social benefits for the Region of Peel and all of Canada. The federal government can advance a circular economy by continuing to support the development and use of innovative resource recovery technologies and sustainable business models and practices, including sustainable procurement in all levels of government.

The Region continues working toward its 75 per cent waste diversion goal by 2034. While it has developed its own extensive waste management strategies to meet this objective, support from the federal and provincial governments is needed to achieve national, provincial and municipal diversion targets.

The Region supports a province-wide single-use plastics strategy, as well as participation in discussions with the Province, the Retail Council of Canada and other stakeholders to develop a harmonized strategy for single-use plastics. With that in mind, the Region is encouraged by the federal government’s plan to ban single-use plastics by the end of 2021, as well as a national plan to reduce the amount of packaging that has overwhelmed municipal waste programs.

Federal investment in waste infrastructure is needed as current infrastructure does not have the capacity to handle the increasing amount of materials collected from all regions and all types of buildings, including business and public spaces. Federal investment will increase capacity to process and recover value from all types of plastic waste.

The Region of Peel recommends that the federal government:

- Support the advancement of a circular economy by investing in and promoting innovative resource recovery technologies and sustainable business models and practices.
- Continue work in understanding the effects of plastic pollution and in developing a national ban on single-use plastics.
- Invest in waste infrastructure and technologies to increase resource recovery from plastics and recyclable materials.

Conclusion

The Region of Peel appreciates the opportunity to participate in the federal government's pre-budget consultation process and provide recommendations on issues that are most important to residents and businesses in Peel.

The Region shares many of the federal government's key priorities, including embracing the strength of our diversity, igniting economic opportunities and ongoing community investments that support the highest quality of life for the Region's residents, and looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively to meet the needs of Peel.

Summary of Recommendations

Municipal Fiscal Sustainability

- Work with provincial and municipal counterparts to address the fiscal gap left between the decreasing revenues generated from outdated municipal revenue tools and the 21st century challenges municipalities face. The increased risk to municipal fiscal sustainability stemming from this gap should also be more widely understood.

Infrastructure

- Work with the Government of Ontario to expedite the distribution for Phase 2 funding.
- Implement an allocation-based approach for distributing infrastructure funding to municipalities similar to the gas tax.

Affordable Housing

- Provide long-term, allocation-based, sustainable capital and operational funding for affordable housing that does not impact the Region's borrowing ability and provides flexibility in its use towards getting and keeping Peel residents housed (e.g. existing affordable housing stock, new affordable supportive and rental development, subsidies, incentives).

Human Sex Trafficking

- Support the leadership demonstrated through the Region's human sex trafficking strategy and provide sustainable funding to be used for capital and operating initiatives.

Climate Change

- Provide sustained funding to reduce GHG emissions and address climate change risks to critical municipal infrastructure.
- Work with the Region of Peel to develop policy that establishes adaptation targets and defines municipal resilience to climate change.

Transportation

- Increase funding for transit infrastructure to contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Work with the Ontario government to move forward with implementing GO Expansion in the Region of Peel:
 - Two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Expansion on the Kitchener Line from Bramalea GO Station to Union Station and further to Mount Pleasant GO Station; and
 - Two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Expansion for the Milton Line.
- Invest in projects to support improved transportation access for people and goods around Toronto Pearson International Airport.

Waste Management

- Support the advancement of a circular economy by investing in and promoting innovative resource recovery technologies and sustainable business models and practices.
- Continue work in understanding the effects of plastic pollution and in developing a national ban on single-use plastics.
- Invest in waste infrastructure and technologies to increase resource recovery from plastics and recyclable materials.

2020 Region of Peel

Provincial Pre-Budget Submission



REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____

Introduction

The Region of Peel is responsible for providing services and programs to a rapidly growing community consisting of the cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon. Peel is projected to grow from the current 1.4 million people to a population of nearly two million by 2041. The Region's vision for Peel is Community for Life, where everyone enjoys a sense of belonging and has access to the services and opportunities they need to thrive throughout each stage of their lives.

To meet the growing needs of Peel residents and businesses, the Region uses best practices based on evidence and risk-informed decision-making, consistently maintains a triple "A" credit rating and is the recipient of Excellence Canada's Platinum Award for continuous improvement efforts.

Peel is recognized as a leader in service and program delivery, however, the Region relies on support from other orders of government. Like many other municipalities across Ontario, the Region is increasingly doing more with less. Without sustainable funding tools, the Region does not have the financial resources to maintain and build the necessary infrastructure and provide the appropriate level of services to support Peel's growth.

The 2020 Provincial Pre-budget submission process presents an opportunity to highlight how the Region can work with the Ontario government to address challenges impacting Peel residents and businesses, as well as work to address the four key priorities identified by the Province. The Region's 2020 Pre-budget submission includes recommendations aligned with these priority areas:

Making Life More Affordable

- Municipal fiscal sustainability
- Affordable housing
- Early Years and Child Care System

Creating a More Competitive Business Environment

- Sustainable infrastructure (program design, climate change)

Connecting People to Places

- Sustainable and integrated transportation

Building Healthier and Safer Communities

- Human sex trafficking
- Public health
- Paramedics
- Supports for seniors
- Mental health and addictions services

Making Life More Affordable

Municipal Fiscal Sustainability

Municipalities are the level of government closest to the people and are therefore most familiar with their hopes, needs and challenges. The infrastructure (roads, bridges, transit, housing, water and wastewater and waste management) and services municipalities provide are essential to maintaining and enhancing the excellent quality of life enjoyed by residents.

Municipalities cannot do this on their own. They need the support of our federal and provincial partners to continue to build safe, healthy and connected communities. Provincial and federal governments are vital partners with municipalities and a modernized, renewed partnership will have a positive, long-lasting impact on communities throughout Peel and Ontario.

The Region, like other municipalities, has limited revenue sources and tools, as mandated by the Municipal Act:

- Property taxes and development charges (DC) are the two core sources of revenue for municipalities.
- Both are land-based and, as a result, are impacted based on how much land is consumed and how it is used. Neither have changed in a very long time.

However, the way land is consumed and how it is used have recently undergone transformative change. Technological change has automated many work processes and contributed to businesses requiring less land and fewer workers. Technology has also enabled a more mobile, globalized labour force.

Employees are now better able to work from outside the traditional office space. This includes work spaces which are not subject to non-residential taxes.

- In 2016, jobs in Peel that were home-based accounted for 6.3 per cent of the total jobs in Peel, up from 5.8 per cent in 2001.
- The number of people in Peel working remotely, over the past 15 years, increased at a faster rate (34.7 per cent) than jobs which were created in a “usual place of work” (24.3 per cent).

In response to this transformation, building forms have become less expansive and production spaces are smaller, but used more intensely. As a result, actual business land consumption has fallen below expected levels and has affected non-residential revenue growth.

In recent years, actual growth has not kept pace with previous provincial forecasts. Peel’s Employment-related DC revenues (which are based on provincial growth forecasts) are falling below planned revenues. From 2002 to 2017, actual DC revenues were only 37.1 per cent of planned DC revenues, translating into a DC revenue shortfall of approximately \$838 million. This has elevated Peel’s risk of stranded DC debt.

These changes have also resulted in a general slowing in the growth of non-residential property tax revenues and a shift in the property tax revenue away from the non-residential sector towards the residential sector. Non-residential tax revenue, as a share of total property tax revenue, has declined from 44 per cent in 2002 to 36.4 per cent in 2017 (2018 tax year). This is a result of outdated municipal revenue tools, which have not evolved to address 21st century economic realities.

If this shift in tax revenues continues, property tax unaffordability risks, as well as risks to the Region's financial sustainability will increase.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Work with federal and municipal levels of government to understand and address the financial challenges created by the changing macroeconomic environment that is shifting property tax from the non-residential to the residential sector.

Affordable Housing

Building healthy and safe communities starts with ensuring every resident has a place to call home. Peel remains one of the fastest growing communities in the province – presenting both opportunities and challenges. The Region has one of the longest waitlists for affordable housing in Ontario and the need is growing.

As Service Manager for housing and homelessness, the Region effectively manages the centralized wait list, creates new housing units, maintains existing stock, and supports housing operations. However, Regional funding alone can only support the completion of a few projects within Peel's Housing Master Plan, which, when fully implemented by 2034, will add 5,364 new affordable rental units, 226 supportive and 60 emergency shelter beds to the housing stock in Peel. However, ongoing and long-term funding, from all orders of government, is required to address most of the affordable housing needs in Peel.

The Region welcomes recent initiatives and investments from the Province aimed at addressing affordable housing challenges, including the recent \$1.4 billion investment by the provincial and federal governments through new Canada-Ontario Housing benefit. The Region will identify and recommend households on the Central West List eligible for the benefit. However, more funding from the Province is ultimately the single most significant determinant of better outcomes for residents in need of safe, healthy and affordable housing.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Ensure that the Region of Peel as Service Manager has the funding and the flexibility to provide housing for low and middle-income households by:
 - o improving access to and increasing the funding contribution for affordable housing based on need, and established targets as stated in the Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan
 - o providing greater flexibility and reducing regulatory red tape within the Housing Services Act, 2011, to better determine and implement priorities that address local needs
 - o recognizing that affordable housing is key to business retention and attraction.

Maintaining A Strong Early Years and Child Care System

The Region has launched a new service called EarlyON Child Development Supports, which is the first of its kind in Peel. Parents and caregivers visiting Peel's EarlyON Child and Family Centres will now have access to resource consultants who can answer questions about children's development and provide resources and referral recommendations to specialized services. This is just one of the ways the Region continues to achieve its goal of ensuring families have access to the services they need.

The Region appreciates the fiscal constraints that the Province is operating under and has identified internal efficiencies within the Early Years and Child Care program. In the past year, the Region identified \$1 million in efficiencies within the Early Years and Child Care program by closing standalone programs and reinvesting the money to meet the growing demand for EarlyON services. In addition, the Region proactively applied for the Province's Audit and Accountability Funding to complete a review of the Child Care Fee Subsidy Program. This review was completed in December 2019 and resulted recommendations to avoid and save costs and strengthen accountability.

Peel has also invested \$2.6 million in order to help offset a 20-per-cent reduction in funding for child care services by the Province. However, the Region anticipates reduced funding for child care will result in the creation of significant wait lists for child care fee subsidy and/or children with special needs. Wait lists can represent a barrier to parents joining the workforce or remaining in it. Similarly, the elimination of the Region's Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative will end supports that help make child care more affordable for working families who do not qualify for subsidy. Families will be forced to redirect money from their household budgets to pay the high cost of licensed child care, making life less affordable.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Continue to phase-in proposed changes to provincial funding for early years and child care in order to avoid reductions in the availability of quality child care, EarlyON and Special Needs services in Peel.
- Proactively consult with the Region of Peel on funding and policy changes that impact Early Years and Child Care program delivery and service levels (e.g. any changes to funding formula).
- Provide adequate operating and capital funding to expand access to child care and EarlyON programs in areas of need.
- Continue to make child care more affordable (e.g. updating income test formula to reflect the current cost of living, expanding affordability investments in child care, and consider enhancements to CARE).

Creating a More Competitive Business Environment

Sustainable Infrastructure

Long-term, sustainable investment in municipal infrastructure, such as wastewater plant rehabilitation, inflow and infiltration projects, and road construction (widening and extension) projects, help the Province achieve key priorities, such as creating job growth and, in the latter case, building an integrated transportation network that will help strengthen Ontario's economy.

Consider the following facts:

- For every dollar increase of GDP in Peel, Canada's GDP will increase by \$1.62.
- For every dollar of municipal revenue in Peel due to growth, federal revenue increases by \$6.22.

In addition, efficient and effective utility services require timely and purposeful mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Without such mitigation and adaption, the negative effects of climate change will have costly impacts to balance sheets of businesses and the individual family's monthly/yearly expenses.

For fast-growing municipalities, such as Peel, providing and maintaining infrastructure is becoming increasingly difficult, due to unpredictable and unsustainable funding sources. The Region relies on collaboration with the provincial and federal levels of government to plan, build and maintain the infrastructure required to meet the needs of their communities. As such, the Region acknowledges the steps the Province has already taken to address concerns related to Phase 1 funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (ICIP). These include:

- Making the Public Transit stream funding intake predictable and allocation-based;
- Extending the Phase 2 project implementation periods;
- Dropping the language of 'incrementality' from Phase 2 program guidelines and adding a requirement that projects be informed by an applicant's asset management plan; and
- Including both mitigation and climate change resiliency considerations in the made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, which was recommended by the Region in its submission to the Province on the Plan.

While these measures are positive steps forward, the Region would like to identify further opportunities to improve the design of infrastructure funding programs.

Funding application assessments should be transparent

Infrastructure funding program design is a critical factor to the overall cost for municipal infrastructure projects. As a result of the restrictive timelines and lack of flexibility under Phase 1 of ICIP, project costs were elevated by an average by 30 per cent due to the lack of available contractors, high demand for materials, and municipalities going to market for similar materials and services at the same time. A 30-per-cent premium on \$30 billion in investments under Phase 2 would translate into \$9 billion in lost purchasing power. This must be avoided.

Transparency around project funding criteria allows the Region to begin the process of identifying and planning for these potential projects early, managing challenges, such as elevated per unit costs and the availability of contractors that directly impact the cost of projects, and achieving a more seamless integration with long-term plans. The Region seeks transparency regarding how submitted projects are assessed by the Province before being forwarded to the federal government for its consideration.

In addition, to ensure Ontario's long-term infrastructure foundation, municipalities need an allocation-based approach in which funding can be invested in priority projects consistent with each municipality's asset management plan and price spikes, and contractor shortages associated with application-based funding can be avoided.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Favour an allocation-based approach for distributing infrastructure funding; and
- Ensure that infrastructure funding programs promote the best use of resources by implementing timelines for project completion that reflect the reality of the construction and development processes.

Meeting federal climate change objectives

Extreme weather events, such as more frequent flood events and ice storms, are increasingly impacting the condition and resiliency of municipal assets and infrastructure. For example, the Region has seen an increased impact of climate change on its water and wastewater infrastructure, which is only expected to intensify.

As the Province moves forward to opening the Phase 2 Green Infrastructure Funding Stream for large municipalities, under ICIP, the Region is urging the Province to ensure it uses a climate change lens which meets the federal climate change objectives. This will help the flow of federal funds to much needed municipal infrastructure projects across Ontario. Applying a climate change lens to infrastructure planning will help:

- With the development of timely and purposeful mitigation and adaptation measures that are needed for efficient and effective utility services
- Reduce the increasing cost associated with climate change, which are being absorbed by businesses and families

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Ensure a climate change plan is in place that meets the criteria set out by the federal government.
- Work with its federal counterparts to ensure \$1.4 billion of Phase 2 federal infrastructure funding is distributed to municipalities in a timely manner.

Support for adaptation and mitigation funding programs

The Region acknowledges an increased focus in the Province's Environment Plan on climate change resilience, as well as the support for the completion of a province-wide risk assessment, as positive steps.

A strong commitment and coordinated action across multiple levels of government, community groups and businesses are required to ensure climate resilient infrastructure is in place. Consistent with this collaborative approach, the Region has increased its capacity to deliver needed adaptation action by providing a combined total of \$175 million in climate change funding to Credit Valley Conservation and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority since 2007.

While the Environment Plan demonstrates the need to address climate change and other environmental issues, more clarity is required in the Plan as to how policy updates and program improvements will be funded and how the effectiveness of new standards will be measured. The Region continues to have interest in provincial support for meeting the Region's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050 and ensures access to federal infrastructure funding.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Ensure the provincial Environment Plan supports meeting regional and provincial greenhouse gas reduction targets and that sustained adaptation and mitigation funding programs are available to accelerate transformation to a low carbon and resilient community.

Connect People to Places

Sustainable and Integrated Transportation

Growth pressures in the Region continue to drive the need for investments offering more options for getting around Peel and the Greater Toronto Area. If Peel is to remain a destination of choice for innovative businesses, growing families and skilled newcomers, a sustainable and integrated transportation system will be key.

Single occupant vehicle trips continue to account for the largest transportation mode share in the region. The number of vehicles using Peel roadways continues to increase, resulting in lost economic activity, due to congestion, diminished quality of life, green house gas emissions and decreasing competitiveness.

The Region welcomes the Province's recent decision to add more GO train trips to the Kitchener line. The Region is also encouraged by a Ministry of Transportation-led Business Advisory Council on rail transit in the Innovation Corridor Employment Zone to expedite the delivery of two-way all-day GO on the Kitchener line. Many Peel residents and business owners also look forward to the start of construction on the Hurontario LRT. Ongoing provincial investments in transit will be integral to Peel's goal of a 50 per cent sustainable mode share by 2041.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel, including:
 - o Improving transit connections between Caledon and Toronto
 - o Continue with the implementation of two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Regional Express Rail on the Kitchener Line from Mount Pleasant GO Station to Union Station and on the Milton line

Moving Forward with the GTA West Corridor

A critical component of achieving a balanced approach to accommodating growth and Peel's robust goods movement sector is road and highway infrastructure. With Peel being the largest transportation and goods movement hubs in Ontario and amongst the largest in North America, completion of a highway in the GTA West Corridor will boost the goods movement industry. This industry is a key contributor to economic development in Peel and the GTHA:

- The Peel road network serves almost half a million trucks weekly, which accounts for 50 per cent of the weekly truck trips in Ontario.
- The goods movement industry in Peel accounts for 21 per cent of the province's goods movement gross domestic product.
- Goods movement related industries account for 43 per cent of jobs in Peel.
- Pearson International Airport handles more air cargo than the Vancouver and Montreal airports combined, highlighting a need for a robust network to transport goods to and from the airport.

The Region encourages the Province to continue to move forward expeditiously to complete the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment. Constructing a highway in this corridor represents an opportunity for both the Province and the Region to meet their planning objectives.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Complete the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment process expeditiously and move forward as soon as possible with the implementation of a highway and a dedicated transit right-of-way.
- Continues to support the extension of Highway 427 and future alignment with the GTA West Corridor, as shown on the technically preferred route.
- Extend Highway 427 to Highway 9 and beyond.

Build Healthier and Safer Communities

Addressing Human Sex Trafficking

Human sex trafficking is a significant problem in Peel. The most current data shows that Peel Regional Police conducted over half of the human sex trafficking investigations in Canada and 62.5 per cent of Canadian cases originate in the Greater Toronto Area. Peel Region and the City of Toronto are the two most common regions within the GTA in which victims are moved.

In Peel, a group of agencies, including the Region of Peel, have been working collaboratively to provide supports to survivors of human sex trafficking. Through this group, significant gaps in the current system have been identified including the lack of a coordinated approach to prevention programs, the need for simplified systems navigation, and the need for safe, dedicated housing options.

To address human trafficking and bridge the identified service gaps for survivors, the Region is implementing the Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking in Peel Region. The Strategy aims to provide services that focus on the individual's needs, are trauma-informed and based on human rights and harm reduction. Specifically, the Strategy focuses on achieving outcomes under three pillars:

- Prevention – increasing awareness of human sex trafficking through coordinated prevention and education programming.
- Intervention – increasing access to dedicated and reliable services that are easy to navigate for victims and survivors.
- Exits/Housing – increasing access to dedicated, safe and supportive housing for victims and survivors.

To address these pillars, a three-year pilot program is being implemented that will provide one safe/emergency house for immediate and secure housing, one transitional house to help victims and survivors who are starting to rebuild their lives, and one service hub that will provide customized services for individuals at-risk, engaged in or transitioning out of sex trafficking. Currently, this pilot program is being funded only by the Region of Peel through reserves. If these services are discontinued at the end of the pilot, the ability to address the needs of sex trafficking victims will be put at risk.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Provide long-term sustainable operational funding to support the costs of housing and support services for victims and survivors of human sex trafficking in Peel.

Public Health

Research shows that every dollar invested in public health programming saves eight dollars of avoided health and social care costs. Sufficient funding will better equip public health organizations to better address provincial and local priorities. Overall funding for local public health should be adequate to achieve the mandate and enable communities to thrive.

Cost-sharing between the Province and municipalities should be achieved in a way that meets community needs and minimizes the burden on the local taxpayer. In Peel, the Region has historically paid more than 25 per cent of public health costs in order to meet community needs, as well as to help offset underfunding from the Province.

Further, additional provincial funding will be required for transition costs if Peel Public Health is required to be part of a large Public Health Unit. The cost of transition could be higher for public health units currently integrated with municipal or regional governments as a result of disentanglement of systems currently integrated within existing municipalities. In the case of Peel Public Health, the magnitude of services, as the second largest public health unit in Ontario, is also likely to increase these transition costs.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Ensure sufficient funding to enhance the capacity of the public health system, including adequate funding to maintain Peel Public Health's capacity to respond to population growth and needs of the community.
- Provide additional provincial funding for transition costs if Peel Public Health is incorporated into a larger geographical Public Health Unit.

Paramedic Services

Peel Paramedic Services protects and improves the quality of life of Peel residents by providing responsive and compassionate pre-hospital and out-of-hospital paramedic-based healthcare in order to reduce the burden on the health system and reduce hallway medicine. However, Peel Paramedic Services faces challenges of rapid call volume growth. It is estimated that at the end of 2019, Paramedic Services were expected to respond to almost 150,000 calls (or 400 calls each day).

Peel values its partnership with the Ministry that ensures that service delivery is locally informed and coordinated with municipal and community partners and is also sustainable and integrated as part of a larger provincial system. However, the provincial subsidy for Paramedic Services continues to be based on 50 per cent of the previous year's approved budget. As such, Peel is challenged to keep up with rapid annual call volume growth and inflationary pressures when provincial funding lags a year behind and does not reflect current year pressures. To strengthen this partnership, the Province needs to ensure a more responsive funding mechanism that addresses this funding lag and that accounts for ongoing system pressures related to inflation and service growth.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Maintain current funding through the 50:50 cost-sharing model between municipalities and the ministry.
- Create a more responsive funding mechanism by addressing the current funding lag from the Ministry of Health, to help account for ongoing system pressures related to inflation and service growth.

Supports for Seniors

Over the next 30 years, the number of seniors in Peel is expected to rise to 414,750 (21 per cent of the population). Given the rapidly aging population in Peel, supports across the entire continuum of care are needed to help end hallway healthcare. Resource allocation should recognize the needs of high-growth and aging communities, such as Peel.

Investment in long-term care homes and Adult Day Services

The Region values the Province's commitment to invest in building new and redeveloping older long-term care homes, however, the dedicated funding does not address the redevelopment of older A-rated homes. The Region of Peel is currently redeveloping the Peel Manor site to ensure that the long-term care home meets current standards. This innovative, integrated service hub is a landmark project that will put the province's vision of providing a flexible mix of healthcare and other supports, into action. The co-location of integrated services can play a significant role in mitigating challenges related to social isolation and the rising costs of acute care, by reducing emergency department visits and premature admission into long term care.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Provide funding to support the redevelopment of the Peel Manor site into a Seniors Health and Wellness Village, which would support:
 - o Physical construction of the new long term care home
 - o Expansion of Adult Day Services capacity to reduce social isolation, improve cognitive and physical stimulation and decrease informal caregiver burden
 - o Introduction of overnight stay respite beds
 - o Development and operations of the new seniors-focused service hub, including seniors dental services

The Region of Peel operates five Adult Day Services (ADS) programs which are co-located in each of its five long-term care homes. Over half of clients (59 per cent) in Region of Peel ADS have been diagnosed with a cognitive impairment (i.e., dementia), and 71 per cent of current clients have complex care needs. Further, average occupancy across all five ADS programs in the Region of Peel's long term care homes is 103 per cent. As the demand for ADS grows in Peel, there will continue to be a need for proportionate funding increases to meet demand. For example, by 2021, an 8.2 per cent increase in funding will be required to meet the current growth in the Region of Peel's own ADS.

Funding remains a risk when meeting overall demand for services as the aging population continues to grow and Peel Region is substantially underfunded for home care on a per capita basis. In Peel, both Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) receive the lowest per-capita funding for Home and Community Care in the province. As of 2016/17, average home care spending across the province was \$3,630 per client. The Central West (CW) LHIN, remains the lowest funded LHIN and received approximately \$702 less per patient than the provincial average. Chronic underfunding limits the availability and accessibility of home and community care, displacing the burden of care to other parts of the health system.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Address the current funding gap in Peel Region and continue to address inequities in funding for home and community care services using a provincial resource allocation strategy that recognizes the needs of high-growth communities; increased capacity needs of the home and community sector and supports for caregivers.
- Increase funding in order to ensure adequate funding for personal support workers to enable older adults to age well at home and thrive in the community.

Dementia supports across the long term care sector

Since 2010, the proportion of people living with dementia in Peel Long Term Care homes has increased by 50 per cent, with two out of every three individuals now impacted by the disease. The Region is committed to meet and adapt to the changing needs of its residents by implementing evidence-informed and innovative approaches to dementia care. Adopting a person-centered, emotional care model has improved quality of life for residents, reduced antipsychotic medications, decreased levels of worsened depression, and improved staff incidental sick time.

The positive outcomes associated with implementing person-centred, emotional dementia care can be seen in overall cost savings. A bed in a Special Behaviour Support Unit costs 41 per cent more than a household bed providing emotion-based dementia care. To continue to expand these positive changes, sustainable funding is needed to support an increase in staffing resources and training (to build staff competencies) and to improve structural design of the homes. It is also recommended that amendments are made to the current restrictive legislation that would support emotional care.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Enhance dementia and emotion-based models of care across the long term care sector through funding that aligns with increasing resident care needs, dedicated and consistent training related to person-centered dementia care, enhanced specialized supports and supportive structural design

Mental Health and Addictions

The Region welcomes ongoing collaboration with the provincial government to improve access to mental health and addiction services. In Peel alone, more than 276,000 people will experience mental health and/or addictions disorders in their lifetime. Only 1 in 3 Peel residents will receive the treatment that they need. This means an estimated 184,000 Peel residents (including approximately 60,000 children and youth) will not receive the care that they need.

Provincial funding for mental health and addictions services has not kept pace with demographic changes and population growth in Peel. While Peel is growing faster than the provincial average, per capita funding for mental health and addictions services for both Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) serving Peel (Central West and Mississauga Halton) are among the lowest in Ontario. Evidence of inequitable funding includes:

- Lower per capita funding allocated to both LHINs servicing Peel's adult (aged 15-64 years) mental health and addictions services; for 2019-2020, Central West and Mississauga Halton LHINs received \$54.23 and \$43.31 respectively for mental health and \$11.46 and \$10.58 respectively for addictions services. This is lower in comparison to Ontario's average of \$86.36 for mental health and \$20.91 for addictions.
- Reported underfunding across Peel's six children and youth mental health agencies (which serve children and youth from birth to age 24 years); according to Peel Children's Centre, Toronto receives six times the funding amount as Peel.

The Region supports provincial plans calling for a \$3.8-billion investment over 10 years to build a mental health and addictions system. However, funding inequities can translate into limited community supports, longer wait times or unmet needs that may show up as emergency department visits, contribute to hallway healthcare, or avoidable interactions with the police. This is amplified by system navigation issues associated with the fact mental health services for children and youth are disconnected from all other health services, in addition to service delivery and coordination managed across multiple ministries.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

- Address historical inequities in funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel to support upstream prevention and improved access to services within the community and ensure that funding matches community needs and is responsive to demographic changes.
- Integrate mental health and addictions system planning and service delivery to ensure seamless access to services across the entire age continuum (children to seniors) and work across ministries on the basic social needs required for mental health promotion and recovery, such as housing.

Conclusion

The Region appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Province's pre-budget consultation process and provide recommendations on issues that are most important to the residents and businesses in Peel. The Region is committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders, including the provincial and federal governments, to improve quality of life, deliver services efficiently, now and in the future, and ensure that our community receives value for tax dollars.

Summary of Recommendations

Municipal Fiscal Sustainability

- Work with federal and municipal levels of government to understand and address the financial challenges created by the changing macroeconomic environment that is shifting property tax from the non-residential to the residential sector.

Affordable Housing

- Ensure that the Region of Peel as Service Manager has the funding and the flexibility to provide housing for low and middle-income households by:
 - Improving access to and increasing the funding contribution for affordable housing based on need, and established targets as stated in the Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan
 - Providing greater flexibility and reducing regulatory red tape within the Housing Services Act, 2011, to better determine and implement priorities that address local needs
 - Recognizing that affordable housing is key to business retention and attraction.

Maintaining a Strong Early Years and Child Care System

- Continue to phase-in proposed changes to provincial funding for early years and child care in order to avoid reductions in the availability of quality child care, EarlyON and Special Needs services in Peel.
- Proactively consult with the Region of Peel on funding and policy changes that impact Early Years and Child Care program delivery and service levels (e.g. any changes to funding formula).
- Provide adequate operating and capital funding to expand access to child care and EarlyON programs in areas of need.
- Continue to make child care more affordable (e.g. updating income test formula to reflect the current cost of living, expanding affordability investments in child care, and consider enhancements to CARE).

Sustainable Infrastructure

- Favour an allocation-based approach for distributing infrastructure funding; and
- Ensure that infrastructure funding programs promote the best use of resources by implementing timelines for project completion that reflect the reality of the construction and development processes.
- Ensure a climate change plan is in place that meets the criteria set out by the federal government.
- Work with its federal counterparts to ensure \$1.4 billion of Phase 2 federal infrastructure funding is distributed to municipalities in a timely manner.
- Ensure the provincial Environment Plan supports meeting regional and provincial greenhouse gas reduction targets and that sustained adaptation and mitigation funding programs are available to accelerate transformation to a low carbon and resilient community.

Sustainable and Integrated Transportation

- Provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel, including:
 - Improving transit connections between Caledon and Toronto
 - Continue with the implementation of two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Regional Express Rail on the Kitchener Line from Mount Pleasant GO Station to Union Station and on the Milton line
- Complete the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment process expeditiously and move forward as soon as possible with the implementation of a highway and a dedicated transit right-of-way.
- Continues to support for the extension of Highway 427 and future alignment with the GTA West Corridor, as shown on the technically preferred route.
- Extend Highway 427 to Highway 9 and beyond.

Addressing Human Sex Trafficking

- Provide long-term sustainable operational funding to support the costs of housing and support services for victims and survivors of human sex trafficking in Peel.

Public Health

- Ensure sufficient funding to enhance the capacity of the public health system, including adequate funding to maintain Peel Public Health's capacity to respond to population growth and needs of the community.
- Provide additional provincial funding for transition costs if Peel Public Health is incorporated into a larger geographical Public Health Unit.

Paramedic Services

- Maintain current funding through the 50:50 cost-sharing model between municipalities and the ministry.
- Create a more responsive funding mechanism by addressing the current funding lag from the Ministry of Health, to help account for ongoing system pressures related to inflation and service growth.

Supports for Seniors

- Provide funding to support the redevelopment of the Peel Manor site into a Seniors Health and Wellness Village, which would support:
 - Physical construction of the new long term care home
 - Expansion of Adult Day Services capacity to reduce social isolation, improve cognitive and physical stimulation and decrease informal caregiver burden
 - Introduction of overnight stay respite beds
 - Development and operations of the new seniors-focused service hub, including seniors dental services
- Address the current funding gap in Peel Region and continue to address inequities in funding for home and community care services using a provincial resource allocation strategy that recognizes the needs of high-growth communities; increased capacity needs of the home and community sector and supports for caregivers.
- Increase funding should also ensure adequate funding for personal support workers to enable older adults to age well at home and thrive in the community.
- Enhance dementia and emotion-based models of care across the long term care sector through funding that aligns with increasing resident care needs, dedicated and consistent training related to person-centered dementia care, enhanced specialized supports and supportive structural design.

Mental Health and Addictions

- Address historical inequities in funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel to support upstream prevention and improved access to services within the community and ensure that funding matches community needs and is responsive to demographic changes.
- Integrate mental health and addictions system planning and service delivery to ensure seamless access to services across the entire age continuum (children to seniors) and work across ministries on the basic social needs required for mental health promotion and recovery, such as housing.

Message from the Chair



On behalf of the Region of Peel, I'm pleased to share with you our Advocacy Update; a bi-monthly newsletter focused on the Region's priorities and progress of our advocacy efforts.

Peel residents and businesses expect all levels of government to work together to meet their needs. The Region's

ongoing partnerships with the provincial and federal governments have resulted in many successful initiatives and accomplishments throughout Peel.

In this update, we have included highlights from a recent mental health roundtable the Region hosted to help address mental health service gaps and challenges in Peel.

We also share key elements from the Region's 2020 Budget. Our budget establishes a responsible and focused

fiscal plan that respects the tax dollars of Peel residents and businesses without compromising the quality of front-line services. We'll be sharing our priorities with senior levels of government as part of federal and provincial budget processes.

I'd like to congratulate Peel's members of parliament who were elected and re-elected in the October federal election. We look forward to building on our strong partnerships with you to better meet the needs of our shared constituents.

At the beginning of a new year, I believe it's important to reflect on our achievements with an eye toward future opportunities and challenges. We're eager to work closely with our federal and provincial colleagues to create a healthy, safe and connected community.

Sincerely,

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Mental health roundtable

The Region welcomes ongoing commitments by the provincial and federal governments to improve access to mental health services.

On Oct. 21, 2019, the Region hosted a roundtable with Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael Tibollo, several of his caucus colleagues as well as several community stakeholders. The roundtable participants discussed what's required to support 276,000 people in Peel who will experience mental health and/or addictions disorders in their lifetime. The conversation included important issues related to funding, service integration, technology, access and cultural sensitivity in the mental health and addictions service sector.



The Region worked with its community partners to prepare a report on the mental health and addictions sector in Peel, which has been presented to the Ontario

Story continues on the next page

Regional Council

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair and
Chief Executive Officer

City of Brampton

Patrick Brown
Mayor

Gurpreet Dhillon

Pat Fortini

Martin Medeiros

Michael Palleschi

Rowena Santos

Paul Vicente

Town of Caledon

Allan Thompson

Mayor

Johanna Downey

Annette Groves

Jennifer Innis

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Bonnie Crombie

Mayor

George Carlson

Dipika Damerla

Stephen Dasko

Chris Fonseca

John Kovac

Matt Mahoney

Sue McFadden

Carolyn Parrish

Karen Ras

Pat Saito

Ron Starr

**Region
of Peel**
working with you

Mental health roundtable continued

government. The report details several areas of concern, including estimated wait times for services funded by the Central West and Mississauga Halton LHINs, which exceed the Ontario average. Estimated 2019 wait times for Case Management/ Supportive Counselling was 102 days in the Central West LHIN catchment area and 72 days within the Mississauga Halton LHIN, compared to the Ontario average of 56 days. The Region supports provincial plans calling for a \$3.8 billion investment over 10 years to build a mental health and addictions system,

as well as a commitment by the federal government to increase funding for mental health and addictions. As a rapidly growing community, Peel has experienced historical underfunding, which for residents results in wait lists and challenges accessing appropriate services. An equitable funding model is required to respond to population growth, diversity and community need in order to help alleviate pressures across the province's entire health care system and, specifically, the unique challenges experienced in Peel.



Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Michael Tibollo was joined at the Region's mental health roundtable by fellow MPPs Sylvia Jones, Sheref Sabawy, Rudy Cuzzetto, Amarjot Singh Sandhu and Natalia Kusendova.



Minister Tibollo, seen here alongside Region of Peel Interim CAO Nancy Polsinelli.

Government Relations Committee

Chaired by Regional Councillor Jennifer Innis, the Government Relations Committee (GRC) is a standing committee of Council. It provides a platform for enhancing the Region's advocacy efforts and engaging with the other orders of government to identify shared challenges and work toward common goals.

At its most recent meeting on Oct. 17, 2019, the committee welcomed Ontario's Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Prabmeet Sarkaria (Brampton South). Members of the committee offered suggestions for improving municipal reporting, discussed Provincial-Regional intergovernmental cooperation as well as funding opportunities.

For more information about GRC, please visit peelregion.ca/council/committees/committees-and-advisory-boards.asp#grc

The committee's next meeting will be on March 5, 2020.



Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Prabmeet Sarkaria (front right) is addressing the Government Relations Committee members.

2020 Regional Budget

On Dec. 19, 2019, Regional Council approved the 2020 Budget, outlining how tax dollars will be invested in the services that Peel residents value.

The Budget:

- addresses the needs of people and businesses in Peel and the future challenges and opportunities facing our community
- supports critical investments, including maintaining our vital infrastructure, protecting the community's most vulnerable residents as well as responding to growing concerns regarding community safety and well-being.

The Region's 2020 Budget includes a modest property tax increase of 1.5 per cent. This will contribute to an annual increase to the typical residential property and small business property tax bills of \$70 and \$126 respectively.

Key investments include:

- Maintaining the state of good repair of almost \$30 billion of infrastructure, including affordable housing, paramedic stations, roads, feedermain pipes and long-term care homes

- Expansion of EarlyON services for 6,000 children and parents
- Implementation of the Butterfly Model at Tall Pines, enhancing quality of life for long-term care residents
- 35 additional Peel Regional Police officers to increase community safety
- Ability to respond to an additional 5,600 paramedic response calls
- 21,000 more accessible transportation trips
- 900 more residents receiving affordable transit

While the Region has demonstrated leadership in financial management and service delivery, challenges still exist as a result of Peel's population growth and changing demographics. The Region is dependent on ongoing funding from provincial and federal governments to support affordable housing, infrastructure, sustainability and transportation investments to meet its long-term needs.

For more information on the Region's 2020 Budget, please visit peelregion.ca/budget/2020



Living:

People's lives are improved in their time of need.

We are investing in more paramedics to preserve response times, investing in increased access to accessible transportation and investing in better care for our Long Term Care home residents.

Thriving:

Communities are integrated, safe and complete.

We are investing in better wastewater handling for storms and to reduce the risk of flooding, increased waste diversion from landfills and community safety.

Leading:

Government is future-oriented and accountable.

We are investing in increased capacity to manage and deliver essential services and in developing innovative solutions to reduce service costs.

\$3.7
billion

Invested in services that advance and support Council's priorities and long-term outcomes.

\$2.6
billion

2020
Operating budget

\$902
million

\$1.47
billion

\$199
million

\$1.1
billion

2020
Capital budget

\$43
million

\$982
million

\$33
million

Canadian Heritage grant supports Peel Art Gallery, Museums and Archives (PAMA) exhibit

Minister Steven Guilbeault met with Region of Peel arts, culture and heritage stakeholders following the awarding of a grant from the federal Museums Assistance Program (MAP), which facilitates access to heritage collections for Canadians. The \$155,940 grant is being used in support of PAMA's George Paginton exhibit – *Painting a Nation*.

Works by Paginton, a peer of members of the Group of Seven, celebrate and draw inspiration from the beauty of Canada's natural environment. The federal investment provides increased visibility and access to his works.

The MAP funding allowed the exhibition to show at PAMA until February 9, 2020.



Caption (left to right): PAMA Curator of Art Sharona Adamowicz-Clements is joined on a gallery tour by Regional Chair Nando Iannicca, PAMA's Manager of Community Engagement and Visitor Experience Rene Nand and Canadian Heritage Minister Hon. Steven Guilbeault.

Strategy to address human sex trafficking in Peel region

February 22 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Ontario, shining a spotlight on the need for collaboration from all levels of government to eradicate this abhorrent crime. Throughout 2020, the Region will continue to work with the federal and provincial governments to support its three-year pilot program that provides housing and services for victims and survivors of human sex trafficking in Peel and across our province.

Peel's efforts continue to build momentum and have been well received following meetings with Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues, the AMO Board of Directors and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.



Government Relations Committee

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair (ex-officio)
Patrick Brown
Mayor, City of Brampton
Allan Thompson
Mayor, Town of Caledon
Bonnie Crombie
Mayor, City of Mississauga
Stephen Dasko
Mississauga (Ward 1)
Gurpreet Singh Dhillon
Brampton (Wards 9 and 10)
Johanna Downey
Caledon (Ward 2)
Annette Groves
Caledon (Ward 5)
Jennifer Innis (Chair)
Caledon (Ward 4)
Michael Palleschi
Brampton (Ward 2)
Karen Ras (Vice-Chair)
Mississauga (Ward 2)
Rowena Santos
Brampton (Wards 1 and 5)
Paul Vicente
Brampton (Wards 1 and 5)

Regional Executive Leadership Team

Nancy Polsinelli,
Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Kathryn Lockyer,
Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services
Sean Baird,
Commissioner of Digital and Information Services
Cathy Granger,
Acting Commissioner of Health Services
Janice Sheehy,
Commissioner of Human Services
Andrew Farr,
Acting Commissioner of Public Works
Stephen VanOfwegen,
Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer

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