



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA

Meeting #: GRC-2/2020
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
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, J. Innis (Chair), N. Iannicca, M. Palleschi, K. Ras (Vice-Chair), R. Santos, A. Thompson, P. Vicente

Due to the efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 there will be no public access to the Council Chamber. The meeting will be live streamed on <http://www.peelregion.ca/>.

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 2020 Virtual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference
 - 6.2 Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities
(For information)

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- 7.1 May 2020 MP/MPP Advocacy Update
(Receipt recommended)
- 7.2 Nancy Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer,
Providing a Copy of the Region of Peel COVID-19 Response Submission to the Standing
Committee on Health
(Receipt recommended)
- 7.3 Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
Letter dated March 18, 2020, to the Premier of Ontario Regarding the Continuity of Council
Decision-Making During the Province-Wide State of Emergency with Respect to COVID-19
(Receipt recommended)
- 7.4 Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
Letter dated March 23, 2020, to the Premier of Ontario Regarding Personal Protective
Equipment (PPE) Supply Shortage during COVID-19 Pandemic
(Receipt recommended)
- 7.5 Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
Letter dated March 28, 2020 to the Premier of Ontario Regarding the Size of Gatherings
during COVID-19
(Receipt recommended)
- 7.6 Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
Letter dated April 20, 2020, to the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Finance
Regarding Support for Canada's Airports Facing Severe Financial Impact of COVID-19
(Receipt recommended)
- 7.7 Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
Letter dated May 5, 2020, to the Premier of Ontario Providing a Copy of a Region of Peel
Resolution Regarding Advocacy for Long Term Care Funding
(Receipt recommended)
- 7.8 Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
Letter dated May 8, 2020, to the Prime Minister of Canada Regarding the Urgent Need for
Direct Funding to Municipalities Struggling with COVID-19
(Receipt recommended)
- 7.9 Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
Letter dated May 8, 2020, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Regarding a
Follow-up to the Region of Peel Submission on the Proposed Community Benefits
Regulations
(Receipt recommended)

- 7.10 Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
Letter dated May 28, 2020, to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Regarding the Peel Community Mental Health and Addictions Roundtable (Receipt recommended)

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. IN CAMERA MATTERS

10. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 15, 2020
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 5th Floor
Regional Administrative Headquarters
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, Ontario

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

FROM: Kathryn Lockyer, Interim Commissioner of Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the approach outlined in the report entitled "2020 Virtual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference," be endorsed.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- On March 5, 2020, the Government Relations Committee (GRC) approved the report titled *"The 2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference"*, which outlined the Region's approach to advance its advocacy priorities at this year's conference.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 AMO Conference will now be held virtually from August 17 – 19, 2020
- Details about how the conference events will be moved virtually have not been released yet however, AMO has committed that the networking and delegation opportunities will be available
- Once details are released, Regional staff will request delegations with provincial ministers and opposition parties, with the goal of advancing Regional Council's advocacy priorities.
- This report proposes a revised, focused approach to how the Region will advance its key advocacy priorities given the new format.
- To help ensure input from GRC members can be incorporated into the final briefing material, it is proposed that a virtual AMO Conference preparation workshop be held in mid-July.

1. Background

On March 5, 2020, the Government Relations Committee (GRC) approved the report titled *"The 2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference"*. This report outlined the Region's approach to advance its advocacy priorities at the 2020 AMO Conference. In response to COVID-19, the 2020 AMO Annual Conference (Conference) will now be held virtually and take place August 17 - 19, 2020.

AMO has indicated that there will be opportunities for municipal delegations to meet with ministry representatives, including ministers and senior staff, and opposition party leaders. In addition, AMO has also indicated that forums will still take place virtually, so this may include the Ministers' Forum which is usually held at the annual conference.

Given the new format of the conference, it is proposed that the Region revise its approach to advancing its key advocacy priorities to focus on policy considerations to address the significant

2020 Virtual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference

impacts of COVID-19 on the Region's programs and services. With COVID-19 resulting in significant financial implications for the Region, it is recommended that the advocacy positions advanced during this year's conference focus on these impacts. The positions that will be advanced will be consistent with the positions that have been adopted by several of the GTHA Mayors and Chairs with respect to short, medium- and long-term strategies to support municipalities and local economies.

2. Virtual Ministerial Delegations

At the March 5, 2020 GRC meeting, direction was given to staff to focus on one or two priorities and present potential solutions to help have more meaningful solution-based conversations. The virtual meetings with the Ministers present an opportunity to discuss how the Region can work collaboratively with the Province towards economic recovery. These meetings can also be used as an opportunity to discuss the financial implications related to COVID-19 and the challenges this will have to delivering essential services to Peel's residents and businesses. The deadline to submit delegation meeting requests is June 30, 2020.

a) 2020 Region of Peel Proposed Advocacy Priority Themes

In response to the direction given at the March GRC meeting, as well as the significant financial impacts COVID-19 has had on the Region's services, it is proposed that main messaging advanced at this year's Conference focus on the following two Council endorsed positions:

The Province provide:

- Additional funding to offset the substantial incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID pandemic;
- Increased infrastructure funding to stimulate Peel's economic recovery and that an allocation model be implemented to distribute funds expeditiously

On June 11, 2020, Regional staff presented the financial impacts to key service areas. The table below includes the services that have been most significantly impacted.

Programs	Increased Costs (millions)
Paramedic Services	\$4.7
Long Term Care	\$8.8
Public Health	\$4.9
Homelessness Support	\$11.8
Housing Support	\$7.0
Child Care	\$6.8
Waste Management	\$4.0
Community Investment Program	\$1.1

In addition, the Region is forecasting a deficit of \$14.4 million for utility rate supported services and a shortfall of \$700 million in development charge revenue from 2020 to 2024.

2020 Virtual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference

As there may be opportunities to meet with a several ministers at this year's Conference, the Region could highlight the specific service level impacts and potential solutions with relevant ministers. In addition, as part of the national and provincial economic recovery efforts, it is anticipated that an infrastructure funding program will be implemented. The Region can use the delegation meetings to proactively provide input into the design of this program.

It is important to note that any position advanced related to specific service area has been endorsed by Regional Council. As the Region's response to COVID-19 is constantly evolving, the approach outlined above will continue to be amended.

b) AMO Conference Preparation Workshop

To help prepare for the virtual Conference, staff recommends moving forward with the workshop originally planned for mid-July. As the Region and the Province's response to COVID-19 continues to rapidly evolve, this workshop will be used to confirm messaging and allow staff to incorporate any input received from GRC members into the briefing materials and other documents being prepared.

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

While we don't have details on how the conference will take place, if possible, the Region will pursue additional advocacy opportunities which may include:

- Hosting a virtual briefing session with Peel MPPs prior to the conference to help raise awareness of the Region's priorities. If physical distancing conditions are lifted by the time the conference takes place, there may be an opportunity to host this meeting in person.
- Requesting virtual delegation meetings with leaders of the opposition parties and other key officials.

CONCLUSION

The 2020 virtual AMO Conference presents a valuable opportunity to advance Peel's priorities in response to COVID-19 and to demonstrate how the Region can collaborate with the Province as it implements its economic recovery efforts.

2020 Virtual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference

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 & External Relations, Ext.4777, Keith.Medenblik@peelregion.ca.

Authored By: Sonia Mistry, Adviser, 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

For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities**

FROM: Kathryn Lockyer, Interim Commissioner of Corporate Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide Government Relations Committee members with a high-level overview on the status of advocacy activities since the outbreak of COVID-19, as outlined in Appendix I.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- This report highlights advocacy efforts undertaken by the Region of Peel since the last meeting of the Government Relations Committee (GRC), held on March 5, 2020.
 - This report provides an overview of Region of Peel advocacy activities related to the impacts of COVID-19, as well as next steps and potential opportunities related to these efforts.
 - The Region will continue to be flexible with the provincial and federal governments in its approach to advocacy and intergovernmental relations in order to support efforts for additional funding associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
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DISCUSSION

The focus of this report considers the various ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on Regional operations and its core service delivery. Of note, are the two recently approved Council-endorsed priorities (*Region of Peel Advocacy Activity and Progress Report Table* - Items 1, 2) critical to the Region's pandemic response and recovery. Federal and provincial funding for COVID-19 related costs, as well as stimulus infrastructure funding are expected to drive the Region's short-term advocacy efforts.

The economic and social disruption brought about by the pandemic crisis has created new challenges in Peel and will require the Government Relations Committee (GRC) to develop, coordinate, implement and monitor specific government relations strategies, based on Regional Council endorsed advocacy positions, to clearly articulate the economic needs of Peel and advance the policy objectives of the Region.

Focused and ongoing advocacy efforts will ensure Peel's unique challenges and needs capture the attention of senior levels of government. Recognizing that the delivery of municipal services and programs are heavily dependent on funding support from the federal and provincial governments, it is critical for the Region to remain engaged with not only local elected representatives but also with key decision-makers and influencers at both senior levels of government.

Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities

The appendix attached to this report contains an update on 11 of the Region's priorities, providing highlights on current activity/progress since the last meeting of the GRC in March, as well as next steps and opportunities. Many of the priorities captured in this report, as well as other anticipated Council-approved initiatives, will be included as part of the Region's strategy for the upcoming virtual AMO Annual Conference in August as well as any advocacy efforts related to the provincial and federal budgets, which are expected to be delivered this fall.

CONCLUSION

Regional staff will continue to work under the direction of the Government Relations Committee and Regional Council to develop and implement government relations strategies, which will be focused on the challenges related to COVID-19. These strategies will aim to raise awareness among key stakeholders of Peel's advocacy priorities and to strengthen relationships with officials from other orders of government and relevant stakeholders, particularly as it relates to the Region's ongoing pandemic response and recovery.

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, External Relations Specialist

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

Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY PRIORITY/POSITION	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>1. Federal and Provincial Funding for Associated COVID-19 Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Council advocate to the federal and provincial government for additional funding to offset the substantial incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Region has identified a number of short, medium and long-term measures to address the immediate financial impacts of COVID-19 and to stimulate economic recovery. In the short-term, the Province should provide immediate federal/provincial funding to make up incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy efforts to secure funding from the upper levels of government continue from the Region, local municipalities and other advocacy groups, including LUMCO, AMO and FCM. Through the Regional Chair, correspondence has been sent to Premier Ford and Prime Minister Trudeau underlining municipal challenges resulting from COVID-19, as well as advocating for funding support. Staff will continue to monitor announcements from the upper levels of government related to financial stabilization for municipalities. FCM released its ‘Protecting Vital Municipal Services’ proposal on April 23, which calls for emergency operating funding, delivered through a new hybrid formula modelled on both the federal Gas Tax Fund and a ridership-based allocation for municipalities that operate transit systems.
<p>2. Stimulus Infrastructure Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Region of Peel's advocacy efforts include a request that the federal and provincial governments provide increased infrastructure funding to stimulate Peel's economic recovery and that an allocation model be implemented to distribute funds expeditiously. <p><i>Short-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This could be achieved in part, by working with the federal government to accelerate Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding, particularly the second phase Green Infrastructure stream opening in the fall. <p><i>Medium-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government should address the existing systematic fiscal challenges faced by municipalities, which have been highlighted by the current crisis. The Province should undertake a review of provincial-municipal responsibilities for planning, regulating, funding and delivering services with a goal to remove funding of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 1, the federal government announced it will be advancing the 2020-2021 Federal Gas Tax allocations, as a single payment in June. This does not represent new funding, but an advance on existing funding that would have come six months from now. Prior to the pandemic, the Region was notified by the Province that the next stream of the Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program (Green Stream) was to open before the end of 2020. Going forward, staff will continue to monitor any developments related to stimulus infrastructure funding and report back to Council. Staff at the Region, as well as the local municipalities, continue to identify priority projects in anticipation of stimulus funding from the provincial and federal governments. The Region would welcome stimulus funding, delivered through an allocation-based model to support local infrastructure, and to once again underpin economic activity and growth. Past infrastructure cost-share programs between all three levels of government have been effective for municipalities.

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ADVOCACY PRIORITY/POSITION	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p>income tax redistribution programs from the property tax (such as affordable housing, employments supports and homelessness).</p> <p><i>Long-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broader conversation should take place among all levels of government on how municipalities can share in Canada’s and Ontario’s economic growth and prosperity in a more fair and equitable manner. • It is critical that municipalities have access to a range of progressive and diversified revenue tools that recognize the digital economy and changing nature of employment, which may be even more pronounced in the post-COVID-19 economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCM, AMO and the Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG), raise the longer-term prospect of addressing municipal fiscal sustainability, as COVID-19 exposed the inadequacy of current revenue sources and collection tools. • FCM advocates for “a critical look at the foundational cracks that have been more harshly exposed in how we approach the role of local governments. In clear view are the outdated tools and authorities granted to municipal leaders and how they simply do not match the modern role cities and communities play in supporting Canadians and driving our economy.” • AMO has proposed the following solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish an appropriate cost-share arrangement for mandated municipally operated services, such as public health, land ambulance and public transit ○ Increase funding to the 47 municipal service managers that deliver critical local services and have relationships with community agencies ○ Allow Ontario municipal governments the ability to have the full range of revenue tools, under the City of Toronto Act, to use after council deliberation and approval.
<p>3. Provincial Inquiry into Long Term Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region supports a provincial independent commission into Long Term Care, while continuing to advocate for action and resources to enhance person-centred care and addressing known gaps in Long Term Care homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province is planning a post-pandemic review of long-term care - which has been moved up from September to July - both to examine lessons learned from the COVID-19 response and long-term issues, with calls to expand the mandate to also examine how frail seniors are treated in the entire health system. • The Region has expressed interest in participating in the provincial commission to provide input, as a service manager, as to what makes for a good long-term care home. • Interim CAO Nancy Polsinelli addressed the federal Standing Committee on Health, which sought stakeholder input on the Canadian response to the COVID-19 outbreak. While Long Term Care remains within provincial jurisdiction, the upper levels of government have discussed a collaborative approach to address challenges and the Region will continue to seek opportunities for investment and policy direction on key issues, such as staffing ratio and training, person-centered

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ADVOCACY PRIORITY/POSITION	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
	<p>emotionally-focused care, and improvements to the physical infrastructure and design of long-term care homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region continues advocating for improvements to person-centred and quality care through increased staffing levels, improved regulations, increased training programs and funding to support them and greater eligibility for redevelopment funding to improve building standards. Peel Manor meets some of these higher standards and the Region continues advocating for provincial funding as part of its redevelopment. • On June 11, staff brought forward a report to Council to highlight key advocacy priorities and opportunities for action within long term care.
<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 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the service manager, staff continues working toward a needs-based approach to administer housing, while continuing to comply with provincial legislation. • Staff is preparing a report for Council, outlining an advocacy approach and are also seeking enhanced funding from the upper levels of government to improve affordable housing outcomes in Peel. • The Region received \$11.8 million in emergency funding from the provincial and federal governments to address homelessness and provide social services relief, however, expenditures are expected to exceed this amount and staff will keep Council apprised on emerging needs. • Federal (Reaching Home Program) funding received by the Region is being used to support the shelter program, including hotelling and outreach. The Region has supported funding applications from community agencies as well to support food transportation, cleaning services, etc. as well as women in difficult situations at home. Further funding will extend existing programming to the middle of August.

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<p>5. 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"> • On March 6, the Province introduced its new Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, which was also included in its most recent Economic and Fiscal Update, along with a commitment to provide additional resources to combat this crime. • On April 15, the Region opened a safe house – the first of three dedicated supports established through the Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Strategy. • Both the Regional strategy and the provincial strategy continue to proceed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<p>6. Mental Health and Addictions</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 needs to support mental health promotion and recovery. • Address historical inequities in provincial funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel in order to support upstream prevention and improved access to services within the community and ensure that funding matches community needs and reflects demographic changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As individuals struggle with physical and mental health related impacts of COVID-19, such as family breakdown and unemployment, it is expected further funding and community resource supports will be needed to expand the capacity of the community and not-for-profit sector to deal with the demand for increased services. • Staff continue to work collaboratively with the Province and community stakeholders, including the implementation of the provincial government’s mental health and addictions strategy. • The Region expects to receive funding through a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Canadian Medical Association Foundation (CMAF) collaboration called the COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations. • As a follow up from the mental health roundtable hosted at the Region last year, a letter was sent on May 28 to Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Michael Tibollo. • Staff brought forward a report to Council on June 11 on the Region’s community mental health and addictions services, as well as the Provincial Mental Health & Addictions Strategy, impacts due to COVID-19 and ongoing advocacy needs. Delegations from CMHA Peel Dufferin and Peel Children’s Centre were received.

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<p>7. Maintaining a strong Early Years and Child Care System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Region of Peel efforts to have an Early Years and Child Care system that is affordable, inclusive, high quality, accountable and accessible. To do this, we recommend that the provincial government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 service system managers on funding and policy changes that impact Early Years and Child Care program delivery and service levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care will be an essential component of Peel’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, as it allows people to return to work and provides children with the social and learning opportunities that set them up for future success. Staff will continue advocating for increased collaboration with the Ministry of Education to share data and provide feedback and insights on funding and policy changes that are being considered. This is particularly important as the Province considers decisions regarding the re-opening and recovery of child care and EarlyON programs (e.g. health and safety guidelines, viability of providers, attracting and retaining staff). A June 25 report to Council will recommend the Region advocate to the Province for salaries and wages for child care providers during the emergency closure period be made effective June 1, 2020 and not applied retroactively to March 15, 2020.
<p>8. Improving Ontario Works Service Delivery Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advocate to Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services on behalf of Peel’s most vulnerable residents and provide feedback on the new employment services prototype that was launched in 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2020, the provincial government announced the new Service System Manager for Peel is WCG Services, a Canadian subsidiary of APM Group Pty Ltd (APM), a global human service organization based in Australia. WCG Services will assume responsibility for Employment Services in Peel effective January 1, 2021. Staff plan to bring a report to council in July to provide an update on the employment services transition and its implications for Peel.
<p>9. Enhanced Supports for Seniors</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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim CAO Nancy Polsinelli discussed the Butterfly Model while addressing the federal Standing Committee on Health on May 27 and made the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better staffing ratios Regulation that is less focused on documentation, but on emotionally focused care Adequate training and how to work with complex conditions, such as dementia. In response to COVID-19, there have been several provincial orders aimed at increasing supports for seniors, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary increase in pay for many frontline workers who provide care to

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> seniors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring staff at LTC homes remain at one site in order to prevent further outbreaks ○ Enhanced infection prevention and control measures and testing ○ Two Long Term Care facilities in Peel have, or are currently receiving, operational support from the Canadian military and one home is now under provincial management • Given the Region’s term of council priority to Enhance Seniors’ Supports and Services, there is an opportunity to advocate more broadly for supports for frail seniors as part of the provincial LTC review to ensure seniors have access to the health and community supports they need to age in place.
<p>10. Governance, Geographic Boundaries and Funding of Public Health and Paramedic Services</p> <p><i>Public Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Ministry maintain Peel Public Health as one of Ontario’s regional public health entities (maintain current boundaries), retain Regional Council as board of health and ensure sufficient public health funding to meet community needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the high burden of cases in Peel, the Region of Peel COVID-19 response has entailed increased costs for critical response functions, such as case management and contact tracing. • The Region is seeking to better understand the impacts of the new COVID-19 testing strategy, called <i>Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing</i>, which was released on May 29. • (As of June 4) The Region is awaiting more details of the Province’s renewed strategy to support public health units with case management and contact tracing. • In the first week of June, ministries were expected to start sending funding details to employers that receive funding directly from government and service delivery managers. • Under this temporary program, municipal governments have eligible full and part-time front-line staff who work in several program areas, including public health, paramedic services, long-term care homes, and housing and shelters. This will involve three ministries and four program areas. • AMO has expressed concerns over the complex administration of the program, given a broad array of municipal front-line services and is working with the Province and many municipal staff associations, such as the Ontario Municipal Human Resources

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<p><i>Paramedic Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued municipal responsibility for land ambulance service delivery as it is currently configured.• That Ministry continues to cost-share funding for paramedic services at existing 50:50 basis, (at funding levels that reflect call volume growth and inflationary costs)• That the Ministry address the one-year funding lag for paramedic services to ensure provincial funding keeps up with current service demand.	<p>Association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (On March 17) the Province committed, through its Ontario Action Plan Responding to COVID, \$80M to paramedic services. This funding supports paramedic hours dedicated to non-911 activities, such as testing in LTC homes and other sites.• Paramedic Services has also implemented initiatives to improve the Region’s response to COVID (e.g. PRPS high risk response teams, the testing strategy developed collectively to ensure LTC and RH were tested, the future testing strategy, unique equipment to address shortages of PPE like the sterilization unit.) However, additional funding from the Province to help support these responses remains uncertain and may fall to the local tax base.• The Province’s Public Health and Emergency Health Services Consultations has been paused, however, during a COVID-19 daily update, and without making any commitments, Premier Ford pointed to centralized public health systems.• Modernization consultations were extended to March 30, and the report to Ministry of Health (Special Advisor, Jim Pine) (originally planned for June 2020) is likely to be pushed ahead. (TBD)
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Advocacy Update

10 Peel Centre Dr., Brampton, ON L6T 4B9 | 905-791-7800 | peelregion.ca

May 2020

Message from the Regional Chair



I am happy to share this update with you, our federal and provincial partners, as we continue working in close collaboration to meet the challenges associated with COVID-19.

The depth of this crisis has led all orders of government to focus the full weight of our resources on this unprecedented public health emergency. Our

citizens depend on their elected leaders in times of crisis to protect health and safety, provide financial support and to develop responsive and innovative solutions quickly. This critical work is ongoing and will continue across our region wherever needs may arise. COVID-19 has created very difficult challenges, but it has also fueled a spirit of cooperation that continues resonating throughout our communities.

In this update, I am proud to highlight the many ways in which the Region of Peel and our team of dedicated and compassionate staff are supporting local, national and indeed global efforts to flatten the curve and chart a path to recovery and normalcy. In the face of this challenge, Peel Public Health, essential workers and local leaders are stepping up together as champions for their communities.

The Region declared an emergency on March 18 and our Emergency Operations Centre remains fully operational, safeguarding and coordinating essential services. As we have seen worldwide, technology has been a lifeline, helping us remain connected, at a time that demands we stay apart. Regional Council continues meeting regularly

online and business continuity plans are being implemented, including redeployment of staff to priority areas requiring additional resources.

We appreciate the various programs and supports, introduced by the provincial and federal governments, from which families and businesses here in Peel have benefitted during these unprecedented times. We look forward to working with you on continued supports for those impacted by COVID-19.

These are of course, trying times for municipalities as well. The Region shares your flexible approach, however, as you know, municipalities have limited revenue streams to fund our core responsibilities. As we begin charting a path to recovery, we look forward to starting a dialogue about how the provincial and federal governments can provide the much-needed supports that municipalities will need.

While the focus of our collective efforts have turned to combatting the pandemic, we continue making strides in other areas that contribute to the exceptional quality of life here, including progress on the Region's ongoing anti-human sex trafficking advocacy.

The Region of Peel will continue to work in partnership with you and together we look forward to a future where the threat of COVID-19 has been contained.

Sincerely,

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

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

Ian Sinclair 7.1-1

City of Mississauga

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

Protecting our most vulnerable

Seniors

Protecting our most vulnerable, including those who live in the Region's five long-term care homes and 23 additional homes within Peel, is our foremost responsibility. The Region welcomes initiatives, such as the Province's recently announced COVID-19 Action Plan for Vulnerable People and federal guidelines and supports for the long-term care sector.

Through an Integrated Response Table, the Region has adopted a multi-agency approach, which includes representation from the Central West and Mississauga Halton LHINs, Peel Region Public Health, Peel Region Paramedic Services and local hospitals (Trillium Health Partners and William Osler Health System). This group continues collaborating on the development and execution of a rapid response COVID-19 testing strategy in congregate settings, including long-term care homes, retirement homes and shelters in the Region of Peel. The group meets virtually daily to identify and respond to needs in many critical areas.

Staff in the Region's five long-term care homes have also been directed to only work in one location until further notice in order to reduce the risk of exposure and spread and part-time staff have been offered full-time hours.

Communication and outreach have never been more important and long-term care staff at regional facilities are helping to keep families up to date and connected with their loved ones. That includes regular phone calls, emails, virtual visits and virtual town halls.

The Region joins the global recognition of frontline health care staff, including those working in Peel long-term care homes on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 and they are to be commended for the care they continue to provide.



Peel Region Long Term Care superheroes

Community response

Through the Community Response Table, the Region is supporting local agencies responding to the emerging needs of vulnerable and at-risk populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. This forum brings together more than 90 organization representatives, including our local municipalities in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga as well as a broad range of community stakeholders to discuss shared challenges, emerging needs, opportunities and solutions. It convenes several times each week for the foreseeable future as the Region

works to prioritize and respond to urgent community agency and community needs.

To better enable action and co-develop solutions for the community, the group has further self-organized into five sub-tables: Family Violence, Seniors, Volunteers, Systemic Discrimination and Municipal Partners. Through the Community Response Table, community agencies have already received over \$1 million in funding to date to support community needs. This is an excellent example of innovation and partnership.

Housing and homeless support

We know that our seniors are particularly vulnerable at this time and the same is true of the homeless population. In response, the Region has mobilized to develop an innovative wrap-around program that pulls together Regional Health and Human Services, as well as other health care providers to address the social, housing and medical needs of the homeless population. The three-step program includes prevention and control, screening and triage, as well as isolation and recovery with physician and nurse practitioner care on premises.

While positive cases in the homeless population remain low, the Region is enhancing shelter capacity with the use of hotels to ensure appropriate physical distancing and to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Region has

planned for anyone who is homeless and needs to self-isolate, including anyone who presents at a hospital or COVID-19 Assessment Centre. A recovery program is also in place for anyone who is recovering from the virus.

The Region continues to help people who are currently in the shelter system to find permanent housing.



Providing financial relief



Deferring the water and wastewater rate increase scheduled for April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2020.



Waiving fares for TransHelp passengers.



91-day grace period for water bills due from April 1 to June 30. During this time, no late payment charges will be applied.



A more than \$2-million increase to the Community Investment Program to provide emergency funding for more than 60 community agencies and non-profit organizations to date and further support is anticipated.

Peel's recovery efforts

The Region estimates an impact of over \$30 million to operations as a result of COVID-19 (March to August). This could seriously impact the critical services residents of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon rely on. As Canada enters a recession, Peel is forecasting a Development Charge revenue shortfall of more than \$400 million over the next three years, putting at risk our investments in growth infrastructure. Financial assistance from the federal and provincial governments will be essential to the management of the current emergency and the recovery afterwards. Both upper levels of government have the fiscal capacity to backstop municipal operations through this crisis and to help with the longer-term financial sustainability of Peel's diverse communities.



Once it is safe to do so, the Region will ramp up its services, based on advice from public health professionals. However, the Region agrees with the cautious approach taken by Premier Ford and Prime Minister Trudeau to ensure the road to recovery will be done in a measured and deliberate way.

The Region would welcome stimulus funding, delivered through an allocation-based model to support local infrastructure, and to once again underpin economic activity and growth. Past infrastructure cost-share programs between all three levels of government have been effective for municipalities and the Region looks forward to working collectively to rebuild our economy from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safe house for victims of human sex trafficking opens

Amidst efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Region has continued advancing other important work, including key developments aimed at curbing human sex trafficking in Peel and expanding support for victims.

With the April 15 opening of a safe house, the Region reached a key milestone as part of its Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Strategy.

The Region also congratulates the Ontario government on its new Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy and was proud to have regional representatives among the invited guests and stakeholders at the Province's March 6 announcement.

The rate of human trafficking incidents in Peel have grown to become among the highest in Canada and the Region is implementing a three-year pilot program to address the impacts of this troubling crime. The safe house is the first of three dedicated supports established to address this growing problem and bridge the identified service gaps for survivors.

The concept of a safe house in Peel has been in the works since 2017 and its opening is the result of a collaborative approach with several key stakeholders, including the Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton, the Peel Human Trafficking Service Providers Committee and Regional Council.

The Pilot will also provide 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, the pilot program is being funded through Regional reserves. However, without funding supports from the upper levels of government, the ability to address the needs of sex trafficking victims and survivors will be put at risk at the end of the pilot. The Region was encouraged to see included in the recent Economic and Fiscal Update the provincial strategy, as well as a commitment to provide additional resources to combat this crime. The Region looks forward to building on its positive and productive relationship with the provincial and federal governments to advance this important work to help eradicate human sex trafficking.



Premier Doug Ford at an event to announce the new Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy.



Samantha MacNeill, Region of Peel (second from left); Deepy Sur, CEO, Ontario Association of Social Workers (third from left); Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General and Dufferin-Caledon MPP (centre front); Regional Councillor Johanna Downey (second from right) with others to announce the Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy.

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,
Interim 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,
Interim Commissioner of Public Works
Stephen VanOfwegen,
Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer

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Study on Canadian response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Municipal Response: An Opportunity to Protect Vulnerable Residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Submission to the Standing Committee on Health

Regional Municipality of Peel

May 27, 2020

Introduction

Peel's communities are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of May 21, 2020, Peel has had over 3,798 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19. To date, there have been 31 outbreaks of COVID-19 in Peel institutions (including long term care and retirement homes), with 797 confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. As the level of government providing immediate supports and services to Canadians, the Region of Peel has taken extraordinary measures to support all residents- especially those that are most vulnerable – to weather the unprecedented public health and economic challenges from COVID-19. The Region has remained operational while safeguarding and coordinating the delivery of essential services and continues to develop responsive and innovative solutions to meet the needs of residents.

A vision to overcome COVID-19

The Region of Peel has a vision for **Community for Life**, focused on ensuring people's lives are improved in their time of need. Through this unprecedented crisis, a collective response with local municipal partners, community-based organizations and many stakeholders across Peel's health system has been required. Together, the Region has navigated many challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic to respond to emerging needs, support coordination, facilitate information sharing and maintain a commitment to collaboration.

To help address ongoing challenges and mitigate the adverse impacts that COVID-19 has had on our community, the Region has supported a coordinated local response through community collaboration and innovation, including initiatives such as:

- Community Response Table to coordinate and fund essential programs and services to vulnerable populations during this pandemic
- Public Health infrastructure to support pandemic response including contact tracing, case management, outbreak management, Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)
- Isolation and recovery programs for the homeless
- Emergency Child Care
- Health sector collaboration to address LTC challenges, including the deployment of the Region's Paramedic Services to assist with testing and transport

As the trajectory of COVID-19 evolves, the Region remains committed to providing access to services amongst our vulnerable populations, ensuring the sustainability of community-based programs and services, and caring for those in congregate settings in housing, long term care and retirement homes.

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable

While the Region of Peel remains focused on safeguarding the public from the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been substantial effort to deploy targeted measures to help protect those who are the most vulnerable. COVID-19 has had an unprecedented economic impact on all Canadians including Peel residents. The Region has taken steps to provide some financial relief to help offset the immediate challenges that many residents are experiencing, including deferring rate increases and providing a 91-day grace period for water bills and waiving late payment charges. While these measures are helpful, the Region is committed to doing more to meet the changing needs of our residents to ensure necessary resources and supports are in place for our most vulnerable residents.

The unequal costs among the most vulnerable and marginalized in our community that result from social isolation, inadequate housing, lost jobs, food insecurity and other challenges faced, may compound the health impacts of this crisis. The Region has prioritized our vulnerable residents through a population health approach because if we do not adequately support them, they will be at higher risk of COVID-19, which will have far reaching impacts on the rest of Peel.

A. Seniors in Long Term Care

In Peel, seniors aged 65 and older are the fastest growing population with a 30.2% increase between 2011-2016. Protecting our most vulnerable seniors, including those who live in the Region's five long term care homes and 23 additional homes within Peel, is our foremost responsibility. The Region welcomes initiatives, such as the Province of Ontario's recently announced COVID-19 Action Plan for Vulnerable People and federal guidelines and supports for the long-term care sector.

In Peel...

Nearly 62% of the total number of COVID-19 related deaths in Peel were among long term care and retirement home residents (as of May 21, 2020).

Through coordinated efforts between the Region's Public Health and Paramedic Services divisions, as well as congregate settings for seniors such as long term care and retirement homes in Peel (including Peel's five long term care homes) and local hospital partners, there have been coordinated efforts to:

- Implement safety measures including strict screening protocols, infection prevention and control supports, distribution of personal protective equipment and closure of adult day services and community programs
- Redeploy staff from within the Region as well as other organizations to build capacity to provide the necessary services and supports within long term care homes to manage cases and control transmission
- Coordinate efforts to maintain a reliable and sustainable supply of personal protective equipment
- Control new admissions to long term care homes to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially for homes that are in outbreak.

Through an Integrated Response Planning for Congregate Settings committee, the Region participates in the development and execution of a multi-agency response to support long-term care homes, retirement homes, homeless shelters and other congregate settings. Partners include representatives from the Central West and Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Networks, Peel Region Public Health, Peel Region Paramedic Services and local hospitals (Trillium Health Partners and William Osler Health System). Support includes a rapid response COVID-19 testing program, infection prevention and control, virtual physician consultation and staffing, where possible.

While safety needs to be our top priority, the Region has also focused on quality of life for residents to keep their minds and spirits healthy. At the Region's own long-term care homes, staff are working to prevent social isolation by using technology to connect residents with families and friends, allowing window visits and encouraging cards and drawings to be sent from loved ones. Given the high proportion of seniors living with dementia in the homes, the Region's focus on person-centred care remains a priority consideration as a part of our care model.

Opportunity for Partnership and Action

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a role for all levels of government to not only address the immediate challenges in long term care (and other congregate settings) but pursue a more sustainable solution to meet the changing needs of the seniors population.

We encourage the federal government to continue recognizing municipalities as important partners in the delivery of long term care services in addition to other essential supports that provide a safe environment in long term care homes, such as public health.

Through targeted investments and strategic direction, in line with the National Seniors Strategy, the federal government can support:

- The redevelopment of infrastructure to enhance infection prevention measures, accessibility, and expansion of necessary health and social services for seniors and their caregivers.
- Enhanced guidelines for specialized support programs (i.e. to build clinical and emotional intelligence capacity within long term care homes to respond to existing pressures such as dementia and responsive behaviours).

Taking these steps are especially important when considering the needs of seniors living with complex conditions like dementia which require extensive supports. When it comes to long term care homes, the municipal sector often fills gaps the private and non-profit services are unable to accommodate, including specialized supports across the system to meet the complex medical needs of seniors.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to fund and sustain these specialized supports has become increasingly important. In supporting and fostering organizations to adopt person-centred care models, the Region encourages continued federal commitment and dedicated investment to support local municipalities and health service providers to improve quality of life outcomes for seniors.

B. Homeless

Decent, safe, and affordable housing is an absolute foundation for a healthy population. Research has shown the critical links between housing and health. Without appropriate and secure housing, the health of Peel's residents will suffer and only worsen the current toll that COVID-19 has had on the Region. Without safe and stable housing, the health of our most precariously housed residents will suffer and add to the existing challenges with mental health, addiction, and overall stress. Without affordable housing or emergency accommodation, many residents may face the difficult decision to skip meals or medications in order to pay the rent.

In Peel...

Nearly 70% of low-income households and 30% of middle-income households live in housing that is unaffordable. Furthermore, Peel has a low vacancy rate (1.2%), leaving more people at risk of finding stable housing they can afford or becoming homeless. These trends are particularly concerning during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Region initiated a system response to protect the community's most vulnerable population by implementing a range of programs and protocols aimed at preventing and managing the spread of COVID-19 in Peel's homeless shelters, transitional housing and street outreach program. The Region's shelter prevention and response program addresses a gap in pandemic planning for the homeless that includes: screening and testing, education on the streets, personal protective equipment, enhanced cleaning of facilities, physical distancing measures in

shelters, and the use of hotels to reduce shelter occupancy and ensure appropriate physical distancing. Approximately half of Peel's shelter population is currently in hotels.

The Region's COVID-19 shelter prevention and response program is focused on providing all requirements of daily living, thereby, increasing the likelihood people will remain physically distanced on site and not travel into the community. The risk of transmission of COVID-19 in shelters and the broader community is further reduced through the provision of primary care supports in the isolation and recovery shelters.

- The isolation site has capacity to shelter up to 100 households who are homeless or can't self-isolate and who have risk factors for exposure or have been tested for COVID-19.
- The recovery site supports homeless individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and provides both medical and social supports. It has capacity to support 40 individuals.

In Peel...

The Region has provided 4.3% of the current shelter population in Peel with COVID-19 isolation or recovery housing (as of May 15, 2020).

The Region's COVID-19 shelter prevention and response program is being funded by the federal, provincial and regional levels of government and has received additional provincial and federal supports through the Reaching Home Emergency Funding and Social Services Relief Fund. These supports are critical to meeting the needs of our communities and providing essential services, securing accommodation to reducing shelter overcrowding and allowing isolation (or quarantine) for individuals with a positive or probable COVID-19 status, as well as purchasing essential personal protective equipment to reduce transmission risk.

While positive cases in the homeless population remain low, the Region's housing solution for the homeless population during COVID-19 demonstrates the capacity of all levels of government to work together to address gaps in the current system through innovative and collaborative solutions. However, Peel requires more affordable housing units to meet growing population needs which have been amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic. The needs in Peel are particularly challenging because:

- Peel's population continues to grow rapidly and is aging;
- Peel has experienced rising rates of part-time and temporary employment in recent years, and the COVID-19 pandemic has further impacted the precarious employment and local labour market; and
- The cost of rental housing and home ownership continues to impact immediate affordability of housing options in Peel. Further, Peel has low rental vacancy rates which continue to drive high rental rates.

Despite COVID-19 and the emergency response for homeless populations, the Region is committed to help people who are currently in the shelter system to find permanent housing and as of May 15th had completed 132 long-term housing placements.

Opportunity for Partnership and Action

Given the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Region recommends that the federal government:

- Ensure that funding through the National Housing Strategy remain flexible to help local municipalities address local needs; and

- Provide long-term, sustainable capital and operational funding for affordable housing, so that municipalities can address existing system pressures with current housing stock and new affordable rental development.

Ongoing funding from the federal and provincial governments is the only way the Region can address the affordable housing crisis in Peel and ensure a more sustainable solution following the COVID-19 pandemic. Investment in affordable housing at a local level will translate into:

- Cost savings for government and increased quality of life of residents.
- Reduction in social assistance and health care costs.
- Job creation and private investment.
- Improved tax revenues.
- Positive impacts on the health and well-being for the community and individuals.

C. Mental Health and Addictions

The prevalence of mental health and addictions challenges in Peel has continued to parallel population growth. It is estimated that one in five Peel residents (an estimated 276,000 residents) are impacted by at least one mental health illness and/or substance use disorder in any given year.

In Peel...

Only one in three Peel residents who require mental health and addictions services will receive the treatment that they need leaving an estimated 184,000 Peel residents (including just over 60,000 children and youth) without the necessary treatment and appropriate community supports. These trends reflect ongoing challenges with access and availability of necessary services to meet the demands in Peel.

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified and underscored system pressures for mental health and addictions supports and the urgent need to address disparities in Peel.

Current measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 have also created new mental health and addictions concerns related to the well-being of health care workers and other frontline line workers, and vulnerable populations with limited access to social supports. Addressing challenges with social isolation, anxiety, mental health and addictions, and other inequities is especially critical during COVID-19 to reduce further impacts to the mental health and well-being of residents in Peel.

As COVID-19 protective measures are put in place, some programs have been put on hold while waitlists continue to grow and challenges around the access and availability of mental health and addictions services continue. In response, the Region has acted quickly to collaborate with local community mental health and addictions system partners through a coordinated approach to meet the needs of Peel residents. Community partners are working to foster supportive environments, transform care pathways and mitigate risk for crisis situations by:

- Increasing opportunities for social connectedness, especially among youth e.g. through local Peel initiatives such as the Youth Empowering Students for Mental Health (YES4MH) initiative for secondary school students, Project Now to address suicide prevention, and a youth wellness hub located in Malton to co-locate related services to support youth well-being.
- Continuing to work in partnership to improve system navigation for mental health services and supports through existing system partnerships.

- Addressing needs around client-centered care pathways (particularly transitional points between youth and adult system) and ensuring timely access to mental health and addictions services.

Amidst efforts to address mental health and addictions challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Region has also expanded supports for vulnerable groups including victims of human sex trafficking. Although traumatic experiences while being trafficked may induce or exacerbate mental disorders, poor mental health may also increase vulnerability to trafficking. The rate of human trafficking incidents in Peel has grown to become among the highest in Canada and the Region is implementing a three-year pilot program to address the impacts of this troubling crime. During the COVID-19 crisis, the risks to victims is particularly high due to the current physical distancing and stay at home requirements which can impede access to available interventions or supports.

Opportunity for Partnership and Action

The Region is supportive of the federal government's commitment to mental health and addictions and supports the important role all levels of government, including the federal government, can play in investing in mental health and addictions supports that are flexible and able to address existing local needs. Dedicated supports and investments to protect vulnerable populations are especially important given the current COVID-19 environment, including supports for youth, seniors, those facing increased isolation or risk.

Working in Partnership – Community Response

The Region is focused on a community-based response to COVID-19. Peel's not-for-profit sector has demonstrated resilience by providing essential programs and services to vulnerable populations during this pandemic. Through a Community Response Table, more than 90 organization representatives, including the local municipalities in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga, as well as a broad range of community stakeholders have come together to discuss shared challenges, emerging needs, opportunities and implementing solutions.

To better enable action and co-develop solutions for the community, the Community Response Table has further self-organized into dedicated taskforces aimed at addressing key issues including: Family Violence, Seniors, Volunteers, Systemic Discrimination and Municipal Partnership. Through the Community Response Table, community agencies have already received more than \$1 million in funding from the Region to support urgent community needs. This funding will be aligned with the medium and long-term mitigation measures designed to address the impacts of COVID-19 and is an example of innovation and partnership as the Region of Peel continues to support its most vulnerable residents to have access to high quality social services and programs.

Recommendations for a Collaborative Path Forward

As a leader in the delivery of municipal services, the Region of Peel is working hard to support residents through the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with long term impacts to revenues, rising costs, and the inability to operate in deficit, the Region, like many other communities in Canada, will face financial pressures in the coming months and years. The pressures from COVID-19 will continue to challenge our delivery of many essential services.

As the trajectory of COVID-19 evolves, the Region remains committed to caring for our seniors in congregate settings like long term care and retirement homes, providing access to services

amongst our vulnerable populations, and ensuring the sustainability of community-based programs and services.

To achieve this, the Region will require commitment from the all levels of government and ongoing funding to address existing inequities and growing pressures in our system. The Region recognizes the federal government's contributions aimed at supporting youth, seniors, students and vulnerable populations impacted the hardest by COVID-19, most notably through federal investments in supports for community-based organizations, and businesses through Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and wage subsidies, and the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). This investment is necessary, but more must be done to ensure that communities can overcome the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

Additional early investments by the federal government will help to shape Peel's path to recovery and resilience from the impacts of COVID-19. Key investments in housing and homelessness, employment supports and financial aid to community-based organizations are essential to maintain the fabric of our communities and the well-being of Peel's residents.

Working Together

Moving forward, the Region of Peel recommends that the federal government:

- Work in coordination with municipal governments and provincial governments to invest in locally informed solutions that support the most vulnerable populations and consider regional approaches that meet unique needs. For example, Peel is a high growth, diverse community with rapidly growing infrastructure needs that require targeted investments to address Peel-specific challenges.
- Fund population health approaches that will enable municipal levels of government to manage the new normal. Immediate investments could be directed to support enhanced testing, while more sustainable funding could support public health, mental health and addictions, and long term care, where existing challenges have only been exacerbated by funding inequities for high growth communities like Peel.
- Provide funding for immediate recovery efforts and sustained support to ensure that municipalities can continue to safeguard our most vulnerable populations, including seniors and those facing precarious housing or homelessness.

The Region of Peel is committed to working with the federal government to address the short and long term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and will support the development of a comprehensive strategy to ensure that the health and well-being of Canadians, including those most vulnerable in our communities, are healthy and safe.

About the Region of Peel

The Region of Peel works with residents and partners to create a healthy, safe and connected Community for Life for approximately 1.5 million people and over 175,000 businesses in the cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon.

The Region of Peel (the Region) supports the health and well-being of each and everyone of our residents every day, delivering a wide range of services to the residents and businesses in the cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Region has demonstrated that municipal services are playing an important role in funding and delivery of many direct and essential services. In Peel, this includes:

- Local police and ambulance services
- Maintenance of roads and essential infrastructure
- Clean water and wastewater services
- Garbage collection and recycling
- Local social services
- Early learning and childcare
- Social Assistance
- Housing for vulnerable populations
- Long term care services
- Local public health services
- Sustainability and environmental protections

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March 18, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford, 

RE: A Measure Essential to Ensure the Continuity of Council Decision-making During the Province-Wide State of Emergency with Respect to COVID-19

On March 12, 2020 the Council of The Regional Municipality of Peel (the "Council") unanimously authorized the conduct of Regional Council meetings by means of electronic participation of members affected by pandemic related requirements of self-isolation or quarantine. This is as permitted by subsection 238(3.1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* (the "Authorizing Provision").

This measure was taken in direct contemplation of the need to ensure continuity of the Council's decision-making in the face of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Authorizing Provision currently prevents those participating electronically from being counted towards the fulfillment of any applicable quorum requirement. This restriction threatens the effectiveness of Council's decision to enable electronic participation. It is readily foreseeable that a requirement of self-isolation or quarantine, especially one resulting from a common exposure of members of the Council to the COVID-19 virus, could affect a sufficient number of members to threaten the ability of the Council to achieve quorum should the electronic participation of affected members at a Council meeting be ineffective towards achieving quorum.

The Council accordingly resolved that I request the Province to take immediate action to remove the restriction imposed in subsection 238(3.1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* so as to permit members participating in meetings electronically to be counted towards the achievement of any applicable quorum requirement for the meeting.

Premier Ford I can assure you that the Council of The Regional Municipality of Peel stands ready and is anxious to do its part to effectively respond to the Province-Wide Emergency. It urgently requests that your government act immediately to remove this potential impediment to the effective functioning of the Council in the face of pandemic related challenges to its ability to make effective decisions.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
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905-791-7800 ext. 4310

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Regional Municipality of Peel

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Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

March 23, 2020

Subject: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply Shortage during COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Region of Peel thank you for your continued support during this challenging time with the COVID-19 pandemic. As you may be aware, the Region of Peel has declared a state of emergency (see attached). While we continue to work with our provincial and federal counterparts, we would like to inform you of the urgent need to expand the supply chains for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to reduce the infection risk of our health service and first responders.

Currently, the Region of Peel is significantly concerned with the status of our depleted PPE in order to meet the needs of our staff in Paramedics, Long Term Care, Housing facilities, Shelters, Public Health Clinics, and Transhelp bus drivers, our general operational needs and those of our residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, we are on backorder for large PPE orders for each of our five Long Term Care homes. At present we have approximately 1 to 2-week supply of PPE onsite in our Long Term Care homes.

We continue to actively look for partners to collaborate with and leverage to aid in our PPE supply requirements. As such, the Region welcomes the launch of the Province's new website, Ontario Together, which aims to remove barriers allowing Ontario's manufacturing sector to redeploy capacity towards the production of essential equipment like ventilators, masks and swabs.

Until the PPE supply chain shortages resolve, the Region urges the Province to add municipal and regional health and first responders access to the supply chain entities. Further, the Region encourages the Province to continue to share all its resources and influence with the various supplier and distribution lines. Actively engaging the municipal sector in initiatives aiming to increase supply chain capacity, will help expedite the flow of PPE to the frontlines, where it is needed the most during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

We look forward to your immediate attention to addressing the Region's need and urge you and your staff to expeditiously contact Steven Dickson, Logistics Chief, Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) at 905-791-7800 x4323 or steven.dickson@peelregion.ca to discuss how we can collectively resource all our community needs during this challenging time.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Regional Municipality of Peel



Dr. Lawrence Loh
MOH, Peel Public Health



Peter Dundas
Chief, Peel Regional Paramedic Services

Cc: Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

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Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P.
Premier of Ontario
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

March 28, 2020

Dear Premier,

Thank you for your strong and compassionate leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. You have demonstrated strong empathy for the public you serve. Pandemics need decisive leadership and you and your government have shown that throughout.

The emergency orders issued by the Province have sent strong signals to both residents and businesses. We are writing today to urge you to take even stronger and immediate steps to help flatten the curve, while there is still time.

On behalf of the mayors of Brampton, Mississauga and the Town of Caledon, as well as the Region of Peel's Medical Officer of Health, I commend and support you and your government on today's announcement to immediately limit all gatherings to less than five people.

We are unified in our commitment to the residents of Peel and to Team Ontario and Team Canada. We recognize the time to act is right now, while the golden window remains open for us to collectively ensure healthcare resources are available to Ontarians when they need them the most.

I welcome an opportunity to speak with you directly on these critical requests. I am available any time.

Kindest personal regards,

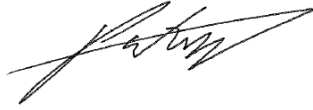


Nando Iannicca
Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Regional Municipality of Peel



Mayor Crombie
City of Mississauga

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Mayor Brown
City of Brampton



Mayor Thompson
Town of Caledon

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

cc. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General
Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton
Allan Thompson, Mayor of Town of Caledon
Bonnie Crombie, Mayor of Mississauga
Dr. Lawrence Loh, Interim Medical Officer of Health, Region of Peel
MP Omar Alghabra
MP Navdeep Bains
MP Peter Fonseca
MP Maninder Sidhu
MP Iqra Khalid
MP Kamal Khera
MP Ruby Sahota
MP Ramesh Sangha
MP Sonia Sidhu
MP Gagan Sikand
MP Sven Spengemann
MP Kyle Seebach
MPP Deepak Anand
MPP Rudy Cuzzetto
MPP Natalia Kusendova
MPP Kaleed Rasheed
MPP Sheref Sabawy
MPP Amarjot Sandhu
MPP Prabmeet Sarkaria
MPP Sara Singh
MPP Gurratan Singh
MPP Nina Tangri
MPP Kevin Yarde
Nancy Polsinelli, CAO Region of Peel
Janice Baker, CAO City of Mississauga
David Barrick, CAO City of Brampton
Carey Herd, CAO Town of Caledon

April 20, 2020

Minister Garneau
Minister of Transport
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

Minister Morneau
Minister of Finance
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

Re: Support for Canada's airports facing severe financial impact of COVID-19

Dear Ministers:

On behalf of Region of Peel Council, we thank you and your federal colleagues for the recent move to provide rent relief to Canada's airports for 2020. It is an important first step in providing immediate relief to airports. Toronto Pearson is a very important component of Peel's robust goods movement sector. As such, the Region is urging the federal government to provide Canada's airports additional short-term relief and a longer-term stimulus package. This support is essential for Canada's overall economic recovery as well as needed to help rebuild public trust in travel.

Despite the current situation, Toronto Pearson remains a vital piece of regional infrastructure and important economic anchor for the Greater Toronto Area, including Peel. In better times, the area around Toronto Pearson is home to the second largest employment zone in Canada, behind downtown Toronto. This includes the 86,000 jobs generated or facilitated in Peel. In addition, with Peel having one of the largest transportation and goods movement hubs in North America, Toronto Pearson plays an important role in ensuring the efficient flow of goods and services across Peel's transportation network.

The grim reality is that many parts of the aviation sector will continue to shut down without swift government action. Your government has moved quickly to introduce economic measures to help stabilize the economy and acknowledge the need to address the long-term viability and resiliency of Canada's aviation sector.

Now is the time to begin looking to the future to determine how we can work together to restore public trust in air travel and take the necessary measures to support economic recovery. The airport connects our vast country, creates jobs, facilitates imports and exports and attracts tourism and investment throughout the province and across the country. In short, Toronto Pearson will be a key part of our local, regional, provincial and national long-term recovery.

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We hope that the federal government continues to move swiftly and provides the much needed support to Canada's airports, including Toronto Pearson.

I would be pleased to discuss this further with you and your staff at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me at 905-791-7800 x4310. It would be a pleasure to hear from you.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel

Cc Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for
Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

May 5, 2020

Dear Premier Ford,

Essential workers in Long Term Care (LTC) homes are serving the most vulnerable population while facing added risk and exposure working on the front line during the COVID-19 crisis. To help support these essential workers in LTC homes, Region of Peel Council passed a motion last week calling for the Province to implement and fund a program to provide premium pay to LTC workers for the duration of Ontario's COVID-19 state of emergency. As such, the Region welcomes the Province's measure announced on April 25, 2020 to provide frontline staff with a temporary supplemental pandemic payment.

Like many municipalities across Ontario, Peel is experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks in LTC homes. There are 28 LTC homes in Peel with the Region responsible for five. To help manage these outbreaks an Integrated Response Planning Table has been mobilized. This response table consists of representatives from Peel Public Health, Ontario Health (Central West and Mississauga Halton LHINs), Peel Paramedics, Region of Peel Health Services, William Osler Health System and Trillium Health Partners. Working collaboratively, members of this response table have been able to prioritize immediate next steps for Peel's LTC homes based on urgent needs, status updates of homes in the past 24 hours, impacts of in-home interventions and supports, and latest provincial direction.

This coordinated and integrated approach has resulted in implementing several measures in Peel's LTC homes to support the health and safety of staff such as screening all staff twice a day, ensuring personal protective equipment is available, and isolating resident cases of COVID-19. However, staffing challenges in LTC homes across Peel is increasing the complexity in addressing the current outbreaks in these homes. The support provided through the Province's supplemental pay program will help all the LTC homes to address some of the staffing requirements that are needed to manage the outbreaks.

Thank you for this additional financial support for frontline workers, which demonstrates your government's ongoing commitment to working with its partners, including the LTC sector and municipalities to help stop the spread and overcome COVID-19. The Region looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Province to implement further measures and actions during this pandemic.

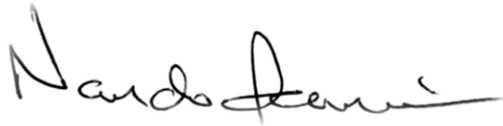
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Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

I would be pleased to discuss this further with you and your staff at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me at 905-791-7800 x4310. It would be a pleasure to hear from you.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel

Attached

cc:

The Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health

The Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance

The Hon. Merilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care

**APPROVED AT REGIONAL COUNCIL
April 23, 2020**

COVID19

8.8 Notice of Motion/Motion Relating to Advocacy for Long Term Care Funding

Moved by Councillor Downey,
Seconded by Councillor Ras;

Whereas, health care workers in the Region of Peel Long Term Care homes are essential workers serving the most vulnerable population while facing added risk and exposure working on the front line during the COVID-19 crisis;

And whereas, COVID-19 outbreak has been declared in four Region of Peel Long Term Care homes with 25 residents and 19 staff testing positive and six resident deaths (as of May 4);

And whereas, there has been challenges to ensure required staffing at Region of Peel Long Term Care homes;

And whereas, in order to manage outbreak requirements, a minimum of 20 additional staff is needed 24 hours a day in each of the homes in outbreak;

And whereas, the Region of Peel has reasonably taken measures to support the health and safety of staff through supportive measures such as screening all staff twice a day, ensuring personal protective equipment is available, and isolating and cohorting resident cases of COVID-19;

And whereas, the Province has implemented a COVID-19 Action Plan to Protect Long Term Care Homes by providing greater measures to testing, screening, surveillance, outbreak management, and growing the long term care workforce;

And whereas, other provinces and worker unions have begun negotiating premiums to support front line health workers;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, advocate to the Premier, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Long Term Care to request that the Province implement and fund a program to provide premium pay to long term care workers for the duration of Ontario's COVID-19 state of emergency.

Carried

May 8, 2020

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Langevin Building
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: The Urgent Need for Direct Funding to Municipalities Struggling with COVID-19

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The Region of Peel is the second largest municipality in Ontario, serving close to 1.5 million residents and more than 177,000 businesses. Along with its lower-tier municipalities, the cities of Brampton, Mississauga and the Town of Caledon, the Region now faces significant financial challenges as a result of COVID-19.

While COVID-19's true economic cost is not yet known, the Region faces an estimated \$33.4 million operating deficit, a capital infrastructure funding gap, lower investment returns, and significantly lower development charge revenue projections (early estimates indicate it could be in the range of \$400 million over the next 2-3 years).

The Region recognizes the federal government's swift implementation of a wide range of emergency benefits, ensuring long-term economic sustainability. We are now urging the federal government to provide timely, direct financial support to municipalities to address the COVID-19 pandemic fiscal pressures and to stimulate economic recovery.

Municipalities across Canada can play a central role in Canada's economic recovery. This includes moving forward with critical infrastructure projects. Additional federal funding would assist with the Region's financial challenges and the economic recovery.

The Region looks forward to working closely with the federal and provincial governments to reopen our economy. It would be a pleasure to discuss this further with you and your staff. Please feel free to contact me, at your convenience.

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Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel

Cc:

The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs

The Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

May 8, 2020

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
77 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E6

**Re: Follow-up on April 13, 2020 Region of Peel Submission on the Proposed
Community Benefits Charges Regulations**

Dear Minister Clark,

I am writing in follow-up to the Region's April 13th submission to the Province on the second round of proposed regulations for the Community Benefits Charge.


On April 23rd, Regional Council approved a resolution endorsing staff comments.

Regional Council also recommended the reconsideration of timing of the Community Benefits Charge given the impact of COVID-19 on the municipal sector.

While the true economic cost of COVID-19 is not yet known, the Region forecasts up to \$400 million in development charge revenue shortfall over the next two to three years.

We look forward to continuing working together to address housing supply and affordability in Peel and economic recovery as a result of COVID-19.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

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RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____

May 28, 2020

The Honourable Michael Tibollo
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Tibollo,

The challenges facing the people of Ontario regarding mental health have never been more apparent than now. The COVID-19 pandemic and the current measures put in place to minimize the transmission of the virus are impacting all of us and, even more so, those who rely on already over-taxed mental health support programs. We are seeing escalation of these intense pressures firsthand in Peel as a result of our region's rapid population growth and chronic underfunding, which has only been exacerbated by the effects of COVID-19.

As you will recall from the Peel Community Mental Health and Addictions Roundtable in October last year, we have worked closely with a spectrum of organizations in Peel to identify the needs and gaps within the system and have compiled specific areas for investment as well as opportunities to build capacity in existing programs and services for those in need. We believe that now is the right time to discuss how to collaborate with your team on the next steps to implement a coordinated approach to improve access to mental health services specifically in place for the residents of Peel.

We were very pleased with your announcement in March of a \$20 million investment as part of the provincial mental health and addiction strategy. This is a very important step in our journey to improve Ontarian's access to the supports that they require but more is needed. Building on the findings of the Roundtable (attached) and considering the current circumstances, I would like to arrange for a discussion with you on how the Region of Peel and our community partners can further collaborate with the Province to implement the recommendations of Roundtable report.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that mental health and addictions remains a top priority for your government. We remain committed to working closely with you and your team to build capacity to meet the needs of the Peel community.

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Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

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