

234-2021-867

**RECEIVED**

**February 26, 2021**

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

February 25, 2021

Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Regional Municipality of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive, 5th Floor  
Brampton ON L6T 4B9  
[nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca](mailto:nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca)

Dear Nando Iannicca:

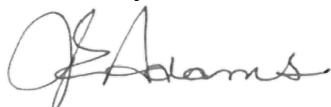
I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated February 17, 2021, that was forwarded by Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for a response.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns about the need for continued funding under the province's Social Services Relief Fund beyond March 31, 2021 in the Region of Peel.

Please be assured that your letter has been forwarded to appropriate staff in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for consideration and that the Minister, or a ministry staff member, will respond to you directly as soon as possible.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Jim Adams  
Director, Housing Programs Branch  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

February 17, 2021

The Honourable Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
College Park 17th Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
steve.clark@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Clark,

On behalf of the Region of Peel, I would like to thank you for the financial support provided during the past year as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. The provincial government's enhanced investment in housing and homelessness supports has been essential to our efforts to contain the spread of the virus in our community and there is an urgent need to continue this funding beyond March 31, 2021.

To date, the Region has received \$21.4 million in funding from the provincial Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF). Without this funding, the Region would not have been able to care for and protect the homeless and our community's most vulnerable throughout the pandemic.

As a result of these funds and funding from the federal government, our COVID-19 response for the homeless and other vulnerable populations has included:

- The use of hotels to reduce shelter occupancy to 50 per cent in order to create conditions for proper physical distancing
- Enhanced cleaning and other safety protocols for shelters
- Additional drop-in centres and supports for the homeless
- Isolation and Recovery Programs for the homeless and other vulnerable residents who either suspected they had the virus and needed a test and place to isolate, or those who contracted the virus and required medical care
- Flowing funds to over 60 community agencies that serve the vulnerable

Consequently, our COVID-19 response for the homeless has been very effective. In contrast to many other jurisdictions, the virus has largely been kept away from the shelter system. Its spread has also been broadly prevented amongst those homeless in Peel. Keeping families housed adequately and affordably has been an important factor in managing COVID-19.

Without these funding supports, COVID-19 outcomes would have been far worse in Peel. These current funding programs are set to expire by the end of March 2021. This is concerning as more transmissible variants of the virus have been identified in Ontario, and experts at the Province's Science Advisory Table have flagged the risk of a third wave before vaccinations are broadly available.

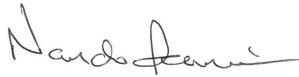
**Nando Iannicca**  
Regional Chair & CEO

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

As such, it is essential that the provincial government maintains and enhances current levels of funding so the Region can continue to mitigate and manage the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis upon the homeless, those at risk of homelessness, lower income earners, visible minorities, women, youth and part-time workers, and for those living in the community housing sector in Peel.

With this in mind, we look forward to your consideration of extending SSRF funding beyond March 31, 2021 in support of Peel's pandemic response efforts, and to assist with economic recovery. If you have any questions regarding Peel's housing and homelessness needs, please feel free to contact me at 905-791-7800 x4310. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
Region of Peel

CC: Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing