

# Government Relations Update

## **Government Relations Committee April 1, 2021**

Keith Medenblik

Manager, Strategic Public Policy & External Relations

# Government Relations Update - Overview

## Federal & Provincial Landscape

- Federal Update
  - Pre-budget Submission Priorities
- Provincial
  - 2021 Budget and Regional Priorities

## Looking Forward

- Advocacy & Engagement
- Early Years & Child Care Advocacy

# Federal Landscape

- **Update on Canada's COVID-19 Response**
  - Focus on variants of concern & vaccine distribution
  - Extension of wage subsidy & rent support (*Bill C-24*)
- **Canada Community Building Fund**
  - One-time investment of \$2.2 billion (March 25, 2021)
  - Formerly Gas Tax Fund
- **Federal Budget – April 19, 2021**
  - First budget since March 2019
- **Federal Election???**

# 2021 Federal Pre-Budget Submission

**2021** Region of Peel

Federal Pre-Budget  
Submission



**Region  
of Peel**  
working with you

## Priorities

- Funding & Support for COVID-19 Response
- Long-term Municipal Fiscal Sustainability
- Infrastructure Funding
- Housing & Homelessness Support
- Waste Management
- Climate Change
- Transportation
- Human Sex Trafficking

# Immediate Regional Priorities



## COVID-19 Response

- Provide additional funding to offset the substantial incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provide sick pay and other supports for frontline health and essential workers
- Undertake a review of federal-provincial-municipal responsibilities, examining cost-sharing and accountability relationships
- Engage in discussions on the need for updated municipal revenue sources and collection tools

# Immediate Regional Priorities



5-6

## Infrastructure Funding

- Increase infrastructure funding to stimulate economic recovery
- Utilize allocation-based models to provide predictability and to distribute funds expeditiously

## Housing & Homelessness

- Provide long-term, flexible, allocation-based, sustainable capital and operational funding for affordable rental housing
- Provide support to prevent the loss of affordable rental housing, through state of good repair funding
- Collaborate with the Region to improve the design and funding of programs (e.g., Reaching Home, Rapid Housing Initiative)

# Long-Term Regional Priorities



## Waste Management

- Invest in waste infrastructure and technologies to increase resource recovery from plastics and recyclable material
- Ensure a single-use plastic products ban is in place and work with provincial governments to implement steps toward eliminating plastic pollution

## Climate Change

- Provide sustained funding to reduce GHG emissions and address climate change risks to critical municipal infrastructure

## Transportation

- Provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel

# Long-Term Regional Priorities



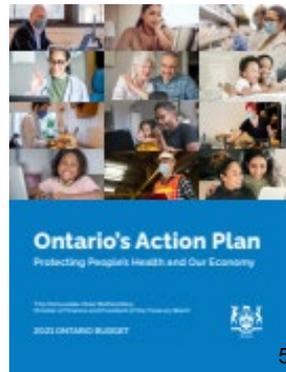
## Human Sex Trafficking

- Provide sustainable funding for anti-human sex trafficking operating initiatives

# 2021 Provincial Budget

## Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy

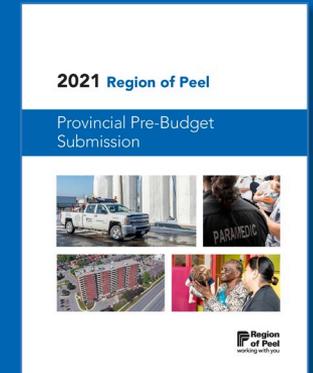
- Released March 24, 2021
- Next phase of Ontario's COVID-19 Plan
- Continued support for pandemic response & longer-term economic recovery
- Public health supports & investments for social services, transit and municipal operations.



5-9

## Region of Peel 2021 Priorities

- Funding & Support for COVID-19 Response
- Infrastructure
- Housing and Homelessness
- Enhanced Supports for Seniors
- Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Early Years and Child Care
- Waste Management
- Climate Change
- Transportation



9

# 2021 Provincial Budget

## ROP Advocacy Priority

### COVID-19 Response

- Provide additional funding to offset the substantial incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provide sick pay and other supports for frontline health and essential workers
- Undertake a review of provincial-municipal responsibilities, examining cost-sharing and accountability relationships
- Engage in discussions on the need for updated municipal revenue sources and collection tools

5-10

## 2021 Provincial Budget

### Incremental Costs/Revenue Loss

- Safe Restart Funding – The Region was allocated an additional \$24.6M
- SSRF Phase III - \$10.7M for shelter settings and \$528,099 funding for transit.

### Public Health

- Sick pay for essential workers was not addressed
- \$1B as part of Ontario's vaccination plan, beginning in 2020–21
- \$3.7B over 2 years for testing, including \$2.3B in 2021–22, towards a testing strategy
- \$42M for COVID-19 isolation centres
- \$50M in 2021–22 to ensure IPAC resources are available across Ontario

# 2021 Provincial Budget

ROP Advocacy Priority	2021 Provincial Budget
<p data-bbox="633 117 1070 150"><b>Mental Health &amp; Addictions</b></p> <ul data-bbox="633 164 1209 470" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="633 164 1209 290">• Address historical funding inequities for Peel mental health and addictions services</li><li data-bbox="633 301 1209 470">• Implement an equitable funding model to ensure funding matches community needs and reflects demographic changes</li></ul>	<ul data-bbox="1278 164 1875 558" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1278 164 1875 246">• \$175M in 2021–22 as part of the investment of \$3.8B over 10 yrs</li><li data-bbox="1278 257 1875 383">• Framework to identify core services available (Roadmap to Wellness)</li><li data-bbox="1278 394 1875 476">• \$7M to help postsecondary students during COVID-19</li><li data-bbox="1278 487 1875 519">• 4 new mobile mental health clinics</li><li data-bbox="1278 530 1875 558">• Added supports for OPP</li></ul>
<p data-bbox="633 595 1219 627"><b>Long Term Care &amp; Support for Seniors</b></p> <ul data-bbox="633 642 1244 1035" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="633 642 1244 767">• Ensure that base funding better matches staffing resources to resident with complex care needs</li><li data-bbox="633 778 1244 904">• Fund dedicated staff training in support of emotionally-focused and person-centred care</li><li data-bbox="633 915 1244 1035">• Provide funding for modernized and comprehensive build projects (Peel Manor) <sup>5-11</sup></li></ul>	<ul data-bbox="1278 642 1875 1035" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1278 642 1875 767">• \$933M over 4 yrs (\$2.6B) for 30,000 new LTC beds – includes 4 projects in Peel</li><li data-bbox="1278 778 1875 860">• \$246M over 4 yrs to improve living conditions</li><li data-bbox="1278 871 1875 953">• \$650M in continued support for LTC during pandemic</li><li data-bbox="1278 964 1875 1035">• Reaffirmed Long-Term Care Staffing Plan (Dec. 2020)</li></ul>

# 2021 Provincial Budget

ROP Advocacy Priority	2021 Provincial Budget
<b>Housing &amp; Homelessness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="633 165 1240 290">• Extend SSRF funding to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the housing sector</li><li data-bbox="633 347 1240 515">• Provide Service Managers the operational and capital funding, along with flexibility for addressing the affordable housing crisis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1278 165 1800 334">• \$255M for municipal service managers to respond to rising COVID-19 cases in shelter settings</li><li data-bbox="1278 347 1827 471">• \$13M over 3yrs to assist people with disabilities in accessing community housing</li></ul>
<b>Infrastructure Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="633 639 1209 714">• Increase infrastructure funding to stimulate economic recovery</li><li data-bbox="633 727 1209 851">• Utilize allocation-based models to provide predictability and to distribute funds expeditiously</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1278 639 1858 670">• \$2.8B in broadband infrastructure</li><li data-bbox="1278 683 1858 757">• Did not include new measures for long-term infrastructure funding</li></ul>

# 2021 Provincial Budget

ROP Advocacy Priority	2021 Provincial Budget
<p data-bbox="633 121 1122 153"><b>Early Years &amp; Child Care System</b></p> <ul data-bbox="633 164 1284 838" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="633 164 1284 336">• Continue to provide funding throughout 2021 and into 2022 for Peel child care providers impacted by COVID-19</li><li data-bbox="633 380 1284 459">• Phase-in or delay proposed administrative funding reductions</li><li data-bbox="633 503 1284 631">• Provide additional funding to maintain service levels for families and providers are supported</li><li data-bbox="633 674 1284 838">• Continue to provide Service System Managers with flexibility and fewer funding envelopes to reduce administrative burden</li></ul>	<ul data-bbox="1325 164 1883 743" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1325 164 1883 336">• Proposes a 20% top-up to the Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses (CARE) tax credit for 2021</li><li data-bbox="1325 347 1883 470">• This increases support for parents from \$1,250 to \$1,500, on average</li><li data-bbox="1325 481 1883 609">• Total support provided by this temporary top-up would be about \$75M</li><li data-bbox="1325 620 1883 743">• Did not include new measures to address child care system challenges</li></ul>

# 2021 Provincial Budget

ROP Advocacy Priority	2021 Provincial Budget
<b>Waste Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transition waste diversion programs to full producer responsibility in a fair, efficient, and timely manner</li><li>• Invest in waste infrastructure (Anaerobic Digestion &amp; Mixed Waste Processing) to increase resource recovery</li><li>• Develop a harmonized, Ontario-wide single-use plastics strategy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Was not addressed in the 2021 Budget</li></ul>
<b>Climate Change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide Conservation Authorities with the policy tools and financial resources needed to implement their watershed management role</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Was not addressed in the 2021 Budget</li></ul>
<b>Transportation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Did not include new investments for Peel related transit projects</li></ul>

## Other Notable Investments

### Health Care System

- \$30.2B over the next 10 years for hospital infrastructure. This includes significant new investments in Peel:
  - A complete rebuild of the Mississauga hospital in partnership with Trillium Health Partners
  - William Osler Health System will receive funding for Peel Memorial Phase 2 redevelopment, with construction of a new inpatient wing
  - \$125M to fund over 500 critical care and high intensity hospital beds in areas with high rates of COVID-19 transmission
- An additional \$602.2M in 2021–22 in the Ontario Public Drug Program
- Support for Ryerson University to plan a proposal for a new medical education institute in Brampton
- The Province reiterates the need for the federal share of the Canada Health Transfer to at least 35%

# Key COVID-19 Priorities Update



- Equitable Vaccine Allocation & Prioritization
- Paid Sick Leave for Essential Workers

# Advocacy & Engagement

- **2021 AMO Conference – August 15-18 (Virtual)**
- **Advocacy Update Publication**
- **MPP/MP Quarterly Meetings**
  - **Next meeting – May 2021**



# Sustaining a Strong Early Years and Child Care Sector in Peel

Suzanne Finn  
Director  
Early Years and Child Care Services  
[suzanne.finn@peelregion.ca](mailto:suzanne.finn@peelregion.ca)

# Our Role

Early years and child care  
Service system plan 2019–2024



As Service System Manager, the Region of Peel is responsible for:

- Planning, strategic supports, program evaluation and oversight of the Early Years and Child Care system
- Working to create positive outcomes for children and families in both EarlyON centres and in licenced child care settings
- Distributing Provincial funding and works under the legislation in the Child Care and Early Years Act

# Who We Support

- Non-profit and for-profit providers
- Centre-based and licensed home child care
- Families who need fee subsidy
- Children with special needs

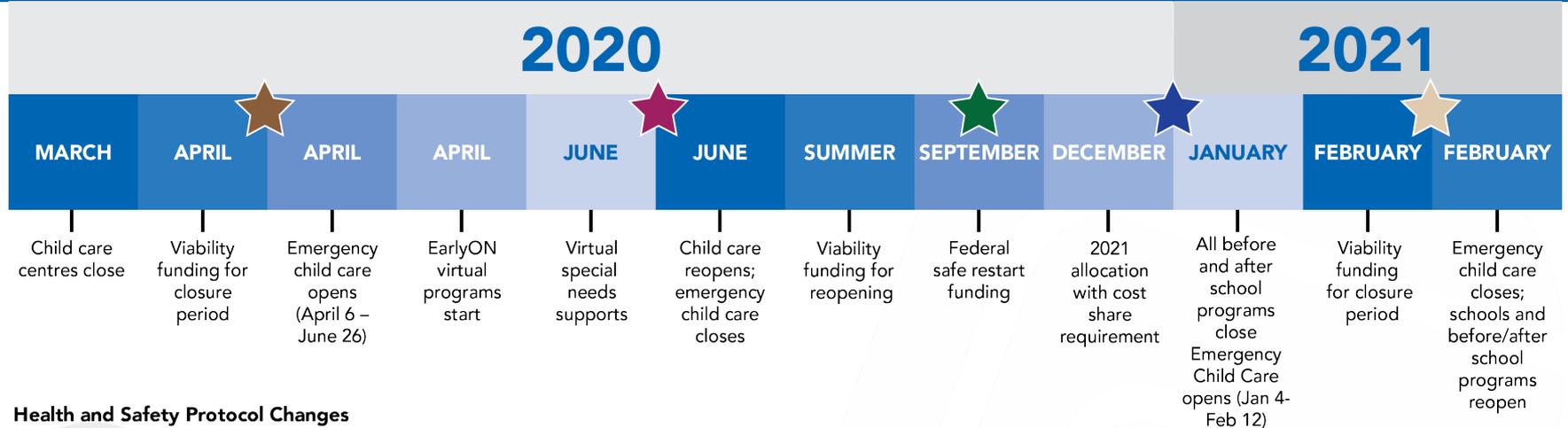
# Benefits

- Each dollar invested returns \$3-10 in terms of savings and benefits
- Essential to the physical and mental health and well being of families and children
- A driver of economic recovery
- Supports other Regional priorities

# Our Advocacy

- Regular meetings and correspondence with Ministry of Education staff
- Participation in OMSSA's Children's Services Network
- Province-wide marketing campaign
- AMO
- Urban Commissioners Meetings
- Provincial pre-budget consultations (2020 and 2021)
- MPP briefings

# COVID Impact Timeline



## Health and Safety Protocol Changes

- ★ April 2020 – New Health and Safety Protocols for ECC
- ★ June 2020 – New Health and Safety Protocols for Licensed Child Care
- ★ September 2020 – Refined Health and Safety Protocols for BASP
- ★ December 2020 – Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols
- ★ February – Enhanced Health and Safety protocols (screening and masking)

# Impact of Provincial Funding Cuts in 2021 & 2022

## 2021

Download of 50% of administrative expenses to the Region

Impact: \$5M

Council approved \$1.2M to address this impact



## 2022

Remaining impact of cost share from 2021: \$3.8M

Further reductions in 2022: \$3.7M

**Total: \$7.5M**

# Continuous Improvement 2021

Efficiencies in the 2021 Budget	Cost Savings \$ Million	Cost Avoidance \$ Million
EYCCS - Programming Divestment	-	\$0.6
EYCCS - Fee Subsidy Family Composition Policy	-	0.5
EYCCS - Fee Subsidy Family – Reducing Value of Overpayments	-	1.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>\$2.8</b>

# Potential Impacts in 2022

- Fee subsidy waiting list
- Special needs resourcing wait list
- Less accountability
- Fewer future efficiencies
- Reduced system planning
- Reduced ability to fund Regional Shared Services
- Less support for providers
- Less agility to respond to change



# ADVOCACY IN 2021



# Fair share funding for Peel

- Eliminate proposed administrative funding reductions planned for 2022
- Ensure that COVID funding is prioritized and based on the impact of the pandemic (case counts, number of days in red/grey/lockdown, vulnerability of residents)
- Eliminate “Capping Adjustment” to recoup \$4M that should be coming to Peel
- Ensure Peel has a voice in the revised funding formula to ensure Peel’s unique needs are addressed
- Maintain Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

## This will:

- Avoid service cuts to fee subsidy and special needs
- Allow us to continue to support providers and families
- Ensure Peel residents benefit from funding they deserve

# Predictable, Flexible Funding

- Multi-year funding
- Flexibility to meet cost savings targets and needs of community
- Cut red tape
  - fewer funding envelopes and streamlined reporting will reduce admin costs
  - will allow providers focus on quality care – not paperwork

## This will allow for:

- More efficient, multi-year planning that makes best use of taxpayer dollars
- **Increased efficiencies**
- **Providers focus on quality care vs red tape**
- Greater innovation and better solutions
- **Programs tailored to community needs**

# Ongoing Viability Funding for Providers

- Child sector in Peel is at risk and without support, some providers may not survive
- Ensure that providers survive so there is sufficient child care after the pandemic
- CEWS and CERS extended to end of 2021

## This will:

- Ensure stability of child care sector in Peel
- Ensure families in Peel have access to safe, quality child care
- Keep women in the workforce
- Avoid small businesses from going out of business

# Strategy for Registered Early Childhood Educators

- Recruitment & retention was a serious problem *before* the pandemic – more critical now
- Pandemic has been hard on sector
- Recent survey of Peel RECEs
  - **86% experiencing increased stress**
  - **72% are considering leaving the sector**
- Need a provincial strategy including:
  - Funding parity with their school board RECEs
  - Wage enhancement grants for EarlyON staff
  - Recognition for the profession

## This will allow for:

- Quality of care for children
- Stability of the system
- Greater equity for all RECEs
- Better outcomes for Peel children

# Summary of Advocacy Positions

- 
- Fair Share for Peel



- PROVINCIAL

- 
- Predictable Flexible Funding



- PROVINCIAL

- 
- Ongoing Viability Funding



- PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL

- 
- Registered Early Childhood  
Educator (RECE) Strategy



- PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL

# NEXT STEPS

- Continue with advocacy efforts
- Council Report on *Sustaining a Strong Early Years and Child Care Sector*
- Participate in province-wide campaign with other service system managers
- Peel MPs & MPP meetings
- Collaborate with sector associations and provider groups
- Prepare for AMO
- Draft Recommendations for National Child Care Strategy



# Thank You