

Government Relations Update

Government Relations Committee April 1, 2021

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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



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



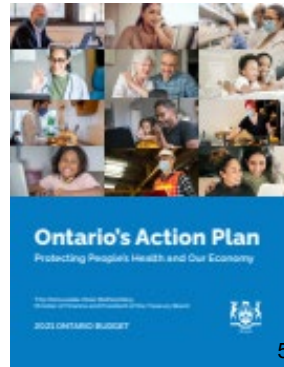
Human Sex Trafficking

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

2021 Provincial Budget

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

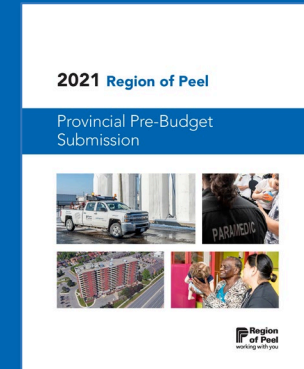
- Released March 24, 2021
- Next phase of Ontario's COVID-19 Plan
- Continued support for pandemic response & longer-term economic recovery
- Public health supports & investments for social services, transit and municipal operations.



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



2021 Provincial Budget

ROP Advocacy Priority	2021 Provincial Budget
COVID-19 Response <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	Incremental Costs/Revenue Loss <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
Mental Health & Addictions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address historical funding inequities for Peel mental health and addictions services• Implement an equitable funding model to ensure funding matches community needs and reflects demographic changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$175M in 2021–22 as part of the investment of \$3.8B over 10 yrs• Framework to identify core services available (Roadmap to Wellness)• \$7M to help postsecondary students during COVID-19• 4 new mobile mental health clinics• Added supports for OPP
Long Term Care & Support for Seniors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that base funding better matches staffing resources to resident with complex care needs• Fund dedicated staff training in support of emotionally-focused and person-centred care• Provide funding for modernized and comprehensive build projects (Peel Manor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$933M over 4 yrs (\$2.6B) for 30,000 new LTC beds – includes 4 projects in Peel• \$246M over 4 yrs to improve living conditions• \$650M in continued support for LTC during pandemic• Reaffirmed Long-Term Care Staffing Plan (Dec. 2020)

2021 Provincial Budget

ROP Advocacy Priority	2021 Provincial Budget
Housing & Homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extend SSRF funding to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the housing sector• Provide Service Managers the operational and capital funding, along with flexibility for addressing the affordable housing crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$255M for municipal service managers to respond to rising COVID-19 cases in shelter settings• \$13M over 3yrs to assist people with disabilities in accessing community housing
Infrastructure Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase infrastructure funding to stimulate economic recovery• Utilize allocation-based models to provide predictability and to distribute funds expeditiously	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$2.8B in broadband infrastructure• Did not include new measures for long-term infrastructure funding

2021 Provincial Budget

ROP Advocacy Priority	2021 Provincial Budget
Early Years & Child Care System <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to provide funding throughout 2021 and into 2022 for Peel child care providers impacted by COVID-19• Phase-in or delay proposed administrative funding reductions• Provide additional funding to maintain service levels for families and providers are supported• Continue to provide Service System Managers with flexibility and fewer funding envelopes to reduce administrative burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposes a 20% top-up to the Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses (CARE) tax credit for 2021• This increases support for parents from \$1,250 to \$1,500, on average• Total support provided by this temporary top-up would be about \$75M• Did not include new measures to address child care system challenges

2021 Provincial Budget

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

2021 Provincial Budget

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
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Early Years and Child Care Services
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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

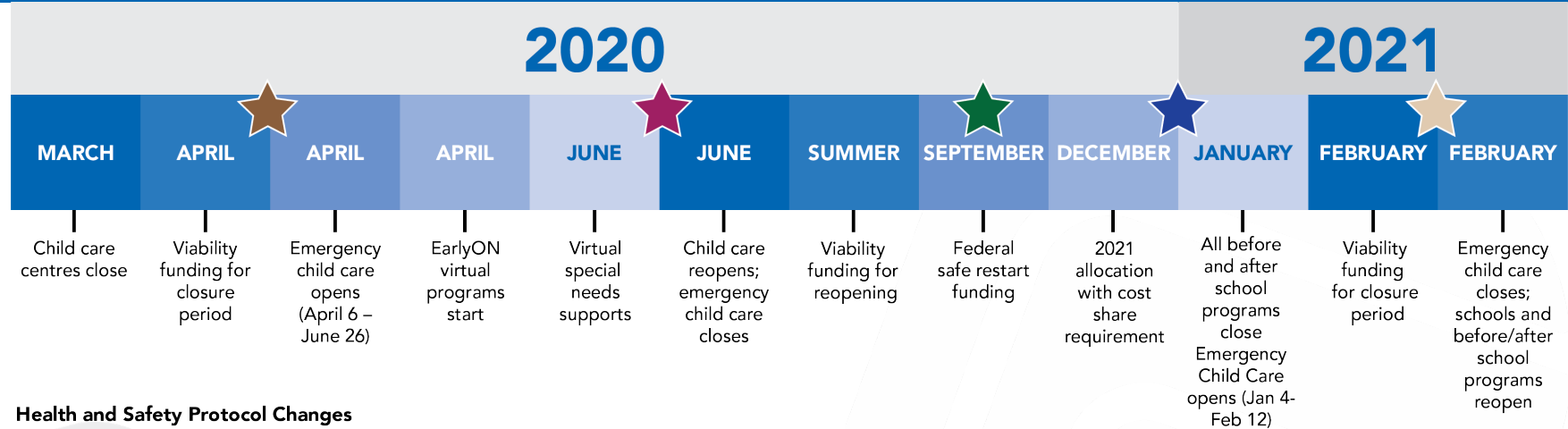
Benefits

- 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
TOTAL	-	\$2.8

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