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**REPORT TITLE:     Mass Vaccination – Supporting the South Asian Task Force**

**FROM:                 Nancy Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That a cash advance of \$550,000 from the Region of Peel (Region) to 2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP, to work with the South Asian Task Force to support the first month of the mass vaccination clinic to be overseen by the South Asian Task Force be approved, prior to the approval of the Covid-19 vaccine program funding application made by the Region on behalf of the South Asian Task Force to the Ontario Ministry of Health (“Province”);**

**And further, that the Chief Administrative Officer be given the authority to provide a secondary cash advance of up to \$500,000 of Regional funding to 2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP, to work with the community volunteer organization South Asian Task Force should the Province not approve the funding application by the South Asian Task Force prior to June 1, 2021;**

**And further, that the Region of Peel advocate to the Province to expedite approval of the funding applications and cash advancements to enable the mass vaccination program;**

**And further, that the foregoing recommendations be conditional upon the completion of successful negotiations with 2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP, of an Agreement and any ancillary documents required to work with the South Asian Task Force to support the mass vaccination clinic overseen by the South Asian Task force, which sets out the terms and conditions of the Region’s cash advancements, all on business and legal terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor;**

**And further, that the Region’s duly authorized signing officers be authorized to enter into and execute the Agreement, together with any further ancillary documents necessary, with 2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP, to provide the Region’s advance funding prior to the Province’s approval of the South Asian Task Force’s Covid-19 vaccine program funding application.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Region of Peel is working with an external partner, the South Asian Task Force, to deliver the vaccine to the South Asian community.
- While the Province has indicated that costs will be covered, no formal agreement or funding has been received yet for the South Asian Task Force.
- 2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP is a medical services corporation operating in the Region which is working with the South Asian Task Force to coordinate COVID-19 vaccination services with the assistance of volunteers from the South

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Asian Task Force to establish and operate a vaccination clinic to serve community members, in collaboration with Peel Public Health and in accordance with the Province's guidelines.

- To enable the clinic to open as soon as possible, an initial cash advance of \$250,000 was provided by the Region, however, an additional \$550,000 is required to fund the first month of operations.
  - The risk to the Region is low as repayment is expected once the Province approves the funding application for the South Asian Task Force.
  - The advancement of funding, while waiting for formal provincial approval, will enable the clinic to open earlier, allow better operational planning and increase the number of vaccinations to the community.
  - Advocacy is required to ensure the Province quickly approves the funding applications and advances the cash needed to better enable the mass vaccination program.
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## DISCUSSION

### 1. Background

The Region of Peel uses a multi-pronged approach to its mass vaccination program. In addition to its fixed site clinics, the Region is also working with external partners to host additional sites, the Trillium Health Partners/University of Toronto – Mississauga, and the South Asian Task Force. The South Asian Task Force clinic will operate in northeast Brampton (Embassy Grand Convention Center), which is an area experiencing high incidence rates of the virus and relatively lower turnouts for vaccination.

The South Asian Task Force has not opened its clinic yet but is planning to open May 14, 2021. One of the challenges to fully opening is due to funding. On behalf of the South Asian Task Force, the Region of Peel submitted an application to the Province for mass vaccination funding in early April 2021. The total cost of its funding submission to the Province is \$4.7 million with the first month's costs estimated at \$800,000 and just under \$500,000 per month afterwards to operate the clinic. The first month's costs are higher as it includes one-time start up costs.

While the Province has indicated that costs will be covered, no formal agreement or funding has been received yet. Without approved funding or cash, the South Asian Task Force is limited in its ability to open and run the vaccination clinic. The South Asian Task Force reached out to the Region for funding in advance of its approval of funding by the Province. To allow the South Asian Task Force to plan for its opening on May 14, 2021, an initial funding advance of \$250,000 was provided on May 12, 2021 to 2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP.

2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP is a medical services corporation operating in the Region willing to work with the South Asian Task Force to coordinate COVID-19 vaccination services with the assistance of volunteers from the South Asian Task Force to establish and operate a vaccination clinic to serve community members, in collaboration with Peel Public Health and in accordance with the Province's guidelines.

This funding advance was made under the delegated authority provided through the Budget Policy (F10-04) which allows the Chief Administrative Officer to approve unbudgeted

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expenditures related to external funding of up to \$250,000 that do not have a net impact to the Region of Peel.

While the \$250,000 funding partially addressed the funding challenges faced by the South Asian Task Force, an additional \$550,000 is required to sustain the first full month of operating its clinic.

### **2. Proposed Direction**

To enable the clinic to become fully operational as soon as possible, staff propose that additional temporary funding be provided to 2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP to work with the South Asian Task Force to coordinate COVID-19 vaccination services with the assistance of volunteers from the South Asian Task Force in advance of formal funding approval by the Province. The terms and conditions of this funding advance will be set out in an agreement between the parties. The funding advance will enable the clinic to open earlier, allow better operational planning and increase the number of vaccinations to the community.

For the first month of operations, an additional funding advance of \$550,000 to the South Asian Task Force is proposed. This will bring the total amount of funding advanced to \$800,000 as \$250,000 has already been advanced.

Should the Province not provide formal approval or funding prior to June 1, 2021, staff propose that the Chief Administrative Officer be given the authority to provide a further funding advance to the South Asian Task Force of up to \$500,000 in order to sustain the operations of the clinic.

In addition to providing the proposed funding advance, staff recommend that the Region of Peel advocate that the Province provide quicker approval of the funding applications and the cash advances needed to better enable the mass vaccination program.

### **RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

While the Province has stated that it will cover the costs of the mass vaccination program, no formal agreement or approval has been provided to date. If the funding application to the Province from the South Asian Task Force is approved, the Region of Peel would re-coup its funding advancement through that funding.

However, should the Province ultimately not approve the funding application by the South Asian Task Force then there would be some risk to the Region for any funding advanced. To minimize that risk, an agreement will be put in place between the Region and the South Asian Task Force that states the South Asian Task Force is ultimately liable for expenditures not approved for funding by the Province.

As mentioned earlier in the report, northeast Brampton would benefit from a fixed vaccination clinic to address local community needs and barriers. Without the provision of advanced funding, there will be a delay in the opening of the community clinic and the increased immunization in the community.

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### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The additional funding advancement of \$550,000 and any subsequent funding advances are expected to have no net financial impact to the Region of Peel as the funding advances will either be re-couped through provincial funding once the funding application for the South Asian Task Force is approved or through the South Asian Task Force as a result of the agreement between the Region of Peel and the South Asian Task Force.

### **CONCLUSION**

Partnering with 2805624 ONTARIO LTD. operating as IMANDARI HEALTH GROUP to work with the South Asian Task Force to coordinate COVID-19 vaccination services with the assistance of volunteers from the South Asian Task Force is a key component of Peel's multi-pronged approach to its mass vaccination program. The advancement of funding, while waiting for formal provincial approval, will enable the clinic to open earlier, allow better operational planning and increase the number of vaccinations to the community.

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*For further information regarding this report, please contact Norman Lum @ extension 3567 or via email at [Norman.Lum@Peelregion.ca](mailto:Norman.Lum@Peelregion.ca).*

#### ***Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:***

Department Commissioner, Division Director and Legal Services.