
For Information

REPORT TITLE: 2021 AMO Preparation and Advocacy Priorities Update

FROM: Gary Kent, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide Government Relations Committee members with an update on the Region's preparations for the upcoming AMO Annual Conference and provide a high-level overview on the status of advocacy priorities, as outlined in Appendix I of this report.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The virtual 2021 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference provides an opportunity for the Region to strengthen relations with provincial decision-makers and advance advocacy priorities.
 - This report contains a proposed list of delegations with provincial ministers related to Council-endorsed positions for key service areas.
 - An AMO Conference preparation workshop is scheduled July 15 to ensure the feedback of Government Relations Committee (GRC) members can be incorporated into briefing notes and other supporting material.
 - This report also highlights advocacy efforts undertaken since the last meeting of the Government Relations Committee (GRC), held on April 1, 2021.
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DISCUSSION

In advance of this year's virtual Annual Conference, August 15 to 18, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) received delegation requests from municipalities in advance of the June 4 deadline. Staff have submitted requests for Region of Peel (the Region) delegation meetings with Ministers and Opposition parties focusing on Council-endorsed advocacy priorities to be promoted at the upcoming conference.

It is also important to note, advocacy priorities and the current political landscape continue to be shaped by the various challenges associated with the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. While it is expected the Region's ongoing vaccination response will lead to a shift in focus to rebuilding, re-opening and recovery, staff continue taking a nimble and responsive approach in advocating for Council-endorsed priorities. This includes, but is not limited to, the advocacy priorities identified in Appendix I.

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1. Virtual Ministerial Delegation

a) 2021 Region of Peel Proposed AMO Delegation Priorities

The table below provides a snapshot of the Region's approach for this year's conference, including advocacy priority themes and the Ministers with whom the Region has requested meetings.

Advocacy Priority	Regional Position	Minister
Provincial funding for COVID-19 response, including significant costs associated with the Region's Mass Vaccination Program	<p>That the Province continue to work with the federal government to provide, (1) additional funding to offset incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic (2) infrastructure funding to stimulate green economic recovery, and (3) income support and additional measures to support essential workers</p> <p>That the Province amend the formula for calculating Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) on airport properties, including Toronto Pearson International Airport, as this is an important source of revenue for the Region and the City of Mississauga.</p>	<p>Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy – Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board</p> <p>Hon. Steve Clark – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing</p>
Stimulus infrastructure funding to support Peel's green economic recovery	That the federal and provincial governments provide increased infrastructure resiliency funding to stimulate Peel's green economic recovery, and that an allocation model be implemented to distribute funds expeditiously	<p>Hon. Laurie Scott – Minister of Infrastructure</p> <p>Hon. Steve Clark – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing</p> <p>Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy - Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board</p>

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Provide Service Managers with adequate capital and operational funding and flexibility to achieve improved affordable housing outcomes	<p>Provide the Region of Peel additional funding to (1) mitigate and manage the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis (2) for the Region's Housing Master Plan (3) operational funds for housing, including supportive housing and programs aimed at ending homelessness</p> <p>Improve housing affordability outcomes in Peel and commit more long-term, stable operating funds for homelessness and supportive housing programs</p> <p>Provide legislative and policy changes to increase local autonomy and improve housing affordability outcomes in Peel</p>	Hon. Steve Clark – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Enhanced Supports for Seniors, including emotional-based integrated care, Adult Day Services and Seniors Dental Care	<p>Develop a provincial standard for emotional-based integrated care in traditional long term care and community based care</p> <p>Provide sustainable operational funding to support expansion of community support services at the Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor</p> <p>Funding enhancements and legislative changes to support emotion-based care and enable dementia friendly design in LTC</p>	<p>Hon. Christine Elliott – Minister of Health</p> <p>Hon. Merrilee Fullerton – Minister of Long-Term Care</p>

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	Additional funding and service delivery changes for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program	
Address inequities and implement a new funding model to support Mental Health and Addictions services in Peel	<p>Address historical inequities in provincial funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel</p> <p>Implement an equitable funding model that responds to needs across the age continuum, population growth, and represents the diverse needs within Peel's community</p>	<p>Hon. Michael Tibollo – Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addiction Services</p> <p>Hon. Christine Elliott – Minister of Health</p>
Flexible and predicable funding for Peel's Early Years and Child Care System, and Support for a National Child Care Plan	<p>That the Province provide predictable, flexible, multi-year funding, including ongoing provider viability funding, as well as support for a workforce strategy for Registered Early Childhood Educators</p> <p>That the Province participate in the Canada-wide Child Care Plan to create an affordable, inclusive, high quality, accountable and accessible child care system</p>	Hon. Stephen Lecce – Minister of Education

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Support for a safe, sustainable and integrated transportation system in Peel	<p>Provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GO Rail service to Bolton • Two-way all-day 15-minute GO Regional Express Rail for Milton • Eglinton Crosstown West LRT Extension to Toronto Pearson Airport <p>Vision Zero:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for improved driver education through the license and testing program on safe interactions with pedestrians and cyclists. • Request that the Province convene a stakeholder task force group to advise on how a province-wide Vision Zero strategy can be developed and implemented in Ontario <p>GTA West Corridor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Province study alternatives to replace the currently intended highway <p>That the Province allow municipalities to create automated school bus stop arm camera programs, enforced through an Administrative Monetary Penalties System (AMPS)</p>	Hon. Caroline Mulroney – Minister of Transportation
Transition the Blue Box program to producers and develop a provincial single-use plastics strategy	<p>The Region continues to advocate for Administrative Monetary Penalties for programs under the <i>Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act</i>.</p>	Hon. Jeff Yurek – Minister of the Environment, Conservation, Parks

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	<p>Work with the federal government and other stakeholders to develop a harmonized, Ontario-wide single-use plastics strategy.</p> <p>The Region continues to advocate for investment in waste infrastructure, such as Anaerobic Digestion and Mixed Waste Processing, to increase resource recovery and strengthen end-markets for recovered resources.</p>	Hon. Steve Clark – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Provincial support of regional and provincial GHG reduction targets and sustained climate change adaptation and mitigation funding	For the Province to set the legislative and policy framework to phase-out all fossil fuel natural gas-fired electricity generation while meeting Ontario's growing electricity needs	<p>Hon. Greg Rickford – Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines</p> <p>Hon. Jeff Yurek – Minister of the Environment, Conservation, Parks</p>
Long-term operational funding for Peel's Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking	Provide long-term sustainable operational funding, beyond the five-year strategy, to support the costs of dedicated housing and support services for victims, survivors and individuals at-risk of human sex trafficking in Peel Region.	<p>Hon. Jill Dunlop – Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues</p> <p>Hon. Todd Smith – Minister of Children, Community and Social Services</p> <p>Hon. Sylvia Jones – Solicitor General</p>

b) 2021 AMO Conference Preparation Workshop

The purpose of the July 15 workshop is to review the proposed approach and associated tactics to advance the advocacy themes and recommendations that the Region will discuss with Ministers and Opposition parties at the upcoming virtual AMO conference.

As part of the upcoming workshop, Regional staff will present a proposed advocacy approach and communications strategy for review and input from the members of GRC. Staff will incorporate feedback from this session in the development of Minister advocacy briefing notes and other supporting materials.

Feedback from the workshop will also be incorporated into outreach efforts to Peel MPPs in advance of the conference to discuss the Region's priorities.

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Staff will also collaborate with local municipal staff to share conference materials and determine conference participants' availability and scheduling for delegation meetings.

2. Progress on Region of Peel Priorities

The Region continues making progress on many of the advocacy priorities identified and supported by GRC and Regional Council.

It has been clear throughout the pandemic, Regional service delivery could be put at risk without provincial and federal funding to offset COVID-19-related costs. At various stages of the pandemic, Regional services and programs have been supported through funding from upper-level partners.

Focused and consistent advocacy has yielded positive results and will continue to be a key component of Regional efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The Region prioritized challenges and alignment opportunities throughout the pandemic, in support of organization-wide efforts to secure funding. Peel's allocation, under the Safe Restart Agreement, funded eligible 2020 COVID-19-related costs and pressures for Tax and Utility Rate supported services and advocacy efforts will continue for funding support for municipal operations through 2021.

As well, cross-sector collaboration resulted in enhanced provincial paid sick leave. Recognizing that support for this policy change would safeguard the public health of Peel residents and workers, the Region played a leading role by implementing a multi-channel advocacy approach.

Ongoing advocacy for other priorities identified by Regional Council have continued throughout the pandemic including the regular meetings with local MP/MPP's. In response to the rapidly shifting political environment, staff will also continue advancing other priority issues by seeking alignment opportunities, engagement with elected officials and ongoing efforts to strengthen intergovernmental relations

CONCLUSION

The Region's ongoing participation in the annual AMO Conference provides an opportunity to advance Council-approved priorities. Through meetings between Regional delegations and ministry representatives, including ministers, senior staff, and opposition party leaders, the Region of Peel continues strengthening relationships with elected officials and raising awareness of ongoing issues critical to the Region.

The current legislative landscape continues being shaped by rapid policy changes and staff will continue to keep GRC updated as issues arise. Staff will also provide an update on these advocacy efforts following this year's AMO Conference.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities

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For further information regarding this report, please contact Keith Medenblik, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations ext. 4777, keith.medenblik@peelregion.ca

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