

Solicitor General

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**RECEIVED**

August 25, 2021

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

132-2021-3491

By email

August 25, 2021

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair and CEO
Region of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton ON L6T 4B9
nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____

Dear Nando Iannicca:

Thank you for writing about the Region of Peel acting as a host for First Nation evacuees whose communities are under threat of wildland fires in northwestern Ontario.

Your offer to provide available supports to First Nation evacuees is appreciated. I understand that Peel Region was able to offer some support to the evacuated members of Cat Lake First Nation via Peel Public Health, Peel Regional Police and EMS, which contributed to the success of this effort. While the Cat Lake First Nation evacuees have returned home, we intend to maintain the current site for several weeks as a contingency for the remainder of the wildland fire season, should further evacuations be required. I appreciate your offer to provide available supports and trust Peel Region will prioritize any future evacuations that could occur in the coming weeks.

I understand that Peel Region is not in a position to serve as an official host community given the continued impacts of COVID-19, the ongoing response to the pandemic in your community and the resettlement of Afghan refugees. After the success of the evacuation to date with Peel Region's support, I am hopeful that the competing priorities for your resources next year will be much less and that you will give strong consideration to becoming an official host community when Emergency Management Ontario begins those requests in early 2022.

.../2

Thank you again for committing available resources where capacity exists to support the evacuees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jones', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General

c: The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

The Honourable Merrilee Fullerton
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

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

July 23, 2021

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Jones:

I am writing to provide clarity with respect to the Region of Peel's capacity to support the current operation to accommodate evacuees whose communities are under threat of forest fires in Northern Ontario. We are monitoring this concerning situation very closely and will dedicate Regional resources to support those who are temporarily relocated to Peel, however the Region is not in position to serve as an official 'Host Community'.

Given the continued impacts of COVID-19 and the ongoing response to the pandemic in our community, including Peel's significant mass vaccination program, the Region has insufficient resources to assume a lead and coordination role under current circumstances. This position was provided in a letter to officials in the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management on April 1, 2021 (attached), which indicated that the Region will be unable to offer support as a Host Community for out of jurisdiction evacuees in 2021 and further until a number of conditions have been achieved, including the termination of the Regional Declaration of an Emergency followed by a 90-day recovery period.

While the Region cannot take on the more intensive official role as a Host Community, we will consider requests for support through our Regional Emergency Operations Centre, who have connected with the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre on the current response underway. We will continue to commit available resources where capacity exists to support those who have been forced to evacuate from Northern Ontario and welcome them in our community until they can safely return to their homes.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca,
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
The Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community & Social Services

att: Letter to the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management re:
Region of Peel – Host Community, April 1, 2021