

# Building Affordable Housing in Peel Housing Development Office Update

Strategic Housing and Homelessness Committee
October 07, 2021

Steven Dickson, Director, Housing Development Office, Region of Peel

### Agenda

Overview of the Housing Development Office

Delivering Affordable Housing Units in Peel

Building Sustainable Housing – Core Principles

Housing Development Office – Update on Capital Projects

\$1 Billion Allocation, CMHC Funding and the Funding Gap

Challenges and Opportunities

Affordable Housing Incentives Pilot Program Update

2021 Achievements

**2022 Priorities** 

Housing Development Office Video

# **Overview of Housing Development Office**

- Operational since early 2019
- "Development Arm" for the Region of Peel
- In 2019, Regional Council
  - Approved the Housing Master Plan 31 development opportunities on Region of Peel lands and Peel Housing Corporation sites
  - Allocated in principle \$1 billion envelope for initial implementation of the Plan

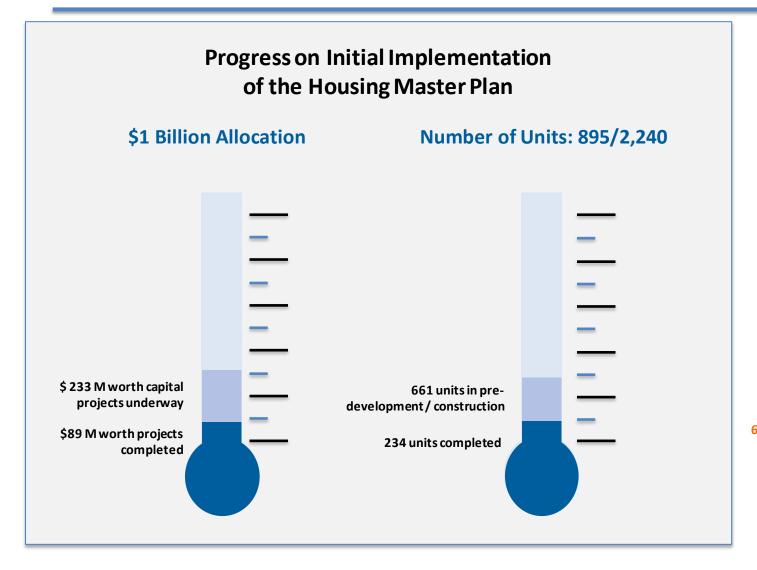
#### Mandate

- Build new affordable rental housing units and shelter facilities by implementing the Region's Housing Master Plan and other projects
- Catalyze new development by working with private and non-profit developers and other partners
- Create and manage financing and investment strategies in collaboration with Regional staff; and
- Administer incentives programs and tools



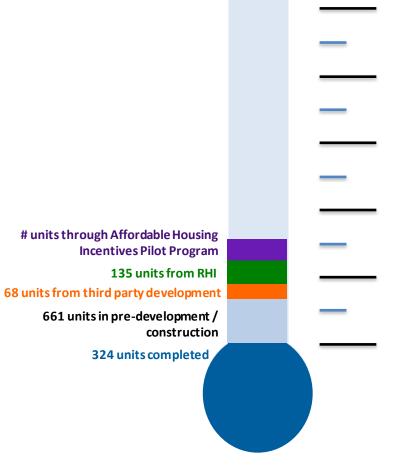


# **Delivering Affordable Housing Units in Peel**



#### All Projects overseen by HDO

Number of Units: 895/5,650 (Full HMP) & 293 Other Development



# **Building Sustainable Housing – Core Principles**

#### Mixed-income buildings

- Affordable as well as market rent units
- At least 41% of the units will be offered at rental rates below 60% of the median market rent

#### Energy efficient

- 41% decrease in energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas emissions relative to the 2015 National Building Code
- Region of Peel's Climate Change Master Plan

#### Accessible

- All projects meet Ontario Building Code requirements and Universal Design Criteria
- At least 21% of the units will be fully barrier-free

#### Community space and facilities

 Community rooms, gyms, roof-top terraces to foster community well-being and connectedness and enhance quality of life

#### Resilient buildings

- Leading edge building practices, material and aesthetics to maintain community character
- Continuous improvement to building design and practices (e.g., working with Enbridge Sustainable Buildings Canada)

#### In proximity to transit and services

Easy access to services is as important as having a suitable place to live





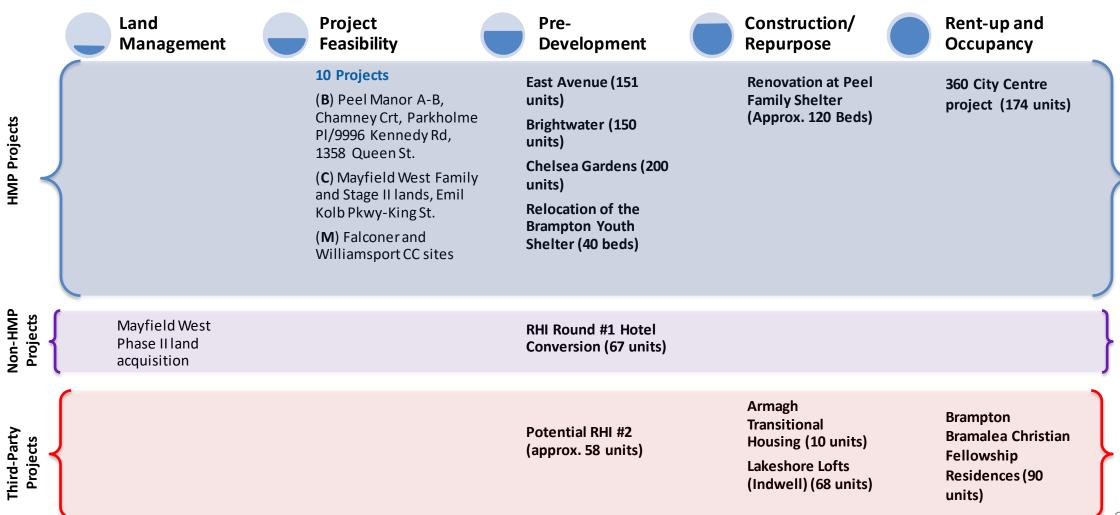






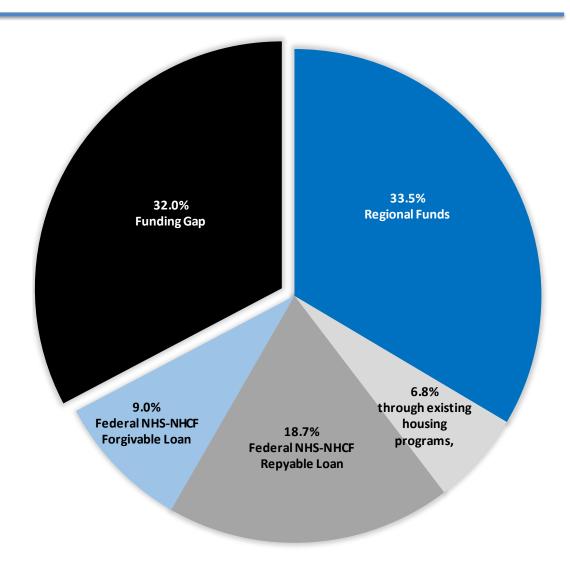
# **HDO Projects by Development Phase**

HDO recently completed 264 units and is overseeing completion of approximately 864 affordable rental units and shelter beds across Peel



# \$1 Billion Funding Allocation Breakdown

- September 2019: Regional Council approved in principle a \$1 billion allocation to support partial implementation of HMP, 18 projects to create over 2,240 units/beds by 2028.
- To date, **\$680.4** million funding has been secured:
  - \$335.3 million Regional funds, i.e., fully utilize the funds in the current and future housing reserves (for years 2020-2028)
  - \$68.7 million from funds committed to the Region through the existing federal and provincial housing programs
  - \$276.4 million from the federal government through the National Housing Strategy (NHS): National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCF)
    - \$89.5 M forgivable loan
    - \$186.9 M low-interest mortgage
- There remains a gap of \$319.6 million
- Funding gap must be met to achieve all 2,240 units/beds by 2028



# \$1 Billion Allocation and CMHC Funding

### The \$1 billion allocation

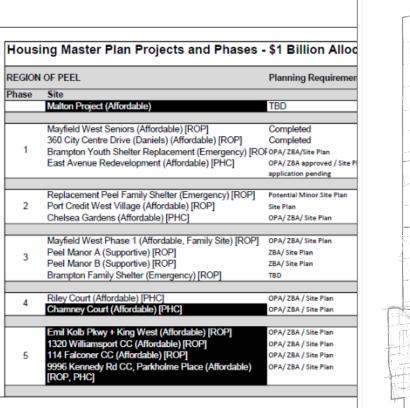
- 16 Housing Master Plan projects
- Mayfield Seniors Apartments (completed in 2019)
- A project in Malton
- Twin Pines (Planning only)

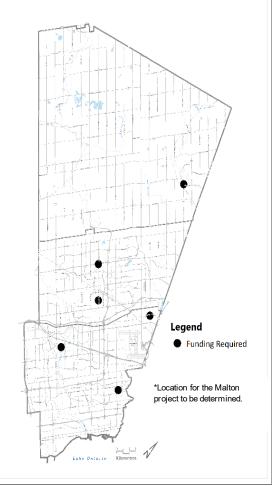
### CMHC funding

- A portfolio of 16 HMP projects
   (doesn't include Mayfield Seniors
   Apartments and Malton projects)
- National Housing Co-Investment
   Fund is a co-Investment program
   therefore funding cannot exceed
   31.2% of the total portfolio cost
- The CMHC funding requires
   projects to be completed by 2028

# Risks of Not Funding the Gap

- If the funding gap is not addressed:
  - Six projects (shown in black), including one in Malton, will not happen
  - Five of the six projects have commitment of CMHC funds only if Region is able to invest its own funds
  - The Region would lose \$127.9 M of CMHC funding, including \$88.9 M in repayable and \$39 M in forgivable loans
  - Loss of over 860 new affordable rental units for Peel community
  - Impacts State of Good Repair for PHC sites and places three daycare centres into uncertainty
  - Reputational risk





# **Risk Mitigation Measures**

### • The Region:

- Must advocate to:
  - The Province to fund the gap as five of the six projects in the funding gap have commitment of CMHC funds
  - Senior levels of government for sustained long term funding for affordable housing
- Continue internal dialogue on capital funding strategies, should senior levels of government not provide additional funding

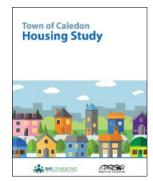
# **Other Challenges and Opportunities**

### **Challenges**

- Pandemic has placed upward pressure on construction prices
- Limited supply of suitable sites to tap into un-anticipated funding opportunities
- Lack of appropriate zoning to accommodate affordable housing and shelter facilities
- Timelines for planning approvals, keeping in view the CMHC funding requirements
- Community concerns







### **Opportunities**

- Leverage current local official plan reviews and planning initiatives
- Continue focused collaboration with Local Planning Department staff
- Capitalize on appropriate planning tools
- Work with private and non-profit developer community to create affordable housing
- Work with Council and Strategic Housing and Homelessness Committee
- Continue to capitalize on public lands a potential land banking strategy

5.1-23

### Peel's Affordable Housing Incentives Pilot Program

- In July 2020, Regional Council approved the Affordable Housing Incentives Pilot Program framework
- Objective: Provide financial incentives to encourage non-profit and private sector partners to create:
  - Rental housing for middle income households (earning between \$61,600 and \$110,500 per annum)
  - Focus is on larger (2 and 3+ bedroom)
     units
- One-time program budget \$7.5M

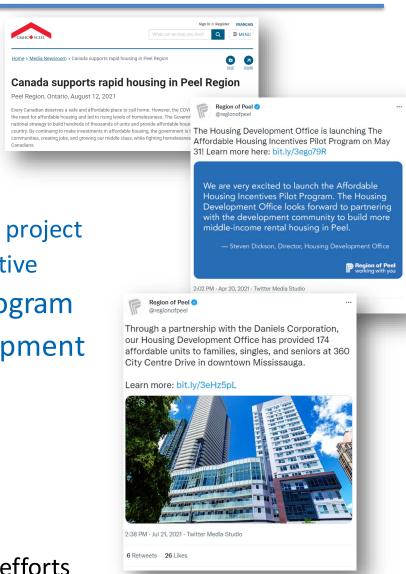




- Key Milestones achieved
  - May 31: Call for applications open
  - July 12: Call for applications close
- Update to Council on Results Q4 2021

## **2021 Achievements**

- Capital Builds
  - 360 City Centre Drive project completed/occupied
  - BBCFR project completed/occupied
  - Purchased a hotel for relocation of Peel Family Shelter
  - Obtained planning approval for East Avenue Redevelopment project
  - Purchased and conversion of a hotel for Rapid Housing Initiative
- Successfully launched the Region's Incentives Pilot Program
- Created one-stop shop for Affordable Housing Development
  - HDO Webpage
- Raise awareness and advocacy efforts
  - Social media presence and influence
  - Announcements related to projects
  - Working with Council / local municipal staff / stakeholders
  - Support advocacy for capital \$ for housing through targeted efforts



### **2022 Priorities**

- Progression on Capital Builds
  - Brampton Youth Shelter new location site
  - Chelsea Gardens site
  - Peel Manor Housing Sites
  - Mayfield West Phase I Family site
  - East Avenue
  - Brightwater
  - Peel Family Shelter
  - RHI Round #1 (5 Rutherford Rd, and third-party led Armagh House)
  - RHI Round #2 projects
  - Lakeshore Lofts (Indwell Third party)
- Affordable Housing Incentives Pilot Program Launch of Round #2
- Continue to collaborate with local municipal planning staff for timely planning approvals for HDO projects
- Support the Region's advocacy efforts to federal and provincial governments for longterm, non-debt related funding for affordable housing

### Video

The <u>video</u> highlights the work of the Housing Development Office and the outcomes being achieved across Peel

15



# For questions or further information, please contact:

**Steven Dickson,** Director, Housing Development Office <a href="mailto:steven.dickson@peelregion.ca">steven.dickson@peelregion.ca</a>

