

From: Michelle Bilek <michelle@caeh.ca>
Sent: October 26, 2021 8:27 AM
To: Dhindsa, Anuneet <anuneet.dhindsa@peelregion.ca>
Subject: Delegation to Council by the PAEH

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Please see attached letter directed to Chair and Council in support of the Peel Alliance to End Homelessness's delegation and report for October 28th, 2021.

Please let me know if I must send to council directly or someone else within the Clerk's office in preparation for Thursday's council meeting.

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To: Regional Chair and members of Regional Council

RE: PAEH Delegation – Report on the findings of the *Evidence Bases Needs Study on Housing and Homelessness Priorities* report

Dear Council,

This letter is in support of the delegation and recommendations included within The Peel Alliance to End Homelessness (PAEH) findings of their *Evidence Bases Needs Study on Housing and Homelessness Priorities* at Council on October 28th. The PAEH is a community collaborative of agencies from across the Region of Peel working together to end homelessness in our communities - wanting to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

The Region and PAEH are partners in the development of a Coordinated Access System, to better match individuals and families experiencing homelessness to services and housing based on their needs. Nearly 500 people listed as actively homeless on the Region's By Name List, require permanent and supportive housing. An increased investment is needed to improve housing outcomes, especially for those who are experiencing homelessness.

The growing affordable housing crisis in Peel has placed unprecedented pressures on the shelter system. Occupancy levels and longer lengths of stays have created conditions for clients and staff that are challenging. Covid-19 further exacerbated Peel's homelessness crisis as individuals, families experienced loss of income and housing and shelters could not operate at full capacity for safety reasons. While ROP's Housing Services and community service providers moved quickly to house and provide temporary accommodation to people off the Central Housing Waiting List, the pandemic served as a wake-up call for the need for more deeply affordable housing in Peel.

As the Service Manager for the affordable housing system, the Region of Peel is accountable for system planning and oversight, managing and increasing the supply of affordable rental housing, and overseeing or directly delivering services to clients who have a housing need. 2020 was an unprecedented year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Housing programs continued to be delivered, while new temporary emergency measures were put in place to protect the homeless; measures that continue to today. The pandemic slowed the implementation of Peel's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, but progress was made. Despite several successes, the affordable housing needs of the community continue to grow and change, and an increased investment is needed to improve housing outcomes.

A study of evidence-based housing and homelessness needs conducted by PAEH in winter/spring 2021 illustrated a series of thirteen recommendations, and fifty-five key activities have been developed through this research project. The recommendations and key activities have been organized into four priority areas; **adopt an integrated system approach, create a person-centred serving system, re-tool homeless interventions to decrease inflow and increase outflow, and improve data and outcome measures.** The Peel Alliance to End Homelessness (PAEH) is providing this letter of support to Council for the Regional Municipality of Peel's Housing Services request to **increase its funding for housing subsidies and to allocate new subsidies according to needs-based priorities for homeless individuals.**

The priority areas recommended in this report including the immediate need to allocate new and ongoing subsidies for people experiencing homelessness, are intended to galvanize the community of Peel's efforts to enhance the capacity required to effectively achieve the goals in Peel's 10-year plan. The recommendations are intended to uplift past successes, strengthen current efforts, and examine

new ways of working together toward a future where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Peel has made significant progress in undergoing philosophical, strategic, and operational changes that move community closer to ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. I believe that this will be possible if and when, the recommendations found within the *Evidence Bases Needs Study on Housing and Homelessness Priorities* report are implemented.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bilek
Co-Chair, Peel Alliance to End Homelessness
National Organizer, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
Resident of Peel Region