
For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Update on Region of Peel's Government Relations and Advocacy Priorities**

FROM: Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide an update to the Government Relations Committee (GRC) on actions related to Region of Peel advocacy priorities. In addition, this report highlights next steps and potential opportunities related to high-priority Region of Peel advocacy positions.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- This report provides an update of Region of Peel advocacy activities, including those related to the impacts of COVID-19, since the last Government Relations Committee (GRC) meeting held on June 17, 2021.
 - This report also provides an overview of next steps and potential opportunities related to Region of Peel advocacy priorities, including activities related to the 2021 Virtual AMO Annual Conference, held on Aug 15-18, 2021.
 - This report also provides a high-level overview of the 2021 Federal Election results from a Region of Peel perspective.
 - The Region will continue to be flexible in its approach to the provincial and federal governments with respect to advocacy and intergovernmental relations to achieve legislative, regulatory and policy changes and additional funding required to support the Region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The Region will continue to use advocacy opportunities to highlight how the Region is a critical partner as attention turns to economic recovery efforts.
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DISCUSSION

Since the last Government Relations Committee (GRC), held on June 17, 2021, the Region of Peel implemented government relations strategies to advance key advocacy priorities at the provincial and federal levels of government. Advocacy activities have focused on advancing Council endorsed positions related to the impacts of COVID-19 on Regional operations and its core service delivery. The Region also used advocacy opportunities with federal and provincial elected officials to highlight how the Region is an integral partner in the overall response to COVID-19 as well as economic recovery efforts.

Update on Region of Peel's Government Relations and Advocacy Priorities

1. 2021 Virtual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference

The Region leveraged advocacy opportunities available at the 2021 AMO Conference that was held virtually once again on August 15-18, 2021. This included meetings with Ministers as well as the leaders of the opposition parties to discuss the Region's key priorities. In advance of the virtual conference the Region held briefing sessions with Peel Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) on August 13, 2021 to raise awareness and support for the priorities that were raised during delegation meetings.

Minister Delegation Meetings

This year, 14 meetings were held with the Ministers and opposition party leaders throughout the course of the conference. The Region focused advocacy messaging on identifying policy opportunities and solutions for the province to consider and partner to address the Region's advocacy priorities. This included messaging on how to work together on short-term priorities related to the pandemic response as well as mid to long-term priorities related to economic recovery. The list of Ministers and the priorities discussed at the meetings are attached as Appendix II.

AMO Delegation Meeting Outcomes and Next Steps

This year's meetings provided an opportunity for the Region to update Ministers and Party leaders on COVID-19 related priorities that were raised at last year's conference. Primarily the messaging focused on appreciation for the COVID-19 supports received to date for essential municipal services as well as the continued need for these supports. This included additional funding for housing support, long term care, infectious disease prevention and paramedic services.

The Region also used the delegation meetings to raise forward looking priorities such as sustainable transportation and stimulus infrastructure funding and emphasized the need for the province to see the municipal sector a critical partner as it moves forward with recovery efforts. Specifically, the Region's forward-looking advocacy focused on the need to expedite critical public transit projects across Peel as well as need for predictable and sustainable funding for infrastructure.

As part of the Region's continued efforts, follow up letters were sent to each of the Ministers and Party Leaders highlighting key messaging that were discussed during the meetings and reinforcing the Region's advocacy positions. In addition, where applicable, the letters also addressed follow-up action items including:

- An invitation to Minister of Long-Term Care, Rod Phillips to visit Malton Village (Butterfly Model)
- An Invitation to Minister of Transportation, Caroline Mulroney to participate in a Peel Road Safety (Vision Zero) Roundtable in Nov/Dec 2022 as well as information on barriers preventing transportation projects from moving forward
- Providing Solicitor General Sylvia Jones with the Peel Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Training Materials and updated Mass Vaccination Program Costs
- Subsequent correspondence to Minister Bethlenfalvy to further impress the Region's concerns with the PILT regime and ask that the provincial government address the negative impacts of the current formula for Toronto Pearson.

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Staff will continue to follow-up on these key actions as well as look for opportunities to continue to advance priorities that were raised during this year's conference.

2. 2021 Federal Election

On Sept. 20, 2021, a general election was held to form the 44th Parliament of Canada. Leading up to the election, the Region produced a document, attached as Appendix II, calling on the next federal government to address Council endorsed advocacy positions related to the following policy areas:

- Infrastructure Funding
- Green Recovery
- Sustainable Transportation and Vision Zero
- Child Care
- Affordable Housing
- Long Term Care

This document was shared with Peel federal candidates as well as shared through social media leading up to the election.

To help provide insight on where each of the major federal parties stand on the advocacy priorities included in the Region's federal election document, staff has produced a high-level analysis of the major party platforms. This analysis is attached to this report at Appendix III.

With the Liberal Party of Canada forming its second minority government since 2019, this election represents no significant change in parliament. Key priorities included in the Liberal Party Platform from a Region of Peel perspective include:

Affordable Housing:

- Invest \$4 billion in a new Housing Accelerator Fund with an annual target of 100,000 new middle-class homes by 2024-25. This will support a wide range of eligible municipal investments.
- Permanently increase funding to the National Housing Co-investment fund by a total of \$2.7 billion over 4 years
- Work with municipalities to create a fast-track system for permits to allow faster conversion of existing buildings

Green Recovery:

- Create open-access climate toolkits to help infrastructure owners and investors develop projects that ensure Canada is on the path to a net-zero emissions and resilient future.
- Support retrofits and upgrades to protect against extreme weather.
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Infrastructure Funding:

- Create open-access climate toolkits to help infrastructure owners and investors develop projects that ensure Canada is on the path to a net-zero emissions and resilient future.
- Support retrofits and upgrades to protect against extreme weather.

Sustainable Transportation & Vision Zero:

- Create open-access climate toolkits to help infrastructure owners and investors develop projects that ensure Canada is on the path to a net-zero emissions and resilient future.
- Support retrofits and upgrades to protect against extreme weather.

Child Care:

- Reduce fees for childcare by 50% in the next year.
- Deliver \$10 a day childcare within five years or less.
- Build 250,000 new high-quality childcare spaces.
- Hire 40,000 more early childhood educators.
- Finalize agreements with all remaining provinces and territories.
- Enact federal childcare legislation to strengthen and protect a Canada-wide child care system.

Federal Political Landscape in Peel

From a Peel perspective, all the incumbents running in the election secured their seats. Where the incumbent did not run again, the Liberal Party candidate was able to retain the seat. These ridings include:

Brampton Centre - Shafqat Ali is the newly elected Member of Parliament (MP) (former Liberal incumbent Ramesh Sangha was removed from caucus and did not seek re-election). MP Shafqat has volunteered the past 13 years as the Youth Coordinator and youth mentor in his community. His contributions have included forming a youth sports club, organizing festivals and fundraising for local hospitals, the local food bank, and various other community organizations. Shafqat has also championed many community initiatives, including advocating for the cricket pitch on White Clover Way in Mississauga. He lists 9 years experience as a realtor and being the founder of Canada Pro Driver Training among his professional experience.

Mississauga – Malton - Iqwinder Singh Gaheer is the newly elected MP for the seat formerly held by Liberal cabinet minister Navdeep Bains, who did not seek re-election. MP Gaheer is a 2019 graduate of Harvard Law School and, previous to that, the Schulich School of Business. He has been a practicing lawyer at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He lists housing, childcare and climate change as the priority issues for which he will advocate during his first 100 days in the House of Commons.

Mississauga – Streetsville - Rechie Valdez is the newly elected MP, as former Liberal incumbent Gagan Sikand did not seek re-election. MP Valdez has 15 years of corporate banking experience, specializing in change management, project management, and strategy. She is the second Filipino Canadian elected to the House of Commons.

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Letters of congratulations to all the re-elected and newly elected Peel MPs were sent on behalf of the Region by the Chair shortly after the election. Staff will continue to look for opportunities to engage with Peel MPs to help advance the Region's key priorities as the new session of Parliament opens.

3. Next Steps

The Region will continue to leverage opportunities to engage Peel MP and MPPs to advance Regional priorities including through the:

- Advocacy Update Publications
- Quarterly Meetings: Next meeting – Mid Nov. 2021
- 2022 Budget submissions
- Funding Proposals/Submissions

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Update on Region of Peel Advocacy Priorities Table

Appendix II – 2021 AMO Conference Advocacy Priorities by Minister

Appendix III – 2021 Region of Peel Federal Election Priorities

Appendix IV – 2021 Federal Election Platform Analysis – Region of Peel Priorities

Authored By: Sonia Mistry, Advisor, External Relations