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**REPORT TITLE:**     **Participation in the 2021 Audit and Accountability Fund Program**

**FROM:**               Sean Baird, Commissioner of Service Excellence and Innovation

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Region of Peel's participation in the Province of Ontario's Audit and Accountability Fund 2021 be endorsed.**

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, has opened a third intake of proposals for the Audit and Accountability Fund (AAF).
  - The AAF assists large municipalities with identifying opportunities to advance service delivery efficiencies.
  - To support the Region of Peel's participation in AAF in 2021, a Regional Council resolution is required as part of proposals due by October 28, 2021.
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## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

The Ontario government is committed to helping municipalities improve local service delivery and ensure taxpayers' dollars are being used efficiently. In 2019, the Province launched the AAF which assists municipalities in finding service delivery efficiencies. Through Council endorsement (Resolutions 2019-618 and 2020-1069), the Region of Peel was successful in participating in this provincial program in 2019 and again in 2020.

Per the letter received by Regional Council from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, dated August 16, 2021 (see Appendix I), the Province has started a third intake of proposals for the AAF which are due to the Ministry by October 28, 2021.

### **2. Proposed Direction**

As part of these guidelines, the Province has identified three priority areas that include:

- Digital modernization
- Service integration
- Streamlined development approvals

Staff are currently validating proposals for the AAF that correspond with these guidelines. Upon receipt of Council endorsement to participate in AAF, staff will complete the required proposals and submit them, including the formal Council Resolution, to the Province by the deadline.

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### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Funding levels from the Province for the AAF have yet to be released.

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix I – Letter from the Province Announcing Audit and Accountability Fund Intake

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