



**Nando Iannicca**  
Regional Chair & CEO

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

August 16, 2021

Teepu Khawja  
Chief, Emergency Management Ontario  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Solicitor General  
Office of the Fire Marshall and Emergency Management  
25 Morton Shulman Avenue  
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1  
[teepu.khawja@ontario.ca](mailto:teepu.khawja@ontario.ca)

Dear Mr. Khawja:

I am writing in response to the letter that was recently circulated from your office entitled: *2021 EMCPA Requirements re: Annual Emergency Exercise and CEMC Training*.

Given the continued impacts of COVID-19 and the ongoing response to the pandemic in our community, including the Region of Peel’s significant mass vaccination program, the Region has insufficient available resources to plan and conduct an annual practice exercise at this time. In addition to our extensive pandemic response, the Region has provided support to Northern Evacuees in Peel and is currently involved in support for Afghan Refugees that are arriving and quarantining in Peel, which has put a further strain on our capacity. As a result, we will not be able to begin planning a practice exercise until our response to these events has concluded and we have terminated the Regional Declaration of an Emergency, followed by a 90-day recovery period.

Based on our experience over the last year and our continued engagement in emergency responses, we are confident that we have accomplished the reasonable objectives set out in a practice exercise. We are currently managing our response to the specifications laid out in s.12 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. In fact, we are compliant with 14 of 15 requirements in s.12 apart from s.12(6) which requires a “practice exercise”. The demands of the pandemic have shown us that practice is no substitute for the real thing.

As an alternative to the practice exercise requirement, we are prepared to document and submit the structures and processes that we currently have in place to respond to our declared emergency to demonstrate our compliance with s.12 of the EMCPA. Otherwise, as stated we will commence planning for a practice exercise at the conclusion of our ongoing declared emergency and 90-day recovery period.



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If you have any questions regarding Peel’s position on this matter or would like to discuss our proposed alternative approach, please feel free to contact our CEMC, Andrew Cooper at [andrew.cooper@peelregion.ca](mailto:andrew.cooper@peelregion.ca) or 647-293-5186. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nando Iannicca', written in a cursive style.

Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer