

**For Information**

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**REPORT TITLE: Update on Region of Peel Advocacy Priorities**

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

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**OBJECTIVE**

To provide Government Relations Committee members with a high-level overview on the status of advocacy priorities.

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- This report highlights advocacy efforts undertaken by the Government Relations Committee (GRC) since the last meeting, held on October 21, 2021.
  - This report provides an overview of progress on high priority Region of Peel advocacy positions, as well as next steps and potential opportunities related to these positions.
  - In the current political climate, the Region will continue to be nimble and flexible in its approach to advocacy and intergovernmental relations.
  - Staff will continue to monitor the political and public policy landscape and update Council, as necessary, on any potential impact to Regional services or advocacy priorities
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**DISCUSSION**

The Region remains responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic and continues making progress on many of the key advocacy priorities identified and supported by GRC and Regional Council.

While the Region's pandemic response continues presenting financial and service delivery pressures, there has been strong collaboration and support from the federal and provincial governments. Funding received to date, from the Region's upper-level partners, has played a key role in keeping the Region financially whole; however, it is critical that this support continue. The Region will require predictable, reliable funding from the provincial and federal governments for its COVID response and to facilitate a speedy and robust recovery.

Focused and consistent advocacy have been key to Regional efforts to date and staff will continue advancing the Region's priority issues by seeking alignment opportunities, engagement with elected officials and ongoing efforts to strengthen intergovernmental relations. An update on the latest developments on the Region's key advocacy priorities since the last GRC meeting can be found in Appendix I.

## **Update on Region of Peel Advocacy Priorities**

Further, Regional staff have undertaken the following advocacy activities including, but not limited to, the following:

### **1. Pre-Budget Submissions**

The federal and provincial pre-budget consultation processes provide a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of and advocate for the needs of Peel residents and businesses.

The Region continues its participation in annual budget consultations in order to provide input to the upper-tier governments in the lead up to the release of their respective budgets, which are expected to be delivered in March and April. The Region's submissions into the provincial and federal consultation processes can be found in Appendix II and Appendix III respectively.

### **2. Peel MP/MPP meetings**

Regional Council continues to meaningfully engage with Peel's federal and provincial elected representatives to discuss and raise awareness of key priorities that are critical to the well-being of Peel residents and businesses, while identifying areas of alignment and opportunities for collaboration.

The last Peel MPs and MPPs meetings were held on December 17, 2021. The discussions focussed on the Region's affordable housing crisis, presented a fulsome overview of the challenges facing Peel and proposed solutions to this urgent issue, including additional funding to implement the Region's \$1 billion Housing Master Plan.

The next meetings with Peel MPs and MPPs are anticipated to be held in late March/early April.

### **3. 2022 ROMA Conference**

The Region took part in this year's virtual event, which was hosted on January 23-25, 2022. Through Regional delegations, the conference offered an opportunity to meet with ministry representatives, including ministers and senior staff, with the aim of strengthening relationships and advancing the Region's priorities related to affordable housing, transportation, and infrastructure priorities. Regional delegations met with:

- The Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
- The Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
- MPP Amarjot Sandhu, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure

While the Region used each of its meetings to communicate specific advocacy positions, there were common themes conveyed by Regional delegations, including the importance of ongoing collaboration and predictable and sustainable provincial funding.

Correspondence delivered to follow up on the delegation meetings can be found in Appendix IV.

## **CONCLUSION**

This report is intended to provide an update on the GRC's efforts to advance the Region's interests at the federal and provincial levels of government and to provide an overview of recent activities. As all levels of government continue navigating pandemic response and plans for recovery, staff will continue to monitor emerging trends and key policy developments and provide updates to Regional Council.

## **Update on Region of Peel Advocacy Priorities**

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix I - Update on the Region of Peel's Advocacy Priorities Table

Appendix II – 2022 Region of Peel Provincial Pre-budget Submission

Appendix III – 2022 Region of Peel Federal Pre-budget Submission

Appendix IV – Correspondence regarding 2022 ROMA Conference

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