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**REPORT TITLE: Contract Extension Request for The Public Health Agency of Canada Funded COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program**

**FROM: Nancy Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That vendor contracts with The Governing Council of Salvation Army in Canada; On the Move Catering Incorporated; Kleenway Building Maintenance Services Incorporated; Logixx Security Incorporated; Voyago-Transdev; and, The Mobility Company and 101279629 Saskatchewan Limited; established under emergency procurement procedures as part of the Region of Peel’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, be extended for three months from June 1, 2022, to August 31, 2022, for the total estimated cost of \$847,500, to maintain operations of the Region of Peel COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program to meet community needs and in accordance with Procurement By-law 30-2018, as amended.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- In 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada created the Safe, Voluntary Isolation Site Program to provide financial support to municipalities, including the Region of Peel, to establish isolation spaces for individuals who are unable to safely isolate at home.
  - The Region of Peel’s COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program has supported over 4,000 Peel residents to safely isolate and limit further transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 within our community. To establish this program, the Region of Peel contracted various service providers using emergency procurement procedures. Extended funding support is available to ensure the program remains operational during the current COVID-19 surge and will be decommissioned no later than August 31, 2022, based on changes to provincial isolation requirements and community need.
  - It is recommended that the vendor contracts that were established under emergency procurement procedures to provide isolation housing supports to residents of the Region of Peel be extended for an additional 3-month term commencing June 1, 2022, and expiring on August 31, 2022 to support program demobilization.
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## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

Peel Region has been one of the hardest hit communities by COVID-19 in Ontario with the highest cumulative case incidence rate in the province. Self-isolation for those that test positive for COVID-19 has been one of the most important interventions to prevent further transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus within the community. In 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada created the Safe, Voluntary Isolation Site Program to provide financial

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support to municipalities to establish isolation spaces for individuals who are unable to safely isolate at home. This program complemented other local, provincial, and national efforts to limit contact and spread of COVID-19.

In November 2020, the Region of Peel entered into an agreement with the Public Health Agency of Canada to fund the operation of the Region of Peel COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program until March 31, 2022.

In December 2020, the Region of Peel COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program was launched. The program offered access to a private hotel room, meals, health, and social supports at no cost to those that meet program eligibility requirements. As of April 16, 2022, 4,287 individuals had accessed the program. Through close monitoring of program uptake and occupancy, the program has been expanded and contracted to adapt to COVID-19 situation and fluctuating community need.

In addition to the hotel site(s), program operations are supported by several on-site service providers (vendors) including catering, cleaning, and security services. These program expenses are fully funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada. Given the urgent need to quickly establish the program in Peel to mitigate further COVID-19 transmission and severe outcomes, emergency procurement practices were used to identify and secure vendors to support program operations.

### **2. COVID-19 in Peel and Program Extension**

In February 2022, the Public Health Agency of Canada informed the Region of Peel of an option to extend contribution agreements that were set to end on March 31, 2022. Since high community circulation of COVID-19 and sustained program demand in Peel supported continued operations of the program, on March 28, 2022, the Public Health Agency of Canada extended its agreement with the Region of Peel. Program operations will be maintained until no later than August 31, 2022.

It is recommended that the contracts that were established under emergency procurement procedures with The Governing Council of Salvation Army in Canada, On the Move Catering Incorporated, Kleenway Building Maintenance Services Incorporated, Logixx Security Incorporated, Voyago-Transdev, The Mobility Company and 101279629 Saskatchewan Limited to provide emergency isolation housing supports to residents of the Region of Peel be extended for an additional 3-month term commencing June 1, 2022 and expiring on August 31, 2022.

The emergency procurement process, which was utilized to secure vendors to service the Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program, was never intended for prolonged use. Direct negotiations with current providers will ensure a seamless transition of services beyond May 31, 2022 to support program demobilization and decommissioning of the program no later than August 31, 2022. Many of these service providers gained essential knowledge, skills, and experience through their work at the Isolation and Recovery sites. The ability to continue to work with these organizations over the next 3 months will ensure that the services and trusting relationships that have already been established with complex care clients who are homeless will be maintained. The contract extension requests are in accordance with section 5.2.5 of the Procurement By-law 30-2018, as amended, which permits a direct negotiation where the required services are to be supplied by a particular vendor with specialized knowledge, skills, expertise or experience, and Section 5.2.2 of the

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Procurement By-Law, as amended, where the required goods and services will be additional to similar goods and services being supplied under an existing contract (including contract extension or renewal).

### 3. Financial Implications

The Region of Peel COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Program operations from June 1, 2022, to August 31, 2022, will continue at no cost to the Region of Peel.

### RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuing a competitive process to determine broader market interest and assess vendor suitability to support program operations past May 31, 2022, may pose risk to program continuity and the ability for Peel residents to access this service as the program is demobilized. Potential risk associated with extending existing vendor contracts can be considered in tandem with potential operational risk and the ability for the Region of Peel to provide the COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program to members of our community who are unable to safely isolate at home.

The following table provides an overview of potential risk(s)

<b>Operational risk</b>	Not extending the vendor contracts for this short duration would not support proper demobilization of the program
<b>Reputational risk</b>	Consistency with Regional procurement best practices

### CONCLUSION

Extension of service provider contracts through the current COVID-19 surge will ensure that the Region of Peel's COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation and Recovery Program continues to provide options for Peel residents to safely isolate and limit further transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 in our community.

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