
For Information

REPORT TITLE: Update on Peel Region Advocacy Priorities

FROM: Patricia Caza, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide an update to Regional Council on actions related to Peel Region advocacy priorities, as outlined in Appendix I of this report. In addition, this report highlights next steps and potential opportunities related to high-priority Peel Region advocacy positions.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- This report highlights advocacy efforts undertaken since the last meeting of the Government Relations Committee held on March 2, 2023.
 - This report provides an update on the advocacy initiatives and describes the various additional advocacy opportunities that Peel Region has leveraged over the past several months. In addition, this report also includes notable progress on key Regional priorities and how Peel Region will move forward on key advocacy positions.
 - Peel Region will also continue to use advocacy opportunities to highlight how Peel is a critical partner of the provincial and federal governments.
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DISCUSSION

This report provides an update on the advocacy initiatives to advance key priorities at the provincial and federal levels of government that were brought forward to the March 2 Government Relations Committee (GRC) meeting. It also describes the various additional advocacy opportunities that Peel Region has leveraged over the past several months. In addition, this report also includes notable progress on key Regional priorities and how the Region will move forward on key advocacy positions, which can be found in Appendix I.

1. 2023 Federal and Provincial Budgets

On March 23, 2023, Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy presented the 2023 provincial budget, *Building A Strong Ontario*, which outlined the Province's plan to help navigate Ontario through the ongoing global economic uncertainties. Through Budget 2023, Premier Ford's government is focused on measures aiming to:

- drive growth by lowering costs
- get key infrastructure projects built faster
- attract more jobs and investment to help businesses, families and workers

Update on Peel Region Advocacy Priorities

On March 28, 2023, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland presented the 2023 Federal Budget: A Made in Canada Plan, which outlined the federal government's plan to build a stronger, more sustainable, and more secure economy for all Canadians by addressing challenges related to affordability, climate change and health care.

In support of Regional Council and the Executive Leadership Team, Regional staff circulated a high-level overview of the budgets from a Peel Region perspective, including alignment with key advocacy priorities in Peel.

2. 2023 FCM Conference

Regional staff provided a package of briefing materials to Members of Council attending this year's conference in Toronto May 25 to 28, at which representatives joined municipal leaders from across Canada to learn more about key federal-municipal issues, with the goal of advancing Council-endorsed advocacy priorities, under the following themes:

- Affordable Housing
- Infrastructure
- Climate Change
- Sustainable Transportation
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

Through municipal conferences, such as FCM, Peel Region aims to strengthen relationships and continue advancing the Region's priorities.

3. Intergovernmental Engagement

Advocacy for provincial support for Peel Region's Seniors Health and Wellbeing Village at Peel Manor (SHWV) is ongoing. Peel Region continues leveraging various opportunities to showcase this innovative facility, including a March 31 announcement with Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care and Peel MPPs. In support of seniors with complex medical needs, the Province provided funding for six long-term care projects in Brampton, including Tall Pines and the SHWV. The redevelopment of Peel Manor supports the provincial government's vision of strengthening long-term care and Peel Region continues to advocate for sustainable operational funding toward the expansion of community support services and wrap-around care.

Prior to the March 31 provincial announcement, Peel Region also hosted a tour of the SHWV on March 13 with a number of Peel MPPs, including Deputy Premier and Health Minister Sylvia Jones (Dufferin-Caledon).

Funding provided to Peel Region from the federal and provincial governments is critical to the effective and efficient frontline service delivered by Peel. This includes the current housing crisis in Peel, for which Peel Region has advocated for an all-levels-of-government response. As such, Peel Region welcomed an \$11.7 million provincial commitment, through the Homelessness Prevention Program, which was announced at the Peel Region headquarters on April 21.

Collectively, the above noted examples of intergovernmental relations underline the importance of ongoing engagement between Peel Region and its federal and provincial partners. Staff will continue seeking opportunities for further cooperation with representatives at the upper levels of government and provide updates to the Government Relations Committee (GRC).

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CONCLUSION

This report is intended to provide an update to Council 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 and upcoming activities. Staff will continue to monitor emerging trends and key policy developments and provide updates to GRC members.

APPENDICES

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



Patricia Caza, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services

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