

**Appendix I**  
**Update on Peel Region Advocacy Priorities**

**Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities (Updated as of June 5, 2023)**

ADVOCACY PRIORITY/POSITION	GOVERNMENT ACTION/NEXT STEPS
<p><b>1. Federal and Provincial Funding for Associated COVID-19 Costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide sufficient funding for the ongoing COVID-19 response, including significant costs associated with the Region’s COVID-19 Response and Mass Vaccination Program</li> <li>Provide additional funding support to offset incremental service costs and loss of revenue for services that have continued to operate during the pandemic</li> <li>Increase funding for provincially mandated services to keep pace with inflation and population growth</li> <li>Review provincial-municipal service responsibilities to modernize the planning, regulating, funding, and delivery of those services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the last GRC Update, March 2, 2023, Peel Region has received:</li> <li>On March 16, the Ministry of Health informed Peel’s High Priority Communities Strategy Lead Agencies that \$25 million for the 2023-24 fiscal year will be provided to Ontario Health in support of health outcomes for high priority communities.</li> <li>On March 24, Ontario’s Ministry of Health notified Peel Region of the following Public Health funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$32,000 in one-time funding for the 2021-22 (Temporary Retention Incentive for Nurses) – 100% funded</li> <li>Up to \$2,353,300 in one-time funding for the 2022-23 funding year (Of which, \$1.6 million of School Focus Nurses funding is COVID funding)</li> <li>Up to \$1.6 million in 2023-24 funding for the School Focus Nurses Initiative, which will be 100 per cent funded until June 30, 2023 (the prior agreement (January 2023) only stated until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022)</li> </ul> </li> <li>As Peel Region has not yet received the 2023 funding agreement at this time, COVID-19 one-time extraordinary funding for this year is still unknown, though it is believed that some funding will continue in 2023. It is unclear from the Province whether there will be on-going COVID-19 funding beyond 2023.</li> <li>On March 24, Ontario’s Ministry of Health also notified Peel Region that it will provide Peel Regional Paramedic Services one-time funding of up to \$3,385,950 for the 2022 calendar year and \$801,383 for the January to March of the 2023 calendar year. This funding is to support various COVID initiatives as part of the COVID-19 response in the emergency health services sector. This funding will also support surge capacity transfers for the pediatric/neonatal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Stimulus Infrastructure Funding</b></p> <p>To ensure the most efficient and effective use of taxpayers’ dollars, the federal and provincial governments should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate to ensure that Peel receives sustainable and timely infrastructure investments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill 69, <i>Reducing Inefficiencies Act (Infrastructure Statute Law Amendments)</i>, which will modernize the environmental assessment process, received Royal Assent on May 18. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The legislation will also allow the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, on a project-specific basis, to alter or waive the 30-day waiting period for Class Environmental Assessments projects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure funding is commensurate with expected high inflation through 2023, to maintain real spending levels</li> <li>• Partner with the federal government to ensure that Peel receives sustainable infrastructure investments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On March 10, 2023, applications for the 2023-24 round of Inclusive Community Grants opened. Grants provide up to \$60,000 for local projects that will help older residents and people with disabilities participate in community life.</li> <li>• On March 28, 2023, the Federal Budget committed to provide an update on what will replace ICIP as it comes to a close later this year, along with next steps on the previously announced Permanent Public Transit Funding program.</li> <li>• Federal Budget 2023 also commits to a new funding round for the Smart Cities Challenge to help communities reduce the risks and impacts posed by weather-related events and disasters triggered by climate change.</li> <li>• On March 23, 2023, the Provincial Budget committed to helping serviceable industrial sites to attract high-value advanced manufacturing projects, working with municipalities and utilities on engineering designs and infrastructure upgrades for potential mega-sites.</li> <li>• The Provincial Budget also committed to launching the urban mobility pilot program with willing local communities, to allow new green transportation options on their roads.</li> <li>• Provincial Budget 2023 commits to invest more than \$184 million over the next 10 years in public infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Provide Service Managers the Funding and Flexibility for Affordable Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a municipal compensation fund to make Peel Region and the local municipalities financially whole to mitigate the significant impacts of Bill 23 on municipal growth funding revenues and expenditures.</li> <li>• Provide legislative and policy changes at levels to increase local autonomy and improve housing affordability outcomes in Peel.</li> <li>• Contribute housing funding in the form of contributory grants, which are allocation-based and flexible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On April 21, the Province committed \$11.7 million, through the Homelessness Prevention Program, to the Region.</li> <li>• On May 4, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced it was moving forward with an audit of the municipal finances of the Region of Peel, the cities of Mississauga and Brampton and the Town of Caledon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The audits are to be conducted later this year. The Ministry noted that in addition to demonstrating how municipalities have managed funds, delivered services, and made decisions with regards to local infrastructure projects, the findings of these audits would be used to help develop future provincial policies and programs supporting long-term municipal financial sustainability and housing-related infrastructure investments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure housing is used for homes, through measures to curb the use of housing as a speculative financial tool.</li> <li>• Quickly advance the Housing Accelerator Fund to support municipal efforts to address the affordable housing crisis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On March 17, 2023, the Government of Canada launched the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), a \$4 billion initiative that will run until 2026-27. The application portal for the HAF was to open in June 2023. Local governments were encouraged to begin preparing proposed action plans.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently, Regional-level governments are excluded from the Home Accelerator Fund</li> <li>○ Discussions are taking place between the Region and lower-tier municipalities to determine the feasibility of Regional sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regional Planning &amp; Development Services staff is responding to a review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument to support provincial housing objectives.</li> <li>• Unclear at this time when, if, and how much Reaching Home federal funding will be provided. The current allocation expires this year. Federal Budget 2022 proposed to provide an additional \$562.2 million over two years, beginning in 2024-25, to maintain Reaching Home's 2023-24 funding levels.</li> <li>• In support of Vacant Home Tax designated status, Regional staff is preparing a submission to the Minister of Finance, and letters of support from Peel’s lower-tier municipalities have been requested to support the submission.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Sustainable Funding to Support Peel’s Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Province provide long-term sustainable operational funding to support the costs of housing, and support services for victims, survivors and individuals at-risk of human sex trafficking in Peel Region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On February 27 and 28, 2023, Peel Region hosted the Peel Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Strategic Planning Session, which provided an opportunity for 100 cross-sector partners from across Peel and the GTHA to come together to inform the 2023 strategic priorities for the Peel AHST Program.</li> <li>• April 12, 2023 – Chair Iannicca and Regional staff were invited to meet with the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women to discuss sex trafficking issues and best practice programming in Peel Region.</li> <li>• May 10, 2023 – Regional staff met with Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) staff to increase awareness of sex trafficking in Ontario and Canada, as well as providing further in-depth context as to the Peel best practice model strategy framework and dedicated services.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 29, 2023 – At the invitation of MCCSS, the AHST Program Team participated in an AHST Roundtable in Toronto.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Mental Health and Addictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Province provide targeted operating funding to meet the growing demand for mental health and addiction services in Peel.</li> <li>That the Province address historical inequities in provincial funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel to support upstream prevention and improved access to services within the community and ensure that funding matches community needs and reflects demographic changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During his deputation at the April 13 Regional Council meeting, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael Tibollo proposed a youth focused roundtable with Peel Region. Regional staff will continue engaging with Ministry staff to coordinate the roundtable.</li> <li>On March 16, Minister Khera announced \$1 million in youth mental funding for Indus Community Services. The project, Boost Wellness of Transitional Age Youth, aims to support approximately 1,000 youth and younger adults.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Enhanced Supports for Seniors</b></p> <p>That the Province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide funding and stronger regulatory requirements and measurement to support emotion-based care and enable dementia friendly design in Long-Term Care.</li> <li>Support the expansion of community support services and wrap-around care at the Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor.</li> <li>Provide formal and consistent regulation of community paramedicine, including sustainable funding and a policy framework.</li> <li>Provide additional funding and service delivery changes for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program to meet the number of eligible seniors in Peel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 14, Peel Seniors Services Development made a submission to the National Seniors Council regarding a federal Aging at Home benefit that emphasized integrated wrap-around care at the Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor.</li> <li>On March 31, Long-term Care Minister Calandra attended the Region’s Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor to announce \$1.031 million in funding for six projects in long-term care homes in Brampton, including Peel Manor.</li> <li>March 24, Ontario 2023 Budget extended the existing three-year Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program (CPLTC) to five years. It is expected that this funding will extend Peel’s CPLTC program to March 2026.</li> <li>On March 17, Long-Term Care Minister Calandra announced \$1.25 billion in the next fiscal year to LTC homes toward hiring and staff retention.</li> <li>On March 13, Health Minister Jones and A. Sandhu (MPP, Brampton West) toured the Senior Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On March 1, Federal Health minister Duclos and Minister of Seniors Khera (Brampton West) visited Sheridan Villa to reiterate the federal government’s commitment to quality and safe care for seniors in LTC.</li> <li>• On February 24, the Ontario government announced the hiring of 193 new long-term care inspection staff, including 156 new inspectors. Supported by an investment of \$72.3 million, these new hires double the number of inspectors in the field.</li> <li>• On February 24, Health Minister Jones, G. MacGregor (MPP Brampton North) and H. Grewal (MPP, Brampton East) toured Fernforest Paramedic Reporting Station and discussed issues impacting Paramedic service delivery.</li> <li>• On February 14, the Ministry of Long-Term Care informed the Region of \$519,922 through the Local Priorities Fund to enable better flow for LTC admissions and prevent unnecessary hospitalization by covering the cost for specialized staffing, equipment and services at Peel’s five long-term care homes</li> <li>• In April 2023, Peel Public Health received capital funding from the Ministry of Health to construct three new fixed dental clinics for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.</li> <li>• The Ministry of Health provided capital funding for the expansion of clinical space at East Mississauga Community Health Centre, to be completed in June 2023.</li> <li>• Funding was received to expand OSDCP service delivery at the Seniors Health and Wellness Village Dental Suite at Peel Manor, tentatively to open in early 2024.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Maintaining a Strong Early Years and Child Care System</b></p> <p>That the Province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide fair, predictable, flexible funding to service system managers to support the administration of the CWELCC program.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Child Care Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peel Region provided feedback to the Province following the April 5 release of a Ministry of Education discussion paper on the 2024 child care funding formula for operators enrolled in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The intention of the new framework is to develop a sustainable funding model that is responsive to child care cost structures to support the CWELCC system and growth</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work collaboratively with service system managers on a workforce strategy to recruit, retain and recognize Registered Early Childhood Educators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft funding framework does not provide any flexibility to support local needs or address unexpected costs of operators</li> <li>Service system managers will require a minimum of six months to support successful implementation of the new funding framework, as they will be required to align internal processes, procedures, and information technology systems for rollout.</li> <li>With support from other System Managers, Peel Region is advocating for transitional funding in the first two years of implementation to support one-time costs for transition, such as information technology and additional time-limited staffing.</li> <li>It is necessary that the final funding formula be adapted to include flexibility for system managers to address unforeseen circumstances and unexpected expenses to stabilize the CWELCC system for families.</li> </ul> <p><b>Workforce Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry has established a Workforce Task Group with representation from across the early years and child care sector – more focus and improved communication on workforce planning is essential to stabilize the system and support child care expansion under CWELCC.</li> <li>Expansion of post-secondary apprenticeship programs for early childhood educators and financial subsidies should be considered to support recruitment efforts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Invest in Waste Management Infrastructure and Processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Province transition the Blue Box program to producers and develop a provincial single-use plastics strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional staff is currently in discussions with multiple third-party operators to gather information and explore strategies to make a mixed waste processing pilot more affordable for Peel.</li> <li>A letter from the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, was sent to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, outlining Peel’s position on the O. Reg. 449/21: Hazardous and Special Products under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016.</li> <li>In its response to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Regional staff indicated it is not supportive of amendments to the Blue Box regulation to expand deductions for producers.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>9. Provincial Support of Regional and Provincial GHG Reduction Targets and Sustained Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the federal government provide sustained climate change funding to ensure Peel’s services and assets are more resilient to extreme weather events and future climate conditions</li> <li>• That the Province to set the legislative and policy framework to phase-out all fossil fuel natural gas-fired electricity generation while meeting Ontario’s growing electricity needs.</li> <li>• Invest in sustainable energy generation to ensure decarbonization is prioritized as part of plans for economic expansion and growth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ahead of the July 19 Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) application deadline, Regional staff are exploring project opportunities that align Regional climate change priorities with program criteria.</li> <li>• On May 25, the Province announced the Peak Perks program aimed at reducing energy demand during peak demand periods from June to September.</li> <li>• On May 12, the Region’s Office of Climate Change and Energy Management provided a response to an IESO consultation – Pathways to Decarbonization Study.</li> <li>• Region’s Office of Climate Change and Energy Management participates quarterly at the IESO’s Roundtable meetings to provide insight and guidance to incentive offerings and programs being delivered in Ontario.</li> <li>• The federal government recently announced the Canada Greener Homes Grant, which is being co-delivered by Natural Resources Canada and Enbridge Gas in Ontario under the Home Efficiency Rebate Plus (HER+) program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grants are provided to eligible homeowners for recommended and eligible retrofits such as home insulation, windows and doors, heat pumps and renewable energy systems</li> <li>○ Peel Region is working with its lower-tier municipalities to explore any potential opportunities through this program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Sustainable and Integrated Transportation System</b> <u>Transportation Infrastructure Investment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request the Province provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel.</li> <li>• Strong opposition in principle to the construction of the currently proposed GTA West/Highway 413 and Transmission Corridor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In January 2023, Metrolinx announced the Queen Street BRT project which covers a 24-kilometer corridor along Queen Street in Brampton and Highway 7 in Vaughan.</li> <li>• In support of future two-way, all -day GO train service on the Kitchener Line, the Province announced on May 11 upgrades to Bramalea GO Station.</li> <li>• In April, Ontario also introduced new two-way weekend GO train service between Brampton and Toronto, between Mount Pleasant GO and Union Station.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the Province to study alternatives to the GTA West/Highway 413, such as the Brampton Boulevard, to replace the currently intended highway.</li> <li>• Request to the Province that money budgeted for the GTA West/Highway 413 be instead invested into regionally connected transit, active transportation, and other sustainable modes of transportation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>11. Ukrainian Humanitarian Response in Peel</b></p> <p>The federal government should provide dedicated financial support to reimburse Peel’s Ukrainian Humanitarian Response efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peel is part of a group of GTHA municipalities that offered humanitarian response to Ukrainian newcomers. Municipalities include Toronto, Peel, York, Halton, Durham and Hamilton. The group is collaborating with FCM on a policy response from IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) to reimburse the costs of this response and to come to agreement on funding arrangements for future responses to refugees, asylum seekers and special visa holders.</li> </ul>