
For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities**

FROM: Kathryn Lockyer, Interim Commissioner of Corporate Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide Government Relations Committee members with a high-level overview on the status of advocacy activities since the outbreak of COVID-19, as outlined in Appendix I.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- This report highlights advocacy efforts undertaken by the Region of Peel since the last meeting of the Government Relations Committee (GRC), held on March 5, 2020.
 - This report provides an overview of Region of Peel advocacy activities related to the impacts of COVID-19, as well as next steps and potential opportunities related to these efforts.
 - The Region will continue to be flexible with the provincial and federal governments in its approach to advocacy and intergovernmental relations in order to support efforts for additional funding associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
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DISCUSSION

The focus of this report considers the various ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on Regional operations and its core service delivery. Of note, are the two recently approved Council-endorsed priorities (*Region of Peel Advocacy Activity and Progress Report Table* - Items 1, 2) critical to the Region's pandemic response and recovery. Federal and provincial funding for COVID-19 related costs, as well as stimulus infrastructure funding are expected to drive the Region's short-term advocacy efforts.

The economic and social disruption brought about by the pandemic crisis has created new challenges in Peel and will require the Government Relations Committee (GRC) to develop, coordinate, implement and monitor specific government relations strategies, based on Regional Council endorsed advocacy positions, to clearly articulate the economic needs of Peel and advance the policy objectives of the Region.

Focused and ongoing advocacy efforts will ensure Peel's unique challenges and needs capture the attention of senior levels of government. Recognizing that the delivery of municipal services and programs are heavily dependent on funding support from the federal and provincial governments, it is critical for the Region to remain engaged with not only local elected representatives but also with key decision-makers and influencers at both senior levels of government.

Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities

The appendix attached to this report contains an update on 11 of the Region's priorities, providing highlights on current activity/progress since the last meeting of the GRC in March, as well as next steps and opportunities. Many of the priorities captured in this report, as well as other anticipated Council-approved initiatives, will be included as part of the Region's strategy for the upcoming virtual AMO Annual Conference in August as well as any advocacy efforts related to the provincial and federal budgets, which are expected to be delivered this fall.

CONCLUSION

Regional staff will continue to work under the direction of the Government Relations Committee and Regional Council to develop and implement government relations strategies, which will be focused on the challenges related to COVID-19. These strategies will aim to raise awareness among key stakeholders of Peel's advocacy priorities and to strengthen relationships with officials from other orders of government and relevant stakeholders, particularly as it relates to the Region's ongoing pandemic response and recovery.

APPENDICES

Appendix I - Region of Peel Advocacy Activity and Progress Report Table

For further information regarding this report, please contact Keith Medenblik, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, Ext. 4777, keith.medenblik@peelregion.ca.

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Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:

Department Commissioner and Division Director.

Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.



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