

March 18, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford, 

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

RE: A Measure Essential to Ensure the Continuity of Council Decision-making During the Province-Wide State of Emergency with Respect to COVID-19

On March 12, 2020 the Council of The Regional Municipality of Peel (the "Council") unanimously authorized the conduct of Regional Council meetings by means of electronic participation of members affected by pandemic related requirements of self-isolation or quarantine. This is as permitted by subsection 238(3.1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* (the "Authorizing Provision").

This measure was taken in direct contemplation of the need to ensure continuity of the Council's decision-making in the face of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Authorizing Provision currently prevents those participating electronically from being counted towards the fulfillment of any applicable quorum requirement. This restriction threatens the effectiveness of Council's decision to enable electronic participation. It is readily foreseeable that a requirement of self-isolation or quarantine, especially one resulting from a common exposure of members of the Council to the COVID-19 virus, could affect a sufficient number of members to threaten the ability of the Council to achieve quorum should the electronic participation of affected members at a Council meeting be ineffective towards achieving quorum.

The Council accordingly resolved that I request the Province to take immediate action to remove the restriction imposed in subsection 238(3.1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* so as to permit members participating in meetings electronically to be counted towards the achievement of any applicable quorum requirement for the meeting.

Premier Ford I can assure you that the Council of The Regional Municipality of Peel stands ready and is anxious to do its part to effectively respond to the Province-Wide Emergency. It urgently requests that your government act immediately to remove this potential impediment to the effective functioning of the Council in the face of pandemic related challenges to its ability to make effective decisions.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Regional Municipality of Peel

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