

May 28, 2020

The Honourable Michael Tibollo  
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions  
College Park, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Tibollo,

The challenges facing the people of Ontario regarding mental health have never been more apparent than now. The COVID-19 pandemic and the current measures put in place to minimize the transmission of the virus are impacting all of us and, even more so, those who rely on already over-taxed mental health support programs. We are seeing escalation of these intense pressures firsthand in Peel as a result of our region's rapid population growth and chronic underfunding, which has only been exacerbated by the effects of COVID-19.

As you will recall from the Peel Community Mental Health and Addictions Roundtable in October last year, we have worked closely with a spectrum of organizations in Peel to identify the needs and gaps within the system and have compiled specific areas for investment as well as opportunities to build capacity in existing programs and services for those in need. We believe that now is the right time to discuss how to collaborate with your team on the next steps to implement a coordinated approach to improve access to mental health services specifically in place for the residents of Peel.

We were very pleased with your announcement in March of a \$20 million investment as part of the provincial mental health and addiction strategy. This is a very important step in our journey to improve Ontarian's access to the supports that they require but more is needed. Building on the findings of the Roundtable (attached) and considering the current circumstances, I would like to arrange for a discussion with you on how the Region of Peel and our community partners can further collaborate with the Province to implement the recommendations of Roundtable report.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that mental health and addictions remains a top priority for your government. We remain committed to working closely with you and your team to build capacity to meet the needs of the Peel community.

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer  
Region of Peel

**Nando Iannicca**  
Regional Chair & CEO

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