

**Appendix I – Update on the Region’s Advocacy Priorities**

ADVOCACY PRIORITY/POSITION	NEXT STEPS/POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
<p><b>1. Federal and Provincial Funding for Associated COVID-19 Costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Council advocate to the federal and provincial government for additional funding to offset the substantial incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>The Region has identified a number of short, medium and long-term measures to address the immediate financial impacts of COVID-19 and to stimulate economic recovery.</li> <li>In the short-term, the Province should provide immediate federal/provincial funding to make up incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy efforts to secure funding from the upper levels of government continue from the Region, local municipalities and other advocacy groups, including LUMCO, AMO and FCM.</li> <li>Through the Regional Chair, correspondence has been sent to Premier Ford and Prime Minister Trudeau underlining municipal challenges resulting from COVID-19, as well as advocating for funding support.</li> <li>Staff will continue to monitor announcements from the upper levels of government related to financial stabilization for municipalities.</li> <li>FCM released its ‘Protecting Vital Municipal Services’ proposal on April 23, which calls for emergency operating funding, delivered through a new hybrid formula modelled on both the federal Gas Tax Fund and a ridership-based allocation for municipalities that operate transit systems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Stimulus Infrastructure Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the Region of Peel's advocacy efforts include a request that the federal and provincial governments provide increased infrastructure funding to stimulate Peel's economic recovery and that an allocation model be implemented to distribute funds expeditiously.</li> </ul> <p><i>Short-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This could be achieved in part, by working with the federal government to accelerate Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding, particularly the second phase Green Infrastructure stream opening in the fall.</li> </ul> <p><i>Medium-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government should address the existing systematic fiscal challenges faced by municipalities, which have been highlighted by the current crisis. The Province should undertake a review of provincial-municipal responsibilities for planning, regulating, funding and delivering services with a goal to remove funding of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On June 1, the federal government announced it will be advancing the 2020-2021 Federal Gas Tax allocations, as a single payment in June. This does not represent new funding, but an advance on existing funding that would have come six months from now.</li> <li>Prior to the pandemic, the Region was notified by the Province that the next stream of the Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program (Green Stream) was to open before the end of 2020. Going forward, staff will continue to monitor any developments related to stimulus infrastructure funding and report back to Council.</li> <li>Staff at the Region, as well as the local municipalities, continue to identify priority projects in anticipation of stimulus funding from the provincial and federal governments.</li> <li>The Region would welcome stimulus funding, delivered through an allocation-based model to support local infrastructure, and to once again underpin economic activity and growth. Past infrastructure cost-share programs between all three levels of government have been effective for municipalities.</li> </ul>

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<p>income tax redistribution programs from the property tax (such as affordable housing, employments supports and homelessness).</p> <p><i>Long-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A broader conversation should take place among all levels of government on how municipalities can share in Canada’s and Ontario’s economic growth and prosperity in a more fair and equitable manner.</li> <li>• It is critical that municipalities have access to a range of progressive and diversified revenue tools that recognize the digital economy and changing nature of employment, which may be even more pronounced in the post-COVID-19 economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FCM, AMO and the Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG), raise the longer-term prospect of addressing municipal fiscal sustainability, as COVID-19 exposed the inadequacy of current revenue sources and collection tools.</li> <li>• FCM advocates for “a critical look at the foundational cracks that have been more harshly exposed in how we approach the role of local governments. In clear view are the outdated tools and authorities granted to municipal leaders and how they simply do not match the modern role cities and communities play in supporting Canadians and driving our economy.”</li> <li>• AMO has proposed the following solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish an appropriate cost-share arrangement for mandated municipally operated services, such as public health, land ambulance and public transit</li> <li>○ Increase funding to the 47 municipal service managers that deliver critical local services and have relationships with community agencies</li> <li>○ Allow Ontario municipal governments the ability to have the full range of revenue tools, under the City of Toronto Act, to use after council deliberation and approval.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Provincial Inquiry into Long Term Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Region supports a provincial independent commission into Long Term Care, while continuing to advocate for action and resources to enhance person-centred care and addressing known gaps in Long Term Care homes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Province is planning a post-pandemic review of long-term care - which has been moved up from September to July - both to examine lessons learned from the COVID-19 response and long-term issues, with calls to expand the mandate to also examine how frail seniors are treated in the entire health system.</li> <li>• The Region has expressed interest in participating in the provincial commission to provide input, as a service manager, as to what makes for a good long-term care home.</li> <li>• Interim CAO Nancy Polsinelli addressed the federal Standing Committee on Health, which sought stakeholder input on the Canadian response to the COVID-19 outbreak. While Long Term Care remains within provincial jurisdiction, the upper levels of government have discussed a collaborative approach to address challenges and the Region will continue to seek opportunities for investment and policy direction on key issues, such as staffing ratio and training, person-centered</li> </ul>

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	<p>emotionally-focused care, and improvements to the physical infrastructure and design of long-term care homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Region continues advocating for improvements to person-centred and quality care through increased staffing levels, improved regulations, increased training programs and funding to support them and greater eligibility for redevelopment funding to improve building standards. Peel Manor meets some of these higher standards and the Region continues advocating for provincial funding as part of its redevelopment.</li> <li>• On June 11, staff brought forward a report to Council to highlight key advocacy priorities and opportunities for action within long term care.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Provide Service Managers the funding and flexibility for affordable housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the Region of Peel, as service manager, has the funding and the flexibility to provide housing for low and middle-income households by improving access to and increasing the funding contribution for affordable housing based on need and established targets as stated in the Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the service manager, staff continues working toward a needs-based approach to administer housing, while continuing to comply with provincial legislation.</li> <li>• Staff is preparing a report for Council, outlining an advocacy approach and are also seeking enhanced funding from the upper levels of government to improve affordable housing outcomes in Peel.</li> <li>• The Region received \$11.8 million in emergency funding from the provincial and federal governments to address homelessness and provide social services relief, however, expenditures are expected to exceed this amount and staff will keep Council apprised on emerging needs.</li> <li>• Federal (Reaching Home Program) funding received by the Region is being used to support the shelter program, including hotelling and outreach. The Region has supported funding applications from community agencies as well to support food transportation, cleaning services, etc. as well as women in difficult situations at home. Further funding will extend existing programming to the middle of August.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>5. Sustainable Funding to Support Peel’s Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide long-term sustainable operational funding to support the costs of housing, and support services for victims and survivors of human sex trafficking in Peel Region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On March 6, the Province introduced its new Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, which was also included in its most recent Economic and Fiscal Update, along with a commitment to provide additional resources to combat this crime.</li> <li>• On April 15, the Region opened a safe house – the first of three dedicated supports established through the Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Strategy.</li> <li>• Both the Regional strategy and the provincial strategy continue to proceed during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Mental Health and Addictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate mental health and addictions system planning and service delivery to ensure seamless access to services across the entire age continuum and coordinate across ministries on the basic social needs to support mental health promotion and recovery.</li> <li>• Address historical inequities in provincial funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel in order 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>• As individuals struggle with physical and mental health related impacts of COVID-19, such as family breakdown and unemployment, it is expected further funding and community resource supports will be needed to expand the capacity of the community and not-for-profit sector to deal with the demand for increased services.</li> <li>• Staff continue to work collaboratively with the Province and community stakeholders, including the implementation of the provincial government’s mental health and addictions strategy.</li> <li>• The Region expects to receive funding through a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Canadian Medical Association Foundation (CMAF) collaboration called the COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations.</li> <li>• As a follow up from the mental health roundtable hosted at the Region last year, a letter was sent on May 28 to Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Michael Tibollo.</li> <li>• Staff brought forward a report to Council on June 11 on the Region’s community mental health and addictions services, as well as the Provincial Mental Health &amp; Addictions Strategy, impacts due to COVID-19 and ongoing advocacy needs. Delegations from CMHA Peel Dufferin and Peel Children’s Centre were received.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>7. Maintaining a strong Early Years and Child Care System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Region of Peel efforts to have an Early Years and Child Care system that is affordable, inclusive, high quality, accountable and accessible. To do this, we recommend that the provincial government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase-in proposed changes to provincial funding for Early Years and child care in order to avoid reductions in the availability of quality child care, EarlyON and Special Needs services in Peel.</li> <li>○ Proactively consult with service system managers on funding and policy changes that impact Early Years and Child Care program delivery and service levels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child care will be an essential component of Peel’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, as it allows people to return to work and provides children with the social and learning opportunities that set them up for future success.</li> <li>• Staff will continue advocating for increased collaboration with the Ministry of Education to share data and provide feedback and insights on funding and policy changes that are being considered. This is particularly important as the Province considers decisions regarding the re-opening and recovery of child care and EarlyON programs (e.g. health and safety guidelines, viability of providers, attracting and retaining staff).</li> <li>• A June 25 report to Council will recommend the Region advocate to the Province for salaries and wages for child care providers during the emergency closure period be made effective June 1, 2020 and not applied retroactively to March 15, 2020.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Improving Ontario Works Service Delivery Model</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to advocate to Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services on behalf of Peel’s most vulnerable residents and provide feedback on the new employment services prototype that was launched in 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In January 2020, the provincial government announced the new Service System Manager for Peel is WCG Services, a Canadian subsidiary of APM Group Pty Ltd (APM), a global human service organization based in Australia. WCG Services will assume responsibility for Employment Services in Peel effective January 1, 2021.</li> <li>• Staff plan to bring a report to council in July to provide an update on the employment services transition and its implications for Peel.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Enhanced Supports for Seniors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance dementia supports across the long-term care sector through funding that aligns with increasingly complex resident care needs, dedicated and consistent training related to person-centered emotional dementia care, enhanced specialized supports and supportive structural design.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim CAO Nancy Polsinelli discussed the Butterfly Model while addressing the federal Standing Committee on Health on May 27 and made the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Better staffing ratios</li> <li>○ Regulation that is less focused on documentation, but on emotionally focused care</li> <li>○ Adequate training and how to work with complex conditions, such as dementia.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In response to COVID-19, there have been several provincial orders aimed at increasing supports for seniors, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Temporary increase in pay for many frontline workers who provide care to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seniors             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensuring staff at LTC homes remain at one site in order to prevent further outbreaks</li> <li>○ Enhanced infection prevention and control measures and testing</li> <li>○ Two Long Term Care facilities in Peel have, or are currently receiving, operational support from the Canadian military and one home is now under provincial management</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Given the Region’s term of council priority to Enhance Seniors’ Supports and Services, there is an opportunity to advocate more broadly for supports for frail seniors as part of the provincial LTC review to ensure seniors have access to the health and community supports they need to age in place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Governance, Geographic Boundaries and Funding of Public Health and Paramedic Services</b></p> <p><i>Public Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● That the Ministry maintain Peel Public Health as one of Ontario’s regional public health entities (maintain current boundaries), retain Regional Council as board of health and ensure sufficient public health funding to meet community needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Given the high burden of cases in Peel, the Region of Peel COVID-19 response has entailed increased costs for critical response functions, such as case management and contact tracing.</li> <li>● The Region is seeking to better understand the impacts of the new COVID-19 testing strategy, called <i>Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing</i>, which was released on May 29.</li> <li>● (As of June 4) The Region is awaiting more details of the Province’s renewed strategy to support public health units with case management and contact tracing.</li> <li>● In the first week of June, ministries were expected to start sending funding details to employers that receive funding directly from government and service delivery managers.</li> <li>● Under this temporary program, municipal governments have eligible full and part-time front-line staff who work in several program areas, including public health, paramedic services, long-term care homes, and housing and shelters. This will involve three ministries and four program areas.</li> <li>● AMO has expressed concerns over the complex administration of the program, given a broad array of municipal front-line services and is working with the Province and many municipal staff associations, such as the Ontario Municipal Human Resources</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Paramedic Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continued municipal responsibility for land ambulance service delivery as it is currently configured.</li><li>• That Ministry continues to cost-share funding for paramedic services at existing 50:50 basis, (at funding levels that reflect call volume growth and inflationary costs)</li><li>• That the Ministry address the one-year funding lag for paramedic services to ensure provincial funding keeps up with current service demand.</li></ul>	<p>Association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (On March 17) the Province committed, through its Ontario Action Plan Responding to COVID, \$80M to paramedic services. This funding supports paramedic hours dedicated to non-911 activities, such as testing in LTC homes and other sites.</li><li>• Paramedic Services has also implemented initiatives to improve the Region’s response to COVID (e.g. PRPS high risk response teams, the testing strategy developed collectively to ensure LTC and RH were tested, the future testing strategy, unique equipment to address shortages of PPE like the sterilization unit.) However, additional funding from the Province to help support these responses remains uncertain and may fall to the local tax base.</li><li>• The Province’s Public Health and Emergency Health Services Consultations has been paused, however, during a COVID-19 daily update, and without making any commitments, Premier Ford pointed to centralized public health systems.</li><li>• Modernization consultations were extended to March 30, and the report to Ministry of Health (Special Advisor, Jim Pine) (originally planned for June 2020) is likely to be pushed ahead. (TBD)</li></ul>
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