

Minister  
of Immigration,  
Refugees and Citizenship



Ministre  
de l'Immigration,  
des Réfugiés et de la Citoyenneté

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

Regional Chair Nando Iannicca  
Region of Peel Council  
10 Peel Centre Drive  
Brampton ON L6T 4B9  
[nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca](mailto:nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca)

22 November 2023

Dear Mr. Iannicca:

I am writing in response to the Region of Peel's request for financial support from the Government of Canada for costs incurred in 2023 to support asylum claimants through the establishment of a reception centre near Pearson International Airport. I would like to express my gratitude for the Region's ongoing commitment to providing assistance to newcomers to your region in recent years.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is prepared to offer the Region of Peel \$7 million from the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) towards eligible costs incurred in 2023 for the establishment of the reception centre, and assist you with immediate budgetary and capacity challenges in order to provide continued support to claimants. This contribution towards the reception centre is separate from the support that IRCC will be offering Peel in response to Peel's final 2023 IHAP claim for its base shelter system.

The Region of Peel's leadership in providing shelter while addressing the specific needs of asylum seekers is encouraging and IRCC looks forward to finding more sustainable solutions with you and your regional counterparts and the Province of Ontario.

I will ask IRCC officials to work with yours to confirm details and finalize an agreement for our signatures at your earliest convenience. The Region of Peel continues to be a key partner to IRCC in supporting newcomers in Canada, and I am confident that our effective collaboration will continue.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

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

September 28, 2023

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister &  
Minister of Finance  
[Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
[Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Ministers Freeland and Miller,

**RE: IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR ASYLUM CLAIMANTS**

Together, as the Mayors of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga and the Regional Chair of Peel, we are committed to working with you, our federal partners, to ensure asylum claimants receive the dignity and support they deserve. In addition to vulnerable Peel residents facing a housing crisis, we continue to experience an influx of asylum claimants arriving at our shelter sites directly from the airport or after being turned away from other municipalities. With shelters at a 274 per cent occupancy rate, we need emergency funding from the federal and provincial governments to house these vulnerable people.

Peel Region has played an important role in support of hundreds of asylum claimants seeking refuge by providing housing, emergency financial assistance and other social service supports. However, these unbudgeted, escalating costs to Peel total approximately \$3.5 million per month in 2023; this is simply unsustainable. We are seeking to recoup these costs through the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) for 2023 and for costs into 2024. Given Peel's unique role as a gateway to the country, including being home to Canada's busiest airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport, we also urge the federal government to move towards an allocation-based approach to disbursing IHAP funding as opposed to an application-based process to defray cumulative costs to date and going forward.

We appreciate the funding announced by the Province of Ontario through the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit on September 18. However, this does not reflect the number of claimants requiring housing support and is inadequate to meet the needs, which requires a funding allocation of at least \$10 million. As such, we are asking that your government, at minimum, match the provincial contribution of \$2.11 million and work with the provincial government to provide a \$10 million allocation to Peel.

**Nando Iannicca**  
Regional Chair & CEO

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

Further, Peel Region asks that the federal government create a dedicated support program for In-Land and Point of Entry asylum claimants similar to the Government Assisted Refugee (GAR) Program to prevent homelessness for asylum seekers and the need to rely on the severely constrained and the already under funded emergency shelter and community housing systems.

We encourage the federal government to work with all levels of government, including Peel Region and partners such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Canadian Council of Refugees to establish this program.

While we understand that the preferred path for seeking refuge by asylum claimants in Canada is to become a GAR, we also know that this is not always possible, nor should it be expected of those fleeing for their lives. A suitable, federally funded response is needed for the full range and complexity of asylum claimants in Canada.

We look forward to further engaging with you as we support and care for our most vulnerable and those who come to Canada for a safe and better life. To that end, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss next steps and will reach out to your office to make the necessary arrangements.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer  
Region of Peel



Patrick Brown  
Mayor, City of Brampton



Annette Groves  
Mayor, Town of Caledon



Bonnie Crombie  
Mayor, City of Mississauga

cc: Peel MPs  
Peel MPPs  
Scott Pearce, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services, Peel Region  
Aileen Baird, Director, Housing Services, Peel Region