

Motion

Agenda Number: 20.4

Date: March 21, 2024

Moved by Mayor Brown

Seconded by Councillor Fonseca

Whereas Peel emergency shelters are at 350 per cent capacity;

And whereas, over three in five occupants in Peel emergency shelters are asylum claimants;

And whereas, municipal emergency shelters were not designed to support asylum claimants in their settlement journey;

And whereas, asylum claimants through their presence, renew and benefit communities across Canada, economically, socially and culturally;

And whereas, asylum claimants deserve a person-centred pathway to building a new life in Canada free from the harms of their countries of origin;

And whereas, the ad hoc emergency response to this current crisis is poorly coordinated and unsustainable;

Now therefore be it resolved:

1. That Peel Region supports the development and implementation of a more sustainable, intentional, distributive asylum claimant response appropriate to the current and anticipated volume of asylum claimants arriving in Canada; and
2. That this response incorporate an all-of-government approach to ensure proper coordination and resourcing to accommodate asylum claimants arriving in Canada; and
3. That Peel Region seek from the federal government, in addition to the \$7 million previously announced, full reimbursement of the one-time capital and annual operating costs required for the regional reception centre, once the site has been secured. Cost estimates are currently \$10 million (capital) and \$9.3 million annual operating.
4. That Peel Region seek annual funding of \$62,000 per asylum claimant from federal and provincial governments to support an asylum claimant with temporary and permanent housing, health, and other social and settlement services to fully integrate into the communities upon exit from the Regional Reception Centre; and
5. That the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, work with municipal and association partners to implement an advocacy strategy that supports funding and implementation of this new and sustainable model.