

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

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234-2024-2483

RECEIVED

June 12, 2024

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair and CEO
Region of Peel
Nando.Iannicca@peelregion.ca

Subject: Funding of the Peel Region Transition Board

Dear Regional Chair Iannicca:

Thank you for your letter dated May 15, 2024, regarding funding for the Peel Region Transition Board (Transition Board) and its operations. Transparency is an important principle in the work underway in Peel Region and I appreciate the time you have taken to write.

Our government has provided the Region of Peel two invoices totaling \$1.5 million for the work completed by the Transition Board up to March 15, 2024. The invoices indicate that \$858,332 represented costs incurred between July and December 2023, and \$635,137 represented costs incurred from January to mid-March this year. Thank you for the timely attention to these, and ongoing collaboration with the Transition Board and local municipalities.

As you are aware, the Transition Board will be providing recommendations on the transfer of public works services (land use planning, water and wastewater, regional roads including stormwater, and waste management) from Peel Region. At the same time, the work of the Transition Board on water and wastewater may help unlock the opportunity to scale up transformative ideas to Ontario's other fast-growing areas and bring additional infrastructure capacity online. This is why I have indicated that, where the Transition Board's final recommendations help enable transformation in other regions, the government remains open to offsetting the relevant costs and helping ensure fairness for the Region of Peel.

Our government remains committed to supporting the growth happening in Peel Region, and thanks the Region for its dedication and efforts to support the mandate of the Transition Board. Once again, thank you for writing. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

May 15, 2024

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay St, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

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

Dear Minister Calandra:

Re: Provincial Efficiency Review: Funding of the Peel Region Transition Board

As we eagerly await the conclusion of the Provincial Efficiency Review mandated to the Transition Board and the submission of its recommendations for your consideration, I am writing to raise Peel Regional Council's concerns with costs of the Transition Board.

Regional Council was informed that two invoices totaling \$1.5 million were received from the Transition Board for its work completed to March 15, 2024. Following consideration at its meeting on May 9, 2024, Regional Council passed a motion (attached) that calls on the Province to fully fund the work of the Transition Board.

We are aware that the *Hazel McCallion Act, (Peel Dissolution), 2023* contains provisions that allow the Minister to require Peel Region to pay the costs of the Transition Board, however, it is the view of Regional Council that the associated costs should be paid by the Province and not solely by Peel Region property taxpayers.

As you know, the decision to dissolve Peel did not originate from Regional Council, however, this exercise has had a significant impact on the organization, both on its staff and its finances. Peel Region has already spent \$2.7 million in 2023, in addition to the \$1.5 million in Transition Board costs, to address the impacts stemming from the Province's direction to dissolve Peel Region and, following the reversal of that direction, the Transition Board's continuing review of Peel's Public Works services that remains in progress.

In contrast, the Regional Governance Review being conducted at your request by the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy is not being funded by any of the municipal governments under review and is being funded by the Ontario Legislature.

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

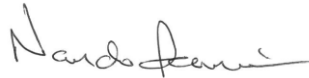
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Further, as part of the motion approved on May 9th, Regional Council has requested that the Transition Board provide information on the costs of the third-party consultants which the Transition Board hired to assist with its work. As you can appreciate, Peel Region property taxpayers expect transparency for every property tax dollar that is spent by Peel Region. While we appreciate that the Transition Board has presented a detailed cost breakdown for the two invoices totaling \$1.5 million, a similar breakdown of costs associated with its third-party consultants should also be disclosed to enable a full accounting of the Transition Board's costs and promote transparency.

We would appreciate your prompt consideration of these requests as it will provide clarity to Peel Region for budgeting purposes and ensure that our residents are provided a full accounting of how their tax dollars are being spent.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue, please contact me directly at 905-791-7800, extension 4310. I look forward to your response.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel

Att: Regional Council Motion regarding Peel Region Transition Board Costs, dated May 9, 2024.

**Resolution
Regional Council**

Agenda Number: 20.1.
Date: May 9, 2024

Moved by **Councillor Toor**
Seconded by **Councillor Mahoney**

Whereas the Government of Ontario appointed Peel Region Transition Board has provided two invoices totalling \$1,500,000 to the Region of Peel for their work till March 15, 2024;

And whereas, per the direction of the Government of Ontario, the Region of Peel is expected to pay these invoices using funds from its budget (primarily funded through property tax);

And whereas, the residents of Peel Region expect transparency for every local tax dollar spent by the Region;

And whereas, no other Regional Governance review exercise is being funded by the Regional Government under review;

And whereas, the other Regional Governments are under review by Ontario's Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy through a public consultation process, funded by the Ontario Government;

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, request that the Peel Region Transition Board provide information on third-party consultants they have hired and the associated costs; and
2. That the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting the Government of Ontario to fully fund the work of the Peel Region Transition Board.