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July 29, 2024

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Minister  
of Immigration,  
Refugees and Citizenship



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

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair  
10 Peel Centre Drive  
Brampton ON L6T 4B9  
nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca

Dear Regional Chair Iannicca:

I am writing with respect to the Region of Peel's request for financial assistance from the Government of Canada to support the creation of a regional reception centre in Mississauga.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) welcomes this initiative from Peel to receive, temporarily house, and provide important services to asylum claimants as vital first steps on a journey to employment and housing while they await processing of their claims. The model could assist thousands of claimants over the coming years and serve as a hub for a broader asylum-related response in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, and beyond.

IRCC officials have had a number of constructive conversations with Peel officials regarding the reception centre proposal, including most recently on July 4, 2024. These discussions have provided IRCC with a good understanding of the reception centre project and supporting elements.

While the Department had committed \$7 million in November 2023, the funds have not been provided because no actual spending has been claimed. However, I was encouraged to hear that your officials now estimate that combined 2024 operating and capital costs associated with the reception centre (Spectrum) and first regional site (Leanne) is \$23 million. I am pleased to report that the federal government is prepared to offer the Region of Peel a payment of \$22 million under the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) toward those costs and with the intention that the reception centre be opened by November 1, 2024. Any future grants towards costs associated with providing temporary housing to asylum claimants in 2024 will be addressed in subsequent agreements.

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

**Canada**

I understand that additional work is required to ensure that claimants have options to find more longer-term solutions. IRCC continues to work with provincial and territorial counterparts as part of the Asylum Working Group over the summer months to develop recommendations by fall. It will be important to consider the role of the new Peel reception centre as part of this work.

Should this offer be acceptable, please sign the attached IHAP grant agreement at your earliest convenience and have it sent back to IRCC officials; once received, the Department will proceed with processing of the payment. Our officials will continue to work together in the coming months on transition to a renewed IHAP and toward a more substantive, multi-year agreement.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Region of Peel for the initiative and hard work to-date in developing the reception centre proposal and bringing the project to fruition, and for the Region's efforts in working with IRCC, the Province of Ontario, and other Ontario municipalities to find sustainable, long-term solutions for providing claimants with temporary accommodations and supporting services.

I look forward to the launch of the reception centre in the coming months, and I welcome further discussions as we move forward together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

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

Attachment: IRCC-Peel IHAP Grant Agreement

April 23, 2024

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

[Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable David Piccini  
Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

[minister.MLITSD@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.MLITSD@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 Miller and Minister Piccini,

Peel, like many urban centres across Ontario, is experiencing a drastic increase in arrivals of asylum claimants seeking refuge in Canada. To accommodate this increase, Peel Region and other municipalities have had to rely on over-capacity emergency shelters and in many cases overflow hotels. Municipalities cannot continue to sustain this *ad hoc* emergency response, nor is it the best way to support asylum claimants.

The Regional Reception Centre approach being presented by Peel Region was informed by sector expertise including the City of Toronto, Immigration Refugees Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), the Canadian Red Cross First Contact Program, Provincial staff from Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health, select Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards, and a variety of settlement- and health - orientated service agencies including members from Community Health Centres, and Ontario Health Teams. Using that expertise, we have developed a sustainable, coordinated, innovative, and cost-effective model to better support asylum claimants and replace the current approach.

Enclosed is our proposal - *Asylum Claimant Response – Moving Toward a Sustainable Model* – that details our recommended sustainable model, which will require proactive investment by all levels of government to succeed.

We must move away from today's locally driven and funded, *ad hoc* emergency responses towards an approach that assesses the needs of asylum claimants in a coordinated fashion and places them equitably around the province with adequate supports to ensure they have the best chance to successfully settle and integrate in the community.

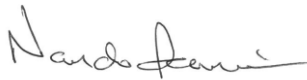
**Nando Iannicca**  
Regional Chair & CEO

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Asylum claimants, through their presence, renew and benefit communities across Canada economically, socially, and culturally and I am proud of the incredible work of Peel staff and our partners who went above and beyond their already demanding workloads to prepare this best-in-class model, centred on the successful integration of asylum claimants.

We will follow up with your office in the coming days to arrange for the opportunity to discuss our proposal with you and your staff and answer any questions you may have regarding the proposed approach.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer  
Region of Peel

Att: Proposal: *Asylum Claimant Response – Moving Toward a Sustainable Model*

cc: The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and  
Communities  
The Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health  
The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health  
The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social  
Services