

Andrea Horwath



Leader of the Official Opposition
Chef de l'Opposition officielle
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Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair
Region of Peel
10 Peel Centre Dr.
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REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

September 16, 2020

Dear Chair Iannicca,

Thank you for taking the time, along with Councillor Innis, CAO Nancy Polsinelli and several staff, to join me and my caucus colleagues, MPPs Gurratan Singh, Sara Singh, Kevin Yarde, Jeff Burch and Mike Mantha, in the virtual meeting as part of the 2020 AMO Conference.

I recognize that Peel Region, like all municipalities, struggled to meet the needs of your communities before the pandemic as a result of years of previous provincial cuts and downloads. Unfortunately, it came as no surprise to hear that COVID-19 has caused those challenges to increase significantly. Your delegation also commented that, while the recently announced *Safe Restart Agreement* is an important first step, your council remains concerned for the future.

I, along with my caucus colleagues, have been calling for additional financial supports from both the federal and provincial governments to help municipalities get through this difficult time and we will continue to do that.

For the future, we need a New Deal for municipalities, with increased federal and provincial funding for essential municipal services and infrastructure, including green and social infrastructure such as the mental health services mentioned in our meeting, so municipalities can emerge stronger from the pandemic. We cannot return to the old bad "normal" of underfunded municipal services and infrastructure.

Your delegation also spoke with pride of the success you've achieved through your employment of the "Butterfly Model". As we are all aware, despite years of concerns being voiced about Ontario's long-term sector, its failings have become shockingly evident, especially in for-profit homes. It was good to hear a success story and I'm grateful for the offer to see the model in action and I look forward to doing so when it is safe to visit.

I share your hope that change is coming in long-term care but the fact is we need fundamental change. We need a system that is properly funded to ensure that 4 hours of hands on care per day can be delivered for each person and we need to take profit out of the sector.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

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Please keep in touch with me as well as MPPs Gurratan Singh, Sara Singh and Kevin Yarde with any updates you might have or any assistance we can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea Horwath", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Horwath
Leader of the Official Opposition Ontario NDP

Cc:

MPP Gurratan Singh (Brampton-East)

MPP Sara Singh (Brampton-Centre)

MPP Kevin Yarde (Brampton-North)

MPP Jeff Burch (Niagara-Centre), Official Opposition Critic for Municipal Affairs.