

# Government Relations Update

## Government Relations Committee October 15, 2020

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# Government Relations Update - Overview

- Federal & Provincial Landscape
- Looking Forward
  - Advocacy Priorities Update
  - Peel MP/MPP Engagement
  - Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities



# Federal Landscape



- Speech from the Throne
- Update to Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan
- Canada Infrastructure Bank's (CIB) Growth Plan



# Speech from the Throne



THE BEST WAY TO KEEP THE ECONOMY STRONG  
IS TO KEEP CANADIANS HEALTHY.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE  
September 23, 2020

## Four priority objectives were identified:

- *Protecting Canadians from COVID-19*
- *Helping Canadians Through the Pandemic*
- *Building Back Better – A Resiliency Agenda for the Middle Class*
- *The Canada We're Fighting For*



# Throne Speech Themes

Themes	Commitment
<b>Seniors</b>	Work with provinces to set new standards for LTC homes and other legal/policy measures
<b>Persons with disabilities</b>	Release a Disability Inclusion Plan which aims to improve income and employment support
<b>Resilient health care system</b>	Expand virtual health care, address opioid crisis, increase mental health resources, move forward with universal pharmacare
<b>Strong Safe Communities</b>	Invest in infrastructure, including transit, energy efficient retrofits, clean energy, rural broadband, affordable housing over the next two years

# Throne Speech Themes

Themes	Commitment
<b>A Stronger Workforce</b>	Working with provinces to help Canadians build new skills for growing sectors, help workers receive education and accreditation and help connect workers to employers
<b>Climate Change</b>	Release a plan to exceed Canada's 2030 climate goal
<b>Addressing Systemic Racism</b>	Address racism in way that is informed by the lived experiences of racialized and marginalized communities.

# Protecting Canadians from COVID-19

CANADA'S COVID-19  
ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN



- *Bill C-4, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* enacted Sep. 29
- Includes three temporary recovery benefits:
  - Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)
  - Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)
  - Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)



# Helping Canadians through the Pandemic

CANADA'S COVID-19  
ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN



- Creating “one million jobs”
- Review and extension of Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy into Summer 2021
- Expansion and improvement to supports for small business and hard-hit sectors (travel and tourism, hospitality)



# Canada Infrastructure Bank - Growth Plan



- \$10B in new major infrastructure initiatives
- Aims to create 60,000 jobs
- 3-year plan to help improve high-speed internet, strengthen agriculture and build low carbon economy (energy retrofits & transit investments)
- Includes \$500M to help accelerate project delivery



# Provincial Landscape



- COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan
- Provincial Advocacy Priorities



# COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan



- *Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19* Plan
- Providing \$2.8B for health care, long-term care and education systems
- Six Objectives:
  - Maintain Public Health measures
  - Immunize against influenza
  - Quickly identify, manage and prevent outbreaks
  - Safely reduce health service backlogs
  - Prepare for surges in cases and support delivery of routine health services
  - Recruit, retain, train, and support healthcare workers, families and caregivers



# Ontario's Advocacy Priorities



- Increase in the Canada Health Transfer
  - Cover 35% provincial health spending
- Fair and flexible federal funding needed to:
  - Fight COVID-19
  - Modernize Long-Term Care
  - Build Critical Infrastructure



# Looking Forward: Region of Peel Priorities Update

## Region's Advocacy Efforts

- Keeping residents safe and healthy as Peel faces second and potential future waves of COVID-19
- Turning attention to recovery efforts
- 25-year strategic plan priorities



# Looking Forward: Region of Peel Priorities Update

Immediate Regional Advocacy Priorities
Federal and Provincial Funding for Associated COVID-19 Costs
Stimulus Infrastructure Funding
Provincial Inquiry into Long Term Care
Provide Service Managers the funding and flexibility for affordable housing
Maintaining a strong Early Years and Child Care System
Mental Health and Addictions
Sustainable Funding to Support Peel's Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking

# Looking Forward: Advocacy Priorities Update

## Federal And Provincial Funding For Associated COVID-19 Costs

- August 2020 - Region's Safe Restart funding allocation:
  - \$27.3M – for COVID-19 costs and pressures
  - \$55M – for COVID-19 municipal transit pressures
  - \$9.7M – through SSRF for Community Homelessness and Prevention (Still awaiting SSRF Phase 2 funding allocation)
  - \$17.8M – for Child Care and EarlyON
- Phase 2 of the Safe Restart funds (\$695 million) will be released in fall 2020

# Looking Forward: Advocacy Priorities Update

## Stimulus Infrastructure Funding

- Raised challenges related the design of current application-based infrastructure programs at the 2020 AMO Conference
- Shared specific examples of program design improvement the Minister of Infrastructure post AMO Conference
- Three ROP ICIP Phase II projects from TransHelp and PAMA submitted for final approval by the federal government
  - To date, only the TransHelp Bus Replacement project has received approval

# Looking Forward: Advocacy Priorities Update

## Provincial Inquiry into Long Term Care

- ROP will be making formal submission to the independent commission and exploring opportunities to delegate to the Committee
- ROP's Commissioner of Health Services is participating on the AMO taskforce submission to the provincial LTC Commission (ongoing)
- Aug 2020 - Application submitted for funding to redevelop the existing long-term care beds of Peel Manor
  - included support from local MPPs, WOHS, AdvantAge

# Looking Forward: Advocacy Priorities Update

## Provide Service Managers the funding and flexibility for affordable housing

### Homelessness Support

- End of August 2020 - \$5.8 million Reaching Home allocation has been fully committed, with \$2.4 million spent to date
- July 2020 - received an additional allocation of \$1.3M under the Reaching Home Program
- End of August 2020 - \$5.9M SSRF been fully committed, with \$3.5 million spent
- August 2020 - received an initial allocation of \$9.7M under Phase 2 of the SSRF

### Peel Housing Master Plan

- August 2020 - received \$276.4 million through CMHC and \$61.1 million committed through federal and provincial housing programs
- An additional \$327.2 million is needed in provincial funding to support development of an initial 2,240 units, to be built by 2028

# Looking Forward: Advocacy Priorities Update

## Maintaining a strong Early Years and Child Care System

- August 2020 - the Region's allocation of the federal Safe Restart Funding is \$17.8M
  - additional personal protective equipment
  - enhanced cleaning
  - additional staff to meet health and safety requirements
  - short term vacancies as operators return to full capacity
- Sept 23 – Federal Throne Speech committed to providing new funding to help the early years and child care sector adapt to the COVID-19 environment
- Sept. 30 – Province included child care as a priority in its COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan

# Looking Forward: Advocacy Priorities Update

## Mental Health and Addictions

- Aug. 2020 – Post-AMO Conference, the Region shared examples of Peel mental health initiatives with Minister Tibollo that the Province can support
- Sept. 10, 2020 - Province announced an additional \$14.75 million to increase access to mental health and addictions services
- ROP staff continue to work with the Province and community stakeholders, including the implementation of the Province's mental health and addictions strategy

# Looking Forward: Advocacy Priorities Update

## Sustainable Funding to Support Peel's Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking

- July 30 - submitted a cost sharing funding proposal to the Province requesting just over \$8.7M with the Region committing \$5.4M for the total project cost of approx. \$13.8M over 5 years
- End of August 2020, Minister Dunlop indicated that they will be informing applicants on the status of their proposals by late fall 2020
- A Municipal Resource Guide, to be distributed to AMO, OMSSA and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres is currently in development and will be ready in fall 2020

# Looking Forward: Region of Peel Priorities Update

## Longer-Term & Strategic Regional Advocacy Priorities

Governance, Geographic Boundaries and Funding of Public Health and Paramedic Services (PRPS)

Transition the Blue Box program to producers and develop a provincial single-use plastics strategy

Provincial support of regional and provincial GHG reduction targets and sustained climate change adaptation and mitigation funding

Sustainable and Integrated Transportation System

# Looking Forward: Peel MP & MPP Engagement

- Continue to engage Peel MP/MPPs to advance Regional priorities
  - MP/MPP Advocacy Update Publication
  - Quarterly Meetings: Next meeting – Mid Nov. 2020
  - 2020/21 Budget submissions
  - Funding Proposals/Submissions



# Advocacy Opportunities



- FCM Advocacy Days – Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>
- 2021 OGRA Conference – Feb. 21 – 24<sup>th</sup>
- 2021 FCM Conference – June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2021 AMO Conference – Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>



**Thank You**

