

## Resolution

**Agenda Number:** 22.1

**Date:** November 12, 2020

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**Moved by** Councillor Groves

**Seconded by** Councillor Parrish

Whereas good oral health supports overall health and wellbeing and is also associated with the prevention chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and aspiration pneumonia;

And whereas, seniors with untreated oral health issues often require emergency department visits and hospitalization and create a burden on the health care system;

And whereas, it is a Region of Peel 2018-2022 Term of Council Priority to support healthy aging by enhancing seniors' supports and services to optimize quality of life;

And whereas, it is a Peel Public Health 2020-2029 strategic priority to advance health equity through programs that address social disadvantages that limit opportunities for optimal health to residents including low-income seniors;

Therefore be it resolved, that Peel Public Health develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy aimed at ensuring the implementation of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Plan Services program meets the needs of Region of Peel seniors and the demand for the services, including requesting that the Province of Ontario:

- provide additional operational and capital funding so that sufficient services can be provided to meet the demand for the program;
- allow for the provision of services by private dental providers and a sessional/time unit reimbursement option to pay for these services;
- change the income eligibility criteria to allow more seniors to qualify for the program so that all seniors who cannot afford dental care have access to the program; and,
- removing the co-payment for prosthodontics;

And further, that the Regional Chair convene a round table in the spring of 2021 or as circumstances permit including local political and community representation to discuss the importance of, and barriers to, accessing dental care by Peel seniors and to advocate for greater access to the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program in Peel Region;

And further, that the Region of Peel Medical Officer of Health provide an update report to Council regarding the current status of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program implementation in the Region of Peel in the spring of 2021 or as circumstances permit.

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Regional Chair