

**Nando Iannicca**  
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.  
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Brampton, ON L6T 4B9  
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

September 3, 2020

The Honourable Rod Phillips  
Minister of Finance  
Frost Building South, 7th Floor  
7 Queen's Park Cres.  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

**RECEIVED**

September 3, 2020  
REGION OF PEEL  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Dear Minister Phillips:

On behalf of Region of Peel Council, thank you for the opportunity to meet at the recent AMO Conference. We appreciated the discussion on COVID-19 costs and longer-term economic recovery and look forward to the continued dialogue.

As discussed in our meeting, responding to COVID-19 requires an all-level-of-government approach. We urge the provincial government to continue to work with the federal government to provide immediate funding support to offset substantial incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with COVID-19.

The Region of Peel greatly appreciates receiving \$27.3 million in Safe Restart Agreement funding through Phase 1 of the municipal operating stream to help offset the Region's COVID-19 operating costs and pressures. This funding will help to ensure that the Region continues to deliver important and critical frontline services to the residents and businesses of Peel. We look forward to working with your government on Phase 2 of the municipal operating stream to deepen the understanding of the additional municipal pressures we face and how COVID-19 is specifically impacting the Region's finances.

In addition, as part of the discussion during our meeting, you expressed interest in learning more about the financial impacts of responding to COVID-19 from a Region of Peel perspective including:

- Ideas on how to move forward on assessments and other deferrals,
- Funding grant tools, and
- The Region's construction and infrastructure costs.

Regional staff will be following up with your staff to explore opportunities to discuss and provide additional information on these items as well as the Region's COVID-related financial impacts. We hope to arrange this work in the coming weeks.

While we understand that your current focus is on the short-term and stabilizing the economy, we do appreciate your willingness to consider our medium- and long-term recommendations and would like to very much continue the conversations with you on these matters.

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

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This includes discussing how the Province can move forward in conducting a review of provincial-municipal responsibilities, with a specific focus on the proper place for income re-distribution programs, such as affordable housing and social services.

Looking ahead to the long-term, we want to engage the Province in discussions on the need for updated municipal revenue sources and tools to address the changing needs of local communities. Our goal, through these discussions and through the review, would be for the Province to recognize that municipalities' main revenue tools, property taxes and development charges, that they rely upon to deliver essential services, are unsustainable.

Specifically, we want to discuss the need for municipal fiscal tools and resources to be responsive to the digital economy and changing nature of employment, which may be even more significant in the post-COVID-19 economy.

Thank you once again for meeting with Peel's delegation to discuss these important issues. We look forward to continuing to work with you on addressing the Region's immediate, medium and long-term financial needs. Region of Peel staff will be reaching out to your office to discuss how we can continue the conversation on these critical issues. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 905-791-7800 x4310. It would be a pleasure to hear from you.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer  
Region of Peel