

Appendix I

Update on the Region's Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY PRIORITY/POSITION	GOVERNMENT ACTION/NEXT STEPS
<p>1. Federal and Provincial Funding for Associated COVID-19 Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Region has identified a number of short, medium and long-term measures to address the immediate financial impacts of COVID-19 and to stimulate economic recovery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Short-term:</i> That the Province continue to work with the federal government to provide, (1) immediate additional funding to offset the substantial incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) infrastructure funding to stimulate economic recovery (<i>Infrastructure is dealt with in in the Stimulus Infrastructure Funding row below</i>). <i>Medium-term:</i> Undertake a review of provincial-municipal responsibilities <i>Long-term:</i> Engage in discussions on the need for updated municipal revenue sources and tools to address the changing needs of local communities 	<p>The federal and provincial governments have started moving forward on incremental cost measures to help municipalities responding to COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 15, 2020 – the federal government committed to providing \$19 billion in ‘Safe Restart’ funds to the provinces and territories, in order to help with municipal recovery efforts. Between August 12 and 17, the Region received confirmation from the Province regarding its Safe Restart funding allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$27,335,100 to assist with COVID-19 costs and pressures \$553,213 to assist with COVID municipal transit pressures; and \$9,747,382 in Social Services and Relief Funding is anticipated for use as set out in the Community Homelessness and Prevention Initiative guidelines. Following the review process, we will be notified of our approved SSRF Phase 2 funding allocation. \$17,841,056 in funding for Child Care and EarlyON. Phase 2 of the Safe Restart funds (\$695 million) will be released in fall 2020. During the 2020 Annual AMO Conference, Minister Steve Clark indicated he is “not a fan” of the idea of giving municipalities additional revenue tools, indicating the need for further educational efforts.
<p>2. Stimulus Infrastructure Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the federal and provincial governments provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased infrastructure funding to stimulate Peel's economic recovery, and that an allocation model be implemented to distribute funds expeditiously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>June 2, 2020</i> – the federal government announced that it will be delivering the \$2.2 billion in gas tax funding in one payment instead of two. This is not new money, but simply advances the funds quicker and can only be used for capital expenditure. <i>August 5, 2020</i> – the federal government announced changes to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), including a new COVID-19 Resiliency Stream (funded through optional reallocation of already promised funding) and expanded project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be eligible for funding under the COVID-19 Resilience stream, the project's eligible costs must be under \$10 million, construction must be started no later than September 30, 2021, and it must be completed by the end of 2021.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The federal government has also indicated an accelerated approvals process for the ICIP program. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks. Accelerated infrastructure funding is crucial to the Region, in light of its projected DC growth revenue losses. ● <i>September 18, 2020</i> - the Province called on the federal government to provide \$10 billion per year in additional funding, for the next ten years, with a focus on Ontario's GTA transit plan and rural broadband internet projects. ● According to the Province, Ontario alone has nearly \$10 billion in shovel-ready infrastructure projects over and above the approximately 750 submissions to the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. ● At present, the Province has nominated three ICIP phase II projects from TransHelp and PAMA for final approval by the federal government with only the TransHelp Bus Replacement project receiving approval.
<p>3. Provide Service Managers the funding and flexibility for affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide the Region of Peel additional funding to mitigate and manage the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis upon the homeless, those at risk of homelessness, and the community housing sector in Peel ● Improve housing affordability outcomes in Peel by contributing at least \$327.2 million in capital funding to build 2,240 affordable rental and supportive units and emergency shelter beds in Peel by 2028, and committing more long-term, stable operating funds for homelessness and supportive housing programs 	<p><u>Homelessness Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 50 per cent of Region's emergency sheltered population now reside in hotels to aid with physical distancing in shelters to manage the pandemic. ● As of the end of August 2020, the initial \$5.8 million Reaching Home allocation has been fully committed, with \$2.4 million spent to date. ● On July 23, 2020, Regional Council was advised of an additional allocation of \$1,387,165 from the federal government's Reaching Home Program. The funding will be used to continue to care for Peel's vulnerable population, during COVID-19 including the isolation and recovery programs, physical distancing of shelter clients in hotels, personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. ● As of the end of August 2020, the \$5.9 million Social Services Relief Fund allocation has been fully committed, with \$3.5 million spent.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide legislative and policy changes at levels to increase local autonomy and improve housing affordability outcomes in Peel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 13, 2020 Council was informed that the Region of Peel had received an initial allocation of \$9,747,382 under Phase 2 of the Social Services Relief Fund. In order to access these funds, a business case must be submitted to and approved by the province. • With the second wave and/or continuation of the pandemic into 2021, existing funds will be insufficient to sustain supports to the homeless and other vulnerable populations. The Region will continue to monitor and advocate for additional support at both levels of government as appropriate. <p><u>Peel Housing Master Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region has committed \$1 billion to support development of an initial 2,240 units, to be built by 2028. However, we are only two-thirds of the way to funding this commitment, which includes \$335.3 million committed by the Region, \$276.4 million through CMHC and \$61.1 million committed through federal and provincial housing programs. • During and as part of post-AMO Conference (August 2020) communications, the Region has reiterated the need for support of the provincial government to fund the remaining \$327.2 million to increase urgently needed housing investments in Peel.
<p>4. Sustainable Funding to Support Peel's Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide long-term sustainable operational funding to support the costs of housing, and support services for victims and survivors of human sex trafficking in Peel Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 6, 2020, the Province announced Ontario's anti-human trafficking strategy 2020-2025 which commits \$307 million over the next five years on an action plan to combat human trafficking and child sexual exploitation. • On June 15, 2020, under the Province's Anti-Human Trafficking Community Supports Fund, Minister Dunlop announced a call for proposals aiming to prioritize early intervention and increased protection for victims of sexual exploitation and dedicated survivor supports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Region has submitted a cost sharing funding proposal requesting \$8,476,746 with the Region committing \$5.4 million for the total project cost of \$13,876,746 over 5 years. ○ In addition to pursuing this opportunity, the Region will continue to look for additional funding supports to ensure the needs of victims and survivors can be met.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of August 2020, the Minister indicated that they will be informing applicants on the status of their proposals by late fall 2020. • The Transitional House is expected to open in November/December 2020 and the Service Hub is expected to be open by mid-October. • 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 for sharing in fall 2020.
<p>5. Mental Health and Addictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address historical inequities in provincial funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel to support upstream prevention and improved access to services within the community and ensure that funding matches community needs and reflects demographic changes. • Implement an equitable funding model that responds to needs across the age continuum, population growth, and represents the diverse needs within Peel's community. • Invest in the integration of mental health and addictions system planning and service delivery to ensure seamless access to services across the entire age continuum and coordinate across ministries on the basic social needs to support mental health promotion and recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2020, as part of the Province's Roadmap to build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System, an initial investment of \$20 million in immediate funding will be used to launch the Mindability Cognitive Behavioural Therapy program across the province. • As individuals struggle with physical and mental health related impacts of COVID-19, it is expected further funding and community resource supports will be needed to expand the capacity of the community and not-for-profit sector to meet the demands for increased health and social services. • In April 2020, the province made additional investments in response to the toll that the COVID-19 pandemic is taking on mental health. Emergency funding of up to \$12 million was allocated to expand online and virtual mental health supports. This funding was also directed to mental health agencies to hire and train more staff, purchase necessary equipment and technologies, and expand services on a range of platforms. It is unclear what proportion of this funding was allocated to Peel. • In April, the Province also provided \$2.6 million to Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to hire new psychologists and mental health workers to support OPP personnel. It is unclear if this funding benefited OPP in Caledon.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 3, MPP Deepak Anand (Mississauga-Malton) hosted a mental health roundtable with Minister Tibollo, Peel Regional Police, and Peel's community mental health and addictions service partners including the Region of Peel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the roundtable, community partners identified priority areas of investment and unique challenges and needs (including funding) to increase the availability of appropriate and necessary services to meet growing needs of Peel's population. As part of post-AMO Conference communications, in August 2020, the Region shared examples of Peel mental health initiatives with Minister Tibollo that the Province can support. The provincial government continues to prioritize mental health and addictions funding, including most recently an announcement on September 10, 2020, of an additional \$14.75 million to increase access to mental health and addictions services across the province which may benefit Peel's own community mental health and addictions services (e.g. support for online CBT and other digital services). Staff continue to work collaboratively with the Province and community stakeholders, including the implementation of the provincial government's mental health and addictions strategy.
<p>6. Enhanced Supports for Seniors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance dementia supports across the long-term care sector through funding that aligns with increasingly complex resident care needs, dedicated and consistent training related to person-centered emotional dementia care, enhanced specialized supports and supportive structural design. <p>Provincial Inquiry into Long Term Care</p> <p>(Specific recommendations related to the independent commission):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 27, 2020, the Region appeared before the federal Standing Committee on Health and made the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better staffing ratios Regulation that is less focused on documentation, but on emotionally focused care Adequate training and how to work with complex conditions, such as dementia. As an initial response, the Province released a COVID-19 Action Plan for Vulnerable People and guidelines to help support the seniors living in long term care and retirement homes. Through emergency funding, the Region of Peel's five long term care homes were allocated \$1.2 million in additional funding.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support investment in older long-term care homes that have remained ineligible for funding due to restrictions based on a dated rating system. • Ensure a targeted investment at minimum of \$30 million in funding to enable the redevelopment of Peel Manor into a campus of care. • Enhance guidelines for specialized support programs that will build capacity within long-term care homes to provide person-centred, emotionally focused care. • Mandate a minimum daily standard of care of four hours per resident based on level of acuity. • Make significant investments to build adequate workforce training and capacity to address staffing ratios and the ability to provide care to patients with complex conditions, such as dementia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On May 19, 2020, the Minister of Long-Term Care announced that the Province will be conducting an independent commission into Ontario's long-term care system to identify improvements that better protect residents and staff. The Commission is expected to complete their review by Spring 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Region is working towards a formal submission to the Commission and exploring opportunities to delegate to the Committee. ○ Commissioner of Health Services is participating on the AMO taskforce submission to the provincial LTC Commission. • On July 15, 2020 the Province announced plans to modernize funding policy to support the development of additional, modern long-term care homes and are expecting to accelerate the construction of long-term care projects. In response, the Region of Peel has submitted an application to the Province to redevelop the existing long-term care beds of Peel Manor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local MPPs and system stakeholders including William Osler Health System and AdvantAge have been engaged to provide support for the funding application. • Over the next five years, the government is investing \$1.75 billion in long term care homes. It is also updating design standards to include air conditioning for any new and renovated homes, beginning immediately. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To date, it has not been confirmed whether the Region's five long term care homes would be recipients or eligible for this new funding. • On July 21, 2020, the Province announced the Accelerated Build Pilot Program that will enable the construction of two new long-term care homes in Mississauga in a matter of months. • On August 13, 2020 the Commissioner of Health Services met with Deputy Minister Richard Steele to discuss funding for redevelopment of Peel Manor into the Seniors Health and Wellness Village and follow up correspondence is being pursued. • Working with Trillium Health Partners and Infrastructure Ontario, the Province intends to add up to 640 new long-term care beds by 2021.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff continue to advocate for enhanced dementia supports and gain political support locally. MPP Kusendova (Mississauga Centre) has been invited to tour one of the Butterfly homes. • The Province continues to demonstrate support for seniors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with several investments in home and community care and long term care over the last several months. More robust and sustainable funding across the seniors continuum remains a gap.
<p>7. Governance, Geographic Boundaries and Funding of Public Health and Paramedic Services (PRPS)</p> <p><u>Public Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Ministry maintain Peel Public Health as one of Ontario's regional public health entities (maintain current boundaries), retain Regional Council as board of health and ensure sufficient public health funding to meet community needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province's Public Health and Emergency Health Services Consultations has been paused, however, during a COVID-19 daily update, and without making any commitments, Premier Ford pointed to centralized public health systems. • Modernization consultations were extended to March 30, and the report to Ministry of Health from Special Advisor Jim Pine that was originally planned for June 2020 is likely to be pushed ahead. (TBD) • Given the high burden of cases in Peel, the Region's COVID-19 response has entailed increased costs for critical response functions, such as case management and contact tracing. • AMO has expressed concerns over the complex administration of the program, given a broad array of municipal front-line services and is working with the Province and many municipal staff associations, such as the Ontario Municipal Human Resources Association. • The Province is providing funding for hiring of up to 64 public health nurses to support school COVID-19 response. • Despite Provincial funding announcements, there is still a funding gap for the COVID-19 public health response that requires continued advocacy to the Province.

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<p><u>Paramedic Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued municipal responsibility for land ambulance service delivery as it is currently configured. That Ministry continues to cost-share funding for paramedic services at existing 50:50 basis, (at funding levels that reflect call volume growth and inflationary costs) That the Ministry address the one-year funding lag for paramedic services to ensure provincial funding keeps up with current service demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 17, the Province committed through its Ontario Action Plan Responding to COVID, \$80M to paramedic services. This funding supports paramedic hours dedicated to non-911 activities, such as testing in LTC homes and other sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRPS has not heard any details from the Ministry about the amount to be allocated to PRPS, or timing when funding will be announced or delivered. Ministry funding for PRPS from 2019 to 2020 was \$4,487,439 (from \$47,451,852 in 2019 to \$51,939,291 in 2020). This represents a year over year increase of 9.46%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry 2020 funding letter for land ambulance was received at September 10 Council. The Ministry share of the total paramedics 2020 operating budget is approximately 46%. Paramedic Services has also implemented initiatives to improve the Region's response to COVID and protect the residents of Peel (e.g. PRPS high risk response teams, the testing strategy developed collectively to ensure LTC and RH were tested, the future testing strategy, unique equipment to address shortages of PPE like the sterilization unit.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional funding from the Province to help support these responses remains uncertain and may fall to the local tax base.
<p>8. Maintaining a strong Early Years and Child Care System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Region of Peel efforts to have an Early Years and Child Care system that is affordable, inclusive, high quality, accountable and accessible. To do this, we recommend that the provincial government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase-in proposed changes to provincial funding for Early Years and child care in order to avoid reductions in the availability of quality child care, EarlyON and Special Needs services in Peel. Proactively consult with service system managers on funding and policy changes that impact Early Years and Child Care program delivery and service levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care is an essential component of Peel's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, as it allows people to return to work and provides children with the social and learning opportunities that set them up for future success. In 2019, the Province announced that in 2021, administrative funding for child care (previously 100 per cent funded by the Province) would move to a 50 per cent cost-share between the Province and the Region. If calculated at the maximum amount, this would result in more than \$5 million in costs downloaded to the Region in 2021. Given the many demands and uncertain nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the considerable effort to adapt and support families and providers throughout this challenging time, Service System Managers did not have sufficient notice or capacity to accommodate this additional financial burden.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 25, 2020, Regional Council endorsed several recommendations including calling for the delay of the implementation of the 50 per cent mandatory cost sharing of administrative funding for child care until January 2022. This position, along with the need for the Province to engage with Service System Managers as policy decisions are developed, was the focus of messaging advanced at the 2020 AMO Conference.
<p>9. Transition the Blue Box program to producers and develop a provincial single-use plastics strategy</p> <p><u>Blue Box Transition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind-up Stewardship Ontario in accordance with the Minister's wind-up letter. Develop regulations to transition the Blue Box Program, generally, in accordance with the Special Advisor's Report. <p><u>Provincial Single-Use Plastics Strategy</u></p> <p>Support for a province-wide single-use plastics strategy as well as participation in discussions with the Province, the Retail Council of Canada and other stakeholders to develop a harmonized, Ontario-wide strategy for single-use plastics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition of municipal Blue Box programs to producers to start January 1, 2023 and end December 31, 2025. The Region's preferred transition date is October 1, 2024 (approved by Regional Council June 25, 2020). A report update on the transition of the Region's waste diversion programs, including Blue Box, to full producer responsibility will be provided to the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee on October 29, 2020. Regarding the Wind-up Stewardship Ontario, the Region submitted commentary on the draft wind-up plan, which is now currently under review by Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority. Regional staff actively participated in the consultation sessions on draft Blue Box regulations from December 2019 to July 2020. Regional staff and Council to continue to advocate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasize the need for a speedy transition ensure that the regulation doesn't reduce environmental or performance outcomes ensure adequate oversight of producers It is anticipated that the Ministry intends to release the draft Blue Box regulation during Waste Reduction Week (Oct 19-25, 2020). The Region will look to develop a single-use plastics strategy that is in line with the federal government's action plan.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste Phase 2 (2020) was released in July 2020 by the CCME. The federal government action plan is expected to be released early 2021, which will provide direction on single use plastics to the provincial governments.
<p>10. Provincial support of regional and provincial GHG reduction targets and sustained climate change adaptation and mitigation funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the Provincial Environment Plan supports meeting regional and provincial greenhouse gas reduction targets and that sustained adaptation and mitigation funding programs are available to accelerate transformation to a low carbon and resilient community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 24, 2019, Regional Council unanimously approved its first Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP). The actions in the plan aim to reduce GHG emissions and increase resilience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the same meeting, Council declared a climate change emergency. As part of Bill 132, the Province expanded the use of administrative monetary penalties for environmental contraventions. Funds collected from these penalties will be used to set up a fund to support local environmental activities (e.g. litter clean up, tree planting and flood prevention). The funding program will be launched in 2020. In November 2019, the Flood Advisor Report, commissioned by the Province, was released, providing advice to government and contained 66 recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implications for municipalities will depend on the response by the government to the recommendations. The Region of Peel continues to encourage the Province to align its climate change goals and targets to the federal criteria to facilitate the release of federal funding to the Province and Ontario municipalities under the relevant ICIP funding streams. On September 21, 2020 the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Parks and Conservation Jeff Yurek announced that the federal government had accepted the Province's Emissions Performance Standards (EPS), an alternative to the federal output-based pricing system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPS regulates greenhouse gas emissions from large industrial facilities by setting standards for lowering emissions that facilities are required to meet. If an industry that does not meet the standard, they will have to pay. Regional staff are determining if the federal government's acceptance of the Province's EPS meets the federal climate change criteria for the release of climate change and related infrastructure funding.

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<p>11. Sustainable and Integrated Transportation System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving transit connections between the Town of Caledon and Toronto ○ Continue with the implementation of two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Regional ○ Express Rail on the Kitchener Line from Bramalea GO Station to Union Station and further to Mount Pleasant GO Station ○ Expedite two-way, all-day, 15-Minute GO Regional Express Rail for Milton Line ○ Eglinton Crosstown West Extension – continue to prioritize and expedite project (reported to Council June 25, 2020) • Complete the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA) process expeditiously and move forward as soon as possible with the implementation of a highway and a dedicated transit right-of way. • Extend Highway 427 to Highway 9 and beyond and future alignment with the GTA West Corridor. • Encourage the Province to continue its involvement with the Smart Freight Centre and lead the province-wide Off-Peak Delivery Pilot in support of the safe and efficient movement of goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry has shown interest in the Smart Freight Centre's in the Region's off-peak delivery pilot. This issue was included in the 2020 Provincial prebudget submission. • On August 7, 2020, the Ministry of Transportation released the Preferred Route for the GTA West Transportation Corridor as well as the 2020 Focused Analysis Area. • The key differences between the Preferred Route and the Technically Preferred Route are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An interchange at Humber Station Road instead of an interchange at Coleraine Drive ○ The shift of the Highway 410 connection slightly west ○ The shift of the alignment west in a portion of Northwest Brampton ○ A shift in the alignment in Vaughan • In terms of next steps for the GTA West project team, they will now move into the preliminary design stage of the EA, which is expected to be presented at a Public Information Centre in 2021.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for Provincial legislative changes that would allow municipalities to create automated school bus stop arm camera programs, enforced through an Administrative Monetary Penalties System (AMPS), and that would direct penalty revenue to the municipalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2019, Regional Council approved a resolution affirming support for the implementation of cameras on school buses to promote the safety of students and their families. In June 2020, Regional Council endorsed the recommendation that the Region of Peel write the Provincial Government to request legislative amendments for the use of AMPS for automated school bus stop arm camera offences. The Region of Peel, together with other Ontario municipalities and organizations, continue to lobby the Province requesting legislative amendments to allow an AMPS for automated school bus stop arm camera offences. This includes correspondence from the Region of Peel to the Ministry of Transportation to advocate for these legislative changes.