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November 9, 2020

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

November 9, 2020

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, PC, MP
Minister of Health
Health Canada
Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Dear Minister Hajdu:

RE: IMMEDIATE FUNDING REQUIRED FOR SAFE, VOLUNTARY COVID-19 ISOLATION SITE

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Peel has been particularly challenged as a region, facing one of the highest numbers of cases in Ontario and an upward trend. Despite several measures put in place to protect public safety, Peel has continued to experience unique challenges with the transmission of COVID-19, especially within households. Household transmission comprises the most significant proportion of likely exposure settings observed in Peel since the beginning of the pandemic. Given these trends, resourcing and supports must be directed to our most vulnerable populations that aren't able to safely self-isolate and contain the spread of COVID-19.

We are pleased that the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is considering Peel Public Health's application to create a voluntary and supportive self-isolation site through the *Communicable Disease and Infection Control: Regional and Community Supports for COVID-19 Self-Isolation in Peel* initiative. This program is critical to our Region's efforts to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in households, specifically targeted at Peel residents who are unable to self-isolate at home. Timely funding to support the implementation and delivery of this critical intervention is imperative to reducing infection rates and associated disparities due to COVID-19. We ask that the review of the Region's funding request be expedited to support our efforts to slow the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Peel.

Further, we recognize that other interventions may be necessary to support households who are most vulnerable and unable to self-isolate due to COVID-19. In some cases, self-isolation at home is the only acceptable option and would only be attainable with community supports to meet basic needs, as well as policy changes to address income and employment precarity. Federal and provincial funding for community-based targeted supports and supportive public policies will be important to mitigate barriers to home self-isolation, such as food insecurity and lack of employer paid sick leave.

Together, as the Mayors of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga and the Chair of Peel Regional Council we are committed to working with our Medical Officer

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

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of Health and dedicated public health staff to mitigate risks for COVID-19 transmission to keep our communities safe and businesses open. We can't do this alone; we need your government's assistance to implement a safe, voluntary isolation site in our region. We look forward to PHAC's timely decision regarding Peel Public Health's application and continuing to work with the federal government to curtail the current COVID-19 trajectory seen in Peel.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel



Mayor Bonnie Crombie
City of Mississauga



Mayor Patrick Brown
City of Brampton



Mayor Alan Thompson
Town of Caledon

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