

Advocacy Update

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Regional Chair

City of Brampton

Susan Fennell,
Mayor

Sandra Hames

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Paul Palleschi

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John Sprovieri

Town of Caledon

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Allan Thompson

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Katie Mahoney

Sue McFadden

Pat Mullin

Pat Saito

Ron Starr

Jim Tovey



I'm pleased to provide you with an update on the government relations activities the Region has been engaged with over the summer.

I would like to start by thanking Peel Members of Parliament, Stella Ambler (Mississauga South) and Wladyslaw Lizon (Mississauga – East Cooksville) for participating in a conversation with members of the Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee. Together, we discussed important federal issues affecting Peel, such as public safety and infrastructure investments, and how we can work together to advance these priorities. I look forward to strengthening our relationship with all of our representatives.

In August, the Region was an active participant in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Annual Conference. We raised important issues facing our community with Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants, as well as the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the opposition parties. A summary of the meetings and the issues we discussed are included in this Advocacy Update.

With only a few weeks left before the October provincial election, the Region's **PeelAsksWhy.ca** community engagement campaign is in full swing. The Region is asking all candidates and parties: "Why do Peel residents wait months or even years to access important community human and health services?" Using social media, specifically Twitter (@peelaskwhy) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/peelaskwhy) **PeelAsksWhy.ca** enables residents to ask the candidates about specific services.

Creating **PeelAsksWhy.ca**, along with *A Better Peel for a Better Province*, *Peel's Party Platform*, we have been working hard over the last year to ensure Peel's issues are addressed by the nine MPPs who are elected to represent Peel at Queen's Park.

Sincerely,

John Sanderson

Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee

Information in the Advocacy Update highlights recent advocacy initiatives undertaken by the Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee based on public policies endorsed by Peel Regional Council.

Region of Peel 2011 Election Campaign Gaining Momentum

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Peel Asks 

Association of Municipalities of Ontario 2011 Annual Conference – London, Ontario

A Peel delegation consisting of Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee members Allan Thompson (Caledon), John Sanderson (Brampton), Sandra Hames (Brampton), Elaine Moore (Brampton) and Ron Starr (Mississauga) met with Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants, as well as PC Party Deputy Leader Christine Elliott, and Green Party of Ontario Leader Mike Schreiner at AMO's 2011 Annual Conference held Aug. 21-24.

All briefing notes are available at peelregion.ca/council/advocacy/

Issues Raised:

Children and Youth Services Hon. Laurel Broten	Child Poverty Fair Share Roots of Violence Early Learning and Childcare
Health and Long-Term Care Hon. Deb Matthews	Hospital Offload Delays Underfunding (including long-term care) Mental Health Cancer Advocacy Coalition of Canada Healthy Built Environment Policy Paramedic User Fee
Community and Social Services Hon. Madeline Meilleur	Social Assistance Review Modernization and Provincial Benefits Integration
Transportation Hon. Kathleen Wynne	Goods Movement Long-Term Infrastructure Funding
Education Hon. Leona Dombrowsky	Full-Day Learning
Labour Hon. Charles Sousa	Emergency Services Labour Relations (policing costs)
Environment John Wilkinson	Long-Term Waste Management Plan



Region of Peel delegation participating at AMO (L-R Clockwise): Minister Charles Sousa (Labour), Sylvia Jones (MPP, Dufferin-Caledon); Mike Schreiner (Leader, Green Party of Ontario); Minister John Wilkinson (Environment); Christine Elliot (Deputy Leader, PC Party of Ontario); and PC Caucus members



A Better Peel for a Better Province

Peel's Provincial Party Platform

To date, the Region has highlighted four key provincial election themes: Community Health, Social Development, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Environment. This edition will focus on a fifth theme identified in *A Better Peel for a Better Province, Peel's Provincial Party Platform*: Governance and Sustainability.

One of Peel Region's greatest needs from a provincial perspective is recognition. Peel needs the future provincial government to recognize the unique challenges Peel faces, and commit to working with us to collaboratively address them.

Areas where the next Ontario government can help:

Equitable funding

To allow municipalities and local non-profit organizations to better serve their communities, work with the Region of Peel and non-profits to develop a long-term strategy to address the issue of equitable per capita funding for existing and new programs.

Open for Municipalities

To maximize the use of taxpayer dollars, the next Government of Ontario should conduct an "Open for Municipalities" plan to review all provincially mandated programs and investments with the municipal sector to ensure greater streamlining in reporting, collaboration, program development, and consistency in rules and regulations.

Increased Municipal Empowerment

To demonstrate respect and better recognize municipal decision making and subject matter expertise, the next Government of Ontario should continue to explore changes in legislation to ensure that those decisions within the municipal jurisdiction are protected and enhanced.

Emergency Services Labour Relations

To bring greater cost certainty to municipalities in their provision of emergency services and better protect the municipal taxpayer, the Region of Peel asks the next Government of Ontario to work with interested parties to review the relevant labour legislation and regulations with the goal of transforming the current collective bargaining regimes for emergency services.



Improving the health and well-being of Ontarians: A snapshot of Peel's concerns

Community Health	Social Development	Environment	Transportation and Infrastructure
Centralized Ambulance Communications and Dispatch Centre	Poverty and Families First	Conservation Authorities	Development Charges
Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)	Immigration	Mineral Aggregate Resources	Goods Movement
Public Health Funding	Housing	Environmental Co-ordination and Leadership	Water, Wastewater and Waste Infrastructure
Seniors' Dental Health	Service Integration and Regulatory Reform	Municipal Planning Reforms	Predictable Infrastructure Funding
Paramedic Off-Load Delay			

Peel asks local candidates 'Why?' regarding long wait times for social and community health services

In July, the Region of Peel launched **PeelAsksWhy.ca**, its 2011 provincial election community engagement campaign. The campaign calls on residents, businesses and community groups to ask all local candidates why they wait longer for key community social and health services than other Ontarians, and how they will help address the issue if elected.

Since July, the Region has been asking candidates questions such as:

- Why do Peel families with special needs children wait up to 12 months for an assessment?
- Why are there 2,000 Peel families on the wait list for urgent dental care?

Community involvement is essential to facilitate dialogues with local provincial candidates and the future provincial government in conversations about ways to address our communities' long waiting lists.

Due to Peel's strong population growth, demand for provincially funded services like child care, affordable housing, public health, mental health and addiction, and developmental services have simply out-paced available resources. This means Peel residents are waiting months or even years to access these key services.

For example:

- A family that has found social housing in Peel today has typically waited up to 15 years
- Youth in Peel can wait up to 10 months to access day treatment services

For too long, Peel residents have waited longer than other Ontarians for important community health and social services. The gap is significant and growing.

The residents of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga are making this a priority in this provincial election. They will be asking all Peel provincial candidates why we wait so long and how they plan to address the gap.

Visit **PeelAsksWhy.ca** to directly address the issues and become involved in the dialogue.



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