



Key Facts about Peel:

Demographic Profile:

- 1.35 million (2008) residents; nearly 10 per cent of Ontario's population♦
- By 2031, Peel's population will reach 1.64 million
- Second-highest growth rate of any regional or single-tier municipality in Ontario
- More than 34,000 new residents settle in Peel each year
- By 2031, adults 55 and over will equal almost 30 per cent (443,000) of Peel's projected population
- Immigrants make up 49 per cent of Peel's population
- On average over 23,000 recent immigrants settle in Peel each year
- Newcomers comprise more than 80 per cent of the annual growth each year; second-highest number and percentage of immigrants in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in 2006

Economic and Transportation Infrastructure Profile:

Within Peel's borders:

- Leader in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and pharmaceuticals
- Densest networks of 400 series highways in the GTA
- Strategic access to three large intermodal goods terminals
- Home to Pearson International Airport, Canada's primary cargo hub
- Highest industrial density in the GTA
- Junction point for Canada's two busiest NAFTA corridors (Windsor/Detroit and Niagara/Buffalo)
- About \$1.5 billion of goods move daily through Peel on the east-west highways▪

Poverty and Housing:

- 61,300—Number of children living in poverty in 2006
- 1 per cent—Increase in children in poverty per year, the highest in the GTA
- 55 per cent—Increase in the rate of child poverty since 1997
- 5.2 per cent—Percentage of low birth weight among singleton infants
- 42 per cent—Percentage of children not developmentally ready for Grade 1
- Higher-than-average unemployment, especially amongst youth population
- Over 14,000 households are on Peel's wait list for access to social housing units
- Roughly 11,500 individuals, including approximately 3,300 children and 1,000 youth, used homeless shelters located in Peel in 2009
- A family without priority status moving into social housing in Peel today has typically waited over 12 years for that placement
- It is possible for someone on Peel's waitlist to wait up to 21 years before receiving a placement in social housing

♦ Source: *Census 2006 and Population Estimates 2008*

• Source: *Census 2006*

▪ Source: *MTO Commercial Vehicle Survey*



The Region of Peel is an amazing part of our province. Our diversity defines us as a Region and as a major contributor to the success of Ontario, Canada, and the world. This diversity extends beyond ethnicity and encompasses many other unique aspects including population, faith, and land-use, both urban and rural.

Diversity also drives the Region of Peel, as well as our area municipalities - Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga - in our delivery of services. It has driven us to lead the way in the creation of a responsive, trustworthy organization that provides our citizens with services that address their needs.

The challenges that we face in providing our comprehensive range of services to Peel residents are not necessarily unique to our region but they are compounded by our rapid population growth.

We have long maintained that improving services in Peel goes a long way in improving the health and well-being of all Ontario residents, and this contention is really what this party platform submission is all about.

A Better Peel for a Better Province will assist you and your party in developing your 2011 Provincial Election Platform. It highlights a number of key challenges we face here in Peel that are similar to other Ontario municipalities, and how the Region would like to see them addressed by the provincial party that is given the privilege of serving Ontario as its next provincial government.

The Region of Peel believes in the need for greater collaboration between all orders of government to demonstrate leadership. Peel has a long history of working with provincial and federal governments of all political affiliations to identify issues within Peel and the municipal sector. Peel has always been a strong catalyst for co-operation and innovation in providing solutions for those issues.

It is our sincere hope that you will give strong consideration to this submission and incorporate many of our ideas and themes into your 2011 platforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emil V. Kolb." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emil V. Kolb
Regional Chair & C.E.O.
Region of Peel

General Election Results 1990 – 2007

Ontario seats won/Peel seats won

Party	1990		1995		1999		2003		2007	
	Ontario	Peel	Ontario	Peel	Ontario	Peel	Ontario	Peel	Ontario	Peel
Liberal	36	4	30	0	35	0	72	7	71	8
Progressive Conservative	20	3	82	7	59	8	24	1	26	1
New Democratic	74	0	17	0	9	0	7	0	10	0
Total Ridings	130	7	130	7	103	8	103	8	107	9

PEEL HONOUR ROLL

Party Leaders and Ministers 1990 – 2010

The Hon. Rob Sampson

The Hon. Margaret Marland

The Hon. John Snobelen

The Hon. Carl DeFaria

The Hon. Tony Clement

The Hon. Ernie Eves

The Hon. John Tory

The Hon. Peter Fonseca

The Hon. Harinder Takhar

The Hon. Linda Jeffrey

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Public Health, Long-Term Care, Paramedic Services



There is a growing recognition in Peel and throughout the province of Ontario that the provision of quality health services has moved beyond just having a hospital with an emergency room. It is about integration. It is about innovation. It is about collaboration.

The Region of Peel is a vital cog in a healthy environment leading Public Health, five Long-Term Care homes, and Paramedic Services. Through established partnerships with healthcare delivery partners, Peel strives for universal access to quality services and a better quality of life for Peel residents.

Peel has long been a willing partner in health initiatives that provides the Region's rapidly growing population with reliable, safe, and essential health information and assistance.



Here's how you can help

Centralized Ambulance Communications and Dispatch Centre

Peel, in conjunction with neighbouring municipalities, conducted a research study on the feasibility of reforming the Ambulance Communications and Dispatch System for the entire GTA, excluding the City of Toronto.

The key findings from this study include:

- Long-term and sustainable cost savings to the delivery of ambulance services in the GTA
- Better healthcare for GTA residents through improved response times
- Opportunities for a more reliable ambulance dispatch service for the majority of Ontarians

The study also recommends that the Province assume a legislative, regulatory, and continued 100 per cent funding role.

Request:

To improve the safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of ambulance services in the GTA, work with the Region of Peel and its Regional/County partners to implement a more centralized ambulance dispatch system for the GTA.

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)

Since their creation in March 2006, the Region of Peel has enjoyed positive relationships with both LHINs that service Peel's geographic area, Mississauga-Halton and Central West. Peel has had the opportunity, on a number of occasions, to work collaboratively with the LHINs to support each other and further integrate services to residents.

From an administrative and governance perspective, the Region of Peel finds it a complex environment to work with two separate, independent bodies with differing priorities and agendas.

Request:

As the provincial government examines how to improve Ontario's LHIN system, the Region of Peel requests that it consider concrete measures to simplify the health services planning and funding by LHINs by aligning LHIN boundaries with regional municipal boundaries.

Public Health Funding

A high population growth rate is a reality that many municipal bodies in the 905 area face. One challenge presented by growth is the incongruence of that growth with methods for allocating funds to programs and services. Nowhere is this more evident than in the funding of public health programs that the Region of Peel is mandated to deliver.

Despite the escalating needs for public health services amongst Peel's general and new immigrant populations, the Region sits second to last in the province when it comes to per capita spending on public health. The Region of Peel is expected to meet provincial standards with just one-third of the per capita funding of the highest paid health unit in Ontario.

While there has been some recent recognition of the necessity to switch to a needs-based funding formula, it is important to emphasize that any delay in the implementation of this model will put health units like Peel's even further behind in servicing their communities. Further, it is critical the Province phases in funding that addresses previous gaps.

Request:

To allow municipalities to better deliver on mandated public health services, the next provincial government should implement a needs-based funding formula for Ontario's public health units.

Seniors' Dental Health

The growth of the seniors' population in Peel (set to increase by 60 per cent by 2016) and the challenges that this growth presents are not Peel issues alone. Various orders of government struggle with providing appropriate services for our valued seniors' population.

The Region of Peel took a significant step in 2008 to address the urgent dental needs of low-income seniors. Understanding that poor oral health impacts an individual's overall health, Regional Council made the decision to implement a low-income seniors' dental program. Peel is one of few jurisdictions to take leadership on this issue.

Despite Council's successful efforts and increased investment, today, over 3,000 seniors remain on a waiting list for this 100 per cent regionally funded program.

Request:

To recognize the importance of dental health to the overall health of the seniors population and reduce costly demands on other healthcare services, work with Ontario Public Health Units to design and fund dental programs for low-income seniors.

Paramedic Off-Load Delay

The issue of paramedic patient off-load delay is not a new one in Peel and Ontario. The financial (and human) costs of paramedics waiting to transfer care of patients to hospital emergency departments are simply too high. Off-load delays in Peel are amongst the longest in Ontario. The Region of Peel, LHINs, area hospitals, and the Government of Ontario are working together to grapple with this issue.

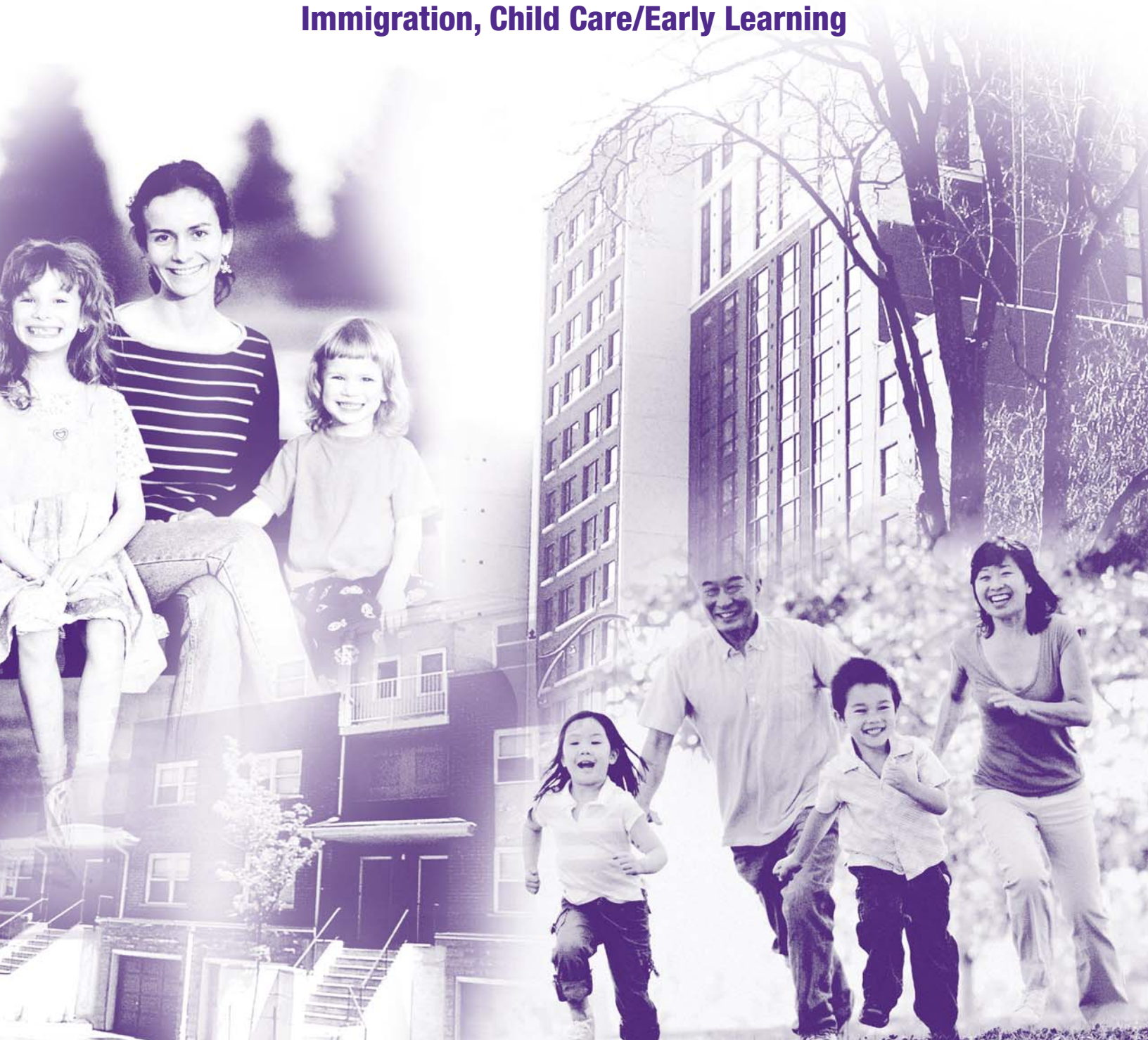
After years of ever-increasing off-load delays, the Region has worked hard with the area hospitals and LHINs to address the issue and are beginning to bend the curve on off-load delay, slowing its annual rate of increase. Peel's paramedics, however, still have off-load delays that consume about 15 per cent of the system hours, and that costs the Region and the province approximately \$8 million per year.

Request:

To allow municipalities to more efficiently spend resources dedicated to paramedic services and improve patient care, Peel asks that the next Government of Ontario aggressively move forward with setting performance targets for paramedic off-load delay and provide sustainable long-term funding to programs designed to decrease off-load delay.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

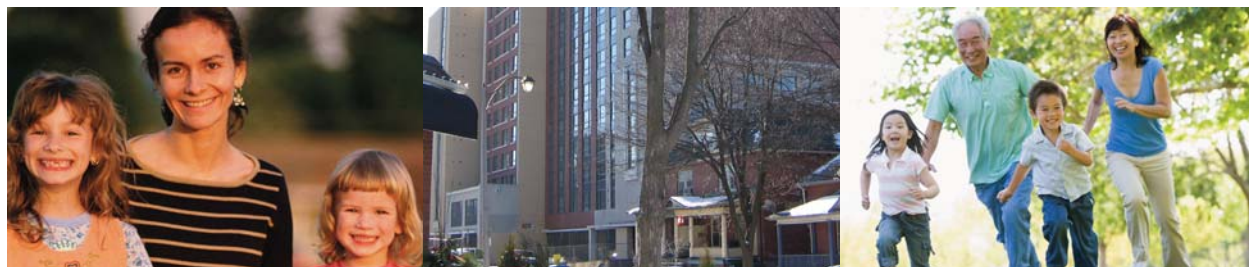
**Ontario Works, Poverty, Housing/Homelessness,
Immigration, Child Care/Early Learning**



Protecting society's most vulnerable citizens is more than just a line in a government's business plan. It is ingrained within the Canadian conscience as a "raison d'être," regardless of order of government. It is the government's responsibility to ensure that those in need of assistance know how to access "the system."

The Region of Peel constantly strives to improve the way in which it delivers social services to ensure greater and easier access for a constantly changing and challenged group of citizens. High population growth, immigration rates, and poverty levels consistently push the Region to be creative to ensure all taxpayers are receiving value for the services provided, many in partnership with the provincial government.

Peel, in collaboration with its community partners, is at the forefront of identifying innovative solutions to address symptoms of poverty, including youth violence, by participating in a number of broader community initiatives that serve this part of Ontario.



Here's how you can help

Poverty and Families First

Peel has experienced a dramatic increase in rates of poverty in the past decade. From rates well below provincial averages, Peel's rates are now equal to or greater than these figures. Child poverty rates especially have risen above provincial averages, driven largely by immigrant families where poverty rates for children under six are well over 40 per cent in Peel.

Doing things better doesn't mean things need to cost more. This concept is one that the Region of Peel, as a public sector institution, must take to heart when developing and innovating service delivery in Ontario. Doing things better and cheaper is the goal behind the Region of Peel's Families First program.

Families First is an intervention-focused program for single-support parents under the umbrella of Ontario Works (OW). Building upon the work of Dr. Gina Browne, clients in Families First, both parents and children, receive integrated supports in health-care, recreation, and employment outside what has traditionally been available in OW.



Peel has spent the past 10 years, along with academic researchers, studying the impact of these additional supports on Peel families and the results have been outstanding:

- Participants less likely to stay on or return to Ontario Works
- Less need for public-funded health services
- Significant improvement in parents' state of mental health
- Healthier, happier, and more confident parents and children
- Overall savings to the taxpayer

Request:

In order to provide a more effective and less expensive service to those in need of social assistance in Ontario, implement changes to the Ontario Works service delivery model to one that provides more integrated health, recreation, and employment supports for single-support families, similar to Peel's Families First program.

Immigration

New immigrants bring with them a vast amount of resources, knowledge, and skill-sets that will diversify the province's workforce and help Ontario succeed in the increasingly competitive global economy. It is essential that the province make the most of its cultural diversity by leveraging immigrants' external networks to foster more diverse trade relations. Providing recent immigrants with appropriate support services will ensure they gain meaningful employment that will lead to a more prosperous Ontario.

Peel is rapidly overtaking Toronto as a magnet for immigrants, and its population is already more than half visible minorities. The immigrant population in Peel is predominantly made up of recent newcomers who have arrived in the past 10 to 15 years. The individuals are having more difficulties than previous newcomers at integrating into the workforce with appropriate jobs that match their skills. As a result, 33 per cent of recent immigrants in Peel are living in poverty.

Request:

To assist high-growth immigrant communities, develop a long-term strategy that delivers definitive policy direction and funding for immigrant services.

Housing

How would you explain to a family or individual in need of subsidized housing today that they might have to wait 21 years before being placed in an acceptable housing unit? This difficult task is one that Region of Peel staff face on a daily basis.

There are multiple reasons for Peel's social housing crisis. Certainly the Region's unique demographic and shortage of appropriate units play a large part in the growth of our waiting list.

Similarly, there is not one solution to rectify the housing need in Peel. A mixture of new capital, housing allowances, subsidies, and regulatory change are options that assist the municipal sector in dealing with the growing need for housing.

What is truly needed, however, is the political will and commitment from all orders of government, to address issues within the social housing sector and present a long-term vision for reform and investments.

Request:

To begin to address the extensive social housing waiting lists in Peel and other municipalities, thus providing more timely housing supports to Ontarians, give municipalities the legislative, regulatory, and infrastructure tools to address their local housing needs.

Service Integration and Regulatory Reform

In the past two years, the Region of Peel has gone to great lengths to integrate the delivery of its social service programs. As a result of this effort, clients now receive "one-stop" service, regardless of their specific needs. In addition, Peel has worked with community partners to ensure greater program integration in individual, high-needs neighbourhoods to better facilitate access to these services.

While the Region has found success in many program areas through integration and innovation, inconsistency, inflexibility, and overregulation continue to plague many of the provincially mandated programs that the Region of Peel delivers.

Request:

To reduce the administrative burden on the municipal sector and better integrate service delivery at the local level, the next Government of Ontario should conduct a review of all social service funding program rules and regulations to determine their necessity, effectiveness, and consistency with other programs and actively seek opportunities to encourage better service delivery integration at the local level.

ENVIRONMENT

Water, Wastewater, Waste/Recycling, Land-Use Planning



Peel Region, like many of Ontario’s upper-tier municipalities, is an impressive mix of urban and rural landscapes. The Region’s area municipalities, Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga, have all contributed to building a complete, liveable, and vibrant Peel community.

The challenges Peel faces to maintain and improve upon the natural environment are great and varied. Growth pressures and environmental changes have increased demand on services that are in place to protect the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the places we work and play.



Here’s how you can help

Conservation Authorities

Conservation authorities play a vital role in Ontario in the protection of many aspects of the natural environment. This role has become increasingly more difficult and costly as provincial and federal governments have introduced new environmental legislation and regulations.

Peel enjoys a productive and positive relationship with the two main conservation authorities, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Credit Valley Conservation, as well as other organizations such as the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Our Council shares their commitment for achieving excellence in environmental protection.

Through their work, conservation authorities across the province impact many stakeholder groups beyond the municipal sector. Those involved in agriculture, building, developing, and recreation, just to name a few, have all looked for clarity in the roles and responsibilities of conservation authorities in the ever-changing natural and regulatory environment.

Request:

To give guidance and clarity to municipalities and other affected stakeholders, the Province needs to provide leadership in further defining the roles and responsibilities of conservation authorities in Ontario.



Mineral Aggregate Resources

When one thinks of Peel Region, urban development and the physical infrastructure associated with that development, like residential and commercial areas, often come to mind. There are also large areas in Peel where rural landscapes, natural heritage, agricultural uses, and rural communities predominate. These areas have an abundance of natural resources, which support economic activity associated with resource utilization.

One specific natural resource is aggregate. For many years, the northern half of Peel Region has seen numerous aggregate operations establish and expand to supply bedrock, sands, and gravel to the construction industry across the GTA. Peel Region most certainly understands the need for an adequate aggregate supply to support the construction of roads, bridges and other vital infrastructure.

This industry, however, is having an impact on the environment. A recent Ministry of Natural Resources study highlights significant deficiencies in the implementation of the current legislative and regulatory framework governing the aggregates industry and includes a lack of visible progress and delay towards rehabilitation, provincial monitoring, enforcement, and staff resources. These deficiencies impact the degree to which Peel can maintain a healthy environment for our community.

Request:

To assist the Region of Peel and other aggregate-producing communities, reform sections within Ontario's *Aggregate Resources Act* that include strengthening industry monitoring and the rehabilitation of inactive pits and quarries.

Environmental Co-ordination and Leadership

The protection of our natural environment is a key theme throughout much of what we do here at the Region of Peel. Peel's commitment is more than just words on a page. The Region has developed programs and dedicated significant financial resources to ensure that Peel is a sustainable community, today and in the future.

A major obstacle the Region and other municipalities face revolves around a lack of consistent direction from the provincial government. Peel faces substantial delays in moving forward in areas such as waste, diversion of recyclables and organics, energy from waste and green job creation due to government indecision and inconsistent direction from partner ministries.



In environmentally important policy areas, like climate change and air quality, the Region of Peel also struggles with a lack of effective policy, information, and overall co-ordination of initiatives designed to have a positive impact on our environment at the local and Regional level.

Request:

To allow municipalities to more effectively partner with the Government of Ontario on environmental issues, the Province should take a greater leadership and co-ordination role in environmental policy emanating from provincial ministries and the federal government.

Municipal Planning Reforms

There has been significant change in the land-use planning environment throughout Ontario and Peel Region in recent years. The addition of Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Growth Plan; revisions to the Provincial Policy Statement; and reforms to the *Planning Act* have radically changed the way in which municipalities plan for future infrastructure needs.

As municipalities work to implement these initiatives, it has become clear that there is a need for more improvement, better co-ordination, harmonization, new policy direction, and implementation tools to better equip municipalities to achieve their community planning goals and objectives.

Request:

In order for the municipal sector to address their environmental and community planning needs, the Province must commit to continuous improvement of the legislative and regulatory framework for planning and addressing known policy gaps, inconsistencies, harmonization, and the planning tools that are needed to equip municipalities to deliver effective planning.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**Roads and Highways, Bridges, Goods and People Movement,
Water and Wastewater, Social and Cultural Capital Infrastructure**



The Region of Peel is modern, progressive, and resourceful. We make new out of the old. We make future out of the past. We create solutions out of our challenges. The Region accomplishes its goals for the good of Peel residents, and understands the choices we make as a Region have a large impact on the future success of Ontario and Canada.

Strong economic growth benefits all three orders of government. A key necessity for increased and sustained economic activity and government revenue is safe, efficient, and adequate infrastructure that supports and fosters economic development.

Part of Peel’s contribution made to the province and the country is through our capital infrastructure investments. Every day, highways, water systems, housing, transit, and other vital infrastructure serve millions of Ontarians and play a large part in the quality of life for those living in or travelling through Peel Region.



Here’s how you can help

Development Charges

Ontario’s *Development Charges Act* was last revised and updated in 1997. A great deal will have changed by 2011 when the next Government is formed. The Province of Ontario has many new land-use rules like the Greenbelt Plan and *Places to Grow Act*; transit bodies developing transportation plans including Metrolinx’s The Big Move; and well-established capital infrastructure organizations like Infrastructure Ontario.

The landscape for planning, building, and funding development has completely changed from where it was in 1997, and it is time for everyone involved in the development community to face that reality.

The Region of Peel wants to participate in a discussion with all development partners, from citizens to landowners to developers, to ensure proper mechanisms are in place to fuel future growth, together.

Request:

To ensure that the municipal sector has the tools to plan and fund future growth, the next Government of Ontario should conduct and complete a review of the *Development Charges Act* during the next mandate.



Goods Movement

One of the greatest strengths possessed by the Region is its large and growing industrial base and the associated logistics industry. Peel’s proximity to both domestic and international markets, mixed with vast transportation networks, have been a draw for businesses and talent from around the world to call Peel home.

Peel continues to face the challenges presented by rapid growth that has increased gridlock on Ontario’s highways and municipal roads. While gridlock has direct implications to Peel specifically, it is a major economic issue for neighbouring municipalities, Ontario, Canada, and throughout North America.

The economic, environment, and social costs of delay in moving goods from one place to another are enormous and projected to get worse without a collective effort from the public and private sectors.

With the densest concentration of 400 series highways, the nation's largest international airport, and in close proximity to a number of other major intermodal hubs, the Region of Peel is positioned to play a major role in lessening the impact of gridlock on our businesses and citizens.

Request:

To begin to address the impact that gridlock has on people and the economy, the Region of Peel requests that the next Government of Ontario commit to developing a long-term strategy to improve the movement of goods throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Peel Region would expect the future strategy to address issues such as expediting the Environmental Assessment process for all transportation projects and an aggressive widening plan for the 400 series highway network.

Water, Wastewater & Waste Infrastructure

The Region relies heavily on the water, wastewater and waste management infrastructure systems that are critical for the economic viability of our businesses and the quality of life of our residents. The benefits of investments in these projects go well beyond the municipalities they serve. The cost of building, upgrading and repairing water and wastewater treatment facilities, in addition to our waste facilities, is quickly moving beyond the municipalities' ability to afford.

These challenges are especially difficult in rural communities throughout the region that have a growing demand on their physical infrastructure and no available funding through the Region to pay for upgrades. These infrastructure improvements are essential towards mitigating any environmental impact.

There is also a significant need for greater co-operation amongst the three orders of government to bring solutions forward to address long term issues in the areas of water, wastewater and waste infrastructure.

Request:

To demonstrate a tripartite commitment to our environment, the Region of Peel requests that the next Government of Ontario plays a leading role in increasing the level of co-ordination and financial commitment, from both the provincial and federal orders of government, to fund water, wastewater and waste infrastructure capital projects.

Predictable Infrastructure Funding

As one of Ontario's largest municipalities, with a population of more than 1.35 million people, Peel has the primary infrastructure planning responsibility for Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga. It is essential that we are able to appropriately plan for an anticipated growth rate of 34,000 new residents each and every year.

It has long been the contention of the municipal sector that a long-term, predictable infrastructure funding stream is needed. While one-time funding is always appreciated when it is available, it is difficult for municipalities to engage in long-term infrastructure and asset management planning without knowing when or even if funding will be received from other orders of government.

Request:

To provide municipalities with the financial tools to address their specific infrastructure needs, the next Government of Ontario should, through its long-term infrastructure planning, create a funding stream dedicated to providing annual resources to municipalities for the purposes of capital infrastructure.

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Provincial-Municipal Cost Shared Programs,
Property Taxes, Municipal Powers and Reporting**



In 1974, the Regional Municipality of Peel was incorporated based on the principle that certain community and infrastructure services, such as community health, land ambulance services, water and sanitary sewers, and waste collection are more cost-effectively administered over a larger geographic area.

Much has changed since that year. Rapid population growth and commercial development have transformed what was primarily a rural area into a dynamic blend of urban, industrial, agricultural, and residential areas.

The Region of Peel is nationally recognized as a leader in responsible government that works in collaboration with community stakeholders to identify and deliver new and innovative programs and services to meet the growing, unique, and complex needs in Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga.

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



Here’s how you can help

Equitable Funding

For almost a quarter of a century, community organizations serving the social development needs of Peel’s large and diverse citizenry have been asking for provincial governments of all affiliations to recognize the unique growth and service delivery challenges Peel faces and to more equitably address the way in which social services funding is allocated across the province.

For the most part, while sporadic attempts have been made to recognize chronic underfunding, our community’s requests to rectify the situation have gone unanswered. On a per capita basis, the Region of Peel receives the lowest amount of funding in the entire province of Ontario and the gap gets larger every year.

Peel Region understands that decades of underfunding cannot realistically be addressed overnight, especially in a time of economic recovery and stabilization. It is also recognized that other municipal jurisdictions in high growth areas face a degree of the system pressures experienced by the Region. Working together to halt and reverse the historic underfunding over time will go a long way to restoring trust in community-based social services funding.

Request:

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

As a municipal partner and a corporation responsible to our taxpayers, the Region firmly believes in being accountable to all stakeholders with regard to how it spends our resources. If the Region of Peel delivers a program on behalf of another order of government, Peel works diligently to ensure the program is being delivered appropriately and as efficiently as possible to maximize this investment.

For years, much has been made about so-called “red tape” that slows down efficiency, increases duplication, and serves as a disincentive to economic development to business.

Municipalities face this same type of red tape when it comes to program and service delivery at the local level. Onerous reporting systems, inconsistent rules and regulations, and a lack of co-ordination amongst and between governments are commonplace in today's municipal environment.

Request:

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

Many municipalities in Ontario have moved beyond the "creation of the Province" moniker for some time now. Municipalities of all shapes and sizes have demonstrated that as mature orders of government they are capable of accomplishing great feats. It is safe to say that the Region of Peel has risen to a level of true partner when it comes to its working with the Government of Ontario, regardless of their political parties.

While Peel has a renewed relationship with the Province through mechanisms like the Provincial Municipal Memorandum of Understanding, there are still instances in policy development and implementation where there is a lack of respect for municipal decision making and expertise.

From fiscal restraint to land-use planning issues, it would be Peel's expectation that the municipal interest is placed high on the list of considerations with any provincial policy initiative. The sector and Peel have earned this degree of respect through our actions and national recognition.



Request:

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

The public sector labour relations environment is complex. These complexities are exacerbated during times of economic downturn with all orders of government striving for fiscal restraint.

The municipal sector's inability to effectively control one of its major expenses, wages and benefits, is in part due to the nature of collective bargaining in Ontario under provincial legislation and regulation. This is particularly evident with our emergency service sectors.

Police, fire, and paramedic associations and unions bargain with their employers to secure collective agreements that best represent the interests of their members. Peel respects the right of these associations and unions to bargain collectively and values the work that they do. Wages and benefits for these types of services have escalated much faster than wages and benefits for other public sector employees and well above the Consumer Price Index. In addition, the process by which wage settlements are made is not responsive to changing economic circumstances.

The Region believes there is a better, more productive and cost-effective way to accomplish the goals of both employers and employees. Prospective changes would also assist future provincial governments as they continue to address their deficit-elimination goals.

Request:

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.



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