

Advocacy Update

Regional Council
E. Kolb,
Regional Chair

City of Brampton

Susan Fennell,
Mayor
Sandra Hames
Gael Miles
Elaine Moore
Paul Palleschi
John Sanderson
John Sprovieri

Town of Caledon

Marolyn Morrison,
Mayor
Patti Foley
Richard Paterak
Allan Thompson
Richard Whitehead

City of Mississauga

Hazel McCallion,
Mayor
George Carlson
Frank Dale
Chris Fonseca
Nando Iannicca
Katie Mahoney
Sue McFadden
Pat Mullin
Pat Saito
Ron Starr
Jim Tovey

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.



It is my honour to once again act as Chair of the Region of Peel's Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee (IRAC).

We're fortunate to have nine electoral seats in Peel – both federally and provincially – to leverage your voice and experience to raise awareness and shape policies affecting the nearly 1.35 million people and 88,100 businesses in Peel. Like you, we know more can be done to address concerns such as our uniquely high child poverty rate, and ensuring long-term infrastructure investments continue to meet the demands of our growing population.

With the federal election now behind us, I want to thank everyone who participated in our all-candidates briefing session on April 14th. I also want to extend our congratulations to Peel's newly and re-elected MPs. We look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead to advance the needs of our communities.

Keeping you informed is an important part of IRAC's work, and we have identified a number of initiatives to support this. You'll soon hear more about our provincial election strategy, and as always, we look forward to continuing to host you at our IRAC meetings.

I want to extend my appreciation to the Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants whom we had the pleasure of meeting at the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) 2011 Annual Conference.

Finally, I wanted to remind you of Peel's Provincial Party Platform: A Better Peel for a Better Province. This document outlines the issues and recommendations the Region of Peel would like to see the next provincial government implement. View the full document at peelregion.ca/council/advocacy.

Our committee looks forward to working with each of you throughout this coming year.

Sincerely,

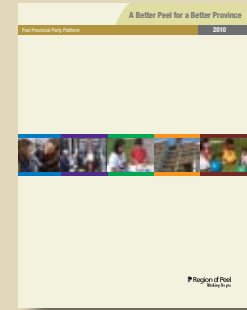
Allan Thompson
Regional Councillor
Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee



Together with Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon, the Region of Peel jointly presented to local federal candidates, listing a number of key priorities for the Region – from urgently needed affordable housing to gaps in infrastructure and goods movement funding and public safety.

A Better Peel for a Better Province – Peel’s Provincial Party Platform

In the winter 2011 Advocacy Update we highlighted the five key provincial election themes Regional Council is asking the next provincial government to address in *A Better Peel for a Better Province, Peel’s Provincial Party Platform*. In this Update we will continue by focusing on Environment, and Transportation and Infrastructure related issues.



Transportation and Infrastructure

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.

Areas where the next Ontario government can help:

Topic	Issue/Solution
Development Charges	Ensure 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	To begin to address the impact gridlock has on people and the economy, the Region of Peel requests the next Government of Ontario to commit to developing a long-term strategy to improve the movement of goods throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.
Water, Wastewater & Waste Infrastructure	To demonstrate a tripartite commitment to our environment, the Region of Peel requests the next Government of Ontario to play a leading role in increasing the level of co-ordination and financial commitment – from both provincial and federal orders of government – to fund water, wastewater and waste infrastructure capital projects.
Predictable Infrastructure Funding	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.

Environment

Peel Region, like many of Ontario’s upper-tier municipalities, is an impressive mix of urban and rural landscapes. Growth pressures and environmental changes have increased demand on services that are in place to protect the residents of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga.

Areas where the next Ontario government can help:

Topic	Issue/Solution
Conservation Authorities	Give guidance and clarity to municipalities and other affected stakeholders. The Province needs to provide leadership to further define the roles and responsibilities of conservation authorities in Ontario.
Mineral Aggregate Resources	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	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	In order for the municipal sector to address 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 needed to equip municipalities to deliver effective planning.

Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Strategy

The Region of Peel has been closely following the developments around the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's (MOHLTC) 10-year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. We are encouraged by the government's commitment to invest in a long-term strategy that was announced in the 2011 provincial budget, which we are anticipating will be released this spring. Peel strongly believes that mental health and addictions services require a comprehensive strategy to strengthen services across the province.

Although the Region of Peel does not have a mandate to fund or deliver mental health and addiction services, these services are of strategic importance to the Region, as they span across both the health and human services sectors. Many community-based mental health providers are integral partners to Region of Peel programs, such as Families First, and Healthy Babies Healthy Children.

A major issue affecting Peel is funding for mental health and addiction services that has not kept pace with Peel's rapid population growth. Per capita funding for adult mental health services in Peel are among the very lowest in Ontario. **In fact, per capita funding in the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network is the lowest in Ontario.** Funding for children's mental health and addiction services also falls far below the provincial average funding levels.

Long waitlists for community mental health and addictions services are common in Peel. Some crucial services for children and youth have waitlists exceeding eight months.

The Region supports initiatives to improve access to mental health and addictions services, both locally and provincially. Our efforts include partnering with our Local Health Integration Networks, as well as submitting recommendations to the Minister's Advisory Group and the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions to inform the 10-year strategy.

The Region's submission to the committee recommended:

1. A provincial policy framework for all mental health and addictions services, aligning the efforts of all levels of government and provincial ministries and service providers.
2. More provincial investment in mental health and addictions services for effective prevention and treatment programs, and to help Peel gain ground on its current low per capita funding.

View the entire submission at peelregion.ca/council/advocacy/work/#3

The Region of Peel remains a committed partner to help address mental health and addictions issues affecting our communities.

ROMA/OGRA 2011 Annual Conference – Toronto

A Peel delegation consisting of Mayor Marolyn Morrison (Caledon); Regional Councillors Allan Thompson (Caledon), John Sanderson (Brampton), Jim Tovey (Mississauga), and Patti Foley (Caledon) met with Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants at the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and Ontario Good Roads Association 2011 Annual Conference held Feb. 27 – March 2.

Meeting Summary					
Ministry	Municipal Affairs & Housing Parliamentary Assistant, Hon. Donna Cansfield	Infrastructure Hon. Bob Chiarelli	Community & Social Services Hon. Madeline Meilleur	Environment Hon. John Wilkinson	Transportation Parliamentary Assistant, Amrit Mangat
Topic 1	Long-term affordable housing strategy	Long-term infrastructure planning and predictable funding	Social assistance review	Environmental co-ordination and leadership	Goods movement
Topic 2		Transportation infrastructure	Service integration and regulatory reform	The role of waste diversion in the green economy	Long-term highway infrastructure planning
Topic 3		Water, wastewater and waste infrastructure			

PEEL'S FISCAL CHALLENGE: Ensuring Sustainable Services in a Changing Environment

Recognized for its service excellence and strong fiscal management, the Region of Peel continues to maintain a Triple A Credit rating. Effective management of the tax rate is achieved through continuous service improvements and efficiencies, and a multi-faceted approach to capital reserve use.

The Region of Peel's 2011 operating budget of \$1.7 billion and \$900 million capital budget supports:

- 13,899 OW caseloads
- 43 ambulances responding to 80,000 911-calls
- maintenance of over 1,500 km of Regional roads
- social housing for 16,205 families and individuals
- management of 488,629 tonnes of waste
- treatment of 580 million litres of municipal water distributed each day to more than 292,000 households
- 703 long term care beds
- 428,908 Accessible transportation trips
- 7,500 subsidized child care spaces
- police services
- conservation activities
- heritage programs

Region of Peel Council is committed to ensuring the budget supports a more stable economy. Managing the service needs of Peel's large, diverse community – while ensuring service sustainability – is becoming increasingly complex.

Greater involvement of the Federal and Provincial governments in a number of key areas will greatly benefit Peel residents and taxpayers:

Growing population

Close to 1.35 million people currently live in Peel. About 22,000 new residents settle in Peel each year. The population is projected to reach 1.64 million.

- Almost half of Peel's residents are from other countries
- Four out of five new arrivals are immigrants to Canada
- The number of older adults will increase by 47% by 2021

This growth places pressure for valued Regional programs including Accessible Transportation, social housing, long term care and paramedic services.

Support to families

Peel is experiencing increased service and cost pressures to support the rising numbers of families in need of social assistance, subsidized housing and child care.

- Low income households are one of Peel's fastest growing population groups
- Peel receives less per capita funding for social and health services than other municipalities in Ontario
- The under funding contributes to the 15,200 households currently on the Region's wait list for access to social housing units

Infrastructure

Accommodating growth requires significant capital investment in advance of that growth. It also means investing in the upkeep of current assets.

- Regional Council will spend \$5.2 billion over 10 years – about 50% of that is budgeted to ensure water and wastewater systems are in place for the tens of thousands of new residents expected to arrive to Peel
- In following the Region's practice that growth pay for growth, and the stress on Peel taxpayers' ability to pay, the Region has issued \$500 million of debt to cash flow development charges.

Regulations and Legislation

Changes to ODA, AODA and LTC Acts, Safe Water, etc., which are put in place as the Province addresses risks and public concerns, significantly impact service sustainability.

- The Region must invest in additional resources to ensure services are maintained.

Peel taxpayers have benefited from the Province's uploading of OW, ODSP and GTA Pooling funds. As well, the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Funding has created much needed jobs and infrastructure. The Region welcomes discussions with the Provincial and Federal governments on increased investment in infrastructure, and continued uploading of OW and public health service funding.

Regional Executive Management Team

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Employee and Business Services

Dan Labrecque, Commissioner, Public Works

Janet Menard, Commissioner, Human Services

Janette Smith, Commissioner, Health Services

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