



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE (GRC)**

AGENDA

GRC - 1/2015

DATE: June 11, 2015

TIME: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Regional Council Chambers, 5th Floor
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, ON

MEMBERS: B. Crombie; F. Dale; G. Gibson; J. Innis; L. Jeffrey; M. Medeiros;
G. Miles; K. Ras; A. Thompson; J. Tovey

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4. **DELEGATIONS**
5. **REPORTS**
 - 5.1. External Relations: Opportunities and Options (Oral)
Presentation by Aileen Baird, Director, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
 - 5.2. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference Summary (Oral)
Discussion led by David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations
6. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATUS REPORT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES (Oral)**
Discussion led by Lowell Rubin-Vaughan, Advisor, External Relations
 - a) Federal News
 - b) Provincial News
 - c) Local News

7. COMMUNICATIONS

8. IN CAMERA MATTERS

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING

September 3, 2015 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 5th Floor
Regional Administrative Headquarters
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, Ontario

11. ADJOURNMENT

Region of Peel – Government Relations Committee Opportunities and Options

Aileen Baird and David Arbuckle
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

June 11, 2015

Government Relations Committee

- Region of Peel is a key influencer in municipal government relations
- GRC's Mandate:
“To develop, coordinate, implement and monitor government relations strategies based on Regional Council endorsed advocacy positions...”
- Work with stakeholders to advance Regional Council's advocacy agenda

Government Relations Committee

- Support related activities & tactics necessary to implement GRC strategies
- Supported by Office of the CAO (OCAO) External Relations Team
 - Aileen Baird, Director
 - David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations
 - Lowell Rubin-Vaughan, Advisor, External Relations
 - Sonia Mistry, Specialist, External Relations

Current OCAO Support to the ^{5.1-4} Government Relations Committee

- Monitor & analyze Provincial and Federal Government activity
- Develop & support government relations strategies
- Prioritize, track, monitor & measure Regional Council endorsed advocacy positions
- Support municipal sector association conference & board activities

Options to Support GRC – Advocacy Tactics

1. Targeted Government Relations Strategies

- Develop, execute & measure strategies to support the advancement of relevant Term of Council Outcomes

2. Municipal Sector Associations

- Support participating attendees at sector association conferences & Boards and/or Committees meetings

3. Meetings with Senior Government Officials

- Organize opportunities outside municipal conference setting

4. Government Relations Status Report & Current Activities

- Regular updates on key government activities

Options to Support GRC – Communication Tactics

5.1-6

- 1. MP/MPP Participation at GRC Meetings**
 - Identify common issues & opportunities for collaboration and information sharing
- 2. *MP/MPP Advocacy Update (Newsletter)***
 - Advocacy initiatives of interest to elected officials & Regional Council
- 3. *Advocating for Peel (Website)***
 - Feature initiatives & issues addressed by the Region with the Federal and Provincial governments
- 4. Social Media**
 - Communicate Peel's advocacy initiatives

Questions:

1. What staff supports does the GRC want/need to assist in achieving the Committee's mandate?
2. Are there additional advocacy and communication tactics the Region could/should explore to advance Regional priorities and better support the GRC?

In Closing

- Region of Peel is a key influencer in municipal government relations

Contact

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David Arbuckle, Manager

Strategic Public Policy and External Relations

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Government Relations Committee

Status Report & Current Activities

June 11, 2015

Lowell Rubin-Vaughan

Advisor, External Relations

Office of the CAO



Provincial

Highlights:

- **May 27, 2015** – MMAH announces that ranked ballots will be included in *the Municipal Elections Act Review*
- **May 13, 2015** – MOHLTC launches *Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care*, the government's plan to improve and expand services with a \$750M investment over the next 3 years
- **April 13, 2015** – Premier announces development of cap and trade system in partnership with Quebec
- **March 20, 2015** – Premier appoints Karen Pitre as Special Advisor on Community Hubs



Provincial

Highlights:

- **February 12, 2015** – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change released a discussion paper on climate change
- **February 5, 2015** – Sudbury by-election
 - Liberal candidate, Glenn Thibeault (former New Democrat MP), was elected
 - Current Party Standings
 - Ontario Liberal Party: 59
 - Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: 28
 - New Democratic Party of Ontario: 20
- **January 26, 2015** – Province appoints Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness



Provincial

Highlights:

- **January 20, 2015** - Premier Wynne called for a “Canadian Infrastructure Partnership”
 - all levels of government would invest 5% of GDP in infrastructure renewal
 - would replace “ad hoc” federal government programs
- **January 19, 2015** - The province announced increased wages for early childhood educators and front-line child care professionals in licensed child care settings.
- **January 5, 2015** - Premier Kathleen Wynne met with Prime Minister Harper to discuss issues related to jobs and the economy
 - Last meeting was December 5, 2013.
- **November 17, 2014** - Finance Minister Charles Sousa delivered the provincial government’s Fall Economic Statement



Provincial Budget

- **April 23, 2015** – Finance Minister Sousa introduced the 2015 Ontario Budget, *Building Ontario Up (Second Reading)*. Remains committed to balancing the budget by 2017-18.

Highlights:

1. Transit/Transportation

- Increasing the dedicated funds for *Moving Ontario Forward Plan* by \$2.6 billion for a total of \$31.5B over 10 years:
 - About \$16B for GTHA transit projects including \$1.6B for the Hurontario-Main Light Rail Transit project in Mississauga and Brampton
 - About \$15B in transportation projects outside the GTHA
 - Confirming its funding commitment to Ontario's long term infrastructure plan, *Building Together*, \$100B over 10 years including \$50B for transportation infrastructure
- Confirming its commitment to support improvements in GO service resulting in a Regional Express Rail (RER) including routes such as the Union Station to Bramalea on the Kitchener Corridor



Provincial Budget

2. Health

- Increasing funding for community and home care services by an average of 5% per year, or more than \$750M over the next three years
- Doubling the Seniors Community Grant Program to \$2M per year

3. Poverty Reduction

- 1% increase to social assistance rates in 2015 (OW, ODSP); Municipalities will not be required to cost-share the OW rate increase until January 2016
- Indexing the Ontario Child Benefit to annual increases in the Ontario Consumer Price Index, starting July 2015
- Reaffirming its funding commitment to housing and homeless initiatives

4. Child Care

- Allocating an additional \$44.5M in childcare funding through the childcare funding formula

5. Climate Change

- Begin to consult on the proposed cap-and-trade system program, summer 2015



Provincial

Legislation

- **May 28, 2015** – *Bill 49, Ontario Immigration Act (passed Third Reading)*
- **May 26, 2015** - *Bill 45, Making Healthier Choices Act, 2015 (passed Third Reading)*
- **May 5, 2015** - *Bill 56, An Act to require the establishment of the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (received Royal Assent)*
- **April 20, 2015** - *Bill 31, Transportation Statute Law Amendment Act (Making Ontario's Roads Safer), 2015 (Third Reading)*
- **March 26, 2015** – *Bill 66, The Great Lakes Water Protection Act, 2015 (Second Reading)*



Provincial

Legislation

- **December 11, 2014** - *Bill 8, Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act, 2014 (received Royal Assent) - Regulation to enable public to file complaints about municipalities and universities to the Ontario Ombudsman come into effect January 1, 2016*
- **December 9, 2014** - *Bill 6, An Act to enact the Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2014 (Second Reading)*
- **December 4, 2014** - *Bill 10, Child Care Modernization Act, 2014 (received Royal Assent)*
- **November 25, 2014** - *Bill 47, Healthy Decisions for Healthy Eating Act, 2014 (NDP) (First Reading)*



Federal

Highlights:

- **May 20, 2015** – FCM releases the report *Built to Last: Strengthening the Foundations of Housing in Canada* highlighting the challenges related to housing in Canada
- **May 13, 2015** – Patrick Brown, MP Barrie (Ontario) resigns after winning Ontario PC Leadership
 - Current Major Party Standings:
 - Conservative Party of Canada: 159
 - New Democrat Party: 95
 - Liberal: 36
- **November 17, 2014** – Federal by-elections in Yellowhead (Alberta) and Whitby-Oshawa, (Ontario) won by the Conservative Party
- **November 12, 2014** - Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver delivered the Fall Economic Update



Federal Budget

April 23, 2015 – Finance Minister Oliver introduced the 2015 Budget, *Strong Leadership: A Balanced-Budget, Low Tax Plan For Jobs, Growth and Security*. The budget projects a surplus of \$1.4B for 2015-16 and surpluses there after.

Highlights:

1. Jobs and Economic Growth

- Investing \$750M over 2 years starting in 2017-18, and \$1B per year thereafter, for a new *Public Transit Fund* aimed at building new public transit infrastructure in large cities
- Reaffirmed financial commitment to the *New Building Canada Plan*
- Facilitating the harmonization of apprenticeship training and certification requirements in targeted trades

2. Health

- Renewing the mandate of the Mental Health Commission of Canada for another 10 years, beginning in 2017–18
- Providing \$14M over two years for the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement to help identify efficiencies in the health system.



Federal Budget

3. Families and Communities

- Provide \$150M over 4 years, starting in 2016-17, to allow cooperative and non-profit social housing providers to prepay long-term, non-renewable mortgages held with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation without penalty
- Extend *Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefits* from 6 weeks to 6 months for Canadians caring for gravely ill and dying family members
- Introducing a *Home Accessibility Tax Credit* to help seniors and persons with disabilities with renovation costs to make their home more accessible
- Increasing the Tax-Free Savings Account contribution limit to \$10,000
- Making permanent the Foreign Credential Recognition Loans pilot program

4. Community Safety

- Allocating another 10Mhz of the 700 MHz spectrum as part of the creation of a *Public Safety Broadband Network* (a high-speed mobile network dedicated to emergency management)



Federal

Legislation:

- **February 19, 2015** – *PMB C-619 An Act to Ensure Canada Assumes its Responsibilities in Preventing Dangerous Climate Change (NDP) (Second Reading)*
- **May 4, 2015** – *Bill C-52 An Act to amend the Canada Transportation Act and the Railway Safety Act (Safe and Accountable Rail Act) (Committee Reporting the Bill with Amendments)*
- **April 29, 2015** – *PMB C-625 An Act to amend the Statistics Act (removal of imprisonment) (Conservative) (Committee Reporting the Bill without Amendment)*



Advocacy Opportunities

- **August 16 - 19, 2015** – Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference (Niagara Falls, ON)
- **November, 2015** – Federation of Canadian Municipalities Advocacy Days (Ottawa, ON)
- **February, 2016** – Rural Ontario Municipal Association / Ontario Good Roads Association Annual Conference (Toronto, ON)
- **June 3 - 6, 2016** – Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference (Winnipeg, MB)

