



-Strengthening Peel and all Municipalities - *Working Together for a Stronger Canada*

Presentation to Federal Candidates, Peel Ridings

Peel Regional Headquarters
September 22, 2008

Peel's Case: Time for Partnership

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Peel Profile

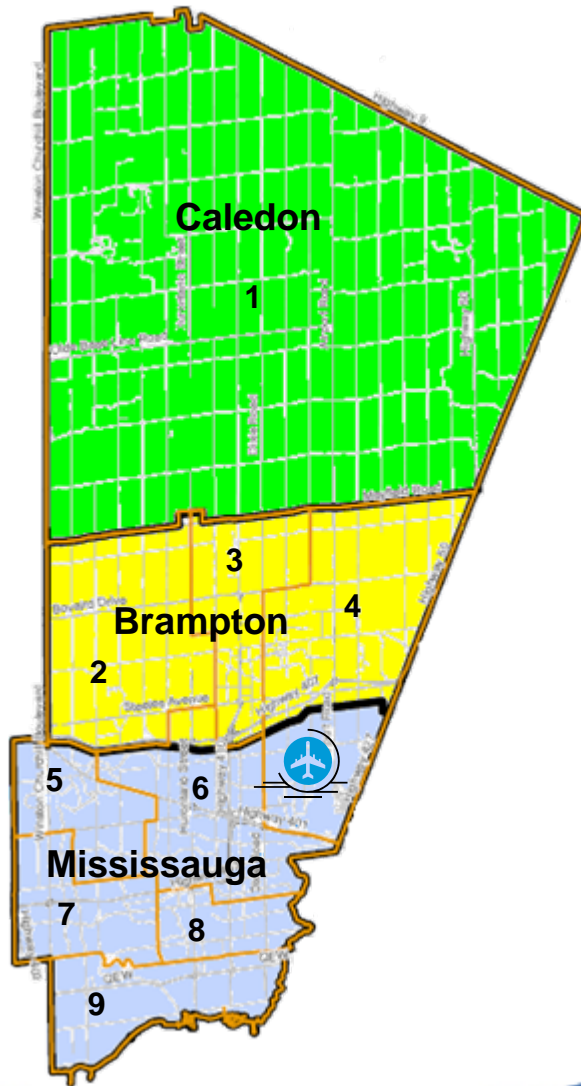
- 1.2 million residents
- More than 560,000 immigrants, 93 ethnic groups
- Nine of 106 federal ridings in Ontario

Who We Are

- Major economic centre of Canada: manufacturing, goods movement, trade
- Central transportation hub: four 400 series highways
- International Gateway (Pearson Airport)
- Peel shares Lake Ontario with other parts of the province as well as the USA



2008 Federal Election, Peel



2008 Federal Election, Peel Ridings

- 1 = Dufferin – Caledon
- 2 = Brampton West
- 3 = Brampton Springdale
- 4 = Bramalea – Gore – Malton
- 5 = Mississauga Streetsville
- 6 = Mississauga Brampton South
- 7 = Mississauga Erindale
- 8 = Mississauga East Cooksville
- 9 = Mississauga South

Regional/Area Municipal Responsibilities

Regional Services

Regional Planning
Social Housing
Shelters for the Homeless
Ontario Works (Welfare)
Children's Services
Long-Term Care
Public Health
Water
Wastewater
Waste Management
Regional Roads
TransHelp
Peel Regional Police
Land Ambulance
9-1-1
Regional Emergency Planning
Heritage
2-1-1
Conservation Authorities
Municipal Assessment
GO

City/Town Services

Local Planning
Local Roads
Transit
Fire
Local Emergency Planning
Parks and Recreation
Libraries
Storm Sewers
Economic Development
By Law Enforcement
Licenses/Permits
Building Inspection
Cemeteries
Tax Billing

Only eight cents of every tax dollar collected in Canada is spent by municipal councils

Peel's Trends

- Increasing numbers of high risk families
- Peel's affordable housing crisis is worst in Ontario
- Infrastructure costs are escalating
- Immigrants are losing ground: increasing unemployment and earnings gap
- Youth violence is increasing
- More single parent families
- Aging population
- Gridlock getting worse



Peel's Trends

Rapid Growth, Growing Diversity

- Second fastest growth rate in Ontario:
 - 219,000 residents in 1974
 - **1.2 million residents today**
 - 1.64 million residents by 2031
- **average of 34,000 new residents each year** (2006 Census)
- **27,000 new immigrants** each year (80% of annual growth):
 - Peel's immigration growth rate was double its overall population growth rate: (32% vs. 17.4%) between 2001 and 2006
- Multiple-family households in Peel, where more than one family lives in a house or apartment, are largely comprised of immigrant families and are the fastest growing households in Peel: 31% growth versus 16% growth of all Peel households
- 16,340 births in 2007; birthrate of 12.9/1,000 population vs. 10.6 rate for Ontario (2004)
- **104,000 seniors** (65+): almost 10% of population in 2006
 - increased by 33% between 2001 and 2006



(Sources: Peel Planning Services, Human Services, Health Services)

Poverty is Increasing in Peel

- **More residents are living in poverty:**
 - 114,510 (11.6%) in 2001
 - 167,000 (15%) in 2006
- **29% of recent immigrants live in poverty** compared to 7% Canadian-born living in poverty (between 2001 and 2006)
- **1 in 5 children are living in poverty** (ages 0 – 6): a slightly higher rate than both Ontario (19%) and the national rate (19%) in 2005 and growing:
 - Peel's large immigrant population, with many new immigrants living in poverty, has higher numbers of children:
 - the average family size in Peel (3.2 persons) is larger than both the average Ontario family (3.0 persons) and Canadian family (2.9 persons) (2006)
- Youth violence increased by 30.4 percent in Peel between 2006 and 2007*; youth violence is shaped by poverty and social exclusion; it impacts the costs of policing and corrections

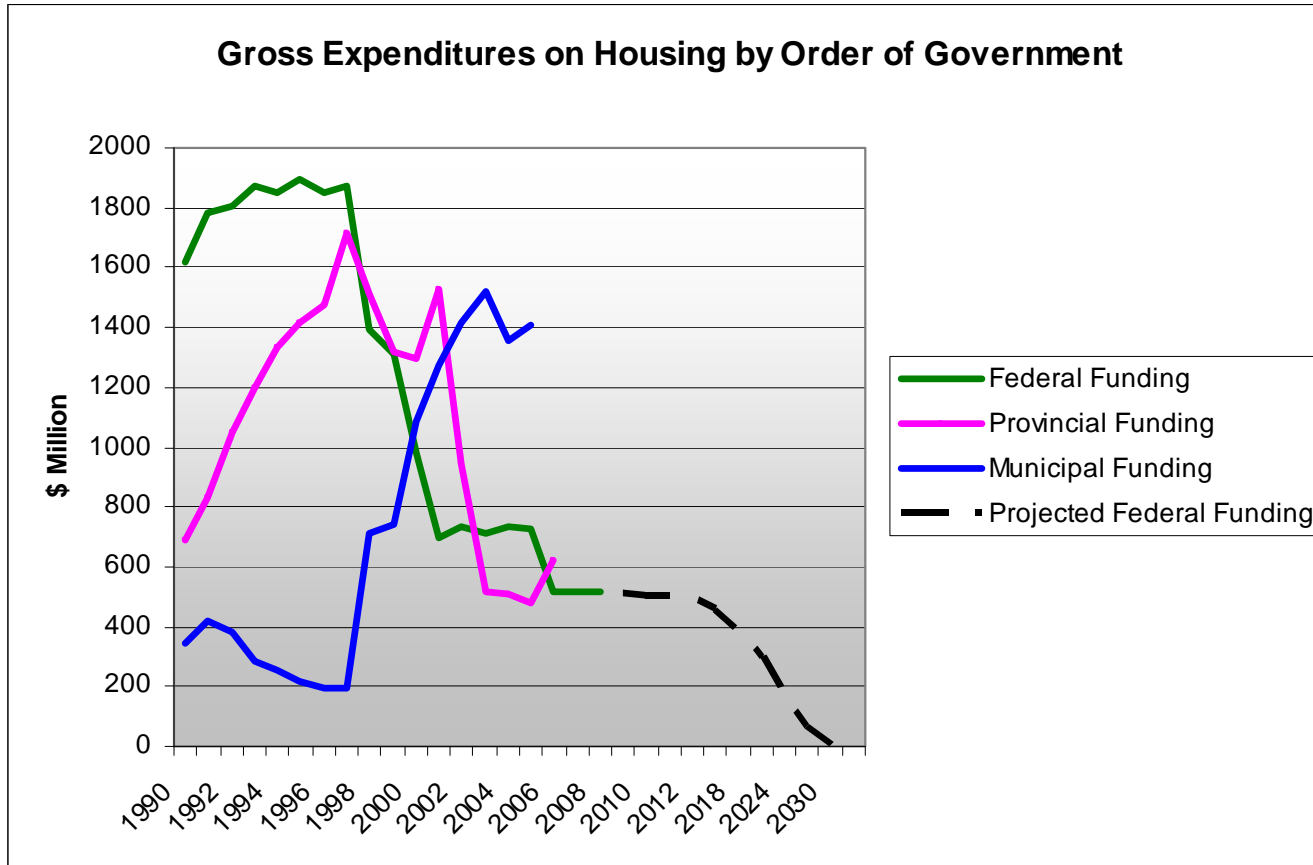
*Annual Statistical Report 2007, Peel Regional Police, page 5

Peel Has a Severe Shortage of Affordable Housing

- Peel has the **longest social housing waiting list in Ontario with 13,500 households currently on the list.**
- People placed today have **waited 10 years or more** for a subsidized unit.
- As Social Housing Service Manager, Peel is required to maintain a half a billion dollar aging portfolio and its **reserves are depleting rapidly.**



Who's Paying for Social Housing in Ontario?



Source: Social Housing Services Corporation

New Immigrants Are Losing Ground

Each year, about 10.5 per cent of all new immigrants to Canada settle in Peel.

The Federal immigration points system targets highly skilled, better educated workers whose credentials aren't always recognized when they get here, leaving many underemployed or unemployed.

As a result, Peel's economy can't benefit from their skills and experience.

As well, almost 40 per cent of Peel's economy requires a broader spectrum of workers (manufacturing: 20%; trade: 19%), and therefore is disadvantaged by the current point system.

- **New immigrants' jobless rate in Ontario was almost twice the rate for all Ontario workers** (11.9% versus 6.4%) in 2007.
- Ontario is still receiving less per capita settlement funding (\$3400/person) than other provinces, e.g., Quebec (\$4697/person) (COIA 2009/2010 funding targets).



Peel's Action on Poverty

- ✓ Peel has a portfolio of more than 7,100 social housing units:
 - ✓ built over 5,700 units:1979 – 1995 (the year when federal housing dollars stopped flowing)
 - ✓ built only 368 units (including 259 seniors units) between 2004 and 2007
 - ✓ developing 665 new units
 - ✓ projects include innovative transitional housing, e.g. Peel Youth Village, Angela's Place
- ✓ Working on issues with United Way and other agencies
- ✓ Investing over \$10 million annually in homelessness prevention, e.g., outreach, shelters, transitional housing
- ✓ Providing high-impact programs and services, e.g., low-income seniors' dental program; newcomer web portal and research initiative
- ✓ Leading edge Families First program for sole support mothers:
 - ✓ shows that investing the equivalent of one month of social assistance for child care, public health and employment supports results in a decreased dependence on social assistance and employment insurance, and increases earned income and self-sufficiency.



Peel Citizens Need More Federal Support

Here's why:

1. Peel Region's ability to adequately address its community's needs is being seriously threatened. The complexity of services required by 1.2 million people is compounded by the need to address continuing rapid growth and aging infrastructure.
2. New immigrants to Canada who settle in Peel are among the fastest growing groups in Peel. They are experiencing high rates of poverty and underemployment. This has serious implications for Peel's ability to provide affordable housing. It impacts on social assistance and public health costs, particularly during the current economic slowdown.
3. Federal investments in poverty reduction will strengthen Canada's economy and social capital. Reducing poverty leads to lower costs in all other public services for all levels of government including health and corrections.
4. New immigrants who are able to fully utilize their skills will contribute to a better functioning community and a healthy economy. Current policies are inhibiting these opportunities.
5. The federal government is shortchanging Peel and Ontario citizens with lower EI benefits than other Canadian workers and lower immigrant settlement funding.



Peel Citizens Need More Federal Support

Here's how:

1. **Support poverty reduction** initiatives, particularly in housing, new immigrant support, employment insurance benefits and early child development.
2. Facilitate a more **creative approach to assisted housing** including funds for new housing and repairs to existing stock.
3. **Provide fairness to immigrants** to enable them to be fully engaged in the community and contribute to the economy.
4. Provide Ontarians with the **same EI benefits** as other Canadians.
5. Fund Ontario's **health care system on a per capita basis** immediately, rather than phasing it in by 2014 -15.
6. **Recognize Peel as a strong partner** and ideal location for new programs; Peel is a leading innovator of municipal services.



NOTE: Peel's needs and requests are consistent with those of other key stakeholders including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

1. Support Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Background

- People who live in poverty have higher rates of chronic illness, reduced levels of emotional and mental development and lower levels of academic achievement.
- 20% of children in Peel live in poverty.
- As of June 2008 there were 2,697 families on wait lists in Peel for subsidized child care. The federal child care benefit is inadequate for any meaningful level of child care.
- Families are unable to commit to either full employment or retraining without reliable child care. This has a direct affect on the economy.
- Early childhood development is at risk in many families due to lack of early childhood education opportunities. This affects the future of the children, the community and the economy.

Proposals

- **Set target dates, e.g., five years, to reduce the number of Canadians living below the poverty line.**
- **Develop a national sustainable strategy to ensure all families in need can have access to child care.**
- **Dedicate \$6 billion (equivalent to one cent of the GST) to municipalities to apply where needed on an ongoing basis.**
Note: This will only increase the municipal share of taxes collected in Canada from 8% to 9%.



2. Facilitate a More Creative Approach to Assisted Housing

Background

- The severe shortage of affordable housing in Peel has created the longest wait list for subsidized housing in Ontario (over 13,500 households).
- Only 7% of applicants are placed in a subsidized unit each year.
- Tenants placed today have waited ten years or more.
- Peel's supply of affordable housing continues to slip relative to other Canadian cities (FCM).
- Much of Peel's social housing is 20 years old and more.
- Low-cost rental housing is a vital element in the reduction of poverty, ultimately saving on health care and other social spending.
- In 2005, the Federal government diverted \$45 million in savings in social housing mortgage subsidy costs to other areas.

Proposals

- **The Government of Canada should lead a national housing strategy.**
- **Provide ongoing program funding with the flexibility to be applied to new buildings and to the maintenance of current stock.**
- **Leverage existing social housing assets by folding CMHC interest and principal payments back into local projects rather than into general revenue.**

3. Provide Fairness to Immigrants to Fully Engage Them in the Community and Strengthen the Economy.

Background

- Immigrants make up 49% of Peel's population and about 80% of Peel's annual growth.
- In 2002, 46% of immigrants had one post-secondary degree, exceeding the Canadian average of 22%.
- About 60% of newcomers do not work in the same occupational field as they did before entering Canada.
- The lack of recognition of international credentials is a barrier to working in a related field and hinders families from re-establishing in Canada.
- Peel's and Ontario's immigration settlement funding will increase substantially by 2009-2010 but will still remain below that of other provinces.

Proposals:

- **Consult with municipalities to reform the immigration point system to meet the needs of regional economies such as Peel's. Manufacturing and trade sectors require a broader spectrum of skills.**
- **Provide more realistic funding for immigrant settlement support on the basis of GDP or other recognized economic indicators, and require provinces to use allocations only for immigrant settlement supports.**
- **Allocate settlement funding one year after landing to the province where service is provided, rather than to the province of entry.**
- **Provide a federal subsidy for first time job experience and internship programs for underemployed newcomers.**
- **Establish employer mentorship incentive program to support internationally trained professionals, e.g., health professionals.**



4. Provide Ontarians with the Same EI Benefits as Other Canadians.

Background

- Unemployed workers in Ontario receive \$4,630 less in EI benefits than the average unemployed worker in the rest of Canada.
- Only 22% of unemployed workers in the Metropolitan Toronto Census Area received EI benefits in 2004, compared to the national average of 43%.
- Increased part time and temporary work in Ontario means workers have to work more hours to qualify and they receive benefits for a shorter duration.
- Peel's unemployment rate jumped from 6.4% in 2006 to 6.9% in 2007.
- Manufacturing makes up 20% of Peel's economy and has been hit hard by the current slowdown and by its dependence on the US economy.
- Peel expects to have 600 more monthly social assistance caseloads in 2009. The cost to Peel taxpayers is \$0.2 million for each 100 new monthly cases.
- For unemployed workers in Peel, social assistance is effectively replacing Canada's EI Program as the social safety net of first resort.

Proposals

- **Revise the qualification requirements for EI in Ontario to provide unemployed Ontario workers with the same EI benefits as other Canadians.**

5. Fund Ontario's health care system on a per capita basis immediately rather than phase it in by 2014-15.

Background

- Lack of per capita funding in the Canada Health Transfer will cost Ontario's health care system an estimated \$733 million in 2008-09 and a continued shortfall each year until the health transfer is phased in by 2014-15.

Proposals

- **Increase Canada Health Transfer to per capita funding now rather than phase it in by 2014-2015.**

6. Recognize Peel as a strong partner and ideal location for new programs; Peel is a leading innovator of municipal services.

Opportunities for Partnerships



Peel looks forward to working with the Government of Canada and its MPs, regardless of party affiliation, to find creative ways to achieve fairness and to enhance the quality of life for Peel residents while creating greater long-term economic stability for the Region of Peel.