

Why we need fair funding: Peel's experience

Dear residents of Peel:



L-R: Caledon Mayor Marolyn Morrison, Regional Chair Emil Kolb, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, and Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell.

When I was elected Chair in 1991 the Region of Peel was in debt. My pledge, at that time was to eliminate that debt to save for the expected growth in the population from 733,000 in 1991 to the 1.2 million we have today. Now, as

then, we must save to build the roads, sewers and other municipal infrastructure needed to support a forecasted population of 1.6 million residents by 2031.

Peel became debt-free in 1997. This good planning has continuously come under pressure because our provincial government has passed its costs to you. As a result, over 40 per cent of your

Region of Peel tax dollar is spent on provincially mandated programs called human services. Meanwhile growth pressures continue.

It is a great honour and privilege to have served as your Regional Chair for the past 17 years. Your Regional Council and the Mayors of Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga, run the most cost efficient Region in the GTA. But we need your help for this to remain! There is a provincial election on October 10th. We would like you to read this newsletter, gather the facts you need to make an informed decision and ask your local candidates what they intend to do for your municipality, and the Region of Peel.

Peel deserves better!

Sincerely,



Emil Kolb, Regional Chair

the issue...

Municipal government delivers services that affect our day-to-day lives. Property taxes are the primary source of funding for municipal services such as garbage collection, recreation and parks, police, fire, snow removal and to build and maintain infrastructure such as roads, transit and sidewalks.

However, 44 cents of every property tax dollar paid to the Region of Peel is spent on programs called human services, which the province requires us to fund. Human services include child care, social housing and homelessness, ambulance, long-term care homes, public health programs such as immunization and social services like the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). That's a lot to ask for! But Peel has been doing that and much more.

This is an added provincial burden on the local property taxpayer – one that no other province in Canada has! **Read the material inside. Find out what we're up against and tell your provincial politicians they must do better!**

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our human services funding issue in Peel!



Human services touch everyone

Human Services are provincially mandated. Municipalities must fund and deliver them.

Human Services provided in Peel

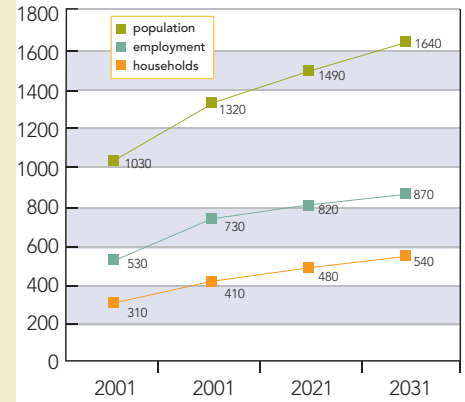
Child Care	Social Housing and Homelessness	Health Services	Social Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24,000 licensed spaces and subsidy for only 4,000 spaces 12 regionally operated child care centres with more than 800 spaces Shortfall in provincial funding of \$2.9 million 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13,823 social housing units for more than 35,000 persons Peel Living is the largest landlord in Peel, with 70 building locations and 7,100 units Combined 10 year capital maintenance and repair costs total \$447.6 million \$9.7 million in homeless funding in 2007 up from \$1.1 million in 2000 94,000 nights of shelter to the homeless provided each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five residential long term care homes, adult day programs, and rest for family caregivers Public Health, eg. dental screening, inspections Paramedics service including \$37 million over 10 years in capital costs \$9.2 million shortfall overall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Works caseload of 9,300 families (1994 = 25,000 families) Shortfall of \$12.4 million in funding for Ontario Works *Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) caseload of 10,600 families * ODSP is delivered by the Province but funded with property taxes



Our growth challenge

- With 34,000 new residents each year, Peel is experiencing one of the highest population rates of growth in the country – it will grow by almost 63% by 2031 to 1.6 million people.
- Peel cannot afford to finance growing human service demands from property taxes alone; we already spend 44 cents of every Region of Peel tax dollar on human services.
- Peel is asking the Province to speed up the phase-out of GTA Pooling to four years, instead of seven.
- Ontario Disability Support Program costs for Peel are approximately \$34.5 million, increasing by \$5.5 million from 2006-2007.

Distribution of Population, Households and Employment 2001-2031 (000s)



Hemson Consulting Ltd., "The Growth Forecast for the Greater Golden Horseshoe" January 2005



Ontario invests less in human services

- For years under successive governments in Ontario, human services have been under-funded.
- Ontario spends less per person on human services than all other provinces.
- Ontario is the only province where municipalities must fund a portion of social services.
- To make up for lower provincial spending Ontario municipalities have had to spend \$250 per person more on human services.
- Even with the recent Provincial commitment to fund the Ontario Disability Support Program, Ontarians still have to pay \$196 each for provincially required human services.

Provincial Spending (2005-06)

\$ Per Capita	Ontario	Quebec	Alberta	B.C.	ROC*
Health	2,507	2,479	2,762	2,677	2,600
Social Services	1,122	1,559	1,183	1,095	1,287
Education	1,289	1,677	1,968	1,455	1,659
Housing	39	48	53	36	50
Human Services					
Subtotal	4,957	5,763	5,966	5,363	5,596
All Expenditures	6,749	8,782	7,812	7,182	8,140

ROC* is all provinces minus Ontario
Source: Kitchen, Harry. Comparative Review of Municipal and Education Financing Systems, 2007:6

inadequate funding affects our most vulnerable!

effects on children

- Provincial government spends \$376 less per child for child care in Peel than anywhere else in the province.
- 150 children with disabilities are waiting for child care spaces in Peel.
- 200 families are waiting for support through Peel's Healthy Babies Healthy Children program.
- Only 47% of schools are screened in the children's dental program; of children screened 79% are high risk.



effects on seniors

- Average wait time for subsidized seniors housing is 4.5 years in Peel.
- Peel Region has received less than half of the promised (\$6,000/year) increase in per bed funding for long-term care.
- Peel received only a per diem increase of \$7.91 a day – a shortfall of \$8.53 a day.
- Seniors and others on fixed incomes are deeply affected by increases in property taxes.



effects on low-income families

- Peel has only 38 social housing units per 1,000 households (compared to 49 units for other urban centres).
- Waiting list of 12,400 families for social housing; only 7% of the waiting list is placed annually.
- Average wait time for social housing (non-senior) is up to 21 years.
- Fewer services means more people stay on social assistance longer.



effects on newcomers

- Newcomers represent 43% of Peel's population (2001 census), 93 ethnic groups and more than 60 languages.
- 24,000 of the 34,000 annual newcomers to Peel are new immigrants.
- On average, each newcomer who settles in Ontario is supported by \$1,136 in federal assimilation service funding; less than half of this funding makes its way to Peel agencies.
- 24% of Peel social assistance clients are newcomers, largely because of inadequate integration services.



what can be done about it?

As elsewhere in Canada, fairness to Ontarians will be achieved by using existing income taxes instead of property taxes to fund human services. By doing this we will restore fairness, improve the quality of life for YOU and your family and our region's economic competitiveness.

Unsustainable Municipal Tax Load:

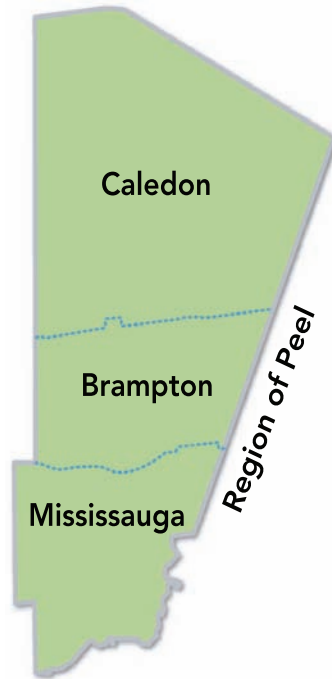
Property tax is designed to provide a full range of essential community services such as garbage collection, police, transit, fire, recreation and parks, and infrastructure.

With human services funding costing 44 cents out of each Region of Peel property tax dollar, it is impossible to continuously provide high quality services for our community without having you spend more of your hard-earned money each year.

Funding human services through the property tax is impairing the ability of the Region of Peel to provide municipal services that enhance the quality of life for residents.

Facts about Peel

- The Region of Peel includes the Cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon
- 1.2 million residents or approximately 9.5% of Ontario's population live in Peel
- 34,000 people move here each year; more than 24,000 of those new residents are from immigration – that's about 70% of our annual population growth



Change is needed now!

For Peel to meet current human services needs and accommodate forecasted growth, Peel needs:

- A provincial commitment to phase-out GTA Pooling in four years, instead of seven.
- A realistic and equitable funding formula for human services that reflects the high population growth forecasted for Peel.
- A shift of human service funding from property to income taxes – to provide relief for low income residents must begin now.

The provincial election is here! Get your questions answered!

Here are some questions to ask provincial election candidates between now and election day, October 10.

- 1 With a provincial surplus of \$2.3 billion, how do you propose to address the \$3.1 billion shortfall in Services Funding being experienced by municipalities every year?
- 2 How do you justify Ontario's exorbitantly high property taxes – almost \$500 per household higher than any other province?
- 3 How is it every other province in Canada can fund social services without resorting to property tax grabs?
- 4 If Toronto has the ability to levy extra taxes and to raise property tax to higher levels, why are Peel and other municipalities continuing to send hundreds of millions of pooling dollars to Toronto?
- 5 Why is Peel experiencing a \$8.53 per bed shortfall in subsidized long-term care each day?
- 6 Why do Peel's children receive \$376 less per child for child care than those in the rest of the province?
- 7 What actions will you take to ensure that Peel settlement agencies receive a fair funding share, especially when 24,000 immigrants each year choose to live in Peel?
- 8 What actions would you take to fix the inadequate supply of social housing?

Ontario property taxpayers deserve a fair deal. Our provincial government must come up with a fair plan.

**Peel deserves better!
Make your voice heard.
Get informed
and vote on
October 10th.**

Region of Peel
Working for you

**For more information on
Region of Peel Programs and Services,
visit our website
www.peelregion.ca**