

ROPSU Human Services

Region of Peel Official Plan Strategic Update

Message From the Chief Administrative Officer

The quantity and quality of the human services delivered by the Region significantly affects the quality of life experienced by the residents of Peel. These services include daycare, police services, affordable housing, including social housing and special needs housing,

long-term care, public health, emergency measures programs, social and community programs.

During the 2002 public meeting launching the Regional Official Plan Strategic Update (ROPSU), Regional Council specifically

directed that the ROPSU process address human services issues in the Regional Official Plan.

This bulletin describes how staff responded to Council and the challenge of updating and improving human services planning in Peel. □



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1.0 Background

Peel is experiencing a rapidly growing population with a changing age structure and diverse multicultural composition.

The region's changing demographic and socio-economic patterns necessitate careful planning to ensure that human services will be able to meet the needs of future residents and workers. In addition, the financial implications of population growth and its related changes to the

operating budgets of Peel's human services are also a compelling reason for long-term planning.

The driving forces behind the need to amend human services planning policies in the ROP are the need to:

- Respond to changing provincial legislation and initiatives;
- Reflect the Region's current mandate;

- Address human services issues resulting from rapid growth and shifting demographic patterns in Peel;
- Address Peel's increasing fiscal pressures associated with the provision of human services; and to
- Respond to input from key human services stakeholders including area municipalities. □





2.0 Changes to Human Services Policies

In September 2004, Regional Council adopted Regional Official Plan Amendment 11 (ROPA 11) which came into effect on October 12, 2004, after no appeals were filed. ROPA 11 contained an extensive list of 24 new human services policies and 12 amended policies that have now been incorporated into the Regional Official Plan. These policies are focused on the following areas:

Amendments to Section 5.5—Housing:

- Call for a range of densities and forms of housing that are affordable to all households so that residents can remain in their communities during their lifetime

Amendments to Section 6.1 and 6.2—Regional Human Services:

- Update the list of current Regional services to include ambulance and emergency services, which were previously provided by the province, expanded police services, financial contributions and housing services
- Refine the preamble for Regional Human Services
- Clarify the Human Services Official Plan objectives
- Ensure human services meet the needs of people in Peel based on changing demographic patterns
- Call for strategies to link land use planning with human services planning and fiscal planning
- Call for the provision of human services in an effective, efficient and logical fashion when considering new development
- Ensure that human services facilities are accessible
- Promote awareness of human services issues to address needs

Amendments Related to Health Services:

- Advance health promotion and disease prevention
- Call for increased public health service levels to meet the needs of people in Peel

Amendments Related to Social Services:

- Encourage area municipalities to develop accessibility policies related to persons with disabilities
- Call for the development of a Regional Accessibility Plan
- Support increased transit co-ordination for persons with disabilities
- Review TransHelp eligibility criteria in line with the *Ontarians With Disabilities Act*
- Call for public transit to be more accessible regarding the Ontario With Disabilities Act

Amendments Related to Affordable Housing, Social Housing, Special Needs Housing and Homeless Shelters:

- Maintain a centralized waiting list for all social housing units
- Call for an equitable distribution of housing throughout Peel
- Encourage affordable housing initiatives in area municipalities
- Call for the development of a Peel Housing Strategy
- Ensure that housing growth is coordinated with provision of physical and human services
- Call for building partnerships in developing new affordable housing
- Encourage provision and maintenance of an adequate supply of affordable rental housing
- Call for a plan for the allocation of rent-geared-to-income subsidies
- Promote housing and shelter initiatives for skills training and development
- Call for the creation of a support plan to help the homeless and those on the verge of homelessness

Amendments Related to Police Services:

- Call for consultation with Peel Police during the subdivision planning process to promote safety and security
- Provide policing services to meet community needs and fulfill statutory requirements

Amendments to Sections 7.4, 7.5, 7.8 and the Glossary of the Regional Official Plan:

- Refine crime prevention through environmental design (CPED) title
- Call for the co-ordination of emergency measures programs
- Refine Regional finance policies by considering human services as a major component of financial analysis

3.0 Human Services Stakeholder Workshop

On October 21, 2003, the ROPSU human services working group held a workshop to consult with key human services stakeholders. The objective of the workshop was to seek community stakeholders' input in the review of draft Regional Official Plan (ROP) human services policies.

A wide range of key stakeholders were invited to the workshop. The workshop was well-attended with approximately 55 participants from the Region, senior levels of government, area municipalities, the Halton-Peel District Health Council, Peel Region District School Board, United Way of Peel, the Social Planning Council of Peel, the Multicultural Inter-agency Group and other key non-governmental organizations.

The half-day workshop commenced with four

background presentations including an overview of ROPSU, the changing context for human services planning, an overview of Peel's social profile, and the Draft Official Policies on Human Services. These presentations set a context for all participants to effectively contribute to the small group discussions which followed.

The workshop discussions focused on how the ROPSU human services planning policies should reflect demographic trends, improving quality of life in Peel and linking land use planning with human services planning and fiscal planning. Further Stakeholders were asked whether the proposed policies appropriately addressed human services issues.

In general, the majority of the proposed policies were well-received by the participants. The participants recognized that the revisions to the ROP

human services planning policies were designed to address the major human services issues resulting from rapid growth and shifting demographic patterns, and to provide a response to changing provincial legislation and initiatives.

Participants also identified common themes on how to improve the Regional Official Plan human services policies. Participants suggested strengthening policies to address issues related to affordable housing, homeless shelters, transportation, cultural heritage resources, preventative social programs and the crucial needs of a diverse, aging population.

The valuable information and insight gained from the stakeholder workshop was a vital component of the human services planning process and contributed to the successful completion of ROPA 11. □



Human Services Stakeholder Workshop— October 21, 2003



4.0 Human Services Planning Process

In order to achieve Council's objective of reviewing the ROP human services policies, representatives from the Regional departments of Planning, Social Services, Health, Housing and Property, Corporate Services and Finance, and Peel Regional Police formed a working group. The group's mandate was to review the ROP human services planning policies to ensure these policies contribute to the responsive and cost-effective delivery of human services.

1. Background Research and Analysis

The working group completed a number of background research reports that focused on analyzing and identifying human services issues. This research included best practices; Peel's demographic trends and their implications; Regional services levels and challenges; financial implications; and the Region's new roles.

2. Consultation to Identify Issues

The working group held a successful workshop with the Multicultural Inter-agency Group (MIAG) on March 20, 2003. The workshop provided valuable feedback and input on the ROPSU Human Services planning focus area. Staff met MIAG representatives again on May 20, 2004 to report on how the draft Regional Official Plan Amendment responds to their comments.

3. Policy Formulation

Based on the results from the background research and consultation with key stakeholders, the working group determined policy gaps and identified the policy needs for effective human service delivery. Human services planning policies were then drafted to refine existing policies and close policy gaps. A rationale report, which provide a detailed rationale for each policy change contained in the draft human services policies was then developed.

4. Consultation to Seek Input on Draft Policies

Human Services Workshop

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Open Houses

Regional staff hosted one open house in each Area Municipality before the statutory public meeting in June and July of 2004. Regional staff distributed copies of the draft amendment, answered questions and obtained input from the general public.

Statutory Public Meeting

Regional Council hosted a statutory public meeting on July 8, 2004 under the *Planning Act*. The draft policies were broadly supported by Regional Council, area municipalities, key human services stakeholders and general public.

5. Adoption of the Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) by Council

Regional Council adopted ROPA 11—Human Services policies on September 9, 2004. The Region did not receive an appeal to its Official Plan Amendment Number 11 and the amendment came into effect on October 12, 2004.