**COVID-19 Response in Peel**

**Summary Notes and Q&A**

Regional Community Response Table – Meeting #5
April 1st, 2020

| Theme            | COVID-19 Regional Community Response Table  
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**Introduction**

- Judy Labelle from the Region of Peel provided a recap on the feedback received during Monday’s meeting. The feedback included:
  - Keeping calls to 3 times per week, at the same time for 1 hour
  - Requests to theme information on website according to municipality where appropriate, recognizing some services cover the entire region;
  - Requests to share minutes after each meeting;
  - Appreciate topic-specific sub-groups; and,
  - Takeaways for communications: searchability by topic in the minutes and Q&A documents

- The Regional team appreciates the feedback and has committed to developing a summary of the meeting and posting it on the website ([http://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/community-response-table/](http://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/community-response-table/)) each Wednesday and Friday. The team is also working with Communications to determine how to add the search function so agencies and organizations can search by topic when reviewing the minutes.

- Those on the call were encouraged to continue sharing feedback about how best to proceed forward and which topics should be discussed in topic-specific sub-groups.

**Municipal Updates**

- **City of Mississauga:** Jennifer Cowie Bonne (Recreation), Vee Clarke (Library) and Natasha Mistry (Mayor’s Office) from the City of Mississauga provided an update on Mississauga’s COVID-19 Response.
  - At the City of Mississauga, the primary mobilization around COVID-19 has been around ensuring resident safety. These efforts include making sure facilities are closed and supporting coordinated communication efforts.
  - The City is also connecting further with residents and community partners to identify need. Part of this process is being part of the Regional Community Response Table as well as hosting tele town halls, and specific stakeholder group calls (with seniors, small business owners, etc.).

- **Town of Caledon:** Heather Savage (Recreation) from the Town of Caledon provided an update on Caledon’s COVID-19 Response.
  - At the Town of Caledon, the primarily decision making is around operational issues such as managing tourist hotspots, tax deferral program, facilities closures, etc.
  - The next step is to understand immediate local needs and further understand what exactly those unique needs are. Heather is open to having these conversations offline with those organizations based in or working in
### COVID-19 Regional Community Response Table

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<td>o Heather Savage, Manager, Recreation Services, Community Services Department, 905.584.2272 x.4815/416.951.0117, Town of Caledon <a href="mailto:heather.savage@caledon.ca">heather.savage@caledon.ca</a></td>
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<td><strong>City of Brampton</strong>: Mikkel Marr from the City of Brampton provided an update on Monday’s call and was available to answer any questions.</td>
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### Questions and Answers

1. **Question**: Can we request from our Mayor to spray / disinfect the roads during sleeping time – maybe 1:00am to 5:00 am? It was done in many cities in Europe, China, South Korea. All the facilities that are closed now should be cleaned wall to wall before our cities get back to their normal life.  
   **Answer**: Jennifer Cowie Bonne, City of Mississauga – We are noting your question and will take it back to our Incident Management Team at the City of Mississauga.  
   Mikkel Marr, City of Brampton – Thanks, we will look into this suggestion.

2. **Question**: Do we need to do a cleaning on a facility that has closed for over 10 days as the virus life is only 7 to 9 days? Also, we need great ideas on what kind of materials we can use for disinfecting our offices, childcares, etc.  

### Diversity and Inclusion

- Adaoma Patterson from the Region of Peel provided an update on Varsha Naik’s (The Regional Diversity Roundtable) question during last week’s call about diversity and inclusion. Adaoma agrees with Varsha that we all need to think of this work from an equity lens and how systemic discrimination might further exacerbate people’s access issues to services during COVID and after. This is an emerging discussion that the Region of Peel and others need to have.
- Adaoma also noted that there is a focus on Systemic Discrimination as part of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. That team is reaching out to members of the Systemic Discrimination Action Table to explore how we may want to refocus during this pandemic to ensure that we’re not losing sight of this important topic.

### Questions and Answers

3. **Question**: As a sector, we are good at understanding and addressing systemic discrimination at the grassroots level but we have not been able to convince CEOs, board chairs, and above (those with decision making capacity) to look at equity work. That is likely where the changes will come from. How do we hire and promote people from staffing to management level?  
   **Answer** – Vanita Varma, Peel Leadership Centre (PLC) – Great perspective and suggestion! PLC has started this discussion and happy to have people join in the conversation.

4. **Comment**: This discussion also gets into things like food insecurity, especially when trying to find culturally appropriate food. The pandemic has impacts on people’s
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rituals during this time of physical distancing (e.g. funerals, worship, etc.). This will be traumatic and can have other impacts well beyond meeting those day-to-day basic needs. The mental health impacts after the pandemic are going to be significant. We need to make sure we plan for this in the near future.  
**Response:** This is a great conversation and we can take this conversation offline and have this conversation with Adaoma and Varsha. Also, some of these conversations are happening as part of the CSWB planning.

| Funding Update | • Melissa Toney from the Region of Peel provided an update on the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund (CIP).  
| | o Melissa acknowledged and thanked those who have already applied to the Emergency Respond Fund. Since opening the fund on Monday, the Region has seen a great response and received applications from a few new agencies. Applications are currently being reviewed and a response should be expected in 3-7 business days. Melissa encouraged those on the call to share this message far and wide with sector partners  
| | • Sonia Pace and Aileen Baird from the Region of Peel provided some additional funding updates:  
| | o **$200M Provincial Announcement** – there is no specific update but the Region has been told that this more information is coming soon. We are expecting that the criteria will be flexible and will flow through a flexible funding stream so that the money can be used to meet needs that matter most in Peel.  
| | o **Federal Announcement about Reaching Home** – this fund is specific to homelessness. The Region of Peel will be receiving an additional $900,000 through Reaching that is to support the COVID-19 response. The Region learned yesterday (March 31st) that the Region will be receiving an additional $4.9 million to offset costs related to COVID response in homelessness. The Region currently works with a community advisory board to make a decision about Reaching Home distribution in the community. The Region will continue to work with the advisory board to best determine how to allocate both of these COVID-19 response funds. More information will be provided on next week’s call. |

**Questions and Answers**

5. **Question:** Do we have any sense that it will be a population-based distribution?  
**Answer:** This is how Provincial funding has been distributed in the past so it is likely this will be the case for the $200 million as well.

| Seniors Update | • Donna Kern from the Region of Peel provided an update on seniors:  
| | o Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health is strongly urging those over the age of 70 or those with compromised immune systems or underlying medical conditions to stay at home and for the community to support them in ensuring they have the necessities e.g. groceries and medication to enable them stay home.  
| | o The MOH released a guidance document for home and community health |
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| Seniors Update (cont’d) | care providers and we can share the link on our website as well.  
- The government is also working with grocers and pharmacists to prioritize seniors’ delivery orders and establish senior-only shopping hours.  
- The government is also working with province-wide organizations including Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and Older Adults Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO) to identify and mobilize potential volunteer supports and expand the use of innovative technologies in the community to address social isolation and support daily living assistance. The Region has also heard from a number of you about opportunities for volunteers and food delivery in the community.  
- Aruna Mitra, Director of Home and Community Care at the Central Region of Ontario Health, provided an update on seniors as well:  
  - The Central Region has over 300 staff in 2 offices that were all deployed into their homes in a work-from-home structure. Last week’s activities have been focused on getting these staff set-up for working from home so they can continue to provide support.  
  - Care coordinators are still out in the community, in hospitals, retirement homes, and in people’s homes.  
  - Home and Community Care oversees applications to Long-Term Care Homes and there are currently no tours of the Homes due to COVID-19. Families have the right to bring their loved ones back home during this time, but families are no longer able to go into the Long-Term Care Home to visit.  
  - There is currently work underway to ensure adequate hospital acute care beds in William Osler Hospital and Headwaters Health Care Centre. This includes looking for alternate levels of care for patients that can best be served in another care setting.  
  - All seniors Falls Prevention Programs have been cancelled.  
  - Aruna Mitra can be contacted via email at aruna.mitra@lhins.on.ca |
| Collaborative efforts and opportunities |  
- Adaoma Patterson provided an update on CRA and community tax clinics.  
  - For a lot of residents to access benefits, the prerequisite is that they have their taxes done before applying to the benefits.  
  - There are still community clinics offering free services virtually. If you are an organization that has volunteered to host a community clinic, please let Adaoma know.  
  - CRA - Community Volunteer Income Tax Program: Services and Information can be found at the following link (includes a directory to find free tax clinics within geographic areas): [https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program.html)  
- Mary Boushel provided an update on Family Violence.  
  - On Monday afternoon, a smaller group branched out to have a very productive discussion about our response to family violence during this pandemic. With 42 community partners on the call, the group discussed key issues and were able to organize 4 sub groups to tackle key topics: |
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<tr>
<td>(cont’d)</td>
<td>▪ Working with men (including court proceedings)</td>
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<td>▪ Parenting Support</td>
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<td>o Those subgroups are meeting over the next few days and we will be reconvening the larger group discussion later next week. The notes from this discussion will be posted on the website. If you didn’t get a chance to participate or are interested in being part of the discussion, please email <a href="mailto:covid19commresponse@peelregion.ca">covid19commresponse@peelregion.ca</a></td>
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<td>▪ Donna Kern provided an update on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
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<td>o The Region of Peel has been receiving community requests for PPE and the Region is under similar supply constraints.</td>
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<td>o The Chief Medical Office of Health for Ontario, Dr. Williams, has provided direction for non-health workers using PPE. The Ministry has issued a legally binding directive to all healthcare settings that specifies that surgical masks are meant to only be worn by healthcare workers. This means that there is an order for daily inventory to be reported by 5pm for those health care organizations, such as LTCHs.</td>
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<td>▪ David Green from the Peel District School Board also provided an update on PPE.</td>
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<td>o As of this morning (April 1st), the Ministry of Education has directed all school boards to count the inventory they have and provide a number of the PPE inventory in stock. The province will be taking these numbers from school boards across the Province and making a decision on how best to utilize this.</td>
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<td>o David has communicated the urgent need for PPE in Peel and expects to another conversation with the Ministry this afternoon to discuss further.</td>
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**Request for Support/Resources**

- **St Andrews Food Bank**: We are running into a freezer and refrigeration capacity issue and if there is any available, please let Gord Warren know at andrewsfoodbank@gmail.com.

**Collaborative Efforts and Community Supports**

- **Angels for COVID-19 Relief** delivers new clothing, blankets, hygiene products and food across the GTA, including Peel. Contact Alizeh Jaffrey (ajaff14@gmail.com).
- **Sai Dham Food Bank**: We have received 24 Pallets of Frozen Chicken through MPP Rudy Cuzzetto and in collaboration with Knights Table. Please email us for pick up at sai@saidham.ca. We also have 100 buckets of yogurt good until April 19 & 24. If there any shelters that need help with food, please let us know as we are serving in the downtown Brampton area.
- **CNIB Foundation** expands virtual program offerings across Canada in response to COVID-19, the CNIB Foundation has expanded its free virtual program offerings (e.g. career support, tech training, book clubs, youth groups) for Canadians impacted by blindness. We’re committed to combating the negative ramifications that isolation can have on Canadians with sight loss and ensuring our community is supported.
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| **Collaborative efforts and opportunities (cont’d)** | during this unprecedented time.  
[http://cnib.ca/en/event?field_event_type_target_id=All&field_location_locality=&field_region_target_id=All&region=on](http://cnib.ca/en/event?field_event_type_target_id=All&field_location_locality=&field_region_target_id=All&region=on)  
- **Eden Food for Change** is the producer of the Meals-on-Wheels program in Mississauga and Oakville. As a reminder we have the capacity to increase an increase demand for additional healthy meals should agencies require. Please speak with the VON to organize meals.  
- **The City of Brampton** is actively responding to COVID-19 and taking steps to support our Seniors community during this challenging time. The City is pleased to invite your organization to participate in our Mayor’s Seniors Support Task Force Tele Town Hall this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing the work of the Task Force, the opportunities to support initiatives underway, and exploring ways we can collaborate with our City’s seniors organizations to support the community. This is hosted by Patrick Brown, Mayor; Pat Fortini, Regional Councillor Wards 7&8; and, Gurpreet Dhillon, Regional Councillor Wards 9&10. If you would like to participate, please RSVP in advance by emailing your phone number to covid19seniors@brampton.ca, or call 311. You will be contacted through the desired phone number at the beginning of the town hall. CALL DETAILS:  
  o DATE: Thursday, April 2, 2020  
  o TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
  o CONFERENCE CALL #: 877-229-8493  
  o PIN ID#: 115626  
- **Sheridan College**: A quick note to let you know that our #Sheridanhelps initiative has launched today. Here’s the newsrelease: [https://www.sheridancollege.ca/news-and-events/news/sheridan-launches-sheridanhelps-initiative-to-support-students-and-our-communities](https://www.sheridancollege.ca/news-and-events/news/sheridan-launches-sheridanhelps-initiative-to-support-students-and-our-communities). The initiative includes a $1M fund to support Sheridan students (domestic and international) in financial need due to COVID-19. Sheridan has also registered with [www.buyandsell.gc.ca](http://www.buyandsell.gc.ca) and [www.ontariotogether.com](http://www.ontariotogether.com) to assist in the effort against this pandemic. We have donated several skids of PPE to Trillium and Osler today.  
  o **The Mississauga Food Bank**: Please refer any Mississauga Sheridan students to our network of food banks if they need food help.  
- **Volunteer MBC**: Skeleton staff. Frontline volunteers. Vulnerable clients. This COVID-19 emergency is no easy situation, everyone wants to help, but we have to take the right precautions or we defeat the purpose. Join Volunteer MBC tomorrow at noon for a practical conversation on how to avoid, reduce and mitigate risks. Vers-us COVID-19: Volunteer Risk Management and the 10 Steps of Screening. Click this link to register and to find out how to look for volunteers during this time and for volunteers to connect via a COVID-19 Community Responder role. [https://volunteermbc.org/index.php?MenuTemID=214](https://volunteermbc.org/index.php?MenuTemID=214). We are also offering a 90 day free subscription to post your volunteer requirements in our volunteer referral database.  
- **Coalition for Persons with Disabilities** is fully operational working to find employment for people. [www.disabilityaccess.org](http://www.disabilityaccess.org)  
- **Region of Peel**: Updated info for businesses and community organizations now available on region of peel website as well |
6. **Question:** Are we seeing an increase in the homeless population requesting support during this time? Or are we more proactively responding?
   **Answer:** Aileen Baird, Region of Peel – I feel like we have been proactive in preparing to limit spread of the virus. Shelters have reduced occupancy levels to implement physical distancing and are working on other sites for relocation. Isolation center for those that have symptoms and are awaiting test results have also been set up so that we can help people get off the streets and out of shelters and put them in isolation. The Region is also working with partners in Health Services to establish recovery program for those that are sick with the virus and need medical attention. These efforts are all related to planning. We are currently not seeing an increase in those who are homeless who need supports.

7. **Question:** Are we aware of the hidden homelessness in the community and what supports they require?
   **Answer:** Aileen – Good question. The Region has not done any additional communication to the community for those that are experiencing hidden homelessness (e.g. couch surfing). Aileen will take this back to her team for further discussion.

9. **Question:** Can you please make sure that risk management is considered and the Volunteer Centre is involved when sending volunteers into the community. I was just on a Volunteer Canada call and risk and safety management for volunteers during COVID-19 is a significant issue across the country. This needs to be a coordinated approach to ensure proper screening is done.
   **Answer:** We will keep sharing the Volunteer MBC information as people ask about volunteer opportunities.