## COVID-19 Response in Peel

### Summary Notes and Q&A

Regional Community Response Table – Meeting #4
March 30\(^{th}\), 2020

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| **City of Brampton**   | • Mikkel Marr from the City of Brampton provided an update on the initiatives underway at the City. The City has assembled four taskforces in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. These are:  
  o Seniors Support Task Force  
  o Youth Support Task Force  
  o Economic Support Task Force  
  o Social Support Task Force  
  • Agencies and organizations are asked to contact Mikkel (Mikkel.Marr@brampton.ca) for further information |

### Questions and Answers

1. **Question**: What is the City of Brampton offering to the Chinese businesses that are impacted due to the xenophobia?
   **Answer**: The Director of Economic Development has been in direct contact with all of the businesses to determine where they are at in terms of finances and donations. Restaurants have been hit badly, so Brampton is looking for different ways to support. Questions regarding business support should be sent to COVID19Business@brampton.ca and one of the City of Brampton Economic Support staff will provide specific response to questions.

2. **Question**: How is the Seniors Support Task Force identifying seniors in the community that need support?
   **Answer**: *City of Brampton* – Right now, the flow of seniors who need support is coming from residents who contact their city councilor or those who go on the city’s website and send an email. There have not been any specific outreach efforts. Agencies in Brampton are encouraged to direct seniors who require support to the City if they are unable to help them.  
   *Region of Peel*– There are plans to reach out to the 7,000 seniors housed in Peel Housing Corporation over the phone and do a wellness check. During this call, it will be determined whether these
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<td>seniors have formal supports in place and access to food. A shortlist of seniors with needs will be compiled and Regional staff will be looking to partner with local municipalities to provide seniors with support they need.</td>
<td>3. <strong>Question:</strong> Who should Volunteer MBC (the local volunteer center for Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon) connect with at the City of Brampton related to volunteer referrals? We have a funnel of volunteers recruited via our COVID-19 Community Responder role. Can we work together please? <strong>Answer:</strong> City of Brampton – Yes please; we would love to work together with the group please send an email to <a href="mailto:covid19support@brampton.ca">covid19support@brampton.ca</a>.</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>• Ann-Marie Koumettou from the Region of Peel provided an update on the website for the Regional Community Response Table. The website is now live and available at the following URL: <a href="http://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/community-response-table/">http://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/community-response-table/</a></td>
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<td>• The website is the main source for updated information related to the Community Response for the pandemic. All communication from the Regional Community Response Table (including summary notes from meetings) will be available on the website.</td>
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<td>Survey</td>
<td>• Thank you everyone for taking the time to respond to the survey. The survey was closed on Sunday March 29th.</td>
<td>• A summary of the results as of last week is posted on the Community Response Table website. This summary will be updated once the more recent responses are analyzed.</td>
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<td>Family Violence</td>
<td>• Mary Boushel from the Region of Peel informed the group that the first call with the Family Violence and Violence Against Women sector will happen on Monday March 30th at 3:30pm. Meeting minutes from this call will be posted on the Community Response Table website.</td>
<td>• Agencies and organizations that are interested in joining this discussion should send an email to: <a href="mailto:covid19commresponse@peelregion.ca">covid19commresponse@peelregion.ca</a></td>
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| Funding             | • Amy Osika from the Region of Peel provided an update on funding. The Community Investment Program is providing $1,000,000 of additional funding in response to the growing needs in Peel’s not-for-profit sector due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, through the COVID-19 Emergency Fund.  
• The COVID-19 Emergency Fund is now live and organization can access the application through this URL: http://peelregion.ca/community-investments/funds.asp  
• The COVID-19 Emergency Fund will provide one-time grants to Peel’s not-for-profit organizations with immediate needs to assist vulnerable clients and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. If approved, applicants may receive funding within 3-7 days after submitting their application, applications will be prioritized by urgency of need. | |
| Questions and Answers | 4. **Question**: Will this Emergency Fund support core functions?  
**Answer**: It is best to look through the criteria on the website and look through the application. This emergency funding is specific to alleviating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
5. **Question**: What is the deadline for the Emergency Fund?  
**Answer**: There is no deadline because the fund is for urgent needs. The Fund is launching today (March 30th) and is set at $1 million in total. | |
| Findhelp/211 Update | • Sue Wilkinson, Executive Director and CEO from Findhelp/211 provided an update on what they are finding through their Peel connections. They have seen an increase of 40% in call volume for 211 in Peel Region.  
• 2 weeks ago, they sent out a snapshot of what the trends and top 5 needs are in Peel Region. The Top 5 needs identified were: income support and financial assistance, food security, health, housing, and community service connection. A new snapshot will be sent out later this week.  
• Findhelp/211 is interested in incorporating any information other agencies have been collecting. Agencies and organizations can contact Sue for information related to 211 and data at swilkinson@findhelp.ca | |
| Collaborative efforts and opportunities | Food  
• Adaoma Patterson from the Region of Peel provided an update on emerging issues related to food.  
• Sai Dham Food Bank is doing a breakfast program for children in partnership with YMCA across Mississauga and Brampton. They need | |


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| Collaborative efforts and opportunities (cont’d) | volunteers to help on a daily basis. Contact Vishal Khanna at 437-988-4422  
- Volunteer MBC can assist with volunteers. Contact Shaminda Perera directly at training@volunteermbc.org.  
- Regeneration Thrift Store (253 Queen Street East, Brampton) has an emergency food bank operating 12 noon to 2 pm - Wednesday and Friday. No appointment necessary.  
- Regeneration Outreach Community (156 Main Street N. Brampton) has Hot Meal Take Out Services. Breakfast from 8 am to 9:30 am and a Hot Lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 - Monday to Thursday.  
- Eden Food for Change prepares all the food for Meals on Wheels through the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) and has the capacity to more than double what is produced in terms of food. Interested in exploring how the LHINs can support the VON’s to provide food to more people.  
- Brampton Meals on Wheels has the ability to double food production as well since they use the Region of Peel Long-Term Care Homes to prepare the food.  
- Caledon Meals on Wheels also has the capacity for additional meals for vulnerable individuals (seniors and people with disabilities).  
- Ste. Louise Outreach Centre of Peel’s food bank is open but is not providing delivery services. Individuals and families must request online what they want, and Ste. Louise can prepare the food they request for pick-up. Email stelouisefoodbank85@hotmail.com  
- Regeneration Outreach Community is looking for volunteers to help sort the food and get it ready to give out. Email gord3472@gmail.com  
- The Journey Neighbourhood Centre in Brampton is distributing food hampers in the Ardglen/Orenda Court community on Thursdays (this week to 40 families). These are the hampers that St. Andrews/Regen is assembling on Wednesdays.  
- The Mississauga Food Bank also has a delivery program. Details at https://www.themississaugafoodbank.org/how-we-help/homedelivery/  

Other Supports |  
- Volunteer MBC, the Volunteer Centre serving the Peel community, is funneling volunteers interested in engaging in response to COVID19 related community efforts. We will be happy to connect these volunteers with the SPOs. Please connect with Robert via 2volunteer@volunteermbc.org. Those interested in volunteering can share their interest through https://vmbc.volunteerattract.com/report.php?ListType=VolunteerPositionsAll&ID=2753&MenuemId=1 |
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| **6. Question:** Would there be funds available to assist families to access food?  
  **Answer:** The City of Brampton food program for seniors just launched. This program provides assistance in delivering purchased foods to seniors in the Brampton community. |
| **7. Question:** From a collective response approach, would it be helpful if Region or the Municipalities could create a web space (based on cities or neighbourhoods) where people can log in and put in their requirements? This may help people and agencies connect and you can understand the extent and the impact as well.  
  **Answer:** Good idea. The Region will discuss this idea with the three Municipalities. |
| **8. Question:** Who do we update about the pop-up food bank support?  
  **Answer:** We will post the link to the Peel Food Map and if you have updates, send it through the main Community Response email address (covid19commresponse@peelregion.ca) so that we can track it and make sure we can follow-up with you. Peel Food Map:  
  [https://www.peelregion.ca/planning-maps/foodprograms/foodprograms.html](https://www.peelregion.ca/planning-maps/foodprograms/foodprograms.html) |
| **9. Question:** Do International Students have access to Ontario Works, Federal Emergency or Public Health Supports?  
  **Answer:** Thank you for your question. We have been trying to get clarification and will provide you with an answer when we have one. |
| **10. Question:** The systemic challenges that are coming up again and again are needing our collective attention. What are our equitable and differentiated approaches?  
  **Answer:** This is a good question. We can talk about this on Wednesday’s call (April 1st) after the updates. |

**Feedback**
- Participants shared their feedback on their impressions of the Community Response Table calls so far. Regional staff documented the feedback and will take action as required.