2018 Region of Peel

Provincial Pre-Budget Submission















Introduction

Located in the heart of the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Region of Peel is made up of the cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon. Peel is the second largest municipality in Ontario with a population of 1.4 million people – approximately 10 per cent of the population of Ontario. Peel is also a fast-growing community as its population is expected to increase to almost 2 million people by 2041. In addition, by this same time period 20 per cent of all jobs in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area will be located in Peel.

The Region of Peel's strategic vision is to build a *Community for Life* where everyone enjoys a sense of belonging and has access to the services and opportunities they need to thrive throughout each stage of their lives. Achieving this vision and accommodating the anticipated growth will require community stakeholders and all levels of government to work together to ensure the right infrastructure, programs and services are in place.

The Region of Peel's pre-budget submission identifies seven strategic priorities for the provincial government to consider as it plans investments for the 2018 Budget.





Summary of Recommendations

Affordable Housing

• Provide long-term, sustainable capital and operational funding for affordable housing, including the current housing stock and new rental development.

Transportation

• Complete the environmental assessment for the Greater Toronto Area West Corridor and implement measures to protect the corridor.

Low-Carbon Healthy Communities

• Set criteria for infrastructure investments that achieve improved public health and climate change outcomes.

Waste Management

• Invest in waste infrastructure to increase resource recovery and strengthen end-markets for recovered resources.

Supports for Seniors

- Enhance dementia and responsive behaviour supports across the long-term care sector through funding that aligns with increasing resident care needs, dedicated and consistent training related to person-centred dementia care, enhanced specialized supports and supportive structural design.
- Address inequities in funding for home and community care services using a provincial resource allocation strategy that recognizes the needs of high growth communities, increased capacity needs of the home and community sector and supports caregivers.

Mental Health and Addictions Funding

Address historical inequities in funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel
to support improved access to services within the community and ensure that funding
matches community needs and reflects demographic changes.

Affordable Housing

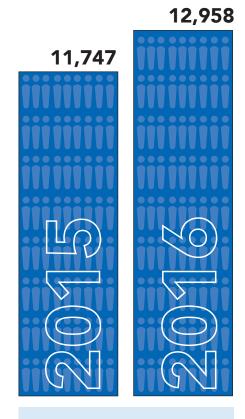
Nothing is more important to our safety and well-being than having a secure place to live – a home. Unfortunately, many in Peel struggle to find a home they can afford. The Region of Peel has one of the longest waitlists for subsidized housing in Ontario and the need is growing.

- As of December 2016, there were 12,958 households on the centralized wait list for subsidized housing and the average wait time was six and a half years.
- This is an increase from 11,747 households (+10.3 per cent) and 5.9 years (+10.2 per cent) respectively in 2015.
- In addition, 14,861 individuals accessed a Region of Peel Emergency Shelter in 2016.

The Region of Peel is appreciative of the significant support it receives from both the provincial and federal government for affordable housing. Working together, much has been accomplished, including the construction of almost 1,400 housing units since 2005. However, while housing is a shared responsibility among all three levels of government, the cost of addressing needs within the housing system in Peel has grown beyond available financial resources.

- An additional \$109 million per year would be required to subsidize the 12,958 households on the centralized wait list.
- It is also estimated that the funding gap for state of good repair in Peel's subsidized housing system is over \$350 million within the next 10 years.

While the extension of the Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario program provides funding certainty over the short-term, long-term capital funding is needed to maintain the existing social housing stock and increase the construction of new affordable housing. For housing providers, including those facing the expiry of operating agreements, the greatest challenge is to secure ongoing capital and operational funds for the maintenance, repairs and restoration of buildings.



Number of households on the centralized wait list for subsidized housing Municipalities are also concerned about the tight timelines associated with executing funding agreements. Long-term, sustainable capital and operational funding would strengthen the Region of Peel's ability to address its local housing needs and to plan for the future.

Moving forward, as the federal government seeks to deliver on commitments made through the National Housing Strategy, the Region of Peel encourages the provincial government to increase its commitment to housing and to work collaboratively with its municipal and federal partners to address housing system needs.

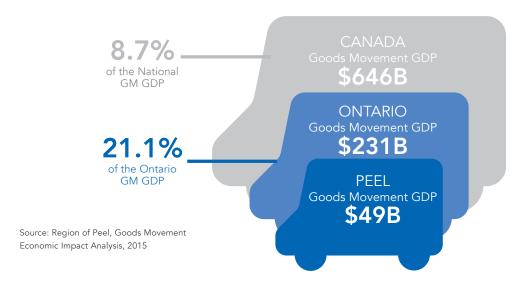


The Region of Peel recommends the Ontario government:

 Provide long-term, sustainable capital and operational funding for affordable housing, including the current housing stock and new rental development.

Transportation

An effective road network is vital for the local economy. It is how food reaches our grocery stores, factories receive their parts, businesses distribute their products and increasingly, how consumers receive their goods. In Peel, approximately 68,000 vehicles transport goods every day. In addition, the goods movement industry in Peel accounts for 21 per cent of the goods movement gross domestic product province-wide.



In Peel, traffic congestion remains a significant concern. It is estimated that the annual cost of congestion in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) in lost economic productivity is \$6 billion. To help alleviate congestion and support Peel municipalities in accommodating the projected growth of 600,000 people through to 2041, provincial investment should be prioritized in regional and municipal transit infrastructure projects that promote transit-oriented development and mobility hub initiatives such as:

- Completion of Regional Express Rail for the Lakeshore and Kitchener Corridors; and
- Increased frequency of the Milton GO rail line.

While Peel is supportive of public transit investment, it is not the only solution. With the densest network of 400 series highways in Ontario, new and improved highway infrastructure will continue to be needed. The completion of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West Corridor environmental assessment and selection of a preferred route represents a key component necessary to complete long-range transportation and land-use planning in Brampton and Caledon, and will serve to complete an integrated highway network by connecting to Highway 410 and Highway 427.

The Region of Peel recommends the Ontario government:

 Confirm that it will complete the environmental assessment for the GTA West Corridor and implement measures to protect the corridor.

Low-Carbon Healthy Communities

The way a community is built can affect the health of its members and the environment. In the past, communities were primarily designed and built to accommodate automobile traffic. In communities like Peel that have experienced rapid growth, one of the consequences of this type of development has been traffic congestion resulting in:

- Commuters sitting for longer periods of time when traveling to work and getting home, which can have negative health and quality of life impacts; and
- Vehicles spending more time on the road which contributes to lost productivity and an increased amount of greenhouse gases being emitted into the environment.

Building low-carbon healthy communities for the future depends on infrastructure decisions made today. For instance, strategic investments that promote both public and active transportation can:

- Reduce the number of vehicles on our roads;
- Decrease sedentary behaviours among residents; and
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.

These strategic investments will be increasingly important moving forward as Peel's population is expected to grow from the current 1.4 million people to almost two million by 2041. As such, it is essential that infrastructure investment target projects that promote improved public health and climate change outcomes.

The province's *Building Better Lives: Long-Term Infrastructure Plan 2017* is a step forward in addressing municipal infrastructure needs across Ontario as it acknowledges the need to integrate climate change considerations with infrastructure planning. By working with municipal and federal partners, strategic provincial investments supporting public and active transportation can help to create healthier and greener communities.



The Region of Peel recommends the Ontario government:

 Set criteria for infrastructure investments that achieve improved public health and climate change outcomes.

Waste Management

Peel residents generate approximately 500,000 tonnes of waste each year. As Peel continues to grow, the amount of waste generated is expected to increase. A shift from disposal to resource recovery is necessary to support healthy communities and move towards a circular, low-carbon economy.

Peel is committed to diverting food and organic waste from landfill to support the goals set out in the province's Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario. Peel is also committed to achieving a 75 per cent waste diversion target by 2034.

Achieving those goals will require both community participation and development of new processing technologies such as Anaerobic Digestion and Mixed-Waste Processing to ensure that recyclable and compostable materials are diverted from landfills.

Investment in waste processing facilities is essential to increase the recovery of recyclable materials, nutrients from organic materials, and to produce low-carbon fuels that can be used in place of fossil fuels. Resource recovery and waste diversion could be further supported by creating and strengthening end-market opportunities for recovered resources.



The Region of Peel recommends the Ontario government:

• Invest in waste infrastructure to increase resource recovery and strengthen end-markets for recovered resources.

Supports for Seniors

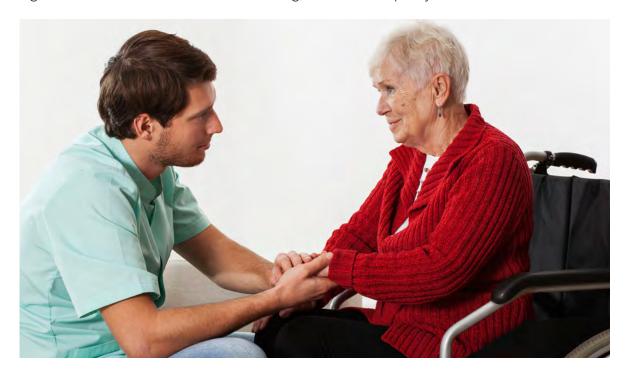
Similar to other jurisdictions across Ontario, seniors (individuals aged 65 and older) are the fastest growing age group in Peel. By 2041, the number of seniors in Peel is expected to increase by 134 per cent, from 177,000 to 415,000. At that time, one in five residents will be a senior citizen.

The Region is committed to delivering high quality services that meet the needs of seniors, however as the aging population grows and changes, sustainable provincial funding and supports for seniors along the entire care continuum are required.

Dementia Supports across the Long-Term Care Sector

Seniors entering long-term care have increasingly complex care needs including high levels of cognitive impairments and dementia. The Region of Peel has been impacted by this trend, with the number of residents diagnosed with dementia across our five homes increasing from 37 per cent in 2010 to 65 per cent in 2016.

As a result, the Region is committed to implementing evidence informed, innovative approaches to dementia care in all of our homes. This includes the redevelopment of one of Peel's homes into a dementia-friendly service hub that will enable seniors in the community to age in place. Peel commends recent provincial commitments to increase the number of long-term care beds in the system and the number of direct hours of care per resident. However, these investments do not take into consideration the added supports required to support residents with responsive behaviours (aggression, agitation, hallucinations, and/or wandering), or enhance quality of life for residents.



Moving forward, the provincial government should ensure investments adequately account for the increasingly complex care needs of long-term care residents by:

- Re-evaluating the funding model for residents with dementia to ensure that funding matches staffing resources to resident care needs;
- Providing funding to build staff competencies related to person-centred dementia care, complemented by continued enhancement specialized support programs, including Behavioural Supports Ontario and specialized Nurse Practitioners; and
- Investing in supportive structural design of long-term care homes, including the redevelopment
 of older homes, to support successful management of responsive behaviors and improve
 quality of life for residents.

The Region of Peel recommends the Ontario government:

• Enhance dementia and responsive behaviour supports across the long-term care sector through funding that aligns with increasing resident care needs, dedicated and consistent training related to person-centred dementia care, enhanced specialized supports and supportive structural design.

Home and Community Care Supports

As healthcare demands associated with a growing and aging population continue to climb, home and community care services, including services like Peel's adult day service and respite care programs, play an increasingly important role in mitigating healthcare costs and allowing seniors to stay at home longer. While the province has invested \$750M over three years (2015 to 2018) to build the capacity of the home care sector, the two Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) serving Peel (Central West and Mississauga Halton) continue to face service pressures linked to both historical and existing funding disparities, receiving the lowest per patient funding in the province. Lower per patient funding limits the types of supports and availability of home care services for Peel's residents resulting in unmet demands and waitlists.

While the province has made recent efforts to address funding inequities through lump sum payments to underfunded LHINs, current funding formulas do not accurately account or compensate for high-growth and high-demand communities and other projected system pressures, meaning that existing funding inequities for home and community supports in Peel continue to be perpetuated.

The Region of Peel recommends that the Ontario government:

 Address inequities in funding for home and community care services using a provincial resource allocation strategy that recognizes the needs of high growth communities; increased capacity needs of the home and community sector and supports caregivers.

Mental Health and Addictions Funding

While Peel is growing faster than the provincial average, per capita funding for mental health and addictions services for both LHINs serving Peel (Central West and Mississauga Halton) are among the lowest in Ontario.

Funding shortages can translate into limited community supports, longer wait times or unmet needs that may show up as emergency department visits or interactions with the police. This is amplified by system navigation issues, given mental health services for children and youth are disconnected from all other health services, and that fifteen different ministries play a role in service delivery and coordination.

Through Ontario's mental health and addictions strategy, the province committed to implementing needs-based funding for all mental health and addictions services across the lifespan. While the Ministry of Children and Youth Services has committed to rolling out a needs-based funding model for children and youth services in the spring of 2018, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has yet to announce their plans to move forward with a similar approach.

At this time, Peel is looking for the province to demonstrate its commitment to address funding inequities by:

- Rolling out its needs-based funding model for children and youth services in 2018; and
- Moving forward in a timely manner with a similar needs-based funding model across the lifespan.

The Region of Peel recommends the Ontario government:

 Address historical inequities in funding for mental health and addictions services in Peel to support improved access to services within the community and ensure funding matches community needs and reflects demographic changes.

Thank You

The Region of Peel understands that outcomes are always greater when all stakeholders, including the provincial and federal governments, work together to serve the residents and businesses of our communities. Peel will continue to work with the provincial government as it seeks to improve the quality of life for all residents. Thank you for your support.



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