As Chair of the Region of Peel and a member of the Government Relations Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to share activities the Region has been engaged with over the past few months.

I would first like to thank Omar Alghabra, MP, Mississauga Centre, for meeting with the Region of Peel’s Government Relations Committee (GRC) in March. The discussion provided a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of key priority issues from MP Alghabra’s riding as well as discussing key priorities of the federal government.

The GRC has found that these exchanges have allowed for relationships with our fellow elected officials to be strengthened. We believe that building strong relationships amongst all levels of government will help to better serve residents, communities and businesses across the Region of Peel. As such, we will be connecting with you over the next several months to invite you to participate with the GRC at an upcoming meeting.

Earlier this year, the Region also participated in both the provincial and federal pre-budget consultations. Included in this edition of the Advocacy Update is an analysis of the impact of both the provincial and federal budgets to the Region of Peel in key priority areas including infrastructure, poverty and housing.

The Region is also actively engaged with our sector associations; a Region of Peel delegation attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference held this past June in Winnipeg.

We are also planning to participate in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference that will be held in Windsor, Ontario. As in the past, Regional Councillors will be meeting with several provincial Ministers to discuss opportunities on how to partner and collaborate to advance our priorities.

In my role as Chair, I thoroughly enjoy meeting with you in our community and speaking about our collective challenges and opportunities. Myself, and members of the Committee, are always available to work with you for the betterment of the residents we serve.

Sincerely,

Frank Dale
Regional Chair,
Government Relations Committee
The Region of Peel watched with great interest as both the provincial and federal governments released their 2016/17 Budgets earlier this year. The Region, along with the municipal sector, is encouraged by the provincial and federal government’s long-term commitments to infrastructure including social housing, transportation and water/wastewater infrastructure. In particular, Peel welcomes the federal government’s commitment to consult with its partners towards the development of a national housing strategy. The Region of Peel believes adopting this collaborative approach is critical to meeting housing needs across the country.

Earlier this year, the Region participated in the provincial and federal pre-budget consultation sessions. Peel’s submissions focused on key priorities that are critical to addressing the needs within our communities including:

- Infrastructure challenges
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing
- Reducing poverty

The Region of Peel recognizes the fiscal challenges each government faces and is committed to working to transform public services, serve taxpayers more efficiently and encourage greater economic growth.

### Provincial Budget

Specific Peel requests addressed in the Provincial Budget:

- Highways: Widening of Highway 410 and the planned widening of Highway 400
- Housing: $178 million in flexible capital and operating funding to support the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy
- Poverty: Willingness to work with local communities on finding solutions through its local poverty reduction fund

Learn more about the Region of Peel’s Provincial pre-budget submission, by visiting us on the web at peelregion.ca/advocacy.

### Federal Budget

Specific Peel requests addressed in the Federal Budget:

- Infrastructure: Create a funding stream dedicated to providing annual resources to municipalities for the purpose of capital infrastructure (Public Transit Infrastructure Fund and Clean Water and Wastewater Fund)
- Housing: $504 million over two years for ongoing capital funding with the flexibility to apply it to the building of new affordable housing and repair of existing housing stock

Learn more about the Region of Peel’s Federal pre-budget submission, by visiting us on the web at peelregion.ca/advocacy.

The Region of Peel, as a municipality, relies heavily on provincial and federal funding and programs to effectively deliver services and meet the needs of our residents and businesses. The Region will continue to monitor and engage with all of our elected officials at both the provincial and federal orders of government to ensure the key initiatives impacting municipalities are developed and implemented.
From June 2-6, 2016, a delegation of Peel Regional Councillors attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The FCM Conference represents an excellent opportunity for Peel Councillors and staff to speak directly with Ministers and Members of Parliament to advocate for increased federal investments in the Region of Peel, including in high-need areas like housing, goods movement, transportation and infrastructure. The Conference also allows the Region to build relationships and better understand how municipalities from across Canada are addressing similar challenges to Peel in their communities.

The most popular topic of discussion at this year’s conference was the 2016 Federal Budget and the Federal Government’s 10 year, $120 billion investment in municipal infrastructure. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke at the FCM Conference and reiterated his government’s commitment to working with the municipal sector to ensure that federal government funding flows to communities as quickly as possible. Peel Regional Councillors and the Chair will continue to work directly with our locally elected MPs and MPPs to secure infrastructure investments that will strengthen our community.

The FCM Conference also features dozens of workshops related to challenges and opportunities within the municipal sector. Peel Regional Council’s FCM representative, Mississauga Councillor Chris Fonseca, plays a pivotal role as Chair of the FCM Standing Committee on Increasing Women’s Participation in Municipal Government. At this year’s Conference, Councillor Fonseca hosted a workshop to help municipalities remove barriers to women participating in municipal government.
The Greater Toronto and Hamilton (GTAH) Mayors and Chairs Caucus is comprised of municipal leaders from over 25 upper and lower tier municipalities across the GTAH. This group meets two or three times a year to find common approaches and solutions to pressing issues impacting communities in Canada’s most populous region. Most recently this group met with both provincial and federal Ministers in March 2016. Issues raised include:

- Public transit funding and growth
- Affordable housing for seniors and youth
- Traffic congestion
- Loss of private sector manufacturing and jobs
- Broadband infrastructure and the resulting employment loss due to lack of connectivity

More specifically, in regards to infrastructure funding and addressing congestion, the GTAH Mayors and Chairs Caucus has voiced the need for greater predictable funding such as the gas tax. The gas tax provides local governments with the ability to determine where best to budget those funds according to their individual needs. This position is aligned with the Region of Peel’s long standing position for both the federal and provincial governments to provide municipalities long-term predictable funding for infrastructure.

In addition to long-term funding, this group believes that to truly address congestion across the GTAH region, municipalities must be involved in the transit planning and decision making process. To ensure that municipal interests are considered in Metrolinx’s planning processes, this group agreed that the GTAH Regional Chairs were to serve as an advisory committee to collectively represent the interests of the region.

The GTAH Mayors and Chairs Caucus further argues transit is not just about moving people, but also the movement of goods throughout the GTAH. The Region of Peel has also long held the view that addressing congestion not only involves public transit planning but the movement of goods. The Region of Peel in particular is impacted by goods movement as it is considered one of the busiest transportation hubs in North America with majority of the goods moving on major highway corridors found within Peel. To help facilitate the movement of goods, the Region of Peel has long called for the provincial government to develop a long-term multi-modal transportation plan.