



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

**IRAC - 2/2014**

**DATE:** September 4, 2014

**TIME:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Council Chamber, 5th Floor  
Regional Administrative Headquarters 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A  
Brampton, Ontario

**MEMBERS:** B. Crombie; C. Fonseca; S. Hames; E. Kolb; E. Moore; R. Paterak;  
P Saito; J. Sanderson; R. Starr; A. Thompson; J. Tovey

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1. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
3. **DELEGATIONS**
4. **REPORTS**
  - 4.1. 2015 Federal Election Strategy
  - 4.2. 2014 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update (Oral)  
Discussion led by Allan Thompson, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee
5. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATUS REPORT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES (Oral)**  
Discussion led by L. Rubin-Vaughan, Advisor, External Relations, Executive Office
  - a) Federal News
  - b) Provincial News
  - c) Local News

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 6.1. **Terrence Edgar, Executive Director, Mississauga Community Legal Services (MCLS)**, Letter dated May 27, 2014, Regarding the Region of Peel's Support of Fair Share Funding for Community Legal Services in Peel (Receipt recommended)

**7. IN CAMERA MATTERS**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

To be determined

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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DATE: August 22, 2014

REPORT TITLE: **2015 FEDERAL ELECTION STRATEGY**

FROM: Allan Thompson, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the report of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee titled “2015 Federal Election Strategy”, be approved.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The next federal election is scheduled to take place October 19, 2015, however, the Governor General, on the advice of the Prime Minister, may call an election earlier.
- The Region of Peel will have three additional electoral ridings in the 2015 election.
- The 2015 Federal Election Strategy aims to capture the opportunity to inform and engage Peel candidates on the important issues that they should address with the next federal government.
- The strategy will focus on advancing Term of Council Priorities that are supported by prioritized Council endorsed advocacy positions.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Background**

Following three straight minority governments in Canada (2004 [Liberal]; 2006 [Conservative]; 2008 [Conservative]), the Conservative government, led by Stephen Harper, won a majority government in 2011. An amendment to the *Canada Election Act (2007)* requires that a general election take place the third Monday in October four years after the previous election. Therefore, the next election is scheduled to take place on October 19, 2015. The Governor General, however, on the advice of the Prime Minister, can call an election earlier than this fixed date. Some speculation has occurred in the media that a spring election is being targeted by the ruling Conservative Party.

Regional Council, through strategies led by the Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee (IRAC), has been active during previous provincial and federal elections, including the most recent 2014 provincial election. This work by the Region during election

**2015 FEDERAL ELECTION STRATEGY**

campaigns support the advancement of the 24 Term of Council Priorities (ToCPs) including #22: Influence Other Levels of Government.

The Region was previously engaged in the 2011 federal election by executing a federal election strategy that included highlighting key priorities to local candidates, residents and community organizations on issues impacting the Region of Peel. In addition, the Region partnered with the area municipalities in hosting a briefing session for all candidates on the priorities that mattered from an upper and lower tier municipal perspective.

With a federal election taking place in the fall of 2015, or potentially earlier, Regional staff is recommending a strategy, led by IRAC and supported by the Executive Office and Regional Departments that can be initiated in advance of the election date.

**2. Changes in the 2015 Federal Electoral Ridings in the Region of Peel**

Starting with the 2015 election, there will be a number of changes to the federal ridings in Ontario, including Peel as a result of the 2013 final *Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario* (the Report). The Report resulted in an additional 15 new federal electoral ridings, and changes to a number of riding boundaries and names across the province.

Recognizing the Region's population growth, amongst other factors, over the last 10 years, the Commission's Report recommended adding three (3) new ridings, thereby increasing the number of Peel Members of Parliament (MPs) to 12 from 9. There have also been a number of changes to existing ridings including name changes in the cities of Brampton and Mississauga.

The following are the 2015 ridings in Peel.

<b><u>Brampton</u></b>	<b><u>Mississauga</u></b>	<b><u>Caledon</u></b>
Brampton Centre	Mississauga Centre	Dufferin-Caledon
Brampton East	Mississauga-Cooksville	
Brampton North	Mississauga-Erin Mills	
Brampton South	Mississauga-Lakeshore	
Brampton West	Mississauga-Malton	
	Mississauga Streetsville	

With at least three new MPs in Peel, the strategy outlined in the next section will provide an opportunity for them, as well as all other candidates, to become more familiar with the issues affecting the community.

**2015 FEDERAL ELECTION STRATEGY****3. Proposed 2015 Federal Election Strategy**

The proposed 2015 Federal Election Strategy (the Strategy) outlined in this section focuses on Council endorsed advocacy positions specifically aligned with Regional Council's 24 Term of Council Priorities (ToCPs). The strategy provides the Region the opportunity to inform and engage Peel candidates on the important issues that they need to address with the next federal government.

**a) Proposed Objectives**

- i) Advance priority council endorsed advocacy positions that are aligned with ToCPs.
- ii) Develop a non-partisan advocacy campaign directed at educating and engaging all Peel candidates and party leaders.
- iii) Demonstrate leadership to the community by advocating issues that have significant impact on the quality of life throughout the Region.

**b) Proposed Approach**

- i) Develop an information package related to Regional priorities, as outlined in the next section, and raise the previously Council endorsed advocacy positions that support them.
- ii) Once finalized, hardcopies and electronic copies of the notes will be circulated in advance of the election to:
  - a. All major political party leaders
  - b. All Peel MP candidates
  - c. Regional Councillors
  - d. Community Stakeholders
  - e. Federal municipal associations
- iii) Increase public awareness of Peel's requests of the next Federal Government and local candidates through both traditional and social media.
- iv) Update Advocating for Peel, Peel's advocacy website with all materials.
- v) In addition, Region of Peel staff will reach out to the area municipalities to explore opportunities to coordinate advocacy efforts as it relates to the 2015 federal election.

#### 4. Proposed Issues

Issues to be raised during the federal election will focus on the prioritized council endorsed advocacy positions that relate directly to Term of Council Priorities. Issues will be categorized into the following two themes:

- Investments in Social Development
  - Affordable Housing
  - Immigration
  
- Investments in Infrastructure
  - Water, Wastewater and Waste Infrastructure
  - Goods Movement

These issues will be addressed through the Strategy outlined in the previous section.

#### CONCLUSION

With the next federal election taking place in the fall of 2015, or potentially earlier, staff believes the strategy outlined in this report will enable members of IRAC and Council to educate and inform all political parties, leaders, local candidates and the community about the important federal related issues affecting the Region of Peel.



Allan Thompson  
Chair, Intergovernmental Relations  
Advisory Committee

*For further information regarding this report, please contact David Arbuckle at extension 4777 or via email at [david.arbuckle@peelregion.ca](mailto:david.arbuckle@peelregion.ca).*



LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair	Committee
CAO	Sept 4 2014
Corporate Services	Council
Public Works	
Employee and Business Services	
Health Services	File
Human Services	
Peel Living	

Regional Municipality of Peel  
Office of the Regional Chair

June  
03 2014

May 27, 2014

VIA COURIER

RECEIVED

Chair Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
The Regional Municipality of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive  
5th Floor, Suite A  
Brampton, ON  
L6T 4B9

Dear Chair Kolb,

**Re: Fair Share Funding for Community Legal Services in Peel  
(Resolution 2013-1062)**

I am writing to thank you once again for writing to the Attorney General in support of fair funding for Peel community legal clinics. I also wanted to update you on our progress with respect to this issue.

We have had discussions with the staff of former Attorney General, Mr. Gerretsen, regarding Council's resolution and pressed upon them the importance that a community legal clinic serving Peel residents should remain in the Region and that it should be funded at an equitable level as that of the other legal clinics in Ontario. We informed them of the marked disparity of the funding of the Peel legal clinics vis-à-vis the rest of the province that resulted in Peel being the second most underfunded community when it comes to legal clinic funding in the province.

We have also had conversations with Legal Aid Ontario to seek additional staff funding for our clinic. In fact, MCLS submitted two applications for additional staff funding as part of the \$30 million special initiatives funding announced in the 2013 provincial budget. This funding was both to increase funding for family law services and to enhance clinic capacity to serve the legal needs of residents living with poverty.

One of our proposals was for additional funding for two clinic lawyers to provide family law services at our clinic. This proposal would mean that we could provide every day service



both in advice and representation and would no longer be restricted to offering clients only summary advice and only on Fridays.

The second proposal would have added an additional staff lawyer to provide legal services at various satellite locations in Mississauga. The focus was to place staff at settlement agencies and food banks across Peel so that we could provide greater access to justice for low income residents across this city.

In addition to these applications for funding from the special initiatives funds we also submitted a request for six additional staff in our core funding application to Legal Aid Ontario for the fiscal period between April 2014 and March 31, 2015.

The good news is that Legal Aid Ontario has now publicly acknowledged as of December 2013 that Peel clinics are under-resourced. We believe this announcement came at least in part as a result of your letter on our behalf and our discussions with Legal Aid Ontario and the Attorney General's office. Despite this recognition of underfunding, our funding requests for additional staff both in respect to the \$30 million fund and in our core funding application were turned down.

### **A Peel Only Community Legal Clinic**

In addition to your support of additional clinic funding, your letter of support also sought assurances that Legal Aid Ontario would continue to fund a legal clinic situated in Peel to serve Peel residents. Unfortunately, Legal Aid Ontario has not responded to this request. Our concern remains that the poverty law needs of Peel residents may as a result of future clinic amalgamation be served remotely. It is possible that there may not be a clinic office operating full time five days a week in Peel to provide poverty law services. Instead Mississauga's 750,000 residents may have to travel to a central office in Toronto (or even York Region) and share staff resources with those regions. It is hard to see how this would not lead to an erosion of access to justice for Peel citizens.

We had sought a commitment from Legal Aid Ontario to address this important access to justice issue over a year ago. Legal Aid's only response to our request was to suggest that we sign a memorandum of understanding supporting a proposal to amalgamate all 17 GTA legal clinics into 4 or 5 larger clinics. The exact number and location of these new mega-clinics would be determined by majority vote of the 17 clinics involved, 14 of which are located in Toronto.



Our decision not to participate in this project was based on a concern that the project report would include recommendations to eliminate the existing clinics in Peel and replace them with a mega-clinic based in Toronto. Furthermore, signing the memorandum of understanding would not have guaranteed additional clinic staff resources for Peel or even that the existing staff complement would be preserved.

We have tried to make it clear to LAO that Peel deserves to have the same level of clinic services that other communities across Ontario enjoy. Expanded staff would allow our clinic to provide poverty law services that we are currently unable to do with our existing staff complement. For example, we could begin to provide services in employment law, a very pressing need given the high number of people who are precariously employed in our community. Additional staff would also allow us to expand our immigration services from our current commitment of ½ a staff person. We could also assist victims of crime in obtaining their entitlements from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Similarly human rights cases would not automatically have to be sent to the legal centre in Toronto but potentially some of these clients could be provided services locally.

Currently the issues for which we sought your support remain unresolved. This provincial election is a crucial one for Peel residents because it will determine whether Peel will finally receive equitable population based funding from Queens Park and keep the gains that were made by the past government. That is why we ask that you continue to raise the issue of equitable funding in Peel for social services, and for legal clinic funding in particular, in your meetings with the three major provincial political parties.

Yours truly,

**MISSISSAUGA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence Edgar", is written over a horizontal line.

Terrence Edgar  
Executive Director

c.c. Hon. Madeleine Meilleur  
Attorney General of Ontario

c.c. Jagmeet Singh MPP



Justice Critic for the NDP

c.c. Julia Munro MPP  
Justice Critic for the PC Party

c.c. Mississauga Municipal Councillors