

# DECISIONS

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investigating single cases and contacts so that they can be isolated and not spreading in the community; and, moving to a more proactive communication plan to push out social media and website posts that inform, reassure and guide.

Dr. Loh reiterated that Public Health's contact tracing and enforcement efforts are only part of the solution. A whole community approach is required to slow the spread. People need to stay home, stay safe, and stay well, especially for our first responders, essential service workers, and healthcare providers who do not have the option to do so.

For more information about the Region of Peel's response to COVID-19, please visit:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/>

The following are decisions made by Regional Council on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

## Topics in this Issue:

- [Update on COVID-19](#)
- [Fiscal Update on COVID-19](#)
- [2019 Region of Peel Employee United Way Campaign](#)
- [Waste Management during COVID-19 Emergency Declaration](#)

## ■ Staff Presentations

### Update on COVID-19

Regional Council received an update on COVID-19 from Dr. Lawrence Loh, Acting Medical Officer of Health, who advised that staff in Peel Public Health continues to devote significant resources to slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the community with over 75 per cent of staff redeployed currently to support the outbreak; 18 per cent on critical functions.

Dr. Loh reviewed Public Health staff activities such as the issuance of a class section 22 order that requires people with COVID-19 to self-isolate at home for 14 days, or face fines under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*; supporting broad government efforts to enforce provincial emergency orders to close non-essential businesses and limit public gatherings to five people or less; providing guidance and directions on questions regarding facilities; working with long-term care partners to put stronger protective measures in place; continuing to interrupt transmission by

### Fiscal Update on COVID-19

Stephen VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer and Norman Lum, Director of Business and Financial Planning provided Regional Council with an overview of the economic impact and financial risks to the Region of Peel from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Region of Peel has experienced increased direct expenditures in Paramedic Services, Long Term Care, Public Health and in serving the homeless; and indirect costs such as extra funding to fund community agencies in need and increased bandwidth to enable Regional employees to work remotely. Lower costs are expected in some areas such as gas and electricity and there has been cost avoidance due to the closure of childcare centres and a lower number of TransHelp trips.

The Region's revenues are being impacted by the pandemic and the Chief Financial Officer highlighted Regional Council's approval of financial relief measures to support Peel residents and businesses. A \$15.4 million deficit for tax programs and a \$4.4 million deficit for utility programs is forecasted, with estimates based on the pandemic continuing to the end of August.

The Chief Financial Officer noted that in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, municipalities cannot budget for deficits. An operating deficit must be funded in the current year, such as utilizing stabilization reserves, or recovered in the next budget through tax increases or cuts in services. Without adequate



stabilization reserves, municipalities may be faced with a significant budget increase or drastic service level cuts in 2021.

For more information about the financial impacts of COVID-19, please visit: [Item 8.2](#)

**Enterprise Programs and Services**

**2019 Region of Peel Employee United Way Campaign**

Regional Council received a report from the Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services advising that the 2019 Region of Peel Employee United Way Campaign raised \$302,132, exceeding its \$300,000 goal. Combined funds raised by the Region of Peel employees and Peel Regional Police resulted in a total contribution to the United Way of Greater Toronto of \$337,854.

Over the past ten years, the Region of Peel Employee United Way Campaign has raised a total of \$3,439,99.

The United Way of Greater Toronto is the largest non-governmental funder and supporter of social services in the greater Toronto area and is geographically comprised of Peel, Toronto and York regions. The Region of Peel campaign supports the Region’s Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy; in particular, by increasing a sense of social conscience among employees through education, volunteering and fundraising.

For more information about the United Way of Greater Toronto, please visit: <https://www.unitedwaygt.org/>

**Other Business**

**Waste Management during COVID-19 Emergency Declaration**

Regional Council passed a resolution directing Region of Peel staff to work with the Region’s waste collection contractor, for the term of the COVID-19 emergency declaration, to permit two additional bags to be collected as part of the bi-weekly residential waste collection, without the requirement of purchasing bag tags. Residents will be permitted to set out two additional bags of waste commencing the week of April 20, 2020.

Council also approved the waiving of fees for dropping off waste at the Region’s Community Recycling Centres throughout the emergency declaration.

Additionally, Council directed staff to work with charities

with charitable donation boxes and local municipal staff to address the issue of dumping garbage at charitable donation boxes.

For more information about garbage, recycling and organics programs during the COVID-19 emergency, please visit:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/affected-services.asp#waste>

**Meetings at a Glance**

**Next Regional Council Meeting**  
Thursday, April 23, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

All meetings are held in the Region’s Council Chamber, Fifth Floor, 10 Peel Centre Dr. Suite A, Brampton, unless otherwise noted.

**For additional information on any of the items or to obtain a copy of a report included in Decisions, please contact the Region of Peel, Clerk’s Office at 905-791-7800, ext. 4526.**

**Decisions is published after each Regional Council meeting.**

**If you would like to be on our mailing list, please E-mail: [decisions@peelregion.ca](mailto:decisions@peelregion.ca) or call: 905-791-7800, ext. 4526.**

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