

### Regional Official Plan update

The Regional Official Plan (Official Plan) guides growth, development and infrastructure decisions that shape our communities, while maintaining a healthy environment and vibrant culture. The Official Plan has four goals:

1. Healthy and sustainable communities which embrace the region's natural and cultural heritage in order to ensure our future as a caring community.
2. To respect, preserve, restore and enhance our environment and its ecosystems.
3. A competitive and diverse economy with a sound tax base, and to manage growth and development in accordance with the fiscal sustainability of the Region.
4. To support growth and sustainable development.

Peel 2041: The Regional Official Plan Review (Peel 2041) updates the Official Plan in order to continue to meet those goals. This is done under the framework of Provincial plans and policies and in cooperation with our local municipalities. Since the last newsletter, there have been a number of changes to Provincial plans and policies, (e.g. Provincial Policy Statement 2014, the Growth Plan). There was also a municipal election, leading to a new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was developed in consultation with the citizens of the Region, which has led to a new set of Term of Council Priorities.

Peel 2041 is informed by all of these factors. This newsletter will provide updates on the focus areas of Housing, Growth Management, Agriculture, Climate Change and Transportation. This newsletter also coincides with the advancement of the first

amendment under Peel 2041: Regional Official Plan Amendment 27 (ROPA 27), which includes the focus areas of Health and the Built Environment, and Age-friendly Planning.



### ROPA 27: Health and the Built Environment

Community design influences health. A healthy, complete community is age-friendly and enables physical activity through active transportation. In a complete community, residents have nearby access to services for daily living, public transit and options for safe, active travel. Communities in which residents can be more physically active on a daily basis have been linked to lower rates of chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes and obesity.

In an effort to develop more complete communities in Peel, the Region has partnered with local

municipalities to implement the Healthy Development Framework. The Framework is a collection of local context-specific tools that assess the health promoting potential of future development. The tools focus on key built environment components that influence human activity and facilitate health. For instance, the Region's Healthy Development Assessment evaluates the following components: Density, Proximity to Services and Transit, Land Use Mix, Street Connectivity, Road Network and Sidewalk Characteristics, and Efficient Parking.

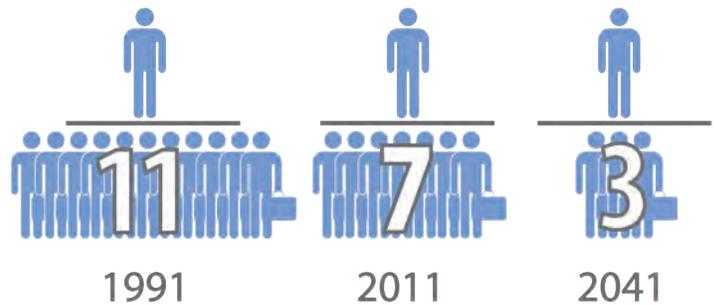


Active transportation is any form of human-powered travel, such as walking or cycling.

A discussion paper was prepared and a stakeholder workshop was held. The discussion paper and workshop information can be found here: <http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/focus-health-env.htm>. Policies drafted to support the Healthy Development Framework propose to require health assessments of all applicable planning applications, including those for all Regionally or municipally owned and operated public buildings, public squares and open space projects.

## ROPA 27: Age-Friendly Planning

As the Region's population continues to age, it becomes increasingly important to plan, prepare and adapt our programs and services to better serve this demographic. By 2041 the ratio of working age people to those age 65 and older (senior population) will drop from 11 to 1 in 1991 to 3 to 1 in 2041. This will have implications on our workforce, economy and other elements of our community. Proposed age-friendly planning policies are meant to address these and other issues.



The "Planning for an Aging Population Discussion Paper" has been updated to reflect consultation with the community. The paper also incorporates a jurisdictional scan of policies and initiatives from our local municipalities, as well as from elsewhere in Canada and around the world. The paper can be downloaded here: [Peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/focus-age-planning.htm](http://Peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/focus-age-planning.htm).

The paper concludes with policy recommendations that align with the Region's Term of Council Priority to "promote healthy and age-friendly built environments". More specifically, the policies aim to help Peel's seniors age within their communities, encourage universal accessibility design, implement the Healthy Development Framework and conduct research to assess supporting services and the built environment.

Feedback from ongoing consultations will be incorporated into the draft policies. The draft policies are available for review in the ROPA 27 section of this web page: [Peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/list-amendmts.htm](http://Peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/list-amendmts.htm). Information on the public meeting and open houses will be provided soon.

## Transportation

Recent consultation conducted in support of the Region of Peel's Strategic Plan identified the 10 "top of mind" issues in Peel. Not surprisingly, traffic congestion is the primary issue. Congestion has many causes, (such as single occupant vehicles and inadequate transit), and far reaching implications, including added travel times, economic impacts, health impacts due to a sedentary lifestyle, and so on. Many of the other "top of mind" issues can be mitigated directly or indirectly by transportation supply or demand side solutions.

Tackling these "top of mind" issues through a range of measures, beginning with policy, will assist us in achieving the long term vision of the Region of Peel: "Community for Life". We will be working with our residents, stakeholders, other levels of government, and staff to accomplish this vision.

## New approach to Growth

The continuing growth of Peel Region was identified as one of the top of mind issues by citizens and Council. There have been four workshops held, the most recent of which was held in order to better understand changes in the job market, and explore

trends in employment in order to help the Region achieve sustainable financing of infrastructure to support growth.

The Region, as directed by Council, has developed a new collaborative approach to planning, servicing and financing growth in order to reduce the gap between the costs of growth and revenues from sources such as Development Charges so that the risk of growth related debt is reduced. As part of Peel 2041, the Region anticipates bringing forward a new Regional Official Plan Amendment in 2017, which will include updated population and employment forecasts for 2041, and new policies for better managing that growth.

## Housing

Affordable housing was identified as one of the Region's Council Priorities, and is one of the focus areas under Peel 2041. In 2013, the Region of Peel developed a Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan (PHHP), in order to address affordable housing and the Region will continue to address housing concerns through Peel 2041. Under Bill 204: Promoting Affordable Housing Act, the province has proposed new tools such as inclusionary zoning, which will also be addressed as part of the review.

## Regional Council's & Community's Top of Mind Issues



1. Traffic congestion



2. Managing the Region's growth



3. Opportunities to both live and work in Peel



4. Link transportation and access networks



5. Attracting and retaining businesses



6. Health programs that cover our life span from infancy to old age



7. Employment and entrepreneurship



8. Active lifestyles and habits



9. Mental Health and its impacts



10. Community safety and crime prevention

The Region has been conducting research and consulting with citizens and local municipalities in order to draft policies to meet the housing needs of the community. A discussion paper on Affordable Housing is forthcoming later this year, followed by draft housing policies on which the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

**Peel receives about 30,000 new people to our community each year.**

**28% of Peel home owners and 41.5% of Peel renters are spending more than 30% of their household income on housing.**

## Agriculture

As part of the Peel 2041 Agriculture Policy Review the Region, jointly with the Town of Caledon, undertook three technical studies to provide a foundation for the review. These studies assist in:

- Identifying the Region's Prime Agricultural Areas in order to protect lands that are determined to be of the highest quality for agricultural uses and that support the most viable agricultural productivity.
- Assessing current and future land use planning approaches that are and can be used as best practices to improve land use compatibility and mitigate conflicts over normal farm practices to support agricultural production.



Technical Study Reports can be found at:  
[Peelregion.ca/planning/paawg/lear-mds.htm](http://Peelregion.ca/planning/paawg/lear-mds.htm)

As part of Peel 2041, an agricultural policy discussion paper will be produced for consultation to further discussion and the development of the Region's agriculture policies.

## Climate Change

Consultation on the climate change policy review component of Peel 2041 will begin in 2017 and will include an analysis of Official Plan policies that address issues related to climate change, and identify adaptation and mitigation opportunities. A discussion paper will highlight changes in Federal and Provincial policy direction and the various policy options to be considered within the Official Plan in themes relating to growth, transportation, water resources, energy, public health and natural heritage.



Low Impact Development  
Photo: Credit Valley Conservation

Climate change research and adaptation program development is also occurring. Research and program development is in the form of technical assessments and they are led by the Peel Climate Change Partnership. The outcomes of this research and program development will be referenced to ensure that all research completed at the time of drafting the discussion paper are included.

**Visit the Peel 2041 Webpages to learn more, or get on our mailing list by contacting:**

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