

# Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council  
February 21, 2024





### **Regional Council**

Thursday, February 22, 2024 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).



## 17.1 Mental Health Promotion in Schools – Public Health Program Update (For Information)

### Summary:

- The staff report provides an update on the School Health Program (SHP) which delivers programming to schools that both directly and indirectly promote student mental health and wellbeing in Peel.

### Staff Comments (Community Services, Government Relations):

- The City's advocacy includes need for adequate youth mental health supports, including school setting.
- Staff have participated in the Peel District School Board Mental Health Advisory meetings during the community consultation phase for community and faith leaders.
- City staff work closely with the Region to facilitate collaboration, information sharing and support service delivery.

### Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.



## 17.2 Update on Supporting Child and Youth Mental Health Services in Peel (For Information)

### Summary:

- The staff report provides an update on steps taken to strengthen collaboration and partnerships to support child and youth mental health in Peel.

### Staff Comments (Community Services, Government Relations):

- The City's ongoing advocacy on health and mental health care needs in Brampton includes the need for a fair allocation of provincial funding for youth mental health supports and services.
- City staff continue to work with the Region to ensure coordinated and collaborative approach to service delivery and advocacy work.

### Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.



February 16, 2024

### Changes to the Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

- The province is changing the 50-year-old environmental assessment (EA) process to make it easier and faster to build key infrastructure.
- Moving to a project list approach, which will list the types of infrastructure projects that still require the highest level of environmental assessment such as large landfills and electricity generation facilities.
  - Project list approach brings Ontario in line with other similar jurisdictions, including the federal government, Quebec and British Columbia.
- These changes come into effect on February 22, 2024, helping to build highways, rail and electricity transmission lines sooner.
- The government also launched consultation (including with municipalities), on a new streamlined process for certain municipal water, shoreline and sewage system projects.
  - Comments are due through the Environmental Registry of Ontario due March 17, 2024, and the Ontario Regulatory Registry by March 18, 2024.





February 15, 2024

### Ontario Banning Road Tolls and Freezing Driver's License Fees



- The Ontario government is introducing legislation that would, if passed, ban tolls on provincial highways. This ban would apply to the Don Valley Parkway and Gardiner Expressway once uploaded to the province and the province's 400-series highways.
- The province is also proposing to make the current freeze on driver's licenses and Ontario Photo Card fees permanent through legislation
  - An estimated \$66M in savings for drivers over the next five years.
- The province is also proposing to automate the license plate renewal process starting this summer.



February 12, 2024

### Ontario Releases 2023–24 Third Quarter Finances



- The Ontario government released the 2023–24 Q3 Finances, to provide an update on Ontario’s economic and fiscal outlook since the release of the 2023 Fall Economic Statement (FES).
  - The Q3 update projects a deficit of **\$4.5B** in 2023–24, an improvement of **\$1.1B** compared to the outlook published in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement.
  - The outlook for revenue in 2023–24 is projected to be **\$202.7B**, **\$0.9B** higher than forecast in the 2023 FES.
  - Overall, while inflation-related pressure has eased slightly, high interest rates and unpredictable consumer price inflation continue to pose risks to the province’s economic outlook.
- The Ontario government will provide its next fiscal update by March 31, 2024, as part of the 2024 Budget.



February 9, 2024

### Federal-Provincial Health Care Investment

- The Canadian and Ontario governments collaboratively announced a significant **\$3.1B** investment to enhance healthcare, focusing on increasing access to family doctors, reducing wait times, and expanding the healthcare workforce.
  - This agreement includes creating primary care teams, adding hundreds of new healthcare professionals, and expanding healthcare education enrollment, alongside improving mental health services and support for Indigenous communities.
- The initiative aims to make healthcare more convenient, connected, and patient-centered by modernizing digital infrastructure and easing the practice for Canadian and internationally trained health professionals.





February 8, 2024

### Extension of Hazel McCallion LRT Line into Downtown Brampton

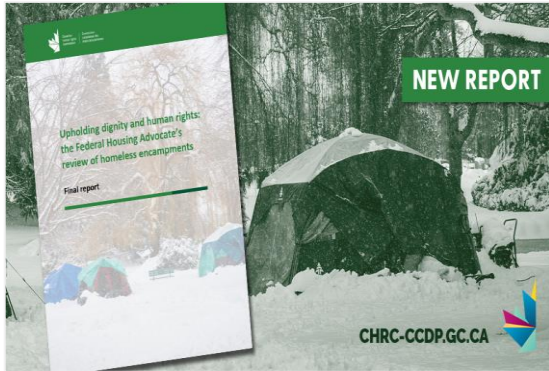


- The Ontario government officially announced the extension of the Hazel McCallion Light Rail Transit (LRT) with a Mississauga loop and expansion into downtown Brampton, alongside enhanced two-way all-day service for the Milton GO train line.
  - The LRT extension includes a 4-km stretch into downtown Brampton and a 2-km loop in Mississauga, aiming to provide faster and more reliable transit options for one of Canada's fastest-growing cities.
- The Ontario government plans to invest **\$70.5B** over the next decade in public transit expansion, calling for a federal cost-sharing partnership to support the project and improve connectivity in Peel Region and neighbouring areas.



February 13, 2024

### Federal Housing Advocate's Final Report



- In October 2023, the Advocate published an interim report setting out the context of the housing crisis and what had been heard through the engagement process.
- On February 13, 2024, a final report was released with a recommendation that the federal government establish a National Encampments Response plan by August 31, 2024, that will:
  - Act immediately to save lives.
  - End forced evictions of encampments.
  - Work with all governments and provide support to municipalities.
  - Respect the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.
  - Respect and uphold human rights.
  - Offer people permanent housing options as rapidly as possible.
  - Address the root causes of encampments.
- The Minister responsible for housing must respond to the report within 120 days.



February 8, 2024

### National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft – Key Takeaways



- Coordinating efforts across the country, the federal government is taking actions to combat auto theft by:
  - Increasing the capacity of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) by investing **\$28M** to conduct more investigations and examinations of stolen vehicles, as well as enhance collaboration on investigations and intelligence sharing with partners across Canada and internationally.
  - Pursuing all avenues to ban devices used to steal vehicles by copying the wireless signals for remote keyless entry, which would allow for the removal of those devices from the Canadian marketplace through collaboration with law enforcement agencies.
  - Examine potential amendments to the *Criminal Code* to further strengthen the legal framework by reviewing existing offences and penalties.



February 7, 2024

### Federal Investment to Combat the Export of Stolen Vehicles



- The federal government announced **\$28M** in funding to tackle the export of stolen vehicles.
- With this new funding, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will have more capacity to detect and search containers with stolen vehicles, as well as further enhance collaboration and information sharing with partners across Canada and internationally to identify and arrest those who are perpetrating these crimes.
- This will also enhance the CBSA's capacity in the Greater Toronto Area to examine rail shipments containing suspected stolen vehicles prior to their movement to a port of export.



February 13, 2024

## FCM's Recommendations for Budget 2024

FCM has shared their recommendations for Budget 2024 which include, but are not limited to:

- Engage with provinces and territories on a new Municipal Growth Framework.
- Double the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) to **\$4.4B** annually.
- Establish the Permanent Public Transit Fund in legislation, with new funding starting in 2024-25 for planning and design costs.
- Increase the Reaching Home homelessness prevention and response program to **\$564M** per year for 2024-25 and 2025-26 to support encampment residents and make the program permanent at **\$282M** per year starting in 2026-27.
- Replenish the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) with **\$2B** in new funding in 2024–25 and commit to a long-term investment of **\$1B** annually for 10 years.
- Deepen federal-municipal collaboration on achieving Canada's 2030 climate target on a pathway to net-zero emissions, including by implementing the Canada Green Building Strategy.







THANK YOU!

