

Government Relations Matters

City Council
February 28, 2024



Audit and Risk Committee

Thursday, February 29, 2024 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on March 21, 2024.

5.1 2023 Organizational Risk Profile Assessing Risks Related to Bill 112 and Service Delivery (Recommendation)

Summary:

- The staff report provides details on the 2023 Organizational Risk Profile, which was initially developed to support and inform decision-making following the announcement of the *Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023*.
- The detailed risks related to each Peel Region service and many of the summary-level risks continue to be relevant, as the future of some Peel services (Land Use Planning, Transportation, Waste Management, and Water and Wastewater) are being considered by the Transition Board and the Province.

Staff Comments (Government Relations):

- On December 13, 2023, the Provincial government announced that Peel will not be dissolved, and that new legislation will be introduced in 2024 to repeal or amend Bill 112.
- Until new legislation is introduced, no further implications can be determined.

Staff Recommendation:

- Support the Regional staff recommendation.

Region of Peel

Updates

March 20, 2024

2024 Auto Theft Summit



- *Auto Theft Summit 2024* will take place on March 20, 2024.
- This will be a joint collaboration by Peel Regional Police, partnering police services, stakeholders from government and industry leaders, to shed light on the challenges in public safety related to auto theft.
- Discussions around implementing impactful solutions will also take place with partners in policing, government, and industry across Ontario and its communities.

February 26, 2024

New Measures and Investments to Stabilize Post-Secondary Sector



- The Ontario government announced an investment of **\$1.3B** in new funding for colleges and universities, alongside maintaining a tuition fee freeze to alleviate financial pressures on students and families.
 - This funding aims to stabilize institutions, support student mental health, foster safe and inclusive campuses, and enhance career readiness.
- The province is also introducing the ***Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act, 2024***, proposing increased transparency of fees (such as ancillary fees, textbooks, and other student costs), mandatory policies for mental health support, and measures to combat racism and hate on campuses.
 - Furthermore, it seeks to improve the integrity of career colleges through enhanced oversight and enforcement efforts.

February 23, 2024

\$25.5M through the Building Faster Fund Announced for the City of Brampton



- The Ontario government announced that it will be rewarding the City of Brampton with over **\$25.5M** from the ***Building Faster Fund*** for surpassing its 2023 housing target with the construction of **7,028** new housing units, recognizing the City's efforts in addressing the housing supply crisis.
- The ***Building Faster Fund***, a **\$1.2B three-year initiative**, incentivizes municipalities to accelerate housing development by providing financial support for housing and community infrastructure to those meeting or exceeding **80%** of their housing targets.
 - Any unspent funding will be made available for housing-enabling infrastructure to all municipalities, including those that have already received funding as a result of reaching their targets, through an application process.

February 22, 2024

Introduction of Legislation to Stabilize Energy and New Housing Costs



- The Ontario government has introduced new legislation aimed at overturning a December 2023 decision by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), preventing an increase in new home construction costs by averting an additional **\$4,400** charge per new home and significantly more in rural areas.
- The ***Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024*** proposes to shift the financial burden of new natural gas connections from residential customers and small businesses, who would have had to pay 100% upfront, back to a model where costs are spread over forty years, aligning with recommendations from the Electrification and Energy Transition Panel.
 - This act will also mandate broader engagement and consultation by the OEB and appoint a new chair to the board.

February 21, 2024

Investments to Support Local Laid-Off Automotive Employees

- The Ontario government is investing **\$751,607** to support **3,914** laid-off automotive employees impacted by the recent closure of Stellantis automotive assembly plants in Peel and Durham regions.
- The funding will allow Unifor National to run action centres in Brampton and Oshawa that will connect the impacted workers and their families with various supports and services.
- The new Unifor Action Centre locations in Brampton and Oshawa will operate until at least **January 2025** and will offer skills development programs, personalized career counselling, networking opportunities and other services to workers impacted by the recent plant closures.



February 20, 2024

Bill 162, Get It Done Act, 2024



- The Ontario government has introduced the ***Get It Done Act***, which is aimed at accelerating the construction of transit, housing, and other essential infrastructure while preventing new tolls on provincial highways and requiring a referendum for any future provincial carbon tax.
 - Initiatives announced include banning new highway tolls, automating the licence plate renewal process, and maintaining a freeze on driver's licence and Ontario Photo Card fees, alongside proposals to streamline building approvals for quicker infrastructure development.
 - Key projects under this legislation include declaring the Hazel McCallion Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line Extensions as priority projects and moving more projects to a streamlined environmental assessment process.

February 20, 2024

Seniors Community Grant Program



- Community organizations are now eligible to apply for the Ontario Seniors Community Grant Program, offering funding between **\$1,000 and \$25,000** for initiatives that benefit Ontarians aged 55 and older by supporting their independence, safety, community connection, and financial security.
 - The program funds a variety of activities including fitness and nutrition classes, community engagement opportunities such as book clubs and technology training seminars, and initiatives that provide access to health prevention and promotion information.
- Applications for 2024-25 are open now until **March 28, 2024**.

February 21, 2024

Federal Support for Auto Theft Investigations



- The federal government announced an investment of **\$15M** to support law enforcement agencies' work to combat auto theft.
- **\$9.1M** will be extended to provincial, territorial and municipal police forces through the Contribution Program to Combat Serious and Organized Crime (CPCSOC) to increase their capacity to take custody of detained stolen vehicles from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).
- To enhance information sharing and investigative tactics to identify and retrieve stolen vehicles and parts around the world, INTERPOL's joint transnational vehicle crime project will receive **\$3.5M**.
- Additionally, the federal government will engage domestic and international partners to ensure a coordinated response, supported through an investment of **\$2.4M**.

THANK YOU!

