

Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council
April 10, 2024



Regional Council

Thursday, April 11, 2024 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

8.1 2023 Public Health Annual Review (For Information)

Summary:

- The report provides an overview of Peel Public Health's 2023 key activities, as mandated by the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Staff Comments (Government Relations, Community Services):

- By the end of 2023, Peel Public Health remobilized nearly 70% of services that were paused or scaled down during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- City staff are supportive of Peel Public Health's objectives for 2024, which include focusing on recovery and remobilization, advancement of the strategic priorities, and providing public health programming to support the Region of Peel community.

Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

11.2 Building Safer Communities Fund Update (For Information)

Summary:

- Peel Region signed a three-year, \$7.3 million Contribution Agreement with Public Safety Canada (PSC) as part of the Building Safer Communities Fund, the report provides an update on the allocation of the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) within Peel and detail the deliverables of the funding.

Staff Comments (Community Services):

- The federal funding will support initiatives to address youth gun and gang violence in Peel by funding community-based youth prevention and intervention strategies to tackle, enabling integration and collaboration across system partners.
- City staff will continue to participate in the Building Safer Communities Fund Steering Committee to support the implementation and represent Brampton's needs.

Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

11.3 Increase in Provincial Funding for Community Support Services (For Information)

Summary:

- Region of Peel Adult Day Services (ADS) received \$335,068 in additional permanent base funding from Ontario Health.
- This additional funding creates the opportunity for ADS to deliver enhanced and expanded services for older adults living in the community with complex care, including cognitive impairment or a diagnosis of dementia.

Staff Comments (Government Relations, Community Services):

- City staff are in support of the recommendations, as there are significant community benefits (such as the prevention of social isolation, reduction in hospital visits, and improved quality of life) associated with the enhanced services and there is no net budget impact resulting from the changes proposed in the report.

Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

15.1 Major Office Incentives (MOI) Program Update (For Information)

Summary:

- In April 2021, Regional Council approved the establishment of a Major Office Incentives (MOI) program to encourage and attract more large office developments to locate in Peel Region.
- The report provides an update on the MOI program and outlines the risks and uncertainties related to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* (Bill 23) and the *Hazel McCallion Act, 2023* (Bill 112). As a result of these specified risks, Region of Peel staff have paused efforts to take steps towards entering into agreements with local municipalities to support the MOI program.

Staff Comments (Economic Development, Planning):

- City staff have advised the Region of interest in two eligible applications being considered for the MOI program or any eligible funding program. These two applications were approved for a local municipal grant by Brampton City Council in July 2023.

Staff Recommendation:

- Staff have prepared a detailed briefing note with recommendations.

15.2 City of Mississauga's Major Transit Station Area Official Plan Amendments 142, 143, 144 and 146: Regional Staff Review, Updates and Recommendations (For Information)

Summary:

- The report provides a summary of Region of Peel staff's review of the City of Mississauga's Official Plan Amendments (OPAs) related to Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs), which include maximum height permissions for these areas.
- Region of Peel staff recommend that Council approve OPAs 142, and 146 as adopted, and 143 and 144 as modified.

Staff Comments (Government Relations, Planning):

- City staff brought a report to the Planning and Development Committee on Monday April 8th, asking Council to request the Region to make modifications to the *Brampton Plan*, to implement height and density restrictions within MTSAs.
- Regional approval of the City of Mississauga's OPAs supports the City's request to make these modifications, as part of the approval of the *Brampton Plan*.

Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

March 27, 2024

Allocation of International Student Applications to Support Labour Market Needs

- The province is adapting to the federal cap on international student study permit applications by prioritizing enrollment in public post-secondary programs that align with the province's in-demand job sectors.
 - The allocation plan will direct **96%** of international student permit applications to publicly assisted colleges and universities.
 - The remaining **4%** is designated for language schools, private universities, and other institutions.



The City of Brampton's 2024 Pre-Budget Submission requested the province to enhance the experience of international students by utilizing an integrated approach, from pre-arrival to post-graduation between the government, educational institutions, the local community, and employers.

March 28, 2024

A New Deal for Ottawa



- The province and the City of Ottawa have reached a new deal that invests in the city's needs. The agreement includes:
 - Up to **\$197M** over three years in provincial operating supports, and
 - Up to **\$346M** over 10 years in provincial capital supports.
- Ontario committed to working with Ottawa to explore opportunities to fund and build more infrastructure, including through the *Building Ontario Fund* and policy changes to assist the city in removing barriers to getting more homes built faster.
- On November 27, 2023, the province announced a similar deal for the City of Toronto, in which the province committed to up to \$1.2B in provincial operating supports over three years.

In the 2024 Pre-Budget Submission, the City of Brampton requested the government work with local municipalities to identify and put forward a model and solutions that ensure adequate funding and promote best and most efficient service delivery, while protecting Brampton taxpayers and ensuring fairness for our residents.

April 2, 2024

Updates to Public Sector Procurement Processes

- Effective April 1, 2024, a new regulation under the *Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act, 2022* (BOBIA) gives businesses across the province access to more government and public sector procurement opportunities.
 - The new regulation requires that Ontario's public sector — including hospitals, schools, colleges and universities — give preference to Ontario businesses when conducting procurements for goods and services.
 - The government anticipates that at least **\$3B** in contract awards will be targeted to Ontario businesses through to 2026.



The Brampton Entrepreneur Centre (BEC) will be hosting a complimentary webinar on Doing Business with the Province of Ontario on **June 4, 2024, from 3:00 – 4:00pm** (registration link [here](#)), in collaboration with Supply Ontario.

March 27, 2024

New Measures for Renters

- The federal government announced measures from the upcoming Budget 2024 to increase protections for renters. These measures include:
 - **Launching a new \$15M Tenant Protection Fund** – This would provide funding to legal aid and tenants' rights advocacy organizations to better protect tenants against unfair rising rent payments, renovictions, or bad landlords.
 - **Creating a new Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights**, developed and implemented in partnership with provinces and territories. This would require landlords to disclose a clear history of apartment pricing. This also includes cracking down on renovictions and the creation of a nationwide standard lease agreement.
 - **Making sure renters get credit for on-time rent payments** – Amending the Canadian Mortgage Charter and calling on landlords, banks, credit bureaus, and fintech companies to make sure that rental history is taken into account in one's credit score.



City staff are supportive of increased rights and additional protections for tenants. The number of renters in Brampton has grown from 18.5% in 2006, to 20% in 2016, and 22% in 2021. Protecting tenants against unfair increases in rent payments, renovictions, and other bad faith evictions is critical to ensuring Brampton residents have access to safe and affordable housing.

April 2, 2024

Federal Government Announces Funding for Housing

- The federal government announced measures from the upcoming Budget 2024 to cut red tape and build more homes. This includes:
 - **Topping-up the Housing Accelerator Fund with an additional \$400M** so municipalities can cut red tape, fast-track home construction, and invest in affordable housing. This will fast-track an additional 12,000 new homes in the next three years.
 - **Launching a new \$6B Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund** to accelerate the construction/upgrading of critical housing infrastructure such as water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste infrastructure.
 - **\$1B** will be available for municipalities to support urgent infrastructure needs that will create more housing.
 - **\$5B** will go towards agreements with provinces and territories if they make certain commitments, to support long-term priorities.
 - To access long-term, predictable funding for public transit through the forthcoming public transit fund, **municipalities will be required to take action that will directly unlock housing supply.**



Provinces will have until January 1, 2025, to secure an agreement with the federal government. If no agreement is reached by the deadline, provincial funding allocation will be transferred to the municipal stream.

April 3, 2024

Federal Government Announces Measures to Unlock Housing Construction



- The federal government announced measures from the upcoming Budget 2024 to unlock housing construction. These measures include:
 - **Delivering a \$15B top-up to the Apartment Construction Loan Program (ACLP) to build a minimum of 30,000 new apartments.**
 - **Announcing new reforms to the ACLP to increase access to the program and make it easier for builders to build.** These reforms include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Extending loan terms; (2) extending access to financing to include housing for students and seniors; (3) and introducing a portfolio approach to eligibility requirements so builders can move forward on multiple sites at once, etc.
 - **Launching Canada Builds – partnering with provinces and territories to build more rental housing across the country.** The government intends to leverage its \$55B Apartment Construction Loan Program by making it available to support partnerships with provinces and territories that launch their own housing plans.

April 4, 2024

Federal Government Announces Rental Protection Fund



- The federal government announced the **launch of a new \$1.5B Canada Rental Protection Fund** to protect affordable housing and create thousands of new affordable apartments.
- This will provide **\$1B in loans and \$470M in contributions** to non-profit organizations and other partners so they can buy rental units in an effort to keep prices affordable.
 - The Fund will mobilize investments and financing from the charitable sector and the private sector to grow affordable housing.

Given market influences over the past several decades, the creation of new purpose-built rental housing within Brampton has remained minimal, with the demand for rental outpacing supply and a widespread shortage of purpose-built rental housing throughout the city.

City staff are supportive of the Rental Protection Fund, as protecting the existing supply of purpose-built rental housing is critical to ensuring the provision of diverse and affordable housing supply options in Brampton.

April 5, 2024

Federal Government Announces \$600M Towards Building Housing



- The federal government announced over **\$600M** package to make it easier and cheaper to build more homes, faster. These measures, from the upcoming Budget 2024, include:
 - **Launching a new \$50M Homebuilding Technology and Innovation Fund** that will seek to leverage an additional \$150M from the private sector and other orders of government to support the scale-up, commercialization, and adoption of innovative housing technologies and materials.
 - **Delivering \$50M to modernize and expedite home building through the regional development agencies.**
 - **Delivering \$500M to support rental housing.** With low-cost financing through the Apartment Construction Loan Program, this will support new rental housing projects using innovative construction techniques from prefabricated and modular housing manufacturers as well as other homebuilders.
 - **Launching a modernized Housing Design Catalogue** to standardize up to 50 efficient, cost-effective, and liveable home blueprints.



THANK YOU!

