

Government Relations Matters

City Council
May 15, 2024



Health System Integration Committee

Thursday, May 16, 2024 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 16, 2024 @ 1:00 PM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

The next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024.

5.1 Strategic Opportunities to Strengthen Collaborations and Advance Mental Health and Addictions Priorities in Peel (For Information)

Summary:

- The mental health and addictions (MHA) system in Peel is experiencing severe pressures, including increased waitlists, more complex and diverse needs, rising emergency department visits, and changing substance use patterns. Funding is not keeping pace with Peel's population growth and inflation, causing community MHA service providers to struggle to meet the growing demand.
- In response to these challenges, there are concerted efforts at the provincial, regional, and local levels to address the increasing MHA needs through partnerships and collaborations. Key initiatives include coordinated advocacy, system integration, and enhanced data collection and sharing to improve service delivery and access.

City Staff Comments (Community Services):

- City staff continue to support cross-sectoral collaboration, the identification and coordination of shared priorities, and advance advocacy opportunities for MHA initiatives in Brampton.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

May 14, 2024

Introduction of Stronger Penalties to Combat Auto Theft



- The Ontario government is introducing legislation that, if passed, would suspend driver's licences for people convicted of the crime.
- Under the proposed legislation, thieves convicted of motor vehicle theft under the *Criminal Code of Canada* would face:
 - 10-year licence suspension for a first offence;
 - 15-year licence suspension for a second offence;
 - lifetime licence suspension for a third offence.
- Licence suspensions would apply to convictions where the court found that aggravating factors were involved in the commission of the offence
- The province is also proposing to strengthen penalties for stunt driving.

City of Brampton has been a leader with its advocacy for a coordinated action to combat auto theft, including collaboration with all levels of government and stakeholders. The City also implemented a pilot program to combat auto thefts through the free distribution of Signal Blocking Pouches (SBP) to households in five pilot areas.

May 8, 2024

Expansion of Pediatric Mental Health Services for Black and 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth



- The Ontario government is investing an additional **\$12.5M** to connect Black children, youth and their families to pediatric mental health services.
- This funding is part of the government's investment of an additional **\$330M** each year in pediatric health services at hospitals and community-based health care facilities across the province.
- This investment also builds on the government's work to significantly expand the number of Youth Wellness Hubs across the province to make it faster and easier for young people to connect to mental health and substance use support, primary care, social services.
- Ontario is adding 10 new Youth Wellness Hubs to the network of 22 hubs already opened since 2020, bringing the total to 32 across the province.

The Youth Wellness Hub for Brampton/Mississauga (Peel) is projected to open and be fully operational in the coming years. Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the Peel Youth Wellness Hub.

May 9, 2024

Government of Canada Helps to Improve Women's Economic Participation in Male-Dominated Industries



- The federal government announced **\$924,370** over two and a half years to Build a Dream to Empower Women (Build a Dream) for their project *Supporting Women's Access to Employment, Retention, Advancement in Male Dominated Fields*.
- This funding addresses women's systemic barriers to job retention and representation in male-dominated fields such as science, technology, engineering, construction and manufacturing fields.
- Build a Dream will connect industry collaborators, students, and job seekers through virtual conferences, career discovery exhibitions, workshops, and hands-on learning.
- The project will also help create more inclusive work environments for women and develop mentorship programs that support current women employees for their advancement.

The “Build a Dream” initiative will be a significant stepping stone to supporting women in the skilled trades, STEM and manufacturing fields. Gender equality and representation are instrumental in encouraging more women to enter into these industries and creating a program of this magnitude will support the type of environment that will encourage further uptake.

May 9, 2024

Distress Line Equity Fund Announcement



- In September 2023, the federal government announced **\$8M** in funding through the Distress Line Equity Fund to address gaps in equity, diversity and inclusion within Canada's crisis and distress line sector.
- Building on a previous announcement on March 1, 2024, the government is announcing **\$4M in funding to 26 additional organizations**. The maximum funding available per project is \$250,000 for a maximum duration of twelve months.
 - **Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin Branch** will receive \$250,000 in funding to enhance their ability to provide culturally appropriate and safe crisis support for Black, African, and Caribbean community members.
 - **South Asian Canadians Health & Social Services** will receive \$196,626 in funding to provide members of the South Asian community with a service they can access that will provide support, counselling, and access to community and/or mental health resources.

This funding allocation aligns with the Peel Community Safety and Well-Being goal of improving access to mental health supports in Peel Region.

Updates

May 13, 2024

Creating More Child Spaces in Ontario



- The federal government announced that they **will be providing Ontario with \$201M to create child care spaces and support inclusive child care services across the province.**
- This investment, part of the previously announced **\$625M** Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund, will help Ontario reach their goal of creating 86,000 new child care spaces by 2026.
 - Provincial and territorial funding allocation details will be announced soon.

As the demand for child care is expected to increase, Peel Region is continuously working to increase access to licensed child care for families across the region. This funding will create more opportunities for families to access child care spaces.

May 8, 2024

AMO Delegation Meetings



- Delegation meetings with Cabinet Ministers and party leaders are a key feature of the annual AMO Conference. These meetings are an opportunity for Council to engage with Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants and senior Ontario Government officials on local matters and priorities.
- Registered AMO Conference delegates are eligible to request meetings with the provincial government. The deadline for submitting delegation requests is **Friday June 7th, 2024, at 5:00pm EST.**

The Government Relations staff began preparations for the 2024 AMO Conference. The City's delegation requests will reflect key Brampton priorities and interests for the City including transit and infrastructure, housing, health care, economic development, municipal fiscal sustainability, and other relevant issues.

May 8, 2024

"Team Ontario" Federal Infrastructure Funding Agreement Negotiation



- On April 18, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing sent a [letter](#) to AMO's President proposing a collaborative "Team Ontario" approach to federal infrastructure funding agreement negotiations.
- These much-needed investments could help offset some of the approximately **\$100B** in municipal capital expenditures planned over the next 10 years.
- Considerations include the potential impact of the proposed development charge (DC) freeze is a concern for all municipalities with populations over 300,000.
- A potential three-year freeze on DCs on these municipalities could reduce their ability to keep pace with anticipated growth.

City staff are closely monitoring the "Team Ontario" approach to federal infrastructure funding agreement negotiations, to determine whether there are any impacts and opportunities for Brampton.

May 8, 2024

Bill 185 Comments to Standing Committee



- On May 7, 2024, AMO commented and provided a written submission on Bill 185 at the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs' public hearings.
- Comments focused on the positive outcome of the province's collaboration with municipalities demonstrated through Bill 185 and restoring municipalities' ability to fund growth related infrastructure by:
 - Repealing the mandatory five-year phase-in of new DC rates; and
 - Restoring studies as eligible DC expenses.
- AMO called for the reversal of additional DCs to enable municipalities to fund the infrastructure required for growth.

City of Brampton participated in the provincial consultations on some aspects on Bill 185 through formal written submissions. City staff remain engaged with AMO and closely monitor AMO's call for the reversal of additional DCs. Staff continue to assess impacts of legislative changes on Brampton's ability to grow and fund critical services.

THANK YOU!

