

Government Relations Matters

City Council
May 1, 2024



Emergency Management Program Committee

Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Committee

Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 11:00 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

Regional Council Policies and Procedures Committee

Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 1:00 PM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

The next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2024.

6.2 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Update (For Information)

Summary:

- The report highlights several activities that have been undertaken and are in progress to identify gaps and barriers that may lead to inequities for the community and employees and to foster feelings of inclusion and belonging in Peel.
- It emphasizes the need to support the complexities that international students face, to advance the goals identified in the *Brampton Charter for Improving the International Student Experience* (Sheridan College), and that an International Students Collaborative is being established.
- Staff from Peel Region will play a key role in co-chairing the Collaborative and the development of an implementation plan and advocacy strategy.

Staff Comments

- City staff from the Community Safety & Well-Being Office, Government Relations, and Planning, Building and Growth Management will participate as key representatives on the International Student Collaborative.

Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

April 23, 2024

Investments to Expedite the Construction of Long-Term Care Homes

- The province is allocating **\$155.5M** this year from the 2024 Ontario Budget to accelerate the construction of new and redeveloped long-term care homes, as part of a larger **\$6.4B** initiative aiming to establish **58,000** new and upgraded beds across the province.
- The construction funding subsidy, initially introduced in 2022 and credited with launching 67 projects, will continue this year, offering eligible projects up to **\$35 per bed, per day for 25 years**, with additional incentives for not-for-profit applicants to aid financing.



Seniors aged 65 and older represent one of the fastest-growing population segments in the Region of Peel and the City of Brampton.

It should be noted that long-care term beds count towards Brampton's *Municipal Housing Pledge*. Staff would require additional details to fully assess local impacts and potential benefits.

April 25, 2024

Canada's First Comprehensive Electric Vehicle Supply Chain



- Honda Canada has announced a **\$15B** investment to create Canada's first comprehensive electric vehicle (EV) supply chain in Ontario, which includes building four new manufacturing facilities and is expected to be fully operational **by 2028**.
- The project will generate over 1,000 direct manufacturing jobs and thousands of additional indirect jobs across Ontario and Canada, benefiting auto parts suppliers and enhancing the research and development ecosystem.
- This significant investment reflects confidence in Canada and Ontario's skilled workforce and strong economic conditions, aiming to position the Canadian auto sector as a global leader in the electric vehicle industry.

City of Brampton's Economic Development Office (EDO) is tracking this initiative to determine opportunities for Brampton businesses in the supply chain and other indirect jobs and opportunities.

April 29, 2024

Expansion of Supports for Firefighters



- The province plans to introduce legislation that will expand WSIB coverage for municipal firefighters to include presumptive coverage for skin cancer, in addition to the already covered cancers, heart injuries, and PTSD, reducing the required service duration for compensation **from 15 to 10 years**.
- The changes are part of broader efforts under the Working for Workers acts to enhance protections and benefits for frontline municipal firefighters, reflecting an acknowledgment of their increased exposure to health risks.
- The adjustments to the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* (WSIA) are designed to make it faster and easier for municipal firefighters to access WSIB benefits due to scientific findings linking their exposure to carcinogens and PAHs with a higher risk of developing skin cancer.

City staff are assessing this legislation to determine any potential impacts and implications to Brampton Fire & Emergency Services.

April 29, 2024

Advocacy Day at Parliament Hill

- On April 29, 2024, Members of Council and senior staff met with a number of Ministers and senior staff in Ottawa to advocate for key City priorities, including:
 - Higher Order Transit (Light Rail Transit, Bus Rapid Transit, Electrification, etc.)
 - Housing and Infrastructure
 - Asylum Claimants
 - Auto Theft and Community Safety
 - A modernized Municipal Growth Framework
 - International Students



Direct advocacy with key decision-makers in Ottawa is part of the City's work to strengthen collaboration and identify alignment with Federal priorities on key City initiatives. Staff continue post-budget outreach and advocacy with the Federal government.

April 29, 2024

Changes to the Start-up Visa and Self-Employed Persons Programs



- The federal government announced changes to federal business programs to help reduce processing times and the application backlog. These changes take effect on April 30, 2024.
- To improve the Start-up Visa Program, designated venture capital firms, angel investor groups and business incubators are encouraged to focus on the most promising proposals by:
 - Capping the number of permanent residence applications for processing each year to those associated with no more than 10 start-ups per designated organization and,
 - Providing priority processing for entrepreneurs whose start-up is supported by Canadian capital or by a business incubator that is a member of Canada's Tech Network, including applications in the inventory and new applications as they are submitted.
- In addition, there will be a full pause on application intake for the **Self-Employed Persons Program** until the end of 2026 to focus on processing applications from the inventory.

Initial staff assessment indicates potential impacts to the Bhive and Altitude Accelerator operations in Brampton. More information is required to fully assess impacts and potential next steps.

April 29, 2024

New Rules Around Off-Campus Work Hours for International Students

- The federal government announced that the temporary policy allowing students to work more than 20 hours per week off campus has come to an end as of April 30, 2024, and it will not be extended.
- As of this fall, the number of hours students may work off campus per week will be 24 hours.



The government indicated that allowing students to work up to 24 hours per week will ensure they focus primarily on their studies, while having the option to work, if necessary. Brampton's City Council has been at the forefront in advocacy for international students well-being, advocating for the necessary supports and housing options.

April 26, 2024



FCM's Analysis of Budget 2024

- FCM welcomed the investments made by the federal government towards tackling homelessness and in municipal infrastructure.
- FCM also welcomed the federal government's plan to address the housing crisis and the emphasis on intergovernmental collaboration, however, it failed to address the need for a national conversation on modernizing the funding model for Canadian municipalities.
 - FCM urges the federal government to bring together all orders of government to discuss a new Municipal Growth Framework that would provide more effective long-term support for communities.

The City continues to work with FCM and the Federal government to address priority issues including housing, transit, infrastructure needs and fiscal municipal sustainability. Brampton Council expressed support for FCM's work and advocacy on these key issues.



THANK YOU!

