

Government Relations Matters

City Council
November 20, 2024



Regional Council Budget

Thursday, November 21, 2024 @ 9:30 AM | Agenda is available [here](#).

Regional Council Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 2024 @ 1:00 PM | Agenda is available [here](#).

Region of Peel Budget 2025 Process

Day 1: November 21, 2024

- Police Services budget presentations

Day 2: November 28, 2024

- Regional Budget corporate overview presentation

Day 2: November 28, 2024

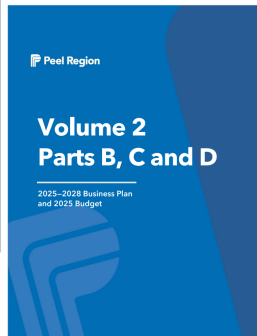
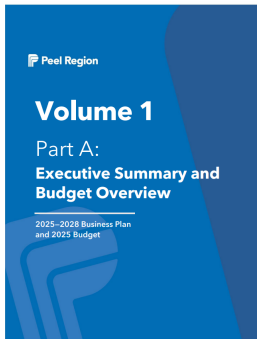
- Regional services budget presentations

Day 3: December 5, 2024

- Conservation authorities budget presentations

(As required) December 12, 2024

- Additional Budget deliberation



Staff will provide briefing materials and ongoing support through budget presses monitoring and required analysis.

Region of Peel

Regional Council-Budget



6.3 2025 Corporate Budget Overview (Presentation)

Average property tax increase - Regionally Controlled	Average property tax increase - External Agencies
1.3%	PRP 4.1% Other Ext 0.1%
Property tax impact	Property tax impact
Average Residential + \$ 73	Average Residential + \$ 248
Average Small Business Owner + \$ 128	Average Small Business Owner + \$ 436

The 2025 Peel Region Budget deliberations take place while the final details of the Transition Board's recommendations, any associated provincial decision and impacts on Peel services are not known.

6.2 Peel Regional Police (Presentation)

Summary:

- The 2025 Operating Budget reflects an increase of **\$131.7 million** over the 2024 approved level of funding and includes an additional 300 police officers and 65 civilian professionals.
- The budget includes an increase of **\$51.5 million** for salaries and benefits for existing staff and **\$15.7 million** for inflationary pressures on operating requirements.
- The 2025 Capital Budget totals **\$155.7 million** and includes capital investments to expand, maintain and/or replace critical infrastructure, vehicles, equipment, facilities, and technological assets.

City Staff Comments (Finance, Government Relations):

- There is a significant increase for Police Services again in 2025.
- The budget document indicates that since 2019, Peel's population has grown by 7%, with further anticipated growth of 12.9% by 2034. The growth in the number of officers has not kept pace with the increase in population.
- PRP has the lowest number of officers per 100,000 in comparison to other police services in municipalities with populations over 1,000,000.
- The Regional Budget includes 466.5 new full-time positions of which 365 are for Police Services.

8.1 2025 Operating and Capital Budget (Recommendation)

Summary:

- This staff report outlines the budget principles and planning process, including the overview of the budget.
- The proposed average property tax increase of 5.5 percent includes 4.1 per cent for Peel Regional Police, 1.3 per cent for Regionally controlled services and 0.1 per cent for other external agencies.
- The proposed utility rate increase of 5.9 per cent results in an increase of \$62 for average residential consumption and a \$118 increase for average small business consumption.
- Peel's budget focuses on housing enabling infrastructure, health services, and maintenance of key infrastructure.

City Staff Comments (Finance):

- This staff report provides an overview of the proposer 2025 Region of Peel budget. There are additional reports on the Council agenda with details of the proposed budget including fees, state of the reserves and spending priorities.
- The Region keeps a balance of tax supported funds in their reserves after capital budget approval while at the same time issuing additional debt. There was no mention of a specific target that is maintained after approval.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation

8.3 2024 Overview and Update on the Status of the Reserves (For Information)

Summary:

- The report provides an overview of the reserves and an update on the overall sustainability of Regionally Controlled reserves, with focus on the rate stabilization reserves, capital reserves and specialty reserves.
- Maintaining the reserve contribution at the current levels will result in a total shortfall of **\$8.7 billion** by the end of 2044 (Tax: \$4.4 billion, Utility Rate: \$4.3 billion).
- The 2025 Budget proposes a 1% infrastructure levy increase for tax supported capital, and a 5% infrastructure levy increase for utility rate supported capital.

City Staff Comments (Finance):

- City staff observe that the Region of Peel maintains a substantial capital reserve, while proposing increases in infrastructure levy.
- The estimated debt is expected to be close the maximum permissible under the Municipal Act. (25%). This high level of debt will cause pressure on the Region's Triple A rating.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

8.5 Response to C.D. Howe’s Call for the Elimination of Development Charges (For Information)

Summary:

- On January 25, 2024, the C.D. Howe Institute made a presentation to the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association titled “Full Cost Recovery and Municipal Infrastructure Financing”, which outlined a case for water and wastewater DC charges to be eliminated and instead collected through utility rates using a “full cost” model.

City Staff Comments (Finance):

- Regional staff report points out that studies show that the elimination of development charges would not decrease the prices of new housing as housing prices are driven by market demand.
- The report estimates that elimination of development charges would result in an estimated increase to current utility rate bills of up to 181 per cent or \$2,083 per household per year.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

November 18, 2024

The Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act

- The Ontario government introduced legislation that, if passed, will help keep streets and communities safe and hold criminals accountable.
- The *Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act* will, if passed will:
 - Carry through on the government's [previously announced commitment](#) to protect children and families by prohibiting the operation of supervised consumption sites within 200 metres of a school, licensed child-care centre or EarlyON Child and Family Centre through the creation of the *Community Care and Recovery Act, 2024*.
 - **Require municipalities and local boards to seek provincial approval prior to making or supporting requests for new supervised consumption sites.**
 - [Introduce new penalties for fraud](#) related to vehicle identification numbers (VIN) and further combat careless driving through the *Highway Traffic Act*.
 - Give police services more tools to monitor sex offenders and investigate sex crimes through *Christopher's Law (Sex Offender Registry), 2000* and make individuals with active reporting requirements ineligible from legally changing their name, through the *Change of Name Act*.
 - Support terrorism victims by amending the *Limitations Act, 2002* to remove the limitation period for lawsuits under the federal *Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act*.
 - Prohibit advertising and promoting the sale of illegal cannabis through the *Cannabis Control Act, 2017*.



Staff will monitor the legislative changes and any opportunities for input through the public consultation process.

November 18, 2024

Supporting Student Mental Health

- The Ontario government is investing **\$4.6M** to help combat bullying in schools and expand initiatives to equip students with the social and emotional skills they need to thrive.
- The funding is intended to help foster stronger connections among students, promote a safe, respectful and inclusive school environment, and help reduce incidents of violence in schools.
- The following community partners will benefit from this funding (highlights):
 - **\$1.485M** to Big Brothers and Big Sisters to provide a school-focused mentorship program for students in Grades 1 to 12, with the goal of increasing school connectedness and improving social-emotional skills, mental health and educational outcomes.
 - **\$1M** to Roots of Empathy to offer classroom programs aimed at reducing aggression and enhancing social-emotional competence in children aged 5-13, to build skills that support student success, mental health and well-being.
 - **\$800,000** to Kids Help Phone to provide prevention counselling and offer high-quality professional resources and crisis response.



The City of Brampton has been actively advocating and demonstrating the need for more mental health supports in Peel and the need for funding to help address youth mental health in the community.

November 15, 2024

New International Student Program regulations take effect

- Over the past year, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has taken steps to ensure the sustainability of the International Student Program.
- New regulations impacting the International Student Program have now taken effect, including the change to the number of hours international students may work off campus.
 - With this change, eligible students can now work up to 24 hours per week off campus while their classes are in session.
- Moving forward, international students must apply and be approved for a new study permit before changing learning institutions.
- Additionally, there will now be consequences for Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs) that fail to submit compliance reports or verify acceptance letters.
 - With this change, a DLI could be suspended from welcoming new international students for up to a year for failing to provide the required information.



The City of Brampton continues to advocate for the safety and well-being of international students.

THANK YOU!

