



Report
Staff Report
The Corporation of the City of Brampton
1/13/2025

Date: 2020-01-03

Subject: **Council Office Community Outreach and Support**

Contact: Genevieve Scharback, City Clerk

Report number: Legislative Services-2025-040

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Genevieve Scharback, City Clerk to the Special Council Meeting of January 13, 2025 re: **Council Office Community Outreach and Support**, be received.

Overview:

- Throughout the development of the 2025 Budget and the recent Ward Boundary Review, members of Council have expressed concerns regarding various unique challenges facing wards across the city and that resources for members of Council are not keeping pace with the support required for the growing complexity and size of ward constituencies.
- Pressures related to population growth, unregistered residents, growing international student populations, increased immigration, homelessness, and advocacy to other levels of government, are key challenges that have been identified and are discussed in this report.
- Given the concerns above, the 2025 Proposed Budget includes an increase of \$139,000 in Community Outreach to be shared equally across the city's 10 wards.
- Should this increase be approved, the additional resources will be available to each Member of Council, to be utilized at their discretion.

Background:

Throughout the Ward Boundary Review (WBR) process and the development of the 2025 Budget members of Council expressed concerns regarding various unique

challenges facing wards across the city and that resources for members of Council are not keeping pace with the support required for the growing complexity and ward populations. Many of the concerns raised fell outside of the scope of a ward boundary review.

City of Brampton Growth

The exceptional growth rates in the City of Brampton have city-wide impacts, across all wards, and are clearly demonstrated through the Statistics Canada census data, published every five years. The census data identifies that the City of Brampton has consistently experienced double-digit growth far exceeding the provincial average each time. The increase in population from 2006 to 2011 in the City of Brampton was 20.8%, while province wide the increase was 11.8%. The 2016 census shows an increase of 13.3%, with a province wide increase of 4.6%. The most recent census data from 2021 shows yet another double-digit increase to the City of Brampton population of 10.6%, while the province wide increase was 5.8. It is important to note, as well, that the census data provides only a portion of the information as the unregistered residents and significant homeless population are not included in this data.

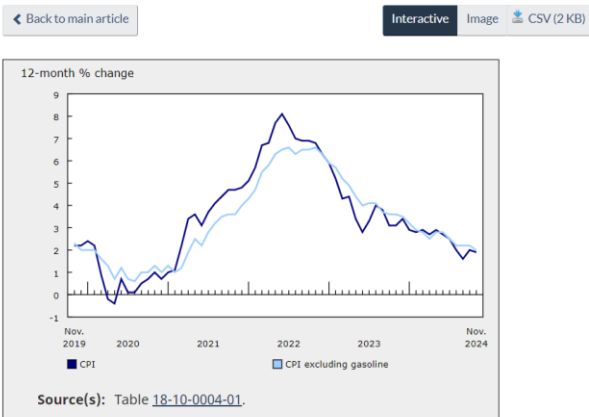
Significant Immigration

According to 2021 data from the Region of Peel, Brampton's Immigrant population grew by 11% since 2016. Peel's newcomers are recent immigrants who arrived in Canada between January 1, 2016 and May 11, 2021. In Peel Region, 104,125 people are recent immigrants, making up 14% of Peel's total immigrant population. Of these recent immigrants, 48% live in Brampton. Peel has the highest proportion of immigrants in Ontario, and 18% of Ontario's immigrant population live in Peel.

Steadier Inflation Rates

The below chart from Statistics Canada demonstrates the fluctuation in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2020 to 2024. Although rates have declined since the beginning of 2024, The Bank of Canada expects rates to remain steadier in 2025. CPI is not expected to decline as sharply as it has over the past few years, and although rates are not expected to increase in 2025, further significant relief from inflation is not anticipated either.

12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and CPI excluding gasoline



Ward Boundary Review

Preliminary population forecast information was prepared for the Region of Peel by Hemson Consulting Ltd. The City received updated population forecasts in December 2023. Population data has been updated for the 2021 Census.

These population forecasts, also used in the Official Plan, are endorsed by the City and have undergone several levels of review and scrutiny. The population forecasts currently being used for the ward boundary review incorporate Census data which is the most reliable data available at the ward level. Additionally, policies within “A Place to Grow: Growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe” state that population forecasts established by an upper-tier municipality are to be used for planning and managing growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The recently completed Development Charges Study utilized the same Official Plan data.

Tables detailing population forecasts are identified as Appendix 1, attached hereto for further information.

Table A provides population figures and forecasts for the wards in Brampton for the years 2021 to 2051. The population figures were provided by the Planning, Building and Growth Management Department.

Table B provides Brampton ward population projections for the next three election cycles of 2026, 2030 and 2034. The projections for the election years were interpolated by Planning staff from the figures provided in Table A (the projections assume a constant rate of growth within each five-year period).

Table C provides projected population variance figures for the existing individual wards. Figures appearing in red indicate that the ward population variance is outside of the generally accepted 25% threshold when conducting ward boundary reviews. As shown

in the table, for the 2026 election year, Wards 6 and 10 are outside of the accepted variance threshold.

Table D provides projected population variance figures for the existing ward pairs. Figures appearing in red indicate that the projected population for the ward pairing is outside of the generally accepted 25% threshold. As shown in the table, for the 2026 election year, all ward pairings are within the accepted threshold.

Current Situation:

Council members are required to address a major increase in required advocacy efforts across all municipal levels to address the following areas:

International Students

In December 2023, Dr. Moffat, Place Centre Smart Prosperity Institute, provided information to Council regarding international students and population growth. His research highlighted that non-permanent residents are now the largest source of population growth in Ontario. He confirmed that international students make up a large and growing part of the non-permanent resident population, with more international students in Ontario than in all other provinces and territories combined. Ontario added over 400,000 non-permanent residents over the last two years, largely due to the increase in the international student population.

Dr. Moffat advised that a substantial portion of the new international students settle in Brampton, with significant numbers attending either Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Ward 4, Algoma University in Ward 1 and Toronto Metropolitan University in Ward 7. These wards experience the greatest impact by the challenges related to housing and municipal services related to the international student population, even though the challenges may cross all ward boundaries to some extent.

Calls for Service - Enforcement

Additional Residential Units, lodging houses and properties with three or more dwellings have a considerable impact on the density of any neighbourhood and have continued to increase in number every year across the City of Brampton.

Appendix 2, attached hereto, provides a summary of calls for service received by By-law Enforcement Services by ward, as well as further detailed information on page 2 of the appendix related to general service request trends across the wards, and details on page 4 of the appendix regarding housing related calls for service.

General Calls for Service

Service requests for calls related to property standards, licensing, municipal enforcement and parking have increased by 14,449 calls, from a city-wide total of

108,915 in 2023 to a total of 123,364 in 2024. The chart on page 2 of Appendix 2 details the calls for service by ward. The increase in calls is again, across all wards; however, some types of calls are felt more acutely in certain wards.

The most calls related to property standards issues were in Ward 6, with 3,074 calls, an increase over 2,386 calls in 2023. Ward 1 had 2,936 calls related to property standards in 2024, an increase from 2,348 in 2023. Ward 7 had 2,872 calls related to property standards, an increase over 2,092 calls in 2023.

Calls for service related to parking also increased significantly across the city. Ward 6 had 19,007 calls, an increase from 15,210 in 2023. Ward 2 had 7,643 calls, an increase from 6,720 in 2023. Ward 4 had 7,488 calls in 2024, an increase from 7,058 in 2023.

Housing Related Calls for Service

The Housing Related Services Requests by Ward chart on page 4 of Appendix 2 sets out the details of housing related service requests received by Enforcement, by ward, from 2020 to 2024. This chart clearly shows that although housing related calls for service have increased across the city, the highest number of calls have been in Ward 6, with a total of 344 calls in 2024, an increase from 260 in 2023. Calls in Ward 1 totaled 268 in 2024, an increase from 219 in 2023, and Ward 10 calls totaled 267 in 2024, an increase from 240 in 2023.

City records demonstrate that there have been steady increases year after year in the number of registered Additional Residential Units, (ARUs), from 1,993 in 2020 to 22,794 in January 2025.

Homeless Encampments

Enforcement staff confirmed that in December 2024 22 homeless encampments were identified across the city. This number increased in one month to a total of 28 in January 2025. Wards 3 and 4 are the location of 11 of the 28 encampments, with 7 more in Wards 1 and 5. The remaining 10 encampments are spread over Wards 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Key Challenges

Various unique challenges facing wards across the city have been identified and although each challenge adds pressure beyond individual ward boundaries, many of the challenges are felt more acutely by certain wards, as set out below.

CHALLENGES	WARD									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Population growth forecast	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Homeless encampments	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
International students	X			X			X			
Housing related calls for service	X					X				X
Property standards calls for service	X					X	X			
Parking calls for service		X		X						

Financial Implications:

The 2025 Proposed Budget includes an increase of \$139,000 in Community Outreach to be shared equally across the City's 10 wards. The total 2025 budget increase for Mayor and Council is \$170,000 or a 2.9% increase compared to 2024 budget. This includes \$31,000 for cost of living allowance for all members of Council. The increase is aligned to the overall property tax increase of 2.9%.

Strategic Focus Area:

Government and Leadership

Conclusion:

All wards are experiencing several pressures in common, while each ward has its own unique attributes and challenges that require support for the growing complexity and size of Ward constituencies.

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Attachments:

- Appendix 1 – Preliminary Population Forecasts by Ward and Ward Pairs
- Appendix 2 – Calls for Service - Enforcement
- Appendix 3 – Homeless Encampments – January 2025