

Government Relations Matters

City Council
March 26, 2025



There are no meetings scheduled for the week of March 24, 2025.

The next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025.

March 19, 2025

Premier Doug Ford Unveils Cabinet

- Premier Doug Ford was sworn-in last week alongside his new Executive Council by the Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.
- The Cabinet is the same size as the previous Executive Council with 37 Ministers.
- Brampton South MPP, **Prabmeet Sarkaria** remains the Minister of Transportation.
- Brampton North MPP, **Graham McGregor**, has been appointed as Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism,
- Brampton Centre MPP, **Charmaine Williams**, keeps her title as Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity.
- **Rob Flack** has been appointed as the new Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing.
- **Kinga Surma** remains the Minister of Infrastructure and **Mike Harris** becomes Minister of Natural Resources.
- **Paul Calandra** takes on Ministry of Education.



The Government Relations team drafted congratulatory letters for Cabinet Members, highlighting Brampton's advocacy priorities. Staff will resume engagement at Ministerial and staff levels.



March 20, 2025

Federal Government Eliminating GST for First-Time Homebuyers

- The Prime Minister announced that the Government of Canada will eliminate the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for first-time homebuyers on homes at or under \$1 million.
- This tax cut will save Canadians up to \$50,000, lower upfront housing costs and will have an effect on increasing supply.

Housing affordability is a major challenge in the GTA. The City of Brampton has been asking the federal government to explore all available tools, innovations and opportunities to deliver affordable housing options, including affordable ownership options and purpose-built rental units, to meet the diverse housing needs of all Brampton residents.

March 21, 2025

Federal Government supports the advancement of the Hazel McCallion LRT Extension in Brampton

- The federal government announced its intention to support the Hazel McCallion LRT Extension in Brampton as part of the Metro-Region Agreement (MRA) stream of the Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF).
- The Hazel McCallion LRT is an 18-kilometre, 19-stop light rail transit project currently under construction from Port Credit GO station in Mississauga to Brampton's Gateway Terminal.
 - By extending this LRT by approximately four kilometres, the project aims to provide better transit options to residents and connect more people to downtown Brampton.
- Funding will be conditional on meeting the requirements of the MRA stream, including the development of an Integrated Regional Plan and the signing of a Metro Region Agreement for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, meeting all housing conditionality requirements, receiving a completed project business case from the Province of Ontario, and approval by the federal government.



This announcement builds on the recent provincial government's announcement to extend the Hazel McCallion Line into downtown Brampton with the development of a rapid transit tunnel. This announcement completes commitments from all levels of government to deliver this transformative project flowing a longstanding, robust advocacy by the City.

March 21, 2025

Prime Minister Meets with Premiers

- Prime Minister met with provincial and territorial premiers and shared the federal plan for the economy and actions to support workers and businesses affected by tariffs.
- To support workers, the federal government will temporarily waive the one-week employment insurance (EI) waiting period, while making it easier to access EI.
- To support businesses, the new government will defer corporate income tax payments and GST/HST remittances from April 2 to June 30, 2025, providing up to \$40 billion in liquidity to businesses, and making more financial supports available.
- The Prime Minister also outlined a suite of measures to develop a national trade and economic corridor to drive investment, create jobs, and build economic growth, including:
 - The creation of a First Mile Fund to build transportation networks that connect energy extraction sites to rail lines and roads.
 - A “one window” approval process, streamlining approvals for large-scale, national-interest infrastructure projects.
 - Financial support for major energy and infrastructure projects, including investment to expand and open new transportation corridors and help get Canadian products to global markets.



The Prime Minister emphasized that the federal government and Premiers agreed to work together towards elimination of inter-provincial trade barriers as part of the overall efforts to support the economy and boost economic activity.



March 23, 2025

Prime Minister Calls a General Election

- On March 23, Governor General Mary Simon accepted Prime Minister Mark Carney's request to dissolve parliament.
- The 45th federal general election will be held on **Monday, April 28, 2025**.
- Advance polling will occur between Friday, April 18 – Monday, April 21, 2025.



The Government Relations team will work to advocate and facilitate engagement with candidates from major political parties and highlight the City's key priorities.

March 18, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting



- FCM's Board of Directors meetings in Dorval focused on FCM's priorities for the imminent federal election and the critical role municipalities are playing on a Team Canada approach to a Canada-U.S. trade war.
- Regional Councillor Santos shared insights on local impacts and challenges and cross-border engagements with U.S. counterparts.

The FCM Board of Directors discussed some of the most pressing challenges faced by municipalities today including the economic relation with the U.S., municipal fiscal challenges and advocacy approach for the 2025 federal election.

March 20, 2025

Provincial Cabinet Advocacy Priorities

- AMO is writing letters to newly sworn-in Ministers to offer congratulations and advance AMO's top advocacy priorities, including:
 - **Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing:**
 - Establish a more sustainable municipal-fiscal framework
 - Secure stimulus to enable municipalities to emerge stronger from trade disruptions and tariffs
 - Develop an 'all of government' plan to tackle homelessness, and
 - Implement municipal codes of conduct
 - **Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade**
 - Support and collaboration in response to trade disruptions, including on reviewing inter-provincial trade barriers, retooling supply chains, and leveraging local municipal economic development capacity
 - **Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health**
 - Implement the Primary Care Action Plan, aligning public health standards to funding levels
 - **Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services**
 - Develop a new administrative funding model for municipal delivery of social services, improvements to income security to help address the homelessness crisis



The City works closely with AMO to support advancement of critical municipal priorities.

THANK YOU!

