

Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council
April 23, 2025



Regional Council

Thursday, April 24, 2025 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

11.1 2024 Capital Performance and Impact on Capital Reserves and Reserve Funds – December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)

Summary:

- This report provides the third update for 2024 on the financial results of the Capital Program based on information as at December 31, 2024. Prior to the approval of the 2024 budget, the Capital Program began with an opening balance of \$5.1 billion (1,563 projects) for Capital Work in Progress from prior years.

City Staff Comments (Finance):

- The Region's unspent capital increased from \$5.1 billion at the end of fiscal 2023 to \$6.6 billion at December 31, 2024.
- Main contributor to the increase was the approval of 2024 Capital Budget totalling \$2.5 billion. With five-year average annual spending of approximately \$740 million this is equivalent to approximately 9 years of work assuming similar average annual spending pattern. In 2024, \$1.2 billion was spent, surpassing the previous five years' average by 60%.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support recommendation.

11.2 2024 Operating Financial Triannual Performance Report – Year End (Unaudited)

Summary:

- The Budget Policy requires that staff report the status of operating and capital services at a minimum of twice annually to manage financial performance to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of Regional services. This report provides the third and final update on the financial results of the 2024 Operating Budget as of December 31, 2024.

City Staff Comments (Finance):

- Region of Peel saved \$7.9M in Housing Support.
- Since the Province has prioritized housing and municipalities have swiftly implemented the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), it might be beneficial to allocate this surplus funding to lower-tier municipalities as an additional HAF boost.
- The City of Brampton has affordable housing projects which are ready to launch and can make good use of the resources if the region is having trouble executing the housing funding they have.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support recommendation.

April 9, 2025

Ontario Proposing to Expand Strong Mayor Powers to 169 Additional Municipalities

- Ontario is proposing to expand strong mayor powers to the heads of council in [169 additional municipalities](#), effective May 1, 2025, to help deliver on provincial priorities, such as building more homes, transit, and other infrastructure across Ontario
- Strong mayor powers and duties include:
 - Choosing to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer.
 - Hiring certain municipal department heads and establishing and reorganizing departments.
 - Creating committees of council, assigning their functions, and appointing the chairs and vice-chairs of committees of council.
 - Proposing the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate head of council veto and council override process.
 - Proposing certain municipal by-laws if the mayor is of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a provincial priority identified in regulation. Council can pass these by-laws if more than one-third of all council members vote in favour.

Ontario's strong mayor powers, initially introduced for Toronto and Ottawa in 2022, have been gradually rolled out across the province. The City of Brampton was provided access to Strong Mayor Powers on July 1, 2023. The province currently has 47 municipalities with these enhanced powers

April 10, 2025

Ontario Expanding Access to Government Services in Peel Region

- The Ontario government is launching a new integrated service hub at Peel Region's headquarters in Brampton in an effort to make it easier and more convenient for residents and businesses to access government services.
- Peel Region residents can visit the new centre to access key ServiceOntario services, including driver's licence, health card and Ontario Photo Card renewals — all at the same counter where municipal services are also available.
- This two-year municipal pilot is part of ServiceOntario's Alternative Service Delivery Strategy, which explores new models to enhance customer service, optimize resources, and reduce wait times.
- As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, Brampton has seen significant demand for ServiceOntario services, and this new centre will aim to help meet the increased demand and provide residents with a more streamlined experience.



The integrated service hub is located in Peel Region headquarters at 10 Peel Centre Drive in Brampton and operates Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Peel Region integrated service hub is projected to see 59,000 visits for ServiceOntario services in the next year.

April 10, 2025

Ontario Connecting 300,000 More People to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams This Year

- The Ontario government launched the first call for proposals to create and expand up to 80 primary care teams that will connect 300,000 more people to a family doctor and primary care team this year.
- The province is investing \$213 million to support the first call for proposals that will create or expand up to 80 primary care teams.
- This funding is part of the \$1.8 billion the Ontario government is investing to add 305 new primary care teams across the province, connecting two million more people to publicly funded primary care within four years.
- This first call is targeted to communities, by postal code, that have the highest number of people not connected to primary care, averaging 8,000 people unattached per postal code.



To support targeted strategies to recruit and retain the workforce, Ontario is also investing an additional \$22 million to support all existing primary care teams to meet increased operational costs for their facilities and supplies.

April 16, 2025

Ontario Unlocking Free Trade Within Canada

- As a next step in its plan to protect Ontario by unleashing the province's economy, the Ontario government is introducing the ***Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act*** to unlock free trade and labour mobility within Canada.
- This legislation will, if passed, create new opportunities for job creation and investment attraction, supporting economic integration across Canada and cutting costly and unnecessary red tape to help protect and grow Ontario and Canada's economies.
- Ontario reports that trade barriers within Canada cost the economy up to \$200 billion each year and lower gross domestic product by nearly eight per cent.
- The plan aims to strengthen interprovincial trade and labour mobility by eliminating trade barriers, recognizing credentials and goods from other provinces, streamlining worker registration, enabling direct alcohol sales across Canada, and promoting local businesses through initiatives like a new "Buy Ontario, Buy Canadian" day.



April 15, 2025

Support for Canadian Businesses Affected by Tariffs

- The federal government announced new measures to support Canadian businesses, including the remission of some of the countermeasure tariffs announced by Canada in response to tariffs imposed by the U.S. on Canadian products.
- Minister Champagne announced a performance-based remission framework for automakers, designed to incentivize continued production and investment in Canada.
 - This will allow automakers that continue to manufacture vehicles in Canada to import a certain number of U.S.-assembled, CUSMA-compliant vehicles into Canada, free of the countermeasure tariffs that Canada has imposed.
- The federal government also intends to provide temporary 6-month relief for goods imported from the U.S. that are used in Canadian manufacturing, processing and food and beverage packaging, and for those used to support public health, health care, public safety, and national security objectives.
- Third, the new Large Enterprise Tariff Loan Facility (LETL), as announced by the Prime Minister in March, [is now accepting applicants](#). This program will support eligible large businesses—including those that contribute to Canada’s food security, energy security, economic security and national security—that are facing difficulties in accessing traditional sources of market financing, by providing access to liquidity.



April 28, 2025

Federal Election

- The 45th federal general election will be held on **Monday, April 28, 2025**.
- Advance polling occurred between Friday, April 18 – Monday, April 21, 2025.



Mayor Brown and members of council met with candidates from major political parties on Thursday April 17 to advocate and highlight the City's key priorities.

Association of Municipalities Ontario

Policy Update

April 16, 2025

AMO Policy Update – AMO responds to the Speech from the Throne

- On April 15, 2025, the Lieutenant Governor delivered the Speech from the Throne, opening the first session of the 44th Parliament of Ontario.
- The speech emphasized the importance of protecting Ontario's economy through 9 main priorities in light of tariff threats indicated from the United States.
- AMO will continue to closely review all proposed legislation and new government announcements for municipal impacts.
- In particular, AMO will continue to work with the provincial government on key municipal interests, including:
 - New investments in municipal infrastructure and social housing as the best ways to stimulate the economy and save Ontario jobs.
 - Predictable and sustainable long-term funding sources for municipal infrastructure, including development charges.
 - Determining how requirements to use Ontario and Canadian construction materials will impact municipal infrastructure projects.



Government Relations staff will utilize the information on the Ontario government's new mandate to inform the City's future advocacy efforts and delegation meetings at the 2025 AMO Conference.

Association of Municipalities Ontario

Policy Update



April 16, 2025

AMO Policy Update – AMO Launches Health Sector Survey

- AMO is continuing to expand its focus on evidence-based advocacy with the launch of a survey to understand the challenges municipalities face around access to health.
- AMO recognizes that many municipalities are filling gaps in the health care system with significant investments from the property tax base.
- To better understand this evolving challenge, AMO is conducting a survey of Ontario municipalities about the specific contributions that they are making to health services in their communities.
- AMO will be reaching out to heads of Council and municipal treasurers with information on taking part in this survey effort.



City staff will be engaging with AMO on the survey announcement and will highlight Brampton's commitment to local healthcare and work with the Region of Peel to highlight the challenges faced and fiscal gaps in our local healthcare landscape.

THANK YOU!

