

Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council
May 21, 2025



Regional Council

Thursday, May 22, 2025 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

8.1 2024 Public Health Annual Review (For Information)

Summary:

- The report provides an overview of Public Health's 2024 activities and 2025 priorities of stabilizing services, strengthening emergence and pandemic preparedness, improving immunization efforts and continued ongoing advocacy efforts for additional provincial funding.

City Staff Comments (Community Services):

- Staff support the 2025 Outlook focus areas identified in the Annual Review and will continue to align efforts to advocate for strengthened services and increased funding.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

8.3 2025 Ontario Works Program Delivery Funding and Impacts (Recommendation)

Summary:

- The 2025 funding allocation from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services of \$31,565,000, includes an additional \$1,641,700 in 50/50 administration funding, which can be utilized to support the delivery of the Ontario Works program and requires cost-share from the Region.
- This funding will be used to hire additional caseworkers and enhance support provided to Ontario Works clients.

City Staff Comments (Community Services):

- Staff support the report recommendations, in recognition of the rising costs of living and their contribution to an urgent need to address critical gaps in financial support programs.
- Regional staff observe that the Ontario Works caseload increased by 47% in 2024, and projections indicate an additional 20% increase in caseloads by the end of 2026

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation.

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Ontario's Budget 2025

Budget Themes:

- **Building Critical infrastructure**
 - Providing an additional \$5 billion to the Building Ontario Fund, and \$400 million to the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP) and Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF).
- **Reskilling Workers**
 - Expanding the Skills Development Fund by \$1 billion to help more workers gain in-demand skills
- **Unleashing Our Economy**
 - Investing \$500 million in a new Critical Minerals Processing Fund to ensure stable supply of critical minerals for key sectors while creating high-value jobs
- **Lowering Costs**
 - Permanently cutting the gas tax and removing tolls off Highway 407 East
- **Expanding Capital**
 - Investing an additional \$90 million in venture capital to Venture Ontario to help develop strategic sectors



Deferral of administrative taxes and expansion of tax credits mirror provincial approach to support businesses during the pandemic, while additional funding through the Skills Development Fund is intended to support workers suffering from the U.S. tariffs and economic situation.

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Ontario's Budget 2025

Economic and Fiscal Overview

- Projecting deficits of \$6.0 billion in 2024–25, \$14.6 billion in 2025–26, \$7.8 billion in 2026–27, and a surplus of \$0.2 billion in 2027–28.
- The 2024–25 total revenue outlook projected to be \$221.6 billion, \$13.4 billion higher than projected in the 2024 Budget.
- The 2024–25 program expense outlook is \$212.4 billion, \$11.8 billion higher than in the 2024 Budget.
- The net debt-to-GDP ratio in 2024–25 forecast to be 2.9 percentage points lower than in the 2024 Budget.

Capital Spending

- Investing nearly \$30 billion over 10 years in the planning and construction of highway expansion and rehabilitation projects.
- Approximately \$61 billion is being invested over 10 years for public transit.
- Committing \$56 billion over the next 10 years in health infrastructure



Return to surplus projection is one fiscal year further out, compared to Budget 2024 estimates.

Budget 2025: Impacts to The City of Brampton

Transportation:

[illegible]

Source: Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

Ontario Budget 2025

- Hazel McCallion Line: Through the 2025 budget, the Ontario government echoed its commitment to moving forward with work to extend the Hazel McCallion Line into downtown Brampton and Mississauga and plans to study options to tunnel the Brampton portion of the segment.
- Highway 413: The Ontario government has committed nearly \$30 billion over 10 years to support the planning and construction of highway expansion and rehabilitation projects across the province, including highway 413, a new 400-series highway and transportation corridor across Halton, Peel and York Regions that will bring relief to one of the busiest corridors in North America.
- Ontario's One Fare program launched on February 26, 2024, enabling free transfers between the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and GO Transit, Brampton Transit, Durham Region Transit, MiWay (Mississauga), Peel TransHelp, and York Region Transit.

Through the 2025 budget, the Ontario government echoed its commitment to moving forward with work to extend the Hazel McCallion Line into downtown Brampton, which is in line with Brampton's request through the City's formal pre-budget submission.

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Budget 2025: Impacts to The City of Brampton

Housing:

- The government is investing an additional \$400 million in the immediate term to address high demand from municipalities for funding through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP) and Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF).
- This investment is in addition to the nearly \$2 billion that Ontario is investing over four years through the various streams and intakes of the MHIP and HEWSF.



Ontario Budget 2025

- Through the first intake of Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF), Ontario is providing up to \$35 million to the Region of Peel to expand the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility.
- This project will enable up to 46,784 housing units in the Region of Peel and includes the extension of water systems and installation of new features, such as an aeration tank and filtering systems.
- The City of Brampton was approved for a \$29.8 million investment through the initial round of applications towards the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, aimed at supporting the development of 12,900 housing units and enhancing infrastructure in the city. The announcement was made on September 3, 2024.
- The City of Brampton was also applied for funding through the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing (HECS) stream of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP).
- Staff will analyze eligibility criteria and requirements for the additional funds announced.

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Budget 2025: Impacts to The City of Brampton

Healthcare:

- The Ontario government will be investing in Peel Memorial Hospital to support the March 2025 start of construction for a new multi-storey patient tower with up to 250 inpatient beds and a new, state-of-the-art, 24/7 emergency care centre to connect more people to a wide range of emergency and urgent medical care.
- The Primary Care Teaching Clinics funding includes support for two new teaching clinics at Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Medicine in Brampton, helping to advance two Integrated Health Centres that will bring innovative, inclusive, and integrated primary care to the City and the Region of Peel. In the first two years, these clinics will help connect nearly 17,000 patients to care.

Auto Theft:

- To combat auto theft, the government is collaborating with municipalities and the federal government by providing funding to police services and raising public awareness of auto theft prevention measures.
- The province is permanently establishing a dedicated Major Auto Theft Prosecution Response Team to focus on crime hotspots across Ontario, such as Ottawa, Toronto, Brampton, Newmarket, Durham, London, and Windsor.



Ontario Budget 2025

The budget document renews the provincial commitment to the second full service hospital in Brampton and funding for TMU's school of medicine and associated two Integrated Health Centres that will provide access to care for nearly 17,000 Bramptonians.

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Budget 2025: Impacts to The City of Brampton

Legislative Amendments:

- Amendments to the Highway Traffic Act require municipalities to make Automated Speed Enforcement and Red-Light Camera locations more transparent and to focus their traffic cameras on road safety objectives.
- The Intergovernmental Affairs & Advocacy team will further analyze details of the 2025 Ontario budget to identify additional opportunities for collaboration and partnerships on key priorities.
 - Staff will work to identify potential new and expanded existing funding opportunities to support and help advance City of Brampton priorities.
 - Staff will continue the ongoing engagement with AMO on relevant policy changes related to budget implementation to provide the City's input and perspective.
 - The 2025 AMO Conference will provide further opportunities to advocate for specific initiatives that complement or advance key themes in the Ontario budget.
 - City staff will provide a more detailed analysis on subjects that impact the City of Brampton, if necessary.



Ontario Budget 2025



May 14, 2025

Middle Class Tax Cut

- The Minister of Finance announced one of the first orders of business on the government's legislative agenda for the new session of Parliament will be tax relief for nearly 22 million Canadians.
- The lowest marginal personal income tax rate will be reduced from 15 per cent to 14 per cent, effective July 1, 2025.
- This measure is expected to save two-income families up to \$840 a year in 2026.

The proposed tax cut was part of the government's election platform commitment to address affordability in the face of the U.S. tariffs and related economic challenges.



May 20, 2025

2025 Royal Visit of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla

- This first visit as King of Canada, will see Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla in Ottawa on May 26 and 27, 2025.
- The primary focus of the visit is His Majesty King Charles III delivering the Speech from the Throne to open the first session of the 45th Parliament of Canada.
- This will be the 20th visit to Canada for His Majesty The King.

On May 27, His Majesty King will deliver the Speech from the Throne, which will outline priorities of the newly elected government. Staff will analyze the speech for any alignment and collaboration opportunities to inform the City's ongoing engagement for the federal government.

Association of Municipalities Ontario

Policy Update

May 15, 2025

Response to the Ontario Budget 2025

- AMO welcomed some important actions for local communities, particularly through new investments in infrastructure, economic development, and primary care. However, these uncertain times have only escalated the need to address long-standing municipal priorities.
- AMO remains committed to our urgent call to revisit the provincial-municipal fiscal framework with the provincial government.
- The government's plan is a solid first step in addressing the challenges posed by U.S. tariffs.
- AMO will work with the provincial government advocating to federal leaders for strategic investments in municipal infrastructure and social housing to stimulate the economy in the short-term and support long-term economic productivity.



AMO's response to the Ontario Budget 2025 reiterated the need to conduct an urgent review of the provincial-municipal fiscal framework to ensure municipalities have access to stable, predictable, and adequate funding to continue to deliver services to their residents.



May 29 – June 1

2025 FCM Conference & AGM

The Annual FCM Conference takes place in Ottawa and features a number of events relevant to the City of Brampton:

- *On time, on budget: Building tomorrow's infrastructure with today's budgets*
 - Speakers include Councillor Rowena Santos, Councillor City of Brampton and Chair of FCM's Municipal Finance, Infrastructure, and Transportation Policy committee
- At the 2025 AGM, all regions will also elect directors:
 - The regions of British Columbia, Ontario, and Atlantic will vote for directors to serve a two-year term, ending in 2027.
 - Councillor Rowena Santos is running for re-election.

The 2025 FCM Conference & AGM take place shortly after the swearing-in of the new federal government and the Speech from the Throne delivered by the King, that will outline the government's priorities. The conference represents an opportunity to network and engage with federal officials, municipal leaders, and key stakeholders.

THANK YOU!

