

## Appendix B:



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**MAYOR PATRICK BROWN**

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September 20, 2024

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy  
Minister of Finance  
Frost Bldg S 7th Flr,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Sent via: [Minister.fin@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.fin@ontario.ca)

**Re: Heads and Beds Levy and International Students within the City of Brampton**

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy,

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with our team during the 2024 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference.

As discussed at the AMO Conference and further to our letter sent to you on December 21, 2023, the City of Brampton continues to recognize a need for increased support services for international students, who face many challenges based on their circumstances, including those related to precarious working and living conditions, mental health, substance abuse, barriers to student health and well-being, lack of personal safety nets, and insufficient or inaccessible culturally appropriate resources.

Living conditions and barriers to affordable housing and accommodation are significant challenges for international students. Consequently, the cost of housing is a substantial portion of expenses international students pay during their studies.

The Heads and Beds Levy is currently charged at \$75 per head/bed and has remained unchanged for over 35 years. If it had kept up with inflation the rate would be at \$165.68 in 2023. While provincial facilities and institutions provide economic benefits and contribute to community building, an updated heads and beds levy would more accurately reflect the municipal costs associated with the demand placed by these institutions on local infrastructure, increased demand for public transit, and other municipal services.

In 2023, six institutions paid total levies of \$835,875, of which the City of Brampton retained \$441,541, and \$394,334 was received by the Region of Peel. Should the levy be adjusted to inflation, the total levy would more than double to \$1,846,503.

Data demonstrates Ontario has more international students than all other provinces and territories combined, and a substantial portion of new international students settle in Brampton, where they face issues such as housing affordability and as a result, insufficient living conditions.

This data also shows Ontario added 423,000 non-permanent residents in the last two years, compared to 417,000 in the previous 20 years. This sharp increase is due to an increase in the international student population and a substantial portion of new international students settling in Brampton.

To address the many challenges experienced by international students, the City of Brampton has taken proactive action within our jurisdiction through the "Brampton Charter for Improving the International Student Experience", committing to working in partnership with non-profit organizations, local hospitals, the Region of Peel, Peel Regional Police, and various post-secondary institutions, including Sheridan College and Algoma College.

Similarly, public and private colleges have significantly increased international enrollment subsequently increasing their revenue/profits, over the last 10 years but have added little, to no new on-campus housing, resulting in students living in Brampton but attending schools in other regions such as Kitchener, Northern Ontario, Windsor, and further.

The Heads and Beds Levy is the formula which empowers municipalities to levy an annual amount based on the number of students and this has remained unchanged since 1987, despite our advocacy efforts year after year.

As a result, the City of Brampton is calling on the Province to:

1. Double the Heads and Beds levy by indexing the rate to inflation as of today, to ensure additional funding is available to municipalities that provide municipal services for international students.
2. Strengthen regulations and data requirements, including the municipality in which the student resides, for private and public post-secondary institutions to hold them accountable to the international students enrolled in their programs and more accurately and equitably distribute the Heads and Beds levy according to which municipality the student resides in as opposed to the location of the school that they're attending. This can be accomplished by referring to the addresses listed on the student visas when students apply to attend school.
3. Include private colleges to the list of institutions required to pay the Heads & Beds levy.

Once again, thank you for taking our delegation meeting. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown  
Mayor

cc: Hon. Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges and Universities  
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, MPP, Brampton West  
Hon. Charmaine Williams, MPP, Brampton Centre  
Hon. Graham McGregor, MPP, Brampton North  
Hardeep Grewal, MPP, Brampton East  
Amarjot Sandhu, MPP, Brampton West  
Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities Ontario  
Carole Saab, CEO, Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Nando Iannicca, Chair, Region of Peel

December 21, 2023

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy  
Minister of Finance

Sent via: [Minister.fin@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.fin@ontario.ca)

**Re: Heads and Beds Levy and International Students within the City of Brampton**

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy,

Earlier this month the Government of Canada announced revised requirements to better protect international students. While we support the initiatives taken to protect international students, it is critical to ensure all levels of government work together to ensure the demand for housing and infrastructure keeps up with anticipated population growth and the increasing number of international students.

The City of Brampton recognizes there is a need for increased support services for international students, who face many challenges based on their circumstances, including those related to precarious working and living conditions, mental health, substance abuse, barriers to student health and well-being, lack of personal safety nets, and insufficient or inaccessible culturally appropriate resources. Living conditions and barriers to affordable housing and accommodation are significant challenges for international students. Consequently, the cost of housing is a substantial portion of expenses international students pay during their studies.

Data demonstrates Ontario has more international students than all other provinces and territories combined, and a substantial portion of new international students settle in Brampton, where they face issues such as housing affordability and as a result, insufficient living conditions.

This data also shows Ontario added 423,000 non-permanent residents in the last two years, compared to 417,000 in the previous 20 years. This sharp increase is due to an increase in the international student population and a substantial portion of new international students settling in Brampton. To address the many challenges experienced by international students, the City of Brampton has taken proactive action within our jurisdiction through the "Brampton Charter for Improving the International Student Experience", committing to working in partnership with non-profit organizations, local hospitals, the Region of Peel, Peel Regional Police, and various post-secondary institutions, including Sheridan College and Algoma College.

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in Brampton but attending schools in other regions such as Kitchener, Northern Ontario, Montreal, Windsor, and further.

The Heads and Beds Levy is the formula which empowers municipalities to levy an annual amount based on the number of students and this has remained unchanged since 1987, despite our advocacy efforts year after year. The City of Brampton is calling on the provincial government to:

1. Double the Heads and Beds levy to ensure additional funding is available to municipalities that provide critical municipal services for international students (e.g., transit, housing, recreation, community safety and more).
2. Strengthen regulations and data requirements, including the municipality in which the student resides, for private and public post-secondary institutions to hold them accountable to the international students enrolled in their programs and more accurately and equitably distribute the Heads and Beds levy according to which municipality the student resides.

We look forward to working with your government to strengthen the experience for international students and this work cannot be done without the collaboration from all levels of government.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown  
Mayor

cc: Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities  
Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation  
Hon. Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity  
Graham McGregor, Member of Provincial Parliament, Brampton North  
Hardeep Grewal, Member of Provincial Parliament, Brampton East  
Amarjot Sandhu, Member of Provincial Parliament, Brampton West  
Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities Ontario  
Carole Saab, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair, Region of Peel