



**Report**  
**Staff Report**  
The Corporation of the City of Brampton  
9/3/2025

**Date:** 2025-07-09

**Subject:** **Annual Public Sector Network (PSN) Update 2025**

**Contact:** Douglas Elsmore, Director, CISO, Data& Governance, Information Technology, Corporate Support Services, 905-874-2456

**Report number:** Corporate Support Services-2025-574

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report from Douglas Elsmore, Director, CISO, Data & Governance, Information Technology, Corporate Support Services to the Committee of Council Meeting of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, re: **Annual Public Sector Network (PSN) Update 2025**, be received, and Public Sector Network, Revenue and Expenditure Statement for 2024 as outlined in Appendix I and Public Sector Network, Proposed 2025 Operating Budget as outlined in Appendix II be approved with no impact to the overall City budget.

**OVERVIEW:**

- **The 2025 PSN Proposed Budget has no impact on the overall City of Brampton Budget.**
- **Since 1999, the City of Brampton has been in a partnership agreement with the Region of Peel, City of Mississauga, and Town of Caledon for the development of a fibre optic network known as the Public Sector Network (PSN).**
- **The PSN now consists of 897 kilometres of fibre that connects 1,112 partner and subscriber facilities to the benefit of each partner municipality, its citizens and businesses.**
- **Within the PSN Agreement, revenues are to be applied to offset shared costs for the operation and support of the network, each partner is required to seek Council approval of the annual PSN operating and financial status reports.**
- **The proposed 2025 Budget includes provision to withdraw \$100,000 from the PSN Reserve Fund to fund a consulting review of the PSN mandate, future opportunities and associated PSN governance that might allow the PSN Owners to realize further benefits from their investment in PSN.**

- **The Reserve Fund balance at the end of 2024 stood at \$1,016,647. With the proposed withdrawal to fund the consulting review, the Reserve Fund balance is anticipated to be \$956,547 by the end of 2025.**

## **BACKGROUND:**

The fibre optic network, labeled the Public Sector Network (PSN), involves the effort of the four municipal agencies operating within the Region of Peel (Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon and the Region of Peel). Through years of planning and collaboration, a communications infrastructure capable of providing cost-effective, high-speed telecommunications has been developed.

In June 1999, Council endorsed that the City of Brampton enter into a partnership known as the Public Sector Network (PSN) with the Region of Peel, the City of Mississauga and the Town of Caledon for the development of a fibre optic network. The key principle of the partnership is that each partner is responsible for the construction of the fibre optic network within its municipal boundaries. However, spare fibre would be made available for use by the other member partners. The City of Brampton has 276 kilometres of fibre connecting 386 connection points to sites, ZUM stations and traffic controllers across the city.

### **PSN Budget**

Under the PSN Partnership Agreement, the PSN Steering Committee is required to submit an annual proposed budget and a statement of actual revenues and expenditures to their respective municipal councils for approval. The PSN Steering Committee consists of staff representatives from the PSN Owners. Region of Peel and the three area municipalities in Peel.

Appendix I of the subject report includes a Revenue and Expenditure statement for the year ending December 31, 2024 with commentary on budget variances.

Appendix II of the subject report includes the PSN Proposed Budget detailing the proposed allocation of revenues in 2024. In accordance with the PSN Partnership Agreement, revenues received from PSN Subscribers are used to offset shared costs incurred for the operation and support of the network, thereby reducing the partners' cost of ownership.

### **PSN Consulting Review**

The draft PSN 2025 Budget includes an amount of \$100,000 for a consulting review of the PSN mandate, future opportunities and associated PSN governance.

The existing PSN Owners' Agreement expires in 2026. This Agreement, renewed every ten years, sets out the mandate, governance and operating principles for PSN. While

PSN was a pioneer in the development of municipally owned fibre networks in Canada, and indeed across North America, much has changed in the nearly 30 years since PSN was first conceived. Within the Greater Toronto Area, both York Region (Yorknet) and Durham Region (Durham OneNet) have implemented networks based on the PSN model, but with some significant differences in terms of both mandate and governance structure.

The PSN Team maintains regular contact with both networks to share experiences and to learn from what they are doing differently. For instance, while the PSN mandate focuses on meeting the needs of the PSN Owners and (secondarily) the broader public sector within Peel, the mandates of both Yorknet and Durham OneNet include working with private sector to improve internet access for residents and businesses within their respective Regions.

Given the requirement to renew and update the PSN Owners' Agreement in 2026 and the evolution in how networks such as PSN are being used, it seems appropriate to engage a consultant with knowledge of the municipal networks to provide recommendations on any future changes to the PSN mandate, guidelines and governance structure that might allow it to even better serve the needs of its Owners for the next ten years.

## **CURRENT SITUATION:**

PSN now consists of over 897 kilometres of fibre (almost 54,000 strand-kilometres), connecting 1,112 partner and subscriber facilities as follows:

### Partner Connections (1094):

- Region of Peel (222)
- Peel Regional Police (30)
- City of Mississauga (434)
- City of Brampton (386)
- Town of Caledon (22)

### Subscriber Connections (118)

PSN provides highly reliable service. During 2024, there were 19 incidents where fibre was damaged. Such incidents may result from traffic incidents affecting overhead cable, damage caused by contractors digging (despite locate services) or even animals chewing through the fibre. Incidents are generally repaired within a few hours. However, since most critical facilities have redundant connections, no loss of service was experienced in many cases. In 2024, PSN Uptime for its 1,112 sites and nodes was calculated at 99.995%.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

### **Financial Implications:**

The recommendations in the subject report have no direct financial impact on the City of Brampton. Revenues received from PSN subscribers are used to offset PSN shared operating costs, which would otherwise be borne by PSN partners. Surplus funds are deposited to the PSN Reserve Fund and can be applied as determined by the PSN steering committee in accordance with the established partner agreements. With the proposed withdrawal of \$100,000 to fund the consulting review, the PSN Reserve balance at the end of 2025 is estimated at \$956,547. It is estimated that the withdrawal will be replenished within 18 to 24 months.

### **STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:**

This report aligns with our Government & Leadership Strategic Focus Area. The PSN is an example of innovation, efficiency, and transparency.

### **CONCLUSION:**

PSN remains an outstanding example of technological innovation and of the benefits derived through co-operation and partnership among Peel municipalities and with the broader public sector in Peel. Access fees from subscribers to the network fund a substantial portion of the shared costs associated with network operations while providing a small surplus for future network operations or replacement costs.

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**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – Appendix I – Public Sector Network Revenue and Expenditure Statement 2024
- Attachment 2 – Appendix II – Proposed 2025 Operating Budget