



Government Relations Matters

**Committee of Council
October 27, 2021**

**GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS**

Regional Council Meeting

Thursday, 28 October 2021 @ 9:30 AM | Council agenda is available [here](#).

The Public Affairs team reviewed the Regional Council agenda and engaged with relevant department staff.

Item 8.3 Update on COVID-19 Funding for the Homeless and Other Vulnerable Populations (Recommendation)

Overview:

- COVID-19 emergency funds are temporary. As such, staff has begun to plan for the transition out of emergency response and the safe resumption of increased occupancy in Regional shelters.
- Staff continues to advocate to the provincial government, including Ontario Health, for permanent funding, so the enhanced access to health supports for the homeless and precariously housed provided throughout the pandemic, can be sustained.

City of Brampton Staff Comments (Community Services):

- The transition plan indicates the drop-in services at Nelson Centre are to end in June 2022 - beginning in January 2022, supports from a nurse practitioner will be delivered at Regional shelters and other community locations in both Brampton and Mississauga.
- Staff support the recommendations – Nelson Drop-in Centre has been a valuable resource for individuals experiencing homelessness
- Nelson Drop-in Centre provides wrap-around services through multiple organizations

Item 10.2 Optional Small Business Subclass Review (Recommendation)

Overview:

- A working group comprised of Region of Peel and the local municipalities staff has been established and has engaged with various stakeholders in reviewing the optional small business subclass
- The municipal tax system does not have available data that enables for differentiation between small business and small properties
- There is no dedicated provincial funding to fund the municipal tax reductions for the Subclass; any tax reductions for the Subclass would need to be borne by other tax classes.
- Regional staff is not recommending implementing the Subclass in Peel at this time.

City of Brampton Staff Comments (Finance):

- Staff participated with the Region on the contents of the report as part of the Regional Area Tax Policy team.
- Determining the parameters of the program will take significant time and consultation
- Staff agree that should Council agree to move forward with implementation, 2023 would be the earliest possible target date
- Budget impacts are certain for both lower and upper-tier as additional expert staff will be required
- Tax shifts will be inevitable as there is no provincial funding for the program
- Council can choose to re-evaluate for implementation at any time in the future

October 22, 2021: Investing \$13.5M through Ontario's After School Program to support 110 organizations that provide activities for children living in high-priority neighbourhoods across the province.

October 22, 2021: Investing \$82.5M to expand the existing Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care program to an additional 22 communities.

October 22, 2021: Released Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term:



- October 25, 2021: lift capacity limits in majority of settings where proof of vaccination are required and indoor areas of sports and recreational facilities
- November 15, 2021: lift capacity limits in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required
- January 17, 2022: begin gradually lifting capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required. The Chief Medical Officer of Health will also lift CMOH directives as appropriate
- February 7, 2022: lift proof of vaccination requirements in high-risk settings
- March 28, 2022: remaining public health and workplace safety measures will be lifted

October 21, 2021: Announced the 2022 funding for Municipalities through the \$500 Million Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund. The program primarily supports northern and rural municipalities across the province.

The 2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review will be released on Thursday, November 4.

Provincial Government | Safe Reopening Plan – Details



A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long Term

September 22, 2021

- Begin to require proof of vaccination in higher-risk indoor settings

September 25, 2021

- Begin easing capacity limits in certain settings

October 9, 2021

- Lift capacity limits in certain settings where proof of vaccination is required

October 22, 2021

- Enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code and Verify Ontario app launched

October 25, 2021

Lift capacity limits where proof of vaccination is required in:

- restaurants and bars
- sports, recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms), physical fitness training and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, and other gaming establishments
- meeting and event spaces (indoor)

Permit certain settings to lift capacity limits if they require proof of vaccination, including, but not limited to:

- museums, galleries, etc.
- religious services, rites, or ceremonies
- tour and guide services
- personal care services, including barber shops, salons, body art

March 28, 2022 (and onwards)

- All remaining public health and workplace safety measures in businesses and organizations lifted, including masking
- Revoke public health Emergency Orders under the *Reopening Ontario Act*
- Recommendations on where masking could be maintained (such as transit)

Fall 2021

Winter 2021-2022

Spring 2022

November 15, 2021

Lift capacity limits in other high-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required:

- food or drink establishments with dance facilities such as, night clubs, wedding receptions in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing
- strip clubs
- bathhouses and sex clubs

In the absence of concerning trends, begin to lift vaccine certificate requirements, starting with the lowest risk settings, as follows:

January 17, 2022

- restaurants and bars
- sports and recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms) and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, etc.

February 7, 2022

- night clubs
- strip clubs
- bathhouses and sex clubs

March 28, 2022

- meeting and event spaces
- sporting events
- concerts, theatres and cinemas
- racing venues
- commercial and film productions with studio audiences

Also begin to lift CMOH directives and capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required.

Monitoring COVID-19

- As the province safely reopens, the government will monitor trends in COVID-19 provincial and local public health and health system indicators, including:
 - new ICU admissions and hospitalizations
 - effective reproduction number
 - test positivity
 - weekly cases incidence rates
 - vaccination coverage rates
- It will be particularly important to monitor trends in indicators over the winter holidays and as students return to schools in January

Managing COVID-19 for the long term

- As the province manages COVID-19 for the long term, responses will be localized and tailored based on local context and conditions
- Local indicators will also inform any decision to apply additional measures to specific public health regions at the discretion of the local medical officer of health

Key principles:

- ongoing monitoring and testing
- infrastructure in place to manage outbreaks
- targeted, localized measures based on local context and conditions
- minimize disruption to business and individuals

Sample measures that may be implemented locally or regionally could include:

- reintroduce capacity limits and/or physical distancing requirements (percent and/or hard caps)
- add settings where proof of vaccination is required
- reduce gathering limits
- apply public health and workplace safety measures in specific settings where transmission is occurring
- recommend or require work from home, where possible

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Canada



October 21, 2021: Announced that, in collaboration with provinces and territories, a standardized Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination is now available to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon, and will be available in the other provinces soon.

October 21, 2021: Announced accelerated delivery of COVID-19 paediatric vaccine pending regulatory authorization.

- On October 18, 2021, Pfizer submitted an application to Health Canada for regulatory review of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine COMIRNATY for children aged 5-11.
- Agreed to an accelerated delivery schedule of this vaccine, pending regulatory authorization.

There will be a short transition period where travelers will be able to travel with a valid COVID-19 molecular test within 72 hours of travel. By November 30, all travelers must be fully vaccinated.

October 21, 2021: Announced proposed changes to the pandemic support programs. The government is proposing the following changes to business support programs:

- Extend the **Canada Recovery Hiring Program** until May 7, 2022, for eligible employers with current revenue losses above 10 per cent and increase the subsidy rate to 50 per cent.

Targeted support to businesses still facing pandemic-related challenges through two streams:

- **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program:** support through the wage and rent subsidy programs, to hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, and restaurants, with a subsidy rate of up to 75 per cent.
- **Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program:** support through the wage and rent subsidy programs, would support other businesses that have faced deep losses, with a subsidy rate of up to 50 per cent.

Supports for workers, the government proposes to:

- Extend the **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit** and the **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit** until May 7, 2022, and increase the maximum duration of benefits by 2 weeks.
- Establish the **Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit** which would provide \$300/week in income support to eligible workers unable to work due to a local lockdown anytime between October 24, 2021 and May 7, 2022.

Item 8.3 Motion (Regional Chair)

- On October 13, 2021 the Public Affairs team highlighted a motion – item 22.1 Motion Regarding Future Appointments of the Regional Chair – as part of the Regional agenda for October 14, 2021.
- On October 20, 2021 the City Council passed a motion requiring staff to report back on the following:
 - Possible scenarios that may result from the implementation of the Region of Peel Motion of October 14, 2021 regarding the position of the Regional Chair; and
 - Comparison of the Regional Chair positions in other regional municipalities including information on position, duties and functions, compensation and office budget; and
 - Potential improvements to provisions for alternate representation at Regional Council meetings.
- Public Affairs staff have engaged with the Region of Peel, to understand the applicable timelines and procedural requirements and provide Members of Council with requested information.