

# Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council  
September 20, 2023



### **Audit and Risk Committee**

Thursday, 21 September 2023 @ 11:00 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

September 13, 2023

### **\$25 million in funding to create the Peel Black Health & Social Services Hub**

*Making it easier to connect to care and social services in one location.*



- The Ontario government announced \$25 million to create the Peel Black Health & Social Services Hub, a full-service location for Black individuals and families to access health care and social services in one place.
- Expected to open as early as Summer 2024, the hub will connect people to a team of primary care, mental health, and social service professionals.
- The hub was co-designed by residents from Peel, where 20 percent of Ontario's Black communities live.

September 18, 2023

### Long-term Housing for Asylum Claimants

*Increased support aims to help municipalities and asylum claimants across the province.*



- The Ontario government is investing another \$42 million through the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) program to support the City of Toronto and other impacted municipalities across the province in providing urgent assistance to a rapidly growing number of asylum claimants and other at-risk populations.
- The funding aims to assist approximately 4,000 new households, moving more people into housing and freeing up existing shelter spaces in impacted communities.
- Of the \$42 million, \$26.4 million will be allocated to the City of Toronto as the government reports that it is reflective of its share of asylum claimants and impact on their local services.

September 18, 2023

### **A New Deal for Toronto**

*Premier Doug Ford and Mayor Olivia Chow Agree to New-Deal Working Group to Achieve Long-Term Stability and Sustainability for Toronto's Finances*



- Premier Doug Ford and Mayor Olivia Chow agreed to a new-deal working group with a mandate to achieve long-term stability and sustainability of Toronto's finances.
- The province and city are looking to work jointly to invest in and support smart and effective growth for Toronto.
- The government has stated that given the city's national importance, solving local challenges is necessary for the long-term economic success of Canada.
- The province and city are urging the federal government to join the new-deal working group as well.
- The new-deal working group will be made up of public service officials from relevant provincial and city ministries and departments who will start their work immediately to deliver an agreement before the end of November.

### Goreway Gas Plant Update

*New Equipment Upgrade Proposal at Goreway Power Station (8600 Goreway Drive)*



- The Government Relations team was directed to report back on equipment upgrades being proposed at the Goreway Power Station site at the June 14, 2023, City Council meeting.
- Government Relations has since spoken to the IESO, Capital Power, Environmental Defense and received internal staff comments on this matter.
- In October of 2022, the Ministry of Energy issued a directive to the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”), to assist the government in ensuring that Ontario continues to have a reliable and affordable electricity system.
- Under this directive, the *Same Technology Upgrade Solicitation* process was announced, under which municipal support confirmation is **not** a requirement.
- Capital Power has advised that the Goreway Power Station Upgrade project will not involve the installation or construction of any new generation equipment, the project simply consists of swapping out existing parts with more efficient ones.
- The upgrade project involves the implementation of new technology upgrade and based on Capital Power’s estimation, is expected to have no adverse impacts on the Goreway facility’s current noise levels or expected GHG emissions intensity.



September 14, 2023

### Removal of GST on New Rental Builds



- The federal government announced that legislation will be introduced to enhance the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Rental Rebate on new purpose-built rental housing.
- This enhancement increases the GST Rental Rebate from 36% to 100% and removes the existing GST Rental Rebate phase-out thresholds for purpose-built rental housing projects.
- The enhanced GST Rental Rebate will apply to projects that begin construction on or after September 14, 2023, and on or before December 31, 2030, and complete construction by December 31, 2035.
- RBC has flagged that while the removal of GST on rental construction projects will improve their financial viability – and potentially spur more development – it isn't likely to lower rents.

September 15, 2023

### FCM Passes Resolutions



- Moving on to FCM updates, the FCM Board of Directors met from September 12 – 14 to discuss national challenges that municipalities have been facing.
- As such, the Board passed a number of resolutions, with the following relevant to the City's priorities:
  - **Federal Mechanisms to Address Inflationary Costs through Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)**
  - **Insurability of Buildings in a Climate Crisis Context**
  - **Resilient National Corridors**
  - **Federal Support for Literacy Programs**



Update

September 28, 2023

## Municipal Growth Summit

- FCM will be hosting their first consultation on Municipal Growth in Ottawa on September 28, 2023.
- The summit will allow attendees to hear from Canadian mayors and other experts in the fields of municipal finance and governance; contribute their perspective through moderated roundtable discussions; and influence a conversation on new models for municipal revenue tools and strategies that grow as Canada grows.





THANK YOU!

