

2021 Provincial Budget Submission Regional Municipality of York

YONGE SUBWAY EXTENSION (YSE)

1. Amend the Development Charges Act so that benefiting development more equitably funds its share of the YSE

- Regional Council, through its, [Fiscal Sustainability: 2020 Update](#) report, and its, [Provincial Budget Consultation](#) memorandum, requested changes to the *Development Charges Act* to treat the YSE as a discrete service, with no specified planning horizon and its exemption from the rate freezing

2. Renew the York-specific Annual Repayment Limit (ARL)

- In 2011, Ontario Regulation 403/02 was amended to allow the York Region to add a Growth Cost Supplement to its ARL. This amendment expires on December 31, 2021
- Renewal of the Growth Cost Supplement, is required to finance the YSE and other growth-related projects

COVID-19 PRESSURES

3. Amend Safe Restart Agreement to address municipal pressures for 2021 and beyond

- In 2020, the Region managed its COVID-19 cost pressures by reallocating resources and implementing mitigation strategies which may not be sustainable
- Spending timeframe and eligibility criteria restrictions should be relaxed to fully address future municipal needs

4. Maintain provincial gas tax funding

- COVID-19 has resulted in lower provincial gasoline consumption and increased volatility of transit ridership
- Provincial gas tax funding should be kept at historical levels to maintain services levels

5. COVID-19 has highlighted the need for sustainable, reliable Provincial funding for long-term care (LTC)

- In its [submission to the Ontario LTC Commission](#), the Region requested changes to the funding model for LTC, such that delivery of programs and services does not rely on property taxes to supplement provincial funding

6. Support Housing Providers for increased COVID-19-related operating costs, rent arrears, and for the rent freezes

- Delivering subsidies to Housing Providers ensures the most vulnerable members of society, in need of shelter, continue to be accommodated, despite COVID-19

OTHERS**7. Cancel or defer funding reductions to Public Health and Children's Services**

- By cancelling or deferring these reductions municipalities can deliver critical programs without exerting pressures on the tax levy

8. Remove funding caps over the next three years, or have the Province assume responsibility for mandated programs delivered by the Region

- This allows the Region to maintain service levels and meet provincial standards for areas including Public Health, Paramedics, Ontario Works and the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, without requiring a significant additional municipal top-up, putting pressures on the tax-levy

9. Allocate funds from the Non-Resident Speculation Tax, collected in York Region to support development of affordable housing

- Reinvesting these monies into affordable housing helps address challenges in providing this product, helping those most vulnerable

10. Reform joint and several liability

- York supports reforming joint and several liability in favour of some form of proportionate liability which considers heavy insurance burdens/disproportionate Court awards municipalities face

11. Review/adjust *Expropriations Act* interest rate

- The 6% interest rate applicable on the market value of an owner's interest in expropriated lands and on any allowance for injurious affection to which an owner be entitled is disproportionate to current interest rates, imposing unreasonable cost burdens on municipalities