

Office of the Commissioner Public Works Department

# **MEMORANDUM**

То:	Members of Committee of the Whole
From:	Erin Mahoney, M.Eng. Commissioner of Public Works
Date:	June 2, 2023
Re:	Potential dissolution of Region of Peel and impact on York Region

This memorandum provides a brief summary of work underway by regional staff to determine potential financial and service impacts on York Region as a result of proposed legislation to dissolve the Region of Peel.

#### Legislation to dissolve Peel Region has been tabled by the Province

On May 18, 2023, the Ontario government tabled legislation known as *Bill 112, Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023,* which if passed, would dissolve the Region of Peel on January 1, 2025. The City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, and Town of Caledon would become single-tier, stand-alone municipalities.

The Province would establish a transition board, consisting of up to five members appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Minister), to provide recommendations to the Minister for restructuring to dissolve Peel. This includes reviewing allocation, governance, use and control of services provided by Peel and shared servicing arrangements. The transition board would consider the need to establish joint municipal service boards or other entities.

During the review period, the Bill requires that affected municipalities (Peel, Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon) act in the public interest, having regard to municipal restructuring required to dissolve the Region of Peel when considering any transaction, commitment, or agreement. The transition board is authorized to provide direction on decisions made by Peel and its local municipalities during the transition period or the Minister may by order have the decision modified.

The Bill includes broad regulation making powers permitting the Province to make regulations to facilitate or implement the municipal restructuring required by *the Act*.

## Review of contractual agreements with Peel Region is underway

The Regions of York and Peel partner in delivery of key services and infrastructure projects for the benefit of residents, some of which originate or extend beyond York Region boundaries. In response to the proposed dissolution of Peel legislation, Regional staff are conducting a thorough examination of all existing contracts with Peel to assess service, financial and growthrelated implications to York Region.

# York And Peel Regions have longstanding water and wastewater servicing agreements

As part of this review, York Region staff are currently examining existing agreements with Peel that govern the provision of water and wastewater services to York Region's residents. Under the terms and conditions in the York Peel Water Supply Agreement, established in 2001, Peel Region guarantees an increasing flow volume through 2031 to accommodate the needs of current and future residents, with terms continuing into perpetuity. The York Peel Wastewater Servicing Agreement, an agreement to supplement York Region's wastewater servicing needs, was initiated in 1997 with terms continuing into perpetuity.

### The Region has a cost share agreement for Highway 50 with Peel Region

Highway 50 from Steeles Avenue to Mayfield Road/Albion Vaughan Road is a boundary road between York and Peel Regions. Peel Region has operated and maintained Highway 50 since the road was downloaded by the Province to both Regions.

In 1999, Council adopted a boundary agreement to cost share Highway 50 road maintenance, construction, and traffic signal operations. The current agreement is in effect until December 31, 2028.

## Information will be shared as further details are released from the Province

Staff continue to monitor and assess the impacts to York Region. As the Province releases further details and guidelines regarding implementation of the dissolution, updates will be provided to Council.

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng. Commissioner of Public Works

Bruce Macgregor Chief Administrative Officer

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