

# Peel Region

## 2025 Provincial Election Priorities



## Introduction

Peel Region is a diverse, growing and economically vibrant community that the next provincial government will need to collaborate closely with to continue driving Ontario forward.

We continue to take an innovative and responsive approach to our most pressing challenges. This now includes unnecessary U.S. tariffs, the impacts of which are expected to ripple across Canada, creating challenges for Peel residents and various sectors of our economy. A trade dispute would only contribute to existing challenges and uncertainty. For our residents and businesses, an all-levels-of-government approach is not only expected, but a necessary response to safeguard our shared priorities.

In Peel Region, this means ensuring more residents have a place to call home, funding robust health and human services that can match community need and investing in infrastructure critical to our growing communities. We will need our provincial representatives to support Peel residents and businesses.



### If elected, will you pledge to:

- **Address historic underfunding for provincially mandated health and human services delivered by Peel Region and non-profit agencies**
- **Increase funding for provincially mandated programs to keep pace with inflation and address existing deficits**
- **Engage with municipalities and the federal government to modernize funding sources and provide new revenue tools to meet current needs**
- **Address the housing affordability crisis through a comprehensive all level- government multi-level approach that also addresses the current homelessness crisis**
- **Create a municipal compensation fund to invest in municipal infrastructure that supports housing targets and long-term growth**
- **Adopt a sustainable mental health and addictions funding formula that considers population demographics, service needs and existing system challenges**
- **Provide wrap-around care to those with dementia and their caregivers, including adult day services and respite care**
- **Support ongoing efforts in Peel to respond to the sharp increase in asylum claimants in Peel by funding settlement supports**
- **Join Peel Region in taking a stand against all forms of gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence and family violence?**

# New deal for Peel

## Addressing Peel's Funding Shortfalls

Peel Region is facing significant challenges due to ongoing provincial underfunding of mandated health and human services, leaving significant funding shortfalls. To address the provincial funding shortfall, Peel Region has increasingly used property taxes, which is unsustainable, particularly as Peel's population grows and community needs become increasingly complex.

Further, an independent analysis of provincial funding for municipal services, non-profit service providers, school boards, and Local Health Integration Networks by the Metamorphosis Network, a coalition of non-profit community agencies, estimates that Peel faces an annual funding shortfall of \$868 million or approximately \$578 less per resident compared to other Ontario municipalities.

**To address these challenges, Peel needs the next provincial government to:**

- **address historic underfunding for provincially mandated health and human services delivered by Peel Region and non-profit agencies**
- **increase funding for provincially mandated programs to keep pace with inflation and address existing deficits**

## Support a New Municipal Fiscal Framework

Municipal fiscal sustainability is essential to ensuring there are vital services for Peel's growing and diverse population. While Peel Region appreciates recent marginal increases in provincial funding, for services like housing, long-term care, and childcare, these have been insufficient to address the growing and complex needs of Peel's diverse population.

Current municipal revenue tools, like property taxes and development charges have not kept pace with technological economic growth and/or inflation. Modernizing revenue tools can provide more equitable and sustainable funding that supports Peel Region's long-term needs.



**To address these challenges, Peel needs the next provincial government to engage with municipalities and the federal government to modernize funding sources and provide new revenue tools to meet current needs.**

# Affordability

## Making Housing Affordable

Peel Region, like all municipalities across Ontario, continues to face an urgent housing affordability crisis. The current housing situation is unsustainable, with significant gaps in supply and affordability, creating long-term consequences for families and Ontario. Simply increasing the supply of market housing is not enough.

**To address the housing affordability crisis, Peel needs the next provincial government to put into action, through a comprehensive an all level- government-level approach, a housing plan that:**



- **increases federal and provincial operating and capital funding to maintain current housing and build much-needed affordable, supportive and rental housing**
- **ensures the use of housing for homes by curbing speculation**
- **enhances income and social supports to ensure that all Peel residents have access to affordable, stable housing**
- **strengthens the capacity of the community housing sector to support those in need**



## Addressing Homelessness in Peel

Peel Region is facing a homelessness crisis. Those experiencing homelessness in Peel face significant barriers to securing safe, affordable, and appropriate housing. Temporary measures, such as hotel and motel accommodations, provide immediate relief but are costly and unsustainable and divert resources from more effective long-term housing solutions, such as permanent supportive housing, portable housing subsidies, and deeply affordable housing.

At current funding levels, Peel Region cannot provide enough of the critical supports needed to meet the growing demand and without significant investment, many individuals will remain unhoused or in precarious housing situations.

Peel has identified three projects that meet the provincial government's Last Mile Funding criteria for 'Ready-to-Build' projects, which would deliver 160 units of supportive and affordable housing with an investment of \$31.8 million.

### To address homelessness, Peel needs the next provincial government to:

- **work with other levels of government and community partners to provide dedicated funding for homelessness prevention and supportive housing**
- **invest in sustainable housing solutions that reduce reliance on temporary measures**
- **collaborate with all levels of government to implement a coordinated strategy**



# Building Housing-Enabling Infrastructure

## Accelerated Infrastructure Spending for Housing Targets

To meet provincially-established housing targets for Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga, Peel Region needs to advance major infrastructure such as water and wastewater, which is straining Peel Region's finances. To support these local housing targets, Peel Region requires an additional \$8.4 billion for the growth component of its 10-year Capital Plan (2025–2034).

Peel Region has received provincial supports for critical infrastructure projects through the various streams of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program. This includes \$35 million from the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund to expand the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility, servicing nearly 47,000 housing units and \$16.1 million to widen Mayfield Road through the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream.

While this funding is helpful, without a commitment to ongoing, stable and predictable funding, capital infrastructure development will be delayed.

## Making Municipalities Whole – Development Charges Shortfall

Changes to the Development Charges (DC) Act over the last few years have further widened the funding gap by reducing growth-related DC revenues. The changes are expected to cost the Region \$1.2 billion over 10 years in lost revenue.

**To address these funding challenges and avoid delays in critical infrastructure projects, Peel needs the next provincial government to create a municipal compensation fund to invest in municipal infrastructure that supports housing targets and long-term growth.**



# Healthy And Safe Communities

With the recent surge in its population and significant growth projected, Peel Region faces mounting fiscal pressures as demand for services critical to the community's health, safety and well-being, such as policing, surges well beyond our capacity to fund them. While recent provincial investments across health and human services are welcome, underfunding has resulted in property tax increases well beyond inflation, which are largely being driven by big increases in the Peel Regional Police service budget to hire 300 new police officers.

## Mental Health and Addictions

The Mental Health and Addiction (MHA) sector in Peel has been historically underfunded and as Peel's population continues to grow, the sector cannot respond to the growing and changing needs. Continuing underfunding means that Peel residents struggle to access available MHA supports in a timely manner.

**To address these challenges and ensure resources are available to those who need it most, Peel needs the next provincial government to:**

- **provide funding that considers a community's population, and services needed to address the challenges that residents face**
- **provide sustainable funding that moves beyond one-time or time-limited funding allocations**
- **approve a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub in Mississauga**



## Support For Seniors – Dementia Care

Seniors are the fastest growing age group in Peel with the proportion of residents 85 years and older expected to triple between 2016 and 2041. With the growing demand from an aging population, wait lists for Peel Regional services have continued to grow.

Peel Region will partner with the next provincial government to ensure future investment supports expanded access to Adult Day Services (ADS), overnight respite services, and integrated primary care at Peel’s Seniors Health and Wellness Village.



**To provide wrap-around care to those with dementia and their caregivers, Peel needs the next provincial government to:**

- provide \$4 million in funding toward the expansion of Peel’s ADS program
- open an 8-bed overnight respite care centre, and
- provide specialized dementia care through an integrated care clinic

## Addressing the Pressures of Supporting Asylum Claimants in Peel

The provincial government is responsible for funding settlement support for asylum claimants. The \$13 million time-limited provincial funding settlement support increase in 2023-24 was a crucial intervention that enabled service providers to meet immediate needs. However, with the funding ending in December 2024, significant service gaps are inevitable. Peel’s not-for-profit and settlement agencies have signaled there will be reduced capacity, staffing cuts, and diminished service delivery. The nonprofit sector is also under strain, facing increased demand and rising operational costs, putting many organizations at risk of closure.

**To address these challenges and facilitate asylum claimants’ successful integration, Peel needs the next provincial government to:**

- reinstate and expand provincial funding settlement services
- provide multi-year funding commitments to enable agencies to build capacity and plan for long-term service delivery
- enhance Federal-Provincial coordination and collaboration to address gaps in service delivery for asylum claimants
- provided targeted supports for housing and employment



# Combatting Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is escalating in Peel. In Brampton and Mississauga, nearly 80 per cent of victims in 2022 were women, and Caledon experienced a nearly 30 per cent increase in IPV and family violence disputes from 2020 to 2023. The escalation of IPV has profound implications for community safety and well-being and requires a coordinated provincial response. Peel's shelter system is over capacity, and new facilities, such as Armagh House, reach full occupancy almost immediately.

Further, the current system of supports is fragmented, making it more difficult for victims of IPV to navigate the system and access the services they need.

Peel Region is committed to working with the next provincial government to address the IPV crisis, and provide consistent, life-saving support to victims and their families.

**To address the IPV crisis, Peel needs the next provincial government to:**

- **declare IPV an epidemic in Ontario**
- **implement a comprehensive provincial framework that addresses the current fragmented system and includes predictable and sustainable funding**
- **prioritize enhanced sector capacity by investing in the expansion of emergency and transitional housing and integrated services**



