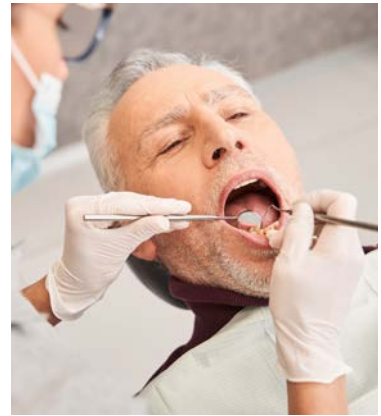


Peel Region

2025 Federal Election Priorities



Introduction

Peel Region is a dynamic and economically vibrant municipality committed to partnering with the federal government to safeguard essential frontline services, support local businesses, and drive innovative solutions that address the evolving challenges faced by communities across Canada. As one of the nation's most diverse and fastest growing municipalities, Peel Region is prepared to confront emerging and pressing issues including addressing the repercussions of U.S. tariffs to enduring challenges related to asylum claimants and encampment responses with a cohesive, all-levels-of-government strategy.

This collaborative approach is crucial to ensuring that every resident has a secure place to call home, that robust health, human services, and child care programs remain accessible, and that critical infrastructure investments strengthen Peel's long-term economic stability.



We will need our federal representatives to support Peel residents and businesses.

If elected, will you pledge to:

- **Ensure Peel Region receives sustainable and timely infrastructure investments, using an allocation model to distribute stimulus funds expeditiously.**
- **Explore updated revenue sources and collection tools for municipalities that reflect local realities.**
- **Provide sustained funding to ensure Peel's infrastructure, services, and communities can withstand increasing climate risks.**
- **Provide continued equitable and flexible funding to support Peel Region's encampment response and critical housing projects.**
- **Fully fund municipal asylum claimant supports through a 100% cost-share model rather than shifting financial responsibility onto local taxpayers.**
- **Coordinate benefits between federal and provincial dental programs for seniors to reduce redundancies and address different income threshold eligibilities.**
- **Remove barriers that limit the attraction and retention of the vital Early Childhood Educator workforce.**

Economic resilience and competitiveness

Peel Services and Pressures and Municipal Fiscal Sustainability

Strengthening Canada's economy by investing in Peel

Peel is a key economic engine for Canada, serving as a critical trade and transportation hub that supports national supply chains and business competitiveness. With a rapidly growing population and a trade sector essential to the country's economy, sustained federal investment in Peel's infrastructure is vital to ensuring efficient goods movement, strengthening economic growth, and maintaining reliable services.

As one of Canada's most important economic hubs, Peel plays a central role in trade, manufacturing, and transportation, sectors directly impacted by evolving U.S. trade policies and tariffs. Strategic federal investment is essential to enhancing national competitiveness, mitigating economic disruptions, and protecting jobs in an increasingly uncertain global market.



When addressing the impacts of tariffs, the next federal government should focus efforts to:

- Boost Economic Competitiveness:**
 Nearly 40% of Peel's GDP and 42% of its workforce are tied to trade and transportation—sectors critical to Canada's supply chains. Investing in Peel ensures the smooth flow of goods, keeping Canada competitive.
- Support Business Development:**
 Over one-third of Peel's businesses operate in industries vulnerable to trade barriers. Targeted infrastructure investments will help mitigate rising costs, enabling businesses to expand and create jobs.
- Protect Jobs and Strengthen Communities:**
 Infrastructure gaps and trade disruptions could push unemployment into double digits, increasing pressure on social services. Federal support will keep residents working and communities thriving.
- Address Housing and Affordability Challenges:**
 Rising costs are driving demand for housing, shelters, and emergency aid. Proactive investment will help stabilize communities and reduce long-term social costs.

Given these factors, Peel presents a strategic opportunity for the next federal government to drive national economic stability. By investing in Peel, Canada secures a stronger, more resilient economy for the future.

New Infrastructure Stimulus Programs

Peel Region requires flexible, accessible, and adequately funded infrastructure programs to support rapid growth and mitigate external risks like trade disruptions. However, restrictive application criteria often prevent Peel from accessing critical funding, particularly for active transportation and community development.

A more effective approach requires stable, predictable, and sufficient federal funding developed in collaboration with provincial and municipal partners. Allocation-based funding models aligned with municipal asset management plans would improve cost efficiency, reduce delays caused by price fluctuations and contractor shortages, and ensure Peel's infrastructure keeps pace with growing demands.



Housing-Enabling Infrastructure: A Path to Economic Sustainability

To meet Peel's infrastructure needs, stable, predictable, and adequate funding is crucial. Federal and provincial collaboration is essential to designing funding programs that address infrastructure challenges and provide long-term solutions for rapidly growing communities.

Moving forward, new infrastructure programs should:

- Fund infrastructure costs (e.g., water, wastewater, transportation, and active transportation) in municipalities without mass transit operations to support planned transit services.
- Align independent funding programs to prevent delays in interdependent infrastructure projects.
- Provide operating funding for projects that increase service costs.
- Streamline funding applications, monitoring, and reporting to reduce administrative delays.
- Increase capital funding and adjust formulas to account for rising construction costs due to inflation.

To support Peel's growth and infrastructure needs, the next federal government should partner with the Ontario government to ensure Peel Region receives sustainable and timely infrastructure investments, using an allocation model to distribute stimulus funds expeditiously.

Stable, predictable funding is essential to meet Peel's infrastructure needs and support much-needed housing development. By enhancing federal-provincial collaboration and adopting allocation-based funding models, governments can streamline processes, reduce costs, and strengthen Peel's infrastructure to contribute to national economic stability.

Municipal Fiscal Sustainability

Peel Region is a key driver of Canada’s economy, yet federal funding has not kept pace with growing demands for housing, child care, and infrastructure. While recent investments are appreciated, they remain insufficient to meet Peel’s expanding and complex needs, placing an increasing burden on local taxpayers and threatening essential services.

A renewed federal partnership is critical to ensuring Peel remains strong and resilient. Modernizing municipal revenue tools is key to a more equitable and sustainable funding model. Peel Region supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call for a comprehensive review of municipal revenue sources, as current land-based tools like property taxes and development charges have not kept pace with inflation and technological advancements, limiting municipalities’ ability to meet urgent demands.

To ensure long-term fiscal sustainability, the next federal government should work with provincial governments and municipalities to explore updated revenue sources and collection tools that reflect local realities.



To achieve long-term fiscal sustainability, the next federal government needs to collaborate with provincial and municipal governments to modernize revenue tools, ensuring they are responsive to the evolving needs of communities across the country. This partnership will create a more equitable and sustainable funding model, enabling Peel Region to continue providing essential services and supporting its growing population.

Combatting Climate Change requires sustainable federal funding

Peel Region has continued to invest in climate action and remains committed to delivering on its Climate Change Master Plan to make a meaningful difference this decade.

Federal funding is needed for vulnerable populations that are going to be increasingly exposed to climate change impacts, whether it be experiencing property loss or damages, displacement, food insecurity or needing Peel’s social services as a climate refugee.

Extreme weather events are increasing demand for Peel’s services, from emergency response to housing support, food security programs, and social services. Without dedicated funding, the costs of inaction — rising insurance claims, infrastructure failures, and economic displacement — will far outweigh the investments needed today.

At the same time, green infrastructure must be central to Canada's economic strategy. While threatened by protectionist trade measures from the U.S., the next federal government should prioritize Canada's competitiveness by investing in infrastructure that drives long-term economic resilience. Strategic investments in energy-efficient buildings, electrified transportation, and climate-adaptive infrastructure will not only create jobs and attract investment but will help also insulate local economies from external shocks. Without this focus, municipalities like Peel will face increasing challenges in maintaining economic stability and ensuring continued business growth.



To strengthen local climate resilience and drive sustainable economic growth, the next federal government should provide sustained funding to ensure Peel's infrastructure, services, and communities can withstand increasing climate risks.

Investing in climate adaptation requires continued collaboration between all levels of government to ensure that Peel Region can effectively address climate risks, protect vulnerable communities, and support economic resilience. Strategic investments in sustainable infrastructure will not only mitigate future costs but also drive long-term economic growth and stability.

Affordability

Federal support for Affordable Housing and Homelessness

Affordable Housing

Peel's affordable housing crisis is impacting residents from all walks of life and with a range of needs; from people experiencing chronic homelessness to households spending far too much on housing costs, and one crisis away from precarious housing. It is estimated that only 34 per cent of community need for affordable housing in Peel is being met.

While Peel Region and its community partners have adapted to the changing housing landscape and continue to deliver programs and supports that are aligned with community need, we need upper levels of government to work together to enact policies to help more residents get and keep affordable, stable housing. This includes providing significantly more funding for community and supportive housing.

For-profit market housing will not solve the housing crisis alone. Increasing the supply of affordable, community and supportive housing at a scale that more fully addresses our community's need cannot be funded through the property tax alone. The next federal government will need to make significantly more investment in community and supportive housing to help to end homelessness and allow Peel's most vulnerable to become affordably housed.



Key facts:

- Peel requires \$863 million over the next 10 years in order to maintain existing housing stock.
- Peel identified the opportunity for over 5,500 new affordable housing units on its lands.
- 1,444 new units are funded and underway or complete.
- Funding certainty can unlock an additional 4,000+ new units and beds.

Peel is facing a growing homelessness crisis, with many individuals unable to access safe, affordable housing due to limited options, rising rents, and inadequate support systems. Temporary solutions, such as hotel accommodations, are costly and unsustainable, diverting resources from long-term housing solutions like supportive housing and affordable units.

To help ensure that all Peel residents have access to the stable, affordable housing they need to thrive, the next federal government should provide continued equitable and flexible funding to complement existing resources that support Peel Region’s encampment response and the completion of critical housing projects.

Addressing the funding gaps and accelerating the implementation of long-term housing solutions will ensure that Peel residents have access to affordable, stable housing, while reducing reliance on temporary measures and mitigating the broader social and economic impacts of housing insecurity.

Ensuring Sustainable Federal Support for Asylum Claimants in Peel

Peel Region has played a critical role in Canada’s response to the recent asylum claimant crisis, providing emergency shelter and essential wraparound services since 2023. A key success is the Peel Reception Centre, which opened in October 2024, and is one of Canada’s largest asylum claimant shelters.



Despite being a federal responsibility, a lack of adequate, predictable, and sustainable federal funding to house asylum claimants places an unfair financial burden on local taxpayers.

For Peel Region to remain an effective partner in addressing this pressing challenge, the next federal government must ensure that funding programs, like the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP), provide sufficient funding.

Under the current federal framework, Peel will be fully responsible for these costs by 2027, creating a significant funding gap that will directly impact essential services. Additionally, recent IHAP restrictions limit funding to “sustainable and cost-effective” housing, disadvantaging municipalities like Peel, where reliance on hotels is necessary due to a lack of transitional housing options.

To ensure a sustainable and coordinated response, the next federal government must fully fund municipal asylum claimant supports through a 100% cost-share model rather than shifting financial responsibility onto local taxpayers.

Continued federal funding is critical to sustaining Peel Region’s role in Canada’s asylum claimant system. By working together, the next federal government and Peel Region can ensure a stable, effective response that supports both asylum claimants and the broader community.

Enhanced Integration of Seniors Dental Programs

Despite having a higher need for care, seniors often cannot access basic dental services due to challenges paying expenses out-of-pocket. This could be further compounded by the impacts of the current economic uncertainty. The next federal government can address this and safeguard the health and well-being of seniors in Peel, and across Canada.

Federal investment for seniors' oral health has been critical for Peel residents. Through enhanced integration with the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) – as well as the coordination of benefits between the CDCP (Canadian Dental Care Plan) and OSDCP – more equitable dental care can be provided to all seniors. Additional support from the next federal government will result in much needed oral health supports for Peel residents, reduce the burden on emergency departments, prevent chronic disease and increase quality of life.



Without enhancements to dental care programs for seniors, there's a risk that low-income seniors, using the CDCP, will accrue costs they cannot afford or avoid seeking dental care due to financial limitations.

To improve access for seniors to critical dental care services, the next federal government should work with the Ontario government to coordinate benefits between federal and provincial dental programs for seniors to reduce redundancies and address different income threshold eligibilities.

Oral health is an important component of overall health and quality of life among seniors and is essential for healthy aging. Through enhanced integration with the OSDCP, more equitable dental care can be provided to all seniors.

Support for Accessible and Affordable Child Care through ECE Workforce Growth

Child care is becoming more affordable in Peel, where costs for parents have been among the highest in Canada. Accordingly, Peel Region has added 9,460 new child care spaces under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) plan. Ninety-six per cent of licensed child care sites in Peel participate in this national child care program, which improves affordability by lowering fees to an average of \$10 a day by 2026.

Despite this progress, Peel faces challenges with expansion due to Early Years and Child Care workforce growth. To operationalize the additional child care spaces through CWLECC expansion, over 1,200 additional staff are required. This creates a significant system pressure and a risk to expansion efforts.

In Peel, international students have been a vital source of skilled labour in the early years and child care sector. However, restrictions on the number of international students are expected to significantly decrease the number of graduates for Early Childhood Educator (ECE) positions in the coming years.

Recently, early childhood educators (ECEs) were added to the Express Entry category for Canada's Federal Skilled Worker program. However, there are still challenges with the Temporary Foreign Worker program that make it hard for employers to apply for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) for ECEs. Without qualified staff, new affordable child care spaces will not be able to operate thus restricting access to affordable high quality child care for children and families.

In order to support the expansion of high quality, affordable child care in Peel Region, the next federal government should work with the Ontario government to remove barriers that limit the attraction and retention of the vital Early Childhood Educator workforce.

Peel Region is committed to working closely with the next federal government to ensure Peel's unique challenges and local needs are considered to provide families with child care that is high quality, accessible, inclusive, and affordable.

