Message from the Chief Administrative Officer



Peel Region is an award-winning anchor institution with one of Canada's most diverse communities. More than 1.66 million residents and over 246,000 businesses rely on us to deliver critical programs and infrastructure at scale, driving efficiencies and community partnerships.

Our staff have weathered multi crises over the last 5 years and the uncertainty continues with new legislation, still to pass at the time of writing, redefining future Peel Region services.

My admiration and thanks go to the staff who continue to provide award winning services everyday, illustrated recently by our Water and Wastewater team who recently received a "Utility of the Future Today" global award from the Water Environmental Federation for their current operations and effectiveness. We also received a Aaa/AAA credit rating for our 30th consecutive year, which is remarkable.

The 2026 proposed Budget addresses how we can respond to

- Building homes faster
- Declining development charge revenue
- Increasing community affordability issues
- Changing global market impacts
- Increasing vulnerability in the community
- A rapidly growing population

The 2026 Budget and Business Plan invests in Peel's future and addresses these pressures and challenges, aggressively supporting the housing-enabling infrastructure Peel requires to meet provincial housing targets in a fiscally responsible way.

Our <u>latest Strategic Agenda</u> reiterates our commitment to housing and social impact, sustainability, service excellence, future readiness, and fostering an environment where our employees are supported in their wellness, growth, and creativity. This year we have made significant progress on our Strategic Agenda and continued our important work to mitigate climate impacts and de-colonize our systems.

Peel is deeply mindful of the economic challenges that both residents and businesses are facing. We have expanded our Continuous Improvement Program to achieve cost savings and cost avoidance to ensure taxpayers get value for their money and maintain our reputation as an efficient, effectively run, fiscally responsible government that delivers value for money.

We will also keep leveraging Peel's strong reputation as an innovative organization that proactively mitigates risks, challenges and disruptions as we continue to work with and seek financial support from all levels of government to build homes faster and support affordability.

I thank Peel Region Council for their support and guidance, as well as our talented and dedicated employees for their dedication, professionalism and resilience.

With the support of our community, we'll continue our journey as a strong, inclusive, and sustainable Community for Life.

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Gary Kent. CPA, CGA, ICD.D (he/him) Chief Administrative Officer