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# Message from the Chief Administrative Officer



Peel Region is an award winning anchor institution in the community that more than 1.5 million residents and over 200,000 businesses rely on to deliver critical programs and infrastructure at scale, driving efficiencies and community partnerships.

The past five years has seen Peel Region operate in crisis mode where our employees, with the support of Regional Council and our community, firstly delivered the public health pandemic response and then, while the community and other local

governments were recovering and restarting, Peel went through a massive Provincial exercise to define its future, while at the same time remaining focused on business continuity and delivering uninterrupted, core, high-quality services.

While some of our services in Public Works are still under review, 2025 promises to be a year of recovery at the staff level and community progression on multiple fronts.

We have re-anchored to our Strategic Plan and are committed to our vision of *Community for Life*. Our dedication to the Peel community remains steadfast.

We're the first and only regional municipality in Canada to receive the Platinum Award from Excellence Canada for organization wide excellence, innovation & wellness. We're one of only 5 Canadian municipalities to achieve AAA rating by both Moody's and S&P; we have achieved AAA rating consecutively for 29 years.

We are also working with the Metamorphosis Network, a group in Peel of more than 100 non-profit community organizations, who are advocating to address the chronic underfunding in Peel for health and human services. Along with them, we continue to call upon the federal and provincial governments to ensure that funding for mandatory programs is on par with similar municipalities across the Greater Toronto Area.

The future of Peel Region will be dominated by massive population growth. Immigration patterns, in addition to, the new provincial housing targets mean that all the growth Peel had forecasted to 2051, and their associated services and infrastructure, need to be delivered by 2031.

It is our responsibility to deliver housing-enabling infrastructure but also ensure that all the services in our portfolio such as community housing, public health, paramedics, are designed to meet the needs of the community.

The 2025 budget and business plan starts to address these emerging needs, at a time when all levels of government are running fiscal deficits and when the community needs, through not only the affordability crisis but also the realization of climate impacts and the need for all levels of government to de-colonize their systems, are at an all time high.

In October 2024, Regional Council approved our strategic agenda for the next few years ([Peel's Strategic Agenda 2024–2027](#)). Our strategic agenda 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.

Our staff have been incredible through all these events and my thanks goes to them all for their loyalty, commitment, dedication and hard work. They have truly demonstrated that they care about our community.

The Budget and Business plan provides funding to not just deliver existing services, but to look ahead and plan for the future, ensuring we drive ahead to meet our vision of Peel being a *Community for Life*.



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