

Message from the Chief Administrative Officer

With the Province's announcement that Peel Region will be dissolved at the end of 2024, we are confronted with the question of what place this budget will have in the history of this community.

Although Peel as we know it will no longer exist, we do not quite yet know what the future holds. What we do know is that the essential services that Peel has provided to this community for nearly 50 years must be delivered, and with the exceptional quality and value for money that this community has come to expect from Peel Region.



We have greatly appreciated the outpouring of love and support from the community for the work we do. As we work through [Peel's transition](#) with the provincially-appointed Transition Board, increased service demands create a challenge for an organization that's still fatigued from the pandemic and in a state of uncertainty. My heart goes out to our colleagues who have been living with this uncertainty for 6 months now. Their psychological health and wellness, retaining and hiring highly-trained and professional employees remains a priority.

The proposed 2024 Budget is an important one. As you will see in the pages that follow, there are strategic and important investments that are needed to be made. This includes community housing, infrastructure, public safety, paramedics, seniors' services, as well as in climate change and our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and many other necessary programs with a high social impact that the Region supports and delivers.

Moreover, this budget provides the successor entities to Peel Region with both the necessary operational and capital resources to

continue to build and develop these essential services in the long term.

In addition to the *Hazel McCallion Act, 2023* (Bill 112), in late 2022, the Province introduced two other pieces of legislation, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and the *Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022* that will have a profound effect on how Ontario's municipalities do business. The Province's acceleration of Peel's 2051 housing targets to 2031 requires immediate investments in planning and infrastructure to prepare for these aggressive targets.

Beyond the Province's legislative interventions, there are multiple immediate social and economic challenges facing Canadians that we need to contend with. In addition, the budget submitted by the Police Services Board includes a significant investment to increase community safety and well-being through the addition of operating and capital needs.

The Region is very mindful of the economic challenges that both residents and businesses are facing which is why Peel implements a continuous improvement program focused on achieving cost savings and cost avoidance to ensure that taxpayers get value for their money. With Council's support, our dedicated employees and this amazing community, we'll continue building a Community for Life in Peel Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Kent." The signature is written in a cursive, professional style.

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