



☎ 905-238-2622
✉ info@volunteermbc.org
🌐 volunteermbc.org
📍 7700 Hurontario Street, Unit 601
Brampton, ON, L6Y 4M3

October 20, 2021

TO: The Regional Chair and members of Regional Council

RE: Support for ROP's Housing Services Funding Request

Volunteer MBC is providing this letter of support for the Regional Municipality of Peel's Housing Services, to increase its funding for housing subsidies and to allocate new subsidies according to needs-based priorities for homeless individuals. We are a registered charity that fuels purposeful connections between people to respond to the most pressing social issues in our community. We know that homelessness is one of these most pressing issues affecting the wellbeing of Peel residents.

Volunteer MBC's family of not-for-profit organizations serves Peel with numerous crucial services, and many of their efforts support the effort to end homelessness. Furthermore, people of all ages from across Peel are volunteering to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities.

The growing affordable housing crisis in Peel has placed unprecedented pressures on the shelter system. Occupancy levels and longer lengths of stays have created conditions for clients and staff that are challenging. COVID-19 further exacerbated Peel's homelessness crisis as individuals, families experienced loss of income and housing and shelters could not operate at full capacity for safety reasons. While the Region of Peel's Housing Services and community service providers moved quickly to house and provide temporary accommodation to people off the Central Housing Waiting List, the pandemic served as a wake-up call for the need for more deeply affordable housing in Peel.

A recent study of evidence-based housing and homelessness needs conducted by the Peel Alliance to End Homelessness, a collaborative network of local agencies including Volunteer MBC, illustrated that inability to afford rent was the second most common reason people lost their housing. The theme of affordability and access to housing benefits was the most prevalent theme throughout the research. One key recommendation was to prioritize housing units/subsidies for chronically homeless households.

The Region of Peel and Peel Alliance to End Homelessness are partners in the development of a Coordinated Access System, to better match individuals and families experiencing homelessness to services and housing based on their needs. Nearly 500 people listed as actively homeless on the Region's By Name List, require permanent and supportive housing. An increased investment is needed to improve housing outcomes, especially for those who are experiencing homelessness.

We look forward to continuing our work in partnership with the Region's Housing Services, so that we can help Peel's most vulnerable residents attain affordable, permanent and sustainable homes.

Sincerely,

Shan Abbasi | Manager, Community Engagement
Volunteer MBC

www.volunteermbc.org | sabbasi@volunteermbc.org | 905-238-2622 x224