



TO: The Regional Chair and members of Regional Council

RE: Support for ROP's Housing Services Funding Request

DATE: October 22, 2021

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The Peel Alliance to End Homelessness (PAEH) is providing this letter of support for the Regional Municipality of Peel's Housing Services request to increase its funding for housing subsidies and to allocate new subsidies according to needs-based priorities for homeless individuals.

PAEH, a community collaborative of agencies from across the Region of Peel working together to end homelessness in our communities; want to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

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 ROP'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 study of evidence-based housing and homelessness needs conducted by PAEH in winter/spring 2021 illustrated that inability to afford rent was the second most common reason people lost their housing. The theme of housing 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 and PAEH 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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