

## Dear Ward 11 Neighbours,



It is an honour and privilege to continue to represent your interests as the Councillor for the Ward 11 Community. I am very pleased to share with you my Fall 2024 Region of Peel newsletter, and I hope you find it informative and useful.

As you may know, On December 13, 2023,

the Ontario government announced that Peel Region will not be dissolved and that legislative amendments to Bill 112 would be made to recalibrate the role of the Transition Board. On June 6, Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024, received Royal Assent, confirming that Peel Region will not be dissolved. The enactment of Bill 185 revises Bill 112, and ensures that Peel Region's governance, services, and operations will continue, providing certainty and clarity for residents and businesses going forward. As we celebrate Mississauga and Peel's 50th anniversary this year, I would like to assure you that the City and Region will continue to deliver services efficiently, effectively, and responsibly to residents.

I am very pleased to highlight that Peel Region continues to be one of the safest communities in Canada, as published in Statistics Canada's 2023 Crime Severity Index annual report on police-reported crime statistics. I would like to thank Peel Regional Police and our community partners, such as Safe City Mississauga, for working hard to increase safety and ensure that Peel continues to be among the safest communities in Canada.

In this newsletter, you will also find more information on the 2024 budget; how to prevent basement flooding; underfunding of municipal and social services in Peel; Cornerstone Suites supportive housing in Streetsville; holiday season waste disposal tips, and more.

I encourage you to share your feedback and questions with me at any time. My staff Kimberly Duarte, Anita A. Solomon, and I are pleased to assist you. Please feel free to reach out by calling my office at 905-896-5011 or by sending me an e-mail at [brad.butt@mississauga.ca](mailto:brad.butt@mississauga.ca).

Sincerely,



Brad Butt, Councillor, Ward 11



Councillor Brad Butt speaking at the opening of Cornerstone Suites in Streetsville. See story on page 4.

# Peel Region's 2024 Budget Snapshot

The 2024 Budget includes investments of \$5.9 billion to maintain current service levels for a growing population, while addressing critical community needs by:

- Hiring more police and paramedic employees to keep residents safe.
- Making housing more affordable and easier to find.
- Responding to the needs of asylum seekers.
- Creating programs to help stop systemic discrimination.
- Setting plans to tackle the climate change emergency in Peel.
- Supporting residents' health and well-being.

## Funding through the 2024 Budget will also allow us to:

- Hire 135 new uniformed police officers and 36 new paramedics.
- Buy 3 more ambulances to offer prompt medical assistance.

- Increase investments to support and subsidize housing in Peel.
- Invest over \$1 billion to help the province achieve its new housing target.
- Continue implementing the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care plan to reduce child care costs to \$10 per day by 2025.
- Replace various watermain, repair and expand pumping stations, and expand our Water Resource Recovery Facilities.
- Deal with climate change through new capital investments and projects.
- Build new sidewalks and multiuse paths to improve active transportation facilities in Peel.

Cost savings and cost avoidance of \$9.0 million have been reflected in the 2024 Budget, found through continuous improvement efforts and cost containment measures. The 2025 budget process is currently underway, and I would like to assure you that Regional Council will be working hard to keep tax increases to a minimum, while also funding critical services and infrastructure. For details about Peel Region's budget or service investments, visit [peelregion.ca/budget](https://peelregion.ca/budget).

# Holiday Season Waste Disposal Tips

As we approach the holiday season, most of us are busy decorating, preparing for gatherings, buying presents, and celebrating. But as we are surrounded by the festive spirit, let's not forget to dispose of our gift wrappings, decorations, and other holiday waste items properly.

Non-metallic wrapping paper should be placed in the recycling bin, while metallic gift-wrapping paper should be put in the garbage. Gift bags (tag and rope removed) belong in your recycling bin.

Did you know that each year, Canadians produce over 500,000 tonnes of waste from gift wrap and shopping bags? Help reduce the amount of waste by considering these tips:

- Wrap gifts in reusable material like scarves or reusable gift bags or boxes.
- If a gift comes in a nice box or bag, there's no need to add additional wrapping. Instead, consider adding a reusable bow or making a gift tag from old Christmas or birthday cards.
- Make eco-friendly wrapping paper using kraft paper, old newspapers, maps, and pages from old books.



- Peel Region also collects real Christmas trees and wreaths from the curb on select days in January. You can check your pickup calendar to find your day before setting out your tree and wreaths.

## Tips for residents:

- Ensure your Christmas tree is shorter than 3 m (10 ft.) for curbside collection. Trees that are taller than 3 m (10 ft.) must either be cut in half or taken to your nearest Community Recycling Centre (CRC) for disposal.

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# Peel Region continues to be one of the safest communities in Canada

Statistics Canada has published the **2023 Crime Severity Index** ([bit.ly/StatsCanReport](https://bit.ly/StatsCanReport)) annual report on police-reported crime statistics, and I am very pleased to report that Peel Region continues to be one of the safest communities in Canada. Each year, Statistics Canada collects data from police agencies in jurisdictions with populations over one million and compares them using various criteria. The report focuses on comparing the data by:

- Crime Severity Index (CSI): a metric that considers the number of crimes as well as the relative seriousness of crimes.
- Weighted Clearance Rates: weighted clearance rates measure the number of crimes solved by the police.
- Total Crime Rate: a measure of the rate of crime per 100,000.

## Some of the report highlights for Peel are as follows:

### CSI:

- Peel's overall CSI (51.41) is below Canada (80.45) and Ontario (60.88).
- Peel's violent CSI (67.34) remains well below the national (99.45) and provincial levels (78.52) and is the second lowest when comparing to services with populations over one million.
- The non-violent CSI for Peel (45.48) was substantially lower than Canada (73.54) and Ontario (54.34) and was the lowest of comparator services with populations over one million.

### Weighted Clearance Rate:

- Peel had the highest overall weighted clearance (34.19) and violent weighted clearance (57.8) for populations over 1 million.
- Peel's weighted clearance rate (34.19) is slightly lower than Canada (34.6) and lower than Ontario (37.99).
- Peel's violent clearance rate (57.8) is higher than national levels (53.84) and slightly lower than provincial levels (58.6).
- Peel's non-violent clearance rate (20.21) is lower than Canada (24.2) and Ontario (26.1).

### Crime rates per capita (per 100,000):

- Peel's total crime rate per capita is 3,164, well below the rate for Canada at 5,843 and Ontario at 4,454, and the lowest compared to other jurisdictions.



- Peel's Violent Crime rate per capita is 758, below the rate for Canada at 1,427 and Ontario at 1,055, and the lowest of the comparison services with populations over one million.

Peel Regional Police remains committed to improving safety through the priorities of the **2024-2027 Strategic Plan** ([bit.ly/PeelPolicePlan](https://bit.ly/PeelPolicePlan)) and the **Community Safety and Well-being framework** ([bit.ly/PeelPoliceCSWB](https://bit.ly/PeelPoliceCSWB)), which focus on addressing underlying factors like mental health, addictions, and homelessness that generate many calls for service and mitigating risk factors that result in crime, victimization, and other community harm. PRP will continue to dedicate the resources needed to ensure effective enforcement, strong investigative capabilities, and work with partners on initiatives that increase community safety.

To further enhance public safety, I am pleased to report that Peel Regional Police has secured funding through the Ontario Government for a helicopter, which will significantly assist PRP's operations through regular patrols, enhance suspect and vehicle pursuits and apprehensions, help with search efforts for missing persons, and increase road safety enforcement especially as it pertains to street racing and stunt driving.

To keep our roads safe, Peel Regional Police has led a Joint Forces Operation called Project Offramp, targeting street racing and stunt driving with officers identifying and actively patrolling hotspot locations across the Greater Toronto Area. Working with neighbouring agencies, PRP investigated 933 vehicles and issued 2,140 Provincial Offence Notices, including:

- 96 Stunt Driving Charges
- 246 Improper/No Muffler Charges
- 24 Criminal Code Charges Related to Impaired and Dangerous Driving

Curbing dangerous driving remains a top priority for PRP, and there are several ongoing strategic and targeted enforcement initiatives designed to address this issue. Please be assured that I will continue to work with PRP and community partners, such as Safe City Mississauga, on initiatives that increase safety to ensure that Peel, our city, and our community continues to be among the safest communities in Canada.





## Opening of Cornerstone Suites in Streetsville

On September 12, 2024, I was very pleased to attend the grand opening of the Cornerstone Suites housing development, which is located at 25 Thomas St. and 263 Victoria Ave., in Streetsville.

Cornerstone Suites is a new affordable and supportive housing development, which provides 40 affordable, supportive rental housing units, within a 3-storey building; 10 of these units are barrier-free, accessible units. The building has shared common areas and amenities, including a patio, servery, gathering area, and third floor terrace. The development includes two existing 19th century heritage homes on the site, which were preserved and restored to retain the neighbourhood's cultural heritage and character. The building is also energy efficient and designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.

The development of Cornerstone Suites is led and managed by Indwell Community Homes, a supportive

and affordable housing provider. The project was funded by the Federal Government's Rapid Housing Initiative, the Province of Ontario's Social Services Relief Fund, Peel Region, and Indwell Community Homes.

Indwell's multi-residential community in Streetsville will increase the critical supply of affordable, supportive housing in Peel. Supportive housing allows affordable and accessible residential accommodation that provides individual-based supports and services, so residents can live independently. This development supports the Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan to build more community and supportive housing and make use of existing infrastructure to provide housing. Through the creation of affordable housing units, Cornerstone Suites will bring much needed supportive housing to Mississauga and Peel. For more information, visit [indwell.ca/Streetsville](https://indwell.ca/Streetsville).

## Protect yourself this fall and winter

As the weather gets colder people tend to spend more time indoors. This makes it easier for germs to spread and increases the risk of getting sick with respiratory illnesses like influenza (the flu), COVID-19 or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Practice these public health measures to prevent the spread of seasonal respiratory infections:

- Stay home when sick.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.

- Consider wearing a well-fitted mask in public indoor settings, especially if you have a severe infection.
- Get vaccinated and stay up to date with your vaccines.

The flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available for all adults and children above 6 months of age who live, work, or study in Peel region. The RSV vaccine is also available for infants, young children, and select older adults.

For more information on these vaccines and their availability, visit [peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations](https://peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations)

# How to prevent basement flooding

Last summer, severe rainstorms caused high water levels and localized flooding on roads and along creeks, rivers and streams in Peel. Flooding has unfortunately become a costly natural hazard in Canada due to climate change and more extreme weather events.

The City and Region have undertaken significant investments and improvements to our infrastructure and are taking important actions to mitigate flooding in Peel. In 2016, the City introduced a Stormwater Charge, to continually invest in stormwater infrastructure improvements. Since 2016, the City has invested \$231 million in stormwater infrastructure and the 10-year capital plan includes an additional \$308 million to add resilience to the stormwater system. The Region has renewed 113.5 km of local sanitary sewer infrastructure, investing \$181.5 million. The Region is also constructing the East Trunk Wastewater Storage Facility and a new east to west 2400mm diameter trunk sewer along Derry Rd to balance wastewater flow and store flows during high inflow events.

Basement flooding can occur during heavy rainfall events, such as those of last summer, and may happen in your home if:

- Water seeps into cracks in the foundation, walls, or around windows and doors.
- Your property is poorly graded, and gardens or landscaping block proper drainage.
- A drain in your foundation stops working or becomes clogged.
- Your sump pump stops working.

- Your eavestroughs are overflowing and leaking or your downspouts are blocked.
- Wastewater or stormwater connections to or from your home are blocked.
- Your sewer system overflows due to excess rain, pushing wastewater into your basement.

There are several important actions you can take to lessen the chance of basement flooding in your home, such as:

- Regularly checking for and sealing leaks around windows and in the foundation, walls, and floors.
- Grading your lot to ensure that the ground slopes away from your outside walls.
- Making sure that excess water doesn't collect next to your home.
- Removing leaves and other debris from your eavestroughs and downspouts.
- Ensuring that downspouts are directing water at least 2 metres away from your home, and that the water flows away from neighbouring properties, sidewalks, and other buildings.
- Adding a sanitary wastewater backflow prevention valve to reduce the risk of a sewage clog or backup.

City and Regional Council have recently approved financial assistance programs to help residents reduce the risk of flooding in their homes. As always, make sure to confirm that you qualify for a rebate before hiring a third party to do work on your home.

For more information, visit [bradbutt.ca/floodinginfo](http://bradbutt.ca/floodinginfo) and [peelregion.ca/flooding](http://peelregion.ca/flooding).



# Provincial Funding for Social Services in Peel Region

I would like to bring to your attention an important study that was recently commissioned by the Metamorphosis Network, which represents over 100 nonprofit organizations in Peel. It investigates the possibility that social services delivered in Peel are underfunded by the Province. The research examines provincial funding allocated to all Peel municipalities (Peel Region, Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon), major school boards, and nonprofit community service providers, comparing the funding received in Peel to that in other jurisdictions.

This study finds that residents of Peel receive less provincial funding for municipal and social services than the average resident of Ontario municipalities. The data indicates that the provincial government provides residents of Peel an average of \$578 less, annually, per person, for municipal and social services overall, than the average resident of Ontario municipalities receives, and that the cumulative gap in funding is over \$868 million per year, and almost half a billion dollars for Mississauga alone.

These funding shortfalls mean longer wait times and less equitable access to municipal and social services for Peel residents. Efforts to meet the needs of Peel

residents have meant increasing municipal contributions to municipal and social services from local revenue sources, such as property taxes and user fees, to cover provincial funding shortfalls.

To advocate for more equitable funding for our residents, I brought forward a motion at City Council on June 12, 2024 calling upon the Government of Ontario, the Premier, and the relevant MPPs to make an immediate commitment to providing a fair, new deal for Mississauga to ensure residents have fair and equitable access to municipal and social services that they rely upon. I also requested a meeting with Provincial officials to work together on a plan to address provincial underfunding. This was also one of the top priorities that we discussed with Provincial Ministers when I attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's 2024 conference in August.

I encourage you to read the Metamorphosis report at [communitymetamorphosis.org](https://communitymetamorphosis.org). You have my full commitment that my Council Colleagues and I will continue to advocate for a fair, new deal and equitable funding and access to services for Mississauga and Peel residents.


## Holiday Season Waste Disposal Tips ... continued from page 2

- Make sure to remove all nails, wires, tinsel and other decorations and tree stands. These items cause contamination, increase processing costs, and make the final product (compost) unsellable.
- Place your tree at the curb on your scheduled tree pickup day or bring it to any of our 6 Community Recycling Centres.

- Condominium and apartment residents should speak to their property manager regarding proper disposal options.

For more tips on proper disposal of gift wrap, Christmas trees, decorations and other holiday season waste, use Peel's waste sorter by visiting [peelregion.ca/waste/sorter](https://peelregion.ca/waste/sorter). To find your waste pickup day, visit [peelregion.ca/waste/calendar](https://peelregion.ca/waste/calendar).


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