

C7.

Communication

Intergovernmental Relations

Sub-Committee – April 8, 2024

Item No. 1

City of Vaughan MP/MPP Breakfast

Update to the City of Vaughan's Intergovernmental Relations Sub-Committee

Michael Genova, Chief, Communications and Economic Development

April 8, 2024



Background (I)

- ▶ ***The City of Vaughan continues undertaking critical steps to enhance its intergovernmental relations efforts with open, accountable, and ongoing advocacy initiatives.***
- ▶ At the September 20, 2022, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting, Members of Council unanimously endorsed a Member's Resolution requesting a report outlining intergovernmental relations strategic support to advocate for and advance Council-approved initiatives.
- ▶ Furthermore, at the December 12, 2022, Council meeting, Members of the Council approved the establishment of authorized non-statutory committees for the 2022-2026 Term of the Council, including Intergovernmental Relations.

Background (II)

- ▶ During the May 9, 2023, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting, Members of the Council endorsed a Strategic Intergovernmental Relations Framework report that identifies a framework for strategic intergovernmental relations support provided by City staff to advance Council-approved initiatives, including advocacy efforts with other government levels led by the Head of Council.



1. **Identify:** Identify Council-approved priorities that need strategic intergovernmental relations support for implementation. For example, advancing the 2022-2026 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan, North Maple Regional Park, and the Nine Point Action Plan to Fight Traffic Gridlock in Vaughan are examples of initiatives that form the basis of successful intergovernmental efforts. These efforts include ongoing identification of non-taxation funding sources and grant opportunities.
2. **Advocate:** Advocacy requires the development of effective external and internal communications and briefing material to raise awareness and interest in Vaughan's city-building projects. Advocacy is further undertaken by corporate-wide project co-ordination of government and stakeholder application funding opportunities.
3. **Collaborate:** Given Vaughan's strategic location in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, the City's rapidly growing population, access to critical transportation networks and vital community infrastructure like hospitals and post-secondary institutions, Vaughan is well placed to collaborate and align its Council-approved priorities with that of other government priorities to deliver win-win outcomes. Furthermore, collaboration comes in the form of enterprise-wide efforts by City staff (working with external agencies) to collaborate, often in the form of cross-functional working groups to advance projects, including intergovernmental relations efforts.

Background (III)

- ▶ The inaugural meeting of the City's Intergovernmental Relations Sub-Committee took place on November 2, 2023.
- ▶ During the meeting, conversations began about holding a roundtable discussion with Vaughan's provincial and federal representatives in 2024, an event which is in keeping with the strategic actions to identify, advocate and collaborate on shared intergovernmental priorities.

Background (IV)

- ▶ During the January 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole (1) meeting, a Member's Resolution by Local and Regional Councillor Mario Ferri was endorsed by Councillors establishing advocacy priorities for the 2024 MP/MPP breakfast roundtable. These priorities included:
 - a. Highway 7/Concord GO Station and Kirby GO Station
 - b. community safety and well-being initiatives
 - i. bail reform
 - ii. Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) export inspections
 - iii. proposed Home and Vehicle Security Tax Credit
 - c. financial support for the settlement of asylum seekers
 - d. financial support for McMichael Canadian Art Collection's capital campaign and future expansion efforts

MP/MPP Breakfast

- ▶ On Friday, April 5, 2024, Council hosted federal and provincial representatives for a breakfast roundtable discussion. This networking information session marked the latest intergovernmental relations initiative by the City of Vaughan to advocate for and discuss issues of importance with other governments. **The MP/MPP Breakfast is consistent with the Council-approved Strategic Intergovernmental Framework's Strategic Actions.**



Establishing a Highway 7/Concord GO Station and Kirby GO Station

CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ The City of Vaughan proposes establishing two new stations along the Barrie Line as part of the GO Expansion program. They are the Highway 7/Concord GO station and the Kirby GO station.
- ▶ The Highway 7/Concord GO Station would be located between the Rutherford GO and Downsview Park GO stations.
- ▶ The Kirby GO station would be located between the King City GO and Maple GO stations.

Community Safety Initiatives

CALL TO ACTION

- **Bail Reform:** The City of Vaughan urges the federal government to modernize bail reform to keep dangerous offenders off the streets by working more closely with local government stakeholders, including front-line first responders, among others.
- **Canadian Border Services:** The City of Vaughan encourages the federal government to review and enhance protocols by the Canadian Border Services Agency for the screening and/or inspection of exports leaving Canada. Reviews should be done in consultation with GTHA police services and other law enforcement partners to ensure Canada's approach is consistent with established best practices adopted by peer countries.
- **Home and Vehicle Safety Tax Credit:** The City of Vaughan calls on both governments to establish a Home & Vehicle Security Tax Credit that individuals could claim for a partial refund of the purchase of upgrades and devices relevant to home and vehicle security. Eligible devices could include, but need not be limited to, household alarm systems, anti-theft devices for vehicles, locks, smart doorbell devices and Faraday bags.

In Vaughan, 551 auto theft incidents were reported to YRP between January 1 to March 31, 2023. Since the beginning of this year 428 auto thefts have been reported, demonstrating an approximately 22 per cent decline in auto theft.

- Source: York Regional Police Community Safety Map

Support for Asylum Seekers in York Region

CALL TO ACTION

- The City of Vaughan requests that the federal government fund and implement a regional response that will coordinate asylum seekers' access to adequate shelter and support. The City does not have direct jurisdiction over immigration and refugee policies. Vaughan remains dedicated to working closely with all levels of government to ensure individuals seeking refuge in our city receive the necessary support and assistance.
- The City recognizes the invaluable contributions of local organizations. Collaborative efforts between these organizations and the City, along with York Region, provincial and federal governments, are crucial in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all residents, including refugee claimants and asylum seekers.

McMichael Canadian Art Collection – Revitalization & Capital Campaign

CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is expected to publicly announce a capital campaign for private donations once the Province confirms support for the capital renewal. The target for private contributions is \$50 million. To support the federal and provincial funding applications, it is recommended the Mayor of Vaughan provides his support for the funding requests via conversations with local MP/MPPs.

Next Steps

- ▶ The breakfast roundtable discussion was highly productive, and all government representatives appreciated the opportunity to engage with one another further.
- ▶ Moving forward, the City's Intergovernmental Relations Sub-Committee can serve as a critical forum for further and more frequent opportunities to advance the roundtable advocacy priorities and other city-building initiatives.
- ▶ City staff will continue to monitor for government announcements that present opportunities to secure funding.

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