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Communication

Intergovernmental Relations

Sub-Committee – September 16, 2024

Item No. 1

IGR Subcommittee's Priorities & Updates on Progress

September 16, 2024

Office of Communications and Economic Development

VAUGHAN CITY HALL

Background

- On April 5, 2024; the members of the Vaughan City Council met with the local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament.
- During the meeting members of the Council emphasized the need for provincial and federal partnership to achieve the Council's four priorities:
 - building Highway 7/Concord GO and Kirby GO Stations
 - strengthening community safety measures
 - enhancing intergovernmental coordination to support asylum seekers
 - supporting McMichael Canadian Art Collection's revitalization and capital campaign.

Priority #1: Establishing a Highway 7/Concord GO Station and Kirby GO Station

- Canada Public Transit Fund
 - Announced on July 17, 2024; this federal program will invest \$30 billion over the next ten years to expand the public transit networks and make them more accessible across the country.
- Zero-emission public transit for York Region
 - On July 5, 2024; the federal government announced an investment of \$76 million from its Zero Emission Transit Fund to help York Region procure 180 zero-emission buses, 91 battery electric chargers, and 14 on-route chargers.
- Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)
 - The federal and provincial governments reached a renewed Canada Community-Building Fund – CCBF (formerly known as the federal gas tax) agreement on June 5, 2024. The deal will result in the federal government investing \$4.7 billion in Ontario over the next five years.

Priority #2: Community Safety

- To confront hate in all its forms including antisemitism and Islamophobia, the federal government has allocated \$273.6 million (to be spent over the next six years) to implement Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate.
- The federal government released the National Action Plan on Combatting Auto Theft and announced the deployment of a mobile X-ray scanner.
- The provincial government tabled Bill 197, *Safer Roads and Communities Act, 2024* which entails a 10-year license suspension for individuals convicted of auto theft following their first conviction, 15 years for their second, and a lifetime license suspension for their third conviction.
- The provincial government will invest \$134 million to purchase five new police helicopters for use in Durham, Halton, Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto to combat violent carjackings, auto theft, street racing, and impaired driving.
- There has been a 33% drop in auto theft this year compared to last year in Vaughan.

Priority #3: Support for Asylum Seekers in York Region

- In this year's budget, the federal government has allocated \$1.1 billion over three years to help Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) extend the Interim Housing Assistance Program.
- The federal government will invest \$743.5 million over five years to help IRCC, the Canada Border Services Agency, and the Immigration and Refugee Board strengthen the integrity of Canada's asylum system.
- The federal government will introduce changes to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* to simplify and streamline the claims process for faster decision-making and quicker removals.

Priority #4: McMichael Canadian Art Collection – Revitalization & Capital Campaign

- The \$150 million capital renewal project addresses McMichael's aged and failing building systems (such as fire suppression system, electrical system, etc.) while also ensuring all spaces are optimally designed and used, enhancing the visitor experience.
- No such capital project of this scale has been undertaken at McMichael since 1983.
- McMichael expects that the required \$150 million of funding will be shared equally between the province, the federal government, and private donors. So far, the federal government has committed to investing \$25 million.
- Since the City of Vaughan MP/MPP Breakfast, staff have continued to work with McMichael to advance Vaughan as a hub for the creative industries. This includes supporting their applications to various funders as well as supporting business development for the gallery through partnership/collaboration on various tourism-related initiatives and with professionals in place-making.