

**C1.**  
**Communication**  
**Intergovernmental Relations**  
**Sub-Committee – April 13, 2026**  
**Item No. 1**

# **IGR Sub-Committee Term in Review**

**2022-2026 Council Term**



# Background

- ▶ In September 2022, Council endorsed a Member's Resolution requesting a report outlining intergovernmental relations strategic support.
  - Council then established the IGR Sub-Committee in December 2022, and in May 2023, approved a Strategic Intergovernmental Relations Framework.
- ▶ The approved strategy for the City's IGR efforts is guided by three strategic actions:
  - **Identify:** Identify Council-approved priorities requiring IGR support, including non-taxation funding sources and grant opportunities
  - **Advocate:** Develop communications and briefing materials to advance city-building projects with other levels of government.
  - **Collaborate:** Align Council-approved priorities with other government priorities and work across agencies and governments to deliver win-win outcomes.

# Sub-Committee Objectives

- ▶ The inaugural meeting took place on November 2, 2023, with subsequent meetings every year since.
- ▶ The Sub-Committee's objectives include:
  - To identify and inform opportunities to advocate on City priorities; and
  - To provide new opportunities to advance City priorities; and
  - To receive regular updates and briefings on emerging issues and advocacy effort progress, including briefings from other organizations and levels of government.

# MP/MPP Breakfast Roundtables

- ▶ In January 2024, Local and Regional Councillor Ferri introduced a Member's Resolution to establish a breakfast roundtable event with local MPs and MPPs to discuss various local priorities, including:
  - Establishing a Hwy 7/Concord GO station and Kirby GO station.
  - Community safety initiatives.
  - Support for asylum seekers in York Region.
  - McMichael Canadian Art Collection –Revitalization and Capital Campaign.
- ▶ Following the success of this event in April 2024, Council endorsed hosting a second event in November 2025, where additional advocacy priorities were discussed, including:
  - Community safety and well-being of residents.
  - Housing accessibility and affordability, especially for first-time home buyers.
  - Transportation and mobility, in particular, the Council approved Nine-point Action Plan to Fight Traffic Gridlock.

# Key Initiatives: Advocacy and the Mayor's IGR Mandate

- ▶ The Mayor's leadership on intergovernmental relations has been a defining feature of the 2022-2026 Council term. The Sub-Committee's work has directly supported advocacy efforts that contributed to significant funding outcomes for city-building priorities.
- ▶ These funding outcomes included:
  - \$35 million of provincial investment in September 2024 through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund that will support building water infrastructure that will enable the construction of 20,000+ new homes.
  - \$9 million provincial allocation for York University Medical School in Vaughan.
  - Council's decision to reduce development charges by 50 per cent to address the housing affordability crisis.

# Key Initiatives: Stakeholder Engagement – AMO, FCM and GTAA

- ▶ The Sub-Committee has served as a collaborative forum for external stakeholder organizations to engage the City and align advocacy efforts.
- ▶ Engagements include:
  - AMO and FCM presented to the April 2024 meeting, coinciding with the Federal and Provincial budgets, where they emphasized advocacy for housing and infrastructure funding.
  - FCM has been a long-standing grant funding partner that has supported the City's alternative revenue generation efforts.
  - City staff participate in annual AMO and FCM conferences and report back to the Sub-Committee.
  - The GTAA has provided a link between the City and GTAA for airport operations updates. An Open House was also held at City Hall in December 2024 to address noise pollution concerns.

# Key Initiatives: Constituent Advocacy

- ▶ The Sub-Committee has served as a forum for Members of Council to raise emerging issues important to residents and translate them into formal advocacy actions.
  - In response to public inquiries raised by Ward 3 Councillor DeFrancesca regarding Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board application backlogs, the Sub-Committee advanced a motion to request correspondence be sent to the Ministry of the Attorney General calling for urgent action to fund the resources needed to clear the backlog of landlord-tenant disputes.
- ▶ This demonstrated the Sub-Committee's ability to translate resident concerns into formal advocacy actions.

# Key Initiatives: International Missions and Economic Partnerships

- ▶ The Sub-Committee has received briefings on international missions that advanced economic and cultural development, including:
  - **2024 Northern and Central Italy Mission** – the delegation held a roundtable at the Italian Parliament and met with Canada’s Consul to Milan.
    - This led to participation in Global Affairs Canada’s Trade Commissioner Service Investment Roadshow where staff met with investment leads in Milan and Madrid.
  - **City of Sora** – Vaughan renewed its friendship agreement advancing youth, culture, tourism and education exchange opportunities.
  - **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact** – the Economic Development team participated in this conference in October 2025 as part of a broader trade mission to Italy focused on advancing trade and investment opportunities in the agrifood processing sector.

# Key Initiatives: International Missions and Economic Partnerships Cont'd

- **City of Grand Rapids Sister City Initiative** – Grand Rapids was identified as a strategic partner with strong cultural and economic alignment to Vaughan. Progress continues as Grand Rapids formally voted to expand the program to include Vaughan as its seventh partner and the first Canadian partner.
  - Subject to Council approval, this partnership will be formalized at a signing in May, 2026.
- **City of Verona Partnership** – During the 2024 Italy mission, staff also engaged with officials in Verona who expressed interest in a partnership with Vaughan. Verona is a hub for the economy of northeastern Italy, and staff will report back in a future Committee of the Whole Report.

# Key Initiatives: Alternative Revenue Generation – Grant Funding

- ▶ Grant funding updates are a standing agenda item for the Sub-Committee, supporting internal collaboration on alternative revenue generation.
  - This funding provides an alternative revenue stream to meet critical capital and operating needs without relying on taxation, development charges and service fees.
- ▶ In 2025, the City was awarded over **\$34.7 million** in grant funding across priority areas including Transportation and Mobility, City Building, Environmental Sustainability, Active and Inclusive Communities, Community Safety and Wellbeing and Economic Prosperity and Job Creation.
- ▶ 43 applications were submitted in 2025 and the amount received demonstrates the effectiveness of the City's centralized Grant Funding Policy.

# Key Initiatives: Leadership in Municipal Government Relations

- ▶ The City is a member of the Municipal Government Relations Network (MGRN), a working group of Ontario municipal intergovernmental affairs professionals sharing best practices.
- ▶ Vaughan hosted the MGRN in 2019 welcoming 14 municipalities and four regions.
- ▶ Building on that success, the City will host the 2026 MGRN meeting on May 22, 2026 at City Hall, welcoming approximately 40 municipal government relations professionals.
- ▶ The event will feature presentations on Canada-US relations and their impact on municipalities, as well as best practices for municipal elections and transition between Council terms.
- ▶ The meeting will also highlight the work of Vaughan's IGR Sub-Committee as a model for peer municipalities.

# Broader Regional Impacts and Considerations

- ▶ The Sub-Committee has been an important forum to provide vital information and explore the alignment of budgets, resources and priorities across levels of government and external stakeholders.
- ▶ Vaughan's growing capacity to secure non-taxation revenue through grants – over \$34.7 million in 2025 – reduces fiscal pressure at both the municipal and regional levels.
- ▶ This strengthens intermunicipal alignment, supports regional policy objectives and reinforces York Region's long-term sustainability and prosperity.

# Conclusion

- ▶ Through the 2022-2026 Council term, Vaughan has established a structured, strategic approach to intergovernmental relations, delivering meaningful results for residents.
- ▶ The Mayor's leadership, supported by the Sub-Committee and the Strategic IGR Framework, produced significant funding outcomes and strengthened advocacy with all orders of government.
- ▶ The Sub-Committee served as a vital working group for briefing Council, engaging stakeholders and enabling public participation on matters of importance.
- ▶ International missions and partnerships reflect the global dimension of Vaughan's IGR efforts.
- ▶ The evolving national and international landscape underscores the continued importance of robust intergovernmental relations.



# Thank you!

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