



June 28, 2022

Chair Iannicca & Members of Regional Council  
Regional Municipality of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Dr.,  
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

Dear Chair and Members of Regional Council:

It is anticipated that a report will come before Regional Council on July 7<sup>th</sup> that outlines and seeks Council support for Peel Public Health's intention to open pilot supervised consumption sites in the Region of Peel, including one in downtown Brampton.

While the Brampton Board of Trade is supportive of the stated aim of improving public health outcomes and reducing substance-related overdoses and deaths, our business community is concerned that Regional Council is being asked to approve this pilot project with very incomplete information. In two meetings with Peel Public Health it is our assessment that the project plan outlined by the office of the Medical Officer of Health is flawed. The implication of a faulty project plan is that Council and taxpayers are being asked to assume a number of unknown health and safety risks and potentially long-term property tax liability. To be clear, funding by the province of Ontario is not guaranteed and the Region's flawed process makes the probability of Peel Public Health receiving funding that much more unlikely.

Although the re-engagement process on this issue began in November of 2021, the office of the Medical Officer of Health has chosen to delay meetings with the business community until recent weeks. As well, despite insufficient time to ask questions of representatives of the Medical Officer of Health, our advice to implement a fair dialogue with the community before requesting funding from Regional Council has been ignored.

Business community questions such as the amount Regional Council is being asked to allocate, and for what, as well as the timeline and process for procuring a site provider, have not been answered. Without a fair process of consultation with area businesses, Regional Council is provided with only a one-sided bureaucratic point of view and Regional Council is being asked to assume a number of unknown risks.

It is important that prior to making any decision on allocating funds, contracting a provider or approving a location, Regional Council must convince itself that a fair engagement process has been undertaken and be fully aware of the location and its economic impact.

Specificity is important. A supervised consumption site located near our regional Brampton GO Station, which is a gateway to downtown Brampton, or anywhere in Brampton's Innovation District is an incompatible use. Because of the wholly inadequate engagement process to date, Brampton businesses feel cheated by the process. In addition, the office of the Medical Officer of Health has not been adequately briefed on the views of downtown residents, when the last safe injection site proposal was presented. These are significant issues that require serious consideration and dialogue before Regional Council should be asked to expend further taxpayers dollars.

Further, the Region's plan to locate a supervised consumption site is in direct conflict with the City's plan to develop a downtown Innovation District. When the report comes before Regional Council it is the Board of Trade's position that Council should deny this request for funding and ask that Peel Public Health bring back a proposal only at a time when better and more detailed information can be provided, including:

- A plan for meaningful consultation with businesses
- A specific location for consideration
- A process for selecting a service provider
- An assessment and mitigation strategy for surrounding communities
- An economic impact analysis including business survey
- A consumer survey
- A resident survey
- A benchmark report on the experience of other businesses communities with supervised consumption sites

As demonstrated by the non-exhaustive list above, there are many points of clarification required before Regional Council can make an informed decision on this request. Additionally, it is our view that the request would be more appropriately brought to the Government of Ontario for funding through an existing stream and after a fair consultation.

The Brampton Board of Trade values being a collaborative partner that is supportive of important public health initiatives. We have demonstrated this in the recent past through our steadfast promotion of efforts to increase vaccination against COVID-19, including by helping to facilitate on-site vaccination at major employers.

The Brampton Board of Trade looks forward to Regional Council's review of the incoming staff report and would be pleased to discuss our concerns with you at any time.

Sincerely,



Todd Letts, MBA CCE  
CEO, Brampton Board of Trade

cc: Brampton City Council  
Downtown Brampton BIA