

ToughTimes

Nothing about Us, Without Us, Is for Us



LEGAL ACTION THREATENED AGAINST REGENERATION BRAMPTON



Screenshot via Tough Times Homeless in Peel 2023 video where guests of Regeneration Outreach speak about worsening conditions following COVID.

By: Tough Times

For more than 25 years, Regeneration Outreach Community has offered vital food programs, addiction supports and food programs. For the past 10 years it has occupied space at Grace United Church in downtown Brampton.

The City of Brampton and Region of Peel have benefited from Regeneration's frontline knowledge to shape policy and programs, which have saved costs, and led to better outcomes for distressed individuals.

On July 17, Brampton City Council directed the city solicitor to issue a formal letter threatening legal action to Regeneration Outreach and Grace United Church. Council claimed Regeneration operations were causing concern to residents' public safety issues stemming from visitors to their site.

Regeneration told the Brampton Guardian it was blindsided by the threat of the letter and was not invited to the town hall meeting to hear residents issue their complaints.

The July 17 motion sets legal action should Regeneration not take corrective action for

residents' safety concerns which go against neighbourhood character. Corrective steps include hiring private security and deterring loitering. With the limited resources, funding, and operating hours, Regeneration cannot monitor their site all times.

Increased loitering in Brampton is an impact of Region of Peel's "No-Encampment Zones" enforcement as part of its coordinated homeless response program. Individuals cleared from encampments shift between overcrowded shelters and other spaces such as Grace United Church.

Regeneration has been searching for a new site for over a year. Its current lease with Grace United expires and Regen services require more space to serve guests.

In Open Letter published on social media, Regeneration states it cannot solve this issue alone. It requests support from the city and has willingness to "move forward together". Read it here in Tough Times.

PPAG and Regeneration have a legacy relationship.

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ppag.media

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Ontario Health Coalitions
Boys and Girls Club

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PPAG's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues. Tough Times is part of that. PPAG is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people. It provides a safe place to speak up and out.

As Tough Times prepared to go to press, our readership is preparing to "get back to school". Our cover story on Regeneration Outreach -- as it continues to unfold for a third decade -- is an abysmal example of upstream failed math and inaction on how to develop living conditions where folks can thrive.

By math, I mean the fundamental science that explores patterns, structures and change. There is evidently a delta between what exists in the world, and what bounces around as beliefs inside decisionmaker brains.

Back-to-school for some families feels the ripple effect of hard turn, away from summer activities back into wintering mode. Stressors increase for their children and youth socially and as ever-growing beings.

For other families, summer activities were thwarted by excessive heat both indoors and out, oppressive forest fire fog, family job loss.

Workplace-only adults are not immune to impacts upon

colleagues or clients as home life and commuting adjustments run tempo rubato against daily schedules.

One example of upstream bad math which will have impact by 2035: The loss of Canada Summer Jobs funding for Knights Table and BCG Peel interns. It's not a simple belt-cinching exercise for the non-profit sector.

The budget move thwarts youth opportunity, which changes everything. Sure, a few funder budget bucks get clawed back but the opportunity cost is priceless, and impossible to recover.

Non-profits may not be able to run a program. They lose ROI on overhead budget when operations lay idle. The hopeful intern loses calendar time in their life, that they will not get back. Non-profits see the entire client family sharing the burden of disappointment of their job seeker.

Some good math is in the pipes – the promise of new, culturally honed resident physicians. Let's Get Together efforts with its TechCollect

program to broadly equip learners and earners with digital devices, wifi and know-how and the Introduction to Science Rendezvous each May appraises students and families of pathways to STEM.

As budgets do math at every level, PPAG has an eye on the August 28 calendar to nudge federal policies for budget 2026.

In my own experience, the good math to get the change we want to see in the world is via a democratic vote. I mapped how voter turnout increased where volunteerism led to improved student outcomes.

PPAG is enthusiastic to celebrate its 10-year beta experience with Vote PopUp to engage youth and their supportive network of adults to learn more about how to shape issues now to get the results they want to see in 2035.

We'll see you folks again in October.

-C. Soplet





By: Regeneration Outreach

For over 20 years, Regeneration Outreach Community has served as a lifeline for Brampton's most vulnerable, those facing homelessness, addiction, trauma, and poverty.

We provide life-stabilizing care, housing navigation, daily meals, and support services that help people move toward stability and dignity.

We recognize and hear the concerns of nearby residents and the City of Brampton. Safety matters to us, to our neighbours, and to those we serve. We share the goal of creating a safe, welcoming community for everyone.

The issues that confront us, mental illness, substance use, and the severe lack of affordable housing in Peel Region are complex and systemic. They cannot be solved by enforcement alone, nor by service agencies working in isolation.

We remain deeply committed to working in partnership toward solutions that protect both safety and human dignity.

In 2024, Regeneration served 45,228 meals—a 13% increase from 2023. Each day, 150–200 people come through our doors seeking community, referrals, and crisis support.

Local Homelessness in Peel Region has risen 93% since 2021 (Everyone Counts Peel 2024). Our operations at Grace United Church are stretched in both operational hours and facility space, but we remain committed to doing our part.

We know we can do more with the right partnerships and collaboration, particularly with partners like the City of Brampton.

This is why on July 12, 2024, we presented to Brampton City Council, requesting support to secure a long-term, appropriate facility near our current location—one that will meet the needs of our guests. Council passed a motion directing City staff to investigate options. We remain ready to move forward together.

Affordable housing, treatment programs, and emergency shelters are stretched beyond capacity. Regeneration has always operated as a bridge, doing our part while long-term solutions are developed.

We cannot solve this crisis alone, and we will not walk away from those who rely on us.

We do not abandon our neighbours.

"The need for care of homeless people has always been most sharply focused on Brampton's downtown. It was like this before any councillors were elected, and will probably stay that way for many years. Attacking Regen won't fix the underlying issues."

-*Sylvia Menezes Roberts*

"Brampton is trying to sue a charity for feeding the homeless. Council's decision—made behind the shield of procedural language and legalese—sends a chilling message: compassion is only acceptable when it fits neatly into bureaucratic boxes. This is not about public safety. This is not about zoning. This is about optics. And property values. And the discomfort middle-class voters feel when poverty becomes visible.

Apparently, it's more palatable for the city to hide the homeless than to help them. This motion isn't just a blow to the homeless. It's a warning shot to every grassroots organization in Brampton: be careful how much you help, or where, or whom. Because if your kindness becomes inconvenient, the city might just sue you too."

-*Wesley Jackson*

"Disappointing and potentially for all not for profit organization and charities across the City. This is the last thing our most vulnerable communities needs. There is always a better way, better solution. We need to help protect their human dignity, end homelessness and keep everyone safe. We need to do and be better, Brampton."

-*Michael Gyovai*

" Instead of finding out how they can HELP with the problems at hand they choose to threaten ? Where will this charity go other than where the unhoused population IS. They are there whether you see them or not.

-*Christina Rose Marshall*

By: Juliana Allin

I'm a resident of the "Alexander, Union, and Church Streets" community in downtown Brampton. On July 17 a group of my neighbours attended a special city council meeting claiming to represent our neighbourhood, but I was not represented.

At the meeting, this group vilified the Regeneration Outreach Program, Grace United Church, and the many people who rely on these places for food, showers, and social support services.

This created impetus for my local city councillor, Rowena Santos; Brampton Mayor, Patrick Brown; and the rest of Brampton's city council to threaten legal action against Regeneration and the church that houses it.

They did this despite Regeneration asking for help from the city to move a year prior, and at a time when funding and support for charities, food banks, healthcare, and housing are at an all time low, leaving places like Regeneration stretched thin.

I'm well aware of the impacts of the housing

and addictions crises affecting not just my neighbourhood, but neighbourhoods across the province, and it's distressing to be affected by the desperate actions people are doing here to stay alive.

**// THERE ARE
KNOWN SOLUTIONS
THAT ARE BEING
IGNORED //**

However, unlike the group who attended the July 17 meeting, I don't see the folks who congregate on the steps of Grace United Church and rely on the services provided by the Regeneration Outreach Program as a problem: I see these people as my neighbours.

Attacking and threatening the Regeneration Outreach Program and Grace United Church puts the onus on those organizations to "fix" the issues, but the onus to address the issues we face along Alexander, Union, and Church Streets—and beyond—is on our government.

There are known solutions that are being ignored, such as adopting a housing first approach to address homelessness, creating more supervised consumption sites, and increasing funding to community mental health and addictions services, as well as creating government managed infrastructure to support them.

It is deeply upsetting that these evidence-based approaches, or others like them, are not being advocated for or put into action by the government. I, as a member of the Residents of Alexander, Union, and Church Streets' neighbourhood, see another way forward. We all need safety. We all need shelter. We all need community. And we all deserve these things.

Attacking and threatening won't solve the problems. What's actually needed is for us to humanize those in need, collaborate with organizations like the Regeneration Outreach Program, advocate to our government to use forward-thinking approaches, and work together as a community of neighbours.

If we do this, then it's absolutely possible for all my neighbours to have what they need.

By: Mzwandile Poncana (Originally Published by The Brampton Guardian)

Michelle Bilek, on behalf of the Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG), submitted a formal letter to councillors opposing the city's motion, asking them to rescind the legal threats. She added the work of Regeneration is an essential service that "saves lives and fosters hope."

"While we understand and acknowledge the concerns raised by nearby residents and City officials, we believe these challenges reflect broader systemic issues like the growing mental health crisis, substance use, and the acute lack of affordable housing in Peel Region."

In an interview, Bilek also expressed anger and said Regeneration was being used as a scapegoat for issues such as crime and looting. Santos, and the City of Brampton, were labelling service providers as the

problem, when the real issue is the housing crisis, she said.

In the email that accompanied the letter sent to council, she added: "Enough. Only inhuman people would attack and deny the rights of marginalized people in such a manner, and the essential services that Regeneration Outreach provides."

Bilek said the legal threats made toward Grace United Church and Regeneration Outreach were inhumane. Bilek said this decision is politically motivated, and that councillors are only responding to the needs of voters who will keep them in power, and not to unhoused people.

PPAG has begun a letter-writing campaign that aims to put pressure on those responsible for the decision. If legal action

against the church and outreach hub moves forward, she says, they are prepared to escalate their response through protest and are exploring other forms of civil disobedience.

She also confirmed that PPAG plans to launch a voter-education effort, saying the group aims to support council candidates in Brampton who are committed to addressing poverty, housing and food insecurity in the 2026 municipal elections.

**READ THE
COMPLETE
ARTICLE**





Photo via Michelle Bilek

In early July, Peel Region approved its new Coordinated Homeless Encampment Response. The policies are intended to unify the strategies taken by the three Peel municipalities.

One of the core functions is the establishment of “No Encampment Zones.”

It states that expedited removal and enforcement of encampments can occur in areas owned by Peel, Brampton, Caledon or Mississauga where there are “significant health and safety concerns that cannot be mitigated.”

While the Region states that the preferred approach is for residents living in encampments to leave or relocate voluntarily, enforcement will be used “as a last resort.” When encampments are investigated or responded to, the Region says that outreach teams will be on-site with hygiene products, food and shelter referrals.

The Encampment response also emphasizes a commitment to the “do not turn away” policy at Peel’s emergency shelters. With those shelters operating at as much as 400% over capacity, the plan

doesn’t mean there will be the space to fill the additional demand created by encampment evictions.

They’ve previously used hotel rooms for overflow, which is a significant expense on top of the cost of clearing the encampments to begin with. With Peel receiving \$578 less per person annually from the Government of Ontario for municipal and social services compared to other regions, there are not enough resources to meet the needs of homeless individuals in Peel.

The list of no-encampment zones includes:

- Prominent municipal spaces regularly used for public gatherings.
- Municipal facilities where events with a permit are scheduled.
- Sites located within floodplains.
- Obstructing critical infrastructure sites.
- Active construction sites.
- Playgrounds, sports fields and any fenced-in, off-leash dog area, on any community garden, and in any garden shed or greenhouse.
- On or within any designated fire route, or the entrance to or exit from a designated fire route, or located so as to block any fire hydrant.
- On or within areas prone to erosion, slope instability, not serviced in winter, or other environmental hazards, due to risks to health and safety.

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REST CENTRES & OUR PLACE PEEL
ANNUAL BBQ

Mississauga Valley Park C
Park at the front of the building

info@restcentres.org 905-863-1118 **OR** info@ourplacepeel.org 905-238-1383

August 22, 2025 12-5PM
Co-Funded By: Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF)

LOADS OF CARE

Neighbours caring for the unhoused by providing access to a basic human need: **The Dignity of Clean Clothes**

“We provide free shower passes to our clients to be used at local community centres, but then they put on the same dirty clothes.”

Veroy Clarke, Community Development Coordinator, Open Window Hub, City of Mississauga

Providing Pre-paid Laundry Vouchers

“LOADS OF CARE” is a love and kindness initiative of local faith communities in partnership with City Councillor Martin Reid and the Peel Poverty Action Group for the good of Mississauga.

For more information contact Sam Cooper at scooper@meadcre.com
Or join us by donating at: www.meadowvalecommunitychurch.ca/giving



By: Michelle Bilek (Originally Published by The Pointer in June 2024)

Homeless encampments here in Peel Region are some of the most visible evidence of the failure by all levels of government to protect the human right of all community members to adequate housing. In Brampton, city officials have responded not by addressing what causes encampments but by evicting the people living there, who, like all of us, are searching for home and belonging.

Whether it is caused by divestment in community housing and non-market housing options, the financialization of the housing and non-market housing options, lack of skilled trades people, growing affordability issues, plateaued social assistance rates that have , and systemic underfunding to the Region for decades, the City of Brampton still must work together with Peel on solution-making.

The Region of Peel Homeless Encampment Policy and Joint Protocols, as indicated in the "Homelessness Policy and Programs" report to Regional Council dated October 26, 2023, states that more investment is needed in homelessness prevention, emergency response, and supportive housing to end chronic homelessness. The report also noted a need for a Council-endorsed encampment policy and protocols, to better manage the growing number of encampments in Peel. As a result, a project to create a new encampment policy and protocols began in April 2024.

Despite recommendations by the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate on Encamp-

ments, delegations by community members, certain members of Brampton council continue to apply political pressure, fuel fear among local citizens, and create distrust and mistrust between unhoused people, outreach teams, Regional staff and community members.

What I find strikingly clear and alarming, is that power holders (council members) are using people's lives for political play; covertly using bylaws; erecting signs in parks, issuing fines, citations, and removing belongings of people by paying security officials to evict encampment residents while telling constituents and business owners not to let community groups and other stakeholders find out what is happening.

Forced eviction is a serious violation of human rights. While there are exceptions to the legal prohibition on forcibly decamping residents for pressing safety concerns, evictions must still be undertaken according to human rights standards.

The fundamental human right to housing was recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Canada formally agreed to comply with the right to housing under international human rights law in 1976 when it ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

I also acknowledge that City of Brampton and council members are receiving many complaints and concerns of safety, theft, substance use and sanitation issues by other surrounding residents and businesses but, continuously undermining the work of the Region and support services and also putting tremendous pressure and responsibility for our homelessness crisis and encampments on Regional staff is not helpful.

Working alongside and supporting the Region of Peel would be more productive and responsive, and as we have seen, despite fiscal constraints, Housing and Homelessness services have gone above and beyond to take care of our most vulnerable community members. The City could better use its own tax base for funding to the Region for supports and providing their unused lands and properties for community housing and supportive housing. This would be a solution centred approach, unlike their current reactive responses of spending tax dollars on security and excavating encampments.

Over the last few months, the Region of Peel and Community partners have been able to transition many people along the Etobicoke Creek trails into temporary shelters in hotels, while respecting the individual needs of unhoused community members. But will a 400 percent overflow in the shelter system, the lack of sufficient funding and the additional pressure from the City of Brampton cause more chaos, anger and resentment?

// ENCAMPMENT RESIDENTS, LIKE ALL OF US, ARE SEARCHING FOR HOME AND BELONGING //

Encampment residents, like all of us, are searching for home and belonging and are entitled to their human rights. Too often, they are met not with empathy and empowerment, but criminalization and dehumanization. It is up to local authorities, in partnership with other levels of government, to fulfill their obligations to encampment residents and stop forcibly evicting them without regard to their legally protected human rights.

Note that this article has been shortened from its original 2024 publication.

Sharon just celebrated her 49th birthday. She's lived in Canada for 38 years. For the last six, she's been in a cycle of homelessness, moving from place to place.

"It started after my mom passed away. Shortly after that, my marriage broke down, and then I was on my own," Sharon says. "Since I was young, I worked and I saved my money. My eyes were never open, nor did I have the knowledge or awareness of homelessness or poverty."

The breakdown of her marriage affected her ability to function in her job. She left work. Sharon also found support in God and Christianity, which helps her daily.

"When things really got real in my life, I realized I needed more than just a friend to talk to. I needed divine help," she says. "I needed God to help me through each step and phase of my life."

She and her ex-husband had a house in Streetsville. When they divorced, she couldn't handle the mortgage on her own. She had to sell the house.

"I got a little inheritance, so I was paying the bills off that. Unfortunately, things were just getting worse. I had an addiction. I was drinking and smoking daily. I was hitting the bottle hard, I was depressed; I was becoming suicidal."

"I've never been so low, but I know God is teaching me something and giving me the desire and passion to help others." Sharon and her son moved to a condo. The money from the house ran out, and her addiction ate away her savings.

"I had to sit with the Word of God and say, I need you to help me through this, because I can't keep drinking, having this little child in the house." Sharon sent her son to live with his dad, she moved in with her aunt, taking the opportunity to work, sort out her debts and treat her addiction.

Her aunt told Sharon she needed to start saving up and find a better job or leave. Sharon found it an impossible task. She moved out. She lived in her car. She took out a small loan and rented a hotel.

"I didn't know that I could ask the government for assistance. If I knew, I probably wouldn't be where I am now," she says. "Nevertheless, I know it's part of God's plan, so I can be aware of what's happening in society."



// WE'RE
SQUISHING
PEOPLE
DOWN ON
THE BOTTOM //

In one home she and her son lived in, Another young man in the house was involved in 'guns and gangs'. She hadn't understood the severity until her son was misidentified while headed to school. "There were undercover cops watching the house," she says. "That made me run, next time it might not just be a grab."

Her son again returned to his father, and Sharon found herself in a shelter she only knew about because of outreach she'd done with her church.

"Through everything that I've been through, it's him. It's being based

on the Word of God that pulled me out of all the pits that I've been in, including right now."

Sharon maintains a brightness that even the shelter staff notice. She walks up and down the street, asking people if she can keep them in her prayers. "This is why I know the Lord allowed me to come into the shelter."

After buying cars, a house, paying taxes and working since 15 years old, Sharon doesn't understand how a few moments made and kept her homeless. She says something has to change. "How can I start back at 49? There's no way I can get there without help."

"If we work together, we all do better. We're squishing people down on the bottom. I choose to speak up and pray somebody with the right ears will hear."

SHELTERS IN PEEL

INTAKE LINE: 905-450-1996

If you need an immediate place to stay there are shelters available for youth, families, adults and people fleeing violence or abuse.

Due to high demand, priority for shelter placement is given to Peel Region residents when possible.

Shelters in Peel have 24-hour staffing and support from qualified professionals.

YOUTH 16 TO 24 YEARS

Our Place Peel
3579 Dixie Road, Mississauga
ourplacepeel.org

ADULT MEN 25+

Wilkinson Shelter
15 Wilkinson Road, Brampton

ADULTS 25+

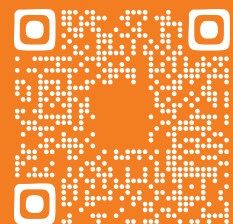
Cawthra Shelter
2500 Cawthra Road, Mississauga

ADULT WOMEN 25+

Haven House, Brampton
Call 437-688-263

FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENTS AND COUPLES

Surveyor's Shelter
2420 Surveyor Road, Mississauga





Looking for a reason to get out, laugh, and support a great cause?

The Giggles for Good 19+ comedy night FUNdraiser will be hosted by Andrew Chapman and feature performances by DK Phan and Hershawn Arora.

Enjoy a night of stand-up, tasty bites, and exciting raffles — all while supporting the Boys and Girls Club of Peel youth programs that build brighter futures.

Corporate and Local Business Table Sponsorship (8 Tickets) Available. In-Program and Social recognition will be provided. Please email Michael at mgyovai@bgcpeel.org

**PURCHASE
TICKETS**



Giggles for Good will take place at 6:30pm on September 20, 2025 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 139 (101 Church Street).



**By: Josslyn Johnstone
(Originally Published by UofT News)**

Having never taken the conventional path, Youness Robert-Tahiri is using an unexpected tool to support children who have experienced adversity – comedy. He believes it can help them build resilience and develop coping skills.

“I grew up in an abusive household and became homeless in high school trying to escape it,” says Robert-Tahiri, who is graduating from the University of Toronto with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

“Making people laugh helped me cope with what was happening in my life. Then in my 20s ... I committed to therapy and started to really understand how my upbringing affected my mental health.”

Before returning to school in his 30s, Robert-Tahiri spent a decade as a comedian and theatre actor. His entry point was an audition for a high school play, encouraged by his teacher Michelle Vingada – who remains one of his mentors.

To his surprise, he landed the lead role and discovered a passion that led him to theatre school in New York City. He specialized in performing and teaching improv comedy, later honing his skills back in Toronto at Bad Dog Theatre Company and The Second City Toronto. Today, he’s a burgeoning scientist who values curiosity and creativity.

UofT has an impressively comprehensive psychology program and the quality and variety of research opportunities available are unmatched,” says Robert-Tahiri, a member of Woodsworth College.

During his studies, he worked as a research assistant in Professor Jessica Sommerville’s Toronto Early Cognition Lab in the department of psychology in the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, as well as in the lab of Amanda Sharples, an assistant professor, teaching stream.

He also worked as a research assistant in Professor Becky Chen’s Multilingualism and Literacy Lab at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

“I started connecting the dots between comedy and psychology, exploring how humour could help kids work through trauma.”

With guidance from Ruth Speidel, assistant professor of developmental psychology and managing director of the Centre for Child Development, Mental Health, and Policy at U of T Mississauga, Robert-Tahiri designed a comedy-based mental health program for children.

It combines psychological themes with improv exercises to help kids facing adversity build confidence and emotional regulation skills.

With support from the Laidlaw Foundation, he piloted the project last summer with orphaned, abandoned and precariously housed youth at SOS Children's Villages in South Africa.

"In the program, there are psychoeducational components where we discuss concepts like hostile attribution bias and empathy. I'll ask kids, 'Why did your character feel that way? What does it remind you of in your own life?'" says Robert-Tahiri.

This is where acting comes in as a tool for reflection and understanding." He likens leading scientific research to directing a play – whether it's working with a standardized method, referencing a script, analyzing data or assessing feedback.

"Experimentation is what it's all about, in science and in art – you don't have to know every little step all the time. What's important is keeping an open mind and seeing where it leads."

Throughout his time at U of T, Robert-Tahiri looked for more ways to give back. He volunteered as a mentor with the

Woodsworth College Students' Association Mental Health and Equity Committee and the Psychology Students' Association, among others.

"I want to help students take advantage of the unique experiences that I've had during my undergrad," he says. "One of my most fulfilling experiences was a global mental

**// YOU DON'T
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STEP ALL OF
THE TIME. //**

health Summer Abroad course in Athens, Greece, which opened my eyes to different ways of healing, and scaling interventions."

As a mature student, Robert-Tahiri brought a unique perspective to his friend group, most of whom are in their early 20s. "Some of my friends struggle with balancing what

they should do and what they want to do," he says. "My advice to students who are figuring out their path is to keep that path flexible – and follow your interests."

It's the same advice that his high school mentor Vingada gave him years ago when he needed direction.

"Youness has this innate drive in him to find a way to make other people's lives better," Vingada says. "I'm so in awe of the genuine, positive person he's become."

After his convocation, Robert-Tahiri is heading back to Cape Town for the summer to continue working with SOS Children's Villages and mentor other Laidlaw scholars. He then plans to teach abroad for a year before pursuing graduate studies in clinical psychology and expanding his trauma-informed comedy program.

Robert-Tahiri says the lessons he's learned from improv continue to guide him.

"Improv is about possibility. It teaches you to say, 'Yes, and ...' – to take risks and get outside your comfort zone. That's where the real growth happens."

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF PEEL

The Boys and Girls Club of Peel is preparing for a successful 2025-2026 After School Program, in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, beginning in September. All other programs will start in October 2025.

August - September: BCG Peel is looking for school Supplies, Backpacks, and food gift cards.

October Food Drive: Food and Gift Cards welcome. Ideally \$25-50.00 per card.

Boys and Girls Club of Peel works to provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships, and develop confidence and skills for life.

For more information, contact Michael J. Gyovai, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director at mgyovai@bgcpeel.org.

**BACK 2 SCHOOL
IS COMING**

Corporate & Local Businesses
Sponsors Needed

AUGUST BACKPACK / SCHOOL SNACK DRIVE
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER HOLIDAY HAMPER

Contact Michael at mgyovai@bgcpeel.org



By: Jessica Chiang and the Family & Child Health Initiative



What does belonging mean to you?

You might answer this in a few words, or perhaps you have a story that goes with it. Reflexively, I answered this as “community and connection,” but reflecting deeper from the many identities I hold, it’s much more than that. What do those words really mean?

People are complex and we all have different parts of our identity that influence who we are. Understanding where our feelings of belonging come from can be important to shaping effective activities and changing narratives to be more inclusive and accessible.

I had the opportunity to work on a research project titled “Enhancing a sense of belonging through physical activity: “Active Community, Connected Community” with the Family and Child Health Initiative (FCHI). FCHI aims to improve the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in Peel region by centering community voices.

Our project aimed to understand what makes youth feel a sense of belonging and how to increase feelings of belonging, specifically in connection to physical activity opportunities for youth within Mississauga Valley’s schools and community spaces. We used a community based participatory research (CBPR)

approach, where we engaged community members like parents, caregivers, youth, and teachers, as well as community partners including Peel Public Health and the City of Mississauga.

Youth had the opportunity to reflect on what belonging means to them and expressed their perspectives by capturing photos and writing captions. They came together as a group and came up with 18 themes to summarize their findings: nature, food, animals, religion, self-care, hobbies, feet, relaxed, hanging out, special memories with friends/family /loved ones, family time, people spending time together, travel, home country, country, passions, favourite sports and fun times

To further engage community members, we held an event at the Valley’s community centre that centered around an exhibit featuring the youth’s photos and narratives, community partners and an activity that encouraged the community to share their ideas.

The research team found similarities and differences between these and the youth’s themes and brainstormed recommen-

dations with different groups in mind, with the goals of turning research into action.

One main recommendation is continuing to offer a variety of activities in the community centre that can also be done at home or in different spaces with others or independently. Incorporating the 18 themes into a guided story walk with a literal path and the imagery of journeys, memories, experiences and the future was also a major suggestion.

**“ EVERYONE’S
JOURNEY TO
BELONGING IS
DIFFERENT. ”**

Next steps will see this work co-designed with community organizations to cascade the work anchored in the youth’s photos and themes, continuing to develop their own paths, but also their community’s.

Have your thoughts on belonging changed? In the end, there is no right

answer. Everyone’s journey to belonging is different, and that journey can change as we grow and interact with different environments and others around us.

If you’re interested in learning more about this project, FCHI or getting involved, reach out to dianne.fierheller@thp.ca

1 NEED



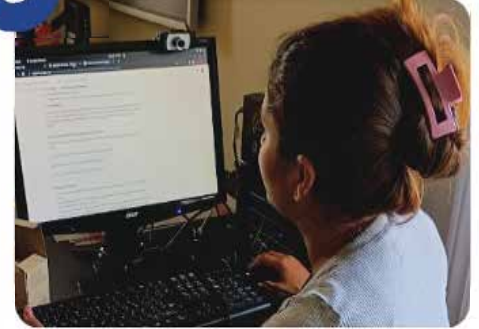
I need access to a computer to handle various tasks.

2 ACTION



LGT provided us with a computer to help us with our important tasks.

3 OUTCOME



A computer helped my family with school registration and job application more effectively.

Let's Get Together (LGT) repurposes donated technology to provide computers and devices to individuals and families who need them most. It benefits people who need access to technology and reduces the environmental impact of electronic waste.

"Tech equity in Canada starts with every person," says LGT founder Alison Canning. "Getting every person on the same roadmap and pointing in the same direction."

In the late 2010s, Alison was working with a high school volunteer during a backpacks for the community drive.

"I found out that she had a phone and was doing an 800-word essay and research on that phone, and didn't have an internet connection at home, so she relied on school or the library," she says. "That didn't set her up for success."

APPLY



DONATE



"That's when we switched to computers being the new backpacks," she says. "We have a responsibility to make sure that the pathway to education is as barrier-free as possible."

Everyone has an impact at Let's Get Together, whether that's as a volunteer or a partner. Choose Empathy over apathy. Learn, expand and make mistakes to build yourself and others.

You can make an impact now and make it last long.

Visit letsgettogether.ca to learn more or volunteer.

By a student, for students

LET'S GET TOGETHER presents BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS!

- 1 Continue to **encourage your child or youth to stay social with their friends and peers**. This will help them feel more connected by the time they get back to school.
- 2 Gradually **get back into school year structure and routines**. Bring up the topic that summer is coming to an end and that school will be restarting.
- 3 Consider posting a **family calendar with the school start date marked down**, to help your family see how many days are left until school starts.
- 4 **Set a screen curfew** (a "downtime" after which point there are no screens). For example 8-9 p.m. for school-aged kids and 8:30-9:30 p.m. for high-school aged kids.

FOR MORE TIPS, READ THIS PDF:
<https://www.cheo.on.ca/en/resources-and-support/resources/P6225E.pdf>



#LGTTechCollect
Green Planet



#LGTTechandMe
Digital Skills



#LGTTech4AllYouth
Life Skills



#LGTTech4All
Tech Equity



Health Coalitions across Canada want our provincial and federal leaders to succeed in the new international context dealing with the Trump presidency.

At this time, we urgently remind our political leaders that access to universal, comprehensive public health care is a core foundation of any just economy. Any governments that claim to prioritize the economy while ignoring the collapse of health care have lost their moral compass.

We remind our political leaders that the economy exists to serve people, not the other way around, and the economy is more than militarism and private sector projects. If a person falls ill or is injured and cannot access health care or mental health care, there is no economy for them.

If a 70-year-old goes to a private clinic and is forced to use their life savings and pay thousands of dollars for their surgery, what chance do they have to get out of poverty for the rest of their life? If a person has diabetes and cannot afford their insulin and supplies, what economy is there for them?

Our public health care is a nation-building success, still a source of national pride – and rightfully so. It is a cornerstone element of our public services that Canadians have built over a century to ease suffering and need, and to support people to live to their human potential.

The values of equity and compassion that underlie our public health care for all are foundational principles for our society. We expect our political leaders to champion these values while we reforge our national identity in the new international context.

As Canada's leaders meet, our public health care system is, without exaggeration, in

open crisis. Runaway privatization is taking funding and staff away from public health care services.

Staffing shortages are a national catastrophe, forcing emergency departments to close and leaving health care workers with impossible workloads while patients wait longer and suffer more.

// ANY GOVERNMENTS THAT CLAIM TO PRIORITIZE THE ECONOMY WHILE IGNORING THE COLLAPSE OF HEALTH CARE HAVE LOST THEIR MORAL COMPASS. //



Private clinics are violating the Canada Health Act, charging patients hundreds to thousands of dollars for surgeries and diagnostic tests in illegal user fees and extra-billing.

Seniors can't access the care they need. Mental health and addiction services are underfunded, subject to privatization and cuts, or are simply unavailable.

Millions still do not have access to family medicine. The implementation of the first

phase of pharmacare (drug coverage for all) has stalled.

All this is happening as billions are poured into militarization and border enforcement — billions earmarked for Donald Trump's priorities while the urgent daily health care needs of people across Canada are not being addressed.

While our political leaders talk about new "nation-building" plans, those things that have created equity and a more just society in our nation-building over the last century are at risk: a world class public health care system; environmental and labour protections; and, the first steps toward reconciliation with First Nations and Indigenous Peoples.

If the only pressure our governments feel comes from Donald Trump and the corporate agenda, we will lose what we value most.

We reject expanding war budgets and gutting regulatory protections while patients and health care workers are left to beg for care.

We demand adequate funding for public health care, action to safeguard and uphold the Canada Health Act, an end to rampant privatization schemes and deregulation of public interest protections led by the governments in Ontario and Alberta, and true public solutions to the crisis.

Now is the time to stand up for public health care and the values it represents: equity, compassion, dignity, and care for all.

Canadians overwhelmingly support our public system. It cannot wait. It's time for governments to listen — and act.



On July 22, 2025 Mississauga Health Coalition joined hundreds of public health care advocates from across Canada in a "Shadow Summit" to send a message to all of Canada's premiers: Keep Healthcare Public.

The Premiers from across Canada and Prime Minister Carney were meeting just down the road from Huntsville, at Deerhurst Resort, for the annual meeting of The Council of the Federation.

At the Shadow Summit, advocates from across the country shared updates about the open crisis in public health care and how it is being experienced in different provinces, the privatization being pushed by premiers like Doug Ford and Danielle Smith, and where the fightback to stop privatization has succeeded.

In the context of US tariffs, budget deficits and increasing international militarization, the "Shadow Summit" coalition called on

premiers not to lose focus on public health amid trade talks.

"At issue is the proposed \$25 billion in cuts to federal funding for public services like health care that would be devastating to those things that make Canada better and unique from the U.S.," ran a joint statement from the Ontario and Canadian Healthcare Coalition with the Ontario Federation of Labour.

"All of us want our country to do well," said Ontario Health Coalition executive director Natalie Mehra, reported by The Trillium.

"Without a healthy population, we're never going to have a healthy economy," said Jason MacLean, chair of the Canadian Health Coalition, as reported by MyMuskokaNow. "We need universally accessible, publicly funded, publicly delivered health care. And that's what's needed here in Canada today."

**LABOUR DAY
WEEKEND
EVENT**

**Gage Park
Brampton**

Free Food

Giveaways

ALL WELCOME!

FREE ENTRY

August 31 11am-2pm

PEEL REGIONAL
LABOUR COUNCIL

**NOTHING
ABOUT
US
WITHOUT
US
IS FOR
US**



By: Catherine Sople

"It was March 26, 2020 that we set up our first Free Food table - a wintry day, 2 weeks into the COVID lockdown", says Mr. William Graham, MS E.d.

Graham, an octagenarian Veteran who saw WWII combat action, and his wife Shirley, a retired educator, set up two "Free Food" tables on Dundas Street in Cooksville.

Then they started to deliver food and necessary supplies to those they knew were in encampment areas or stranded in other outside areas, unable to access Region of Peel's over-capacity shelters.

"By taking food to folks where they are, we can serve some of the people that Food Banks Mississauga and Regeneration Outreach Community cannot reach," says Graham. Information about these and other vital organizations are made available to service seekers.

In 2020, the first food contributions came from individuals in local churches, members of Royal Canadian Legion - Cooksville Branch 582, members of Knights of Columbus Council 12706 and Regeneration Food Bank. As COVID relief established, Mississauga Food Bank became a provisioner.

To this day, each Saturday Cooksville Legion Ladies Auxiliary prepares fresh sandwiches that are set out on the Free Food tables. Peel Helping Hands network also sets out meals.

Tables are not monitored, but replenished at least once per day. Local anonymous donors bring water bottles or unopened food with current expiration dates directly to the tables.

Through regular outreach via e-mail, since 2020 Graham sends updates to the Free Food table supporters network. He writes of of need witnessed- a young woman sleeping in a park for 10 days -- , and the folks for whom food supply made all the difference - a grateful middle-aged ODSP recipient had no money left for food at the end of the month found a meal that got him through the night.

Graham's observations have been since July 2023 backed up by Free Food table monthly data reports.

There is more people in need. Donations are levelling off and dipping somewhat and -- winter is coming.

July 2023 reported over 8 thousand pounds of food collected and over 1,000 people served. November 2024 numbers jumped to more than 20,000 pounds of food collected and 3100 people served.

Now, in July 2025 there was 22,000 pounds of food collected and 3440 people served. Over the past 5 years, Graham has drawn his narrative and his numbers to the attention of local politicians and services providers in delegations and letters to City and Region of Peel Councils .

He is deeply frustrated by the gaps for housing and homelessness solutions that are overextending the Cooksville Free Food tables intended as a temporary COVID emergency response.

"Leave no Neighbour behind" is the motto of Knights of Columbus, a faith-based community service organization of which Graham is a member. "We (Shirley and myself) are honored and privileged to be able to serve our neighbors in need in this way," he says.

"However, we are just the delivery people and could do very little without the magnificent support in this community. We are grateful for their help."

If you are part of a Church, School, Store or Social group or just an individual, and want to help, your help is needed and appreciated by ourselves and those who we are privileged to serve. You might decide to have a food drive at regular intervals.

The mandated pandemic lockdown shuttered all food banks, shelters, public access to warming spaces and wi-fi such as public libraries, community centers, faith and cultural centres and even take-out restaurants. COVID lockdowns continued intermittently for 27 months until June 2022 when emergency restrictions were lifted. Even lifted, conditions have nonetheless worsened.

Since fall 2023, at least once daily Graham and Shirley fill five Free Food tables spanning Dundas Street from east of Dixie Road Erindale Station Road, close to bus stops.

JULY 2025 REPORT: FREE FOOD TABLES

Five tables on Dundas St. filled one or more times per day.

Food received: 13,836 pounds.
Estimated persons served: 2,161
Sandwiches: 730 + 360 Meals

Added to tables without their knowledge (approximations):

Food: 8,200 pounds
Meals + Sandwiches: 820



By: Food Banks Mississauga

Luis worked in the corporate world for almost 35 years and did "everything right". He describes his life as comfortable – he provided for his family and made "astute, prudent financial decisions", paying off his house and saving money in his nest egg for retirement.

His career was demanding, and he loved it. He felt fortunate to be able to provide for his family and couldn't have imagined what his later years would hold.

All of a sudden, it seemed that Luis was getting hit with one difficult event after another: a breakdown of his marriage, the passing of his mother, a poor health diagnosis for his father and the difficult and expensive decision to put him in a seniors home.

"A lot of events happened, one after the other. It was like I was getting over one thing, and then something else would happen."

With the stress of all these events, something was triggered in Luis. "I got extremely ill, extremely sick to the point where I couldn't function. I was falling apart... when you have a broken arm or a broken leg or a scar, people can see it, and the thing is, you know what? When it's here-" Luis points

to his head. "People don't see it." Although Luis started receiving much-needed medical help, he was off work on disability. He received a portion of his salary during this time, but it wasn't enough to keep up with his existing payments and bills.

"I mean, my car payments are still the same, the insurance is still the same, electricity is still the same, that never changes, right? I ended up going through my savings. I used my nest egg and my savings just to kind of keep afloat... It's almost like you're running in place, like you're going nowhere fast."

Eventually, Luis lost his house, and that's when he finally turned to his neighbourhood food bank for support. Stories like Luis' unfortunately, aren't uncommon. There are a multitude of different reasons why someone might need to turn to a food bank, and every single one of those reasons is valid.

Food Banks Mississauga leads a network of 60+ food programs across Mississauga, and through this network, they provide food for almost 10 million meals each year to over 56,000 neighbours living with food insecurity in all corners of the city.



If you would like to support neighbours like Luis in need, visit [foodbanksmississauga.ca/donate](https://www.foodbanksmississauga.ca/donate)



Every week, Sai Dham Food Bank's Homeless program, through its mobile stations, distributes hampers to address hunger relief and food insecurity.

Each hamper offers essential nutrition and supplies for those in need, including:

- Fresh and frozen food items
- Baked goods
- Fruits
- Hygiene products
- Ready-to-eat hot meals
- Water and beverages
- Seasonal essentials like sleeping bags
- More

These hampers provide nutritious meals and basic support, empowering recipients with a sense of dignity. Donate today to help end hunger, support local food banks, and create lasting social impact. The program is available 24/7 and year-round. It's designed to support low-income families, people with disabilities, seniors, and those in urgent situations. You can register to request a hamper by calling 437-988-4422.

Sai Dham also offers a student grocery program for full and part-time students at Ontario colleges and universities who hold a valid student ID.



REGISTER FOR THE STUDENT GROCERY PROGRAM

Every three months, registered students under this program receive a carefully curated hamper, designed to provide essential nutrition and support for a balanced lifestyle. The quantities provided ensure that students are sustained until the next hamper is available for pick-up. The program currently serves over 10,353 registered students across 49+ colleges and universities in major Ontario cities.



ACORN members took a break in welcome shade at Port Credit public library in July at a Speak-Up held in the nearby park to introduce Indoor Inferno Challenge.

Is it dangerously hot in your home? Is cooling inaccessible, too expensive or downright ineffective in your apartment? Ontario ACORN is launching a contest to see just how bad it gets!

Heat complaints are a health and safety issue, connected to EMS Emergency Medical Services calls. Prevention with cooling is way cheaper on city budgets, and better life for you.

Share photos that show how hot it is inside your apartment. Need some ideas?

The Peel ACORN Tenant Survey Report will be presented to Brampton and Mississauga when City Council resumes in September.

- Take a pic of you holding up your thermometer (with the temperature visible and legible)
- Show your elaborate fan set up
- Take a selfie with your icepacks, cold towels and whatever else you use to stay cool in a heatwave!

ACORN encourages all residents to get on the record when you experience extreme heat. Make a confidential complaint to the City by calling 311.

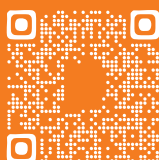
ENTER THE CHALLENGE



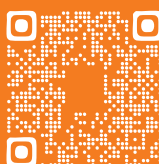
FORM LINK

HEAT RESOURCES IN THE REGION OF PEEL

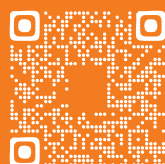
MISSISSAUGA



CALEDON



BRAMPTON



STAYING SAFE DURING A HEAT WAVE

High temperatures can be deadly. The risk of heat-related illnesses increases with the temperature, time spent indoors, and individual sensitivity.

This includes shopping centres, community centres, libraries and homeless shelters.

Children, seniors, and those with chronic illnesses are most at risk.

Heat warnings are issued when, for two consecutive days, temperatures are expected to be above 31C in the day, 20C overnight, or a reach a humidex value of over 40C.

During heat warnings, the Region of Peel encourages individuals to seek shelter in public spaces with air conditioning.

In extreme heat, Peel municipalities will open cooling centres and public spaces to offer heat relief.



The Peel Youth Charter was created in October of 2007. Eleven signatories unanimously adopted the Charter on behalf of civic and policing partners. In 2018, the Peel Poverty Action Group advocated for a re-endorsement of the Charter, with greater youth involvement. Mississauga Ward 9 Councillor Martin Reid says that he wants to revisit and update it based on the changing needs of the community.

How far along are you in the process?

Really, really early. I've started to kind of plant that seed with people, and other people are starting to ask the same questions. We just approved the new Community Safety and Wellbeing Framework at Council and that was done very well. We had the right people at the table through the process. Now we can look at how we're going to engage the charter off of that document. Everyone has all these strategy documents, so I want to bring them all together to form this new charter.

The original Youth Charter didn't have much input from actual youth. Will it be different this time?

Definitely. Part of it will be having the voice of youth at the table. The other part of it will be the agencies, the people who are trying to guide the youth into their potential. We sometimes get criticism for not having youth at the table, but we have the people who serve them. Both voices need to be heard.

What's being done to prevent having one person from a group asked to speak on behalf of their entire community?

Building a bigger table. That's really it, and not gatekeep who can be there. People come to council, or see me in the street or at events, and say that people weren't heard. There's a part of me that's upset because I know those voices were represented but we didn't do a good job telling the story of who was there. So people assume it's been business as usual when that wasn't the case this time around.

There's an election in just over a year. Is this as a post or pre-election goal?

I want to do it as soon as possible, but as thoroughly as possible. If it rolls into the next term of office. I'm fine with that, because I want the document to outlive me. This is a my pet project, and this isn't something that I want to make an empty campaign promise with. I want it to be something embedded in how we work and is informing how we do things in the recent field, and that has to live longer than me. So it really isn't a campaign based thing. Just like, start it when it's ready and do it right.

Why do we need the Youth Charter?

We need to have some common language. We need to have a common marching order to be able to do this work, because otherwise, people work in silos, and get burnt out.

// I WANT IT TO BE SOMETHING EMBEDDED IN HOW WE WORK //

We believe all Peel youth have the right to:

- Safe and supportive environments at home, in school, in workplaces and throughout the community.
- A standard of living adequate to ensure healthy physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, well-being and a good quality of life.
- Be served by governments which acknowledge their responsibility to improve the safety of young people, and to work cooperatively with the community to ensure adequate and equitable funding for youth violence prevention programs.
- Have access to relevant, youth-centric health supports that help build a foundation of respect for healthy personal choices throughout the lifespan.
- Access to relevant and responsive education and training.
- The best efforts by the community-at-large in creating career employment opportunities for young people.
- The availability of recreational and leisure activities in the form of play, creative expression or skill development opportunities.
- Access to a region-wide network of information and resources to support youth.
- Be supported and encouraged to be active citizens regarding issues that concern them.
- Be involved in policy, program and service development on issues that affect young people.
- Advocate, or to be advocated for on their behalf, on issues that affect young people.



Vote PopUp is a toolkit to help demystify Canada's voting process. It was launched in 2015 by Samara Centre for Democracy to make it easier to talk about - and participate in - politics. PPAG - Peel Poverty Action Group - wants to help you and your friends to be election-ready, in a fun social and meaningful way.

Local Government Week (LGW) in Ontario was first established in 1983 under the William Davis government. In 2025, LGW runs October 13-19. This corresponds to the same third-week of October slotted for the Ontario General Election held every 4 years, to elect municipal mayors, councillors and school board trustees.

2026 is Ontario's next general election for local governments. PPAG has always been a proponent for democratic engagement. Not yet having the privilege of a vote - eg. as a permanent resident or youth - does not deny your views and lived experience from getting your solutions to work on issues. We need all hands on deck for our communities.

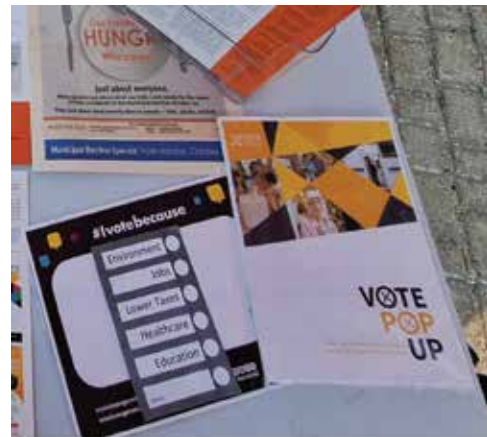
The Vote PopUp kit is designed to engage smaller classroom-sized groups in a comfortable social setting, such as a public library or community centre. To open the 90-minute session, guided non-partisan information introduces the structures in Canada's voting system.

Instead of named candidates, the role-play ballot lists local issues that matter. This offers an opportunity to invite subject experts in for a brief exploration and conversation - and sparks the "why" empowerment to vote for the change you want to see in the world.

A poll station simulation uses Election Canada set-up, and guides voter role play through on-line registration, understanding and marking the ballot, then casting the secret vote. In opening and counting ballots, the Vote PopUp session can choose to compare first-past-the-post vote to a ranked ballot result.

Get in touch with info@PPAG.media so we can schedule your Vote PopUp session.

PPAG in 2015 was an early adapter of the Vote PopUp kit. Look at issues on the ballot in the photo. Has anything changed for the better?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

DEMOCRATIC EXCHANGE TMU



INSPIRE DEMOCRACY



AMO: HEALTHY DEMOCRACY



REFUGEE RECEPTION CENTRE OPENS IN MISSISSAUGA



Mzwandile Poncana/Metroland

By: Tough Times

The Polycultural Reception House has opened in Mississauga. It's the first dedicated shelter and service hub for refugees in the city. Located at 73 King Street West, it is operated by Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services, a not-for-profit that has been providing immigrant support since 1973. The new facility currently has 75 rooms, which can hold up to three people. The facility provides temporary housing, meals, information on Canadian law, taxes and political system, assistance with navigating employment, health care, language services and will help ensure children are enrolled in schools.

CALEDON LAUNCHES LOBBYIST REGISTRY



Photo Via Town of Caledon Facebook

By: Town of Caledon

The Town of Caledon has launched a Lobbyist Registry to document who is lobbying public office holders. The registry is available online and provides residents with information on who is lobbying, who they're lobbying to, the subject matter and when they did so. The registry applies to individuals and organizations who communicate with members of Council or senior staff to influence legislation while representing a business or financial interest. Any lobbyist as defined by the by-law must register within ten days of communication with a public office holder.



TMU WELCOMES FIRST CLASS OF RESIDENT PHYSICIANS



Anna Maria Li / TorontoMet Today

By: TorontoMet Today

On June 27, 2025, nearly 200 attendees gathered in Brampton to celebrate the launch of TMU School of Medicine's inaugural postgraduate medical education programs. The event welcomed TMU's first class of resident physicians, key partners from community and hospital sites and representatives from community advocacy organizations. Speakers reflected on the historic nature of the inaugural class of residents, the significance of this achievement for Brampton and surrounding communities and the importance of advocacy and wellness in medical training.



Knight Table's Back 2 School Backpack Program requires your support!

Many families cannot afford much of the school supplies. required for the year.

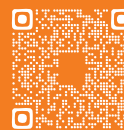
Through donations, Knights Table supports families and their children with backpacks and school supplies to get their school year off to a great start.

Because of the generous donations from the community last year, we were able to provide 250 children age 4 – 14 with backpacks and school supplies.

Donate to help a child start strong!



FREE YOUTH PROGRAMS IN PEEL



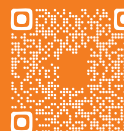
SAUGA AT PLAY

Drop-in after school program offered during the school year at various community centres in Mississauga. Open for 10 to 18-year-olds.



YOUTH HUB PROGRAMS BRAMPTON

An updating list of registered and drop-in programs in Brampton for youth.



AFTER YOU-TH PROGRAM

Program for 12-18 year olds. Focused on physical activity, life skills and leadership. Runs Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3-6pm from September to June at the Susan Fennell Sports Complex.



YOUTH HUB MALTON

Offers integrated youth services for young people aged 12 to 25 and their families. In addition to clinical and support services, their "Youth Chill Zone" is open Monday to Friday 3:30 - 6:30pm and hosts social activities.

DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD TAKEN OVER



Graeme Frisquie/Metroland

By: Tough Times

In late June, the Government of Ontario announced the takeover of four school boards, citing 'mismanagement'. This includes the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Attempts to fix the deficit - not helped by underfunding that often doesn't allow boards to fully cover their operational costs and vital repairs - will likely see special education, mental health support and arts programs cut. The province assigned former conservative MPP Rick Byers as the supervisor of the board, who will effectively replace the 11 elected school board trustees.

BRAMPTON WOMAN TO PLAY AT HOMELESS WORLD CUP



Photo via Pexels

By: Tough Times

From August 23 to 30th, the Homeless World Cup will be taking place in Oslo, Norway, with 48 countries and 500 players attending. At a tournament in mid-June, the Canadian Street Soccer Association (CSSA) selected six of the eight players for the Canadian team. The CSSA doesn't choose based on skill alone, but who will benefit the most from the opportunity, preferring individuals who are in transition and working towards employment, housing, or recovery. Among the selected players is Emma Bellante of the Brampton team.

REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS SERVICES IN PEEL

In Peel there are many programs available to support housing, shelter and fundamental needs. Please visit www.peelregion.ca/housing for more information.

Street Helpline Peel - 1-877-848-8481

- Offering 24/7 support for urgent homelessness needs, food, shelter access, referrals and more. The Street Helpline connects you to our mobile Street Outreach team who can often come to your location to help. If you're in crisis or face an urgent need, call us.

Shelter Intake Line - 905-450-1996

- We can help you find the best option in any Peel shelter, including in adult, youth and family shelters.

Mental Health Support

- Distress Centre Peel – 905-278-7208
- Kids Help Phone – 1-800-668-6868
- Mental Health Mobile Crisis Centre of Peel – 905-278-9036
- Youth Mental Health Crisis Response Service – 416-410-8615

Regeneration Meal Program and Supports -156 Main St N

- Facilities and food for people in need
- Showers and laundry
- Phone and computer
- Staff support
- Clothing
- Breakfast - 8a.m. to 9:30a.m. (9:15 a.m. on Sundays)
- Lunch - 11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m., Monday to Thursday
- Hours - Monday to Friday 7a.m. to 3p.m., Saturdays 7a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Sundays 7a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

City of Mississauga

- Services are available to support at-risk individuals and the homeless in Mississauga, including free hot meals and shower access.
- Visit mississauga.ca/recreation-and-sports/sportsand-activities/assistance-programs/help-for-thehomeless/

Call - Street Helpline Peel Team at: 1-877-848-8481

Call if you are homeless, or at risk of being homeless, or know someone who is in need. Get help to access emergency and transitional shelters, street outreach, support services and finding permanent housing



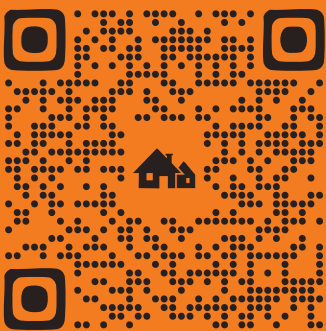
Photograph via The Region of Peel

The **Peel Food Map** provides updated hours and information on donations, through the Emergency Donation Centre.

Call 211 if you can't access the online food map.



Visit PPAG's Website



ppag.media

Are you a person with lived experience who likes to write?

Tough Times is looking for content providers for its upcoming editions.

Please contact info@ppag.media if you are interested.

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