



# Consultative Committee

## Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	March 23, 2021
<b>Location:</b>	Virtually, Microsoft Teams
<b>Chair:</b>	Lorrie McKee, Director, Public Affairs & Stakeholder Relations
<b>Attendees:</b>	Brad Bradford, Councillor, City of Toronto Brad Butt, Mississauga Board of Trade John Davidson, Regional Municipality of Halton Chris Fonseca, Councillor, City of Mississauga Aylin Lusi, Toronto Region Board of Trade Shane Rayman, City of Toronto resident Oscar Rodriguez, City of Brampton resident Sabbir Saiyed, Peel Region Taran Sambhi, Region of Durham, alternate Badar R. Shamim, Brampton Board of Trade Darrel Shipp, City of Mississauga resident Steven Tufts, Brampton Mississauga & District Labour Council Jonathan Wheatle, Region of York
<b>Regrets:</b>	Heather Craig-Peddie, Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA) Ontario Simon Gill, Region of Durham Savik Ramkay, Seneca Collage Harkirat Singh, Councillor, City of Brampton
<b>Resource Members:</b>	Alessandra Bianchi, Ministry of Transportation Ludovic D'Souza, Transport Canada Walter Garrison, City of Mississauga (alternate) Daryl Van Moorsel, City of Brampton
<b>Resource Members Absent:</b>	Harold Dremin, City of Mississauga Francesca Iacurto, NACC Matt McNama, Tourism Toronto David Parco, NAV Canada Caroline Polgrabia, Ministry of Tourism
<b>Also in Attendance</b>	Ingrid Pringle, Management Assistant, GTAA Michael Mendel, Manager, Government Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, GTAA Ashley Millman, Senior Policy & Comms Advisor, Councillor Bradford's office Ivan Battye, Town of Whitby Resident, Region of Durham

Item	Details
<b>1.0</b>	<b>PRELIMINARY ITEMS</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and roll call conducted by Lorrie McKee.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Lorrie welcomed the following new members to the committee <u>Voting member</u> Councillor Brad Bradbook, Ward 19, City of Toronto Councillor Michael Ford, Ward 1, City of Toronto – Alternate</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>1.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review and approval of March 23, 2021 agenda – moved B. Shamim, seconded J. Wheatle.</li></ul>
<b>1.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review and approval of December 1, 2020 minutes – moved J. Wheatle, seconded B. Shamim.  <b>Due to technical difficulties with audio file from December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, members were asked to provide any additions to their update. No update to minutes were provided by members.</b></li></ul>
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – December 1, 2020.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide Consultative Committee members with a link to the Government of Canada website that provides travellers with instructions and guidelines to follow when travelling during the COVID-19 pandemic.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Link to the Government of Canada website for travellers was provided to members on December 17, 2020.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>REGULAR ITEMS</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>GTAA Information Update.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GTAA Information Update was made available at the meeting. Update can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Healthy Airport and Testing Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lorrie McKee, Director, Public Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, GTAA provided an update on Toronto Pearson’s Healthy Airport initiative and testing requirements.</li><li>• The presentation can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li></ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>MEMBERS UPDATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roundtable Update in response to questions<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What are the high level impacts your organization has suffered as a result of COVID-19?</li><li>2. What will be key to COVID-19 recovery for your organization?</li></ol></li></ul>

- **Region of Peel – Sabbir Saiyed**
    - Region of Peel is currently focused on their vaccination program. Peel Public Health continues to work around the clock on COVID 19 issues. Many of our team members from other departments are being deployed to assist in the vaccination program. Regional employees continue to work from home. The Region is continuing to work on the recovery program including a full vaccination program. Additionally, the Region of Peel applied to United Nations Regional Center of Expertise and has been awarded the designation. The entire region has been designated and we are working on sustainability and focusing on transportation, especially on goods movement and sustainable transportation.
  
  - **Brampton Board of Trade – Badar Shamim**
    - The operations at Brampton Board of Trade (BBOT) have not been impacted adversely from the client engagement perspective. A number of our small and medium sized businesses, especially from the hospitality sector, suffered quite significantly during the pandemic. BBOT has been able to pivot to create online content that continues to attract robust engagement from our membership on our ongoing activities. BBOT continues to support the City of Brampton in their advocacy related to easing restrictions on the business community with relevant levels of government. Membership retention has been strong. There has been a small loss of sponsorship revenue but nothing significant, and as things move forward, hoping to continue to work with government on a customized plan for Brampton to address the needs of our sector businesses.
  
  - **Region of Halton – John Davidson**
    - Halton Region, as a higher tiered organization, hasn't been affected on the financial side, however local municipalities have had their revenue affected on the program delivery. We are galvanizing our efforts around vaccine distribution. The ever-changing rules, regulations, and the advocacy that goes along with educating and supporting our business community on reopening is continuing. Regional Official Plan review is underway and public engagement has been difficult due to no in person meetings. Key to recovery for the Region is getting through the third wave, keeping municipal lines of business going that are standard practice and that may have fallen to the wayside as employees were being deployed for COVID related issues. COVID has helped us understand what is truly important for the residents in our Region.
  
  - **Labour Council - Steven Tufts**
    - TAWC continues to meet virtually. We are supportive of GTAA in their initiatives, especially seeking Federal Government support, safety and testing. TAWC has concerns about the way forward and about the long-term impacts of COVID 19 on our workers, i.e. increasing automation, as robots take away jobs. New surveillance and tracking technology are also having an impact on workforce. TAWC continues to be concerned about persistent unemployment on long term unemployed workers. We are considering an alternate way to track unemployment, that is real unemployment. For example, airport workers may still be employed but have their
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hours reduced or have lost one of their two part time jobs. That can be said for the whole economy. As government employment/financial support is winding down and workers may not get hired back to their jobs right away, given the length of the economic recovery, there will have to be other labour market assistance, i.e. training for new jobs within the airport or outside of the airport. As a professor at York University, COVID 19 has had its impact on the post-secondary sector. Enrollment has declined, all teaching is remote with few exceptions. This has a financial impact with no students on campus to park or to purchase food etc. York is planning on significant remote options in the fall given current rate of vaccinations.

- **Mississauga Board of Trade – Brad Butt**
  - There is concern that Peel Region continues to be in grey lockdown zone for the last four months with little or no financial support from several levels of government for business that did not qualify for support programs. Mississauga Board of Trade (MBOT) is looking at what they can do to support those businesses. MBOT's International Trade Committee met recently and is working to understand what the impact is, with all the travel restrictions, on international trade and business travel.
  
- **Toronto Region Board of Trade – Aylin Lusi**
  - The Toronto Region Board of Trade (TRBOT) and the Federal Economic Development agency are working on the safe reopening of three select business districts. Three pilot zones have been identified, Scarborough, the Financial district and Toronto Pearson. The end goal is to develop three individual playbooks for the safe reopening of each area. Playbooks will be developed along four different themes, 1. Safe District – workplace policy and comms, exposure tracking, screening, testing and vaccinations. 2. Safe Buildings – workplace ventilations, air quality monitoring technology 3. Transit - carpooling policy, active transport 4. Safe Workplaces – work spacing, worker cohorts, signage, training and communications. There have been several meetings on the Toronto Pearson Airport Pilot Zone to discuss accreditations and certifications that are available to qualified businesses that are mitigating transmission risks. Further meetings are scheduled with the TTC and Metrolinx to discuss public transit to ensure worker safety.

**Action Item**

- **Request for Toronto Region Board of Trade to present the Toronto Pearson Airport Pilot Zone playbook at a future meeting of the Consultative Committee.**
  
  - **Region of York – Jonathan Wheatle**
    - York Region is focused on vaccinations and redeployment of staff to deal with a number of pandemic related issues. Regional staff continue to work from home and the earliest anticipated time to return to office is September. That date continues to be revisited. York Region had financial impacts as well, and council is in session on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> for budget discussions. Small businesses are feeling the brunt of the pandemic. Tourism, arts and culture, accommodations, and food service businesses for example. Tech related firms have been doing well. To assisted tourism related businesses, the Region launched a campaign during the last
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reopening in August, called “Ready When You Are” to help with consumer confidence.

- **City of Toronto resident – Shane Rayman**
    - As the Toronto resident member, does not have the same input as the other members. His small law firm has been able to adapt. Impacts have been minimal compared to other sectors. Mentorship has been difficult given that everything is done remotely. Key to COVID recovery is vaccination.
  
  - **City of Toronto – Councillor Brad Bradford**
    - City of Toronto has experienced an impact of \$1.7B in budget pressures. The City has been able to maintain city services without cuts and reductions during the pandemic, through a savings of \$550M found within the current budget, though additional support from other levels of government was needed. Equity has also been an issue in the City of Toronto related to the digital divide, food insecurity, and increasing work from home options. Frontline workers in manufacturing and production do not have the option to work from home and as a result we were seeing an increase in infection rates among those workers. Transit ridership declined 80% at certain times in 2019 during the pandemic. Reduction of fares collected was a large portion of our budget pressures. Safe Restart Funding has been crucial for the City of Toronto. There has been a significant change in the way commuters are using transit. Recovery is being led by surface transit. Intergovernmental relationships, partnerships and collaboration is extremely important right now. Canadian municipalities have found it challenging to deliver services to their residents solely on property tax dollars. This region plays a significant role in the Ontario and Canadian economy. The City would like to see more autonomy to drive some of the decisions that directly impact our residents, our budgets and the Region. Connectivity for commuters is going to be very important as we come out of the pandemic. Currently transit capacity is strained and investment in transit is required to adjust to the changing ways people are traveling through the city. Budgets and policies will have to be reviewed with an equity lens, using data to direct funding investments to new programs. Housing and affordability in the Region are also issues. City of Toronto is resilient and will continue to be a region that attracts international investment and talent. As long as we continue to attract people into our region and city, this continues to put pressure on our housing market and we need to continue to working with the federal partners for capital dollars for housing projects and the provincial government for important tools for inclusionary zoning to include some affordability to those new housing projects.
  
  - **City of Mississauga - Walter Garrison**
    - City of Mississauga’s Economic Development Office (EDO) has pivoted to provide services online in the last year. We have seen layoffs in manufacturing and MRO, and numerous companies have been successful in using the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Loss of highly skilled and paid workers, some have found employment in the defense and space sector. We have done a lot of work advocating with other levels government for support the aerospace companies. It will take better part of a year for manufacturers to get inventory, i.e. aerospace parts, to work its way
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through the system. Anticipate that it would take a year for manufacturing to fully ramp up. Key to recovery is vaccination in phase 2. EDO is working with Region of Peel to provide the connections and information they need for their comprehensive planning for the phase 2 rollout of the vaccine. There is concern about proportional vaccine distribution from the Province of Ontario especially to hot spot sectors. A number of businesses have reached out to our office to host a COVID vaccination clinic.

- **Transport Canada – Ludovic D’Sousa**

- The Government of Canada’s response to pandemic has been driven by the Ministry of Finance. Safety and security aspects of our travel is paramount, whether it be air, rail or roads. We were on the road to digitization prior to pandemic. It has tested our systems and allowed us to continue our work to ensure Canadians are safe and secure in their travels. Transport Canada has moved to remote work very quickly and anticipates remote work for the regional office continuing in some fashion in the future. Minister Alghabra is the new Transport Minister and engaging remotely has been a challenge in this environment but is productive and we are continuing to collaborate with our partners in the transportation sector. Critical services continue. We have provided support to sectors, i.e. employment income funds, and support to remote airports to sustain services in the north. The Air Sector Recovery Package is a significant funding package and expected to start in near future. Regionally, airports in Southern Ontario Airport Network continue to suffer.

- **Ministry of Transportation - Alessandra Bianchi**

- Recognize Toronto Pearson for their airport testing program and how important it is to quickly identify and stop spread of the virus in the province. Recently announced in January that we are working with federal government to provide up to \$11.1M to support small air carriers servicing remote first nations communities in northern Ontario to help ensure access to essential goods and services during the pandemic. We are also investing \$14.2M to support operations at our 29 remote airports in 2020-21. This includes an additional \$4M this year to support the continued safe operations. MTO will continue to work with federal partners on how we can support the sector.

- **GTAA – Lorrie McKee**

- Minister McLeod recently launched a task force on tourism and recovery being led by Tim Hudak. The GTAA is providing a written submission to the Task Force. The GTAA co-led a related panel report that was commissioned last year, which led to tax incentives for tourism. We’re thinking about next steps and how Toronto Pearson can once again be the front door to inbound tourists coming into the country. The Ontario budget will be released on March 24<sup>th</sup> and the Federal budget will be released on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes prepared by Ingrid Pringle (416 776-3035) [ingrid.pringle@gtaa.com](mailto:ingrid.pringle@gtaa.com). Any errors or omissions in these minutes should be forwarded to the author immediately.