

Category: Governance

Internal Governance Framework of Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response

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Administered by: Community Safety & Well-Being Office, City of Brampton
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1. Background

The City is committed to fostering safe, inclusive, and well-managed public spaces for all residents. This includes recognizing the diverse needs of people across our community, including those experiencing homelessness. The City works collaboratively across divisions and with regional partners to respond to community needs in a coordinated, respectful, and responsible way. Peel Region, in collaboration with multiple partners including the City of Brampton, established a coordinated approach to encampment response, including outreach, site assessment, and risk mitigation, to ensure consistent and well-aligned support. On October 15, 2025, the City of Brampton formally adopted Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response Policy and framework, confirming its commitment to operate in alignment with these regional processes.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Administrative Directive is to establish the City of Brampton's implementation of Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response across all applicable divisions.

This Administrative Directive defines municipal roles and responsibilities related to site identification, site assessment, monitoring, coordination, communication, documentation and, where required, mitigation, enforcement, removal and restoration activities in alignment with Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response adopted by Council.

This Administrative Directive supports a consistent and coordinated municipal approach that reflects the City's authority and responsibilities as the Custodian, while aligning with applicable municipal by-laws, provincial legislation and approved procedures.

3. Application and Scope

This Administrative Directive applies to all City of Brampton staff involved in coordinated encampment response.

The City will respond to and address all encampments located on municipally owned or operated lands.

The City will coordinate encampment response efforts on private, provincial, or third-party lands when such encampments are made known to the City.

4. Outcomes

4.1 Support consistent municipal implementation of the Coordinated Encampment Response across applicable City divisions.

4.2 Safeguard health, safety, accessibility and environmental conditions on municipally owned or operated lands.

- 4.3** Coordinate encampment response efforts on private, provincial, and third-party lands.
- 4.4** Facilitate lawful and documented action in accordance with applicable municipal by-laws, provincial legislation and approved procedures.
- 4.5** Support ongoing improvements to documentation, tracking, reporting and accountability related to encampment response activities.

5. Principles

5.1 Health, Safety and Accessibility

The City shall prioritize health, safety and accessibility considerations for staff, the public and Encampment Residents when carrying out actions under this Administrative Directive.

5.2 Human Dignity and Trauma-Informed Approach

All interactions shall be guided by respectful and trauma-informed practices that seek to reduce harm and avoid re-traumatization.

5.3 Lawful and Documented Action

Actions taken under this Administrative Directive shall be grounded in the City's authority over municipally owned or operated lands and carried out in accordance with applicable law, Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response and documented decision-making.

5.4 Internal and External Coordination

Encampment response requires a coordinated approach across City divisions and with external partners as defined in Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response.

5.5 Consistency, Accountability and Communication

Encampment Response Activities shall be carried out consistently across applicable divisions through clear roles, standardized documentation and coordinated communication.

5.6 Privacy and Public Confidence

The City shall support informed public communication while respecting privacy, confidentiality and the dignity of Encampment Residents.

6. Policy Statements

6.1 Alignment with the Coordinated Encampment Response

- 6.2** The City of Brampton shall respond to encampments in alignment with the Coordinated Encampment Response adopted by Council and the City's role within that framework.

6.3 Authority Over Municipal Lands

The City retains authority as property owner and occupier to regulate the use of municipally owned or operated lands and to pursue Encampment Response Activities in accordance with applicable municipal by-laws, provincial legislation and protocols.

6.4 Site Identification, Assessment and Documentation

Encampments identified on municipally owned or operated lands shall be documented, assessed and monitored using approved City and Coordinated Encampment Response processes and forms, except where urgent circumstances require immediate action.

6.5 Coordinated Municipal Response

Encampment Response Activities shall be coordinated through the Community Safety & Well-Being Office in collaboration with applicable City divisions.

6.6 Voluntary Relocation and Mitigation

Where appropriate, voluntary relocation and risk mitigation shall be prioritized before enforcement or removal action is undertaken.

6.7 No Encampment Zones, High-Risk and High Priority Sites

Sites located within designated No Encampment Zones, sites classified as High Risk, and sites identified as High Priority shall be prioritized for response.

6.8 Risk Mitigation

Fire hazards, environmental concerns, animal-related issues, public safety risks and other operational concerns shall be addressed by the appropriate City division in accordance with its mandate and approved procedures.

6.9 Legal Support

Legal Services shall be consulted on escalated enforcement matters, legal authority, privacy considerations and related procedural issues, as required.

6.10 Public Communications

Public communications related to encampment response shall be coordinated through Strategic Communications in consultation with the Community Safety & Well-Being Office and shall align with approved messaging, privacy requirements and applicable City policies.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

7.1 Community Safety & Well-Being Office

- 7.1.1 Lead decision making and coordination of the City's encampment response on municipally owned or operated lands.
- 7.1.2 Coordinate site tracking, site assessment processes, internal response planning, documentation oversight and policy compliance. Develop, maintain and monitor encampment tracking measures and support reporting to Peel Region, internal leadership and City Council, as required.
- 7.1.3 Lead Encampment Response Team meetings, internal escalation and cross-divisional communication related to Encampment Response Activities.
- 7.1.4 Coordinate and lead site conferences to support enforcement and restoration planning, in accordance with approved procedures and delegated authority.
- 7.1.5 Maintain the Master Record for Encampment Response Activities under this Administrative Directive.
- 7.1.6 Receive and coordinate responses to resident inquiries and escalations from Members of Council and Councillor offices related to encampment matters, whether received directly by CSWO staff or through the dedicated inbox (encampments@brampton.ca), ensuring alignment with Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response, approved messaging and applicable privacy requirements.
- 7.1.7 Advise senior leadership and City Council on encampment response activities, emerging issues and performance outcomes, as required.
- 7.1.8 Coordinate with Peel Region on operational problem-solving, continuous improvement, and matters related to funding agreements and cost reimbursement.
- 7.1.9 Support the development, review and maintenance of related agreements, funding arrangements and documentation with Peel Region and other partners, as required.

7.2 Commissioner, Community Services, City of Brampton

Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering, City of Brampton

The Commissioner, Community Services, City of Brampton, the Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering, City of Brampton, and the City Solicitor, City of Brampton, or their designates, are authorized to approve the enforcement and removal of encampments

on municipally owned or operated lands, in alignment with Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response, as adopted by Brampton City Council on October 15, 2025.

7.3 Fire & Emergency Services

- 7.3.1 Identify and address fire-related risks at encampment sites in accordance with applicable Fire & Emergency Services procedures.
- 7.3.2 Provide site-specific fire safety education and operational support, where appropriate to internal City staff, external partners and Encampment Residents.

7.4 Parks Maintenance and Forestry

- 7.4.1 Address environmental and site condition concerns within its mandate.
- 7.4.2 Support cleanup, debris removal and site restoration activities following authorized action, as required.

7.5 Animal Services

- 7.5.1 Support site attendance where pets and wildlife concerns are identified.
- 7.5.2 Provide guidance or operational support within its mandate to support humane treatment of animals and safe response.

7.6 Corporate Security

- 7.6.1 Conduct site inspections, support site monitoring and coordinate trespass-related enforcement activities on municipally owned or operated lands, as required.

7.7 Enforcement and By-law Services

- 7.7.1 Enforce applicable municipal by-laws within its mandate and support coordinated Encampment Response Activities where required.
- 7.7.2 Investigate encampment-related concerns on private property in accordance with applicable by-laws and established processes.

7.8 Strategic Communications

- 7.8.1 Support public awareness and public understanding by coordinated messaging and accurate public information related to the City's encampment response.

7.9 Service Brampton

- 7.9.1 Serve as the centralized inquiry intake channel for encampment-related concerns.

- 7.9.2 Capture and log requests for service received through official City platforms in accordance with established protocols.
- 7.9.3 Ensure accurate categorization and assignment of service requests to the appropriate municipal divisions.
- 7.9.4 Provide residents with information regarding the City's encampment response processes, applicable by-laws and available community resources, ensuring responses remain consistent with approved messaging and privacy standards.

7.10 Legal Services

- 7.10.1 Provide legal advice and technical support on legal authority, privacy considerations, enforcement procedures and related matters, as required.

8. Records Maintenance

- 8.1 All records created or received under this Administrative Directive shall be managed in accordance with the City of Brampton's Records Retention By-law 272-2014, as amended from time to time.
- 8.2 The Community Safety & Well-Being Office shall maintain a Master Record related to encampment site assessments, coordination activities, enforcement planning, removals, restorations and related documentation under this Directive.
- 8.3 Each participating division, office or team remains responsible for maintaining complete and accurate operational records of actions taken within its respective mandate.

9. Monitoring and Compliance

9.1 Oversight

- 9.1.1 The Community Safety & Well-Being Office is responsible for overseeing implementation of this Administrative Directive.
- 9.1.2 Applicable divisions shall support compliance monitoring by providing information or documentation as required.

9.2 Review

- 9.2.1 This Administrative Directive shall be reviewed in accordance with the Corporate Policy Program and at minimum every four years from the effective date.

- 9.2.2 An interim review will be undertaken following significant legislative, policy or operational changes.

9.3 Non-Compliance

- 9.3.1 Failure to follow this Administrative Directive may result in inconsistent response, operational risk, legal risk, reputational risk and safety concerns.
- 9.3.2 City staff are expected to comply with the requirements of this Directive. Matters of non-compliance will be addressed in accordance with applicable corporate policies, procedures and collective agreements.

10. Definitions

10.1 Coordinated Encampment Response

A structured, cross-divisional and intergovernmental approach to encampment management that aligns municipal actions with Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response.

10.2 Custodian

Regional municipality, local municipality or other agency or individual with jurisdiction over public or private property. The Custodian is accountable for encampments on their property.

10.3 Encampment

An encampment refers to temporary outdoor accommodations for individuals and groups of unhoused and unsheltered individuals that have been established – often without permission – on public or privately owned land.

10.4 Encampment Response Activities

The coordinated actions undertaken by the City, in alignment with Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response, to address encampments on municipally owned or operated lands, as well as on private property. This includes site identification, site assessment, monitoring, outreach coordination, risk mitigation, communication, documentation, and, where required, enforcement, removal, and restoration activities.

10.5 Encampment Response Team (ERT)

Team members from the Custodian organization, in addition to representatives from Peel Outreach, Peel Region, and other partner representatives as required. The ERT leads the encampment response and provides coordination, day-to-day oversight, recommendations regarding relocation or removal, ongoing communications, and measurement and reporting.

10.6 Encampment Resident

An individual living and sleeping in an encampment.

10.7 Encampment Restoration (Restoration)

The coordinated action taken by the City, following documented assessment and partner consultation, to dismantle, clear or otherwise remove an encampment from municipal lands in accordance with Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response.

10.8 Encampment Site Conference

A meeting aimed at supporting coordination and problem-solving for non-routine encampment situations that require additional planning, beyond regular Encampment Response Team meetings.

10.9 High-Priority (Encampment)

Encampment sites that have many (5+) inquiries/complaints received by The City. In addition:

- Public safety and public health concerns are identified.
- May lead to an emergency response.
- Large accumulation of debris and garbage.
- More than two hazards were identified on-site.

10.10 High-Risk (Encampment)

An encampment classified as high risk based on the Site Assessment process. Risk levels (low, medium, or high) are determined through the Site Assessment and are used to identify and prioritize encampment locations requiring coordinated response actions.

10.11 Master Record

The centralized coordination file maintained by the Community Safety & Well-Being Office containing official documentation related to Encampment Response Activities under this Directive.

10.12 Municipal Lands

Any lands, facilities, parks, road allowances, open spaces or properties owned, leased or operated by the Corporation of the City of Brampton.

10.13 No Encampment Zone ("NEZ")

An area designated by Peel Region as prohibited for encampments due to elevated risks including, but not limited to, fire hazards, flooding, slope instability,

environmental protection constraints, critical infrastructure impacts or community safety concerns.

10.13.1 Type of NEZ:

- a) Floodplains
- b) Prominent municipal spaces
- c) Public rights-of-way to sidewalks, streets, multi-use trails, medians, regional or municipal facilities
- d) Obstructing critical infrastructure sites
- e) Active construction sites
- f) Playgrounds, sports fields, and any fenced-in, off-leash dog area
- g) On any community garden and in any garden shed or greenhouse
- h) On or within any designated fire route, or the entrance to or exit from a designated fire route, or located to block any fire hydrant
- i) On or within areas prone to erosion, slope instability, not serviced in winter, or other environmental hazards, due to risks to health and safety
- j) Schoolyards, daycare centres, playgrounds, and sports fields on schoolboard property
- k) Conservation areas
- l) Transit stations and networks such as Metrolinx GO stations and other municipal transit agencies
- m) Placed against, under, or attached, or tied to any building or permanent structure

10.14 Site Assessment

The standardized documentation process, developed by Peel Region and utilized by the City, to evaluate encampment conditions, including location, number of occupants (where known), safety risks, environmental impacts, proximity to infrastructure, and observed enforcement considerations. Information captured supports coordinated review and informs risk scoring and response prioritization.

10.15 Trauma-Informed Approach

An approach that recognizes the prevalence and impact of trauma and seeks to avoid re-traumatization through respectful, transparent and supportive engagement practices.

11. References and Resources

This Administrative Directive should be read and applied in conjunction with the following references and resources as updated from time to time. Please note that

some of the following documents are not be publicly available. Divisional standard operating procedures are currently in development and will be incorporated as references and resources through the regular update process.

11.1 External references

- [Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response](#)
- [City of Brampton's adoption of Peel Region's Coordinated Encampment Response](#)
- [Homeless Encampment Policy for Peel Region, the City of Brampton, the City of Mississauga, and the Town of Caledon](#)

11.2 References to related bylaws, Council policies, and administrative directives

- [Suspension, Banning, and Trespass to Property Act Administrative Directive \(ANI-130\)](#)
- [Business Continuity Administrative Directive GOV-200](#)
- [Records Retention By-law 272-2014, as amended](#)

11.3 References to related corporate-wide procedures, forms, and resources

- [Site Assessment Template \(Peel Region\)](#)
- [Service Brampton's response article for encampments.](#)

11.4 References to standard operating procedures

[SOP: M&O – Encampment Cleanup and Removal – Parks Maintenance & Forestry](#)

12. Revision History

Date	Description
2026/06/19	New. Approved by CAO/CLT on June 19, 2026.
2030/06/19	Next Scheduled Review (<i>typically, four years after approval</i>)