

June 19, 2020

The Seniors Tele Town Hall (TTH) commenced at 11:04 a.m. and ended at 12:04 p.m.

Panel of Speakers:

Regional Councillor Gurpreet Dhillon, Co-Chair, COVID-19 Seniors Support Task Force
Regional Councillor Pat Fortini, Co-Chair, COVID-19 Seniors Support Task Force
Mayor Patrick Brown
Dr. Monica Hau, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Peel Public Health
Myrna Adams, President, Brampton Senior Citizens Council
Chris Hogg, Recreation Supervisor, FCCC – Seniors Centre, Community Services

Regional Councillors Fortini and Dhillon co-led the Seniors Tele Town Hall (TTH). They provided opening remarks, welcoming all participants to the TTH and the City's first Seniors Appreciation Day. Information was provided on the role, programs and services of the Seniors Support Task Force.

Regional Councillor Fortini introduced the panel of speakers and outlined the process for residents to ask questions during the TTH.

Mayor Brown thanked Councillors Fortini and Dhillon for their leadership on the Seniors Support Task Force, and highlighted the efforts of staff and volunteers. He advised that Brampton was identified as a "hot spot" for COVID-19, and outlined the City's progress as the number of cases have started to decline. Mayor Brown advised that the Farmer's Market will open later this month, with appropriate safety measures in place, and stressed the importance of following the advice of Peel Public Health.

Myrna Adams, President, Brampton Senior Citizens Council, highlighted the many contributions of seniors to the community and outlined the need to demonstrate gratitude and appreciation through providing support and opportunity for seniors to live independently and with dignity.

Councillor Fortini introduced a musical piece prepared by the Chinguacousy Concert Band in recognition of Seniors Appreciation Day.

Councillor Dhillon introduced a pre-recorded motivational speech prepared by Jeff Adams, a Paralympian and World Champion. Mr. Adams outlined the lessons he learned throughout his career in competitive sport, and drew comparisons on how these lessons can be applied to everyday life. He highlighted the significant impact of receiving support from loved ones and the community, and the importance of staying connected.

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Dr. Monica Hau, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Peel Public Health, provided an update on COVID-19 in Brampton, and advised that the number of cases is steadily declining as a result of community efforts to observe four core behaviours: (1) social distancing, (2) wearing a non-medical mask, (3) hand washing, and (4) staying home if unwell and getting tested.

The TTH was then opened to questions from the public and responses were provided. Topics included:

- Enforcement of the mandatory use of masks on transit buses
- Encouraging the use of masks in public settings
- Driver's license renewal/testing for seniors
- Drive-thru assessment centre at the South Fletcher's Community Centre
- Social circles of up to 10 people
- Improvements in long-term care and retirement homes, and the provincial visitor policy
- Appreciation for the services provided by the Seniors Support Task Force, including the distribution of care packages with personal protective equipment (PPE) for seniors
- Federal Government funding to assist seniors
- Affordable housing for seniors
- Benefits and supports for indigenous seniors
- Reopening of City facilities and programs, particularly fitness centres, with adequate safety measures in place
- Information on Recreation at Home programs for seniors, including virtual fitness
- Provincial plan to reduce the number of holidays for front-line retail workers

The following polls were conducted during the TTH:

Polls							
Question	Time Asked	Responses					
		Answer	Key	Votes	%		
Q1) Which of these activities are you looking forward to the most?	11:15		Press 1 for arts and culture events	1	13	15%	
			Press 2 for outdoor sports	2	18	20%	
			Press 3 indoor recreation activities	3	58	65%	
		Total Votes:			89		
Q2) Do you support the opening of Farmers' Market in downtown Brampton with adequate safety measures in place?	11:37		Press 1 for Yes	1	79	63%	
			Press 2 for Somewhat	2	29	23%	
			Press 3 for No	3	18	14%	
		Total Votes:			126		

Notes
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Rada Micic, Supervisor, Volunteer Services, Brampton Library, invited seniors to celebrate Seniors' Appreciation Day on June 22, 2020 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., with virtual conversation and various activities. Ms. Micic advised that registration is required for this event, and provided additional information on library programs and volunteer services.

Councillor Dhillon thanked panel members and residents for participating in the TTH, and advised that, at the conclusion of this call, residents will have the opportunity to leave a message with any additional questions for follow up and response by staff.

Councillor Fortini thanked the staff and volunteers of the Seniors Support Task Force for their efforts and dedication in serving the seniors of Brampton during this pandemic, and also thanked staff in Strategic Communications and the Brampton Emergency Measures Office for their support.

At the conclusion of the TTH, Chris Hogg, Recreation Supervisor, FCCC – Seniors Centre, Community Services, shared an inspirational quote.