

# Sister City Opportunity: Vaughan and Grand Rapids

Feb. 10, 2026 | Presentation to City of Grand Rapids City Commission

Michael Genova, Deputy City Manager, Strategic Initiatives, City of Vaughan



# About Vaughan



# Welcome to Vaughan

-  Airports with Scheduled Commercial Service
-  Intermodal Terminal and Rail Yard
-  GO Transit Barrie Line
-  TTC Subway Line





# Mayor Del Duca and Council



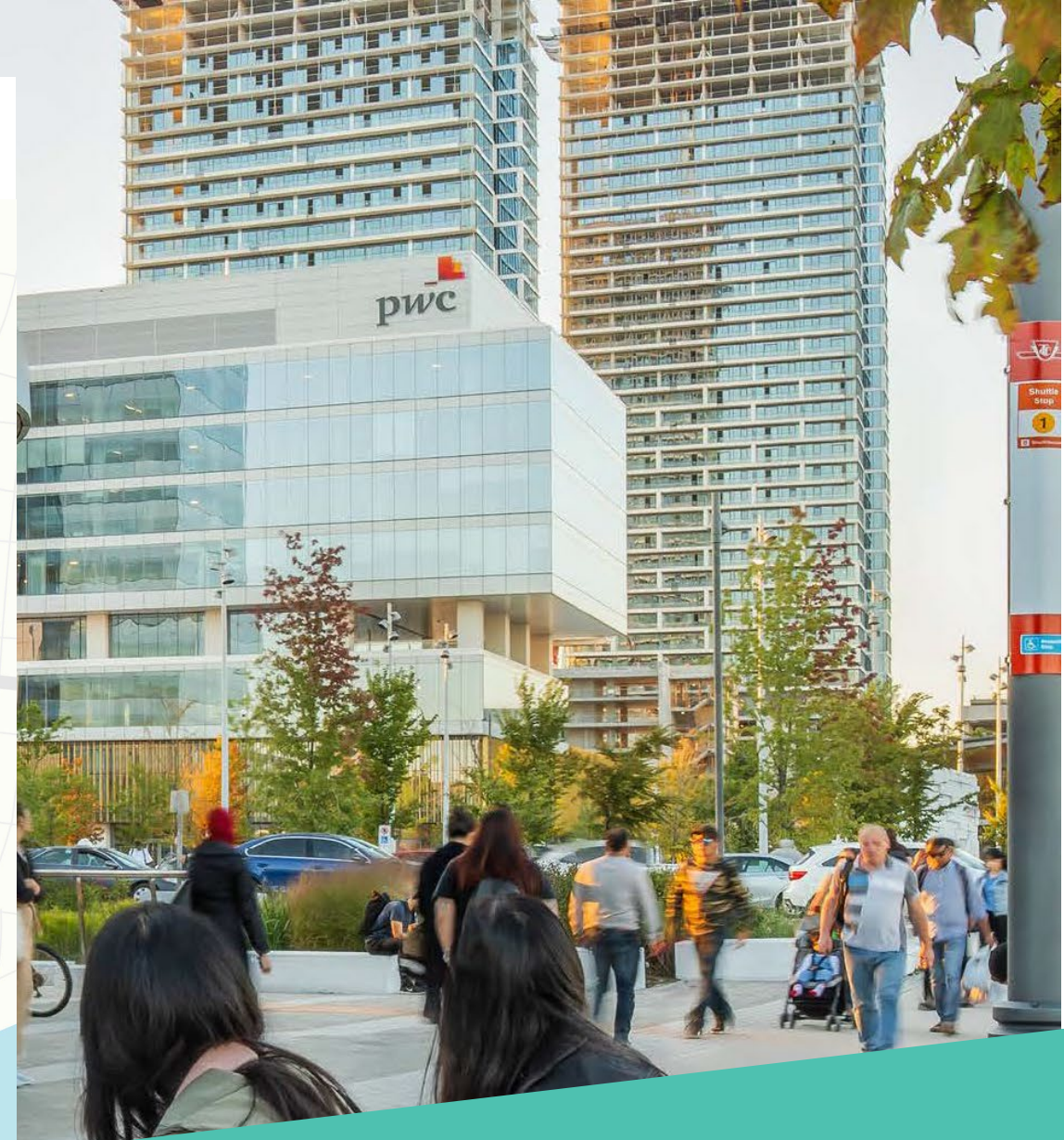
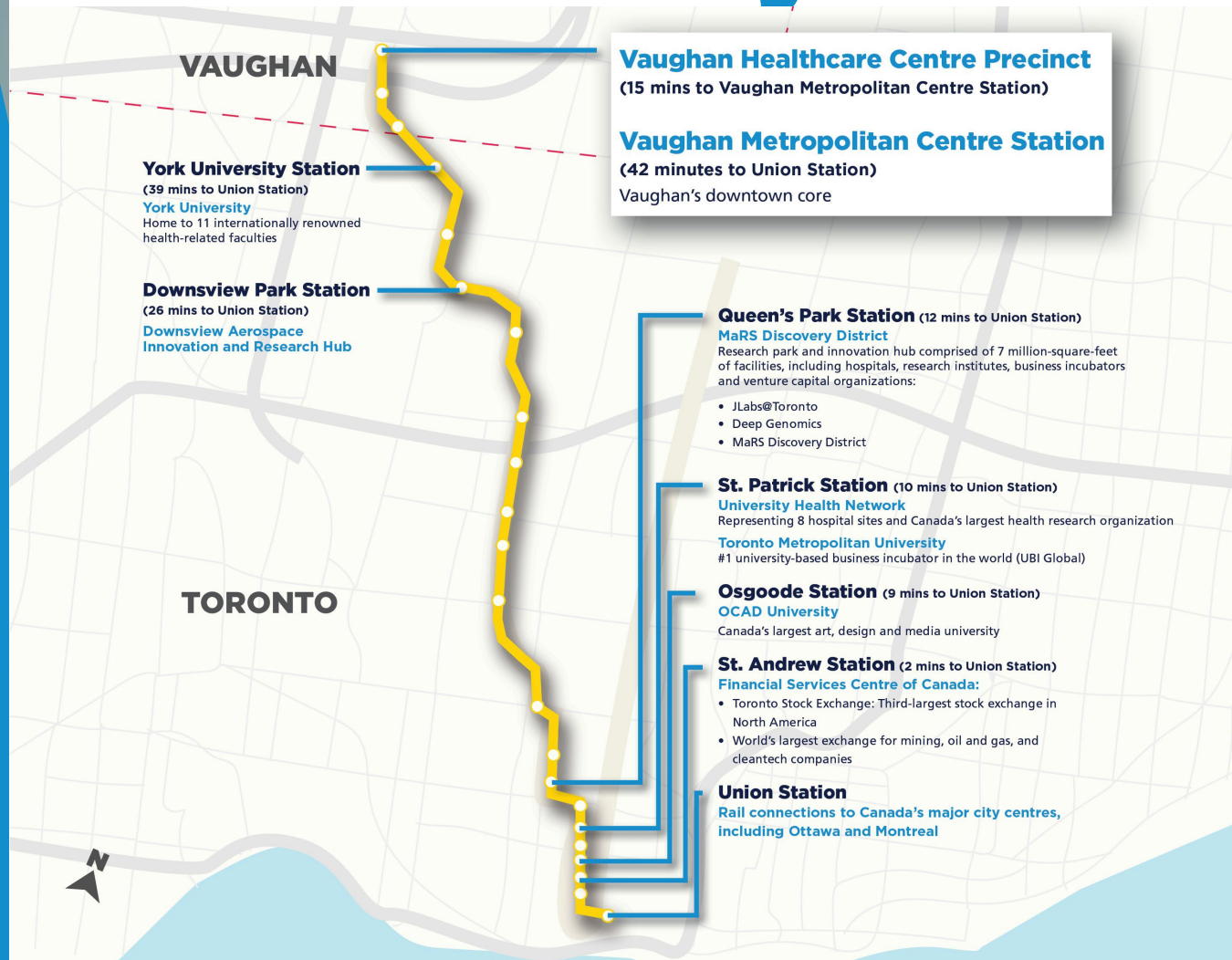
## Advocating for you

Vaughan strengthens collaboration with federal and provincial partners to advance key priorities





# Access Everywhere





# Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct

- ▶ A first-of-its-kind initiative, led by the City of Vaughan, to transform an 82-acre parcel of land into a top destination for the next generation of healthcare practices, research, talent and technology.
- ▶ Together with partners Mackenzie Health, York University and ventureLAB, the City is developing the VHCP on the lands surrounding the site of **Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital – Canada's first smart, paperless hospital**.
- ▶ The VHCP is emerging as a leading medical innovation hub, representing a collaboration between top educators, researchers, practitioners and innovators.
- ▶ Future home of the **York University School of Medicine**, focused on training the next generation of primary care physicians
- ▶ Future home of a cutting-edge, **256-bed long-term care home**, including a centre for research in aging
- ▶ Plans underway to develop a **health innovation catalyst facility** on the remaining lands



# Our People. Our Talent.

## Diverse community

- ▶ **110+** unique languages spoken

## Educated (ages 25 to 64)

- ▶ **73%** post-secondary attainment— above provincial & national averages
- ▶ **2.59 million** post-secondary educated workers

## Robust pipeline

- ▶ **9 universities and 14 colleges** across 59 satellites and campus locations in the GTA—including Niagara University in Vaughan
- ▶ **389,000+** university and **221,000+** college enrolled students in 2021/22

*Data reflects the Toronto Economic Region*





# Performing and Cultural Arts Centre

## A growing creative economy in Vaughan

- ▶ Vaughan is home to more than 3,500 creative businesses in the sector, nearly one-third of all creative businesses in York Region
- ▶ Creative sectors added more than \$2.5 billion in 2023
- ▶ To be built in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC), with the potential to bring over \$2.5 million into the local and regional economy every year

## Opportunities

- ▶ Supporting creative industries, hospitality and retail sectors, and tourism destination development
- ▶ State-of-the-art venue for local, regional, and international creative talent and audiences





# Creative Placemaking and Public Art

**A city where art is accessible to all people**

## **City-Wide Public Art Program**

- ▶ Adopted in 2016, provides a guiding framework to maximize private and civic opportunities to create public art
- ▶ Enhance community identity, builds civic pride, orients visitors and celebrates local and national talent.

## **Public art in the city**

- ▶ ARTonBOXES
- ▶ Metropolis in Motion
- ▶ PXL Gallery
- ▶ Art Walk
- ▶ Futura
- ▶ Assembly Park Outdoor Gallery



# Tourism

**Vaughan is embraced as a premier overnight destination for leisure, sport and business visitors**

**Home to some of Canada's premier attractions, including:**

- ▶ Canada's Wonderland
- ▶ LEGOLAND Discovery Centre
- ▶ McMichael Canadian Art Collection
- ▶ Vaughan Mills
- ▶ Reptilia Zoo
- ▶ and so many more!

**Mission Statement:** To champion Vaughan as a premier tourism destination through product development, marketing and educations, and strong collaboration with – and in support of – operators.





# International Partnerships

- ▶ Baguio, Philippines (1997)
- ▶ Sora, Italy (1992)
- ▶ Ramla, Israel (1993)
- ▶ Sanjō, Japan (1993)
- ▶ Yangzhou, China (1995)
- ▶ Delia, Italy (1998)
- ▶ Lanciano, Italy (2002)



# Vaughan and Grand Rapids







# **GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**

CITIES INITIATIVE

# Next Steps

- ▶ With the support of the City of Grand Rapids City Commission, Vaughan looks forward to welcoming a Grand Rapids delegation later this year to present to Vaughan City Council.
- ▶ With ratification of a Sister City arrangement between both municipalities, expected for 2026, we can move forward with a designated program to advance shared goals around intergovernmental relations, and economic and cultural development.



# Thank you!

## Connect with us



[vaughanbusiness.ca](http://vaughanbusiness.ca)



[ed@vaughan.ca](mailto:ed@vaughan.ca)



Vaughan Economic Development

## Economic Development

City of Vaughan

2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.

Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

905-832-8526