



**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: July 12, 2021**

Correspondence Package No. I-21-July-13

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-21-July-13 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario

- a) [Ontario Releases Tourism Economic Recovery Report](#)
- b) [Ontario Strengthening Protections for Buyers and Owners of New Homes](#)
- c) [Ontario Launching New \\$30 Million Surgical Innovation Fund](#)
- d) [Ontario Moving to Step Two of Roadmap to Reopen on June 30th](#)
- e) [In-Person Summer Learning to Support Student Success and a Strong Start to 2021-22 School Year](#)
- f) [All Ontarians Aged 18+ Becoming Eligible for Accelerated Second Dose](#)
- g) [Ontario Appoints Task Force on Women and the Economy](#)
- h) [Ontario Supporting Auto Manufacturing Workers](#)
- i) [Ontario Increasing Provincial Support to AgriStability Program](#)
- j) [Ontario Extends Transportation Investments for Small and Rural Communities](#)
- k) [Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs](#)
- l) [Ontario Combatting Islamophobia in Schools](#)
- m) [Ontario Northland Resumes All Bus Routes and Adds Two New Toronto Bus Stops](#)
- n) [Funding to Support Research and Innovation in Ontario's Vegetable Farming Sector](#)
- o) [Ontario Further Eases Long-Term Car Home Restrictions](#)

- p) [Ontario Launches Online Renewal Tool for Accessible Parking Permits](#)
 - q) [Ontario Invests in Research and Innovation](#)
 - r) [Ontario Supports Modernization of Small and Rural Municipalities](#)
 - s) [Kick Summer Off with Family Free Fishing in Ontario](#)
 - t) [Ontario Makes it Easier for Businesses to Offer Transportation Services](#)
 - u) [Youth Aged 12 – 17 Across Ontario Eligible for Accelerated Second Dose](#)
 - v) [Province Launches Online Renewals for Ontario Photo Card Holders](#)
- 2. Correspondence from Renfrew County**
- a) [All Second Dose Appointments After July 18th must be Re-Scheduled](#)
 - b) [RCDHU Issues Drug Warning for RCD Residents](#)
 - c) [Ontario Roadmap to Reopening](#)
 - d) [Youth Aged 12-17 Eligible to Book Accelerated Second Dose](#)
- 3. Correspondence from Hospice Renfrew**
- a) [Hospice Classic](#)
 - b) [Gazebo Raffle](#)
 - c) [50/50 Raffle Poster](#)
- 4. Correspondence from Collective Bargaining Ontario**
- a) [Newsletter](#)
- 5. Correspondence from Caroline Mulroney**
- a) [Community Transportation Program Extension Letter](#)
- 6. Correspondence from Arnprior Library**
- a) [Newsletter](#)
- 7. Correspondence from Municipal Property Assessment Corporation**
- a) [Electronic Buildings Permits](#)
- 8. Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Forest Inc.**
- b) [Short-Term Forest Management Plan](#)

9. Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- a) [Watch File – June 24, 2021](#)
- b) [Watch File – June 30, 2021](#)
- c) [AMO and MPAC Partner on Search for Municipal E-Permitting Platform](#)

10. Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Business

- b) [Newsletter – July 6th](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Releases Tourism Economic Recovery Report

Province reviewing recommendations to reshape the future of tourism

June 23, 2021

[Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries](#)

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — Today, the Ontario government released a report prepared by the [Tourism Economic Recovery Ministerial Task Force](#), which makes recommendations on how to support the province's \$36-billion tourism industry recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, was joined by Tim Hudak, Chair of the Tourism Economic Recovery Ministerial Task Force, to provide details about the report, which will feed into the ministry's strategic five-year plan, at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The report provides 10 key recommendations about how to rebuild and reshape the future of Ontario's tourism industry. The recommendations include reducing red tape for tourism businesses, restoring consumer confidence in visitors through collaboration between public health officials and the tourism industry and encouraging Ontarians to experience the province through industry co-ordinated travel days. The report also suggests new opportunities to showcase the best Ontario has to offer through itineraries, packages and trails that will make it easier to find local Ontario products and experiences.

"COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on Ontario's tourism industry. Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have listened to and worked closely with industry experts from across our sectors to help assess the impacts of the pandemic and how best to support them," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. "As we look to the future, the recommendations and proposals presented in this report will play a vital role in helping our government develop a clear path forward to ensure the long-term recovery of Ontario's tourism industry. I want to thank Tim Hudak and the members of the Tourism Economic Recovery Task Force for their time, diligence and passionate efforts."

The Tourism Economic Recovery Ministerial Task Force – led by former Culture, Tourism and Recreation Minister Tim Hudak – was asked to provide strategies and advice to help position Ontario and its local communities as destinations of choice for travel, as well as identify products and experiences that enhance destination development. The task force's report is informed by industry research, advice and recommendations put forward by the 14 Ministerial Advisory Councils at the onset of the pandemic, and formal submissions received from individuals and sector associations across Ontario's tourism industry.

"After the changes and challenges that were brought on by this global pandemic, Ontarians will want to create new memories and experiences with their families. Minister MacLeod and the Tourism Economic Recovery Ministerial Task Force want to help make that happen and want to help Ontarians rediscover all of the amazing attractions Ontario has to offer," said Tim Hudak, Chair, Tourism Economic Recovery Ministerial Task Force. "I am honoured to have served as the Task Force's Chair that comprised of a membership of so many talented tourism leaders to help craft a plan that will help people create memories of a lifetime. The work of this group will also play a key role in getting Ontarians back on the payroll in our tourism and hospitality sectors."

Ontario will carefully review the task force's recommendations. This input will be critical to the development of the ministry's strategic five-year plan and will help encourage essential sector transformation, ensuring Ontario tourism continues to be a key pillar of the province's economy and regional employment while remaining globally competitive for tourists and investment.

"Arts and culture tourism is an essential part of the overall tourism economy and one that punches well above its weight in terms of economic amplification. Arts tourists stay for long periods and invest in other activities; eating at local restaurants, staying at hotels, visiting wineries, markets and local shops and enjoying many other tourism destinations," said Tim Jennings, Executive Director of the Shaw Festival. "I'm thrilled the government has commissioned this report – it is essential that cultural tourism be given the resources to help Ontario build back quickly and to new heights. We know, in working alongside the minister and her staff throughout the last 16 months, that she shares these thoughts and interests and is committed to helping our sector help Ontario recover!"

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Strengthening Protections for Buyers and Owners of New Homes

New builder Code of Ethics and improved claims processes coming into force

June 23, 2021

[Government and Consumer Services](#)

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Ontario government is further strengthening protections for buyers and owners of new homes by introducing a new [Code of Ethics](#) for builders and vendors of new homes, clarifications to the simplified warranty and protections claims process for defects in new homes, and a mediation process for homeowners who dispute a warranty claim assessment. These changes come into effect on July 1, 2021 and will support a standard of work and professionalism that reflects the best of Ontario's homebuilding industry.

Announced today by Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, the new Code of Ethics – under the [New Home Construction Licensing Act, 2017](#) – will require licensed builders and vendors of new homes to operate in a professional manner with honesty, integrity, financial responsibility, and without intimidation or coercion. It also provides the [Home Construction Regulatory Authority](#) with a new discipline committee and an appeals committee process to hold bad actors accountable.

"Since taking on overdue changes to this important sector, our number one goal has been to protect homeowners and support ethical practices and top-notch service by homebuilders and vendors," said Minister Romano. "We all benefit when we raise the bar for quality new home construction in Ontario and make it easier for buyers and owners to get what they paid for. Our government is proud to be reaching the next milestone in this journey on July 1st."

Enhancements are also being made to [Tarion's](#) dispute resolution and new home warranty and protection claims processes to:

- support a simplified claims process that is easier for consumers
- improve transparency by requiring Tarion to provide claimants with expert opinions when it issues a warranty assessment report
- enable homeowners who dispute Tarion's assessment of their warranty claim to request that Tarion participate in mediation

These steps build on other consumer protection improvements including the [Rebuilding Consumer Confidence Act, 2020](#) and the designation of the [Home Construction Regulatory Authority](#) as the regulator responsible for builders and vendors of new homes. They are part of Ontario's ongoing overhaul of the Ontario new home warranty and protection program and also address the Auditor General of Ontario's recommendations in the 2019 Special Audit of the Tarion Warranty Corporation.

Quick Facts

- Additional protections for consumers also came into effect on April 1, 2021, under the [New Home Construction Licensing Act, 2017](#) including the expansion of publicly-available information about licensed new home builders and vendors on the [Ontario Builder Directory](#).
 - As of April 1, 2021, the [New Home Ombuds](#) (ombudsperson) has a stronger focus on helping consumers and provides greater accountability and oversight of Tarion.
 - On February 1, 2021, the [Home Construction Regulatory Authority](#) was [designated](#) as Ontario's regulator of builders and vendors of new homes. Tarion continues to administer Ontario's new home warranty and protection program.
 - The [Rebuilding Consumer Confidence Act, 2020](#) promotes higher quality new home construction, which reduces defects and new home warranty and protection claims, while better protecting consumers from bad actors in the marketplace.
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Additional Resources

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Launching New \$30 Million Surgical Innovation Fund

Fund will Support Additional Hospital Capacity to Improve Access to Care Across Ontario

June 23, 2021

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is launching a new \$30 million Surgical Innovation Fund that will directly support Ontario's hospitals and provide them with the flexibility they need to perform more surgeries and procedures in their communities. This fund is part of the government's investment of \$300 million announced in the [2021 Budget](#) to help the hospital sector recover, expanding access to care and helping to reduce the health service backlog due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout the pandemic, Ontario's hospitals have been unwavering in their commitment to ensuring that Ontarians receive the exceptional care they need, when they need it," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This new fund will support hospitals across the province as they develop the innovative solutions needed to continue to provide high quality care and ramp up surgical capacity, reducing wait times and improving access to surgical services for patients."

At the height of the third wave of the pandemic, Ontario made the difficult but necessary decision to ramp down non-urgent and non-emergent surgeries in order to maximize the health care resources needed to ensure that patients who most urgently needed care could access it. As Ontario begins to safely reopen, it is anticipated that referrals for surgeries and procedures will begin to increase.

Thanks to the resilience and dedication of Ontario's hospitals, as well as government initiatives such as funding supports for weekend and evening surgeries, the delivery of publicly funded surgical and diagnostic imaging services in alternate settings and investments in improving surgical efficiency and output, Ontario's hospitals are well-positioned to tackle this challenge. Despite the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on inpatient capacity, Ontario hospitals were able to complete on average 88 per cent of their targeted surgical allocations this past year.

The new \$30 million Surgical Innovation Fund is a proposal-based funding opportunity that will support hospitals in all regions of the province to address barriers to surgeries that cannot be addressed by other existing hospital funding streams, including training for more operating room nurses, equipment and technology supports, and small capital projects to leverage existing spaces to provide additional operating room output.

All hospitals across Ontario are eligible to submit their proposals through their Ontario Health Region by July 21, 2021. Working with Ontario Health, the Ministry of Health will review proposals from hospitals and approve projects according to a set of guidelines, including impact on increased surgical and procedural capacity, alignment with surgical recovery priorities such as local wait times, and long-term utility to create lasting impacts for sustained surgical output increases. Joint collaborations between local hospitals and proposals from Ontario Health Teams are also welcomed to maximize both regional collaboration and surgical care pathways, and transitions of care. Funding for approved projects is anticipated to be released in early Fall 2021 for immediate implementation this year.

"The recovery of our health system is vitally important to Ontarians," said Matthew Anderson, President & CEO of Ontario Health. "As we work to restore care, we will build on the collaborations that have been established during the pandemic and ensure our approach focuses on the entire continuum of care that connects patients requiring surgical services."

It is critical that Ontarians continue to seek care when they need it and that they contact their health care team if they require urgent care. The government continues to work closely with health system partners to explore additional measures and ensure patients and their families have access to the high-quality care they need, when they need it.

Quick Facts

- Over 465,000 scheduled surgeries took place in Ontario's hospitals in 2020-2021. Access to urgent lifesaving surgeries was preserved during the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. In areas less impacted by COVID-19, hospitals were able to do more surgeries in November and December than they had in previous years, delivering important surgical care to Ontarians, while reducing wait times for patients to have the procedures they need. As a result of improvements in hospital capacity, the volume of surgeries being completed in Ontario has increased by approximately 20 per cent a week since non-urgent surgeries resumed in May. Surgical output has reached nearly 70 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.
- Based on the [latest modelling data](#), COVID-19 cases, percent positivity, hospitalizations and ICU occupancy have significantly dropped due to the collective efforts of Ontarians. The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the province have decreased by 23.7 per cent between June 14 and June 20, 2021.
- Under the 2021 Budget, Ontario is investing an additional \$1.8 billion in the hospital sector in 2021-2022, bringing the total additional investment in hospitals since the start of the pandemic to over \$5.1 billion. This includes creating more than 3,100 additional hospital beds to increase capacity and reduce occupancy pressures caused by COVID-19.
- As part of the province's \$2.8 billion [fall preparedness plan](#), the government has invested \$283.7 million to assist the health system's ongoing efforts to reduce surgical wait times, and \$457.5 million to ensure that the health system is prepared to respond to any waves or surges of COVID-19 without interrupting routine health services.
- Ontario Health Teams are helping to maintain hospital capacity by coordinating programs that link hospitals, primary care, home and community care services, long-term care homes, congregate settings and other services, as well as supporting virtual care, online appointment booking and patients' digital access to their health information.

Quotes

"The Ontario Hospital Association welcomes the creation of the Surgical Innovation Fund to help hospitals recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, ensure timely access to care in the communities they serve, and reduce wait times for surgical procedures. Ontario hospitals appreciate the Government of Ontario's recognition of the need for continued investment in the hospital sector. The hospital sector has been the anchor of the COVID-19 response and hospitals have been committed to doing everything they can to keep Ontarians safe. Unfortunately, the impact of the pandemic will be felt for many years to come and ongoing innovation and financial support will be vital to supporting hospitals and maintaining access to health care services post-pandemic."

- Anthony Dale
President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Supporting Hospitals with Additional Funding During COVID-19](#)
- [2021 Budget - Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#)
- Visit Ontario's [COVID-19 vaccine web page](#) to view the latest provincial data and information on COVID-19 vaccines.
- Visit Ontario's COVID-19 information [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from the virus.
- For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only).

Related Topics

Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. [Learn more](#)

Health and Wellness

Get help navigating Ontario's health care system and connecting with the programs or services you're looking for. [Learn more](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Moving to Step Two of Roadmap to Reopen on June 30

Continuing Improvements in Key Indicators Allowing Province to Ease Additional Public Health Measures

June 24, 2021

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — With key public health and health care indicators continuing to improve, the provincewide vaccination rate now surpassing the targets outlined in the province's Roadmap to Reopen, and on the recommendation of the the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is moving the province into Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

"Because of the tireless work of our health care heroes, and the record setting success of our vaccine rollout, we are able to move into Step Two ahead of schedule on June 30 with the support of our public health experts" said Premier Doug Ford. "We are proceeding safely with the re-opening of our province and will continue to work around the clock until the job is done."

In order to enter Step Two of the Roadmap, Ontario needed to have vaccinated 70 per cent of adults with one dose and 20 per cent with two doses for at least two weeks, ensuring a strong level of protection against COVID-19. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Ontario's health care partners, as of June 23, 2021, over 76 per cent of the population in Ontario ages 18 and over have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and over 29 per cent have received their second dose. More than 13.3 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered provincewide.

Before entering Step Two, the province also needed to see continued improvement in key public health and health care indicators, including hospitalizations, ICU occupancy and the weekly cases incidence rates. After entering Step One, during the period of June 11 to 17, 2021, the provincial case rate decreased by 24.6 per cent. As of June 22, the number of patients with COVID-19 in ICUs is 305, including 10 patients from Manitoba, as compared to 450 two weeks ago. The province expects these positive trends to continue over the coming days before entering Step Two.

"Due to a continued improvement in key indicators, Ontario is ready to enter Step Two of our Roadmap, allowing us to safely and gradually ease public health measures while continuing to stop the spread of COVID-19," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Thank you to the Ontarians who rolled up their sleeves to help us reach this exciting milestone. Every dose administered brings us one step closer to the things we've missed, so please sign up to receive the vaccine when it's your turn."

Step Two of the Roadmap focuses on the resumption of more outdoor activities and limited indoor services with small numbers of people where face coverings are worn, with other restrictions in place. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 25 people;
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 5 people;
- Essential and other select retail permitted at 50 per cent capacity;
- Non-essential retail permitted at 25 per cent capacity;
- Personal care services where face coverings can be worn at all times, and at 25 per cent capacity and other restrictions;
- Outdoor dining with up to 6 people per table, with exceptions for larger households and other restrictions;
- Indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted at up to 25 per cent capacity of the particular room;
- Outdoor fitness classes limited to the number of people who can maintain 3 metres of physical distance;
- Outdoor sports without contact or modified to avoid contact, with no specified limit on number of people or teams participating, with restrictions;
- Overnight camps for children operating in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health;
- Outdoor sport facilities with spectators permitted at 25 per cent capacity;

- Outdoor concert venues, theatres and cinemas, with spectators permitted at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor horse racing and motor speedways, with spectators permitted at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor fairs, rural exhibitions, festivals, permitted at 25 per cent capacity and with other restrictions.

Please view the [regulation for the full list of public health and workplace safety measures](#) that need to be followed.

While the province has surpassed Step Three vaccination targets, Ontario may remain in Step Two for a period of approximately 21 days to allow the most recent vaccinations to reach their full effectiveness and to evaluate any impacts of moving to Step Two on key public health and health care indicators. When it is determined to be safe, the province will promptly move to Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen.

“Due to the continued commitment of Ontarians adhering to public health measures and going out to get vaccinated, we have seen our key health indicators continue to improve across the province,” said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “While we can now begin preparing to ease public health measures under the Roadmap, the fight against COVID-19 is not over and we must continue adhering to the public health advice and measures currently in place to maintain this great progress.”

Quick Facts

- Based on the latest [modelling data](#), COVID-19 case, positivity and hospitalization rates are continuing to decline and ICU occupancy is shrinking thanks to the efforts of Ontarians in following public health measures and rolling up their sleeves to get vaccinated
- On [June 11, 2021](#), the province [moved to Step One](#) of the Roadmap to Reopen, based on the provincewide vaccination rate and improvements in key public health and health system indicators.
- The Ontario government has released the [Roadmap to Reopen](#), a three-step plan to reopen the province and ease public health measures based on the provincewide vaccination rate and improvements in key public health and health care indicators.
- With a majority of Ontario adults having received their first dose of the vaccine, providing a strong level of protection from COVID-19, the province is [accelerating eligibility](#) to book a second dose appointment.

Additional Resources

- Visit Ontario's [COVID-19 communications resources web page](#) for resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts.
- Visit Ontario's [website](#) to find out if you are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at this time.
- For up-to-date information on the province's vaccine rollout and instructions on how to book an appointment, visit Ontario's [vaccine webpage](#).
- Visit Ontario's COVID-19 information [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from the virus.
- For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only).

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STATEMENT

In-Person Summer Learning to Support Student Success and a Strong Start to 2021-22 School Year

June 24, 2021

[Education](#)

TORONTO — Today, Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, issued the following statement on 2021 summer learning opportunities for Ontario students:

“To further promote student academic success, to reduce learning gaps, and to ensure that students are fully engaged in their studies, Ontario has expanded summer learning to the largest program ever in our history.

We are allocating over \$62 million in funding for summer learning programming and expanded offerings to prepare students with the knowledge and skills for success in the next grade, course, or postsecondary destination.

School boards are delivering virtual summer programming in July. To build upon this, and with the support of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, we are permitting school boards to offer in-person summer school in August with strict health and safety measures in place.

We are pleased with the high rate of vaccinations in Ontario, with over 76 per cent of Ontarians aged 18 and older having received one dose, and over 29 per cent with two doses. More than 53 per cent of youth aged 12 to 17 have received at least one dose. We will continue to ramp up vaccination efforts ahead of September to deliver a safe, and more normal in-person learning experience.

Our government is focused on supporting students who may face learning gaps as a consequence of this pandemic. That is why we developed an \$85 million plan to help them recover from learning disruptions with a focus on positive mental health, math and reading supports, re-engaging students, as well as \$80 million in specialized mental health supports and staffing for the 2021-22 school year.

For the new school year, we are providing more than \$1.6 billion to protect against COVID-19, and, with continued investments in infrastructure to improve ventilation and the health and safety of schools, we are taking concrete action that will keep kids safe and allow them to get back in classrooms where they belong.”

BACKGROUND

Summer Learning

- In support of safe in-person summer learning opportunities, the Ministry of Education will require the continuation of public health and safety measures that were in place throughout the 2020-21 school year.
- Parents are encouraged to contact their local school board to find out what is being offered in their school community.
- \$62 million in funding is being provided for summer 2021 learning programming and expanded offerings to support continuity of learning to prepare students with the knowledge and skills for success in the next grade, course or postsecondary destination.
- [Summer learning opportunities](#) are available in English and French and can include:
 - co-op courses
 - credit recovery
 - summer school credit courses
 - reach ahead credits for Grade 8 students
 - literacy and numeracy support programs
 - Indigenous and international language programs
 - supports for Black youth
 - supports for Indigenous youth
 - mental health supports outdoor learning programs and STEM education programs.
- The Ministry of Education is also expanding access to summer learning for 2021 for First Nations students by proposing changes to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) regulations. This means that fees shall not be charged for summer

learning opportunities for the following students:

- First Nations students, including students over the age of 21, who are already students of the school board via the Reciprocal Education Approach or Education Service Agreements, as well as First Nations students who will be registering with the school board in September 2021; and
- First Nations students, including students over 21, who are enrolled in First Nation/federally-operated schools.
- Additional staffing is available to support students with special education needs to participate in summer offerings and funding for summer transition programs for students with special education needs or students with mental health needs. This funding would allow school boards to hire up to an additional 1,910 teachers for one month in the summer.
- Summer learning places a special emphasis on connecting programs with the communities they are situated in. Nearby colleges, universities, businesses, conservation areas, community organizations, Indigenous community leaders and more can all play a role in enriching the summer learning experience.

Tutoring Supports

- Supporting one-on-one online tutoring services throughout the summer and year ahead through [Mathify](#) in math for English-language students in grades 6 to 10 and through [Eureka!](#) in all subjects for French-language students in grades 1 to 12. To date, over 85,000 students have accessed these services annually.
- For 2021-22, Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) provides up to \$29.3 million to support equity initiatives in schools for at-risk or marginalized students.
- Providing \$8.5 million through the Tutoring Allocation of the Learning Opportunities Grant in the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for school boards to design and structure tutoring programs to best fit the needs of their students. This funding is available to support all students when they require tutoring supports.

Re-engaging Students

- During the pandemic, some students have increasingly disengaged from learning or school for a variety of reasons. School boards are in the best position to know their students and local actions to support student re-engagement supported by the province.
- Funding of \$20 million is available in the 2021-22 school year to school boards for local actions to support student re-engagement, including Black students, Indigenous students, and students from low-income households, who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- Local actions may include, for example, dedicated staff to reach out to individual students and families, working with Indigenous partners and organizations to develop culturally relevant activities that bridge community and school-based learning, and partnering with community organizations to support pathway planning.
- Ongoing supports are available through the GSN and PPF for key resources, including Student Success Leads, Equity Leads, Indigenous Education Leads, Indigenous Graduation Coaches and Black Graduation Coaches.
- Renewing extracurricular activities and sports as health measures allow.

Mental Health and Well-Being

- Unprecedented investments to support student mental health including over \$80 million projected for the 2021-22 school year.
- This includes \$35 million in COVID-19 supports to address local priorities that may allow for the hiring of nearly 500 school-based mental health professionals, educator professional learning and collaborating with community mental health providers for students requiring more intensive supports, and student engagement.

Special Education

- Implementing an early math intervention pilot for students with special education needs in grades 4 to 6 to increase student engagement, address learning gaps, and support students to prepare for de-streamed Grade 9 math.
- Releasing resources for parents and educators including a remote learning guide for students with special education needs to support students who continue to learn remotely.
- Increasing the Special Education Grant in the GSN to over \$3.21 billion in the 2021-22 school year — the highest investment recorded in Ontario.

Media Contacts

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NEWS RELEASE

All Ontarians Aged 18+ Becoming Eligible for Accelerated Second Doses

Province Continuing to Expand Second Dose Coverage in Delta Hot Spots

June 25, 2021

[Health](#)

TORONTO — With more than 76 per cent of Ontarian adults having received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and over 30 per cent fully immunized, Ontario is accelerating second dose eligibility to all individuals aged 18 and over across the province.

Starting Monday, June 28, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., all Ontarians aged 18 and over who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine will be eligible to book an appointment to receive their second ahead of schedule. This will accelerate second dose eligibility for approximately 1.5 million Ontarians.

“Ontario’s vaccine rollout continues to pick up speed, allowing us to provide more second doses ahead of schedule while supporting our communities most at risk,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “All vaccines provide strong protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant, and I encourage everyone to book your second dose appointment as soon as possible.”

The province continues to take action to further protect Delta hot spots by accelerating second doses and expanding second dose coverage. Between June 14 and June 23, 2021 more than 1,090,000 doses have been administered to people living in Delta hot spot public health units, and a total of 230,000 additional doses were provided to Delta hot spots for the week of June 21st, 2021.

Starting this week, provincially supported mobile teams have begun returning to community and workplace sites to support second dose clinics in Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Toronto, Peel and York region hot spots. Two pop-up teams and additional vaccination staff are also helping to accelerate first and second doses in priority communities in Waterloo.

“Thanks to our public health units, pharmacy and primary care practitioners, as well as employers in hot spot regions, we continue to make strides to increase vaccinations and get more Ontarians fully immunized,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “Vaccines remain the best defence against COVID-19 and its variants and we encourage everyone to get their first or second dose at their earliest opportunity to keep themselves, their families and our communities safe.”

Beginning Saturday, June 26, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., youth aged 12 to 17 who live in a Delta hot spot (Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Peel, Porcupine, Simcoe-Muskoka, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and York public health units) are eligible to book an accelerated second dose appointment through the [provincial booking system](#), directly through public health units that use their own booking system, and through participating pharmacies.

In all other public health units, second doses for youth remain as they are currently booked at this time. To support a safe return to school in September, the province will be looking to accelerate youth second dose bookings following individuals aged 18 and over.

To ensure maximum protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant, Ontarians are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as they can and to receive their second dose within the recommended interval.

Quick Facts

- Due to the ongoing success of Ontario’s vaccine rollout and continuing improvements in key indicators, the province will move to [Step Two of Ontario’s Roadmap to Reopen](#) on June 30, 2021.
- Ontario is confirmed to receive approximately 5.2 million doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and approximately 4.7 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine in June, as well as approximately 3.54 million doses of Pfizer in July. Ontario’s allocation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, meant to arrive during the first two weeks of July, will be 907,000 doses, down

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Appoints Task Force on Women and the Economy

Task Force to advise government on breaking down barriers in a post-COVID economy

June 25, 2021

[Finance](#)

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is moving women's economic empowerment forward through the creation of Ontario's Task Force on Women and the Economy. The new task force fulfills a commitment in the *2021 Budget – [Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#)* to establish a task force on inclusive economic growth that will seek to address the unique and disproportionate economic barriers women face, particularly in an economy that will look different after COVID-19.

The Task Force will be chaired by Dr. Karin Schnarr, Associate Professor of Policy & Law at the Lazaridis School of Business & Economics at Wilfrid Laurier University, joined by a diverse array of women with successful track records in various private and public sector roles. Dr. Schnarr serves as the Director of the Undergraduate Business Program, and has 15 years of experience in government and private sector management consulting.

Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, and Jane McKenna, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues, announced the new Task Force today with the Chair, Dr. Karin Schnarr.

"Our government is committed to ensuring inclusive economic growth and creating opportunities for everyone to thrive," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "While the pandemic has challenged us all, women have been disproportionately impacted, facing higher job losses and carrying a greater burden of family care. That is why we have appointed Ontario's Task Force on Women and the Economy to recommend how to address the unique and disparate economic barriers women face, particularly as we rebuild our economy post-COVID-19."

"Women have tremendous skills to offer employers, bringing new and innovative ideas into workplaces," said Associate Minister McKenna. "The creation of this Task Force demonstrates our determination to ensure that women have the opportunity to be strong contributors and leaders as Ontario reopens. The representation on the Task Force speaks to the range of experiences women have across the province in various regions and various sectors."

The Task Force will meet throughout the summer of 2021 and consider three areas of focus relating to women's participation in economic growth:

- supporting women as they enter and re-enter the workforce;
- supporting women's entrepreneurship; and
- removing barriers for women to enter fields in which they are underrepresented, including the skilled trades and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

"We know that from an economic perspective, many women in Ontario were significantly challenged by COVID-19. I look forward to working with the other members of the Task Force to suggest recommendations to support women entering/re-entering the workforce, fostering women in entrepreneurship and small business, and ensuring opportunities in for women in underrepresented areas such as STEM and the skilled trades," said Dr. Karin Schnarr, Chair of Ontario's Task Force on Women and the Economy.

The Task Force includes members with a broad range of expertise and experience addressing the unique and disproportionate economic barriers women face, including:

- Bernadette Sarazin, Data Strategy Advisor, Fasken
- Chen Xia, CEO & Co-founder, Gotcare
- Diane Scott, Co-founder & Partner, SX2 Ventures, and Chairman & CEO, JMCC Canada Corp
- Kimberley Mason, Senior Vice President and Head, Private Banking Canada, Royal Bank Canada
- Melanie Debassige, Executive Director, Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation
- Nadine Spencer, CEO & President, BrandEQ Agency and President, Black Business and Professional Association

- Victoria Mancinelli, Director of Public Relations, Communications, Marketing and Strategic Partnerships, Labourers' International Union of North America
- Cheryl Fort, Mayor, Township of Hornepayne, and Locomotive Engineer for the Canadian National Railway

The Task Force's work will also be informed by direct consultation in the coming weeks with diverse stakeholder groups whose work touches on women's participation in the economy and Ontario's workforce.

Recommendations from Ontario's Task Force on Women and the Economy will help shape the government's plan to strengthen the conditions for long-term economic growth that will create jobs and greater prosperity for all people in Ontario.

Quick Facts

- While employment among men has dropped by 3.1 per cent during COVID-19, it is down by more than five per cent for women. Young women have been more affected than young men by pandemic-related changes in the labour market. Between February 2020 and May 2021, employment for youth aged 15 to 24 declined by 22.1 per cent for women and 13.7 per cent for men.
- According to the results of a survey Statistics Canada administered in 2017 to small- and medium-sized enterprises, only 15.2 per cent of businesses surveyed in Ontario were majority woman-owned.
- While women are more likely than men to obtain a college or university credential, women experience barriers that make them more likely to work in a narrower range of occupations and less likely to enter the skilled trades.

Additional Resources

[Ontario's Task Force on Women and the Economy.](#)

[Read Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.](#)

[Learn about programs for women's economic empowerment and financial security.](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Supporting Auto Manufacturing Workers

Training will help up to 800 people from underrepresented communities start good jobs

June 25, 2021

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

ETOBICOKE — The Ontario government is investing \$7 million to deliver training and paid job placements in the automotive manufacturing sector for up to 800 people from underrepresented groups. The project, led by the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association (APMA), will help develop a new talent pipeline to reinvigorate a sector with an aging workforce and help historically marginalized groups to train for, access, and retain good jobs.

Details were provided today by Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, who was joined by Christine Hogarth, MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, and Kinga Surma, MPP for Etobicoke-Centre.

"Our automotive sector has openings across the province for talented, trained and eager workers," said Minister McNaughton. "This program will help ensure people who face multiple barriers get access to free training and get on track to promising careers in assembly line work, machine operation or quality assurance, to name a few. This will energize our economy, workforce and, just as importantly, create great, local jobs that make our communities stronger. We will once again make Ontario's automotive sector one of the most competitive in the world."

Starting this month, APMA is working with community agencies and employment service providers to place up to 100 trainees per month with hundreds of auto parts manufacturers across Ontario, most of which are small and medium-sized businesses, and APMA members. Trainees will participate in paid job placement sessions that last a minimum of three months. Participating employers will receive up to \$8,000 in supports per trainee, of which a maximum of \$3,000 can be used as a wage subsidy and \$5,000 to cover costs related to training.

The job placements and training happen concurrently, starting between June 2021 and March 2022, with training tailored to each participant by APMA and their employer, and which can include on-the-job training, in-class or online learning. Training will cover manufacturing essentials, such as problem solving, document use, basic math, project management, as well as oral communication, critical thinking and inter-personal skills.

"Ours is an industry with an incredible future that is critically short of people to share in it," said APMA president Flavio Volpe. "Partnerships like these allow us to build permanent pathways into new communities who would otherwise not have accessed this prosperity."

Applications are being accepted through APMA's partner community agencies, employment service providers and its 300-plus member organizations. Individuals who wish to apply may do so through [APMA's website](#).

This new program is part of Ontario's \$115 million Skills Development Fund, designed to support fresh ideas for training and skills development that will help our economy recover and prosper.

Quick Facts

- According to the Future of Canadian Automotive Labourforce, numerous automotive manufacturers have a workforce comprised largely of workers over age 45.
 - There were 2,280 job vacancies in Ontario's transportation equipment manufacturing sector during the fourth quarter of 2020, an increase of 35 per cent since the fourth quarter of 2019.
 - Skills Development Fund projects are supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.
-

Quotes

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Increasing Provincial Support to AgriStability Program

Province Raises Compensation Rate and Calls for Federal Contribution

June 25, 2021

[Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

KINCARDINE — The Government of Ontario is taking leadership by announcing a provincial enhancement to the key farm support program AgriStability and calling on the federal government to contribute their share.

Ontario supported the federal government proposal put forward in November to enhance the AgriStability program by removing the Reference Margin Limit (RML) and increasing the compensation rate from 70 per cent to 80 per cent. In March, federal, provincial and territorial ministers agreed to the RML removal but have not reached agreement on the compensation rate.

In a proactive move to support Ontario farmers, the province has made the decision to move ahead with providing the provincial portion of the compensation rate increase, retroactive to the 2020 growing season.

“Ontario farmers can’t wait any longer for improvements to the AgriStability program – so the Ontario government is taking action and also calling on the federal government and other provinces to step up as well,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “By enhancing the AgriStability program, we can better help those Ontario farmers who have been impacted by large income losses from factors outside of their control.”

Over the last year risk management support for Ontario farmers has increased by approximately \$75 million. The provincial increase to the compensation rate and the combined federal and provincial support annually through the removal of the RML will result in approximately \$25 million in increased support for Ontario farmers. This is in addition to the \$50 million in additional annual funding for the Risk Management Program that was announced in July 2020.

“As Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs I’m committed to supporting our farmers and helping to grow our agri-food sector. Today we’re demonstrating that by increasing the protection for our farmers and calling on the federal government to do the same,” said Thompson.

“Ontario Pork welcomes this important change to AgriStability. Extreme price volatility and processing slowdowns dramatically impacted our industry in 2020,” said John de Bruyn, Chair of Ontario Pork. “This change will help the most affected producers recover. We continue to urge the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Marie-Claude Bibeau to find a way to match these funds.”

“We appreciate the Minister’s willingness to work with the industry to build risk management programs that work for farmers,” said Marc Carere, Chair of Ontario Sheep Farmers. “This is a good first step in that direction and we look forward to continuing the discussions.”

“We appreciate the Ontario government’s continued commitment to improving Business Risk Management programs which help many farmers manage risk and continue to invest in their farms during difficult times,” said Peggy Brekveld, President of Ontario Federation of Agriculture. “By choosing to increase the compensation rate from 70 per cent to 80 per cent on the provincial portion of approved AgriStability claims, more money will be paid out to the producers who need it most.”

“The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Association welcomes the increase to the provincial share of AgriStability’s compensation rate in Ontario. This leadership by the Ontario Government underscores the need to provide support to fruit and vegetable growers who had a very difficult 2020 and are still coping with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19,” said Bill George, Chair of OFVGA. “We call on Minister Bibeau to join Minister Thompson in implementing this policy by funding the traditional federal share of this program change.”

The enhancements to the AgriStability program will help to ensure farmers can access additional support when they needed it in a severe or disaster event. Farm business risk management programs play a vital role in the long-term competitiveness of Ontario's agricultural sector and its capacity to maintain our food supply.

Quick Facts

- On March 25, 2021, national consensus was reached on the federal government proposed change to remove the AgriStability program's Reference Margin Limit, but not to increase its compensation rate. Changes to the AgriStability program require support of 2/3 of provinces and provinces representing 2/3 of program participation.
 - On November 27, 2020 the federal government put forward a proposal to provinces to remove the Reference Margin Limit and increase the compensation rate to 80 per cent which would have resulted in a combined increase in provincial and federal support of \$170 million.
 - AgriStability is a business risk management program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership that protects farmers from large declines in their farming income caused by such factors as market conditions, production losses and increased costs.
 - AgriStability is the main national income support program for producers and provides individual support based on a producers' unique operation.
 - The Ontario agri-food sector supports more than 860,000 jobs in Ontario and contributes more than \$47.3 billion each year to the province's economy.
 - Enhancement of the AgriStability program is one of the government's many initiatives to assist the agriculture sector to meet challenges related to the COVID-19 emergency, including:
 - The \$25.5 million [Agri-food Prevention and Control Innovation Program](#) to help reduce disruptions in business operations and risks of COVID-19 exposure in the workplace;
 - The creation of a \$36.6 million [Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program](#) which includes \$10 million in 2021-2022 to support the implementation of measures to prevent and control COVID-19 and to address unforeseen worker health and safety issues.
 - The [investment](#) of an additional \$50 million into the Ontario Risk Management Program, one year earlier than originally promised.
-

Additional Resources

[Agricorp](#)

[Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

Related Topics

Rural and North

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Extends Transportation Investments for Small and Rural Communities

Supporting Transportation Services in Unserved or Underserved Communities

June 28, 2021

[Transportation](#)

PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL – The Ontario government is extending funding of up to \$14 million over two years for communities providing transportation services in unserved and underserved regions across Ontario through the Community Transportation Grant Program.

Additional funding will help ensure transportation services in 38 communities across the province have additional time to fully establish their transportation services as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build transportation services up to a sustainable level. This will better position municipalities to continue operating after the program has completed.

“The Community Transportation Grant Program is making life easier for people living in areas with few public transportation options,” said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. “The additional investment in local and intercommunity transportation services will help residents – including Indigenous people, seniors and people with disabilities – get to work, school or appointments and will give communities added security as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and plan for the future.”

The Community Transportation Grant Program is currently providing up to \$30 million over five years (2018-2023) to 38 municipalities to deliver 43 projects. This includes several municipalities who are partnering with or serving Indigenous communities and organizations.

The funding announced today will extend support for transportation services including bus service, on-demand shared rides and door-to-door transportation services supported by the program for two additional years.

Quick Facts

- The Community Transportation Grant Program supports transportation services in nine communities in the north, twelve in the southwest, ten in eastern Ontario and seven in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
 - Services supported through the Community Transportation Grant Program include bus service, on-demand shared rides and door-to-door transportation services that support various population groups including seniors and people with disabilities.
 - Connecting communities underserved by transportation services is one of the actions in Ontario’s regional transportation plans for the [southwest](#) and [north](#).
-

Additional Resources

- [Community Transportation Grant Program Recipients and Services](#)
-

Related Topics

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Information about road conditions, driver’s licences, vehicle registration and commercial vehicles. [Learn more](#)

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Travel and Recreation

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs

Free skills training for newcomers will help advance province's economic recovery

June 29, 2021

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

HAMILTON — The Ontario government is investing \$7.7 million in language and skills training supports to help 2,700 newcomers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic start new jobs. Through 19 programs across Ontario, newcomers will gain the skills they need to work in food manufacturing, healthcare, web development, and other in-demand sectors while supporting Ontario's economic recovery and future prosperity.

Details were provided today by Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development and Donna Skelly, MPP for Flamborough-Glanbrook.

"The skills that newcomers bring to Ontario play a crucial role in driving our economy forward," said Minister McNaughton. "Our job is to connect the dots and ensure newcomers have the support they need to pursue the in-demand and fulfilling careers available in their new home and provide for their families. These training investments will go a long way to strengthening our economy and local communities."

As part of today's commitment to supporting newcomers, YMCA Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford will receive \$250,000 to provide free job-focused language training to 80 newcomers interested in, or currently employed in the food manufacturing sector. Starting in fall 2021, the project will include a mix of in-person and online training where participants will learn sector-specific language skills, workplace health and safety and gain an awareness of Canadian workplace culture to start careers and succeed in the industry. The program is being delivered in partnership with Mohawk College and Food and Beverage Ontario.

"I'm looking forward to working with Mohawk College and Food and Beverage Ontario on this pilot," said Lily Lumsden, Senior Regional Manager, YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford. "This project aims to support newcomers and support Food and Beverage Manufacturers with gaining and retaining a skilled labour force. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the critical need of workers being able to understand and follow strict health and safety requirements. This project will improve newcomer employees' English language skills to keep them safe and productive at work. It is a great demonstration of the value of partnerships between community agencies, colleges, and the private sector."

New immigrants were among the hardest hit by COVID with over 34,000 losing their jobs. Through [these programs across our province](#), the government is focused on ensuring new immigrants get the support they need.

"I am so pleased that this investment will target newcomers in Hamilton who are working in or interested in employment in the food manufacturing sector," said Donna Skelly, MPP for Flamborough-Glanbrook. "When immigrants are given the opportunity to enhance their language skills, it not only benefits them, it also benefits the local economy."

Quick Facts

- New immigrants were among the hardest hit by COVID with an employment loss of 12% among recent immigrants compared to only 4% for the Canadian-born population.
 - The \$115 million Skills Development Fund offers funding to organizations for innovative projects that address challenges to hiring, training or retaining workers, including apprentices, during the pandemic.
 - Ontario's Workforce Development Agreement, Skills Development Fund and SkillsAdvance Ontario are supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.
-

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs](#)
- [Resources to improve English and French](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Combatting Islamophobia in Schools

Province Partnering with Community Organizations to Support Muslim Students and Families

June 29, 2021

[Education](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing in a plan to counter Islamophobia and ensure classrooms are free from discrimination. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, and Kaleed Rasheed, MPP for Mississauga East-Cooksville and Associate Minister of Digital Government, announced that in collaboration with community partners, funding will be provided for initiatives to support Muslim students and families with an emphasis on enhancing resources and training for educators, targeted supports for students, and digital resources for parents.

According to the most up to date data from Statistics Canada, hate crimes have been on the rise in Canada, with a nine per cent increase in anti-Muslim attacks in 2019, when compared to the previous year. Tragic and disturbing reports and incidents across Canada and the world over the past years underscore the need for action.

“It is unacceptable that many Muslim students continue to face discrimination in our schools, on our playgrounds and in communities across this country,” said Minister Lecce. “That is why we are investing and partnering with community leaders — who are leading this effort— to counter racism and better support Ontario’s Muslim students and their families. For Premier Ford, Minister Rasheed and myself, we believe in our core that every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and engaged in learning in inclusive classrooms.”

As part of the Safe Return to Class fund, Ontario’s government is providing \$225,000 to the Muslim Association of Canada to create digital resources for educators, students and parents to raise awareness about Islamophobia. These resources will provide information about Islamic practices, values and misconceptions, root causes of Islamophobia and ways to help end Islamophobia, racism and discrimination.

Ontario is also providing \$75,000 to the National Council of Canadian Muslims to facilitate outreach and engagement with Muslim parents and families, with a focus on newcomer communities. These engagements will provide information on school supports and will provide culturally relevant resources to enhance well-being for families and help Muslim students prepare for the return to school in September.

Quick Facts

- In 2019, Ontario’s government released a revised elementary Health and Physical Education (HPE) curriculum including new and enhanced learning related to healthy relationships, and how to be inclusive, respectful and accepting.
- As part of the Safe Return to Class Fund, the Ontario government is directing \$6.4 million to support equity-related projects. This includes funding to community organizations [to address anti-Asian hate](#), antisemitism, and Islamophobia, support for [Black](#), Indigenous and [2SLGBTQI+ students](#) as well as support for newcomer youth, parents and families to enhance access to school and community resources, and culturally appropriate mental health and well-being supports for youth, families and teachers.
- For the upcoming school year, Ontario’s Priorities and Partnership Funding will include a fund of more than \$288 million for approximately 150 initiatives that include a focus on strengthening math skills, access to mental health supports, anti-racism and support for children with disabilities.
- It was recently announced by the government that for the 2021-2022 school year, mental health funding for students will rise to \$80 million, representing a four time increase from 2017-2018.
- In March 2021, the Ontario Government announced a two-year investment of \$1.6 million on a new Anti-Racism and Anti-Hate Grant Program that will focus on increasing awareness on the impact of racism and hate.
- On June 4, 2020, the government launched the Premier’s Council on Equality of Opportunity, a new advisory group which provides advice on how young people can overcome social and economic barriers and achieve success.
- To support teacher hiring practices that are fair, consistent, and transparent, and to ensure a strong and equitable workforce for Ontario’s publicly funded education system, Ontario replaced previous Hiring Practices regulation with

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Northland Resumes All Bus Routes and Adds Two New Toronto Bus Stops

New stops will provide easy connections to rail, subway and regional transit

June 29, 2021

[Transportation](#)

NORTH BAY — Today, Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and MPP for Nipissing, and Corina Moore, President and CEO of Ontario Northland Transportation Commission announced that Ontario Northland will be resuming all regularly scheduled motor coach routes and adding two new stops in Toronto effective July 4, 2021.

“As the province safely reopens, our government is providing more transit options for Ontarians,” said Minister Mulroney. “Ontario Northland resuming all regularly scheduled bus routes and adding two new stops in Toronto demonstrates that our government is on the right track as Ontario safely reopens.”

Bus passengers travelling to Toronto will now be able to stop at Toronto’s Union Station Bus Terminal and the King City GO station. These two new stops will provide easy connections to the GO train, subway and regional transit, and complement existing stops at four major hospitals in Toronto, the Highway 407 Terminal and Yorkdale.

“Improving transportation options for the people of Northern Ontario has always been a priority for our government,” said Minister Fedeli. “Today’s updates will ensure underserved Northern communities are connected and people have access to jobs and critical services.”

“We’re always looking for ways to enhance the customer experience for our passengers,” said Corina Moore, CEO of Ontario Northland. “A King City GO Station stop and a Union Station Bus Terminal stop provide passengers with options to easily connect to rail, subway and regional transit when accessing Toronto, a popular destination for many northerners traveling for tourism, education, work and medical appointments.”

Quick Facts

- As of July 4, 2021, Ontario Northland will no longer be stopping at the Toronto Coach Terminal on Bay Street, which is closing on July 7.
 - COVID-19 safety protocols remain in effect for all passengers, including a pre-boarding health screen, non-medical masks or face-coverings worn at all times on buses and increased cleaning and sanitization of all high touchpoint areas.
-

Additional Resources

- For more information, please visit <https://ontarionorthland.ca>
 - For Ontario Northland COVID-19 updates, please visit <https://www.ontarionorthland.ca/en/coronavirus>.
-

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NEWS RELEASE

Funding to Support Research and Innovation in Ontario's Vegetable Farming Sector

Governments fund expanded work at the Ontario Crops Research Centre - Bradford

June 29, 2021

[Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

KING — The governments of Canada and Ontario are supporting agri-food innovation in the vegetable farming sector with an investment of \$150,000 to drive new research at the Ontario Crops Research Centre – Bradford.

Details of today's announcement were provided by Caroline Mulroney, MPP for York-Simcoe, and Ontario's Minister for Transportation and for Francophone Affairs, and Helena Jaczek, Member of Parliament for Markham—Stouffville.

Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the Partnership), funding will support the installation of specialized lighting and climate control equipment for the greenhouse which is part of the research centre. A new weather station that automates the greenhouse's climate control system was also installed as part of the investment. This new automated system will help create optimal growing conditions for greenhouse-started crops before they are transplanted to the field at the beginning of the outdoor growing season.

This infrastructure investment will increase research capabilities that will lead to more sustainable vegetable farming practices, helping farmers be more productive and competitive.

"Our Government is helping Ontario crop producers continue as world-leaders in agricultural and food production," said Member of Parliament for Markham—Stouffville Helena Jaczek. "This research will help our producers mitigate damage caused by pests and weather so they can continue providing fresh vegetables to Canadians and people around the world."

"This research centre in Bradford is an important resource for farmers in the Holland Marsh area and across the province. The knowledge generated through research conducted at this centre will lead farmers to be aware of and embrace the most advanced agriculture practices available," said Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "Research projects such as these at Ontario Crops Research Centre - Bradford, provide necessary data about vegetable production in muck soils that contribute to innovations that strengthen the whole agri-food industry."

"Our government is supporting Ontario's farmers by making critical investments that will set up our agri-food sector for long-term success," said Caroline Mulroney, MPP for York-Simcoe, and Ontario's Minister for Transportation and for Francophone Affairs. "Backing research projects like this will encourage innovative farming in Ontario and provide the agri-food sector with the resources it needs to reach new heights."

These greenhouse upgrades will improve crop research capabilities at the Ontario Crops Research Centre in Bradford and benefit Ontario's agricultural sector by:

- Demonstrating how lighting, ventilation and climate controls in greenhouse-started vegetable growing can improve production rates and achieve efficiencies to reduce cost of production in vegetable farming in muck soils;
- Contributing to knowledge of how to better manage pests that can damage high value vegetable crops; and
- Increasing the sector's understanding of how real-time weather data can be incorporated into crop production and modern greenhouse building controls to advance vegetable production transplants to the field.

"University of Guelph researchers remain continuously committed to working for producers to develop new, evidence-informed, farm-tested innovations to enhance on-farm production, drive economic prosperity, and improve the lives of our province's tremendous food producers," said Malcolm Campbell, Vice-President (Research), University of Guelph. "This investment in research infrastructure will support research that helps Ontario's vegetable growers to remain at the forefront of a sustainable, safe, productive and nutritious food supply, now and in the future."

This investment follows other recent efforts to enhance research in the sector such as [\\$6.5 million in funding for 40 research projects](#) through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance and a \$1.8 million intake, under the Partnership, to support project applications through the [Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative](#). It also builds on other measures to support the agricultural sector and provincial economic recovery during COVID-19 such as a [\\$7.5 million intake under the Partnership](#) for projects to enhance operations and competitiveness on Ontario farms.

"This investment will help ensure Ontario maintains its competitive advantage and long-term sustainability in the research and innovation of agri-food and agri-products. By investing in research infrastructure today, we are all collectively ensuring tomorrow's agri-food and agri-products innovations, which benefits all Ontarians" said Dr. Lorne Hepworth, Chair of the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO).

Since June 2018, both the federal and provincial governments have committed cost-share support to more than 5,000 projects through the Partnership, to help eligible Ontario farmers, food processors, agri-food businesses and sector organizations innovate and grow.

Quick Facts

- The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments. It will strengthen the agricultural and agri-food sector, ensuring continued innovation, growth and prosperity. This commitment includes \$2 billion for programs that are cost-shared by the federal and provincial and territorial governments that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.
- Ontario Crops Research Centre – Bradford, previously known as the Muck Research Station because of its location within the rich organic matter soils of the Holland Marsh, was established in 1946. Research at the Station focuses on the vegetable crops grown in the region, especially onions, carrots, lettuce, celery and Asian vegetables, but includes a wide variety of other vegetables.
- ARIO is an arms length corporation of the Province of Ontario that provides advice to the OMAFRA Minister on strategic directions for research activities that contribute to prosperous, competitive and sustainable agricultural and food sectors and rural communities in Ontario. Through the Government of Ontario, ARIO owns 17 research properties located across Ontario. These facilities provide the capacity for research on a wide variety of agri-food issues.
- The Ontario agri-food sector supports more than 860,000 jobs in Ontario and contributes more than \$47.3 billion each year to the province's economy.

Additional Resources

[The Canadian Agricultural Partnership in Ontario](#)

[Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)

[Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

[Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario](#)

[Ontario Crops Research Centre – Bradford](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Further Eases Long-Term Care Home Restrictions

New changes align with progress made under Roadmap to Reopen

June 29, 2021

[Long-Term Care](#)

TORONTO — In line with the move to Step Two of the government's [Roadmap to Reopen](#), Ontario is making additional changes to enhance long-term care home residents' quality of life. The [changes](#) will take effect Wednesday, July 7, 2021.

"As we cautiously and safely reopen the province, no one deserves to enjoy the reopening more than long-term care residents, their families and the staff," said Rod Phillips, Minister of Long-Term Care. "As we head into summer, long-term care residents will be able to spend more time with their friends and families thanks to the efforts of people across Ontario rolling up their sleeves and getting vaccinated."

Working with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and based on feedback from residents, their families, and other partners, the Ministry of Long-Term Care's [website](#) and [guidance document](#) have been updated to set out the following:

- Residents can have outdoor visits of up to 10 people.
- All residents may have up to two general visitors and two caregivers for an indoor visit.
- Personal care services can resume.
- Cohorting of residents can be relaxed during outdoor activities.

As well, there is no longer a limit on the number of people who can be designated as a caregiver by a resident or their substitute decision-maker.

A further easing of restrictions is planned to align with the timing of Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen. These changes are expected to include:

- Removing the limits on the number of visitors to the homes
- Permitting buffet and family style dining
- Providing that all residents will be able to go on absences regardless of immunization status
- Resumption of off-site excursions for residents
- Resumption of activities such as singing and dancing

The province continues to actively monitor COVID-19 activity, particularly in this vulnerable sector. The health and safety of residents and staff and all others who attend homes, including their mental and emotional wellbeing, remains our top priority.

Quick Facts

- Caregivers are essential visitors, designated by a resident or their substitute decision maker, who provide direct care to residents, such as helping with feeding, mobility, hygiene or cognitive stimulation.
- Other recent updates since the initial release of the Roadmap to Reopen include:
 - Close physical contact is now permitted between fully immunized residents and fully immunized general visitors and brief hugs are permitted for all visitors and residents regardless of vaccination status.
 - Short-term and temporary absences are permitted for fully immunized residents.
- All Ontarians, including all staff, visitors, and residents in long-term care homes, must continue to follow public health measures including masking, physical distancing (with specified exceptions), hand hygiene, and staying at home when they are sick. While COVID-19 immunizations have been demonstrated to be very effective, it is important for Ontarians to not let their guard down during this crucial period in the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Given their age and underlying medical conditions, long-term care residents remain at higher risk when it comes to the impact of COVID-19 compared to the general population.

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Launches Online Renewal Tool for Accessible Parking Permits

New digital service will make it easier to renew online from home, 24/7

June 29, 2021

[Government and Consumer Services](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government has launched a new online renewal tool for Accessible Parking Permits, providing a simpler, faster, and more accessible service for permit holders. Ontarians can now choose to renew a permanent Accessible Parking Permit, apply for a traveler's permit or motorcycle decal and request a change of address all by visiting [Ontario.ca/RenewAPP](https://ontario.ca/RenewAPP). Companies and not-for-profit organizations that transport individuals with accessibility needs on a not-for-profit basis can also use this online option to apply, renew or request changes to permits.

"Our government is committed to providing services that are accessible and inclusive for everyone," said Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. "We are excited to be offering digital fulfillment for yet another category of transactions to Ontarians. It is my hope that bringing Accessible Parking Permit renewals online for the first time will make life easier and more convenient for seniors and individuals with accessibility needs."

By providing standard personal information and an existing permit number, permit holders will now have the option to quickly and easily renew their Accessible Parking Permits from the comfort of their home. Previously, these services were only available in person at ServiceOntario or by mail. Ontarians can still take advantage of these methods but will now benefit from a quick and easy option that can be accessed at any time from a computer, tablet or smartphone.

"Our government is using technology to help to remove barriers for people with disabilities," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "This new Accessible Parking Permit online tool is a simple and convenient way for Ontarians to renew their permanent accessible parking permit, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's one more example of how government run efficiently can deliver superior customer service for Ontarians."

Over 40 of the most common ServiceOntario transactions, such as driver's licence and licence plate sticker renewals, are available 24/7 at ServiceOntario.ca.

Quick Facts

- Permit holders will now be able to renew online from the comfort of home, 24/7, and receive their new permit by mail.
 - There are over 700,000 Ontarians who have an Accessible Parking Permit. The online application can be used to complete applications for renewals of permanent Accessible Parking Permits, traveller's permits, motorcycle decals and a change of address.
 - All holders of permanent Accessible Parking Permits can use this new tool to renew online, including for permits that expired on or after March 2020 and continue to be valid.
 - It is recommended that customers continue to access services online where available. For transactions that need to be completed in person, appointments can be booked in advance at more than 40 ServiceOntario centres by visiting [Ontario.ca/Appointment](https://ontario.ca/Appointment).
-

Additional Resources

- [Renew an Accessible Parking Permit](#)
 - [Apply for an Accessible Parking Permit](#)
 - [Minister's Statement on Seniors Month](#)
-

Media Contacts

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Invests in Research and Innovation

Province supports development of homegrown ideas, products and technologies

June 29, 2021

[Colleges and Universities](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is providing over \$70.4 million to help advance ‘Ontario made’ research and innovation at Ontario’s colleges, universities, research institutes and research hospitals. The funding is being delivered through the Ontario Research Fund and Early Researcher Awards programs and will support the development of homegrown ideas, products and technologies.

“Ensuring Ontario’s researchers have access to state-of-the-art technology, talent and equipment has never been more important than it is now as we support our world class research institutes, research hospitals and postsecondary institutions across the province,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. “This funding helps to ensure researchers have the necessary supports in place to make discoveries that advance knowledge, inspire advances in technology, drive our economic competitiveness, and create a better future for the people of Ontario.”

The funding will support 176 research projects across the province and will be used to cover the costs of research operations and infrastructure, including building, renovating and equipping research facilities with the latest technology.

Examples of research projects include:

- The Water and Ice Research Lab at Carleton University is receiving \$109,999 in funding to use state-of-the-art autonomous aircraft and underwater vehicles to explore remote and inaccessible environments in order to improve land-use management, conservation and protection in Ontario.
- Lambton College’s Canadian Extrusion Research Lab is receiving \$417,533 in funding to help Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) develop and optimize green, smart and recycling materials and technologies. The Canadian Extrusion Research Lab will position Ontario as a provincial and national hub for material development projects.
- The University Health Network is receiving \$246,923 to conduct research to better understand heart disease and how it is affected by diabetes. Researchers will also test new regenerative medicine techniques to try to repair damaged hearts using stem cells and engineered blood vessels.
- The University of Toronto is receiving \$3,280,998 to improve autonomous driving car technology in winter weather, in partnership with General Motors, LGE, Applanix and Algolux.

As announced in [Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy – 2021 Ontario Budget](#), the government is investing over \$500 million over the next 10 years to support additional high-value research undertaken across Ontario’s universities, colleges, research institutes and research hospitals.

“Driving research excellence and innovation is crucial as Ontario continues to defeat COVID-19 and lay the groundwork for a robust and long-term economic recovery,” said Minister Dunlop. “Our government will continue to support ground-breaking research to advance new discoveries and innovation, while fostering a skilled labour force and promoting new business opportunities across the province.”

Quick Facts

- Research projects were selected through a rigorous and competitive peer review process.
- The [Ontario Research Fund – Small Infrastructure](#) Fund provides research institutions with funding to support infrastructure needs, such as acquiring research equipment. The government is supporting 102 research projects with an investment of \$20,550,890.
- [Ontario Research Fund – College-Industry Innovation](#) Fund helps cover the costs of building, renovating and equipping research facilities to promote partnerships between colleges and industry. The government is supporting five research projects with an investment of \$3,702,188.
- [Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence](#) helps cover the cost of research operations including supplies and researcher salaries. The government is supporting 15 research projects with an investment of \$37,573,286.

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Supports Modernization of Small and Rural Municipalities

Funding helps improve the delivery of critical programs and services while saving taxpayers' dollars

June 30, 2021

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is providing up to \$24 million to support the modernization of 224 small and rural municipalities across the province. This investment will help improve the delivery of critical programs and services that people rely on every day, while saving taxpayers' dollars.

"Today marks another milestone in our government's delivery of supports to municipalities, as they look for ways to improve service delivery in our communities," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "To put it simply, identifying and implementing modern solutions means money is diverted away from wasteful service delivery and stays in the pockets of local taxpayers."

A total of 254 projects have been approved for funding under Intake 2 of Ontario's Municipal Modernization Program. Municipalities will use the funding to find efficiencies and implement a wide range of initiatives to digitize, streamline and/or integrate programs and services with neighbouring communities. The funding will help municipalities administer the cost savings measures in time for the 2022 municipal budget cycle.

Ontario has committed up to \$125 million over four years through the Municipal Modernization Program to help small and rural municipalities modernize services. Under Intake 1, the Province invested \$11.8 million in 180 modernization projects and identified over \$100 million in savings and efficiencies.

Quick Facts

- Exact funding amounts for each municipality are not being disclosed in order to protect the integrity of the procurement process.
 - In March, Ontario announced [\\$10 million](#) through the Audit and Accountability Fund to help large municipalities improve the delivery of critical programs and services during COVID-19.
 - The historic federal-provincial [Safe Restart Agreement](#) secured up to \$4 billion in emergency funding to support municipalities throughout COVID-19.
 - Ontario is also providing municipalities with [almost \\$1 billion](#) in additional financial relief in 2021 to help preserve vital public services and support economic recovery. This includes \$500 million to help municipalities address their ongoing COVID-19 operating costs, \$255 million under the Social Services Relief Fund, and \$150 million for transit.
 - Ontario continues to call on the federal government to increase its funding for municipalities, which will be critical as they continue to recover from the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.
-

Additional Resources

- [List of municipal service delivery and efficiency projects](#)
 - [See how your organization can help fight COVID-19](#)
 - [Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.](#)
-

Related Topics

Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. [Learn more](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Kick Summer Off with Family Free Fishing in Ontario

Ontario Offers Licence-Free Fishing to Residents July 3 to 11

June 30, 2021

[Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry](#).

TORONTO – Ontario families can enjoy fishing province-wide without having to purchase a licence or carry an Outdoors Card, from July 3 to 11, 2021.

“Fishing is a time-honoured tradition and terrific way for families to spend time together,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry. “I hope everyone in Ontario is able to head down to a lake or river and take part in Free Fishing Week, this year.”

Families that take part in these activities are reminded to respect the regulations under Step 2 of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#).

If you and your family are fishing during licence-free fishing periods or at other times, it’s important to help keep recreational fisheries healthy for future generations by:

- Following conservation licence catch limits
 - Obeying size limits and sanctuaries
 - Following all other [fishing regulations](#) and rules.
-

Quick Facts

- Outside of licence-free fishing periods, anyone 18 and older, but under the age of 65 must have an Outdoors Card and a fishing licence.
 - All veterans and active Canadian Armed Forces members residing in Ontario can enjoy free recreational fishing in the province, whenever and wherever fishing is allowed.
 - Ontario’s recreational fishing industry generates \$1.75 billion annually.
-

Additional Resources

[What You Need to Know about Licence-Free Family Fishing](#)

[Fishing in Ontario](#)

[Find a new fishing spot using Fish ON-Line](#)

[Guide to eating Ontario fish](#)

Related Topics

Travel and Recreation

Learn more about hunting and fishing, provincial parks, festivals and events, and visiting Ontario. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Makes it Easier for Businesses to Offer Transportation Services

New Actions Will Increase Transportation Options for People Across Ontario

June 30, 2021

[Transportation](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is cutting red tape and making it easier for companies to provide passenger transportation services between communities in Ontario effective July 1, 2021. This is part of the province's efforts to improve transportation options for Ontarians as the province recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Under the previous system it was difficult for businesses that offered bus service to begin operating on a new route, even in situations where there was no service being offered," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "By cutting red tape, we are making it easier for carriers to offer transportation services to communities where there is a need."

Previously, one carrier was given a licence to operate a certain route for a particular destination or city. Effective July 1, carriers do not need a license to operate a new route and multiple carriers may offer service along the same or complimentary routes, helping to improve travel options for Ontarians.

Safety was a critical consideration while consulting with industry on ways to modernize the sector. Intercommunity passenger transportation carriers will still be required to meet [safety requirements](#) under the *Highway Traffic Act* and through the [Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration](#) process.

Quick Facts

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost two million people did not have access to an intercommunity passenger transportation route, and half of all municipalities did not have an intercommunity passenger transportation stop within their boundaries.
 - Improving intercommunity bus services is one of the actions in Ontario's regional transportation plans for the [southwest](#) and [North](#).
 - Ontario is supporting transportation services in 38 unserved and underserved communities through the [Community Transportation Grant Program](#).
 - The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC), a government agency, operates intercommunity bus services throughout Northern Ontario connecting to Toronto, Ottawa, Thunder Bay and into Manitoba to Winnipeg.
-

Additional Resources

- [Intercommunity passenger transportation](#)
 - [Ontario Regulation 418/21: Passenger Transportation Vehicles](#)
-

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

Information about road conditions, driver's licences, vehicle registration and commercial vehicles. [Learn more](#)

Jobs and Employment

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers. [Learn more](#)

Travel and Recreation

Learn more about hunting and fishing, provincial parks, festivals and events, and visiting Ontario. [Learn more](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Youth Aged 12-17 Across Ontario Eligible for Accelerated Second Dose

More Than Five Million Ontarians Now Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

July 02, 2021

[Health](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — As the province moves to [Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen](#), Ontario is accelerating second dose eligibility to all children and youth aged 12 to 17 to provide them with a strong level of protection against COVID-19, including the Delta variant, and support a safe return to school in September.

Starting on Monday, July 5, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., youth aged 12 to 17 across the province will be eligible to book an accelerated second dose appointment to receive the Pfizer vaccine through the [provincial booking system](#), directly through public health units that use their own booking system, and through participating pharmacies.

“As the province enters Step Two of our Roadmap, all eligible Ontarians have the opportunity for a two-dose summer,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Vaccines are the best defence against COVID-19 and variants, and I encourage everyone to get their first and second shots as soon as possible.”

Ontario’s vaccine rollout has been widely successful, surpassing targets and continuing to expand eligibility ahead of schedule. During the week of June 21, 2021, the province administered more than one million doses in four days. Notably, 26,771 doses were administered in a single day at Toronto’s Scotiabank Arena Clinic, setting a North American record. To date, the province’s public health units, mass vaccination clinics, hospital sites, pharmacies and primary care providers have administered over 15 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, with more than 77 per cent of adult Ontarians having received their first dose and more than 42 per cent fully immunized.

To continue to protect against the Delta variant the province continues to provide targeted supports to Delta hot spots. Since last week, provincially supported mobile teams have begun returning to community and workplace sites to support second dose clinics in Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Toronto, Peel and York region hot spots. Two pop-up teams and additional vaccination staff are also helping to accelerate first and second doses in priority communities in Waterloo Region. A total of 230,000 additional doses were provided to Delta hot spots over the past weeks to accelerate vaccinations and further protect these communities.

“Expanding the eligibility for accelerated second doses to include youth aged 12 to 17 is another positive step in the rollout of vaccines across Ontario,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “With the continued support of our public health partners, we are on track to significantly increase the number of Ontarians who will be fully immunized this summer, helping to protect themselves and their community.”

Quick Facts

- To date, more than ten million vaccine first and second dose appointments have been made through the provincial booking system since its launch in March 2021.
- Due to the ongoing success of Ontario’s vaccine rollout and continuing improvements in key public health indicators, the province moved into [Step Two of Ontario’s Roadmap to Reopen](#) on June 30, 2021.
- Ontario received approximately 3.7 million doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and approximately 4.7 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine in June, and is expected to receive approximately 3.54 million doses of Pfizer in July and 550,000 doses of Moderna for the first week of July. Ontario’s allocation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, meant to arrive during the first two weeks of July, will be 907,000 doses, down from the 1.7 million doses expected initially, with the remainder to arrive during the last two weeks of July (2,637,000 doses).
- All vaccines provided as part of Ontario’s vaccine rollout provide strong protection against COVID-19 and its variants, including the Delta variant. Mixing vaccines is safe, effective and enables Ontarians to receive their second dose sooner.

NEWS RELEASE

Province Launches Online Renewals for Ontario Photo Card Holders

New Service Provides Fast, Simple and Accessible Digital Solution

July 02, 2021

[Transportation](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is making life easier for Ontario Photo Card holders by providing the option for [card renewals online](#), no longer requiring in-person renewals at a ServiceOntario centre.

The Ontario Photo Card provides Ontarians who do not have a driver's licence with access to their government-issued identification, making it easier for them to do things such as open a bank account, receive a ballot when voting, and perform any other activities that require official identification.

"Our government recognizes that online renewals provide greater convenience and accessibility for people across the province," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "By giving Ontario Photo Card holders an alternative option to renew in-person, we're helping vulnerable populations and those who have difficulty attending a physical centre keep their ID up-to-date."

"Our digital-friendly government is committed to providing accessible online services that meet the needs of Ontarians," said Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. "The Ontario Photo Card online application is a simple and convenient way for Ontarians to renew important identification anywhere, anytime with the click of a button."

This is the latest service offered as part of the Ontario government's Digital First Strategy, which commits to designing digital products and services that are user-friendly and simpler, faster and better for people to use.

For those who cannot or choose not to renew online, Ontario Photo Card renewals at a ServiceOntario centre will still be available.

In addition to the new online renewal service, the Ontario Photo Card photo image has been extended from a five-year to a 10-year validity period for all renewals. This allows for the same photo ID image to be used the first time you renew your card, either online or in-person.

"The world has changed and government must change with it. That is why we are working to make Ontario's programs and services more convenient, more accessible and more user-friendly," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for Digital and Data Transformation. "The introduction of online renewals for the Ontario Photo Card is another way we are bringing our province into the 21st century, and moving Ontario onwards."

Quick Facts

- The fee for renewing your Ontario Photo Card remains the same at \$35.00, whether renewing online or in-person at a ServiceOntario centre.
 - People can apply for an Ontario Photo Card if you:
 - do not have a driver's licence
 - are a resident of Ontario, and
 - are 16 years of age and older
 - Over 40 of the most common ServiceOntario transactions, such as driver's licence and licence plate sticker renewals, are available 24/7 at [ServiceOntario.ca](#).
 - Ontario Photo Card online renewals is part of [Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government](#), which includes more than 30 projects that are changing the way people and businesses interact with government.
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RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 8:45 a.m., June 28, 2021)

All Second Dose Appointments After July 18 Must be Re-Scheduled

Due to increased eligibility for early second doses and increased shipments of vaccine, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is announcing that **all second dose appointments after July 18, 2021, will be cancelled and must be re-scheduled.**

This means that all **residents who have an appointment after July 18, 2021, will have to re-book their appointments online at an earlier date.** To help ensure that residents have ample opportunity to re-book, many appointments will be added over the coming weeks to support individuals booking their second dose sooner.

As of Monday, June 28, 2021, all Ontarians aged 18 and over who have received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible to book their second dose appointment. The appointment is to be booked at least 28 days after the first dose, per the recommended interval.

Residents are being asked to re-book online at [Renfrew County – COVID Vaccination Clinic Registration](#), as this is the fastest way. Individuals are encouraged to ask a family member or friend to assist if they are unable to book online themselves. Please **book only one appointment per person** to ensure that appointments are available to other eligible individuals. Alternatively, **COVID-19 vaccines remain available through pharmacies. To find a pharmacy near you visit [COVID-19 pharmacy vaccine locations](#).**

ONLY if a person is unable to register online, they can call RCDHU at 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097, ext. 201. Residents are asked to leave one message with their name and phone number, and someone will return their call as soon as possible.

Additionally, if you have been unable to find an appointment date or time that works for you and are able to come in last minute, you can put your name on the COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List, which allows residents to be called for last minute or same day appointments that open at various clinics across Renfrew County and District. **We are asking everyone to book the soonest appointment that they can due to the large number of vaccines coming.** Click here to add your name to the [Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List](#), or visit www.rcdhu.com and click on the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout webpage and scroll down to the link for the Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List.

For more information on getting a second dose and interchanging vaccines, visit RCDHU's [Fact Sheet: Your Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine](#). For all other COVID-19 inquiries, visit [RCDHU's website](#) or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

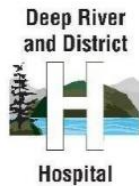
Committee Spokesperson: Carolyn Levesque

Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator

Pembroke Regional Hospital

(613) 732-3675, extension 6165

Carolyn.levesque@prh.email



Arnprior & District
Family Health Team



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 10:30 a.m., July 2, 2021)

RCDHU Issues Drug Warning for RCD Residents

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is warning residents that toxic drugs continue to circulate locally causing an increased risk of overdose.

Fentanyl has been confirmed in the local drug supply and has been present in several colours including purple, yellow and grey.

The unregulated drug supply is inconsistent and dangerous, including drugs of **any** colour. Even if you, or someone you know, is using from a familiar source, drugs may be stronger than expected and/or contain other substances that cause unpredicted effects which may include overdose.

If you are going to use drugs, never use alone. If you overdose, there will be no one there to help.

If you have access to a phone and do use alone, the National Overdose Response Service (NORS) 1-888-688-NORS (6677), an overdose prevention hotline provides 24/7 support by connecting the caller with someone who can monitor them and call for help if there is a concern of overdose – such as the caller becoming non-responsive.

It is important to call 9-1-1 right away if you suspect someone is having an overdose as they might require more naloxone than what is on hand and/or additional antidotes beyond naloxone to revive them. It is a medical emergency.

The risk of overdose can be reduced by having the following measures in place:

- **Don't use alone**
- **Don't mix drugs**—Don't mix drugs with other drugs or alcohol, as it puts you at higher risk of overdosing.
- **Go slow**—Quality of street drugs is unpredictable. Start by using in small amounts (testers or test doses) to check the strength of what you are using.
- **Carry Naloxone/Narcan®**—Naloxone can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose and kits are available for free.
- **Know your tolerance**—Risk of overdose increases if you are a new user or have not used in 3+ days.

Understanding the signs of an overdose can help save a life. Signs of an overdose can include:

- Breathing is very slow or irregular, or they may not be breathing at all
- Fingernails and/or lips are blue
- Body is limp
- Deep snoring or gurgling sounds
- Loss of consciousness/passed out (cannot wake the person up)
- Unresponsive (not answering when you talk to them or shake them)
- Pinpoint (tiny) pupils

If you suspect an overdose is occurring, **call 911 and if possible, give naloxone and CPR.**

Free naloxone kits are available throughout RCD at local pharmacies and other locations found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/where-get-free-naloxone-kit>.

For more information visit www.rcdhu.com or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

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Renfrew County and District Health Unit

media@rcdhu.com

www.rcdhu.com

Fax: 613-735-3067

Step 2: Roadmap to Reopen

Effective June 30, 2021

Wednesday, June 30, 2021, Ontario will move into **Step 2** of the *Roadmap to Reopen*. This is a **three-step plan** to safely and cautiously reopen the province and gradually lift public health measures. In Step 2, the following is **now permitted**:



- ✓ Indoor social gatherings and organized public events for **up to 5 people**.
- ✓ Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events of **up to 25 people**.
- ✓ Outdoor dining for **up to 6 people** per table, with exceptions for larger households.
- ✓ Essential retail capacity permitted at 50%. Non-essential retail capacity permitted at 25%.
- ✓ Indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted at up to 25% capacity of the particular room.
- ✓ Outdoor fitness classes limited to the number of people who can maintain 3 metres of physical distance.
- ✓ Outdoor sports without contact or modified to avoid contact, with no specified limit on number of people or teams participating, with restrictions.
- ✓ Overnight camps for children operating in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- ✓ Outdoor sport facilities with spectators permitted at 25% capacity.
- ✓ Outdoor concert venues, theatres and cinemas, with spectators permitted at 25% capacity.
- ✓ Outdoor fairs, rural exhibitions, festivals, permitted at 25% capacity and with other restrictions.
- ✓ Personal care services where face coverings can be worn at all times, and at 25% capacity.



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

www.rcdhu.com

RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 8:30 a.m., July 5, 2021)

Youth Aged 12-17 Eligible to Book Accelerated Second Dose

Today, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is announcing that in alignment with the province, youth aged 12 to 17 are eligible to book an accelerated second dose appointment to receive the Pfizer vaccine through the Renfrew County and District booking system and participating pharmacies starting **Monday, July 5, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.**

To help ensure that residents have ample opportunity to book and/or re-book, many appointments will be added over the coming weeks to support individuals booking their second dose sooner.

Residents are being asked to book or re-book online at [Renfrew County – COVID Vaccination Clinic Registration](#), as this is the fastest way. Individuals are encouraged to ask a family member or friend to assist if they are unable to book online themselves. Please **book only one appointment per person** to ensure that appointments are available to other eligible individuals. Alternatively, **COVID-19 vaccines remain available through pharmacies. To find a pharmacy near you visit [COVID-19 pharmacy vaccine locations](#).**

ONLY if a person is unable to register online, they can call RCDHU at 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097, ext. 201. Residents are asked to leave one message with their name and phone number, and someone will return their call as soon as possible.

Additionally, if you have been unable to find an appointment date or time that works for you and are able to come in last minute, you can put your name on the COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List, which allows residents to be called for last minute or same day appointments that open at various clinics across Renfrew County and District. **We are asking everyone to book the soonest appointment that they can due to the large number of vaccines coming.** Click here to add your name to the [Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List](#), or visit www.rcdhu.com and click on the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout webpage and scroll down to the link for the Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List.

For more information on getting a second dose and interchanging vaccines, visit RCDHU's [Fact Sheet: Your Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine](#). For all other COVID-19 inquiries, visit [RCDHU's website](#) or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

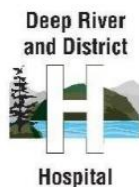
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Committee Spokesperson: Carolyn Levesque

Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator
Pembroke Regional Hospital

(613) 732-3675, extension 6165

Carolyn.levesque@prh.email



Arnprior & District
Family Health Team



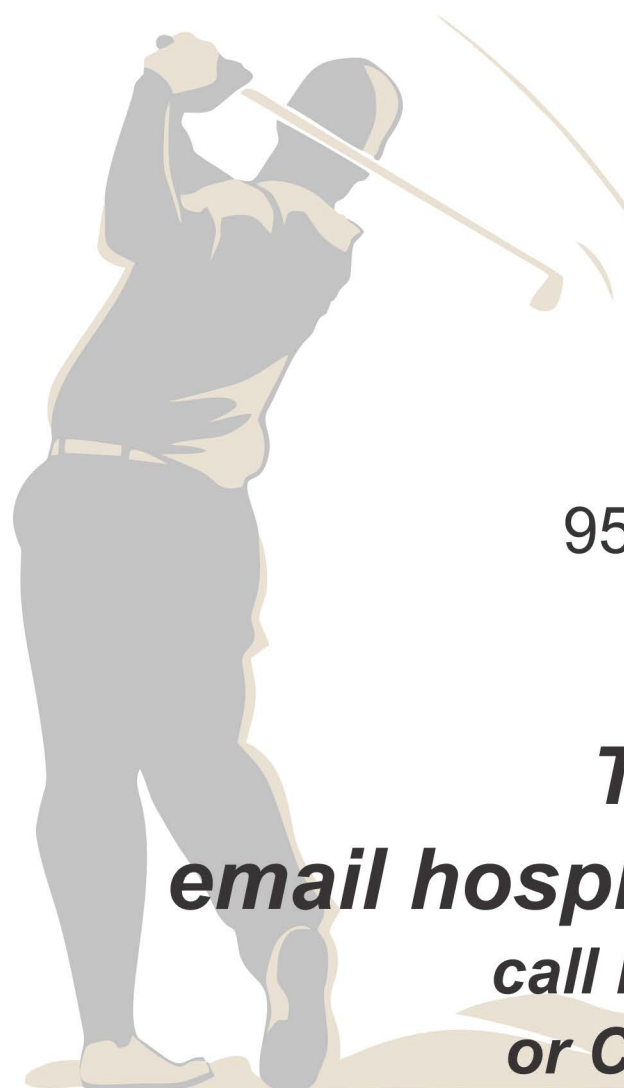
— ANNUAL — HOSPICE RENFREW CLASSIC

In Support of



FRIDAY AUGUST 6, 2021 SCHEDULED TEE OFF TIMES

**MEAL TO GO AND 18 HOLES WITH CART
COST PER PERSON \$120**



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955 Opeongo Rd, Renfrew ON



***To register your team
email hospicerenfrewclassic@gmail.com
call Kevin Cherry at 613-794-3019
or Casey Cherry at 613-222-9442***



Gazebo Raffle

Draw: Monday, August 9, 2021

Hospice Renfrew

All Proceeds go directly to Hospice Renfrew

Donated by Kenny Dillabough (Protyre)

Tickets \$10.00

Licence No.: M47090

No 0000

Tickets Being Sold At These Locations

- Hospice Renfrew - 459 Albert Street, Renfrew, ON
- Home Hardware (Cobden) - 98 Main St, Cobden, ON
- Protyre Renfrew – 1158 Stewart St., Renfrew, ON
- Gourley's Outdoors - 1564 ON-132, Renfrew, ON
- Renfrew Printing - 173 Raglan St S, Renfrew, ON
- McDougall Insurance - 166 Daniel St. N. Arnprior, ON.



Massive 50/50 Raffle

Draw to be held on
Monday, August 9, 2021
At Hospice Renfrew

Draw for Maximum Prize Value of \$7,500.00

Depending on number of tickets sold

Tickets \$5.00 each

Licence No.: M475089

No 0000

Tickets Being Sold At

- ❖ Hospice Renfrew - 459 Albert Street, Renfrew, ON
- ❖ A Dash of Fab - 128 John St N, Arnprior, ON
- ❖ Dunbar Home Inspections - 655 Pembroke St W Pembroke
or 37 Main St, Cobden, ON
- ❖ Doug's Automotive - 470 O'Brien Rd, Renfrew, ON
- ❖ Rocky Mountain House - 409 Stewart St, Renfrew, ON
- ❖ Scott & Sons Hardware Ltd - 150 Raglan St S, Renfrew, ON

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ONTARIO

Newsletter



June 2021



New and Improved Website

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has redesigned the Collective Bargaining Ontario website for a more user-friendly experience.

We have made several improvements including current collective bargaining announcements, a mobile-friendly interface, and new reports.

The redesigned website also features a simpler layout and improved search capability.

Ontario.ca/CollectiveBargaining

WHAT'S NEW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recent website updates
and collective
bargaining news

REPORTS

New collective
bargaining reports and
better search function

MOBILE-FRIENDLY

Enhanced mobile
compatibility

Take a look inside

Collective Bargaining Reports

View dynamic and fully customizable reports in real-time featuring our collective agreement data, with drill down, export, print and share options.

Use **Google Chrome** for the best user experience

[Collective Bargaining Highlights](#): Overview of collective bargaining activity in Ontario

[Expiring Collective Agreements](#): Expiring collective agreements by date, industry, sector, union, etc.

[Industry Snapshot](#): Industry-specific yearly snapshots of collective bargaining data

[Employer Listing Report](#): List of active employer and union bargaining relationships filed with MLTSD

[Collective Agreement Interactive Search](#): Search for collective agreements and interest arbitration awards filed with MLTSD

[Customized Agreements Listing](#): Customize and view collective agreement listings using advanced search refiners by employer, union, industry, legislation, etc.

New reports with more search capabilities

NEW

Announcements

Did you know...

You can file your collective agreement online using our easy to use web form. [Check it out...](#)

A screenshot of a web form titled "Collective Agreement Information". The form contains several input fields: "Name of Employer" (with a dropdown arrow), "Employer Address" (with a dropdown arrow), "Name of Union" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Date of Filing" (with a date picker icon). There is also a "Submit" button at the bottom.

Current collective bargaining news featured on an announcement carousel

User-Friendly Menu

Ontario 

Collective Bargaining Ontario

Français

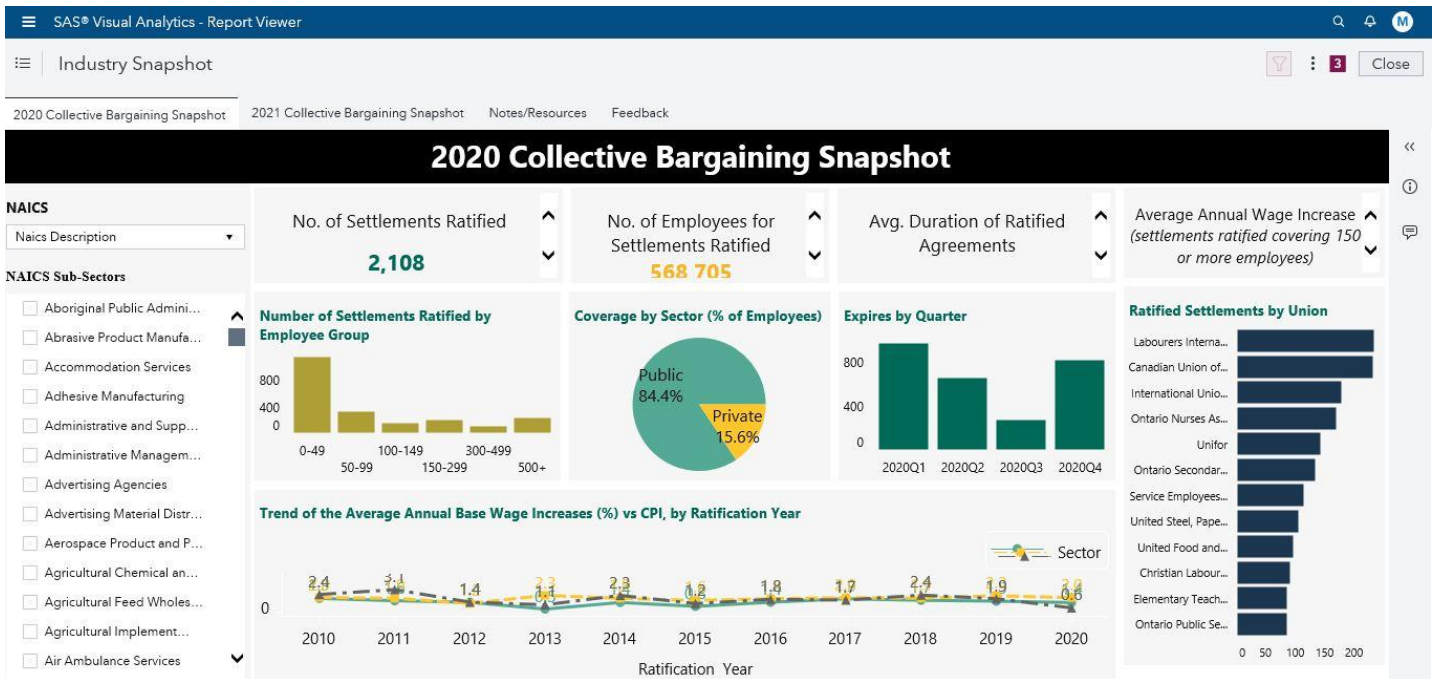
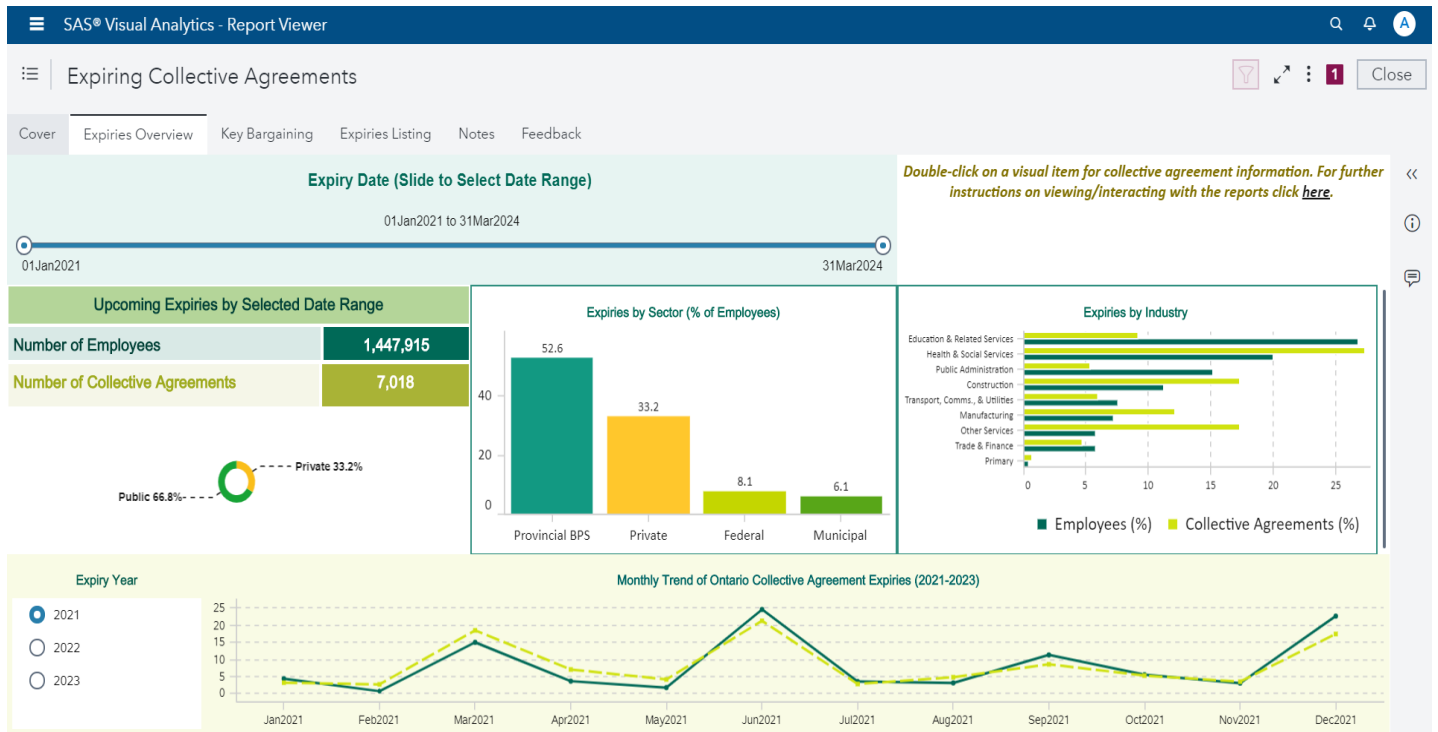
Home

About Us

Support ▾

Website Feedback

New Reports



Need more info?

Information and training sessions will be available soon. Sign up for updates and check back soon.

Sign up for [Collective Bargaining](#) updates.

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transportation

**Ministère des
Transports**

Bureau de la ministre

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transports



June 28, 2021

107-2021-2269

His Worship Walter Stack
Mayor
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin St. West
Arnprior ON K7S 0A8

Dear Mayor Stack:

I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Ontario is extending the Community Transportation (CT) Grant Program for an additional two years to continue supporting communities across Ontario until the 2024-25 fiscal year.

As Ontario recovers from COVID-19, reliable transportation will be vital for accessing employment and social programs, attending appointments, visiting friends and family, and maintaining an independent and active lifestyle.

As part of this two-year extension, the Town of Arnprior is eligible to receive provincial funding of up to \$59,303.02 per year in 2023-24 and 2024-25 for a total of up to \$118,606.03 over two years. Please note that funding is subject to the terms and conditions of an executed amending agreement to the current Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) between your municipality and the Ministry of Transportation. Ministry officials will be contacting your staff shortly regarding next steps associated with the CT Program extension and the amending agreement to the TPA.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Dowling, Manager of the Strategic Investments Office, by email at Kevin.Dowling@Ontario.ca or by telephone at (416) 859-7912.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Mulroney".

Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation

c. John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke



We're thrilled to be welcoming you back into the stacks! Beginning July 5th you are invited to browse, use the computers, explore the Book Sale and Café, find a comfortable space to escape the summer heat and so much more! Our summer hours are:

Monday	10am - 7pm
Tuesday to Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	10am - 2pm

We will continue our curbside service by offering **Grab & Go** pickups. We will sign out your materials and prepare them for pickup at your convenience - just follow the link in your email notification for reserved titles. We will also continue to provide hand-picked [book bundles](#) as well as curbside [printing services](#).

There are a few changes to greet you in the library.

In the downstairs fiction department: all new fiction displays feature books that have been purchased in the last 12 months. All fiction books by the same author are shelved alphabetically by title. This will be of great help when searching some of your favourite (and prolific) authors. It sure helped staff in the last few months when we were retrieving hundreds of books daily for curbside pickup!

The new non fiction display has expanded and we have grouped the selections by theme - Biography, Social Justice Issues & Current Affairs, History, In the Kitchen, Health & Home, Social Sciences and General Interest.

Internet access computer stations, study areas and general seating areas have been comfortably spaced.

One of the most noticeable changes is the installation of the Ottawa Valley Community Arts Project. This semi permanent gallery will feature up to 10 exhibits until June 2023. The current exhibit is entitled **Welcome to my World**. Opening the doors to our inner worlds to make connections with each other. After having spent the best part of a year in various degrees of COVID-19 lockdown, many of us are eager to connect with each other and share our experiences of isolation. The viewer will be invited to have a peek into the inner worlds created by the selected artists. Catch this exhibit before August 1. The next installation is **The Good Ancestor** and debuts August 6th



We launched a successful introduction to Mindful Meditation program in June and will be offering a second session throughout the summer.

Our guide Emily Lamoureux will be leading this summer session on Tuesday mornings at 9am. You must [register](#) for this free six week program. A Zoom link will be sent out each week beginning July 13th.

If you have an idea for a virtual program offered by the library, send us an email! library@arnpriorlibrary.ca

The library plants will be pleased to greet visitors again this month... you bring lots of CO₂ into the building!

We are looking forward to our Houseplant Fundraiser beginning July 19th. We'll be offering house-plant cuttings by donation.

If you have some plants you'd like to donate, please fill out [this form!](#)



Thanks to everyone who participated in our first Perennial Plant Fundraiser. More than \$300 was raised for the library.

If gardening is your interest and you would like to assist with some maintenance of our Reading Garden, simply email us and we can add you to the rotation! Perfect for the seasoned gardener and beginners alike! library@arnpriorlibrary.ca

Special shout out to Milliken's Garden Centre and the Town's summer students for maintaining the beautiful hanging baskets and annuals in front of the library.



Our Summer Reading Club for children is off to a fantastic start. More than 200 area youngsters are expected to participate in this year's range of programs which includes Book Bundles, activity kits, virtual and outdoor story times in the library's beautiful green space.

Book Bundles will be picked up by appointment. And remember to check out all the new books we've been adding to our collection. These include many new books in the Beginner Reader collections in both French and English.



It's not too late to register your child(ren) for our famous TD Summer Reading Club.

Visit our [Youth Services](#) page for all the details. After you've registered, you'll receive a welcome package that includes a password so you can access our Summer Portal to register for book bundles and more.



Each child may request up to two bundles a week, and participants will be given a wooden coin for every bundle they return, to a maximum of seven coins. Wooden coins can be spent at our library store on August 17 and 18, and if all seven coins are earned, participants will receive an invitation to our End of Summer Celebration with the fabulous magician Chris Pilsworth. The winner of a fun prize pack will be announced at this event. Stop by the library to see many of the prize pack items in our display case. *The more you read, the better your chances of winning!*

Special thanks to Proquest for extending free at home access to Ancestry.ca until the end of September. We've had to alter the way you access this database. Just complete the [form on our website](#) and after we've verified your membership, we will send you a link so you can set up a unique account to access Ancestry.



The last 15 months have demonstrated the importance of digital literacy. We've expanded our virtual library and offered programs in the virtual world. But many still need that extra bit of guidance. If you need assistance with your laptop, tablet or phone we're here to help.

We can help you with the basics of email, text messages and sorting your files. We can also help you navigate the many services you can access for free with your library card. These include eBooks, digital audio books, free online magazines, movie streaming, language learning and more!

Book your tutorial today. Call the library 613-623-2279 or let us know how we can help by completing this brief questionnaire.

Last month the library wanted to determine interest in an Indigenous Issues Discussion Group. The majority of respondents indicated a preference to start a group in the fall. We will continue to take names and contact information from anyone interested in [joining the group](#).

In the meantime, we invite you to explore our growing collection of resources for all ages.



See you at the library!

From: Chris Rickett <chris.rickett@mpac.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 11:28 AM

To: Walter Stack

Subject: AMO and MPAC Partner on Search for Municipal e-Permitting Platform



MUNICIPAL
PROPERTY
ASSESSMENT
CORPORATION

Good morning Mayor Stack,

MPAC is pleased to announce that we are working with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on their search to identify a preferred digital provider of electronic building permits.

Managing building permits electronically can increase efficiency, help streamline approvals, and ensure municipalities capture new assessment in a timely manner.

MPAC's role in the process is critical to municipalities. Annually, we process about 300,000 building permits, and in turn update assessments so that municipalities can accurately recover property taxes.

In addition to a digital service provider, AMO is seeking municipalities to participate in a pilot of the platform before it is offered more broadly. AMO and MPAC will be working collaboratively on the pilot project to evaluate the benefits of e-permitting solutions for the municipal sector.

The goal for participating municipalities is an integrated e-permitting system that provides a one-stop shop for building permits. It would include permit applications and review, communications with applicants, payment processing, data storage and coordination with MPAC.

To learn more please

visit: <https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/news-releases/amo-and-mpac-partner-search-municipal-e-permitting-platform>



We look forward to working with AMO and assisting in this new transformation project.

Thank you,

Chris

Chris Rickett, BES, MPA

Director, Municipal and Stakeholder Relations
Valuation and Customer Relations

Copy: CAOs, CFOs, Treasurers and CBOs

NOTICE

APPROVED 3 MONTH SHORT-TERM FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTENSION FOR THE OTTAWA VALLEY FOREST 2011-2021 FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Ottawa Valley Forest Inc. (OVFI)** and the **Ottawa Valley Local Citizens' Advisory Committee (LCAC)** would like to advise you that the 3 month short-term Forest Management Plan (FMP) extension of the approved 2011 – 2021 FMP for the **Ottawa Valley Forest** has been approved by the Regional Director.

This FMP extension extends the period of the current FMP to September 30th, 2021.

How to Access the Approved FMP Extension

The FMP extension is available electronically at the following locations:

- on the Natural Resources Information Portal – <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online>
- by contacting the OVFI office; Nick Gooderham at: ngooderham@ovfi.ca during normal office hours.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the approved FMP extension.

For further information, contact:

MNRF Contact

Krista Watters, R.P.F
Management Forester
krista.watters@ontario.ca

OVFI Contact

Nick Gooderham, R.P.F
Plan Author
ngooderham@ovfi.ca
613-735-1888, ext. 201

LCAC Contact

Robin Cunningham
Ottawa Valley Local Citizens'
Advisory Committee
rcunning@bell.net



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Shari MacDonald by e-mail: shari.macdonald@ontario.ca

Renseignements en français : Elizabeth Holmes au tél: 613-302-3768 courriel: elizabeth.holmes@ontario.ca.

From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Kaila Zamojski](#)
Subject: AMO WatchFile - June 24, 2021
Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021 10:03:36 AM

AMO Watchfile not displaying correctly? [View the online version](#)
Add Communicate@amo.on.ca to your safe list



June 24, 2021

In This Issue

- Provincial grant for victims of intimate partner violence and human trafficking.
- Ontario's Seniors Community Grant - Apply by July 15.
- Thank you for supporting the 2021 AMO Conference!
- Limited space for September 9 *Human Rights and Equity* training.
- Joint Health and Safety Committee eLearning bundle training.
- We know what you're doing this summer.
- EPT proves valuable for energy reporting.
- Energy reporting deadline - One week to go!
- Careers: TTC, Ajax, North Perth, Guelph and Simcoe.

Provincial Matters

The Victim Support Grant (VSG) provides police and communities up to \$200,000 to collaborate on community initiatives to support intimate partner violence and human trafficking. Watch for applications to open. For more information about the grant, contact SafetyPlanning@Ontario.ca.

The Seniors Community Grant program focuses on projects that help improve the lives of older Ontarians. Apply through Transfer Payment Ontario by July 15 at 5pm for grants between \$1,000 - \$25,000.

Eye on Events

If you have already registered for the 2021 AMO Conference, thank you for your support. It's your participation in the AMO Conference that makes it a truly important annual event. The 2021 AMO conference promises to set the bar even higher than 2020 including providing you the opportunity to connect with Government, the Official Opposition and other party leaders and MPPs in a way that draws a direct line to your local priorities. For more information and to register today visit the [AMO Conference site](#).

The necessity to honestly and transparently face the issues of human rights, diversity, equity and inclusion should be a top priority of all councils. AMO has developed training to help members better understand these important and complex issues along

with their roles and obligations. [Join us September 9](#) for this important session. Space is limited.

4S Consulting Services, AMO's occupational health and safety service partner, is offering [JHSC online training](#) at member [preferred pricing](#). Use the code **AMO2021** at checkout.

LAS

What are your plans this summer? We hope reading is one of them. Our LAS staff has put together [a book list](#), which we hope will give you some ideas on what to add to your own list.

One third of Ontario's municipalities use LAS' [Energy Planning Tool](#) to track and report energy consumption and their energy programs. [Check out this short video](#) to learn how to use EPT to generate your annual report. While you're at it, now's a great time to update your Council with the built in energy analytics.

Annual energy reports under [O. Reg. 507/18](#) are due to the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines on July 1, 2021. [Log in to the portal](#) to submit your 2019 consumption values. Email BPSsupport@ontario.ca for help, and [check out this video](#) for a guide to using the [LAS Energy Planning Tool](#) to generate your report.

Careers

General Counsel - TTC. The General Counsel is the senior legal advisor to the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), as well as to its subsidiaries and related organizations. The TTC is partnering with BIPOC Executive Search to ensure an applicant list that has greater representation from Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, thereby reflecting Canada's diverse population. All interested applicants can send their resume to Jason Murray or Helen Mekonen by emailing hmekonen@bipocsearch.com, or can apply through the [BIPOC Executive Search mobile app](#). Closing date: July 17, 2021.

Digital Communications Officer - Town of Ajax. Reporting to the Manager of Corporate Communications, the Digital Communications Officer is responsible for developing and implementing digital communications and engagement strategies to support the Town's programs, services, initiatives and corporate priorities. Applications are accepted at www.ajax.ca/careers until 11:59 p.m. on July 2, 2021.

Fire Chief - Municipality of North Perth. The North Perth Fire Department is a volunteer fire department consisting of 1 full time Fire Chief and 1 full time Assistant Fire Chief. The Fire Chief directs the overall operation and administration of fire services including the delivery of fire prevention, inspections, public education, training and fire response. A detailed summary of the position responsibilities, qualifications and a complete job description are available upon request or by visiting www.northperth.ca/jobs. Applications are being accepted until 4:30 pm, July 15, 2021.

Manager of Corporate and Community Strategic Initiatives - City of Guelph. The successful candidate will play an critical role in developing a culture of strategic

planning and performance measurement excellence as well as supporting the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Guelph's Community Plan and the City's Corporate Strategic Plan. Qualified applicants are invited to apply using our [online application system](#) by Sunday, July 4, 2021.

Realty Specialist - City of Guelph. Department: Legal, Realty & Court Services. Position reports to the Associate Solicitor, Realty Services. Qualified applicants are invited to apply using our [online application system](#) by Monday, June 28, 2021. Please note all applicants must complete the online questionnaire specific to this position at the time they submit their resume and cover letter in order to be considered.

Administrator - County of Simcoe. As a valued member of Long Term Care and Seniors Services, the Administrator demonstrates a commitment to Resident Safety by providing quality care in accordance with the organization's mission and vision. Employment Status: Permanent, Full Time. Reference Code: 1321. Location: Midhurst. Closing date: July 6, 2021. To view the job description and submit your application online, please visit [Simcoe County Career Opportunities](#).

Program Supervisor Non Profit - County of Simcoe. The Program Supervisor oversees the administration of mandated Social Housing programs and non-mandated affordable housing programs. Employment Status: Permanent, Full Time. Reference Code: 1313. Location: Midhurst. Closing Date: July 12, 2021. To view the job description and submit your application online, please visit [Simcoe County Career Opportunities](#).

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watch File](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

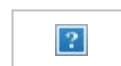
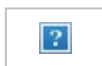
[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#) Tel: 416.729.5425

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

AMO's Partners



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June 30, 2021

In This Issue

- Regulatory changes for low risk short-term water taking activities.
- Comment period now open for Project Methodology Guideline Review.
- Ontario's Seniors Community Grant - Apply by July 15.
- Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident Pathway immigration program.
- Joint Health and Safety Committee eLearning bundle training.
- Culvert prices rising August 1.
- 4 easy steps to using LAS' Canoe Procurement Group.
- Careers: AMO.

Provincial Matters

Effective July 1st, 2021, eligibility requirements for the [Environmental Activity and Sector Registry \(EASR\)](#) for water takings will be expanded for construction site dewatering, road construction, and certain pumping tests. For more details see [O. Reg. 63/16](#), [O. Reg. 387/04](#).

The Province is seeking feedback to support an update of the Projection Methodology Guideline to reflect Ontario's current land use planning policy framework. Visit the [ERO posting](#) for more details.

The [Seniors Community Grant](#) program focuses on projects that help improve the lives of older Ontarians. Apply through Transfer Payment Ontario by July 15 at 5 pm for grants between \$1,000 - \$25,000.

Federal Matters

The Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident Pathway program offers eligible foreign workers in Canada and recent international graduates a faster route to permanent residency in Canada. Applications to the program must be submitted before November 5, 2021. More information is available at [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#).

Eye on Events

4S Consulting Services, AMO's occupational health and safety service partner, is offering [JHSC online training](#) at member [preferred pricing](#). Use the code **AMO2021** at checkout.

LAS

While the [Canoe Procurement Group](#) protects members from volatile prices, adjustments do happen on occasion. A negotiated price increase on our culvert supply contract has been approved for August 1. [Contact LAS](#) to place your order now before prices go up.

In just 4 easy steps, you can buy the items you use every day: (1) Make sure your

purchasing by-law allows for group buying. (2) Post a [Notice of Participation](#) on your procurement website. (3) Send LAS your [opt-in form](#). (4) Contact any of [the many vendors](#) and mention you want to buy through the Canoe! Questions? Contact [Tanner Watt](#) for more info.

Careers

Information Services Analyst - AMO. AMO is a non-partisan, non-profit, membership organization representing Ontario's municipal governments. The IS Analyst works in a dynamic, results-oriented environment. The position provides operational support in the development and implementation of the Association's overall information services, including systems, member database, websites, job posting, content management and records. This person is a key resource in records management and data integrity. Please send your application in pdf format, including a cover letter, directly to hr@amo.on.ca, referencing in the subject line "IS Services 2021" by July 14, 2021.

About AMO

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[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

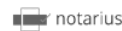
[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#) Tel: 416.729.5425

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

AMO's Partners



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BREAKING NEWS

June 28, 2021

NEWS RELEASE

AMO and MPAC partner on search for municipal e-permitting platform

(Toronto) –The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has launched its search for a preferred digital provider of electronic building permits. AMO is partnering with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to identify a digital platform that municipalities can adopt for the building permit process.

Managing building permits electronically can increase efficiency, help streamline approvals, and ensure municipalities capture new assessment in a timely manner. Informed by a member survey and insights from MPAC, AMO has issued a Request for Proposal for an e-permit platform to serve Ontario's municipalities. Bidders have until Friday, July 30 to provide submissions. More information is available on AMO's procurement website: <https://amo.bidsandtenders.ca/Module/Tenders/en>.

"AMO is pleased to be working with MPAC on this initiative. Both AMO and MPAC understand the need to modernize the municipal permit process to reduce administrative burdens and costs. We're seeking a solution that can be scaled to help municipalities of any size manage the process from application to final inspection," said AMO President Graydon Smith.

The goal is an integrated e-permitting system that provides a one-stop shop for building permits. It would include permit applications and review, communications with applicants, payment processing, data storage, and coordination with MPAC.

MPAC's role in the process is critical to municipalities. The organization processes about 300,000 building permits annually, updating assessments so that municipalities can accurately recover property taxes.

"Municipalities rely on MPAC to turn their building permits and plans into assessment, and our ability to do that quickly and efficiently helps municipalities realize new revenue," said Alan Spacek, Board Chair, MPAC. "Working in partnership with the municipal sector to modernize and digitize the building permit process will speed up our work to assess new construction and renovations, helping municipalities fund critical community programs and services."

The RFP requires the creation of a pilot project. AMO is seeking municipalities to participate in the pilot before it is offered more broadly to the membership. AMO and MPAC will be working collaboratively on the pilot project to evaluate the benefits of e-

permitting solutions for the municipal sector.

Since the 2017 release of *#OnMuni Online: Towards Digital Transformation and Opportunities for Ontario's Municipal Governments*, AMO has been partnering with leading solution providers to offer scalable, affordable, and easy-to-use technologies to help members find ways to be more efficient and reduce costs.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system.

About MPAC

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation funded by all Ontario municipalities, accountable to the Province, municipalities and property taxpayers through its 13-member Board of Directors. Its role is to assess and classify all properties in Ontario in compliance with the Assessment Act and regulations set by the Government of Ontario. MPAC assesses more than 5.4 million properties in Ontario, representing more than \$3 trillion in property value. These assessments provide the foundation that municipalities use to base the property taxes needed to pay for community services.

For more information:

Nicholas Ruder, Research Advisor, AMO/LAS, nruder@amo.on.ca, 416- 971-9856, ext. 411

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario
200 University Ave. Suite 801, Toronto ON Canada M5H 3C6

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Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

Renfrew, Lanark and regional business news.

www.ovbusiness.com | admin@ovbusiness.com

101 Things
To Do in the Valley

JULY-AUGUST EDITION

DOWNLOAD IT NOW!
www.travelourbackyard.com

Do you have something to
contribute for our next edition?
101things@travelourbackyard.com



Issue No. 305

Published by: Forward Thinking

July 6, 2021

Some Fun History To Celebrate Canada A light approach to appreciating our country

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

With concerns of how or if to celebrate Canada Day this year, we offer some light, fun facts about this country that are interesting to know:

On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act came into effect, joining the colonies of Canada (Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick into the Dominion of Canada

Bytown was changed to Ottawa in 1855 which is derived from the Algonquin word 'adawe' which means 'to trade'

'Buffalo' was the proposed name of a new Canadian province in 1904 which was rejected and the territory divided up into what is now Alberta and Saskatchewan

Ontario's Yonge Street is the longest street in the world at almost 2,000km, stretching from the foot of Lake Ontario and running to the Minnesota border,



In 2008, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney officially declared Santa Claus a Canadian citizen

Superhero Superman was the creation of Canadians Joe Shuster and American Jerry Siegal

Forests cover up to 42 per cent of Canada and one-tenth of the world's forest can be found here

Russian ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov defected here in 1974

Nunavut takes up one-fifth of Canada's total landmass

The coldest temperature recorded in Canada was -63C (-81.4F) on February 3, 1947 in Snag, Yukon

A Mari Usque ad Mare (From sea to sea) is the Canadian motto

Grise Fiord, Nunavut, population 129, is Canada's northernmost civilian settlement

Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha!, in Quebec is the only town in the world with two exclamation points in its name

There have been 27 Nobel Prize winners from Canada

The baseball glove was invented in Canada in 1883

Banff National Park is Canada's first and oldest national park

Dog food is tax-deductible in Canada if it is for a service dog

Macaroni and Cheese is the most purchased packaged grocery item in Canada

You can go swimming with beluga whales in Churchill, Manitoba

O Canada became the unofficial national anthem in 1967; it was officially adopted on July 1, 1980

St. John's, Newfoundland has 212 days/year when precipitation falls

Montreal was the first Canadian city to host the Summer Olympics (1976); Calgary was the first to host the Winter Olympics (1988)

At 3,855,103 square miles, Canada is the second-largest country in the world

Continued on Page 3

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Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

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Ottawa Valley Business (OVb) publishes on the first and third Tuesday of every month. OVb covers business news and events throughout Renfrew, Lanark and Pontiac counties as well as the surrounding areas. OVb is published by Forward Thinking Marketing Agency.

WHO READS US

Ottawa Valley Business is delivered by email to 3,600 subscribers in businesses, organizations and local and regional government.

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Submissions on items related to business are welcome. This includes news, events, new hires, tender and letters to the editor. Content will be edited to fit the space available. If you have an event that is not business-related, please consider 101 Things To Do in the Valley at a cost of \$25. 101things@travelourbackyard.com

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MAILING ADDRESS

2113 Petawawa Boulevard,
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 7G8

Events

July 6, 2021

Doing Business With The Government of Canada. The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises would like to help your company do business with the federal government. 12:00pm-2:00pm. Free webinar. Call 873-355-9796 to register.

July 7, 2021

Google Advertising: The Business Owner's Starter Guide. Google Advertising can be very powerful, but only if it's done properly. Webinar is designed specifically for business owners. To register, call 613-828-6274 or clientservices@investottawa.ca.

July 8, 2021

Reboot Your Career. Land your perfect job. Two-part virtual workshop. July 8 and 15. \$145. More details online at www.careerconstructors.com. Contact Tim at 613-266-7716 or tragan@careerconstructors.com

July 8, 2021

How An Online Store Can Boost Your Business: Free Ontario Program. Hosted by Digital Main Street. To register, visit: www.digitalmainstreet.ca/shophere

July 13, 2021

Introduction to Bookkeeping. Whether you are doing the books yourself or delegating this fundamental part of your

business to others, you will surely benefit from this free workshop! 9:30am-11:30am. Free webinar. Call 613-828-6274 or clientservices@investottawa.ca to register.

July 15, 2021

Microsoft 365 vs Google Workspace – What collaboration platform to choose. The two product suites head-to-head in a detailed comparison review. 11:00am-12:00pm. Free webinar. www.eventbrite.ca/e/151700589547

July 15, 2021

How An Online Store Can Boost Your Business: Free Ontario Program. Hosted by Digital Main Street. To register, visit: www.digitalmainstreet.ca/shophere

July 20, 2021

Doing Business With The Government of Canada. The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises would like to help your company do business with the federal government. 12:00pm-2:00pm. Free webinar. Call 873-355-9796 to register.

July 20, 2021

Market Research and Techniques. Marlene Zakaib is a Business Librarian with the Ottawa Public Library. 10:30am-12:00pm. Free. To register, call 613-828-6274 or clientservices@investottawa.ca.

July 22, 2021

How An Online Store Can Boost Your Business: Free Ontario Program. Hosted by Digital Main Street. To register, visit: www.digitalmainstreet.ca/shophere

July 29, 2021

How To Start A Podcast From Scratch. Join Goodlawyer Show hosts, Brett and Matt, as they walk you through the basics of how to get started with podcasting and why you should create a podcast. They'll cover everything from the technical to the abstract of podcasting concepts. 4:00pm-5:00pm. Free webinar. Call 613-828-6274 or clientservices@investottawa.ca to register.

August 12, 2021

Volunteer Ottawa Workshop on Volunteer Recruitment. 9:30am-12:00pm. This workshop will take you through the recruitment process, from developing good job descriptions, to identifying motivation, getting out your message, and the application process. \$145.

Contact Monja De Luca at education@volunteerottawa.ca.

September 15, 2021

Volunteer Ottawa Workshop: Write Successful Grant Proposals. 9:00am-12:00pm. There are millions of dollars of grant money available every year to Canadian charities and non-profits. This course will provide you with the skills and knowledge to access this important revenue source. \$145. Contact Monja De Luca at education@volunteerottawa.ca.

Submit your business event to admin@ovbusiness.com

Our 25th Anniversary Event!

Registration
Holly Molenaar
Phone: 613-735-0659 ext.220
hmolenaar@cluov.ca

Golf Day 2021
COMMUNITY LIVING
Upper Ottawa Valley

Friday, September 17th
Tee Times: 8:30am-12:30pm
Oaks of Cobden Golf Course

\$100 includes 18 holes, cart, lunch and more

A safe, outdoor activity to support local businesses and people with intellectual disabilities. COVID-19 protocols will be in place.

More Canada Facts (From Page 1)

Continued from Page 1

Manitoulin Island is the largest freshwater island in the world

The North-West Mounted Police formed in 1873 and was renamed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1920

Canada was the first country to declare war on Japan hours after the attack on Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941; the U.S. and Great Britain did so the next day

Hawaiian Pizza was invented in Canada

Marcellus Gilmore Edson came up with a peanut paste for people who couldn't chew solid food; in 1884 he was awarded a patent for what would become peanut butter

The electric light bulb was invented in Canada

Originally known as Frobisher Bay, the city of Iqaluit reverted to its original Inuktitut name in 1987 meaning "place of many fish"

The Montreal Canadiens are the oldest hockey team in the NHL (1917) and one of the oldest continuously existing sports franchises in the world (1909)

There are 11 points on the Canadian flag's maple leaf

Until 2007, the CN Tower was the world's tallest free-standing structure. It remains the tallest in the Western Hemisphere

Wasaga Beach is the longest freshwater beach in the world

Baseball Hall of Famer Babe Ruth hit his first professional home run off the Toronto Maple Leafs at Hanlan's Point Stadium on Toronto Island in 1914

The world's largest beaver dam in Wood Buffalo National Park, Alberta measures 850 metres long

The first known use of the term "Canuck" to refer to a Canadian was first used in 1835

There are 6 time zones in Canada – Pacific, Mountain, Central, Eastern, Atlantic, Newfoundland

Calgary is considered the sunniest city in Canada, with an average of 333 sunny days annually

Standard time was invented in Canada

Montreal is home to the world's second-largest French-speaking population after Paris

Ottawa is the world's second coldest capital city after Moscow

Canada has the longest coastline of any country in the world

Ontario Government News In Brief

Optometry exams, women, transportation and more

Optometrists May Suspend OHIP Exams

A news article in the Sault This Week newspaper says the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) will suspend all OHIP-covered eye exams and services as of September 1, 2021 unless the Ontario government amends its funding model. Fees for eye exams are set by OHIP and optometrists have no way to adjust that fee. It is also illegal for optometrists to take payments from those covered by OHIP, even if people have private insurance. In 1989, the Ontario government paid \$39 for an eye exam, and that fee increased to \$45 today. The OAO says it costs \$80 for an eye exam. According to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, routine eye examinations for people aged 20 to 64 are not covered by OHIP; people under age 20 or over age 65 are covered by OHIP for a routine eye exam every year.

Special exams for people with medical conditions are also covered.

Community Transportation Grant Program Recipients

Ontario is extending funding for communities providing transportation services through the Community Transportation Grant Program. Local municipalities receiving funding include: Perth (\$1,449,344.50), Arnprior (\$467,860.00), Bancroft (\$500,000.00) and Petawawa (\$483,000.00).

Women and Economy Task Force

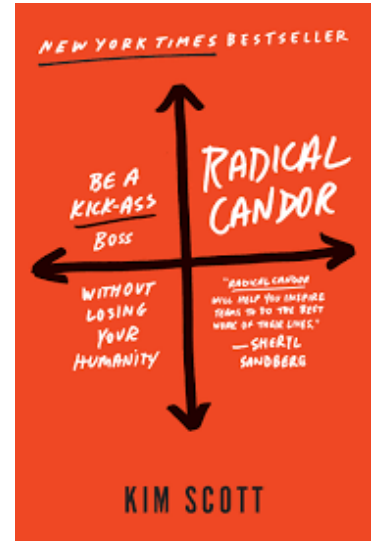
The Ontario government is creating Ontario's Task Force on Women and the Economy. The task force will meet throughout the summer of 2021 and consider three areas of focus relating to women's participation in economic growth: supporting women as they enter and re-enter the workforce, supporting women's entrepreneurship and removing barriers for women to enter fields including the skilled

trades and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). If you would like to share your feedback as part of this consultation, you can email submissions@ontario.ca. Submissions will be accepted until July 30, 2021.

Strengthening Protections For Buyers Of New Homes

The Ontario government is further strengthening protections for buyers and owners of new homes by introducing a new Code of Ethics for builders and vendors of new homes, clarifications to the simplified warranty and protections claims process for defects in new homes, and a mediation process for homeowners who dispute a warranty claim assessment. These changes come into effect on July 1, 2021, and will support a standard of work and professionalism that reflects the best of Ontario's home building industry.

Book Club



Radical Candor has been embraced around the world by leaders of every stripe at companies of all sizes. Now a cultural touchstone, the concept has come to be applied to a wide range of human relationships.

The idea is simple: You don't have to choose between being a pushover and a jerk. Using *Radical Candor* - avoiding the perils of obnoxious aggression, manipulative insincerity, and ruinous empathy - you can be kind and clear at the same time.

Kim Scott was a highly successful leader at Google before decamping to Apple, where she developed and taught a management class. Since the original publication of *Radical Candor* in 2017, Scott has earned international fame with her vital approach to effective leadership and co-founded the *Radical Candor* executive education company, which puts the book's philosophy into practice.

Radical Candor is about caring personally and challenging directly, about soliciting criticism to improve your leadership and also providing guidance that helps others grow. It focuses on praise but doesn't shy away from criticism to help you love your work and the people you work with. *Radical Candor* has raised the bar for management practices.

Business News Around The Valley

Building Permits

The Township of Admaston Bromley has issued 38 building permits for 2021 up to the end of May for a total construction value of \$2,425,000.00. Greater Madawaska has issued 82 building permits for 2021 to the end of May for a building construction value of \$13,739,965.00. The Town of Petawawa has issued 175 permits from January to the end of May 2021. The total construction value is \$18,941,900.00 and fees collected were \$448,007.05.

Blackwater Factory Could Become Marijuana Factory

The former Blackwater Factory building in Foymount may become home to a medical marijuana facility. The property is owned by Patrick Delaney and a zoning amendment request has been made to the Township of Bonnechere Valley to change the use from General Commercial to

General Industrial One-Exception Four to permit the facility. The business would cultivate, process, package and distribute the product from the site.

County Provides Economic Impact Report

Upon request, County of Renfrew Business Development Officer David Wybou researched and drafted an economic impact report for Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College in Barry's Bay. The report is being used in support of the college's application submission to the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities for approval to offer a four-year bachelor of arts programs in history, philosophy, literature and classical and early Christian studies. Currently, the College has certificate and three-year degree programs. The development of four-year degree programs will increase the college's attractiveness and long-

term sustainability, attracting more students and retaining students for longer study programs at the college, and increasing the student population in Barry's Bay. These changes will increase the positive economic impact the college already has in Madawaska Valley.

Daycare For Herman Street

The Renfrew County and District School Board is working on the development of a daycare addition to the Herman Street Public School. The school board is proposing to construct a 7,534 square foot addition to the existing school which is to be located towards the west end of the existing building. The development will also include the reconfiguration of the whole of the existing parking lot at the front of the property.

Employee News

Barry McIntyre, Supervisor of the Cobden Patrol or the County

of Renfrew has obtained his Certified Road Supervisor certification.

County Anticipates Surplus

The County of Renfrew is projecting that the 2021 capital program for the department will result in a surplus of approximately \$2,558,657 by the end of the year due to contract pricing that is lower than anticipated prices for hot mix asphalt for projects already tendered.

GM Receives \$100K Grant

The Township of Greater Madawaska has received a \$100,000 grant for the Ginza Rink to replace the asphalt, plywood, boards, lighting, and activity mats. The work should be completed before the 2021-2022 skating season. As per the funding agreement, the project must be completed by December 31, 2022.

Continued on Page 5

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**Celebrating our
300th
ISSUE**

Issue No. 300 Published by Howard Whiting April 26, 2019

"Not Much They Can Take Anymore" Small business owner rallies "We Are All Essential"

By Jennifer Layman
jlayman@ovbusiness.com

(Illustration: Davis was part of a Protesters protest last week when she and others picketed on foot against the third lockdown of small businesses. This was before the extended lockdown measures announced on Friday. Davis owns a small business that is not essential, even by her own definition. But her protest was not about whether her business should be allowed to remain open. It was about ensuring the government has the right to shut down if they go to that business. Davis and the others who joined the protest are some of the few who have had the courage to stand publicly for what they believe to be the right decisions by the provincial government. Many business owners feel the same, but are afraid to say anything publicly for fear of being considered negative commentators from the public. Davis and several



decided not to stand with the group when the day came because of their own, but they were not alone. Davis and her colleagues created an online or digital protest where they posted the gift certificate sales as an income measure. But in the second lockdown, the support waned. "I don't know if people were just tapped out, but we needed to show we were not so successful," she

says. "People want to support small businesses, but over time they just aren't able to do it." Now in the third lockdown, there's no income. However, there are utility bills, internet fees and taxes which still have to be paid, even when the government has forced the closure of small businesses with their COVID-19 rules. "I don't even know what to do now," she says.

If you think listening to such a dangerous situation in COVID-19, Davis doesn't seem parallel with other services that are permitted to operate and who do so in a safe way. "Finger pointing, for example, is similar to doing so in some of being made someone's mouth. Making things can seem such a person's body with an open while some areas have always been closed to the public. It's even before COVID-19. Commerce had been closed in other ways more restrictive than what some were a person's own or leg

Continued on Page 3

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Business News Around The Valley

Continued from Page 4

CNL To Create Advisory Panel

As an enhancement of their community outreach and engagement, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is creating a community engagement panel. This panel will provide a forum for local community members to interact with CNL, learn more about activities at laboratories, environmental remediation projects underway and ask

questions and seek further information. Twelve community representatives will be selected through an application process.

Local Businessman Inducted Into HOF

On May 15, 2021, Ray Bonenberg of Mapleside Sugar Bush was inducted into the International Maple Hall of Fame in New York. This induction was to recognize Bonenberg's decades of service to the maple syrup industry in Ontario and his influence of

policy, sugar bush and maple tree management best practices, and professional development for all maple producers. Bonenberg is a long-time member of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association and has made many contributions to the maple syrup industry in Canada and the United States.

Mississippi Mills Business Park

The next phase (10 serviced lots) of the Mississippi Mills Business Park should be completed by the

end of the summer. The Community Economic & Cultural Coordinator confirmed there have been a number of inquiries about the lots from manufacturing businesses, local businesses looking to expand as well as new ventures. The process has changed somewhat for potential buyers and all offers will be brought to council for approval. There is concern was that these 10 lots could potentially be sold out this summer or fall.

The Top Issues For Canadians: COVID Not #1 Over 60 per cent would support an election in the last quarter

According to an Angus Reid poll (June 2021), COVID-19 is not the top issue of concern for Canadians. While 45 per cent felt this was the top concern in March, it has dropped to 31 per cent that do now. However, healthcare generally remains the top issue.

One in five Canadians (20 per cent) now say Indigenous issues are among their top three federal concerns they care most about. In March, this was only nine per cent. With the cost of buying a home ever higher and the issue of housing affordability is similarly skyrocketing in priority (29 per cent), up seven points this quarter and 12 points compared to this time last year.

The following are the issues Canadians say they care about most:

- 37% - healthcare
- 31% - COVID-19
- 29% - environment/climate change
- 29% - housing affordability
- 26% - the economy
- 24% - the deficit and government spending
- 23% - income inequality and poverty
- 20% - Indigenous issues
- 19% - taxes
- 15% - unemployment
- 12% - crime
- 11% - energy and natural resources

The national vote picture

continues to look competitive, with the Liberal Party holding a three-point advantage (33 per cent to 30 per cent) over the opposition Conservative Party of Canada (CPC). The NDP are preferred by 21 per cent of Canadians.

Canadians are largely against the idea of an election before the fall. Three-quarters say an election before September would be inappropriate, but 61 per cent say holding one between September and December would be fine.

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It's A Fact

Ontario Tourism

\$36.7 Billion

Economic activity generated by Ontario tourism pre COVID-19

392,777

Jobs generated in Ontario from tourism prior to COVID-19

\$35.5 Billion

Ontario GDP generated from tourism prior to COVID-19

\$13 Billion

Taxes generated from Ontario tourism prior to COVID-19

\$10.3 Billion

Foreign exchange to Ontario from tourism pre-COVID-19

243,000

Pleasure Craft Operator Cards issued in 2000

147,000

Five-year average of Pleasure Craft Operator Cards issued

40%

Increase in hiking or backpacking from summer 2019 to summer 2020 in Ontario by Ontarians

39%

Increase in visiting a national or provincial park from summer 2019 to summer 2020 in Ontario by Ontarians

36%

Increase in boating from summer 2019 to summer 2020 in Ontario by Ontarians

21%

Increase in canoeing or kayaking from summer 2019 to summer 2020 in Ontario by Ontarians

19%

Increase in going to a beach from summer 2019 to summer 2020 in Ontario by Ontarians

7%

Increase in camping from summer 2019 to summer 2020 in Ontario by Ontarians

Source: Tourism Economic Recovery Ministerial Task Force

Yakabuski Reflects On Minister's Role

Accomplishments for RNP under his tenure

By: John Yakabuski, MPP
john.yakabusko@pc.ola.org

I want to begin, by stating what an honour it has been to serve as a Minister of the Crown for the past three years.

It's a responsibility that very few people get to experience. While the demand on one's time could be extremely challenging, it's a challenge viewed as an opportunity by anyone who is tasked with the appointment and I must say I am grateful to be one of those few.

I'd like to reflect on a few of the accomplishments that have impacted not only the people of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke but indeed those in the entire province. Locally, my first significant item was to lead the discussion on the issue of the extension of Highway 17, ensuring that it was firmly placed into the capital plan for

transportation infrastructure.

As Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, one of my prime focuses was indeed the forest sector, an industry that had received little in the way of support from the previous government. After extensive consultations with industry stakeholders, Indigenous First Nations and municipal leaders, we introduced Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy. This 10-year plan is built on four pillars. It has given confidence to the industry that the future is not one of mere survival, but one that allows it to reach its tremendous economic potential. Forestry provides direct and indirect jobs to 145,000 people and generates \$18 billion annually for our economy. Another significant change we made was to remove forestry from the burden of the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA). The ESA has never and could

never function in the sector given the nature of its work. We now have forestry governed by the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* which is considered by many, to be the gold standard of forest management.

While high water and flooding was certainly not a problem this year, we know it will in the future. Such is the nature of nature! As a result of the flood of 2019, we produced Ontario's first flood strategy. This will help us be better prepared, more resilient and quicker to respond. It will also ensure a faster and more complete recovery, in the event of flooding. At the request of the municipalities, we also made changes to the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan that will better protect, people living in those watersheds, particularly Round Lake and Golden Lake, two of our lakes that are most susceptible to flooding.

Changes have been made to the *Aggregate Resources Act* that will help bring certainty to the sector while maintaining strict environmental standards.

In the area of fish and wildlife, we introduced a new moose management system. We had extensive feedback from across the province. With this data and advice, we came up with a new system that has received positive comments as being a significant improvement. We have also re-instated the spring bear hunt and have made it permanent.

Something I am very proud of is initiating the process of hiring 25 new conservation officers; a truly amazing group of dedicated and committed professionals.

This snapshot of some of the changes I was able to make as Minister, allows me to look back on my time with a great deal of satisfaction but also immense gratitude for having been given the opportunity to put our stamp on the file; the stamp of a regular guy from a small town in rural Ontario. I always look forward to the future. Who knows what it will bring.

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Tender Results Around The Region

2021-PW-03 - 4X4 Half-Ton Truck. Montague.

Mike Fair - \$38,945.00
Bean Chevrolet - \$40,137.00

Design Build Feasibility Study. Montague.

Demarco Const. - \$56,000.00
IBI Group - \$77,361.00

Bennett Street Watermain Reconstruction – Tender Contract No. 21-1733. Pembroke.

JWK Cont. - \$1,191,642.10
Bonnechere Ex.- \$1,638,001.72
RGT Clouthier-\$2,144,247.79

Supply & Delivery of Dell Lenovo Laptops, Desktop Computers and Dell Monitors. Pembroke.

No bids were received.
The City reached out to two vendors that had exclusive partnership pricing with Dell and obtained the best value from CDW Canada Corporation. The Treasury Department is recommending the approval of the computer equipment from CDW Canada Corporation in the amount of \$100,741.62.

Kinsmen Pool – RFP P-21-02 Project Management Services – New Aquatic Facility. Pembroke.

One proposal was received.
Colliers - \$267,880.00.

RFP Municipal Insurance. Township of Drummond North-Elmsley.

Only one bid was received.
Marsh/JLT - \$71,636.00

Supply & Delivery of One (1) Single Axle Cab and Chassis with Combination Dump Body/Spreaders Unit with Hydraulic Plow and Wing – Request for Proposal P-21-04. Pembroke.

Valley Truck & Spring Service
Score: 82.2% | \$232,900.00
Equipment Lourds Papineau
Score: 48.5% | \$279,864.90

21-PW-015 Active Transportation Plan. Smiths Falls.

Altaplanning - \$30,500.52
Mobycon - \$28,324.90
Morrison Hershfield- \$30,477.12
Parsons - \$27,015.24
WSP - \$30,741.70

2021 Regular Cab Truck Chassis with Dump Body. Perth.

Only one bid was received.
Blue Mountain - \$88,497.00

Landfill Site Operations Tender. Mattawa.

Only one submission was received.
Dumont Backhoe Services in the amount of \$515,115.93.

Install Dental Track Lighting. Defence Construction Canada. Awarded to Neptune Security Services of Mississauga in the amount of \$170,000.00.

Tender #PR-2021-01 Lanark & District Community Centre Condenser Repair Bid Form #1. Lanark Highlands.
AC Mechanical - \$60,750.00
CIMCO Refrig.- \$62,000.00

ES-2021-02 2021 Half Ton Crew Cab Pick Up. Perth.
Blue Mountain - \$50,773.00
Finch Chevrolet - \$35,234.00

Tender 2021-26 Rehabilitation of Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake Road. Whitewater Region.

Thomas Cavanagh Construction Ltd. - \$2,683,750.00
Bonnechere Ex. - \$2,695,397.73
RGT Clouthier - \$2,900,884.92
B.R. Fulton - \$3,317,320.38
McCrea Ex. - \$3,405,551.60

Request for Proposal - Flood Risk Assessment 2021-27. Whitewater Region.

KGS Group
86 points | \$79,087.57
Jp2G Consulting
87 points | \$71,220.81

Tender #PR-2021-01 Lanark & District Community Centre New Condenser Bid Form #2. Lanark Highlands.

Stainless Steel Model
AC Mechanical - \$99,500.00
CIMCO Refrig. - \$119,000.00

Compact SUV. McNab Braeside.

Urban Ford - \$36,040.22
Barrie Kia - \$32,867.54
Mack Mackenzie- \$31,999.34

Tender #PR-2021-01 Lanark & District Community Centre New Condenser Bid Form #2. Lanark Highlands.

Galvanized Steel Model
AC Mechanical - \$67,000.00
CIMCO Refrig. - \$79,999.00

Biz Quiz

- 1) How many jobs did the U.S. add to their economy in June?
- 2) What are flying levels at in the U.S. for June?
- 3) This U.S. retailer is closing all of its physical stores in the U.K. by the end of 2021 and moving exclusively online.
- 4) By what year has the Liberal government is committed to zero-emission new cars and light-duty trucks sold in Canada?
- 5) This electronic cigarette company will pay \$40 million to North Carolina for fueling an explosion in teen vaping.
- 6) A group of perfumers and members of the beauty industry are asking the fragrance industry to stop using this word to describe scents because it is outdated, inaccurate and racist.
- 7) How long has the office of Governor-General been vacant?
- 8) Who is Ontario's outgoing chief medical officer?
- 9) Who is Ontario's incoming chief medical officer?
- 10) The number of people who died waiting for an organ transplant during the pandemic increased by what percentage?

Answers on Page 10

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Limited spots available. Apply today. Applicant deadline: August 19, 2021



Financial News: GST Registration, Hiring Program

Source: CPA Canada

GST/HST Registration For Digital Economy Businesses

On June 29, Bill C-30 (Budget Implementation Act, 2021, No.1) received royal assent and the new GST/HST rules for digital economy businesses will be in effect on July 1. On June 30, the Canada Revenue Agency launched its new registration

system and is now accepting GST/HST registration requests under these new measures.

New Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP) Web Page and Calculator now available

On June 30, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) launched its CRHP online calculator and web page to help eligible employers prepare their CRHP applications.

The online calculator integrates the new CRHP with the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), automatically showing applicants which subsidy will provide them with more support based on the information they enter. The CRHP web page includes detailed information about eligibility requirements, how payment periods are structured

and how the CRHP is calculated.

Eligible employers will be able to apply for the CRHP starting July 7 through My Business Account and Represent a Client. The CRA will begin to issue CRHP payments to eligible employers during the week of July 12.

For more information, visit www.cpacanada.com

Tender Results Around The Region

Tender PWC-2021-09 – C099 (Colton Creek Bridge). County of Renfrew.

Goldie Mohr - \$529,646.02
Bonnechere Ex. - \$567,732.00
Louis W. Bray - \$806,015.10
R.G.T. Clouthier - \$970,839.00
Fidelity Eng. - \$1,357,845.91

PWO-2021-25 Service Truck. County of Renfrew.

Urban Ford Sales - \$128,935
Valley Truck/Spring - \$159,200
East Court Ford - Rejected
Vaughan Chrysler - Rejected

Cement Pad at P51. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to 1956466 Ontario Inc. (JWK Contracting) of Pembroke in the amount of \$18,437.00.

Install Waster and Dryer Hookups. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Saffco EHP of Pembroke in the amount of \$7,150.00.

Construct 427 Mission Support Building. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Republic Architecture Inc of Winnipeg in the amount of \$294,229.46.

Commissionaires 2021. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Commissionaires Ottawa in the amount of \$27,028.80.

Construction Administration and Site Inspection Services - Beckwith Street Renewal Phase 2. Smiths Falls.

Ainley
Score: 87 | \$206,741.41
Morrison Hershfield
Score: 93 | \$207,041.99
Parsons

Score: 88 | \$271,160.45
WSP
Score: 92 | \$229,470.46

Relocate Fire Alarm Panel. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Panke Electric of Petawawa in the amount of \$12,500.00.

Electrical Service Upgrade. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Dundas Power of Chesterville in the amount of \$694,997.00.

Confined Space Hazard Assessment. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Wood E&I Solutions of Dartmouth in the amount of \$51,642.80.

Electrical, Plumbing and General Labour. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Neptune Security Services of Mississauga in the amount of \$200,000.00.

For all tenders, visit:
www.ovbusiness.com

Tenders

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

APN – Petawawa Construction Program for FY 2021-2022 with Security Requirements

FOR SALE

Sale of Land – 174 Market Street, Pembroke

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

2021-EC-001 Building Condition Assessments

Community Services Master Plan

RFP-IT-2021-01 Digital Strategy

Audit Services

RFP-LL-2021-06 Hairdressing Services for Lanark Lodge

RFP ADMIN-2021-01 Development of an Asset Management Plan

RFP-2021-01 – Resident Room Divider Walls – Bonnechere Manor

TENDERS

Royal Pine Road Revitalization and Crooked Rapid Road Pulverization Projects 2021
2021-PW06

Project No. 2021-05
Construction of Turcotte Park Road Sidewalk

Tender 16-2021 H14
Hot Mix Asphalt

PWO-2021-27 – Supply and Delivery of a Water Truck and
PWO-2021-28 – Supply & Delivery of Diesel Fuel

4-Wheel Drive 1 Ton Single Rear Wheel Diesel Truck with Western Plow Harness BV21-01

Wash Bay Construction, Mattawa Plains Facility

Technical Advisory Services for Highway 17 Widening Project – Arnprior to Renfrew

W0107-19M048/A – Cable TV Services

For full tenders and results, visit www.ovbusiness.com



NEW PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES POSTED

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

Updates on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ovbusiness

Time Changes Everything

Do you need a review of how you talk to people?



MARKETING

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@fwdthink.net

When I first meet with a potential client with respect to marketing their organization, I ask them about their marketing efforts to date: what has worked and why, and what hasn't worked and why. In one of these meetings, the organization said that if they knew why something did or didn't work, they wouldn't need me to tell them. When I ask this kind of question, it is so I can understand their thought process behind it, and to see what assumptions they had made that were leading their decisions on marketing. If the assumptions are incorrect, their marketing efforts will not be impactful.

For example, one organization I spoke with had a long history in the community - more than 40 years. When they established, they were the only organization providing certain services in the area, but now, there were many

other organizations providing similar services. Their marketing was still based on them being the only service provider - the language did not seek to differentiate them from the competition. They said what they did, but not why someone would choose them. You can say "we fix boats" when no one else fixes boats, but when 10 people fix boats, you now have to say "we fix boats and you should bring your boat to use because..." This organization had not recognized that.

When I asked why they felt their marketing efforts were no longer working, the answers were focused on what others were not doing. They thought traditional advertising (radio and print) was outdated, that the sales reps didn't work as hard for them as ones they had in the past and the new generation of customers just aren't loyal.

When I asked how they addressed new advertising venues, they said that wasn't how they did things. They felt very strongly about only doing the things they had done in the past. Trying to get a new result without making a change is a difficult task!

When I asked how they communicated with the younger

generations, they said it was a waste of their time; their clientele was the older generation. The challenge with that over the course of 40 years, people age. Someone who was 35 and needed their services 30 years ago was not 65 and didn't need their services. Trying to get business by marketing to someone who doesn't need your services is another difficult task!

While the organization's services had not changed, and what they provided was still a high value to potential customers, they needed to make some changes in how they communicated that value. They did not have to change their beliefs or mission or focus, but they did have to change how they engaged people so potential customers could appreciate the amazing service they did offer.

Marketing often involves change, but often it can be about changing the conversation people are having (or not having) about your services. When done correctly, really great opportunities can be just around the corner.

Jennifer is the president of Forward Thinking Marketing Agency. Her column appears in every issue.

Don't Leave Change to Chance

When you take control of changes to your business, you can better impact the outcomes; leaving it to chance let's someone else control your business.



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forwardthinking
MARKETING AGENCY

Deadlines

OTTAWA VALLEY BUSINESS

Publishes: July 20, 2021
Deadline: July 14, 2021

Publishes: August 3, 2021
Deadline: July 28, 2021

Publishes: August 17, 2021
Deadline: August 10, 2021

101 THINGS TO DO IN THE VALLEY

July-August 2021

A link to this issue is included in your Ottawa Valley Business email and is available at www.travelourbackyard.com

September-October 2021
Publishing: August 17, 2021
Deadline: August 13, 2021

HEALTH MATTERS

Summer 2021 Issue

This issue arrives July 9 and will be distributed the following week

Fall 2021 Edition
Publishing: October 8, 2021
Deadline: September 17, 2021

Biz Quiz Answers

- 1) 850,000
- 2) 80 per cent
- 3) Gap
- 4) 2035
- 5) Juul
- 6) Oriental
- 7) Since January 21, 2021
- 8) Dr. David Williams
- 9) Dr. Kieran Moore
- 10) 30 per cent