

Town of Arnprior Regular Meeting of Council: November 8, 2021

Correspondence Package No. I-21-Nov-19

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-21-Nov-19 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

- 1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario
 - a) Ontario Expanding OPP Crisis Call Diversion Program
 - **b)** Ontario to Raise Minimum Wage to \$15 an hour
 - c) Ontario Helping Energy Customers Save Money with Green Button
 - **d)** Ontario Investing in Mental Health and Addictions Supports for Indigenous Communities
 - e) Ontario Helping More People with Developmental Disabilities Access Housing
 - f) Apple Wallet Update Now Compatible with Ontario Vaccine Certificate
 - g) Ontario Introduces New Measures to Address Court Backlog
 - h) Government Protects Public from Dangerous Hunting Activities
 - i) Ontario Supporting Indigenous Focused Mental Health Addictions and Trauma Supports
 - j) Government Takes Further Action to Protect Schools
 - k) Ontario Introducing New Legislation to Fix Long Term Care
 - I) Ontario Enshrining the Right to Wear Poppies in the Workplace
 - m)Ontario Expanding High Quality Accessible Virtual Learning

- n) Ontario Extending Temporary Wage Enhancement for Personal Support Workers
- o) Working for Workers Act, 2021
- p) Ontario Creating a Better Future for Workers
- q) Ontario Releases Plan to Safely Re-open Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long Term
- r) Ontario Expanding Booster Eligibility to More Ontarians
- 2. Correspondence from Ontario Ombudsman
 - a) 2021 Annual Report
- 3. Correspondence from Renfrew County & District Health Unit
 - a) COVID-19 Case Summary October 28, 2021
- 4. Correspondence from County of Renfrew
 - a) Algonquin Trail to Expand Multi-Use Through Pembroke and Laurentian Valley
- 5. Correspondence from Renfrew County District School Board
 - a) 2021 Strategic Plan
- 6. Correspondence from Government of Canada
 - a) Virtual Fundraiser Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital
- 7. Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - a) Watch File October 21, 2021
 - b) Watch File October 28, 2021
 - c) OMPF Allocations and LTC Development Call
- 8. Correspondence from Ontario
 - a) 2022 OMPF Allocation Town of Arnprior
- 9. Correspondence from Enbridge Gas
 - a) 2022 Federal Carbon Pricing Program Application
- 10. Correspondence from CPAN
 - a) Festival of Trees Snowflake Soirée

Ontario Expanding OPP Crisis Call Diversion Program

Mental health and addictions workers to support callers in crisis in Orillia and North Bay

November 02, 2021

Solicitor General

TORONTO — Ontario is extending resources to individuals experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis by expanding the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Crisis Call Diversion Program to the OPP Provincial Communications Centres in Orillia and North Bay, beginning today.

The OPP Crisis Call Diversion program, announced earlier this year, is designed to help provincial police officers offer the most appropriate response to calls from individuals experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis by embedding professional mental health and addictions crisis workers into OPP Provincial Communications Centres. Once assigned to the call, a crisis worker can assist callers by providing resources and tools, offering referrals, and helping them navigate the mental health system. Alternatively, the crisis worker can provide support and assist in preliminary de-escalation when a call has been assigned to a police officer.

"Expanding the OPP Crisis Call Diversion Program to these two OPP Communications Centres further supports our government's commitment to protecting the health and well-being of all Ontarians," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "Having mental health and crisis professionals available to respond to callers in distress not only ensures individuals can get the appropriate help when they need it, it also helps reduce the need for police resources to be allocated to non-emergency situations."

"The Ontario Provincial Police continues to work together with mental health and addiction partners to develop, expand and enhance programs, such as the Crisis Call Diversion program, to better support persons in crisis and our frontline," said OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique. "The OPP understands that mental health is health, and that healthy communities are safer communities. Because of this, the OPP maintains our commitment to shared initiatives to better community safety and the well-being of all."

The Crisis Call Diversion Program was developed with, and operated in partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA, Thames Valley and Thunder Bay Branches). The expansion in the Orillia and North Bay programs are being offered in partnership with the CMHA Simcoe County Branch and CMHA North Bay and District respectively.

"When someone in a mental health crisis reaches out for help, the focus should always be on the most appropriate response. Putting mental health professionals in place to respond, as this model does, helps to ensure that the individual has the best outcome," said Camille Quenneville, CEO, CMHA Ontario. "We can help those in crisis avoid unnecessary emergency department visits or, even more worrisome, engagement in the justice system. Using our skilled staff will help to make a positive outcome more of a certainty."

With today's announcement, four OPP Provincial Communications Centres are offering the Crisis Call Diversion Program. After a successful pilot project that began in London in November 2020 with CMHA Thames Valley Addictions and Mental Health Services, the program was introduced to Thunder Bay with the CMHA Thunder Bay and District in June 2021.

Quick Facts

- This initiative builds on Ontario's investment in the OPP Crisis Call Diversion Program in the 2021 Budget, <u>Ontario's Action</u>

 <u>Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.</u>
- The OPP has created a comprehensive *Crisis Call Diversion Development and Implementation Guide* to share with other police services and health partners considering similar programs or initiatives.
- The OPP provides frontline policing services to more than 300 Ontario municipalities as well as rural communities in Ontario that do not have their own municipal or regional police service.
- OPP Provincial Communications Centres operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answer 911 emergency and nonemergency calls for service.

Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. <u>Learn more</u>

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Ontario to Raise Minimum Wage to \$15 an Hour

Government working for workers by enhancing wages and take-home pay

November 02, 2021

Office of the Premier

TORONTO — As part of the 2021 Fall Economic Statement, the Ontario government will introduce legislation that, if passed, would raise the general minimum wage from \$14.35 to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2022. Under the proposed changes, the special minimum wage rate for liquor servers would be eliminated and they would be entitled to the general minimum wage. Students under 18, homeworkers and hunting, fishing and wilderness guides would also see an increase in their special minimum wage rates.

Details were shared today by Premier Doug Ford, Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development and Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance.

"Ontario's workers have been the unsung heroes of this pandemic, as they've stocked shelves, kept our supply chain moving and helped so many of us enjoy a meal among family and friends at a local restaurant," said Premier Doug Ford. "When we asked labour leaders what their priorities were, increasing the minimum wage was at the top of the list. As the cost of living continues to go up, our government is proud to be working for workers, putting more money into their pockets by increasing the minimum wage."

Liquor servers have previously received below the general minimum wage, based on the belief customer tipping can make up the difference. However, many of these workers have increasingly seen their tips pooled and redistributed among many staff, making it harder for them to make ends meet. If the legislation is passed, liquor servers would be treated more fairly and see an unprecedented 19.5 per cent increase in their minimum hourly wage, as it changes from \$12.55 per hour to the harmonized \$15 per hour minimum wage.

The Ontario government is introducing legislation to increase minimum wages as the cost of living has increased considerably over the past several months, but wages for many have not kept pace.

"Over the past few weeks, our government has rolled out a historic number of reforms to rebalance the scales," said Minister McNaughton. "Building on these actions, today, our government is ensuring workers who need our help the most receive their fair share of the economic pie. We will continue to use every tool in our toolbox to help workers in our province find meaningful careers that let them earn themselves bigger paychecks and build better lives for themselves and their loved ones."

Special minimum wage rates are also proposed to increase:

- Students under the age of 18 who work 28 hours a week or less when school is in session, or work during a school break or summer holidays would see an increase from \$13.50 to \$14.10 an hour.
- Homeworkers (those who do paid work out of their own homes for employers) would see an increase from \$15.80 an hour to \$16.50 an hour.
- Hunting and fishing guides currently have a minimum rate of \$71.75 for working less than five consecutive hours in a day, and \$143.55 for working five or more hours in a day. Their new proposed rate would be \$75.00 for working less than five consecutive hours in a day, and \$150.05 for working five or more hours in a day.

"An incredible debt of gratitude is owed to the workers of Ontario. These dedicated men and women kept store shelves stocked and supply chains going through the pandemic," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "However, we also recognize that for too long workers have been falling behind, and that wages for many have not kept up with the cost of living. They had Ontario's back, and now, our government has theirs. Ontario workers should be in a race to the top, not a race to the bottom."

These proposed changes are part of the government's broader effort to support, protect and attract workers, and make Ontario the top place to live, work and raise a family. The government will release its plan to protect Ontario's progress against COVID-19 and for building the foundation for the province's recovery and prosperity in the 2021 Ontario Economic

Outlook and Fiscal Review on November 4.

Quick Facts

- Due to the pandemic, there have recently been higher than usual increases in the cost of living.
- The October 2021 annual minimum wage increase was based on the 2020 annual Consumer Price Index increase, which does not reflect the recent increases.
- A full-time worker making the general minimum wage could see an annual earnings increase of \$1,350 in 2022 under the proposed legislation.
- From January-August 2021, there were 763,500 workers at or below the proposed general minimum wage of \$15 in Ontario (<u>StatsCan Labour Force Survey, 2021</u>).
- Most minimum wage earners are women and nearly 73 per cent of working 15 to 19-year-olds are at or below the proposed general minimum wage of \$15 per hour.
- The industries employing the most minimum wage earners are accommodation and food services, and retail trade.
- Nearly 37 per cent of workers at or below the proposed general minimum wage of \$15 per hour are in retail trade and almost 24 per cent are in accommodation and food services.

Additional Resources

- Proposed new minimum wage rates starting January 1, 2022.
- What workplaces should know about the minimum wage requirements.
- Learn about rights and responsibilities under the <u>ESA</u>.

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. <u>Learn more</u>

Government

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Jobs and Employment

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers. Learn more

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Ontario Helping Energy Customers Save Money with Green Button

Province gives electricity and natural gas customers more control over bills on one-year anniversary of introducing Customer Choice

November 01, 2021

Energy

LONDON - Ontario is providing families and businesses more control over their electricity and natural gas bills with the introduction of a new Green Button standard that will allow them to track their energy use, reduce bills and save money. Studies have found that easy access to energy data, which Green Button, along with smart home devices, can help consumers make informed decisions and achieve energy savings of up to 18 percent. Ontario will become the first province in Canada to mandate the standard.

"Families and businesses want to be in the driver's seat when it comes to their energy bills," said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. "Green Button is part of our commitment to give consumers more choice when it comes to their energy use and will enable easy and quick access to their consumption data through smartphone or computer apps so they can find customized tips to reduce energy use or switch electricity price plans to save money."

As of November 1, 2021, the government is requiring nearly all regulated Ontario electricity and natural gas utilities to provide Green Button to their customers within twenty-four months. This builds on progress made by London Hydro and Festival Hydro, which voluntarily offer Green Button to their customers, which gave families and businesses in their regions the first opportunity in Ontario to find additional savings on their bills using this method.

Green Button lets customers download their natural gas and hourly electricity data in a standardized format from their utility and authorize the secure transfer of this data to applications of their choice. This real time data can then be accessed on their smartphone or computer. These apps can also analyze the energy data and provide customers with helpful energy-saving tips to reduce their energy bills and personalized retrofit options to achieve long-lasting savings.

"The Green Button standard ushers utilities into the modern technology era of open utilities, increased customer choice, and uniform energy management services for the benefit of customers," said Vinay Sharma, CEO of London Hydro. "Indeed, Green Button will manifest the true benefits of smart meter systems for customers."

The implementation of the Green Button standard comes as the Ontario government celebrates one year of providing consumers with customer choice. For the first time, Ontarians can choose an electricity price plan that best suits their lifestyle and electricity usage. As of November 1, 2020, most families, small businesses, and farms can select either a time-of-use (TOU) or tiered billing structure for their electricity usage. Over the past year, more than 280,000 Ontario electricity customers have used this choice to better manage their electricity bills by switching their pricing plan to one that is a better fit. Green Button provides families and businesses the information they need to better understand their energy use so they can make an informed decision on which price plan is right for them, helping them to lower their energy bills.

"Secure and automated access to energy data through Ontario's Green Button program will empower consumers to make affordable, climate-friendly decisions for their homes and businesses," said Julia Langer, CEO of The Atmospheric Fund.

"Festival Hydro has been collaborating with London Hydro to enhance their online customer engagement solutions since 2017" said Jeff Graham, CEO of Festival Hydro. The collaboration included launching MyFestivalHydro powered by Green Button – a standard, easy-to-use platform for customers to access and take charge of their energy usage data. "By working together, we have recognized cost efficiencies while providing our customers more online service options...with more to come in the future".

Quick Facts

- Green Button first became available in 2012, and prior to the new regulatory requirement, offering it to customers was voluntary in Ontario for electricity and natural gas utilities.
- In 2015 London Hydro became the first Ontario utility to provide Green Button to their customers. Since it's launch, 160,000 electricity and 106,000 water London Hydro customers have utilized Green Button.
- When choosing an electricity billing structure, if a customer limits their consumption to non-peak hours, during evenings and weekends, TOU pricing may be their preferred rate plan. If customers consume most of their electricity during weekday hours, tiered pricing may be a better option for them.
- Energy customers in Ontario who are served by utilities that have fully implemented Green Button have access to a wide range of applications that are tailored to their individual needs. As more utilities in Ontario implement Green Button, new applications are expected to be developed to serve all types of customers, including residential, commercial, and industrial energy users.

Additional Resources

Find programs to reduce your electricity bill

Learn about programs and credits to reduce your electricity bill.

Your electricity bill

Learn about your electricity bill, electricity rates and rebates and programs to keep your bill low.

Lower your energy bills with Green Button

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. <u>Learn more</u>

Environment and Energy

Learn more about how Ontario protects and restores wildlife and the environment. Includes information on conservation and the electricity system. <u>Learn more</u>

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Ontario Investing in Mental Health and Addictions Supports for Indigenous Communities

Funding includes urgent trauma supports for Indian residential school survivors

October 29, 2021

Indigenous Affairs

Health

Education

Children, Community and Social Services

Attorney General

Colleges and Universities

Solicitor General

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$36 million in community-led mental health and addictions supports in Indigenous communities across the province. This funding will help ensure culturally appropriate and trauma-informed supports are readily available for Indian residential school survivors and their families as well as Indigenous-led student, youth and gender-focused services.

"We are listening to Indigenous leadership and taking action to invest in mental health and well-being supports for Indigenous peoples, including Indian residential school survivors, said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs. "I have heard directly from First Nations leadership that the painful legacy and new attention of residential schools has resulted in trauma for survivors, families and communities. We will continue working with Indigenous partners to ensure services are available to meet the needs of Indigenous communities."

This \$36 million investment includes:

- Over \$20 million in Indigenous-focused mental health and addictions programs and services to directly support Indian residential school survivors. The funding will ensure culturally appropriate, trauma-informed supports are available to both First Nations and urban Indigenous organizations as critical work is undertaken to investigate and commemorate former Indian residential school sites across Ontario.
- Annualized funding of more than \$16 million devoted to cross-government investments in Indigenous services to
 support the implementation of <u>Roadmap to Wellness</u>: <u>A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions</u>. This
 includes funding for culturally adapted child and youth mental health services including wellness supports for students,
 Indigenous-specific victim (healing) services, and development of an Indigenous-driven opioid strategy to address the
 increase in opioid use, and opioid related deaths.

"Our government is committed to ensuring everyone, including Indigenous communities, can access safe and effective mental health and addictions services where and when they need them," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This funding builds on our government's commitment to working with Indigenous and federal partners to ensure programs and services that contribute to mental health and wellness effectively meet the needs of Indigenous people, families and communities."

"Our government recognizes that Indigenous peoples and communities have faced too many barriers to accessing effective and safe mental health and addictions care, demand for which has only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. "With this investment, we're taking an essential step in building productive working relationships and ensuring Indigenous communities throughout the province have access to culturally appropriate mental health and addictions supports, especially during these unprecedented times."

Ontario recognizes the unique needs and challenges faced by Indigenous people as a result of recent Indian residential school burial site findings and other events that have greatly increased the demand for mental health and addictions services. Ontario continues to listen to the perspectives of Indigenous people on how to improve health outcomes and support practical actions an initiatives for advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities across the province.

"For far too long, our communities have been on the frontlines of addictions and mental health crises," said Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare. "The funding announced today will provide Indigenous-focused mental health and addictions and trauma support for Indian residential school survivors and their families and communities and ensure First Nations continue to thrive and heal from the damage done by intergenerational trauma. It is encouraging to see the cross-governmental approach to support First Nations in Ontario. I look forward to continuing these meaningful discussions to ensure the health and safety of First Nations through the development of supports and services that are relevant and appropriate to the needs of First Nations."

Quick Facts

- Ontario is providing dedicated MHA and trauma-informed funding to support the work around Indian residential school burial site investigation and to ensure appropriate, culturally sensitive training is provided to those assisting with this work.
- Under <u>Roadmap to Wellness</u>, Ontario has announced an increase of \$525 million in annualized funding for mental
 health and addictions support since 2019-20. This includes \$175 million for more mental health and addictions services
 and supports in 2021-2022 committed through the <u>2021 Budget</u>, \$176 million invested in October 2020 and new
 funding of \$174 million invested in 2019-20.

Quotes

"Many of our communities are in a state of crisis due to mental health and addictions, and the COVID-19 pandemic has caused social isolation and further limited access to mental health and addictions services. Investments are needed to help rebuild community-based systems and community-led approaches based on the unique needs of each of our First Nations communities. Our communities have seen excellent results from land-based programming based on our cultures and traditions. This much-needed funding will support community-driven, culturally appropriate supports that are critical to promote the well-being of our members and communities."

Grand Chief Derek Fox
 Nishnawbe Aski Nation

"Mental health supports are an essential component to helping individuals process the lasting impacts of intergenerational trauma due to residential schools. We will continue to focus on indigenous-led approaches to improve healing, health, and well-being for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples."

- Jane McKenna Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues

"Every child deserves to feel safe and supported while at school. By investing in positive mental health and coaching support for Indigenous students, we are reaffirming our commitment to supporting all students. This funding builds on our record investments in student mental health and wellness and our commitment to ensuring Ontario students are provided with opportunities to learn and celebrate the contributions of Indigenous people to Canada."

- Stephen Lecce Minister of Education

"Our government is committed to working with justice partners and Indigenous communities to enhance services and supports for Indigenous offenders under community supervision. Collaboration is an essential part of the process to ensure that Indigenous communities have the tools and resources they need to strengthen mental health supports."

- Sylvia Jones Solicitor General "It is critical that Indigenous learners are provided with culturally relevant, trauma-informed mental health and wellness supports in the postsecondary education system. This funding will help Indigenous learners navigate unique mental health challenges to overcome barriers to success when pursuing their studies."

- Jill Dunlop Minister of Colleges and Universities

"This valuable investment will help expand access to the Indigenous-specific victim services provided by the Family Information Liaison Unit, which is composed of Indigenous community members with extensive experience serving Indigenous women and girls. The unit supports families as they seek justice and facilitates connections with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Healers and trauma supports."

- Doug Downey Attorney General

Additional Resources

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Ontario Supporting Indigenous-Focused Mental Health, Addictions and Trauma Supports
- Ontario Supporting the Identification and Commemoration of Indian Residential School Burial Sites
- Roadmap to wellness: a plan to build Ontario's mental health and addictions system
- Ontario Increasing Mental Health and Addictions Services

Related Topics

Arts and Culture

Learn more about the live performances, cultural institutions and creative grants the province has to offer. Learn more

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. <u>Learn more</u>

Government

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Health and Wellness

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Rural and North

Information about the province's Far North and rural communities. Get connected to business improvement organizations and learn more about funding and programs that support rural, northern and Indigenous communities. <u>Learn more</u>

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Ontario Helping More People with Developmental Disabilities Access Housing

\$13 million investment helping people connect with accessible housing in their community

October 29, 2021

Children, Community and Social Services

HAMILTON — The Ontario government is investing an additional \$13 million over three years to help connect people with developmental disabilities with accessible and affordable housing in their own community. This funding will also expand programs to support more independent living which is at the centre of the province's long-term plan to better serve people who depend on developmental services.

"Truly reforming developmental services means ensuring individuals have the opportunity to live their best lives, including finding long-term, accessible, and affordable housing," said Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "When people with developmental disabilities are supported to find suitable housing they are better able to live independently and participate in their communities."

The investment will increase funding for Housing Coordinators who work at each of the nine Developmental Services Ontario offices across the province to help people with a developmental disability and their families or caregivers navigate housing options in the community.

In addition, funding for the Adult Protective Service Workers (APSW) program will help people with varying abilities in their homes. The program is targeted to serve the following groups:

- Individuals transitioning from childhood support services into adult developmental services when they turn 18.
- Individuals with a developmental disability who are currently living in group home settings and who wish to live more independently in a non-congregate setting, and,
- Individuals who would like to live more independently in the community (for example, with APSW-like support). This will include individuals currently residing with aging caregivers and who have low support needs, helping relieve future pressures on the system.

When fully implemented, this investment will see more than 1,200 people with developmental disabilities receiving the help they need to find accessible and affordable housing.

"Today's announcement moves forward the ministry's developmental services transformation plan, *Journey to Belonging*," said Lea Pollard, executive Director of Contact Hamilton for Children's and Developmental Services. "Housing is a fundamental human need, and maximizing choices through information provision is a key enabler to addressing a person's housing needs. Today's announcement invests in resources that will assist people with accessing information about available housing options in their community, and planning tools to assist people in developing their own personalized housing plan."

Connecting individuals with the appropriate housing aligns with Ontario's <u>Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion</u>. The plan lays out the government's long-term vision for a developmental services system in Ontario that is more responsive to individual needs and supports greater choice and flexibility so people with developmental disabilities are supported to fully participate in their communities and live fulfilling lives.

Quick Facts

• Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy brings total investments to \$16.3 billion to protect people's health and \$23.3 billion to protect our economy. Ontario's COVID-19 action plan support now totals \$51 billion.

Additional Resources

- 2021 Budget Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy
- <u>Developmental Services Reform Plan: Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion</u>

Related Topics

Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. <u>Learn more</u>

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Apple Wallet Update Now Compatible with Ontario Vaccine Certificate

Additional Option to Easily and Conveniently Show Proof of Vaccination

October 29, 2021

Health

TORONTO — Individuals who use an Apple mobile device can now choose to add their enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code directly to their Apple Wallet. This feature is available with iOS 15.1, Apple's newest operating system for iPhones that launched this week, and provides users with a convenient way to access and display their proof of vaccination from their device.

Apple users with the <u>iOS 15.1 operating system</u> can save their vaccine certificate with QR code to their <u>Apple Wallet and Apple Health</u> app. To do so, once an individual has opened their enhanced certificate with QR code on their computer desktop or by printing it out, they can follow these easy steps:

- Open the iPhone camera.
- Point the camera at the QR code. Once the QR code is in focus and centred on the phone screen, the phone will scan it automatically.
- Once the phone scans the code, users will be prompted to save it to Apple Wallet and Apple Health.

Users do not have to redownload their enhanced certificate with QR code to add it to their Apple Wallet. Anyone who hasn't already downloaded their enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code can do so from the COVID-19 vaccination portal.

Individuals who already have their vaccine certificate in Apple Health can also add it directly to Apple Wallet:

- After updating their Apple device to iOS 15.1 and launching the Health app, a new message at the top should read, "there is a COVID-19 vaccination in your immunization records. You can add it to Wallet for easy reference."
- Under that message, click the option to "Add to Wallet."
- The next screen shows a summary of the vaccination record about to be added to Wallet to be reviewed.
- The final screen shows confirmation that the vaccination card has been added to Wallet.

This is one of the <u>many ways</u> Ontarians can store and easily access a copy of their proof of vaccination on their mobile device for verification purposes. Businesses must accept both electronic and paper versions of the enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code. Ontarians will need to continue to show a piece of identification with their name and date of birth along with their proof of vaccination when visiting select <u>businesses and organizations</u>.

Google Pay, the wallet app used on Android devices, is not currently compatible with the enhanced vaccine certificate. Android users can save their vaccine certificate to their device using a file management or cloud storage app such as Google Drive, OneDrive or Dropbox.

Quick Facts

- As of October 28, 2021, more than six million Ontarians have downloaded their enhanced vaccine certificates with QR codes through the <u>COVID-19 vaccination portal</u> and more than 1.2 million businesses and organizations have downloaded the Verify Ontario app.
- As of October 28, 2021, Ontario has administered more than 22 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with more than 88 per cent of Ontarians aged 12 and over having received at least one dose and more than 84 per cent having received a second dose.
- To date, Ontario has administered more than 151,700 third doses to <u>vulnerable populations</u>.
- Verify Ontario will only approve entry to a prescribed setting if the QR code it scans is government issued and approved for use in Ontario, such as QR codes included in Ontario's vaccine certificate and SMART Health Card compliant proofs of vaccination from other provinces and territories including Quebec, British Columbia and Yukon Territory.

• Businesses using the Verify Ontario app can scan the QR code which will show the patron's name and date of birth. For businesses that choose to use the Verify Ontario app, patrons can easily display date of birth in their Apple Wallet by clicking the top right corner of their Apple Wallet card.

Additional Resources

- <u>Using your Enhanced Vaccine Certificate: Frequently Asked Questions</u>
- Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate with QR Code and Verify Ontario App Available for Download Starting October 15
- Ontario Releasing Guidance to Support Proof of Vaccination Policy
- Ontario Makes COVID-19 Vaccination Policies Mandatory for High-Risk Settings
- For public inquiries, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007).
- For resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts in responding to COVID-19, visit Ontario's COVID-19 communication resources webpage.
- 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

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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Ontario Introduces New Measures to Address Court Backlog

Government's investment will prioritize public safety and the prosecution of serious crimes

October 29, 2021

Attorney General

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$72 million over two years to prioritize public safety and ensure offenders are held accountable by addressing the unprecedented backlog of criminal cases that have accumulated in the justice system as a result of the pandemic.

As part of the province's criminal case backlog reduction strategy, this investment will support the hiring of additional Crown prosecutors to ensure serious cases aren't being stayed for delay and recruiting new staff to strengthen court services and victim/witness services.

"Our government is taking extraordinary measures to prevent people accused of murder, sexual assault and other serious crimes from going free without a trial due to the exceptional pressure on the justice system caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Attorney General Doug Downey. "This new investment will support the work of prosecutors and police to hold offenders accountable and stand up for victims of crime as they seek justice."

Ontario is also increasing trial capacity in the justice system until the number of outstanding cases returns to pre-pandemic levels by reducing the number of cases entering the criminal justice system, seeking faster resolutions for cases already in the system and updating processes to shorten the time it takes to move a case to trial.

Measures to support this work will include:

- an updated <u>COVID-19 Recovery Directive</u> for prosecutors to help address the growing backlog of criminal cases and focus resources where they are needed most the prosecution of serious cases such as murder, sexual assault & gunrelated offences
- expanding the ability of Crowns to assess bail positions quicker across Ontario
- ensuring victims and vulnerable individuals and communities have access to support and services by increasing capacity in Ontario's Victim/Witness Assistance Program

In addition to these measures, Ontario will also be establishing an experienced team of prosecutors to conduct an intensive case review and resolution blitz of targeted offences from region to region.

"These significant new measures build on actions we have taken throughout the pandemic to keep Ontarians safe and build a more connected and resilient criminal justice system, including a recently updated COVID-19 Recovery Directive for prosecutors," said Downey. "We have listened to prosecutors and partners throughout the justice system to help establish a strategy that will attack the criminal case backlog from every angle to get results."

Improving the digital tools and information accessible to Ontario's police and prosecutors is critical to bringing offenders to justice and keeping communities safe in the pandemic and beyond.

The criminal case backlog reduction strategy will build on recent provincial investments in a Digital Evidence Management program to support criminal investigations and prosecutions that must evolve to respond to increasingly advanced criminal activities. The strategy's comprehensive measures will also build on the expansion of the elntake digital platform that has helped to speed up the process to file criminal charges.

Quick Facts

- The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the justice sector and caused an unprecedented backlog of criminal cases. In the first few months of the pandemic, in-person proceedings were suspended, and only urgent matters were heard using virtual and remote technologies. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, including physical distancing requirements, very few jury trials have been able to proceed during the pandemic.
- To accelerate access to justice for Ontarians and respond to evolving demands in the justice system, Ontario has also established new and innovative ways of delivering services remotely, in-person and online during the pandemic.
- The <u>Accelerating Access to Justice Act, 2021</u>, included reforms to help fill judicial vacancies faster and maximize the capacity of Ontario's justice system to respond to current and future challenges.

Additional Resources

- Ontario Unveils Plans to Accelerate Access to the Justice System
- Ontario's Justice Accelerated Strategy
- Ontario Modernizing Justice Sector to be more Accessible, Responsive and Affordable

Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. <u>Learn more</u>

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BULLETIN

Government Protects Public From Dangerous Hunting Activities

October 29, 2021

Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

The Ontario government is protecting people from dangerous and illegal use of firearms.

Jonathan Isabelle of Kapuskasing pleaded guilty to hunting bull moose without a licence and unlawfully discharging a firearm from a boat. He received \$4,000 in fines and a two-year hunting licence suspension.

Marc Moreau of Kapuskasing pleaded guilty to hunting bull moose without a licence and unlawfully having a loaded firearm in a boat. He received \$2,615 in fines and a one-year hunting licence suspension.

Martin Larochelle of Opasatika pleaded guilty to unlawfully having a loaded firearm in a boat. He received \$615 in fines.

Court heard that on October 10, 2020, conservation officers were conducting a moose decoy operation on the Opasatika River north of the town Opasatika. The moose decoy was situated on a commonly used river system, and where conservation officers controlled traffic in the vicinity. Isabelle shot at the moose decoy with a high-powered rifle at the same time he was operating the boat, while Moreau was in possession of a loaded high-powered rifle and aiming at the moose decoy from the same moving vessel. Larochelle was also observed having a loaded high-powered rifle in the same vessel.

Justice of the Peace François Cloutier heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Kapuskasing, on August 24, 2021.

Conservation officers remind everyone that by respecting seasons, sanctuaries, bag and possession limits, we all help ensure our natural resources stay healthy. To report a natural resource problem or provide information about an unsolved case, members of the public can call the ministry TIPS line toll free at 1-877-847-7667. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS. For more information about unsolved cases, please visit ontario.ca/mnrftips.

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BACKGROUNDER

Ontario Supporting Indigenous-Focused Mental Health, Addictions and Trauma Supports

October 29, 2021

Indigenous Affairs

Health

Education

Children, Community and Social Services

Attorney General

Colleges and Universities

Solicitor General

Ontario is investing more than \$36 million to support the mental health and well-being of Indigenous peoples and communities across the province.

This investment includes over \$20 million in Indigenous-focused mental health and addictions (MHA) and trauma supports to directly support community needs. This includes cultural, therapeutic, and trauma-informed services for Indian Residential School (IRS) Survivors, and their families and communities; and Indigenous-led student, youth and gender-focused services.

This funding includes:

- \$4 million from the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs to provide critical MHA and trauma supports for Indigenous communities participating in the IRS identification, investigation, protection and commemoration process, and funding to urban Indigenous organization for IRS-related MHA and trauma programming for Indigenous people living off-reserve;
- \$10 million from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to provide flexible, community-based funding that may be put towards locally identified needs, including supports for children, youth, women, families, communities and individuals, including IRS-related MHA needs;
- \$4.76 million from the Ministry of Education to provide targeted MHA supports for Indigenous students through Indigenous education partners, and funding to expand the Indigenous Graduation Coach Program to intermediate students in boards already participating in the program;
- \$550,000 from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to provide mental wellness supports for Indigenous postsecondary students attending Indigenous Institutes;
- \$460,000 from the Ministry of the Attorney General to increase access to Indigenous-specific victim (healing) services and justice sector information and supports through Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) workers; and
- \$273,000 from the Ministry of the Solicitor General to enhance community supports and programming for Indigenous offenders under community supervision.

Annualized funding of more than \$16 million is also being devoted to cross-government investments in Indigenous services to support the implementation of *Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions (MHA) System*.

- This funding includes:
 - \$10.31 million in annualized funding from the Ministry of Health to expand culturally safe and Indigenous-led mental health and addictions services for Indigenous people living both on and off-reserve. Funding will support:
 - Culturally adapted child and youth mental health services delivered by Indigenous organizations;
 - Funding to urban Indigenous organizations to expand services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals off-reserve;
 - Indigenous-focused supports through the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Program;
 - Provincial Territorial Organizations to work with the First Nations to respond to social emergencies;
 - Enhancements to the Mental Wellness Teams; and
 - The expansion of treatment beds.
 - More than \$5.8 million for culturally safe and Indigenous-led mental health and addictions services through crossgovernment investments. Funding will support:

- Direct culturally safe mental health and addictions programming, outreach and aftercare to remanded inmates and sentenced offenders accommodated at four correctional institutions.
- Funding for Provincial Territorial Organizations and urban indigenous organizations to address the increase in opioid use, and opioid related deaths.
- Two specialized healing lodge programs for Indigenous children and youth in the care of children's aid societies and at high risk of human trafficking.
- The development of a culturally responsive mental health framework to support Indigenous students transitioning from grade 8 to 9.

To view Ontario's full Roadmap to Wellness, please visit <u>Roadmap to wellness: a plan to build Ontario's mental health and addictions system | ontario.ca</u>

Additional Resources

• Ontario Investing in Mental Health and Addictions Supports for Indigenous Communities

Related Topics

Arts and Culture

Learn more about the live performances, cultural institutions and creative grants the province has to offer. Learn more

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. <u>Learn more</u>

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. <u>Learn more</u>

Rural and North

Information about the province's Far North and rural communities. Get connected to business improvement organizations and learn more about funding and programs that support rural, northern and Indigenous communities. <u>Learn more</u>

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Government Takes Further Action to Protect Schools

Expanded Testing Options Will Reduce Disruption and Absenteeism

October 28, 2021

Education

TORONTO — To support safer schools and reduce barriers to testing for all school-aged children, Ontario's Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, announced increased access to low-barrier testing options to support in-person student attendance at school and reduce disruptions to families.

Ontario schools remain safe, according to the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Children's Health Coalition, supported by high levels of immunization and strong public health measures, including ventilation improvements across all publicly funded schools in the province. Currently, more than 83 per cent of youth aged 12 and up have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and more than 77 per cent have received two doses. With approximately 3,300 cumulative cases per 100,000 amongst individuals aged 0 to 19, Ontario has one of the lowest case rates for youth under 20 in the country. Transmission continues to remain low in schools, and since September 2021 more than 99 per cent of students have not reported a case of COVID-19.

With the support of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, the government announced new measures, to build upon this work and to ensure schools remain open and safe, including:

- offering take-home polymerase chain reaction (PCR) self-collection kits to all publicly funded schools across the province, with a phased rollout starting in mid-November.
- the launch of a new "test-to-stay" approach for asymptomatic, unvaccinated students using the deployment of rapid antigen screening tests at the direction of public health units to support in-person learning and avoid whole school dismissals.
- elevating the requirement for unvaccinated staff to undergo rapid antigen screening from two to three times per week.

Ontario is leading the way in offering take-home PCR self-collection kits for all students and staff. The PCR self-collection initiative builds on the existing COVID-19 take-home PCR self-collection pilot that was launched in 160 schools in September, which focuses on secondary school students who are contacts of confirmed cases and are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated.

"While Ontario schools are safer places to learn supported by enhanced ventilation and high vaccination rates, we are taking nothing for granted," said Stephen Lecce. "By expanding access to testing and helping to better screen for COVID-19, we are protecting the progress we have made so far in keeping our schools safer for students and helping to limit disruption to the school year. These additional efforts build on the extensive safety protocols and investments we have made to protect schools, including the more than \$600 million our government has provided to support ventilation improvements."

Students with COVID-19 symptoms and students who have been identified as close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case will be able to pick up PCR self-collection kits at school, complete the specimen self-collection at home and drop the specimen off at convenient locations in the community.

In addition, the newly introduced "test-to-stay" approach, intended to support continued in-person school attendance in schools with multiple cases of COVID-19, involves frequent rapid antigen screening over a 10- day period for asymptomatic, unvaccinated students in a school that might otherwise require whole school dismissal. While people who are confirmed cases or high-risk contacts in the school will still need to self-isolate and access PCR testing according to public health guidance, other students in the school will be able to continue attending school in person. The frequent rapid antigen screening in the "test-to-stay" approach will identify any additional COVID-19 cases in a timely manner.

Ontario's plan for safer schools is focused on minimizing disruption and maximizing safe, in-class learning. It is supported by \$1.6 million in resources for the 2020-21 school year and major improvements in mechanical ventilation and 70,000 HEPA and other ventilation devices in learning spaces, in addition to various other strategies to support infection prevention and control.

Quick Facts

- High-risk contacts are individuals who are identified by Public Health Units as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Roughly, an additional 3,700 schools in the publicly funded system, beyond those currently covered by hospital-led programs in Toronto and Ottawa, will have access to take-home PCR self-collection kits.
- PCR tests detect the presence of a virus at the time the test is taken, as well as fragments of the virus even after the person is no longer infected.
- As of October 28, more than 83 per cent of youth aged 12 to 17 have received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 77 per cent have received a second dose.
- Ontario <u>issued a preferential recommendation</u> on the use of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for individuals aged 18 to 24 years old. The province will continue using the Pfizer vaccine for youth ages 12 to 17 (including those turning 12 in 2021).
- On August 16, 2021, the <u>Ontario government announced</u> that it is working with Public Health Units and publicly funded school boards to plan and host vaccination clinics for educators and staff in/or nearby schools to continue to fight COVID-19.
- In 2021-22, Ontario will continue to provide temporary COVID-19 funding of more than \$1.6 billion to school boards throughout the year. This will provide schools with a wide range of supports for student mental health, the hiring of additional staff, school-focused nurses in Public Health Units, remote learning technology, and health and safety measures in student transportation.
- Currently, PCR testing is available at 218 assessment centres or community labs, mobile sites and other locations across the province. Ontario can process more than 100,000 lab-based PCR tests per day, if needed. Asymptomatic PCR testing for eligible individuals, as per provincial testing guidance, is currently available at 211 pharmacies.
- Parents and caregivers who have questions about COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth can visit COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service (sickkids.ca) to book a confidential phone appointment with a SickKids clinician.
- The Ontario government is allocating significant investments in Ontario schools, including \$600 million in net new investments for school ventilation, \$1.4 billion to renew and maintain existing schools and \$14 billion over ten years for new schools, additions, and major renovations.
- Ontario is also making available <u>\$85.5 million for learning recovery and renewal</u> to help schools across the province mitigate the effects of learning disruptions as a result of COVID-19. This investment will support student mental health and well-being, reading and math for young learners, and student re-engagement.

Quotes

"Providing take-home PCR self-collection kits for more students across the province will strengthen our ability to protect our kids and keep schools open and safe by limiting the spread of COVID-19. Together with the test-to-stay rapid antigen screening program being implemented, these tools will help identify cases that may otherwise be missed and reduce school closures. While we are reassured that COVID-19 transmission in schools remains low, we must remain vigilant and ready to respond to outbreaks driven by the Delta variant."

- Dr. Kieran Moore Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province of Ontario

"Since the onset of the pandemic, our government's top priority has been protecting the health and wellbeing of all Ontarians, including children and youth. Expanding access to PCR testing in schools will strengthen our toolkit and ensure that we detect cases sooner, adding an additional layer of protection for students and their families."

- Christine Elliott Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

"Accessible and efficient COVID-19 testing is crucial for supporting the health and safety of students, teachers, school staff and their families for the remainder of the pandemic. We must do all that we can to ensure there are as few disruptions to the school year as possible for the well-being of children and youth across the province."

- Dr. Ronald Cohn President and CEO, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)

Additional Resources

- Asymptomatic Screen Testing of Students who are Vaccine-Ineligible by Age for the 2021-22 Academic Year
- <u>Using your Vaccination Receipt: Frequently Asked Questions</u>
- Ontario Working with Public Health Units to Run COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in Schools
- COVID-19: Keeping schools safe
- COVID-19 school and child care screening
- Get the latest on COVID-19 in Ontario
- Reopening Ontario

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. <u>Learn more</u>

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Ontario Introducing New Legislation to Fix Long-Term Care

New measures would help ensure residents get the care they deserve

October 28, 2021

<u>Long-Term Care</u> <u>Seniors and Accessibility</u>

TORONTO — The Ontario government is introducing legislation that would improve the well-being of residents in long-term care and retirement homes, and ensure they get the care they deserve.

If passed, the *Providing More Care, Protecting Seniors, and Building More Beds Act, 2021* would repeal the current *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* and create the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021*. The Bill also includes proposed amendments to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*.

"Ontario has listened to the advice of the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission and the Auditor General — as well as residents, their families, the public and those working in the sector," said Rod Phillips, Minister of Long-Term Care. "After decades of neglect and underfunding by previous governments, we are fixing long-term care. This legislation, if passed, would protect our progress by supporting our commitments to increase staffing for more hours of direct care, enhance accountability, and build more modern beds."

The government has a plan to fix long-term care and to ensure Ontario's seniors get the quality of care they need and deserve both now and in the future. The plan is built on three pillars: staffing and care; accountability, enforcement, and transparency; and building modern, safe, comfortable homes for seniors. If the Bill is passed, the proposed *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* would support the government's plan to fix long-term care by:

- establishing the commitment to provide an average of four hours of daily direct care per resident per day by March 31,
 2025
- strengthening the Residents' Bill of Rights to align with the Ontario *Human Rights Code* and recognizing the role caregivers play in resident health and well-being
- implementing new requirements for annual resident, family, and caregiver surveys
- establishing new compliance and enforcement tools, including doubling the fines on the conviction of an offence under the proposed legislation
- introducing a Minister's review of a Director's decision in the licensing process.

COVID-19 has also been extremely difficult for people living in retirement homes, who have experienced isolation and loss of community and social connections due to the pandemic. To improve the well-being of retirement home residents, the government is proposing legislative changes to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* that would, if passed, increase transparency and promote consumer choice and resident protection so that residents are better informed and benefit from a more effective Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority.

"There are almost 60,000 Ontarians residing in retirement homes across this province and we want to ensure they get the best care possible," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "The Retirement Homes Act legislation, if passed, would ensure greater protection and better quality of care for residents and their families."

The government will release its plan to protect Ontario's progress against COVID-19 and for building the foundation for the province's recovery and prosperity in the *2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review* on Thursday, November 4.

Quick Facts

- If the Bill is passed, the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 would replace the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007.
- Ontario is investing \$20 million this year to hire 193 new inspections staff and is launching a new annual proactive inspections program in long-term care homes. The new program focuses on residents' rights, infection prevention and

control, plans of care, abuse and neglect, nutrition and hydration, medication management, policies and directives, and dining observations.

- Currently, close to 70,000 Ontarians live in 626 long-term care homes and more than 60,000 Ontarians live in over 770 licensed retirement homes across the province.
- As of June 2021, more than 38,000 people were on the waitlist to access a long-term care bed in Ontario. The median wait time is 163 days for applicants to be placed in long-term care.

Additional Resources

- Ontario Introducing The Providing More Care, Protecting Seniors, and Building More Beds Act, 2021
- Visit Ontario's <u>website</u> to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.
- Emergency information and orders

Related Topics

Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. Learn more

Health and Wellness

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Ontario Enshrining the Right to Wear Poppies in the Workplace

Proposed amendments would ensure workers can pay tribute to veterans

October 28, 2021

Citizenship and Multiculturalism

TORONTO – The Ontario government is introducing legislation today that, if passed, would amend the *Remembrance Week Act,* 2016 to give Ontario workers the right to wear a poppy in the workplace during Remembrance Week. By wearing a poppy, Ontarians remember the bravery and valour of Canadian Armed Forces veterans and active members who fought to preserve peace around the world, protect Canada and defend its freedom and way of life.

"Our government is grateful to those in uniform, past and present, who have selflessly dedicated themselves to serving our country and protecting our values," said Parm Gill, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "They deserve our unwavering respect, support and gratitude. We show that by wearing poppies, helping to ensure our children and grandchildren never forget the sacrifices they have made for us."

An exception to the proposed right to wear a poppy will apply if wearing a poppy poses a danger or hazard to the health, safety, or welfare of any person.

As part of the government's continued efforts to honour and support veterans, the legislation, if passed, would also amend the preamble to the *Remembrance Week Act*, 2016 to state that poppies are worn during Remembrance Week as a symbol of remembrance and respect.

Ontarians come together to proudly wear poppies and support veterans in their community through the Royal Canadian Legion's annual poppy campaign. Funds raised from the campaign go towards providing grants for veterans in need by funding facilities and transition programs and providing supports for veterans and their spouses who are hospitalized.

By enshrining in law the right to wear a poppy in the workplace and its status as a symbol of remembrance and respect, the government is reminding employers that Ontario owes a debt of gratitude to the brave people who serve our country, and that should be reflected in their employment policies and practices.

Quick Facts

• The proposed amendments, which would come into effect upon Royal Assent, would align with the purpose of the *Remembrance Week Act*, 2016 of promoting the voluntary observance of Remembrance Day in recognizing the extraordinary courage and profound sacrifice made by the people who gave their lives for Canada in military service.

Additional Resources

- The government has a dedicated hotline and resource hub for military families, Ontario.ca/militaryfamilies, which helps veterans find and access resources for themselves and their families.
- <u>The Memorial to Honour Canadian Heroes of the War in Afghanistan</u> at Queen's Park is a permanent tribute to veterans, active service members, and their families.

Related Topics

Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. <u>Learn more</u>

Jobs and Employment

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers. <u>Learn more</u>

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Ontario Expanding High-Quality, Accessible Virtual Learning

Province's call for proposals in partnership with eCampusOntario will help students increase their skills and create fulfilling careers

October 28, 2021

Colleges and Universities

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$10.7 million to provide more flexible postsecondary education options for learners. This funding will help expand the suite of high-quality, market-responsive virtual learning programs and resources across the province through the launch of a <u>second call for proposals</u> in early November with support from eCampusOntario.

"Ontario's <u>Virtual Learning Strategy</u> has furthered Ontario's position as a global leader in postsecondary education," said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. "By continuing to promote innovation in the development of educational technology and virtual learning offerings, we are giving learners the flexible access to training they need to enter the workforce and obtain good jobs, regardless of their location."

This initiative builds on the nearly 400 projects Ontario funded earlier this year that are already in development, including:

- A collaboration of 17 postsecondary education institutions to build mental health literacy for Ontario colleges and universities.
- Virtual Reality Asynchronous Learning Experience led by Six Nations Polytechnic, a project to develop and deliver a
 Virtual Reality resource facilitating intergenerational transfer of Indigenous knowledge and languages, while
 strengthening Indigenous technological capacity and parity of Indigenous educational outcomes in technology fields.
- Canadore College Digital Capacity Initiative that focuses on designing, developing, and delivering high-quality learning material, tools and support to achieve excellence in virtual teaching and learning.
- A project by the University of Ottawa to develop a suite of online open education resources that will serve to enhance
 equity, diversity, and inclusion within course content, providing clear guidance to instructors on best practices to ensure
 inclusive teaching.

"eCampusOntario is pleased to support Ontario's Virtual Learning Strategy and to work with our partners at Contact North and Indigenous institutes, colleges and universities to advance opportunities for learners across the province," said Dr. Robert Luke, CEO, eCampusOntario. "This investment in people, institutional capacity, content and technologies supports enhanced learner experiences and career preparation while ensuring that Ontario postsecondary education can embrace the virtual learning future and maintain global leadership."

Further, Ontario is helping support learners in underserved communities by:

- Creating laptop and internet loaner programs through Contact North | Contact Nord to support students who do not have access to these resources at home.
- Enhancing infrastructure at Contact North | Contact Nord online learning centres to make it easier for students and postsecondary institutions to access their services.

"The Virtual Learning Strategy is delivering critical investments that position Ontario as global leader in providing local access to post-secondary education and training to residents in rural and remote parts of the province," said Maxim Jean-Louis, President-Chief Executive Officer, Contact North I Contact Nord. "Today's announcement by Minister Dunlop of a laptop/Internet loaner program and enhancements to our online learning centres across Ontario helps learners get the skills they need to get a job without leaving their community."

Virtual learning can improve access to education and training opportunities through flexible learning, giving all learners a fair chance to acquire the skills they need to compete in the labour market. This investment will support the expansion of educational resources created by Ontario's postsecondary sector and provide tools and technologies for learners in Ontario's small, rural, remote, Indigenous and Francophone communities to access virtual learning.

COVID-19 has moved virtual learning from an emerging mode of instruction that enables access and flexibility to an essential service. In December 2020, the province launched a *Virtual Learning Strategy* through *Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19*Action Plan for a People-Focused Government to improve access to high-quality postsecondary education and retraining opportunities that are market-responsive and globally competitive. The province is investing more than \$70 million to implement Ontario's Virtual Learning Strategy, including \$21.4 million announced in the 2021 Ontario Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.

Quick Facts

- <u>eCampusOntario</u> is a centre of excellence in online and technology-enabled learning that is governed by Ontario's publicly-assisted postsecondary institutions.
- <u>Contact North | Nord</u> is a community-based bilingual distance education and training network that expands access to distance education courses, programs and training for Ontarians in underserved, small, rural, remote, Indigenous and Francophone communities.
- On May, 17, 2021, Ontario announced that it is <u>investing in nearly 400 virtual learning projects</u>.

Additional Resources

Ontario Onwards: Action Plan

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. <u>Learn more</u>

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Ontario Extending Temporary Wage Enhancement for Personal Support Workers

Protecting our Progress by Supporting Frontline Health Care Workers in Fight Against COVID-19

October 28, 2021

Health
Children, Community and Social Services
Treasury Board Secretariat
Long-Term Care

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing an additional \$373 million to extend the temporary wage enhancement for personal support workers and direct support workers. This increase will continue until March 31, 2022 and will help attract and retain workers in these critical sectors to protect Ontario's progress while continuing to take a cautious and careful approach to reopening.

"Personal support workers and direct support workers are essential in our fight against COVID-19, and we are extending these temporary wage enhancements in recognition of their dedication to protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians during the pandemic," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Our government is protecting our progress by ensuring we attract and retain these essential healthcare workers so that our province's most vulnerable patients continue to have access to the high-quality care they need."

The government is extending the wage enhancement for over 158,000 personal support workers and direct support workers who deliver publicly funded personal support services or direct support services in home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals, and social services. This temporary wage enhancement includes:

- \$3 per hour for approximately 38,000 eligible workers in home and community care;
- \$3 per hour for approximately 50,000 eligible workers in long-term care;
- \$2 per hour for approximately 10,000 eligible workers in public hospitals; and
- \$3 per hour for approximately 60,000 eligible workers in children, community and social services providing personal direct support services to those who need assistance with the activities of daily living.

Since October 1, 2020, Ontario has invested over \$1.3 billion to temporarily enhance wages for personal support workers and direct support workers to help stabilize, attract and retain the workforce needed to provide a high level of care during the COVID-19 pandemic. This latest temporary wage increase builds on the government's previous wage enhancement extension on <u>August 23, 2021</u>, which was set to expire on October 31, 2021. The government continues to explore a permanent solution to address a range of longstanding recruitment and retention issues among personal support workers and direct support workers.

"This investment is a recognition of the hard work and ongoing sacrifices that personal support workers and direct support workers continue to make to keep Ontarians, including our province's most vulnerable, safe and healthy," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, President of the Treasury Board. "As a government, we are committed to improving home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals and the social services sector in every corner of this province."

"Throughout the pandemic, personal support workers have provided quality care to our residents," said Rod Phillips, Minister of Long-Term Care. "They are the backbone of long-term care, and by improving their work experience in the sector, we will meet our commitment to recruit and retain thousands of personal support workers over the next few years."

"Personal and direct support workers continue to do an incredible job of ensuring that children and adults with special needs and developmental disabilities are well cared for in our vulnerable settings," said Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "We have said throughout the pandemic that we will ensure that they are recognized for this important work, and we continue to deliver on that promise with the extension of the wage enhancement."

Quick Facts

- Personal support workers provide a wide range of services in home and community care, which also reduces or delays the need for more costly care in hospitals and long-term care homes.
- In October 2020, Ontario provided <u>\$461 million</u> to temporarily enhance wages for personal support workers and direct support workers. This was followed by additional investments of \$549 million total for three extensions of the temporary wage increase on <u>March 18</u>, <u>June 11</u>, and <u>August 23</u>, 2021.
- Through the <u>COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan</u>, the government invested \$52.5 million to recruit, retain and support over 3,700 more frontline health care workers and caregivers. It is one of the largest health care recruiting and training programs in Ontario's history.

Quotes

"We welcome this critical investment in frontline home and community care. Personal support workers and direct support workers have played an essential role in keeping people safely living at home during the COVID 19 pandemic."

- Jo-Anne Poirier President and CEO, Von Canada

"The Ontario Personal Support Workers Association applauds the Ontario government for continuing to extend the wage enhancement for public sector personal support workers (PSWs). Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, PSWs have been at the forefront defending our most vulnerable populations. The wage enhancement has helped many of our members to keep going and will continue to help them moving forward. Their ongoing dedication to their patients has not gone unnoticed by this government nor the people of Ontario."

- Miranda Ferrier CEO, Ontario Personal Support Workers Association

"The extension of the PSW wage enhancement is welcomed along with the fact that this is being equally applied across all sectors of our healthcare system. This recognition of the critical role that PSWs play in supporting the most vulnerable members of our society has assisted all healthcare organizations recruit and retain PSWs in a time when they are needed most."

- Connie Clerici Executive Chair, Closing the Gap Healthcare

"We applaud the government's decision to extend the temporary wage enhancement for PSWs. This is one important step in in recognizing the vital role frontline staff play in caring for Ontario's seniors."

- Lisa Levin CEO, AdvantAge Ontario

"We would like to thank the Government of Ontario for recognizing the incredible work of Bayshore's staff providing personal support services to allow Ontarians to remain safely at home. With the increased cost of living, our personal support services staff have become reliant on this funding. We will continue to work with our government partners to create a better understanding about the value and importance of home health care in the Canadian health care system."

- Stuart J. Cottrelle President, Bayshore Home Solutions "We are pleased to see the ongoing investment in our personal support workers, which is critically required. Whether they work in home care, long-term care, public hospitals or social services, PSWs are cherished for the role they play in helping Ontarians live with health, vitality and dignity – and we need more of them! By taking a systems view and continuing this temporary wage enhancement for all eligible PSWs, the government is helping to ensure all sectors can be successful at recruiting and retaining PSWs in the communities we serve."

Shirlee Sharkey
 CEO, SE Health

Additional Resources

- Ontario Further Extending Temporary Wage Increase for Personal Support Workers
- Ontario Taking Action to Immediately Increase Staffing in LTC, Leading to More Direct Care for Residents
- Learn more about training support for <u>personal support workers through private career colleges and district school</u> <u>boards</u>, and the province's <u>Accelerated PSW Training Program</u> being offered by all 24 public colleges
- Ontario Makes COVID-19 Vaccination Policies Mandatory for High-Risk Settings
- Ontario Invests in Historic Campaign to Accelerate Training for Personal Support Workers
- Ontario Provides \$461 Million to Temporarily Enhance Wages For Personal Support Workers
- Ontario Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Health Workforce Accountability and Enhance Data-Driven COVID-19
 Response
- <u>Directive #6 for Public Hospitals</u>
- Visit Ontario's <u>website</u> to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

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BACKGROUNDER

Working for Workers Act, 2021

October 25, 2021

Labour, Training and Skills Development

The Ontario government is introducing legislative changes today that would, if passed, make the province the best place for people to work, live and raise a family.

Today, the government will introduce the Working for Workers Act, 2021 that would, if passed:

- Require employers with 25 or more employees to have a written policy about employees disconnecting from their job at the end of the workday to help employees spend more time with their families. <u>Learn more</u>.
- Ban the use of non-compete agreements that prevent people from exploring other work opportunities in order to make it easier for workers to advance in their careers. <u>Learn more</u>.
- Help remove barriers, such as Canadian experience requirements, for internationally trained individuals to get licenced in a regulated profession and get access to jobs that match their qualifications and skills. <u>Learn more</u>.
- Require recruiters and temporary help agencies to have a licence to operate in the province to help protect vulnerable employees from being exploited. <u>Learn more</u>.
- Require business owners to allow delivery workers to use a company's washroom if they are delivering or picking up
 items. This supports the delivery drivers, couriers and truck drivers who have kept our essential supplies and economy
 going throughout the pandemic. <u>Learn more</u>.
- Allow surpluses in the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's Insurance Fund to be distributed over certain levels to businesses, helping them cope with the impacts of COVID-19. <u>Learn more</u>.
- Enable the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board to work with entities, like the Canada Revenue Agency, to streamline remittances for businesses, enabling a way to give them an efficient one-stop-shop for submitting premiums and payroll deductions. <u>Learn more.</u>
- Allow the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to collect information related to the agri-food workforce to
 ensure the government can enhance the coordination of services such as vaccination and testing, and respond to issues
 that may arise.

Additional Resources

• Ontario Creating a Better Future for Workers

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. <u>Learn more</u>

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Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. Learn more

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Ontario Creating a Better Future for Workers

Province to Introduce Legislation to Help Make Ontario the Best Place to Work, Live and Raise a Family

October 25, 2021

Labour, Training and Skills Development

TORONTO — The Ontario government is introducing legislation today that, if passed, would better protect, support, and attract workers to the province. These proposed new measures position Ontario as a first mover in charting the path forward as the way people work changes. The proposed changes would promote healthy work-life balance and will further enable competitiveness by banning unfair non-compete agreements that are used to restrict work opportunities, suppress salary increases and wage growth.

Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, will today introduce the <u>Working for Workers Act</u>, <u>2021</u>, which would help make Ontario the top choice for people around the world to live, work and raise a family.

"COVID-19 has changed the way we work, leaving too many people behind, struggling to put food on the table and make ends meet for their families," said Minister McNaughton. "Our government is working for workers. To do so, we must act swiftly and decisively to put workers in the driver's seat and begin rebalancing the scales. Today's proposed legislation shows Ontario is ready to lead the way into the workplaces of tomorrow, and create the conditions that will make talented, innovative people want to work in our great province."

If passed, this proposed legislation would make Ontario the first jurisdiction in Canada to make it easier for people to relax and spend quality time with their loved ones. By requiring employers with 25 employees or more to develop disconnecting from work policies, Ontario is prioritizing workers' mental health and family time. These workplace policies could include, for example, expectations about response time for emails and encouraging employees to turn on out-of-office notifications when they aren't working.

The proposed legislation will also prohibit employers from using non-compete agreements. These types of contracts often restrict employees from taking new jobs with another business in the same field after they leave the company. The proposed changes would ban this unfair restriction to help workers in Ontario advance their careers and earn more money. This would also give the province a competitive advantage in attracting global talent. Employers would still be able to protect their intellectual property through narrower clauses.

Measures proposed earlier this month will also be part of this legislation. This includes making it easier for internationally-trained individuals to <u>practice in regulated professions</u>, protecting vulnerable workers by <u>establishing a licensing framework</u> for recruiters and temporary help agencies, <u>ensuring washroom access for delivery workers</u> by requiring business owners to allow them to use the washrooms at the businesses they serve, and <u>supporting businesses</u> who continue to suffer from the impacts of COVID-19.

Many of the proposed changes were informed by the recommendations made by the experts of the Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory Committee, based on their consultations with workers, employers, and unions. These proposed changes complement the work that the government is already doing to improve and expand transportation, virtual care and broadband internet access, making it easier for more people to pursue remote work and make Ontario the "work from anywhere" province.

Quick Facts

- If the amendments are passed, Ontario would be the first jurisdiction in Canada, and one of the first in North America, to ban non-compete agreements in employment.
- Ontario would also be the first jurisdiction in Canada to establish policies that help workers disconnect from their employment responsibilities.

- In September 2021, 29 per cent of people (aged 15 to 69) in Ontario who worked at least half their usual hours worked from home, the highest percentage of any province in Canada.
- In 2021, Toronto held its fourth place ranking as a top city for tech talent (Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis Tech Talent Report).

Quotes

"Communitech is pleased to see Ontario level the playing field for workers, including tech workers, compared to other jurisdictions like California. Canadian founders are in a global competition for talent, so we are grateful to see Ontario setting conditions to help innovators attract and retain the best workers in North America to keep our economy growing."

- Chris Albinson President & CEO, Communitech

"Among CCI's member companies, access to skilled talent is the No. 1 issue right now. With digital connectivity and remote work, the labour landscape in the 21st century has changed dramatically. Measures that clearly codify worker rights, while allowing for flexibility and labour mobility, stand to benefit Ontario's innovative businesses as they seek to attract and retain the talent they need to drive growth."

- Alanna Sokic

Manager, Government Affairs (Ontario), Council of Canadian Innovators \ Conseil Canadien des Innovateurs

Additional Resources

- Working for Workers Act, 2021
- Making Ontario a Top Place to Work
- Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory Committee

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. <u>Learn more</u>

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Releases Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term

Gradual, cautious approach to manage COVID-19 now and moving forward

October 22, 2021

Office of the Premier

TORONTO — The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has released <u>A Plan to Safely</u> <u>Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term</u>, which outlines the province's gradual approach to lifting remaining public health and workplace safety measures by March 2022. The plan will be guided by the ongoing assessment of key public health and health care indicators and supported by local or regional tailored responses to COVID-19.

"Thanks to our cautious and careful approach to re-opening, we are now in position to gradually lift all remaining public health measures over the coming months," said Premier Doug Ford. "This plan is built for the long term. It will guide us safely through the winter and out of this pandemic, while avoiding lockdowns and ensuring we don't lose the hard-fought gains we have made."

Ontario will slowly and incrementally lift <u>all remaining public health and workplace safety measures</u>, including the provincial requirement for proof of vaccination and wearing of face coverings in indoor public settings, over the next six months. This phased approach will be guided by the ongoing assessment and monitoring of key public health and health care indicators, such as the identification of any new COVID-19 variants, increases in hospitalizations and ICU occupancy and rapid increases in transmission to ensure that public health and workplace safety measures are lifted safely.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, Ontario has taken a cautious approach to reopening to protect the health and safety of Ontarians," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Our plan will ensure we replicate this success and take a gradual approach that will protect our health system capacity, prevent widespread closures, keep our schools open and support the province's economic recovery."

In the absence of concerning trends, public health and workplace safety measures will be lifted based on the proposed following milestones:

October 25, 2021

In response to continued improvements to key indicators, including ongoing stability in the province's hospitals, effective October 25, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., Ontario will lift capacity limits, including physical distancing requirements, in the vast majority of settings where proof of vaccination are required, such as restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments; indoor areas of sports and recreational facilities such as gyms and where personal physical fitness trainers provide instruction; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and indoor meeting and event spaces. Limits will also be lifted in certain outdoor settings.

At this time, the government will also allow other settings to lift capacity limits and physical distancing requirements if they choose to require proof of vaccination, including:

- Personal care services (e.g., barber shops, salons, body art);
- Indoor areas of museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions;
- Indoor areas of amusement parks;
- Indoor areas of fairs, rural exhibitions, festivals;
- Indoor tour and guide services;
- Boat tours;
- Indoor areas of marinas and boating clubs;
- Indoor clubhouses at outdoor recreational amenities;
- Open house events provided by real estate agencies; and
- Indoor areas of photography studios and services.

Locations where a wedding, funeral or religious service, rite or ceremony takes place may also implement proof of vaccination requirements for services, rites, or ceremonies at the location.

This will not apply to settings where people receive medical care, food from grocery stores and medical supplies. In addition, the government intends to allow for greater capacity at organized public events such as Remembrance Day ceremonies and Santa Claus parades with more details coming in the near future.

November 15, 2021

The government intends to lift capacity limits in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including food or drink establishments with dance facilities (e.g., night clubs, wedding receptions in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing); strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs.

January 17, 2022

In the absence of concerning trends in public health and health care following the winter holiday months and after students returned to in-class learning, the province intends to begin gradually lifting capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required. The Chief Medical Officer of Health will also lift <u>CMOH directives</u> as appropriate.

Proof of vaccination requirements may also begin to be gradually lifted at this time, including for restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, facilities used for sports and recreational facilities and casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments.

February 7, 2022

The government intends to lift proof of vaccination requirements in high-risk settings, including night clubs, strip clubs, and bathhouses and sex clubs.

March 28, 2022

At this time, it is intended that remaining public health and workplace safety measures will be lifted, including wearing face coverings in indoor public settings. Recommendations may be released for specific settings, if appropriate.

In addition, the provincial requirement for proof of vaccination will be lifted for all remaining settings, including meeting and event spaces, sporting events, concerts, theatres and cinemas, racing venues and commercial and film productions with studio audiences.

To manage COVID-19 over the long-term, local and regional responses by public health units will be deployed based on local context and conditions. Public health measures that may be applied locally could include reintroducing capacity limits and/or physical distancing, reducing gathering limits and adding settings where proof of vaccination is required, among others. Public health measures would be implemented provincially in exceptional circumstances, such as when the province's health system capacity is at risk of becoming overwhelmed or if a vaccine resistant COVID-19 variant is identified in the province.

"We are now in a position where we can see the proposed plan for lifting the remaining public health and workplace safety measures in Ontario," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "The months ahead will require continued vigilance, as we don't want to cause anymore unnecessary disruption to people's everyday lives. We must continue to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities by following the public health measures in place and by vaccinating those who have not yet received their shots. Ontario has the infrastructure in place to manage outbreaks, including a high-volume capacity for testing, and people to perform fast and effective case and contact management when needed."

Quick Facts

- The powers to extend and amend orders under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* are currently in effect until December 1, 2021, and Ontario intends to seek the Legislature's approval to extend these powers as authorized under the ROA in order to be able to maintain necessary public health and workplace measures until they are no longer needed.
- Well-functioning heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems can help to disperse and remove respiratory droplets and aerosols that may contain viruses from indoor spaces. However, these tools must be used in conjunction with all other public health and workplace safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Local medical officers of health have the ability to issue advice, recommendations or instructions under the Reopening Ontario Act (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA) as well as Section 22 orders under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, and municipalities may enact by-laws, to target specific transmission risks in the community.

- As of <u>September 22, 2021</u>, Ontarians are required to be <u>fully vaccinated</u> with proof of vaccination along with ID to
 access certain public settings and facilities. The <u>enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code</u> and the free, made-in
 Ontario Verify Ontario app are now available for download, making it easier, more secure and convenient for individuals
 to provide proof of vaccination where required to do so.
- As of October 22, 2021, 4.8 million Ontarians have downloaded their enhanced vaccine certificate, and one million people are using the Verify Ontario app.
- On <u>July 16, 2021</u>, the province <u>moved into Step Three</u> of the <u>Roadmap to Reopen</u>. Face coverings in indoor public settings and physical distancing requirements remain in place throughout Step Three.
- Under the <u>2021 Budget</u>, 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.

Additional Resources

- Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate with QR Code and Verify Ontario App Available for Download Starting October
 15
- <u>Using your Enhanced Vaccine Certificate: Frequently Asked Questions</u>
- Ontario Cautiously Lifting Capacity Limits in Select Settings
- Ontario Cautiously Easing Capacity Limits in Select Settings Where Proof of Vaccination is Required
- Ontario to Require Proof of Vaccination in Select Settings
- Ontario Makes COVID-19 Vaccination Policies Mandatory for High-Risk Settings
- For public inquiries, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007).
- For resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts in responding to COVID-19, visit Ontario's COVID-19 communication resources webpage.
- Visit Ontario's <u>website</u> to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expanding Booster Eligibility to More Ontarians

Eligibility Will Expand Gradually Based on Age and Risk to Provide Extra Layer of Protection Against the Delta Variant

November 03, 2021

<u>Health</u>

TORONTO — The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is expanding eligibility for booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to additional groups of high-risk individuals starting November 6, 2021, providing them with an extra layer of protection against the Delta variant. Over the coming months, Ontario is also prepared to gradually roll out booster doses to all Ontarians aged 12 and over.

While the province continues to report one of the lowest rates of active cases in the country and continues to make steady progress in vaccinating more individuals, offering the extra layer of protection provided by a booster dose will contribute to the fight against COVID-19.

"Keeping a low rate of infection in our communities and protecting our most vulnerable is how we can keep our schools, businesses and social settings as safe as possible while avoiding further lockdowns," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "To provide every individual the best protection while learning to live with the virus for the long-term, we are prepared to expand booster eligibility to all Ontarians pending clinical recommendations, with eligibility expanding this week to individuals who face a higher risk of contracting COVID-19."

Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) recent recommendation, the province will begin offering booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the following vulnerable populations if at least six months have passed since their last dose:

- Individuals aged 70 and over (born in 1951 or earlier);
- Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
- Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine); and
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.

Booster doses are being offered to these groups based on evidence of gradual waning immunity six months after receiving their second dose and a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Starting on Saturday, November 6 at 8:00 a.m., eligible individuals will be able to book their booster dose appointment through the COVID-19 vaccination portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, directly through public health units that use their own booking systems, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, select pharmacies, and primary care settings. Hospital-based health care workers are encouraged to reach out to their hospital employer to get vaccinated directly through their hospital's vaccination program.

Locations and timing for booster doses may vary by public health unit based on local planning and considerations.

In addition, Ontario is once again supporting northern and remote fly in First Nation communities by launching Operation Remote Immunity 3.0, this time through the co-development of plans with Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, to support Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority and Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, First Nation health organizations, to administer booster doses in their communities with transportation and vaccine supply assistance from Ornge and local public health units.

While the COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective, the province is prepared to expand eligibility for a booster dose to all Ontarians over time. Based on Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination rollout for first and second doses, expansion of eligibility for booster doses will be based on age and risk, with an interval of six to eight months from the second dose.

"Ontario is continuing the success of our vaccine rollout by expanding eligibility for a booster shot based on age and risk," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "As we continue rolling out our Last Mile Strategy to vaccinate as many Ontarians as possible, providing an extra layer of protection starting with our most vulnerable is critical as we continue to safely reopen and manage COVID-19 for the long-term."

During the height of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine rollout, a large population of Ontarians received their first and second doses at a longer interval than indicated on the product monograph. This longer interval has now been shown to improve duration of protection, and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization now recommends an optimal interval of eight weeks between first and second doses.

"The expansion of eligibility for booster shots is one more step that our government is taking to protect Ontarians and keep our communities safe," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "As with the initial administration of COVID-19 vaccines, the phased rollout of booster shots ensures that vulnerable groups are prioritized and can easily access booster shots through pharmacies, clinics and health care providers."

COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for children aged five to 11 is subject to Health Canada approval. Ontario is working with public health units across the province to prepare to vaccinate children aged five to 11. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged five to 11 is a distinct formulation at a lower dose and supply of vaccine that will be rolled out in parallel to booster doses.

Quick Facts

- Ontario was the first jurisdiction in Canada to begin offering third/booster doses to select <u>vulnerable populations</u>. To date, Ontario has administered more than 150,000 third/booster doses to Ontarians.
- Today's expansion brings the number of individuals eligible for a third/booster dose to 2.75 million individuals.
- All booster doses will be mRNA vaccines, unless contraindicated. Mixing COVID-19 vaccines is safe, effective, and enables Ontarians to benefit from the protection of a booster dose.
- As booster eligibility expands, the province is encouraging all Ontarians who are receiving their booster dose to get their flu vaccine at the same time.
- As of November 2, 2021, more than seven million enhanced certificates with QR codes have been downloaded through the COVID-19 vaccination portal and there have been more than 1.3 million downloads of the Verify Ontario app.
- As of November 2, 2021, Ontario has administered more than 22 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with more than 88 per cent of Ontarians aged 12 and over having received at least one dose and more than 84 per cent having received a second dose.
- If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007), which is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and capable of providing assistance in more than 300 languages.

Additional Resources

- COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations
- Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate with QR Code and Verify Ontario App Available for Download Starting October

 15
- Ontario Releasing Guidance to Support Proof of Vaccination Policy
- Ontario Makes COVID-19 Vaccination Policies Mandatory for High-Risk Settings
- For public inquiries, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007).
- For resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts in responding to COVID-19, visit Ontario's COVID-19 communication resources webpage.
- Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.

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ONTARIO'S WATCHDOG CHIEN DE GARDE DE L'ONTARIO

Greetings,

I am pleased to send you two hard copies of my latest Annual Report (one English, one French). This report covers the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

This is our Office's fifth full fiscal year of reporting on our oversight of municipalities, universities and school boards, in addition to provincial government organizations. It is also our second year of reporting on children and youth in care, and French language services. I hope that you and all stakeholders in these areas will find the information in this report of interest. (The French Language Services Commissioner also published a separate Annual Report in December 2020, and her next report will be released later this year.)

We encourage you to read the chapters of the report that relate to the topic areas relevant to your interests. In each chapter, we discuss the most common issues and the types of cases we have resolved across the province. Please feel free to share this information with any interested colleagues and stakeholders.

You can find the entire report, media materials and backgrounders, and statistics on our website here: https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/resources/reports-and-case-summaries/annual-reports
As well, we would be happy to provide more copies upon request.

Should you have any questions about the report or cases related to your organization, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are also happy to assist you with any general questions about our work. Our staff can be reached via email at info@ombudsman.on.ca.

Sincerely,

Paul Dubé,

Ombudsman of Ontario

* Paper Copy is available in the Clerk's Office for review*



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

COVID-19 Case Summary

October 28, 2021

Total Confirmed Cases in
Renfrew County and District (RCD):
830

(316 cases have screened positive for variants of concern [VOC])

Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days:

Incidence Rate^a in the Last 7 Days: 0.9 per 100,000 individuals

Current Status of Cases in RCD

Self-Isolation: 2

Hospitalized: 0

Hospitalized in Intensive Care Unit: 0

Resolved: 818

Deceased: 10

Residents of Long-Term Care/Retirement Homes: 13

Health Care Workers (HCWs):

(17 HCWs employed outside of RCD)

Community Cases: 690

School Cases (Including Daycares): Staff=11 Students=45

Outbreak Setting	Cumulative Number of Outbreaks	Active Number of Outbreaks	
Community	5	0	
Hospital	1	0	
Long-Term Care Home/ Retirement Home	15	0	
School (all levels)	8	0	
Workplace	10	0	
Total	39	0	

Total Number of tests completed for RCD residents:
119,141

Percent Positivity^b of tests completed for RCD residents (October 17-October 23, 2021) 0.8%

RCDHU has responded to 45,028 COVID-19 inquiries from residents and community partners since March 18, 2020.

^a Incidence rate is calculated by dividing the total number of confirmed cases in a 7-day period by the population size, and then multiplying by 100,000. It takes into account the size of the population, and can be compared to other regions. It's trend (increasing or decreasing) suggests the trajectory of transmission within a region. Data source: Population Projection of Renfrew County and District Health Unit [2020], Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHEALTH Ontario

^b Percent positivity is calculated by dividing the number of tests with a positive result by the total number of tests processed during the same time frame, and then multiplying by 100. A higher percent positivity suggests higher community transmission and that there are likely more people with COVID-19 in the community who haven't been tested yet. Data source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS), Visual Analytics Hub.



9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA K8A 6W5

www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

Media Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22nd, 2021

ALGONQUIN TRAIL to EXPAND MULTI-USE THROUGH PEMBROKE AND LAURENTIAN VALLEY

Pembroke, ON: Recently the Councils of the City of Pembroke and the Township of Laurentian Valley agreed to the inclusion of motorized/multi-use activities on the sections of the Algonquin Trail that pass through their municipalities. These decisions align with the overall purpose of the Algonquin Trail / Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail to be a four-season multi-use trail.

The County of Renfrew continues to build out the Algonquin Trail from the recently completed twenty-one kilometres between Renfrew and Cobden, with the recent approval of a tender to improve the trail between Cobden and the City of Pembroke and a portion in the Town of Laurentian Hills. Once finished, this thirty-seven-kilometre section will complete the Algonquin Trail/Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail from Smiths Falls to the Town of Petawawa. The contractor, G.P. Splinter Forest Products of Laurentian Valley who was the successful bidder, has started work on the section between Turcotte Road and Old Mill Road and will work as long as weather permits, continuing into 2022 for the completion of the improvements. In addition, G.P. Splinter will be addressing the bridge structures in the City of Pembroke ahead of the upcoming snowmobile season and will be working to create a parking area for trail users located at McKay Street.

"The agreement of both the City of Pembroke and Township of Laurentian Valley Councils to include motorized users on the sections of the trail that pass through their municipalities is a timely decision as the recent sale of a major section of the CN line in the City of Pembroke has recently restricted access to the area for snowmobile and ATV trail users. The multi-use, four-season Algonquin Trail will benefit tourism and economic development in Renfrew County and for our friends in both Laurentian Valley and the City of Pembroke," Chair of the Algonquin Trail Advisory Committee, Councillor Bob Sweet.

"This is welcomed news and, once complete, these sections of the Algonquin Trail will bring new trail users to our area, bringing tourism and economic benefits to our local economy. County of Renfrew staff will be continuing to work with both City of Pembroke and Township of Laurentian Valley staff to develop further parking, business opportunities and signage to improve the trail experience for all users," shared Warden Debbie Robinson.

When these sections of the trail officially open following the completion of the contracted improvements, County of Renfrew staff will be addressing dust mitigation and enforcement issues. The County wants to remind all users of the Algonquin Trail to continue to obey and respect all posted signage and rules of use while the improvements to the trail are made. Trail guidelines and rules can be viewed on the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail website.

The Algonquin Trail is part of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail and is owned and managed by the County of Renfrew in partnership with Lanark County and the Township of Papineau-Cameron.

Information and Media Inquiries Please Contact:

Jason Davis Manager	of Forestry and GIS, County of Re	nfrew 613-735-7288
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Michael Barber Media Relations/Grants Coordinator, County of Renfrew 613-735-7288





Context

In the fall of 2020, the District's Board of Trustees and senior staff began a renewed strategic planning process. The Board of Trustees felt it was important to align the organization's strategic direction for the future with the District's new motto: *Inspire*, *Empower*, *Achieve*.

During the winter of 2021, the Board of Trustees and senior staff led a series of consultative sessions with stakeholders of the District—students, parents/guardians, staff, federation/union partners, and members of the broader community. The sessions were designed to hear from these important partners and seek ideas and perspectives regarding the specific goals the organization should consider under each strategic priority.

By the spring of 2021, the goal statements associated with each strategic priority were crafted and the renewed strategic plan was approved by the Board of Trustees.

We are pleased to be able to reflect the insightful feedback of our external and internal stakeholders in this plan. We believe it sets us on a path to honour our relationships with them.

"Every school board in the province of Ontario is governed by a board of trustees that has a legislated requirement to ensure the creation of a multi-year strategic plan (MYSP)."

"The MYSP is a visioning and policy document that sets the direction for the board... The operational and improvement plans created by the director of education and senior administrators are based on the MYSP and map out how the MYSP will be implemented."

—Multi-Year Strategic Planning: A Guide for School Board Trustees, Ministry of Education Ontario, 2017

About Us

The Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB) is located in the heart of the Ottawa Valley.

The District covers a significant geographic area that stretches from Deep River in the northwest, to Arnprior in the southeast, and Barry's Bay along the northeast edge of Algonquin Park. The District is comprised of 21 elementary schools and seven secondary schools, as well as four adult and continuing education centres.

"As we embark on a new strategic plan that will set the path for the District for the next four years, I am incredibly grateful for the time, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness that our stakeholders have put into building a shared vision for the District. The last few years have shown us that public education is experiencing significant change and navigating the next four years toward success will require strategic thinking, adaptability, and a long-range commitment. I believe this plan does just that."

— Bryon Morris, Chair

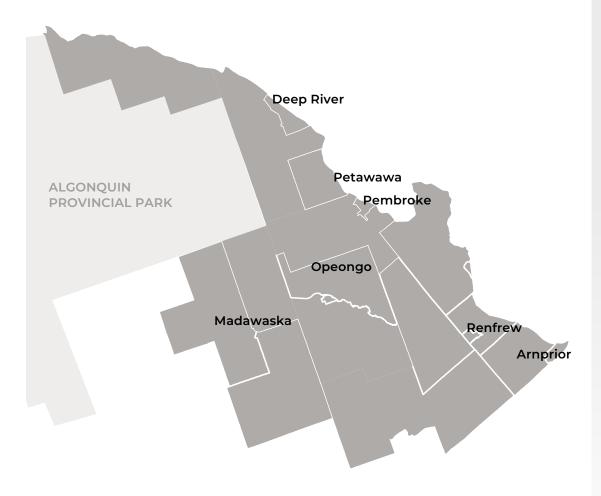


The Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Priorities for the District are as follows:



We action our priorities through the stewardship of resources and an ongoing commitment to the measurement of our progress.

The RCDSB is comprised of seven families of schools as follows:



Goal statements have been established for each Strategic Priority to ensure that the organization's collective work—at the school and system levels—reflects our commitment to the stewardship of resources (human, material and/or fiscal) and the measurement of progress over time (as related to each Strategic Priority).

In the fall of 2019, the RCDSB Student Senate facilitated a 'thought exchange' for the system related to Student Attributes for Success. We sought to identify the qualities and features that define our aspirational image of the educated person in the 21st century.

The following attributes, in no specific order, resonated the most with stakeholders, internal and external to the organization:

resilience

problem solving

perseverance

communication

confidence

adaptability

flexibility

compassion

collaboration

independence

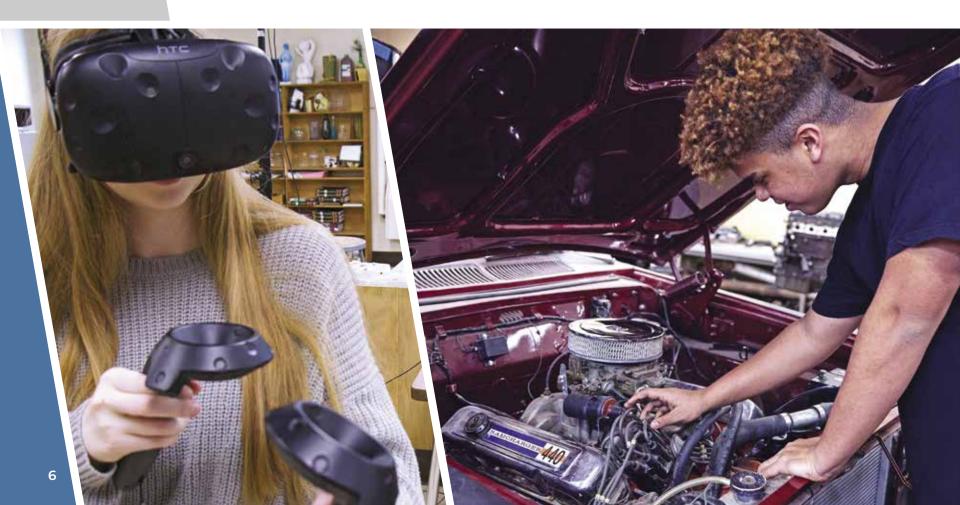
critical thinking
 kindness

Along with the goals established for each Strategic Priority, the above attributes will serve as a guide for our collective work at the school and system levels.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Inspire Community Engagement and Partnerships

We will: engage parents/guardians in meaningful partnerships between home and school; enhance connections with community agencies/organizations and local municipalities; build productive working relationships with our school and system leaders and staff; and, honour student voice.



GOALS

- Implement an electronic portal for parents/guardians in order to augment two-way communications with staff and provide ease of access to the teaching and learning environments of their children, whether in-person at school or online at home.
- Expand outreach to provide ongoing access to schools and central sites for community agencies, organizations and local municipalities through Community Use of Schools as an integral service offered by the organization.
- Refine and revise regularly the array of community-based partnerships in place throughout the county to ensure their value is optimized in support of programs and services offered by the organization.
- Collaborate constructively with all staff, as well as federation/union partners, by soliciting their input and supporting their efforts to serve the diverse needs of students in the effective and efficient operation of the organization.
- Encourage the entire student body, through Student Councils
 and Student Senate, to continue to seek a diversity of student
 voices—of all backgrounds and interests—so that students'
 perspectives are reflected in activities and initiatives, system-wide.

The importance of relationships is at the heart of this Strategic Priority. The quality of the interactions and interconnectedness of stakeholders—students, parents/guardians, staff, federation/union partners, and community members—are key to the success of this strategy.

"Positive engagement is the pathway to excellence and equity in learning. Inspiring young people with learning that has meaning and purpose, infusing learning with magic and mystery, coaching young people to attain ever-ascending levels of mastery, and building relationships and belonging among everyone who can support students' success—these are the surefire ways to inspire and empower all students at the RCDSB to achieve fulfillment and success."

—Dr. Andrew (Andy) Hargreaves,
Research Professor at Boston
College and Director of CHENINE
(Change, Engagement and
Innovation in Education) at the
University of Ottawa

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Empower Equity and Well-being

We will: eliminate systemic barriers affecting students, staff and school communities; seek out and deliver best practices and promising opportunities that support mental health and well-being; and, ensure equitable access to programs and services offered across the system.



GOALS

- Organize opportunities for authentic, engaging learning for students, staff and school communities related to anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion, including professional learning for staff regarding bias awareness and critical consciousness.
- Review all policies and administrative procedures, as well as resources for teaching and learning environments, through the lens of human rights to ensure equitable, diverse and inclusive practices are reflected in schools and central departments.
- Evolve the 'Lead with CARE—Create a Responsive Environment' approach for mental health and wellness, through strength-based relationships, in alignment with the 'Supporting Student Mental Health' framework.
- Integrate, respectfully and responsibly, Indigenous ways of teaching and learning, knowing and living, into classrooms and the curriculum across all grades and subject areas.
- Ensure equity of access by eliminating barriers to the range of highquality programs and services offered across the system, either by family of schools or district-wide, in order to meet the needs of all learners.

The genuine feeling of a sense of belonging amongst all stakeholders, internal and external to the organization, is crucial to the success of this Strategic Priority. The ability to provide experiences, and realize outcomes, that facilitate each individual reaching their highest potential is key to the success of this strategy.

"A system-wide commitment to creating a sense of belonging, authentic caring, and a flexible rather than prescribed responsiveness is one where every learner in the system can thrive. The RCDSB's Strategic Plan 2021–2025 clearly recognizes the importance of the deep knowledge that we have that good education cares, and good care educates. This is truly educating the heart to create learners who are good at learning and good at life."

— Dr. Jean Clinton, Clinical
Professor of Psychiatry and
Behavioural Neurosciences at
McMaster University

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Achieve Excellence in Teaching and Learning

We will: provide opportunities that are authentic, engaging, innovative and relevant; focus on exploring the enduring understandings of the curriculum, while building core skills in literacy and numeracy and fostering global competencies; and, offer a range of programs and services to meet the needs of all learners.



GOALS

- Create a differentiated approach to student success and learning at the school and system levels that reflects key elements of the 'Inspired Learning' framework through authentic, engaging inquiries and tasks that explore the 'big ideas' of the curriculum.
- Incorporate culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy, including aspects of social justice, diversity, equity, and human rights, in teaching and learning environments across all grades and subject areas, where appropriate and meaningful.
- Focus professional learning for staff on sound assessment and evaluation practices, effective instructional strategies such as Universal Design for Learning, to allow all students to see themselves as capable and connected learners.
- Develop and implement an array of educational opportunities that will nurture the pursuit of academic excellence for students through all program pathways—university, college, apprenticeship, community living, and the workforce.
- Leverage innovative technologies to accelerate and deepen learning, in-person and on-line, expanding availability in schools and central departments by striving for a 1:1 ratio of devices to learners and employees.

Learning that is deep and interesting, and which leverages the talent and resources of the system, is essential to this Strategic Priority. The instructional core—the dynamic interplay between the student, the educator and the inquiry/task at hand—is key to nourishing the creativity and imagination, curiosity and intrinsic motivation of the learner.

"Learners, young and old alike, can only nurture their seeds of brilliance when the learning culture fosters genuine openness and trust—and embraces the belief that within every person lies immense potential. The job of both formal and informal leaders is to set in place the conditions that nurture that learning environment: to model a culture of curiosity; to give permission to challenge assumptions; and yes, in this age of complexity, to encourage a collision of ideas. It is through that creative collision that new pathways and innovation emerge. Over the last four years working with and listening to students and staff of the RCDSB, it has been inspiring to witness these critical characteristics of awakened learning through schools and departments."

— Dr. Peter Gamwell, Speaker and Consultant for Individual and Organizational Leadership, Learning and Creativity

Goals for the Stewardship of Resources

Additional operational objectives for the organization regarding the stewardship of resources (human, material and fiscal) include:

- continuation of cyclical financial reporting processes (including estimates, revised estimates and financial statements) related to the annual budget, as well as the ongoing examination of short- and long-term accommodation planning processes;
- integration of an electronic resource planning system of software applications that standardize, streamline and merge business processes across facilities, finance, information technologies, human resources, procurement, and other departments;



- digitization of records management system for schools and central departments in order to ensure all records are categorized and stored electronically, including historical records;
- implementation of environmentally-sustainable practices in schools and central departments, including the development and implementation of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan; and,
- development of a comprehensive outline for leadership development and mentorship in order to encourage employees who seek positions of added responsibility, and support staff currently in these roles.

"Budgeting is a vital and integral part of the overall planning responsibilities of a board. Board operating and capital budgets should align with the long-term strategy that school boards develop to ensure effective stewardship of the board's resources. School boards are required to develop a balanced budget within the funding allocated to them by the Ministry of Education."

— OPSBA's Guide to Good Governance: 2018–2022, Ontario Public School Boards' Association, 2018



"If we want learners who can thrive in turbulent and complex times, apply thinking to new situations and change the world, then we must reimagine learning: what's important to be learned, how learning is fostered, where learning happens, and how we measure success."

— Deep Learning: Engage the World Change the World, Fullan, Quinn and McEachen, 2018

Goals for the Measurement of Progress Over Time

Additional operational objectives that are both qualitative and quantitative in nature include:

- stakeholder feedback (such as student questionnaires, staff censuses, and focus group sessions with parents/guardians, federation/union partners and community members) in the development of an aspirational goal for *Inspire* based upon community outreach;
- indicators of identity, equity and wellness (including positive sense of belonging, positive relationships at school, and students' value of schooling outcomes, for instance) in the establishment of an aspirational goal for Empower based upon an on-line survey system; and,
- assessments of learning for core skills of literacy and numeracy, as well as
 global competencies, in addition to district graduation rates (provinciallycomputed for each cohort of students as four-year and five-year rates), in the
 implementation of an aspirational goal for Achieve based upon outstanding
 educational experiences.



Annual Action Plans

A number of annual, system-level plans of action are associated with the multi-year strategic plan. The following graphic provides an overview of a number of the annual plans of action, in relation to one another, operationalized by Corporate Services, Employee Services, Program Services and Special Services.

As part of the work plan for staff, each system-level plan of action outlines activities and tasks, as well as timelines, responsibility centres, and resources required on an annual basis. An update regarding the status of these annual action plans is provided by senior staff to the Board of Trustees as outlined in the board work plan.

Communications Equity and Indigenous Anti-racism Education Leadership School <u>Development</u> Effectiveness ANNUAL and Student and Mentorship **BUDGETARY** Success **PROCESSES** Mental Special Health and Education Wellness Information' and Communication Technologies Relations

"It is with great energy and excitement that the multi-year strategic plan is operationalized, system-wide. This visioning and policy document establishes a veritable road map to success, striving to ensure both opportunities and outcomes of the highest quality for all students, staff and school communities of the District."

—Pino Buffone, Director of Education, Renfrew County District School Board

Additional Reports

Reports from the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC), Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) are also provided to the Board of Trustees annually.



INSPIRE. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 21, 2021

In This Issue

- Dress Purple Day 2021 is on October 27.
- Municipal Cyber Security Toolkit.
- Phase I regulations of Conservation Authorities Act released.
- Free asset management on-demand webinar series.
- Solutions to enhance mental health in the workplace.
- ROMA 2022: Program insights.
- ROMA 2022: Request for delegation meetings.
- New date added for navigating conflict training.
- Canoe Public Procurement Summit rescheduled to November 17.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: HMI Industries.
- ONE Investment podcast: Fixed Income Investing & Changing Interest Rates.
- Careers: Simcoe County and Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management.

AMO Matters

AMO supports Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies' Dress Purple Day to show that municipalities are integral to the safety and well-being of children, youth, and families. Learn how your municipality can get involved <u>here</u>.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month - a campaign that raises awareness about the importance of cyber security. To assist members, AMO released a Municipal Cyber Security Toolkit of best practices that will help guide and improve your cyber security readiness. Read it today.

Provincial Matters

On October 7th Ontario filed three new regulations under the <u>Conservation Authorities</u> <u>Act</u>. There are important deadlines to be aware of. Stay tuned for more information and guidance on these changes.

Eye on Events

The asset management <u>webinar series</u> will introduce tools and templates piloted with a group of municipalities in partnership with FCM's <u>Municipal Asset Management Program</u>. Next webinar on "Using Risk Assessment to Identify Local Priorities" is on October 29 at 1:00 p.m. EST. <u>Click here to Register</u>.

AMO's digital mental health therapy provider, <u>MindBeacon</u>, has partnered with <u>Breaking Free</u> and <u>Togetherall</u> to bring you a one stop solution to support your employee's mental health. Each offer unique solutions that has improved mental health conditions of Canadians. Join us for a free webinar on October 27 at noon to learn more. <u>Register now</u>.

ROMA 2022: Rural Opportunities will be a robust two-day conference with keynote addresses, panels, and concurrent sessions on timely and important issues to rural

municipalities.

To request delegation meetings as part of your ROMA 2022 Conference experience please visit the <u>following link</u> for information on how to submit your request. The deadline is November 15, 2021.

AMO's in demand training on skills for elected officials to navigate conflict relations is available for one more session in 2021. Sign up for the December 8 and 9 session here. Limited seats available.

LAS

The <u>Canoe Public Procurement Summit</u> has been moved from October 27 to **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 11 am**. Join municipalities across the nation to learn the best strategies for public procurement in Canada and how Ontario municipalities can leverage the buying power of over 5000 public entities. <u>Register now</u> for this exciting first-ever event!

Canoe Vendor Spotlight: HMI Industries' contract makes commercial level air purification available through the <u>Canoe Procurement Group</u>. Keep your offices safe by removing harmful viruses, bacteria, allergens, airborne chemicals, and more. <u>Contact Tanner</u> for more information.

ONE Investment

Podcast: <u>Main Street to Bay Street: Fixed Income Investing and Changing Interest Rates</u> - Listen to ONE Investment team talk about the optimal fixed income strategy during the current low interest rate environment. How can investors position their portfolios in response to the rate changes?

Careers

Real Estate Negotiator/Acquisition Specialist - County of Simcoe. The Specialist reports to the Manager, Real Estate and is primarily responsible for providing support to the Manager and client departments with real estate needs including research, site selection, negotiation and appraisal for acquisition, and disposal of real property and property rights. View the job description and submit your application online by November 1, 2021.

<u>Liaison Officer - Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management.</u> Act as a liaison and advisor in the development, implementation and monitoring of emergency management programs and handling of emergency management issues across governments and non-government organizations (NGO) with Emergency Management Ontario in the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management. Please <u>apply online</u>, only, quoting Job ID 170041, by November 9, 2021.

About AMO

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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







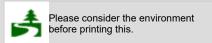








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October 28, 2021

In This Issue

- AMO releases Conservation Authority fact sheets for municipalities.
- Municipal Cyber Security Toolkit.
- Dams and public safety survey Due October 31.
- Changes to excess soil regulations are coming January 1, 2022.
- Free asset management on-demand webinar series.
- ROMA 2022: Request for delegation meetings.
- New date added for navigating conflict training.
- The LAS Natural Gas Procurement Program secures a hedge.
- Budgeting for a road needs study.
- Canoe fall webinars: John Deere.
- Canoe Public Procurement Summit happening November 17.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Deccan International.
- The future looks bright with LAS Facility Lighting.
- Empower your staff to save energy!
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO has released <u>five fact sheets</u> to help municipalities navigate changes to their relationship with conservation authorities as a result of the recently proclaimed subsections of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month - a campaign that raises awareness about the importance of cyber security. To assist members, AMO released a Municipal Cyber Security Toolkit of best practices that will help guide and improve your cyber security readiness. Read it today.

Provincial Matters

The Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) is <u>collecting feedback</u> from dam owners and the dam industry until October 31, 2021 to establish a baseline of information to expand and share knowledge across Ontario's dam community.

The province is hosting webinars throughout October and November on the significant changes to excess soil regulations coming into effect on January 1st, 2022. For information and to register, email mecp.landpolicy@ontario.ca.

Eye on Events

The asset management <u>webinar series</u> will introduce tools and templates piloted with a group of municipalities in partnership with FCM's <u>Municipal Asset Management Program</u>. Last webinar on "Developing Financial Strategy Using Asset Whole Lifecycle Costs" is on November 5 at 1:00 pm EST. <u>Click here to Register</u>.

To request delegation meetings as part of your ROMA 2022 Conference experience

please visit the <u>following link</u> for information on how to submit your request. The deadline is November 15, 2021.

AMO's in demand training on skills for elected officials to navigate conflict relations is available for one more session in 2021. Sign up for the December 8 and 9 session here. Limited seats available.

LAS

Natural Gas Procurement participants will be pleased to know that we have secured a hedge for the new term at 11.7 cents/m3. Read <u>our commodity blog</u> to help understand how the pandemic is affecting the natural gas market

Is a road needs study part of your 2022 budget? The <u>Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service</u> provides high-quality, objective data to help you make smart decisions about your assets. <u>Contact Tanner</u> for more information or to receive a no-obligation quote.

John Deere supplies a wide range of equipment through the <u>Canoe Procurement</u> <u>Group</u> under the Agricultural Tractor, Grounds Maintenance Equipment, and Heavy Construction Equipment categories. Join us November 10 at 11 am to hear about products, alternate financing options, and seasonal asset optimization. Don't miss out - <u>register today</u>.

Join municipalities from across the country for the first ever <u>Canoe Public Procurement Summit</u> on November 17, 2021 at 11 am. Hear from experts on the best strategies for public procurement in Canada and how Ontario municipalities can leverage the buying power of over 5000 public entities. <u>Register now</u> for this exciting event!

The <u>Canoe Procurement Group</u> has over 180 vendors. Deccan Public Safety Software provides the powerful tools Fire and EMS leaders need to make the right decisions. Use the Canoe contract to save time and money while improving emergency services in your community. <u>Contact Tanner</u> to learn more.

The turn-key <u>LAS Facility Lighting Service</u> recently awarded a new supply contract to Gerrie Electric. This unique program provides choice and value for your municipal lighting projects. Give us a <u>call today</u> for your free budget proposal including a cost and financial return analysis.

Empower your building operators/maintenance staff in skills to identify energy saving opportunities in your buildings. Participate in an Energy Workshop & Treasure Hunt today! Contact Christian Tham to book your session for the fall - dates are still available.

Careers

<u>Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Centre Wellington.</u> Reporting to the Mayor and Council, the CAO is responsible for the strategic leadership and efficient delivery of all the municipality's administrative and operational services. Apply by November 12, 2021 to <u>careers@waterhousesearch.ca</u> quoting project CW-CAO.

<u>Building Plans Examiner - City of Brampton.</u> Reporting to the Supervisor, Plans & Permits this position reviews plans submitted for a building permit to ensure all Ontario Building Code and related standards have been met. Apply <u>online</u> quoting reference # 104131 by November 4, 2021.

Senior Project Manager Solid Waste Management Services - City of

<u>Toronto.</u> Reporting to the Project Director, the Manager will be responsible for activities related to planning and implementation of initiatives to transition the City of Toronto's Blue Bin Recycling Program. Apply <u>online</u>, by November 8, 2021.

<u>Public Works Foreman - Town of Kapuskasing.</u> Reporting to the General Manager of Public Works, the role is supervisory in nature and involves planning, coordinating and efficient management of the Public Works Operation. Send your resume, including cover letter to: Administration Office - Town of Kapuskasing, 88 Riverside Dr. P5N 1B3 Fax: 705-337-1741. Deadline is November 10, 2021, 4:30 pm.

<u>Manager of Transportation and Fleet - Municipality of Central Elgin.</u> Reporting to the Director of Infrastructure and Community Services you will manage all aspects of Corporate Fleet and Transportation Services including roads, sidewalks, drainage, bridges and culverts. Apply <u>online</u> by 4:30 pm November 15, 2021.

<u>Associate Lawyer (Municipal) - Cunningham Swan LLP.</u> Varied work on behalf of public and private sector clients on a full range of matters including local governance, by-law enforcement, land use planning, expropriations, and administrative law. Direct inquiries to <u>careers@cswan.com</u> by November 26, 2021.

<u>Program Manager, Housing Stability & Homelessness - Regional Municipality of York.</u> Reporting to the Manager, Community Programs, is responsible for managing and coordinating the development, implementation and monitoring of new and ongoing program initiatives. Interested candidates please apply <u>online</u> by November 8, 2021.

<u>Manager, Environmental Services - Town of Georgina.</u> Responsible for managing the operations of the municipal drinking water distribution system, wastewater collection and transmission system, storm water collection and treatment system; and environmental services programs. Apply <u>online</u> by November 12, 2021.

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ONE Investment

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Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions





Mind Beacon











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POLICY UPDATE

October 21, 2021

AMO Policy Update – OMPF Allocations and LTC Development Call

2022 OMPF Allocations Announced

The Ministry of Finance has issued allocation notices for the 2022 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). As previously announced at the AMO Conference in August, the total funding envelope will remain at \$500 million. These dollars are distributed to 389 municipal governments across the province and provide unconditional operating support for local frontline services. This early announcement of the 2022 OMPF allocations is much appreciated.

For 2022, a further \$2 million is being targeting to rural farming municipalities through an enhancement to the Rural Communities Grant. This will provide up to an additional \$5 per household to municipalities with the highest levels of farmland.

Letters to Heads of Council and Treasurers have been sent at this time and the allocation notices may also be viewed on the Ministry's <u>website</u>. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) provides unconditional operating support from the province to municipal governments. It uses an equalization approach to address fiscal challenges in rural and northern communities, with funding based on various community fiscal health indicators.

Historical OMPF Allocations (in millions of \$):

Component	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Assessment Equalization Grant	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
Northern Communities Grant	79	84	84	89	89	89	89	89
Rural Communities Grant	138	143	148	150	150	150	152	154
Northern and Rural Fiscal Circumstances Grant	55	67	82	89	89	89	92	93
Transitional and Stabilization Grants (incl. Northern & Rural Social Program)	94	61	41	33	28	23	18	16
TOTAL OMPF *Numbers may not add up due to rounding.	515	505	505	510	505	500	500	500*

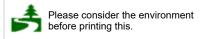
Call for Long-Term Care Development Proposals

The provincial government has opened a new call for applications to develop long-term care homes as part of the commitment to deliver 30,000 net new beds over 10 years. Everyone interested in building and redeveloping long-term care homes is invited to apply, including existing non-profit, for-profit and municipal long-term care operators, as well as organizations new to the long-term care sector.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible, as they will be evaluated in the order in which they are received. Successful applicants will be announced in early 2022. More information is available at http://ontario.ca/developingltc.

AMO's <u>COVID-19 Resources</u> page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to <u>covid19@amo.on.ca</u>.

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.



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2022 Allocation Notice

Town of Arnprior 4702

County of Renfrew

In 2022, the Province is providing the Town of Arnprior with \$1,588,800 in funding through the OMPF, which is the equivalent of \$369 per household.

A Total 2022 OMPF	\$1,588,800
Assessment Equalization Grant Component	\$520,800
2. Northern Communities Grant Component	-
3. Rural Communities Grant Component	\$564,100
4. Northern and Rural Fiscal Circumstances Grant Component	\$503,900
5. Transitional Assistance	-

B Key OMPF Data Inputs	
1. Households	4,306
2. Total Weighted Assessment per Household	\$261,297
3. Rural and Small Community Measure (RSCM)	83.6%
4. Farm Area Measure (FAM)	n/a
5. Northern and Rural Municipal Fiscal Circumstances Index (MFCI)	6.6
6. 2022 Guaranteed Level of Support	94.0%
7. 2021 OMPF	\$1,559,200

Note: See line item descriptions on the following page.

Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)



2022 Allocation Notice

Town of Arnprior 4702

County of Renfrew

2022 OMPF Allocation Notice - Line Item Descriptions

- Sum of 2022 OMPF grant components and Transitional Assistance, which are described in the 2022 OMPF Technical Guide. This document can be accessed on the Ministry of Finance's website at: https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ompf/2022
- A5 If applicable, reflects the amount of transitional support provided to assist the municipality in adjusting to year-over-year funding changes.
- B1 Based on the 2021 returned roll from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).
- Refers to the total assessment for a municipality weighted by the tax ratio for each class of property (including payments in lieu of property taxes retained by the municipality) divided by the total number of households.
- Represents the proportion of a municipality's population residing in rural areas and/or small communities. For additional information, see the 2022 OMPF Technical Guide, Appendix A.
- Represents the percentage of a municipality's land area comprised of farm land. Additional details regarding the calculation of the Farm Area Measure are provided in the 2022 OMPF Technical Guide, Appendix B.
- Measures a municipality's fiscal circumstances relative to other northern and rural municipalities in the province, and ranges from 0 to 10. A lower MFCI corresponds to relatively positive fiscal circumstances, whereas a higher MFCI corresponds to more challenging fiscal circumstances. For additional information, see the 2022 OMPF Technical Guide, Appendix D.
- Represents the guaranteed level of support the municipality will receive through the 2022 OMPF. For additional information, see the 2022 OMPF Technical Guide.
- **B7** 2021 OMPF Allocation Notice (Line A).

Note: Grant components and Transitional Assistance are rounded up to multiples of \$100.

Richard Wathy
Technical Manager
Regulatory Applications
Regulatory Affairs

 Enbridge Gas Inc. P.O. Box 2001 50 Keil Drive N. Chatham, Ontario, N7M 5M1 Canada

September 29, 2021

VIA RESS AND EMAIL

Christine Long Registrar Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Christine Long:

Re: Enbridge Gas Inc. ("Enbridge Gas")

Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") File No.: EB-2021-0209 2022 Federal Carbon Pricing Program Application

Enclosed is the application and pre-filed evidence of Enbridge Gas for its 2022 Federal Carbon Pricing Program (the "Application").

Enbridge Gas is filing this Application in connection with the federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (the "GGPPA"). A federal carbon pricing program ("FCPP") under the GGPPA applies to any province or territory that requested it or that did not have an equivalent carbon pricing system in place by January 1, 2019. On October 23, 2018, the federal government of Canada confirmed that the GGPPA applies to Ontario. The FCPP is composed of two elements: (i) a charge on fossil fuels (the "Federal Carbon Charge") imposed on distributors, importers and producers effective April 1, 2019 and increasing each year on April 1; and (ii) an Output-Based Pricing System ("OBPS") for prescribed industrial facilities effective January 1, 2019.

On September 21, 2020, the province of Ontario announced that the federal government accepted Ontario's carbon pricing system for industrial emitters, known as the Ontario Emissions Performance Standards ("EPS") program, as an alternative to the federal OBPS. On March 29, 2021, the federal government announced that effective January 1, 2022 the EPS will replace the OBPS in Ontario. The GGPPA was amended on September 1, 2021 to remove Ontario from Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the GGPPA, enabling the EPS to take effect in Ontario as of January 1, 2022.

Enbridge Gas is seeking OEB approval of just and reasonable rates effective April 1, 2022 for the EGD rate zone and Union rate zones, to recover the costs associated with the GGPPA as a pass-through to customers. Enbridge is also seeking OEB approval to dispose of the 2020 balances recorded in its FCPP-related deferral and variance accounts effective April 1, 2022 and to approve an amendment to the wording of the

FCPP-related deferral and variance accounting orders recognizing the change from the federal OBPS to the provincial EPS.

Subject to the OEB's decision, Enbridge Gas intends to reflect 2022 increases to rates for the Federal Carbon Charge and Facility Carbon Charge, and the one-time billing adjustment related to the disposition of 2020 FCPP-related deferral and variance account balances as part of its April 1, 2022 Quarterly Rate Adjustment Mechanism ("QRAM") application.

Additionally, in accordance with the OEB Decision and Order regarding the Deferred Issues in 2019 FCPP Application (EB-2019-0247), Enbridge Gas will remove reference to the interim nature of the Federal Carbon Charge for First Nations on-reserve customers from the rate schedules in its January 1, 2022 QRAM application.

Enbridge Gas requests that the OEB issue orders granting the approvals requested on a final basis by February 10, 2022. Should the OEB determine that it is not possible to review and grant the approvals requested by such date, Enbridge Gas requests that the OEB grant approval of just and reasonable rates effective April 1, 2022 on an interim basis by February 10, 2022. Given the significance of Enbridge Gas's obligations under the GGPPA and considering the magnitude of the associated rate increases, it is appropriate to avoid continued accumulation of unbilled and uncollected amounts from customers that could result in a larger impact on bills when such amounts are recovered in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

(Original Digitally Signed)

Richard Wathy Technical Manager, Regulatory Applications

c.c.: T. Dyck (Enbridge Gas Counsel)

M. Parkes (OEB Staff)

L. Murray (OEB Counsel)

EB-2020-0212 (2021 FCPP Application Intervenors)

^{*} Full Report Available in the Clerk's Office*

Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied to raise its natural gas rates effective April 1, 2022, to recover costs associated with the federal government's *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, and to recover certain related account balances and other changes.

Learn more. Have your say.

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) has applied to the Ontario Energy Board for approval to increase its rates effective April 1, 2022, to recover the costs associated with meeting its obligations under the federal government's *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. Enbridge Gas has also applied to recover from customers the balances in the related deferral and variance accounts as well as making changes to those accounts to recognize the change from the federal Output-Based Pricing System to the provincial Emissions Performance Standards.

The Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act establishes a carbon pricing program under which a natural gas utility in Ontario, such as Enbridge Gas, is required to pay a carbon charge to the federal government for emissions from the natural gas that it delivers to its customers, and for excess emissions from the operation of Enbridge Gas's natural gas distribution system. The federal carbon charge came into effect on April 1, 2019, increased on April 1, 2020 and on April 1, 2021, and will increase again on April 1, 2022.

Enbridge Gas Inc. says that if its application is approved as filed, it will have the following bill impacts:

- A typical residential customer in the EGD rate zone (former customers of Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.) will see a bill increase of \$47.81 beginning April 1, 2022. This is composed of a \$47.05 yearly bill increase arising from the 2022 carbon charges, plus a one-time charge of \$0.76, to recover the balances in the related deferral and variance accounts.
- A typical residential customer in the Union South rate zone (former customers of Union Gas Limited), will see a bill increase of \$43.41 beginning April 1, 2022. This is composed of a \$43.14 yearly bill increase from the 2022 carbon charges, plus a one-time charge of \$0.27, to recover the balances in the related deferral and variance accounts.
- A typical residential customer in the Union North rate zone (former customers of Union Gas Limited), will see a bill increase of \$43.48 beginning April 1, 2022. This is composed of a \$43.14 yearly bill increase from the 2022 carbon charges, plus a one-time charge of \$0.34, to recover the balances in the related deferral and variance accounts.

Other customers, including businesses, may be affected.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Enbridge Gas. During the hearing, which could be an oral or written hearing, we will question Enbridge Gas on its application. We will also hear questions and arguments from individuals that have registered to participate (called intervenors) in the OEB's hearing.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review Enbridge Gas's application on the OEB's website now
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing
- You can become an intervenor. As an intervenor you can ask questions about Enbridge Gas's application and make arguments on whether the OEB should approve Enbridge Gas's request. Apply by **November 5, 2021** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website

LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2021-0209**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file a letter with your comments or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please enter the file number **EB-2021-0209** on the OEB website: **www.oeb.ca/participate**. You can also phone our Public Information Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. Enbridge Gas has applied for a written hearing. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **November 5, 2021.**

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This rate hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15 Schedule B.



Festival of Trees Snowflake Soirée: Virtual Event, Nov.20, 2021, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All proceeds going to CPAN to help Renfrew County children in need



SIP & SAVOUR EVENT

- Sip fine wine and savour a delicious variety of treats as you stream an exclusive concert featuring local talent.
- Prizes to be won, including a major door prize donated by Goldstream Jewellers.
- Ticket includes wine, treat tray, and link to virtual entertainment.

Join us in the comfort of your home:

- No prep!
- No cleanup!
- No travel!



ONLINE AUCTION:

Bidding ends November 21st, at 8:00 p.m.



www.facebook.com/FestivalofTreesAuction

Ticket Prices:

Single Ticket: \$75 Ticket for Two: \$120

Online Concert Only: \$40

Tickets Available at:

Custom Draperies & Blinds (613-735-0370)

www.festivaloftreescpan.ca

EVENT SPONSOR: Canadian Tire (Pembroke, Deep River, Renfrew, Arnprior)

CHRISTMAS TREE AVENUE

View our exquisite display of Christmas trees and unique centrepieces, expertly decorated by designer Diana Oberback, at the West End Mall.

(All items available for purchase; for photos and prices, go to <u>www.festivaloftreescpan.ca</u>)

Sponsor Information

Company name
Contact name
Signature
Mailing address
City/Town
Postal code
Tel. #
Fax
Email

Contact

Festival of Trees (CPAN) c/o The Phoenix Centre for Children and Families 130 Pembroke Street West Pembroke, ON K8A 5M8

Tel: (613) 735-9579 Fax: (613) 735-2378

Email: lsmith@phoenixctr.com



Sponsorship Opportunities

Major Event Sponsor

Major Event Sponsors are required to defray festival event costs, and to ensure that the maximum level of revenue can be directed to CPAN programs that help children living in poverty in Renfrew County.

- Event Sip & Savour
- Christmas Tree Avenue
- Lighting
- Online Auction
- Entertainment
- Food and Refreshment
- Platinum
- Gold
- Silver
- Bronze

Major Sponsors' business logos will appear on advertising, event program, social media, and professional signage. Major sponsors will also receive 2 complimentary tickets.

Own a Designer Tree - as easy as 1-2-3

- 1. Select your exclusive designer tree
- 2. Pay
- 3. Pick up

Become a CPAN Advocate

Gift certificates and monetary donations are also welcome. All donations over \$10 are eligible for a tax receipt upon request.

For more detailed information please call Lyn Smith at (613) 735-9579 or Eileen Malette at (613) 735-0370.



SIP & SAVOUR EVENT

Includes fine wine, delicious treats, and an exclusive concert featuring local talent.

Major Door Prize Donated by: **Goldstream Jewellers**



Online auction





Great News!

Our 9th Annual Festival of Trees fundraiser, a wine and cheese event, was a resounding success, thanks to our wonderful sponsors and community supporters. We invite you to join us for our 10th Annual Festival of Trees fundraiser on Saturday November 20th, 2021. View our exquisite display of Christmas trees, wreaths, and unique centrepieces at The West End Mall and enjoy tasty treats and local entertainment, in the comfort of your own home. Bid on a variety of items online at: https://www.facebook.com/FestivalofTreesAuction

Why Festival of Trees?

Renfrew County has many children living in poverty. Overall, 15.3% are living in poverty, with figures as high as 39%! Children are valuable members of our community and deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential in life.

Festival of Trees is one way we can raise awareness to the negative impact that poverty has on people's lives right here in our own back yards. At the same time, it is a means to provide sustainable funding that will allow CPAN to continue its work, helping our most vulnerable citizens – our children.

Renfrew County Child Poverty Action Network (CPAN) is working hard to ensure that all children can fully participate in community life. Our local children deserve to have the feeling and the reality of 'belonging' in Renfrew County regardless of their financial background.

A Magical Evening

The Sip & Savour Event is scheduled for November 20th, 2021.

Time	7pm – 9pm
Location	. Your own home
Online Auction Ends Nov.	21st at 8:30pm

Volunteer Opportunities

Many volunteers are needed to put the magic into this event. If you would like to share your skills for a worthy cause, or would like more information about the volunteer opportunities available, contact:

Lyn Smith, CPAN Executive Director

(613)-735-9579

Ismith@phoenixctr.com

For more information, visit our website renfrewcountycpan.ca or The Festival of Trees Facebook page www.facebook.com/FestivalofTreesAuction.

Ticket Prices

Single Ticket	\$75
Pair of Tickets	. \$120
Online Concert Only	\$40
Buy Online at renfrewcountycpan ca/festival-	of-trees

Online Auction

Starts October 1st

Ends November 21st at 8:30pm

https://www.facebook.com/FestivalofTreesAuction

Count me in as a Major Sponsor

Major Sponsor Level I

Ţ		Festival Sponsor	SPONSORED		
Ţ		Christmas Tree Avenue	\$3,000		
Ţ		Lighting	\$2,000		
Ţ		Food & Refreshment	\$2,000		
Ţ		Online Auction	SPONSORED		
Ţ		Entertainment	\$1,500		
Major Sponsor Level II					
Ţ		Platinum	\$1,500		
Ţ		Gold	\$1,000		
Ţ		Silver	\$800		
[N	_	Bronzeor Sponsors will receive 2 complin			
F	Plea	ase includee	xtra tickets*		

Count me in as a Sponsor

	Become a 'CPAN Advocate'	\$400			
	Christmas Wreath	\$200			
	Mini Tree	\$250			
	Become a 'Friend of CPAN'.	\$100			
	Provide Auction Item				
	Item				
	Value				
	*Please include	_ tickets.			
Sir	ngle Ticket	\$75			
Pa	ir of Tickets	\$120			
On	line Concert only	\$40			