



**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: January 10, 2022**

Correspondence Package No. I-22-January-01

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-22-January-01 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario

- a) Ontario Providing New Rapid Training Programs
- b) Ontario Cutting Wholesale Alcohol Prices to Support Restaurants and Bars
- c) All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval
- d) Ontario Making Public Spaces More Accessible
- e) Ontario Extending Call to Arms to Businesses, Volunteers and Retired Health Professionals
- f) Ontario Launches New Supports for Businesses
- g) Updated Eligibility for PCR Testing and Case and Contact Management Guidance in Ontario
- h) Regulations and Statutes to Build Ontario
- i) Ontario Working for Workers by Increasing Minimum Wage to \$15 an Hour
- j) Ontario Temporarily Moving to Modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen
- k) Ontario Volunteer Service Awards - Announcement

2. Correspondence from Renfrew County

- a) COVID-19 Case Summary – December 30, 2021
- b) COVID-19 Case Summary By Municipality – December 30, 2021

- c) [RCDHU Declares Outbreak at St. Joseph's Catholic School and Walter Zadow Public School in Arnprior](#)
 - d) [RCDHU and Province of Ontario Moving to a Surge Support Model](#)
 - e) [The Importance of Vaccinating Children Aged 5-11](#)
 - f) [Vaccine News Brief – Edition 32](#)
 - g) [Child Care and Early Years](#)
 - h) [Algonquin Trail Letter of Appreciation](#)
- 3. Correspondence from Ontario Health East Region**
- a) [Patient and Family Advisory Council Opportunity](#)
- 4. Correspondence from Pembroke Regional Hospital**
- a) [Holiday Edition 2021 Community Connection](#)
- 5. Correspondence from AORS**
- a) [Staff Certificates](#)
- 6. Correspondence from CN**
- a) [CN in Your Community Report](#) (Full Report available in Clerk's Office)
- 7. Correspondence from MECP Ontario**
- a) [Minister's Annual Report on Drinking Water 2021 and 2020-21](#)
[Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report](#)
- 8. Correspondence from Festival Hall Centre for Performing Arts**
- a) [Request for Sponsorship/ Partnership](#)
- 9. Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Business**
- a) [January 4, 2022](#)
- 10. Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
- a) [Watch File – December 23, 2021](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Providing New Rapid Training Programs

Province helping more people gain the skills they need for in-demand jobs

December 15, 2021

[Colleges and Universities](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is supporting the development of up to 250 new rapid training programs that will be available for enrolment in 2022 through the [Ontario Micro-credentials Challenge Fund](#). This is significant progress on the province's recent \$15 million investment to create industry-relevant micro-credentials at colleges, universities, Indigenous Institutes and private career colleges. These actions are part of the government's commitment to help accelerate the development of rapid training programs and help people upgrade their skills to succeed in their current careers or find new employment.

Details were shared today by Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities, at Humber College's Lakeshore Campus.

"Our government continues to prioritize quick, flexible training opportunities that will prepare Ontarians for the in-demand jobs of today and tomorrow," said Minister Dunlop. "These micro-credentials will be developed in collaboration with industry to respond to regional labour market needs and will strengthen partnerships between postsecondary institutions, training providers and employers."

This milestone is an important part of Ontario's micro-credentials strategy, helping Ontario's internationally recognized postsecondary institutions offer learners opportunities to gain the skills they need for in-demand jobs. Some of these micro-credentials will build skills in areas such as artificial intelligence, network security, mental health, dementia care, Indigenous relations, tourism and digital marketing.

"Humber provides a comprehensive range of credentials that include micro-credentials, all designed to prepare learners for career success whether they are starting out, starting over or looking to advance," said Chris Whitaker, President and CEO, Humber College. "Micro-credentials help organizations recognize and integrate critical skill sets into their workforce. The Micro-credentials Challenge Fund demonstrates the government of Ontario's commitment to helping individuals pursue their career goals and demonstrate their knowledge and skills to employers."

To increase access for learners, the province has also invested \$300,000 to develop and launch a new portal to make it easier to explore hundreds of rapid training opportunities in one place. The [micro-credentials portal](#) allows the user to search by industry, area of focus, institution and other criteria. Offerings on the portal range from biometrics and health care to software quality assurance and testing.

"eCampusOntario is proud to support the development of Ontario's Micro-credentials Portal," said Dr. Robert Luke, CEO, eCampusOntario. "This new gateway for accessible, lifelong learning will make it easier for all learners to upskill and reskill for tomorrow's in-demand jobs. Leveraging its expertise in the micro-credential landscape, eCampusOntario is excited to launch a platform that will provide "one-stop shopping" for Ontarians seeking rapid, flexible, training in the skills employers want, providing businesses with the talent they need."

Earlier this year, Ontario became the [first jurisdiction in Canada to offer student financial assistance for micro-credentials](#). More than 1,200 micro-credentials are now approved for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), with more being approved on a regular basis.

Quick Facts

- Since 2020, the Ontario government has announced over \$60 million towards Ontario's first micro-credentials strategy.
- Micro-credentials are rapid training programs that help people retrain and upgrade their skills to find new employment. Alongside degrees, diplomas and certificates, micro-credentials offer a new postsecondary option for learners. Offered by public and private colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes, micro-credentials are short in duration, are often online and can be designed for the specific needs of employers and jobs.

- As additional micro-credentials are developed, the Ontario government will review them to determine if they are eligible for financial assistance through OSAP.

Quotes

"As we look to the future, it's clear the way we work is changing, and many jobs are not going back to the way they were before. That is why our government is investing in programs that help people upgrade their skills to earn bigger paychecks at work or start new careers."

- Monte McNaughton
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development

"Ontario's public colleges play a prominent role in helping people quickly retrain for new careers. This increased support will allow more people to find rewarding new opportunities and contribute to Ontario's economic recovery."

- Linda Franklin
President and CEO, Colleges Ontario

"Ontario's universities play a critical role in providing students, workers and non-traditional learners with the adaptable skills and programs they need to become resilient lifelong learners in a rapidly changing economy. Universities welcome the Micro-credentials Challenge Fund, which will help support the design and implementation of new micro-credentials at 15 universities across Ontario, as well as serve the labour market needs of local communities and the province as we rebuild Ontario together."

- Steve Orsini
President and CEO, Council of Ontario Universities

Additional Resources

Learn more about Ontario's [plan for micro-credentials](#)

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. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Bethany Osborne
Minister's Office
Bethany.Osborne2@ontario.ca

James Tinajero
Communications Branch
[416-325-2746](tel:416-325-2746)

Public Inquiries
[416-325-2929](tel:416-325-2929)

TTY
[1-800-268-7095](tel:1-800-268-7095)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Cutting Wholesale Alcohol Prices to Support Restaurants and Bars

Province continues to improve convenience and choice while supporting hospitality sector

December 15, 2021

[Finance](#)

[Attorney General](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is supporting businesses impacted by the pandemic and continuing to provide choice and convenience for consumers by cutting LCBO wholesale prices for bars and restaurants, enabling curbside pickup of beer, wine and cider from licensed grocery stores, and freezing the basic beer tax rate.

The government is supporting bars, restaurants and other businesses with a licence to operate a liquor consumption premises by cutting wholesale prices for the alcohol they purchase from the LCBO, saving these businesses an effective 20 per cent when compared to retail prices. This change will provide approximately \$60 million in annual support to restaurants, bars and other businesses.

“Our government knows that local restaurants and bars across Ontario have done their part to keep people safe by following public health measures. We’ve committed to helping these businesses, and that’s exactly what we’re doing today,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “A permanent wholesale discount will put about \$60 million a year back into these important businesses, so they can invest in themselves and their workers.”

This action builds on other recent changes to improve alcohol choice and convenience for consumers, create more opportunities for businesses, and strengthen social responsibility standards, including enabling curbside pickup of beer, wine and cider at licensed grocery stores as part of the new modernized legal framework that simplifies rules for the alcohol sector.

The government has also frozen the basic beer tax rates that were set to be indexed to inflation on March 1, 2022 to support beer and craft beer brewers to recover and grow, and to save consumers money. The beer basic tax rates are prescribed amounts of tax added to beer sold in Ontario. The rates adjust annually based on the Consumer Price Index. The government is freezing the beer tax rates until March 1, 2023.

“The speed and efficiency of our support for Ontario’s vibrant hospitality sector was recognized this year by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business’ Golden Scissors Award, and we are just getting started,” said Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario. “Making it easier for businesses to create and extend patios, permitting the sale of alcohol with food takeout and allowing local beer sales at farmers’ markets are examples of the ground-breaking actions we are taking to support local alcohol producers and the province’s more than 18,000 bars and restaurants.”

Highlights of the new legal framework for the sale, service and delivery of beverage alcohol include:

- Allowing licensed grocery stores to offer curbside pickup of beer, wine and cider
- Streamlining licensing and renewals for businesses through a single primary licence with endorsements for additional activities, such as on-site retail stores or brew pubs
- Reducing red tape by streamlining reporting requirements for manufacturers
- Increasing flexibility for grocers to cross-promote beer, cider and wine with non-alcohol products
- Enhancing social responsibility in the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario’s Registrar’s Standards by requiring individuals who sell, serve or handle alcohol to recertify their Smart Serve training
- Making permanent the extension of retail sale hours to 7am to 11pm for alcohol that were put in place in March 2020 in response to COVID-19.

These initiatives build on the government’s actions to date to offer greater choice and convenience for consumers, and more opportunities for businesses, including:

- Expanding sales of beverage alcohol to more than 270 new retail outlets across Ontario since 2018, including 191 LCBO Convenience Outlets and 87 grocery stores
 - Permanently allowing licensed restaurants and bars to include alcohol with food as part of a takeout or delivery order
 - Making it easier for businesses to create and extend patios
 - Allowing manufacturers with an on-site store to sell eligible beer, cider, wine and spirits products at farmers' markets
 - Supporting alcohol producers by creating more flexible delivery rules, including allowing eligible alcohol manufacturers to deliver their own products and charge a delivery fee
 - Reducing the minimum price of spirits consumed at licensed establishments
 - Permitting alcohol service on docked boats with a liquor sales licence
 - Giving licensed restaurants and bars and retailers more flexibility in using liquor delivery services
 - Delivering a Winery Agri-Tourism COVID-19 Relief Initiative that provided a one-time \$10 million grant in 2021 to support wineries and cideries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
-

Quick Facts

- The new LCBO wholesale prices for businesses with a licence to operate a liquor consumption premises from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission will come into effect on January 1, 2022.
 - This price cut will be achieved by increasing the discount on liquor consumption premise licensees' alcohol purchases from the LCBO to 10 per cent* and eliminating the 6 per cent mark-up on cider, wine and spirits. When combined with HST recovery and container deposit fees, these licensees will effectively pay 20 per cent less than retail prices for alcohol purchased wholesale from the LCBO. *The 10 per cent discount will not apply to kegs of beer or cider.
 - The beer basic tax rates are prescribed amounts of tax added to beer sold in Ontario. The rates adjust annually based on the Consumer Price Index. The government has frozen the beer tax rates until March 1, 2023. This is the third year in a row the government has frozen these rates. Similarly, LCBO beer mark-ups will not increase until March 1, 2023.
 - Prior to the modernized legal framework, which came into force November 29, 2021, Ontario's liquor legislation had not been comprehensively updated in over 40 years. In 2018, the government announced a comprehensive review of the beverage alcohol sector, including modernizing the rules for the retail and consumption of beverage alcohol.
-

Additional Resources

[Ontario's Modernized Legal Framework for Alcohol](#)

- [Ontario Regulation 745/21 General](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 746/21 Licensing](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 747/21 Permits](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 750/21 Minimum Pricing of Liquor and Other Pricing Matters](#)

[Ontario Supporting the Wine Agri-Tourism Sector](#)

[Ontario Permitting Sale of Locally Made Craft Beer at Farmers' Markets](#)

[Ontario Permanently Allowing Alcohol with Food Takeout and Delivery](#)

Media Contacts

Emily Hogeveen

Minister's Office

[647-294-6166](tel:647-294-6166)

Emily.Hogeveen@ontario.ca

Scott Blodgett

Communications Branch

[416-728-9791](tel:416-728-9791)

Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca

NEWS RELEASE

All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval

Free Rapid Testing Provided at Pop-Up Locations Across the Province and Select LCBOs for a Safer Holiday Season

December 15, 2021

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Health](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — To protect Ontario's progress in the fight against COVID-19 and safeguard the province's hospitals and intensive care units (ICUs) in the face of the rapidly-spreading Omicron variant, the Ontario government is rapidly accelerating its booster dose rollout by expanding eligibility to all individuals aged 18 and over, as well as shortening the interval to three months following an individual's second dose. To provide an additional layer of protection against COVID-19 and variants during the holiday season, Ontario is also launching a holiday testing blitz starting today to offer rapid antigen screening to individuals free of charge at pop-up sites across the province, as well as select LCBO stores across Ontario.

"As we combat the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant, nothing matters more than getting these booster doses into people's arms" said Premier Doug Ford. "I am issuing a call to arms. We need every member of Team Ontario to stand tall and do their part as we work to protect our hard-fought progress and keep Ontarians safe."

Starting Monday, December 20, 2021, individuals aged 18 and over will be eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment through the [Ontario's booking portal](#), by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, [participating pharmacies](#) and primary care settings. Appointments will be booked three months (84 days) after a second dose as the province urgently expands booster eligibility to millions more individuals. Additionally, pharmacies and other channels may provide boosters for 18 and over at the three-month interval starting Friday, December 17, 2021 for walk-ins.

In addition, starting today, individuals aged 50 and over as well as all those currently eligible who have already booked their appointment at an interval of six months (168 days) can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre to re-book for an earlier date at the three-month interval and can change their appointment through [Ontario's booking portal](#) starting on Monday.

"As we continue to learn more about the Omicron variant, we need all hands on deck to help limit transmission and protect our hospital capacity," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "A third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine offers additional protection against the Omicron variant, and I urge everyone to get their booster dose as soon as you can. If you haven't received your first or second dose of the vaccine, now is the time."

To further strengthen its [response](#) to Omicron, effective December 18, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. Ontario intends to introduce a 50 per cent capacity limit to the following indoor areas of venues with a usual capacity of 1,000 or more: facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities; entertainment facilities such as concert venues, theatres and cinemas; racing venues; meeting and event spaces; studio audiences in commercial film and television production; museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and fair, rural exhibitions, and festivals. This measure is being taken to reduce opportunities for close contact in high-risk indoor settings with large crowds and when face coverings/masks are not always worn.

As part of the government's [enhanced testing strategy](#), starting today up to two million rapid tests will be provided free of charge at pop-up testing sites in high-traffic settings such as malls, retail settings, holiday markets, public libraries and transit hubs. Pop-up teams will be deployed at nearly 50 locations across the province, including some co-located with GO-VAXX mobile vaccine buses. Most sites will distribute free take-home rapid antigen test kits, subject to supply, and some will offer asymptomatic rapid antigen screening on-site. The government will also make take-home rapid tests available at select LCBO stores, starting with the busiest stores this week and with more stores being added in the coming days.

Ontarians can visit [Ontario.ca/holidaytesting](https://ontario.ca/holidaytesting) to find out if pop-up rapid antigen screening sites will be available in their area. Locations and operating hours will be updated weekly, and no appointment will be required.

The latest available data suggests that the Omicron variant is more transmissible than the Delta variant and will become the dominant variant by the end of the month. Early evidence suggests that a third dose or booster can further increase protection against severe illness and hospitalization. While cases were always expected to rise, the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant could put additional strain on Ontario's hospital capacity, making it critical that all Ontarians receive their booster dose as soon as possible.

Ontario's cautious approach and high vaccination rates have contributed to keep hospital and intensive care unit capacity stable. As of December 15, there were 153 COVID-19 related critical illness patients in ICU. The seven-day rolling average of COVID-19 related critical illness patients in ICU is 154. Approximately 600 ICU beds are available, with nearly 500 additional ICU beds available for surge capacity if required.

To quickly scale up capacity to administer up to previous peak vaccination capacity, the province has asked public health units, hospitals, pharmacists, primary care providers and other health care providers to ramp up additional vaccinations sites and prioritize the administration of first, second and booster doses across the province. On December 14, 127,000 vaccines were administered in Ontario, well above recent provincial capacity, and the province is continuing to ramp up to administer 200,000 to 300,000 doses per day by next week based on demand. The province is also partnering with additional health care providers and first responders to support Ontario's vaccination efforts and administer more shots in arms.

Ontario is engaging with large corporations who have the capabilities to implement workplace and community clinics to support the booster dose rollout for employees, their families and the local community. Bruce Power, in partnership with Grey Bruce Health Unit, will be the first corporate-led vaccine clinic, starting the week of December 20. In addition, the successful mobile vaccine clinic strategy will be expanded to meet the evolving challenges of COVID-19 and its variants. More information on the corporate and mobile clinics will be available in the coming weeks. The province will also be expanding the Stop the Spread Business Information Line to allow businesses to request vaccine supply to administer on-site for employees. Businesses will need to meet certain criteria to ensure proper storage and safe administration of the vaccines, including availability of health human resources.

"Today's announcement underlines our government's ongoing priority to keep Ontarians safe while protecting our health care systems and communities from COVID-19 and its variants," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "We are expanding our efforts to include workplace and mobile vaccine clinics with the support of our health care and corporate partners as well as public health units, to ensure that first, second and booster doses are easily and conveniently accessible across the province to all Ontarians."

"As we continue to learn more about the Omicron variant we need to do more to strengthen our defence against the virus, and vaccines are the most effective way we can do that," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "If you are eligible for a booster or have not yet had your first or second dose, please come forward to get vaccinated. It will provide you, your loved ones and your community with vital layer of protection throughout the winter season."

Ontario continues to work with the federal government to secure sufficient supply to maintain widespread rapid testing across the province in the coming weeks and months. Ontario is also directly procuring additional rapid tests where possible to fulfill necessary supply needs over the next several weeks.

Quick Facts

- Currently, individuals aged 50 and over are eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment, expanding booster eligibility to approximately 5.5 million people.
- As of December 14, Ontario has distributed over 45 million rapid tests to thousands of workplaces, hospitals, home and community care settings, long-term care homes, and schools and childcare centres across the province. This includes an additional 11 million rapid tests for every single public-school student learning in-person ahead of the December break to add an additional layer of protection over the holiday period and as students return to school in January.
- Starting today, individuals who have an eligible medical exemption or are participating in an active [Health Canada Approved COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial](#) can begin a [new verification process](#) and have it integrated into a certificate with QR code. Organizations and businesses that require provincial proof-of-vaccination system will no longer accept physician notes as of January 10, 2022.
- Effective January 4, 2022, the use of the enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario app will be required where proof of vaccination is required. Download by visiting <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/>, or call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to have your vaccine certificate mailed.

- To protect against the Omicron variant, Ontario will be [implementing temporary measures](#) to further protect the health and safety of residents, staff and caregivers in long-term care and retirement homes. This includes requiring all general visitors to a long-term care home to be fully vaccinated effective December 14, 2021.
 - Have questions about the paediatric COVID-19 vaccine? Contact the Provincial Vaccine Confidence Line at 1-833-943-3900, or visit [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](#) to book a confidential phone appointment with a SickKids clinician.
 - As of December 14, 2021, Ontario has administered more than 24 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with more than 90 per cent of Ontarians aged 12 and over having received at least one dose and more than 87 per cent having received a second dose. More than 32 per cent of children aged five to 11 have received their first dose.
-

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Taking Action to Protect Against Omicron Variant](#)
- [Responding to Omicron and Protecting Our Progress](#)
- [Ontario Accelerating Booster Eligibility to Adults Aged 50+](#)
- [Ontario Enhancing COVID-19 Winter Testing](#)
- 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.

Media Contacts

Ivana Yelich

Premier's Office

ivana.yelich@ontario.ca

Alexandra Hilkene

Minister Elliott's Office

alexandra.hilkene@ontario.ca

Accessibility

Privacy

Contact us

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2012-2022

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Making Public Spaces More Accessible

New Chair Julie Sawchuk to lead work on behalf of province to review and improve accessibility of public spaces for people with disabilities

December 20, 2021

[Seniors and Accessibility](#).

TORONTO — The Ontario government continues the ongoing work of identifying, removing and preventing barriers for people with disabilities. Julie Sawchuk has accepted an invitation to be the chair of the Standards Development Committee that will lead the province's review of the Design of Public Spaces accessibility standards for outdoor and indoor public spaces. The committee will include people with disabilities from all across the province, as well as businesses, municipalities, and other impacted stakeholders. It will review existing accessibility standards, and consider whether new standards might be needed to improve accessibility in Ontario's public spaces.

"I am honoured that Julie Sawchuk has accepted the role of chair of this Standards Development Committee," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "Her expertise and insights will be incredibly valuable in guiding the review of standards for accessibility in outdoor and indoor public spaces."

Ms. Sawchuk is a best-selling author, professional speaker, and accessibility strategist. She holds Bachelors of Science and Education degrees and is a designated professional for Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification. Ms. Sawchuk's lived experience as a person who has a spinal cord injury offers an important perspective for the committee's work.

As part of the government's commitment to making Ontario more accessible and inclusive, it is breaking down barriers in outdoor public spaces such as bike paths, parks and playgrounds and indoor public spaces in buildings such as service counters and accessible washrooms. This is a key area of focus in the cross-government [Advancing Accessibility in Ontario](#) framework. The government is working with all levels of government, community partners, and businesses to identify, prevent, and remove barriers for people with disabilities.

"Creating accessible public spaces in Ontario is not the job of one person, it is the responsibility of all," said Ms. Sawchuk. "I'm both grateful and incredibly proud to be asked to lead this discussion and look forward to adding a rural perspective as often as I can. This is an opportunity to bring people together to share what is working and what needs to be done differently in design and construction and to listen to all the voices who are looking for change."

The Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee is expected to begin work in early 2022 and continue into 2023.

Quick Facts

- Standards under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* have been created for customer service, employment, information and communications, transportation and the design of public spaces. Work to develop proposed Health Care, Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Postsecondary Education standards is currently underway.
-

Additional Resources

[Learn more about the Standards Development Committees](#)

[Advancing Accessibility in Ontario framework](#)

Media Contacts

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Extending Call to Arms to Businesses, Volunteers and Retired Health Professionals

Online and telephone portals connecting Ontarians and businesses with opportunities to further boost province's vaccine rollout

December 22, 2021

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — As the province continues to urgently scale up its capacity to administer vaccines, the Ontario government is extending its call to arms to businesses, volunteers and retired health professionals to help further boost capacity and get more boosters into arms sooner.

“Our best defence against the highly transmissible Omicron variant is a lightning-fast offence,” said Premier Doug Ford. “In a few short weeks, Ontario has scaled up its vaccine rollout at incredible speed, but we aren’t stopping there. Everyone has a role to play. It’s all hands on deck as we boost up Ontario.”

As more mass-vax sites, hospital clinics, pharmacies and primary care clinics come online, Ontario is unleashing the full potential of the province’s businesses, workers and union leaders to support the vaccine rollout by hosting employer-led clinics. Employer-led clinics must be set up, operated and funded by [employers and meet established criteria](#) to vaccinate employees aged 18 and over, their families and retirees, as well as members of the local and neighbouring communities as capacity allows.

Businesses can call the Ontario Together Contact Centre at 1-888-777-0554 to learn more about hosting a vaccination clinic. Community groups and places of worship interested in arranging a GO-VAXX mobile bus clinic visit, can contact GOVAXX@ontario.ca.

The province is also taking action to add more boots on the ground across Ontario by launching the Ontario COVID-19 Volunteer Portal and permitting retired health professionals to support the vaccine rollout.

The [Ontario COVID-19 Volunteer Portal](#) recruits everyday Ontarians as volunteers to support health care providers and others at vaccination clinics across the province. The portal is open to Ontarians 16 years and older who can register to volunteer in a variety of roles based on their abilities, knowledge and experience and the needs of their local public health units.

To further ramp up capacity to support Ontario’s booster dose rollout, the Ontario government is making regulatory amendments to allow more individuals to safely administer the COVID-19 vaccine, such as retired nurses and physicians, paramedics, dentists, and firefighters. These individuals are encouraged to register through [the Health Workforce Matching Portal](#). Supervision will be required by a physician, registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or pharmacist who is present at the premises where the vaccine is administered. Individuals who registered with the portal to help with vaccine administration earlier this year are also encouraged to join the fight against COVID-19 again by logging in to their account, updating their profile and renewing their availability to help get boosters into the arms of Ontarians.

Once identified, Ontario will work to match individuals who signed up through both the Ontario COVID-19 Volunteer Portal and the Health Workforce Matching Portal with public health units according to local vaccination needs. To ensure safety requirements are met, education and training courses will be available to the additional vaccinators who need to build their competency to administer injections.

Quick Facts

- On December 21, more than 230,000 vaccines were administered in Ontario, well above recent provincial capacity. The province is continuing to ramp up to administer 200,000 to 300,000 doses per day based on demand.

- As of December 21, 2021, more than two million COVID-19 booster doses have been administered in Ontario. Individuals aged 18 and over across the province are eligible to receive their booster dose three months (84 days) after their second dose, and can book their appointment through [Ontario's booking portal](#), by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, [participating pharmacies](#) and primary care settings.
- As of December 21, 2021, Ontario has administered more than 25 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with more than 90 per cent of Ontarians aged 12 and over having received at least one dose and more than 87 per cent having received a second dose. More than 39 per cent of children aged five to 11 have received their first dose.

Quotes

"Using the Ontario COVID-19 Volunteer Portal, we can mobilize and support the countless heroes who stepped up to help their communities, especially during the pandemic. Every volunteer can make a difference – not only to protect our province against emergencies, but also to build healthier and safer communities. We're stronger together."

- Parm Gill
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

"With the rapid expansion of booster doses to all Ontarians 18 and older, we're getting boosters into the arms of Ontarians as fast as possible to protect our hospital capacity and limit transmission of the Omicron variant. Our province is incredibly grateful to all the dedicated health care professionals who have given so much for the past 20 months, and further increasing our capacity to give out boosters is critical in our fight against this virus."

- Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

"Ontarians have continuously stepped forward to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and we are now asking you to help in a new way as we face the dangers of the Omicron variant in our communities. We encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to join our frontline vaccination effort and help get booster doses into arms as swiftly as possible."

- Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General

"Ontario is strongest when we work together. As we continue to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and its variants, we need to work together now more than ever to overcome this challenge. If your business can host a vaccine clinic, I ask that you show your true Ontario Spirit and support our efforts to get as many booster shots into the arms of Ontarians."

- Ross Romano
Minister of Government and Consumer Services

Additional Resources

- [All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval](#)
- [Ontario Taking Action to Protect Against Omicron Variant](#)
- [Responding to Omicron and Protecting Our Progress](#)
- [Ontario Accelerating Booster Eligibility to Adults Aged 50+](#)
- For public inquiries, please contact the Ontario Together Contact Centre at 1-888-777-0554
- 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](#)

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. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Ivana Yelich
Premier’s Office
Ivana.Yelich@ontario.ca

Shannon Whittaker
Minister’s Office
Shannon.Whittaker@ontario.ca

Communications Branch
media.mcm@ontario.ca

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Contact us](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2012-2022

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Launches New Supports for Businesses

Rebate program cuts property taxes and energy costs; New cash flow supports providing up to \$7.5 billion for businesses, including those affected by Omicron restrictions

December 22, 2021

[Finance](#)

[Energy](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is introducing new supports for many of the businesses that are most impacted by public health measures in response to the Omicron variant. These supports include a new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program and a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes.

“Ontario businesses have already contributed so much to the province’s fight against COVID-19,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “We recognize that these necessary capacity limits to reduce the transmission of the virus will impact businesses, and that’s why we are introducing these new supports, which will put money directly into the hands of business and free up their cash flows during this critical time.”

Through the new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program, eligible businesses will receive rebate payments equivalent to 50 per cent of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to the current capacity limits. This will provide support to businesses that are expected to be most impacted financially by the requirement to reduce capacity to 50 per cent. Examples of businesses that will be eligible for the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program include restaurants, smaller retail stores and gyms. A full list of eligible business types will be made available through a program guide in mid-January 2022.

Online applications for this program will open in mid-January 2022, with payments to eligible businesses provided retroactive to December 19, 2021. Businesses will be required to submit property tax and energy bills as part of the application process.

“I commend business owners for pivoting quickly as we respond to the Omicron variant in our continued fight against COVID-19,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “It is essential that we support them during their time of need, and that’s why our new rebate program will provide them with the support they need right now on their energy bills.”

The province is also providing additional support to help improve cash flows for Ontario businesses by providing a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes, supporting businesses in the immediate term while capacity restrictions are in place while providing the flexibility Ontario businesses will need for long-term planning. The six-month period will begin January 1, 2022 and end July 1, 2022.

This measure will provide up to \$7.5 billion in relief to help approximately 80,000 Ontario businesses. With this help, approximately 80,000 businesses will have the option to delay their payments for the following provincially administered taxes, helping them free up cash flow during these challenging times:

- Employer Health Tax
- Beer, Wine & Spirits Taxes
- Tobacco Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax
- Fuel Tax
- International Fuel Tax Agreement
- Gas Tax
- Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts & Benefit Plans
- Mining Tax
- Race Tracks Tax

As provinces across Canada grapple with the emergence of the Omicron variant, Ontario is also calling on the federal government to strengthen federal support programs to ensure businesses and workers have the support they need to weather this new challenge. This includes adjusting the eligibility requirements for the Government of Canada’s Tourism and

Hospitality Recovery Program and the Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program to ensure more impacted businesses can apply, while also ensuring that businesses experiencing partial capacity restrictions can qualify for the Local Lockdown Program.

Ontario is also inviting the federal government to work together with the province to further help businesses that are struggling with cash flow challenges, by developing a program that would allow hard hit businesses to temporarily defer the remittance of HST, starting with a commitment to allow eligible businesses to defer HST collected in December, interest-free, for a period of up to six months.

Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

Quick Facts

- The Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program builds on previous business support programs, including the [Ontario Small Business Support Grant](#), the [Property Tax and Energy Cost Rebates](#), and the [Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant](#).
- The new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program will not be automatically delivered to businesses that received previous COVID-19 support payments. Businesses must submit an application to be considered when application intake opens in mid-January 2022.
- Ontario is taking further action to support businesses and workers during this challenging time, including [cutting wholesale alcohol prices](#) to provide approximately \$60 million in annual support to restaurants, bars and other businesses, and [extending COVID-19 paid sick days](#) until July 31, 2022 to keep workers safe and ensure they do not lose pay if they need to miss work for reasons related to COVID-19.
- Ontario has enabled an estimated \$10.1 billion in support to Ontario businesses in 2021, with more than 60 per cent, or \$6.3 billion, going to small businesses.
 - Supporting a reduction in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) premiums
 - Allowing businesses to accelerate write-offs of capital investments for tax purposes
 - Reducing the small business Corporate Income Tax rate to 3.2 per cent
 - Introducing and temporarily enhancing the Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit to encourage investments in certain regions of Ontario that have lagged in employment growth in the past
 - Lowering high Business Education Tax (BET) rates for job creators;
 - Increasing the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption from \$490,000 to \$1 million
 - Lowering electricity bills through measures such as the Renewable Cost Shift program, with the Province paying for a portion of high-priced, non-hydro renewable energy contracts
 - Providing targeted COVID-19 support through the Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which delivered \$3 billion in urgent and unprecedented support to over 110,000 small businesses across the province.

Additional Resources

[Ontario Further Strengthening Response to Omicron](#)

[All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval](#)

[COVID-19: Help for businesses in Ontario](#)

[Ontario.ca/COVIDsupport](#)

Media Contacts

Emily Hogeveen

Minister's Office

[647-294-6166](tel:647-294-6166)

Emily.Hogeveen@ontario.ca

Scott Blodgett

Communications Branch

[416-728-9791](tel:416-728-9791)

Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca

BACKGROUNDER

Updated Eligibility for PCR Testing and Case and Contact Management Guidance in Ontario

December 30, 2021

[Health](#)

In response to the rapidly spreading and highly transmissible Omicron variant, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is updating its COVID-19 testing and isolation guidelines. Key changes include the following:

- Symptomatic testing will be available for high-risk individuals, and individuals who work in high-risk settings.
- Individuals with [symptoms](#) consistent with COVID-19 are presumed positive and they should follow isolation and/or self-monitoring guidelines.
- Testing for asymptomatic contacts of cases is generally no longer recommended, except for high-risk contacts/individuals that are part of confirmed or suspected outbreaks in high-risk settings, as recommended by public health.
- Positive rapid antigen tests will no longer require PCR confirmation.
- Based on the latest scientific evidence, individuals with COVID-19 should isolate for five days if they are fully vaccinated or under the age of 12, and if their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours.

Eligible Groups for PCR Testing

Effective December 31, 2021, PCR testing will only be recommended for individuals if they belong to the following groups:

- [Symptomatic](#) people who fall into one of the following groups:
 - Hospitalized patients
 - Patients in Emergency Departments, at the discretion of the treating clinician
 - Patient-facing health care workers
 - Staff, residents, essential care providers, and visitors in hospitals and congregate living settings, including long-term care, retirement homes, First Nation elder care lodges, group homes, shelters, hospices, temporary foreign worker settings, and correctional institutions
 - Outpatients for whom COVID-19 treatment is being considered
 - Underhoused or homeless
- People who are from First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities and individuals travelling into these communities for work
- Symptomatic elementary and secondary students and education staff who have received a PCR self-collection kit through their school
- People on admission/transfer to or from hospital or congregate living setting
- High-risk contacts and asymptomatic/symptomatic people in the context of confirmed or suspected outbreaks in high-risk settings, including hospitals, long-term care, retirement homes, other congregate living settings and institutions, and other settings as directed by the local public health unit
- Individuals, and one accompanying caregiver, with written prior approval for out-of-country medical services from the General Manager, OHIP
- Asymptomatic testing in hospital, long-term care, retirement homes and other congregate living settings and Institutions as per provincial guidance and/or Directives

If you have symptoms of COVID-19

Individuals who are vaccinated, as well as children under 12 who have symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to isolate for five days following the onset of symptoms. These individuals can end isolation after five days if their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours, and all public health and safety measures, such as masking and physical distancing, are followed

Individuals who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or immunocompromised will be required to isolate for 10 days.

If you are someone who works or lives in a high risk-health care setting (i.e., hospitals, long-term care, retirement homes, congregate living settings) you must notify your employer. Individuals who work or live in these settings should not attend work for 10 days from their symptom onset, or from their date of diagnosis. To ensure sufficient staffing levels, workers in these settings may have the opportunity to return to work early on day seven of their isolation, with a negative PCR test, or two negative rapid antigen tests on day six and seven. Speak with your employer or occupational health and safety department for more information.

All household contacts must also isolate for the same duration as the person with symptoms, regardless of their vaccination status. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should also consider informing close contacts beyond your household contacts by providing them with the link to [Ontario.ca/exposed](https://ontario.ca/exposed). Individuals who are eligible for a lab-based PCR test are encouraged to get tested.

If you have concerns about your symptoms, contact your doctor, health care provider or Telehealth for more information and guidance. If you develop severe symptoms requiring medical attention, such as shortness of breath or chest pain, call 911.

If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 but are feeling unwell, isolate until symptoms have improved for at least 24 hours.

If you've been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

If you are fully vaccinated and you have no symptoms, and do not live with the positive case, you are advised to:

- [Self-monitor](#) for symptoms for 10 days since you last interacted with the positive case
- Maintain masking, physical distancing and adherence to all other public health measures if leaving home
- Do not visit any high-risk settings or individuals who may be at higher risk of illness (e.g., seniors) for 10 days from your last exposure.

If you are not fully vaccinated, or are immunocompromised, you must isolate immediately for 10 days following your last contact. If you live with the positive case, you must isolate for the length of their isolation period.

Individuals who are eligible for testing are encouraged to get tested.

If you live, work, attend, volunteer, or have been admitted in a high-risk health care setting, you must notify your employer and should not visit the high-risk setting for 10 days since your last exposure or symptom onset, or from your date of diagnosis. To ensure sufficient staffing levels, workers in these settings will have the opportunity to return to work early on day seven of their isolation with a negative PCR test, or two negative rapid antigen tests on day six and seven. If you live in a high-risk setting, you should isolate regardless of vaccination status.

If you have COVID-19 based on a positive test result

If you test positive from a PCR, rapid molecular or a rapid antigen test and you are fully vaccinated or under 12 years of age, you must isolate for five days from the positive test result if you have no symptoms or from symptom onset and until their symptoms are improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms).

If you are partially vaccinated, unvaccinated or immunocompromised, you should self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, or from the date of your test (whichever came sooner).

In addition, household contacts of individuals who have tested positive must also self-isolate during this time. Individuals must isolate regardless of their vaccination status.

You should also notify your close contacts. A close contact is anyone you were less than two metres away from for at least 15 minutes, or multiple shorter lengths of time, without personal protective equipment in the 48 hours before your symptoms began or your positive test result, whichever came first.

Appropriate Use of Rapid Antigen Testing

Ontario currently has a limited supply of rapid antigen tests that are being prioritized for health care and highest risk settings. This includes rapid antigen test use for “test-to-work” in which asymptomatic staff in these sectors can return to work when they would otherwise be on isolation at home.

Focusing the use of rapid antigen tests for these sectors will help keep hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes and congregate settings operating as safely as possible. As of December 20, a total of 50 million rapid antigen tests have been deployed across more than 49,000 sites since the beginning of the pandemic, with the vast majority (approximately 41

million) deployed to these priority sectors.

Rapid antigen testing may be used to confirm if a symptomatic individual has COVID-19, with no requirement for a confirmatory PCR or rapid molecular test.

In addition to Ontario directly procuring additional rapid tests where possible, the province is continuing to urge the federal government to make more rapid tests available to provinces as quickly as possible.

How to Access Supports While Isolating

If you require assistance while isolating, visit [COVID-19: Support for people](#). People can also contact their public health unit for many isolation supports including:

- Use of isolation facilities;
- Referral to community supports and agencies;
- [Mental health supports](#);
- Courier and delivery supports for food and necessities;
- Additional resources available to support isolation through the [High Priority Communities](#) strategy.

Employers cannot threaten, fire, or penalize an employee in any other way because the employee took or plans on taking job-protected leave due to COVID-19, and doctors notes are not required for employees to use the leave. You can learn more about job-protected leave [here](#).

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Updating Public Health Measures and Guidance in Response to Omicron](#)

Media Contacts

Alexandra Hilkene

Minister Elliott's Office

alexandra.hilkene@ontario.ca

Anna Miller

Communications Division

media.moh@ontario.ca

[416-314-6197](tel:416-314-6197)

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Contact us](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2012-2022

BACKGROUNDER

Regulations and Statutes to Build Ontario

December 31, 2021

[Office of the Premier](#)

The following legislation and regulation changes come into effect on January 1, 2022. They are listed by responsible ministry.

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

The Ontario government is enhancing the province's animal disease emergency preparedness and modernizing rules under the *Animal Health Act* to better manage animal health risks, enhance the resilience of the livestock and poultry sectors, and support their contributions to the province's economy.

Ontario is removing the automatic five-year expiry of agricultural operation planning certificates, a change under the *Nutrient Management Act* that will maintain environmental protections while saving farmers and farm businesses both time and money.

Ontario is further improving the administration of the Farm Business Registration program and fully implementing reforms developed in consultation with impacted stakeholders. The additional changes will reduce administrative burden for the Accredited Farm Organizations while ensuring accountability and value for money.

Changes are being made to the *Weed Control Act* to ensure the Ontario government continues to have tools available to remove noxious weeds close to agricultural land to make sure they do not interfere with crops or livestock. These changes benefit the agriculture sector, particularly farmers in northern Ontario by ensuring there is a mechanism to enforce weed control in unincorporated territories.

Ministry of the Attorney General

The dissolution of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, originally announced in April 2019, will be complete on Dec. 31, 2021. Previously-awarded monthly payments and treatment invoice payments will continue to be paid seamlessly by the Ministry of the Attorney General beginning January 1, 2022. As of October 1, 2019, victims of crime can quickly and directly access supports and services by contacting the Ministry of the Attorney General's Victim Quick Response Program+ (VQRP+) or by calling the Victim Support Line at 1-888-579-2888.

To better meet people's expectations for how estates are managed, the *Succession Law Reform Act* and *Family Law Act* are being amended to clarify rules for wills and entitlements for spouses in certain cases.

The probate process was made more accessible by simplifying probate court forms, reducing the number of forms and providing applicants with more guidance.

The government is also amending a regulation under the *Solicitors Act* to accommodate different kinds of contingency fee agreements to clarify clients' rights and responsibilities when they hire a lawyer or paralegal.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

The Ontario government is working to make life better for Ontario's children and families by simplifying programs and services, such as those offered by the Family Responsibility Office, streamlining processes and reducing administrative burden allowing for the delivery of legal and non-legal documents by email and removing the reference to the in-person service option for legal documents. FRO will continue to receive legal and non-legal documents in-person.

Ministry of Education

The government is requiring the Ontario College of Teachers to implement a sexual abuse prevention program to better protect our students.

The government is also allowing the Ontario College of Teachers to issue temporary teacher certificates to candidates from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

As part of the government's ongoing efforts to modernize services for Ontarians and increase efficiency, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks exemption from being required to allow the electronic submission of documents under the *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020* has expired.

Ministry of Energy

To help improve the energy efficiency in Ontario homes, the new minimum efficiency requirements for residential windows sold in Ontario will take effect on January 1, 2022. This change is aligned with windows requirements in British Columbia and with prescriptive minimums in the Ontario Building Code.

Ontario's people and businesses need reliable high-speed internet to thrive in a modern, digital economy and access critical services. The province is removing barriers to broadband expansion by requiring the Ontario Energy Board to reduce wireline pole attachment fees and fostering opportunities to better plan for future broadband expansion.

The province is switching from twice-annual to once-annual Regulated Price Plan (RPP) rate-setting, which are the time-of-use and tiered prices that are set by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and are paid by most residential consumers and small businesses.

The province will include the Darlington Small Modular Reactor (SMR) facility as a prescribed generation facility in order to allow Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to recover certain costs from electricity ratepayers under the oversight of the Ontario Energy Board once the project is put into service. This is consistent with how OPG recovers the costs of its existing nuclear operations.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

To help reduce delays on critical infrastructure projects, the Ontario government is updating the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The regulation implements similar thresholds for transmission line projects to those under the federal environmental assessment process for new international transmission lines.

Ontario will put into action sections of the excess soil regulation under the *Environmental Protection Act*, for excess soil reuse planning, such as notice, tracking and reporting requirements. This contributes to limiting the amount of soil being sent to landfill, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and continuing to ensure strong environmental protection.

Ontario finalised a new regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act* to ensure conservation authorities are delivering on their core mandate which improve conservation and land management efforts, ensure continued access to safe drinking water, protect the environment, strengthen Ontario's resilience to climate change, and protect people and property from extreme weather events like flooding.

Ontario has finalized a new regulation under the *Environmental Protection Act* that will support nickel smelting and refining facilities in Sudbury to help reduce their sulphur dioxide emissions and improve air quality in the community.

Ontario is supporting industry's efforts to reduce, and eventually phase-out the use of coal by amending the *Environmental Protection Act* to make it easier for manufactures of cement, lime, iron and steel to substitute coal and petroleum coke with alternative fuels derived from materials that would otherwise end up in landfills.

On December 31, 2021, the Ontario government repealed the *Toxics Reduction Act* and revoked the associated regulations to reduce duplication with federal reporting requirements.

Ministry of Finance

Through regulatory measures, the Ontario government is pursuing automobile insurance reform by enabling the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario to operate a "regulatory sandbox" for auto insurance. Through this regulatory change, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario will pilot initiatives that could bring new products and initiatives to market more quickly in response to changing consumer needs, while enabling insurers to electronically deliver certain records and documents.

Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

Due to the dissolving the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB), the Ontario government is amending the *Protecting What Matters Most Act (Budget Measures)*, under the *Archives and Recordkeeping Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*, to remove CICB references.

Under the *Condominium Act*, the Ontario government supports expanding the Condominium Authority Tribunal's (CAT) jurisdiction to resolve disputes related to certain nuisances in condominiums, including an activity in a condo that would result in any unreasonable noise that is a 'nuisance, annoyance, or disruption' or any other prescribed nuisance (e.g. odour, smoke, vapour, light, vibration).

Under the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, the Ontario government is increasing minimum contribution amounts to cemetery operators' care and maintenance funds or accounts, allowing non-commercial cemetery operators (that meet certain criteria) to draw from these funds or accounts, and requiring the minister to review the prescribed contribution amounts at least once every five years.

Under the *Electricity Act* and the *Technical Standards and Safety Act*, the Ontario government is amending to replace references to the OCTAA with BOSTA and to recognise the new definition in BOSTA for "provisional certificate of qualification."

For FIPPA purposes, the proposed amendments replace references to the *Ontario College of Trades and Apprenticeship Act* (OCTAA) and the *Modernizing the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Act* with *Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act* (BOSTA) and also identify the head of Skilled Trades Ontario.

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

Under *Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety)*, the Ontario government is putting in place mandatory requirements for sport organizations to establish a removal-from-sport and return-to-sport protocol to support implementation of the Law.

Ministry of Health

On January 1, 2022, a regulation comes into force that permits a nurse practitioner or other authorized person to administer the relevant vaccine to a paramedic and can sign a valid certificate that states a paramedic is immunized against diseases.

On January 1, 2022, a statute comes into force that impacts the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* as the Pharmacy Council and Citizens' Council are no longer required and will be dissolved as recommended by the Agencies Review Task Force.

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Relevant sections of the *Build Ontario Act (Budget Measures)* will come into force and raise the general minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour, including restaurant servers, to help offset the cost of living increases.

The government is modernizing the skilled trades system by amending the definition of "journey person" under the *Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act*, while also creating the compliance and enforcement framework.

The Ontario government is proclaiming the *Working for Workers Act*, while also amending the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*, which allows the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) to responsibly return surpluses to employers who pay premiums. By returning WSIB surpluses to businesses, employers will be able to reinvest in new jobs, technology, and health and safety protections.

The *Working for Workers Act* will also allow WSIB to enter into contracts or agreements with organizations such as the Canada Revenue Agency, to accept employer premium payments on the WSIB's behalf.

To streamline existing requirements, the Ontario government is making regulatory changes under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, that will make it easier for businesses to conduct safety reviews while maintaining worker health and safety protections.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Ontario government is continuing to cut red tape to make it easier to build new housing and modernize how municipalities work. Legislative and regulatory changes include:

- Changes to the subdivision control provisions of the Planning Act (and associated regulations), which govern things like dividing a piece of land into two or more parcels. The changes will continue to protect Ontarians when they buy and sell

property, while making the rules about subdivision control clearer and simpler.

- Amendments to the Building Code that further align with the 2015 National Construction Codes for stairs, guards and handrails.
- Amending the Building Code to facilitate the construction of tiny homes and clarify that remote inspections may be used, to increase flexibility and help increase Ontario's housing supply.
- Empowering the Town of Parry Sound to have its own land-use planning authority, separate from the Parry Sound Area Planning Board, will help streamline local development approvals.
- Repealing the Statute Labour Act supports the government's commitment to reduce red tape, as it is an outdated law to maintain roads.
- Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act Production Orders for Rental Housing Offences would allow a judge or justice of the peace to compel an individual to produce evidence. It would facilitate quicker and more efficient investigations into rental housing offences than using search warrants.
- Updating the household income limits (as determined by CMHC) to reflect current market conditions will ensure people who need housing support are eligible for assistance. Household income limits are used by service managers to determine eligibility for various programs and forms of housing assistance.
- An amendment to a Development Charges Act regulation and proclaiming part of the Supporting People and Businesses Act will enable York Region to recover more of the eligible growth-related costs of its portion of the Yonge North Subway Extension through development charges, which will help fund the subway extension while protecting taxpayers' best interests.

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

The Ontario government is making changes to the *Aggregate Resources Act* to ensure environmental and community impacts are appropriately managed.

The Ontario government is protecting waterways from invasive species and disease by amending the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* that will create four distinct zones in Ontario and change the way bait is used and transported in the province.

To reduce harm to the natural environment, the Ontario government will amend regulations under the *Invasive Species Act*, to regulate 13 invasive species including wild pigs and regulate watercraft as carriers of invasive species.

The Ontario government will update short form wordings under the *Provincial Offences Act* to enable conservation officers the ability to issue tickets instead of a summons to court for minor offences.

Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

The Ontario government continues to take action to improve the quality of life for the province's seniors. The *Providing More Care, Protecting Seniors and Building More Beds Act, 2021* will make a number of amendments to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* including:

- Permitting the Registrar of the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority to impose requirements in an order revoking the licence.
- Improved information sharing with law enforcement.
- Allowing regulations to be made including to add other categories of data the RHRA may collect; governing or prohibiting borrowing, receiving or holding retirement home residents' funds or property, and specifying extraordinary circumstances for the purposes of two new orders proposed in Bill 37.

Ministry of the Solicitor General

The Ontario government is supporting effective and efficient regulatory compliance activities using the *Regulatory Modernization Act* (RMA). Designating the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act* under the RMA and designating the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* as a repealed Act under the RMA will improve how enforcement and compliance information is shared to lessen duplication and streamline enforcement and compliance related activities.

Due to the repeal of the *Compensation for Victims of Crime Act* passed in the 2019 budget, the government will dissolve the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to better deliver victims' services directly. Changes are being made to the Exemptions Regulation under the *Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015* to remove reference to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Ministry of Transportation

The government continues to take action to keep Ontario’s roads safe. Starting January 1, 2022, drivers who receive a licence suspension for certain high-risk driving behaviours, including careless driving and stunt driving, must pay escalating administrative monetary penalties of \$250, \$350, and \$450 for first, second, and third or subsequent suspensions within a five-year period. These penalties are another tool to demonstrate to drivers that high-risk activities like speeding, aggressive driving and street racing are unacceptable and have no place on Ontario’s roads.

Related Topics

Government

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

Media Contacts

Ivana Yelich
Premier's Office
ivana.yelich@ontario.ca

Accessibility

Privacy

Contact us

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2012-2022



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Working for Workers by Increasing Minimum Wage to \$15 an Hour

More than 760,000 workers will benefit from bigger paycheques

January 01, 2022

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

TORONTO — As part of its plan to grow an economy that works for everyone, the Ontario government has raised the general minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour starting today. This new, higher general minimum wage is expanded to now include bartenders and alcohol servers. The special minimum wages for students under 18, homeworkers and hunting, fishing and wilderness guides have also increased.

“As the cost of living continues to rise, our government will never stop working for workers, including by putting more money into their pockets,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Ontario’s workers deserve a raise, and today we’re delivering one. There’s no better way to support hard-working Ontarians right now than raising the minimum wage.”

“As we usher in a new year, our government is making [unprecedented changes](#) to rebalance the scales and put more workers in the driver’s seat,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. “With the cost of living rising, this raise gives a hand up to the workers and families who need it most.”

As of January 1, 2022, the following wages are in place in Ontario:

- General minimum wage workers are now earning \$15.00 per hour, a raise from \$14.35.
- Liquor servers have received a pay raise from \$12.55 to \$15.00 per hour.
- 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, had their pay raised from \$13.50 to \$14.10 per hour.
- Homeworkers (those who do paid work out of their own homes for employers) had their pay raised from \$15.80 to \$16.50 per hour.
- Hunting, fishing and wilderness guides had their pay raised from \$71.75 to \$75.00 when working less than five consecutive hours in a day, and \$143.55 to \$150.05 when working five or more hours in a day.

“For too long, workers have been falling behind and wages have not kept up with the cost of living, which is why we are raising the minimum wage to support those who have helped keep our economy moving throughout the pandemic,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Working for workers is just one part of our plan to Build Ontario and lay the foundation for jobs, prosperity and growth.”

These minimum wage raises build on the government’s [broader actions to support, protect, and attract workers](#), and make Ontario the top place to live, work and raise a family.

Quick Facts

- A full-time worker making the general minimum wage will see their annual earnings increase by \$1,350 in 2022.
- From January-November 2021, there were 767,300 workers at or below the proposed general minimum wage of \$15 in Ontario ([StatsCan Labour Force Survey, 2021](#)).
- Most minimum wage earners are women and nearly 73 per cent of working 15 to 19-year-olds are at or below the new 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 new general minimum wage of \$15 per hour are in retail trade and almost 24 per cent are in accommodation and food services.
- Ontario’s new general minimum wage is one of the highest in the country. For example, Quebec has a general minimum wage of \$13.50 an hour, Manitoba has a general minimum wage of \$11.95 per hour, and Nova Scotia has a general minimum wage of \$12.95 an hour.

Additional Resources

- New [minimum wage rates](#) starting January 1, 2022.
- [2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review](#)
- What workplaces [should know](#) about the minimum wage requirements.
- Learn about rights and responsibilities under the [ESA](#).

Related Topics

Government

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

Jobs and Employment

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

Media Contacts

Harry Godfrey
Minister's Office
harry.godfrey@ontario.ca

Kalem McSween
Communications Branch
mltsdmedialine@ontario.ca
[416-326-7405](tel:416-326-7405)

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Contact us](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2012-2022

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Temporarily Moving to Modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen

Time-limited measures needed to preserve hospital capacity as province continues to accelerate booster dose rollout

January 03, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — In response to recent trends that show an alarming increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is temporarily moving the province into [Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen with modifications](#) that take into account the province's successful vaccination efforts. These time-limited measures will help blunt transmission and prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed as the province continues to accelerate its booster dose rollout. As part of the province's response to the Omicron variant, starting January 5, students will pivot to remote learning with free emergency child care planned for school-aged children of health care and other eligible frontline workers.

"As we continue with our provincial vaccine booster efforts, we must look at every option to slow the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant," said Premier Doug Ford. "Putting these targeted and time-limited measures in place will give us more opportunity to deliver vaccines to all Ontarians and ensure everyone has maximum protection against this virus."

Unlike other variants throughout the pandemic, [evolving data](#) is showing that while the Omicron variant is less severe, its high transmissibility has resulted in a larger number of hospital admissions relative to ICU admissions. Staff absenteeism is also expected to rise and affect operations in workplaces across Ontario due to Omicron infection and exposure, including in hospitals and schools. Real-world experience and evidence in Ontario reveal that approximately one per cent of Omicron cases require hospital care. The rapid rise of Omicron cases, which may soon number in the hundreds of thousands, could result in the province's hospital capacity becoming overwhelmed if further action isn't taken to curb transmission. When one in 100 cases goes to hospital, it means that with this rapid increase in transmission the number of new cases requiring hospitalization will also rapidly increase daily. For example, 50,000 cases per day would mean 500 hospital admissions per day, which is greater than the peak daily hospitalizations of 265 per day from last spring, when hospitals were under significant strain during the third wave of the pandemic.

In response, the province will return to the modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen effective Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. for at least 21 days (until January 26, 2022), subject to trends in public health and health system indicators.

These measures include:

- Reducing social gathering limits to five people indoors and 10 people outdoors.
- Limiting capacity at organized public events to five people indoors.
- Requiring businesses and organizations to ensure employees work remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site.
- Limiting capacity at indoor weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites and ceremonies to 50 per cent capacity of the particular room. Outdoor services are limited to the number of people that can maintain 2 metres of physical distance. Social gatherings associated with these services must adhere to the social gathering limits.
- Retail settings, including shopping malls, permitted at 50 per cent capacity. For shopping malls physical distancing will be required in line-ups, loitering will not be permitted and food courts will be required to close.
- Personal care services permitted at 50 per cent capacity and other restrictions. Saunas, steam rooms, and oxygen bars closed.
- Closing indoor meeting and event spaces with limited exceptions but permitting outdoor spaces to remain open with restrictions.
- Public libraries limited to 50 per cent capacity.

- Closing indoor dining at restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments. Outdoor dining with restrictions, takeout, drive through and delivery is permitted.
- Restricting the sale of alcohol after 10 p.m. and the consumption of alcohol on-premise in businesses or settings after 11 p.m. with delivery and takeout, grocery/convenience stores and other liquor stores exempted.
- Closing indoor concert venues, theatres, cinemas, rehearsals and recorded performances permitted with restrictions.
- Closing museums, galleries, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions, amusement parks and waterparks, tour and guide services and fairs, rural exhibitions, and festivals. Outdoor establishments permitted to open with restrictions and with spectator occupancy, where applicable, limited to 50 per cent capacity.
- Closing indoor horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues. Outdoor establishments permitted to open with restrictions and with spectator occupancy limited to 50 per cent capacity. Boat tours permitted at 50 per cent capacity.
- Closing indoor sport and recreational fitness facilities including gyms, except for athletes training for the Olympics and Paralympics and select professional and elite amateur sport leagues. Outdoor facilities are permitted to operate but with the number of spectators not to exceed 50 per cent occupancy and other requirements.
- All publicly funded and private schools will move to remote learning starting January 5 until at least January 17, subject to public health trends and operational considerations.
- School buildings would be permitted to open for child care operations, including emergency child care, to provide in-person instruction for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated remotely and for staff who are unable to deliver quality instruction from home.
- During this period of remote learning, free emergency child care will be provided for school-aged children of health care and other eligible frontline workers.

Please view the [regulation](#) for the full list of mandatory public health and workplace safety measures.

In addition, on January 5, 2022 the Chief Medical Officer of Health will reinstate Directive 2 for hospitals and regulated health professionals, instructing hospitals to pause all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures in order to preserve critical care and human resource capacity.

In recognition of the impact the Omicron variant and additional public health measures have on small businesses, the government is expanding the new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program. Eligible businesses that are required to close or reduce capacity will receive rebate payments for a portion of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these measures. Eligible businesses required to reduce capacity to 50 per cent, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50 per cent of their costs, while businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs. A full list of eligible business types will be made available when applications for the program open later this month. To improve cash flows for Ontario businesses, effective January 1, 2022, the government is also providing up to \$7.5 billion for a six-month interest- and penalty-free period for Ontario businesses to make payments for most provincially administered taxes, supporting businesses now and providing the flexibility they will need for long-term planning.

The government is also exploring options for providing further targeted and necessary supports for businesses and workers impacted by the province's move into a modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen, including grants. The government will also continue to call on the federal government to come to table and help us support Ontario businesses and Ontario workers by allowing eligible businesses to defer HST and to enhance supports available to workers affected by current public health measures.

"As cases continue to rise at a rapid rate and evidence on the Omicron variant evolves, additional time-limited measures are needed to help limit transmission as Team Ontario continues to get booster doses into arms," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "While this was not an easy decision, these measures will help preserve hospital bed capacity and prevent our hospitals from becoming overwhelmed."

"Children will continue to receive live virtual learning during this period, led by their teacher, with full access to school-based academic and mental health supports," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "We will continue to work closely with the Chief Medical Officer of Health to keep our communities safe and ensure that Ontario students get back to in-person learning as soon as possible."

As of January 2, more than 3.7 million booster doses have been administered across the province. The government is focusing all efforts to speed up booster doses, including employer-led vaccination clinics and expanded GO-VAXX mobile clinics. To date, over 4,300 Ontarians have registered through the [Ontario COVID-19 Volunteer Portal](#) and [the Health](#)

[Workforce Matching Portal](#) and have answered the province's call to arms to businesses, volunteers and retired health professionals to help further boost capacity to administer vaccines and get more boosters into arms sooner.

The province is also continuing to urge the federal government to approve COVID-19 antivirals to support Canada's pandemic response.

"While the risks for severe illness are lower with Omicron than with the previous variants of concern, it is far more transmissible and hospitalizations are expected to continue to increase placing greater pressure on our health system," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "It is difficult but necessary to apply additional public health and workplace safety measures to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our health system capacity. Please follow all public measures and get vaccinated with your first, second or booster dose if you have not done already."

Quick Facts

- As of January 2, 2022, more than 27 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered, with more than 90 per cent of Ontarians aged 12 and over having received at least one dose and more than 88 per cent having received at least a second dose. More than 43 per cent of children aged five to 11 have received their first dose and over 3.7 million booster doses have been administered including to 47 per cent of individuals aged 50 and over and more than 31 per cent of individuals aged 18 and over.
- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario updated its [COVID-19 testing and isolation guidelines](#) on December 30, 2021. These updates follow recent changes in other jurisdictions in Canada and the United Kingdom to ensure publicly funded testing and case and contact management resources are available for the highest-risk settings and to protect the most vulnerable and help keep critical services running.
- The Ontario government is amending O. Reg. 263/20 (Rules for Areas at Step 2) under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA) to apply additional or modify public health and workplace safety measures, and amending O. Reg. 363/20 (Steps of Reopening) to move Ontario to the amended Step Two, effective Wednesday, January 5th.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Updating Public Health Measures and Guidance in Response to Omicron](#)
- [Updated Eligibility for PCR Testing and Case and Contact Management Guidance in Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Further Strengthening Response to Omicron](#)
- [All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval](#)
- Anyone who meets provincial testing eligibility criteria can go to an assessment centre, participating pharmacy, or specimen collection centre for testing. Visit [Ontario.ca/covidtestinglocations](https://ontario.ca/covidtestinglocations) to find a testing location and for eligibility criteria to be tested.
- 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.
- Business who have questions about public health and workplace safety measures can call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.
- For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

Related Topics

Government

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

Health and Wellness

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

Media Contacts

From: Ontario Volunteer Service Awards (MHSTCI) <OntarioVolunteerServiceAwards@ontario.ca>
Sent: December 17, 2021 10:49 AM
To: Maureen Spratt <mspratt@arnprior.ca>
Subject: Volunteer Recognition Unit Announcements

Dear Stakeholder,

We have announcements we'd like to share with you!

1. [Introducing the new Ontario Honours and Awards online nomination portal!](#)
2. [We are moving to a new ministry!](#)

Introducing the new Ontario Honours and Awards online nomination portal!

On November 29, 2021, the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal was launched.

This **new online nomination system** will allow you to:

- Submit nominations for Ontario Honours and Awards recognition programs online
- Track the status of your nominations
- Save a history of your nominations

Nominations are now being accepted!

To use the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal you must **register as a user**:

1. Visit the [Ontario Honours and Award Portal](#) and click "Create login"
2. Provide your email address and create a password
3. Validate your account by clicking on the link sent to you by email.
4. Use the email and password you created to sign into the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal
5. Create your user profile

Read our Ontario Honours and Award Portal tips on:

- [How to Register for the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

If you do not wish to use the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal, nomination forms are available at www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards and **must be submitted by mail**. Email copies will not be accepted.

We are moving to a new ministry!

Effective November 9, 2021, the Volunteer Recognition Unit has moved to the **Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism**.

Our new contact information is as follows:

Volunteer Recognition Unit

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

400 University Avenue, 2nd Floor

Toronto, ON M7A 2R9

Telephone: 416-326-0206

Toll Free: 1-833-986-4022

VRS: 437-538-4850

Email: OntarioVolunteerServiceAwards@ontario.ca

We will continue to administer the following award and recognition programs:

- [Ontario Volunteer Service Awards](#)
- [June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism](#)
- [Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award for Students](#)
- [Ontario Senior Achievement Award](#)
- [Ontario Senior of the Year Award](#)

We look forward to continuing to serve you in our new capacity and appreciate your patience as we go through this transition.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our team.

Thank you and we wish you a very happy holiday!

Danielle, Isabel, Jennifer, Nick and Sergio

Volunteer Recognition Unit

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

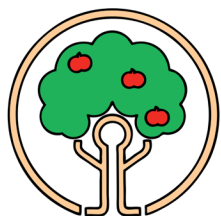
Telephone: 416-326-0206

Toll Free: 1-833-986-4022

VRS: 437-538-4850

Email: OntarioVolunteerServiceAwards@ontario.ca

[Website: www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards](http://www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards)



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

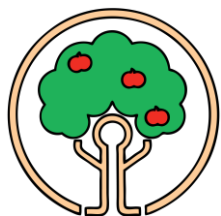
COVID-19 Case Summary

December 30, 2021

<div>Total Confirmed Cases in Renfrew County and District (RCD): 1285 <div>(463 cases have confirmed variant of concern (VOC) lineage or have screened positive for a VOC)</div></div> <div>Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days: 216</div> <div>Incidence Rate^a in the Last 7 Days: 198.9 per 100,000 individuals</div>		<div>Current Status of Cases in RCD</div> <div>Self-Isolation: 238</div> <div>Hospitalized: 8</div> <div>Hospitalized in Intensive Care Unit: 1</div> <div>Resolved: 1026</div> <div>Deceased: 12</div>	
Outbreak Setting	Cumulative Number of Outbreaks	Active Number of Outbreaks	
Community	7	0	
Hospital	2	1	
Long-Term Care Home/ Retirement Home	16	1	
School (all levels)	16	4	
Workplace	15	0	
Total	56	6	
<div>Total Number of tests completed for RCD residents: 128,843</div>		<div>Percent Positivity^b of tests completed for RCD residents (December 16-December 22, 2021) 7.2%</div>	
RCDHU has responded to 53,677 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.



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

December 30, 2021

Municipality	Cumulative Number of Cases	Active Number of Cases
Township of Admaston/Bromley	27	11
Town of Arnprior	138	35
Township of Bonnechere Valley	27	6
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch, Raglan	17	<5
Town of Deep River	40	7
Township of Greater Madawaska	40	<5
Township of Head, Clara, Maria	<5	0
Township of Horton	45	10
Township of Killaloe, Hagarty, Richards	9	0
Township of Laurentian Hills	20	<5
Township of Laurentian Valley	170	39
Township of Madawaska Valley	104	8
Township of McNab/Braeside	99	17
Nipissing, Unorganized, South Part (Algonquin Park)	0	0
Township of North Algona Wilberforce	26	5
City of Pembroke	179	43
Town of Petawawa	126	16
Pikwakanagan	<5	<5
Town of Renfrew	70	17
Township of South Algonquin	10	<5
Township of Whitewater Region	132	16
Total	1285	247

To protect the privacy of residents living in smaller communities in Renfrew County and District, RCDHU has chosen to suppress all numbers less than 5.

Visit us at www.rcdhu.com or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 4:15 p.m., December 26, 2021)

RCDHU Declares COVID-19 Outbreaks at St. Joseph's Catholic School Arnprior and Walter Zadow Public School

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) in collaboration with the Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB) and the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board (RCCDSB) is confirming that a total of 11 staff and students at St. Joseph's Catholic School Arnprior, and 6 students at Walter Zadow Public School in multiple cohorts have tested positive for COVID-19. The outbreak at St. Joseph's Catholic School Arnprior was declared on December 21st while the Walter Zadow Public School outbreak was declared on December 24th. There was a delay in putting out this media release due to technical difficulties that RCDHU experienced earlier in the week.

RCDHU has found evidence of transmission within the school setting meeting the provincial definition of a confirmed outbreak. While the health unit continues to see cases associated with the two schools, both outbreaks are contained as a result of school/holiday dismissal. Students from St. Joseph's were dismissed as of December 15th, while students and staff at Walter Zadow finished school for the holidays as of December 17th.

RCDHU is working closely with the RCDSB and RCCDSB to ensure necessary measures continue to be in place within the facility, actively investigating the cases and monitoring the situation.

For more information on what you should do if you have been notified that you are a high-risk contact based on vaccination status, visit [RCDHU's Management of High-Risk Contacts and Their Household Members](#).

To book a COVID-19 test with Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (VTAC) visit <https://rcvtac.ca/>. If you cannot book online call VTAC at 1-844-727-6404.

RCDHU is reminding residents to complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) or [COVID-19 school and child care self-assessment tool](#) **daily** before going to work, school or daycare, to monitor for symptoms and proper guidance.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/> or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 9:20 a.m., December 24, 2021)

RCDHU and Province of Ontario Implementing a Surge Support Model

The proportion of Omicron cases are rising rapidly across Ontario, including 2 confirmed and 15 suspect cases in Renfrew County and District (RCD) today and a total of 85 new cases reported over the past 7 days.

Along with the other Ontario Public Health Units, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is shifting their focus from community containment to mitigation of further transmission of Omicron. This will occur by improving vaccination efforts and by managing individuals with the highest risk of transmission, as well as mitigating outbreaks and transmission to vulnerable individuals in high-risk settings, including Long-Term Care Homes, Schools, Daycares, and Hospitals, etc.

"I am urging all RCD residents to remain vigilant, decrease their contacts by 50%, continue practicing all the necessary public health measures and to get fully vaccinated," states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU. "We can help to stop the spread of COVID-19 and variants of concern in our community if we all do our part to follow public health guidance," continues Dr. Cushman.

Testing

Our testing partners at RCVTAC are continuing to provide testing services throughout RCD. Due to technical issues, RCVTAC are currently experiencing longer than usual wait times on their phone lines and at the testing sites. Online booking is currently not available. Please call RCVTAC to book a COVID test 844-727-6404. Please be patient and kind with the team who are working exceptionally hard under extremely challenging circumstances, to support all members of our community.

They are working hard to increase testing capacity to better service residents of RCD but in the meantime, if you develop symptoms and are awaiting a test – assume you are positive and self-isolate immediately.

Case and Contact Management

Residents who test positive for COVID-19 can now expect a call from a member of the Provincial Workforce Team or a text from the Virtual Assistant (will have a long-distance number) with instructions for how to isolate, when to get a COVID-19 test, and instructions on how to notify your high-risk contacts.

The RCDHU COVID-19 Response Team is continuing to actively investigate cases and contacts in high-risk settings only, at this time, and until further notice.

If you are awaiting a test or test results you should:

- Continue self-isolation and
- Isolate your household members for 10 days, from their last day exposed to you, regardless of their vaccination status.

Workplaces

RCDHU would also like to note that workplaces, outside of high-risk settings, are no longer being notified of COVID-19 cases or high-risk contacts. Information and resources for managing COVID-19 within the workplace can be found here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-workplace-health-safety>

- Employees who are a confirmed case of COVID-19 must self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or positive test result (whichever is earlier).
- Employees who are a household contact of a case – regardless of their vaccination status - must self-isolate for 10 days from break in contact from the case and get tested for COVID-19.

Remember, even if you have been vaccinated, it is important to continue following public health measures to keep the community safe; stay home if you are sick, avoid contact with people who are ill, practice physical distancing (2 metres), wear a mask/face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands, use the COVID Alert App, and complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) or [COVID-19 school and child care self-assessment tool](#) **daily** before going to work, school or daycare, to monitor for symptoms and proper guidance.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/> or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

- 30 -

Renfrew County and District Health Unit
media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 10:00 a.m., December 13, 2021)

The Importance of Vaccinating Children Aged 5 to 11

Over 1,500 children across Renfrew County and District (RCD), aged 5 to 11 have received the COVID-19 vaccine. "While this is great news, only an additional 1,000 of the remaining 6,000 children who are eligible have been registered for vaccination in December," states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit. "Many spots are available, and we encourage families to sign up," continues Dr. Cushman.

There has been a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases among children in RCD. Since September, RCDHU has reported 36 cases in the 5 to 11 year old age group, almost 1 in 5 of all cases reported across RCD. "These children are by far our most susceptible age group," says Dr. Cushman.

While COVID-19 symptoms tend to be mild in most children, in Canada, there have been over 300 hospitalizations, 50 ICU admissions and 2 deaths. "Parents need to be reminded that any child requiring hospitalization for COVID-19 will be transferred to CHEO, says Dr. Jason Malinowski. "On top of all the worries, travel would be a major inconvenience especially at this time of year," continues Dr. Malinowski.

Over the past few weeks RCDHU has reported a growing number of COVID-19 cases in settings such as schools, sports teams, and workplaces. This then leads to rapid spread amongst household members, both vaccinated and unvaccinated. The impact that the isolation period can then have on families while having to stay home is significant. Isolating in the home means time away from work, schooling, recreational and social activities, not only affecting families mentally and physically, but also financially. These are strong reasons to have all eligible children vaccinated.

"With people gathering indoors due to colder weather, Christmas, and the holiday season fast approaching, vaccination is our best defence to allow families to get together and celebrate safely," finishes Dr. Cushman.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/>.

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

DECEMBER 15, 2021 | EDITION 32



COVID-19 Booster Dose Eligibility Expands to Adults Aged 50+

Starting Monday, December 13, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., individuals aged 50 and over became eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment. This expanded booster eligibility to approximately 5.5 million people.

Expanded booster dose eligibility to all Ontarians 18 years of age and older will occur on January 4, 2022, with appointments to be booked approximately six months after receiving a second dose.

Province Strengthens Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

Effective December 20, 2021, requiring proof of vaccination for youth aged 12 to 17 years participating in organized sports at recreational facilities.

Effective January 4, 2022, use of the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code is required and the Verify Ontario app in settings where proof of vaccination is required. The QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy. Individuals can download their enhanced certificate with QR code by visiting <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>.

Clinic Update



Vaccination clinics will be open to all residents born in 2009 or earlier for first or second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Third doses will also be available for those who are eligible.



Dedicated vaccination clinics will be open to all residents born in 2016 or earlier for first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Continue to monitor www.rcdhu.com and RCDHU's Facebook and Twitter for clinic announcements.



Please continue to monitor the booking site for new clinic dates and times.

Appointments are added often to meet the demand for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Local Update

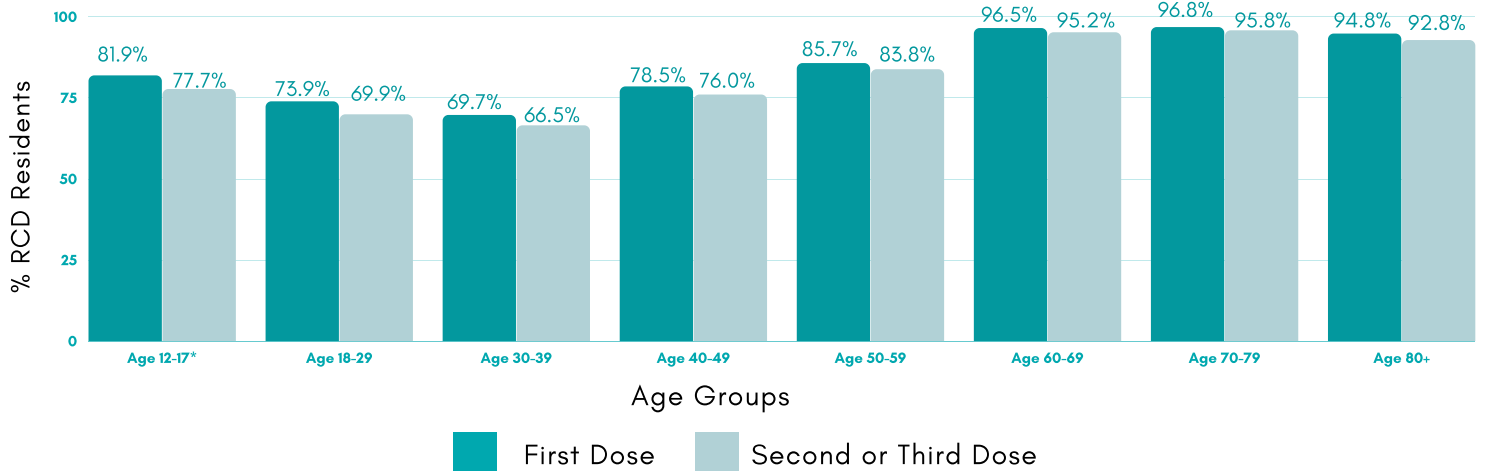
As of 8:00 a.m. December 13, 166,796 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District (RCD) with 90.0% of RCDHU adults (including youth born in 2009 or earlier, and Canadian Armed Forces Members) having received at least 1 dose (87.3% have received 2 doses or 3 doses).

Remember: Even if you have been vaccinated, it is important to continue following public health measures, such as physical distancing, wearing a mask and hand hygiene.



Percentage of RCD residents with Dose 1 and Dose 2 or 3 of the COVID-19 vaccine, by Age Groups

As of November 29, 2021



Notes: This age demographic breakdown does not include Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members residing in RCD.

*Includes individuals born in 2009.

New data source for population estimates: Statistics Canada. Population estimates 2001-2020: Table 1 annual population estimates by age and sex for July 1, 2001 to 2020, health regions, Ontario [unpublished data table]. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada; 2021 [received 2021 Apr 22] as per Public Health Ontario (PHO).

Youth Corner (12-17 Years of Age)



Youth born in 2009 or earlier are eligible to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment for the **Pfizer** COVID-19 vaccine.

Youth **second dose** appointments must be scheduled **at least 28 days after the first dose**. Indigenous youth may book a second dose appointment three weeks after their first.

For more information visit:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Youth Information](#)
- [What Youth Need to Know About their Appointment](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Youth Consent Form](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet](#)

First & Second Dose Information

Individuals still looking to get their COVID-19 vaccinations should visit one of the various clinics taking place across Renfrew County and District each week. To see the latest schedules, visit [RCDHU's COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Webpage](#).

Another great option is to visit a local participating pharmacy. To find the closest pharmacy that is offering COVID-19 vaccinations, visit Ontario's online link for [COVID-19 pharmacy vaccine locations](#).

You can also check in with your primary care provider to see if they have COVID-19 vaccine availability.

First & Second Dose Eligibility List



All residents **born in 2009 or earlier** (turning 12 years of age or older in 2021) and all residents **born in 2016 or earlier** (turning 5 years of age or older in 2021) are now eligible to book a first and second dose appointment for vaccination.



Due to the recent increase in students testing positive for COVID-19, RCDHU will no longer be issuing media releases for school-related cases. All COVID-19 cases in Ontario schools can be found [here](#). RCDHU will continue to issue media releases for school outbreaks.

COVID-19 Third Dose Information

Visit [Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine rollout webpage](#) for up-to-date information on the vaccine and implementation phases.

RCDHU FAQ: [What You Need to Know About a Third Dose](#).

COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Differs for Canadian Armed Forces Members

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is notifying businesses and facilities that proof of vaccination looks different for military members. While non-CAF members must show government documentation accompanied by picture identification (ID), military members are required to show their CAF-issued vaccination booklet along with their military ID. Please note that proof of vaccination for CAF members can be in the form of an entry in a vaccination booklet, a sheet of paper or a card.

The authenticity of these documents can be confirmed by verifying that the name and service number on the document matches those on the individual's military identification card.

Providing Proof of Vaccination

As of October 15, 2021, individuals have the choice to download the enhanced vaccine certificate scannable QR code from the COVID-19 vaccination portal.

To save your vaccine certificate with a QR code to your phone, log-in to the COVID-19 vaccination portal using your Apple or Android phone.

- Select "Get your vaccine receipt"
- Scroll to bottom of page under "To download your proof of vaccination or book an appointment" and check off the "Terms of Use" box
- Click "continue"
- Fill out the following form using your date of birth, health card info, and postal code. Click "continue"
- Next, you'll get two options: 1) booking a vaccination appointment and 2) access vaccine receipts. Click "continue" on yellow box that says "Proof of Vaccination"
- Click "Download proof of vaccination" to save on your phone.

For more information visit: [Using your Enhanced Vaccine Certificate: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Partner Websites





Child Care and Early Years

Home / Community Services / Child Care and Early Years

The County of Renfrew Child Care and Early Years Division offers child care supports and services to parents and young children throughout the county.

Time-Limited Public Health Actions – Emergency Child Care

On January 3, 2022, the Province announced a range of time-limited public health actions to help curb the spread of COVID-19. As part of this announcement, starting January 5, 2022, all elementary schools, publicly funded and private, will be closed for in-person learning. Students enrolled in publicly funded schools will move to virtual learning.

Up to at least January 17, 2022:

- Child care programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers will operate as usual.
- Home child care programs are permitted to provide child care to kindergarten and school-aged children.
- Before and after school programs are not permitted to operate during this period. These programs may resume operation when elementary schools return to in-person learning. Operators of before and after school programs that are required to close during this period **will be prohibited from charging fees or otherwise penalizing parents during this time period** (e.g. parents must not lose their respective child care spaces).
- To support the parents of school-aged children who may not be able to support their child's learning or care at home, the Ministry of Education will once again be working with partners to implement an Emergency Child Care (ECC) program for school-aged children of eligible front-line workers, at no cost to eligible parents, during the period when schools are operating remotely.

The County of Renfrew remains committed to supporting families in need of child care during this period as soon as, and as best we can.

The Child Care and Early Years team is working in partnership with the licensed child care sector to ensure that the free emergency child care program is delivered in a way that is consistent with the ministry guidelines.

Emergency Child Care Application

Individuals Eligible for Emergency Child Care

County of Renfrew child care projects

New child care spaces are being created at schools in Renfrew, Arnprior, Pembroke and Petawawa. The licensed child care projects are approved or currently in approval stage by the Ministry of Education.

As there is no partnering child care agency at this time to operate the programs, management of a waitlist for these spaces has not been created. Information will be made available to families on this website, once the school board has announced a partnership with a licensed child care agency for this project.

Fee subsidy

Child Care Fee Subsidy is a program to assist eligible families with the cost of licensed child care for children up to 13 years of age. Fee subsidy supports eligible families by paying up to 100% of the child care costs. Licensed child care options include licensed child care centres, nursery school, licensed home child care, approved recreation programs or school based extended day programs.

To estimate your daily parent contribution, please use the [Fee Subsidy Estimator for Families](#).

To apply for child care fee subsidy, please complete the online [Child Care Fee Subsidy Application](#).

Licensed child care

Licensed child care options include:

- [Licensed child care centers](#)
- Nursery schools
- [Licensed home child care](#)
- Approved [recreation programs](#)
- School-based extended day programs

Licensed home child care

Are you looking for home child care options for your child? Are you interested in opening a licensed home daycare? We can help. Learn more about our [licensed home child care agency](#).

Inclusion services

Do you have a child with special needs who is or may be attending a licensed child care or children's recreation program? Learn more about [inclusion services](#).

EarlyON child and family centres

Check out our [drop-in programs](#) that run at EarlyON child and family centres throughout the County. We have programs for caregivers and children from birth to 6 years old.

About us

The Child Care and Early Years Division is the service system manager for provincial funding for licensed child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres. We also operate a Licensed Home Child Care agency in the County of Renfrew.

Our commitment

To ensure we are "Helping to make Renfrew County the best place to raise a child," the County of Renfrew Child Care and Early Years Division is committed to the principles and practices behind quality licensed child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres.

Feedback

We welcome your compliments, complaints, and recommendations. Your feedback will help us improve upon the quality of services that we provide. To submit feedback, please fill out the [Community Services Feedback Form](#).

© 2020 County of Renfrew, 9 International Drive, Pembroke ON K8A 6W5, Phone: [1-800-273-0183](tel:1-800-273-0183), Fax: [613-735-2081](tel:613-735-2081) | [Staff Login](#) | [Staff Email](#)

Designed by [eSolutionsGroup](http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca) (<http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca>).

Department of Development &
Property



9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
613-735-3204
FAX: 613-735-2081
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

December 10, 2021

Mr. John Steckly
General Manager, Operations
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior ON K7S 0A8
Via email: jsteckly@arnprior.ca

Re: Algonquin Trail

Dear John:

The County of Renfrew Algonquin Trail Advisory Committee (ATAC) wishes to express their appreciation for all the support from your staff for maintenance and upkeep of the Algonquin Trail within the Town of Arnprior limits. A special thank you for installation of the bicycle repair station and the coordination of the planting of the trees by Milliken Landscaping this past fall. The area looks great.

The continued efforts from your staff are appreciated greatly.

On behalf of the County of Renfrew, thank you. The County looks forward to working with you in future endeavours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert Sweet'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Robert Sweet, Chair
Algonquin Trail Advisory Committee

From: O'Brien, Karen <Karen.O'Brien@ontariohealth.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 11:50 AM

To: O'Brien, Karen

Subject: Ontario Health East Region Patient and Family Advisory Council Opportunity

Good morning – we are pleased to share the opportunity to participate in the Ontario Health East Region Patient and Family Advisory Council with you. Please feel free to share this opportunity with any of your constituents.



We want to work with you so that we better understand your health care experiences, needs and priorities. You can play an important role in shaping how our province designs and delivers health care that meets the needs of your community and improves people's health care experiences.

We need your help to do this work!

We are looking for 12-15 Ontarians from the East region to join our Council who represent our region's diverse communities.



If you are interested in participating:

Please take a few minutes to fill out the below Expression of Interest with a bit of information about yourself, your interests, and your experiences.

*Figure 1 - Map of Ontario Health East region /
carte de la région de Santé Est de l'Ontario*

- Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC)
Expression of Interest
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OHEastPFAC>

December 23, 2021

Dear Community Partner:

As 2021 draws to a close and Christmas is upon us, I would like to take a moment to wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season as you celebrate in a way which is meaningful to you and your loved ones.

Once again, this past year has challenged all of us and with the rapid emergence of the Omicron variant, I don't expect reprieve anytime soon.

For 2022, I wish you good health, and hope for some brighter days ahead.

Our holiday edition of Community Connection, among other things, celebrates our region's OHT approval, the arrival of a new urologist and a 99% staff vaccination rate.

As always, I welcome any feedback you may have and, should you wish to read the French translation, this will be available on our website soon.
(www.pembrokeregionalhospital.ca).

Sincerely,



***Pierre Noel
President and CEO
Pembroke Regional Hospital***



Community Connection



Pembroke Regional Hospital Holiday 2021 Edition



Phone (613) 732-2811 Email/Version Françaises Disponibles au pr@prh.email

Website pembrokeregionalhospital.ca / Facebook pembrokeregionalhospital / Twitter @PRHhospital

President And CEO Offers Hope For Holiday Season



Pierre Noel

As we enter the Christmas season, I'm more hopeful than ever that things are getting back to "normal" and that our collective efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, through vaccination and continued safety measures, will allow us to spend time with family and gather in small groups for holiday celebrations.

Our region has done exceptionally well in terms of keeping the number of virus cases to a minimum and this success is a direct result of everyone doing their part to protect the health and well-being of our community, particularly the most vulnerable among us. Our hospital team continues to do its part by providing a safe environment for our patients, visitors and staff, and by supporting vaccination efforts in our region in partnership with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

As we look ahead to the New Year, there are many exciting things scheduled to take place at PRH - all of which will result in an improved patient experience for those in our care, an enhanced work

environment for our staff and physicians, and a more attractive facility to showcase as part of ongoing recruitment efforts.

Some of these include continued progress on our *Cancer Care Project* to upgrade our chemotherapy, inpatient pharmacy and medical day care spaces, ongoing work to improve wait times and patient flow in our emergency department, and a planned spring start to our long-awaited *Surgical Renovation Project*.

The year 2022 will also mark the start of preparations for a spring 2023 assessment by Accreditation Canada, an independent, not-for-profit organization that sets standards for quality and safety in healthcare. And in this newsletter, you will read the work we are doing with our health care partners to develop our region's newly-approved Ontario Health Team, a community-wide effort to provide better, more integrated and coordinated care to targeted populations in most need.

So, despite all the challenges that the past two years have brought, we still have lots to celebrate and to look forward to! Merry Christmas to all and please join me in embracing this upcoming New Year with a renewed sense of optimism and joy!

Did You Know...

The Pembroke Regional Hospital is pleased to share that nearly 99% of its staff and 100% of onsite physicians have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in compliance with the hospital's new mandatory vaccination policy.

The policy, which took effect October 15th, is aligned with other hospitals in the region and throughout the province, and applies to staff, physicians, contractors, students and volunteers. A similar policy was also put in place for visitors and essential caregivers / care partners.

Since the start of the pandemic, our hospital has put in place precautions and safety measures to ensure the safety of those who are in our care and work in our facility.

As a health care organization, PRH has a duty and commitment to protect those vulnerable members of our community who cannot be vaccinated due to their age or medical conditions. Getting vaccinated, wearing masks, washing your hands, and physical distancing remain the most effective ways to keep everyone safe.

Network 24 OHT Approved By Province

In mid-September, the Province of Ontario announced the latest round of approved Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), including the 'Network 24 Ontario Health Team', made up of health and social service providers in several municipalities in Renfrew County and South Algonquin Township. The "Network 24" name is temporary, with plans to select a new name in the near future.

More than 70 community health care partners in the area joined forces to develop new models of delivering timely and available patient care that 'wraps around patients and their families'. Represented among those community partners are hospitals, long-term care homes, paramedic services, municipalities, primary care providers, agencies that provide social services, palliative care, homecare, community care, mental health and addictions care, and public health — as well as patients and caregivers.

Dr. Declan Rowan, family physician leader in the Pembroke /

Petawawa area, has been very involved with the OHT development to date. He said the recent announcement marks the beginning of a process to make health care more integrated and accessible for residents.

"Having an Ontario Health Team for our area will result in a regional coordinated health care approach that will connect family physicians and their patients more effectively with hospitals, paramedics, long-term care, mental health services, community health centers, and other parts of the health care sector. We are pleased with the Province's support and we are looking forward to working with our partners in the Network 24 Ontario Health Team to deliver high-quality coordinated care to our region's residents," Dr. Rowan said.

Some of the work done to date includes development of a "collaborative decision making agreement" amongst the partners and recruitment of staff resources to advance identified priorities.

The initial focus of the Ontario Health Team will be on frail seniors and those struggling with mental health and addictions. Helping residents connect with family doctors and primary care teams is another priority.



PRH Welcomes Urologist Dr. Anis Aziz

We're pleased to welcome Dr. Anis Aziz who recently joined the hospital's medical staff as lead of the Urology program and has taken over the practice of Dr. Jeremy Setterfield who left PRH this past summer for family-related reasons.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Aziz to our team," said Chief of Surgery Dr. Colleen Haney. "He has an excellent skill set and a wealth of experience in urology from his previous practice in Sault Ste. Marie. He is also a bow hunter which makes me optimistic that the Ottawa Valley will be an excellent fit for him!"

Urology is the branch of medicine that focuses on surgical and medical diseases of the male and female urinary-tract systems and the male reproductive organs.

Originally from Laval, Quebec, Dr. Aziz obtained his medical degree at The University of Montreal in 2004 and completed his Urology specialty at the University of Laval in 2010. His training involved Uro-Oncology, Laparoscopic Surgery and Endourology.

While a career path to medicine wasn't something he had his sights set on early in life, Dr. Aziz gravitated to the medical field and urology in particular, because he liked the quality-based aspects of the surgical specialty.

As he noted, many of the procedures he does improve the quality of life of his patients. He also enjoys the variety of work that comes with his chosen field — everything from smaller procedures to cancer treatment with a mix of open surgeries, laparoscopic procedures and more that allows him to use his vast array of skills.

With a love of outdoor activities and the proximity of the Ottawa Valley to family, Dr. Aziz said the decision to work in Pembroke at PRH was an easy one and he has been warmly welcomed and surrounded by a great team.



Dr. Anis Aziz

COVID-19 Testing



You must call **RC VTAC** to schedule your testing time **1-844-727-6404**

Important Information And Updates

Given the current situation, all information contained in this section is subject to change. Please visit pembrokeregionalhospital.ca, our PRH Facebook page or Twitter feed, or check with a member of our health care team for the most up-to-date policies and information.

Vaccination Status Of Those In Our Care

Please be assured that, regardless of vaccination status, no patient or those requiring care or services at PRH will be denied care or turned away due to their vaccination status.

Visitor Policy

All hospital visitors and essential caregivers / care partners need to be fully vaccinated (at least 14 days since the second dose) in order to enter the hospital, unless they qualify under one of the current exceptions as follows:

- Individuals under the age of 12.
- Those who have a documented medical exemption.
- Those visiting patients at the end-of-life.
- Labor/Delivery * (Essential caregiver can be unvaccinated at birth.)
- Parents of children under 16 who are receiving care.
- Emergency Department (1 support person per patient.)
- Individuals who are essential to accompany patients to appointments or participate in care planning discussions.
- Other critical or urgent circumstances requiring family presence.

* All labor and delivery visitors must be vaccinated. Those attending medical appointments, including ultrasounds, with their pregnant partner, must also be vaccinated.

All visitors and essential caregivers / care partners will be asked to show proof of vaccination along with photo ID when entering the hospital.

Use of Masks

Everyone entering the hospital will be provided with a hospital-grade procedure mask to be worn at all times while indoors.

COVID-19 VACCINE

THIRD DOSE OR BOOSTER DOSE

December 02, 2021



WHO IS CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE TO BOOK A THIRD DOSE OR BOOSTER DOSE?

Immunocompromised individuals and those receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) are eligible for a third dose after **8 weeks (56 days)** since their second dose.

Vulnerable older adults in congregate settings, residents 70 years of age or older, health care workers, designated essential caregivers currently working in-person in a health care organization, First Nations, Inuit and Métis adults and recipients of a viral vector vaccine or series (two doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Janssen) are eligible to receive a booster dose after **168 days** since their second dose.



HOW CAN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS BOOK A THIRD DOSE OR BOOSTER DOSE VACCINATION APPOINTMENT?

Eligible individuals can book an appointment online by visiting <https://covid-vacc-rcvtac.mychamp.ca/>, as this is the fastest way. If someone is unable to do so online or have a family member or friend assist, they can call RCDHU at 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004.

For the latest COVID-19 vaccine eligibility or any other related information, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-rollout/>



Pembroke Regional
Hospital Foundation



Fondation de l'Hôpital
Régional de Pembroke

Health Care Together



www.prhfoundation



**AUTO
LOTTO**
FOR HEALTHCARE



PLAY TODAY
FOR BETTER CARE
TOMORROW



WIN A 2022 MITSUBISHI
OUTLANDER ES

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 9TH
AT 11:30 AM



MEDIA SPONSOR



GRAND PRIZE VALUED AT **\$39,000**

1ST EARLY BIRD SPONSOR

RGDish

2ND EARLY BIRD SPONSOR

The BRICK

3RD EARLY BIRD SPONSOR

TSX

GRAND PRIZE SPONSORS

RA

Smitty's Home

building centre

McCarthy

SAFFCO

Dunbar Home Inspections

PEMBROKE MITSUBISHI

the co-operatives

JP2g Consultants Inc.

DREDGE LEARY

TICKETS START
AT \$25

AUTOLOTTO.CA

Alcohol and Gaming Commission of
Ontario lottery license #RA1215210



3 TICKETS

\$5

10 TICKETS

\$10

40 TICKETS

\$20

WWW.PRHCATCHTHEACE.CA



We are hoping to complete Phase 1 of the Cancer Care Campaign by March 31st, 2022. Please donate if you can to help make a difference to all those who need to use the Chemotherapy and Medical Day Care Unit at the Pembroke Regional Hospital.

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE Cancer Care Campaign

Pembroke Regional
Hospital Foundation



Fondation de l'Hôpital
Régional de Pembroke

Please complete this donation form and return it with an enclosed payment, if applicable, to
Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation at 705 Mackay St, Pembroke, ON, K8A 1G8
A tax receipt will be issued for gifts of \$10 or more. Charitable Registration No. 870047610RR0001

DONOR INFORMATION

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*Providing your email helps us to keep costs low with electronic receipting

☐ One-time donation of ☐ Recurring monthly donation of

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$20 ☐ prefer to give \$ _____

I wish to pay by:

☐ Cash ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

☐ Cheque (payable to Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation)

Card #: _____

Expiry: ____/____ Signature: _____

By selecting "Recurring Monthly Donation," you can make a gift that keeps on giving and help us purchase our highest priority needs, as we need them! For additional information please call 613-732-2811 ext. 7408 or email: foundation@prh.email. To make an online donation visit www.PRHFoundation.com.



AORS

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE. PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

December 13, 2021

Town of Arnprior
Attn: Mayor Walter Stack
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Attention: Mayor Walter Stack and Council

Re: Michael Ledgerwood Assoc. R.S.

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS), I would like to congratulate your employee, **Michael Ledgerwood** for his recent **Associate Road Supervisor** certification. As well, thank you for supporting your employee and we encourage you to publicly acknowledge this achievement.

AORS has been serving public works professionals since 1961. In 1996 AORS was granted – by Provincial Legislation – the exclusive right to use the designation ‘Certified Road Supervisor’ (CRS). The four levels of Certification – Associate, CRS, Intermediate and Senior – have mandatory experience and education criteria established by the AORS Education Committee and Certification Board. Certified individuals may publicize their credential by using initials after their names and we would certainly encourage your employee to do so.

Certification is important for your Municipality because it increases corporate ‘professionalism’, accountability and morale. Certified Road Supervisors use their broad base of knowledge to make confident decisions and therefore serve Council and public more effectively.

AORS is committed to the training and development of experienced, reliable and efficient personnel for the construction and maintenance of public roads in rural and urban municipalities across Ontario.

Thank you again for supporting AORS and for helping us meet our objectives.

Yours truly,

John Maheu, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Executive Director

cc. Michael Ledgerwood Assoc. R.S.



AORS

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE. PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

December 13, 2021

Town of Arnprior
Attn: Mayor Walter Stack
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Attention: Mayor Walter Stack and Council

Re: Ryan Dalgity Assoc. R.S.

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS), I would like to congratulate your employee, **Ryan Dalgity** for his recent **Associate Road Supervisor** certification. As well, thank you for supporting your employee and we encourage you to publicly acknowledge this achievement.

AORS has been serving public works professionals since 1961. In 1996 AORS was granted – by Provincial Legislation – the exclusive right to use the designation 'Certified Road Supervisor' (CRS). The four levels of Certification – Associate, CRS, Intermediate and Senior – have mandatory experience and education criteria established by the AORS Education Committee and Certification Board. Certified individuals may publicize their credential by using initials after their names and we would certainly encourage your employee to do so.

Certification is important for your Municipality because it increases corporate 'professionalism', accountability and morale. Certified Road Supervisors use their broad base of knowledge to make confident decisions and therefore serve Council and public more effectively.

AORS is committed to the training and development of experienced, reliable and efficient personnel for the construction and maintenance of public roads in rural and urban municipalities across Ontario.

Thank you again for supporting AORS and for helping us meet our objectives.

Yours truly,

John Maheu, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Executive Director

cc. Ryan Dalgity Assoc. R.S.



AORS

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE. PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

December 13, 2021

Town of Arnprior
Attn: Mayor Walter Stack
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Attention: Mayor Walter Stack and Council

Re: Chris Crowder Assoc. R.S.

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS), I would like to congratulate your employee, **Chris Crowder** for his recent **Associate Road Supervisor** certification. As well, thank you for supporting your employee and we encourage you to publicly acknowledge this achievement.

AORS has been serving public works professionals since 1961. In 1996 AORS was granted – by Provincial Legislation – the exclusive right to use the designation 'Certified Road Supervisor' (CRS). The four levels of Certification – Associate, CRS, Intermediate and Senior – have mandatory experience and education criteria established by the AORS Education Committee and Certification Board. Certified individuals may publicize their credential by using initials after their names and we would certainly encourage your employee to do so.

Certification is important for your Municipality because it increases corporate 'professionalism', accountability and morale. Certified Road Supervisors use their broad base of knowledge to make confident decisions and therefore serve Council and public more effectively.

AORS is committed to the training and development of experienced, reliable and efficient personnel for the construction and maintenance of public roads in rural and urban municipalities across Ontario.

Thank you again for supporting AORS and for helping us meet our objectives.

Yours truly,

John Maheu, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Executive Director

cc. Chris Crowder Assoc. R.S.



Corporate Services

Sean Finn
Executive Vice-President
Corporate Services
and Chief Legal Officer

935 de La Gauchetière Street West
16th Floor
Montreal, Quebec H3B 2M9
Canada
T 514-399-8100
F 514-399-4854

Services corporatifs

Vice-président exécutif
Services corporatifs et chef de la
direction des Affaires juridiques

935 rue de La Gauchetière Ouest
16^e étage
Montréal (Québec) H3B 2M9
Canada
T 514-399-8100
Tc 514-399-4854

September 24, 2021

His Worship Walter Stack
Mayor
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior, Ontario K7S 0A8

Dear Mayor Stack:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mayor Stack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy.

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the CN in Your Community 2021 report. This annual report is one of the most important publications issued by CN and is sent to our stakeholders, community leaders and elected officials across North America.

In this report you will find information describing our ongoing investments in the diversity, strength and safety of communities all along our 19,500-mile tri-coastal network. It describes our various national, regional and local initiatives and partnerships, and contains practical information on how we can collaborate with you and live up to our commitment of being a good neighbour to the communities along our network.

This year's theme — Thankful to be your neighbour — is a tribute to how CN and the communities across our network are essential to each other, especially as we have faced the challenges of the last year and a half together. Thank you for the trust you have placed in us as a true partner of your community.

His Worship Walter Stack
September 24, 2021
Page 2

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the CN Public Affairs manager for your region. Our contact information appears on page 9 of the report.

We look forward to collaborating and building stronger communities with you throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Sean Finn

Encl.

CN in Your Community 2021: Thankful To Be Your Neighbour

From: Minister, MECP (MECP) <Minister.MECP@ontario.ca>

Sent: December 23, 2021 1:56 PM

To: Maureen Spratt <mspratt@arnprior.ca>

Subject: Minister's Annual Report on Drinking Water 2021 and 2020-21 Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report / Le rapport annuel 2021 du ministre sur l'eau potable et le rapport annuel 2020-21 de l'inspectrice en chef de l'eau potable

As Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, I'm pleased to release my [annual report](#) on drinking water and confirm that Ontario's drinking water continues to be among the best protected in the world.

The 2020-21 data shows that 99.9 per cent of more than 505,000 test results from municipal residential drinking water systems met Ontario's stringent drinking water quality standards.

Today, the ministry also released the [Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report](#), which provides an overview of the ministry's progress during 2020-21 and includes in-depth information on the performance of Ontario's drinking water systems and licensed laboratories. You can also visit [ontario.ca](#) to see the supporting [drinking water quality and enforcement data](#).

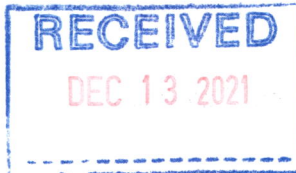
These reports demonstrate the positive results of Ontario's ongoing actions to help ensure drinking water sources remain secure and reliable.

Effective drinking water protection in all jurisdictions and corners of the province is only possible through collaborative effort. I am very proud of all the work the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks staff are doing with conservation authorities, municipalities, Indigenous communities, the Ontario Clean Water Agency, water associations and the Walkerton Clean Water Centre to keep our drinking water clean and safe, and I thank our partners for their many efforts.

The people of Ontario value safe water to drink, clean air to breathe and well-protected lands and greenspaces. The Government of Ontario is committed to protecting these important environmental resources today and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

David Piccini
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



Dear Mayor Stack and Town of Arnprior Council,

Festival Hall Centre for the Performing Arts has stood proudly in Renfrew County for 42 years as the hub to bring our community together through cultural programming and events. Countless concerts, plays, musicals, dance recitals, debates, educational programs, and more have been held in this remarkable theatre.

We are presently planning a renovation of the theatre in 2022, including the replacement of the seats. The current seats have been in place for the entire 42-year history of Festival Hall and we look forward to improvements being implemented. The new seats and seating plan will improve the comfort of everyone in attendance at Festival Hall performances while also enhancing safety and accessibility in the theatre.

With your help, we hope to make this project a reality and give everyone in our region an opportunity to continue to enjoy arts and culture within our own community for generations to come. A renovated Festival Hall will give visitors more reason to come to Renfrew County to experience cultural programming and give residents more opportunities to enjoy high-level events without needing to leave the area.

As a collaborator of the Festival Hall Seat Campaign, we would be happy to discuss potential opportunities for recognition of this partnership, including within Festival Hall.

As a partner of the Festival Hall Seat Campaign, you will receive recognition on the Festival Hall Seat Campaign Wall of Honour within the theatre, and an invitation to the Festival Hall Seat Campaign reception, where you will be able to see the seats before the reopening while enjoying entertainment and refreshments.

If selecting the diamond, platinum, or gold partnership levels, a commemorative LP record highlighting your collaboration and featuring your municipality's logo and name will be spotlighted on the campaign's Wall of Honour.

To further discuss a Festival Hall partnership, please contact City of Pembroke Chief Administrative Officer Terry Lapierre at tlapierre@pembroke.ca or 613-735-6821 ext. 1300.

We greatly look forward to relaunching a newly renovated Festival Hall in 2022 to showcase a more modern, safe, and accessible theatre which allows for everyone, regardless of their age, background, income level, or interests to experience the arts together again and with your help, we can accomplish that.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mike LeMay
City of Pembroke

Mayor Bob Sweet
Town of Petawawa

Mayor Steve Bennett
Township of Laurentian Valley



Name: _____

Business or Org.
Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make tax
receipts out to: _____

Name to appear
on donation wall: _____

Partnership Level

Indicate your support amount in box or the amount of seats you would like to support.

Diamond (\$10,000+): _____	Silver (\$1,000+): _____
Platinum (\$5,000+): _____	Seats at \$150 each: _____
Gold (\$2,500+): _____	

Please make cheque payable to the City of Pembroke. Your donation can be dropped off in person at City Hall or mailed to City of Pembroke, 1 Pembroke St. E., Pembroke, ON, K8A 3J5. Online donations via credit card are also accepted. Please visit pembroke.ca for more details.

This campaign is in partnership with the Town of Petawawa and the Township of Laurentian Valley. All funds donated will go towards the renovation of Festival Hall Centre for the Performing Arts.

You Have To Find Your Own Solutions

Things are chaotic but solutions are still possible

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

If there is one thing that we can all agree on when it comes to the rules and regulations surrounding COVID-19, it is that we don't all agree. There are as many strong supporters as dissenters of pretty much any situation that has been impacted by COVID-19 decision-making. While most of us are exhausted from the past two years of living this way, there seems to be a feeling that there isn't much we can do about it anyway. Here are some insights from psychologists that might help:

Handling Differences of Opinion

Much of the country, province, community and maybe even your family, is divided on how to handle the COVID-19 direction. One psychologist noted that "Most people are not on the extremes of any of these issues, but most of what we hear is from people who are more on the extremes." Another psychologist, explains that



divisiveness continues to grow when people continue to feel fearful. While we cannot control how public health and government officials choose to deliver the messaging around COVID-19, we can choose to limit the amount of time we are exposed to that messaging. Finally, it is advised that we let go of our tendency to want to bring someone over to our way of thinking because people rarely ever change their minds. We are better off respecting another person's position on an issue, even if it is different from our own, as a way to eventually reach some common ground.

Using Social Media For The Better

Much of the discussion surrounding social media has been about how people are sharing information. The government has gone so far as to authorize social media companies to remove the content of people that does not coincide with their messaging. What if you flooded your social media pages with positive messages, happy thoughts and compassionate shares?

Step away from the political agendas and extremes referenced earlier and see how you can use your social media platforms for

the better. Some psychologists are leveraging social media platforms to share mental health advice around coping with lockdowns, managing anxiety and resources for people.

If it's helpful, share it. If it's potentially hurtful, don't share it. Become known for making people feel better by what you promote on social media.

Recruiting For Key Skills

If you are recruiting, consider putting some emphasis on the soft skills you need for the job, and teaching the more technical skills. When you think of a particular vacancy you have, you might first go to the more obvious requirements of the position - ability to lift 25 pounds, computer knowledge, etc. If you look a little further, you might find some value in recruiting for characteristics and soft skills, such as enjoying being active at work, ability to pick up new skills quickly, comfortable writing business correspondence, etc.

Continued on page 3

Your Fire and Safety Experts

Fire alarms, fire extinguishers, safety gear, suppression systems and more.

Layman FIRE & SAFETY

Think of fire before it starts.

Phone: 613-732-5320 | joel@laymanfireandsafety.com | www.laymanfireandsafety.com

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

ABOUT US

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

WHO READS US

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

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

Subscriptions are free. Send an email to jenn@ovbusiness.com to be added to our distribution list.

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates are as follows:

1/8 Page	\$75
1/4 Page	\$150
1/3 Page	\$175
1/2 Page	\$275
2/3 Page	\$325
Full Page	\$475

Regular Advertising Special: Run three ads for the price of two. Run the same ad twice and the third time you run the ad it's free!

Graphic design is included in the price of your ad. If submitting artwork, please request our ad dimensions.

CONTENT & SUBMISSIONS

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

CONTACT US

Publisher.....Jennifer Layman
Email.....jenn@ovbusiness.com
Phone.....613-732-7774
Online.....www.ovbusiness.com
www.facebook.com/OVBbusiness

MAILING ADDRESS

2113 Petawawa Boulevard,
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 7G8

Events

January 5, 2022

Dong Business with the Government of Canada. Find out if the government buys your goods or services. Register in the supplier database, find key purchasing contracts, search and bid on opportunities, obtain security clearances and more. Free webinar. 10:00am-12:00pm. 1-800-668-5378

January 6, 2022

How An Online Store Can Boost Your Business. Free Ontario program. Hosted by Digital Main Street. Virtual workshop. 11:30am-12:30pm. www.digitalmainstreet.ca

January 6, 2022

Facebook and Instagram Advertising on a Small Budget. Online webinar. Free. 7:00pm-8:30pm. Discover some creative ways to reach clients in this fast paced, intermediate-level webinar. www.obiaa.com/events

January 7, 2022

Entrepreneurship Peer Group Information Session. A peer group is a collective of non-competing business owners who run similar-sized companies and meet regularly. Together they work through professional challenges and tackle tough business issues. Free. 10:00am-10:30am.

www.investottawa.ca/io-peer-groups

January 11, 2022

How to Love Bookkeeping. Hosted by Enterprise Renfrew County. Andrew Seguin will take you through different options to maintain your financial records. He will share many time-saving apps and procedures as well. www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com

January 11, 2022

Mythbusting Federal Government Procurement. What the government buys, who it buys from, how it buys, where to find resources and free support for local business and linguistic resources. Free webinar. 12:00pm. 1-800-811-1148

January 12, 2022

Social Enterprise 101. Learn more about this unique type of business that uses revenue-generating activities to achieve a social, environmental or cultural good. 12:00pm-1:00pm. Free webinar. Hosted by Invest Ottawa. 613-828-6274, www.investottawa.ca/events or clientservices@investottawa.ca

January 12, 2022

Bidding on Opportunities. Designed for participants who are ready for a more detailed overview of the bidding process for the federal government and key information to help you bid on opportunities. 10:00am-12:00pm. Free webinar. 1-800-668-5378

January 12, 2022

Social Media Content: Strategy and planning. Online webinar. 9:00am-10:30am. Learn the tricks of how to efficiently plan a month's worth of social media content in one sitting. www.obiaa.com/events

January 13, 2022

Google Advertising: The Business Owner's Starter Guide. Learn about Google ads, setting a realistic budget and getting a return on your investment. 10:00am-11:30am. Free webinar. Hosted by Invest Ottawa. www.investottawa.ca/events, clientservices@investottawa.ca or 613-828-6274.

January 13, 2022

Mental Health 101: Warning signs and self-care. Explore the warning signs that can indicate someone is experiencing poor or worsening mental health. Gain a deeper self-

awareness of your own warning signs. Self-care, challenges to self-care and easy strategies that make a difference in promoting wellness. Webinar. 10:00am-11:00am. Hosted by Volunteer Ottawa. \$145. education@volunteerottawa.ca

January 13, 2022

Work-Life Balance Workshop. 10:00am-11:00am. Free and online. Achieving a good work/life balance is sometimes a challenge and in these days of COVID it is even more difficult. Bernard Charlebois will provide information, ideas and tips on how to achieve a balance that is best for you and your family, as well as your business. www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com

January 17, 2022

Mythbusting Federal Government Procurement. What the government buys, who it buys from, how it buys, where to find resources and free support for local business and linguistic resources. Free webinar. 2:00pm. 1-800-811-1148.

January 18, 2022

Dong Business with the Government of Canada. Find out if the government buys your goods or services. Register in the supplier database, find key purchasing contracts, search and bid on opportunities, obtain security clearances and more. Free webinar. 12:00pm-2:00pm. 1-873-355-9796

January 18, 2022

Grow Your Brand on Instagram. Free online webinar. 2:30pm-4:00pm. This workshop is for those that have already dipped your toes into the world of Instagram, and are looking to grow your business's reach on the platform. www.obiaa.com/events

*Submit your business event to
admin@ovbusiness.com*

Deadlines

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

Publishing: January 18, 2022
Deadline: January 11, 2022

Publishing: February 1, 2022
Deadline: January 25, 2022

Publishing: February 15, 2022
Deadline: February 8, 2022

Publishing: March 1, 2022
Deadline: February 22, 2022

101 Things To Do in the Valley

FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR

Winter Edition

Publishing: January 18, 2022
Deadline: January 11, 2022

Spring Edition

Publishing: April 19, 2022
Deadline: April 12, 2022

Summer Edition

Publishing: July 5, 2022

HealthMatters

Winter Edition

Deadline: December 24, 2021
Publishing: January 20, 2022

Spring Edition

Deadline: April 1, 2022
Publishing: April 21, 2022

Summer Edition

Deadline: July 1, 2022
Publishing: July 21, 2022

Be An Advocate For What You Want

Even if it seems like common sense, say it anyway

Continued from page 1

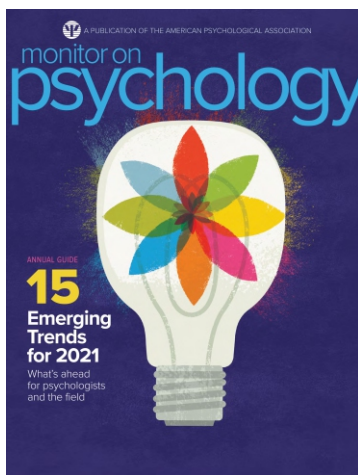
Of course, you may have definite qualifications that you need such as a type of licence or trade certificate or even educational attainment, and you should indicate those. Also, think about skills that you could train someone to develop while benefiting from soft skills that are less easy to teach.

The Mental Health Crisis

The COVID-19 rules and regulations have resulted in a major mental health crisis and as employees work more remotely, you may be less cognizant of someone having a mental health issue than if they were working alongside you. As an employer, it has become your job to address mental health in the workplace if you want to keep the people you have working.

Part of the workforce strategy is retaining good workers. This may be new territory but it's worth having a strategy for it.

Another consideration is contracting out services. If bringing someone on-site is difficult, hire someone off-site to make sure the work gets done. You can always transition later if that becomes a better option, and you don't drop the ball on something important in the



meantime. Self-employed people work all different hours of the day so there are some advantages to the traditional work schedule.

Distance Learning

Education is pretty much all over the place, especially with a lack of high-speed internet access and when parents are not well-versed in the subjects their children are taking. This extends to apprentices and post-secondary options as well.

Many students are graduating without the full educational experience and studies that they would have had before COVID. It is going to fall on you to provide additional education to make up for what they were not able to learn in school. You can

also expect that many will have reduced person-to-person communication skills as most of their past two and likely three years will be communicating with a computer. Unless they have had a person-facing job while in school, expect some communications training will be necessary.

Be An Advocate

If you don't tell your elected officials what you need, you cannot complain when you don't get it. If you do tell them what you need and they don't give it to you, then you can hold them accountable because you told them what you needed and they didn't provide it.

Even if the odds seem against you ever getting what you want, it doesn't hurt to ask for it anyway. It doesn't take much to write a letter and share it with people who hold leadership roles in the community. It is a chance to get your position on the record and you never know when that might come back to support you in the future.

Many of the tips in this article were gleaned from Monitor On Psychology, a publication of the American Psychological Association. A link is available on our website at www.ovbusiness.com

Finance

Federal Lockdown Programs

On December 22, the federal government announced its intention to temporarily expand eligibility for key support programs to ensure workers and businesses get help to sustain them through new and necessary public health restrictions.

Home Office Expenses

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has updated their main home office expense deduction page as follows: "For the 2021 and 2022 tax years, employees working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be able to claim up to a maximum of \$500 using the temporary flat rate method, to calculate their home office expenses as announced in the fall economic statement by the Government of Canada." As many employers offered flexible working arrangements during 2021 as pandemic restrictions were lifted, CPA Canada has asked the CRA to provide guidance on how these arrangements will be dealt with.

Tax on Vacant Residential Properties

The government previously announced its intention to implement an annual one per cent tax on the value of non-resident, non-Canadian owned residential real estate that is considered vacant or underused, effective January 1, 2022. The government confirmed this tax would apply for 2022, but with an exemption for certain vacation/recreational properties.

Tax on Luxury Goods

The 2021 federal budget proposed a luxury tax on certain items, effective January 1, 2022 including vehicles and aircraft priced over \$100,000 and boats priced over \$250,000.

Source: CPA Canada
www.cpacanada.ca

101 Things To Do in the Valley

WINTER 2022 EDITION

Publishing: January 18, 2022
Deadline: January 11, 2022



Do you have something people can do from mid-January to mid-April? Promote it in this issue of 101 Things to Do in the Valley. Listings are \$25 plus HST or five listings for \$100 plus HST. Events, workshops, online webinars, learning sessions, courses, shopping, eating out, etc.

Submit 50 words plus two points of contact information.
Send your listings to 101things@travelourbackyard.com

Business News Around The Valley

Arnprior Looks To Attract Younger Members To Council

The Town of Arnprior's Corporate Services Advisory Committee had a discussion about how to attract younger people to run for positions on council. Currently, the municipality pays 80 per cent of the employee benefits package and the employee pays 20 per cent. One way to attract a younger population would be with a family benefit package. If the mayor's position could become a full-time position on council, this could also attract a different population. Also, if the mayor's position was full-time, the mayor could potentially take on the duty of attending county council as well, and there would then be no need for a county councillor. Another consideration was a municipal vehicle for a full-time mayor as it could be less expensive than mileage if the expectation is that the mayor would travel to

investigate business opportunities. The committee was not looking to make the role of councillor a full-time position. The option to pay more of a salary for council members was also discussed in order to reflect the time required to hold the position, as was additional training for members of council. Committee members requested information from staff on comparator municipalities in Ontario with a full-time mayor and the population growth forecast over the next few years.

Building Permits

The Township of Greater Madawaska recorded 171 building permits through the end of November 2021 for a total construction value of \$29,481,815.00. This is nearly double the total for 2020.

County Invests In Garden

The County of Renfrew is moving forward with a Reconciliation Garden on the grounds of the County of

Renfrew administration building. Warden Debbie Robinson and Chief Administrative Officer Paul Moreau have met with Aimee Bailey, the founder of the Circle of Turtle Lodge, to discuss design options and a process for moving forward. The hope is to have the installation completed by the fall of 2022.

Speed Change in Madawaska Valley

The County of Renfrew is reporting that a resolution was passed to change the speed limit on County Road 62 (Combermere Road) from 80kph to 70kph between Lakeshore Drive and 500 metres south of Blueberry Point Lane in the Township of Madawaska Valley.

Festival Hall Earns Grant

The City of Pembroke, the Township of Laurentian Valley, the Town of Petawawa and Eventure Entertainment are jointly collaborating on a seat replacement campaign for Festival Hall. A federal grant

was received from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund in the amount of \$76,040.87. The seat campaign fundraiser is intended to raise the remaining required amount to complete the replacement of the seats. The fundraiser allows individuals, businesses, and organizations an opportunity to sponsor a seat in the theatre for \$150 with an eligible tax receipt.

Arnprior Winter Parking Restrictions

Regardless of weather conditions, there is no parking on municipal roadways or in municipal parking lots in the Town of Arnprior from 2:00am to 7:00am from December 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Pick-it-fence Renfrew

Pick-it-fence in Renfrew will be closed until January 11, 2022. When they re-open it will be Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm for curbside pickup or to make a return.

Continued on page 5

INTERESTED IN STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS AS A


Private Home Day Care Provider

with the PMFRC?

We provide:

- assistance to help you set up your business
- help to find clients
- support with billing and invoicing
- advice about current Ministry regulations and guidelines
- day-to-day support

To learn more about joining the PMFRC Private Home Day Care team, email Angie at EFCC@PetawawaMFRC.com



PMFRC
Petawawa Military Family Resource Centre

CRFMP
Centre de ressources pour les familles des militaires de Petawawa

MFSP
Military Family Services Program

PSFM
Programme des services aux familles des militaires

Business News Around The Valley

Continued from page 4

New Municipal COVID Rules and Restrictions

Beginning Monday, January 3, 2022, all individuals 12 years of age and older will be required to show vaccine certificates with a QR code to enter recreational facilities within the Township of McNab Braeside. This includes the Murray Yantha Community Centre and John A. Gillies Recreation Centre. Starting January 4, 2022, the Petawawa Civic Centre will also only be accepting vaccine certificates with QR codes. In Whitewater Region, all three arenas are closed until January 17, 2022 at the earliest. Community halls are also unavailable and the Whitewater Seniors Centre in Beachburg is closed to walk-in traffic. MRC Pontiac is under a curfew (10:00pm to 5:00am) indefinitely. School is postponed until January 17, 2022. Closed facilities include places of worship, restaurants (take-out available) and indoor sporting events. Businesses, with some exceptions, must be closed on Sunday.

Horton Service Awards

The following employees of Horton Township were recognized for their years of service: Hope Dillabough, CAO-Clerk (5 years), Dave Radke, Driver-Operator (15 years), Bill Yantha, Landfill Attendant-Labourer and Steve Osipenko, Firefighter (20 years) and David McNulty, Firefighter (25 years).

Canada Summer Jobs

Program Applications Open

The Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) Program is officially accepting applications for positions available throughout the summer of 2022. For 2022, jobs will need to end by September 3, 2022 and will need to be full-time with a minimum of 30 hours a week and a duration of at least six weeks. Funding opportunities are available to all not-for-profit organizations,

public-sector employers, and small businesses with 50 or fewer full-time staff. Applicants must create job opportunities for young people aged 15 to 30 years. The application period began December 16, 2021 and will remain open until January 25, 2022. For information on the CSJ Program, or for information on how to apply please, visit www.cherylgaillant.com or call the MP's office at 613-732-4404 with any questions.

MM Service Awards

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills recognizes the following employees for years of service: 20 years (Chris Latham and Sheila Vagner), 15 years (Richard Potter), 10 years (Amanda Smith and Roxanne Sweeney).

Emergency Financial Aid For Pontiac Businesses

With the announcements made by Premier François Legault on December 20th, 2021, the MRC Pontiac reminds businesses that aid is available. Eligible businesses can access emergency loans up to \$50,000. Should a business be under a closure order when the application for assistance is made, there is a possibility to benefit from loan forgiveness for certain eligible expenses. The relevant information, along with links to various provincial and federal assistance programs as well as the application forms can be found on the MRC website at www.mrcpontiac.qc.ca

Submit your business news to
admin@ovbusiness.com

**Ottawa Valley
BUSINESS**

Subscribe for free and stay current on business news, events and important information.

admin@ovbusiness.com

Real Estate

Businesses For Sale

Greenhouse Business

8744 Highway 60, Eganville
\$699,900 | MLS# 1270847

Esso Gas Station & Car Wash

9 Raglan Street South, Renfrew
\$4,600,000 | MLS# X5427711

Quick Lane Tie & Auto Centre

298 Veteran's Memorial Boulevard, Renfrew
\$999,000 | MLS# 1267186

Arnprior Bowling Centre

118-122 John Street, Arnprior
\$735,000 | MLS# 1266267

Woody's MVR

15352 Highway 17, Cobden
\$549,900 | MLS# 1260957

Jolly Fryer

Highway 60, Eganville
\$1,150,000 | MLS# 1259537

Thai Gardens Restaurant

88B Pembroke St.W., Pembroke
\$60,000 | MLS# 1256780

The Wilno Tavern Restaurant

17589 Highway 60, Wilno
\$699,000 | MLS# 1234629

Melton & Fraser Flowers

188 Pembroke St.W., Pembroke
\$100,000 | MLS# 1209427

M&M Food Market

5 Snow Road, Unit 4, Bancroft
\$99,000 | MLS# 40153803

Billy's Restaurant

437C Route 148, Clarendon, QC
\$525,000 | MLS# 20553956

Lanark Landing Restaurant

79 George Street, Lanark
\$598,900 | MLS# 1255894

Franktown Grocery

9645 Highway 15, Smiths Falls
\$995,000 | MLS#1232416

Bistro 54

54 Foster Street, Perth
\$1,599,900 | MLS# 1270110

Kemptville Suites

103 Clothier St.E., Kemptville
\$3,250,000 | MLS# 1272555

Car Wash

Downtown Smiths Falls
\$575,000 | MLS# 1273058

Nakhon Thai Restaurant

2820 County Road 43 North, Kemptville
\$179,500 | MLS# 1270559

Hart Laundry Services

361 Queen Street, Smiths Falls
\$975,000 | MLS# 1269618

For more information, visit
www.realtor.ca



Are you ready to move to a bookkeeping service?

Do you need to free up some time to work on other areas of your business?

Do you have a bookkeeping vacancy at your business that you can't seem to fill?

**Boudens
BOOKKEEPING**

Contact Kim Boudens. Phone: 613-401-8052 or boudens1@nrtco.net

It's A Fact

How We Feel About China

16%

Canadians who hold a favourable view of China as of December 2021

10%

Canadians who held a favourable view of China as of October 2021

29%

Canadians who hold a favourable view of China as of 2019

43%

Conservatives who hold a "very unfavourable" view of China

32%

Bloc Quebecois' who hold a "very unfavourable" view of China

25%

Liberals who hold a "very unfavourable" view of China

20%

NDPers who hold a "very unfavourable" view of China

9%

Conservatives who hold a "mostly favourable" view of China

14%

Bloc Quebecois' who hold a "mostly favourable" view of China

15%

Liberals who hold a "mostly favourable" view of China

23%

NDPers who hold a "mostly favourable" view of China

73%

Canadians who believe nothing Canada does will change China's behaviour

78%

Canadians who support some sort of boycott of the Olympics

Source: Angus Reid

More Business News In Brief

Snowmobiles, food price, trucking and fax machines

Electric Snowmobiles

Taiga Motors Corporation of Montreal, an electric off-road vehicle manufacturer, has completed production of its first customer-ready electric snowmobiles and is working with governing agencies on final approvals to begin first deliveries to pre-order customers in early 2022.

Food Prices To Increase

Canadian Press is reporting that food prices in Canada are expected to surge to record highs in 2022 as ongoing pandemic-fuelled supply chain disruptions, labour market issues and adverse weather events drive up grocery bills, a new report on food prices says. The 12th edition of Canada's Food Price Report released on December 9 predicts the average Canadian family of four will pay an extra \$966 for food in 2022, for a total annual grocery bill of \$14,767. That's a seven per cent increase compared with 2021 - the

biggest jump ever predicted by the annual food price report. Dairy prices are anticipated to increase six to eight per cent. Restaurant menu prices are also going up six to eight per cent. Bakery and vegetables will both increase five to seven per cent while fruit prices will rise three to five per cent. The smallest price increases will be in the meat and seafood aisles, with a zero to two per cent increase predicted in both categories.

Trucking Alliance Urges Reconsideration of Vaccine Mandate

The Canadian Trucking Alliance continues to engage the governments of Canada and the U.S. in the hope they would reconsider current plans to mandate vaccinations in January for cross-border and domestic Canadian truck drivers. The cross-border mandate as proposed by the Government of Canada is slated to come into force on Jan 15, 2022; while the

US cross-border mandate is rumoured to come into effect on January 22, 2022. Meanwhile, Ottawa also announced a mandate for all federally regulated workers, including essential workers like truck drivers. Details on the domestic mandate are yet to be released. To date, there is still no official information on the enforcement of any of these mandates from either government and neither has indicated a change in their plans.

Government Removing Fax Machines

The Ontario Medical Association is reporting that the Ontario government is pulling the plug on fax machines in public service. Starting in 2022, 1,500 telephone fax lines will no longer be available for use by the province's civil servants. Physicians, pharmacies and hospitals are also increasingly moving to digital communications.

Buy 2 Ads Get 1 Free!

The same ad runs three times.

Reach the local business community, local government and other agencies by promoting in Ottawa Valley Business.

Your ads can run consecutive issues, monthly or any sequence of your choosing.

Graphic design included.

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS
admin@ovbusiness.com

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS
Renfrew, Lanark and regional business news.
www.ovbusiness.com | admin@ovbusiness.com

Celebrating our 300th ISSUE
April 20, 2021

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

By Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

Elizabeth Davis was part of a Petawawa protest last week where she and others picketed a six foot apart - about the third lockdown of small businesses. This was before the extended lockdown measures announced on Friday. Davis owns a small business that is not essential, even by her own definition. But her protest was not about whether her business should be deemed essential, it was about allowing legal businesses to operate safely and allowing Ontarians the right to choose if they go to that business.

Davis and the others who joined the protest are some of the few who have had the courage to stand publicly for what they believe to be unfair decisions by the provincial government. Many business owners feel the same, but are afraid to say anything publicly for fear of fines, retribution or negative comments from the public. Davis said several

decided not to stand with the group when the day came because of these reasons, a position she understands. But for Davis, she literally had nothing to lose.

Davis is the owner of Bombells Tattoo Studio. She has been denied the right to earn an income for months and that isn't sustainable, for her or the other tattoo artists who work with her, even on the government COVID funds.

"To actually make a stand, it's really hard," she said, still emotional about the government decisions that have affected her

11-year-old business. "There is not much they can take from me anymore. This is so hard."

In the first lockdown, Davis and her colleagues created an online art show where proceeds were donated to the Petawake Regional Hospital to help with their PPE needs. People were supportive and they were proud to give back to the community. Davis also pushed the gift certificate sales as an income measure. But in the second lockdown, the support waned. "I don't know if people were just tapped out, but our second show was not as successful," she

says. "People want to support local businesses, but over time, they just aren't able to do it."

Now in the third lockdown, there's no income. However, there are utility bills, internet fees and taxes which will have to be paid, even when the government has forced the closure of a legal business with zero COVID-19 cases.

"I don't even know what to do now," she says.

If you think tattooing is such a dangerous situation in COVID-19, Davis draws some parallels with other services that are permitted to operate and who do so in a safe way. Tongue piercing, for example, is similar to dental work in terms of being inside someone's mouth. Massage therapy can touch a person's body with no gloves while tattoo artists have always worn gloves in their work, even before COVID-19. Cosmetic facial procedures can often be more intrusive than tattoo work on a person's arm or leg.

Continued on Page 3

We couldn't have done it without you!
Celebrating our 300th ISSUE
Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

With a grateful heart and many, many thanks to our readers and advertisers, it is because of you that we celebrate today. You truly mean the world to us.

Government News In Brief

EI, CPP and wages increase plus more relief supports

Minimum Wage Increase

As of January 1, 2022, the following wages are in place in Ontario:

- General minimum wage workers are now earning \$15.00 per hour, a raise from \$14.35.

- Liquor servers have received a pay raise to \$15.00 per hour from \$12.55

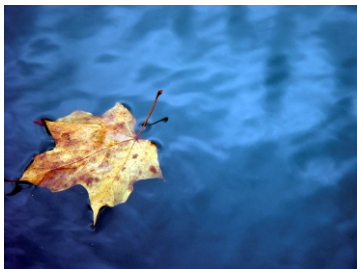
- Students under the age of 18 who work 28 hours a week or less when school is in session or work during a school break or summer holidays, had their pay raised to \$14.10 per hour from \$13.50

- Homeworkers (those who do paid work out of their own homes for employers) had their pay raised to \$16.50 per hour from \$15.80 to

- Hunting, fishing and wilderness guides had their pay raised to \$75.00 from \$71.75 when working less than five consecutive hours in a day, and to \$150.05 from \$143.55 when working five or more hours in a day.

Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program

Through the new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program, eligible businesses will receive rebate payments equivalent to 50 per cent of the property tax and energy costs they incur while



subject to the current capacity limits. A full list of eligible business types will be made available through a program guide in mid-January 2022. Online applications for this program will open in mid-January 2022, with payments to eligible businesses provided retroactively to December 19, 2021. Businesses will be required to submit property tax and energy bills as part of the application process.

Interest and Penalty-Free Tax Period

Ontario is providing a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes. The six-month period will begin January 1, 2022 and end July 1, 2022. With this help, businesses will have the option to delay their payments for the following provincially administered taxes: employer health tax, beer, wine and spirit taxes, tobacco tax,

insurance premium tax, fuel tax, international fuel tax agreement, gas tax, retail sales tax on insurance contracts and benefit plans, mining tax and race tracks tax.

CPP Contributions On The Rise

Contributions to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) are rising again in 2022 as part of a multi-year plan approved by the provinces and federal government five years ago to boost retirement benefits. The 2022 increase is 5.3 per cent, the largest in three decades. The reason is due to the pandemic's effects on the labour market.

EI Contributions To Increase

Employment Insurance (EI) premiums are going up after a two-year federal freeze on increases ends in 2022. Premiums are set to rise from \$1.58 per \$100 of insurable earnings, to \$1.83 by 2027. The yearly increases are the maximum amount allowed by law and need to go up to refill the EI fund after it was drained by pandemic-induced demand. The government's fall economic statement projected that the EI account would come back to balance by 2028.

Election Watch

Ontario Election June 2, 2022

How to become a candidate: You must be 18 years of age or older on election day, a Canadian citizen, a resident in Ontario for at least six months before election day and not disqualified by any legislation. You must be nominated by having signatures and addresses of at least 25 eligible electors in the electoral district in which you are running. Once you receive a Certificate of Nomination, your name will appear on the ballot and you will be registered according to the *Election Finances Act* and eligible to start financial activity. There is no fee to become a candidate.

For more information on the Ontario provincial election, visit www.elections.on.ca

Municipal Election October 24, 2022

May 2, 2022: First day to file a Nomination Paper for mayor, councillor and school board trustee.

August 19, 2022: Deadline for candidates to file a nomination, withdraw a nomination or change office.

Who can be a candidate? You must be a resident of the municipality, a non-resident owner or tenant of land in the municipality or the spouse of such non-resident owner or tenant, a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old, you must not be legally prohibited from voting and not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office. You will need 25 signatures on your nomination form and must pay a fee of \$100 (\$200 for mayor).

There is a 90-minute online course that explains the role of running for municipal council.

For information on municipal elections in Ontario, visit www.amo.on.ca

Buy A Foot. Save A Mile.

When you buy a foot of runway, you help save a mile of runway that is critical for this region.
\$250 saves a \$10 million facility.

Donations are 100% charitably receipted.
Contribute to a campaign with local impact.



www.flycyta.ca, call 613-687-5300 or info@flycyta.ca

Federal Government Extends Lockdown Programs

Support for businesses, employees impacted by continuing lockdowns

Local Lockdown Program

On December 17, 2021, the federal government passed a new Local Lockdown Program to provide businesses that face new local lockdowns with up to the maximum amount available through the wage and rent subsidy programs. The rules are amended to include capacity-limiting public health restrictions as well as lockdowns.

The government is temporarily expanding the Local Lockdown Program such that a business can now also qualify if:

- one or more of its locations is subject to a public health order that reduces the entity's capacity at the location by 50 per cent or more, and
- activities restricted by the public health order accounted for at least 50 per cent of the entity's total qualifying revenues during the prior reference period.

In addition, the government intends to temporarily lower the current-month revenue loss threshold to 25 per cent. Employers need to demonstrate current-month losses only, without the requirement for a historical 12-month revenue decline. The rate would start at 25 per cent for eligible organizations with a 25 per cent revenue decline, increasing in proportion to current-month revenue loss up to a maximum rate of 75 per cent. These temporary changes are in effect from December 19, 2021, to February 12, 2022.

Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit

A new Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit will provide income support to workers whose employment is interrupted by specific government-imposed public

health lockdowns and who are unable to work due to such restrictions. This includes provincial and territorial orders involving capacity restrictions of 50 per cent or more – from December 19, 2021 to February 12, 2022 – and for lockdowns of seven consecutive days.

The benefit provides \$300 a week. It is available to workers whose work interruption is a result of a government-imposed public health lockdown, and who are ineligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and those who are eligible for EI, as long as they are not paid benefits through EI for the same period. Workers must attest that they have lost 50 per cent or more of their income as a result of COVID-19-related lockdowns during the applicable period.

Individual workers whose loss of income or employment is due

to their refusal to adhere to a vaccine mandate are not eligible.

Additional Benefits Remain In Place

The extensions and expansions to the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit remain in place. In October, the federal government announced both benefits would be extended until May 7, 2022, and the maximum duration of benefits increased by two weeks. The caregiving benefit is now 44 weeks and the sickness benefit increased to six weeks.

Individuals continue to be eligible for Employment Insurance benefits at the current entrance requirements of 420 hours, through the temporary changes and simplifications announced in Budget 2021 to support Canadian workers in accessing EI.

Need A Job? We Can Help!

www.petawawaemployment.ca



The labour market is changing...but employers are hiring!

Let Employment Service help you be better prepared and less stressed. We help you:

- identify new and existing opportunities
- prepare for online applications and interviews
- feel confident and supported throughout the job search process

Serving job seekers from Petawawa to Deux Rivieres. Contact us today to see how we may help.

Petawawa: 613- 687-1717 | Deep River: 613- 584-1717

PMFRC
Petawawa Military Family
Resource Centre



CRFMP
Centre de ressources pour les
familles des militaires de Petawawa

MFSP
MILITARY FAMILY
SERVICES PROGRAM



PSFM
PROGRAMME DES SERVICES
AUX FAMILLES DES MILITAIRES

**EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO**
Your job is out there. We'll help you find it.

**EMPLOI
ONTARIO**
Votre emploi vous attend. Nous vous aiderons à le trouver.

This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

Tender Results Around The Region

PW 2021-13 Municipal Boat Dock Supply and Delivery. Horton.

Recommended award to Interco Fabrications for a total of \$31,582.37.

Waste Collection Services. Horton.

Topps Env. - \$892,700.00
Emterra - \$823,902.19

Supply and Delivery of 3M Scott Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and Accessories (Tender No. T-21-15). Pembroke.

Recommended award to M&L Supply Fire and Safety in the amount of \$172,524.00. List of bidders and bid results not included in council package.

Interior Renovations at Building F16. Defence Construction Canada.

In the amount of \$693,000.00 and awarded to Frecon Construction of Russell.

Four Electro-Hydraulic Combination Tools. Lanark Highlands.

Recommended purchase from AJ Stone in the amount of \$48,472.

IT Infrastructure Review. Beckwith.

Recommended award to KCiNetworks in the amount of \$5,000.

Official Plan Review. Drummond North Elmsley.

Recommended award to Jp2g Consultants Inc. in the amount of \$50,230.

Polaris Ranger 1000XP UTV. Lanark Highlands.

Recommended purchase from Blacks Corner Motorsports in the amount of \$29,557.

Pembroke Armoury Energy Retrofit. Defence Construction Canada.

In the amount of \$88,775.00 and awarded to AECOM of Ottawa.

PW-21-13 Downtown Core Infrastructure Renewal. Mississippi Mills.

R.W. Tomlinson - \$7,750,567.75
AWD Cont. - \$7,312,286.50
COCO Paving - \$8,214,238.26
Cavanagh Con. - \$7,230,418.00
AECON - \$7,566,988.50

Heat Trace Controls for Cooling Tower. Defence Construction Canada.

In the amount of \$33,690.00 and awarded to Panke Electric of Petawawa.

Interior Renovations at the Health Centre. Defence Construction Canada.

In the amount of \$499,950.00 and awarded to Wade General Contracting of Petawawa.

Tree Clearing Fence - CSOR. Defence Construction Canada.

In the amount of \$55,440.00 and awarded to A. J. Nagora Logging of Pembroke.

Tenders

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

St. Francis Memorial Hospital - 2nd Floor Main Wing AHU Upgrade

RFP 2021-CORP-07 Affordable Housing & Downtown and Waterfront Area Community Improvement Plans

RFP-PR-2021-01 Architectural and Design Services for the Renovation of the Lanark & District Community Centre

TENDERS

Cloud Based E-Permitting System for Building Services

Smiths Falls Town Hall Renovation

Supply and Application of Water-Based Traffic Paint for Pavement Markings

Commercial Washers & Dryers (Petawawa)

W0107-19M048/A – Cable TV Services

For full tender listings and results, visit our website: www.ovbusiness.com

Do you have a tender to promote? You can post it with us for free on our website and it is promoted in our twice-monthly newsletter. Send your details to admin@ovbusiness.com



Post your job with us for \$75

ovjobs.ca

TIP: Always have qualifications in your job posting. If you are willing to take someone with fewer qualifications, you can state that in the posting, but job seekers need to have some idea of what you are looking for in an employee. If you don't include qualifications, you can often be perceived as a workplace that doesn't value someone's skill level. Every job requires skills so don't be afraid to state them, and that you will offer training to achieve them.

Free help with writing your ad!



www.facebook.com/ovjobs
www.ovjobs.ca

Phone: 613-732-7774
employers@ovjobs.ca

Learn From The Mistakes Of Others

Be mindful of how someone interprets your message



MARKETING

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@fwdthink.net

There is a quote that says something about learning from the mistakes of others so you don't have to make them all yourself. The most recent decisions on the handling of the COVID-19 situation have inspired this first marketing column of the New Year.

Buzzwords & Tactics

A lot of buzzwords and tactics emerged with COVID-19. The challenge with using a light-hearted term or a fun tactic is that it can lessen the importance of the message. So while people "got the jab" and "boosted up" they might not have also maintained social distancing measures, thus continuing to spread the virus, which was the overall goal. When people got vaccinated to win a million dollars, they might not continue to get vaccinated if there isn't the same incentive. You have to

use buzzwords and tactics carefully in marketing, especially if you are addressing a serious issue. They can deviate quickly from the bigger picture messaging if you're not careful.

Being Inconsistent

One of the quickest ways to upset a customer is when the message that brings them into the store changes once they get there, with mixed messages.

At the start of the pandemic, the messaging was that masks were not useful. Then the messaging changed and they were useful. Then it was N95 masks only, then cloth masks were ok but surgical masks were better. Then cloth masks with extra layers, or maybe two masks, and now we are back to the N95 and everything else you wore was never any good. People feel a little "duped" by that inconsistency and become leery of following additional advice.

To build trust with your customer, promise only what you know for sure.

Scare Tactics

The one sentiment from people on all sides of the COVID issue right now is that everyone has had enough of the "doom and gloom" messaging. Even when

things are good, there is still a sombre and fearful message being delivered. After a while, people just stop listening.

Now is an excellent time to ensure you focus only on the positive messaging of your sales pitch. The media is filled with negative messaging so you will stand out more if you focus on the positive.

For example, instead of saying "Don't risk the lives of your family members by driving with summer tires on your car," rephrase it to "Feel confident driving this winter with ABC winter tires."

People want to make good buying decisions and a positive message can help them do that.

A Final Note

There is quite a bit of chatter that the government uses this messaging to control us. Certainly, the messaging could be construed this way. Call me an optimist, but I don't believe that is what the government wants; I just think they are making poor communication choices. Be mindful that you don't do the same!

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

Work Wellness

Create a Workplace Snack Station

Healthy snacks may boost productivity and happiness at work. Plus, they just make everyone feel good. Create a space in the office for a snack bar or snack cart. Fill it with a variety of snack ideas from fresh fruit and granola bars to dried root and trail mix. Have a suggestion box for employees to submit ideas so you can pick foods that they will like. For employees who work from home, have a sample of snacks available for them to pick up or mail them a sample.

The Origin of Sayings: Turn a Blind Eye

The phrase "turn a blind eye" - often used to refer to a willful refusal to acknowledge a particular reality - dates back to a legendary chapter in the career of the British naval hero Horatio Nelson. During 1801's Battle of Copenhagen, Nelson's ships were pitted against a large Danish-Norwegian fleet. When his more conservative superior officer flagged for him to withdraw, the one-eyed Nelson supposedly brought his telescope to his bad eye and blithely proclaimed, "I really do not see the signal." He went on to score a decisive victory. Some historians have dismissed the famous quip as a battlefield myth, but the phrase "turn a blind eye" persists to this day.

Quotable

"When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."
(Paulo Coelho)

"One of the best pieces of advice I ever got was from a horse master. He told me to go slow to go fast. I think that applies to everything in life. We live as though there aren't enough hours in the day but if we do each thing calmly and carefully we will get it done quicker and with much less stress."
(Viggo Mortensen)

Be the business you know you can be.

forwardthinking
MARKETING AGENCY

www.fwdthink.net | Phone: 613-732-7774
jenn@fwdthink.net



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



December 23, 2021

*Everyone at AMO wishes you, your friends and family,
and your community a happy and safe holiday season!*

In This Issue

- AMO office closure during the holidays.
- Housing Supply Challenge Round 3 launching in January.
- Housing Accelerator Fund and Rent-to-Own Program.
- ROMA Conference: Submit your questions for the Michael J. Smither Question Box.
- 4 easy steps to using LAS' Canoe Procurement Group in 2022.
- Hydro One's updated Emergency Contact information.
- Register to vote in the 2022 Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections.
- Careers: AMO, Niagara Region, Grimsby, Waterloo and Simcoe.

AMO

The AMO Office will be closed from the afternoon of December 24 to January 3, 2022 and will re-open on January 4, 2022. The next issue of the WatchFile will be on January 6, 2022.

Federal Matters

Applications to the [Northern Access Round of the Housing Supply Challenge](#) open January 12. Applicants are invited to submit solutions for improving the housing supply chain in northern and remote regions.

Municipalities and others are called to [share ideas](#) for the Housing Accelerator Fund and Rent-to-Own program by January 31, 2022. These programs aim to contribute to effective housing solutions.

Eye on Events

ROMA continues the tradition of hosting the Michael J. Smither Question Box Panel. Registered delegates can submit questions in advance of the conference [here](#).

LAS

Do these 4 easy steps to buy items through [Canoe](#) next year: (1) Make sure your purchasing by-law allows for group buying. (2) Post a [Notice of Participation](#) on your procurement website. (3) Send LAS your [opt-in form](#). (4) Contact any of the [many vendors](#) and mention you want to buy through the Canoe! Questions? Contact [Tanner Watt](#) for more info.

Municipal Wire*

Hydro One's after-hours emergency contact number for elected officials is changing, effective January 1, 2022. For more information click [Hydro One Contact](#).

The upcoming year will be a busy one for Ontario voters, with the Ontario Provincial

Election and Municipal and School Board Elections happening just a few months apart. Make sure you are on the list to vote in the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections on October 24. Register at voterlookup.ca. Download [Toolkit](#).

Careers

Advisor, Municipal Engagement - AMO. Interested in working for one of Canada's most influential public policy advocacy organizations? Is community building and advancing the interests of municipal government appealing to you? Are you interested in supporting AMO in its efforts to deliver premier events and training and to advance diversity and equity objectives in local government? AMO is seeking an Advisor, Municipal Engagement. Interested candidates please apply in confidence to: careers@amo.on.ca by January 11, 2022.

Claims Examiner - Niagara Region. Reporting to the Risk Management Program Manager, the Claims Examiner is responsible for the administration of claims, including claim response, assessment, defense, settlement negotiation, and the disposing of claims. Closing date: January 10, 2022.

Director of Finance/Treasurer - Town of Grimsby. As the most senior financial position in the administration, and primary advisor to the CAO and Council, the Director is a critical position that brings visionary leadership, proven financial expertise and a strong commitment to teamwork. Submit your application, in confidence, by noon (12 PM) on January 24, 2022, to the attention of [Harry Schlange](#), Chief Administrative Officer. For a full job description, please visit [career opportunities](#).

Manager, Diversity, Equity and Belonging - Region of Waterloo. As the Manager of Diversity, Equity and Belonging, you will support the Region in fostering, encouraging, and achieving a culture of DEB through the development and implementation of programs, processes, and services. Apply [online](#) by January 10, 2022.

Manager, Health System Planning & Integration - County of Simcoe. Reporting to the Director, Performance, Quality & Development, the manager is responsible for advocacy and integration of County of Simcoe Health Services, leading collaborative program opportunities and monitoring of strategic initiatives in consideration of; provincial programs/models, funding opportunities, gaps in current service delivery and local health team initiatives. Apply [online](#) by January 16, 2022.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

AMO Watch File Tel: 416.971.9856

Conferences/Events

Policy and Funding Programs

LAS Local Authority Services

MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario

ONE Investment

Media Inquiries Tel: 416.729.5425

Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions

AMO's Partners