

Town of Arnprior Regular Meeting of Council: February 28, 2022

Correspondence Package No. I-22-February-04

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-22-February-04 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

- 1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario
 - a) Ontario Moving to Next Phase of Reopening on February 17, 2022
 - b) Ontario Releases 2021-22 Third Quarter Finances
 - c) Notice of Court Order Prohibiting Breaches of Ottawa By-laws
 - d) Ontario's Safe Employers Receiving up to \$1.5 Billion Rebate
 - e) Ontario Expands Critical Relief for Tourism Sector
 - f) Ontario Enhancing Supports for Black Youth and Entrepreneurs
 - g) Ontario Keeping Seniors Healthy and Engaged
 - h) Ontario Learning Recovery Action Plan for Students
 - i) Ontario Launches Largest Tutoring Support Program
 - j) Ontario Bolstering Stockpile and Distributing Record Levels of Critical Supplies
 - k) Ontario Increasing Access to Free Online Resources
 - Ontario Asking Citizens to Embrace the Ontario Spirit and Volunteer
 - **m**)One Million Children to Benefit from HEPA Deployment to Schools and Child Care Centres
 - n) Ontario Eliminating Licence Plate Renewal Fees and Stickers
 - Ontario's Newest Red Tape Reduction Act Features Fewer Fees, Better Services

- 2. Correspondence from Renfrew County & District Health Unit
 - a) COVID-19 Case Summary February 17, 2022
 - b) Renfrew County & District COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout at a Glance
 February 16, 2022
 - c) Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)
- 3. Correspondence from Ontario Farmland Trust
 - a) 2022 Farmland Forum
- 4. Correspondence from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
 - a) Near Surface Disposal Facility
- 5. Correspondence from Statistics Canada
 - a) 2021 Census Data
- 6. Correspondence from Municipality of Shuniah
 - a) Resolution Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association Expansion of Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)
- 7. Correspondence from Ontario Clean Air Alliance
 - a) Lower Overnight Electricity Rates for EVs Maximizing the Benefits
- 8. Correspondence from Governance Solutions
 - a) Basics of Financial Literacy Program
- 9. Correspondence from Pastoral Care Committee of Grace St. Andrew's Church
 - a) Ongoing Support Group for Caregivers
- 10. Correspondence from the Greater Arnprior Chamber of Commerce
 - a) Newsletter
- 11. Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Business
 - a) February 15, 2022
- 12. Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - a) Watch File February 10, 2022
 - **b)** Watch File February 17, 2022
 - c) 2022 Risk Management Webinars

Ontario Moving to Next Phase of Reopening on February 17

Improvements in key indicators allowing province to safely ease public health measures sooner

February 14, 2022 Office of the Premier

TORONTO — With key public health and health system indicators continuing to improve, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is cautiously and gradually easing public health measures sooner, with the next phase of measures being eased on February 17, 2022 at 12:01 a.m.

"Given how well Ontario has done in the Omicron wave we are able to fast track our reopening plan," said Premier Doug Ford. "This is great news and a sign of just how far we've come together in our fight against the virus. While we aren't out of the woods just yet we are moving in the right direction."

Last month, Ontario <u>released its plan</u> to follow a cautious and phased approach to lifting public health and workplace safety measures if health indicators continued to remain stable and improve. Positivity rates have fallen and new admissions to hospital and ICU have been declining week over week, signalling that the Omicron peak is behind us. Over the coming days and weeks, these trends are expected to continue, allowing the province to safely accelerate its timelines.

"Thanks to the province's high vaccination rates and the continued sacrifices of Ontarians, we are now in a position where we can move forward in our plan earlier than anticipated," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "With hospitalizations and ICU admissions continuing to decline, we are committed to maintaining a gradual and cautious approach to protect our hospital capacity and ensure patients can access the care they need when they need it."

Effective February 17, 2022

Ontario will further ease public health measures, including, but not limited to:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors
- Increasing organized public event limits to 50 people indoors, with no limit outdoors
- Removing capacity limits in the following indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to:
 - Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities
 - Non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms
 - Cinemas
 - Meeting and event spaces, including conference centres or convention centres
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments
 - Indoor areas of settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.
- Allowing 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity at sports arenas
- Allowing 50 percent of the usual seating capacity for concert venues and theatres
- Increasing indoor capacity limits to 25 per cent in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including nightclubs, restaurants where there is dancing, as well as bathhouses and sex clubs
- Increasing capacity limits for indoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites, or ceremonies to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance. Capacity limits are removed if the location opts-in to use proof of vaccination or if the service, rite, or ceremony is occurring outdoors.

Capacity limits in other indoor public settings, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, retail and shopping malls, will be maintained at, or increased to, the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance.

Ontario Moving to Next Phase of Reopening on February 17 | Ontario Newsroom

In addition, as of 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022, Ontario is expanding booster dose eligibility to youth aged 12 to 17. Appointments can be booked through the provincial booking system and the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, as well as at select pharmacies administering the Pfizer vaccine. Appointments will be booked for approximately six months (168 days) after a second dose. To book an appointment online, individuals must be 12 years old at the time of appointment.

Effective March 1, 2022

Ontario intends to take additional steps to ease public health measures if public health and health system indicators continue to improve. This includes lifting capacity limits in all remaining indoor public settings.

Ontario will also lift proof of vaccination requirements for all settings at this time. Businesses and other settings may choose to continue to require proof of vaccination. Masking requirements will remain in place at this time, with a specific timeline to lift this measure to be communicated at a later date.

To manage COVID-19 over the long-term, public health units can deploy local and regional responses based on local context and conditions.

"Thanks to the efforts of Ontarians to help blunt the transmission of Omicron, our health care indicators suggest a general improvement in the COVID-19 situation in the province," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "We are now in a position to lift more public health measures, but it is important to stay vigilant, as we don't want to cause any further disruption to people's everyday lives. We must continue to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities by following the measures in place and by vaccinating those who have not yet received their doses."

Quick Facts

- Due to a steady decline in COVID-19 related hospitalizations and ICU admissions, on February 10, 2022, the government lifted Directive 2 to begin a gradual and cautious resumption of non-urgent and non-emergent surgeries and procedures across the province.
- Since Ontario entered modified Step Two, over 202,000 Ontarians have received a first dose and more than 2,575,000 Ontarians have received their booster.
- To further support the province's cautious easing of public health measures, Ontario is expanding access to free rapid tests, with 5.5 million rapid tests to be distributed each week for eight weeks through pharmacies, grocery stores, and community partners in vulnerable communities.
- Effective January 4, 2022, the use of the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario app must be used in settings where proof of vaccination is required.
- Download your vaccine certificate by visiting <u>https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/</u>.
- To have your vaccine certificate mailed to you, call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.
- On January 17, 2022, Health Canada approved the antiviral Paxlovid. Ontario received approximately 10,000 courses of treatment from the federal government in January, with additional allocations of more than 10,000 courses for February and 33,000 courses for March. Eligibility is currently focused on adults with the highest risk of severe outcomes.
- In response to the highly transmissible Omicron variant, Ontario updated its COVID-19 testing and isolation guidelines. Learn more about what to do if you have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19.

Additional Resources

- Ontario Expanding Access to Free Rapid Tests for General Public
- Ontario Outlines Steps to Cautiously and Gradually Ease Public Health Measures
- Proof of Vaccination Guidance under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020
- All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval
- 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.
- Businesses that have questions about public health and workplace safety measures can call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.

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

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

Alexandra Hilkene Minister Elliott's Office <u>Alexandra.Hilkene@ontario.ca</u>

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https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001600/ontario-moving-to-next-phase-of-reopening-on-february-17

Ontario Releases 2021-22 Third Quarter Finances

Latest fiscal update demonstrates Ontario's economic resilience

February 14, 2022 Finance

TORONTO — Today, the government released the *2021-22 Third Quarter Finances*, which provide an update on Ontario's 2021-22 economic and fiscal outlook since the release of the *2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario* (also referred to as the Fall Economic Statement). The report shows \$2.3 billion of new investments in response to the Omicron variant, including additional funding to support hospitals, workers and business supports such as the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program and the Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant.

Primarily as a result of higher than forecast revenues reflecting improved economic performance, Ontario is now projecting a deficit of \$13.1 billion in 2021-22 – an improvement of \$8.4 billion from the deficit forecast in the <u>Fall Economic Statement</u>. Despite ongoing uncertainty as a result of the pandemic, the government's swift actions and critical investments to protect the economy have been successful and Ontario's economy remains resilient.

"We have made important progress in our fight against COVID-19 through record investments to protect people's health and support our economy, and while today's report demonstrates that Ontario's economy is getting stronger, there is still work ahead," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "Our government's plan for recovery will build Ontario with investments in new highways and hospitals, supports for workers and employers, and measures to put more money into the pockets of families and seniors."

As of the <u>2021-22 Third Quarter Finances</u>, the Province is investing an additional \$2.3 billion, primarily in health care and supports to business and workers, offset from existing contingencies, relative to the <u>2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal</u> <u>Review</u>. Highlights include:

- \$1.3 billion in additional funding to support hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic, including expenses such as personal protective equipment, additional staff and Infection Prevention and Control measures, as well as funding to support the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines.
- \$300 million for the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program to provide property tax and energy cost rebates to eligible businesses that were required to close or reduce indoor capacity as part of the additional public health measures in response to the Omicron variant.
- \$293 million for the Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant to support small businesses that were subject to closures as part of the additional public health measures in response to the Omicron variant.
- \$164 million to help long-term care homes prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19, including increased staffing supports and purchasing additional protective equipment supplies.
- \$108 million to train up to 8,200 new personal support workers (PSWs) for high-demand jobs in Ontario's health and long-term care sectors to address the personal support workforce shortage.
- \$75 million in additional funding to support further electricity cost relief for eligible residential, farm and small business customers for the period January 18, 2022 to February 7, 2022.

With a balance of \$500 million remaining in the Time-Limited COVID-19 Fund for the remainder of the fiscal year, the Province continues to maintain the prudence and flexibility necessary to respond to future needs in the fight against the pandemic.

The government's actions throughout the pandemic have ensured that Ontario's economy remains poised to keep growing over the medium-to-long-term. The government's plan to build Ontario will leverage this strength to make key investments that will make life more affordable for the people of Ontario, while supporting job-creation, productivity and economic growth.

From the very beginning, the government has been accountable to Ontario taxpayers by providing regular updates on the Province's finances. This is the government's eighth financial update since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The government remains committed to defeating the COVID-19 virus and will provide its next financial update as part of the *2022 Budget*.

Quick Facts

- With the release of the <u>2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario</u>, the Time-Limited COVID-19 Fund had a \$2.7 billion allocation to respond to the ongoing uncertainty related to the pandemic and the future pace of economic recovery.
- The *Fiscal Sustainability, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2019* requires Ontario's fiscal plan to incorporate prudence in the form of a reserve to protect the fiscal outlook against unforeseen changes in the Province's outlook, including those resulting from changes in Ontario's economic performance.

Additional Resources

- Read Ontario's 2021-22 Third Quarter Finances.
- Read the 2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario.
- Read the 2021 Ontario Budget Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.
- Read Ontario's 2021-22 First Quarter Finances.
- Visit Ontario's <u>website</u> to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

Media Contacts

Emily Hogeveen Minister's Office Emily.Hogeveen@ontario.ca 647-294-6166

Scott Blodgett Communications Branch Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca 416-728-9791

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BULLETIN

Notice of Court Order Prohibiting Breaches of Ottawa Bylaws

February 15, 2022 Attorney General

OTTAWA – On February 14, 2022, the Associate Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice, Faye E. McWatt, made an <u>order</u> prohibiting breaches of the following City of Ottawa by-laws: Idling Control By-law 2007-266, Noise By-law 2017-255, Fireworks By-law 2003-237, Open Air Fire By-law 2004-163, and Use and Care of Roads By-law 2003-498. The order is binding on all persons who have notice of it and remains in effect until varied or discharged by a further order of the Court.

The order was granted at the request of the City of Ottawa. The Attorney General of Ontario, Doug Downey, and the Attorney General of Canada, David Lametti, intervened in the court case and expressed their support for the granting of the order.

The order authorizes the police to remove any person contravening the order or any object being used in contravention of the by-laws, but specifies that the police retain discretion as to the timing and manner of enforcement.

Additional Resources

<u>Court Order</u>

Media Contacts

Natasha Krstajic Minister's Office <u>Natasha.Krstajic@ontario.ca</u>

Brian Gray Communications Branch <u>MAG-Media@ontario.ca</u> <u>416-326-2210</u>

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https://news.ontario.ca/en/bulletin/1001605/notice-of-court-order-prohibiting-breaches-of-ottawa-by-laws

Ontario's Safe Employers Receiving up to \$1.5 Billion Rebate

Rebate will support businesses, maintain jobs and help safe employers impacted by COVID-19

February 16, 2022 Labour, Training and Skills Development

TORONTO — Ontario's safe employers are receiving a rebate of up to \$1.5 billion as Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) surplus funds are returned for the first time. This rebate will give 300,000 businesses back approximately 30 per cent of their annual premium payments, helping create new jobs and allowing for bigger paycheques for workers. This builds on the government's \$2.4 billion that has already been given back to employers through premium reductions, while maintaining benefits for injured workers.

"After historic underfunding and mismanagement, Premier Ford and I are creating generational change at the WSIB to ensure it is working for workers," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. "We are getting cheques in the mail for businesses on Main Street who need this relief so they can pay their workers more, create new jobs, and grow our economy. In the coming weeks, I will announce a series of unprecedented supports for the people of Ontario that continue to rebalance the scales in favour of workers."

The surplus distribution will only be provided to safe employers, who will receive their rebates starting in April. For a business with 80 to 125 employees, this could mean receiving \$28,000 to reinvest in their business and workers.

"Ontario businesses are paying the lowest average premium rate in more than 20 years," said Grant Walsh, Chair of the WSIB. "With solid financial management we can give this rebate to businesses at a time when they need it most while protecting coverage for people injured at work."

This distribution comes only four years after the elimination of the board's historic unfunded liability. Today, the WSIB is in its strongest financial position in its history and, as of September 30, 2021, has \$6.4 billion in reserve.

Quick Facts

- Surplus distribution was a key recommendation in an <u>independent operational review</u> of the WSIB.
- The WSIB provides loss of earnings and other benefits to workers and their survivors, health care, and assists in early, safe return to work for workers injured on the job or made ill by an occupational disease.
- The WSIB is an independent agency. It is entirely funded by employers.

Quotes

"As the indispensable partner of business and on behalf of our 60,000 members, today's announcement is welcome news for Ontario employers who have created safe workplaces. Premiums come out of the pockets of business owners and today's news means that this surplus can be redirected to workers, new technologies and infrastructure."

- Rocco Rossi

President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

"Refunding WSIB surplus to businesses means much needed direct support for retailers and other employers in Ontario. The pandemic has been challenging for many businesses and today's announcement by the Ontario government puts more money in the hand of employers which they can then reinvest in their business and in their employees, ensuring economic growth."

> - Diane J. Brisebois President & CEO, Retail Council of Canada

"We thank the Ontario government for acting on CFIB's long-standing request to return WSIB surplus funds to the employers that paid them. This is great news for Ontario's small businesses at a time they need it most as they navigate their path to recovery. "

- Dan Kelly President, Canadian Federation of Independent Business

Additional Resources

- Learn more about the WSIB rebate
- Read about the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

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

Ciara Nardelli Communications Branch <u>mltsdmedialine@ontario.ca</u> <u>416-326-7405</u>

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https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001609/ontarios-safe-employers-receiving-up-to-15-billion-rebate

Ontario Expands Critical Relief For Tourism Sector

Relief will support amusement device and ski lift operators and protect local jobs

February 16, 2022 Government and Consumer Services Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

TORONTO — The Ontario government is further expanding over \$340,000 in critical financial support for owners and operators of amusement devices and ski lifts and protecting jobs in the travel and tourism sectors. Through the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), the government is reducing permit and licence fees by 75 percent for 163 businesses operating almost 1,000 devices across Ontario until the end of 2022, while ensuring strong public safety standards are maintained.

"The past two years have been particularly challenging for our travel and tourism sectors which is why we're doing everything we can to protect Ontarians' jobs and ensure people can get back to safely enjoying rollercoasters, ski hills, and water parks," said Minister of Government and Consumer Services Ross Romano. "This support will provide tangible relief to businesses as they get back on their feet and strengthen our economy as we build Ontario."

This support builds on the financial relief previously provided by reducing TSSA fees in 2020 to help businesses cope with the financial hardships associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Provincial funding has allowed the TSSA to waive approximately \$2 million in fees for businesses in 2021 and 2022. Ontario's tourism sector was similarly supported by additional financial relief provided by the government through the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) and the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO).

"The COVID-19 pandemic has called attention to just how critical Ontario's tourism businesses are to the success of our economy," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. "Our government's commitment to the tourism industry as a whole, including amusement and recreation businesses, is an essential step in making sure the sector can re-build and assume its role as a global destination of choice for tourists and an engine for the province's economy and regional employment."

"The pandemic has been challenging for many sectors, and the amusement and ski industries are no exception," said Bonnie Rose, President and CEO of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority. "The Ministry's fee relief package provides financial support for businesses, while making sure public safety remains paramount. TSSA will continue to oversee the safe operation of amusement rides and ski lifts and ensure that the devices conform to the applicable regulations, codes and standards."

Quick Facts

- The relief applies to permits/licences that were renewed in 2021.
- TSSA is an administrative authority that regulates ski lifts and amusement devices including roller coasters, water slides,

bumper cars, inflatable bouncy castles, and ziplines and their owners and operators.

Additional Resources

Learn about the Technical Standards Safety Authority.

Media Contacts

Cristian Buzo Tingarov Minister's Office 437-928-2427

Cristian.BuzoTingarov@ontario.ca

Ontario Enhancing Supports for Black Youth and Entrepreneurs

Funding available for initiatives that help youth build careers

February 16, 2022 **Citizenship and Multiculturalism**

TORONTO – The Ontario government is investing an additional \$14 million in the Black Youth Action Plan to help youth access employment opportunities and career-building resources. The funding will be used to create a new economic empowerment program that will help community organizations and Black-led businesses create local projects that provide the skills youth need to find jobs in high-growth sectors.

"Our government is making sure all Ontarians have access to the tools they need to build successful careers, including skills development and professional mentorship," said Parm Gill, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "It is imperative we build an inclusive, future-forward workforce where everyone has equitable access to jobs and opportunities which will help support our province in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."

The economic empowerment program includes three new initiatives that will enable community organizations and Black-led employer and business leaders to design programs that help Black youth and young professionals achieve social and economic success by building pathways to jobs:

- The Career Launch initiative will support locally developed programs that help Black children and youth access professional networks and skills development in high opportunity fields
- The Career Advance initiative will connect Black youth and young professionals with training and work placement opportunities in high opportunity industries
- The **Sector-Innovation Networks** support Black business leaders in high-growth sectors of the economy.

Community organizations and businesses can apply for funding under the Career Launch initiative beginning February 23. Information is available online. Applications for the Career Advance initiative and Sector Innovation Networks will open on March 9 and March 23, respectively.

The Black Youth Action Plan works toward eliminating systemic, race-based disparities by increasing social and economic opportunities for Black children, youth and families across the province. By building a more inclusive workforce, the province continues to work for workers on the road to economic recovery.

Quick Facts

- In addition to the economic empowerment stream, the Black Youth Action Plan (BYAP) supports culturally focused parenting and mentorship programs.
- In alignment with the commitment to redesign Ontario's child welfare system, the province is re-investing \$1.5 million into BYAP initiatives that increase access to local, culturally relevant supports. The funding will expand the Innovative Supports for Black Parents programs and provide capacity-building resources to the Network for Advancement of Black Communities. This will allow Black community partners and families to have a voice in how child, youth and family services are designed and delivered in their communities.
- BYAP programs are delivered by over 70 community-based and culturally-focused community partners and currently support more than 10,800 individuals in target communities across the province, including Ottawa, Windsor and the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.
- Ontario is investing more than \$77 million a year to support employers to hire apprentices from underrepresented groups. The investment will fund projects focusing on empowering workers and job seekers who face higher barriers of entry and enhance pathways into meaningful and gainful employment.
- Ontario is also supporting community-based anti-racism initiatives to combat all forms of racism and hate, including anti-Black racism, with a \$3.2 million investment over two years in the <u>Anti-Racism and Anti-Hate Grant program</u>.

Quotes

"Economic empowerment is key for families to thrive and communities to grow. The enhanced Black Youth Action Plan has prioritized economic empowerment initiatives so black youth can pursue meaningful careers in dynamic industries. We thank all of the community partners who contributed their insights and expertise, including the Dream Legacy Foundation, Network for the Advancement of Black Communities, Youth Research and Evaluation Exchange, and Premier's Council on Equality of Opportunity. "

- Jamil Jivani Ontario's Advocate for Community Opportunities and Chair of Premier's Council on Equality of Opportunity

Additional Resources

- Learn more about the Black Youth Action Plan
- Learn how organizations can apply to receive funding under the Black Youth Action Plan economic empowerment initiatives

Media Contacts

Shannon Whitteker Minister's Office Shannon.Whitteker@ontario.ca

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https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001613/ontario-enhancing-supports-for-black-youth-and-entrepreneurs

Ontario Keeping Seniors Healthy and Engaged

Province Celebrates Recipients of 2021-22 Seniors Community Grants and Opens 2022 Intake for new project applications

February 17, 2022 Seniors and Accessibility

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing in more than 250 local initiatives to help Ontario's seniors stay safe, healthy and active in their communities.

The <u>Seniors Community Grant Program</u> will deliver a record \$5 million to municipalities and local organizations across the province for programs that safely bring seniors together to learn new skills, socialize and keep fit.

"Seniors Community Grants keep Ontario's seniors fit, active, healthy and connected to their families and friends. Our government is proud to invest in local organizations which are well-positioned to meet the needs of seniors in their community," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "Seniors Community Grants provide tremendous enjoyment and personal value to Ontario's seniors."

In addition, Ontario is increasing its investment in the Seniors Community Grant Program up to \$6 million for the 2022-23 program cycle. Intake will begin on March 1, 2022 to allow community organizations time to prepare their applications. The application window is nine weeks and closes at 5 p.m. on April 28, 2022.

"After several months of increased social isolation, we have seen a surge in demand for targeted and reliable access to programs and services that address the unique needs of Ontario's seniors," said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and MPP for Vaughan-Woodbridge. "With this investment, our government is taking real action to further empower seniors in their own communities and provide them with high-quality supports that contribute to their physical, mental, and social well-being.

A selection of programs and services being <u>funded this year include</u>:

- Computer literacy classes for seniors at Rexdale Community Health Centre in Etobicoke
- A knitting group to reduce isolation in Scarborough
- A culture and heritage committee of Indigenous, Métis and non-Indigenous seniors in Pickle Lake
- A French services directory for Francophone seniors in Sarnia and Lambton county
- A Nordic pole-walking program for seniors in rural South Glengarry
- A volunteer program on bereavement training in Peterborough
- A speaker series on elder-abuse awareness in Parry Sound-Muskoka

These projects and many others are being supported by this year's Seniors Community Grants. They offer diverse and innovative ways for older Ontarians to safely connect with friends and neighbours and engage with their communities.

Quick Facts

- The Seniors Community Grants Program provides funding ranging from \$1,000 up to \$25,000 for local projects.
- Ontario's seniors are the province's fastest growing demographic, and by 2023, there will be 3 million Ontarians over the age of 65.
- The Seniors Community Grant program was established in 2014 and has provided more than 2,000 grants to benefit older Ontarians.

Additional Resources

Ontario Keeping Seniors Healthy and Engaged

- <u>Community Supports for Seniors</u>
- <u>Age-Friendly Communities Planning Guide</u>

Related Topics

Home and Community

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

Media Contacts

Wallace Pidgeon Minister's Office wallace.pidgeon@ontario.ca

Media Desk Communications Branch <u>msaa.media@ontario.ca</u>

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https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001619/ontario-keeping-seniors-healthy-and-engaged

BACKGROUNDER

Ontario's Learning Recovery Action Plan for Students

February 17, 2022 Education

Ontario has developed a Learning Recovery Action Plan that invests heavily in robust tutoring supports, and includes summer learning, a focus on reading, math and other foundational skills, as well as targeted initiatives intended to address unique barriers that some students may face.

The province's five-point plan includes the following:

Measure and assess:

Spring 2022: Measure current student learning levels by resuming the Grades 3 and 6 EQAO assessments following a twoyear pause. This includes understanding impacts of learning disruption in different regions and student populations.

Fall 2022: Establish a new baseline and engage the K-12 sector, pedagogical experts, and at-risk communities to identify interventions and establish targets for improvement.

Ongoing: Continued assessment and measurement to inform new programs and areas of focus.

Comprehensive Tutoring Supports:

The Ontario government is making a major investment of over \$176 million in expanded tutoring supports that will assist students as they recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This investment includes:

- \$175 million for school boards to provide more school-based tutoring immediately in the 2021-22 school year and continuing into the 2022-23 school year:
 - School boards are encouraged to implement immediately, with all programs mandated to be in place by April 1, 2022
 - Funding will provide opportunities for small group tutoring with an average ratio of 5:1 (students to educator)
 - School boards may offer tutoring before-and-after school, during school hours, on weekends, and in the summer; and programming for targeted, culturally appropriate, and at-risk students by connecting families to local organizations that support learning in a trusted environment grounded in the language, culture and community norms for students where needed.
- Expansion of year-round online tutoring supports in math and reading:
 - Scaling up <u>Mathify</u> online 1:1 tutoring services immediately provide funding for more weekend hours, and plan to expand across grades starting with Grades 4-5
 - Expanding <u>Eurêka!</u> existing Grades 1-12 online tutoring services to reach more students in French for Grades 1 and 2; math Grades 7-9 and 11-12.

A focus on student resilience and mental well-being:

A focus on student resilience and mental well-being will underpin all elements of the government's learning recovery action plan and will be critical to enabling students to get back on track and succeed. As part of this, the government will launch consultations to create Ontario's first Student Mental Health Strategy to focus on stabilizing and strengthening historic student mental health funding made last year by securing it in the 2022-23 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and providing an additional \$10 million. This represents a total investment of approximately \$90 million for evidence based mental health initiatives to support student resilience and mental well-being.

The mental health components of the learning recovery action plan may include:

- Mandatory professional learning on mental health for educators
- Working with the Ministry of Health to consult with stakeholders to leverage the best available evidence on emerging student mental health needs and the potential of a graduation requirement on resilience and mental well-being

- Continuing to support student resilience and well-being through:
 - mentally healthy classrooms and learning environments
 - effective and responsive school mental health supports
 - connections to the broader provincial system of mental health care.

Strengthen numeracy and literacy skills:

The following investments will support learning recovery and strengthen reading and math skills:

- Reading intervention programs and professional assessments to support struggling readers with evidence-based approaches to reading: **\$25 million**;
- Summer learning programs in addition to funding provided through the GSN for credit and non-credit courses, including \$10 million in targeted supports for students with special education needs and \$130,000 for students in Provincial and Demonstration Schools, as well as over \$5 million for programs delivered in partnership with thirdparties focused on literacy and math: \$15 million;
- Eurêka! virtual summer program for French-language students: \$100,000;
- Free school board summer learning for First Nation students living on reserve (2022 & 2023).

Modernize education:

Ontario is committed to modernizing education with a focus on skills and the world of work by taking the following actions:

- Revising curriculum so that it is aligned with labour demand with emphasis on job and life skills, including the promotion of necessary skills to support Ontario's current and future growth, competitiveness, and access to high-wage employment opportunities
- Launching entrepreneurship education pilot programs requiring partnership between school boards and third-party organizations to help students develop these important skills
- Piloting experiential learning programs that support students to gain important job and life skills outside of the classroom
- Expanding access to Dual Credit programs, including for Indigenous students
- Responding to <u>Apprenticeship Youth Advisors recommendations</u> by developing online modules on skills needed to succeed in the skilled trades and funding experiential learning for guidance counsellors to better support students in navigating pathways into the skilled trades
- The ministry will continue to engage with stakeholders and partners on other modernization initiatives, as well as exploring ways to increase First Nation, Metis, and Inuit educators in the publicly funded education system, including alternative entry pathways for Indigenous Language teachers.

COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund:

- In addition to the 5-point plan outlined above, the ministry is providing a \$304 million in time-limited staffing support through the GSN:
 - This fund will provide temporary additional staffing supports to continue to hire teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants and other education workers to address learning recovery, the implementation of the first year of a fully de-streamed Grade 9, supports for special education, remote learning, and maintaining enhanced cleaning standards.
 - The ministry will also require school boards to provide the option to parents for remote learning in the 2022-23 school year.

Additional Resources

Ontario Launches Largest Tutoring Support Program

Media Contacts

Caitlin Clark Minister's Office

caitlin.clark@ontario.ca

Ontario Launches Largest Tutoring Support Program

Highest Investment in Learning Recovery, Mental Health & Public Education

February 17, 2022 Education

TORONTO — Following two years of global learning disruption, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government announced record funding for the 2022-23 school year. The funding will support learning recovery and mental health supports for students to enable them to return to a more normal school year next year.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce today introduced Ontario's Learning Recovery Action Plan – a five-point plan to strengthen learning recovery in reading and math, anchored by the largest provincial investment in tutoring supports, summer learning and mental health. The government outlined investments that will bridge learning gaps, supporting academic success and focus on overall mental health and wellness.

Increasing Investment to School Boards

Together, this total funding amounts to over \$26.6 billion in 2022-23 -- the highest investment in public education in Ontario's history, with highlights including:

- A \$683.9 million increase in Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding, with projected total funding of \$26.1 billion. This represents a 2.7 per cent increase from 2021-22
- Average per pupil GSN funding is projected to rise to \$13,059, which is an increase of \$339 or a 2.7 per cent increase from 2021-22
- Over \$500 million in Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF)
- \$90 million in total mental health investments, representing a 420 per cent increase in funding since 2017-18
- \$15 million to deliver expanded summer learning opportunities
- \$92.9 million increase in Special Education Grant funding through the GSN where it is projected to increase to over \$3.25 billion, the highest amount ever provided in Special Education Grant funding
- \$304 million in time-limited additional staffing supports, through the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund as part of the GSN. This funding will go towards the hiring of an estimated 3,000 front line staff including teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants, and other education workers to address learning recovery.

The government is also continuing to provide \$1.4 billion for the repair and renewal of schools for the 2022-23 school year.

Ontario's Learning Recovery Action Plan

The Ontario Government's \$600 million Learning Recovery Action Plan will help students recover from the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic and will be available to students this year and into next school year. \$175 million is being invested to expand access to free publicly funded tutoring in small groups after school, during school, on weekends and over the

summer. This province-wide program will start in April 2022 and continue until December 31, 2022 to ensure continuity of access to tutoring to ensure students can catch-up as they start the next school year.

The plan leverages and expands proven, high-yield programs and supports, and introduces new initiatives to address critical gaps, with the following five pillars:

- Introducing comprehensive tutoring supports for students through school boards that will also include partnerships with community organizations
- Supporting student resilience and mental well being
- Strengthening numeracy and literacy skills
- Modernizing curriculum and programs to emphasize job and life skills
- Resuming EQAO assessments to measure and assess learning levels.

Ontario Launches Largest Tutoring Support Program | Ontario Newsroom

Many parents and educators have noted stagnation or regression in reading skills. To further support literacy and numeracy focused learning recovery, the government is providing \$40 million in foundational learning supports in reading and math, including \$25 million for professional assessments and reading intervention programs for children who face difficulty learning to read.

The Government is also expanding summer learning with \$15 million, building on Ontario's historic investments in the largest summer learning programs initiated in 2020 in response to the pandemic. Summer programs in 2022 include \$10 million in funding for students with special education needs and opportunities for summer learning for First Nation students living on reserve.

In addition to in-person tutoring opportunities, the government also announced an expansion of teacher-led, one-on-one digital tutoring. Ontario is also supporting the expansion of online tutoring through <u>Mathify</u> and <u>Eurêka!</u> so more students can access these services.

Nationally, Ontario students continue to be among the top performers in math, reading and science, as demonstrated in the 2019 Pan-Canadian Assessment Program results. These investments will help preserve the province's competitive advantage and ensure students have the skills they need for the jobs of the future as they recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Historic Mental Health Funding Commitment

To support student mental health and well-being in 2022-23, Ontario will be investing more than \$90 million including \$10 million in new funding, of which \$5 million is to be used for evidence based mental health programs and resources. This funding will help to retain the existing mental health workers in schools, including the 180 mental health professionals that are providing critical supports directly to students in secondary schools across the province.

This investment will support the mental health and well-being of all students and will enable school boards to continue to assist students who are experiencing mental health challenges that are impacting their learning.

In addition to stabilizing and strengthening historic mental health funding made available in 2021-22, the ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to leverage the best available evidence on emerging student mental health needs. Consultations are expected to start in summer 2022.

Minister Lecce also announced the mental health components of the learning recovery plan may include:

- Mandatory professional development on mental health for educators
- Working with the Ministry of Health to consult with stakeholders, including parents and students, to leverage the best available evidence on emerging student mental health needs and the potential of a graduation requirement on resilience and mental well-being
- Continuing to support student resilience and well-being with the following goals:
 - mentally healthy classrooms and learning environments
 - effective and responsive school mental health and addictions supports
 - connections to the broader comprehensive system of mental health care.

The Ontario government also announced \$26 million to renew funding for school-focused nurses in public health units, with up to 625 nurses supporting student health and well-being, along with and infection prevention and control plans and other supports to keep schools as safe as possible.

"No government in Ontario history has invested more in public education, tutoring supports, mental health, and special education than ours led by Premier Ford," said Minister Lecce. "We are bridging learning gaps that have emerged over the past years through a massive increase in small group tutoring programs and through the expansion of mental health supports to benefit children across all schools in Ontario."

Priorities and Partnerships Funding

In addition to the GSN, Ontario's Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) enables school boards and third parties to undertake important curricular and extra-curricular initiatives that promote student success, development, and leadership skills. In 2022-23, the PPF will include more than \$500 million to fund approximately 150 high-impact initiatives that include a focus on STEM, mental health and well-being, job skills, tutoring, reading supports, de-streaming transition programs, and summer learning, as part of Ontario's plan for learning recovery.

Preparing Students for Jobs of Tomorrow

Ontario Launches Largest Tutoring Support Program | Ontario Newsroom

As part of its plan to prepare students for in-demand jobs, the government is investing more than \$8 million in the 2022-23 school year to:

- Launch entrepreneurship education pilot programs requiring partnership between school boards and third-party organizations to help students develop these important skills
- Pilot experiential learning programs that support students to gain important job and life skills outside of the classroom
- Expand access to Dual Credit programs to support skilled trade pathways
- Respond to Apprenticeship Youth Advisors recommendations by developing online modules on skills needed to succeed in the skilled trades and funding experiential learning for guidance counsellors to help students navigate and access the required training.

Building Student Potential

As part of our plan to support student achievement and help them reach their full potential, we are funding targeted initiatives intended to address unique barriers that some students may face. Some of these initiatives include:

- Focus on Youth
 - Focus on Youth provides learning and employment opportunities for youth in select low-income neighbourhoods who face challenges that hinder their learning, achievement and full participation in school, and barriers to employment due to circumstances directly linked to systemic inequality, racism and discrimination and their lived experiences of socio-economic disadvantage.
- Community Literacy Catalyst Program
 - Community Literacy Catalyst Program builds local capacity and expertise for sustainable, community-based literacy programming through a partnership between Frontier College and five First Nation communities in Northern Ontario.
- Graduation Coach for Black students
 - Graduation Coach Program for Black Students helps to create inclusive spaces that will help to dismantle systemic barriers, eliminate disparities and close the achievement gap for Black students. Funding provides intensive, culturally responsive support to Black students by hiring Graduation Coaches with lived experience and connections to Ontario's diverse Black communities who work with school staff and board leadership and offer direct supports and mentorship to Black students to support their well-being and academic achievement.

In addition to funding available in the GSN for de-streaming, the ministry is also investing \$11M in PPF to support transition programs and early interventions for students with special education needs.

Quick Facts

- The Ministry of Education provides operating funding to Ontario's 72 district school boards and 10 school authorities through the annual GSN education funding model. Funding to school boards is provided on a combination of perstudent, per-school, and per-board basis.
- Since August 2020, more than \$600 million has been allocated to improve ventilation and filtration in schools as part of the province's efforts to protect against COVID-19. These investments have resulted in improvements to existing ventilation systems; deployment of over 70,000 HEPA filter units and other ventilation devices to schools, with an additional 3,000 HEPA units being provided; upgrades to school ventilation infrastructure; and increased transparency through public posting of school board standardized ventilation measure reports.
- As part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve and modernize infrastructure, Ontario announced over \$565 million in the 2021-22 school year to build 26 new schools and 20 permanent additions to existing schools, which will create new construction jobs and provide nearly 20,000 new student spaces across the province once complete.
- In recognition of increasing demands for digital learning in the classroom and increased network capacity, Ontario will be investing an additional \$40 million in the 2022-23 GSN, to support the cost of associated with network connectivity, infrastructure, security and related operations in schools and school board buildings as usage increases and technology evolves.
- Under the <u>Broadband Modernization Program</u>, all schools across Ontario are equipped to provide adequate, reliable access to all students for online learning.

Quotes

"The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association welcomes and appreciates today's funding announcements. The early release of the Grants for Student Needs will be beneficial to Catholic School Boards as they plan for a hopeful return to normalcy in September 2022. We particularly appreciate the additional funding in support of student learning recovery, special education and mental health."

> - Patrick J. Daly President, The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

"The pandemic has highlighted the important role that schools play in promoting and protecting student mental health. In collaboration with community partners, school and board staff have done an exceptional job under the most difficult circumstances to support student well-being. As an organization focused on mental health in Ontario schools, we appreciate this significant investment in promotion, prevention, and early intervention for students. It is a critical part of the system of care for child and youth mental health."

> - Dr. Kathy Short Executive Director, School Mental Health Ontario

"The major investment in mental health is critical for children and youth who may be feeling isolated, uncertain, or simply struggling to cope with an environment that has been changing so rapidly around them. Investing in the mental health of our children is crucial. As a teacher and parent, I know it will make an impactful difference for our children and students."

- Shernett Martin Executive Director, ANCHOR

"Our children, families, and educators have been through so much in the last two years. The most detrimental impact that we will be dealing with post-COVID-19 will be the mental health and well-being of our children and youth. This historic investment by the Ontario Government is critical in supporting students' mental health, resiliency, and wellbeing. In addition, enhancing cross-systems partnerships between the Ministry of Education and Health will ensure best practices and approaches for overall student learning and mental health."

> - Dr. Leena Augimeri Child Development Institute (CDI)

"We are pleased with the Ministry of Education's work on prioritizing the learning recovery and mental health of our students. Student well-being is of the utmost importance amidst this pandemic, and we believe this investment will provide students the necessary support to thrive in schools."

- Keith Baybayon

President of the Ontario Student Trustee Association.

Additional Resources

- Ontario's Learning Recovery Action Plan for Students
- Education Funding, 2022-23

Media Contacts

Ontario Bolstering Stockpile and Distributing Record Levels of Critical Supplies

Additional critical goods and PPE to key sectors will support safe gradual easing of public health measures

February 17, 2022 Government and Consumer Services

TORONTO — The Ontario government is continuing to ensure the province is prepared in the fight against COVID-19 and its variants by ramping up procurement and delivery of additional services, personal protective equipment and critical supplies and equipment.

"At every turn of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've strengthened our domestic supply chain and focused on securing critical, high quality PPE and goods reliably through Ontario-based manufacturers," said Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. "From the outset of the Omicron variant, we've redoubled our efforts and taken further immediate action to source additional materials and position our province to successfully and safely re-open our schools and economy, keeping our kids and communities safe."

In order to further support the gradual ease of public health measures, the province has implemented a response plan to strengthen Ontario's pandemic supply chain and bolster our stockpile by:

- Securing over 97,500 HEPA filters to improve ventilation in congregate settings, including more than 24,500 for hospitals, long-term care, and retirement homes, 5,500 for agri-food congregate living settings, over 52,000 for schools and child care facilities as well as over 15,500 for other essential settings
- Procuring an additional 79 million superior quality N95 masks from the 3M plant in Brockville, Ontario
- Sourcing 200 million level one and level two surgical/protective masks annually for five years through four Ontariobased companies – PRIMED, Canada Masq, Viva Healthcare Packaging Canada, and JY Care
- Providing and delivering over 8.3 million child-sized three ply cloth masks for students and over 10 million N95 masks for teachers to protect them at school
- Purchasing a total of about 157 million rapid tests, including 126 million between December 2021 and January 2022
- Establishing an arrangement for fit-testing services that are available to all sectors where guidance requires the use of fit-tested N95 respirators

These additional supplies are on top of the province's robust stockpile and previous record level investments for PPE.

Starting today, information on how the province is <u>strengthening Ontario's pandemic supply chain</u> will be made readily available. This includes data on the amounts of PPE and critical supplies being distributed across the province. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the government has shipped over 722 million pieces of PPE to support public sector workers, including over 282 million masks, over 270 million gloves and over 4.7 million litres of hand sanitizer.

•

In addition to the record setting delivery of vaccines and booster doses to Ontarians, the province has extended its call to arms to allow and support Ontario businesses to host employer-led clinics. A growing number of workplaces have actively shown their Ontario Spirit by rising to the challenge to help administer over 85,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to date.

The government has also expanded additional significant staffing resources to the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre so Ontarians who need help booking their vaccine or require more information on vaccinations can rest assured they can get the support they need. Since March 2021, our Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre agents have handled more than five million calls and supported over 15 million vaccination appointment transactions.

Quick Facts

Ontario Bolstering Stockpile and Distributing Record Levels of Critical Supplies | Ontario Newsroom

- Ontario is <u>strengthening our pandemic supply chain</u> by purchasing additional essential goods and supplies to protect against COVID-19 and its variants.
- Over 92 per cent of the government's forecasted investment in personal protective equipment for the next 18 months will be with Ontario or Canadian-based manufacturers.
- The Ontario Together Fund has helped businesses with innovative ideas and solutions to retool or adapt their operations to produce supplies and equipment for the health care sector and frontline workers. Businesses and organizations looking to apply to the extended Ontario Together Fund can now submit through <u>available funding</u> <u>opportunities from the Ontario Government</u>.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, high-efficiency particulate air filter (HEPA) units are being provided to employers with international agri-food workers (IAWs) living in congregate settings through the voluntary <u>Registry of Employers International Agri-food Workers</u>.
- Those who have questions about <u>COVID-19 vaccines</u> and would like to speak to an experienced agent can call 1-833-943-3900.
- Procurement of personal protective equipment will be one of the first responsibilities to be transferred from the
 ministry to <u>Supply Ontario</u>, a new provincial agency established to address challenges in Ontario's supply chain system.
 It will transform and move public procurement forward, leveraging Ontario's \$29 billion annual purchasing power to
 further advance modernization to benefit our economy, businesses, and Ontarians.

Quotes

"Our government is ensuring those on the frontline, including firefighters, police, corrections staff, animal welfare enforcement officers and emergency management personnel, have the PPE they need to stay safe while they work to protect us. Providing our frontline workers with equipment like N95 masks, face shields, goggles, wipes, sanitizer and more, is an important part of our pandemic response, and critical to keeping Ontarians safe."

> - Sylvia Jones Solicitor General

"Our government anticipated the Omicron variant would have an impact on long-term care and took swift action to protect residents and staff. This includes securing additional PPE, rapid tests, and HEPA filters, for long-term care homes across the province."

- Paul Calandra Minister of Long-Term Care

"Our government's Ontario Together Fund is providing immediate support to businesses and organizations to help manufacture materials to combat COVID-19. Thanks to the hard work of Ontario companies, our province has the supplies and equipment needed in our schools, hospitals, long-term care homes and other critical public services."

- Vic Fedeli Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

"With the full support of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, we have reopened our schools with stronger measures in place to protect students and staff, including millions of rapid tests, non-fit-tested N95s and three-ply masks, and over 70,000 HEPA units. Our government will continue to prioritize ventilation improvements because we know that in-person learning is critical to the mental health, development and academic success of children and youth."

> - Stephen Lecce Minister of Education

"We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure older Ontarians in retirement homes are safe from exposure to COVID-19. This investment in HEPA air purifiers and other protective equipment will provide additional safeguards against COVID-19 for residents and staff in congregate care settings."

- Raymond Cho Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

"With almost half a billion visitors to Ontario.ca in 2021, we know that people expect online options and convenient services available at their fingertips. We continue to work with our partner ministries to modernize and improve customer service, protect our progress and build back Ontario."

- Kaleed Rasheed Associate Minister of Digital Government

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, our government has provided unprecedented levels of support to ensure safe work environments while producing good quality food that everyone can have confidence in, right here at home in Ontario. The allocation of over 5,500 HEPA units to improve ventilation in agri-food congregate living settings demonstrates our government's continued commitment to our provincial agri-food sector and enables farmers to provide safe conditions to live and work in."

> - Lisa Thompson Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

"From hospitals to primary care to home and community care, Ontario's health care workers have been unwavering in their efforts to protect the health and safety of Ontarians throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Our government has used every tool at our disposal to ensure our frontline health care workers have access to the PPE they need to stay safe and support our continued response to the Omicron variant."

> - Christine Elliott Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

Additional Resources

- Ontario Protecting Supply Chains To Support COVID-19 Emergency Response
- Province to Supply Additional Ontario-Made Masks
- Visit Ontario's <u>website</u> to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

Media Contacts

Sebastian Skamski Minister's Office Sebastian.Skamski2@ontario.ca

Laura Bobak Communications Branch Laura.Bobak@ontario.ca

Ontario Increasing Access to Free Online Resources

Investment supporting sharing of Toronto Public Library content province-wide

February 18, 2022

Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

TORONTO — The Ontario government is providing the Toronto Public Library (TPL) with nearly \$1.5 million to deliver free online resources to library users in Toronto and across the province – including in rural, remote and First Nation communities – through Digital Archive Ontario.

"With its extensive collections and rare and unique content, the Toronto Public Library is a valuable resource for all Ontarians," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. "This government is proud to support Digital Archive Ontario, which helps TPL extend the reach of its services beyond Toronto and provide all Ontario communities with free, reliable online reference material for research, teaching and lifelong learning."

Digital Archive Ontario's online resources include digitized historical collections, archived photographs and postcards, video interviews with Canadian authors and thought leaders and blog posts by specialist librarians with expertise in a variety of subjects, including small business development and business preparedness.

"We're so thankful for the Ontario government's ongoing support of Digital Archive Ontario, which allows us to offer free access to digital material of historical importance to Ontario and Canada," said Vickery Bowles, City Librarian, Toronto Public Library. "Digital Archive Ontario usage reached record highs during the pandemic, as even more people turned to digital services for their information needs. We look forward to building on this interest and continuing to offer this rich content to people across the province."

Quick Facts

- The Toronto Public Library is the largest public library system in North America.
- In 2020, Digital Archive Ontario's collections generated more than 2.4-million page views and were used in more than 198 Ontario communities.
- Digital Archive Ontario was previously known as the Virtual Reference Library until September 2018.
- The government is providing \$4.85 million through the <u>Connecting Public Libraries initiative</u> to upgrade broadband at public libraries in unserved and underserved communities across the province.

Additional Resources

- Learn more about the Toronto Public Library
- Learn more about Digital Archive Ontario

Related Topics

Arts and Culture

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

Government

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

Media Contacts

https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001625/ontario-increasing-access-to-free-online-resources

Ontario Asking Citizens to Embrace the Ontario Spirit and Volunteer

New portal matching volunteers with opportunities to help out during an emergency

February 18, 2022 **Citizenship and Multiculturalism**

TORONTO — The Ontario government is calling on citizens 16 years of age and older to help their communities in times of crisis by joining Volunteer Corps Ontario. The new program will register, screen and train volunteers so Ontario is better prepared to mobilize volunteers and safely respond to emergencies, from public health crises to natural disasters.

"We saw the true Ontario Spirit in action during the COVID-19 pandemic when countless heroes stepped up and volunteered their time," said Premier Ford. "We want to harness that Spirit by establishing Volunteer Corps Ontario to ensure we are prepared and ready to respond when the next emergency comes and requires everyday heroes to once again stand tall and support each other."

Volunteer Corps Ontario builds on the success of the <u>COVID-19 Volunteer Portal</u> launched last year which matched volunteers to public health units to support vaccine deployment. The new Volunteer Corps Ontario database will be made available to ministries, municipalities, First Nation communities and NGOs in need of emergency volunteers so they can respond quickly and consistently should an emergency arise.

"During times of crisis, our province is stronger when we come together to support our communities," said Parm Gill, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and flooding and fire seasons around the corner, I hope people from all backgrounds and abilities will answer the call to join Volunteer Corps Ontario."

Ontarians can register online at volunteercorps.gov.on.ca. Volunteers from all backgrounds and experience levels are encouraged to register. All volunteers would be required to take online foundational courses prior to deployment.

Quick Facts

- Since launching on December 22, 2021, more than 3,700 Ontarians registered with the COVID 19 Volunteer Portal to support health care providers and others working at COVID-19 vaccination clinics across the province.
- The <u>Heath Workforce Matching Portal</u> continues to recruit trained health care professionals to assist with Ontario's COVID-19 response.
- Individuals who registered with the COVID-19 Volunteer Portal will be automatically added to the Volunteer Corps Ontario database and given the choice to volunteer for other emergencies.

Additional Resources

- Volunteer Corps Ontario
- Ontario Extending Call to Arms to Businesses, Volunteers and Retired Health Professionals.

Media Contacts

Shannon Whitteker Minister's Office

Shannon.Whitteker@ontario.ca

STATEMENT

One Million Children to Benefit from HEPA Deployment to Schools and Child Care Centres

February 21, 2022 Education

TORONTO — Today, Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, issued the following statement on the deployment of additional standalone HEPA filter units to schools and child care centres to further protect against COVID-19:

"Since the start of the school year, this government made ventilation improvements a critical priority. We have ensured that every publicly funded school's ventilation system was optimized with the highest-grade filters, in addition to the previously committed 73,000 HEPA filter units and other ventilation devices.

Ontario has more HEPA units in schools than all provinces combined.

As Ontario gradually lifts measures on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, we remain committed to strengthening the protections in environments where students learn and staff work.

On top of the HEPA filter units already in place, our government will deploy an additional 40,000 HEPA filter units to school boards to support schools, and up to 9,000 units to child care centres. This massive investment will ensure roughly one million more children in schools and child care settings will benefit from HEPA filtration units. This will help ensure maximum protection for these learning spaces as we keep students in classrooms that have been made as safe as possible.

Ontario's plan for the 2022-23 school year includes over \$680 million in additional investment to maintain high ventilation standards, hire 3,000 more staff, maintain school-focused public health nurses and a focused plan to support learning recovery and mental health."

BACKGROUND

- These additional HEPA units will improve ventilation in child care spaces and in occupied learning spaces in schools with mechanical ventilation but where minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) 13 rated filters are not able to be used.
- The Ministry of Education will be reaching out to school boards and child care centres to provide additional information on delivery and use of the HEPA filter units.
- Schools have been made safer for in-person learning thanks to \$1.6 billion in resources for the current school year, ventilation improvements in schools across Ontario, including deploying 73,000 HEPA filter units and other ventilation devices, and stringent health and safety requirements. The government is building on these measures with even further investments in air ventilation, greater access to high-quality masks for teachers and students, and stronger screening measures.
- Ontario school boards provide standardized school-level information on ventilation measures to ensure that information is publicly available across the province. This information is posted on board websites and includes details

on ventilation improvement measures including, use of standalone HEPA filter units, use of higher grade filters and more frequent filter changes.

• For the 2022-23 school year, the provincial government is providing a record investment of \$26.6 billion, with the <u>dedicated support for learning recovery and to strengthen mental health and well-being</u>.

Media Contacts

Caitlin Clark Minister's Office

<u>caitlin.clark@ontario.ca</u>

Ontario Eliminating Licence Plate Renewal Fees and Stickers

Province is cutting costs and making life more convenient for millions of vehicle owners

February 22, 2022 Office of the Premier

TORONTO – The Ontario government is making life more affordable and convenient for nearly eight million vehicle owners by eliminating licence plate renewal fees and the requirement to have a licence plate sticker for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles and mopeds, effective March 13, 2022.

"As the cost of living continues to go up, our government is cutting costs for families to make life more affordable," said Premier Doug Ford. "Eliminating the fee to renew your licence plate and refunding the cost of doing so for the past two years is a concrete way we can put and keep more money in the pockets of hard-working Ontarians."

The government is introducing red tape legislation later today that would enable the province to refund eligible individual owners of vehicles for any licence plate renewal fees paid since March 2020. Upon passage, vehicle owners will receive a cheque in the mail starting at the end of March and throughout the month of April.

"Our government is taking strong action at a time when the cost of living and doing business in Ontario is skyrocketing," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "For many families, driving is an absolute necessity. Eliminating licence plate renewal fees and stickers is part of our government's commitment to support drivers as we continue to build Ontario's transportation network, including by building the Bradford Bypass and Highway 413."

To receive a refund cheque, vehicle owners who have moved recently will need to confirm that their address information on their vehicle permit or driver's licence is up-to-date at <u>Ontario.ca/AddressChange</u> by March 7, 2022, and pay any outstanding fees, fines or tolls. For more information and/or assistance with changing an address, vehicles owners can call ServiceOntario's dedicated line at 1-888-333-0049.

"Our government is putting money directly back into the pockets of Ontario families and workers to help make life more affordable," said Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. "Eliminating these fees and stickers is just one of the ways we are reducing the burden on Ontarians and making it easier, quicker, and simpler for Ontarians to access critical government services."

Under the proposal, renewal fees will also be eliminated for passenger, light duty commercial vehicles, motorcycles and mopeds that are owned by a company or business. However, no refunds will be given for the period of March 2020 to March 2022.

"Small businesses play a vital role in fostering Ontario's economic growth," said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "Starting next month, eliminating renewal fees for vehicles owned by a company or business is just one of the many ways we are supporting small businesses across the province so they can continue to thrive and contribute to their communities."

Vehicle owners will still be required to <u>renew</u> their licence plate every one or two years at no cost to confirm their automobile insurance is valid and pay any outstanding Highway 407 tolls and other municipal fines. The government is working with partners to develop a new, more user-friendly process that will continue to validate automobile insurance requirements, support law enforcement efforts and collect municipal fines and unpaid Highway 407 tolls.

The Ontario government is also investing in Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology as part of its commitment to provide police with the tools they need to do their jobs, improve public safety and strengthen roadside law enforcement efforts across the province. An ALPR system can read thousands of licence plates per minute allowing officers to process more information on licence plates. It also has the capability of capturing vehicles of interest such as amber alerts, drivers with a suspended licence, and stolen vehicles.

Ontario Eliminating Licence Plate Renewal Fees and Stickers | Ontario Newsroom

Renewal fees and requirements for licence plate stickers for heavy commercial vehicles and snowmobiles remain unchanged.

Quick Facts

- Eliminating renewal fees will save vehicle owners \$120 a year in southern Ontario and \$60 a year in Northern Ontario for passenger and light commercial vehicles.
- Vehicle owners should update their address before March 7, 2022 in order to receive a refund for fees previously paid by the end of April 2022.
- Physical licence plate stickers have been eliminated in other jurisdictions in Canada including Quebec, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Manitoba and Alberta.
- Drivers must continue to <u>renew their driver's licence</u> every five years online or at a ServiceOntario centre and pay a \$90 fee.
- ALPR is tested technology already being used by a number of Ontario police services.

Additional Resources

• Renew your licence plate for free after March 13, 2022

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

Information about road conditions, driver's licences, vehicle registration and commercial vehicles. Learn more

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

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Ontario's Newest Red Tape Reduction Act Features Fewer Fees, Better Services

Package increases affordability and simplicity for people and businesses

February 22, 2022Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

TORONTO — The Ontario government continues its work to make Ontario the first choice for families and businesses ready to invest with the introduction of this year's red tape reduction package, the *Fewer Fees, Better Services Act, 2022.*

Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, introduced the latest Act in the Legislature today.

"Since day one, we've been relentless in finding ways to make it easier for people and businesses to interact with the government," said Minister Tangri. "With this legislation, we want to create a business-ready environment for investment, put money back in people's pockets, and make Ontario the number one choice in North America to raise a family and operate a business."

The transformative actions taken by this government to-date, have resulted in almost \$400 million in net annual savings to businesses. If passed, this act will further support businesses and entrepreneurs, ease financial burdens on people and remove overly complex processes that only serve to frustrate and thwart investment.

Some of the proposed changes in the Act include:

- Cutting costs for millions of Ontario vehicle owners by refunding licence plate sticker renewal fees paid since March 1, 2020.
- Establishing a single window for business services, which will require service standard guarantees so businesses can track the information they need from the government.
- Helping to level the playing field for Ontario businesses by changing the government's approach to procurement. The change will strengthen the province's supply chain and help domestic businesses grow and create good paying jobs.
- Providing more flexibility related to provincial assets by creating a Centre of Realty Excellence. This holistic approach across all government-owned properties will ensure priority surplus properties align with key programs, including affordable housing and long-term care.
- Giving commuters a break by removing tolls from Highways 412 and 418. This responds particularly to requests from municipal leaders and Indigenous communities in Durham Region.

"Cutting red tape and modernizing our regulatory system remains a top priority for this government," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Making it easier to follow rules and holding government to clear service standards encourages our incredible entrepreneurs to invest in Ontario and create good jobs."

Ontarians expect clean air, clean water, safe products, and safe working conditions. Good rules and regulations are necessary to maintain these high standards. The changes Ontario has made to date are helping the government deliver clear and effective rules that promote public health and safeguard the environment without sacrificing innovation, growth and opportunity.

Quick Facts

- <u>The Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021</u> is part of <u>Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-</u> <u>Focused Government</u>, which includes more than 30 projects that are changing the way people and businesses interact with the government.
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario took immediate action to help people and businesses by passing five high-impact burden reduction bills in the past year: The <u>COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act</u>, 2020, <u>Main Street</u>

<u>Recovery Act, 2020</u>, <u>Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2020</u>, <u>Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act, 2021</u> and Supporting People and Business Act, 2021.

- To date, the government has taken more than 400 actions to reduce burdens without compromising health, safety, or the environment.
- To allow the government to introduce the 2022 Budget at a time when it can better assess the effects of the reopening of the economy and introduce a plan for recovery, the government is proposing to amend the Fiscal Sustainability, Transparency and Accountability Act (FSTAA) to extend the deadline to release the 2022 Budget from March 31, 2022 to April 30, 2022.

Additional Resources

- Ontario is building capacity so our economy can rebound stronger than ever
- Fewer Fees, Better Services
- 2021 Burden Reduction Report
- Businesses and consumers are encouraged to visit <u>SupportOntarioMade.ca</u>

Related Topics

Business and Economy

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

Media Contacts

Mary Perrone-Lisi Associate Minister Tangri's Office <u>Mary.Perrone-Lisi@ontario.ca</u>

Kwok Wong Communications Branch kwok.wong@ontario.ca 647-504-2774

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COVID-19 Case Summary

February 17, 2022

Total Confirmed Cases in Renfrew County and District (RCD): 3197 Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days: 123 Incidence Rate ^a in the Last 7 Days: 113.2 per 100,000 individuals		Current Status of Cases in RCD Self-Isolation: 149 Hospitalized: 14 Hospitalized in Intensive Care Unit: 3 Resolved: 3002 Deceased: 29	
Outbreak Setting	Cui	mulative Number of Outbreaks	Active Number of Outbreaks
Hospital	6		0
Long-term care home	15		3
Retirement home	9		2
Congregate living facility	12		2
Other ^C	38		0
Total	80		7
Total Number of tests completed fo RCD residents: 138,460		Percent Positivity ^b of tests completed for RCD residents (February 03, 2022-February 09, 2022) 14.9%	

• 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.

c Includes school/education/child care, workplaces, and other community outbreak settings. In alignment with Provincial guidance, RCDHU has shifted focus to mitigate outbreaks and transmission to vulnerable individuals in highest-risk settings such as hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, and congregate living facilities.

For more information on COVID-19 variants of concern in Ontario, please visit: <u>https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/covid-19-voc</u>

Renfrew County and District (RCD) COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout at a Glance

Updated: February 16, 2022

Key Messages

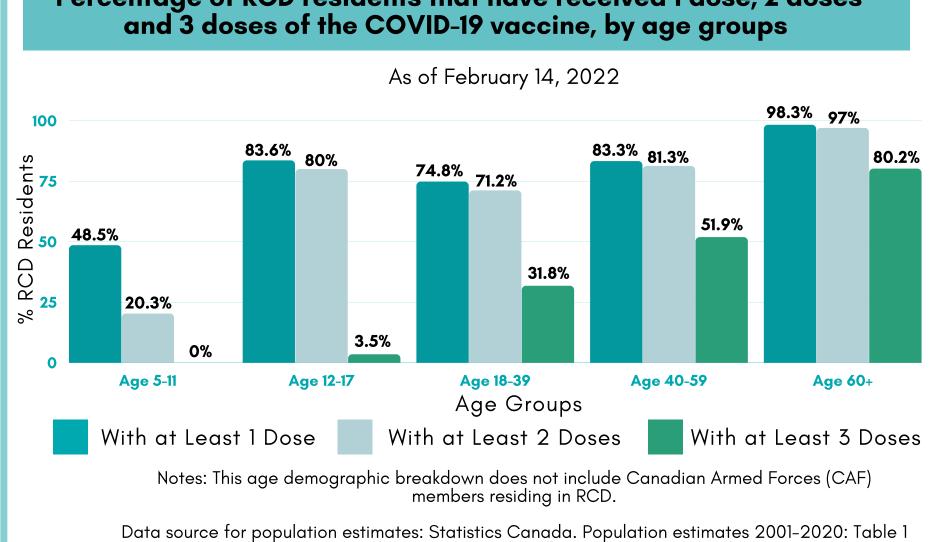
- **February 18, 2022:** Youth aged 12 to 17 will become eligible for the booster dose 6 months (168 days) after a second dose. Walk-ins will be accepted at all clinics. Click here to see the latest clinic schedule.
- Residents can book an appointment in **Pembroke** through the **Provincial COVID-19 vaccination** portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900. Residents that are unable to book online or do not have an Ontario Health Card can call RCDHU's COVID-19 Vaccination Information Line at 613-732-9436 or toll free at 1-833-773-0004.
 - To obtain your enhanced vaccine certificate with an official QR code, visit: https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/. If you cannot print your proof of vaccination, ask a trusted family member or friend or visit your local library.
 - **Eligible residents (18+)** can receive their third dose this week, if they received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine **on or before November 21, 2021**.



It is advised that **all residents in the general** population 5 years of age or older (including those who are, or plan to become, pregnant)

receive their COVID-19 vaccine. It is important to be fully vaccinated as quickly as possible, as vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illnesses like COVID-19 and variants of concern.

Nearly 4000 children aged 5-11 have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine!



*Does not include the number of doses that have been administered to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members.

**Includes Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members residing in RCD, according to Garrison Petawawa medical services.

To get the latest COVID-19 vaccine information visit: www.rcdhu.com or call 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004







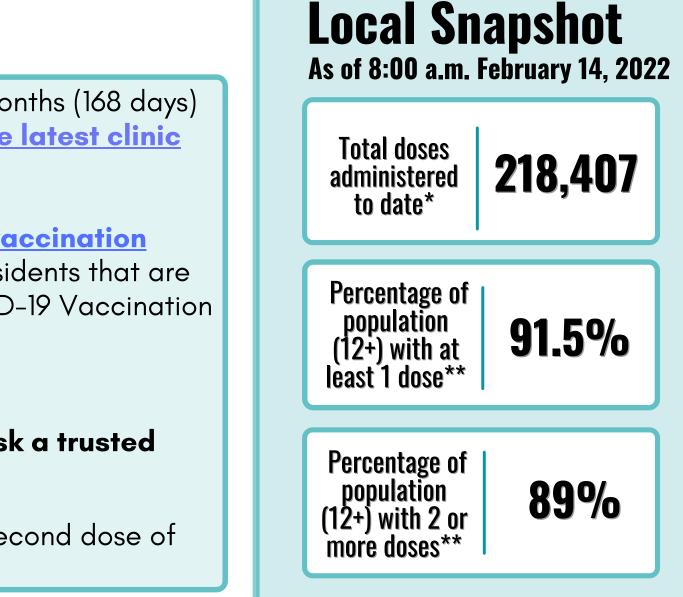




Arnprior & District **Family Health Team**







Percentage of RCD residents that have received 1 dose, 2 doses

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).









Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

Ontario's use of rapid antigen tests has also evolved with the emergence of Omicron, including expanded ways to use rapid antigen tests and now expanded distribution through the launch of widespread public access to further support the easing of public health measures.

When should I use a RAT?

Rapid antigen tests are now recommended for the following:

- For people with symptoms
 - A positive rapid antigen test is highly indicative that a symptomatic individual has COVID-19, and the individual and their household are required to self-isolate, in accordance with guidance.
 - If two consecutive rapid antigen tests, separated by 24-48 hours, are both negative, the symptomatic individual is less likely to be infected, and the individual is advised to self-isolate until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms).
- For people without symptoms as screening
 - One-off testing (e.g., before a social gathering) by people who are asymptomatic and without known exposure to someone with COVID-19 is generally not recommended. If you choose to use a rapid antigen test in this way it should be completed as close to the event as possible (e.g., ideally within a few hours of the event), and it's important to know that a negative result could be a false negative.
- For "test-to-work" purposes to meet critical workforce needs in the highest risk settings only
 - For the general public, close contacts should self-isolate in accordance with guidance.

Positive rapid antigen tests do not require confirmatory PCR/rapid molecular testing or reporting to public health.

Where can I obtain RATs in Renfrew County and District (RCD)? Current as of Feb 10, 2022

City/Town	Retailer Name			
Arnprior	• Metro • Rexall	 Shoppers Drug Mart 		
Barry's Bay	• Metro			
Calabogie	Calabogie Pharmacy			
Deep River	Cahoon's PharmacyRxDeep River Pharmacy	• Rx Drug Mart Deep River		
Pembroke	 Food Basics Metro Both Pharma Plus Locations 	 Rowans Pharmasave Shoppers Drug Mart Walmart 		
Petawawa	Pharma PlusShoppers Drug Mart			
Renfrew	Aikenhead's Drug Ltd.Rexall Pharma Plus	• Walmart		
Whitney	Whitney Pharmacy			

For the most up-to-date list of participating retailers visit: ontario.ca/page/rapid-testing-home-use

www.rcdhu.com

February 10, 2022

@RCDHealthUnit

2022 Farmland Forum THE FUTURE OF FARMLAND DIVERSIFICATION





March 24, 2022 Registration: 8:45 a.m Forum: 9:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. ONLINE CONFERENCE



Cost \$50 per person \$25 for students (Use discount code: Student)

Who should attend?

- Farmers
- Researchers
- Environmentalists
- PROTECTING FARMLAND FOREVER
 - · Provincial Policy Makers

To purchase your ticket, visit

www.ontariofarmlandtrust.ca

- Land Use Planners Municipal Councillors
 - I and Conservation Enthusiasts

Keynote Speakers:

- David Phillips, CM, Senior Climatologist, Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Evan Fraser, PhD, Director, Arrell Food Institute & Professor of Geography, University of Guelph
- Philly Markowitz, RPP, Economic Development Officer, Grey County

Thank you to our 2022 Farmland Forum Supporters:







Tickets:

For more information, please email info@ontariofarmlandtrust.ca









Canadian Nuclear | Laboratoires Nucléaires Laboratories | Canadiens

NEAR SURFACE DISPOSAL FACILITY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY PAGE 1 OF 464 232-513400-021-000

2022 February 11

BD-2022-001

Town of Arnprior Walter Stack 105 Elgin Street West Anrprior, ON K7S 0A8

Dear Mr. Walter Stack:

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is asking our stakeholders and the community to support our proposal to construct a Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) that will address legacy waste at the Chalk River Laboratories. With public hearings on the NSDF fast approaching, I am writing to make sure you are aware of the opportunity to participate in this important regulatory process.

Chalk River Laboratories has been the site of research leading to breakthroughs in science and technology for more than 70 years. To remain on the leading edge of ground-breaking discoveries, CNL is revitalizing the site. As part of the revitalization, the NSDF project will enable the permanent disposal of low level waste from the demolition of more than 100 aging structures and from contaminated lands, as well as waste from the decades of innovative, life-saving research at the site.

CNL has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Canada's nuclear regulator, to amend its existing site licence in order to construct the NSDF. The project has been under a rigorous review by the CNSC since 2017 and is also subject to a federal assessment under the 2012 *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

The CNSC has scheduled a public hearing, to begin on 2022 May 31, to consider CNL's application. The public comment period is now open to allow Indigenous communities, the public and other stakeholders to submit their written feedback on the NSDF project to the CNSC. At the hearing, interested parties will have the opportunity to present their views to CNSC Commissioners.

On behalf of CNL, I encourage you to consider participating in this important process. Comments can be submitted to the CNSC as a written intervention, which can be in the form of a letter. If you also wish to speak at the hearing, you can request to appear as an in-person delegation in support of your written submission. While CNL welcomes any support on the project, I believe that in-person interventions have the potential to make a significant impact on the process.

Chalk River LaboratoriesLaboratoires de Chalk River286 Plant Road286, chemin PlantChalk River, OntarioChalk River (Ontario) K0J 1J0Canada K0J 1J0CanadaTelephone:613-584-3311Toll Free:1-866-513-2325Sans frais:1-866-513-2325



Canadian Nuclear | Laboratoires Nucléaires Laboratories | Canadiens

2022 FEBRUARY 11

OFFICIAL USE ONLY PAGE 2 OF 464 232-513400-021-000

Both written submissions and in-person delegation requests must be made to the CNSC by **2022 April 11**. Details on how to submit an intervention can be found on the CNSC's website at http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/intervention/com Please feel free to email CNL directly at emmission/intervention/index.cfm. Please feel free to https://engagewithcnl.ca/nsdf for further information on how to participate in this process.

At CNL, we are confident that the NSDF is the right approach to protect our pristine environment here in the Ottawa Valley through the safe cleanup and disposal of low-level waste at Chalk River Laboratories. We appreciate your support as we work towards this goal.

Sincerely,

Joseph McBrearty President and Chief Executive Officer

From: Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada <<u>statcan.census-recensement.statcan@canada.ca</u>> Sent: February 9, 2022 2:48 PM

To: Walter Stack <<u>wstack@arnprior.ca</u>>

Subject: The 2021 Census data are here! Discover the latest population and dwelling counts/ Les données du Recensement de 2021 sont arrivées! Venez découvrir les plus récents chiffres de population et des logements

Hello,

Thanks to the steadfast support of all Canadians, Statistics Canada is proud to reveal our many rich stories and present "Your census, your stories: Canada's portrait." The first release of findings from the 2021 Census is now available online at <u>www.statcan.gc.ca/census</u>. The data provide overall population and dwelling counts that are vital to understanding how population growth and international and internal migration patterns have changed the fabric of Canada's provinces and territories, as well as its cities, towns and rural areas.

Canada's population grew at almost twice the pace of every other G7 country from 2016 to 2021, bringing our population to a total of 36,991,981 people. Approximately 1.8 million more people called Canada home in 2021 compared with five years earlier, with most of that growth attributable to new arrivals from around the world. Canada's population growth was however slowed down with the onset of the pandemic. Municipalities benefit from community-level census data when making important urban and rural planning decisions. For example, population counts and dwelling occupancy status can help municipalities budget for new community services and infrastructure.

The next release, on April 27, 2022, will look at the pace of population aging and showcase Canada's oldest and youngest communities. For the first time, we will release census information about gender identity in Canada. For more information about subsequent data release topics and timelines, visit the <u>2021 Census dissemination planning</u> web page.

Looking for a new way to access census data? Try our newest mobile app! <u>StatsCAN</u> is now available for download in the Apple and Google app stores.

Please help spread the news about the first release through your networks! Our <u>Community</u> <u>Supporter Toolkit</u> brings together web images, email templates, social media content, articles and newsletter content in one convenient location to help you share information about each data release.

You can also let us know how you are benefitting from census data: join the conversation by using our official #2021Census hashtag on your social media platforms.

If you have any questions, please contact Census Communications at: <u>statcan.census-</u><u>recensement.statcan@statcan.gc.ca</u>.

Sincerely,

Anil Arora Chief Statistician of Canada Statistics Canada / Government of Canada

-					
	COUI	NCIL RESOLU	TION		
MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH	Resolutio	on No.: <u>44</u> -2	2	Date: <u>Feb 8, 2022</u>	
Moved By: DONN	ABLUNT				
Seconded By: Dow	SMITH				
THAT Council hereby supports the resolution from Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding supporting the expansion of Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) to address the urgent need for physicians in Northern Ontario; and BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, Minister of Health Christine Elliot,					
Minister of Coneges and Oniversities on Duniop, Minister of Health Christine Endt, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade Victor Fedeli, local MP's and MPP's, Ontario Medical Association, Northern School of Medicine, Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), all Ontario Municipalities.					
Carried	Defeated	Amended	Deferre	d	
			Mendif	Landre	
	Municipality of Shuniah,	420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder	Bay, Ontario, PTA 1X8	Signature	

From: Ontario Clean Air Alliance <<u>contact@cleanairalliance.org</u>>
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Walter Stack
Subject: Lower overnight electricity rates for EVs - Maximizing the benefits



Maximizing the benefits of lower overnight electricity rates for EVs

Energy Minister Todd Smith's proposal to establish <u>a lower overnight electricity rate for</u> <u>electric vehicle charging</u> will reward Ontario families that purchase **electric** cars and pick-up trucks.



But we also need a zero-carbon electricity grid and bi-directional chargers to make Ontario an EV leader.

 If Doug Ford really wants to make Ontario an EV manufacturing powerhouse, Ontarians must be able to **power their EVs with zero-carbon electricity**.
 Unfortunately, Ontario's gas plants are no longer just peaker plants. Today they are also operating during 40 to 50% of our night time (off-peak) hours in the summer and winter respectively. And by 2026, these polluting gas plants will be operating during <u>86 to 93%</u> of these off-peak hours according to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). Ontario is going in the wrong direction. It doesn't make sense to power our EVs with polluting gas. **Ontario must invest in energy efficiency and renewables** so that we can power our EVs with 100% zero-carbon electricity.

2. We also need to **install bi-directional chargers** so that our <u>EVs can send power</u> <u>back to the grid</u> during the hottest summer and coldest winter days to help us phase-out our gas plants. Unfortunately, most of the EV chargers that are being installed today are one-directional. That is, they can power our EVs, but they don't allow our EVs to send power back to the grid during peak demand hours. This is very short-sighted since <u>by</u> <u>2030 the capacity of our EV batteries will be more than double the capacity of our gas</u> <u>plants</u>. *This is urgent.* **Minister Smith needs to incentivize the installation of bidirectional charging now before millions of "dumb" and "one-directional" chargers are purchased.**

What you can do

Please <u>contact Minister Smith</u> and tell him that we need to decarbonize our electricity grid and our EVs by investing in energy efficiency, renewables and bidirectional chargers.

Send your message here

Thank you!

Angela Bischoff, Director





From: Governance Solutions <<u>do-not-reply@governancesolutions.worketc.com</u>
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Walter Stack
Subject: Stop struggling with the basics of financial literacy!

Hi Walter,

Are you struggling with fully understanding your organization's financials?

Don't worry; you are not alone - and we are here for you!

Basics in Financial Literacy is designed for executives, board members, and organizational leaders navigating the **early stages** of financial literacy.

Learn more about where you fall here: governancesolutions.ca/basics

This 4-week program gives you the confidence you need to truly understand your organization's income statements and balance sheets!

These highly interactive live – online – sessions will familiarize you with practical tools, and then engage you in board simulations to gain practical experience in implementing what you've learned.

March 16th to April 6th Every Wednesday, 1pm to 2:30pm (ET)

You will learn and understand how to keep your organization's score through:

- Growth: revenue and the statement of income

- Profits: expenses, profits, and the statement of income.
- Cash: assets and the statement of financial position
- Capital: liabilities, equity, and the statement of financial position.

Sign up now and save: Early-bird price: CAD\$ 595 Standard price: CAD\$ 795

Are you ready for a financial skill booster? Visit governancesolutions.ca/basics

Regards,

Governance Solutions Tel: 1-888-698-3971 Join us on <u>LinkedIn</u> | <u>Twitter</u> | <u>Facebook</u> Access <u>GovernanceSolutions.ca</u> The pastoral care committee of Grace Saint Andrew's church is proposing to offer an ongoing support group to provide emotional support, encouragement and information about available community services for care givers. The group will be led by a trained facilitator.

Caregivers, for the purpose of this group are people dealing with an adult family member or friend unable to care for themselves because of a disability, chronic illness or age. This care can be provided to a person within your home or at a distant.

Research shows that having someone to talk to can relieve stress and make the challenge just a little less daunting.

The group will be run every 2 weeks initially and then once per month, if the group members feel that is sufficient. This will be a small, informal group of 8 to 10 people. There is no charge for the group. Everything shared in the group will be confidential. Only information about community resources and coping skills, etc will be passed on to others. There is a possibility of providing care for your loved one during the group, if that is a barrrier for you to attend the group (We are working with Seniors at Home on this issue).

We are proposing to have an introductory meeting on March 03 from 1:30 to 3 pm in the Douglas Lounge at Grace Saint Andrews church.

For more information, or to indicate interest, please contact jean at 613-602-7889



Restrictions are lifting, be sure the public knows your updated hours & location <u>Click Here</u> to update your Chamber Profile

Living Wage Webinar

Did you know that a living wage was calculated for Renfrew County in 2021, and it came out to \$17.40 per hour? A living wage is calculated by looking at the real expenses workers must cover while also enjoying modest participation in their civic and cultural community. It is the hourly wage that employers can pay to be sure that their employees are able to make ends meet.

<u>There are 446 businesses in Ontario</u>—representing all sizes and sectors—that are certified living wage employers, with more added every week. They report a variety of benefits to certification: lower turnover, reduced recruiting costs, better morale, and higher productivity to name a few.

The <u>Ontario Living Wage Network</u> oversees the local calculations in collaboration with local organizers, and in Renfrew County this includes Lyn Smith of Renfrew County Child Poverty Action Network (CPAN).

Learn more about the importance of a living wage in your community, a business case for paying a living wage and how to become a certified living wage employer. Join Lyn, along with certified employer Dez Blair-Patel from Integrated health Centre and Anne Coleman from the Ontario Living Wage Network on February 25th, 12:00 p.m.

REGISTER TO ATTEND NOW

Like us on Facebook

IN THE KNOW

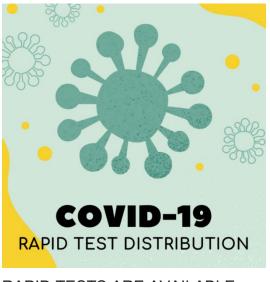


Effective February 17, 2022, Ontario will further ease public health measures, including:

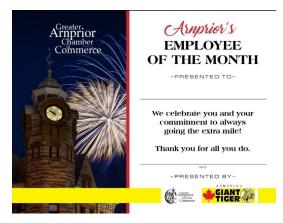
- Increasing social gathering limits to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors
- Increasing organized public event limits to 50 people indoors, with no limit outdoors
- Removing capacity limits in the following indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to:
 - Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities
 - Non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms
 - \circ Cinemas
 - Meeting and event spaces, including conference centres or convention centres
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments

- Indoor areas of settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.
- Allowing 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity at sports arenas
- Allowing 50 percent of the usual seating capacity for concert venues and theatres
- Increasing indoor capacity limits to 25 per cent in the remaining higherrisk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including nightclubs, restaurants where there is dancing, as well as bathhouses and sex clubs.
- Increasing capacity limits for indoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites, or ceremonies to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance. Capacity limits are removed if the location opt-in to proof of vaccination or if the service, rite, or ceremony is occurring outdoors.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL NEWS RELEASE

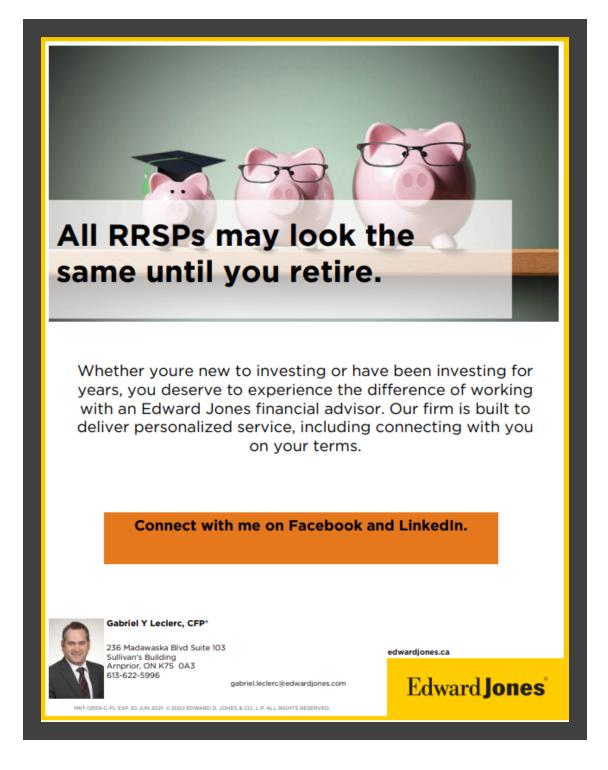


RAPID TESTS ARE AVAILABLE ONCE AGAIN FROM THE GACC! If your business wishes to take part in the program, please complete the <u>order form</u> and we will contact you to book your distribution time.



We are bringing back the Employee of the Month program.

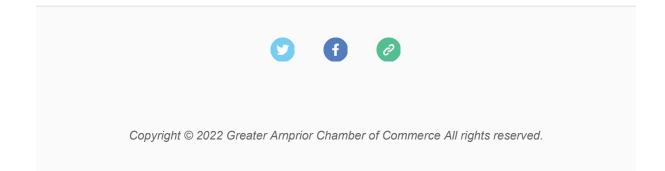
We know how hard you all work and how much you value your team members. Whether your business has nominated someone in the past or not, PLEASE EMAIL <u>info@gacc.ca</u> your submissions for your employee of the month and LET US thank them for all they do.



Member Exclusive Offers



Did you know you could have health insurance for your employees through our Chamber Members Plan? Be sure to email Heather for more information. (<u>heather@doucettinsurance.ca</u>)







Issue No. 319

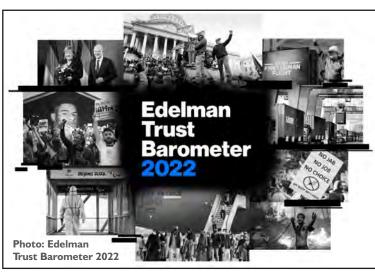
Trust: Who Has It? Who Doesn't? Business continues to be relied upon for leadership

By: Jennifer Layman jenn@ovbusiness.com

The 2022 Edelman Trust Barometer is an annual survey on trust and credibility. It has been conducted for the past 22 years. This year's survey was conducted between November 1 and November 24, 2021. Edelman is a global communications firm and since opening in 1952, has remained an independent, family-run company.

Distrust is now society's default emotion. Nearly 6 in 10 say their default tendency is to distrust something until they see evidence it is trustworthy. Another 64 per cent say it's now to a point where people are incapable of having constructive and civil debates about issues they disagree on. When distrust is the default – we lack the ability to debate or collaborate.

At 61 per cent, business is the most trusted institution, ahead of NGOs at 59 per cent, government at 52 per cent and media at only 50 per cent.



Seventy-seven per cent of respondents, however, trust "my employer," making the relationship between employer and employee incredibly important.

The Results Government and media fuel a cycle of distrust. We find a world ensnared in a vicious cycle of distrust, fuelled by a growing lack of faith in media and government. Through disinformation and division, these two institutions are feeding the cycle and exploiting it for commercial and political gain. Nearly one out of every two respondents view government and media as divisive forces in society - 48 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively. Furthermore, government leaders and journalists are seen as the least trusted societal leaders today, with less than half of respondents trusting either (government leaders at 42 per cent and journalists at 46 per cent).

February 15, 2022

News sources fail to fix their trust problem. None of the major information sources are trusted as a source of general news and information, with trust in search engines at 59 per cent, followed by traditional media at 57 per cent, owned media at 43 per cent and social media at only 37 per cent.

Fake news concerns are at an all-time high. Concerns over fake news or false information being used as a weapon are now at an all-time high of 76 per cent.

There is a collapse of trust in democracies. In many of the democracies studied, institutions are trusted by less than half of their people, including only 46 pts in Germany, 45 pts in Spain, 44 pts in the UK and 43 pts in the U.S. Moreover, no developed countries believe their families and self will be better in 5 years time.

Continued on page 3



Pick up the Winter 2020 issue today!

Copies have been distributed around Renfrew County and the surrounding area so pick up your copy today. Great advice and helpful information on a variety of topics to help you make good, healthful choices in all areas of your life. Thanks to our incredible contributors.



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.

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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 businessrelated, please consider 101 Things To Do in the Valley at a cost of \$25. 101 things@travelourbackyard.com

CONTACT US

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

MAILING ADDRESS

2113 Petawawa Boulevard, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 7G8

Events

February 15, 2022 Social Enterprise 101. A unique type of business that uses revenuegenerating activities to achieve a social, environmental or cultural good. 12:00pm-1:00pm. Free webinar. Hosted by Invest Ottawa. www.investottawa.ca/events

February 15, 2022 Introduction to Instagram Advertising. A foundational understanding of Instagram advertising and further their knowledge to create improved advertisements that really work. 9:00am-10:00am. Free webinar. Hosted by Small Business Advisory Centre. 613-283-7002 ext.108 or cjames@smallbizcentre.ca

February 16, 2022 Supplying Professional Services to the Government of Canada. Key information to help you bid on professional services opportunities. 10:00am-12:00pm. Free webinar. 1-800-668-5378

February 16, 2022 Small Business Websites 101. Free webinar. This beginner-level workshop covers everything from choosing and registering a domain name, building the website and security. 9:00am-10:30am. www.obiaa.com/events

February 16, 2022 Ask The Expert- All About Taxes. MQ Accounting will discuss taxes and payroll as well as provide tips and feedback in a Q&A session. 10:00am-11:00am. Free webinar. Hosted by Small Business Advisory Centre. 613-283-7002 x.108 or cjames@smallbizcentre.ca

February 22, 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

February 22, 2022 Developing A Powerful Community On LinkedIn. A guide through the process of completing and optimizing a professional LinkedIn profile and developing a powerful community on LinkedIn. 9:00am-10:00am. Free webinar. Hosted by Small Business Advisor Centre. 613-283-7002 ext.108 or cjames@smallbizcentre.ca

February 23, 2022 Grow Your Brand on Instagram. Free online webinar. 7:00pn-8:30pm. 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

February 23, 2022 Protecting Your Future: Business Insurance Guide. Community Futures welcomes insurance representative, Samuel Brisco to discuss how having adequate insurance can protect your business from commonly experienced losses and why cyber security is more important than ever. Register at https://bankruptcy.eventbrite.ca

February 23, 2022 Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. Virtual at 1:00pm. manager@uovchamber.com

February 24, 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 **March 2, 2022**

Teeny Tiny Conference Webinar 3. Renewed, Refreshed and the New Rural. Keynote by Robin Jones, Chari of ROMA. Opportunities for rural Ontario in a post-COVID world. 10:00am. www. teenytinysummits.omafrabdbevents.ca

March 3, 2022

Bookkeeping 101: What business owners need to know. Free online webinar. 9:00am-11:00am. Allowable expenses, write-offs, annual and quarterly remittances, vehicle expenses and more. Hosted by Small Business Advisor Centre. 613-283-7002 ext.108 or cjames@smallbizcentre.ca

March 7, 2022 Employment Standards Webinar. What employers need to know. 9:30am-12:00pm. Hosted by Lanark County chambers of commerce. www.smallbizcentre.ca

March 8, 2022 Creating and Utilizing Facebook Groups. This webinar will focus on the benefits of setting up a Facebook Group as a value-add for your business. 9:00am-10:00am. Free webinar. Hosted by Small Business Advisor Centre. 613-283-7002 x.108 or cjames@smallbizcentre.ca

March 8, 2022 Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. info@renfrewareachamber.ca

Submit your business event to admin@ovbusiness.com

Deadlines

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

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

Publishing: March 15, 2022 Deadline: March 8, 2022

Publishing: April 5, 2022 Deadline: March 29, 2022

Publishing: April 19, 2022 Deadline: April 12, 2022 101 Things To Do in the Valley

FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR

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

Summer Edition

Publishing: July 5, 2022 Deadline: June 28, 2022

Fall Edition Publishing: October 4, 2022

HealthMatters

Winter Edition This issue has been distributed

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

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

Ottawa Valley Business

Business Asked To Step Up "People want more business engagement"

SOCIETAL LEADERSHIP NOW A CORE BUSINESS FUNCTION

Photo: Edelman Trust Barometer 2022

Continued from page 1

Societal fears on the rise. Without faith our institutions will provide solutions or societal leadership, societal fears are becoming more acute. Most notably, 85 per cent are worried about job loss and 75 per cent worry about climate change.

Business needs to step up on societal issues. We see an even greater expectation of business to lead as trust in government continues to spiral. But this is not a job business can do on its own. Business must work with all institutions to foster innovation and drive impact. While business outscores government by 53 points on competency and 26 points on ethics, respondents believe business is not doing enough to address societal problems, including climate change (52 per cent), economic inequality (49 per cent), workforce re-skilling (46 per cent) and trustworthy information (42 per cent).

Societal leadership is now a core function of business. When considering a job, 60 per cent of employees want their CEO to speak out on controversial issues they care about and 80 per cent of the general population want CEOs to be personally visible when discussing public policy with external stakeholders or work their company has done to benefit society. In particular, CEOs are expected to shape conversation and policy on jobs and the economy (76 per cent), wage inequity (73 per cent), technology and automation (74 per cent) and global warming and climate change (68 per cent).

Business must lead in breaking the cycle of distrust. Across every single issue, by a huge margin, people want more business engagement, not less. For example, on climate change, 52 per cent say business is not doing enough, while only 9 per cent say it is overstepping. The role and expectation for business has never been clearer, and business must recognize that its societal role is here to stay.

> Interesting Business <u>Findings</u>

Here are some additional findings related to business in the 2022 report.

Beliefs and values. Interestingly, all stakeholders hold business accountable. Fiftyeight per cent will buy or advocate for brands based on their beliefs and values, 60 per cent will choose a place to work based on their beliefs and values and 64 per cent will invest based on their beliefs and values.

Family-owned lead the way. Family-owned businesses continue to have the highest level of trust of all types of business with 67 per cent. Privately-held businesses have a trust level of 58 per cent while publicly traded businesses come in at 56 per cent. State-owned businesses have the lowest trust factor at 52 per cent.

Headquarters. While companies headquartered in Canada and Germany have both lost a per cent of trust, they still rank the highest at 65 per cent. Neutral rankings for Japan, UK, France and U.S. come in at 59, 58, 57 and 53 per cent respectively, though France has gained 1 per cent and the U.S. has gained 2 per cent. Trust for companies headquartered in South Korea (47%), India (36%) and China (34%) is in the distrust category.

Restoring The Cycle of Trust

Edelman recommends the following four steps to restore the cycle of trust:

1. Business' societal role is here to stay. People want more business leadership, not less.

2. Demonstrate tangible progress. Restore belief in society's ability to build a better future. Show the system works.

3. Focus on long-term thinking. Solutions over divisiveness; leaderships must focus on long-term thinking over short-term gain.

4. Provide credible information. Trustworthy, consistent and fact-based information is critical to breaking the cycle of distrust.

For the full (and free) Edelman Trust Barometer 2022, visit www.edelman.com/trust/2022-

Finance

Financial news from CPA Canada, www.cpacanada.com.

Benefits Extended The government has extended access to the Local Lockdown Program and Worker Lockdown Benefit until March 12, 2022.

T1 Notices of Assessment Changes Deferred

Draft legislation released pm February 4, 2022 indicates the effective date for the measures on the electronic delivery of certain notices of assessment is January 1, 2023.

Financial news from the federal government.

Tax Filing Deadline The tax-filing deadline for most individuals is April 30. As it falls on a Saturday, a return will be considered filed on time if Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) receives it on or before May 2 or it is postmarked on or before May 2. You have until June 15 to file your return if you, your spouse or common law-partner are self-employed. The payment deadline is April 30. If you filed your 2020 return and qualified for interest relief, you have until April 30, 2022 to pay any outstanding income tax debt for the 2020 tax year. This applies to the tax owing for the 2020 tax year only.

COVID-19 Benefits

If you received benefits issued by the CRA in 2021, such as the Canada Recovery Benefit, a T4A information slip will be mailed to you by the end of February 2022. Quebec residents will receive a T4A slip and RL-1 slip.

Home Office Expenses You may be eligible to claim a deduction of up to \$500 annually for home office expenses in the 2021 tax year if you worked more than 50 per cent of the time from home for a period of at least four consecutive weeks due to COVID-19. This can also be used if your employer provided you a choice to work from home due to COVID-19.

Continued on page 5

Business News Around The Valley

Business Re-Opens In Petawawa

Art-E-Motive has re-opened after a fire destroyed their business last year. The business is now located at 2669 Petawawa Boulevard in Petawawa.

Kim Fraser To Retire

Kim Fraser, Program Officer for Enterprise Renfrew County has submitted her notice of retirement effective March 17, 2022. Kim has been an employee with the County of Renfrew working with Enterprise Renfrew County and aiding Starter and Summer Company programs for the past 14 years.

Renfrew County Building Stats

For 2021, the County of Renfrew opened 200 severance applications compared to 106 applications in 2020. In total 783 new lots received draft or final approval compared to 391 in 2020. Two new subdivision applications have been received that propose to create an additional 322 lots. A total of 254 formal requests for general inquiries (planning checklists) were received and staff responded to 229 other inquiries.

Third Dose Required Effective January 28, 2022, third dose boosters are mandatory for all staff, volunteers, students, and essential caregivers at Miramichi Lodge and Bonnechere Manor, two longterm care homes owned by the County of Renfrew.

New Name For Health Team

The Network 24 Ontario Health Team (OHT) is now the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT). The new name selection process took place over the past six months. Names were suggested and then a general survey was completed in the fall of 2021. Ninety-six per cent of respondents chose Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team. The team will now move forward with branding development, a logo and the creation of a website. Fifty agencies and organizations have officially signed on to be a part of the group. The Ottawa Valley OHT's catchment area includes a broad and diverse set of communities in and around the Ottawa Valley. The OVOHT includes Renfrew, past Deep River, Calabogie, Barry's Bay, Eganville, Cobden, Pembroke, Petawawa and South Algonquin. The area covers approximately 7,600 square kilometers and 80,000 residents. Contact Lesley Buckingham at 613-281-0954 or lbuckingham@countyofrenfrew. on.ca

Ontario Business Grant The Ontario Small Business Relief Grant portal is now open until March 11. Relief may be available for newly established businesses, businesses that may not have previously applied to the Ontario Small Business Support Grant in 2021, businesses that were previously deemed ineligible but are now eligible. To be eligible, businesses will need to confirm that they had fewer than 100 employees as of December 31, 2021, were an active business as of January 14, 2022 and were required to close indoor operations on January 5, 2022. Details at www.app.grants. gov.on.ca/osbrg/#/

Businesses Sell in Petawawa Quality Inn and Suites in Petawawa has been sold. The new owner is Frioz Khan of Bolton, Ontario. This is Khan's first hotel property. Banville Yamaha has been sold to the Slaughter Auto. France & Roger Banville have sold the business after 28 years. Slaughter Auto has changed the name of the business to Ottawa Valley Yamaha. They remain located at 3133 Petawawa Boulevard.

Submit your business news to admin@ovbusiness.com

COMMUNITY FUTURES FRANCOPHONE JOB CREATION PROGRAM

50% WAGE SUBSIDY

THE COMMUNITY FUTURES FRANCOPHONE JOB CREATION PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL

INCENTIVES TO RENFREW COUNTY EMPLOYERS

TO HIRE FRANCOPHONE SPEAKING EMPLOYEES THROUGH A 50% WAGE SUBSIDY.

Renfrew County employers are eligible for the following

for a new francophone hire:

- Up to 50% employee wage subsidy

- Up to 50% advertising contribution for job position

Employees hired on or after September 24, 2021 eligible.

Available through to March 31, 2022.

CALL 613-431-3951 EXT. 229

OR EMAIL KELLEY.LEMENCHICK@RCCFDC.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION. PROGRAMME FRANCOPHONE POUR LA CRÉATION D'EMPLOIS société d'aide au développement des collectivités (sadc)

SUBVENTION SALARIALE DE 50 %

LA SADC OFFRIRA UNE SUBVENTION SALARIALE DE 50 % AUX EMPLOYEURS DU COMTÉ DE RENFREW QUI EMBAUCHENT DES EMPLOYÉS FRANCOPHONES VIA LE PROGRAMME FRANCOPHONE POUR LA CRÉATION D'EMPLOIS.

Les employeurs du comté de Renfrew qui embauchent des employés francophones pourront recevoir : - une subvention allant jusqu'à 50% des dépenses salariales encourues; - un soutien financier allant jusqu'à 50% des frais pour annoncer ces postes.

Les subventions sont disponibles jusq'au 31 mars 2022.

POUR EN SAVOIR PLUS, VEUILLEZ COMMUNIQUER AVEC NOUS AU 613-431-3951 POSTE 229 OU KELLEY.LEMENCHICK@RCCFDC.ORG







Ottawa Valley Business

Waste Recovery Centre Celebrates 20 Years

The Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre (OVWRC) is celebrating 20 years in business. Since 2002, OVWRC has worked with local municipalities to keep over 300,000 tonnes of recyclables, food and yard waste and construction and demolition material out of landfill.

In January 2002, the material recovery facility, containerized compost facility and construction and demolition site began receiving material from surrounding communities. Built next to the existing landfill site, the goal of the centre was to extend the life of the landfill. The landfill has been operating since 1977 and is expected to reach capacity by 2035.

During the last 20 years, the site has seen significant changes. The household hazardous waste program was expanded and continues to operate year-round along with the electronic waste program which was launched in 2009. The leachate treatment system was constructed in 2010 to capture and filter ground and surface water that may be impacted by landfill operations. To complement the leachate treatment system 108 poplar trees were planted in 2014. They help absorb and filter water before it reaches the leachate treatment system. An additional 200 trees were planted in 2017 and 1,000 in 2021. A landfill gas collection system became operational in 2011 and a reuse centre opened in 2015. The landfill gas collection system was expanded in 2020 with an additional 12 wells installed.

Five employees have been with OVWRC since 2001. They are Laurie Benjamin, Elizabeth Graham, Chris Hoffman, Mary Ryan and Alan Schutt.

Finance

Continued from page 3

Canada Workers Benefit The Canada Workers Benefit rates and income thresholds have changed for 2021 and a new secondary earner exemption has also been introduced.

Climate Action Payment The government has announced its intention to deliver the climate action incentive (CAI) as a quarterly benefit payment. If you are a resident of Ontario and you are eligible, you will automatically receive your CAI payments four times a year, starting in July 2022. To receive your payments, you have to file a tax return even if you have not received income in the year. You may qualify for the supplement for residents of small and rural communities if you currently reside outside of a census metropolitan area.

Support For Farmers

The government outlined in Budget 2021 the objective of returning a portion of proceeds from the price on pollution to farmers in jurisdictions without a carbon pricing system which includes Ontario. For 2021, under proposed legislation, farmers who incur eligible farming expenses of \$25,000 or more may be able to receive a credit of \$1.47 per \$1,000 in eligible farming expenses.

Educator Tax Credit To support teachers and early childhood educators, the government proposes to expand and enrich the *Eligible Educator* School Supply Tax Credit to allow a 25 per cent refundable tax credit for purchases up to \$1,000 on eligible teaching supplies. The government also proposes to expand the list of eligible teaching supplies. This would take effect starting with the 2021 tax year. Educators are eligible regardless of their income level for a refundable tax credit of up to \$250 each year.

FREE Transportation to COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in Renfrew County



This service is available to all residents of Renfrew County who are eligible for vaccination and to individuals who require wheelchair specialized transportation.

Not sure who to call? Call 1-833-617-4357 for your local transportation provider.

If you require transportation or wheelchair accessible transportation to your vaccination appointment in Renfrew County, your Community Support Services will provide your transportation free of charge.

To book a drive, call:

Arnprior McNab Braeside Seniors at Home Program Phone: 613-623-7981

Renfrew & Area Seniors Home Support Phone: 613-432-7691

Calabogie & Area Home Support Phone: 613-752-2828

Eganville & District Seniors Phone: 613-628-2354 Carefor Health & Community Services (Pembroke) Phone: 613-732-9993

Barry's Bay & Area Senior Citizen's Home Support Phone: 613-756-2772

North Renfrew Long-Term Care Services (Deep River) Phone: 613-584-1900 It's A Fact

Federal

Government

COVID Vaccine

Procurement

Initial Vaccine

Agreement Doses

20 Million

Initial agreement doses with

AstraZeneca

2 Million

Initial agreement doses with

Verity Pharmaceuticals Canada

44 Million

Initial agreement doses with

Moderna

76 Million

Initial agreement doses with

Pfizer

Ottawa Valley Business

Page 6

38 Million Initial agreement doses with

76 Million Initial agreement doses with

not authorized)

76 Million

Initial agreement doses with Novavax (this agreement was not authorized)

72 Million Initial agreement doses with Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline (this agreement was not authorized)

404 Million Total initial vaccine agreements (11 doses per Canadian)

Vaccine Amended

Agreement Doses 35 Million

Agreement amendment of doses with Moderna for 2022

35 Million Agreement amendment of doses with Moderna for 2023

35 Million

Agreement amendment of doses with Moderna for 2024

65 Million

Agreement amendment of doses with Pfizer for 2022

60 Million

Agreement amendment of doses with Pfizer for 2023

60 Million

Agreement amendment of doses with Pfizer for 2024

290 Million

Total initial vaccine agreements (8 doses per Canadian)

Other COVID

Response Numbers 286.9 Million

Syringes ordered by Canada to administer the vaccines

616

Freezers purchased by the Government of Canada to store the vaccines

100 Refrigerators purchased by the Government of Canada to store

the vaccines

10

Companies who have been awarded standing offers for the national delivery of tens of thousands of kilograms of dry ice weekly

\$16,138,945.90

Contract awarded to Deloitte Inc for Public Health Agency of Canada surveillance and coverage IT systems to help manage vaccine rollout, administration and reporting.

36.357.537

Population of Canada age 5 and older

Source: Government of Canada https://www.canada.ca/en/ public-services-procurement/services/ procuring-vaccines-covid I 9.html

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

Johnson & Johnson Medicago (this agreement was

Government News In Brief Emergency, movies money, 30-week PSW, addictions, Islamophobia

Ontario Declares State of Emergency On February 12, 2022, the Ontario government declared a provincial emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. The new measures make it illegal to impede access to or exit from critical infrastructure, including 400-series highways, airports, canals, hospitals, infrastructure for the supply of utilities, international and interprovincial bridges and crossings, locations where COVID-19 vaccines are administered, ports, power generation and transmission facilities and railways. The new measures also strengthen police powers to disperse crowds and remove vehicles, as well as suspend or cancel permits, licences and certificates under the Highway Traffic Act.

Ambassador Bridge Decision The Ontario Superior Court of Justice has issued an order that individuals are restrained and enjoined from impeding or blocking access to the Ambassador Bridge and indirect or direct approaching roadways and access points for 10 days (until February 21, 2022). The court also ordered that persons remain at liberty to engage in a peaceful, lawful and safe protest that does not impede or block access to the Ambassador Bridge and approaching roadways. **Ontario Invests \$2 Million To**

Create Movies The Ontario government is investing \$2 million in Hideaway Pictures of Sudbury to create four movies. The funding, through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. In 2020, Hideaway Pictures received \$4.5 million to produce a television series and four television movies.

> \$90 Million For Addictions Help

Due to increased opioid-related deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic - an increase of 79 per cent during the first two waves alone - the Government of Ontario is investing \$90 million in a new Addictions Recovery Fund to provide help in this sector. This is in addition to the 2020-21 investment of \$194 million in response to the COVID-19 outbreak mental health and addiction emergency funding, plus \$2.5 million for an online therapy tool and \$175 million in the 2021 budget for additional mental health and addictions support.

PSW In 30 Weeks Due to the need for PSWs emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government is providing a "Grow Your Own HSW-PSW" funding program for Lambton County, Sarnia, Essex County, Windsor and Chatham-Kent. The 30-week program offers participants to be paid by employers and receive up to \$3,000 to offset costs like travel and childcare. After the training, the graduates will be full-time personal support workers.

Combatting Islamophobia With Toronto Police reporting an increase of 51 per cent in hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government is contributing \$150,000 to the Muslim Association of Canada and \$50,000 to the Naseeha Youth Helpline to help support Muslim students in Ontario's school system. Last year, the Ontario government provided \$225,000 to the Muslim Association of Canada and \$50,000 to the National Council of Canadian Muslims to help build awareness of Islamophobia and provide check-in sessions across Ontario.

\$538 Million To Colleges The Ontario government is providing \$583 million over three years for colleges and universities to modernize classrooms, upgrade technology, carry out critical repairs and support virtual learning. This is more than double the investment made in 2019-20.

Expired Ontario Health Cards Are Still OK

With the ability to renew health cards meeting challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, if Ontarians have an expired health card, they can still obtain healthcare services. The Ontario government is extending the deadline to renew health cards until September 30, 2022 due to challenges with accessing resources during the pandemic.

Ontario To Ban Educators With Sexual Convictions

The Ontario government is going to become the first Canadian jurisdiction to publicly disclose and make parents and guardians aware of educators that have been involved in sexual abuse and other serious criminal proceedings. The government is also going to require a lifetime ban on any educator who has engaged in physical sexual relations with a student or is involved in any way with child pornography. This ban retroactively applies to any educator who was reinstated for previous similar acts.

Ontario Loses 145,000 Jobs Statistics Canada released employment numbers showing Ontario's employment decreased by 145,700 in January. The Ontario government notes that vaccination remains the key to a healthy economy. According to February 6, 2022 Public Health Ontario data, 84.4 per cent of Ontarians have had one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 79.9 per cent have completed the "primary series" of vaccinations (two doses of a two-dose Health Canada approved vaccine, one dose of a one-dose Health Canada approved vaccine, one dose of a non-Health Canada approved vaccine or three doses of any vaccine, whether approved by Health Canada or not.

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

Tender Results Around The Valley

RFT 23-21 Reconstruction of Ferguson Lake Road (Phase 1). Greater Madawaska. Bonnechere Ex. - \$2,201,362.95 R.G.T. Clouthier - \$2,232,232.00 Cavanagh - \$2,384,799.54 B.R. Fulton - \$2,463,699.00 Aecon Const. - \$2,794,000.00 R.W. Tomlinson - \$2,996,613.00 H & H Const. - \$5,044,394.46

PW-C-05-2022-22-E0 – Road Rehabilitation of County Road #14 (Narrows Lock Road). Lanark County. County Road 14 Crains Const. - \$718,032.50 Arnott Bros. - \$728,037.50 County Road 22 Crains Const. - \$75,350.00 Arnott Bros. - \$75,350.00

PW-C-12-2022-22-E0 – Micro **Resurfacing. Lanark County.** <u>CR511</u> Duncor Ent. - \$536,902.00 Miller Paving - \$422,280.50 <u>CR12-CR511</u> Duncor Ent. - \$153,418.00 Miller Paving - \$100,945.50 CR7 Duncor Ent. - \$167,339.70 Miller Paving - \$116,785.70 **CR19** Duncor Ent. - \$168,371.20 Miller Paving - \$140,299.20 **CR17** Duncor Ent. - \$133,399.00 Miller Paving - \$86,337.00 **CR29** Duncor Ent. - \$536,902.00 Miller Paving - \$422,280.50 Glen Tay Road Duncor Ent. - \$235,848.00 Miller Paving - \$164,520.00 Anglican Church Road Duncor Ent. - \$198,927.00 Miller Paving - \$138,305.00 Rideau River Road Duncor Ent. - \$414,900.00 Miller Paving - \$296,750.00 Harper Connie Road Duncor Ent. - \$64,960.00 Miller Paving - \$41,900.00 Clayton Road Duncor Ent. - \$386,208.00 Miller Paving - \$385,680.00 Bayview Lodge Duncor Ent. - \$114,144.00 Miller Paving - \$77,840.00

North Street Duncor Ent. - \$23,879.20 Miller Paving - \$14,069.50 Owen Street Duncor Ent. - \$23,679.20 Miller Paving - \$14,069.50 Clarence Street Duncor Ent. - \$31,722.80 Miller Paving - \$18,589.00 Hillier Street Duncor Ent. - \$18,427.20 Miller Paving - \$11,253.00 Princess Street Duncor Ent. - \$64,237.20 Miller Paving - \$37,167.00 York Street Duncor Ent. - \$24,351.00 Miller Paving - \$14,364.25 Canning Street (Schedule S) Duncor Ent. - \$17,646.80 Miller Paving - \$10,794.50 Canning Street (Schedule T) Duncor Ent. - \$8,902.40 Miller Paving - \$6,013.00

Master Fire Plan & Community Risk Assessment. Greater Madawaska. Council is considering a single source award to Emergency Management Group to complete a Master Fire Plan and Community Risk Assessment for a total cost of \$37,550.

PW-C-08-2022-22-E0 – Road Rehabilitation of County Road #20 (Waba Road). Lanark County.

Cavanagh Const. - \$873.223.16 Arnott Bros. - \$927,670.00 Crains Const. - \$971,389.00 Coco Paving - \$976,000.00 Aecon - \$1,088,000.00 Tomlinson - \$1,214,000.00

PW-C-10-2022-22-E0 – Culvert Replacements. Lanark County.

<u>County Road 43</u> Goldie Mohr - \$288,037.00 Arnott Bros. - \$342,055.00 Crains Const. - \$343,072.00 AWD Contract. - \$378,370.50 <u>County Road 511</u> Goldie Mohr - \$131,423.00 Arnott Bros. - \$140,210.00 Crains Const. - \$139,899.00 AWD Contract. - \$145,712.00



Post your job FOR FREE as an OVTA member!

The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) is making it free for members to post their job openings on www.ovjobs.ca! Just email your job to employers@ovjobs.ca and indicate you are an OVTA member to take advantage of this offer. If you're not an OVTA member, but want to have free job postings, contact the association about joining!

Visit www.ottawavalley.travel or email enorris@countyofrenfrew.on.ca



Ottawa Valley Business

Tender Results Around The Valley

PW-C-09-2022-22-E0 – Road Rehabilitation of CR #43 (Highway 43). Lanark County. County Road 43 Tackaberry - \$1,842,850.00 Cavanagh - \$1,869,315.20 Coco Paving - \$1,922,040.86 Aecon - \$2,108,210.75 Tomlinson - \$2,560,116.00 <u>Craig Street</u> Tackaberry - \$112,872.50 Cavanagh - \$129,587.23 Coco Paving - \$134,519.14 Aecon - \$125,789.25 Tomlinson - \$131,884.00

PW-M-32-2022-22-E2 Water Based Traffic Paint for Pavement Markings. Lanark County.

Lanark County (Schedule A) Trillium - \$351,060.00 Almon - \$501,540.00 Provincial - \$348,570.00 A1 Carp - \$346,200.00 Lanark County (Schedule B) Trillium - \$13.316.00 Almon - \$20,120.00 Provincial - \$16,604.00 A1 Carp - \$25,700.00 Tay Valley (Schedule C) Trillium - \$24,602.04 Almon - \$37,546.12 Provincial - \$24,354.24 A1 Carp - \$23,354.24 Tay Valley (Schedule D) Trillium - \$1,740.00 Almon - \$3,700.00 Provincial - \$2,240.00 A1 Carp - \$3,600.00

PW-C-07-2022-22-E0 – Road Rehabilitation of County Road #18 (Port Elmsley Road). Lanark County.

Tackaberry - \$585,460.00 Coco Paving - \$706,876.00 Crains Const. - \$709,928.00 Cavanagh Const. - \$712,848.76 Aecon - \$858,000.00 Tomlinson - \$869,000.00

PW-C-06-2022-22-E0 – **Road Rehabilitation of CR #17** (**Blakeney Rd). Lanark County** Goldie Mohr - \$619,985.00 Arnott Bros. - \$693,292.50 Cavanagh Const. - \$719,611.92 Crains Const. \$816,196.00

PW-M-38-2022-22-E3-3 **Cable Guide Rail and Steel Beam Guide Rail** Maintenance. Lanark County. 3-Cable Guiderail Maintenance Crains Const. - \$90,350.00 Hughson Fence - \$130,125.00 Penninsula - \$185,050.00 Steel Beam Guiderail Maintenance Work Crains Const. - \$46,300.00 Hughson Fence - \$59,200.00 Penninsula - \$81,650.00 Cable Guiderail New Installation Crains Const. - \$11,500.00 Hughson Fence - \$9,400.00

Penninsula - \$81,650.00 <u>SBGR New Installations</u> Crains Const. - \$106,610.00 Hughson Fence - \$104,650.00 Penninsula - \$107,850.00

PW-C-11-2022-22-E0 – Supply and Place Shoulder Gravel. Lanark County. County Road 511 Arnott Bros. - \$123,525.00 Cavanagh - \$129,930.00 Tackaberry - No Bid County Road 1 Arnott Bros. - \$90,000.00 Cavanagh - No Bid Tackaberry - \$65,700.00 Tay Valley Township Arnott Bros. - \$42,900.00

Cavanagh - No Bid Tackaberry - No Bid

PW-C-04-2022-22-E0 – Road Rehabilitation of County Road #10 (Scotch Line). Lanark County.

Crains Const. - \$818,158.50 Arnott Bros. - \$912,615.00 Cavanagh Const. - \$923,291.40 Coco Paving - \$946,789.00 Aecon - \$1,098,000.00 RW Tomlinson - \$1,150,000.00

PW-C-02-2022-22-E0 – Road Rehabilitation of County Road #9 (Tatlock Road). Lanark County.

Crains Const. - \$785,055.00 Arnott Bros. - \$823,822.50 Cavanagh Const. - \$859,104.20 Coco Paving - \$917,997.00

Tenders

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Request for Information – Pre-Qualification for Roofing

Request for Standing Offer – Supply and Delivery of Road Signs

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

FOR SALE

Sale of Land – Head, Clara & Maria

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP Rec 2022-01 Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program Design and Application

Mary Street Engineering Design Services – Contract ES-2022-03

Supply and Delivery of Professional Transportation Consultant Services PW-C-30-2022-22-EO

> RFP 2022-ADM-01 Organizational Review

Coagulant Supply

DP-2022-01 Design-Build of an Affordable Multi-Residential Housing Project

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

#2022-05 Elevator Modernization at Fellowes HS

LED Streetlight Conversion Project No. 2022-03

Construction and Demolition Waste Haulage and Disposal Services

Old Corrugated Container Haulage and Disposal Services – Tender No. ES-2022-06

Asphalt Road Resurfacing 2022 T-22-02

Granular Materials 2022 T-22-03

Asphalt Patching 2022 T-22-04

Concrete Works 2022 T-22-05

PW 2022-002 Street Sweeping LED Lighting Upgrades at Arnprior District HS and Opeongo HS Invitation Only

Reconstruct Road and Utilities in North Town Site

2022-PW-002 – Zealand Road Culvert Replacement

Tender # PW-08-2022 Airport Road Phase 3/Len Hopkins Drive Rehabilitation

Tender # PW-07-2022 Kin Hut Parking Lot/Volunteer Way Rehabilitation

PW-05-2022 Winter Sand

PW-04-2022 Hot Mix Asphalt Resurfacing

PW-03-2022 Hot Mix Asphalt Patching

PW-02-2022 Concrete Works

Foster Street Reconstruction – Contract ES-2022-09

Church Street Reconstruction – Contract ES-2022-10

LVPW-2022-01 Backhoe Loader

LVPW-2022-02 One Tonne Truck

LVPW-2022-03: Supply & Application of Granular A

LVPW-2022-04: Crack Sealing

LVPW-2022-05: Winter Sand

LVPW-2022-06: Paving Works

LVPW-2022-07: Granular Material & Equipment Rental

W0107-19M048/A – Cable TV Services

Listings at ww.ovbusiness.com

Recovering From A Trust Issue It may not be easy, but it is possible



By: Jennifer Layman jenn@fwdthink.net

It was interesting to read the findings of the Edelman Trust Barometer 2022 and the suggestion that businesses need to provide stronger leadership as the "only trusted institution." This was not the first time that the Barometer had this finding; in their 2007 report, they noted businesses were more trusted than government and media. However, there was a falling out in 2009 of business trust and it took about five years to reestablish business as the leader again in the trust category.

When you lose the trust of people, it can be difficult to rebuild it, but as this study has shown consistently over 22 years, it's not impossible. If you find yourself in a situation where you have lost the trust of your customers or community, here is some guidance on how to build it back:

Own Your Mistakes

Apologize. Vow to do better. It hurts, but only for a moment. Being vulnerable to your customer allows you to move forward in a position of strength and is the starting point for rebuilding trust.

Amp Up Your Communications

You need to do a really, really great job of communicating with people moving forward, and that includes having a strategy on how to handle different requests or responses. To make it easier, one person should be your communications administrator. This person is directed to all of the communications needs, from an email comment to deciding how to use the media to promote your messaging. With one contact, less will get missed or dropped. Again, depending on the size of the business, that key person can be the owner, a manager or a strong administrative person.

The communications administrator may not be the person who does the responding to inquiries or who is the voice of the public message. That could likely be someone else, or it could be a few different people depending on the situation. The administrator's job is to be the person others can reach out to. Be Truthful

There is no perfect in any organization, so you're going to have some less than perfect situations and interactions. If your job is to rebuild trust, and you get caught in a lie, well, it just isn't going to be good. Depending on the crisis you are working to rebuild from, it might be the proverbial nail in the coffin for your attempt.

A lot of people talk about transparency and accountability in government, but it's a good mantra to adopt in business as well. As a private business, you may feel that others don't "need" to know certain things that you do, and you're right - they don't need to know. But if it helps your bottom line and your reputation to tell them anyway, maybe it's worth considering.

You can return from a crisis or a loss of trust. It will take some time but it's possible. The Edelman Trust Barometer has proven that over the years.

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



Work Wellness

Meeting Shorts

To start or end a meeting, have a "short" that encourages everyone to share. It might be a seasonal tip, a neat non-office story, a joke or a favourite quote. Employees can share a nonprofit's event or happening, acknowledge a person or organization in the community who has done something great or any other positive note.

The Origin of Sayings: Die Hard

While it typically refers to someone with a strong dedication to a particular set of beliefs, the term "diehard" originally had a series of much more literal meanings. In its earliest incarnation in the 1700s, the expression described condemned men who struggled the longest when they were executed by hanging. The phrase later became even more popular after 1811's Battle of Albuera during the Napoleonic Wars. In the midst of the fight, a wounded British officer named William Inglis supposedly urged his unit forward by bellowing "Stand your ground and die hard ... make the enemy pay dear for each of us!" Inglis' 57th Regiment suffered 75 per cent casualties during the battle, and went on to earn the nickname "the Die Hards."

Quotable

"Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity. We can choose to use this force constructively with words of encouragement, or destructively using words of despair. Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate and to humble." - Yehuda Berg

"If you want to make an easy job seem mighty hard, just keep putting off doing it." - Olin Miller" AMO Watchfile not displaying correctly? <u>View the online version</u> Add Communicate@amo.on.ca to your safe list



February 10, 2022

In This Issue

- Infrastructure Canada Capital Projects stream: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- AMO/LAS Municipal Energy Symposium March 31 April 1.
- eScribe municipal election webinar series.
- Canoe webinar: Exprolink/Madvac.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Traffic Logix.
- Risk Management Back-to-Basics free webinar.
- Promote your RFP with OMSSA.
- Careers: Victoria BC, OSC, MNRF, Metrolinx, Augusta, London and Simcoe.

Federal Matters

Infrastructure Canada is now accepting applications for the Capital Projects stream of the <u>Rural Transit Solutions Fund</u>. The fund targets the development of transit solutions in rural communities, making \$250 million in federal funding available over five years to support the development of locally driven transit solutions that will help people living in rural communities. Deadline: April 7, 2022.

Eye on Events

AMO and LAS are excited to host a virtual *Municipal Energy Symposium* March 31 -April 1. This leading edge event takes a critical look at the intersection of climate change, land use planning and energy post-COP26. Explore examples of how municipalities are planning for the future and what this means to daily operations. Register <u>here</u>.

Are you thinking about the municipal election? While it's not happening until October, it is time to start thinking today how to get your meetings ready for your new Council. On February 16 at 11 am ET join eScribe, AMO's preferred partner for electronic meeting management, for a webinar to learn how you can prepare for a seamless election season. <u>Register today</u>.

LAS

It may not feel like it, but spring is on the way! Join the <u>Canoe Procurement Group</u> webinar with vendors Exprolink/Madvac to learn about the street sweepers and litter collectors used to give our communities a 'spring cleaning'. February 23 at 11:00 AM EST, <u>register here</u>.

We're pleased to welcome Traffic Logix to the <u>Canoe Procurement Group</u>, making it easier to source traffic calming products to keep your roads safe. Save time and money by buying through Canoe, <u>contact Tanner</u> for more information.

Register for our free Risk Management webinar series every quarter; be part of the discussion. The first one is March 3 - "<u>Back to Basics</u> - a foundational discussion about municipal insurance, terms and trends."

Municipal Wire*

Starting March 1, post your open RFPs to OMSSA's board and have it shared with human services professionals. Email jobs@omssa.com to post your opportunity. <u>Subscribe today</u> to receive open opportunities.

Careers

<u>Assistant Director, Public Works - City of Victoria</u>. The AD is responsible for the effective delivery of a full range of operational and capital programs to support City infrastructure needs for residents, visitors, business and other City departments. <u>Apply</u> <u>online</u> by March 2, 2022.

<u>Senior FIPPA Officer - Ontario Securities Commission (OSC)</u>. The Officer will administer and supervise the operations of the freedom of information and privacy program. <u>Apply online</u> by February 11, 2022.

<u>District Manager - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry</u>. A strategic leadership opportunity to serve Ontarians through natural resource management excellence in the Parry Sound, Kemptville or Peterborough District. <u>Apply online</u>, only, quoting Job ID 174594, by February 17, 2022.

<u>Director, Legal Services - Metrolinx</u>. Seeking a Director, Legal Services who will assist with professional legal work and provide legal advice and opinions on a diverse range of corporate matters. Apply for this position submitting your resume <u>online</u>.

Intermediate/Senior Land Use Planner - Township of Augusta. The incumbent will provide planning services through the development of strong policy framework for land use decision making and development review services. Apply to <u>smcdonald@augusta.ca</u> by March 4, 2022.

<u>Director, Fleet and Facilities - City of London.</u> This newly created role focuses on expanding linkages between the Fleet and Facilities programs while establishing a clear point of accountability for both areas. <u>Apply online</u> by February 23, 2022.

<u>Real Estate Negotiator/Acquisition Specialist - County of Simcoe</u>. The Specialist is primarily responsible for providing support with real estate needs including research, site selection, negotiation and appraisal for acquisition, and disposal of real property and property rights. <u>Apply online</u> by February 23, 2022.

<u>Accounting Supervisor (Capital Assets) - County of Simcoe</u>. The Supervisor plays a key role in the financial reporting framework of the County's Tangible Capital Assets and the development and maintenance of the asset management plan. <u>Apply online</u> by February 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 <u>@AMOPolicy</u> on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

AMO Watchfile Tel: 416.971.9856 Conferences/Events Policy and Funding Programs AMO Watchfile not displaying correctly? <u>View the online version</u> Add Communicate@amo.on.ca to your safe list



February 17, 2022

In This Issue

- Register for Subwatershed Planning Guide webinar on February 24.
- Infrastructure Canada Capital Projects stream: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- AMO/LAS Municipal Energy Symposium March 31 April 1.
- Staying informed with the Canoe Webinar Series.
- Free Risk Management Back-to-Basics webinar.
- Blog: Five Risk Management Trends to Follow in 2022.
- Careers: Simcoe, South Frontenac, Georgina, Kincardine, Vaughan, MSG, Muskoka.

Provincial Matters

MECP is consulting until March 13th on a Subwatershed Planning Guide to help municipalities and other planning authorities implement provincial policy direction for watershed and subwatershed planning. Register for the webinar <u>here</u>.

Federal Matters

Infrastructure Canada is accepting applications for the Capital Projects stream of the <u>Rural Transit Solutions Fund</u>. The fund targets the development of transit solutions in rural communities, making \$250 million in federal funding available over five years to support the development of locally driven transit solutions that will help people living in rural communities. Deadline: April 7, 2022.

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LAS

The LAS <u>Canoe Procurement Group</u> is busy hosting bi-weekly events to connect with our members. Follow <u>this link</u> to see the full list of virtual events planned, and <u>click</u> <u>here</u> to see the archive of webinars we've hosted in the past. Use Canoe to save on products you use everyday and make your community an even greater place to live.

Every quarter you can be part of the risk management discussion. The first in the series is March 3 - "Back to Basics - a foundational discussion about municipal insurance, terms and trends." Learn more and register <u>here</u>.

The 2022 risk landscape is changing faster than most organizations can keep up with, leaving executives and risk managers with the question: "How can I make my organization more resilient?" <u>Read more</u> from guest blogger ClearRisk.

Careers

<u>Forestry By-Law Enforcement Officer - County of Simcoe.</u> The Officer is responsible for responding to complaints, conducting inspections and investigations and enforcing the County Forest Recreation By-law and other County By-laws. <u>Apply online</u> by February 18, 2022.

<u>Chief Administrative Officer - Township of South Frontenac.</u> Reporting to the Mayor and Council, the CAO is responsible for the strategic leadership and efficient delivery of all the municipality's administrative and operational services. Apply to <u>careers@waterhousesearch.ca</u> by February 28, 2022.

<u>Supervisor of Inspections/ Deputy Chief Building Official - Town of Georgina.</u> Responsible for the management of the Building Division's Inspections Unit and supervision of inspections staff; administers and enforces the *Building Code Act*. <u>Apply online</u> by February 18, 2022.

<u>Chief Administrative Officer - Municipality of Kincardine</u>. The CAO will provide effective advice and support to Council through the development and implementation of policy, strategy and objectives. Apply via <u>email</u> by March 14, 2022.

<u>Director, Procurement Services - City of Vaughan</u>. The Director is accountable for the responsible management of all financial and human resources of the Department; develops and implements strategies, goals, policies and processes in all aspects of public procurement. <u>Apply online</u> by March 14, 2022.

<u>Director, Financial Services & Deputy Treasurer - City of Vaughan</u>. The Director establishes the strategic vision and direction to be taken while providing leadership, communication, expert guidance, and financial direction. <u>Apply online</u> by March 14, 2022.

<u>Bureau Commander, Business Management Bureau - Ministry of the Solicitor General.</u> Provides corporate strategic leadership and direction, while leading the Ontario Provincial Police business, finance, facilities, operational policy, research and program evaluation and resource planning, and asset management services. <u>Apply online</u> by March 1, 2022.

<u>Commissioner, Community and Planning Services - The District Municipality of</u> <u>Muskoka.</u> The CPS is responsible for the strategic leadership, management, and administration of the Community & Planning Services (CPS) department. <u>Apply</u> <u>online</u> by March 2, 2022.

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AMO's Partners

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February 10, 2022





2022 Risk Management Webinars

Virtual Quarterly Exchange

Register for Free

If you are looking to engage in a robust, open discussion about important municipal risk topics, look no further.

Join the Local Authority Services (LAS) and Intact Public Entities for a dynamic and strategic discussion on evolving issues facing municipal administrators. Using the principles of Chatham House Rule, we invite you to ask questions, share your expertise and collaborate with your municipal CAO peers on the issues that keep you awake at night.

Our hosts and speakers:

Judy Dezell Director AMO Enterprise Centre, Business Partnerships & LAS

Jessica Jaremchuk Director, Risk Management Intact Public Entities

Register for the FREE one-hour webinars.

March 3 @ 11:30am Back to Basics – a foundational discussion about municipal insurance, terms and trends Register <u>HERE</u> (Registration deadline is March 2 @ 4pm)

<u>June 2 @ 11:30am</u> What is your insurance strategy? Every municipality needs one. Register <u>HERE</u> (Registration deadline @ June 1 @ 4pm)

Questions? Contact Fernanda Lazzaro at flazzaro@amo.on.ca

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