



**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: March 14, 2022**

Correspondence Package No. I-22-March-05

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-22-March-05 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario

- a) [Ontario Establishing General Minimum Wage for Digital Platform Workers](#)
- b) [Working for Workers Act 2022](#)
- c) [Ontario Mandating Naloxone Kits in High-Risk Workplaces](#)
- d) [Ontario Investing in More Accessible Communities](#)
- e) [Ontario Makes Significant Progress on Intellectual Property Action Plan](#)
- f) [Province Launches Intellectual Property Ontario](#)
- g) [Ontarians Saving Money with Passage of Fewer Fees, Better Services Act](#)
- h) [Ontario Increasing Seniors Community Grant Funding](#)
- i) [Ontario Providing Support for Downtown Ottawa Businesses](#)
- j) [Ontario Providing Access to the Latest Technology for Diabetes Care](#)
- k) [Ontario Investing in Additional Supports for People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- l) [Ontario Making Historic Investment in Provincial Nursing Workforce](#)
- m) [Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022](#)
- n) [Ontario Connecting More Communities to High-Speed Internet Access](#)

- o) Ontario Seeking Public Input on Initiatives to Combat Racism
 - p) Ontario Investing in Sport Organizations and Community Recreation
 - q) Supporting STEM Achievement in Ontario
 - r) Ontario Modernizing School Science Curriculum
 - s) Building Ontario Businesses Initiative
 - t) Province Launches Building Ontario Businesses Initiative
 - u) Ontario Enhancing Access to Customary Care for Indigenous Children and Youth
2. **Correspondence from Renfrew County & District Health Unit**
 - a) COVID-19 Case Summary – March 3, 2022
 - b) Vaccine News Brief – Edition 37 & Vaccine Roll Out At A Glance
 - c) Memorandum - Growing sense of optimism, but the beginning of the end is not the end
 3. **Correspondence from the Town of the Blue Mountains**
 - a) Resolution – Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force
 4. **Correspondence from Hospice Renfrew**
 - a) Are You Caring For a Loved One? Workshop Series
 5. **Correspondence from Arnprior Public Library**
 - a) March 2022 Newsletter
 6. **Correspondence from Galilee Retreat Centre**
 - a) Spring 2022 Newsletter
 7. **Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Business**
 - a) March 1, 2022
 8. **Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - a) Watch File – February 24, 2022
 - b) Watch File – March 3, 2022

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Establishing General Minimum Wage for Digital Platform Workers

New rights and protections will rebalance the scales and improve working conditions for gig economy

February 28, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is introducing the *Working for Workers Act, 2022 (Working for Workers Act 2)*, which would, if passed, continue to lead the country in building a stronger economy that works for everyone. Included in the legislation are changes that would make Ontario the first province in Canada to establish a minimum wage and other foundational rights for digital platform workers who offer rides or deliver food and other items for companies such as Uber, Door Dash and Instacart.

“As part of our plan to build a stronger economy that works for everyone, we want all workers to have every opportunity to earn a good living and provide for their families,” said Premier Doug Ford. “It doesn’t matter if you work for a big company, a small business or for a rideshare app. Our government won’t leave any worker behind.”

Data shows as many as one in five Canadians work in the gig economy, a number that is predicted to increase. However, these workers often face uncertain working conditions and lack necessary protections, including finding it difficult to predict paycheques or resolve complaints.

The government’s proposals would enshrine the following rights and protections for digital platform workers:

- Earning at least the general minimum wage for time worked;
- The right to keep their tips along with regular pay periods;
- The right to information and clarity around algorithms including:
 - how pay is calculated; and
 - how and why a worker might be penalized in the allocation of work;
- Written notice if they are being removed from the platform and why;
- The right to resolve their work-related disputes in Ontario; and
- Protection from reprisal should they seek to assert their rights.

“No one working in Ontario should ever make less than minimum wage for an hour's work,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour Training and Skills Development. “No one working in Ontario should be dismissed without notice, explanation, or recourse. No one should have to travel out of the country to resolve a workplace dispute or sign a contract they do not understand. These core rights are a foundation in our mission to help all workers earn bigger paychecks to take care of their families, not an endpoint.”

This announcement follows the province’s [commitment to design a health care benefits plan tied to millions of workers](#) who currently don’t have access to them, including digital platform workers.

Also included in *Working for Workers 2* is a [requirement for employers to disclose their electronic monitoring of employees](#) and several [red tape reductions to encourage out-of-province workers](#) to help fill the generational labour shortage.

These measures are part of Ontario’s ambitious plan to attract the best workers from across Canada – and around the world – by making the province the best place to live, work and raise a family. They follow legislation in the fall to [remove unfair and discriminatory barriers against foreign-trained professionals](#), [introducing the “Right to Disconnect”](#) and the [banning of non-compete clauses](#).

Quick Facts

- Many digital platforms use algorithms to determine when and how quickly workers are given their next delivery or customer. However, most digital platforms do not share this with their workers making it unclear why other workers may pick up more work than them.
 - Some digital platforms do not provide their workers with clear explanations on how their pay is calculated. This makes it difficult to predict their earning.
 - Digital platforms can currently remove workers from their platforms without providing an explanation why. If workers appeal the decision, they may not be able to speak directly with a person.
 - These proposed measures were informed by the recommendations made by the experts of the [Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory Committee](#), based on their consultations with workers, employers, and unions.
 - Ipsos polling conducted to support the OWRAC found that:
 - 89 per cent of Ontarians agree that “the workplace has changed permanently due to COVID-19 and Ontario needs to act to update employment regulations.”
 - Just over half of Ontarians feel that companies take advantage of tech or technology platform workers.
 - 62 per cent of Ontarians agree that the province should guarantee a certain minimum level of income for technology platform or ‘gig’ workers.
 - 86 per cent of Ontarians placed a high priority on ensuring that Ontario has enough highly skilled workers to meet the needs of employers.
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Additional Resources

- [Working for Workers Act, 2022](#)
 - [Working for Workers Act, 2021](#)
 - [Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory Committee](#)
 - [The future of work in Ontario](#)
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BACKGROUNDER

Working for Workers Act, 2022

February 28, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

The Ontario government is introducing legislative changes today that would, if passed, deliver better protections, bigger paycheques and greater opportunities for workers and their families.

Today, the government will introduce the *Working for Workers Act, 2022* that would, if passed:

- Establish foundational rights and protections for digital platform workers who provide ride-share, delivery, or courier services. This would guarantee them a minimum wage, protection of their tips, the resolution of disputes in Ontario, and protection from reprisals. [Learn more.](#)
 - Tackle Ontario's historic labour shortage – the largest in a generation – by ensuring out-of-province workers can register in their regulated profession or trade within 30 days. This would help these workers become registered and find jobs in their field faster so they can contribute to driving Ontario's economic growth. [Learn more.](#)
 - Require greater transparency and address privacy concerns by mandating larger employers establish and share policies with their employees on how they are monitoring electronic devices like computers, cell phones and GPS systems. [Learn more.](#)
 - Reduce the risk of death caused by opioid overdoses in workplaces by requiring employers to provide a naloxone kit in workplaces where overdoses are a potential hazard.
 - Enhance worker protections and ensure that employers are held responsible for not complying with health and safety laws by increasing the maximum fines for operators and directors of businesses that fail to provide a safe work environment that leads to a worker being severely injured or dying on the job.
 - Expand military reservist leave to cover time spent training and reduce the amount of time they need to hold a job before they have it protected from six to three months.
 - Clarify the treatment of many IT and business consultants under the Employment Standards Act. The changes would help give these workers greater opportunities for work, while giving businesses certainty about their obligations under the Act when engaging them.
 - Reduce barriers in the provision of traditional Chinese medicine while ensuring consumer protection in the delivery of traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture services.
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Additional Resources

- [Ontario Establishing General Minimum Wage for Digital Platform Workers](#)
 - [Ontario Introduces Foundational Rights for Digital Platform Workers](#)
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Related Topics

Jobs and Employment

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

Media Contacts

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Mandating Naloxone Kits in High-Risk Workplaces

New measures would improve worker safety and save lives

March 01, 2022

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government has introduced legislation to protect workers on the job and save lives. If passed, the [Working for Workers Act, 2022 \(Working for Workers Act 2\)](#), will require workplaces that are at risk of a worker opioid overdose to have naloxone kits. The legislation would also introduce the highest fines in Canada for companies that fail to follow workplace health and safety laws.

“Everyone in our province knows someone who has been impacted by the opioid epidemic,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. “These are brothers, sisters, mothers and daughters, and we need to do everything in our power to save lives. That is why our government is bringing life-saving naloxone kits to high-risk settings such as construction sites, bars and nightclubs.”

Approximately 2,500 people died from opioid-related causes between March 2020 and January 2021 – of the victims who were employed, 30 per cent were construction workers, by far the most of any industry impacted. Bars and nightclubs are also seeing increased opioid usage, which often involve recreational drugs laced with deadly opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil.

“While Ontario’s workers have been there to support us before and during this horrible pandemic, it’s just as important that we are there to support them,” said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “By ensuring access to life-saving naloxone kits where and when our workers need them, our government is helping to protect more Ontarians struggling with addiction from preventable deaths and taking decisive action to address the challenges of the opioid crisis.”

Naloxone is a medication that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and allow time for medical help to arrive. Requiring businesses in high-risk settings to have naloxone kits on hand will help reduce the stigma around opioid abuse, raise awareness about the risks of accidental overdoses, and potentially save hundreds of lives a year.

Also included in *Working for Workers Two* are changes to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to increase the maximum fines for businesses that fail to protect their workers to the highest in the country.

The proposed increased fines would reinforce the importance of putting worker safety first and further penalize those that treat injuries as the cost of doing business. Officers and directors of businesses that do not provide a safe work environment that leads to a worker being severely injured or dying on the job could face fines of up to \$1.5 million under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OSHA) if convicted. Charges for other individuals are also rising to up to \$500,000.

These actions are part of Ontario’s ambitious plan to attract the best workers from across Canada and around the world by making the province the best place to live, work and raise a family. This follows legislation in the fall to [remove unfair and discriminatory barriers against foreign-trained professionals](#), the [“Right to Disconnect”](#), and the [banning of non-compete clauses](#).

Quick Facts

- Proposed legislation also requires training to ensure workers are familiar with how to use naloxone kits. In addition, the OSHA would not limit or prohibit the use of naloxone to clients, customers or anyone else in an emergency.
 - Naloxone is an effective intervention and can prevent death if administered quickly.
 - The proposed legislation would also increase the limitation period for commencing a prosecution from one year to two years for a violation under OSHA.
-

Additional Resources

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Investing in More Accessible Communities

Province building a stronger Ontario with more inclusive and accessible businesses and communities

March 02, 2022

[Seniors and Accessibility](#).

Toronto – The Ontario government is building a stronger, more accessible and inclusive province by investing up to \$1.3 million through its EnAbling Change Program to support 14 projects across the province. These initiatives promote the importance of accessibility and provide tools and educational resources that make Ontario open to people of all abilities.

“Our government is helping people create stronger communities where people of all abilities can participate more fully in everyday life,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “We are proud to invest in these projects all across the province that will drive awareness about the value and benefits of accessibility and provide more opportunity for everyone to thrive in jobs and their communities.”

The EnAbling Change Program supports and helps raise awareness of the importance of accessibility to communities and a wide range of businesses sectors through online initiatives, educational tools and guides, and public outreach programs. This is especially important because while some disabilities can be seen, most are invisible.

Some of the [projects funded most recently](#) through the program include:

- a virtual reality platform to help demystify disability,
- resources for employers in the electricity and trucking sectors to help make jobs in these sectors more accessible to people with disabilities,
- learning models to improve employment opportunities for postsecondary students with disabilities, and
- resources to help coaches safely and effectively coach blind hockey.

The EnAbling Change Program is one more action the Ontario government is taking, along with its [Advancing Accessibility in Ontario framework](#), to help more people participate in community activities and job opportunities and to promote a culture of inclusion.

Quick Facts

- The objectives for the 2021-22 EnAbling Change Program are:
 - COVID-19 recovery by supporting people with disabilities, seniors and other marginalized communities during and after the pandemic through innovative solutions that improve their quality of life and eliminate barriers
 - Online innovation by serving people with disabilities, seniors and other marginalized communities through online methods and innovative technology
 - Scaling best practices by amplifying successes that are dedicated to making an inclusive and accessible province.
 - The 2021-22 EnAbling Change Program projects align with key focus areas of the [Advancing Accessibility in Ontario framework](#), including improving understanding and awareness about accessibility, and increasing participation in the economy for people with disabilities.
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Additional Resources

- [2021-22 EnAbling Change Program Recipients](#)
 - [Learn about how to make businesses and organizations more accessible and inclusive.](#)
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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. [Learn more](#)

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BACKGROUND

Ontario Makes Significant Progress on Intellectual Property Action Plan

Province Launches Intellectual Property Ontario

March 03, 2022

[Colleges and Universities](#)

[Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#)

In Summer 2020, Ontario released an [Intellectual Property \(IP\) Action Plan](#) in response to the [recommendations of the Expert Panel on Intellectual Property](#), to help innovators prioritize the generation, protection, management, and commercialization of intellectual property. The Ontario government has made significant progress achieving the goals outlined in the IP Action Plan.

Intellectual Property Ontario

Intellectual Property Ontario is a new board-governed agency, which will be a go-to resource for IP expertise to help Ontario-based researchers and companies maximize the value of their IP, strengthen their capacity to grow, compete in the global market and enhance their research and commercialization outcomes. The new agency will have up to nine board members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Intellectual Property Ontario will provide clients with access to educational tools, online courses and curricula; advisory services to help clients develop effective IP strategies; as well as legal expertise. Some services will be offered through the agency itself, while others will be offered through financial supports for clients to leverage professionals from the ecosystem.

The agency will be chaired by Karima Bawa, Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. Additional members appointed to the Board of Directors include Sally Daub, Founder, Pool Global Partners; Elliot Fung, Executive Director, Medical Innovation Xchange (MIX); Dan Herman, PhD, Special Advisor to Government and Founder, Go To Jupiter Productions Inc.; and Hongwei Liu, Chief Executive Director, Mappedin.

Services will scale up in phases and be refined based on feedback from staff, clients and stakeholders.

Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework

The government introduced a Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework that will help publicly assisted colleges and universities better commercialize innovations, ideas and products generated through “Ontario-made” research and innovation.

Each institution will develop a commercialization policy that will be tailored to account for its own areas of research strength, policy and program infrastructure and industry relationships.

Intellectual Property Ontario will help support the implementation of the framework by providing support to colleges and universities and their researchers, and by preparing an annual report that summarizes the postsecondary education sector’s progress in implementing the framework and improving commercialization outcomes.

Basic and Advanced IP Curricula

The Expert Panel on Intellectual Property recommended that Ontario develop both basic and advanced IP curricula to address the diversity of educational needs in the innovation ecosystem.

Ontario is endorsing two foundational IP courses, available online through the [University of Toronto](#) and the [Centre for International Governance Innovation](#) to help innovators understand the value of protecting their ideas. The courses are available for free in English and French. Both courses were peer reviewed by a panel of intellectual property experts from across the innovation ecosystem.

In partnership with eCampusOntario, the province also [launched a call for proposals](#) to develop an advanced IP curriculum to address the complex learning needs of users as they meet the challenges of the modern knowledge-based economy. Proposals are currently being evaluated.

Intellectual Property Governance Framework and New Intellectual Property Metrics for Innovation Partners

As a result of recommendations from the Expert Panel on Intellectual Property, Ontario developed and implemented a governance framework for the adoption of IP best practices by provincially funded innovation partners, including the Regional Innovation Centres (RICs) and the Ontario Centre of Innovation.

The framework includes an updated mandate for innovation partners to help Ontario businesses achieve growth by focusing on IP generation, protection, management and commercialization. It also includes a board governance framework, processes and policies to ensure IP is embedded in management performance, and new metrics to capture client success.

The framework has been adopted by the RICs and the Ontario Centre of Innovation.

Additional Resources

- [Province Launches Intellectual Property Ontario](#)

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. [Learn more](#)

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Province Launches Intellectual Property Ontario

New agency will help innovators and businesses commercialize their “Ontario-made” ideas and products

March 03, 2022

[Colleges and Universities](#)

[Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is continuing to support the province’s innovators through the launch of its new agency, [Intellectual Property Ontario](#). The new board-governed agency will serve as a go-to resource for Intellectual Property (IP) expertise to help researchers and companies maximize the value of their IP, strengthen their capacity to grow and compete in the global market.

A significant milestone of the [Intellectual Property Action Plan](#), Intellectual Property Ontario will provide clients across the province with access to intellectual property strategy advice, legal expertise and educational resources. It will help businesses, entrepreneurs and researchers innovate and stay competitive.

“Ontario has a world-class postsecondary education system and is home to innovative start-ups and scale-up firms,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. “Giving postsecondary education institutions, businesses and innovators the support they need to help generate, protect, manage, and commercialize their intellectual property will support innovators, encourage long-term economic growth and ensure that Ontario taxpayers benefit from the inventions and discoveries that result from publicly funded research and innovation.”

To ensure the economic and commercial benefits of local innovation remain in the province, the government has also made significant progress achieving other IP Action Plan milestones including:

- Implementing a new framework that will help publicly assisted colleges and universities better commercialize their ideas and products generated through “Ontario-made” research.
- Helping innovators understand the value of protecting their intellectual property by increasing access to digital education modules. Two foundational online IP courses are available for free in English and French through the [University of Toronto](#) and the [Centre for International Governance Innovation](#).
- Supporting Ontario’s innovation partners, such as the Regional Innovation Centres, to succeed in domestic and international markets by helping them make their ideas marketable and attract talent, capital and customers through the implementation of a new Intellectual Property Governance Framework and new intellectual property metrics.

“We need to support Ontario innovators and entrepreneurs, as they build more businesses and do what they do best, creating good jobs for the people of Ontario,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “An important step towards those goals is implementing the Intellectual Property Action Plan, including, the new agency Intellectual Property Ontario. This new agency will be the go-to resource for IP knowledge, advice and services to help businesses, entrepreneurs, as well as postsecondary institutions and researchers capitalize on their intellectual property and succeed in the global economy.”

Intellectual Property Ontario will be chaired by Karima Bawa, Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. Additional members appointed to the Board of Directors include Sally Daub, Founder, Pool Global Partners; Elliot Fung, Executive Director, Medical Innovation Xchange (MIX); Dan Herman, PhD, Special Advisor to Government and Founder, Go To Jupiter Productions Inc.; and Hongwei Liu, Chief Executive Director, Mappedin.

“Intellectual property plays a critical role in driving innovation and growth,” said Karima Bawa, Chair, Intellectual Property Ontario. “I am excited to be appointed to the Board of this vitally important organization that will support innovators in their efforts to protect and leverage their IP for economic and social benefit.”

These initiatives will drive economic and social growth in Ontario and build a better and brighter future for researchers, innovators and businesses.

Quick Facts

- In Summer 2020, Ontario released an [Intellectual Property Action Plan](#) in response to the [recommendations of the Expert Panel on Intellectual Property](#).
- Intellectual Property Ontario is a board-governed agency, with up to nine board members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC), on the recommendation of the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Up to four additional board members may still be appointed.
- According to the Canadian Intellectual Property Office, small- and medium-sized enterprises that own intellectual property are three times more likely to expand domestically and more than four times more likely to expand internationally.
- Managing intellectual property can help innovators profit from selling or licensing their IP assets; protect their trade secrets from being disclosed; stop others from making, using, and selling their invention; protect and build their brand; and increase the value of their business in the eyes of potential buyers and investors.
- Homegrown discoveries and innovations are helping to meet present day and future challenges head-on, while creating new economic opportunities.

Additional Resources

- [Support for Intellectual Property Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Makes Significant Progress on Intellectual Property Action Plan](#)
- [Learn more about Intellectual Property Ontario](#)
- [Learn more about trademarks, copyright, and other intellectual property](#)

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. [Learn more](#)

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontarians Saving Money With Passage of Fewer Fees, Better Services Act

New bill eliminates licence plate renewal fees and ends tolls on Highways 412 and 418

March 03, 2022

[Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#)

TORONTO — With the Ontario government today passing the *Fewer Fees, Better Services Act, 2022*, the province is cutting costs for families across the province.

“Since day one, we’ve been relentless in finding ways to put money back into the pockets of hard-working Ontarians,” said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. “With the passage of this legislation, we’re removing tolls on Highways 412 and 418 and refunding licence plate sticker renewal fees.”

With the legislation now having passed, the government will soon begin mailing [refund cheques](#) to millions of Ontario vehicle owners for licence plate sticker renewal fees paid since March 1, 2020 for vehicles owned by individuals. People with a correct address on their driver’s licence and no defaulted fees, tolls or fines as of March 7, 2022, can expect to receive these refunds starting the end of March and throughout the month of April.

Further, commuters in the Durham region who use Highways 412 and 418 will no longer have to pay toll fees starting April 5, 2022, helping to restore fairness to the region after the previous government introduced these punitive tolls.

“Our government is taking action to help make life more affordable for Ontarians. In less than two weeks, drivers will no longer have to pay licence plate renewal fees and can instead put that money towards other necessities,” said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. “Under the leadership of Premier Ford, we are helping drivers keep more of their hard-earned money while also building much needed transit infrastructure, like the Bradford Bypass and Highway 413, so that they can get to where they need to go quicker.”

“Since taking office, our number one priority has been to create the environment for economic growth – and through lowering taxes, reducing electricity costs and cutting red tape, we have reduced business costs in Ontario by nearly \$7 billion annually,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “Through this new legislation, we’re taking further strides to ensure Ontario is the best place to open and grow a business, raise a family, welcome newcomers and keep tourists coming back for more.”

Quick Facts

- Starting on March 13, ServiceOntario will no longer be issuing licence plate stickers for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles and mopeds.
 - It is still the law for vehicle owners to renew their licence plate every one or two years at no cost to confirm their automobile insurance is valid and pay any defaulted Highway 407 tolls and other municipal fines.
 - 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.
 - Highways 412 and 418 are north-south oriented highways connecting Highway 401 to Highway 407 in Durham Region.
 - Toll rates on the privately owned and operated 407 ETR are not impacted by these measures.
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Additional Resources

- [Licence plate sticker refunds](#)
- [Fewer Fees, Better Services](#)
- [2021 Burden Reduction Report](#)
- Businesses and consumers are encouraged to visit [SupportOntarioMade.ca](#)

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. [Learn more](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Increasing Seniors Community Grant Funding

Province building a stronger Ontario by doubling investment in seniors initiatives across Ontario

March 04, 2022

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is doubling its [Seniors Community Grant Program](#) funding since 2018 by investing a record \$6 million in 2022-23 for seniors-based projects that help Ontario's seniors stay safe, healthy, active and connected to families and friends in their communities.

Applications are open now until April 28, 2022, at [Ontario.ca/getfunding](#) for community organizations, municipalities and Indigenous organizations to apply for funding for various programs and services across the province that empower seniors to continue being active participants in their community.

"This year we are investing more than ever before into the hugely successful Seniors Community Grant Program so that dozens of more initiatives can be supported," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "I encourage community groups here in Mississauga and all across Ontario to apply for a Seniors Community Grant to help safely bring seniors together to learn new skills, socialize and keep fit."

Funding ranges from \$1,000 up to \$25,000 for local projects and each year Seniors Community Grants support hundreds of diverse, accessible and innovative activities that provide something for everyone – from Tai Chi lessons, lawn bowling and other physical activities, to arts and music appreciation, to virtual speakers' series, day trips, and so much more.

"I want to first congratulate the Kang Nai Xin Senior Association, the Sawitri Theatre Group, and the Church of St. Mary & St. Athanasius recipient, all of whom received funding from our government's Seniors Community Grant Funding," said Natalia Kusendova, MPP for Mississauga Centre. "We all recognise that seniors across Ontario have contributed so much over the course of their lives to make our province the place we know and love today. As the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Francophone Affairs, I look forward to continuing to work with Francophone community stakeholders to ensure that French-speaking seniors remain supported in communities across Ontario."

Throughout their lives, seniors have helped build and contribute to Ontario's quality of life. Seniors Community Grants provide them with new ways to engage with their local communities to promote physical, mental and social well-being.

Quick Facts

- The Seniors Community Grant 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.
 - Since June 2018, the Seniors Community Grant Program has provided more than 950 grants to benefit older Ontarians.
-

Additional Resources

- [Apply for a Seniors Community Grant](#)
 - [See a full list of 2021-22 Seniors Community Grants](#)
 - [Age-Friendly Communities Planning Guide](#)
-

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. [Learn more](#)

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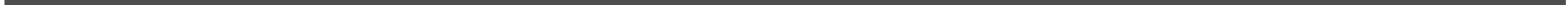
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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Providing Support for Downtown Ottawa Businesses

Funding available for small businesses affected by weeks-long demonstrations

March 04, 2022

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

[Finance](#)

[Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#)

OTTAWA — The Ontario government is providing up to \$11.5 million to local businesses in Ottawa impacted by the nearly four-week long occupation near Parliament Hill in January and February 2022. This funding will also help Ottawa restore consumer confidence and welcome people back to the nation's capital.

The funding includes a \$10-million grant, which will be administered by [Invest Ottawa](#), to help get money into the hands of businesses quickly. Eligible Ottawa businesses can apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to help pay for non-deferrable operating expenses incurred during the blockade. More information on the application process and eligibility criteria will be available soon on the Invest Ottawa website.

"The illegal blockades in downtown Ottawa this winter caused significant financial losses for local businesses," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. "Our government is supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs by providing the relief they need to recover quickly. Today's announcement will help Ottawa — and the small businesses at the heart of our community — get ready to welcome visitors for the spring and summer tourist seasons."

"For weeks, the city of Ottawa was under siege from an illegal blockade, impacting business owners and workers through no fault of their own," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "Our government has always stood with hard-working Ontario small business owners, and we have committed to supporting the City of Ottawa and to helping businesses recover."

The government is also investing \$1.5 million in [Ottawa Tourism](#), helping Ottawa reinforce its brand as a world-class city while encouraging visitor and tourism spending in the National Capital Region. Ottawa Tourism will launch a campaign that inspires consumer confidence and encourages tourists and visitors to come to Ottawa to enjoy the peak spring and summer seasons.

"Ottawa is our country's capital, and one of Ontario's key tourism gateway cities. Many out-of-province visitors begin or end their visit to Ontario in the National Capital Region," said Minister MacLeod. "We are sending a strong signal that the nation's capital is open for business and ready to welcome the world to Ontario."

Quick Facts

- Invest Ottawa, a not-for-profit organization, is collaborating with key partners in the Ottawa region, including the Ottawa Board of Trade and the Ottawa Coalition of Business Improvement Areas to deliver this support so eligible businesses can access support.
 - Ottawa Tourism works with more than 450 tourism-related member businesses to profile Ottawa and the National Capital Region as a diverse place to visit or host major meetings and events.
 - Tourism in the National Capital Region is important to Ontario's economy. In 2019, visitor spending in the Ottawa area generated more than \$2.5 billion.
-

Quotes

"Small businesses, and our neighbours who run them, are an integral part of our community, which is why our government continues to step up when and where they need support. We are delivering this funding to support their resilience so Ottawa remains an attractive destination for anyone wishing to experience our incredible national capital."

- Dr. Merrilee Fullerton
MPP for Kanata—Carleton

"This \$10 million investment will encourage more people to get out and support their local small businesses. Restoring consumer confidence is a key part of our recovery and today's announcement is a clear sign that Ottawa is back in business."

- Jeremy Roberts
MPP for Ottawa West—Nepean

"This funding is welcome news for the small businesses that were affected by the four-week-long demonstration. COVID-19 has pushed small businesses to their limit, and our government has stepped up to show their commitment to struggling business owners who were impacted by recent events."

- Goldie Ghamari
MPP for Carleton

"We extend sincere thanks to the Government of Ontario for this critical support of businesses negatively impacted by recent demonstrations in Ottawa's downtown core. These companies make a critical contribution to our community and economy. This funding will help these entrepreneurs and owners to recover, continue building their business and driving our economic recovery."

- Michael Tremblay
President and CEO, Invest Ottawa

"Ottawa Tourism is grateful for this support from the Ontario government, which will help our tourism businesses get back to what they do best: welcoming visitors and showcasing the incredible experiences that can be had in our region. Tourism has a major role to play in the recovery of our community; in the short term, we encourage Ottawans to support the downtown as we resume our role as a welcoming, safe, inclusive destination."

- Michael Crockatt
President and CEO, Ottawa Tourism

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. [Learn more](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Providing Access to the Latest Technology for Diabetes Care

Improving the health and quality of life for people living with diabetes

March 04, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is making it more affordable for Ontarians living with type 1 diabetes to monitor their blood glucose levels by providing coverage for real-time continuous glucose monitors, the latest technology in diabetes care, through the province's Assistive Devices Program.

"This year marks 100 years since insulin was first successfully used to treat diabetes right here in Ontario. This lifesaving drug has helped countless people stay healthy, and today we're helping even more people living with diabetes," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By making the latest technology more affordable, our government is ensuring that Ontarians living with type 1 diabetes can conveniently track their glucose levels in real time, allowing them to better manage their diabetes and live healthier lives."

Starting March 14, 2022, eligible Ontarians with type 1 diabetes can receive Assistive Devices Program funding for a continuous glucose monitor and the related supplies. Eligible individuals include those with type 1 diabetes who are at risk of severe hypoglycemia or who are unable to recognize, or communicate about, symptoms of hypoglycemia.

Traditional blood glucose meters require individuals to take blood samples using frequent finger pricks, which can be inconvenient, time consuming and difficult to use during a severe hypoglycemic event. With a real-time continuous glucose monitor, individuals use a small sensor that automatically tests sugar levels every few minutes throughout the day and night. These monitors do not require a blood sample through finger pricks, making it easier and more convenient for people to monitor their glucose levels and stay healthy. The continuous glucose monitors also include an alarm that will notify the individual, their family members or a caregiver of low glucose levels, allowing them to take immediate action that can help prevent health emergencies.

By funding the latest technology and medication in diabetes care, the government is supporting patient-centred care and improved health outcomes for Ontarians living with diabetes.

Quick Facts

- To further support Ontarians living with diabetes, the government is also providing coverage for Baqsimi, a new rescue medicine for insulin-treated diabetics experiencing a severe hypoglycemic event, under the Ontario Drug Benefit program. The new nasal spray can be administered by a caregiver in the event that the person with diabetes is unable to do so themselves.
- January 2022 marked the 100th anniversary of the first successful insulin treatment, which was administered in Toronto. In the century since its breakthrough, insulin has saved and improved the lives of millions of people with diabetes in Canada and worldwide.
- Diabetes is a disease in which the body either cannot produce insulin or properly use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas to regulate the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood.
- Nearly 1.5 million Ontarians have diabetes. Most can lead healthy lives by managing their blood glucose levels, including taking insulin if needed.
- Severe hypoglycemia occurs when a person's blood glucose levels are too low and require the assistance of another person to treat. If left untreated, it can be life-threatening.
- The Assistive Devices Program helps people with long-term physical disabilities pay for customized equipment and specialized supplies. This includes some devices and supplies used by Ontarians with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, such as insulin pumps, blood glucose meters, and needles and syringes for seniors.

- To qualify for an ADP-funded real-time continuous glucose monitor, a patient must first be assessed by the health care team from an ADP-registered Diabetes Education Program. These specialized multi-disciplinary teams provide diabetes education, treatment, and follow-up resources to individuals with diabetes.

Quotes

"We're pleased to be teaming up with the Ontario government to bring the Dexcom G6 CGM System to more Ontarians living with diabetes. The Dexcom G6 provides a life-saving and life-changing solution for people with diabetes while bringing significant value to the Ontario healthcare system. We are eager to continue this momentum and are committed to working closely with governments across Canada to ensure that every person living with diabetes has access to the care they deserve."

- Laura Endres
SVP and General Manager, Dexcom Canada Co.

"We applaud the Government of Ontario for recognizing how important CGM is for people living with Type 1 diabetes. This CGM funding will help provide equitable access to a broader range of diabetes management solutions, including CGM integrated as part of a hybrid closed loop insulin pump system and standalone CGM. This increase in access can improve health outcomes for eligible patients."

- Laura Cameron
Senior Director of the Diabetes Portfolio at Medtronic Canada

"We are thrilled with the Ontario government's decision to expand much needed public coverage of devices for the type 1 diabetes community to now include continuous glucose monitoring technologies. We celebrate this evolution of coverage and patient choice as a win for those impacted by the disease. Ensuring equitable access to these devices will help people live healthier, safer, easier lives, reduce burdens on the healthcare system, and allow for healthcare practitioners to deliver improved virtual care."

- Dave Prowten
President and CEO, JDRF Canada

"Diabetes Canada is very pleased with this important step in improving access to real-time continuous glucose monitors (rtCGM) in helping to enhance the quality of life for Ontarians living with type 1 diabetes. Glucose monitors such as rtCGM, as well as intermittently scanned (isCGM) can be transformative and optimize clinical outcomes. We look forward to continuing to work with the government to ensure all people living with diabetes have access to a glucose monitoring device that suits their needs based on consultation with their health-care team."

- Laura Syron
President and CEO of Diabetes Canada

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Providing Access to Innovative Technology for Diabetes Care](#)
- [Assistive Devices Program](#)
- [Preventing and living with diabetes](#)
- Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.
- For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Investing in Additional Supports for People Experiencing Homelessness

New Homelessness Prevention Program Helping Break the Cycle of Home Insecurity

March 07, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

WHITBY — The Ontario government is investing an additional \$25 million annually in a new Homelessness Prevention Program to help more people experiencing or at risk of homelessness find the right housing services and other supports. The new program will simplify and streamline operations so municipal service managers can spend less time on paperwork and more time working with their clients to help find housing and other supports and help those at-risk of homelessness stay in their homes. The additional funding brings Ontario's total yearly investment in the program to close to \$464 million - almost half a billion dollars.

“Our government inherited a homelessness prevention system administered through several different government programs that was underfunded, fragmented and overly complex,” said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “With Ontario's new Homelessness Prevention Program, we are simplifying the delivery of services and increasing funding so our municipal partners can spend more time focusing on providing vulnerable Ontarians with the supports they need to stay in their homes or get the housing they need.”

The Homelessness Prevention Program launching on April 1, 2022, combines three programs: Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, Home for Good, and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program. It will give service managers more flexibility to target funding where it is needed the most and allow for greater financial accountability by measuring service managers' progress in reducing and preventing homelessness in their communities.

Access to this funding will be based on having in place a [By-Name List](#) that meets the provincial requirements and contains detailed, up-to-date information from individuals experiencing homelessness to help connect them to local supports.

The government is also investing an additional \$6.7 million in the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program, bringing the total annual investment to \$30 million.

“Our government recognizes how important culturally appropriate housing is for Indigenous communities, and how critical these services are to improving the physical, mental and social well-being of Indigenous people across Ontario,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs. “Through the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program, our government is more than doubling Ontario's annual investment in Indigenous supportive housing, to ensure those at-risk for homelessness have access to the resources they need and deserve.”

The shortage of housing supply impacts all Ontarians, no matter their background or budget. The province's ongoing work to increase the supply of market housing complements historic investments to increase the supply of supportive and affordable housing for the most vulnerable. As part of the consultations through the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, the government is working with service managers and housing providers to make community housing more efficient and sustainable – helping to protect essential community housing stock and ensure Ontario's most vulnerable people remain housed.

QUOTES

“Investments like today's announcement at the Muslim Welfare Centre gives local service managers more flexibility to deliver critical services and housing supports to those most vulnerable in our communities. This is a positive step forward in the fight against homelessness in Whitby, Durham Region, and across Ontario.”

- Lorne Coe, Whitby MPP and Chief Government Whip

“Everyone deserves a safe place to call home; it is a basic human right. This funding from the Province of Ontario will support critical homelessness prevention and housing services to help ensure Durham Region remains a healthy, safe and prosperous place. This investment will bring us one step closer to achieving our goal of ending chronic homelessness in Durham Region by 2024.”

- John Henry, Regional Chair and CEO, Region of Durham

“With today’s announcement, Ontario is taking critical steps toward ending homelessness. By pairing the By Name List’s powerful, real-time, person specific data with increased and more flexible funding, Ontario municipalities will be able to improve the coordination of their homelessness responses, unlock new solutions, increase efficiency and most importantly, deliver better housing outcomes for vulnerable Ontarians. This is really smart policy that puts Ontario on the cutting edge of provincial responses to homelessness in Canada.”

- Tim Richter, President and CEO of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

Quick Facts

- The new investments can be used to fund the operation of supportive housing units created through the province’s \$1 billion Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) – one of the biggest investments the province has made in affordable housing and homelessness supports in Ontario’s history. Thanks to Ontario’s SSRF, the government is helping to create approximately 1,200 new supportive housing units.
- Ontario is also providing the [Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness](#) with up to \$600,000 in 2022-23 to deliver by-name list training and implementation support related to HPP.
- HPP is a direct response to feedback from the 2020-21 Supportive Housing Consultation. The changes made through the creation of the new program address recommendations in the Auditor General’s 2021 value-for-money audit on homelessness.

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Making Historic Investment in Provincial Nursing Workforce

Nurses Across Health Care System Will Receive up to \$5,000 Retention Payment

March 07, 2022

[Health](#)

BELLEVILLE — The Ontario government is investing \$763 million to provide Ontario's nurses with a lump sum retention incentive of up to \$5,000 per person. This payment will help to retain nurses across the health sector and stabilize the current nursing workforce during this critical time to ensure patients continue to access the health care they need and deserve.

"Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic nurses have stayed on the front lines with remarkable dedication and selflessness as they care for our sick and most vulnerable Ontarians, and we know that a strong nursing workforce is crucial to supporting the province's recovery in the months and years ahead," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "As we continue to build up our nursing workforce, this investment will support the nurses we currently have so that Ontarians continue to have access to the care they need during the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future."

Through the temporary retention payment for nurses, the government will provide a lump sum payment of up to \$5,000 for eligible full-time nurses and a prorated payment of up to \$5,000 for eligible part-time and casual nursing staff across the province. The payment will be paid by employers in two installments.

Nurses eligible to receive the payment include nurses in hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes, home and community care, primary care, mental health and addictions, emergency services, and corrections, as well as range of other community based and developmental services including youth justice. Nurses in a management or supervisory role who were redeployed to a direct patient care role will qualify.

Retaining and hiring more nurses is one more way Ontario is creating a stronger health care workforce. Since March 2020, the government has launched emergency programs that have already added over 8,450 health care professionals to the system, including hospitals, long-term care homes and home and community care settings. These programs will also provide hospitals with the capacity to add another 4,000 additional providers to high-need hospitals to support staffing pressures due to COVID-19 by March 31, 2022, including the deployment of nursing students and other health care providers-in-training.

These initiatives build on the government's commitment as part of the 2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario to invest \$342 million over the next five years through immediate and longer-term recruitment initiatives which would add over 13,000 workers to Ontario's health care system. This includes over 5,000 new and upskilled registered nurses and registered practical nurses as well as 8,000 personal support workers.

Quick Facts

- To receive the first payment, nurses must be employed as of March 31 and to receive the second payment nurses must be employed on September 1.
- In 2021-22, the province [invested \\$35 million to add up to 2,000 additional nursing students at publicly-assisted colleges and universities](#) across the province, for the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 incoming cohorts.
- The province is also collaborating with Ontario Health and the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) on initiatives [to deploy internationally educated nurses to hospitals and other health care settings](#) to work under the supervision of a regulated health care provider, such as a registered nurse or doctor. More than 1,200 internationally educated CNO applicants have expressed interest in participating in these initiatives so far.
- In its continued support of nurses and their practice, the government recently approved scope of practice expansions for nurse practitioners, which will allow them order CT scans and MRI tests for their patients and to perform a broad range of point-of-care tests, making it easier and more convenient for patients to access the timely care they need.

Quotes

"Nurses give residents the care they need everyday and the need for more nurses in the long-term care sector has never been greater. This payment will help stabilize and retain nurses in long-term care, and support our government's Canada-leading commitment to ensure residents receive, on average, four hours of direct care per day."

- Paul Calandra
Minister of Long-Term Care

"Our government is making this historic incentive payment to help retain the hardworking nurses who help protect the health and wellbeing of retirement home residents across Ontario every day. We are thankful for their dedication and incredible service, especially during the pandemic."

- Raymond Cho
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

"Nurses have been on the frontlines of this global pandemic, and have continued to provide important care to our loved ones with compassion and professionalism. This retention payment is an important part of our work to build nursing capacity across Ontario."

- Dr. Merrilee Fullerton
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

"Nurses protect public health each and every day, and an investment in them is an investment in a stronger Ontario. Our nursing workforce care for Ontarians not only in hospitals, but also in congregate care and correctional facilities and this payment will ensure patients continue to receive the care they need."

- Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly challenging for home care nurses and for all nurses from every sector. I would sincerely like to thank every nurse and health care provider for their dedication, commitment, professionalism, and all the personal sacrifices they make every day to care for others, especially during these past two years. This investment in nurses by the Ontario government is a welcome recognition of the outstanding knowledge, skills and professionalism of nurses and it will help ensure the continuity of safe, high-quality care for patients in their homes and communities across Canada."

- Maureen Charlebois
Chief Nursing & Clinical Officer, Bayshore HealthCare

"The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario is grateful to the Ministry of Health and the Government of Ontario for recognizing the valiant contributions nurses have made and continue to make to delivering healthcare in Ontario. We have long stated that nurses are the heartbeat of healthcare. Words cannot adequately express the incredible efforts we have seen from our nurses. Never before have the nursing ranks been pushed to these limits and it is being reflected in the number that are leaving the workforce. Experienced nurses will be a critical component to help healthcare in Ontario to recover from this pandemic, and we can only hope that this retention payment will convince them to continue to provide the exceptional care Ontarians need."

- Dana Cooper
Executive Director, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario

"Home Care Ontario applauds the government for today's significant investment to provide front-line nurses with temporary retention payments. Nurses are one of the many front-line home care heroes who have continued to help keep people safe through-out the COVID-19 pandemic, and these bonuses are very well deserved."

- Sue VanderBent
CEO, Home Care Ontario

"RNAO welcomes the temporary retention payment as recognition to the selfless giving and exhaustion nurses have experienced during this long and intense pandemic. Nursing is central to the health of Ontarians and our health system. Partnering with government and employers, RNAO will do all we can to ensure robust nurse retention and recruitment so that workloads decrease and Ontarians have timely access to safe and quality nursing care, in all settings and sectors."

- Dr. Doris Grinspun
RNAO CEO

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Continues to Add Hospital Beds and Build Up Health Workforce](#)
- [Building Ontario](#)
- [Economic and Fiscal Overview](#)
- [2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Expanding Mental Health and Addictions Supports for Frontline Health Care Workers](#)
- Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

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BACKGROUNDER

Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022

Reducing Barriers and Eliminating Delays in Locating Underground Infrastructure to Help Expand High-Speed Internet Access in Communities

March 07, 2022

[Infrastructure](#)

[Government and Consumer Services](#)

If passed, the *Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022* would reduce barriers and bring high-speed internet infrastructure to communities faster across the province. This legislation would reduce delays to help meet the province's commitment to ensure all communities in Ontario have access to reliable high-speed internet by the end of 2025. It would also help build better infrastructure faster, strengthen communities and boost local economies.

In addition, the legislation would improve Ontario One Call's processes of determining the location of underground infrastructure like telecommunications lines, water mains and gas pipelines, known as locates. The new locate process, for some situations, would ensure that infrastructure owners use one service jointly rather than their own services, would avoid duplicate inspections and ensure that locates remain valid for 60 days. This is expected to significantly reduce waiting periods for builders, strengthen safety for workers and improve the accuracy of results, enabling internet service providers to more quickly plan and start their broadband infrastructure projects and finish them faster.

Reducing Barriers and Expediting High-Speed Internet Access in Communities

This legislation, if passed, would amend the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021* (BBFA) to:

- Set required service standards to ensure municipalities provide timely responses to right-of-way permits for high-speed internet infrastructure deployment. This includes 10 business days to respond to right of way permits with distances of up to 30 kilometers and 15 business days to respond with distances of 30 kilometers or more.
- Require information sharing by ensuring municipalities and stakeholders use Broadband One Window. This is an online platform, developed by Infrastructure Ontario, which would provide stakeholders with easy and secure access to datasets, while helping to manage right of way access applications.
- Ensure organizations that own utility infrastructure near a designated high-speed internet project provide timely access to infrastructure data. This would allow internet service providers to quickly start work on laying down underground high-speed internet infrastructure.

If passed, Ontario would also propose a regulation under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, to support the expedited deployment of high-speed internet projects. This includes setting timelines for Local Distribution Companies to facilitate hydro pole attachment requests and requiring companies to use the Broadband One Window tool when an Internet Service Provider with a designated broadband project elects to use the platform.

Improving the process for locating underground infrastructure

In addition to companies building broadband infrastructure, the legislation, if passed, would also reduce delays and duplication for anyone who needs information about the location of underground infrastructure including housing developments, commercial real estate projects and road works. Amending the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012* would:

- Make it faster and easier for construction and infrastructure projects to obtain underground infrastructure location information, also known as locates.
- Provide excavators with greater control over completing locates by mandating the use of a dedicated locator model for certain construction and infrastructure projects where a single locator is pre-identified to provide locate information.
- Ensure high safety standards and improve the accuracy of locates.
- Reduce duplication and waiting periods by allowing contractors on the same dig site to share underground infrastructure location details.

- Provide certainty for excavators and reduce the frequency of locating underground infrastructure by extending and standardizing the validity period of locates for a minimum of 60 days.
 - Improve Ontario One Call's compliance and enforcement tools, such as providing Ontario One Call the authority to issue administrative penalties against non-compliant members and excavators in the industry. Ontario One Call is a not-profit organization overseen by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services.
 - Enhance the governance and oversight of Ontario One Call with requirements that are consistent with administrative authorities overseen by the ministry.
-

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Connecting More Communities to High-Speed Internet Access](#)
-

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Connecting More Communities to High-Speed Internet Access

New legislation helping to accelerate connectivity projects

March 07, 2022

[Infrastructure](#)

[Government and Consumer Services](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is introducing legislation to help bring reliable high-speed internet to underserved and unserved communities sooner. If passed, the changes would remove barriers, duplication and delays, making it easier and faster to build high-speed internet infrastructure across the province.

“By taking this leap, our government is helping to accelerate the deployment of high-speed internet, providing people with the digital services they need and deserve,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “The *Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022*, if passed, would help meet our government’s commitment to connect every community with access to high-speed internet by the end of 2025. We’re building Ontario faster and strengthening our communities while laying the foundation for long-term economic growth.”

Ontario is investing \$900 million in more than 180 broadband, cellular and satellite projects across the province. The *Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022* would provide the tools and assurances that internet service providers need to get shovels in the ground as early as this summer.

The new legislation would also improve Ontario One Call’s processes of determining the location of underground infrastructure like telecommunications lines, water mains and gas pipelines, known as locates. Instead of everyone using their own locate process, they would be able to have the work done by one person in some situations, reducing duplication. This is expected to significantly reduce waiting periods for internet service providers, strengthen safety for workers, and improve the accuracy of results, leading to accelerated construction of broadband infrastructure across Ontario.

“It often takes businesses and builders too long to start construction because of how complicated it is to get information about underground infrastructure,” said Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. “These are costly delays to building critical high-speed internet projects and housing developments that we can’t afford, which is why we’re accelerating how quickly workers can get shovels in the ground.”

“Ontarians expect and deserve reliable internet service wherever they live, learn or do business,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “By removing barriers to high-speed internet expansion, more Ontarians will be able to access public services, such as health care and education, operate businesses and access employment opportunities.”

The legislation builds on the progress the government has already made as part of its plan to get Ontario connected, including an investment of nearly \$4 billion to provide people and businesses across the province with access to reliable high-speed internet. The province also took action to help speed up construction of projects through the *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021* and the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021*.

Today’s introduction of legislation would help expand access to digital health care services, as well as ensuring that everyone in Ontario can work, learn, start a business, participate in the agricultural sector and connect with family and friends.

Quick Facts

- All underground infrastructure owners are required to register with One Call as members, including gas and oil utilities, electrical utilities, telecommunication companies and municipalities. One Call currently has 835 members across the province.
- In 2021, Ontario One Call processed 1,114,404 locate requests.

- The Ontario government is investing over \$900 million in more than 180 broadband, cellular and satellite projects, bringing faster internet access to 375,000 homes and businesses across the province and significantly improving cellular connectivity throughout Eastern Ontario.
 - In 2021, Ontario announced projects in regions across the province, including [six projects that will serve Northern Ontario](#), 17 Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) projects led exclusively by the province, and [58 projects](#) that Ontario is co-funding with Canada through ICON and the Universal Broadband Fund.
 - The province has invested in initiatives to improve connectivity across [Eastern](#) and [Southwestern Ontario](#). It has also invested in high-speed internet projects in rural and Northern communities through other initiatives, such as the [Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation](#) and the [Next Generation Network Program](#).
 - Expanding access to high-speed internet is part of [Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government](#), which includes more than 30 projects that are changing the way people and businesses interact with government.
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Additional Resources

- [Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022](#)
 - [Ontario Connects: making high-speed internet accessible in every community](#)
 - [Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021](#)
 - [2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario](#)
 - [Ontario Builds map](#)
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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Seeking Public Input on Initiatives to Combat Racism

Consultations to inform renewal of province's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan

March 07, 2022

[Citizenship and Multiculturalism](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is seeking input from the community as it launches a review of the province's [Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#). The consultations will help inform programs supporting public education and awareness, community collaboration, and anti-racism initiatives like the Anti-Black Racism Strategy and the development of an Indigenous-focused strategy.

"As our economy continues to grow stronger, our government is committed to ensuring that all Ontarians can benefit from equal access to opportunity, and I look forward to hearing from the public on ways we can empower communities and advance racial equity in this province," said Parm Gill, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, responsible for the Anti-Racism Directorate. "Through this consultation and review we will continue to identify and deliver initiatives that help remove barriers and promote economic inclusion, so all children, youth and families in Ontario are able to reach their full potential."

[The review of Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#) is a legislative requirement under the *Anti-Racism Act, 2017* and ensures the province continues to uphold its commitment to target systemic racism and advance racial equity for Indigenous, Black, Muslim, Jewish, Asian and other racialized populations, and is responsive to emerging priorities.

Public and community-led engagements will inform the renewal of a whole-of-government approach that builds on existing initiatives to fight racism in the government, eliminate violence and hate, and empower communities, youth, and families.

Visit the [consultation page](#) to provide your feedback on the province's [Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#).

Quick Facts

- The province released [A Better Way Forward: Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#) in March 2017.
 - Progress under the 2017-2022 anti-racism strategy includes:
 - Establishing the *Anti-Racism Act, 2017* and [Ontario's Anti-Racism Data Standards](#)
 - Establishing [Ontario's Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#)
 - Publishing targets and indicators to measure progress of race-based data collection in the education, child welfare and justice sectors
 - Facilitating engagements with broader public sector organizations to further race-based data collection
 - Establishing the [Ontario Public Service Anti-Racism Policy](#)
 - Hosting [Ontario's first Economic Inclusion Roundtable](#), and holding conferences on anti-racism in 2018 and anti-Black racism in 2020.
 - On January 31, 2022, [the Ontario government announced it doubled its investment in the Anti-Racism Anti-Hate Grant Program](#), bringing the total funding for the grant program to \$3.2 million over two years.
 - The government introduced a \$25 million [Ontario Grant to Support Anti-Hate Security Measures for Faith-Based and Cultural Organizations](#) on February 3, 2022.
 - Ontario announced on February 16, 2022 that the province is [extending funding for economic empowerment programs for Black youth and entrepreneurs via the Black Youth Action Plan](#).
-

Quotes

"The Network for the Advancement of Black Communities is pleased to facilitate a community-led engagement of Black Communities in the strategic review of Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategy. This review is critically important not only because it's legislatively mandated but also because it's happening at a time when hate and racism, including anti-Black racism, are increasing. A renewed and robust Anti-Racism Strategy will be one of the tools that are much needed for communities and government to combat racism and hate."

- ammanuel melles

Executive Director of the Network for the Advancement of Black Communities

"Eliminating systemic racism and biases is both critical and difficult. It is critical to building an inclusive economy and strong society. Partnering with community organizations and leaders will increase the odds for success. Muslim Association of Canada hopes this engagement will provide insights about how systemic racism impacts lives and help in charting a strategy to eliminate all forms of systemic biases."

- Sharaf Sharafeldin

CEO of Muslim Association of Canada

"CIJA is pleased to partner with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as it launches a new chapter. It is critical that efforts to combat hate and racism – including antisemitism – be done in partnership with communities from across the province."

- Noah Shack

Vice President, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

"The establishment of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and the Anti-Racism Directorate was an important step in the province. We look forward to working with the ARD in creating space for community voices in the review. We also look ahead to working with a fully resourced and empowered ARD on carrying out its renewed mandate."

- Debbie Douglas

Executive Director, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)

Additional Resources

[Anti-Racism Directorate](#)

[Annual progress report 2021: Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#)

[Ontario's Anti-Racism Anti-Hate Grant \(ARAH\) Grant Program](#)

[Ontario Grant to Support Anti-Hate Security Measures for Faith-Based and Cultural Organizations](#)

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. [Learn more](#)

Government

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

Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn more](#)

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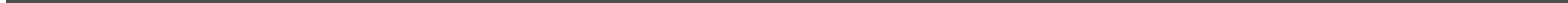
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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Investing in Sport Organizations and Community Recreation

Province stabilizing sport and recreation for Ontario communities

March 08, 2022

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

[Finance](#)

OSHAWA – The Ontario government is investing \$30 million to stabilize Ontario’s sport and recreation sector, help offset increased costs as a result of COVID-19 and support the sector’s future recovery in communities across the province.

“Ontario’s sport and recreation sector was among the first and hardest hit by the pandemic,” said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. “Our government recognizes how important sport and recreation is to our physical and mental well-being, and to the economic well-being of Ontario communities. As we emerge from the pandemic, this investment will help ensure families and athletes are able to return to the sports and activities they love.”

This funding includes:

- \$20 million to ministry-recognized Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) and Multi-Sport Organizations (MSOs) to distribute to their local member clubs such as soccer, karate and volleyball
- \$7 million to the Ontario Sport Network to distribute to local community-based sport and recreation organizations such as dance and cheerleading, through an application process
- \$3 million to help the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and its 17 teams meet their academic scholarship commitments for current and former players.

“This funding will help community-based sports organizations get back on their feet, so they can continue to support the social, physical, emotional and economic well-being of communities across the province,” said Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy. “Ontario is getting stronger, and today’s investment is part of our plan to support our recovery, prosperity and growth.”

Supporting Ontario’s local sport and recreation clubs and organizations is vital to their long-term sustainability and will ensure they are well positioned to provide services and opportunities for youth and adults across Ontario as they return to physical activity and competition.

Quick Facts

- Ontario’s PSOs and MSOs consist of approximately 7,400 clubs servicing almost 3.1 million members, playing a pivotal role in the development of athletes, coaches and officials.
 - Established in 1998, the [Ontario Sport Network](#), formerly Sport4Ontario, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promotion of sport and physical activity at the community level in Ontario.
 - The OHL directly supports jobs and businesses across Ontario, including: 327 full-time jobs in its teams and league office, 831 part-time jobs, 176 students working for teams on internships or co-op terms, and 1,100 volunteers, and 327 player alumni on OHL-financed scholarships at post-secondary institutions in Ontario and abroad.
-

Quotes

"This is great news for our alumni and current players who play and study in the Ontario Hockey League. We are grateful to the Premier and Minister MacLeod for their support of the League throughout the pandemic. The OHL scholarship and academic programs are a key part of our player experience, and this funding helps to ensure this program continues to thrive."

- David Branch
Commissioner, Ontario Hockey League

"We are excited to be working with Minister MacLeod and the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries in providing an emergency relief fund targeting community level sport and recreation organizations, and associations to deal with financial hardships due to COVID-19. We recognize the critical importance of providing support to enhance the sustainability of our provincial sport sector."

- Patsy Coyle
Managing Director, Ontario Sport Network

Additional Resources

[Provincial Sport Organizations and Multi-Sport Organizations](#)

[Ontario Sport Network](#)

[Ontario Hockey League](#)

Related Topics

Government

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

Travel and Recreation

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

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BACKGROUND

Supporting STEM Achievement in Ontario

March 08, 2022

[Education](#)

To ensure students have the skills they need to compete and succeed in the global economy, the Ontario government has revised the Grades 1 to 8 Science and Technology curriculum and is developing a new de-streamed Grade 9 Science course. These changes are being implemented for the 2022-23 school year as part of the government’s commitment to modernizing education and preparing students for success beyond the classroom.

The new de-streamed Grade 9 Science course will build on the learning in the elementary Science and Technology curriculum and support all students in examining practical applications of science, including connections to STEM skills, careers and the skilled trades.

The new Grade 9 curriculum will enhance learning on biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and space; including learning about local and global ecosystems, the role of chemistry in everyday life, electrical energy and consumption, and space exploration and technology.

These important changes to Ontario’s curriculum demonstrate our government’s ongoing commitment to ensure that every student in Ontario has the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.

New learning in the revised Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Science and Technology

The revised elementary Science and Technology curriculum ensures that all students see themselves as confident and effective science and technology learners and practitioners, and includes:

- Hands-on STEM activities, including the first provincial science curriculum with coding across all grades. Building on the new 2020 elementary math curriculum where students learn coding beginning in Grade 1, students will be using coding skills in their STEM learning in every grade of the Science and Technology curriculum
- Use the engineering design process to invent and design innovative solutions. For example, in Grade 6, students design and test devices such as flying machines and in Grade 8, students can design a system that replicates a conveyor belt as part of their learning on mechanical systems
- Explore emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence systems, and the impact on everyday life, the economy, the environment and STEM fields and occupations. For example, in Grade 5, students will investigate emerging technologies used in the skilled trades
- Build understanding of food literacy through mandatory learning on healthy eating, considering various food systems, connections to mental and physical health, the role the environment plays in how our food grows and the importance of locally sourced food. For example, in Grade 3, students will learn about growth and changes in plants when different Ontario soils are used
- Support analysis on effective conservation efforts and energy and industrial innovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For example, in Grade 7, students will investigate the impacts of non-renewable and renewable sources of energy.

Key Changes	2007 curriculum	2022 curriculum
Coding	No coding expectations	Coding expectations in Grades 1 to 9 as students write and execute code when modelling concepts. Expectations related to the impact of coding from Grades 1 to 9.
Engineering Design Processes	No explicit expectations	Engineering design processes (with accompanying models provided in the curriculum context).

Key Changes	2007 curriculum	2022 curriculum
Emergent Technologies	No explicit expectations	Expectations related to the impact of emerging technologies from Grades 1 to 9.
Skilled Trades	No explicit learning related to skilled trades	In Grades 4 to 9, students learn about the impacts of coding and of emerging technologies on skilled trades and skilled trades-related careers.
The Environment	Limited learning	Learning about environmental protection, climate change, and reducing greenhouse gases at a developmentally appropriate level is found throughout the curriculum. It is part of the learning expectations for each grade and spans across each of the strands.
Food literacy	Some learning about food literacy throughout grades	Additional learning related to food literacy throughout grades and every strand.
Indigenous Perspectives and Ways of Knowing	Expectations related to Indigenous perspectives and use of plants appears in Life Systems learning	Enhanced and new learning across multiple strands related to students connecting Indigenous ways of knowing and perspectives to explore real-world issues.

Upcoming, New de-streamed Grade 9 Science Course

Building on learning in the Grades 1-8 curriculum, the new de-streamed Grade 9 Science course will include learning on:

- Hands-on research, experimentation, and engineering design processes to investigate concepts relevant to students' lives, and communities, such as exploring applications of space technology, constructing circuits to understand electricity, and investigating common household chemicals
- New learning related to coding, emerging technologies and their applications, and ecosystem sustainability, connections to STEM-related careers, including in the skilled trades
- Enhanced learning on biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and space; including learning about local and global ecosystems, the role of chemistry in everyday life, electrical energy and consumption, and space exploration and technology.

This course will also ensure that students are prepared for senior-level Science and Mathematics courses, including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Science and Environmental Science.

Grade 10 Math Addenda

The Grade 10 Math Addenda will be implemented in September 2022 and are intended to support the continuum of learning from the new de-streamed Grade 9 Math course that was implemented in September 2021 to the current Grade 10 Math courses.

Implementation Supports

The ministry is partnering with education stakeholders and the following organizations to provide educators and students with new classroom-ready resources and training to support the implementation of STEM curricula.

- [Ontario Science Centre](#): videos, presentations, lesson plans and professional development workshops to support STEM
- [Science North](#): webinars, videos, live teacher support and resources focused on experiential learning, STEM, coding, Indigenous ways of knowing and supporting underrepresented groups in STEM
- [Let's Talk Science](#): resources focused on climate change
- [First Robotics](#): resources focused on coding
- [Visions of Science](#): resources focused on building STEM skills, coding, climate change, food literacy and emerging technologies
- [Subject Associations](#): long-range plans, lesson and assessment plans, coding resources and webinars on all revised content

- [Principals Councils](#): professional learning networks and webinars for principals and vice-principals to lead implementation in schools

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Modernizing School Science Curriculum](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario’s early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Modernizing School Science Curriculum

Improved curriculum to emphasize critical life and job skills, including the skilled trades

March 08, 2022

[Education](#)

TORONTO — To ensure students have critical life and job skills, the Ontario government is introducing a new science and technology curriculum and de-streaming the Grade 9 science course for the upcoming 2022-23 school year.

The *Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Science and Technology, 2022*, and the planned changes to the new de-streamed Grade 9 science course, are part of the government's plan to align curriculum changes with the province's economic needs and place an emphasis on critical life and job skills, including the fast-growing skilled trades.

Ontario's elementary science and technology curriculum was last updated in 2007 and the Grade 9 course was last updated in 2008. Since then, significant scientific and technological innovations such as the advancement of smartphones, everyday use of 3D printing and genomic vaccines have emerged, and the global economy has changed. The updated curriculum responds to these changes with the goal of positioning Ontario as a leading jurisdiction in STEM, helping to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.

The new curriculum will be implemented in September 2022, in time for the 2022-23 school year as part of the government's plan to ensure that all students have the foundational, transferable and entrepreneurial skills they need to compete in a rapidly changing world.

"Ontario has transformed the curriculum to now emphasize STEM education across all grades, embedding life and job skills that will support the next generation of scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "From finding new cures for cancer, to space robotics that reach new planets, and the development of artificial intelligence and technologies that are changing the economy, Ontario's new science and technology curriculum is focused on giving young people the skills to think critically, dream boldly and chart new pathways forward for our economy."

For the first time in Ontario history, the revised curriculum includes required learning on real-world connections between science, technology, engineering and mathematics. New expectations include:

- **Coding:** mandatory learning on coding from Grades 1 to 9, consistent with the math curriculum, to further enshrine Ontario as a STEM leader. For example, in Grade 3, students can learn how to program a small robot.
- **Connecting STEM Learning:** for the first time, Ontario has dedicated learning expectations from Grades 1 to 9 which explicitly connects science, technology, engineering and mathematics to real-world issues.
- **Emerging technology:** students will learn about the rise and application of advanced research, robotics and the development of artificial intelligence (AI) systems. Students can learn about the impact and application of AI in their daily lives, including facial recognition, autonomous vehicles, drones and search engines.
- **Skilled trades:** mandatory learning from Grades 4 to 9 on the relationship between how advancements in science and emerging technologies are enhancing the skilled trades and providing exciting career opportunities.
- **Food literacy:** learning related to food literacy in every grade that empowers students to make decisions that affect physical and mental health, consider local food production, and the scientific processes involved in agriculture.

The previous curricula did not contain required learning related to the skilled trades. Students will now explore how science relates to careers in the skilled trades and how emerging and new technologies impact these careers. These new learning expectations within the curriculum will ensure Ontario's students are at the forefront of emerging innovation, thought and able to compete in the global economy.

To support the continuum of learning in mathematics, the ministry is also issuing an addendum for each of the Grade 10 Academic and Applied Mathematics courses, to be implemented for the 2022-23 school year. The addenda outline additional learning expectations to support students in their learning as they transition from the new de-streamed Grade 9 Mathematics course to the current Grade 10 Mathematics courses.

Quick Facts

- Results from the province-wide consultation in fall of 2018 showed that only 21 per cent of survey respondents believed that Ontario's schools were doing enough to promote STEM education in elementary school and 65 per cent of telephone townhall participants felt students should be learning more about STEM topics at an earlier age.
- To develop the revised elementary science and technology curriculum, Ontario reviewed current research and best practices from leading jurisdictions and incorporated feedback from education stakeholders and partners, including postsecondary institutions and Indigenous partners.
- Revising the elementary science and technology curriculum and developing the new Grade 9 science course is the next step to ensure that Ontario students will be prepared with the STEM skills they need to be successful in secondary school and beyond.
- The ministry is committed to continuing to support educators with teaching STEM and is partnering with subject associations and third-party organizations, including Ontario Science Centre, Science North and Let's Talk Science, to develop classroom-ready resources and professional learning opportunities for educators in the months leading up to classroom implementation and throughout the 2022-23 school year.
- The ministry is also partnering with Science North to provide STEM supports for students in Grades 7 to 10, including those students traditionally underrepresented in STEM. This will provide opportunities for students to develop real-world job skills in STEM fields.
- In July 2020, the Ontario government announced new changes to the education system to ensure all students can reach their full potential. As part of this action, the province has ended Grade 9 streaming into applied and academic courses.
- The elementary math curriculum for Grades 1 to 8 was issued in June 2020 to better prepare students for work in a rapidly changing world, strengthen math competence and improve grades.
- The de-streamed Grade 9 Mathematics course was issued in June 2021 as part of the province's four-year mathematics strategy to ensure all students can build the skills and confidence they need to succeed and excel. The course includes mandatory new learning on coding, data literacy, mathematical modelling and an emphasis on financial literacy.

Quotes

"As an organization dedicated to promoting careers in skilled trades and technologies to youth, Skills Ontario fully supports the modernization of the curriculum to include skilled trades and better address STEM. Encouraging youth to explore these pathways is vital to our success as a province. We are thrilled to continue our strong partnership with the Ontario government and the Ministry of Education, and we remain committed to supporting and encouraging the next generation of skilled trade and technology leaders."

- Ian T. Howcroft
Chief Executive Officer, Skills Ontario

"At First Robotics Canada, we recognize the importance of increasing the representation of women in STEM and we are excited to be part of today's announcement with the Provincial Government. It's great to see our government modernizing Science and Technology curriculum in Ontario to include more STEM concepts and experiential learning. Creating pathways for women in STEM through this new curriculum will lead to an increased diversity of thought which will have significant advantages for Ontario's future."

- Arti Javeri
Vice- President partnerships, First Robotics

Additional Resources

- [Supporting STEM Achievement in Ontario](#)
- Curriculum and Resources [website](#)
- [Parent Guide](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario’s early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

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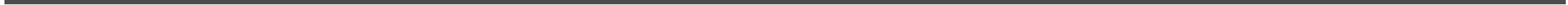
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BACKGROUNDER

Building Ontario Businesses Initiative

March 09, 2022

[Government and Consumer Services](#)

The Building Ontario Businesses Initiative (BOBI) will reduce barriers and provide companies in Ontario with greater access to public procurement opportunities, helping them to sell more goods and services, create jobs in their local communities, and recover from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative will also strengthen Ontario's supply chain resiliency and better prepare our province for potential future emergencies.

BOBI will apply to all public sector procurements, touching ministries, agencies, hospitals, school boards, and universities among other institutions. These organizations will receive training and education to support them to use BOBI effectively in their procurements.

Like other governments and jurisdictions, Ontario uses competitive procurement processes to procure goods and services. Businesses that bid on procurements provide submissions that are evaluated on factors such as price, experience, and specified qualifications. BOBI will expand on the typical technical requirements to incorporate the evaluation of criteria such as social and economic considerations, leveling the playing field for businesses in Ontario and the communities they serve.

For example:

- A tech start-up in Waterloo pays its employees fair wages, which results in higher costs to develop software than some of its overseas competitors. With BOBI, when bidding for government procurement contracts, these extra costs are taken into consideration.
- A Brampton uniform manufacturer follows Ontario's strict environmental standards when disposing of waste, which adds additional expenses compared to some competitors who pollute for free. With BOBI, businesses who pay to protect our environment will have a fairer chance in the bidding process.
- A Sault Ste. Marie office supply manufacturer follows Ontario law and provides a safe working environment for its employees, which comes with associated costs that some competitors do not have. With BOBI, these extra costs will not hinder its bid.

In addition, through the Fewer Fees, Better Services Act, the government passed the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act that would require public sector buyers to give businesses in Ontario preference when conducting procurements for goods and services under trade agreement thresholds. This legislative change will see the government targeting to spend at least \$3 billion in contracts awarded to Ontario businesses annually by 2026, further creating immense economic opportunity for Ontarians. The definition of an Ontario business is currently being consulted on with input from business associations and stakeholders.

Businesses seeking Ontario contracts valued at \$10 million and above will need to commit to helping build Ontario's supply chain and contribute to economic growth, through the Industrial Regional and Technology Benefit (IRTB) requirement. The IRTB is intended to maximize the local economic impacts of the province's large procurements by embedding economic development considerations into the procurement process. This will not only encourage long-term sustainability and growth in the Ontario-based industry directly related to the procurement, but also promote the enhancement of innovation, including through research and development in Ontario.

Additional Resources

- [Province Launches Building Ontario Businesses Initiative](#)
-

Media Contacts

NEWS RELEASE

Province Launches Building Ontario Businesses Initiative

Initiative will strengthen supply chain security and boost domestic production of critical goods

March 09, 2022

[Government and Consumer Services](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is continuing to strengthen the province’s supply chain security and economic growth through the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative (BOBI). BOBI will reduce barriers and provide companies in Ontario with greater access to public procurement opportunities, helping them sell more goods and services, create jobs in their local communities and recover from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the initiative will strengthen Ontario’s supply chain resiliency and better prepare the province for potential future emergencies.

Details were shared by Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, joined by Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction.

As part of BOBI, the government passed the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act, which mandates public sector entities to give Ontario businesses preference when conducting procurements for goods and services under a specified threshold amount. This legislative change will see the government targeting to spend at least \$3 billion in contracts awarded to Ontario businesses annually by 2026, further creating immense economic opportunity for Ontarians.

“The Building Ontario Businesses Initiative will level the playing field for Ontario businesses vying to support our province’s procurement needs and will ensure they are able to compete with overseas businesses,” said Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. “By harnessing our immense buying power, BOBI will allow our government to build our businesses in every corner of our province and support new jobs for our workers. We are investing in our people and unlocking our true economic potential.”

These changes will apply to the province’s overall procurements, which amount to \$29 billion in goods and services annually across all public sector organizations. This immense buying power will be leveraged to help Ontario businesses in the technology and manufacturing sectors grow, create good paying jobs for Ontario workers, and secure domestic supply for critical goods required in times of crisis.

Quick Facts

- [Supply Ontario](#), a new provincial agency established to address challenges in the public sector’s supply chain system, is integral to this plan. Supply Ontario will transform and move public procurement forward in line with the BOBI, further advancing modernization to benefit our economy, businesses, and Ontarians.
 - The [Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act](#) is part of this year’s red tape reduction package, the [Fewer Fees, Better Services Act, 2022](#).
 - The [2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario](#) is the government’s seventh financial update since the pandemic began, highlighting the government’s commitment to providing regular updates on Ontario’s finances, even during this uncertain economic period. It is part of the government’s plan for recovery driven by economic growth.
 - Businesses and organizations looking to apply to the extended Ontario Together Fund can now submit through [Available Funding Opportunities from the Ontario Government](#).
-

Quotes

"Local businesses are the engine of the Ontario economy and their strength is vital to our Province's economic recovery. In this global economy, we are working to ensure those businesses can compete locally by increasing capacity and strengthening the supply chain to support Ontario businesses and the people and families that rely on them."

- Vic Fedeli

Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

"One of our government's top priorities is ensuring Ontario is open for business. That means creating and protecting jobs, supporting businesses, and increasing investment and trade, so Ontario's economy can grow and thrive. The Building Ontario Businesses Initiative will help unleash the province's full potential and fuel Ontario's recovery and future prosperity."

- Nina Tangri

Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction

"Supporting Ontario businesses is a key part of our government's efforts to protect the people and jobs of our province as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. By leveraging public sector spending, the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative will spur economic growth and level the playing field for job creators and businesses in every corner of Ontario."

- Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria

President of the Treasury Board

Additional Resources

- [Building Ontario Businesses Initiative](#)
- [Ontario Bolstering Stockpile and Distributing Record Levels of Critical Supplies](#)
- [Province Launches New Modern Ontario Business Registry](#)
- [Ontario Launching New Agency to Centralize Government Procurement](#)
- [Province Appoints Board of Directors of Supply Ontario](#)
- [Supply Ontario Welcomes Inaugural CEO Frank P. Rochon](#)
- [Province to Supply Additional Ontario-Made Masks](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Enhancing Access to Customary Care for Indigenous Children and Youth

Changes helping more children and youth stay connected to their culture and community

March 09, 2022

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is taking action to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in the care of children's aid societies. Amendments to Ontario's *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* will enhance access to customary care arrangements so children and youth can remain closer to home, helping ensure they remain connected to their culture and traditions.

"Our government is committed to helping ensure Indigenous children and youth have a safe, stable and loving home that reflects their values, beliefs and traditions," said Jane McKenna, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues. "We have worked with Indigenous partners to bring forward legislative amendments that will help meet their specific needs while addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in Ontario's child welfare system."

The legislative amendments respond to calls from Indigenous communities for a child welfare system that better reflects the central and unique role that First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples play in the well-being of their families.

The changes will establish a legislative framework that will help improve outcomes for Indigenous children and youth by:

- Enhancing access to customary care, which helps children and youth to remain connected to their culture and traditions, reducing the need to access residential placements further away from home.
- Improving access to culturally appropriate prevention and early intervention services that embody Indigenous cultures, heritages and traditions for all First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and their families to reduce to number of children and youth who come into care.
- Implementing Indigenous "circles of supportive persons" and other holistic, wraparound, culturally appropriate supports.
- Strengthening the role of prevention-focused Indigenous service providers to increase access to culturally appropriate supports, including parenting programs, mental health supports, alternative schooling, jobs and skills training and community programs that respect Indigenous languages and spirituality.

These enhancements will build on the supports that exist within the current system, including the important culturally appropriate services offered by Indigenous children's aid societies.

"For too long, Indigenous children and youth have been over-represented in the child welfare system—a system that up until recently did not fully recognize the importance of Indigenous culture in healing and well-being," said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs. "With this legislation, we are moving towards a more relevant and holistic system that will better support Indigenous caregivers in their important work."

"These amendments have been years in the making and represent a significant step forward in the landscape of culture-based supports provided to Indigenous children and youth," said Jennifer Dockstater, president of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. "These amendments will help us and our partners do this critical work more effectively. We look forward to on-going cooperation with government to ensure the legislation is implemented in an equitable and accountable manner in the interest of the communities we serve."

"Within the Indigenous sector, the work ahead will require the development of regulations that foster collaboration between Indigenous child and family wellbeing agencies and Indigenous prevention-focused service providers to ensure a robust and integrated service network to support healing, wellness and prosperity for Indigenous children, families, communities and nations," said Dr. Jeffrey Schiffer, executive director of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto.

Research shows keeping First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families connected to their communities and culture is key to their success. It also contributes to the well-being of the local community and improved overall economic outcomes.

Quick Facts

- The legislative amendments are included in the [Fewer Fees, Better Services Act](#).
 - Although Indigenous children make up only four per cent of children under 15 in Ontario, they make up about 30 per cent of children under 15 in foster care.
 - Customary care means the care and supervision of a First Nations, Inuk or Métis child by a person who is not the child's parent, according to the custom of the child's band or First Nations, Inuit or Métis community. It allows children and youth to remain connected to their culture and community.
 - While many community-based Indigenous service providers that are not children's aid societies already offer important prevention and early intervention services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, their role is not currently recognized within the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*.
 - Ontario is committed to reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and these proposed amendments are responsive to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
-

Additional Resources

- Learn more about redesigning [Ontario's child welfare system](#), including the [five pillars of the provincial redesign strategy](#).
 - [Learn more about the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy](#).
 - Learn more about [customary care arrangements](#).
 - Learn about the [Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies](#) and the [Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario](#).
-

Related Topics

Health and Wellness

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

Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn more](#)

Rural and North

Information about the province's Far North and rural communities. Get connected to business improvement organizations and learn more about funding and programs that support rural, northern and Indigenous communities. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Krystle Caputo

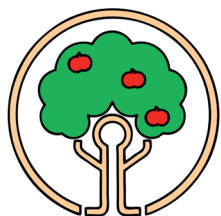
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Renfrew County and District Health Unit

COVID-19 Case Summary

March 03, 2022

Total Confirmed Cases in Renfrew County and District (RCD): 3376		Current Status of Cases in RCD	
Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days: 89		Self-Isolation: 73	
Incidence Rate^a in the Last 7 Days: 81.9 per 100,000 individuals		Hospitalized: 8	
		Hospitalized in Intensive Care Unit: 2	
		Resolved: 3260	
		Deceased: 33	
Outbreak Setting	Cumulative Number of Outbreaks	Active Number of Outbreaks	
Hospital	6	0	
Long-term care home	17	2	
Retirement home	12	1	
Congregate living facility	12	1	
Other ^c	38	0	
Total	85	4	
Total Number of tests completed for RCD residents: 140,041		Percent Positivity^b of tests completed for RCD residents (February 17, 2022-February 23, 2022) 9.0%	

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

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

^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:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/covid-19-voc>

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 | EDITION 37



Ontario Moving to Next Phase of Reopening on March 01

Effective March 1, 2022, Ontario will lift proof of vaccination requirements for all settings. 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. Full details at: [Ontario Moving to Next Phase of Reopening on February 17.](#)

Booster Dose Eligibility Expands to Include Residents 12-17 Years of Age

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

- Residents 12-17 years of age or older are eligible to receive a booster dose 6 months (168 days) after a second dose. Residents 18+ are eligible to receive a booster after 3 months (84 days).
- Residents who have been infected with COVID-19 after their primary series but before their booster dose are recommended to wait at least 3 months (84 days) after symptoms or when the positive test result was received.

Clinic Updates



- ➔ No appointments are necessary as walk-ins for residents 12 years of age and older are accepted at all COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District.
- ➔ Walk-in availability for children 5-11 years of age varies based on paediatric vaccine supply.
- ➔ To book your vaccination appointment in Pembroke or to access your COVID-19 vaccination receipts visit: <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>
- ➔ Continue to monitor www.rcdhu.com and RCDHU's Facebook and Twitter for clinic announcements.

Local Update

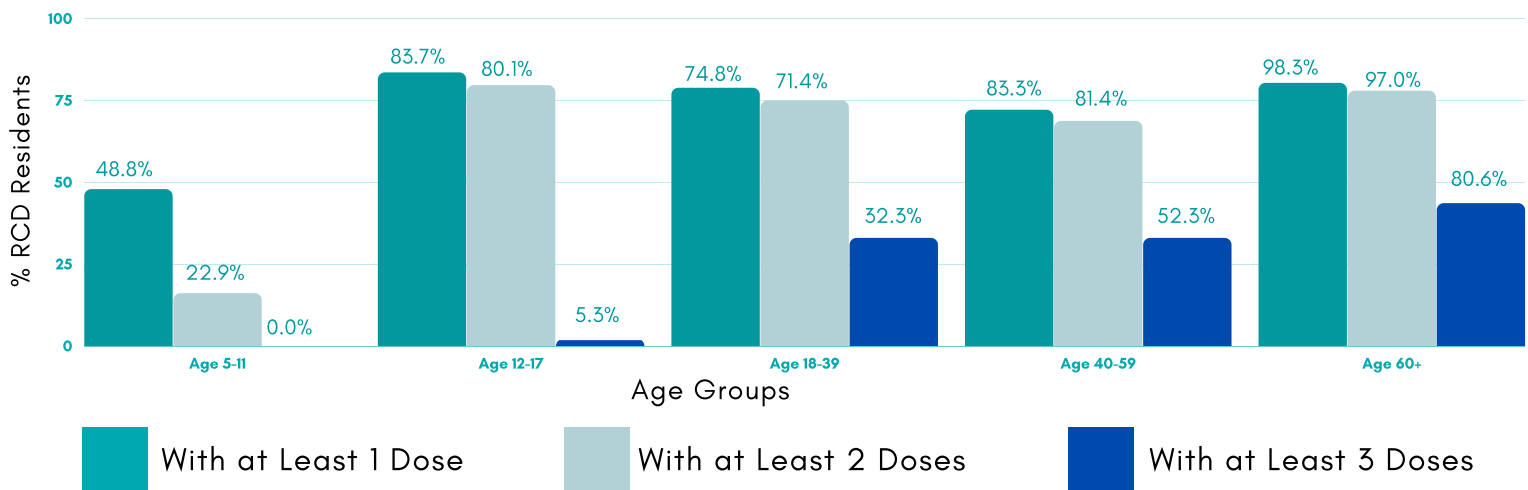
As of 8:00 a.m. February 22, 219,283 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District (RCD) with 91.5% of RCDHU adults (including youth born in 2009 or earlier, and Canadian Armed Forces Members) having received at least 1 dose (33.7% have received 2 doses and 55.4% have received 3 or 4 doses).

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



Percentage of RCDHU residents with at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine, at least 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, by age groups

As of 8:00 a.m., February 22, 2022



Notes: This age demographic breakdown does not include Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members residing in RCD. New data source for population estimates: Statistics Canada. Population estimates 2001-2020: Table 1 annual population estimates by age and sex for July 1, 2001 to 2020, health regions, Ontario [unpublished data table]. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada; 2021 [received 2021 Apr 22] as per Public Health Ontario (PHO).

Youth Corner (12-17 Years of Age)



Youth 12 years of age or older are eligible to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment for the **Pfizer** COVID-19 vaccine.

Youth **second dose** appointments must be scheduled **at least 21 days after the first dose**. Indigenous youth may book a second dose appointment three weeks after their first.

For more information visit:

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

First & Second Dose Information

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

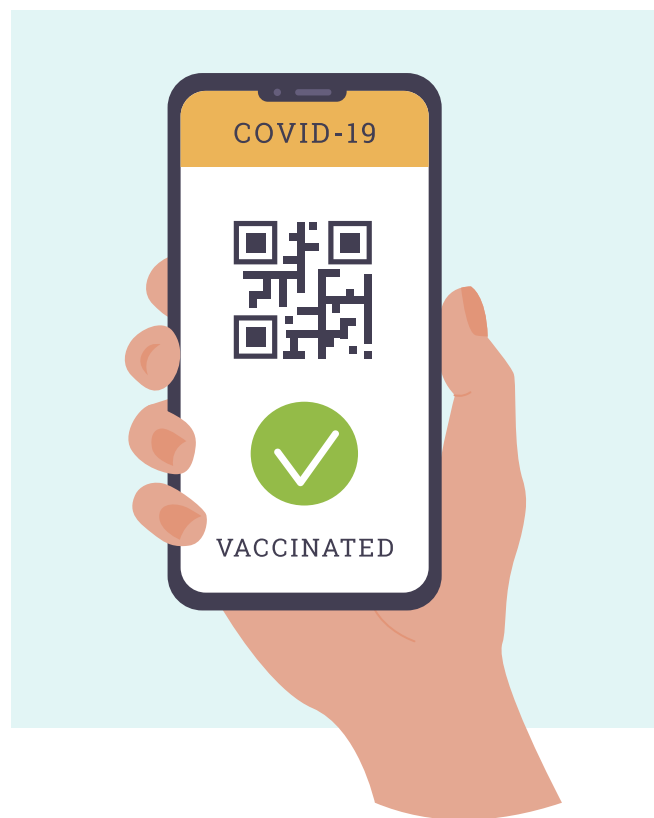
Another great option is to visit a local participating pharmacy. To find the closest pharmacy that is offering COVID-19 vaccinations, visit Ontario's online link for [COVID-19 pharmacy vaccine locations](#).

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

First & Second Dose Eligibility List



All residents **5 years of age or older** are now eligible to book a first and second dose appointment for vaccination.



COVID-19 Third Dose Information

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

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

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

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

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

Providing Proof of Vaccination

Ontarians are required to use their enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code. Vaccine receipts without a QR code will no longer be accepted as valid proof of vaccination.

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

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

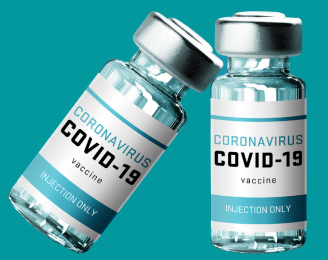
For more information visit: [Proof of COVID-19 vaccination](#)

Partner Websites



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

Updated: February 23, 2022



Key Messages

- > 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 28, 2021 (September 03, 2021 for youth 12-17)**.

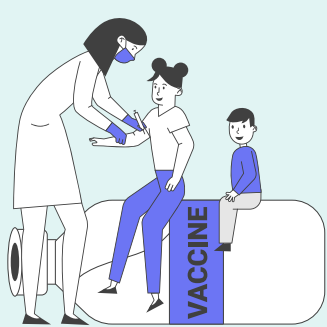
Local Snapshot

As of 8:00 a.m. February 22, 2022

Total doses administered to date* **219,283**

Percentage of population (12+) with at least 1 dose** **91.5%**

Percentage of population (12+) with 2 or more doses** **89.1%**



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.

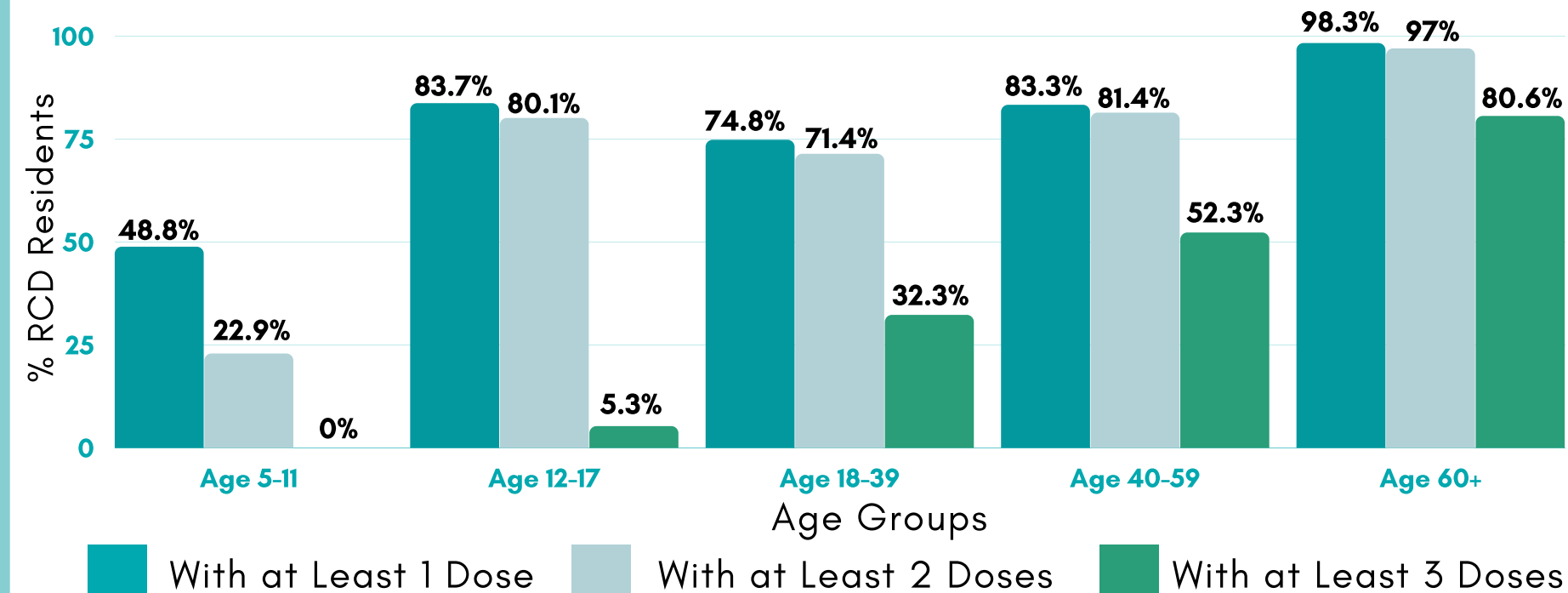
Nearly **4000** children aged 5-11 have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine!

*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.

Percentage of RCD residents that have received 1 dose, 2 doses and 3 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, by age groups

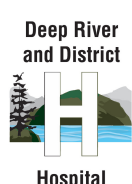
As of February 22, 2022



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

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

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





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

Memorandum

Date: February 24, 2022

To: Renfrew County and District Residents

Re: Growing sense of optimism, but the beginning of the end is not the end

There is finally a growing sense of optimism as we approach the two-year mark of the pandemic. Omicron seems to be leaving as quickly as it arrived, and all the important health indicators are improving quickly.

The month of March is a week away and there will be a significant reduction in public health prevention measures and social restrictions, most importantly suspending proof of vaccination requirements in several settings.

We have worked hard to keep COVID-19 at bay during a long and taxing winter. It is fair to say that we are all tired, and we need to get back to a new normal.

However, we need to remind ourselves that the beginning of the end, is not the end. We still need to remain cautious throughout the month of March. The situation in Renfrew County tends to lag the urban centres in Ontario by 2 to 3 weeks. Our numbers for outbreaks, hospitalizations, and deaths have started to come down but are still too high.

In Pembroke, the wastewater concentration of COVID-19, an excellent indicator of community levels of infection, is one of the highest in Ontario. There is still progress to be made, and we do not want to go backwards.

This means that we must continue to be vigilant and act with caution. Experience now shows that unlike many other diseases, immunity for COVID-19 whether it be from vaccines or from direct infection from the disease, is not long lived. This means that residents should take advantage of additional vaccines and get every dose for which they are eligible. This means 3 doses for anyone over the age of 12, and 4 doses for residents in congregate care settings and] those who are immunocompromised. For children 5-11 years of age, we have yet to reach 50% for first doses and this is a concern.

Masking, distancing, and hand hygiene continue to be important prevention

strategies. Masks can reduce transmission by 50 to 80% and distancing provides added benefit. While many of us want to remove our masks now, it is too early, and we must patiently and respectfully await provincial guidance. Many may choose to keep masking for months and even years. This will require tolerance, patience, and kindness on the part of everyone.

Equally important is the size of social groupings. There is still plenty of Omicron in the community and winter is not over. This means that we need to be extra careful in indoor settings. Carefree activities in large groups are to be discouraged. These large gatherings increase the risk of, "super spreading", which can reverse progress quickly. The best way to prevent this is another month of vigilance when it comes to social groupings.

We are getting closer to a new normal, but because Renfrew County and District tends to be 2 to 3 weeks behind the urban centres, we need to be extra careful in the upcoming weeks. The rewards will be great, so I urge you to be patient and to keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RAG', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Robert Cushman
Acting Medical Officer of Health
Renfrew County and District Health Unit



The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title:

Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report, PDS.22.037

Date:

Monday, February 28, 2022

Moved by:

Councillor Matrosovs

Seconded by:

Deputy Mayor Bordignon

THAT Council receive Staff Report PDS.22.037, entitled "Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Recommendations – Information Report";
AND THAT Council direct Town staff to monitor any provincial policy and legislative changes that may be proposed by the Province to address Housing and Affordability issues.

The motion is Carried



Staff Report

Planning & Development Services – Planning Division

Report To: Council
Meeting Date: February 28, 2022
Report Number: PDS.22.037
Title: Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report
Prepared by: Nathan Westendorp, Director of Planning & Development Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report PDS.22.037, entitled "Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Recommendations – Information Report";

AND THAT Council direct Town staff to monitor any provincial policy and legislative changes that may be proposed by the Province to address Housing and Affordability issues.

B. Overview

This is an Information report to Council regarding Town staff's response to the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report and additional suggestions Town staff provided to the Province.

C. Background

During its February 14, 2022 Council meeting, Town Council considered correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing. Specifically, the Minister sent correspondence to all Heads of Council within the Province seeking feedback and suggestions regarding opportunities to increase the supply of housing and expand affordability. Staff also provided a high level verbal overview of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report that was attached to the Minister's letter.

As background, the Provincial Government struck the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force in late 2021 to look into the housing and affordability challenges that continue to impact many Ontarians. The Task Force's process included consultation with various stakeholders involved in the planning, development and housing industries. For more information on the Task Force and its mandate, please refer to Attachment #1.

On February 8, 2022, the Task Force released a report containing fifty-five (55) recommendations for the Provincial government to consider as potential actions to help address housing supply and affordability issues that are very prevalent across the Province. The Minister's letter to Heads of

Council provided the Town with an opportunity to give feedback on the Task Force Recommendations as well as to offer additional suggested solutions that could also be explored.

Given that the Minister requested municipal feedback to be submitted by Tuesday February 15, 2022, there was insufficient turnaround time for Town staff to provide a thorough analysis of the Task Force Report recommendations through a staff report that could be considered by Council prior to the Provincial deadline. Therefore, Town Council directed staff to prepare a comment letter to the Province on behalf of the Town, with a copy of the letter provided to Council. On February 15, 2022, Town staff provided a letter to the Province outlining primary feedback on the Task Force's recommendations as well as some additional ideas/suggestions for the Province to consider, please refer to Attachment 3.

D. Analysis

As Council is fully aware, the housing supply and affordability issues in the Province has reached dramatic levels exacerbated by several factors, and the Town is one of several municipal examples where the issues are very prevalent and impactful on current residents, future residents and the local economy. To be clear, there is no single "silver bullet" to address the issues that exist. To effectively address the issues requires a suite of changes to adjust the systems involved in planning, development, building, and financing homes. All levels of government have a role to play in facilitating change. However, because provincial legislation guides how municipalities function and the decisions they make regarding housing, it is critical that municipalities engage the province in constructive dialogue to drive change that municipalities can implement effectively.

The Province has indicated that it is committed to action and it is possible that the Province will move forward on some of the Task Force recommendation in the near future. However, it is important to note that the Task Force's Report is only the first step towards action. They are recommendations at this time and are not yet proposed policy or legislation. Town staff have no indication regarding which, if any, of the Task Force recommendations will be acted upon. As a next step, staff expect that the Province will take the recommendations that are considered actionable and then translate them into proposed policy and legislation. The true impact of the Task Force recommendations will be difficult to fully understand until draft policy and draft legislation is released for further review and comment. It will be critical for the Town to continue to monitor the Province's next actions and provide comments on proposed policy and/or legislation when released for consultation.

Looking ahead, Town staff expect a season of change in the near future which will very likely impact municipal planning documents, processes and possibly, municipal decision-making. The Town's Official Plan Review process naturally offers the opportunity (if needed) to integrate proposed changes in Provincial policy into an updated Official Plan in the future. As noted above shifts in provincial policy direction and legislation will need to be assessed in the future by Planning staff to fully understand how the Official Plan Review workplan and timelines could be impacted. Depending on the scale of the policy and/or legislation changes the Province brings forward, it is possible that Phase One of the Official Plan Review Project may not be complete before the municipal election in Fall of 2022. The Planning Division remains well

positioned to continue to evaluate the impacts of future Provincial actions, policies and legislation on the Town. Under the leadership of Trevor Houghton, Manager of Community Planning, alongside Shawn Postma, Senior Policy Planner, the Planning Division will monitor these matters and report back to Council accordingly.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

F. Financial Impacts

There are no direct financial impacts on the Town as a result of this specific Staff Report. However, policy and/or legislative changes from the Province may have undetermined impacts on resources and projects in the future.

G. In Consultation With

Trevor Houghton, Manager of Community Planning

Shawn Postma, Senior Policy Planner

H. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Nathan Westendorp, directorplanningdevelopment@thebluemountains.ca

I. Attached

1. Attachment 1 – Provincial Task Force Overview
2. Attachment 2 – Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report
3. Attachment 3 – Town Comment Letter to Province

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Westendorp, RPP MCIP
Director of Planning and Development Services

For more information, please contact:
directorplanningdevelopment@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 246

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Appoints Housing Affordability Task Force

Task Force of experts to provide recommendations on further opportunities to address housing affordability

December 06, 2021

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Ontario has appointed nine members to a new Housing Affordability Task Force who will provide the government with recommendations on additional measures to address market housing supply and affordability.

“Young families, seniors and all hardworking Ontarians are desperate for housing that meets their needs and budget,” said Premier Doug Ford. “At a time when our government is hard at work building an economy that works for everyone, this Task Force will provide us with concrete, expert advice that will support our government as we make it easier for more Ontarians to realize the dream of home ownership.”

The mandate of the Housing Affordability Task Force is to explore measures to address housing affordability by:

- Increasing the supply of market rate rental and ownership housing;
- Building housing supply in complete communities;
- Reducing red tape and accelerating timelines;
- Encouraging innovation and digital modernization, such as in planning processes;
- Supporting economic recovery and job creation; and
- Balancing housing needs with protecting the environment.

The Task Force, chaired by Jake Lawrence, CEO and Group Head, Global Banking and Markets at Scotiabank, represents a diverse range of experts in not-for-profit housing, Indigenous housing, real estate, home builders, financial markets and economics. The chair’s report outlining the Task Force’s recommendations will be published in early 2022.

“Our government’s policies under the Housing Supply Action Plan are working to address affordability, but more needs to be done at all levels of government,” said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “The Housing Affordability Task Force will help our government build on our progress by identifying more opportunities to increase the supply of all kinds of housing, especially the missing middle. Under Mr. Lawrence’s strong leadership, I am confident in the expertise and experiences of this Task Force, and I thank them for their commitment to help us address the housing crisis.”

“I’m honoured to have been appointed as the Chair of Ontario’s new Housing Affordability Task Force,” said Lawrence. “I’m proud to work with a diverse team of experts who are committed to ensuring improved housing affordability for current and future Ontarians. We are eager to begin our work to identify and recommend actionable solutions and policies to support the government’s efforts to address the province’s housing affordability crisis.”

“Having a safe, affordable place to call home is an important building block in the foundation of success, which is why addressing housing supply and affordability is a key priority for our government,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “We are creating a Task Force to examine innovative policy solutions in order to ensure that the dream of home ownership is in reach for families in every corner of Ontario.”

The Housing Affordability Task Force was first announced as part of [the 2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario](#).

Everyone has a role to play in fixing Ontario’s housing crisis. Ontario will continue to work with municipal partners to help them use the tools the province has provided to unlock housing and make finding a home more affordable for hardworking Ontarians. This includes working with municipalities through the upcoming Provincial-Municipal Housing Summit and a special session with rural municipalities leading up to the ROMA conference in January 2022.

Quick Facts

- The provincial government’s housing policies under [More Homes, More Choice: Ontario’s Housing Supply Action Plan](#) are working to make housing more affordable by increasing the supply of the full range of housing options, from single-family homes to midrise housing to apartment buildings.
- In 2020, the year after More Homes, More Choice was implemented, Ontario saw the highest level of housing starts in a decade and the highest level of rental starts since 1992. Housing and rental starts in 2021 are on track to exceed these levels.
- The province’s ongoing work to address housing affordability complements our continued supports for affordable housing for our most vulnerable Ontarians. Through the [Community Housing Renewal Strategy](#) and Ontario’s response to COVID-19, the province is providing more than \$3 billion in this fiscal year and last year. This includes over \$1 billion in flexible supports through the Social Services Relief Fund to municipal and Indigenous partners.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Names Chair and Members of Housing Affordability Task Force](#)

Related Topics

Government

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

Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

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Report of the
**Ontario Housing
Affordability Task Force**

February 8, 2022



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Letter to Minister Clark

Dear Minister Clark,

Hard-working Ontarians are facing a housing crisis. For many years, the province has not built enough housing to meet the needs of our growing population. While the affordability crisis began in our large cities, it has now spread to smaller towns and rural communities.

Efforts to cool the housing market have only provided temporary relief to home buyers. The long-term trend is clear: house prices are increasing much faster than Ontarian's incomes. The time for action is now.

When striking the Housing Affordability Task Force, you and Premier Ford were clear: you wanted actionable, concrete solutions to help Ontarians and there was no time to waste. You asked us to be bold and gave us the freedom and independence to develop our recommendations.

In the past two months, we have met municipal leaders, planners, unions, developers and builders, the financial sector, academics, think tanks and housing advocates. Time was short, but solutions emerged consistently around these themes:

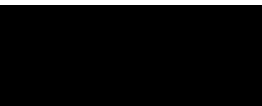
- More housing density across the province
- End exclusionary municipal rules that block or delay new housing
- Depoliticize the housing approvals process
- Prevent abuse of the housing appeals system
- Financial support to municipalities that build more housing

We present this report to you not as an “all or nothing” proposal, but rather as a list of options that the government has at its disposal to help address housing affordability for Ontarians and get more homes built. We propose an ambitious but achievable target: 1.5 million new homes built in the next ten years.

Parents and grandparents are worried that their children will not be able to afford a home when they start working or decide to start a family. Too many Ontarians are unable to live in their preferred city or town because they cannot afford to buy or rent.

The way housing is approved and built was designed for a different era when the province was less constrained by space and had fewer people. But it no longer meets the needs of Ontarians. The balance has swung too far in favour of lengthy consultations, bureaucratic red tape, and costly appeals. It is too easy to oppose new housing and too costly to build. We are in a housing crisis and that demands immediate and sweeping reforms.

It has been an honour to serve as Chair, and I am proud to submit this report on behalf of the entire Task Force.



Jake Lawrence

Chair, Housing Affordability Task Force

Chief Executive Officer and Group Head, Global Banking and Markets, Scotiabank

Executive summary and recommendations

House prices in Ontario have almost tripled in the past 10 years, growing much faster than incomes. This has home ownership beyond the reach of most first-time buyers across the province, even those with well-paying jobs. Housing has become too expensive for rental units and it has become too expensive in rural communities and small towns. The system is not working as it should.

For too long, we have focused on solutions to “cool” the housing market. It is now clear that we do not have enough homes to meet the needs of Ontarians today, and we are not building enough to meet the needs of our growing population. If this problem is not fixed – by creating more housing to meet the growing demand – housing prices will continue to rise. We need to build more housing in Ontario.

This report sets out recommendations that would set a bold goal and clear direction for the province, increase density, remove exclusionary rules that prevent housing growth, prevent abuse of the appeals process, and make sure municipalities are treated as partners in this process by incentivizing success.

Setting bold targets and making new housing the planning priority

Recommendations 1 and 2 urge Ontario to set a bold goal of adding 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years and update planning guidance to make this a priority.

The task force then recommends actions in five main areas to increase supply:

Require greater density

Land is not being used efficiently across Ontario. In too many neighbourhoods, municipal rules only allow single-family homes – not even a granny suite. Taxpayers have invested heavily in subway, light rail, bus and rail lines and highways, and the streets nearby are ideally suited for more mid- and high-rise housing. Underused or redundant commercial and industrial buildings are ripe to be redeveloped into housing or mixed commercial and residential use. New housing on undeveloped land should also be higher density than traditional suburbs, especially close to highways.

Adding density in all these locations makes better use of infrastructure and helps to save land outside urban boundaries. Implementing these recommendations will provide Ontarians with many more options for housing.

Recommendations 3 through 11 address how Ontario can quickly create more housing supply by allowing more housing in more locations “as of right” (without the need for municipal approval) and make better use of transportation investments.

Reduce and streamline urban design rules

Municipalities require numerous studies and set all kinds of rules for adding housing, many of which go well beyond the requirements of the provincial Planning Act. While some of this guidance has value for urban design, some rules appear to be arbitrary and not supported by evidence – for example, requiring condo buildings to include costly parking stalls even though many go unsold. These rules and requirements result in delays and extra costs that make housing either impossible to build or very expensive for the eventual home buyer or renter.

Recommendation 12 would set uniform provincial standards for urban design, including building shadows and setbacks, do away with rules that prioritize preservation of neighbourhood physical character over new housing, no longer require municipal approval of design matters like a building’s colour, texture, type of material or window details, and remove or reduce parking requirements.

Depoliticize the process and cut red tape

NIMBYism (not in my backyard) is a major obstacle to building housing. It drags out the approval process, pushes up costs, and keeps out new residents. Because local councillors depend on the votes of residents who want to keep the status quo, the planning process has become politicized. Municipalities allow far more public consultation than is required, often using formats that make it hard for working people and families with young children to take part. Too few technical decisions are delegated to municipal staff. Pressure to designate buildings with little or no heritage value as “heritage” if development is proposed and bulk listings of properties with “heritage potential” are also standing in the way of getting homes built. Dysfunction throughout the system, risk aversion and needless bureaucracy have resulted in a situation where Ontario lags the rest of Canada and the developed world in approval times. Ontarians have waited long enough.

Recommendations 13 through 25 would require municipalities to limit consultations to the legislated maximum, ensure people can take part digitally, mandate the delegation of technical decisions, prevent abuse of the heritage process and see property owners compensated for financial loss resulting from designation, restore the right of developers to appeal Official Plans and Municipal Comprehensive Reviews, legislate timelines for approvals and enact several other common sense changes that would allow housing to be built more quickly and affordably.

Fix the Ontario Land Tribunal

Largely because of the politicization of the planning process, many proponents look to the Tribunal, a quasi-judicial body, to give the go-ahead to projects that should have been approved by the municipality. Even when there is municipal approval, however, opponents appeal to the Tribunal – paying only a \$400 fee – knowing that this may well succeed in delaying a project to the point where it might no longer make economic sense. As a result, the Tribunal faces a backlog of more than 1,000 cases and is seriously under-resourced.

Recommendations 26 through 31 seek to weed out or prevent appeals aimed purely at delaying projects, allow adjudicators to award costs to proponents in more cases, including instances where a municipality has refused an approval to avoid missing a legislated deadline, reduce the time to issue decisions, increase funding, and encourage the Tribunal to prioritize cases that would increase housing supply quickly as it tackles the backlog.

Support municipalities that commit to transforming the system

Fixing the housing crisis needs everyone working together. Delivering 1.5 million homes will require the provincial and federal governments to invest in change. Municipalities that make the difficult but necessary choices to grow housing supply should be rewarded, and those that resist new housing should see funding reductions.

Recommendations 49 and 50 call for Ontario government to create a large “Ontario Housing Delivery Fund” and encourage the federal government to match funding, and suggest how the province should reward municipalities that support change and reduce funding for municipalities that do not.

This executive summary focuses on the actions that will get the most housing units approved and built in the shortest time. Other recommendations in the report deal with issues that are important but may take more time to resolve or may not directly increase supply (recommendation numbers are indicated in brackets): improving tax and municipal financing (**32-37, 39, 42-44**); encouraging new pathways to home ownership (**38, 40, 41**); and addressing labour shortages in the construction industry (**45-47**).

This is not the first attempt to “fix the housing system”. There have been efforts for years to tackle increasing housing prices and find solutions. This time must be different. **Recommendations 50-55** set out ways of helping to ensure real and concrete progress on providing the homes Ontarians need.

Introduction

Ontario is in a housing crisis. Prices are skyrocketing: the average price for a house across Ontario was \$923,000 at the end of 2021.^[1] Ten years ago, the average price was \$329,000.^[2] Over that period, average house prices have climbed 180% while average incomes have grown roughly 38%.^{[3][4]}

Not long ago, hard-working Ontarians – teachers, construction workers, small business owners – could afford the home they wanted. In small towns, it was reasonable to expect that you could afford a home in the neighbourhood you grew up in. Today, home ownership or finding a quality rental is now out of reach for too many Ontarians. The system is not working as it should be.

Housing has become too expensive for rental units and it has become too expensive in rural communities and small towns.

While people who were able to buy a home a decade or more ago have built considerable personal equity, the benefits of having a home aren't just financial. Having a place to call home connects people to their community, creates a gathering place for friends and family, and becomes a source of pride.

Today, the reality for an ever-increasing number of Ontarians is quite different. Everyone in Ontario knows people who are living with the personal and financial stress of not being able to find housing they can afford. The young family who can't buy a house within two hours of where they work. The tenant with a good job who worries about

where she'll find a new apartment she can afford if the owner decides to sell. The recent graduate who will have to stay at home for a few more years before he can afford to rent or buy.

While the crisis is widespread, it weighs more heavily on some groups than on others. Young people starting a family who need a larger home find themselves priced out of the market. Black, Indigenous and marginalized people face even greater challenges. As Ontarians, we have only recently begun to understand and address the reality of decades of systemic racism that has resulted in lower household incomes, making the housing affordability gap wider than average.

The high cost of housing has pushed minorities and lower income Ontarians further and further away from job markets. Black and Indigenous homeownership rates are less than half of the provincial average.^[5] And homelessness rates among Indigenous Peoples are 11 times the national average. When housing prevents an individual from reaching their full potential, this represents a loss to every Ontarian: lost creativity, productivity, and revenue. Lost prosperity for individuals and for the entire Ontario economy.



Average price for a house across Ontario



Over 10 Years



average house prices have climbed

+180%



while average incomes have grown

+38%

As much as we read about housing affordability being a challenge in major cities around the world, the depth of the challenge has become greater in Ontario and Canada than almost anywhere in the developed world.



Canada has the lowest amount of housing per population of any G7 country.

How did we get here? Why do we have this problem?

A major factor is that there just isn't enough housing. A 2021 Scotiabank study showed that Canada has the fewest housing units per population of any G7 country – and, our per capita housing supply has *dropped* in the past five years.^[6] An update to that study released in January 2022 found that two thirds of Canada's housing shortage is in Ontario.^[7] Today, Ontario is 1.2 million homes – rental or owned – short of the G7 average. With projected population growth, that huge gap is widening, and bridging it will take immediate, bold and purposeful effort. And to support population growth in the next decade, we will need one million more homes.

While governments across Canada have taken steps to “cool down” the housing market or provide help to first-time buyers, these demand-side solutions only work if there is enough supply. Shortages of supply in any market have a direct impact on affordability. Scarcity breeds price increases. Simply put, if we want more Ontarians to have housing, we need to build more housing in Ontario.

Ontario must build 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years to address the supply shortage

The housing crisis impacts all Ontarians. The ripple effect of the crisis also holds back Ontario reaching its full potential.

Economy

Businesses of all sizes are facing problems finding and retaining workers. Even high-paying jobs in technology and manufacturing are hard to fill because there's not enough housing nearby. This doesn't just dampen the economic growth of cities, it makes them less vibrant, diverse, and creative, and strains their ability to provide essential services.

Public services

Hospitals, school boards and other public service providers across Ontario report challenges attracting and retaining staff because of housing costs. One town told us that it

could no longer maintain a volunteer fire department, because volunteers couldn't afford to live within 10 minutes drive of the firehall.

Environment

Long commutes contribute to air pollution and carbon emissions. An international survey of 74 cities in 16 countries found that Toronto, at 96 minutes both ways, had the longest commute times in North America and was essentially tied with Bogota, Colombia, for the longest commute time worldwide.^[8] Increasing density in our cities and around major transit hubs helps reduce emissions to the benefit of everyone.

Ontario must build

1.5M

homes over the next 10 years
to address the supply shortage.



Our mandate and approach

Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing tasked us with recommending ways to accelerate our progress in closing the housing supply gap to improve housing affordability.

Time is of the essence. Building housing now is exactly what our post-pandemic economy needs. Housing construction creates good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced to other countries. Moreover, the pandemic gave rise to unprecedented levels of available capital that can be invested in housing – if we can just put it to work.

We represent a wide range of experience and perspectives that includes developing, financing and building homes, delivering affordable housing, and researching housing market trends, challenges and solutions. Our detailed biographies appear as [Appendix A](#).



We acknowledge that every house in Ontario is built on the traditional territory of Indigenous Peoples.



People in households that spend 30% or more of total household income on shelter expenses are defined as having a “housing affordability” problem. Shelter expenses include electricity, oil, gas, coal, wood or other fuels, water and other municipal services, monthly mortgage payments, property taxes, condominium fees, and rent.

Our mandate was to focus on how to increase market housing supply and affordability. By market housing, we are referring to homes that can be purchased or rented without government support.

Affordable housing (units provided at below-market rates with government support) was not part of our mandate.

The Minister and his cabinet colleagues are working on that issue. Nonetheless, almost every stakeholder we spoke with had ideas that will help deliver market housing and also make it easier to deliver affordable housing. However, affordable housing is a societal responsibility and will require intentional investments and strategies to bridge the significant affordable housing gap in this province. We have included a number of recommendations aimed at affordable housing in the body of this report, but have also included further thoughts in [Appendix B](#).

We note that government-owned land was also outside our mandate. Many stakeholders, however, stressed the value of surplus or underused public land and land associated with major transit investments in finding housing solutions. We agree and have set out some thoughts on that issue in [Appendix C](#).

How we did our work

Our Task Force was struck in December 2021 and mandated to deliver a final report to the Minister by the end of January 2022. We were able to work to that tight timeline because, in almost all cases, viewpoints and feasible solutions are well known. In addition, we benefited from insights gleaned from recent work to solve the problem in other jurisdictions.

During our deliberations, we met with and talked to over 140 organizations and individuals, including industry associations representing builders and developers, planners, architects, realtors and others; labour unions; social justice advocates; elected officials at the municipal level; academics and research groups; and municipal planners. We also received written submissions from many of these participants. In addition, we drew on the myriad public reports and papers listed in the [References](#).

We thank everyone who took part in sessions that were uniformly helpful in giving us a deeper understanding of the housing crisis and the way out of it. We also thank the staff of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing who provided logistical and other support, including technical briefings and background.

The way forward

The single unifying theme across all participants over the course of the Task Force's work has been the urgency to take decisive action. Today's housing challenges are incredibly complex. Moreover, developing land, obtaining approvals, and building homes takes years.

Some recommendations will produce immediate benefits, others will take years for the full impact.

This is why there is no time to waste. We urge the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and his cabinet colleagues to continue measures they have already taken to accelerate housing supply and to move quickly in turning the recommendations in this report into decisive new actions.

The province must set an ambitious and bold goal to build 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. If we build 1.5 million new homes over the next ten years, Ontario can fill the housing gap with more affordable choices, catch up to the rest of Canada and keep up with population growth.

By working together, we can resolve Ontario's housing crisis. In so doing, we can build a more prosperous future for everyone.

The balance of this report lays out our recommendations.

Focus on getting more homes built

Resolving a crisis requires intense focus and a clear goal. The province is responsible for the legislation and policy that establishes the planning, land use, and home building goals, which guide municipalities, land tribunals, and courts. Municipalities are then responsible for implementing provincial policy in a way that works for their communities. The province is uniquely positioned to lead by shining a spotlight on this issue, setting the tone, and creating a single, galvanizing goal around which federal support, provincial legislation, municipal policy, and the housing market can be aligned.

In 2020, Ontario built about 75,000 housing units.^[9] For this report, we define a housing unit (home) as a single dwelling (detached, semi-detached, or attached), apartment, suite, condominium or mobile home. Since 2018, housing completions have grown every year as a result of positive measures that the province and some municipalities have implemented to encourage more home building. But we are still 1.2 million homes short when compared to other G7 countries and our population is growing. The goal of 1.5 million homes feels daunting – but reflects both the need and what is possible. In fact, throughout the 1970s Ontario built more housing units each year than we do today.^[10]

The second recommendation is designed to address the growing complexity and volume of rules in the legislation, policy, plans and by-laws, and their competing priorities, by providing clear direction to provincial agencies, municipalities, tribunals, and courts on the overriding priorities for housing.

1. Set a goal of building 1.5 million new homes in ten years.
2. Amend the Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement, and Growth Plans to set “growth in the full spectrum of housing supply” and “intensification within existing built-up areas” of municipalities as the most important residential housing priorities in the mandate and purpose.



The “missing middle” is often cited as an important part of the housing solution. We define the missing middle as mid-rise condo or rental housing, smaller houses on subdivided lots or in laneways and other additional units in existing houses.

Making land available to build

The Greater Toronto Area is bordered on one side by Lake Ontario and on the other by the protected Greenbelt. Similarly, the Ottawa River and another Greenbelt constrain land supply in Ottawa, the province's second-largest city.

But a shortage of land isn't the cause of the problem. Land is available, both inside the existing built-up areas and on undeveloped land outside greenbelts.

We need to make better use of land. Zoning defines what we can build and where we can build. If we want to make better use of land to create more housing, then we need to modernize our zoning rules. We heard from planners, municipal councillors, and developers that "as of right" zoning – the ability to by-pass long, drawn out consultations and zoning by-law amendments – is the most effective tool in the provincial toolkit. We agree.

Stop using exclusionary zoning that restricts more housing

Too much land inside cities is tied up by outdated rules. For example, it's estimated that 70% of land zoned for housing in Toronto is restricted to single-detached or semi-detached homes.^[11] This type of zoning prevents homeowners from adding additional suites to create housing for Ontarians and income for themselves. As one person said, "my neighbour can tear down what was there to build a monster home, but I'm not allowed to add a basement suite to my home."

It's estimated that
70%

of land zoned for housing in Toronto
is restricted to **single-detached**
or **semi-detached** homes.



While less analysis has been done in other Ontario communities, it's estimated that about half of all residential land in Ottawa is zoned for single-detached housing, meaning nothing else may be built on a lot without public consultation and an amendment to the zoning by-law. In some suburbs around Toronto, single unit zoning dominates residential land use, even close to GO Transit stations and major highways.

One result is that more growth is pushing past urban boundaries and turning farmland into housing. Undeveloped land inside and outside existing municipal boundaries must be part of the solution, particularly in northern and rural communities, but isn't nearly enough on its own. Most of the solution must come from densification. Greenbelts and other environmentally sensitive areas must be protected, and farms provide food and food security. Relying too heavily on undeveloped land would whittle away too much of the already small share of land devoted to agriculture.

Modernizing zoning would also open the door to more rental housing, which in turn would make communities more inclusive.

Allowing more gentle density also makes better use of roads, water and wastewater systems, transit and other public services that are already in place and have capacity, instead of having to be built in new areas.

The Ontario government took a positive step by allowing secondary suites (e.g., basement apartments) across the province in 2019. However, too many municipalities still place too many restrictions on implementation. For the last three years, the total number of secondary suites in Toronto has actually declined each year, as few units get permitted and owners convert two units into one.^[12]

These are the types of renovations and home construction performed by small businesses and local trades, providing them with a boost.

Underused and vacant commercial and industrial properties are another potential source of land for housing. It was suggested to us that one area ripe for redevelopment into a mix of commercial and residential uses is the strip mall, a leftover from the 1950s that runs along major suburban streets in most large Ontario cities.

“As of right” zoning allows more kinds of housing that are accessible to more kinds of people. It makes neighbourhoods stronger, richer, and fairer. And it will get more housing built in existing neighbourhoods more quickly than any other measure.

3. Limit exclusionary zoning in municipalities through binding provincial action:

- a) Allow “as of right” residential housing up to four units and up to four storeys on a single residential lot.
 - b) Modernize the Building Code and other policies to remove any barriers to affordable construction and to ensure meaningful implementation (e.g., allow single-staircase construction for up to four storeys, allow single egress, etc.).
- 4.** Permit “as of right” conversion of underutilized or redundant commercial properties to residential or mixed residential and commercial use.
- 5.** Permit “as of right” secondary suites, garden suites, and laneway houses province-wide.
- 6.** Permit “as of right” multi-tenant housing (renting rooms within a dwelling) province-wide.
- 7.** Encourage and incentivize municipalities to increase density in areas with excess school capacity to benefit families with children.

Align investments in roads and transit with growth

Governments have invested billions of dollars in highways, light rail, buses, subways and trains in Ontario. But without ensuring more people can live close to those transit routes, we’re not getting the best return on those infrastructure investments.

Access to transit is linked to making housing more affordable: when reliable transit options are nearby, people can get to work more easily. They can live further from the centre of the city in less expensive areas without the added cost of car ownership.

The impacts of expanding public transit go far beyond serving riders. These investments also spur economic growth and reduce traffic congestion and emissions. We all pay for the cost of transit spending, and we should all share in the benefits.

If municipalities achieve the right development near transit – a mix of housing at high- and medium-density, office space and retail – this would open the door to better ways of funding the costs. Other cities, like London, UK and Hong Kong, have captured the impacts of increased land value and business activity along new transit routes to help with their financing.

Ontario recently created requirements (residents/hectare) for municipalities to zone for higher density in transit corridors and “major transit station areas”.^[13a] ^[13b] These are areas surrounding subway and other rapid transit stations and hubs. However, we heard troubling reports that local opposition is blocking access to these neighbourhoods and to critical public transit stations. City staff, councillors, and the province need to stand up to these tactics and speak up for the Ontarians who need housing.

The Province is also building new highways in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and it’s important to plan thoughtfully for the communities that will follow from these investments, to make sure they are compact and liveable.

8. Allow “as of right” zoning up to unlimited height and unlimited density in the immediate proximity of individual major transit stations within two years if municipal zoning remains insufficient to meet provincial density targets.
9. Allow “as of right” zoning of six to 11 storeys with no minimum parking requirements on any streets utilized by public transit (including streets on bus and streetcar routes).
10. Designate or rezone as mixed commercial and residential use all land along transit corridors and redesignate all Residential Apartment to mixed commercial and residential zoning in Toronto.
11. Support responsible housing growth on undeveloped land, including outside existing municipal boundaries, by building necessary infrastructure to support higher density housing and complete communities and applying the recommendations of this report to all undeveloped land.

Start saying “yes in my backyard”

Even where higher density is allowed in theory, the official plans of most cities in Ontario contain conflicting goals like maintaining “prevailing neighbourhood character”. This bias is reinforced by detailed guidance that often follows from the official plan. Although requirements are presented as “guidelines”, they are often treated as rules.

Examples include:

- Angular plane rules that require successively higher floors to be stepped further back, cutting the number of units that can be built by up to half and making many projects uneconomic
- Detailed rules around the shadows a building casts
- Guidelines around finishes, colours and other design details

One resident’s desire to prevent a shadow being cast in their backyard or a local park frequently prevails over concrete proposals to build more housing for multiple families. By-laws and guidelines that preserve “neighbourhood character” often prevent simple renovations to add new suites to existing homes. The people who suffer are mostly young, visible minorities, and marginalized people. It is the perfect

example of a policy that appears neutral on its surface but is discriminatory in its application.^[14]

Far too much time and money are spent reviewing and holding consultations for large projects which conform with the official plan or zoning by-law and small projects which would cause minimal disruption. The cost of needless delays is passed on to new home buyers and tenants.

Minimum parking requirements for each new unit are another example of outdated municipal requirements that increase the cost of housing and are increasingly less relevant with public transit and ride share services. Minimum parking requirements add as much as \$165,000 to the cost of a new housing unit, even as demand for parking spaces is falling: data from the Residential Construction Council of Ontario shows that in new condo projects, one in three parking stalls goes unsold. We applaud the recent vote by Toronto City Council to scrap most minimum parking requirements. We believe other cities should follow suit.

While true heritage sites are important, heritage preservation has also become a tool to block more housing. For example, some municipalities add thousands of properties at a time to a heritage register because they have “potential” heritage value. Even where a building isn’t heritage designated or registered, neighbours increasingly demand it be as soon as a development is proposed.

This brings us to the role of the “not in my backyard” or NIMBY sentiment in delaying or stopping more homes from being built.



New housing is often the last priority

A proposed building with market and affordable housing units would have increased the midday shadow by 6.5% on a nearby park at the fall and spring equinox, with no impact during the summer months. To conform to a policy that does not permit “new net shadow on specific parks”, seven floors of housing, including 26 affordable housing units, were sacrificed.

Multiple dry cleaners along a transit route were designated as heritage sites to prevent new housing being built. It is hard not to feel outrage when our laws are being used to prevent families from moving into neighbourhoods and into homes they can afford along transit routes.

NIMBY versus YIMBY

NIMBYism (not in my backyard) is a large and constant obstacle to providing housing everywhere. Neighbourhood pushback drags out the approval process, pushes up costs and discourages investment in housing. It also keeps out new residents. While building housing is very costly, opposing new housing costs almost nothing.

Unfortunately, there is a strong incentive for individual municipal councillors to fall in behind community opposition – it's existing residents who elect them, not future ones. The outcry of even a handful of constituents (helped by the rise of social media) has been enough, in far too many cases, to persuade their local councillor to vote against development even while admitting its merits in private. There is a sense among some that it's better to let the Ontario Land Tribunal approve the development on appeal, even if it causes long delays and large cost increases, then to take the political heat.

Mayors and councillors across the province are fed up and many have called for limits on public consultations and more “as of right” zoning. In fact, some have created a new term for NIMBYism: BANANAs – Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything, causing one mayor to comment “NIMBYism has gone BANANAs”. We agree. In a growing, thriving society, that approach is not just bad policy, it is exclusionary and wrong.

As a result, technical planning decisions have become politicized. One major city has delegated many decisions to senior staff, but an individual councillor can withdraw the delegation when there is local opposition and force a vote at Council. We heard that this situation is common across the province, creating an electoral incentive for a councillor to delay or stop a housing proposal, or forcing a councillor to pay the electoral cost of supporting it. Approvals of individual housing applications should be the role of professional staff, free from political interference.

The pressure to stop any development is now so intense that it has given rise to a counter-movement – YIMBYism, or “yes in my backyard,” led by millennials who recognize entrenched opposition to change as a huge obstacle to finding a home. They provide a voice at public consultations for young people, new immigrants and refugees, minority groups, and Ontarians struggling to access housing by connecting our ideals to the reality of housing. People who welcome immigrants to Canada should welcome them to the neighbourhood, fighting climate change means supporting higher-density housing, and “keeping the neighbourhood the way it is” means keeping it off-limits. While anti-housing voices can be loud,

a member of More Neighbours Toronto, a YIMBY group that regularly attends public consultations, has said that the most vocal opponents usually don't represent the majority in a neighbourhood. Survey data from the Ontario Real Estate Association backs that up, with almost 80% of Ontarians saying they are in favour of zoning in urban areas that would encourage more homes.

Ontarians want a solution to the housing crisis. We cannot allow opposition and politicization of individual housing projects to prevent us from meeting the needs of all Ontarians.

12. Create a more permissive land use, planning, and approvals system:

- a) Repeal or override municipal policies, zoning, or plans that prioritize the preservation of physical character of neighbourhood
- b) Exempt from site plan approval and public consultation all projects of 10 units or less that conform to the Official Plan and require only minor variances
- c) Establish province-wide zoning standards, or prohibitions, for minimum lot sizes, maximum building setbacks, minimum heights, angular planes, shadow rules, front doors, building depth, landscaping, floor space index, and heritage view cones, and planes; restore pre-2006 site plan exclusions (colour, texture, and type of materials, window details, etc.) to the Planning Act and reduce or eliminate minimum parking requirements; and
- d) Remove any floorplate restrictions to allow larger, more efficient high-density towers.

13. Limit municipalities from requesting or hosting additional public meetings beyond those that are required under the Planning Act.

14. Require that public consultations provide digital participation options.

15. Require mandatory delegation of site plan approvals and minor variances to staff or pre-approved qualified third-party technical consultants through a simplified review and approval process, without the ability to withdraw Council's delegation.

- 16.** Prevent abuse of the heritage preservation and designation process by:
 - a) Prohibiting the use of bulk listing on municipal heritage registers
 - b) Prohibiting reactive heritage designations after a Planning Act development application has been filed
- 17.** Requiring municipalities to compensate property owners for loss of property value as a result of heritage designations, based on the principle of best economic use of land.
- 18.** Restore the right of developers to appeal Official Plans and Municipal Comprehensive Reviews.

We have heard mixed feedback on Committees of Adjustment. While they are seen to be working well in some cities, in others they are seen to simply add another lengthy step in the process. We would urge the government to first implement our recommendation to delegate minor variances and site plan approvals to municipal staff and then assess whether Committees of Adjustment are necessary and an improvement over staff-level decision making.

Cut the red tape so we can build faster and reduce costs

One of the strongest signs that our approval process is not working: of 35 OECD countries, only the Slovak Republic takes longer than Canada to approve a building project. The UK and the US approve projects three times faster without sacrificing quality or safety. And they save home buyers and tenants money as a result, making housing more affordable.^[15]

A 2020 survey of development approval times in 23 Canadian cities shows Ontario seriously lagging: Hamilton (15th), Toronto (17th), Ottawa (21st) with approval times averaging between 20-24 months. These timelines do not include building permits, which take about two years for an apartment building in Toronto. Nor did they count the time it takes for undeveloped land to be designated for housing, which the study notes can take five to ten years.^[16]

Despite the good intentions of many people involved in the approvals and home-building process, decades of dysfunction in the system and needless bureaucracy have made it too difficult for housing approvals to keep up with the needs of Ontarians. There appear to be numerous reasons why Ontario performs so poorly against other Canadian cities and the rest of the developed world. We believe that the major problems can be summed up as:

- Too much complexity in the planning process, with the page count in legislation, regulation, policies, plans, and by-laws growing every year
- Too many studies, guidelines, meetings and other requirements of the type we outlined in the previous section, including many that go well beyond the scope of Ontario's Planning Act
- Reviews within municipalities and with outside agencies that are piecemeal, duplicative (although often with conflicting outcomes) and poorly coordinated
- Process flaws that include reliance on paper
- Some provincial policies that are more relevant to urban development but result in burdensome, irrelevant requirements when applied in some rural and northern communities.



All of this has contributed to widespread failure on the part of municipalities to meet required timelines. The provincial Planning Act sets out deadlines of 90 days for decisions on zoning by-law amendments, 120 days for plans of subdivision, and 30 days for site plan approval, but municipalities routinely miss these without penalty. For other processes, like site plan approval or provincial approvals, there are no timelines and delays drag on. The cost of delay falls on the ultimate homeowner or tenant.

The consequences for homeowners and renters are enormous. Ultimately, whatever cost a builder pays gets passed on to the buyer or renter. As one person said: "Process is the biggest project killer in Toronto because developers have to carry timeline risk."

Site plan control was often brought up as a frustration. Under the Planning Act, this is meant to be a technical review of the external features of a building. In practice, municipalities often expand on what is required and take too long to respond.

Then: In 1966, a draft plan of subdivision in a town in southwestern Ontario to provide 529 low-rise and mid-rise housing units, a school site, a shopping centre and parks was approved by way of a two-page letter setting out 10 conditions. It took seven months to clear conditions for final approval.

And now: In 2013, a builder started the approval process to build on a piece of serviced residential land in a seasonal resort town. Over the next seven years, 18 professional consultant reports were required, culminating in draft plan approval containing 50 clearance conditions. The second approval, issued by the Local Planning Appeals Board in 2020, ran to 23 pages. The developer estimates it will be almost 10 years before final approval is received.

An Ontario Association of Architects study calculating the cost of delays between site plan application and approval concluded that for a 100-unit condominium apartment building, each additional month of delay costs the applicant an estimated \$193,000, or \$1,930 a month for each unit.^[17]

A 2020 study done for the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) looked at impacts of delay on low-rise construction, including single-detached homes. It estimated that every month an approval is delayed adds, on average, \$1.46 per square foot to the cost of a single home. A two-year delay, which is not unusual for this housing type, adds more than \$70,000 to the cost of a 2,000-square-foot house in the GTA.^[16]

Getting rid of so much unnecessary and unproductive additional work would significantly reduce the burden on staff.^[16b] It would help address the widespread shortages of planners and building officials. It would also bring a stronger sense among municipal staff that they are part of the housing solution and can take pride in helping cut approval times and lower the costs of delivering homes.

Adopt common sense approaches that save construction costs

Wood using “mass timber” – an engineer compressed wood, made for strength and weight-bearing – can provide a lower-cost alternative to reinforced concrete in many mid-rise projects, but Ontario’s Building Code is hampering its use. Building taller with wood offers advantages beyond cost:

- Wood is a renewable resource that naturally sequesters carbon, helping us reach our climate change goals

- Using wood supports Ontario’s forestry sector and creates jobs, including for Indigenous people

British Columbia’s and Quebec’s building codes allow woodframe construction up to 12 storeys, but Ontario limits it to six. By amending the Building Code to allow 12-storey woodframe construction, Ontario would encourage increased use of forestry products and reduce building costs.

Finally, we were told that a shift in how builders are required to guarantee their performance would free up billions of dollars to build more housing. Pay on demand surety bonds are a much less onerous option than letters of credit, and are already accepted in Hamilton, Pickering, Innisfil, Whitchurch-Stouffville and other Ontario municipalities. We outline the technical details in [Appendix D](#).

- 19. Legislate timelines at each stage of the provincial and municipal review process, including site plan, minor variance, and provincial reviews, and deem an application approved if the legislated response time is exceeded.**
- 20. Fund the creation of “approvals facilitators” with the authority to quickly resolve conflicts among municipal and/or provincial authorities and ensure timelines are met.**
- 21. Require a pre-consultation with all relevant parties at which the municipality sets out a binding list that defines what constitutes a complete application; confirms the number of consultations established in the previous recommendations; and clarifies that if a member of a regulated profession such as a professional engineer has stamped an application, the municipality has no liability and no additional stamp is needed.**
- 22. Simplify planning legislation and policy documents.**
- 23. Create a common, province-wide definition of plan of subdivision and standard set of conditions which clarify which may be included; require the use of standard province-wide legal agreements and, where feasible, plans of subdivision.**
- 24. Allow wood construction of up to 12 storeys.**
- 25. Require municipalities to provide the option of pay on demand surety bonds and letters of credit.**

Prevent abuse of the appeal process

Part of the challenge with housing approvals is that, by the time a project has been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (the Tribunal), it has usually already faced delay and compromises have been made to reduce the size and scope of the proposal. When an approved project is appealed, the appellant – which could just be a single individual – may pay \$400 and tie up new housing for years.

The most recent published report showed 1,300 unresolved cases.^[18] While under-resourcing does contribute to delays, this caseload also reflects the low barrier to launching an appeal and the minimal risks if an appeal is unsuccessful:

- After a builder has spent time and money to ensure a proposal conforms with a municipality's requirements, the municipal council can still reject it – even if its own planning staff has given its support. Very often this is to appease local opponents.
- Unlike a court, costs are not automatically awarded to the successful party at the Tribunal. The winning side must bring a motion and prove that the party bringing the appeal was unreasonable, clearly trying to delay the project, and/or being vexatious or frivolous. Because the bar is set so high, the winning side seldom asks for costs in residential cases.

This has resulted in abuse of the Tribunal to delay new housing. Throughout our consultations, we heard from municipalities, not-for-profits, and developers that affordable housing was a particular target for appeals which, even if unsuccessful, can make projects too costly to build.

Clearly the Tribunal needs more resources to clear its backlog. But the bigger issue is the need for so many appeals: we believe it would better to have well-defined goals and rules for municipalities and builders to avoid this costly and time-consuming quasi-judicial process. Those who bring appeals aimed at stopping development that meets established criteria should pay the legal costs of the successful party and face the risk of a larger project being approved.

The solution is not more appeals, it's fixing the system. We have proposed a series of reforms that would ensure only meritorious appeals proceeded, that every participant faces some risk and cost of losing, and that abuse of the Tribunal will be penalized. We believe that if Ontario accepts our recommendations, the Tribunal will not face the same volume of appeals. But getting to that point will take time, and the Tribunal needs more resources and better tools now.

Recommendation 1 will provide legislative direction to adjudicators that they must prioritize housing growth and intensification over competing priorities contained in provincial and municipal policies. We further recommend the following:

- 26.** Require appellants to promptly seek permission ("leave to appeal") of the Tribunal and demonstrate that an appeal has merit, relying on evidence and expert reports, before it is accepted.
- 27.** Prevent abuse of process:
 - a) Remove right of appeal for projects with at least 30% affordable housing in which units are guaranteed affordable for at least 40 years.
 - b) Require a \$10,000 filing fee for third-party appeals.
 - c) Provide discretion to adjudicators to award full costs to the successful party in any appeal brought by a third party or by a municipality where its council has overridden a recommended staff approval.
- 28.** Encourage greater use of oral decisions issued the day of the hearing, with written reasons to follow, and allow those decisions to become binding the day that they are issued.
- 29.** Where it is found that a municipality has refused an application simply to avoid a deemed approval for lack of decision, allow the Tribunal to award punitive damages.
- 30.** Provide funding to increase staffing (adjudicators and case managers), provide market-competitive salaries, outsource more matters to mediators, and set shorter time targets.
- 31.** In clearing the existing backlog, encourage the Tribunal to prioritize projects close to the finish line that will support housing growth and intensification, as well as regional water or utility infrastructure decisions that will unlock significant housing capacity.

Reduce the costs to build, buy and rent

The price you pay to buy or rent a home is driven directly by how much it costs to build a home. In Ontario, costs to build homes have dramatically increased at an unprecedented pace over the past decade. In most of our cities and towns, materials and labour only account for about half of the costs. The rest comes from land, which we have addressed in the previous section, and government fees.

A careful balance is required on government fees because, as much as we would like to see them lowered, governments need revenues from fees and taxes to build critically needed infrastructure and pay for all the other services that make Ontario work. So, it is a question of balance and of ensuring that our approach to government fees encourages rather than discourages developers to build the full range of housing we need in our Ontario communities.

Align government fees and charges with the goal of building more housing

Improve the municipal funding model

Housing requires more than just the land it is built on. It requires roads, sewers, parks, utilities and other infrastructure. The provincial government provides municipalities with a way to secure funding for this infrastructure through development charges, community benefit charges and parkland dedication (providing 5% of land for public parks or the cash equivalent).

These charges are founded on the belief that growth – not current taxpayers – should pay for growth. As a concept, it is compelling. In practice, it means that new home buyers pay the entire cost of sewers, parks, affordable housing, or colleges that will be around for generations and may not be located in their neighbourhood. And, although building

affordable housing is a societal responsibility, because affordable units pay all the same charges as a market unit, the cost is passed to new home buyers in the same building or the not-for-profit organization supporting the project. We do not believe that government fees should create a disincentive to affordable housing.

If you ask any developer of homes – whether they are for-profit or non-profit – they will tell you that development charges are a special pain point. In Ontario, they can be as much as \$135,000 per home. In some municipalities, development charges have increased as much as 900% in less than 20 years.^[20] As development charges go up, the prices of homes go up. And development charges on a modest semi-detached home are the same as on a luxury 6,000 square foot home, resulting in a disincentive to build housing that is more affordable. Timing is also a challenge as development charges have to be paid up front, before a shovel even goes into the ground.

To help relieve the pressure, the Ontario government passed recent legislation allowing builders to determine development charges earlier in the building process. But they must pay interest on the assessed development charge to the municipality until a building permit is issued, and there is no cap on the rate, which in one major city is 13% annually.

Cash payments to satisfy parkland dedication also significantly boost the costs of higher-density projects, adding on average \$17,000 to the cost of a high-rise condo across the GTA.^[21] We heard concerns not just about the amount of cash collected, but also about the money not being spent in the neighbourhood or possibly not being spent on parks at all. As an example, in 2019 the City of Toronto held \$644 million in parkland cash-in-lieu payments.^[22] Everyone can agree that we need to invest in parks as our communities grow, but if the funds are not being spent, perhaps it means that more money is being collected for parklands than is needed and we could lower the cost of housing if we adjusted these parkland fees.



A 2019 study carried out for BILD showed that in the Greater Toronto Area, development charges for low-rise housing are on average more than three times higher per unit than in six comparable US metropolitan areas, and roughly 1.75-times higher than in the other Canadian cities.

For high-rise developments the average per unit charges in the GTA are roughly 50% higher than in the US areas, and roughly 30% higher than in the other Canadian urban areas.^[19]

Modernizing HST Thresholds

Harmonized sales tax (HST) applies to all new housing – including purpose-built rental. Today, the federal component is 5% and provincial component is 8%. The federal and provincial government provide a partial HST rebate. Two decades ago, the maximum home price eligible for a rebate was set at \$450,000 federally and \$400,000 provincially, resulting in a maximum rebate of \$6,300 federally and \$24,000 provincially, less than half of today’s average home price. Buyers of new homes above this ceiling face a significant clawback. Indexing the rebate would immediately reduce the cost of building new homes, savings that can be passed on to Ontarians. When both levels of government agree that we are facing a housing crisis, they should not be adding over 10% to the cost of almost all new homes.

- 32.** Waive development charges and parkland cash-in-lieu and charge only modest connection fees for all infill residential projects up to 10 units or for any development where no new material infrastructure will be required.
- 33.** Waive development charges on all forms of affordable housing guaranteed to be affordable for 40 years.
- 34.** Prohibit interest rates on development charges higher than a municipality’s borrowing rate.
- 35.** Regarding cash in lieu of parkland, s.37, Community Benefit Charges, and development charges:
 - a) Provincial review of reserve levels, collections and drawdowns annually to ensure funds are being used in a timely fashion and for the intended purpose, and, where review points to a significant concern, do not allow further collection until the situation has been corrected.
 - b) Except where allocated towards municipality-wide infrastructure projects, require municipalities to spend funds in the neighbourhoods where they were collected. However, where there’s a significant community need in a priority area of the City, allow for specific ward-to-ward allocation of unspent and unallocated reserves.
- 36.** Recommend that the federal government and provincial governments update HST rebate to reflect current home prices and begin indexing the thresholds to housing prices, and that the federal government match the provincial 75% rebate and remove any clawback.

Government charges on a new single-detached home averaged roughly \$186,300, or almost 22% of the price, across six municipalities in southcentral Ontario. For a new condominium apartment, the average was almost \$123,000, or roughly 24% of a unit’s price.

Make it easier to build rental

In cities and towns across Ontario, it is increasingly hard to find a vacant rental unit, let alone a vacant rental unit at an affordable price. Today, 66% of all purpose-built rental units in the City of Toronto were built between 1960 and 1979. Less than 15% of Toronto’s purpose-built rentals were constructed over the ensuing 40 years in spite of the significant population growth during that time. In fact, between 2006 and 2016, growth in condo apartments increased by 186% while purpose-built rental only grew by 0.6%.^[12] In 2018, the Ontario government introduced positive changes that have created growth in purpose-built rental units – with last year seeing 18,000 units under construction and 93,000 proposed against a 5-year average prior to 2020 of 3,400 annually.^[23]

Long-term renters often now feel trapped in apartments that don’t make sense for them as their needs change. And because they can’t or don’t want to move up the housing ladder, many of the people coming up behind them who would gladly take those apartments are instead living in crowded spaces with family members or roommates. Others feel forced to commit to rental units at prices way beyond what they can afford. Others are trying their luck in getting on the wait list for an affordable unit or housing co-op – wait lists that are years long. Others are leaving Ontario altogether.

66%

of all purpose-built rental units
in the City of Toronto were
built between **1960** and **1979**.



A pattern in every community, and particularly large cities, is that the apartments and rented rooms that we do have are disappearing. Apartment buildings are being converted to condos or upgraded to much more expensive rental units. Duplexes get purchased and turned into larger single-family homes.

A major challenge in bridging the gap of rental supply is that, more often than not, purpose-built rental projects don't make economic sense for builders and investors. Ironically, there is no shortage of Canadian investor capital seeking housing investments, particularly large pension funds – but the economics of investing in purpose-built rental in Ontario just don't make sense. So, investments get made in apartment projects in other provinces or countries, or in condo projects that have a better and safer return-on-investment. What can governments do to get that investor capital pointed in the right direction so we can create jobs and get more of the housing we need built?

Some of our earlier recommendations will help, particularly indexing the HST rebate. So will actions by government to require purpose-built rental on surplus government land that is made available for sale. ([Appendix C](#))

Municipal property taxes on purpose-built rental can be as much as 2.5 times greater than property taxes for condominium or other ownership housing.^[24]

The Task Force recommends:

37. Align property taxes for purpose-built rental with those of condos and low-rise homes.

Make homeownership possible for hardworking Ontarians who want it

Home ownership has always been part of the Canadian dream. You don't have to look far back to find a time when the housing landscape was very different. The norm was for young people to rent an apartment in their twenties, work hard and save for a down payment, then buy their first home in their late twenties or early thirties. It was the same for many new Canadians: arrive, rent, work hard and buy. The house might be modest, but it brought a sense of ownership, stability and security. And after that first step onto the ownership ladder, there was always the possibility of selling and moving up. Home ownership felt like a real possibility for anyone who wanted it.

That's not how it works now. Too many young people who would like their own place are living with one or both parents well into adulthood.

The escalation of housing prices over the last decade has put the dream of homeownership out of reach of a growing number of aspiring first-time home buyers. While 73% of Canadians are homeowners, that drops to 48% for Black people, 47% for LGBTQ people^[5] (StatsCan is studying rates for other populations, including Indigenous People who are severely underhoused). This is also an issue for younger adults: a 2021 study showed only 24% of Torontonians aged 30 to 39 are homeowners.^[25]

In Canada, responsibility for Indigenous housing programs has historically been a shared between the federal and provincial governments. The federal government works closely with its provincial and territorial counterparts to improve access to housing for Indigenous peoples both on and off reserve. More than 85% of Indigenous people live in urban and rural areas, are 11 times more likely to experience homelessness and have incidence of housing need that is 52% greater than all Canadians. The Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls report mentions housing 299 times – the lack of which being a significant, contributing cause to violence and the provision of which as a significant, contributing solution. The Province of Ontario has made significant investments in Urban Indigenous Housing, but we need the Federal Government to re-engage as an active partner.

While measures to address supply will have an impact on housing prices, many aspiring homeowners will continue to face a gap that is simply too great to bridge through traditional methods.

The Task Force recognizes the need for caution about measures that would spur demand for housing before the supply bottleneck is fixed. At the same time, a growing number of organizations – both non-profit and for-profit are proposing a range of unique home equity models. Some of these organizations are aiming at households who have sufficient income to pay the mortgage but lack a sufficient down payment. Others are aiming at households who fall short in both income and down payment requirements for current market housing.

The Task Force heard about a range of models to help aspiring first-time home buyers, including:

- Shared equity models with a government, non-profit or for-profit lender holding a second “shared equity mortgage” payable at time of sale of the home
- Land lease models that allow residents to own their home but lease the land, reducing costs
- Rent-to-own approaches in which a portion of an occupant's rent is used to build equity, which can be used as a down payment on their current unit or another market unit in the future
- Models where the equity gain is shared between the homeowner and the non-profit provider, such that the non-profit will always be able to buy the home back and sell it to another qualified buyer, thus retaining the home's affordability from one homeowner to the next.

Proponents of these models identified barriers that thwart progress in implementing new solutions.

- The Planning Act limits land leases to a maximum of 21 years. This provision prevents home buyers from accessing the same type of mortgages from a bank or credit union that are available to them when they buy through traditional homeownership.
- The Perpetuities Act has a similar 21-year limit on any options placed on land. This limits innovative non-profit models from using equity formulas for re-sale and repurchase of homes.
- Land Transfer Tax (LTT) is charged each time a home is sold and is collected by the province; and in Toronto, this tax is also collected by the City. This creates a double-tax in rent-to-own/equity building models where LTT ends up being paid first by the home equity organization and then by the occupant when they are able to buy the unit.
- HST is charged based on the market value of the home. In shared equity models where the homeowner neither owns nor gains from the shared equity portion of their home, HST on the shared equity portion of the home simply reduces affordability.
- Residential mortgages are highly regulated by the federal government and reflective of traditional homeownership. Modifications in regulations may be required to adapt to new co-ownership and other models.

The Task Force encourages the Ontario government to devote further attention to avenues to support new homeownership options. As a starting point, the Task Force offers the following recommendations:

- 38.** Amend the Planning Act and Perpetuities Act to extend the maximum period for land leases and restrictive covenants on land to 40 or more years.
- 39.** Eliminate or reduce tax disincentives to housing growth.
- 40.** Call on the Federal Government to implement an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.
- 41.** Funding for pilot projects that create innovative pathways to homeownership, for Black, Indigenous, and marginalized people and first-generation homeowners.
- 42.** Provide provincial and federal loan guarantees for purpose-built rental, affordable rental and affordable ownership projects.

Support and incentivize scaling up housing supply

Our goal of building 1.5 million homes in ten years means doubling how many homes Ontario creates each year. As much as the Task Force’s recommendations will remove barriers to realizing this ambitious goal, we also need to ensure we have the capacity across Ontario’s communities to deliver this new housing supply. This includes capacity of our housing infrastructure, capacity within our municipal planning teams, and boots on the ground with the skills to build new homes.

There is much to be done and the price of failure for the people of Ontario is high. This is why the provincial government must make an unwavering commitment to keeping the spotlight on housing supply. This is also why the province must be dogged in its determination to galvanize and align efforts and incentives across all levels of government so that working together, we all can get the job done.

Our final set of recommendations turns to these issues of capacity to deliver, and the role the provincial government can play in putting the incentives and alignment in place to achieve the 1.5 million home goal.

Invest in municipal infrastructure

Housing can’t get built without water, sewage, and other infrastructure

When the Task Force met with municipal leaders, they emphasized how much future housing supply relies on having the water, storm water and wastewater systems, roads, sidewalks, fire stations, and all the other parts of community infrastructure to support new homes and new residents.

Infrastructure is essential where housing is being built for the first time. And, it can be a factor in intensification when added density exceeds the capacity of existing infrastructure, one of the reasons we urge new infrastructure in new developments to be designed for future capacity. In Ontario, there are multiple municipalities where the number one barrier to approving new housing projects is a lack of infrastructure to support them.

Municipalities face a myriad of challenges in getting this infrastructure in place. Often, infrastructure investments are required long before new projects are approved and funding must be secured. Notwithstanding the burden development charges place on the price of new housing, most municipalities report that development charges are still not enough to fully cover the costs of building new infrastructure and retrofitting existing infrastructure in neighbourhoods that are intensifying. Often infrastructure crosses municipal boundaries creating complicated and time-consuming “who pays?” questions. Municipal leaders also shared their frustrations with situations where new housing projects are approved and water, sewage and other infrastructure capacity is allocated to the project – only to have the developer land bank the project and put off building. Environmental considerations with new infrastructure add further cost and complexity. The Task Force recommends:

- 43.** Enable municipalities, subject to adverse external economic events, to withdraw infrastructure allocations from any permitted projects where construction has not been initiated within three years of build permits being issued.
- 44.** Work with municipalities to develop and implement a municipal services corporation utility model for water and wastewater under which the municipal corporation would borrow and amortize costs among customers instead of using development charges.

Create the Labour Force to meet the housing supply need

The labour force is shrinking in many segments of the market

You can't start to build housing without infrastructure. You can't build it without people – skilled trades people in every community who can build the homes we need.

The concern that we are already facing a shortage in skilled trades came through loud and clear in our consultations. We heard from many sources that our education system funnels young people to university rather than colleges or apprenticeships and creates the perception that careers in the skilled trades are of less value. Unions and builders are working to fill the pipeline domestically and recruit internationally, but mass retirements are making it challenging to maintain the workforce at its current level, let alone increase it.

Increased economic immigration could ease this bottleneck, but it appears difficult for a skilled labourer with no Canadian work experience to qualify under Ontario's rules. Moreover, Canada's immigration policies also favour university education over skills our economy and society desperately need. We ought to be welcoming immigrants with the skills needed to build roads and houses that will accommodate our growing population.

The shortage may be less acute, however, among smaller developers and contractors that could renovate and build new “missing middle” homes arising from the changes in neighbourhood zoning described earlier. These smaller companies tap into a different workforce from the one needed to build high rises and new subdivisions. Nonetheless, 1.5 million more homes will require a major investment in attracting and developing the skilled trades workforce to deliver this critically needed housing supply. We recommend:

- 45.** Improve funding for colleges, trade schools, and apprenticeships; encourage and incentivize municipalities, unions and employers to provide more on-the-job training.
- 46.** Undertake multi-stakeholder education program to promote skilled trades.
- 47.** Recommend that the federal and provincial government prioritize skilled trades and adjust the immigration points system to strongly favour needed trades and expedite immigration status for these workers, and encourage the federal government to increase from 9,000 to 20,000 the number of immigrants admitted through Ontario's program.

Create a large Ontario Housing Delivery Fund to align efforts and incent new housing supply

Build alignment between governments to enable builders to deliver more homes than ever before

All levels of government play a role in housing.

The federal government sets immigration policy, which has a major impact on population growth and many tax policies. The province sets the framework for planning, approvals, and growth that municipalities rely upon, and is responsible for many other areas that touch on housing supply, like investing in highways and transit, training workers, the building code and protecting the environment. Municipalities are on the front lines, expected to translate the impacts of federal immigration policy, provincial guidance and other factors, some very localized, into official plans and the overall process through which homes are approved to be built.

The efficiency with which home builders can build, whether for-profit or non-profit, is influenced by policies and decisions at every level of government. In turn, how many home developers can deliver, and at what cost, translates directly into the availability of homes that Ontarians can afford.

Collectively, governments have not been sufficiently aligned in their efforts to provide the frameworks and incentives that meet the broad spectrum of housing needs in Ontario. Much action, though, has been taken in recent years.

- The Ontario government has taken several steps to make it easier to build additional suites in your own home: reduced disincentives to building rental housing, improved the appeal process, focused on density around transit stations, made upfront development charges more predictable, and provided options for municipalities to create community benefits through development.
- The federal government has launched the National Housing Strategy and committed over \$70 billion in funding.^[26] Most recently, it has announced a \$4 billion Housing Accelerator Fund aimed at helping municipalities remove barriers to building housing more quickly.^[27]
- Municipalities have been looking at ways to change outdated processes, rules, and ways of thinking that create delays and increases costs of delivering homes. Several municipalities have taken initial steps towards eliminating exclusionary zoning and addressing other barriers described in this report.

All governments agree that we are facing a housing crisis. Now we must turn the sense of urgency into action and alignment across governments.

Mirror policy changes with financial incentives aligned across governments

The policy recommendations in this report will go a long way to align efforts and position builders to deliver more homes.

Having the capacity in our communities to build these homes will take more than policy. It will take money. Rewarding municipalities that meet housing growth and approval timelines will help them to invest in system upgrades, hire additional staff, and invest in their communities. Similarly, municipalities that resist new housing, succumb to NIMBY pressure, and close off their neighbourhoods should see funding reductions. Fixing the housing crisis is a societal responsibility, and our limited tax dollars should be directed to those municipalities making the difficult but necessary choices to grow housing supply.

In late January 2022, the provincial government announced \$45 million for a new *Streamline Development Approval Fund* to “unlock housing supply by cutting red tape and improving processes for residential and industrial developments”.^[28] This is encouraging. More is needed.

Ontario should also receive its fair share of federal funding but today faces a shortfall of almost \$500 million,^[29] despite two thirds of the Canadian housing shortage being in Ontario. We call on the federal government to address this funding gap.

48. The Ontario government should establish a large “Ontario Housing Delivery Fund” and encourage the federal government to match funding. This fund should reward:

- a) Annual housing growth that meets or exceeds provincial targets
- b) Reductions in total approval times for new housing
- c) The speedy removal of exclusionary zoning practices

49. Reductions in funding to municipalities that fail to meet provincial housing growth and approval timeline targets.

We believe that the province should consider partial grants to subsidize municipalities that waive development charges for affordable housing and for purpose-built rental.

Sustain focus, measure, monitor, improve

Digitize and modernize the approvals and planning process

Some large municipalities have moved to electronic tracking of development applications and/or electronic building permits (“e-permits”) and report promising results, but there is no consistency and many smaller places don’t have the capacity to make the change.

Municipalities, the provincial government and agencies use different systems to collect data and information relevant to housing approvals, which slows down processes and leaves much of the “big picture” blank. This could be addressed by ensuring uniform data architecture standards.

Improve the quality of our housing data to inform decision making

Having accurate data is key to understanding any challenge and making the best decisions in response. The Task Force heard from multiple housing experts that we are not always using the best data, and we do not always have the data we need.

Having good population forecasts is essential in each municipality as they develop plans to meet future land and housing needs. Yet, we heard many concerns about inconsistent approaches to population forecasts. In the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the forecast provided to municipalities by the province is updated only when the Growth Plan is updated, generally every seven years; but federal immigration policy, which is a key driver of growth, changes much more frequently. The provincial Ministry of Finance produces a population forecast on a more regular basis than the Growth Plan, but these are not used consistently across municipalities or even by other provincial ministries.

Population forecasts get translated into housing need in different ways across the province, and there is a lack of data about how (or whether) the need will be met. Others pointed to the inconsistent availability of land inventories. Another challenge is the lack of information on how much land is permitted and how much housing is actually getting built once permitted, and how fast. The Task Force also heard that, although the Provincial Policy Statement requires municipalities to maintain a three-year supply of short-term (build-ready) land and report it each year to the province, many municipalities are not meeting that requirement.^[30]

At a provincial and municipal level, we need better data on the housing we have today, housing needed to close the gap, consistent projections of what we need in the future, and data on how we are doing at keeping up. Improved data will help anticipate local and provincial supply bottlenecks and constraints, making it easier to determine the appropriate level and degree of response.

It will also be important to have better data to assess how much new housing stock is becoming available to groups that have been disproportionately excluded from home ownership and rental housing.

Put eyes on the crisis and change the conversation around housing

Ours is not the first attempt to “fix the housing system”. There have been efforts for years to tackle increasing housing prices and find solutions so everyone in Ontario can find and afford the housing they need. This time must be different.

The recommendations in this report must receive sustained attention, results must be monitored, significant financial investment by all levels of government must be made. And, the people of Ontario must embrace a housing landscape in which the housing needs of tomorrow’s citizens and those who have been left behind are given equal weight to the housing advantages of those who are already well established in homes that they own.

- 50.** Fund the adoption of consistent municipal e-permitting systems and encourage the federal government to match funding. Fund the development of common data architecture standards across municipalities and provincial agencies and require municipalities to provide their zoning bylaws with open data standards. Set an implementation goal of 2025 and make funding conditional on established targets.
- 51.** Require municipalities and the provincial government to use the Ministry of Finance population projections as the basis for housing need analysis and related land use requirements.
- 52.** Resume reporting on housing data and require consistent municipal reporting, enforcing compliance as a requirement for accessing programs under the Ontario Housing Delivery Fund.
- 53.** Report each year at the municipal and provincial level on any gap between demand and supply by housing type and location, and make underlying data freely available to the public.
- 54.** Empower the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to lead an all-of-government committee, including key provincial ministries and agencies, that meets weekly to ensure our remaining recommendations and any other productive ideas are implemented.
- 55.** Commit to evaluate these recommendations for the next three years with public reporting on progress.

Conclusion

We have set a bold goal for Ontario: building 1.5 million homes in the next 10 years.

We believe this can be done. What struck us was that everyone we talked to – builders, housing advocates, elected officials, planners – understands the need to act now. As one long-time industry participant said, “for the first time in memory, everyone is aligned, and we need to take advantage of that.”

Such unity of purpose is rare, but powerful.

To leverage that power, we offer solutions that are bold but workable, backed by evidence, and that position Ontario for the future.

Our recommendations focus on ramping up the supply of housing. Measures are already in place to try to cool demand, but they will not fill Ontario’s housing need. More supply is key. Building more homes will reduce the competition for our scarce supply of homes and will give Ontarians more housing choices. It will improve housing affordability across the board.

Everyone wants more Ontarians to have housing. So let’s get to work to build more housing in Ontario.

APPENDIX A:

Biographies of Task Force Members

Lalit Aggarwal is President of Manor Park Holdings, a real estate development and operating company active in Eastern Ontario. Previously, Lalit was an investor for institutional fund management firms, such as H.I.G. European Capital Partners, Soros Fund Management, and Goldman Sachs. He is a past fellow of the C.D. Howe Institute and a former Director of both Bridgepoint Health and the Centre for the Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine. Lalit holds degrees from the University of Oxford and the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a current Director of the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation, the Sterling Hall School and the Chair of the Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario.

David Amborski is a professional Urban Planner, Professor at Ryerson University's School of Urban and Regional Planning and the founding Director of the Centre for Urban Research and Land Development (CUR). His research and consulting work explore topics where urban planning interfaces with economics, including land and housing markets. He is an academic advisor to the National Executive Forum on Public Property, and he is a member of Lambda Alpha (Honorary Land Economics Society). He has undertaken consulting for the Federal, Provincial and a range of municipal governments. Internationally, he has undertaken work for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and several other organizations in Eastern Europe, Latin America, South Africa, and Asia. He also serves on the editorial boards of several international academic journals.

Andrew Garrett is a real estate executive responsible for growing IMCO's \$11+ Billion Global Real Estate portfolio to secure public pensions and insurance for Ontario families. IMCO is the only Ontario fund manager purpose built to onboard public clients such as pensions, insurance, municipal reserve funds, and endowments. Andrew has significant non-profit sector experience founding a B Corp certified social enterprise called WeBuild to help incubate social purpose real estate projects. He currently volunteers on non-profit boards supporting social purpose real estate projects, youth programs and the visual arts at Art Gallery

of Ontario. Andrew sits on board advisory committees for private equity firms and holds a Global Executive MBA from Kellogg School Management and a Real Estate Development Certification from MIT Centre for Real Estate.

Tim Hudak is the CEO of the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA). With a passion and voice for championing the dream of home ownership, Tim came to OREA following a distinguished 21-year career in politics, including five years as Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

In his role, Tim has focused on transforming OREA into Ontario's most cutting-edge professional association at the forefront of advocacy on behalf of REALTORS® and consumers, and providing world-class conferences, standard forms, leadership training and professional guidance to its Members. As part of his work at OREA, Tim was named one of the most powerful people in North American residential real estate by Swanepoel Power 200 for the last five years. Tim is married to Deb Hutton, and together they have two daughters, Miller and Maitland. In his spare time, Tim enjoys trails less taken on his mountain bike or hiking shoes as well as grilling outdoors.

Jake Lawrence was appointed Chief Executive Officer and Group Head, Global Banking and Markets in January 2021. In this role, Jake is responsible for the Bank's Global Banking and Markets business line and strategy across its global footprint. Jake joined Scotiabank in 2002 and has held progressively senior roles in Finance, Group Treasury and Global Banking and Markets. From December 2018 to January 2021, Jake was Co-Group Head of Global Banking and Markets with specific responsibility for its Capital Markets businesses, focused on building alignment across product groups and priority markets to best serve our clients throughout our global footprint. Previously, Jake was Executive Vice President and Head of Global Banking and Markets in the U.S., providing overall strategic direction and execution of Scotiabank's U.S. businesses. Prior to moving into GBM, Jake served as Senior Vice President and Deputy Treasurer, responsible for Scotiabank's wholesale funding activities and liquidity management as well as Senior Vice President, Investor Relations.

Julie Di Lorenzo (GPLLM, University of Toronto 2020), is self-employed since 1982, operates one of the largest female-run Real Estate Development Companies in North America. She was instrumental in the Daniel Burnham award-winning Ontario Growth Management Plan (2004) as President of BILD. Julie served as the first female-owner President of GTHBA (BILD) and on the boards of the Ontario Science Centre, Harbourfront Toronto, Tarion (ONHWP), St. Michael's Hospital, NEXT36, Waterfront Toronto, Chair of IREC Committee WT, Havergal College (Co-Chair of Facilities), York School (interim Vice-Chair), and Canadian Civil Liberties Association Board. Julie has served various governments in advisory capacity on Women's issues, Economic Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Awards include Lifetime Achievement BILD 2017, ICCO Business Excellence 2005 & ICCO Businesswoman of the Year 2021.

Justin Marchand (CIHCM, CPA, CMA, BComm) is Métis and was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) in 2018. Justin has over 20 years of progressive experience in a broad range of sectors, including two publicly listed corporations, a large accounting and consulting firm, and a major crown corporation, and holds numerous designations across financial, operations, and housing disciplines. He was most recently selected as Chair of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association's (CHRA's) Indigenous Caucus Working Group and is also board member for CHRA. Justin is also an active board member for both the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership (CHIL) as well as Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, located in Bawaating. Justin believes that Housing is a fundamental human right and that when Indigenous people have access to safe, affordable, and culture-based Housing this provides the opportunity to improve other areas of their lives.

Ene Underwood is CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Toronto Area), a non-profit housing developer that helps working, lower income families build strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership. Homes are delivered through a combination of volunteer builds, contractor builds, and partnerships with non-profit and for-profit developers. Ene's career began in the private sector as a strategy consultant with McKinsey & Company before transitioning to not-for-profit sector leadership. Ene holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Waterloo and a Master of Business Administration from Ivey Business School.

Dave Wilkes is the President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association of the GTA (BILD). The Association has 1,300 members and proudly represents builders, developers, professional renovators and those who support the industry.

Dave is committed to supporting volunteer boards and organizations. He has previously served on the George Brown College Board of Directors, Ontario Curling Association, and is currently engaged with Black North Initiative (Housing Committee) and R-Labs I+T Council.

Dave received his Bachelor of Arts (Applied Geography) from Ryerson.

APPENDIX B:

Affordable Housing

Ontario's affordable housing shortfall was raised in almost every conversation. With rapidly rising prices, more lower-priced market rental units are being converted into housing far out of reach of lower-income households. In parallel, higher costs to deliver housing and limited government funding have resulted in a net decrease in the number of affordable housing units run by non-profits. The result is untenable: more people need affordable housing after being displaced from the market at the very time that affordable supply is shrinking.

Throughout our consultations, we were reminded of the housing inequities experienced by Black, Indigenous and marginalized people. We also received submissions describing the unique challenges faced by off-reserve Indigenous Peoples both in the province's urban centres and in the north.

While many of the changes that will help deliver market housing will also help make it easier to deliver affordable housing, affordable housing is a societal responsibility. We cannot rely exclusively on for-profit developers nor on increases in the supply of market housing to fully solve the problem.

The non-profit housing sector faces all the same barriers, fees, risks and complexities outlined in this report as for-profit builders. Several participants from the non-profit sector referred to current or future partnerships with for-profit developers that tap into the development and construction expertise and efficiencies of the private sector. Successful examples of leveraging such partnerships were cited with Indigenous housing, supportive housing, and affordable homeownership.

We were also reminded by program participants that, while partnerships with for-profit developers can be very impactful, non-profit providers have unique competencies in the actual delivery of affordable housing. This includes confirming eligibility of affordable housing applicants, supporting independence of occupants of affordable housing, and ensuring affordable housing units remain affordable from one occupant to the next.

One avenue for delivering more affordable housing that has received much recent attention is inclusionary zoning. In simple terms, inclusionary zoning (IZ) requires developers to deliver a share of affordable units in new

housing developments in prescribed areas. The previous Ontario government passed legislation in April 2018 providing a framework within which municipalities could enact Inclusionary Zoning bylaws.

Ontario's first inclusionary zoning policy was introduced in fall 2021 by the City of Toronto and applies to major transit station areas. Internationally, inclusionary zoning has been used successfully to incentivize developers to create new affordable housing by providing density bonuses (more units than they would normally be allowed, if some are affordable) or reductions in government fees. Unfortunately, the City's approach did not include any incentives or bonuses. Instead, Toronto requires market-rate fees and charges for below-market affordable units. This absence of incentives together with lack of clarity on the overall density that will be approved for projects has led developers and some housing advocates to claim that these projects may be uneconomic and thus will not get financed or built. Municipalities shared with us their concerns regarding the restriction in the provincial IZ legislation that prohibits "cash in lieu" payments. Municipalities advised that having the option of accepting the equivalent value of IZ units in cash from the developer would enable even greater impact in some circumstances (for example, a luxury building in an expensive neighbourhood, where the cost of living is too high for a low-income resident).

Funding for affordable housing is the responsibility of all levels of government. The federal government has committed to large funding transfers to the provinces to support affordable housing. The Task Force heard, however, that Ontario's share of this funding does not reflect our proportionate affordable housing needs. This, in turn, creates further financial pressure on both the province and municipalities, which further exacerbates the affordable housing shortages in Ontario's communities.

Finally, many participants in Task Force consultations pointed to surplus government lands as an avenue for building more affordable housing and this is discussed in [Appendix C](#).

We have made recommendations throughout the report intended to have a positive impact on new affordable housing supply. We offer these additional recommendations specific to affordable housing:

- Call upon the federal government to provide equitable affordable housing funding to Ontario.
 - Develop and legislate a clear, province-wide definition of “affordable housing” to create certainty and predictability.
 - Create an Affordable Housing Trust from a portion of Land Transfer Tax Revenue (i.e., the windfall resulting from property price appreciation) to be used in partnership with developers, non-profits, and municipalities in the creation of more affordable housing units. This Trust should create incentives for projects serving and brought forward by Black- and Indigenous-led developers and marginalized groups.
- Amend legislation to:
 - Allow cash-in-lieu payments for Inclusive Zoning units at the discretion of the municipality.
 - Require that municipalities utilize density bonusing or other incentives in all Inclusionary Zoning and Affordable Housing policies that apply to market housing.
 - Permit municipalities that have not passed Inclusionary Zoning policies to offer incentives and bonuses for affordable housing units.
 - Encourage government to closely monitor the effectiveness of Inclusionary Zoning policy in creating new affordable housing and to explore alternative funding methods that are predictable, consistent and transparent as a more viable alternative option to Inclusionary Zoning policies in the provision of affordable housing.
 - Rebate MPAC market rate property tax assessment on below-market affordable homes.

APPENDIX C:

Government Surplus Land

Surplus government lands fell outside the mandate of the Task Force. However, this question came up repeatedly as a solution to housing supply. While we take no view on the disposition of specific parcels of land, several stakeholders raised issues that we believe merit consideration:

- Review surplus lands and accelerate the sale and development through RFP of surplus government land and surrounding land by provincially pre-zoning for density, affordable housing, and mixed or residential use.
- All future government land sales, whether commercial or residential, should have an affordable housing component of at least 20%.
- Purposefully upzone underdeveloped or underutilized Crown property (e.g., LCBO).
- Sell Crown land and reoccupy as a tenant in a higher density building or relocate services outside of major population centres where land is considerably less expensive.
- The policy priority of adding to the housing supply, including affordable units, should be reflected in the way surplus land is offered for sale, allowing bidders to structure their proposals accordingly.

APPENDIX D:

Surety Bonds

Moving to surety bonds would free up billions of dollars for building

When a development proposal goes ahead, the developer typically needs to make site improvements, such as installing common services. The development agreement details how the developer must perform to the municipality's satisfaction.

Up until the 1980s, it was common practice for Ontario municipalities to accept bonds as financial security for subdivision agreements and site plans. Today, however, they almost exclusively require letters of credit from a chartered bank. The problem with letters of credit is that developers are often required to collateralize the letter of credit dollar-for-dollar against the value of the municipal works they are performing.

Often this means developers can only afford to finance one or two housing projects at a time, constraining housing supply. The Ontario Home Builders' Association estimates that across Ontario, billions of dollars are tied up in collateral or borrowing capacity that could be used to advance more projects.

Modern "pay on demand surety bonds" are proven to provide the same benefits and security as a letter of credit, while not tying up private capital the way letters of credit do. Moving to this option would give municipalities across Ontario access to all the features of a letter of credit with the added benefit of professional underwriting, carried out by licensed bonding companies, ensuring that the developer is qualified to fulfill its obligations under the municipal agreement.

Most important from a municipal perspective, the financial obligation is secured. If a problem arises, the secure bond is fully payable by the bond company on demand. Surety companies, similar to banks, are regulated by Ontario's Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions to ensure they have sufficient funds in place to pay out bond claims.

More widespread use of this instrument could unlock billions of dollars of private sector financial liquidity that could be used to build new infrastructure and housing projects, provide for more units in each development and accelerate the delivery of housing of all types.

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Town of The Blue Mountains

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THORN BURY, ON N0H 2P0

<https://www.thebluemountains.ca>

Via Email (housingsupply@ontario.ca)

February 15, 2022

Hon. Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
College Park 17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A2J3

**RE: Opportunities & Feedback to Increase the Supply & Affordability of Market Housing
Town of The Blue Mountains Submission**

Dear Minister Clark,

Thank you for your recent email correspondence to municipal Heads of Council on February 7, 2022 seeking further advice from municipalities regarding opportunities to increase the supply and affordability of market housing. Like many municipalities in Ontario, the Town of The Blue Mountains is experiencing significant growth, pressure to grow more, and market housing prices that have vastly outpaced the incomes of so many local residents.

We appreciate your willingness to ask tough questions regarding the current housing crisis and your openness to act swiftly on some of the answers you receive through your consultations. It should be noted that municipal staff and Councils would be better able to provide well-thought out, constructive comments and suggestions with additional time. It is concerning that some innovative thoughts, ideas, and potential needed changes to Ontario's Housing System may not be heard through an accelerated consultation period.

On behalf of the Town of The Blue Mountains, the following represents Town staff's suggested opportunities for the Province's consideration as well as comments pertaining to the Housing Task Force Report Recommendations:

General Comment – The Town supports the Province in setting a target for new dwellings to be built. Without a target, neither the Province, nor municipalities will know the magnitude of the goal or how each can do their part in achieving it.

General Comment – The Town supports a municipality's ability to deliver a range of housing options that both meet local context and serviceability, while pursuing achievement of provincial priorities, objectives, and policies. Definition of terms such as "missing middle" and "attainable" may assist municipalities in understanding and what we are collectively striving towards.

General Comment – The current Planning System in Ontario is multi-tiered, complex and lengthy. In rural and small urban communities, plans, policies, and bylaws can articulate a community’s vision of a sustainable yet prosperous future. However substantial amounts of information that guide development on the ground is left to landowners and applicants to provide for review. This “back-ending” of information to support development proposals results in time and money required for both preparation and review of those materials. The result: a land development process that is often consumed with ground-truthing, review, technical assessment, and professional debate. While detailed information is critical to good decision-making, the current reactive structure does not lend itself to accelerated delivery of market housing. Municipalities need to be equipped to identify and clearly delineate areas that are available for development at the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw stage. Mandating the use of the Community Planning Permit System may assist in bringing clarity and expediency to the process.

Suggestion: Pursue Clarity & Predictability – A new Planning System in Ontario needs to be based on clarity and predictability. Properties that are designated and zoned for uses that are deemed appropriate through Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw processes should be able to realize the community’s vision without further draw-out processes. Similarly, community residents should have the confidence that lands that are designated and zoned for protection will stay that way until the next Official Plan Review and Zoning Bylaw Review without concern that technical evaluations will reveal opportunity for unexpected change.

Suggestion: Stable & Sufficient Resources to Plan Ahead – It is recommended that a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected within a municipality be directed to fund municipal planning and development resources. This approach stabilizes funding for many smaller municipalities. This approach also ensures that municipalities with higher land sale volumes (a potential sign of growth) can benefit from that growth by investing in resources to manage it. Finally, this approach also lessens the burden of municipal planning resources on the tax levy, freeing up much needed tax income to be dedicated to other municipal services.

Suggestion: Non-primary dwelling surtax to fund Community Improvement Plans – Seasonal homes, second homes, vacation homes and short-term accommodation units make up a critical mass in the Provincial housing stock. Ontarians should always have the freedom to buy real estate. However, when not occupied as a principal residence by either the owner or a long-term tenant, this housing stock consumes land without helping satisfy the market’s demand for housing. It is recommended that the Province investigate a surtax or unit levy on dwellings that are not used as a principal residence by the owner or a long-term tenant. Legislation could be introduced to require the surtax revenues to support municipal Community Improvement Programs that support attainable housing.

Suggestion: Attainable Unit Density Offset – We recommend that the Province allow municipalities to require up to 10% of development proposals over 10 units to be attainable in exchange for a 10% increase in density. Effectively, bonus density can be provided for the attainable housing. This takes advantage of the critical mass/cost efficiency of a development that is already constructing market-priced dwellings.

Suggestion: Minimum Density Plans -- To help achieve a provincial goal of dwelling creation, each region and municipality must understand what their respective contribution of new dwellings needs to be in the next 10 years. We recommend that the Province work with planning authorities to identify what the regional and local municipal dwelling targets shall be. The minimum densities required to achieve these dwelling targets should be outlined in Minimum Density Plans for serviced settlement areas with no threat of appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. This will ensure the densities required to achieve dwelling targets are put into place in a timely manner and sites are pre-zoned for development.

Housing Task Force Report Recommendations 3 through 11 – Town staff generally support pursuit of “as-of-right” permissions. We support the Province furthering legislative change to permit two additional residential units on a lot, to a maximum of 3 units. However, we question the liveability of 4 units on a single residential lot. Issues related to amenity space, parking, and waste collection could be exacerbated, particularly in smaller communities with little to no access to transit or public parkland within walking distance. Also, we do not support Recommendation 11 in its entirety as it suggests supporting housing growth outside municipal boundaries and may lead to unnecessary sprawl and premature extension of costly municipal infrastructure.

Housing Task Force Report Recommendation 12 – We caution against a complete repeal or override of municipal documents that prioritize the preservation of physical character of neighbourhood. However, we acknowledge that character does not equate to “the same”. Municipalities that wish to address character should be required to develop community design standards how development should compliment existing character, albeit at a higher density.

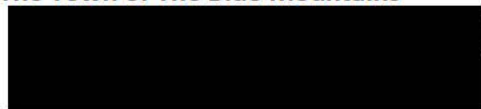
Housing Task Force Report Recommendation 13 through 25 -- Blanket exemptions of developments <10 units may create unintended confusion regarding critical issues (i.e. infrastructure ownership, access, etc.) and may allow poor quality design. This concept should only be entertained if the Province identified strict requirements outlining the site level details that are typically dealt with through the site plan process. Also, we caution the Province in its consideration of restoring all rights of developers to appeals Official Plans and Municipal Comprehensive Reviews. This could result in additional appeals resulting in further time and money directed towards matters at the Tribunal rather than devoted to building communities.

We do not support automatic approvals of applications that exceed legislative timelines. Often lengthened timelines result from professional differences of opinion over policy interpretation or technical substance. Instead, we recommend the Province engage with professional associations involved in the development process (planners, engineers, etc.) to develop clear and comprehensive criteria for technical information associated with developments.

Thank you again for the opportunity to convey our suggestions and provide feedback. We look forward to further collaboration with the Province and remain available if you require additional information or clarity.

Sincerely,

The Town of The Blue Mountains



Nathan Westendorp, MCIP RPP
Director of Planning & Development Services

cc.	Council	Town of The Blue Mountains
	Shawn Everitt, CAO	Town of The Blue Mountains
	Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO	County of Grey

ARE YOU CARING FOR A LOVED ONE?



**Hospice Renfrew Invites YOU to take part in our new
“Nurturing the Caregiver” Workshop Series.
Choose from ONE of the following events:**

SESSION 1: Saturday, March 26 2022~

Art Therapy for Caregiver Stress with Marillyn Saffery, Reg. Psychotherapist & Art Therapist
PLUS *hand massages* by Hospice Volunteers.

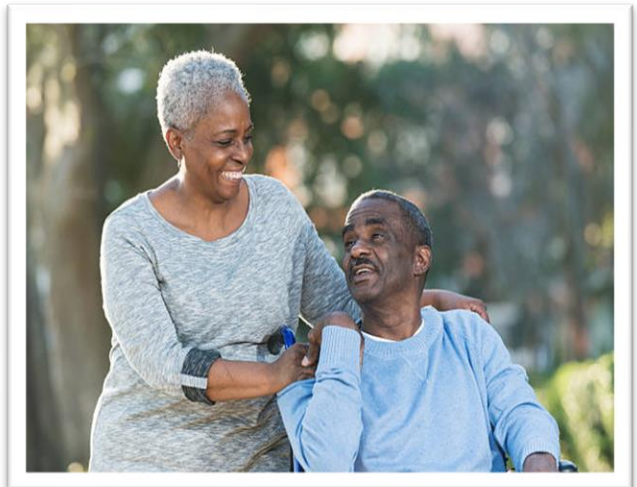
SESSION 2: Saturday, April 23rd 2022~

Yoga & Relaxation Breathing for Caregivers
with Ro Nwosu, Yoga Teacher **PLUS** *soothing
massage* by Melissa Corriveau, RMT.

SESSION 3: Saturday, May 28th 2022~

Mindfulness & Nutrition with Jane Wood, Dietician and Mindfulness Practitioner
PLUS *mini, Reiki treatments* with Dora Boukouris, Reiki Master.

SESSION 4: Saturday, June 25th 2022~ *Breathwork* with Catie Clapp, Breathwork and
Somatic Trainer **PLUS** *mini-Reflexology treatments* with Tracey Liebig, Reflexologist.



**All workshops run from 9:30am-noon at Hospice Renfrew.
Free to attend. Space is Limited. MUST PRE-REGISTER.**



For More Information and to Pre-Register, please contact:
Julie Keon, RSSW at jkeon@hospicerenfrew.ca or at 613-433-3993 x.2237



We are continuing our partnership with the Canadian Red Cross and have received another shipment of KN95 masks as well as COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits.

You can pick up your free box of 20 masks and/or box of 5 rapid tests at the main desk. We suggest one box per visit; this will help ensure we reach as many in the community as possible.

OUR HOURS REMAIN:

Monday through Wednesday Noon to 7pm
Thursday and Friday 10am to 5pm
Saturday 10am to 2pm

The library continues to adhere to the Mask Mandate as outlined by the Ministry of Health, Renfrew County District Health Unit and the Town of Arnprior.

Resources and services are still available curbside including:

- Free & unlimited WiFi access
- Printing and copying services
- Online membership registration for residents
- Material borrowing for patrons who have library cards in good standing

We have many wonderful options for March Break activities at the Arnprior Public Library. Highlights include escape rooms, guide dogs, musicians, a firefighter, a drag queen, art event, storytelling and Indigenous tales. Programs are a mix of in-person and online, for a range of ages. Please [click here](#) to learn more and to register. Spaces are limited.



Our March Science Kits are available for pick-up at the circulation desk. Kits for grades 2-6 explore surface tension and water striders, and the kits for grades 6-10 explore light. Get yours before they're gone!

MARCH BREAK AT THE LIBRARY



DID YOU KNOW...

Our patrons are some of the most dedicated library users in the province! In February, a total of 11,203 titles were checked out. That's a whopping 45% increase over the same month last year... but what's most impressive is that we even surpassed our pre-pandemic circulation of 10,801 items in February 2019. Yes, we like our statistics!

New books arrive every week and are added to the collection. The new fiction display in the lower level features items catalogued over the last 12 months. The Large Print collection on the main floor is undergoing a revamp and there's always something interesting in the new non-fiction display. New children's books include non-fiction titles, picture books, beginner readers and novels for all ages.

On your next venture into the library, have a look at some of the fantastic new picture books on display. The messages and art work often carry a deep meaning for all ages. In fact, children's author Peter H. Reynolds just created a beautiful drawing in support of Ukraine. When we reached out for permission to use his image, he was immediate and gracious in his consent. What a guy!



PEACE

PETER H. REYNOLDS

COMING UP...

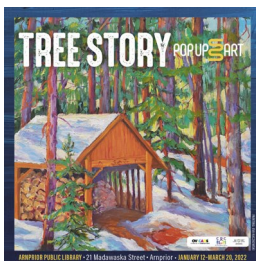
As restrictions of the last two years begin to lift, the library is working to bring back some of its beloved programming. The Arnprior 10 Seniors Book Clubs have resumed their monthly fireside book chats;



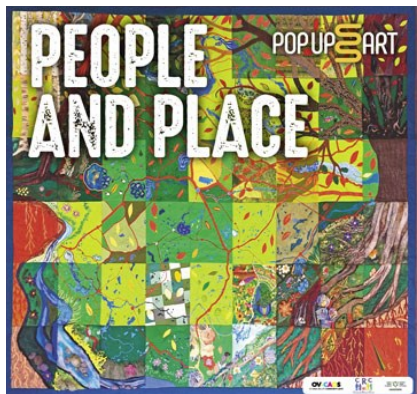
The Monday morning Whatknots Knitting Group has also returned. Bring your project and join the lively chat in our cozy downstairs.

A local group of photographers who shared their shared their interests over weekly Zoom get-togethers managed to create a beautiful book of thematic photographs (Visions 2020) and will soon be sharing their talents with an exhibit in the library's lower level Art Corridor.

Our Pop Up Art exhibit will be switched over later this month. If you haven't had the opportunity to admire the Tree Story currently on display, then a visit to the library is on your *To Do List!*



Our upcoming exhibit is People & Place



Water is one of the strongest forces in nature, and here in the Ottawa Valley we are no strangers to its awesome power. It has carved a path through the Canadian Shield for millennia, shaping the landscape we know and love.

These waterways are the inspiration for a new work of art that envisions the familiar lakes, rivers, and streams of the Ottawa Valley in a whole new way.

Working in collaboration with 51 creative people from across the Ottawa Valley, artist Genevieve Townsend created People and Place, a mixed media tapestry exploring the intersection between people and the natural landscape. Coming March 25th, People and Place is a map of our local waterways unlike any you've seen before.

OV-CAOS
OTTAWA VALLEY COMMUNITY ARTS

Free Workshop!

Personal Safety for Teens and Young Adults
Wednesday, March 23 at 3pm



Erika Mullins, Peer Support Counsellor & Innovation Project Assistant with Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County will educate us regarding personal safety.

This presentation will cover several topics relevant to students who will soon be heading off to post-secondary education. These topics include: healthy vs unhealthy relationships, the dangers of date/acquaintance rape, the myths vs facts of self defense and on-campus sexual violence. This is a great opportunity for future students to ask questions and learn about potentially helpful resources.

[Register here!](#)

REMEMBER . . .

March 18th is the deadline to return your Book Bingo Cards as well as your Blind Date with a Book slip to get your name into our draws for some fabulous prize packs which include gift certificates from many of our fine downtown shops!



If you haven't participated yet, there's still time! Stop by the library today to join in the fun!

In April we'll bring out our very own *Who's Who of the Library Contest* and we'll be challenging you to some creative poetry projects!

**STAY TUNED, KEEP SAFE AND
WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE LIBRARY!**



Spring 2022 at Galilee Centre

Call (613) 623-4242 x 21 or visit galileecentre.com to register for all programs and events.

MON. MARCH 14 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
SPRING BREAK FAMILY FUN DAY (FREE EVENT)

THUR. MARCH 17 12:00 PM
ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON (\$20 PER PERSON)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FRI. MARCH 18, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
WISDOM OF WALDORF EDUCATION FOR
GRANDPARENTS – LUNCH & LEARN

This talk will present some themes of the international and well-loved Waldorf educational model, such as connecting with nature, free flowing play, and mentoring the young, that could be helpful to today's grandparents.

Cost: In person \$30 (includes lunch), Virtual \$15.

SAT. MARCH 19, 8:15 AM – 3:30 PM
WOMEN OF FAITH: I HAVE CALLED YOU
BY YOUR NAME

With a focus on the importance of names, this day of worship and fellowship features presentations on The Names We Are Given, Drawing Prayers by Name, and The Names of Mary.

Cost: In person \$55 (includes breakfast and lunch), Virtual \$25.



Galilee Centre
The perfect spiritual setting, year round

398 John Street North, Arnprior, ON K7S 2P6



Scan here for more info or
to register online.

SAT. MARCH 19 – MON. MARCH 21
WHAT DO YOU SEEK IN THE DESERT?

A retreat introducing contemplative prayer, Ignatius practices, and creating a heightened awareness of God moving in our lives. Recommended for those who are new to silent retreats, or anyone seeking a Lenten time of quiet and contemplation.

Cost: In person \$295 (including accommodations and meals), Commuter \$150 (including meals)

MON. MARCH 28 – FRI. APRIL 1
VIGIL AND SACRED FIRE

A time of vigil in solidarity with the Indigenous delegation to Rome. Facilitated by Kateri Native Ministries. Watch our website for additional information.

SAT. APRIL 9 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
SPIRITUALITY OF THE PASCHAL
MYSTERY

An opportunity to contemplate the story of the Paschal Mystery with our lives speaking what has gone before and what is now. In our meeting place, may each of us discover the Divine Presence calling us to the "always more".

Cost: In person \$60 (includes lunch and book)

SUN. APRIL 17 11:30 AM
EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH (\$20 PER PERSON)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

COVID PROTOCOLS

Galilee Centre is now open to full capacity. Currently visitors must provide proof of vaccination and wear masks in the common areas. Updated policies will adhere to government mandates. It is anticipated that proof of vaccination requirements will be lifted as of March 1, 2022.



Closures and Wage Subsidy Users Early pandemic outcomes in the business community

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

A February 2022 release from Statistics Canada has summarized some of the business outcomes from government rules and regulations around COVID-19 and the wage subsidy findings.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on businesses in 2020. In response, the Government of Canada introduced measures to support both individuals and businesses through the pandemic. The largest measure for businesses was the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

Between March and September 2020, 41.6% of all employer businesses that were active in February 2020 used the CEWS at least once.

The study indicates that businesses at greater risk of closure because of pre-pandemic characteristics (entrants in 2019, smaller businesses) and businesses in the accommodation and food



services, and arts, entertainment and recreation industries benefited more from using the CEWS, compared with all employer businesses.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on businesses across Canada. Roughly 12% of employer businesses that were active in February were closed by September and remained closed in November. According to the Canadian Survey on Business Conditions, more than 50% of

businesses reported a decline in revenue between August 2019 and August 2020.

In Budget 2021, the direct program expense for the CEWS was reported as \$84.6 billion for fiscal year 2020/2021. Since March 2020, the CEWS offered payroll support to eligible employers through a 75% wage subsidy. Initially, organizations needed to exhibit a threshold level of decreased revenue (15% in the period from March 15 to April 11, and 30% afterward) to

be eligible. That restriction was relaxed in July, whereby the subsidy was scaled by drop in revenue.

Of the roughly 830,000 non-seasonal, active employer businesses in February 2020, 9.9% closed (had no employees over the entire six-month period between October 2020 and March 2021).

Overall, 41.6% of active employer businesses in February 2020 used the CEWS between March 2020 and September 2020 and 57.2% received a CEBA loan. At the time, CEWS applicants had to demonstrate a drop in revenue to obtain the subsidy, while no such criteria existed for the CEBA. The accommodation and food services industry and that of arts, entertainment and recreation were more affected by the economic and social restrictions used to control the pandemic, so usage rates were higher, at 66.7% for the CEWS and 78.9% for the CEBA.

Continued on page 3

101 Things To Do in the Valley

SPRING 2022 EDITION

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



Submit a 50 word listing plus two points of contact information for \$25 plus HST.

Submit 5 different listings in the same issue for \$100 plus HST.

Send your listings to
101things@travelourbackyard.com

Do you have something people can do from April to y to mid-July? Promote it in this issue of 101 Things to Do in the Valley. Events, workshops, outdoor activities, shopping, eating out, customer appreciation days, sales, anniversary announcements and more. This is the place!

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

ABOUT US

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

WHO READS US

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

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

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

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates are as follows:

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

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

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

CONTENT & SUBMISSIONS

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

CONTACT US

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

MAILING ADDRESS

2113 Petawawa Boulevard,
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 7G8

Events

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.omafrabdb-events.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 3, 2022

How An Online Store Can Boost Your Business. Free webinar. 11:30am-12:30pm. Register at www.digitalmainstreet.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 7, 2022

Fearless Women: A conversation with Janice McDonald and special guests. 11:30am-1:00pm. Free. A virtual discussion about resiliency, leadership and mentorship. Explore the power of finding your voice and sharing your story. Register at womenunited@unitedwayeo.ca

March 8, 2022

Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce International Women's Day event. 12:00pm-1:30pm.

Keynote speaker is Warden Debbie Robinson. Additional guests include Dr. Keltie Jones (Algonquin College), Heather Jobe (Ontario SPCA), Colleen Sutherland (DC Foresight Financial Services) and Valerie Burd-Hyska (Your Independent Grocer). The topic is a gender equal world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. Online event. Register at 613-732-1492 or manager@uovchamber.com

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

March 10, 2022

How An Online Store Can Boost Your Business. Free webinar. 11:30am-12:30pm. Register at www.digitalmainstreet.ca

March 10, 2022

Garrison Petawawa Business Lunch. 12:00pm-1:30pm. Infrastructure and development, personnel, families, posting season updates and more. News from the governments of Petawawa, Pembroke, County of Renfrew and Pikwakanagan. Free, virtual event. RSVP to elsa.lucas@forces.gc.ca or call 613-687-5511 ext.5112. Spaces are limited for online participation.

March 10, 2022

Google Advertising: The Business Owner's Starter Guide. Webinar designed for business owners. 10:00am-11:30am. Free. Register at www.investottawa.ca/events

March 15, 2022

Patents 101. Have you come up with

the next big thing? Learn what you can patent and how, in order to stop others from making, using or selling your inventions, and turn your innovations into lucrative business assets. 10:00am-11:30am. Free. www.investottawa.ca/events

March 15, 2022

Doing business with the Government of Canada (webinar). 12:00pm-2:00pm. Free. Register by calling 873-355-9796.

March 24, 2022

2022 Farmland Forum. The future of farmland diversification. 9:00am to 1:45pm. Online conference. \$50 per person. \$25 per student. Speakers include Environment and Climate Change Canada, University of Guelph Grey County economic development. Details at www.ontariofarmlandtrust.ca

March 29, 2022

Municipal Council Seminar (free) with Fred Dean, a lawyer for municipalities and municipal associations in Ontario. Virtual session at 2:00pm. In-person workshop at 7:00pm at Horton Community Centre. Topics include municipal powers, roles and responsibilities, the public's role in local government, the difference between governance and administration, municipal conflict of interest and other personal responsibilities, the impact on family life and more. Register with Meagan Jessup at the Township of Admaston Bromley at 613-432-2885 or info@admastonbromley.com.

March 29, 2022

Doing business with the Government of Canada (webinar). 12:00pm-2:00pm. Free. Register by calling 873-355-9796.

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

Deadlines

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

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

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

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

Publishing: May 3, 2022
Deadline: April 26, 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

Business Statistics

Canada lost 10% of its businesses

Continued from page 1

Of all employer businesses in February 2020, 9.9% were closed, with no employees between October 2020 and March 2021. This compares with 10.8% for accommodation and food services and arts, entertainment and recreation combined.

Closure Rates

9.9%: All businesses
10.8%: Accommodation, food services, arts, entertainment and recreation businesses

Closure Rates: Employees

12.9%: Less than 5 employees
5.3%: 5-19 employees
3.2%: 20-99 employees
2.0%: 00+ employees

Closure Rates: Longevity

26.9%: Businesses -1 year old
9.9%: Businesses 1-2 years old
8.5%: Businesses 3-5 years old

7.5%: Businesses 6-10 years old
6.9%: Businesses 11-20 yrs old
5.8%: Businesses 21-50 yrs old
3.4%: Businesses 51+ years old

CEWS Program Usage Rate

41.6%: All businesses
66.7%: Accommodation, food services, arts, entertainment and recreation businesses

CEWS Program Usage Rate By # of Employees

29.2%: Less than 5 employees
61.2%: 5-19 employees
68.5%: 20-99 employees
60.7%: 100+ employees

CEWS Program Usage Rate By Business Longevity

34.9%: Businesses -1 year old
42.1%: Businesses 1-2 years old
44.6%: Businesses 3-5 years old
43.9%: Businesses 6-10 yrs old
42.6%: Businesses 11-20 yrs old
43.8%: Businesses 21-50 yrs old
51.3%: Businesses 51+ years old

Finance

The following information can be found on the Empire Life website: www.empirelife.ca

Contribution Deadlines

March 1 is the deadline for:

- 2021 RRSP
- 2021 Homebuyer's Plan repayment
- 2021 Lifelong Learning Plan repayment

December 31, 2022 is the deadline for:

- 2022 TFSA
- RRIF (December 31 of year RSP holder turns 71)

Annual RRSP Limits

2022 contribution maximum is \$29,210. Your contribution limit is 18% of last year's earned income (2021) to a maximum annual limit (\$29,210). This limit is reduced by any pension adjustments for the year. Check your notice of assessment from

Canada Revenue Agency for your own limit.

Annual TFSA Limits

2022 Contribution limit is \$6,000 (\$81,500 cumulative). The TFSA is the most popular savings, investment and retirement account in Canada.

2022 Personal Federal Marginal Tax Rate

The following are federal tax rates based on taxable income:

\$0 to \$14,398 (0%)
\$14,399 to \$50,197 (15.0%)
\$50,198 to \$100,392 (20.5%)
\$100,393 to \$155,625 (26.0%)
\$155,626 to \$221,708 (29.38%)
Over \$221,708 (33.0%)

Add your provincial marginal tax rates to get your combined tax rate.

Need A Job? We Can Help!

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

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- identify new and existing opportunities
- prepare for online applications and interviews
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Serving job seekers from Petawawa to Deux Rivieres. Contact us today to see how we may help.

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

PMFRC  CRFMP
Petawawa Military Family Resource Centre Centre de ressources pour les familles des militaires de Petawawa

MFSP  PSFM
MILITARY FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM PROGRAMME DES SERVICES AUX FAMILLES DES MILITAIRES

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

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

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

Business News Around The Valley

Sargent Earns Diploma

Navada Sargent of the Township of Laurentian Valley has completed the Municipal Administration program and fulfilled the requirement of the qualifying exams.

LeMay Not Seeking Re-Election

City of Pembroke Mayor Mike LeMay has announced that he will not be seeking re-election in the fall of 2022.

Petawawa Building Permits

The Town of Petawawa issued four building permits in January for a total permit value of \$240,000.

New Winery & Vineyard for Whitewater Region

The WhiteWater O'Brien Winery & Vineyard is looking to operate a standard and licensed vineyard and winery in Whitewater Region. They plan to produce five wines in the first three years of operation. The wines will be made from premium grapes grown at the vineyard producing

a unique wine. Staff is recommending that council support the Winery Retail Store Endorsement and By-the-Glass Endorsement for WhiteWater O'Brien Winery and Vineyard located at 214 Synton Street, subject to the necessary planning approvals. The winery is owned by Lioutsia and Jason O'Brien.

County Earns Trillium Grant

The County of Renfrew was successful in a funding application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation under the Community Building Fund. The \$78,500 application resulted in a \$62,800 grant for improvements to 3.5 kilometres on the K&P Recreational Trail which includes the brushing, ditching, pregrading and aggregate.

Summer Company Applications Open

Students aged 15 to 29 who are looking to start a summer business can apply for Summer Company funding. The program provides up to \$3,000 in funding

plus advice and mentorship from local businesses. It is available to high school or post-secondary students who are returning to school in the fall and who are not already running a business. The program is open until May 31, 2022 through a Small Business Enterprise Centre such as Enterprise Renfrew County (Pembroke and Renfrew), Small Business Advisory Centre (Smith Falls) or other Ontario locations. For details visit <https://bit.ly/3vdX6OD>

Councillors Leave Elected Seats

Councillors Andrea Budarick and Trevor Lidtkie are no longer members of council in Brudenell Lyndoch and Raglan. Budrick's appeal against removing her from her seat in October was dismissed by an Ottawa court. Lidtkie opted to resign his seat. The municipality is looking to fill two councillor positions in Ward 2. Interested candidates can complete an application

form and submit it prior to March 11, 2022 at 12:00pm. Forms can be picked up from the municipal office at 42 Burnt Bridge Road in Palmer Rapids, or by calling 613-758-2061.

Jim Miller Passes

James "Jim" Miller, a former councillor in the Town of Renfrew, has passed away after a lengthy illness. Miller was 79 years old. Visitation will take place on March 5 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm at Zohr Family Funeral Home in Renfrew. Donations may be made to the Shriner's Children's Hospital of Montreal. Tributes, condolences and donations can be made at www.zohrfuneralhome.com.

Lanark County Returns To In-Person Meetings

Last week, Lanark County council passed a motion to return to in-person meetings for members of council and key county staff, effective immediately.

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

Federal Government News In Brief

COVID doses, CMHC, bank freezes, convoy cash and minimum wage

Canada Secures Additional 76 Million COVID Vaccine Doses

The Raleigh News Observer in North Carolina is reporting that Canada has secured 76 million doses of a new COVID-19 vaccine made from a tobacco plant. The vaccine is called COVIFENZ and has been developed with Medicago, a Quebec-based company. While not yet approved by the FDA, the UK or the World Health Organization, the company expects to ship 20 million doses to Canada this year. Two doses of the vaccine will be needed to be fully effective.

Convoy Cash Not Terrorist Funds

The deputy director of Canada's Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre, Barry MacKillop, told the House of Commons finance committee that the money donated to the Freedom Convoy came from

people who were fed up with COVID and just wanted to support the cause. It was not money from terrorist groups looking to infiltrate Canada as government spokespersons had suggested.

CMHC Tracks Canadians With Second Mortgages

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has collected information on nearly nine million property owners, most of whom were not CMHC customers. The data collected includes client identification, income and credit bureau scores and was revealed during an Access to Information Act request. A January 5, 2022 report by CMHC, *Wealth And The Problem Of Housing Inequity Across Generation*, showed the government could collect up to \$5.8 billion a year with a home equity tax. The tax would apply to homes valued at

\$1 million or more, representing 1,362,789 households in Canada. The suggestion is the property would be taxed annually and payment would be deferred until the home was sold or the property was inherited. A competitive interest rate would be charged on any deferred tax payment. For example, a home valued at \$1 to \$1.5 million at a surtax rate of 0.2 per cent would incur an annual surtax deferrable payment of \$408 per year, plus interest. If the rate was 0.5 per cent, the annual surtax deferrable payment would be \$1,021 per year plus interest. The report proposed a 0.5 per cent surtax rate for homes valued at \$1.5 to \$2 million and a 1.0 per cent surtax for homes valued at more than \$2 million. The homes valued at \$1 to \$1.5 million had options of 0.2 per cent or 0.5 per cent. The full report is available at www.gensqueeze.ca

FCC Freezes Accounts

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) was one of the federal banks that began blacklisting customers suspected of sympathizing with the Freedom Convoy. The federal department of finance froze more than \$7.8 million from the bank accounts of Canadians via the Emergencies Act.

Federal Minimum Wage

As of April 1, 2022, the federal minimum wage will rise to \$15.80 per hour. Approximately 26,000 federal employees work for minimum wage. Rates effective July 1 in provinces are: Saskatchewan (\$11.81), New Brunswick (\$12.75), Manitoba (\$11.95), Newfoundland & Labrador (\$13.20), Nova Scotia (\$13.35), Prince Edward Island (\$13.70), Quebec (\$14.25), Alberta and Ontario (\$15.00) and British Columbia (\$15.20).

Continued on page 6



**Training &
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OF RENFREW COUNTY

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Calling All Employers!

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- Fraud Awareness and Prevention
- Emotional Intelligence
- And More!

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- Workplace Communication
- Teamwork
- Problem Solving
- Setting and Achieving Goals
- And More!

Canada

EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO

Ontario



Federal Government News In Brief

Pipeline stopped, cell data, uncounted ballots, more COVID coming

Continued from page 5

Pipeline Over Budget: Stopped

The Trans Mountain Pipeline, purchased by the federal government in 2018, is 46% over budget and is a year behind schedule. The Department of Finance reported it will not be putting any more public money into the project. Cabinet in 2020 put expansion costs at up to \$13.2 billion. Construction expenses are now estimated at \$21.4 billion. The expansion was originally scheduled to be complete in 2022.

205,000 Uncounted Ballots

Elections Canada reported that 205,000 ballots were not counted in the last federal election. It appears that the agency did not anticipate how many people would be requesting mail-in ballots and they were not shipped in enough time to be returned to be counted. The vote margin of victory on election day was 190,790.

Cell Data Scoop

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has confirmed it paid private telecom firms undisclosed sums for cell tower tracking data on millions of mobile customers to monitor

compliance with lockdown orders. The surveillance continued even when there were no lockdowns in effect. The vice-president at Telus Communications confirmed that data sharing. Blacklocks Reporter disclosed an RFP issued by PHAC proposed to continue data collection for another five years which brought the issue before the ethics committee. On February 8, the House of Commons passed a motion to suspend data collection following an ethics investigation. Ann Cavoukian, former Ontario privacy commissioner commented she

had "not seen anything on this scale with such a large number of individuals' mobility data being accessed without even any notice to the individual. Forget about consent, but just notice."

More COVID On The Way

Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, has told Canadians to be prepared for sixth and seventh waves of the pandemic likely to occur in the fall of 2022.

Unless otherwise noted, the source of federal news is Blacklock's Reporter. You can see their news and subscribe at: www.blacklocks.ca



ovjobs.ca

TODAY'S TIP: MAKE A LIST OF 5

When writing your job ad, list five things the person will be doing (description) PLUS five qualifications you want them to have.

You can always add more than five points to talk about the job they will be doing and for their qualifications (including nice-to-have qualifications), but have at least five things in each section.



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Ottawa Valley
BUSINESS
Barriere, Lanark and regional business news
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Celebrating our
300th ISSUE

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

By Jennifer Layman
jlayman@ovbusiness.com

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

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



decided not to stand with the group when the day came because of those reasons. It was the understanding, but for Davis, she literally had nothing to lose. She was being protested at by some of the same people who were protesting her business.

Davis is the owner of Elizabeth's Ties & Stitches. She has been denied the right to earn an income for months and she isn't comfortable, for her or the other small businesses who work with her, even on the government's COVID funds.

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

business. "People want to support local businesses, but over time, they just aren't able to do it." Now is the third lockdown, there's no income. However, there are still bills, interest fees and taxes which will have to be paid, even when the government has tried the closure of a big business with over 125-150 jobs.

"I don't even know what to do now," she says. "If you think anything is such a dangerous situation as COVID-19, Davis does more than just protest. She has a permit to operate and who do as a small business. People protesting, for example, is similar to a strike. It's a form of being inside someone's mouth."

Message therapy can teach a person's body with no gloves while some others have always worn gloves in their work, even before COVID-19. Consistent hand procedures can often be more invasive than those work on a person's own leg.

Continued on Page 7

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Provincial Government News In Brief

Out-of-province workers, farm funding, licence fees and more

Out Of Province Skilled Workers

Between July and September of 2021, there were 338,835 vacant jobs across Ontario, including many in the skilled trades. The Ontario government plans to introduce legislation so workers from other provinces can get their credentials processed within 30 business days. The government is also proposing to recognize three fuel-related professions under the province's skilled trades legislation, and officially recognize all 55 Red Seal trades.

Beef Farm Funding

Loan limits for the Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program are increasing from \$500,000 to \$1 million for experienced individual co-op members and up to \$1.5 million for experienced corporations that participate in feeder cattle co-operatives.

French-Language Services

The Ontario government is streamlining and digitizing the process for service providers seeking a designation as a public service agency under the French Language Services Act. The Act sets out an individual's right to receive services in French from government agencies.

Working For Workers Act

On February 28, the Ontario government introduced the Working For Workers Act to address the following: guarantee digital platform workers a minimum wage and tips, allow out-of-province workers to be registered in their regulated profession or trade within 30 days in Ontario, mandate larger employers to share policies with employees on how they use employee monitoring devices, require employers to have naloxone kits in the workplace, increasing fines for health and

safety violations, expand military reservist leave, clarify IT business consultant treatment under the Employment Standards Act and reduce provision of traditional Chinese medicine.

Supports for Black Youth and Entrepreneurs

The Ontario government is investing \$14 million to help black youth access employment opportunities and career-building resources. The funding will help organizations and Black-led businesses create projects that provide the skills youth need to find jobs in high-growth sectors.

Lifting COVID Restrictions

As of March 1, no proof of vaccination papers are required in non-essential settings (ie: restaurants, gyms, etc.) Proof of vaccination will remain for some industries such as health. Capacity limits are also lifted. Makes will remain required. The

Ontario government is lifting the requirement though businesses are welcome to maintain it. Dr. Peter Juni of Ontario's COVID-19 Science Table told CTV News it may be necessary to put some of those measures back in place.

Eliminating Licence Plate Renewal Fees

The Ontario government is eliminating licence plate renewal fees for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles and mopeds, effective March 13, 2022. Renewal fees will also be eliminated for passenger, light-duty commercial vehicles, motorcycles and mopeds that are owned by a company or business. Vehicle owners will still renew their licence plate free every one or two years to confirm their insurance is valid and pay any outstanding tolls and municipal fines.

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 jusqu'au 31 mars 2022.

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



Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation
450 O'Brien Road, Suite 205, Renfrew, Ontario
www.rccfdc.org
613-431-3951



Société d'aide au développement des collectivités du comté de Renfrew
450, rue O'Brien, bureau 205, Renfrew (Ontario)
www.rccfdc.org
613-431-3951



Tender Results Around The Valley

Tender LVPW-2022-01 Backhoe-Loader. Laurentian Valley.

Brandt Tractor - \$206,410.00
Toromont - \$216,170.00

Tender LVPW-2022-03 Supply & Placement of Granular A. Laurentian Valley.

RGT Clouthier Construction

Per Tonne - \$8.94
Total - \$126,782.61

Do All Construction

Per Tonne - \$11.96
Total - \$150,098.00

G.P. Splinter Forest Products

Per Tonne - \$12.81
Total - \$160,765.50

Bonnechere Excavating

Per Tonne - \$14.40
Total - \$180,720.00

H&H Construction

Per Tonne - \$16.85
Total - \$211,467.50

McCrea Excavating

Per Tonne - \$21.45
Total - \$269,197.50

Tender LVPW-2022-04 Crack Sealing. Laurentian Valley.

Greenwood Paving - \$20,500.00

Roadlast Asphalt - \$22,500.00

Fine Line Markings - \$29,600.00

FD 2022-01 Surplus Vehicle (1990 Volvo Tanker Truck 3500 gallons). McNab Braeside.

Paul Neill - \$2,650.00

Bobby Gillan - \$2,025.00

Tender LVPW-2022-06 Paving Works – Various Locations. Laurentian Valley.

Greenwood Paving

Per Tonne - \$89.50-\$110
Total - \$552,581.50

H&H Construction

Per Tonne - \$85.99-\$176.28
Total - \$596,600.00

Bonnechere Excavating

Per Tonne - \$110.67-\$232.29
Total - \$751,381.10

Tender LVPW-2022-07 Granular Material & Equipment Rentals. Laurentian Valley.

Eastway Cont. - \$130,997.70
RGT Clouthier - \$166,575.00

G.P. Splinter - \$171,612.50

Do All Const. - \$179,175.00

W.W. Siegel - \$205,400.00

Bonnechere Ex. - \$206,509.50

McCrea Ex. - \$297,130.00

PW-C-01-2022-22-E0 – Road Rehabilitation of County Road #6 (Christie Lake Road).

Lanark County.

County Road 6

G. Tackaberry - \$1,180,652.25

Crains Const. - \$1,216,642.60

Cavanagh Const - \$1,239,501.70

Coco Paving - \$1,318,666.81

Arnott Bros. - \$1,320,808.25

RW Tomlinson - \$1,644,900.00

Tay Valley Township

G. Tackaberry - \$828,950.00

Crains Const. - \$730,926.50

Cavanagh Const. - \$788,829.23

Coco Paving - \$922,333.19
Arnott Bros. - \$760,317.50
RW Tomlinson - \$1,014,100.00

Tender LVPW-2022-05 Supply & Stockpile of Winter Sand. Laurentian Valley.

Eastway Contracting Inc

Per Tonne - \$7.45
Total - \$22,350.00

W.W. Siegel Sand & Gravel

Per Tonne - \$8.64
Total - \$25,920.00

RGT Clouthier Construction

Per Tonne - \$9.37
Total - \$28,110.00

G.P. Splinter Forest Products

Per Tonne - \$10.49
Total - \$31,470.00

McCrea Excavating

Per Tonne - \$11.55
Total - \$34,650.00

The impact of fraud so
far this year, as of
January 31, 2022

Reports of fraud:
5,569

Victims of fraud:
3,634

Lost to fraud:
\$34 Million
(\$380 M in 2021)

www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

It's A Fact

Immigration Targets

1.3 Million

The Canadian national jobless
rate

405,000

Immigration to Canada in 2021

400,870

Immigration to Canada in 1913
(the highest rate until 2021)

431,645

Immigration quota for 2022

447,055

Immigration quota for 2023

451,000

Immigration quota for 2024

900,000

Job vacancies in Canada at the
end of 2021

1,341,800

Canadians out of work as of
January 2022

247,000

Foreigners let into Canada
following the 2008 financial panic

216,000

Immigration levels in earlier
recession years of 1990

121,000

Immigration levels in earlier
recession years of 1982

11,000

Immigration levels in the
depression years of 1935 (a 93%
cut of regular immigration levels
for that time)

Source: Blacklocks Reporter

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Tenders

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Painting and Flooring
Replacement/Repairs – Standing
Offer Agreement (SOA)

Industrial Electrical and
Mechanical Standing Offer
Agreement

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP-2022-03 Eavestrough
Repair and Replacement

RFP-2022-02 Brick
Maintenance, Repointing and
Caulking (4 Locations)

RFP-2022-01 Landscaping and
Accessibility, Herriott St., Perth

RFP-2022-01 Affordable
Housing Units in Lanark County
and the Town of Smiths Falls

Humidifier Retrofit AHU

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

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

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Supply and Delivery of Sodium
Hypochlorite ES-2022-12

RFQ-2022-01 Fire Pump
Replacement at 24 Bourke
Street, Smiths

PWC-2022-14 Equipment
Rental Quotation and Agreement

RFQ – PW 2022-03 Supply of
One Pavement Edger

Arena Ice Resurfacers-
Advertising Opportunity

PW 2022-02 Street Sweeping
Services

TENDERS

#2022-06 Modernization of
Enclosed Vertical Platform Lifts

Grass Cutting and Grounds
Maintenance Tender No.22-01

2022-RFT-001 Operation of the
Miller Road Construction and
Demolition Waste Disposal Site

#2022-05 Elevator
Modernization at
Fellowes High School

BM-2022-01-V3 HVAC
Upgrades

PWC-2022-18 Rehabilitation of
County Structure B319
(Bucholtz Bridge)

PW-2022-05 – Tandem Plow
Truck Purchase

PW-2022-02 – Purchase of One
Four Wheeled Loader

PW-2022-01 – Two Half Ton
Trucks & Utility Van Purchase

Village of White Lake Road
Renewal Project
No. PW-2022-02

Rehabilitation of Brae-Lock
Road Project No. PW-2022-03

LED Streetlight Conversion
Project No. 2022-03

Old Corrugated Container
(OCC) 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

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

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

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

PW-05-2022 Winter Sand (two
year contract)

PW-04-2022 Hot Mix Asphalt
Resurfacing

PW-03-2022 Hot Mix Asphalt
Patching

PW-02-2022 Concrete Works

Request for Tender –
Construction and Demolition
Waste Haulage and Disposal
Services

W0107-19M048/A – Cable TV
Services

Listings at www.ovbusiness.com

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promoted in our twice-monthly
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MARCH 8 2022

International Women's Day

Congratulations to all
women who continue
to work in support of
full inclusion in the
workplace, equal pay
and equal opportunity.



Getting Into The Recall Zone

Why marketing needs to be sustainable



MARKETING

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@fwdthink.net

Many of you have worked hard to build your business. You advertised, created a good customer experience, invested appropriately, attended business networking events (back in the day when you could do that) and sponsored community events. You did your part to get the word out about your business and now you think people should know you, especially if you have been around for 10 or 20 or 40 years. However, there is a difference between someone knowing who you are and knowing you well enough to become a customer.

For example, let's say you need to buy a new lawnmower. If you had a good experience buying your current lawnmower, you might go back to that store and see what they have in newer models. If it was a poor experience, you're going to start thinking about other places that

you might go. You remember getting a flyer in the mailbox from ABC Company, and a radio ad comes to mind for another store. You take a look at those places. Eventually, you make a decision and come home with a new lawnmower.

Two weeks later, your friend asks where you got your lawnmower and you tell him. He wonders why you didn't go to XYZ Store, since so-and-so works there. Honestly, you never thought of that place and they've been here for 25 years!

When a consumer makes a decision to purchase something, they start the process of recalling what businesses they might visit. That recall comes from impressions they have had of that business through personal experience, advertising placements, seeing signage etc. Using that information, they might seek out an opinion from someone, or they might just go ahead to the business and start the purchase process. Not every business the customer knows will be up for consideration for a purchase. It depends on what businesses make it into the recall part of their memory - that happens through marketing.

Marketing is strategic - it's about a sustainable effort that

keeps you in that critical recall space for people when it comes time for them to think about making a purchase. Marketing is an ongoing process - it is a deliberate way of communicating to people all the time so that you are always in their recall zone. It has to be ongoing because it takes time to earn some space in a person's memory. You have to be consistent in reminding people to consider you when it comes time for a purchase. This is difficult to achieve if you only promote in bursts - one-week spring sale, one-week summer sale, one-week fall sale. There is a presumption that a time-limited promotion will drive people to your business, and it might, but you have to hope that the people are thinking about what you're selling during that one-week timeframe. Instead of betting your marketing budget on one week, why not bet it on 20 weeks or 50 weeks?

People always have to buy things, and you would do well to always remind them they can buy from you.

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

Work Wellness

Send A Smile

Send an email, write a note or make a phone call to someone you work with (inside or outside the office) to let them know something positive they have done. Maybe they helped you out by going above and beyond what you needed, or perhaps they were a volunteer for a cause that you noticed in the local media. Being able to make someone feel good can truly lift their spirits one day.

The Origin of Sayings: Resting on laurels

The idea of resting on your laurels dates back to leaders and athletic stars of ancient Greece. In Hellenic times, laurel leaves were closely tied to Apollo, the god of music, prophecy and poetry. Apollo was usually depicted with a crown of laurel leaves, and the plant eventually became a symbol of status and achievement. Victorious athletes at the ancient Pythian Games received wreaths made of laurel branches, and the Romans later adopted the practice and presented wreaths to generals who won important battles. Venerable Greeks and Romans, or laureates, were thus able to "rest on their laurels" by basking in the glory of past achievements. Only later did the phrase take on a negative connotation, and since the 1800s it has been used for those who are overly satisfied with past triumphs.

Quotable

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

"There is overwhelming evidence that the higher the level of self-esteem, the more likely one will be to treat others with respect, kindness, and generosity."

- Nathaniel Branden

Time to go in a new direction?

The last two years have caused some businesses to make a lot of changes. Maybe that changed your business entirely. If it's time to move forward in a new direction, we can help.

forwardthinking
MARKETING AGENCY

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

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February 24, 2022

In This Issue

- Support your Asset Management goals.
- AMO/LAS *Municipal Energy Symposium* March 31 - April 1.
- Webinar: Prevention strategy, H&S rep training update, & rebates from WSIB.
- Webinar: Jump-start your Digital Transformation with an e-signature solution.
- Webinar: Breaking down barriers - Accessible digital solutions for your community.
- Free Risk Management webinar: Back-to-basics.
- Canoe webinar date change - Madvac/Exprolink.
- Kraft Hockeyville nominations are now open: Nominations close April 3.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO is hosting facilitated discussions that will explore your role in advancing asset management in your community. AMO is offering a series of dates for these sessions. You can register by filling out this [form](#). These sessions are open to *elected officials only*.

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 [here](#).

On March 24, join AMO's Health and Safety partner, 4S, for a virtual roundtable discussion with the Chief Prevention Officer and the WSIB. Learn more about the CPO's prevention strategy for 2022, health and safety rep training updates, and earning rebates from the WSIB Excellence and Ontario's SOSE program. [Register today](#).

As municipalities move from paper to electronic filing, authentication of these files is a critical challenge. On March 23, 9 am - 10 am ET, join AMO's partner, Notarius, and learn how ConsignO Cloud can greatly reduce the signing time of documents and allow anyone to sign legally reliable documents electronically with a phone, a tablet, or a computer. [Register today](#).

eSolutionsGroup, AMO's barrier-free website partner, offers members cost-effective digital solutions that meet accessibility requirements. [Join us for a free webinar](#) on Wednesday, March 30 from 11 am to 12 pm ET, where we discuss various web solutions that will help you engage and serve your community effectively.

LAS

Join our risk management discussion on March 3 - "Back to Basics - a foundational

discussion about municipal insurance, terms and trends.” Save the dates for our other free Risk Management webinars: June 2, September 8, and November 3. [Learn more and register here.](#)

The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) webinar with [Madvac/Exprolink](#) has changed to March 16, register here to learn about equipment used to keep your community clean. We'll also be speaking with Computrol on their water dispensing systems on March 9, [Register here](#). Did you miss one? Watch our archives on the [LAS website](#).

Municipal Wire

The Kraft Hockeyville grand prize community winner will have an opportunity to host an NHL preseason game and receive \$250,000 for arena upgrades. This year's winner and each of the 3 runner-up communities will receive \$10,000 to purchase new hockey equipment for their minor hockey programs. To submit a nomination, visit the [Kraft Hockey Ville website](#). The Township of Lucan (Lucan Community Memorial Centre), Township of Stirling-Rawdon (Stirling Arena) and former Town of Dundas (J.J. Grighmire Arena) are past winners.

Careers

[Director, Licensing & Enforcement Services - City of Kingston](#). This position is responsible for licensing, property standards, general by-law, noise and animal control, parking operations and enforcement and general administration. [Apply online](#) by March 16, 2022.

[Strategic Initiatives & Policy Specialist - City of Cambridge](#). The Policy Specialist will participate in the development and implementation of the corporate performance management framework, support government relations and policy review and lead special projects as required. [Apply online](#) by March 3.

[Purchasing Coordinator - County of Hastings](#). This position will assist with the co-ordination and facilitation of the procurement process in accordance with applicable regulations, legislation, industry best practices and the County's purchasing policy. Apply to careers@hastingscounty.com by March 10.

[Service, Information and Records Coordinator - Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority](#). The Coordinator performs reception duties, greeting and directing visitors to appropriate staff. Submit resume and cover letter to cjones@cloca.com by March 18.

[Program Manager, Customer Service & Issues Management - City of Toronto](#). Manages and leads key division-wide priorities and projects, issues management, strategic planning, complaint management, equity and inclusion, and other strategic initiatives. [Apply online](#) by March 4.

[Muslim Community Liaison Advisor - City of London](#). The Advisor is an effective and engaging leader who works to develop and strengthen the City's relationship with diverse Muslim people, and representative organizations in the community. [Apply online](#) by March 17.

[Director, Water, Wastewater and Storm Water - City of London](#). The Director leads the teams providing critical drinking water, wastewater, and storm water services to all Londoners. Apply to careers@lesp.ca by March 23.

[General Manager, Development Services - Town of East Gwillimbury](#). Responsible for the strategic leadership and financial management of Development Services for the Town including both Planning & Building Services. [Apply online](#) by March 13.

Commissioner of Public Works – Niagara Region. The role provides strategic, innovative, and operational leadership for the Public Works department; ensures linear infrastructure program and service development, enhancement, and maintenance delivery to support growth objectives. Apply to arthur@wmc.on.ca by March 18.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

AMO Watchfile Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

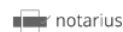
[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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

AMO's Partners



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March 3, 2022

In This Issue

- AMO's Response to the Province's Housing Affordability Task Force Report.
- Lead Where You Live: AMO's Guide to Running for Municipal Election.
- Survey on best practices for source water protection.
- AMO/LAS *Municipal Energy Symposium* March 31 - April 1.
- Webinar: Prevention strategy, H&S rep training update, & rebates from WSIB.
- Webinar: Jump-start your Digital Transformation with an e-signature solution.
- Webinar: Breaking down barriers - Accessible digital solutions for your community.
- Blog: Will you be ready for your 15 minutes of fame?
- Don't miss - Canoe webinars in March.
- Now booking 2022 Road & Sidewalk assessments.
- LED lighting upgrades qualify for incentives.
- LAS in-person energy workshops are back!
- Register for OMSSA's Inclusive Leadership workshop.
- Register to vote in the 2022 Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO has provided a [response](#) to the Province's [Housing Affordability Task Force Report](#). AMO urges the Ministry to consider AMO's [Housing Blueprint recommendations](#) in responding to the housing crisis.

AMO has assembled an easy-to-use guide that provides all the information you need when preparing to run for council. AMO's [Lead Where You Live](#) guide highlights the things you will want to get familiar with during your campaign so you are prepared should you be elected.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is collecting feedback until April 18, 2022 on its recently released [best practices for source water protection](#). You can [complete the survey here](#).

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 [here](#).

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today.

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LAS

As mandates lift and we return to in-person conferences, will you be ready for impromptu media interviews? Our customer service representative tells us how to be prepared.

Join our webinars to learn more about the Canoe Procurement Group - save time and money on the products and services you use every day. On March 9 we will hear from Computrol Systems, provider of bulk water dispensing systems for municipalities - Register here. Madvac/Exprolink will present on March 16, showing the street sweepers and litter collection equipment available – Register here.

Want to optimize your road budgets to get the best bang for your buck? The Road and Sidewalk Assessment Service makes sure every dollar is spent as efficiently as possible. Better data and the tools to use it make for better decisions. Contact Tanner to learn more and get a no-obligation quote.

Did you know financial incentives are available to improve lighting and reduce energy consumption in your facilities? Take advantage by including a project through the LAS Facility Lighting Service in your 2022 budget. Contact Christian Tham today for a free budget proposal.

Capacity limits are behind us and the future looks a bit more normal! LAS is excited to once again offer custom energy training workshops in person. From climate resiliency and net zero emissions to recommissioning and wastewater treatment plants, we've got a workshop for every need. Contact Christian Tham to book your 2022 workshop today.

Municipal Wire*

The importance of organizational leadership cannot be overstated during these challenging times. In this workshop, participants will evaluate their own leadership competencies and identify those they can develop. Register today.

The upcoming year will be a busy one for Ontario voters, with the Ontario Provincial Election and Municipal and School Board Elections happening just a few months apart. Make sure you are on the list to vote in the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections on October 24. Register at voterlookup.ca. Download Toolkit.

Careers

Deputy City Treasurer - City of Orillia. Responsible for the control, management, and effective administration of financial functions in the areas of budgeting, long range financial planning, accounting, investment, fund management and internal audit. Apply online by March 9.

Payroll & Accounting Coordinator - Township of Uxbridge. The Coordinator will assist the Deputy Treasurer in administering the payroll system, employee benefits, OMERS Pension Plan and performing general accounting tasks. Apply to tle@uxbridge.ca by March 25.

Auditor General - City of Toronto. The role calls for a highly experienced Professional Accountant whose expertise in auditing and oversight is underpinned by a CPA (CMA, CGA or CA) designation. Apply to careers@phelpsgroup.ca by March 25.

Town Solicitor/ General Manager of Legal and Council Support Services - Town of East Gwillimbury. This position will be a key member of the Town's Senior Management Team, providing leadership and support to both the CAO and Council. Apply online by March 20.

Senior Director, CAO's Office - City of Windsor. This position will support the CAO and Corporate Leadership Team with responsibility for maximizing the CAO's productivity and value-add to the organization and community. Apply online by March 7.

Executive Director of Corporate Services - Town of Midland. Responsible for the execution of critical support services to all areas of the Town's administration and Council in performing various statutory responsibilities. Apply online by March 17.

Director, Diversity - Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). There is a compelling opportunity for a results-oriented leader to be at the forefront of cultural transformation. Apply to jmurray@bipocsearch.com by April 11.

Commissioner of Recreation and Parks - Town of Halton Hills. The role will provide strategic leadership and oversight to the Recreation and Parks Department, which provides programs, services and facilities. Apply to humanresources@haltonhills.ca by March 22.

Manager of Operations - Municipality of Kincardine. The role will effectively manage and oversee the infrastructure operations for the municipality. Apply online by March 23.

Manager of Environmental Services - Municipality of Kincardine. Responsible to plan, manage and oversee municipal infrastructure related to water, wastewater and storm water. Apply online by March 23.

Government & Stakeholder Relations Specialist - Niagara Region. The Specialist is responsible for assisting with the planning and execution of the government relations activities. Apply online by March 23.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

AMO Watchfile Tel: 416.971.9856

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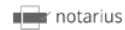
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Media InquiriesMunicipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions

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AMO's Partners



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