



**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: April 11, 2022**

Correspondence Package No. I-22-APR-07

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-22-APR-07 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario

- a) Ontario Expanding Mental Health Services for Indian Residential School Survivors
- b) Government Protecting Wildfire from Illegal Hunting
- c) Ontario Building a Stronger, More Resilient Ottawa Hospital
- d) Ontario Providing Additional Funding to Support Victims of Crime
- e) Ontario's Child Care Action Plan Puts Families First
- f) \$13.2 Billion Child Care Deal will Lower Fees For Families
- g) A Plan To Stay Open
- h) Ontario Names Expert Panel to Expand Health and Benefits Coverage
- i) Ontario Raising Highway Speed Limits
- j) Ontario Strengthening Supports for LGBT2SQ Children and Youth in Care
- k) Ontario Making it Easier to Volunteer
- l) Ontario Expanding Access to Student Mental Health Supports
- m) Working with Industry to Provide Tax Relief to Ontario Workers and Ontario Families
- n) Ontario Expands Access to Special Education Supports
- o) Ontario Working for Workers by Raising the Minimum Wage
- p) Ontario Expanding Fourth-Dose Eligibility

- q) [Emergency Management Program – 2021 Town of Arnprior Compliance Results](#)
- r) [Online Public Information Centre – Arnprior Maintenance Patrol Yard](#)
- 2. Correspondence from Renfrew County & District Health Unit**
 - a) [Tips to Prepare for Spring Thaw](#)
 - b) [Fact Sheet – Living Well with COVID-19 for Businesses and Organizations](#)
 - c) [Reasons To Still Wear a Mask](#)
 - d) [COVID-19 Case Summary – March 31, 2022](#)
- 3. Correspondence from County of Renfrew**
 - a) [Termination of Declared Emergency](#)
- 4. Correspondence from Arnprior Public Library**
 - a) [April Newsletter](#)
- 5. Correspondence from IESO Engagement**
 - a) [Information Session for Municipalities in April](#)
- 6. Correspondence from Physician Recruitment Committee**
 - a) [Thank you](#)
- 7. Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Business**
 - a) [April 5, 2022](#)
- 8. Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - a) [Watch File – March 24, 2022](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expanding Mental Health Services for Indian Residential School Survivors

Indigenous Primary Health Care Council receiving \$800,000 for culture-based mental health and addictions trauma care

March 24, 2022

[Indigenous Affairs](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is providing \$800,000 to eight Indigenous health care teams through the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC) to enhance the delivery of integrated, culture-based mental health and addictions trauma care to Indigenous people who are experiencing pain, loss and intergenerational trauma as a result of the Indian Residential School (IRS) system. This funding is in addition to dedicated funding being provided to First Nations leading burial investigations at former Indian Residential Schools across the province.

“Ontario is supporting the Council and its important work providing culture-based treatment and traditional healing programs and services within their communities,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs. “This funding will help provide much-needed support for Survivors, their families and community members suffering from mental health and addictions challenges due to the harms inflicted by the Indian Residential School system.”

Eight participating IPHCC member organizations will receive funding to hire mental health specialists, such as psychiatrists, social workers and wellness workers. This will also include support for training and education to staff and community members. Additionally, member organizations can use funding to develop models of traditional healing, such as healing circles and sweat lodge ceremonies, as well as the purchase of supplies and equipment, including gardening and traditional harvesting supplies.

“Our government is listening to the perspectives of Indigenous peoples and communities on how to improve health outcomes and support actions and initiatives for advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities across the province,” said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “Today’s announcement is an important step towards ensuring communities throughout the province have access to culturally appropriate mental health and addictions care, when and where they need it.”

Ontario remains committed to providing supports for Indigenous-led initiatives to identify, investigate, protect and commemorate burials at Indian Residential School sites, and address the ongoing mental health impacts of the Residential School system on Indigenous communities across the province. This commitment includes continuing to advance meaningful reconciliation by exploring opportunities with Indigenous partners to deepen Ontarians’ collective awareness and understanding of the terrible legacy of the Indian Residential School system.

Quick Facts

- The Indigenous Primary Health Care Council is an Indigenous-governed and culture-based organization that supports its members — Indigenous governed interprofessional primary healthcare providers — with advancing and evolving Indigenous primary health care planning and service delivery within Ontario.
- Indigenous Primary Health Care Council membership currently includes 20 members with the following eight members receiving funding support as part of this initiative: Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, Wasauksing First Nation Health Centre, Mino M’shki-ki Indigenous Health Team, Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre, Sweetgrass Health Centre and Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin Primary Care Team.
- Roughly 8,000 of Canada’s estimated 80,000 Indian Residential School Survivors lived in Ontario when the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement was approved in May 2006.
- On November 4, 2021, the Ontario government announced it was committing an additional \$10 million in funding, beyond the original \$10 million announcement in June 2021, to support the identification, investigation, protection and

commemoration of Indian Residential School (IRS) burials across the province.

- On October 29, 2021, Ontario announced more than \$36 million in community-led mental health and addictions supports in Indigenous communities across the province including \$4 million from the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs to provide critical mental health and addictions (MHA) and trauma supports for Indigenous communities participating in the IRS research and investigations, and funding to urban Indigenous organization for IRS-related MHA and trauma programming for Indigenous people living off-reserve.
- A National Residential School Crisis Line is available to provide support to former residential school students. You can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-Hour National Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419. There is also the Hope for Wellness Help Line at 1-855-242-3310, including an online chat function through their website.

Quotes

"We are thankful that the Ontario government has provided this funding which will support sector-wide Mental Health and Addictions Trauma programming. The harm imposed on Indigenous Peoples throughout Canada from the IRS system has created long-term detrimental impacts on our mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health. The need for culturally safe, trauma-informed programs and services has been further heightened with the recent recoveries of over 1,300 unmarked mass graves of Indigenous children. "

- Caroline Lidstone-Jones
Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Primary Health Care Council

"Kitchi-Miigwech to the IPHCC and the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs for supporting traditional healing for Mental Health and Addictions across Kiiwetinoong. This help means more tools and resources will go to where they are needed most. We thank you for helping to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people across Northwestern Ontario."

- James Morris
Chief Executive Officer and President, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

"Mental health and addictions care that is rooted in traditional ways of knowing is vital in our work to improve the wellbeing of Indigenous people, in particular as we continue to confront and deal with the impacts of the Residential School System. This funding will help us expand access to our traditional healing programs and other culturally-aware supports that help survivors heal and find the supports they need."

- Brian Dokis
Chief Executive Officer, Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre

Additional Resources

- [Indigenous Primary Health Care Council](#)
- [Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program](#)
- [Residential Schools Missing Children – Community Support Funding](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 71 to 76](#)
- [National Residential School Crisis Line](#)
- [Hope for Wellness Help Line](#)

Related Topics

Arts and Culture

Learn more about the live performances, cultural institutions and creative grants the province has to offer. [Learn more](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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BULLETIN

Government Protecting Wildlife from Illegal Hunting

March 25, 2022

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

The Ontario government is safeguarding wildlife by making sure hunters possess proper hunting licences.

William Gatto of Amherstburg – who has previous hunting convictions and was suspended from possessing a hunting licence – pleaded guilty to hunting without a licence and failing to produce his Possession and Acquisition Firearms Licence while hunting with a gun. He was fined \$6,500, was given a two-year probation order and is prohibited from being in possession of any hunting equipment or wildlife and being in the presence of anyone who is hunting. His hunting licence was also suspended for five years and he must successfully complete the Ontario Hunter Education course prior to re-applying for it.

Court heard that on April 25, 2021, a conservation officer was conducting a turkey hunting patrol in Elgin County and stopped Gatto walking out of a field with two other hunters. Gatto had a loaded rifle and the other two hunters had shotguns. When questioned, Gatto said he had the rifle for hunting coyotes and stated he forgot his hunting licences in his vehicle. Further investigation determined that Gatto’s hunting licence was suspended and that his Possession and Acquisition Firearms Licence was not with him.

Justice of the Peace Terry Steenson heard the case remotely in the Ontario Court of Justice, St. Thomas, on March 4, 2022.

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

Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario’s laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [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](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Building a Stronger, More Resilient Ottawa Hospital

\$29.1 million investment will expand services and increase access to care in Ottawa and the Champlain Region

March 25, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

OTTAWA — As part of its plan to build a stronger, more resilient health care system that is better prepared to respond to crisis, the Ontario government is investing another \$29.1 million to expand The Ottawa Hospital's future state-of-the-art Civic Campus, which will serve as the lead acute care centre for Ottawa, the Champlain Region and Nunavut. This is one of the largest planning grants in Ontario's history and will make the hospital one of the largest and most advanced academic research hospitals in Canada, improving access to care for patients and families in the Ottawa region and beyond.

"After decades of inaction and underinvestment by previous governments, we are listening to the people of Ottawa and delivering the hospital that they deserve," said Premier Doug Ford. "This investment will ensure The Ottawa Hospital is able to deliver the type of world class care that this growing region requires and will help build a more resilient health care system."

In 2019, the government invested [\\$9 million](#) to support early planning for the new, multi-billion-dollar Civic Campus. Working closely with the province, The Ottawa Hospital has expanded the scope of this redevelopment which is planned to include more than 100 additional beds, bringing the total number of new beds to over 300. These beds will help to expand services, including acute care and the development of a specialty rehabilitation centre and referral centre, to ensure patients receive the care they need when they need it and closer to home.

Planning is also underway to include a cutting-edge trauma centre, a larger emergency department, an updated and expanded surgical suite, outpatient clinics and integrated research and education spaces to support the hospital's teaching and research mandates.

"Supporting The Ottawa Hospital's new and expanded Civic Campus is a vital part of our government's plan to build a resilient health care system and end hallway health care in the Ottawa region," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This investment – one of the largest planning and design grants in Ontario's history – will help patients and families access the care they need for generations to come."

Ontario is working with The Ottawa Hospital on the next stage of the planning process, which includes identifying programming and operational requirements, and assessing how the project can further help address the health care needs of patients and families in the region. Based on early planning, the new multi-billion-dollar hospital is estimated to start construction in 2024, with timelines to be further refined as planning progresses.

"Investing in our health care system through new infrastructure like this state-of-the-art hospital in Ottawa will provide residents with a modern and safe environment to get the care they need and deserve," said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. "This new hospital expansion will support the growing communities and prepare our health care system for future pandemics and health crises. With a budget of \$148 billion to support Ontario's growth and infrastructure over the next decade, this is just one of the many projects our government is undertaking to build Ontario. It is great to be a part of a government that is spearheading investments in our hospitals and I am proud to be giving back to the city that I grew up in."

Quick Facts

- The Ottawa Hospital is one of Canada's top learning and research hospitals, serving over 1.2 million people across Eastern Ontario across its three campuses. To support high-quality care in the Ottawa Region, the government is increasing The Ottawa Hospital's operating funding for the third straight year. Starting in 2021-22, the hospital will receive [\\$16.9 million in additional operating funding](#), representing an increase of 2.2 per cent to the operating funding the hospital received in 2020-21.

- As part of this government's \$760 million commitment in the [2021 Budget](#) to support the continuation of the 3,100 hospital beds previously opened during the pandemic, The Ottawa Hospital received funding for up to 114 additional beds. This includes up to 55 transitional care beds, 52 acute care beds and seven critical care beds.
- As part of Ontario's comprehensive [surgical recovery plan](#), the government is investing up to \$324 million in 2021-22 to enable Ontario's hospitals and community health sector to perform more surgeries, MRI and CT scans and procedures. This includes over \$1.2 million for The Ottawa Hospital to support an additional 2,350 MRI and 2,700 CT operating hours.
- To support growing demands on the health care system, Ontario's investments over the next 10 years will lead to \$30 billion in health infrastructure across the province. These investments will increase capacity in hospitals, build new health care facilities and renew existing hospitals and community health centres.

Quotes

"As a family physician for nearly three decades, building hospital capacity to serve Ottawa was a strong driver of my entry to politics. Under the leadership of Premier Ford, I am proud that we are delivering on that priority, because the people of Ottawa need and deserve it."

- Dr. Merrilee Fullerton
MPP for Kanata-Carleton

"I have championed this project from the beginning. Having worked with Jack Kitts and now Cameron Love and their respective teams, it is gratifying to see the hard work of dedicated healthcare and community leaders come to fruition. Ottawa is a world class city and I am proud that we will build a one of a kind state-of-the-art hospital that will treat patients from across our nation's capital."

- Lisa MacLeod
MPP for Nepean

"This is great news for the City of Ottawa and Carleton. This expansion will help decrease hallway health and wait times for patients. The new campus will be able to meet the needs of patients and families, while supporting high quality health care."

- Goldie Ghamari
MPP for Carleton

"This investment in the new Ottawa Civic Campus will transform healthcare in Ottawa. In the future, residents in Ottawa will know that when they need medical support they will have access to a world-class hospital here in our city."

- Jeremy Roberts
MPP for Ottawa West—Nepean

"Our community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario and in Canada. As a hospital, we must be able to meet the needs of our patients today and in the years to come, so that we are ready to provide world-class care whenever they need us. We are building the future of health care for Ottawa and Eastern Ontario with the generous support of the Government of Ontario."

- Cameron Love
President and CEO, The Ottawa Hospital

Additional Resources

- [Improving Health Care in Ontario](#)
- [Hallway Health Care: A System Under Strain](#)
- [Ontario Increasing Funding for Hospital Care in Ottawa](#)
- [Ontario Investing in Expansion of The Ottawa Hospital](#)
- For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

Related Topics

Government

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

Health and Wellness

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Providing Additional Funding to Support Victims of Crime

\$2 million increased annual investment helping local service providers meet demand

March 25, 2022

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is investing an additional \$2 million in annual funding in the Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) Program to ensure victims of crime, their families and witnesses have access to the services and supports they need. The funding will help 46 VCAO organizations across the province respond to the increased demand for front-line services and help victims get supports when and where they need them most.

"Victims and survivors of crime depend on access to immediate and ongoing supports to ensure their safety and help them rebuild their lives," said Jane McKenna, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues. "VCAO programs offer a variety of crisis intervention services to persons affected by crime and tragic circumstances. This ongoing investment will ensure service providers are better equipped to provide support to those who need it."

The Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario program provides crisis intervention services to victims of crime and tragic circumstances 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to on-site crisis intervention, other services offered through the program include:

- Safety planning for all eligible victims of crime
- Referrals to appropriate community supports and services
- Needs assessments and customized service plans
- Assisting eligible victims with applications to the [Victim Quick Response Program+](#)
- Enhanced support for vulnerable victims
- Referrals to community agencies.

Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario is one of [nine victim services programs](#) transferring to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services from the Ministry of the Attorney General. While the same front-line services providers will continue to provide seamless supports, this change will foster a more coordinated approach to victim services delivery.

Quick Facts

- Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) Program providers are located across the province and provide crisis intervention services to victims of crime and tragic circumstances 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To find the VCAO service provider closest to you, visit the online [Victim Services Directory](#).
 - Today's funding announcement builds on the [government's investment in the VCAO program in 2021-22](#) by committing this additional funding on an annual basis beginning in 2022-23.
-

Additional Resources

Learn more about how [Ontario is Supporting Victims of Crime and Improving the Delivery of Programs](#)

Learn more about [Victim Services in Ontario](#)

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](#)

Law and Safety

Ontario’s laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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BACKGROUNDER

Ontario's Child Care Action Plan Puts Families First

Improved Access and Financial Relief for Parents, Stability for the System

March 28, 2022

[Education](#)

On March 28, 2022, Ontario reached a \$13.2 billion agreement with the federal government on funding for and the terms of a Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care program. The new program will lower child care costs and improve access, and quality across Ontario's child care and early years sector.

The province's made-in-Ontario action plan for meeting its commitments under the new agreement takes a phased approach and advances what is most important to families. The plan is based on five pillars: improved affordability, improved access, sustaining high-quality services, inclusion, and enhanced data and reporting.

Improved affordability

- As a first step, all Ontario families with children five years old and younger in participating licensed child care centres will see their fees reduced, up to 25 per cent, to a minimum of \$12 per day, retroactive to April 1, 2022.
- In December 2022, parents will see another reduction. In total, fees for families will be reduced, on average, by 50 per cent, relieving parents of \$1.1 billion in child care costs.
- In September 2024, families will see further fee reductions, culminating in a final reduction to an average of \$10-a-day child care by September 2025.
- To ensure a sustainable future that protects Ontario taxpayers and puts parents first, the Canada-Ontario agreement also ensures that the cost of implementing the agreement will continue to be monitored by Canada and Ontario with an automatic review in year three.

Improved access

- Ontario will address increasing demand for child care by creating 86,000 new, high quality child care spaces. This includes more than 15,000 new spaces already created since 2019.
- New licensed child care spaces will include a mix of not-for-profit and for-profit settings to provide families with choice and flexibility.

Sustaining high-quality services

- Ontario will improve compensation for all Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) working in licensed child care, including RECEs providing child care for children six to 12 years old.
- This agreement also supports the recruitment of new early childhood educators.
- Ontario will ensure a qualified workforce supply to implement the province's pedagogy for the early years to help safeguard the quality of child care programs and support system stability and sustainability.

Inclusion

- Ontario will introduce reforms that support the needs of diverse and underserved populations, including low-income, francophone, Indigenous, Black, other racialized and newcomer communities, as well as vulnerable and special needs children.

Enhanced data and reporting

- Ontario is already a leader in child care data collection and analytics. The new federal program is an opportunity to enhance sector performance by enabling Ontario to identify and evaluate the impact of these reforms on individual children and families.
- Under the federal agreement, Ontario will report regularly on its progress in meeting federal requirements with enhanced data collection and analytics capabilities.

Lowering Fees, Improving Affordability: Examples – Comparison Across Regions

Yasmin in York Region

- Yasmin lives in York Region and has two children. She currently pays \$72/day in child care fees for her 18 month-old son Jacob (toddler age group), and \$31/day for her 5 year-old daughter Isobel.
- If her child care centre enrolls in the program by December 31, her fees for Jacob and Isobel will be reduced by 25 per cent to \$54.00 and \$23.25.
- For 2022, she will get a refund of \$3,528 in fees for Jacob and \$1,519 for Isobel, retroactive to April 1, 2022.

Andrew in Sudbury

- Andrew lives in Sudbury and currently pays \$31/day in child care fees for his 18 month-old daughter Renee (toddler age group), and \$11/day for his 5 year-old son Germain.
- If his child care centre enrolls in the program by December 31, his fees for Renee will be reduced by 25 per cent to \$23.25. Fees for Germain will remain the same.
- For 2022, he will get a refund of \$1,519 in fees for Renee, retroactive to April 1, 2022.

Charmaine in Durham Region

- Charmaine lives in Durham and has two children. She currently pays \$52/day in child care fees for her 18 month-old son Franklin (toddler age group), and \$25/day for her 5 year-old daughter Simone.
- If her child care centre enrolls in the program by December 31, her fees for Franklin and Simone will be reduced by 25 per cent to \$39.00 and \$18.75.
- For 2022, she will get a refund of \$2,548 in fees for Franklin and \$1,225 for Simone, retroactive to April 1, 2022.

Sameer in Halton Region

- Sameer lives in Halton and currently pays \$63/day in child care fees for his 18 month-old daughter Tina (toddler age group), and \$27/day for his 5 year-old son Amar.
- If his child care centre enrolls in the program by December 31, his fees will be reduced by 25 per cent to \$47.25 and \$20.25.
- For 2022, he will get a refund of \$3,087 in fees for Tina and \$1,323 for Amar, retroactive to April 1, 2022.

Additional Resources

- [\\$13.2 Billion Child Care Deal will Lower Fees for Families](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

\$13.2 Billion Child Care Deal will Lower Fees for Families

Ontario secures additional funding for longer agreement with maximum flexibility

March 28, 2022

[Education](#)

TORONTO — Ontario and Canada have signed a \$13.2 billion agreement that will lower fees for families and deliver an average of \$10 a day child care by September 2025.

Highlights of Ontario's better deal include:

- A federal investment of \$13.2 billion over six years with the province having secured more certainty around out-year funding. The deal includes an additional year of funding of at least \$2.9 billion.
- The flexibility to allocate federal funding in a way that will allow the province to deliver an average of \$10 a day child care, including by spending the initial \$10.2 billion over four years instead of five.
- Enhanced protection against funding shortfalls through a mandated financial review process in year three – the first of its kind in any provincial child care deal – to reconcile the actual costs of the new national child care plan with funding.
- Reduction of child care fees through four steps of reduction to an average of \$10 a day per child five years old and younger by September 2025.
- Parent rebates, retroactive to April 1, will begin in May.
- Protection of all for-profit and non-profit child care spaces, helping to support predominantly female entrepreneurs across the province who provide high-quality child care services.
- Creation of approximately 86,000 new, high-quality child care spaces for children five years old and younger.
- Hiring new early childhood educators and support improved compensation for all Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) working in licensed child care.
- Maintain Ontario's child care tax credit program that supports 300,000 families with expenses in licensed and unlicensed child care.
- Work with municipalities to enrol 5,000 licensed child care centres and home child care agencies into the program between now and September 1.

"From day one, I said our government wouldn't sign a deal that didn't work for Ontario parents and I'm so proud of the work we've done with our federal partners to land an agreement that will lower costs for families across the province," said Premier Doug Ford. "Given how complex Ontario's child care system is, we wanted to get this right. Today, we're delivering a deal that will keep money in the pockets of hard-working parents."

As a first step, all Ontario families with children five years old and younger in participating licensed child care centres will see their fees reduced, up to 25 per cent, to a minimum of \$12 per day, retroactive to April 1, 2022. In December 2022, parents will see another reduction. In total, fees for families will be reduced in 2022, on average, by 50 per cent, relieving parents of \$1.1 billion in child care costs. Families will see further fee reductions in September 2024, culminating in a final reduction to an average of \$10-a-day child care by September 2025.

Additionally, this agreement supports the creation of 86,000 more licensed child care spaces to address increasing demand, including more than 15,000 licensed child care spaces created since 2019. To maintain the province's high quality of child care, the agreement also supports the recruitment of new early childhood educators, stable compensation for all Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) working in licensed child care, including RECEs providing child care for children six to 12 years old.

"We have secured a deal for Ontario families that will significantly reduce child care costs for working moms and dads, and that starts today", said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "We were able to deliver a deal for Ontario families that includes billions in additional funding and a longer agreement that respects parents and provides financial support for families."

To support the child care sector in implementing these new measures, and to ensure the costs of inflation are covered, Ontario is investing \$395 million to ensure RECEs for the 6-12 age group benefit from the wage increases committed to RECEs for the 0-5 age group, as the federal program does not extend support to workers or children age 6-12.

To ensure a sustainable future that protects Ontario taxpayers and puts parents first, the Canada-Ontario agreement also ensures that the cost of implementing the agreement will continue to be monitored by Canada and Ontario with automatic review in year three of the agreement (2024-25). This automatic review mechanism is the first of its kind in any child care agreement in Canada.

Ontario will work with municipalities to enroll over 5,000 licensed child care centres and home child care agencies in the new program between now and September 1. Rebates to parents, retroactive to April 1, will begin in May, and will follow the enrolment of licensed centres and agencies into the new system.

Ontario families will continue to benefit from the province's child care tax credit program, which remains in effect. This program provides an estimated 300,000 families with up to 75 per cent of their eligible expenses for licensed and unlicensed child care in centres, home-based care, camps and other settings.

Ontario's agreement also recognizes its unique position of having the largest child care aged population in Canada and complements the province's world-class, fully funded, full-day kindergarten program for four- and five-year-olds. Over the course of the agreement, Ontario will be investing \$21.6 billion in full-day kindergarten. Together, through the Ontario Child Care Tax Credit (CARE), affordable child care options, and all-day kindergarten, Ontario parents are provided with a full array of options, benefits and supports for early years and child care.

In addition to the investments under the new national agreement, Ontario continues to invest more than \$2 billion a year in early years and child care, including:

- \$1.6 billion to support child care programs, including \$25.5 million for Indigenous-led, off-reserve programming
- \$152 million for early years programs and EarlyON centres
- \$49.5 million for child care and child and family programs in First Nation communities
- \$390 million annually to support the Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses tax credit program, with the government providing a one-time, 20-per-cent top-up for the 2021 tax year
- \$3.6 billion a year to provide free, universal, full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds within school settings.

Quick Facts

- Ontario was the first and remains one of the only jurisdictions in Canada to offer families fully funded kindergarten for children four and five years old. More than 260,000 children in Ontario are enrolled in full-day kindergarten.
 - Ontario is home to nearly 860,000 children ages five and younger and nearly two million children ages 12 and under, representing approximately 38 per cent of Canada's child care-aged population.
 - In 2019, Ontario had 289,000 child care spaces for children five years old and younger, a number that will increase by 86,000 by the end of 2026.
 - There are more than 5,500 child care centres, 139 licensed home child care agencies and around 464,000 licensed spaces in Ontario.
 - Ontario's child care system offers a range of options for families with differing needs, including licensed, unlicensed, for-profit, not-for-profit, school-based and home-based child care.
 - Ontario provides a child care fee-subsidy program for low-income parents. Approximately 150,000 children received free or low-cost child care through this program, which will continue as part of the new agreement with Canada.
 - Ontario has a robust regulatory framework that supports high-quality and safe early learning environments for children.
 - Since 2018, the Ontario government has invested over \$1.5 billion in capital projects within the education sector, including 4,908 new, licensed child care spaces within schools. In 2021, the Ontario government invested more than \$95 million to create 3,094 more school-based licensed child care spaces.
-

Additional Resources

- [Ontario's Child Care Action Plan Puts Families First](#)
- [Canada-Ontario early years and child care agreement](#)
- [Information for child care and early years providers and registered early childhood educators](#)
- [Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014](#)

- [\\$10-a-day child care for families in Ontario](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

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

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BACKGROUND

A Plan to Stay Open

March 29, 2022

[Treasury Board Secretariat](#)

Ontario's *Plan to Stay Open* is the next step in the government's ongoing efforts to build a stronger, more resilient health system that is better prepared to respond to crisis. By filling long-standing gaps in three main areas, including expanding the province's health workforce, shoring-up domestic production of critical supplies and building more hospital beds, the plan will provide people and businesses with more certainty by helping to keep the province open.

An integral part of this plan is the *Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness Act, 2022*, a multi-ministry legislative bundle that, if passed, will secure Ontario's progress, monitor new health threats and protect the lives and livelihoods of Ontarians as the government moves forward with the safe and gradual re-opening of the province.

Key elements of the government's preparedness plan include the following:

Expanding Ontario's Health Workforce

Introducing the "Learn and Stay" Grant: The Ontario government will invest \$142 million to launch the new "Learn and Stay" grant. The program will start with \$81 million over the next two years to expand the Community Commitment Program for Nurses to allow for up to 1,500 nurse graduates each year to receive full tuition reimbursement in exchange for committing to practice in an underserved community. Starting in Spring 2023, applications will open up for up to 2,500 eligible students each year who commit to stay in their region working in an underserved community for up to two years after graduating. Students will be eligible to receive full, upfront funding for tuition, books and other direct educational costs.

Building up our health capacity in areas where it's needed the most is an important part of Ontario's *Plan to Stay Open*. Rural and northern communities have seen shortages and the government is working to ensure that they have the staff needed to be able to respond to any future shocks to our health care system.

As a result of these changes, communities facing the most acute labour shortages in nursing will find immediate support. In the years and decades to come, rural and northern communities will have access to a diverse and talented pool of graduates to serve in their communities and support local health care delivery that all Ontarians deserve.

Reducing registration barriers for foreign-credentialed medical professionals: The government is proposing legislative amendments to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA), to reduce barriers for individuals seeking to be registered with the health regulatory colleges, including internationally trained professionals. The legislation would prohibit regulatory colleges from requiring Canadian work experience as a qualification for registration, subject to any exemptions provided for in accompanying regulation. Removing undue barriers will help to address health human resource challenges while continuing to ensure proper standards are in place to support high-quality patient care.

Making the PSW wage enhancement permanent: The government is proposing legislation that would allow for a regulation to enable a permanent wage enhancement for personal support workers (PSWs) and direct support workers (DSWs). Since October 1, 2020, over 158,000 PSWs and DSWs providing publicly funded services in hospitals, long-term care, home and community care and social services have been receiving a wage enhancement of \$3/hour or \$2/hour. These would be made permanent.

Expanding medical schools: The government is significantly expanding medical school seats in Ontario, adding 295 postgraduate positions and 160 undergraduate seats over the next five years. This is the largest expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats in over 10 years and aims to increase access to family and specialty physicians and other health care professionals in every corner of the province.

Increasing the number of doctors, nurses, and personal support workers in Ontario is a key element of the government's preparedness plan. This not only requires recruitment and retention of the nurses and personal support workers who sustain our system, but also investing in the students of today who will become the skilled doctors and surgeons of tomorrow.

More doctors serving in Ontario means better access and quality of care for hardworking families across the province. That is why the government is adding to the number of spaces at medical schools as we continue to build a stronger, more resilient health care system—especially in growing and underserved communities.

This expansion is the largest in over a decade. It includes 160 new undergraduate seats and 295 new postgraduate positions. The expansion will support all six medical schools across Ontario. Expanded undergraduate and postgraduate medical school positions will include:

- Creating a new Ryerson medical school in Brampton
- Creating U of T Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health
- Expanding Queen's-Lakeridge Health Campus to support Durham Region's needs
- Increasing medical education seats in the Northern Ontario School of Medicine to support needs in rural and northern Ontario
- Increasing medical education seats at the University of Ottawa, Western University and McMaster University

The expansion will increase access to family and specialty physicians across the province further bolstering Ontario's health resources.

Investing in Clinical Education: The Ontario government has demonstrated its commitment to investing resources to ensure we have more graduates in the healthcare sector for years to come. The government is also ensuring that they have adequate resources in the classroom. The government is investing an additional \$41.4 million annually to support the clinical education component in our nursing education programs. This investment will enable publicly assisted colleges and universities to expand laboratory capacity supports and hands-on learning for students providing opportunities for learners to demonstrate their knowledge in practical settings.

Shoring-Up Domestic Production of Critical Supplies

Building a robust life sciences sector that improves patient outcomes: Ontario's life sciences sector is primed for accelerated growth. This exciting growth includes new and expanding facilities that will attract investments to meet growing demand for vaccine production, strengthening efforts to develop made-in-Ontario breakthrough technologies and sourcing homegrown solutions in preparation for future challenges. To do this, it is essential that Ontario companies create, commercialize and adopt advanced technologies to compete in today's global economy. A new life sciences strategy is an essential step towards establishing Ontario as a global biomanufacturing and life sciences hub.

As part of the *Plan to Stay Open*, the government will release a life sciences strategy which will help Ontario further accelerate the province's advantage. The strategy will be broken down into two phases. Phase 1 will focus on the immediate challenges facing the sector including addressing challenges that inhibit growth and prevent Ontario made solutions help Ontario patients. Phase 2 will focus on building capacity to build and buy made-in-Ontario health innovations over the balance of this decade and beyond. Boasting the largest life sciences sector in Canada—one that provides 66,000 well-paying jobs for hard-working Ontarians—the province is well positioned to leverage its strengths in the sector to produce game-changing and life-saving solutions right here at home.

Ensuring a long-term, transparent stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE): The bill would ensure there is a robust supply of PPE and CSE available in Ontario at all times, ready to be deployed to withstand the challenges of extraordinary events without having to solely rely on unstable international supply chains. Ontario will leverage the province's extensive manufacturing capability wherever possible to maintain a healthy stockpile of quality PPE and CSE in non-emergency times, ensuring preparedness and the safety and security of Ontarians in time of crisis. Annual reporting on the PPE and CSE will include information about the quantity, and origin of production of supplies in the government's centralized supply chains, bringing transparency and ensuring the stockpile is maintained. While the last two years were dominated by stories of people pulling together, unfortunately there have been those who have looked to take advantage of a shortage of critical supplies. As part of the *Pandemic and Preparedness Act, 2022*, the province is proposing to prohibit any person from selling any personal protective equipment or critical supplies supplied free of charge by the government. This will ensure that those who would seek to take advantage of hard-working people who play by the rules will face stiff penalties for their actions.

Keeping shelves stocked with essentials: The government is proposing amendments to the *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Act*, which would specify that the ministry's mandate includes providing advice and programming related to a safe and stable food supply. Amendments would also require the ministry to report on the Ontario food supply, which would entail regular evaluations of the food supply system to ensure proper planning and emergency preparedness. Proposed amendments to the *Ontario Food Terminal Act* (OFTA), if passed, would add provisions to the OFTA, outlining a requirement that the Ontario Food Terminal Board maintain a contingency plan for emergencies that impact the operations of the

Terminal. It would require that plan to include a description of how all or part of the Terminal's operations could be carried out temporarily, for no longer than 30 days at a time, from a location other than its current location in the event of such an emergency situation which puts the terminal operations at risk and allow the Minister to direct the Board to implement all or part of its contingency plan.

Building More Hospital Beds

Creating new hospital spaces: Ontario government investments will lead to over \$30 billion in infrastructure over the next 10 years to address longstanding challenges around bed shortages. These investments will increase capacity in the province's existing hospitals, build new health care facilities and renew aging hospitals and community health centres. This investment results in the launch of 50 major projects that will add approximately 3,000 new beds over the next decade.

Investing in new capital projects to improve and expand hospital infrastructure and create more hospital and long-term care beds will be essential to ensuring Ontario is never again left with our care capacity at such vulnerable levels. Making investments in communities that have not seen a new significant capital project in decades will ensure that every corner of Ontario has access to the quality care they need and deserve.

To continue to support hospital capacity, the Ontario government is investing \$760 million to support the continued operation of over 3,100 beds. This is the equivalent capacity of adding six new large community hospitals to Ontario's healthcare system.

Other ways the government is staying prepared

Better preparation for emergencies: To support a coordinated, whole-of-government approach, the proposed legislation would require that the government monitor the hazards and risks it has identified and assess and provide information to the public. The government would also be required to identify the resources they need to respond to potential hazards and emergencies that may arise.

This and all future governments would be required to have a provincial emergency plan that includes a mandatory review and update at least every five years. The changes will ensure that the government understand and monitor existing, new and emerging provincial hazards and risks, ensure provincial resource readiness to respond to a provincial emergency or pandemic at any time, and oversee the province's response during an emergency.

Enhanced data access and sharing: The province's 51 Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) bring together health service providers to deliver comprehensive and coordinated care to Ontarians and have contributed significantly to the province's response to the pandemic. To support ongoing system transformation, pandemic response and OHT development, the government is introducing amendments to the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA)* that would ultimately improve the sharing and security of personal health information within OHTs, while expecting that the privacy and security of the data continues to be protected. This would assist OHTs in responding to evolving pandemic needs, better understanding the patients and communities they serve, and designing and delivering integrated, coordinated care.

The government is also proposing a legislative amendment that would allow Ontario Health to specify the format of personal health information (PHI), along with existing requirements for data privacy and security under the PHIPA. This change will ensure that patients and health information custodians have clear and consistent expectations on how to receive and provide PHI in an electronic format. Overall, these amendments will support better electronic access by patients to their health records, which will be an important part of a more patient-focused and efficient health system that is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

High Priority Communities Strategy: The government initially provided targeted funding to 17 high priority communities that were most impacted by COVID-19 with higher case counts and lower testing rates. The government is providing an additional \$25 million to continue delivering access to testing, increasing vaccination rates and providing support such as connection to isolation centres, income and social supports in communities hard hit by the pandemic.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub Program: Local networks of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hubs have been developed from across the health system to strengthen IPAC practices in community-based, congregate living settings such as long-term care homes, retirement homes and residential settings.

Through the provincewide network of local IPAC Hubs, congregate living settings have a formal and coordinated pathway to access IPAC expertise to ensure they are ready to prevent and manage potential future outbreaks. Data has shown that the Hubs have had broad reach in providing support to the field and a proven impact in supporting congregate living settings to

respond to and manage COVID-19-related outbreaks. The hubs are instrumental in educating and training staff to build capacity to mitigate potential future waves; laying the IPAC foundation to be prepared for emerging threats.

Wastewater Surveillance Initiative: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government established the Wastewater Surveillance Initiative to detect the virus that causes COVID-19 in wastewater samples taken from communities across the province. The initiative uses wastewater sampling, together with clinical and public health data, to help local public health units identify potential outbreaks and enable more timely decisions by public health about how and where to mobilize resources in response. The government is investing an additional \$24.7 million to sustain Ontario's wastewater surveillance initiative over the coming year, while also learning more about how this approach could be used to detect other diseases of concern.

Digitization of the Provincial Diagnostic Network: At the onset of the pandemic, Ontario had an outdated and fragmented laboratory services and diagnostic system resulting in delayed results and a poor patient experience. The Provincial Diagnostic Network was implemented across Ontario in March 2020 and consists of more than 40 independent hospitals, public health, and community laboratories. This network of labs coordinates the processing and analysis of COVID-19 tests. The Provincial Laboratory Services Program aims to address inefficiencies and inequities in the current diagnostic landscape by building on best practices achieved through the COVID-19 Provincial Diagnostic Network including a fully digital lab network.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Introduces a Plan to Stay Open](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Names Expert Panel to Expand Health and Benefits Coverage

Panel will provide advice on the design of a benefits plan tied to workers instead of employers

March 29, 2022

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

QUEEN'S PARK — The Ontario government is working for workers by appointing five experts to provide advice on expanding benefits like health, dental and vision care to more workers, even if they change jobs. Members of our [Portable Benefits Advisory Panel](#) will recommend the design and implementation of a new plan that will cover millions of precarious workers in sectors such as retail, the gig economy, and hospitality, and would be the first-of-its-kind in North America.

“Access to basic necessities like dental care and affordable medication shouldn't be determined by whether or not you work a nine-to-five job, but all-too-often it is,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. “Today's announcement is another historic step forward, as Ontario continues to rebalance the scales and give workers the protection and confidence they need to provide for their families and build stronger communities for us all.”

Most workers in Ontario with full-time, permanent jobs have medical insurance and dental coverage. In comparison, less than a quarter of people who work part-time or in precarious jobs have similar benefits, which means these workers, and their families, often have to make difficult choices between their health and other necessities like food and shelter. Independent contractors, low-wage workers, newcomers, younger workers, and racialized people are less likely to have workplace benefits.

The panel members represent a variety of sectors, including the perspective of those who do not currently have benefits. They have expertise in financial, legal, and labour issues and experience in the structure and administration of benefit plans. [Panel members](#) include:

- Susan McArthur (Chair), Co-Founder and Executive Chair, LockDocs Inc.
- Sunil Johal, Vice President, Public Policy, CSA Group
- Brad Nicpon, Partner, McCarthy Tétrault
- Marlayna Perrone, Professional Sommelier, and advocate with first-hand experience working without benefits
- Allan Shapira, Senior Partner and Managing Director, Aon Wealth Solutions

Over the coming months, the panel will conduct research and consultations, assessing existing gaps in benefits coverage for different types of workers, such as those in part-time positions who do not have health and dental coverage through their employers. They will submit a final report to the government in Summer 2023 with recommendations on how to best administer and implement the new benefits plan.

Expanding health and benefits coverage is 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.

Quick Facts

- This announcement follows the recent introduction of [new legislation](#) that would establish [a minimum wage and other foundational rights for certain digital platform workers](#), as well as [mandate naloxone kits in high-risk workplaces and increase the maximum fines for businesses that fail to protect their workers](#).
- These measures build on the government's successful changes in the Fall to [ensure washroom access for delivery people](#), [require certain workplaces to have a "disconnecting from work" policy](#), and [ban the use of non-compete clauses in employment](#).
- Two-thirds of people in Ontario agree that “it is important that we have government benefits available based on where they live not who they work for”, according to a 2021 survey by Ipsos for the Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory

Committee.

- Establishing this advisory panel was a key recommendation in the Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory Committee’s [final report](#).

Additional Resources

- [Portable Benefits Advisory Panel](#)
- [Working for Workers Act, 2022](#)
- [Working for Workers Act, 2021](#)
- [Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory Committee](#)
- [Ipsos Survey: How COVID has changed how we work and what we need to prepare for the future](#)

Related Topics

Jobs and Employment

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Raising Highway Speed Limits

Province aligns posted speeds with other jurisdictions across Canada

March 29, 2022

[Transportation](#)

TILBURY – The Ontario government is raising the speed limit permanently from 100 km/h to 110 km/h on six sections of provincial highways in southern Ontario. The change follows several [speed limit pilots and consultations](#) and will align posted speeds with other jurisdictions across Canada.

“Our government continues to find new ways to make life easier and more convenient for families and businesses that depend on highways to get where they need to go,” said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. “With road safety top of mind, these sections have been carefully selected based on their ability to accommodate higher speed limits.”

Beginning April 22, 2022, the speed limit will be raised permanently to 110 km/h on the following sections of provincial highways in southern Ontario:

- Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) from Hamilton to St. Catharines (32 km)
- Highway 402 from London to Sarnia (90 km)
- Highway 417 from Ottawa to the Ontario/Quebec Border (102 km)
- Highway 401 from Windsor to Tilbury (approximately 40 km)
- Highway 404 from Newmarket to Woodbine (approximately 16 km)
- Highway 417 from Kanata to Arnprior (approximately 37 km)

In addition to raising the speed limit permanently on sections of highways in southern Ontario, at the same time, the province is also raising the speed limit to 110 km/h on a trial basis on the following sections of provincial highways in Northern Ontario:

- Highway 400 from MacTier to Nobel (approximately 55 km)
- Highway 11 from Emsdale to South River (approximately 45 km)

There are currently six other provinces in Canada that have set their speed limits in excess of 100 km/h on select segments of certain highways.

Quick Facts

- In September 2019, the government launched an online survey to gather public feedback when the higher speed limit pilots were introduced on certain sections of highways in southern Ontario. Of the 8,300 people that responded to the survey, approximately 80 per cent were supportive of the pilots and 82 per cent stated they support raising speed limits on more sections of 400-series highways.
 - The Ministry of Transportation has been monitoring all raised speed limit sections for safety and operations, and observations indicate that the sections with a raised speed limit have been operating as expected. Both the operating speeds and collision trends within these sections have remained comparable to other similar highway sections where speed limits remained unchanged at 100 km/h.
 - Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and British Columbia have posted speed limits of 110 km/h.
-

Quotes

"The Province of Ontario recognizes the importance of our economic trade corridors, especially here in southwestern Ontario. Adjusting the speed limits recognizes that vehicle safety and fuel efficiency has evolved since these limits were previously set. Today's announcement is a common sense approach which preserves safety while locally recognizing conditions across Ontario."

- Drew Dilkins
Mayor of Windsor

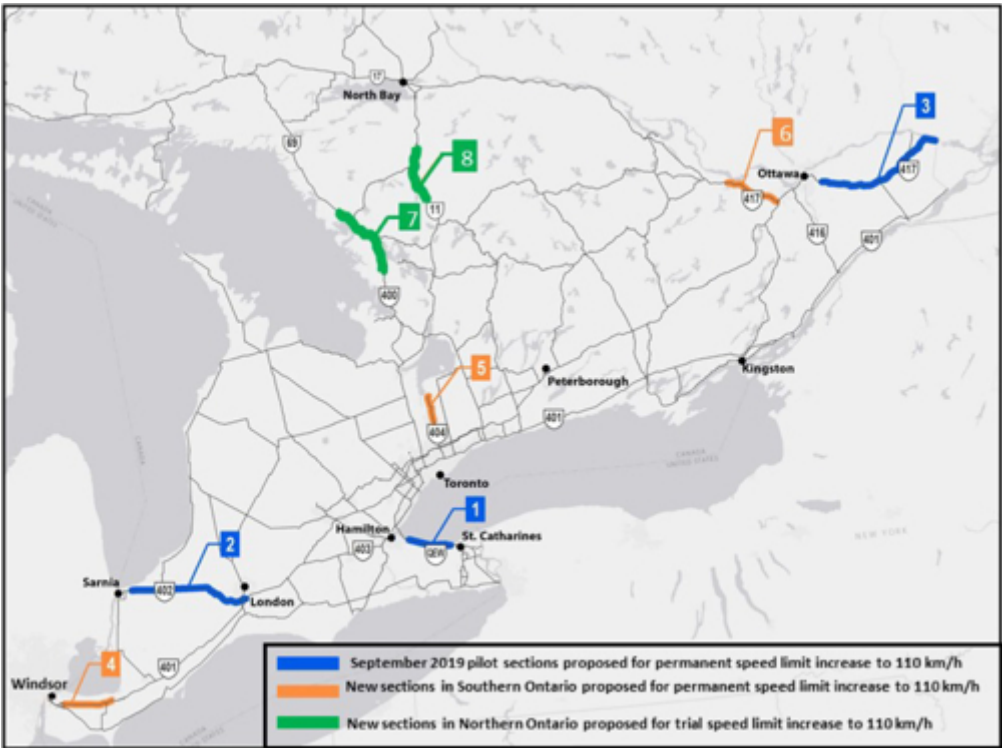
"The 400 Series Highways are the lifeblood of Ontario's economy. The efficient movement of goods along these roadways helps ensure a stronger, more prosperous Ontario and I welcome the continued management of, and investment in, this vital area."

- Darrin Canniff
Mayor of Chatham-Kent

Additional Resources

[Raising speed limits on Ontario highways](#)

Media Assets



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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Strengthening Supports for LGBT2SQ Children and Youth in Care

Investment to develop affirming and inclusive services and supports

March 31, 2022

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$800,000 to develop new services and supports that respond to the distinct needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two Spirit and queer (LGBT2SQ) children, youth and families in the child welfare system. The funding is being provided to the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) to roll out initiatives such as trips to inclusive and gender affirming camps for youths and expanded training for society staff that will help LGBT2SQ children and youth feel accepted and remain connected to their communities.

Ontario made the announcement today on International Transgender Day of Visibility, which aims to raise awareness of the challenges and contributions of transgender people around the world.

"Our government recognizes more needs to be done to improve outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two Spirit and queer children and youth in our child welfare system. This investment will help develop new services and supports to respond to the specific needs of LGBT2SQ children and youth in care," said Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues Jane McKenna.

The investment of \$822,399 over three years will allow OACAS to develop sector-wide initiatives that help to improve outcomes for LGBT2SQ children, youth and families involved with the child welfare system. They include:

- Helping more children and youth attend Camp Lifting Leaves, a specialized camp for LGBT2SQ children and youth involved in Ontario's child welfare system.
- Organizing events so youth can build peer relationships and also feel heard by children's aid society staff.
- Expanding staff training to improve understanding of LGBT2SQ identities.
- Helping societies build relationships with local LGBT2SQ communities and organizations.

"We applaud the government's support for the safety and well-being of LGBT2SQ children and youth," said Nicole Bonnie, Chief Executive Officer of the OACAS. "We recognize we need to better understand, from an intersectional lens, the lived experiences of LGBT2SQ children and youth involved in the child welfare system to improve outcomes. This funding will provide critical supports for young LGBT2SQ Ontarians, their families, and the child welfare organizations that work with them."

To better support LGBT2SQ children, youth and families, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services released a resource guide in 2018 to help respond to the needs of LGBT2SQ children and youth in the child welfare system. The guide includes information to families on how to best support and affirm their child or youth's sexual and/or gender identity. The ministry also supports the Youth-in-Transition Worker program that connects youth transitioning out of the child welfare system into adulthood with youth outreach workers who provide inclusive and gender-affirming resources and supports.

Quick Facts

- Children's aid societies are a key part of Ontario's child welfare system and have a major role to play in Ontario's redesign strategy. In fiscal 2021-22, Ontario allocated more than \$1.5 billion in child protection funding to 51 children's aid societies across the province.
- Children and youth receiving services under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* (CYFSA) have rights that must be respected, and voices that must be heard. Services provided to them should respect their diversity and the principle of inclusion, consistent with the Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Under the CYFSA, service providers, including children's aid societies, are required to take a child's identity characteristics, including their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression into account when making

decisions that might affect their interests.

- More than 12,000 children and youth are in the care of children’s aid societies in Ontario.
- Children and youth leaving the child welfare system are more likely to experience a range of negative outcomes, such as homelessness, mental health concerns, unemployment, lack of education and involvement in the justice system.

Additional Resources

- Learn more about the [Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies](#).
- Learn more about [Ontario Supporting 2SLGBTQI+ Students](#).
- Learn more about [Serving LGBT2SQ children and youth in the child welfare system](#) and redesigning [Ontario's child welfare system](#), including the [five pillars of the provincial redesign strategy](#).

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Making it Easier to Volunteer

Government eliminating fees for police record checks for volunteers

March 30, 2022

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is eliminating the cost of police record checks for volunteers of all ages looking to give their time and skills to the causes they care about. This includes Criminal Record Checks and Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Checks, which are commonly required by organizations that work with volunteers.

Beginning April 1, 2022, amendments to the [Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015](#) will remove the fee for these two types of police record checks, making it easier for Ontarians to support animal shelters, food banks, emergency response initiatives, and many more organizations in their communities. Volunteers can also receive up to five copies of these types of police record checks for free, making it easier to apply to multiple volunteering positions.

“Volunteers enrich our communities and making it free to get police record checks is a tangible way our government is making it easier for Ontarians to give back,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “Taking fees out of the equation will benefit charities and organizations that rely on the helping hands of volunteers, as well as senior volunteers with fixed incomes.”

This change will make it easier than ever to participate in initiatives like [Volunteer Corps Ontario](#), which is [currently recruiting](#) and training volunteers to help their communities during emergencies like natural disasters.

“Removing the cost of these essential police record checks is one way our government is making it easier for people across the province to embrace the Ontario Spirit and volunteer in their communities,” said Parm Gill, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. “It is our hope that this initiative will make it easier for non-profit organizations to attract committed and talented people to help those who need it most.”

Quick Facts

- A [police record check](#) is a search of police database records about an individual and is often used as part of a screening process for employment, volunteering, education, professional licensing, rental housing, insurance, adoption, child custody, foster care and other purposes in Ontario. The [Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015](#) governs the types of record checks that can be conducted for screening purposes.
 - These changes are intended to encourage volunteerism. They exclude people who perform a service in exchange for a form of credit, such as an academic credit. Students who have completed their full academic volunteer requirements and go on to additional non-credit volunteering will become eligible.
 - Prospective volunteers will still need to pay any fees charged by police services for Vulnerable Sector Checks, which are considered the most thorough type of police record checks and require a comprehensive search of national and local police databases.
 - The amendments to the *Police Record Checks Reform Act* were included in Schedule 20 of [Bill 13, The Supporting People and Businesses Act](#), which received Royal Assent on December 2, 2021.
 - These amendments expand the Lieutenant Governor in Council's regulation-making authority to prescribe requirements for how police services conduct police record checks for volunteers, and how long a police record check for a volunteer for a prescribed purpose could be relied upon.
-

Quotes

"The Ontario Nonprofit Network is pleased to see the elimination of fees for certain levels of police record checks for volunteers. Volunteers are vital to our communities through nonprofit organizations across Ontario. We know communities could not function without the supportive web of nonprofits that contribute to our quality of life. This has been even more evident during the pandemic."

- Cathy Taylor
Executive Director, Ontario Nonprofit Network

"Volunteers contribute to building stronger, more vibrant communities. We can all support making volunteering easier for those who want to give back to our communities. Eliminating volunteer police check fees helps to do that."

- Jamie McGarvey
AMO President and Mayor of the Town of Parry Sound

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expanding Access to Student Mental Health Supports

Investments Will Help Set Up Students for Success

April 01, 2022

[Education](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is continuing to support students with expanded access to targeted mental health and well-being programs and services within local communities. Over the past two school years, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on children and students across the world, including right here in Ontario. These investments reinforce the government's commitment to ensuring every student in the province can reach their full potential, and they build on historic funding announced in February to overcome the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We recognize that more than ever before, many students face mental health challenges, and we want them to know help is here," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "While our government increased school mental health funding to the highest levels, we are going further by supporting community partners to expand critical mental health resources, initiatives to reduce drug use and supports that will keep students safe on the road and in the classroom."

Ontario's investments will help create new or sustain existing mental health and well-being programs and resources led by community organizations. The investments, which are part of the government's Priorities and Partnerships Funding COVID-19 Equity Supports, include:

- \$150,000 to [Women's Brain Health Initiative](#) to deliver Brainable, a free education program about brain health for students in Grades 5 to 8. Taught in both official languages by an Ontario Certified Teacher, the program includes follow-up guides and activities that reinforce healthy brain habits for students, parents and teachers.
- \$92,105 to the [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#) (CAMH) to gain a better understanding of substance use trends — including the effect of substance use on school participation — on school-aged youth from an equity perspective. Funding will also go toward resources for those working with youth who are disconnected from school due to substance use difficulties in order to support their re-engagement with the school system.
- \$50,000 to the ministry's implementation partner, [School Mental Health Ontario](#), to collaborate with Eating Disorders Ontario (EDO) to develop promotion- and prevention-based resources in the area of eating disorders for use in Ontario's Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools. This work aligns with efforts underway in other sectors being led by EDO.
- \$50,000 to [MADD Canada](#) to present an interactive harm-reduction program that informs young people of the risks associated with using cannabis and driving.
- \$25,000 to the [Ontario Physical and Health Education Association](#) (Ophea) to develop a vaping education resource, which includes options for educators and school community partners, including parents/caregivers, to navigate based on their individual needs (e.g., text-based resources, videos, short modules, etc.).

In addition to these investments, as part of Ontario's \$600-million Learning Recovery Action Plan for 2022-23, the province reaffirmed its commitment to support student resiliency and mental well-being by announcing it will invest more than \$90 million, including \$10 million in new funding, of which \$5 million is to be used for evidence-based mental health programs and resources. This funding will help retain the existing mental health workers in schools, including the 180 mental health professionals who are providing critical supports directly to students in secondary schools across the province.

Furthermore, this investment will support the resiliency and mental well-being of all students and will enable school boards to continue to assist students who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health challenges that impact their learning.

The mental health components of the learning recovery plan include:

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

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

Quick Facts

- As part of its Priorities and Partnerships Funding COVID-19 Equity Supports, the province previously announced investments toward mental health initiatives, including:
 - \$200,000 to the [Pinball Clemons Foundation](#) to provide comprehensive social, athletic and academic programming and activities to marginalized and racialized youth
 - \$150,000 to the [Muslim Association of Canada](#) to create new resources that address mental health and well-being issues in connection with racism, discrimination and the pandemic, including online courses, training modules, videos and a web-based tool for educators, mentors, newcomer students and parents
 - \$48,950 to the [Canadian Tamil Academy](#) to provide Tamil students with information and resources to address mental health issues, cope with stress, build resilience and implement self-care strategies, while reducing the stigma around mental health in the Tamil community.
- As part of the Safe Return to Class Fund, the Ontario government directed \$6.4 million to support equity-related projects. This included funding to community organizations to address anti-Asian hate, antisemitism and Islamophobia, support for Black, Indigenous and 2SLGBTQI+ students, support for newcomer youth, parents and families to enhance access to school and community resources, and culturally appropriate mental health and well-being supports for youth, families and educators.
- In addition to community-based mental health and addictions services, Ontario students have access to a strong foundation of school-based mental health supports across all 72 school boards.

Quotes

"This is a critically important initiative because we know that youth with substance use difficulties face disproportionate challenges in school contexts, and there is more we can do to provide effective supports. By hearing directly from impacted youth, we will be better able to build meaningful solutions that reflect the diversity of Ontario's youth."

- Dr. Joanna Henderson

Director, Margaret and Wallace McCain Centre for Child, Youth & Family Mental Health; Senior Scientist, Child, Youth and Emerging Adult Program, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

"Supportive, weight inclusive, classroom wellness promotion — and knowledge building about risk factors and early warning signs — is an important part of eating disorder prevention. School Mental Health Ontario appreciates the opportunity to work alongside global leaders at Eating Disorders Ontario to support school-based eating disorder prevention efforts."

- Dr. Kathy Short

Executive Director, School Mental Health Ontario

"Investing in the brain health of our children is essential for achieving not only healthy minds of today, but also healthy minds in the years to come. Research has shown that how we treat our brains as children can have a huge impact on our brain health as adults. With the demand to re-establish healthy habits after two years of social isolation and virtual learning, this investment in Brainable comes at a critical time. The Brainable program will bring invaluable information to students across Ontario, getting them back on track to protecting their brain health and decreasing their chances of developing brain-aging disease like dementia down the road."

- Lynn Posluns

President, Women's Brain Health Initiative

"Two years into the pandemic, we better understand the mental health impacts on children and students. This investment from the government of Ontario represents an opportunity to support educators and school community partners, including parents/caregivers, with opportunities to develop skills and strategies of children and students that will contribute to their ability to make healthy decisions now and into the future."

- Chris Markham
Executive Director & CEO, Ophea

"Having opportunities for meaningful dialogue with young people about the effects of cannabis consumption, and especially the dangers of driving after cannabis use, are key to minimizing risk among youth. With this funding, MADD Canada will deliver the Weed Out The Risk educational program to thousands of Ontario students in Grades 9 through 12, providing them with the information and the inspiration to protect themselves and their peers from impaired driving."

- Dawn Regan
Chief Operating Officer/Acting CEO, MADD Canada

"Teaching students about the dangers of impaired driving at a young age will enhance road safety. MADD Canada continues to conduct important work in my riding and across the province. The interactive program by MADD Canada will enhance safety through a greater understanding of risks involved to all road users."

- Stephen Crawford
Member of Provincial Parliament for Oakville

Additional Resources

[Find mental health support](#)

[Kids' Help Phone](#)

[School Mental Health Ontario](#)

Related Topics

Government

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

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BACKGROUNDER

Working with Industry to Provide Tax Relief to Ontario Workers and Ontario Families

April 04, 2022

[Finance](#)

The Ontario government intends to introduce legislation that would, if passed, temporarily cut the gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre for six months beginning July 1, 2022.

This proposed tax cut would be effective July 1, 2022 to provide the industry — including gas and fuel tax collectors, registered importers, wholesalers and retailers — the required time to adjust their systems and business processes. This implementation time is required because of the way gas and fuel taxes are paid to the province, which includes pre-paid taxes.

How does the pre-paid tax system work?

Gasoline and fuel tax is imposed directly on consumers. To facilitate the collection of this tax, an amount equal to the tax is prepaid to the Ministry of Finance by designated collectors and importers. This amount is then included in the price paid by wholesalers and retailers. The consumer pays the tax at the pump, which offsets the amount the retailer pre-paid to its supplier.

If the legislation is passed and the rate decreases on July 1, 2022, importers, wholesalers and retailers that hold tax-paid inventory at the time of the rate cuts would be required to take inventory to receive a credit in the amount of the difference. Consumers would be charged the lower tax rate beginning July 1, 2022.

In this instance, the Ministry of Finance would provide a tax adjustment for registered collectors and importers to reimburse them for the adjustment they will provide to their retailers.

How is the government working with the industry?

Upon introduction of the legislation, the Ministry of Finance will immediately begin work with the industry to ensure they understand their proposed role and responsibilities in delivering the proposed tax cuts. If the legislation is passed, the industry would begin its implementation work.

The Ministry of Finance will be hosting outreach sessions in the coming weeks to educate and work with the industry on delivering this proposed tax change.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Cutting Gas and Fuel Taxes For Six Months To Provide Relief For Businesses and Families](#)
-

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expands Access to Special Education Supports

New Supports Help Students and Families with Special Education Needs

April 04, 2022

[Education](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is supporting students with special education needs, along with their parents, through new investments and partnerships that will help them succeed in the classroom. The investments are part of the government's overall plan to support learning recovery and renewal, and address the impacts of learning disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the government's Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) COVID-19 Equity Supports, Ontario's new investments in special education include:

- \$150,000 to [Down Syndrome Association of Ontario](#) (DSAO) to create digital and print content that supports parents, guardians and caregivers as their child with Down syndrome transitions through the school system
- \$100,000 to [Child Development Institute](#) (CDI) to implement the Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) program and the Early Assessment Risk List (EARL) framework for children with behavioural issues, and in support of their families. SNAP teaches children effective emotion regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills and techniques
- \$25,000 to [Children at Risk](#) for programs for children with autism to help develop their behavioural, communications and social skills.

"We are fully committed to improving educational outcomes and job prospects for students with special education needs, which is exactly why our government is funding new partnerships to better support children with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental and intellectual disabilities," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "Working together with our partners, we are giving hope to these children, relief to their families and building a brighter future for some of the most dynamic and affectionate children that are among the most vulnerable students in our schools."

These investments build on historic funding announced last month to overcome the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of Ontario's \$26.1-billion Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for 2022-23, the province is increasing total [Special Education Grant](#) (SEG) funding to more than \$3.25 billion for the 2022-23 school year, an investment of over \$92 million to support students with special education needs. This is the highest amount ever provided in SEG funding.

The government is also expanding summer learning programs in 2022 to include \$10 million in funding for programs for students with special education needs. And as part of Ontario's plan to support student achievement and help them reach their full potential, the province is investing \$8.32 million in PPF for early interventions in math for students with special education needs to help them prepare for a de-streamed curriculum.

This builds on increased investment in mental health supports to the highest levels ever recorded in Ontario's history. In 2017-2018, the province invested \$17.4 million for school-based mental health supports. Under Premier Ford, the Government is investing \$90 million, which includes an additional \$10 million for the 2022-2023 school year.

Quick Facts

- In 2020-21, almost 351,000 students in Ontario relied on special education programs and services, or about 17.3 per cent of the total student population.
- The ministry is providing ongoing funding to associations for principals, the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario and Geneva Centre for Autism to develop resources and provide professional learning for educators to help them support students with special education needs.
- The ministry is continuing to provide funding to select school boards to pilot a transition-to-work program. Participating school boards partner with businesses and community agencies to provide competitive employment opportunities for students with developmental disabilities.

- The government is providing \$6 million in application-based funding for school boards to implement initiatives to prevent and remove accessibility barriers and thus improve outcomes for students with special education needs/disabilities. Funded projects will address a number of accessibility barriers identified in the Education Standards Development Committee report.

Quotes

"We (DSAO) are appreciative of the renewed focus from this Ontario government and the partnering support from Minister Stephen Lecce in the key area of education. We continue to encourage individuals with Down syndrome to strive for their best, and this funding will support families across Ontario with clear, relevant and consistent resources to achieve their goals which will enrich their lives."

- Domenic Gentilini
Chair, Down Syndrome Association of Ontario

"CDI is delighted to partner with the Ministry of Education to support students with behavioural difficulties to reach their full potential. SNAP is an evidence-based early intervention children's mental health program designed to strengthen social emotional learning. By teaching children how to stop and think before they act and make better choices 'in the moment,' SNAP helps keep children in school and out of trouble. As we work together with educators and student support services, SNAP and the EARL needs assessment tool provide vital resources to improve overall student mental health, safety and well-being."

- Leena K. Augimeri, PhD
Director, Program Development and SNAP Co-Founder, Child Development Institute

"The past two years have been exceptionally difficult for a charity like Children at Risk, and the families we serve raising children with autism (ASD). Our charity relies on fundraising, donations and grants to be able to offer essential respite programs for these special-needs students – like March Break Camp. Without this timely and generous funding from the Ministry of Education, Children at Risk would not have been able to extend this critically important support due to cancelled fundraising events throughout the pandemic."

- Brenda Reisch
Executive Director, Children at Risk

"I'm proud of our government for taking meaningful action to promote acceptance and inclusion for students of all abilities. These new educational resources will provide powerful supports for students with Down syndrome and for their parents and caregivers."

- Robin Martin
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Member of Provincial Parliament for Eglinton-Lawrence

"Even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Government took action to ensure Children at Risk could continue to offer programs for children with autism. Through this investment, families will be able to continue to rely on programs, like Camp Kaleidoscope, that have been so helpful for my family when my brother needed them."

- Jeremy Roberts
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa West-Nepean

"We are committed to preventing and removing barriers to accessibility in the education sector for students with disabilities. We continue to collaborate with many partners to help advance accessibility and create an Ontario that is open and accessible for all students."

- Raymond Cho
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

Additional Resources

- [Ontario’s Learning Recovery Action Plan for Students](#)
- [Special Education](#)

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 Working for Workers by Raising the Minimum Wage

Third increase in one year will be effective October 1, 2022

April 05, 2022

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

TORONTO – Ontario is working for workers by raising the general minimum wage to \$15.50 per hour, starting October 1, 2022. This eight per cent increase over one year will help workers keep up with rising costs and inflation.

“For many Ontarians, wages haven’t kept up with the increasing cost of living, making it harder than ever to make ends meet,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Ontario’s workers are the best anywhere, and they will be at the forefront of building the province. They deserve to have more money in their pockets and the increase we’re announcing today is one more way we are delivering for our workers.”

In January, Ontario raised the general minimum wage to \$15 and removed the lower minimum wage for liquor servers. The government’s Working for Workers Act 2, if passed, would build on this action by expanding this minimum wage to digital platform workers for active hours worked – something no other province in Canada has done.

“Our government is leading the country with unprecedented changes that rebalance the scales and help workers earn bigger paycheques,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. “Raising the minimum wage is part of our workers-first plan to give hundreds of thousands of families a hand up as we build a stronger economy that works for everyone.”

The next increase this fall, which is tied to the Consumer Price Index, means that workers earning the general minimum wage and working 40 hours per week would see their annual pay rise by \$1,768. Liquor servers who work 40 hours per week would see an annual raise of \$5,512.

Raising the minimum wage is part of Ontario’s plan to fight for our workers and build a future where our province remains the top place in the world to work, live and raise a family. It follows legislation Minister McNaughton recently introduced that would include, if passed, [foundational rights for digital platform workers](#), [requirements for employers to disclose their electronic monitoring of employees](#) and for [businesses in high-risk settings to have Naloxone kits on hand](#), and several [red tape reductions to encourage out-of-province workers](#) to help fill the generational labour shortage.

Quick Facts

- In October 2022, Ontario’s new minimum wage rates will be:
 - General: \$15.50 per hour, a raise from \$15 per hour
 - Students under 18: \$14.60 per hour, a raise from \$14.10 per hour
 - Hunting, fishing and wilderness guides: \$77.60 per day, a raise from \$75, when working less than five consecutive hours in a day; and \$155.25 per day, a raise from \$150.05, when working five or more hours in a day
 - Homeworkers (those who do paid work out of their own homes for employers): \$17.05 per hour, a raise from \$16.50 per hour
-

Additional Resources

- [Ontario’s minimum wage](#)
 - [Working for Workers Act, 2022](#)
 - [Working for Workers Act, 2021](#)
 - [Employment Standards Act, 2000](#)
-

Related Topics

Jobs and Employment

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

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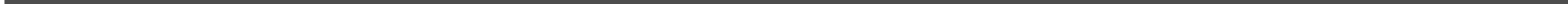
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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expanding Fourth-Dose Eligibility

Additional booster dose will provide an extra layer of protection against severe illness and hospitalization

April 06, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is expanding eligibility for fourth doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to individuals aged 60 and over as well as First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over starting on April 7, 2022. Expanding booster eligibility will provide an extra layer of protection against the Omicron and BA.2 variants and, in addition to antivirals, are another tool the province is using to live with and manage COVID-19.

“As we continue to live with COVID-19, we are using every tool available to manage this virus and reduce its impact on our hospitals and health system, including by expanding the use of booster doses,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19 and its variants. Because of our exceptionally high vaccination rates and Ontario’s cautious approach, we currently have one of the lowest hospitalization rates in the country and have performed well throughout this pandemic when compared to other similar sized provinces and states. I encourage everyone who’s eligible to get boosted as soon as you’re able.”

Starting on Thursday, April 7 at 8:00 a.m., eligible individuals will be able to book their fourth dose appointment through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#) or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900, directly through public health units that use their own booking systems, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, [participating pharmacies](#), and participating primary care settings. Booster doses are being offered to these individuals at a recommended interval of five months after receiving their last booster.

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

Ontario has been offering fourth doses of the COVID-19 vaccine since [December 30, 2021](#) to vulnerable populations including residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, First Nation elder care lodges and older adults in other congregate care settings that provide assisted-living and health services. Providing additional boosters to these groups has helped to prevent serious outcomes in the population during the Omicron wave.

All eligible Ontarians are encouraged to get their fourth dose as soon as possible. As with vaccines for other diseases, you are protected best when you stay up to date.

Quick Facts

- As of April 5, 2022, Ontario has administered more than 32 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with more than 92 per cent of Ontarians aged 12 and over having received at least one dose, more than 91 per cent having received a second dose and more than 55 per cent having received a booster.
 - If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007), which is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and capable of providing assistance in more than 300 languages.
 - As of April 5, over 72 per cent of long-term care residents have received their fourth dose.
-

Additional Resources

- [Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended Doses](#)
- For public inquiries, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007).

- For resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts in responding to COVID-19, visit Ontario's [COVID-19 communication resources webpage](#).
 - Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.
-

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April 01, 2022

Your Worship Walter Stack
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior, ON K7S0A8

Dear Mayor Walter Stack:

As the Chief of Emergency Management for Ontario, it is incumbent on me to monitor, coordinate and assist municipalities with their respective municipal emergency management programs in accordance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). To confirm municipalities are in compliance with the EMCPA, every municipality in Ontario submits a compliance package to Emergency Management Ontario on a yearly basis.

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) has reviewed the documentation submitted by your Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) and have determined that your municipality was compliant with the EMCPA in 2021.

The safety of all our citizens is important, and one way to ensure that safety is to ensure that your municipality is prepared in case of an emergency. We congratulate you on your municipality's efforts in achieving compliance in 2021. I look forward to continuing to work with you to support your continued compliance on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions or concerns about this letter, please contact our Emergency Management Field Officer assigned to your Sector; their contact information is below.

Name: PeterHabel

Email: peter.habel@ontario.ca

Phone: 437-224-6750

Sincerely,

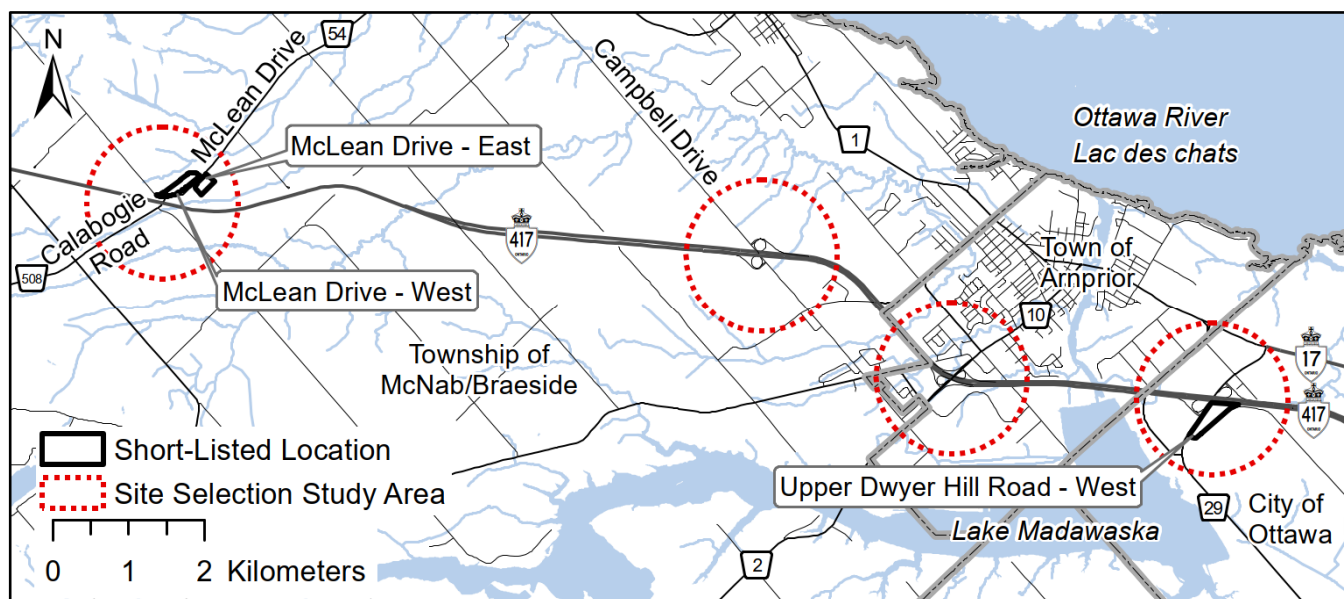
Teepu Khawja
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief, Emergency Management

cc: Cory Nicholas - CEMC
Peter Habel - Field Officer - Capital Sector

Notice of Online Public Information Centre
Ministry of Transportation, Ontario
Site Selection, Preliminary Design, and Class Environmental Assessment Study
Arnprior Maintenance Patrol Yard (Project Reference: WP 4059-21-01)

The Ministry of Transportation, Ontario (MTO) retained Dillon Consulting Limited to complete a Site Selection, Preliminary Design, and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for a Maintenance Patrol Yard (MPY) in the Arnprior area in the County of Renfrew and the City of Ottawa. The purpose of the study is to determine the preferred location and Preliminary Design for a new MPY to service the Highway 17/417 corridor, including the recently announced 22.5 kilometres (km) expansion of Highway 417 to 2.6 km west of Bruce Street.

The map below depicts the site selection study area and the short-list of alternative locations for the MPY, as presented in a newsletter that was distributed and posted to the project website in August 2021. Based on the evaluation of the short-listed locations against engineering/technical and environmental criteria, **Location 12 (Upper Dwyer Hill Road – West)** has been identified as the Technically Preferred Alternative (TPA; i.e., the preferred location). Further information about the project is available on the project website at: www.ArnpriorMPY.ca.



Online Public Information Centre

An online Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held on the project website to present and obtain feedback on the TPA, including the evaluation process that was completed to compare the short-listed locations and identify the TPA. To access the PIC materials, visit www.ArnpriorMPY.ca, navigate to the Public Involvement tab, and click Online PIC. The materials will be posted on **March 24th, 2022** and comments are requested by **April 22nd, 2022**.

Study Process

The study is being completed in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) as a Group 'B' project. The EA process involves the collection and integration of input from engineering and environmental studies, as well as public and agency consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities. Public consultation is an important part of the study.

A Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared for a 30-day public review at the end of the study. The TESR will describe the site selection process, evaluation and selection of the TPA, the Preliminary Design of the TPA, and environmental mitigation measures and provisions incorporated into the project.

Comments

We are interested in receiving any comments or concerns you may have with the study. For further information, project updates, or to be added to the project mailing list, please contact either of the project team members listed in this notice. Your comments are requested by **April 22nd, 2022**.

Michael Plant, P. Eng., Dillon Project Manager

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Ryan Vandenberg, MTO Project Manager

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Comments and information collected during the study will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have accessibility requirements to participate in this project, please contact one of the project team members listed above.

Pour des renseignements en français veuillez communiquer avec Sydney Tasfi au 1-877-934-5566, poste 1005.



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 10:00 a.m., April 04, 2022)

RCDHU Shares Tips to Prepare for the Spring Thaw

With the arrival of Spring, comes the risk of flooding on some roadways and properties. Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) would like to remind residents and property owners of a few tips that can reduce the risk of flooding.

Be prepared before a flooding event.

- Monitor weather and take warnings seriously.
- Ensure drainage ditches, etc. around your home are clear and can function during periods of heavy rain.
- Label the shut off valves and the direction to turn off the gas, water, power, etc. If you must leave your home due to rising flood waters, turn off the power, gas, etc.
- Maintain your home to keep flood water out.
- Move items likely to be affected by a flood to higher areas where possible.
- Ensure chemicals, cleaners; gas cans, etc. are stored in such a manner as not to contaminate flood water.
- Have extra supplies of water and food available that you can prepare without electricity.
- Have your vehicle filled up and ready to go.
- Ensure you have a supply of fuel for generators and pumps. Store fuel in a manner so as not to contaminate flood water.
- Have an [emergency kit](#) stocked and ready to go. Be sure to include important documents, cash, medications, and food and drinking water supply for 72 hours.

Advice for those with private wells and septic systems:

- Flood water and water ponding around wells and septic systems can affect the safety of your drinking water and proper operation of your septic system.
- RCDHU is advising to boil well water for one minute at a rolling boil before drinking if your well is directly affected by flooding.
- Have your well water tested for E. coli and Total Coliform bacteria. RCDHU offers this test free of charge.
- If your septic system has been affected, limit water usage by taking quick and less frequent showers rather than baths, avoid using the dishwasher, and washing machine and flush toilets only when necessary.

- Ensure your basement sump pump water is directed away from the septic system.
- Do not pump out your septic tank when the soil around the tank or the leaching bed is still saturated with water. High ground water levels may cause an empty septic tank to float and break out of the ground and damage the tank and connecting plumbing.

The following tips will help protect your family during flooding events:

- Keep your family safe by keeping family members and pets away from and out of fast-moving water and flood water.
- DO NOT enter areas where electrical systems have been affected by flood water as you may be electrocuted. Always wait for clearance from the electrical authority before entering these areas.
- Building materials, clothing and furniture exposed to flood waters are likely contaminated with sewage and can support the growth of mould. Some items can be cleaned and disinfected; others may need to be thrown out.
- Ask for professional advice during clean up. If you try to save and clean items on your own, wear protective clothing, an N95 mask, and gloves.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/> or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

- 30 -

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



Healthy Living While Operating Businesses and Organizations Through COVID-19

Although the COVID-19 situation is improving, COVID-19 is still circulating in the community with both hospitalizations and deaths are occurring in our most vulnerable populations.

With the lifting of provincially required measures, organizations and businesses have an opportunity to determine their own workplace policies. These policies will create an environment where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is low for employees and members of the public; having a policy also helps to maintain business continuity.

The province has provided information and a tool to guide the development of a workplace safety plan/risk assessment, it can be found in the follow link - [Guide to developing your COVID-19 workplace safety plan](#).



Tips for Businesses and Organizations to Support Healthy Living While Operating Through COVID-19

- Encourage and support management and employees to be mentally and physically healthy by:
 - eating well, being physically active, getting enough sleep, connecting with and supporting others to help cope with stress and build resiliency.

Tips to Create a Healthy Workplace Environment

- Continue to follow "COVID Etiquette" – cover sneezes and coughs, keep a safe distance between people, regular hand washing/use hand sanitizer, follow workplace policies, respect people's choice to wear a mask.
- Have a COVID-19 screening policy for employees before they come to work using the provincial screening tool and consider having a process in place to support individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms to stay home when sick such as:
 - paid sick days
 - system for workers to contact the workplace when sick
 - helping workers to identify close contacts in the workplace - following Case and Contact Tracing - [Ontario Government guidance](#).
- Have a Vaccine Policy that recommends employees are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.



- Consider having employees wear a well fitted medical/N95 mask for additional personal protection and to reduce transmission when they are away from their personal work station or interacting with the public who may be unmasked and where physical distance cannot be maintained.
- Reduce opportunities for close contact:
 - maintain impermeable barriers such as Plexiglas at high traffic areas e.g. reception areas, cash registers, etc.
 - set up work stations so employees are 2 m distance from each other or add impermeable barriers if 2 m cannot be achieved
 - encourage physical distancing in the workplace or public area through visual cues including signage and using reminder stickers on the floor.
- Maintain hand sanitizer in both public and staff areas.
- Continue a high standard of cleaning for surfaces that are frequently touched using an approved disinfectant that kills viruses. Cleaning frequency is based on use.
- Increase ventilation by opening a window, maintain your HVAC system, consider installing HEPA filters appropriately sized for your space.
- Set up a safe space for workers to have lunch and breaks:
 - schedule breaks to reduce the number of people eating together
 - offer ideas for where lunches and breaks can be enjoyed safely
 - offer healthy options for staff when providing food (e.g., water, fruit and vegetables)
 - provide opportunities for activity breaks (e.g., taking a walk outdoors).








Tips for Hosting a Meeting or Event

- Use a large room with plenty of space for participants to spread out and consider events outdoors where possible.
- Encourage physical distancing.
- In the meeting or event invitation ask people:
 - to check for symptoms before they come
 - to wear a mask if they wish
 - encourage people to be up to date with COVID vaccines.
- Encourage an atmosphere of respect for a person's choice to wear a mask or not.
- Maintain impermeable barriers such as Plexiglas at high traffic areas e.g. reception areas, cash registers, ticket booths etc.
- Post a sign with COVID-19 symptoms at the entrance and ask people not to enter if they have a symptom(s).
- Use a hybrid meeting model of video conferencing and in-person attendance to help reduce crowding.
- Select a location where the ventilation system has been properly maintained with, if possible, the use of HEPA filters and where windows can be opened.
- Provide a microphone for those who are speaking. Only share the microphone if it has been properly disinfected.
- Spread out food and beverage tables and other places where people might gather.
- Encourage attendees to remain seated while eating or drinking.
- Have hand sanitizer readily available.

Reasons to still wear a mask



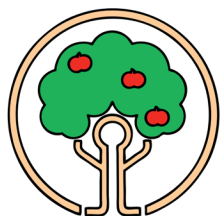
-  It is **required for 10 days** following a COVID-19 infection or an exposure to someone with a COVID-19 infection or symptoms (close contact).
-  It is **required for 14 days** following your return to Canada.
-  Masks **must** be worn in certain settings, including:
 - Public transit (including indoor areas and vehicles)
 - Health care settings (hospitals, psychiatric facilities, doctors offices, immunization clinics, laboratories, specimen collection centres)
 - Home and community care provider locations **ONLY IF** you are an employee or contractor
 - Long-term care and retirement homes
 - Shelters and other congregate care settings that provide care and services to socially vulnerable individuals
-  If someone has a weakened immune system.
-  In close contact with those who are at higher risk of severe illness, including people who:
 - **are older**
 - **have certain medical conditions**
 - **are pregnant or recently gave birth**

IMPORTANT!



To protect each other





Renfrew County and District Health Unit

COVID-19 Case Summary

March 31, 2022

Total Confirmed Cases in Renfrew County and District (RCD): 3771		Current Status of Cases in RCD	
Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days: 124		Self-Isolation: 98	
Incidence Rate^a in the Last 7 Days: 114.2 per 100,000 individuals		Hospitalized: 12	
		Hospitalized in Intensive Care Unit: 1	
		Resolved: 3623	
		Deceased: 37	
Outbreak Setting	Cumulative Number of Outbreaks	Active Number of Outbreaks	
Hospital	7	0	
Long-term care home	19	3	
Retirement home	16	3	
Congregate living facility	14	2	
Other ^c	38	0	
Total	94	8	
Total Number of tests completed for RCD residents: 142,434		Percent Positivity^b of tests completed for RCD residents (March 17, 2022-March 23, 2022) 12.3%	

^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>

MEDIA RELATIONS

9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
(613) 735-7288
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

RELEASE DATE:

March 30th, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County of Renfrew Ends Emergency Declaration

Pembroke: County of Renfrew's emergency declaration, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was terminated by Warden Debbie Robinson two years to the day of its enactment.

The Warden made the decision after consulting with Renfrew County and District's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Robert Cushman and senior county staff. The lifting of the declaration, based on local data, including the steady decline in COVID-19 cases in Renfrew County and the province's decision to eliminate many restrictions, signals County Council's renewed optimism for the future.

"We have all witnessed the impact this pandemic has had on our communities, our businesses, our families and our health-care system," Warden Robinson said. "County residents should be proud of the efforts we all put in to ensuring the safety of our most vulnerable, while continuing to provide the services needed to maintain our communities.

"The County of Renfrew will rebound from this pandemic, strong in our determination to grow together, to support one another, and move forward building on the strengths of our 17 municipalities," the warden added.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Paul	Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk,	613-735-
Moreau	County of Renfrew	7288
Michael	Director of Emergency Services,	613-735-
Nolan	County of Renfrew	7288



**County of
Renfrew**
Ontario . Canada

Experience Our History, Share Our Future!

Termination of a Declared Emergency

I, Debbie Robinson, Warden of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew
(Mayor or Elected Head of Council or First Nation Chief)

Herby declare an Emergency terminated in accordance with the Emergency
Management Act 1990, s.4.(2) due to the emergency described herein:

COVID-19 pandemic in municipalities of the County of Renfrew

for an Emergency Area or part thereof described as:

Municipalities in the County of Renfrew

Signed: Debbie Robinson

Title: Warden

Dated: March 30, 2022 at 9:30 Am (time)

In the Municipality/First Nation of: Pembroke

By-law/Band Resolution: N/A.

(Note: Fax to EMO Duty Officer@416-314-0474)



There's SO much to explore this spring!



Join us as we host a free Pysanky Workshop with Bozena Hrycyna on Monday April 11 at 1pm.

Spaces are limited, so you must [register](#) for this 2

hour workshop. Bozena will be providing all the resources. All skill levels are welcome to attend. Please note, this workshop is geared toward adults. We may add a morning session if there's enough interest.



Tuesday Chess is back! Join Herb Langer of the Arnprior Chess Club anytime 12—7pm starting April 5th for a game or two! All ages and skill levels are welcome. Meet up is in the lower level.

For the next 2 months the Art Corridor is home to an exhibit of local photography. Check out their story and the talent!



You'll want to mark April 29th on your calendar and join us as we mark International Dance Day in the ambiance of the library at twilight!



Movement is universal and connects with our inner-selves, our community and the environment. Join us for an evening of Mindful Movement with Lacey Smith amid the twinkling lights of our cozy library. Here we will come together and celebrate life through movement, celebrate togetherness and cele-

brate our bodies and how we can move mindfully. All ages and abilities are welcome for this evening of music and movement led by Lacey Smith. Over decades of immersive dance, somatic and mindful movement study, teaching creating and performing, Lacey has developed an intuitive way of connecting us to our inner and outer worlds through movement.

This is a free workshop, but [registration](#) is required.

Easter Weekend Hours



Closed Friday April 15 and Monday April 18

Regular hours Saturday April 16 (10am - 2pm)

April is Poetry month and we're issuing another challenge: **Blackout Poetry.** Pick up your page of text at the library and



return it with your poem found within the words. Keep it simple or make it artistic - the choice is

yours, but know we will put your creativity on display!

Also we'll be offering up a prize by random draw from all the entries.



You'll also want to check out the new Pop-up Art exhibit as part of our partnership with OVCAOS. It's a collaborative work representing artists from across the Ottawa Valley. This exhibit's theme is *People and Place*.

We are pleased to announce that April will see the resumption of DROP-IN Friday morning story times! The only thing required to participate is a library membership.

The toddler and parent/caregiver drop-in will take place at 10am, and the story time for preschoolers to attend independently will take place at 11am.

Our Friends from BIAK will be sharing Indigenous stories and drumming on April 8th.



LEGO Lounge is back!!! Stop by on Thursdays between 3 and 4pm for a creative and social time building with the library's extensive LEGO collection. Your masterpiece will be put on display in the library. This is a drop-in program for children aged 4 and up. This program is FREE and all that is required to participate is a library membership.

We'd LOVE your input on our upcoming programming... please take a moment to complete this [online survey](#)!

Take Our
SURVEY!



What's been happening...



Many, many thanks to the **Scharf Family Charitable Trust** for once again providing funds that allowed us to offer a wide variety of March Break programs for our young patrons. We are grateful to the Canada Council Foundation for its generous donation that helped us offer the storytelling event, *Out of the Everywhere: Stories for Now* from *Once Upon a Time* with Jennifer Cayley. Jennifer had us enthralled with her stories of hag trolls and monsters.

Other highlights of our week included a Drag Queen Story Time with Holli Cow, who had us dancing and laughing and enjoying stories including *Be Who You Are* by Todd Parr and *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* by Christine Baldacchino. Participants left our Pop-Up Paint Event with beautiful paintings of foxes, and we learned about fire safety and firefighting from our local firefighters and Sparky. An on-line escape room with Looking Glass Adventures challenged us to solve puzzles and work as a team, and Kim Kilpatrick answered the many questions we had about life as a person with a visual impairment living with a guide dog. The Friendship Trio delighted us with beautiful music and Indigenous Experiences shared Tales from Turtle Island with us.



We wrapped up our Book Bingos and Blind Date with a Book reading challenges! Well done to the more than 120 participants in both reading challenges and congratulations to the winners! James took home the Book Bingo prize for kids; Maryanne won the adult prize and Paula will be sharing her Blind date with a Book grand prize with her family!



March was busy on so many fronts.

Through our partnership with the Canadian Red Cross we distributed more than 600 rapid test kits and nearly 4,000 KN95 masks. The library has requested additional rapid test kits and will announce on our website and social media if / when additional kits arrive.



We've also handed out several hundred Peace Pins in support of Ukraine and an artist anonymously left a beautiful original work as part of the [Art Abandonment Project](#). It is currently on display with our new non-fiction books and we will pass it along in May.



Coming up in May...

We'll be hosting our second annual houseplant fundraiser.

If you would like to contribute some healthy houseplants, please let us know by completing this [on-line form](#).

If you like to garden and would like to assist with our volunteer-run *Reading Garden* (adjacent to the parking lot), please let us know. [Email here](#)

We're getting ready to bring some delightful live music into your library experience next month with a *Busker's Cafe*.... Stay tuned on all the details.

And — our *Who's Who in the Library* challenge WILL launch in May!



From: IESO Engagement
Sent: April-04-22 4:38 PM
To: IESO Engagement <engagement@ieso.ca>
Subject: Reminder- Information Session for Municipalities on April 12/19

This is a reminder that a **virtual information session** is being held for communities across Ontario to learn more about the IESO's long-term procurement process and talk about the role of municipalities in this work. Refer to the email below for additional information.

Register for one of the sessions offered:

Session #1 – April 12: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

[Register for Part I](#): Overview from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

[Register for Part II](#): Discussion with Municipalities from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Session #2 – April 19: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register for Part I](#): Overview from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

[Register for Part II](#): Discussion with Municipalities from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The presentation materials will be sent in advance of the webinar. If you are unable to participate, the webinar will be recorded and published shortly afterwards on the dedicated [LT RFP community engagement webpage](#). Feel free to contact communityengagement@ieso.ca if you have any questions.

IESO Engagement

From: IESO Engagement <engagement@ieso.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 5:51:19 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: IESO Engagement <engagement@ieso.ca>
Subject: Information Session for Municipalities in April

You are invited to an event in April to learn about the emerging electricity needs in Ontario and discuss the role that municipalities have in a procurement process to acquire electricity resources.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), as the planner and operator of Ontario's electricity system, has identified the need for additional resources in the coming years to maintain reliability of the electricity system and support Ontario's economic growth. A new process is under development to procure new and/or expanded electricity resources through a Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT RFP).

Communities will be critical to the success of this procurement as they may be directly involved in this process.

The IESO invites all municipalities to participate in one of two virtual information sessions being held for communities across Ontario to learn more and talk about the role of municipalities in this work. Two identical information sessions will be conducted, each in two parts:

Part I: Overview of Ontario's future electricity needs: This presentation will invite all municipalities and Indigenous communities to hear about Ontario's electricity system, why new supply is needed in the future and the work to design a new procurement process.

Part II: Join a targeted discussion for municipalities: This session is designed for municipalities to ask questions and learn more about what the LT RFP means for you, as well as what you might need to prepare for future discussions. (A separate discussion will be held for Indigenous communities.)

Here's how to register for one of the sessions offered:

Session #1 – April 12: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

[Register for Part I:](#) Overview from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

[Register for Part II:](#) Discussion with Municipalities from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Session #2 – April 19: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register for Part I:](#) Overview from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

[Register for Part II:](#) Discussion with Municipalities from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

By getting involved in these discussions at this early stage, you will be contributing to the success of this electricity procurement in securing resources on behalf of your community's, and the province's future economic growth. As this process evolves, municipalities could expect to:

Receive inquiries from developers about potential site locations

Be directly involved in certain approvals processes (i.e. siting and permitting)

Be informed of community meetings held by project developers

Receive inquiries from community members

Receive information from the IESO to understand the process, their role, timelines, and opportunities for input in procurement design

Supporting information was distributed to all Mayors on [March 18, 2022](#) and will continue to be made available on the dedicated [LT RFP community engagement webpage](#).

We hope you are able to join one of these important discussions on April 12 or 19. Feel free to contact communityengagement@ieso.ca if you have any questions.

IESO Engagement

Thank You



To Mayor Stockton
Council

*The Arnprior and Area Physician Recruitment
Committee extends our thanks to you for your generous
contribution to support our initiatives.*

Mark Tabor

Chair of the Physician Recruitment Committee



The Liberal-NDP Agreement How it works and what the agreement entails

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

On March 22, the federal Liberal and NDP parties joined forces in a Supply and Confidence Agreement. This means the NDP cannot vote for a non-confidence motion until June 2025. The Liberals can declare any vote to be a confidence vote. In exchange, the NDP gets certain programs ensured. The NDP does not have any seats in cabinet.

This is the first time the Liberal and NDP federal parties have entered into this kind of agreement.

According to the Prime Minister's Office press release, here are some key statements on the agreement:

- The arrangement lasts until June 2025, allowing four budgets to be presented.

- The NDP agrees to support the government on confidence and budgetary matters and that the Liberal party commits to govern for the duration of the agreement.



- The NDP would not move a vote of non-confidence, nor vote for a non-confidence motion.

- Votes which impede the government from functioning may be declared confidence.

- The government will ensure public servants brief the NDP on other matters.

- Both parties identify priority bills to expedite through the House of Commons. The NDP will support a limited number of motions to pass legislation that both parties agree to.

What's In The Agreement

The parties agree to prioritize the following actions:

Healthcare System

- A new dental care program for low-income Canadians. It starts with those under the age of 12 in 2022, expands to under age 18, seniors and persons living with a disability in 2023, then full implementation by 2025. The program is restricted to families with an income of less than \$90,000 annually, with no co-pays for anyone under \$70,000 annually in income.

- Passing a Canada Pharmacare Act by the end of 2023.

- Work with the provinces and territories on more primary care doctors and nurses, mental

health support, ageing at home, and better data.

- Tabling a Safe Long-Term Care Act.

Affordability

- Extending the *Rapid Housing Initiative* for an additional year. This program ran from October 2020 to March 2021 when 4,700 affordable housing units were created across Canada.

- Re-focusing the *Rental Construction Financing Initiative*. This is a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) program for rental construction financing that provides low-cost funding to borrowers for the development of rental apartments. The minimum loan is \$1,000,000.

- Moving forward on launching a Housing Accelerator Fund. This was a Liberal concept to grow the housing supply in Canada's largest cities to create 100,000 new middle-class homes by 2024-25.

- Implementing a Homebuyer's Bill of Rights by the end of 2023.

Continued on page 4

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

April 5, 2022

Optimizing the Customer Journey: Increase leads, generate more sales and create brand evangelists. 10:00am-11:00am. Free online webinar. Speaker: Mickey Anderson. Small Business Advisory Centre. www.smallbizcentre.ca

April 6, 2022

Doing Business with the Government of Canada. Free online webinar. 9:00am ADT. Register at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/event-calendar>

April 7, 2022

How An Online Store Can Boost Your Business. Digital Main Street online webinar. 11:30am-12:30pm. Register for this webinar at www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

April 7, 2022

Food Handler certification. Free with limited seating. Renfrew Legion, 30 Raglan Street South. 9:00am-4:00pm. Register by calling 613-432-3424.

April 8, 2022

Finding Opportunities on Buyandsell.gc.ca. 9:00am ADT. Free online webinar. Register at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/event-calendar>

April 8, 2022

Ask Procurement Assistance Canada (PAC) Anything. Virtual drop-in session. 12:00pm-1:00pm. ADT. Register for this session at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/event-calendar>

April 12, 2022

Web Presence 1010: Ensuring your foundation is set. Digital Main Street online webinar. 10:00am-

11:30am. Register at www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

April 12, 2022

Doing Business with the Government of Canada. 12:00pm-2:00pm. Free online webinar. Call 1-873-355-9796.

April 12, 2022

Doing Business with the Government of Canada. Free online webinar. 12:00pm-2:00pm ADT. Register for this webinar at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/event-calendar>

April 13, 2022

Costing and Pricing Your Product or Service Profitably. We'll share a winning formula with you that you can use to ensure your products and services are priced profitably. Free webinar with Andrew Patricio. 10:00am-11:30am. Hosted by the Small Business Advisory Centre. www.smallbizcentre.ca

April 13, 2022

Bidding on Opportunities. Free online webinar. 10:00am-12:00pm. Register for this webinar at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/event-calendar>

April 13, 2022

Industry Engagement Day and Request For Information. Free online webinar. 1:00pm-3:00pm. Register for this webinar at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/event-calendar>

April 19, 2022

Introduction to Canva: The Basics. Three part series. Part 1 of 3. Jennifer Baker, presenter. 9:00am-10:00am. Free online webinar. Register for this webinar at www.smallbizcentre.ca/events

April 19, 2022

Practical workshop to Become Federal Government Supplier. Free online webinar. 2:00pm. Register at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/event-calendar>

April 26, 2022

Building a Lead Magnet: How to grow your audience and your business. 10:00am-11:00am. Free online webinar. Speaker: Mickey Anderson is a business strategist, StoryBrand certified conversion copywriter and DigitalMarketer certified partner. Hosted by the Small Business Advisory Centre. www.smallbizcentre.ca

April 26, 2022

Social Media For Your Business. Digital Main Street online webinar. 10:00am-11:30am. Register at www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

April 26, 2022

Bidding on Government of Canada Contracts. Free online webinar. 12:00pm-2:00pm. Call 1-873-355-9796.

May 2, 2022

Deadline for the fiscal year 2021 person tax returns. While this is normally April 30, this year, that date falls on a Saturday.

May 3, 2022

Getting the Most out of Canva: Making custom, beautiful graphics. Three-part series. Part 2 of 3. Jennifer Baker, presenter. 9:00am-10:00am. Free online webinar. Register for this webinar at www.smallbizcentre.ca/events

May 10, 2022

Sales for Small Businesses: How to increase sales, maximize revenue, and improve customer satisfaction. 10:00am. Free online webinar. www.smallbizcentre.ca/events

May 10, 2022

eCommerce 101: What, why and how. Digital Main Street online webinar. 10:00am-11:30am. Register at www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

Submit your business event to admin@ovbusiness.com

Deadlines

Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

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

Publishing: May 3, 2022
Deadline: April 26, 2022

Publishing: May 17, 2022
Deadline: May 10, 2022

Publishing: June 7, 2022
Deadline: May 31, 2022

101 Things To Do in the Valley

FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR

Spring Edition

Publishing: April 19, 2022
Deadline: April 12, 2022
Book in today for \$25 a listing or 5 listings for \$100

Summer Edition

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

HealthMatters

Spring Edition

Deadline: April 8, 2022
Publishing: April 29, 2022

Summer Edition

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

Fall Edition

Deadline: September 30, 2022
Publishing: October 20, 2022

Business News Around The Valley

Heliconia Launches

Discovery Channel Premiere
Heliconia, the video production and marketing company behind the adventure travel series Epic Trails and Facing Waves, is pleased to announce that their newest series, Adventure Cities premiered nationwide on Discovery Channel on Saturday, March 26th. The first episode showcases the adventurous sides of Geneva, Switzerland and Québec City.

North Algonia Wilberforce Earns Grant

Canadian Heritage has approved an application by North Algonia Wilberforce for funding. A grant in the amount of \$5,000 will be awarded under the Celebration and Commemoration Program, 2022 Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Component.

Scotch and Spruce Closing

Andrew Chenard, owner of Scotch and Spruce in Downtown Pembroke, has announced he will be closing the store. The men's clothing store opened in September 2021. Chenard previously ran Wilkie's Bakery.

New Business Coming To Petawawa

Law & Orders is coming to Petawawa. Location and opening details are to be announced in the future.

New Business in Renfrew

Queen Pin Sewing has opened at 297 Raglan Street South in Renfrew.

Four and Twenty Closing

Four and Twenty, a Canadian headship and art collective, is closing. The business is located at 228 Raglan Street South in Renfrew.

People News

Rick Gwalchmai the Youth Program Coordinator for the Town of Arnprior has retired after 32 years of service. Paul Moreau, CAO for the County of Renfrew has announced his retirement to county council and plans to leave in late August-early September. Kelly Coughlin of McNab Braeside has completed the requirements of the Introduction to Cemetery Management course. Mandy Cannon, also with McNab Braeside has completed the Civil Marriages Solemnization course.

County Makes ROMA Delegations

The County of Renfrew obtained four delegations at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in January. The county met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark regarding the social services relief fund and the county's plans to build six new

affordable housing units.

Discussions with the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, focused solely on the Algonquin Trail. The delegation with Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Kinga Surma discussed potential funding opportunities for growth-related projects and a delegation with the Minister of Health, the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier was centred on the municipal role and funding in public health.

New Area Code

As of March 26, there is a new area code for the 613 region. The 753 area code will be part of the area also covered by 343 and 613 area codes in Ontario. Existing numbers keep the same area code and local calling areas remain the same. All local calls will require 10 digits (area code + local number). Business communications systems that restrict long-distance calling will need to add 753 as a local area code.

Rossy Opens In Mall

A Rossy store has opened in the Pembroke Mall. Rossy carries clothing, home decor and more. They are open seven days a week and are located beside the Dollarama.

Finance

Most Canadians have until May 2, 2022 to file (April 30 is a Saturday), but not meeting a deadline could result in interest and penalties. Here are some important dates to keep in mind.

Key Deadlines

May 2, 2022: Tax filing deadline for individuals.

May 2, 2022: Payment deadline for individuals unless special circumstances require instalment payments.

June 15, 2022: Tax filing deadline for self-employed taxpayers (and their spouses).

May 2, 2022: Payment deadline for self-employed taxpayers (and spouses). Self-employed and spouses are required to pay a balance owing by this date.

May 2, 2022: Tax filing and payment deadline for deceased taxpayers (death from January 1 to October 31, 2021). If the death occurred November 1 to December 31, 2021, the return must be filed within six months after the date of death.

May 2, 2022: Tax filing and payment deadline for deceased taxpayers who carried on a business at the time of death. If the death occurred January 1 to December 15, 2021, while the business was operating, the return is due by June 15, 2022. If the death occurred December 16 to December 31, 2021, the return is due within six months after the date of death.

Draft Legislation: Luxury Tax

On March 11, Finance Canada released draft legislation on the Luxury Tax. Subject to parliamentary approval, the tax will apply beginning on September 1, 2022. Relief is proposed for after-sale improvements made to vehicles, aircraft or vessels purchased below the relevant price threshold. Relief for aircraft is proposed to be expanded to take into account qualifying flights that are conducted in the course of a business with a reasonable expectation of profit.

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Key Issues In The Liberal-NDP Agreement

Climate, federal worker sick days, taxing, reconciliation and more

- A \$500 one-time top-up to Canada Housing Benefit in 2022 which would be renewed in coming years. This money is provided to families within a certain income bracket.

- An Early Learning and Child Care Act by the end of 2022, ensuring long-term protected funding that prioritizes non-profit and public childcare spaces.

Climate Issues

- Achieve significant emissions reductions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

- Continuing to identify ways to further accelerate net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

- Moving forward in 2022 on the creation of the Clean Jobs Training Centre to re-train industrial, skill and trade workers to gain new skills in the zero-carbon industry.

- Moving forward with Just Transition legislation. An

initiative put forward by the *Climate Justice Alliance* organization. Originally forged by labour unions and environmental justice groups, the goal is to transition away from polluting industries.

- Developing a plan to phase out public financing of the fossil fuel sector, including Crown corporations starting in 2022.

- Home energy efficiency programs that reduce emissions. Funding includes support for creating Canadian supply chains.

Federal Workers

- Ensuring 10 days of paid sick leave for all federally regulated workers starts in 2022.

- Introducing legislation by the end of 2023 to prohibit the use of replacement workers, when a union employer in a federally regulated industry has locked out employees or is in a strike.

Reconciliation

- Making a significant

additional investment in Indigenous housing in 2022.

- Accelerating the implementation of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People with Indigenous partners. Plus, creating a standing federal-provincial-territorial table for this work.

- Providing the necessary supports for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities who wish to continue to undertake the work of burial searches at the former sites of residential schools.

Tax System

- Tax changes on financial institutions that have made strong profits during the pandemic.

- Implementing a publicly accessible beneficial ownership registry by the end of 2023 to catch those who attempt to

launder money, evade taxes, or commit other complex financial crimes.

Democracy

- Remove barriers to voting and participation through ideas such as expanding election day to three days, allowing people to vote at any polling place in their electoral district and improving the process of mail-in ballots.

- Ensuring that Quebec's number of seats in the House of Commons remains constant.

You can read the Prime Minister's statement at: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/03/22/delivering-canadians-now>

Book into the Spring Edition of Health Matters



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Publishing: April 29th

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Provincial Government News In Brief

Tuition freeze, doctor negotiations, \$10 daycare, police check fees

Freezing Tuition Rates

The Ontario government is extending the current tuition freeze for colleges and universities by an additional year, through 2022-2023. Prior to the 2019-20 tuition reduction, Ontario university tuition rates were the highest in any Canadian province.

Police Check Costs Eliminated

The Ontario government is eliminating the cost of police record checks for volunteers of all ages. This includes Criminal Record Checks and Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Checks, which are commonly required by organizations that work with volunteers. The fee removal is effective as of April 1, 2022. Prospective volunteers will still need to pay any fees charged by police services for Vulnerable Sector Checks, which are considered the most

thorough type of police record checks and require a search of national and local police databases.

Doctors Negotiate With Government

The Ontario Medical Association has ratified a three-year agreement with the Government of Ontario. The agreement includes a permanent framework for virtual care, allowing more family doctors to join health teams and improved parental leave. The agreement also contained a pay increase. has indicated that climate change is a major factor in the health of Ontarians. "We have seen the heightened effects of climate change across the planet through extreme weather, crop failure and the burning of forests, said the report. "Ontario's doctors are calling for positive action to be taken immediately on climate change to mitigate its severe



consequences on human health and well-being."

Ontario Adopts Federal Daycare Plan

The Ontario government has adopted a \$10 a day child care plan as proposed by the federal government. Ontario families with children five years old and younger in participating licensed child care centres will see their fees reduced, up to 25 per cent,

to a minimum of \$12 per day, retroactive to April 1, 2022. In December 2022, parents will see another reduction. In total, fees for families will be reduced in 2022, on average, by 50 per cent. Families will see further fee reductions in September 2024, culminating in a final reduction to an average of \$10-a-day child care by September 2025.

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JOB POSTING TIP
Every workplace has benefits. It might be the traditional benefits such as health or RRSP programs, and it might be other benefits such as reduced summer hours, freedom to make decisions, remote working options or casual Fridays. Listing these benefits can help future employees get an idea of the culture of your workplace, which may encourage them to seek you out.

Federal Government News In Brief

Vaccine injury funding, consumer banking, blacklisting media, convoy

Vaccine Injury Funding Available For Five Years

The federal department of health has budgeted \$75 million for the next five years to support the Vaccine Injury Support Program. The Public Health Agency of Canada has confirmed the following "adverse reactions" to the vaccine: 306 deaths, 123 cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, 78 cases where expectant mothers lost their babies, 57 cases of acute kidney injury and 47 heart attacks. In addition, myocarditis has affected 1,886 people.

Ban Includes Hunting Rifles

Cabinet admitted on March 16 that its national ban on "military-style assault weapons" includes hunting rifles. Emergency Preparedness Minister Bill Blair had repeatedly stated that the ban was for military-grade assault weapons, yet retired police inspector, MP Glen Motz, noted that those types of weapons had been banned in Canada for 40 years. Originally, cabinet gave gun owners until April 30, 2022 surrender their guns under the buy-back program. However, the program never did launch although \$8.8 million has been spent on undisclosed expenses. The ban is

now projected to go into effect on October 30, 2023.

Government Bank Freeze Results In Withdrawals

The CEO of the Canadian Credit Union Association testified that members withdrew millions of dollars after learning the government could freeze bank accounts of any person at any time. That testimony was different from the Canadian Bankers Association that said there were only "anecdotal stories" of withdrawals and nothing of significance. The credit union CEO said people were very unhappy with the government's actions. She said it brought forward a lot of mistrust of the government that they could seize individual accounts.

Liberal MP Questions GoFundMe Statistics

It has been confirmed several times that Russia was not behind funding the Freedom Convoy donations on either GoFundMe or GiveSendGo. General counsel for GoFundMe testified that donations were mostly from Canadians and in smaller amounts. Liberal MP Sophia Chatel said The Toronto Star reported that 41 per cent of donations were from the U.S. While GoFundMe said that was not the case, Chatel suggested

the Star report should be believed over GoFundMe.

Federal Fully Vaccinated Definition

Despite four doses currently being available for Canadians, the federal government's definition of "fully vaccinated" will remain at two doses.

Bank of Canada Blacklists Some Media

The Bank of Canada disclosed a media enemies list to not allow certain media organizations, including Blacklock's Reporter, to be allowed to question them. The remark was made in a January 14, 2022 media conference when the Bank's director of communications did not realize his microphone was on. The director also noted that Bloomberg News called him to ask how he wanted a story reported. Deputy Minister Chrystia Freeland told the House of Commons that was an isolated incident.

False Convoy Story

The Ottawa Police Service released a statement on March 21 that a media story about an apartment building fire set by the Freedom Convoy was not true. The fire was started by a local man. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson was quoted as saying "this horrific story clearly

demonstrates the malicious intent of these protesters occupying our city." Members of Parliament used the incident to invoke the Emergencies Act. NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh singled out the event as an example of trucker convoy violence. The event occurred on February 6.

Blacklisting Media Is Wrong: Judge

The Leaders' Debate Commission that ran the federal election debates, has been found to have acted improperly when it banned Rebel News from campaign events and the debates. A federal judge said that was unfair and noted "there is room in the nation for the expression of opposing points of view."

Continued on page 7

Do you have business news to share?

Ottawa Valley Business publishes the following information free of charge:

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(promotions, new hires, training certifications)
Business Events
Company or Organizational News

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Tender Results Around The Valley

Renfrew County is directing staff to cancel RFP-DP-2022-01 (Design-Build of an Affordable Multi-Residential Housing Project) and issue an RFP for Architectural Services for the Construction of an Affordable Multi-Residential Housing Project in the City of Pembroke.

Miller Road Landfill Operations. Deep River.
K&T Trucking - \$436,000.00
William Sons - \$1,808,071.25
Augsburg Road Tender. Bonnechere Valley.
Bonnechere Ex. - \$761,762.24
Greenwood - \$765,841.43
H&H Const. - \$786,227.94
RGT Clouthier - \$880,103.89

Grasslands Stewardship Initiative Project - Vegetation Assessment. McNab Braeside.
GEMTEC Consulting - \$3700
Chris Ellingwood - \$1910
E.R.Thomson - \$1400

2022-ADMIN-005 Streetscape and Urban Landscape Design RFP. Deep River.
Awarded to Fotenn Planning + Design in the amount of \$45,000.00

Winter Sand. North Algona Wilberforce.
RJ Selle and Son - \$37,532.95
Eastway Cont. - \$44,300.52
RGT Clouthier - \$78,563.25
McCrae Ex. - \$90,513.00

Supply of One Pavement Edger PW-2022-03. Horton.
One bid was received.
Gincor - \$17,933.10

A Gravel. North Algona Wilberforce.
RJ Selle and Son - \$53,575.56
BEI Construction - \$74,280.55
RGT Clouthier - \$76,275.00
Eastway Cont. - \$82,394.96
McCrae Excavating - \$93,733.50

Continued on page 8

Federal Government News In Brief

Refugee statistics, regulating the internet, inflation

Continued from page 6

Drug Users Want Safer Access

Federal Addictions Minister Dr. Carolyn Bennett told the Commons health committee that people using drugs are asking for more ways of getting a safe supply. Bennett suggested certain clubs and pharmacists could make drugs available to users. Decriminalizing heroin and other street drugs is no answer to preventing deaths she said. An August 13 federal report recommended possession of heroin and other drugs to become a ticketed offence in order to not marginalize or stigmatize drug users.

Refugee Welfare Statistics

Statistics Canada is reporting that 35% of government-assisted refugees remain on welfare 10 years after entering Canada.

Figures show that after two years, 72% remain on social assistance, and after five years, 50% also required financial support. In 1976, the Immigration Act required foreigners to show proof of work skills and economic independence in order to immigrate to Canada. In 2001, the government removed the requirement for refugees to prove they were not likely to rely on social assistance.

Union President \$50K Error

Unifor union executives have said that their president, Jerry Dias, accepted a \$50,000 kickback from a COVID test kit supplier after introducing the test kits to employers. The union is not identifying the supplier or the employers involved.

Bankrupt Companies Received Wage Subsidy

Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier prepared a report

to Parliament that noted Canada Revenue Agency paid wage subsidies to 787 companies that were insolvent. The average subsidy per application was \$218,562.

Cabinet Wants To Regulate Canadian Internet

Foreign Minister Melanie Joly told Cabinet that the government must regulate the internet in Canada to curb misinformation coming from Russia.

Polled On Vaccine Mandates
Cabinet conducted pre-election polling on vaccine mandates prior to the Liberal's calling an election on August 15. At the time Cabinet said that vaccine mandates were based on scientific rationale although no public health agency report has ever recommended them. The report cost \$1.6 million.

Inflation To Increase

Statistics Canada has reported that inflation will keep rising. Assistant Chief Statistician, Greg Peterson, tested to the Commons finance committee that Canada had not been through an economic period like this in 30 years. The inflation rate is currently 5.7%.

Internet Panel Created

Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez has appointed a panel to advise on regulating the internet in Canada. There has been significant opposition to regulating the internet from various groups. Of 9,218 submissions to the Department of Canadian Heritage, only "a small number" were in support.

False Convoy Story

On March 24, the Ottawa Police confirmed that a story by The Toronto Star indicating that police recovered loaded shotguns from the Freedom Convoy was false. The Star had quoted a police source that guns were found, but the Ottawa Police Service Police Chief testified they were not.

Source: Blacklocks's Reporter
www.blacklocks.ca

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Issue No. 3000 Published for Forward Thinking April 26, 2021

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

By Jonathan Lupton
jonathan@ovbusiness.com

Elizabeth Davis was part of a protest group that took to the streets when she and others gathered - on their own - after the first lockdown of small businesses. This was the first time that the business community organized and rallied. Davis was among the first to be arrested, but she was not alone. She was joined by her friends and family. Davis was not alone. She was joined by her friends and family. Davis was not alone. She was joined by her friends and family.

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

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Tender Results Around The Valley

PWO-2022-02 Pavement Marking. County of Renfrew.
Provincial Road - \$742,413.39
Almon Equipment - \$852,898.41
Trillium Pave. - \$867,702.14
Northside Pave. - \$903,312.40

The City of Pembroke is proposing the award of Contract No. 21-2627 for Forced Road Storm Sewer Reconstruction to Bonnechere Excavating in the amount of \$1,163,213.57.

The City of Pembroke is proposing that Tender No. T-22-02 for Asphalt Road Resurfacing 2022 be awarded to Greenwood Paving for an estimated contract value of \$316,534.60.

Reconstruct Road and Utilities. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Clouthier Ventures of Pembroke in the amount of \$3,564,000.00.

Painting and Flooring Replacement. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Dexterra Group of Mississauga in the amount of \$200,000.00.

Commissionaires 2022-2023. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Commissionaires Ottawa in the amount of \$21,300.00.

Repair Spill Containment. Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to HDK Consulting of Winnipeg in the amount of \$143,225.00.

Replace Lift Station at BB104. Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to 1956466 Ontario Inc of Pembroke in the amount of \$180,425.00.

Industrial Electrical and Mechanical Services. Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to 2759940 Ontario Inc of Cobden in the amount of \$350,000.00.

Building Spatial Data Capture. Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to The Plan It Measuring Company of Oakville in the amount of \$445,785.12.

Utilities Data Acquisition. Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to Jp2g Consultant of Ottawa in the amount of \$97,625.00.

Tender PW-06-2022, HVAC Preventive Maintenance Agreement. Petawawa.
Bergeron Mech. - \$57,354.00
Black/McDonald - \$56,485.03
EasY HVAC - \$34,830.00
Irvcon Limited - \$81,906.00
Saffco - \$36,673.70
Valley Refrig. - \$45,470.00

Increase Bunker Soil Depth. Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to EastPoint Engineering Limited of Halifax in the amount of \$39,824.00.

Install Street Lighting at P51. Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to Panke Electric of Petawawa in the amount of \$22,290.00.

Award of UV Disinfection System. Petawawa.
Proposed award to H2Flow Equipment Inc. in the amount of \$516,200.00.

2022-03 LED Street Light Conversion. Whitewater Region.
Dondas Power - \$52,633.14
Rondeau Electric - \$63,756.18
Renfrew Hydro - \$66,423.66
Black & McDonald - \$67,964.98
Jerry Trafford - \$80,111.35
Frank's Electric - \$80,391.59
Saffco Electrical - \$83,857.30
Welk Electric Ltd. - \$87,446.18



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It's A Fact

OMA Survey on Healthcare

Source: Prescription for Ontario : Doctor's 5-Point Plan for Better Health Care (Ontario Medical Association)

43,000

Ontario doctors represented by the Ontario Medical Association

48%

Survey respondents who rated Ontario healthcare as a C

22%

Survey respondents who rated Ontario healthcare as an F

20 Million

Patient services backlogged due to COVID-19 regulations

76%

Doctors who say some patients have worse health outcomes because of the pandemic backlog of medical services

84%

People who reported their mental health worsened since the start of the pandemic

70%

School-aged kids reporting a deterioration in mental health during the pandemic's first wave

1/5

Ontario children who need mental health services and who are receiving them

40%

Increase in opioid-related deaths in Ontario in 2020

40%

Doctors considering retiring early due to the pandemic

\$500

Cost per day to provide care for a patient in hospital

\$150

Cost per day to provide care to a resident in long-term care

\$4,342

Annual health care spending per person in Ontario in 2019

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How To Budget For Marketing

Things to think about when you're ready for more



MARKETING

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@fwdthink.net

When I am speaking to a business about marketing, one of the elements of our conversation is why they should pay me to do their communications work when they could do it themselves. The business knows how to place an ad. They know how to update a Facebook page. They know how to make a flyer and email it. If they can do all of that, why do they need to pay someone to do it for them?

If they are having this conversation with me, there is some part of them that wonders if they are getting the most they possibly can from their marketing efforts. They may not be sure what that return on investment should be, but they are curious as to if it could be better. If a business thinks they could be getting more customers, my sense is that they are probably right about that. After a

while, you get a sense of how your business can grow, even if you don't know how quite to make that happen.

The decision in hiring outside marketing help is whether the expense justifies what they will get in return when there is no guaranteed result. There are some considerations that might help in making that decision.

1) The cost of not hiring outside help. If you choose not to outsource, someone in the business will need to do the marketing work. Consider what will that cost you in terms of their time, and then, if that cost is worth it. For example, if you pay an assistant \$18 an hour and they will be spending 10 hours a week on marketing the business, that's \$180 plus your associated employee taxes and remittances. That \$180 becomes about \$250. For a month, that's \$1,000.

2) Can the person doing the work make it a priority? If an assistant does the marketing work only when he has time, that means marketing will be near the bottom of the priority pile. You are better to have a consistent commitment to marketing, so maybe that 10 hours becomes five hours. The good news? Your \$1,000 a month commitment just became \$500 a month.

3) Does the person you are taking with the marketing work have the education and experience to do it effectively? Spending \$100 on an ad that won't generate any lead is a \$100 loss. You have to give the marketing person in your business a budget to work with, so in addition to the cost of their time, you need to factor in the implementation costs. This is where you want to be sure the person is knowledgeable in order to spend those dollars in a way the business will benefit.

If you are going to manage marketing internally, have a discussion with the person you are going to task with this initiative. Ask them how they feel about being able to deliver on doing the work. You can tweak the responsibilities of the work to suit what the employee is confident they can deliver upon and then re-evaluate at a later date.

If you think you could have more customers, you are probably right. It's worth some thinking about how best to attract them.

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

Work Wellness

Hourly Stretching

Every hour, make a point to get up from your desk and stretch. Look up some stretches for shoulders, upper arms, chest, chin and head, side neck, lower back and legs. Send them out to your employees and encourage them to get through a certain number in a day. Remote employees can do this easily too.

The Origin of Sayings: Paint the Town Red

The phrase "paint the town red" most likely owes its origin to one legendary night of drunkenness. In 1837, the Marquis of Waterford—a known lush and mischief maker—led a group of friends on a night of drinking through the English town of Melton Mowbray. The bender culminated in vandalism after Waterford and his fellow revellers knocked over flowerpots, pulled knockers off of doors and broke the windows of some of the town's buildings. To top it all off, the mob literally painted a tollgate, the doors of several homes and a swan statue with red paint. The marquis and his pranksters later compensated Melton for the damages, but their drunken escapade is likely the reason that "paint the town red" became shorthand for a wild night out. Still yet another theory suggests the phrase was actually born out of the brothels of the American West, and referred to men behaving as though their whole town were a red-light district.

Quotable

"The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn't said."

- Peter Drucker

"Spend eighty per cent of your time focusing on the opportunities of tomorrow rather than the problems of yesterday."

- Brian Tracy

Time to go in a new direction?

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March 24, 2022

In This Issue

- PJ Marshall Awards - Call for submissions for 2022 now open.
- Seniors Community Grant Funding announcement.
- Community engagement for IESO Long-Term RFP.
- Call for Nominations to Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
- AMO/LAS *Municipal Energy Symposium* March 31 - April 1.
- Webinar: Breaking down barriers - Accessible digital solutions for your community.
- NEW Canoe category: Tree maintenance equipment.
- Canoe webinars: Johnson Controls, Legal/Procurement update.
- ONE Investment Spring 2022 webinar: Why Proxy Votes Are Important for ESG.
- Register to vote in the 2022 Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections.
- Careers: Orillia, Hamilton, New Tecumseth, Burlington and Huron East.

AMO Matters

Every year at the AMO Conference the PJ Marshall Awards recognize municipal excellence and innovation in capital projects, operating efficiencies, and new approaches to service delivery. If you have something you are proud to share, the deadline for 2022 submissions is May 27, 2022.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility announced that the province is doubling the Seniors Community Grant Funding. Applications to the Grant are open until April 28.

Municipal and Indigenous engagement activities are underway as part of IESO's Long Term RFP for new and expanded facilities to meet Ontario's emerging reliability needs. Details on engagement for communities, stakeholders and interested parties throughout the process are available here.

IESO is calling for a municipal representative to join its Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Nominees could include elected officials, municipal staff, and other members of the municipal landscape.

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.

eSolutionsGroup, AMO's barrier-free website partner, offers members cost-effective digital solutions that meet accessibility requirements. Join us for a free webinar on 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

We're pleased to welcome Vermeer and Morbark to the Canoe Procurement Group. They are the approved suppliers under the NEW Tree Maintenance Equipment category. Trees make a community picturesque but aren't always low-maintenance - keep them beautiful by using the right tools for the job. Contact Simon for more information.

Join us for the last two Canoe Procurement Group webinars before we wrap up for the summer. On April 6 hear from Johnson Controls, supplier of high-tech facility monitoring, security systems and fire alarms - register here. On April 20 we will host our annual Legal/Procurement Update, providing information to keep your purchasing compliant with the law – register here.

ONE Investment

ONE Investment is hosting a Spring webinar on April 12, collaborating with our external portfolio manager Guardian Capital to discuss "Why Proxy Votes Are Important for ESG Principles (Environmental, Social and Governance)." To register and know what will be covered in the webinar, click here.

Municipal Wire*

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

Senior Financial Planning Analyst - City of Orillia. Participate in the development and implementation of policies / procedures and internal control processes. Apply online by April 4.

Development Services and Engineering Department - City of Orillia. Maintain compliance with Ontario Regulation 588/17 and other regulations pertaining to asset management. Apply online by April 6.

Program Analyst, Corporate Asset Management - City of Hamilton. Responsible for supporting the engagement of asset owners from across the organization. Apply online by March 30.

Project Manager – Development Engineering - Town of New Tecumseth. Some responsibilities include: reviewing drawings, plans, reports, and specifications and providing advisory support. Apply to arthur@wmc.on.ca by April 19.

Strategic Workspace Planner - City of Burlington. The Planner plays a critical role in the City's property strategy to deliver corporate facilities that optimize workspace experience. Apply online by April 8.

Finance Manager-Treasurer - Municipality of Huron East. Responsible for performing all statutory duties of the Treasurer in accordance with the *Municipal Act* and other legislation. Apply to cao@huroneast.com by April 22.

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

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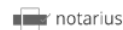
LAS Local Authority Services

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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