



**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: April 25, 2022**

Correspondence Package No. I-22-APR-08

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-22-APR-08 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario

- a) Government of Canada and Ontario Announce More Than \$56 Million in New Funding to Bring High-Speed Internet Access to Thousands More Households
- b) Ontario Passes Legislation to Safeguard Movement of People and Goods at International Borders
- c) Ontario Making it Easier to Buy a Home
- d) Tax Relief at the Pumps Act, 2022 Receives Royal Assent
- e) Canada and Ontario Invest in 144 Community Water Infrastructure Projects
- f) Ontario Modernizing its Emergency Response System
- g) A Plan To Stay Open
- h) Ontario Bolsters Support to Get Small Businesses Online
- i) Ontario is Making it Easier to Start a Business
- j) Ontario Advances Work on New Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Rate
- k) Ontario Working for Workers by Launching First-Ever Review of Occupational Illness
- l) Ontario Increasing Supports to Improve Community Safety
- m) Ontario Expanding Degree Options at Publicly Assisted Colleges
- n) Ontario Makes Strategic Investments to Strengthen Province's Medical Technology Ecosystem
- o) Ontario Expanding Access to COVID-19 Antivirals

Correspondence Package No. I-22-APR-08

- p) [Ontario Taking Additional Action to Protect Flocks](#)
- q) [Bear Encounters – Who Do I Call](#)
- r) [Government is Protecting Ontario's Public Lands](#)
- s) [Ontario Giving Long-term Care Residents More Nutritional Choices and Variety](#)
- t) [More Jobs Created in Ontario for Second Consecutive Month](#)
- 2. Correspondence from Renfrew County & District Health Unit**
 - a) [COVID-19 Case Summary - April 13, 2022](#)
 - b) [COVID-19 On the Rise Again in Eastern Ontario – Joint Statement](#)
- 3. Correspondence from County of Renfrew**
 - a) [Defoliation by Spongey Moth Expected Again in 2022](#)
- 4. Correspondence from AMCTO**
 - a) [Local Government Priorities for 2022 Provincial Election](#)
- 5. Correspondence from Hospice Renfrew**
 - a) [Hike for Hospice](#)
- 6. Correspondence from the Town of Arnprior**
 - a) [OFC – Mobile Live Fire Training Unit](#)
- 7. Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Business**
 - a) [April 19, 2022](#)
- 8. Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - a) [Watch File – April 14, 2022](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Governments of Canada and Ontario announce more than \$56 million in new funding to bring high-speed Internet access to thousands more households

Over 6,500 households in rural and First Nation communities to benefit from the funding to increase access to high-speed Internet

April 19, 2022

[Infrastructure](#)

Today, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario, on behalf of the Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development, together with the Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure, announced more than \$56 million in combined new federal and provincial funding for six projects to bring high-speed internet access to over 6,500 households in rural Northern and Southwestern Ontario, as well as in First Nation communities.

These new projects build on an existing relationship between Ontario and Canada. On July 29, 2021, the governments [announced](#) their partnership to support large-scale, fibre-based projects that will provide high-speed internet access to more than 280,000 rural and remote households across the province. This historic agreement was made possible by a joint federal-provincial investment totalling more than \$1.2 billion.

Today, the governments of Canada and Ontario also announced additional details, including internet service providers, for 28 projects that were announced in July 2021, under this agreement, which will provide more than \$398 million in joint funding to bring high-speed internet access to more than 50,000 households in regions across Ontario.

Today's announcements build on the Government of Canada's progress toward ensuring that 98 per cent of Canadians have access to high-speed internet by 2026, and 100 per cent by 2030. The announcements also bring the Government of Ontario one step closer to achieving its goal of bringing reliable high-speed Internet access to every region of the province by the end of 2025. As we work to rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic and grow the economy, the federal and provincial governments will continue to make investments in infrastructure to build strong communities and a more competitive and resilient Ontario and Canada for everyone.

Through its broadband initiative, the Canada Infrastructure Bank is collaborating with the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to improve the commercial viability of projects.

Quick Facts

- [Canada's Connectivity Strategy](#) aims to provide all Canadians with access to internet speeds of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) download / 10 Mbps upload.
- The [Universal Broadband Fund](#) (UBF) is a \$2.75 billion investment by the Government of Canada designed to help connect 98 per cent of Canadians to high-speed internet by 2026 and achieve the national target of 100 per cent connectivity by 2030. Only the hardest-to-reach households may take until 2030 to get connected.
- On July 29, 2021, a Canada-Ontario broadband partnership was [announced](#). This agreement will bring high-speed internet access to more than 280,000 households across Ontario with a total investment of more than \$1.2 billion, co-funded equally by both levels of government.
- In 2021, Ontario announced projects in regions across the province, including [six projects that will serve Northern Ontario](#) and 17 projects led exclusively by the province under the Improving Connectivity for Ontario program.
- Another part of Ontario's plan to achieve 100 per cent access to connectivity for all regions across the province is a [new competitive process](#) led by Infrastructure Ontario to help connect more homes and businesses in unserved and underserved communities.
- The governments of Canada and Ontario have each committed up to \$71 million through a partnership with the [Eastern Ontario Regional Network](#) to help improve cellular service in Eastern Ontario.

- The Government of Ontario is investing more than \$63 million in the [Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology project](#) to help bring high-speed internet access to more than 58,000 homes, farms and businesses across Southwestern Ontario. The province has also invested in high-speed Internet projects to support connectivity in rural and northern Ontario, including through the [Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation](#) and through the [Next Generation Network Program](#).

Quotes

"We need to close the connection gap and ensure that every nook and cranny of Ontario has access to reliable high-speed internet—whether that's in Oil Springs or Carlsbad Springs or all the way on the shores of Lake Superior. Today's announcement of more than \$56 million in new funding to connect over 6,500 rural households in the province is a milestone for Ontarians. Investments like these help create jobs, improve access to health care and online learning services, and keep us connected to our loved ones. The Government of Canada will continue to make investments like these to help achieve our national target of connecting 98 per cent of Canadians by 2026 and 100 per cent by 2030."

**- The Honourable Gudie Hutchings
Minister of Rural Economic Development**

"People's lives are moving more and more online. This is a challenge for communities in Ontario that are without access to high-speed internet. These investments made by our government will allow for increased access to education, health care, business opportunities and social connections. Communities will have the tools to more fully participate in social programs and economic opportunities, improving the health and well-being of the region."

**- The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for
Northern Ontario**

"Expanding broadband service allows Canadians to better use public services like health care and education and creates new economic opportunities across Ontario's rural communities. Unlocking the potential of large-scale broadband expansion by collaborating with internet service providers is a tremendous opportunity and the CIB is part of the solution to connect more Canadians."

**- Ehren Cory
CEO, Canada Infrastructure Bank**

"The Ontario government is ensuring every community across the province has access to reliable high-speed internet by the end of 2025. By working together with our federal partners and internet service providers, we are increasing access to high-speed internet and building a stronger foundation for Ontario's economic growth and prosperity. We are ensuring that the agriculture sector and all families, workers and businesses have a better and brighter future. No one will be left behind."

**- The Honourable Kinga Surma
Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure**

Additional Resources

- [Governments of Canada and Ontario invest to bring high-speed Internet access to more rural households and First Nation communities](#)
- [Universal Broadband Fund](#)
- [Backgrounder: Universal Broadband Fund and Telesat low Earth orbit capacity agreement](#)

- [Canada Infrastructure Bank](#)
- [High-Speed Access for All: Canada’s Connectivity Strategy](#)
- [Ontario Connects: making high-speed Internet accessible in every community](#)

Media Contacts

Hayley Cooper
Office of the Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario’s Minister of Infrastructure
Hayley.Cooper@ontario.ca

Sofia Sousa-Dias
Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure
Communications Branch
Sofia.Sousa-Dias@ontario.ca

Luka Vujic
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of Rural Economic Development
[343-571-9582](tel:343-571-9582)
luka.vujic@ised-isde.gc.ca

Media Relations
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
media@ised-isde.gc.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Passes Legislation to Safeguard Movement of People and Goods at International Borders

Keeping Ontario Open for Business Act protecting workers, job creators and international trade relationships

April 14, 2022

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — Yesterday, the Ontario government passed the [Keeping Ontario Open for Business Act, 2022](#), which will protect international border crossings from unlawful obstructions that disrupt the economy or interfere with public safety.

The legislation enables law enforcement to better protect international borders, international airports and other transportation infrastructure that is significant to international trade and shield the economy from future disruptions like the illegal blockade of Windsor's Ambassador Bridge, which led to temporary factory closures, shift reductions and halted billions of dollars worth of trade.

"The passage of this legislation shows the world that Ontario is open for business and will stay open for business," said Premier Doug Ford. "International trade is a vital lifeline for our economy which is why we took action to protect our borders from future illegal disruptions so people can keep working, goods can keep moving and businesses can keep producing."

The legislation also provides police officers with additional enforcement tools to impose roadside suspension of drivers' licences and vehicle permits, seize licence plates when a vehicle is used in an illegal blockade and remove and store objects making up an illegal blockade.

"Safe and open international border crossings tie Ontario to the world and support hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of trade every day," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "This new legislation gives Ontario the tools we need to protect the livelihoods of workers, manufacturers and job creators across Ontario's growing economy from any future attempts to block our borders."

The legislation comes into force today.

Quick Facts

- The legislation better equips the police to respond to future economic disruptions caused by blockages of border infrastructure that is critical to international trade without having to declare an emergency.
 - Ontario declared a provincial emergency on February 11, 2022, under the [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act](#) in response to impacts of the "Freedom Convoy" protests and unlawful blockades to provide police with temporary powers needed to address the situations.
 - Under Ontario's *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, an emergency is a situation or impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property and that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident or an act whether intentional or otherwise.
-

Quotes

"This legislation is another example of the provincial government working for the people of Ontario. It recognizes the importance of a fluid supply chain when it comes to fresh, nutritious and affordable vegetables, as well as the importance of a resilient, accessible food supply system."

- George Gilvesy,
Chair of the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

"Efficient and reliable cross border trade infrastructure is critical to the automotive industry and the tens of thousands of people it employs in Ontario. We support the Ontario government's efforts to ensure that international border crossings are protected from future disruptions."

- Brian Kingston,
President & CEO, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association

"Competitive international supply chains rely on predictable, reliable access through critical infrastructure corridors. This legislation will help secure Ontario's automotive suppliers' jobs and footprint against new emerging threats."

- Flavio Volpe,
President, Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association

Additional Resources

- [Keeping Ontario Open for Business Act.](#)

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

Government

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

Jobs and Employment

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

Media Contacts

Hannah Jensen

Solicitor General's Office

Hannah.R.Jensen@ontario.ca

Andrew Morrison

Communications Branch

andrew.morrison@ontario.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Making it Easier to Buy a Home

Province receives royal assent for legislation to build more homes and protect homebuyers

April 14, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Ontario has received royal assent for legislation to support the government's More Homes for Everyone plan, which delivers both near-term solutions and long-term commitments to build more homes faster to put home ownership within reach for all Ontario families.

The More Homes for Everyone plan outlines the next suite of concrete actions the province is taking to address Ontario's housing crisis, such as protecting homebuyers from unethical development practices and accelerating development timelines to get more homes built faster. The plan is built on recommendations from the [Housing Affordability Task Force](#) and the first-ever [Ontario-Municipal Housing Summit](#), as well as input from municipalities and the public. It includes:

- Working with municipalities to identify and enhance measures that will crack down on land speculation and protect home buyers. This is in response to feedback the province solicited from municipalities regarding projects that are approved by the municipality, but unbuilt by the developer.
- Strengthening consumer protections for purchasers of new homes by doubling fines and extending building license suspensions to address unethical conduct by developers, while ensuring penalties for cancelled projects are aligned with the impact on homebuyers. The government will also enable Tarion to extend warranties on unfinished items in a new home.
- Supporting municipalities with resources, tools and standards to provide timely review and adjudication processes by both extending legislated timelines for decisions while focusing the decision-making process. This builds on the province's investment of up to \$350 million through the Streamline Development Approvals Fund, Municipal Modernization Program, and Audit and Accountability Fund to help municipalities implement efficiencies, including in their planning and development approval processes.
- Creating a new tool specifically designed to accelerate planning processes for municipalities. The Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator will help municipalities expedite approvals for housing and community infrastructure, like hospitals and community centres, with clear requirements for both consultation and public notice.

"With the passage of the *More Homes for Everyone Act*, our government is taking the next step in our long-term plan to deliver on the Housing Affordability Task Force's report, and help more Ontarians realize the dream of home ownership," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "But there is still more work to be done. As we continue to collaborate with our municipal and industry partners, our government commits to a housing supply action plan every year over four years to deliver gentle density and multi-generational homes in communities across our province."

As part of the [More Homes For Everyone](#) plan, Ontario increased and expanded the [Non-Resident Speculation Tax](#), is making it easier to build more community housing by making better use of provincially owned lands including [providing surplus lands in Vaughan for non-profit housing](#), and is strengthening the community housing system for residents and workers by establishing a new regulatory framework under the [Community Housing Renewal Strategy](#) and also with historic investments through the nearly \$1.2 billion Social Services Relief Fund and \$464 million Homelessness Prevention Program.

Quick Facts

- [Ontario is consulting with the public, municipalities and stakeholders](#) until April 29, 2022, to develop recommendations on how to deliver gentle density and support multi-generational communities, as well as addressing housing needs in rural and northern communities. These consultations will feed into the Housing Supply Working Group, which the

ministry will establish this summer, through which the province will engage with municipalities, the federal government, and industry partners on the development and implementation of these measures.

- In 2021, two years after implementing [More Homes, More Choice](#), Ontario had more than 100,000 new housing starts, the highest level since 1987, and the highest level of new rental starts in 30 years (since 1991).
- A [Scotiabank housing report](#) found that Ontario is one of the few provinces in Canada below the national average for the supply of homes per capita, with Canada having the lowest amount of housing per capita of any of the G7 countries.
- More Homes for Everyone is the result of a three-part consultation with industry, municipalities, and the public. This includes the [report from the Housing Affordability Task Force](#), which highlights expert recommendations to increase supply and serves as Ontario's long-term housing roadmap to address the housing crisis.
- Along with the measures to cut red tape and get homes built faster, Ontario is helping municipalities make their planning and approvals processes more efficient and identify potential savings through the new [Streamline Development Approval Fund](#) (over \$45 million provided) as well as the [Municipal Modernization Program](#) (over \$68 million provided through three intakes) and the [Audit and Accountability Fund](#) (approximately \$23 million provided through three intakes). This funding is helping municipalities streamline and modernize their planning processes including official plan and zoning updates, plan of subdivision and site plan approvals, and improve their delivery of other local services.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario's More Homes for Everyone Plan](#)
- [Ontario's Housing Supply Progress](#)

Related Topics

Government

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

Home and Community

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

Taxes and Benefits

Learn about taxes in Ontario and what they support, including tax credits you can get to help you with living and business costs. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Zoe Knowles

Minister's Office

Zoe.Knowles@ontario.ca

Communications Branch

[mma.media@ontario.ca](mailto:mmm.media@ontario.ca)

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STATEMENT

Tax Relief at the Pumps Act, 2022 Receives Royal Assent

Government cutting gas tax by 5.7 cents on July 1, 2022

April 14, 2022

[Finance](#)

QUEEN'S PARK — Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, issued the following statement:

"It's official. With the *Tax Relief at the Pumps Act, 2022* receiving Royal Assent today, gas and fuel taxes in Ontario will be cut starting July 1.

Our government recognizes that supply chain challenges and geopolitical conflicts are pushing up the price of everything, from gas to groceries.

That is why our government has a plan to help keep costs down for Ontario families and businesses. That includes cutting the gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre for six months. We have delivered on our government's commitment to reduce provincial taxes and charges on gas by 10 cents per litre when this cut is combined with the 4.3 cent per litre reduction from Ontario's 2018 legislation to eliminate the previous government's cap and trade carbon tax.

By eliminating licence plate stickers and renewal fees, removing the tolls on Highway 412 and 418, and providing tax relief for seniors, families and workers, our government is putting more money back into the pockets of the people of Ontario."

Additional Resources

[Working with industry to provide tax relief to Ontario workers and Ontario families](#)

[Gasoline Tax](#)

[Fuel Tax](#)

Media Contacts

Emily Hogeveen

Minister's Office

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

Emily.Hogeveen@ontario.ca

Scott Blodgett

Communications Branch

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

Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Canada and Ontario invest in 144 community water infrastructure projects

April 14, 2022

[Infrastructure](#)

WELLAND — From roads and community centres – to public transit and water and wastewater systems – investments in infrastructure build strong and healthy communities.

Today, Jennifer O’Connell, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario’s Minister of Infrastructure, announced joint funding for 144 water infrastructure projects across Ontario.

The Government of Canada is investing more than \$190.2 million in 144 projects across Ontario, including those mentioned below, through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Government of Ontario is providing over \$140.5 million, while local communities are contributing more than \$108.5 million. Today’s investment will improve water infrastructure and ensure Canadians have better access to reliable and clean drinking water.

In Welland, this investment will support the installation of approximately 1,500 metres of watermain, along with seven new hydrants on Canal Bank Road. The improvements will help ensure that residents continue to have reliable access to clean drinking water. Roads and sidewalks impacted by work on this project will also be restored through this investment.

Havelock-Belmont-Methuen is another community receiving funding to support the replacement of over 500 metres of watermain along George Street and the installation of four new fire hydrants. Work will also include the reconstruction of affected roadways, sidewalks, and driveways. In Kingsville, over 3,200 metres of watermain will be replaced on several streets like James Avenue and Stonehedge Drive. The project will also see the installation of 234 water service lines and 24 new fire hydrants. In both communities, these projects will improve the reliability and capacity of watermain and increase access to potable water.

Funding will also support the replacement of over 4,400 metres of watermain in the Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation. The work involves replacing thousands of metres of watermain along nine community roads including Onigaming Road, Anishinaabe Road, School Loop, and Ketemiikana Road. Moreover, this project will renew the fire pump in the existing water treatment plant. Once complete, this project will increase the reliability of the community’s water supply and provide residents with increased access to clean water.

Quick Facts

- Projects must meet federal requirements under the Impact Assessment Act (IAA) and/or Indigenous consultation requirements before construction starts (which includes site preparation and vegetation removal).
- Under the Investing in Canada Plan, the federal government is investing more than \$180 billion over 12 years in public transit projects, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation routes, and Canada’s rural and northern communities.
- Over the last six years, the Government of Canada has invested over \$18.6 billion toward more than 4,180 infrastructure projects across Ontario.
- During that period, over \$44 billion has been invested in communities by Infrastructure Canada across the country to support world-class infrastructure projects, including over \$4.4 billion for community drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.
- For its part, Ontario is investing over \$10.2 billion to improve public transit; community, culture and recreation; green infrastructure as well as other priority infrastructure, including across rural and northern communities.
- Over the next 10 years, Ontario has planned investments of over \$148 billion to support access to quality, reliable high-speed internet, and the construction, rehabilitation and modernization of new schools, hospitals, public transit, roads

- and bridges.
- Getting shovels in the ground on critical infrastructure projects is part of the Ontario government’s plan to build strong and resilient communities, stimulating job creation and boosting economic growth while protecting health and safety.
 - Infrastructure Canada helps address complex challenges that Canadians face every day—ranging from the rapid growth of our cities, to climate change, and environmental threats to our water and land.

Quotes

"Increasing access to clean drinking water is crucial to building strong, healthy communities. Our partnership with Ontario will improve drinking water infrastructure in 144 towns, cities and First Nations across Ontario, enabling these communities to keep growing."

- Jennifer O’Connell
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities

"Every community in Canada should have access to safe, clean drinking water. The investments in Dain City’s water supply will help keep the community healthy and allow it to welcome more businesses and residents. Our government will continue to partner with our provincial and municipal partners to invest in modern, reliable drinking water and wastewater systems."

- Vance Badawey
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services and Member of Parliament for Niagara Centre

"Today’s announcement will see hundreds of millions invested in communities across Ontario, benefitting thousands of Ontarians. Our government will continue to work with its provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous partners to build strong and resilient Canadian communities."

- Chris Bittle
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Member of Parliament for St. Catharines

"Today’s green infrastructure investments will bring long-lasting benefits to thousands of residents across Ontario. These 144 projects will provide increased access to clean water, improve the reliability of our water systems, and protect health and safety. This investment is just one of the many ways our government is building a cleaner, more sustainable Ontario for today, and for generations to come."

- The Honourable Kinga Surma
Ontario Minister of Infrastructure

"The green infrastructure investments announced today support our collective responsibility to protect the watersheds that flow into the Great Lakes, providing clean water for families here in Niagara and right across the province. The joint funding for 144 water infrastructure projects across Ontario include important clean water projects in Grimsby, Lincoln and Pelham in Niagara West."

- Sam Oosterhoff
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education and Member of Provincial Parliament for Niagara West

"Investment in critical infrastructure is a pillar of sustainability to a growing city like Welland, and the Dain City Secure watermain project is an important realization for our residents. Funding from our provincial and federal partners strengthens our infrastructure and brings greater peace of mind to our residents, which pays dividends long after the work is complete."

- His Worship Frank Campion
Mayor of the City of Welland

Additional Resources

- [Canada and Ontario invest in 144 community water infrastructure projects](#)
- [Federal infrastructure investments in Ontario](#)
- [Investing in Canada: Canada's Long-Term Infrastructure Plan:](#)
- [Ontario Builds Project Map](#)

Media Contacts

Jean-Sébastien Comeau

Press Secretary and Communications Advisor
Office of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities
343-574-8116
Jean-Sebastien.Comeau@iga-aig.gc.ca

Hayley Cooper

Director of Communications
Office of the Honourable Kinga Surma
Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure
437-233-3224
Hayley.Cooper@ontario.ca

Sofia Sousa-Dias

Communications Branch
Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure
437-991-3391
Sofia.Sousa-Dias@ontario.ca

Marc MacDonald

Corporate Communications Manager
Office of the CAO
Corporation of the City of Welland
905-735-1700 ext. 2337
Marc.MacDonald@welland.ca

Media Relations

Infrastructure Canada
613-960-9251
Toll free: 1-877-250-7154
Email: media-medias@infc.gc.ca
Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)
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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Modernizing its Emergency Response System

Investment in 9-1-1 system will help emergency operators and dispatchers save more lives

April 14, 2022

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$208 million over three years to enhance the province’s 9-1-1 emergency response system.

The funding will enable significant technology and infrastructure upgrades to support the transition to a new 9-1-1 communications system known as Next Generation 9-1-1. Once fully implemented, the new system will make it easier to provide additional details about emergency situations such as video from the scene of an accident and to text 9-1-1 when requesting immediate help from police, fire or ambulance services. It will also give emergency operators and dispatchers the ability to identify the location of a call using GPS coordinates, resulting in a safer, faster and more informed emergency response.

“Emergency operators, dispatchers and communicators are heroes of public safety, and putting modern 9-1-1 technology at their fingertips will support efforts for faster deployment of first responders and better protect the people of Ontario,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “Our significant investment will enable the transition to a state-of-the-art emergency communications system that safeguards people, families and communities.”

Municipalities operate a large portion of the 9-1-1 call centres and have long called for provincial supports to help with a smooth transition to Next Generation 9-1-1, which has been mandated by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission to take place by March 4, 2025.

Ontario is taking a leadership role in the transition, and will work hand in hand with municipalities, First Nations, and the emergency communications sector. The province’s new funding will support these partners to purchase required equipment, modernize infrastructure and technology and enhance training at call centres.

The government will continue to work with its partners to ensure a successful transition that meets local needs and will provide dedicated supports to First Nations.

Quick Facts

- There are 108 public safety answering points across the province of Ontario that receive and process emergency calls.
 - The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has directed all phone and cell service companies to update their networks from analog to digital, so they are ready to provide Next Generation 9-1-1 voice and text messaging services.
 - The public will still be able to access 9-1-1 and other emergency communications throughout the transition to Next Generation 9-1-1.
-

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](#)

Media Contacts

Hannah Jensen
Solicitor General's Office
Hannah.R.Jensen@ontario.ca

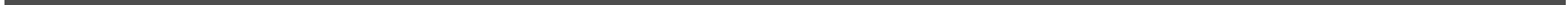
Brent Ross
Communications Branch
Brent.Ross@ontario.ca

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BACKGROUND

A Plan to Stay Open

April 14, 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 provides 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*, legislation created to 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 has amended 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 amendments 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 helps 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 has enabled a permanent wage enhancement for publicly funded 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.

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 has released a [life sciences strategy](#) that will help Ontario further accelerate the province's advantage. The strategy is broken down into two phases. Phase 1 focuses 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 will 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 prohibiting any person from selling any personal protective equipment or critical supplies supplied free of charge by the government. This will ensure that those who 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 has amended the *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Act*, specifying that the ministry's mandate includes providing advice and programming related to a safe and stable food supply. These amendments also require the ministry to report on the Ontario food supply and entail regular evaluations of the food supply system to ensure proper planning and emergency preparedness. Amendments to the *Ontario Food Terminal Act* (OFTA) will 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 requires 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, this legislation will require that the government establish a governance and accountability framework that sets out the roles and responsibilities of ministries during an emergency. The changes will require all provincial ministries identify and monitor risks and hazards and provide information to Emergency Management Ontario. Ministries will also be required to identify the resources, goods and services they need to respond to these hazards and the readiness of those resources.

This and all future governments will be required in legislation to have a provincial emergency management plan that will be reviewed and updated at least every five years. This plan will describe how Ontario will coordinate the response to any emergency that requires coordination at the provincial level. The changes will ensure that the government understand and monitor existing, new and emerging provincial hazards and risks, and provincial resource readiness to respond to an emergency that requires coordination at the provincial level.

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 has amended the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA)* to 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 will 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 has also made amendments that 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 ensures 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 support better electronic access by patients to their health records, 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 Passes Landmark Legislation to Keep Ontario Open](#)
- [Ontario Introduces a Plan to Stay Open](#)
- [Ontario Stakes its Claim to Expand Province's Innovation Ecosystem with New Life Sciences Strategy](#)
- [Ontario Mandating Robust PPE Stockpile to Support Plan to Stay Open | Ontario Newsroom](#)

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Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

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Media Contacts

Richard Mullin

Minister's Office

Richard.Mullin@ontario.ca

[437-241-9743](tel:437-241-9743)

Kyle Richardson

Communications Branch

Kyle.Richardson5@ontario.ca

[647-262-3176](tel:647-262-3176)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Bolsters Support to Get Small Businesses Online

Digital Service Squads are now available through the Digital Main Street program

April 14, 2022

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

TORONTO — The Ontario government is helping more small businesses online through the renewal of the [Digital Main Street](#) program, including [Digital Service Squads](#), which have helped thousands of businesses with one-on-one technology support. In the 2021 Fall Economic Statement, the province committed to an increased investment of \$40 million over two years to help Ontario businesses better compete at home and abroad.

“Main street small businesses are the economic foundation of communities across Ontario,” said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. “Our government is supporting them in reaching new customers and new markets through Digital Main Street. To date, we have helped more than 41,000 Ontario businesses, and expect this funding will give 36,000 more businesses the boost they need to raise their digital profile.”

Digital Service Squads are composed of recent graduates and students with strong technology and marketing backgrounds that communities can access to provide to their business members. The squads provide one-on-one technical help with digital assessments, website creation, social media advertising, and e-commerce platforms.

The Digital Main Street program offers three resources to small businesses:

- **Digital Service Squads** provide one-on-one help and technical training. Small business owners will receive targeted support to get started, grow their digital presence, and grow their business. Applications for this resource are now open
- **ShopHERE** supports the creation of online stores via e-commerce platforms
- **Digital Transformation Grants** of up to \$2,500 to fund the implementation of digital strategies for small businesses. Applications will be open in the coming months

“Ontario’s small businesses are key to the strength of our economy,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “Through Digital Main Street, we’re giving business owners and operators the tools they need to strengthen their online presence and enhance their technical skills, so they can better supply their customers, contribute to our economic stability and create jobs.”

“As we continue to build back our communities, it is more important now than ever that we continue supporting our small businesses as they adjust to a new normal and changing consumer behaviours, said John Kiru, Executive Director, TABIA & Founder, Digital Main Street. “Ensuring they have access to digital adoption support will be imperative to their continued revitalization and success. We look forward to continuing our work with our project partners and increasing our capacity to support small businesses across the province.”

“Small businesses are innovative and entrepreneurial, but often lack the resources to respond to change, be resilient, yet flexible,” said Kay Matthews, Executive Director, OBIAA. “The Digital Main Street Ontario Grants Program for Ontario’s small businesses has helped them embrace digital transformation to ensure their future sustainability. OBIAA is delighted to once again work alongside the Digital Main Street team with renewed funding from the province. The Digital Main Street program’s resources, grants, training and Digital Service Squad assistance provide the means for more small businesses to adopt innovative ways, create new revenue streams, expand their markets and face the future with optimism and confidence.”

Quick Facts

- Since the program launched, over 41,000 businesses have received support from combined federal and provincial funding.
- In the last year, Digital Main Street has supported over 20,000 businesses, of which, almost 15,000 accessed assistance through 64 Digital Service Squads.
- The [Fewer Fees, Better Services Act](#), passed on March 3, will make it simpler for businesses to access government services.

- The Government of Ontario has renewed its commitment to young entrepreneurs, aged 18 – 39, with the support of a \$1 million investment in [Futurpreneur Canada](#). Futurpreneur is a non-profit organization that helps Canadians become business owners with loan financing, mentoring and business resources.
 - Ontario is investing \$5 million over two years in a targeted program for Indigenous, Black and other racialized entrepreneurs to start or grow their business. The [Racialized and Indigenous Supports for Entrepreneurs](#) (RAISE) grant helps to remove systemic barriers by providing funding, training, and culturally relevant services to entrepreneurs. RAISE is administered through the Digital Main Street program.
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Additional Resources

- [Ontario.ca/business](#)
 - [Toronto Area Business Improvement Association](#) (TABIA)
 - [Ontario Business Improvement Area Association](#) (OBIAA)
-

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Corey Michaels
Minister Tangri's Office
Corey.Michaels@ontario.ca

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario is Making it Easier to Start a Business

New online website helps entrepreneurs launch faster

April 12, 2022

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

TORONTO — The Ontario government is making it easier to start and grow a business with the launch of the new [Ontario.ca/business](#) website. The website is one of the initiatives being implemented as part of the *Fewer Fees, Better Services Act*, which received Royal Assent on March 3, 2022, and builds on successive efforts to cut red tape and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens for businesses.

“We’re working toward making it easier for entrepreneurs and growing businesses to navigate, access, and find the information they need to open their doors for business,” said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. “With the launch of the new website, we’re taking the first step toward a holistic, start-to-finish approach to allow entrepreneurs to more effectively interact with government in meeting the requirements to get their business up and running.”

This new resource is the first step towards creating a single window for business that will reduce administrative burdens and make it easier for Ontario business owners and entrepreneurs to access the information and services they need to get up-and-running, create jobs, and grow their business.

“We heard from the business community that it can be overwhelming to find information on how to start a business in Ontario,” said Kaleed Rasheed, Associate Minister of Digital Government. “Our government listened and created Ontario.ca/Business with consolidated information to make it easier for entrepreneurs to navigate the process of starting a business, so they can pursue their dreams faster and help build a stronger Ontario.”

Over time, the website will develop into an intuitive, predictable and transparent source of information needed for new and growing businesses, with new tools added to meet the needs of entrepreneurs and business owners. This will take the confusion out of completing necessary paperwork and permits, including some that will be backed with a service guarantee.

“The launch of Ontario.ca/business signals that the province has listened to business owners and is raising the bar for customer service,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “We’re going to take the guess work out of starting a business in Ontario by using modern technology and design to remove obstacles that unnecessarily complicate the business application process.”

Quick Facts

- Access the website at [Ontario.ca/business](#)
- This initiative is one way that the Government of Ontario is acting on the [Building a Digital Ontario](#) strategy. Released last year, the strategy lays the groundwork for Ontario’s long-term digital and data transformation, including the adoption of new digital tools.
- The [Fewer Fees, Better Services Act](#), passed on March 3rd, will make it easier and quicker for Ontario entrepreneurs to start a business, and for businesses to access government services.
- Government of Ontario has renewed its commitment to young entrepreneurs, aged 18 – 39, with the support of a \$1 million investment in [Futurpreneur Canada](#). Futurpreneur is a non-profit organization helping Canadians become business owners with loan financing, mentoring and business resources.
- Ontario is investing \$5 million over two years in a targeted program for Indigenous, Black and other racialized entrepreneurs to start or grow their business. The [Racialized and Indigenous Supports for Entrepreneurs](#) (RAISE) Grant helps to remove systemic barriers by providing funding, training, and culturally relevant services to entrepreneurs. RAISE is administered through the Digital Mainstreet program.

Quotes

"Today's announcement of the Single Windows website is fantastic news for entrepreneurs across Ontario. By consolidating all of these essential resources in one place and providing easily accessible pathways to the most relevant tools for their needs, this website will save entrepreneurs time that they can then use to grow and improve their businesses. Small business owners are the backbone of Ontario's economy, especially today, as they lead our economic recovery from the pandemic. In addition to this welcomed announcement, the province's recent investment of \$1 million into Futurpreneur's Startup Program will ensure that entrepreneurs have the resources, financing and mentorship they need to launch new successful businesses, create jobs, and contribute to sustainable economic prosperity in their communities and throughout Ontario."

- Karen Greve Young
CEO, Futurpreneur

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Corey Michaels

Office of the Associate Minister of Small Business
and Red Tape Reduction

Corey.Michaels@ontario.ca

Kwok Wong

Communications Branch, Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Kwok.Wong@ontario.ca

647-504-2774

Amanda Brodhagen

Office of the Associate Minister of Digital Government

Amanda.Brodhagen1@ontario.ca

Scott Blodgett

Communications Branch, Ministry of Finance

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

Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Advances Work on New Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Rate

Report on new price plan projects significant bill savings for consumers

April 12, 2022

[Energy](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is advancing work to deliver a new optional ultra-low overnight Time-of-Use (TOU) electricity price plan, as part of its plan to provide consumers with more ways to keep costs down, save money, and take control of their energy bills. According to [a report released today by Ontario's independent energy regulator, the Ontario Energy Board \(OEB\)](#), the new rate could save customers who switch up to \$90 per year. At the same time the new rate will support electric vehicle (EV) adoption and the province's growing EV manufacturing industry by decreasing overnight charging costs when province-wide electricity demand is lower.

"Our government has put families back in control of their energy bills and we will continue this work by delivering a third electricity price plan for customers across Ontario" said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. "Introducing the ultra-low overnight electricity rate will help our efforts to make life more affordable for Ontario families by keeping costs down and saving them up to \$90 per year while reducing EV charging costs and supporting the historic investments in our province's rapidly expanding EV manufacturing sector."

This report released today is the result of a request from Minister Smith, who asked the OEB to provide him with options to implement the new ultra-low overnight price plan. The OEB has proposed a new electricity pricing structure that would be presented as a third option to electricity customers, in addition to the existing TOU and Tiered plans.

If the proposed price plan was in place today, the OEB estimated that it could offer a new ultra-low overnight rate of approximately 2.5 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which is 70 per cent lower than the current off-peak rate, in exchange for a higher on-peak rate. This would help consumers who use more electricity at night, such as EV users, find savings of up to five per cent on their bills, equivalent to savings of up to \$90 per year.

"This initiative will help support the uptake of EVs in Ontario, by making it more affordable for drivers to charge up," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "As we build Ontario's transportation network for the future, we continue to invest in low-carbon travel options that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and get people to where they need to go."

Delivery of a new ultra-low overnight rate is possible as Ontario continues to have excess electricity during overnight hours. Shifting electricity use to these hours would make better use of Ontario's clean electricity supply when province-wide demand is lower, supporting decarbonization efforts and resulting in potential capacity cost savings for the electricity system of up to \$5.7 million per year. Together this would increase grid efficiency and generate value for all Ontario ratepayers.

"Customers expect to be able to choose the electricity price plan that best fits their lifestyle, allows them to manage costs and incents their adoption of new energy technologies," said Susanna Zagar, CEO of the OEB. "We are pleased that the insights we have gained through our analysis might enable more choice and empower Ontarians."

The government will consider the OEB's report along with stakeholder feedback received through the recent [proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) and the OEB's consultation held earlier this year, with the intent of making the new price plan available to customers by April 2023.

"New ultra-low overnight rates are further proof that our government is working to rebuild Ontario's economy all while keeping costs down for families," said David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "These changes will enable further EV adoption and provide relief for consumers and small businesses while utilizing the full capacity of Ontario's clean energy grid, protecting the environment now and for future generations."

Quick Facts

- The OEB has proposed a new optional ultra-low overnight TOU electricity price plan that would provide:
 - Ultra-low overnight rates: everyday 11 p.m.-7 a.m.
 - Mid-peak rates: weekdays 7 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
 - On-peak rates: weekdays 4 p.m.-9 p.m.
 - Weekend off-peak rates: weekends and statutory holidays 7 a.m.-11 p.m.
- Under the new price plan, the on-peak rate would be equal to approximately 10 times the ultra-low overnight rate, with the mid-peak rate approximately equal to the standard TOU mid-peak price, and the weekend off-peak price roughly equal to the standard TOU off-peak price.
- The ultra-low overnight rate would be calculated as part of the OEB's existing role in setting RPP rates, which is typically done every November 1.
- The development of a new optional ultra-low overnight electricity price plan supports objectives in the government's [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) and [Driving Prosperity automotive sector strategy](#).
- As of November 1, 2020, most families, small businesses, and farms have a choice between electricity rate plans: a Time-of-Use or Tiered rate plan.

Quotes

"CVMA welcomes the new ultra-low overnight rate that will reduce energy costs for Ontarians and support electric vehicle adoption by reducing charging costs when electricity demand is lower."

- Brian Kingston
President and CEO, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association

"We strongly support the Province's plan to implement an ultra low electricity price overnight. This rate structure will not only make electric vehicles even more affordable to own and operate, but will also make better use of Ontario's surplus of electricity at night, benefiting the electricity system as a whole."

- Cara Clairman
President and CEO, Plug'n Drive

"The new ultra-low overnight rate could help residential consumers that use more electricity at night save money, while supporting electric vehicle (EV) adoption, by reducing overnight EV charging costs when province-wide electricity demand is lower. An ultra-low overnight rate could also further support decarbonization and help achieve Ontario's climate goals. It's a win-win situation."

- Sandro Perruzza
CEO, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

"I am extremely pleased that Alectra's pilot has helped create an opportunity for another electricity rate plan option for Ontarians. This new rate will attract and reward electric vehicle users, incent consumption behaviours that help us better manage the electricity grid, and provide our customers with the choice that they value."

- Brian Bentz
President and CEO, Alectra Inc.

"Ontario's new ultra-low overnight Time-of-Use electricity price plan recognizes that electrification is key to the province's economic growth. This plan empowers customers with more choice and control over their energy usage, particularly for those looking at electric vehicle (EV) adoption, by reducing the cost to charge overnight. The EDA's research shows that the number of Ontarians who believe it is likely that someone in their household will buy an electric or plug-in vehicle in the next five years is 30 per cent – with a further 27 per cent seeing it as likely in the next five to 10 years. Ontario's local hydro utilities are ready and willing to assist, operate, and own charging infrastructure services to plug in the growing demand for electrified transportation."

- Teresa Sarkesian
President and CEO, Electricity Distributors Association

"ChargePoint is pleased to see Ontario's new ultra-low overnight Time-of-Use electricity price plan. This is an important step in making it easier for small businesses and consumers in Ontario to go electric. The new ultra-low overnight Time-of-Use electricity price plan will allow electric vehicle drivers to save on fueling costs when they charge overnight - for electric vehicle drivers, this can be as simple as plugging in when they get home and programming their charger to do the rest. The new rates can also help utilities manage demand on the grid, when electric vehicle drivers choose to charge overnight when there is more available capacity, including from renewables. This is a win-win for Ontario's electricity system, consumers, and small businesses."

- Suzanne Goldberg
Director, Public Policy – Canada, ChargePoint Canada Inc.

Additional Resources

[Electricity Price Plans](#)

Learn about the different types of electricity price plans you can choose from.

[Find programs to reduce your electricity bill](#)

Learn about programs and credits to reduce your electricity bill.

[Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan](#)

Learn about Ontario's plan to address climate change and protect our air, land and water.

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

Information about road conditions, driver's licences, vehicle registration and commercial vehicles. [Learn more](#)

Environment and Energy

Learn more about how Ontario protects and restores wildlife and the environment. Includes information on conservation and the electricity system. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Palmer Lockridge

Minister's Office

palmer.lockridge@ontario.ca

Natasha Demetriades

Communications Branch

natasha.demetriades@ontario.ca

[416-327-3855](tel:416-327-3855)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Working for Workers by Launching First-Ever Review of Occupational Illnesses

Final report will drive improvements to ensure the system supports injured workers

April 12, 2022

[Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is working for workers by launching the first-ever review of the province's occupational illness system. Conducted by the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, an independent research centre with expertise in studying complex community health issues, the review will evaluate how occupational illnesses in Ontario are identified, monitored, and prevented. The review will deliver lasting change for injured workers and their families.

"Our government has a workers-first plan to build stronger families, stronger communities and a future where no one is left behind," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. "Ontario has one of the strongest health and safety records in the country, but we need to make sure our system works for everyone. I have tasked this team of independent experts to find a clear path forward that improves supports for injured workers and their families. Change is coming to the system, and we are going to get it done."

In February, Minister McNaughton formally recognized Parkinson's Disease as an occupational disease linked to work-related McIntyre Powder exposure leading to faster injury compensation claims for workers and their families.

"As science advances and our understanding of occupational disease evolves, we need to make sure our systems of support keep up," says Jeffery Lang, President and CEO of the WSIB. "It is crystal clear we need everyone involved in the occupational disease system to work together to prevent illnesses in the first place, and properly identify them when they do happen."

The system-wide study, expected in December of this year, will focus on finding and fixing roadblocks and complexities that were identified by Dr. Paul Demers in the 2020 [independent review of occupational disease](#). This could lead to more timely compensation and better recognize work related illnesses. The research team will consult with health and safety system partners including labour groups and workers' rights advocates, employers, health care professionals and the health and safety community.

Today's announcement builds on the government's ambitious plan to support, protect and attract workers by making the province the best place to live, work and raise a family. This includes introducing new legislation that [increases the maximum fines for businesses that fail to protect their workers](#) and releasing Ontario's five-year [Prevention Works](#) strategy. The strategy aims to help workplaces comply with and exceed workplace health and safety laws and standards to keep workers safe, focusing on occupational illnesses, employee mental health, workplace violence, and harassment.

Quick Facts

- The Ontario government and the WSIB are partnering to launch the first-ever review of the province's occupational illness system.
- An occupational illness is a condition that results from exposure to a physical, chemical, or biological agent in the workplace to the extent that the normal physiological mechanisms are affected and the health of the worker is impaired.
- According to the [Association of Worker's Compensation Boards of Canada](#), Ontario's occupational health and safety record is among the best in Canada, with the province achieving the lowest rate of work time lost to injury among any province or territory since 2009.
- The WSIB is an independent agency that provides loss of earnings and other benefits to workers and their survivors, health care, and assists in early, safe return to work for workers injured on the job or made ill by an occupational disease.

- In support of Dr. Demers' report, [Using Scientific Evidence and Principles to Help Determine the Work-Relatedness of Cancer](#), the WSIB recently established a new [scientific advisory table for occupational disease](#) to guide their decision making.
 - [Ontario recently invested more than \\$6 million to support research led by the Occupational Cancer Research Centre \(OCRC\)](#) to identify the causes of workplace cancers, prevent them from occurring, and better support workers already impacted by occupational illness.
-

Additional Resources

- [Prevention Works – Ontario's 2021-2025 Occupational Health and Safety Strategy](#).
 - [Supporting Ontario's Safe Employers](#)
 - [WSIB Scientific Advisory Table for Occupational Disease](#)
-

Media Contacts

Harry Godfrey

Minister's Office

harry.godfrey@ontario.ca

Ciara Nardelli

Communications Branch

mltsdmedialine@ontario.ca

[416-326-7405](tel:416-326-7405)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Increasing Supports to Improve Community Safety

Landmark investment helping police address issues such as local gang violence

April 11, 2022

[Solicitor General](#)

MISSISSAUGA — The Ontario government is investing more than \$267 million over three years to provide police services across the province with significant new resources to safeguard their local communities.

Ninety police service boards are receiving funding through the [Community Safety and Policing Grant Program](#) for [147 public safety initiatives](#) focusing on local and provincial priorities such as gun and gang violence, sexual violence and harassment, human trafficking, mental health and addictions and hate-motivated crime. Many projects will be undertaken in collaboration with community partners.

“Community safety is a top priority, and our government has been strengthening our justice system to protect communities and hold offenders accountable,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “This investment is another way we are helping police services address local challenges and improve the well-being of the people they serve. Whether to combat the opioid crisis, share intelligence, or prevent violent crime, this funding will make a difference in all corners of Ontario.”

The \$267 million investment in the Community Safety and Policing Grant Program includes:

- Approximately \$225 million through the local priorities stream to help police services address priority issues such as enhanced police intelligence sharing, expanding mental health supports, preventing crime in schools, combatting bullying, sexual violence, human trafficking, cyber-crime, enhancing road safety and acquiring new technology.
- \$43 million to address provincewide priorities such as training for police officers so they are better equipped to handle sexual violence and harassment investigations, identify signs of human trafficking and interact with victims of human trafficking; crime prevention initiatives for at-risk youth and other vulnerable groups and equipment purchases that support policing operations and activities such as enhanced software/technology.

Peel Regional Police Service is receiving grant funding for Project Care and the expansion of the service’s Intimate Partner Violence Unit; Project Aegis and the creation of an analytics bureau to gather centralized data and ensure policing programs are achieving their desired outcomes; and the Traffic Enforcement Unit and Community Street Crime Unit within the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police.

Peel Regional Police Service will also receive \$1.5 million over three years to support the fight against local gang violence. Through the [Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy](#), with support from the federal government, Ontario has invested \$188.5 million to combat gun and gang violence since 2018.

“I want to thank the Government of Ontario and more precisely the Solicitor General for this significant community safety funding that will support the operationalization of Project Aegis and Project Care,” said Nishan Duraipappah, Chief of Peel Regional Police. “These projects will enhance our Community Safety and Well-Being strategy aimed at addressing the growing needs in our community including intimate partner violence supports and providing appropriate and alternative response to better serve priority populations.”

Quick Facts

- This investment will be allocated over a three-year period: 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 to recipients and projects listed [here](#).
- The maximum funding for any one initiative under the Provincial Priorities Funding Stream is \$1.5 million over three years.

- Under the Local Priorities Funding Stream, each eligible police services board had a pre-determined allocation that they could apply for.
 - Police services will be required to report twice a year on the financial activities and outcomes of their initiatives.
-

Additional Resources

- [Ontario's community safety grant programs and initiatives that help address local crime and complex social issues to protect the well-being of communities.](#)
-

Media Contacts

Hannah Jensen

Solicitor General's Office

Hannah.R.Jensen@ontario.ca

Brent Ross

Communications Branch

Brent.Ross@ontario.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expanding Degree Options at Publicly Assisted Colleges

New three-year and more four-year programs will ensure that colleges are able to offer programs to fill province's labour needs

April 11, 2022

[Colleges and Universities](#)

KITCHENER — Beginning today, Ontario's public colleges will be able to develop new three-year degree programs and additional four-year degree programs in key sectors to address gaps in the province's labour needs. These new programs will help build the pipeline of job-ready graduates needed to support the growth of the province's auto sector, bolstered by recent investments in electric vehicles and batteries, as well as help build roads, highways, hospitals and long-term care homes, among other critical infrastructure projects. This expansion will also enable increased access to education for students in smaller communities and rural areas, allowing learners to graduate sooner and enter the workforce more quickly in these critical fields.

"Ontario colleges play a key role in providing students with career-focused education and in addressing the labour needs of key sectors driving the province's economy," said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. "Expanding college degrees aligns with our government's priority of investing in critical infrastructure and positioning Ontario as a North American leader in the auto sector while helping learners gain the skills necessary to support this sector of the economy. This expansion will also provide students more opportunities to access high-quality education and ensure they graduate with the skills, expertise and credentials that meet the demands of today's job market."

Three-year applied degrees will provide an opportunity for colleges to develop programs to address workforce shortages, such as highly skilled technology workers in the health care, digital, data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and process automation sectors. To support the growth and transformation of Ontario's auto sector, the government will also be looking for programs that help to prepare the talent needed to build electric, autonomous and connected vehicles, as well as programs to support the development of workers who will help build the province's infrastructure, roads and transit.

"Ontario is facing a historic labour shortage, and we need all hands-on deck to tackle it," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. "That is why our government is taking action to ensure young people are graduating with the skills they need to earn bigger paycheques that are waiting for them. This is how we build back a stronger province and bring good jobs to every corner of Ontario."

Colleges will be allowed to develop new three-year degree programs that are in an applied area of study, career-oriented, distinct from university degrees and are reviewed by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) and approved by the minister. The cap on degree programs that colleges can offer will be raised by five per cent for all publicly assisted colleges. This means degree cap limits will become 20 per cent for Institutes of Technology and Advanced Learning (ITALs) and 10 per cent for all other colleges.

Quick Facts

- Ontario first signaled its intention to explore more options for advanced learning, including expanding degree programs offered by colleges, in the [Supporting People and Business Act, 2021](#), which was introduced in October 2021.
- The [Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory Committee](#) identified a shortage of trained workers in a number of fields, including health care, digital, data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and process automation sectors.
- The [Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000](#) allows colleges to offer bachelor's degrees in applied areas of study with review from PEQAB and approval from the minister.
- Previously, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology could offer up to five per cent of their program activity as four-year applied degrees while ITALs – Conestoga, George Brown, Humber, Seneca and Sheridan – could offer up to 15 per cent.

- It is anticipated the new three-year and more four-year college degree programs in applied areas of study will be available to students by fall 2023.
- In the 2020-21 reporting year (2019-20 graduation year), about 77 per cent of Ontario college graduates were employed within six months of graduating, and 90.6 per cent of employers were satisfied or very satisfied with the graduates they hired.

Quotes

"This is a tremendous announcement and a truly historic day for postsecondary education in Ontario. Expanding the degree programs at colleges will open the door to more career opportunities for graduates and produce a more highly qualified workforce. This is a major policy improvement that will ensure Ontario remains an economic powerhouse."

- Linda Franklin
President and CEO, Colleges Ontario

"The expansion of degree programming at Ontario's public colleges will play an important role in addressing critical workforce needs and contributing to the prosperity and well-being of our communities. We are delighted to work with our government and industry partners to provide more career-focused learning opportunities for students and build a stronger Ontario."

- John Tibbits
President, Conestoga College

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Colleges](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

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

Media Contacts

Liz Tuomi

Minister's Office

Liz.Tuomi@ontario.ca

James Tinajero

Communications Branch

[416-325-2746](tel:416-325-2746)

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

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

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Makes Strategic Investments to Strengthen Province's Medical Technology Ecosystem

Ontario Together Fund continues to invest in local manufacturing to secure critical supplies and support Ontario's life sciences sector

April 11, 2022

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

TORONTO — The Ontario government is supporting investments of more than \$10 million by two Ontario companies with \$5 million through the Ontario Together Fund. These projects will help to grow local manufacturing capacity, accelerate the commercialization of domestic life sciences innovations, and strengthen the province's pandemic preparedness while creating 22 new, local jobs.

"The Ontario Together Fund is helping Ontario businesses to fully develop their ideas and innovate in our diverse life sciences sector," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Our government is proud to partner with companies like Conavi Medical and ventureLAB as they help make Ontario the home for next-generation medical technologies."

[Conavi Medical](#) is a Toronto-based medical device company that develops, manufactures, and sells innovative imaging guidance technologies to guide common minimally invasive heart procedures. Its flagship product, the Novasight Hybrid System, is the first and only clinical device available on the market to combine ultrasound and optical imaging to help physicians visualize disease and deploy stents to open the arteries and restore blood flow to the heart. The company was founded in 2007 by a team of physicians and scientists, based on research conducted at Sunnybrook Research Institute.

The company is investing \$6.7 million to make substantial enhancements to its existing facility and implement state-of-the-art IT systems. With these enhancements, Conavi Medical will scale up their manufacturing by at least tenfold to meet current sales commitments and forecasted future demand. With a \$2.5 million grant from the Ontario government, this project is expected to create 16 new jobs.

"Heart disease is a leading cause of death globally. The Novasight Hybrid System is designed to help interventional cardiologists deliver more personalized and precise treatments for patients undergoing angioplasty and stenting. Conavi Medical aims to positively impact the care of patients both locally in Ontario and worldwide," said Thomas L. Looby, Chief Executive Officer, Conavi Medical Inc. "We are tremendously grateful for the support from the Province of Ontario as we continue to pursue this bold vision."

"Conavi Medical Inc. is a homegrown success story that showcases the strengths of Ontario's life sciences ecosystem," said Trevor Dauphinee, CEO, Invest Ontario. "Invest Ontario is pleased we were able to facilitate Conavi's access to the Ontario Together Fund as they scale-up production of their innovative imaging platform. We partner with industry and government to meet the needs of strategic investors by leveraging the advantages of Ontario's skilled workforce, innovation networks and cost-effective business climate."

[ventureLAB](#), located in York Region, is a not-for-profit leading global founder community for hardware technology and enterprise software companies in Canada, enabling technology startups to accelerate the commercialization of transformational products on a global scale. The organization offers a combination of business, investment, and technical expertise, connections to a global network of industry partners, and access to their 50,000 square foot innovation space and world-class lab to drive innovations from prototype to product.

ventureLAB is investing \$3.3 million to expand its Hardware Catalyst Initiative (HCI) – Canada's only hardware and semiconductor-focused lab and incubator. With a grant of \$2.5 million through the Ontario Together Fund, the company will create a medical technologies stream of the HCI. ventureLAB will invite innovative MedTech companies to use the services of the HCI to accelerate the commercialization of their products in Ontario. This project is expected to create six jobs.

"The Ontario government's investment into ventureLAB's Hardware Catalyst Initiative to create a MedTech-specific stream signifies the growing importance of hardware and semiconductors in the future of healthcare and life sciences, critical sectors for our economic recovery and growth by creating a new generation of IP-rich tech companies," said Melissa Chee, President and CEO, ventureLAB. "The Ontario Together Fund ensures we are able to work with leading Ontario MedTech companies to commercialize, grow and scale their businesses here in Ontario."

"ventureLAB is one of the biggest and most diverse tech communities, not only in Markham but across Canada," said Logan Kanapathi, MPP for Markham-Thornhill. "I have witnessed the incredible work they do on site in their Markham-Thornhill facility, from revolutionizing patient-care with new intelligent innovations to the development of new Markham-made healthcare hardware. ventureLAB will continue to pave the way for better healthcare across Ontario, Canada and the world with this \$5 million investment from the Province of Ontario to best strengthen our province's pandemic supply chain."

These investments in Conavi Medical and ventureLAB align with the province's recently announced [Life Sciences Strategy](#), a plan to make Ontario a global hub for biomanufacturing and life sciences and improve our preparedness for future challenges. It will create high-paying jobs, strengthen our health care system – and make it clear that Ontario is a world-leading partner in developing the medicines, vaccines and health technologies of the future.

Supporting innovative projects like these is why Ontario has invested an additional \$50 million in the renewed [Ontario Together Fund](#) in 2021–22. The fund continues to support local innovators and businesses to further enhance Ontario's domestic supply chain capacity, promote Ontario's MedTech ecosystem and build up our manufacturing sector to ensure the province is well-prepared for future challenges.

Quick Facts

- As of March 31, 2022, Ontario has announced a total commitment of more than \$55 million through the OTF to support 45 companies and 10 organizations in supplying emergency products including PPE as well as other solutions.
- [Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#) brings total investments to \$16.3 billion to protect people's health and \$23.3 billion to protect our economy.
- The government recently revealed [Taking Life Sciences to the Next Level](#), the province's plan to grow Ontario's life sciences sector and secure new investments in next-generation health technologies, medicines and vaccine manufacturing. The strategy sets out ambitious goals over the next decade, including growing Ontario's biomanufacturing and life sciences sector to employ 85,000 Ontarians in high-value jobs by 2030, a 25% increase from 2020.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Together Fund program guidelines](#)
- [2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario](#)
- [See how your organization can help fight COVID-19](#)

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Rebecca Bozzato

Minister Fedeli's Office

rebecca.bozzato@ontario.ca

Kwok Wong

Communications Branch

kwok.wong@ontario.ca

[647-504-2774](tel:647-504-2774)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expanding Access to COVID-19 Antivirals

Province also increasing public access to PCR testing to more high-risk individuals

April 11, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — As part of its plan to stay open and manage COVID-19 for the long-term, the Ontario government is expanding eligibility for COVID-19 antiviral treatments and PCR testing to more high-risk individuals. Doing so will offer increased protection to the most vulnerable and ensure hospital capacity remains stable.

“I am pleased that we will be able to offer more accessible antiviral treatment options to more people across Ontario,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health. “I ask everyone across Ontario to continue doing their part to keep their communities and loved ones safe by staying up to date on vaccinations and wearing masks.”

Effective immediately, the following higher-risk groups are eligible to be tested and assessed for antiviral treatments, such as Paxlovid, in Ontario:

- Individuals aged 18 and over who are immunocompromised (have an immune system that is weakened by a health condition or medications);
- Individuals aged 70 and over;
- Individuals aged 60 and over with fewer than three vaccine doses; and
- Individuals aged 18 and over with fewer than three vaccine doses and at least one [risk condition](#) (e.g., a chronic medical condition)

Anyone who is eligible for an assessment is now also eligible for a PCR test at any [testing centre](#) in Ontario.

Beginning April 12, Ontario is making it easier for eligible individuals with a prescription to access antivirals by expanding dispensing locations to include participating pharmacies across the province. A list of pharmacies that are dispensing Paxlovid will be available at [Ontario.ca/antivirals](#) as of Wednesday, April 13 at 8:00 a.m. The list will be regularly updated as the list of participating pharmacies expands.

Treatment for antivirals must be started within five days of symptoms in most cases. Individuals who are part of higher risk groups and who have COVID-19 symptoms should immediately seek testing and care, by contacting their health care provider or visiting a clinical assessment centre. Individuals can contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 for more information about where to find a clinical assessment centre or to determine if they are at higher risk.

Individuals can access [Ontario’s antiviral screener tool](#) to help determine if they are at higher risk and should be assessed for treatment. A positive rapid antigen test, PCR or rapid molecular test is required as part of the assessment for antiviral treatment. Rapid antigen tests remain available for pick up at no charge from over 3,000 [retail locations](#) in the province. Clinical assessment centres continue to be available to assess and test patients as well as to prescribe and dispense antivirals.

The province is also working with health system partners and health care providers to also prioritize groups that may be at increased risk due to other health-related factors and barriers to health care including First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals, Black individuals and members of other racialized communities. Health care providers may also determine if antiviral treatment is appropriate for patients based on individual circumstances even if they do not belong to one of the groups listed.

“Thanks to the millions of Ontarians who were vaccinated, we have been able to cautiously and safely reopen our province,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By expanding access to antivirals and PCR testing, in addition to recently expanding eligibility for fourth doses, we are using every tool available to us to ensure Ontarians have the best protection available while we adapt to managing and living with COVID-19.”

Ontario is able to expand access to antiviral treatments as a regular supply of Paxlovid is expected throughout the rest of the year. With this stable supply, Ontario is making it easier for people to be assessed in person or virtually by a prescriber, and prescriptions can be filled conveniently at participating community pharmacies.

Quick Facts

- The oral antiviral Paxlovid, manufactured by Pfizer, was approved by Health Canada on January 17, 2022.
 - Treatment with Paxlovid must begin within five days of symptom onset.
 - A health care provider needs to determine whether antiviral treatment is right for an individual, including for individuals who do not belong to one of the eligible groups, based on individual circumstances.
 - To get assessed, individuals can visit a [clinical assessment centre](#) or contact their primary care provider.
 - 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.
 - Data suggests that Moderna may provide a stronger protection for older adults eligible for fourth doses, speak with a health care provider or immunizer if you have any questions about COVID-19 vaccine products.
 - Ontarians can access free rapid testing kits for at-home use. A list of participating retailers and more information on rapid tests for the general public can be found at [Ontario.ca/rapidtest](#).
 - PCR testing is available for [eligible individuals](#) at over 200 assessment centres and community labs, and at over 790 participating pharmacies. Visit [Ontario.ca/covidtestinglocations](#) to find a testing location.
 - If you test positive on a PCR, rapid molecular or a rapid antigen test, you must isolate, except to seek testing and care. Visit [Ontario.ca/exposed](#) to learn more about isolation directions.
-

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 antiviral treatment](#)
 - [Ontario Expanding Fourth-Dose Eligibility](#)
 - 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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Media Contacts

Chelsea Tucker

Minister Elliott's Office

chelsea.tucker@ontario.ca

Anna Miller

Communications Division

media.moh@ontario.ca

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

BULLETIN

Ontario Taking Additional Action to Protect Flocks

April 08, 2022

[Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is taking additional steps to limit the spread of avian influenza among birds in the province. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, on the advice of the Chief Veterinarian for Ontario, has issued a Minister's Order under the *Animal Health Act, 2009*, with the purpose of limiting the commingling of birds from different locations in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Effective 12:01 a.m. April 9, 2022, the movement to and participation of birds in events where they commingle, such as shows, sales, swaps, fairs, sport and educational displays is prohibited. Temporarily reducing direct contact between birds from different locations will limit the spread of avian influenza and protect animal health, and is an important part of a strong biosecurity plan. This is in addition to Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requirements in primary control zones. This Order will expire on May 9, 2022, but may be extended if required.

This builds on the government's actions to limit the spread of high path avian influenza to date, including increasing surveillance and testing capacity and hosting webinars and providing education and resources for all those along the poultry supply chain. As well, the province has expanded mental health supports for poultry farmers and their families as they continue to manage this difficult situation.

Avian influenza is not a threat to food safety but impacts domesticated and wild birds, including chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, and guinea fowl. Ontario poultry and eggs are safe to eat when, as always, proper handling and cooking takes place. People working with poultry should take additional precautions and are strongly encouraged to follow all public health guidelines and maintain strict biosecurity.

Avian influenza subtype H5N1 has been identified in Ontario, and eight other provinces, including Nova Scotia, and Alberta, as well as 24 US states. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is leading the disease response to this outbreak of avian influenza.

To learn more about the Minister's Order and Chief Veterinarian for Ontario requirements, visit <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/min-order/index.html>.

Related Topics

Rural and North

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

Media Contacts

Jack Sullivan

Minister's Office

jack.sullivan@ontario.ca

Belinda Sutton

Communications Branch

omafra.media@ontario.ca

[\(519\) 400-6394](tel:(519)400-6394)

BACKGROUND

Bear Encounters — Who Do I Call?

April 08, 2022

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

Bears may wander into urban areas in search of food, but not every bear sighting is an emergency. Know who to call if you encounter a bear:

Non-Emergency Encounters

Call the toll-free Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327 (TTY 705-945-7641) if a bear is:

- Moving through a backyard or field but is not lingering
- Roaming around the neighbourhood
- Checking garbage cans
- Breaking into a shed where garbage or food is stored
- Knocking over a barbecue
- Pulling down a bird feeder
- In a tree

This line operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week, from April 1 to November 30. Staff can provide advice about bear behaviour, how to avoid human-bear encounters, and how to manage attractants on your property.

Emergency Situations

Call 911 or your local police force if a bear poses an immediate threat to personal safety. Some threatening or aggressive behaviours include:

- Entering a schoolyard when school is in session
- Stalking people and lingering on-site
- Entering or trying to enter a residence
- Wandering into a public gathering
- Killing livestock/pets and lingering on site.

Police are first responders for any emergency. If requested by police, the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry may respond to emergencies to assist during daylight hours.

Visit ontario.ca/bearwise for tips on how to prevent human-bear encounters and avoid attracting bears.

Additional Resources

- [Be Bear Wise to Prevent Bear Encounters](#)
-

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](#)

BULLETIN

Government is Protecting Ontario's Public Lands

April 08, 2022

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

The Ontario government is safeguarding Crown land by holding individuals accountable when they leave their personal property on public lands.

Ralph Miller of Timmins was found guilty during a trial in absentia for leaving his camper trailer and other personal belongings on Crown land at the Pharand Lake boat launch in Pharand Township just west of Timmins. This was Miller's second offence and he was fined \$7,000.

The court heard that on January 10, 2018, a conservation officer came across a camper trailer left at the Pharand Lake boat launch over the winter. In May of 2018, conservation officers gave Miller a ticket and instructed him to move his camper as it had been in the same location for more than 21 days. Miller did not pay his ticket, nor did he move his camper.

A conservation officer later discovered that Miller left his camper on Crown land again in the same location over the 2019 winter. Miller was subsequently charged and failed to attend several scheduled court dates. The trailer was eventually removed from the site.

Justice of the Peace Jean-Marie Blier heard the case remotely in the Ontario Court of Justice, Timmins, on March 24, 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

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Media Contacts

Conservation Officer
Dave Lalonde
dave.lalonde@ontario.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Giving Long-term Care Residents More Nutritional Choices and Variety

Increased funding will help long-term care homes provide menus that better meet the needs of residents

April 08, 2022

[Long-Term Care](#)

TORONTO —The Ontario government is investing over \$40 million in additional nutritional support funding for long-term care homes so residents can receive more individualized food choices, more fresh produce and local foods in season, and additional menu flexibility.

“Our government has a plan to fix long-term care and to ensure Ontario’s seniors get the quality of care they need and deserve,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care. “This major funding increase for food and nutrition will go a long way to supporting the comfort and quality of life of residents.”

In addition to providing a 15 per cent funding increase for nutritional support to homes, the government is adopting new regulations under the [Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021](#) that will further increase quality of life and care for residents. Once they come into effect on July 11, 2022, long-term care homes will be required to deliver:

- Menu planning flexibility that better reflects the needs of the residents such as speciality diets and menu substitutions that have consistent nutritional value;
- Menus that are approved by a registered dietitian in addition to residents’ preferences;
- Menus that provide a variety of foods every day, including fresh produce and local foods in season;
- More flexibility for each home to increase menu choices for residents and reduce food waste; and
- Meals and snacks at times that are chosen with support from the home’s Residents’ Council and its administrator.

The government has a plan to fix long-term care and to ensure Ontario’s seniors get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve both now and in the future. The plan is built on three pillars: staffing and care; accountability, enforcement, and transparency; and building modern, safe, comfortable homes for seniors.

Quick Facts

- The planned 15 per cent increase in nutritional support accounts for the estimated 8.3 per cent increase in food costs since 2019, as well as ‘hidden’ food inflation not captured in the official data, to enable LTC homes to better provide residents with safe and appropriate food and nutrition services that are in alignment with their plans of care, and contribute to better health and quality of life outcomes
 - The Ontario government will also [provide \\$673 million to long-term care homes in 2022-23 to hire and retain up to 10,000 long-term care staff across the province](#), leading to more direct care for residents. This is part of the province’s \$4.9 billion commitment to hire more than 27,000 long-term care staff over four years and ensure that residents receive on average four hours of direct care per day by 2024-25.
 - The province has also [committed \\$72.3 million over three years to increase long-term care enforcement capacity](#) and ensure every resident experiences the safest and best quality of life, and to hold homes to account for the care they provide. This includes a \$20 million investment in 2021-2022 to double the number of inspectors by fall 2022 and the launch in fall 2021 of a new and improved annual proactive inspections program in long-term care homes.
-

Additional Resources

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

[2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario](#)

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Media Contacts

Vanessa De Matteis

Office of the Minister of Long-Term Care

Vanessa.DeMatteis@ontario.ca

Ministry of Long-Term Care Media Line

Communications Branch

mltc.media@ontario.ca

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STATEMENT

More Jobs Created in Ontario for Second Consecutive Month

Ontario continues to lead the nation in job creation amidst unprecedented run of landmark investments in key sectors

April 08, 2022

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

TORONTO — Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued this statement following today's monthly employment release by Statistics Canada:

"Employment in Ontario increased by over 35,100 in March, bringing the total number of new jobs created since we took office in 2018 to over 500,000. Today's job numbers prove that Ontario's plan for economic growth and prosperity is working. By reducing the cost of doing business in the province by \$7 billion a year, we have created the conditions possible for continued job growth as we move out of this pandemic. Building on this momentum, we will continue to create the right conditions to grow more jobs in the province and attract game-changing investments to secure Ontario's long-term economic stability.

Over the past 18 months, Ontario's auto sector has seen more than \$12 billion in investments for new vehicle production mandates and battery manufacturing. More than \$5 billion of these investments are in transformative hybrid and electric vehicle production at Ontario assembly plants. These include significant and historic investments by [Honda of Canada](#), [Stellantis and LG Energy Solution](#), and [General Motors of Canada](#) that will generate and secure thousands of jobs.

These investments will accelerate Ontario's 10-year vision in the strategy [Driving Prosperity — The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector](#). Phase 2 of Driving Prosperity is an important part of the government's plan to transform the province's automotive supply chain to build the cars of the future. This includes the production of hybrid and fully battery electric vehicles (EVs), EV battery and component production, and increasing exports of Ontario-made auto parts and innovations.

We're also further expanding the province's innovation ecosystem with a new [Life Sciences Strategy](#). Just last week we welcomed a new \$580 million investment by [OmniaBio](#) to build a state-of-the-art cell and gene therapy manufacturing facility at McMaster Innovation Park in Hamilton – a first for Ontario and the biggest in Canada.

The life sciences strategy, [Taking Life Sciences to the Next Level](#), is the province's plan to grow our life sciences sector and secure new investments in next-generation health technologies, medicines and vaccine manufacturing. It sets out ambitious goals over the next decade. One major objective is to grow Ontario's biomanufacturing and life sciences sector to employ 85,000 Ontarians in high-value jobs by 2030, a 25 per cent increase from 2020.

Building up Ontario's auto industry for the future of EV and EV battery production, building a strong and resilient life sciences sector, and attracting billion-dollar investments by manufacturers shows that our province continues to be Open for Business.

Each of these exciting milestones in our auto, life sciences and technology sectors mean the creation of new well-paying local jobs and the building up of our economy for future success."

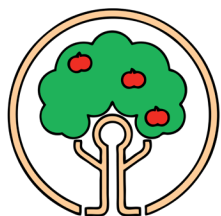
Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

Jobs and Employment

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



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

COVID-19 Case Summary

April 13, 2022

Total Confirmed Cases in Renfrew County and District (RCD): 4043		Current Status of Cases in RCD	
Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days: 164		Self-Isolation: 151	
Incidence Rate^a in the Last 7 Days: 151.0 per 100,000 individuals		Hospitalized: 12	
		Hospitalized in Intensive Care Unit: 3	
		Resolved: 3840	
		Deceased: 37	
Outbreak Setting	Cumulative Number of Outbreaks	Active Number of Outbreaks	
Hospital	8	1	
Long-term care home	19	0	
Retirement home	16	1	
Congregate living facility	15	1	
Other ^c	38	0	
Total	96	3	
Total Number of tests completed for RCD residents: 143,826		Percent Positivity^b of tests completed for RCD residents (March 30, 2022-April 05, 2022) 9.7%	

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

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

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

For more information on COVID-19 variants of concern in Ontario, please visit:

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

COVID-19 on the rise again in Eastern Ontario: What you can do

This is a joint message from Champlain region's hospital Chiefs of Staff and Medical Officers of Health

OTTAWA – April 7, 2022 – The level of COVID-19 in the Champlain region is on the rise. The COVID-19 wastewater viral signal is increasing in the region and is at record levels in Ottawa. In addition, test per cent positivity across the region is high and increasing, according to regional public health units.

In response, every hospital Chief of Staff and every public health unit Medical Officer of Health in the Champlain region are coming together to highly recommend the following four things that you can do right now to protect yourself, your family, and your community, with the goal of reducing severe illness and hospitalization:

1. Get vaccinated with all the doses you are eligible for.
2. Limit your close contacts.
3. Wear a mask in indoor public spaces.
4. Stay home if you are sick.

To book a vaccine, please visit [COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario](#).

For residents in the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, please visit their [Vaccine Booking page](#).

If you know or suspect you have COVID-19 and need to be assessed by a clinician, below are some options for accessing care. When possible, please check with your primary care provider first.

Also, please check the specific criteria for each clinic.

- [COVID-19 Care and Testing Centre – Moodie](#)
- [East Ottawa Kids COVID Care Clinic](#)
- [EOHU COVID-19 Assessment, Testing and Treatment Eligibility](#)
- [Kids Come First Care Clinic](#)
- [Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre](#)
- [TOH Clinical Assessment Centre](#)
-

Thank you for doing what you can to help keep yourself and those around you safe during this time of uncertainty amid the rising levels of COVID-19.

Champlain Region Hospital Chiefs of Staff	Medical Officers of Health within Eastern Ontario
<p>Almonte General Hospital, Dr. Graeme McKillop</p> <p>Arnprior & District Memorial Hospital, Dr. Florin Padeanu</p> <p>Bruyère, Dr. Shaun McGuire</p> <p>Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital, Dr. Allyson Champagne</p> <p>CHEO, Dr. Lindy Samson</p> <p>Cornwall Community Hospital, Dr. Lorne Scharf</p> <p>Deep River District Hospital, Dr. Hanene Ben Amor</p> <p>Glengarry Memorial Hospital, Dr. Nadia Kucherepa</p> <p>Hawkesbury & District General Hospital, Dr. Michel Thibodeau</p> <p>Kemptville District Hospital, Dr. Colin Sentongo</p> <p>Hôpital Montfort, Dr. Stéphane Roux</p> <p>Pembroke Regional Hospital, Dr. Thomas Hurley</p> <p>Queensway Carleton Hospital, Dr. Kathi Kovacs</p> <p>Renfrew Victoria Hospital, Dr. Steve Radke</p> <p>Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, Dr. Raj Bhatla</p> <p>St. Francis Memorial Hospital, Dr. Jason Malinowski</p> <p>The Ottawa Hospital, Dr. Virginia Roth</p> <p>Winchester District Memorial Hospital, Dr. Brian Devin</p>	<p>Dr. Vera Etches, Ottawa Public Health</p> <p>Dr. Robert Cushman, Renfrew County and District Health Unit</p> <p>Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Eastern Ontario Health Unit</p> <p>Dr. Paula Stewart, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit</p>

Media contacts

Bruyère: Jesse Cressman-Dickinson jcressmandickinson@bruyere.org

CHEO: Paddy Moore, pmoore@cheo.on.ca

Hôpital Montfort: Geneviève Picard, genevievepicard@montfort.on.ca

Queensway Carleton Hospital: Kelly Spence, kspence@qch.on.ca

Pembroke Regional Hospital: Carolyn Levesque, carolyn.levesque@prh.email

The Ottawa Hospital: Rebecca Abelson, rabelson@toh.ca



Defoliation by Spongy Moth expected again in 2022

Posted on Wednesday, April 13, 2022

PEMBROKE – In Renfrew County and across Ontario, 2021 was a record year for spongy moth, a non-native, invasive pest (previously known as LDD moth and Gypsy moth). Spongy moth has more than 300 known host plants, but prefers poplar, oak, maple, birch, willow, white pine and white spruce. The visual impacts during a severe defoliation year can be quite startling – a single spongy moth caterpillar can eat one square metre of leaves in a season. Although trees are stressed by defoliation, most healthy deciduous trees will produce a second crop of leaves shortly after, enabling them to continue to grow and survive two to three years of defoliation. Conifers are unable to reflush and are more likely to suffer branch dieback or tree death.

In Ontario, spongy moth defoliation increased from 586,385 hectares in 2020 to almost 1.8 million in 2021* . Defoliation in Renfrew County increased more than tenfold between 2020 and 2021, with more than 140,000 hectares mapped last year** . The mild winter and dry spring in 2021 provided perfect conditions for spongy moth to thrive.

It is likely that spongy moth will impact some areas of Renfrew County in 2022, again or for the first time in this outbreak cycle. Based on the egg mass surveys conducted by The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR), defoliation in Pembroke district (Renfrew County) has the potential to be severe again in 2022.

Several factors can reduce the outbreak: including cold winter temperatures, low snow load, parasitism by wasps, predation by birds and small mammals and high spring moisture levels. Most importantly, a natural fungus (*Entomophaga maimaiga*) and viral infection (nuclear polyhedrosis virus or NPV) can cause the spongy moth population to crash and signs were observed in some areas in 2021.

There are measures that home or landowners can take to reduce the impact until the local population crashes. If you observe egg masses on your property, now is the time to scrape them from surfaces and dispose of them in a soap and water mixture or burn them. Residents are advised to wear gloves while completing this work as the small hairs covering egg masses can cause a reaction in some people. Once eggs hatch in May, landowners can consider purchasing Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*) from local hardware stores to use on feeding caterpillars. This biopesticide should be used according to the label instructions or applied by a registered pesticide applicator on a larger scale.

* Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNRF), 2021. [Published Online](#).

** Personal Communication, Forest Health Technician, MNDMNRF, 2021.

Another control measure during the caterpillar stage is trapping in burlap. Start by wrapping a 45 centimetre (18 inch) wide strip around the tree at chest height. Tie a string around the centre and fold the top portion down to form a skirt, with the string acting as a belt. Pick off the caterpillars daily and dispose of them as described above. Pupae can also be picked off in late June/early July and disposed of before moths emerge.

Much more information on identification and control measures can be found online from the [Invasive Species Centre](#) and [MNDMNRF](#).

As spring approaches, we can all get scraping and cross our fingers for a cool, wet spring to encourage the success of natural control measures.

For more information, contact:

[Lacey Rose](#), RPF, County Forester

[Jason Davis](#), Forestry and GIS Manager

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Local Government Priorities for the 2022 Provincial Election

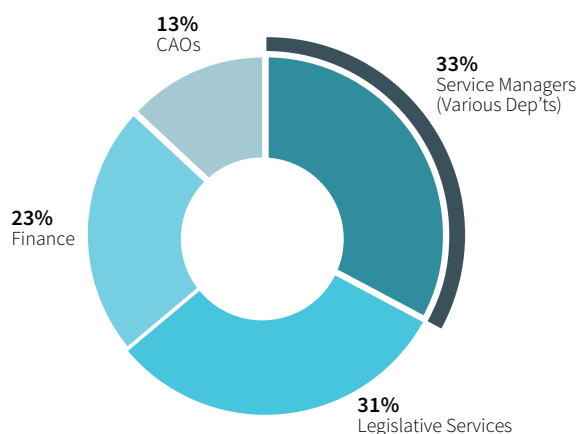
At your service, in support of our diverse communities.

AMCTO at your service

As a vital municipal association with membership roots that reach deep into every part of Ontario, we know the challenges facing communities. We know how hard our communities, our residents, our businesses have been hit over the last two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. Municipalities have been greatly impacted while continuing to provide essential municipal services and doing more to support their communities. Municipal professionals across the entire province have stepped up too and have been at the forefront of service delivery, applying their knowledge and skills to innovate to meet the evolving needs of residents and businesses. **AMCTO members are therefore uniquely positioned to offer non-partisan, expert advice, and support to whichever party forms the next Ontario Government.**

As the province's largest voluntary association of municipal professionals, AMCTO members are on the front lines of local government policy and management across a range of service areas (see Figure 1). They are frequently called upon by members of council and their communities to provide advice and develop solutions to some of the province's most difficult problems.

AMCTO Membership (2019)



As demonstrated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, municipalities have been supporting residents and businesses including adjusting programs such as recreation, libraries and transit, and leading enforcement efforts of Provincial orders to ensure physical distancing and the proper closure and safe re-opening of public spaces. Local public health units have led the way in managing the pandemic through providing additional health measures such as setting up COVID-19 testing and

vaccine clinics with local stakeholders, not-for-profits and other community organizations.

As an association of and for municipal professionals, we know the administrative and operational 'ins and outs' of local government, what works and what does not, and what statutory requirements can be a burden to effective service delivery. We also know where duplicative efforts of reporting back to the Province means valuable staff time spent away from supporting residents and making continuous community improvements.

In that spirit, to address the challenges facing Ontario residents, **AMCTO offers the below recommendations for building a strong and resilient municipal sector from an administrative and operational perspective.** We want to see a sector that can continue to support workers, families, and businesses as our province recovers from the pandemic and beyond. It is our mission to ensure municipal politicians and public servants maintain and acquire the resources and tools they need to do their jobs effectively and to make their communities safer, stronger, and more vibrant.

AMCTO is at your service, to lend our key local intelligence-based, authentic and non-partisan advice and expertise as key government partners.



Priority 1: Municipal resilience requires stable, predictable funding and investment

1. Stabilize and, if possible increase the funding allocation for Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF); avoid cuts to cost sharing arrangements.
2. Continue investing in important infrastructure projects, including broadband expansion and local accessibility projects.
3. Commit to meaningful joint and several liability reform and work with the sector to investigate increasing costs to municipal insurance rates.

Priority 2: Support continuous improvement through strengthened Municipal-Provincial Partnership

4. Engage municipal partners to tackle areas of significant burden that are detrimental to local government administration and service delivery.
5. Reduce provincial red tape on municipally provided services.
6. Collaborate with and consult AMCTO on core legislation.
7. Ensure digital government policy and implementation work seamlessly, municipal impacts are reduced, and the best outcomes for service delivery to our residents are achieved.

Priority 3: Invest in skills development and training for the next generation of municipal professionals to lead innovation

8. Support the next generation of municipal leaders by reinvesting in an expanded Municipal Management Internship Program (MMIP) delivered by AMCTO.



Priority 1: Municipal resilience requires stable, predictable funding and investment

Recommendation 1:
Stabilize and, if possible, increase the funding allocation for Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and avoid cuts to cost sharing arrangements.

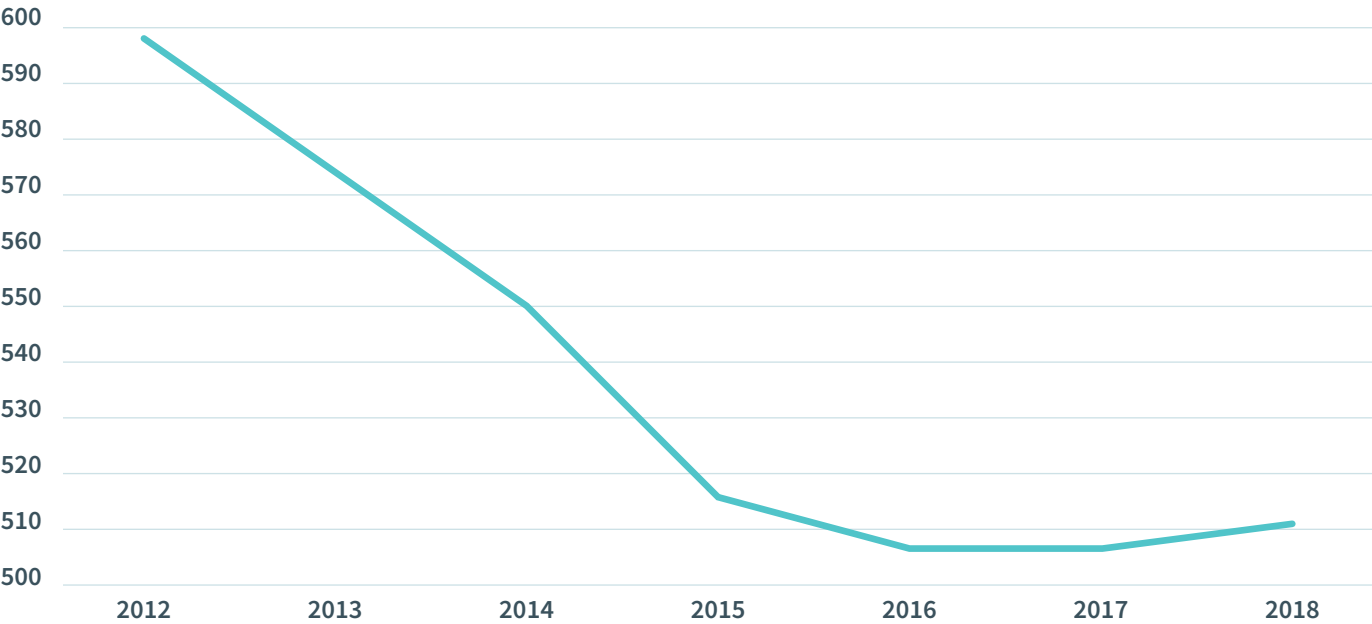
Ontario municipalities of all sizes are facing a challenging fiscal situation that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. From increased costs of public health services, to managing long-term care homes, and lost revenues from property tax deferrals and reduction of services, municipalities have taken a hard financial hit. This, in addition to significant transferring of responsibilities and services over time, has resulted in increasingly complex and costly services being offered and administered at the local level, and paid for by property taxes. As a result, it has been challenging for many communities to finance these services for their residents.

While we understand that the Provincial treasury is also overdrawn, savings must come from other sources than cuts to services, transfer payments, grants or cost-sharing arrangements with municipalities and their related agencies and boards. To find savings, we have to look beyond cuts to cost-sharing programs.

Rural and northern Ontario communities are particularly challenged because low population growth means a small property tax base and increased dependency on transfer payments, notably, through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). Any further reductions to OMPF will be severely damaging to many of the 389 of 444 municipalities who rely on this funding to service their respective communities. Reductions in OMPF funding will vary across municipalities and will require a tax levy increase to compensate. These communities are also reliant on the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) to make necessary community improvements and to maintain their roads, bridges, facilities etc.

It is also important to note that at the current time, provincial and municipal budget cycles do not align. In order to plan for future investments, allocations of OMPF, OCIF and other funding programs should return to multi-year allocations to ensure effective financial management and planning. Funding programs should also be announced well in advance of municipal budget planning and approvals.

Table 1: Historical OMPF Allocation by Grant (in millions of \$) Over Time



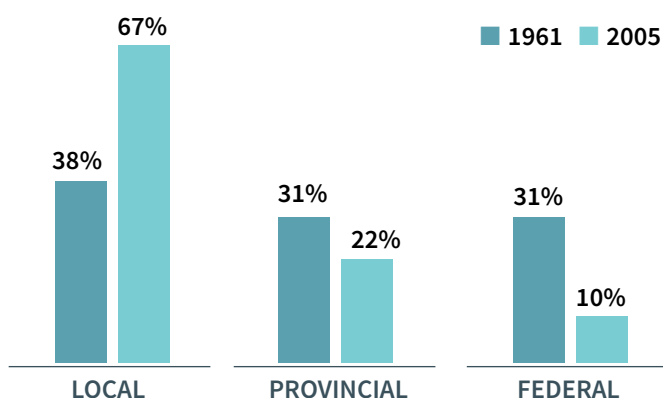
Source: Association of Municipalities Ontario, 2016

Recommendation 2:

The next government should continue to invest in important infrastructure projects including broadband expansion and accessibility projects through simplified and streamlined grants processes to reduce the application and reporting burden on municipalities.

While we appreciate the investments made by the federal and provincial governments in the last several budgets, there remains an immense infrastructure gap in Ontario largely due to the significant transferring of asset ownership to the local level over several decades (see Table 2).

Table 2: Federal, Provincial & Municipal Asset Ownership 1961-2005



The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has calculated that for municipalities to confront the \$60 billion-dollar infrastructure gap, while also maintaining current service levels, municipalities would have to increase property taxes by 8.35% every year for the next ten years (AMO 2017, 5). In August 2021, the Financial Accountability Office (FAO) released a report on municipal infrastructure. It noted that municipalities in Ontario own more infrastructure in Ontario than the Provincial and Federal government combined, the value of these infrastructure assets is \$484 billion (FAO, 2021). Raising property taxes is not a sustainable solution to address Ontario's infrastructure gap and the government should grow infrastructure investment as a funding priority moving forward.

As communities also need to meet the with Provincially imposed standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), smaller municipalities

relying on smaller property tax bases require support to ensure their local facilities comply with these standards. Continued support through financial investments provided through a simplified and streamlined grant process whether through the Inclusive Communities Grants Program or some other program is needed.

Recommendation 3:

The next government should commit to meaningful joint and several liability reform and work with the sector to investigate increasing costs to municipal insurance rates.

Often referred to as the 'one percent rule', Ontario's Joint and Several Liability tort system requires that defendants in civil suits who are found to be as little as 1% at fault can still be required to pay 100% of the damages. With the presumption that local governments have substantial financial resources, municipalities have become the targets of litigation and are being forced to offer generous out-of-court settlements to avoid extensive and expensive litigation due to high costs associated with lawyers and insurance companies. Reforming joint and several liability could save the municipal sector \$27 million in insurance costs and ensure that taxpayer money is being spent in financially strapped areas (AMO 2017, 28).

As noted by our colleagues at AMO, Joint and Several has exacerbated already high municipal insurance costs (AMO 2021, 9). This is not sustainable for municipalities and ultimately the taxpayer who must pay for these costs through the only significant revenue source available to municipalities - property taxes. Our Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and Treasurer members have expressed concerns about the long-term sustainability of bearing these costs while continuing to provide services at the same standards.

Insurance Rates Increase

For smaller communities alone, the average rate of increase is 20% (LAS, 2021).

Priority 2: Support continuous improvement through strengthened municipal-provincial partnerships

Recommendation 4:

The next government should continue engaging AMCTO and municipal partners to tackle areas of significant burden that are detrimental to local government administration and service delivery.

Municipalities report to the Province on a range of programs and policy initiatives to help ensure accountability, that funding is being spent appropriately, and to monitor performance. However, municipalities are having to provide a greater number of reports on a range of new areas (Côté and Fenn, 2014). With new reporting requirements being added and without enough being taken away, Ontario's municipalities are facing a sizeable reporting burden.

A recent example of this is the COVID-19 Relief Funding: In order to receive funding, municipal treasurers were required to send a sign-back to the Province. Municipalities were told they would be required to submit detailed reports about their use of the funds, however, had not been provided with a template early in the process for what specifically they would be asked to report on, or guidance on what would be considered eligible expenses.

The Province should consider streamlining such processes by providing lump-sum funds and allowing municipalities to report back on how the funds were spent in a standardized way that compliments existing financial reporting requirements.

Recommendation 5: The next government should reduce provincial red tape on municipal service delivery by avoiding unnecessary prescriptive command-and-control policy-making that limits the ability of local governments to experiment, innovate, and ultimately improve program and service delivery.

Local governments in Ontario currently operate within a very restrictive legislative and regulatory environment. The Province should view municipalities as responsible governments in order to promote effective governance and management at the local level.

Municipalities are responsible for a substantial and growing range of public services (see Table 3) and if they

are driven strictly by compliance and routine functionality, they will struggle to truly become modern, fiscally sustainable agents of good governance that promote professionalism, ethics, and accountability.

The next government should increase collaboration and outcome-orientated policy to give municipalities the ability to meet provincially-set targets in a way that is most effective and appropriate for them.

While the Province is the regulator of local government and there is a role for it to play in guiding policy and practice within the municipal sector, regulation should focus on outcomes and not behaviours. Unfortunately, policy from the Province and its agencies has been far too prescriptive and is developed without a concrete understanding of the factors that affect local implementation. Local governments have the best access to local information and are better positioned to respond to local needs than the provincial or federal government (Côté and Fenn, 2014, 20). With this in mind, municipal and provincial leaders should work together to achieve better outcomes.

Did You Know?

In 2017 AMCTO published Bearing the Burden: An Overview of Municipal Reporting to the Province. The report revealed that the Province collects hundreds of reports from municipalities every year. AMCTO conservatively estimates that the Province collects at least 422 reports from municipalities every year - this is 225 separate reports, collected monthly, quarterly, biannually, and annually.

Table 3: Federal-Provincial-Municipal Division of Responsibilities

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airports • Animal Control • Building Code • By-law Enforcement • Arts and Culture • Cemeteries • Children's Services • Economic Development • Fire Services • Garbage Collection and Recycling • Electric Utilities • Library Services • Long Term Care and Senior Housing • Road Maintenance • Paramedics • Parks and Recreation • Public Transit • Planning • Police Services • Property Assessment • Public Health • Social Housing • Social Services • Tourism • Water and Sewage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Justice • Education • Hospitals • Natural Resources and the Environment • Property and Civil Rights • Social Services • Provincial Highways • Culture and Tourism • Prisons • Post-Secondary Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship • Criminal Law • Copyright • Employment Insurance • Foreign Policy • Money and Banking • National Defence • Trade and Commerce • Post Office

Recommendation 6:

The next government should continue to collaborate with and consult AMCTO on the Municipal Elections Act, the Municipal Act, and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, among others.

AMCTO believes in the principle of maintaining a mature and respectful relationship with senior orders of government. Local government professionals appreciate that they serve the same citizens as other orders of government and appreciate the opportunity to work collaboratively. Our members and other municipal professionals are willing and able to provide insight into the opportunities and challenges that exist across Ontario communities to ensure that a diversity of perspectives and expertise is leveraged to benefit local residents and to support provincial policy priorities. This is best achieved when the Province respects the scope of municipal government and includes municipal staff in policy decisions at the provincial level.

The experience with Bill 5 and the City of Toronto (City of Toronto, 2021), serves as a lesson – making decisions that impact local governments without consulting them and their administrators is ineffective. A more positive example of collaboration is the work that has been undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic. AMCTO has long believed that providing the appropriate amount of time to ensure that public policy implementation is effective at the local level is key to public policy success. There is value to effective consultation and engagement with local governments and municipal associations are prepared to establish a collaborative and cooperative relationship to advance public policy.

Recommendation 7:

The next government should bring municipalities and their administrators to the table to ensure that digital government policy and implementation work seamlessly, municipal impacts such as administrative burden are reduced, and the best outcomes for our residents are achieved.

Without a doubt, governments of every order should move towards the modernization of processes and approaches to service delivery. The Province's Ontario Onward plan (Government of Ontario, 2020) with commitments to digital government transformation is an example of the provincial effort to do this with a user-centred lens. Municipal administrators are users as well. We are here to be of service to our communities and we can do that most effectively when we are involved right from the start.

Often in Provincial transformational projects, the design and implementation of frameworks only consider interests of the Province. However, municipal service delivery is heavily intertwined with Provincial processes and requirements. Working together on modernizing government, integrating processes and sharing lessons learned can support innovation and continuous improvement. A wide-angled, integrated lens should be applied to the development, design, prototyping, implementation and review of these important endeavors.

Priority 3: Invest in skills development and training for the next generation of municipal professionals to lead innovation

Recommendation 8:

The next government should support the next generation of municipal leaders by reinvesting in an expanded Municipal Management Internship Program (MMIP) delivered by AMCTO.

Successive governments have rightly promoted skills development and on-the-job training, particularly for young people. Applying this approach to municipal management can create a culture of transformation for the next generation of municipal public servants.

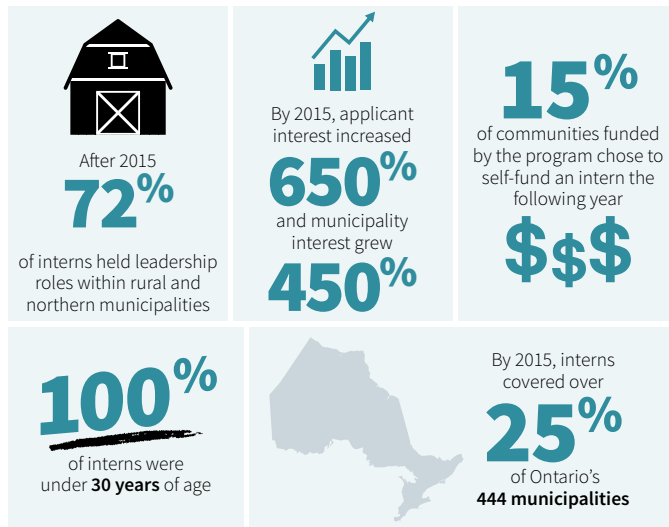
Every year there are recent graduates looking for opportunities to gain experience that allows them to put their education, talents, digital and customer-centred mindsets to work. Municipalities have a diverse range of job functions available making them the opportune place to gain work experience.



The Municipal Management Internship Program (MMIP) can bring new, diverse, innovative, thoughtful practitioners to municipalities – allowing for a mutually beneficial transfer of knowledge, lived experiences and skills between more experienced, senior leaders and new professionals.

With a high number of senior municipal professionals retiring (or soon to be) from the sector, we recognize that there is a need to fill a knowledge gap and create a bridge between those experienced professionals with municipal expertise and know-how and recent graduates or those new to the sector who offer diverse and innovative ways of thinking. We believe that by bringing back the MMIP, there is the opportunity to empower the next generation of municipal leaders while inspiring creativity and customer-centered perspectives on service delivery.

AMCTO Internship Program Outcomes

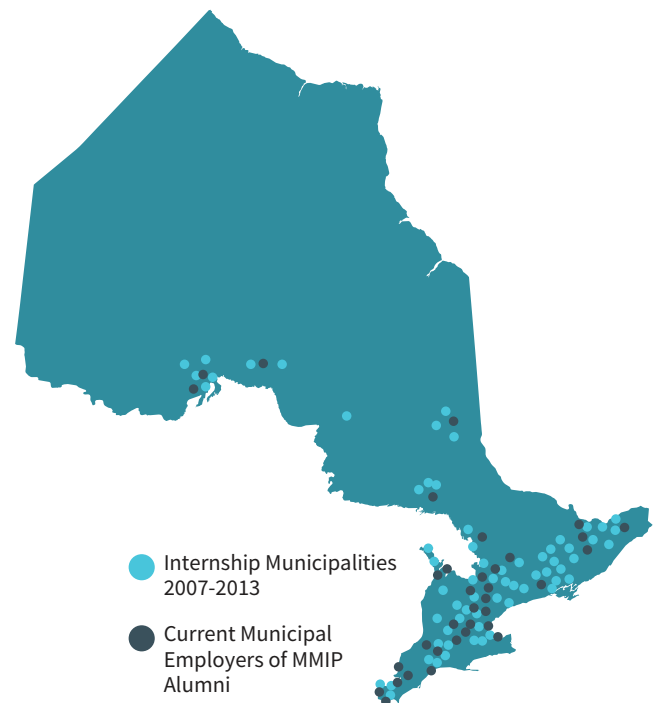


Source: AMCTO, Municipal Management Internship Program Evaluation Report, 2015

As Ontario's economy continues to recover, it is more important than ever to help job seekers find employment opportunities and this internship program is a smart asset and a small investment with significant returns. The MMIP has a track record of providing small, rural and northern municipalities with interns – many of whom later held leadership positions in rural and northern municipalities.

As an association that continues to operate with a strong and growing staff team and with over 2,000 members, AMCTO welcomes the opportunity to once again deliver the MMIP. In doing so, we can continue to be an influential voice for the sector while enriching our mission to deliver exceptional professional development programs, services and opportunities to all Ontario municipal professionals.

Geographical coverage of the 2008-2015 AMCTO Internship Program



“It’s no exaggeration for me to say that I wouldn’t be where I am today without the Municipal Management Internship Program.”

– Karen Martin, Director of Corporate Services, Township of Zorra



Final Thoughts: Considerations in Provincial Policy-Making

The relationship between the Province and its municipalities is especially important for local government professionals, who are subject to provincial policies, laws, regulations and financial transfer arrangements. A strong relationship is also critical for the residents we serve. Certainly, provincial laws and regulations impact almost every aspect of municipal business.

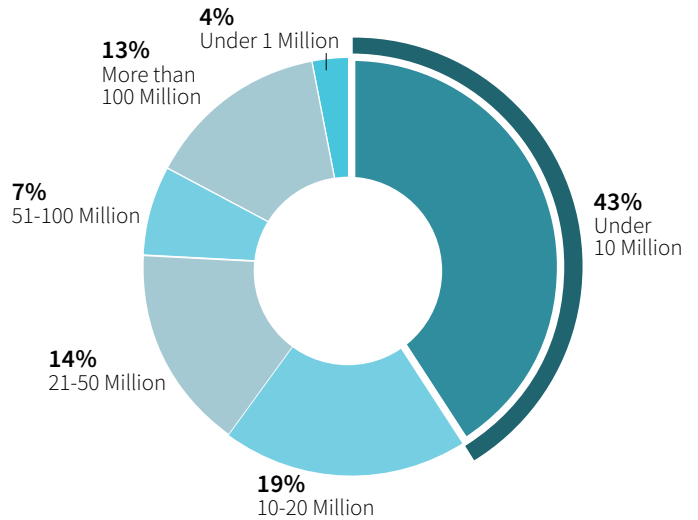
It is therefore a worthy reminder that **any discussion about improving governance at the local level must begin with principles for improving and maintaining a strong provincial-municipal relationship.** This includes utilizing opportunities to collaborate, co-design and share best practices and lessons learned to inform legislation, policies, programs and services. This means relying on municipal public servants who have the knowledge and expertise of what is happening ‘on the ground’ in neighbourhoods across the province. Doing this will lead to improved outcomes for our communities.

Historically, the Province developed policy based on the assumption that all municipalities are the same. **Yet the challenges and strengths of each local government are different**, especially in rural vs. urban areas, small vs. large populations, and north vs. south regions. It is important to recognize that some municipalities have fewer than five employees who are deeply connected to the local community with duties that oversee administrations that are larger than some provincial governments with robust financial controls, rigorous accountability regimes, and sophisticated policy-making functions (Côté and Fenn, 2014, 25). This is a key consideration to be aware of when it comes to provincial decision-making.

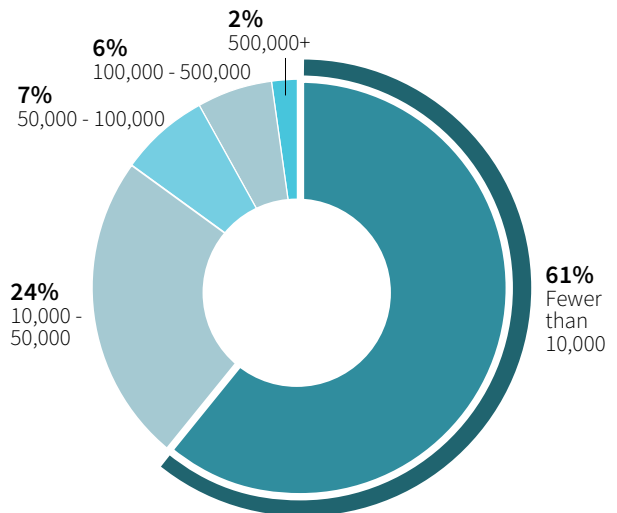
Finally, while the Province and municipalities may provide different services and have different perspectives, we serve the same people and businesses. **At the end of the day, our goal is one in the same: we want to see positive outcomes for communities across Ontario.** To do this effectively and efficiently, it’s important that we work together to ensure we are operating in the best interests of those we serve.

Let AMCTO and our members be of service to the next government, in support of Ontario’s diverse communities.

Percentage of Ontario Municipalities by Revenue Size



Percentage of Ontario Municipalities by Population Size



Source: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Financial Information Returns, 2018

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The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) represents excellence in local government, management and leadership. Over the past 80 years, AMCTO has provided education, accreditation, leadership, and management expertise for Ontario municipal professionals. With 2,000+ members working in municipalities across the province, AMCTO is Ontario's largest association of local government professionals, and the leading professional development organization for municipal professionals.

Our mission is to strengthen and support the capabilities and performance of Ontario municipal professionals by providing professional development and engagement opportunities, advocacy and leadership in the sector.

For more information about this document, contact:

David Arbuckle, MPA
Executive Director
darbuckle@amcto.com
(905) 624-4294 ext. 226

Alana Del Greco
Manager, Policy & Government Relations
adelgreco@amcto.com
(905) 624-4294 ext. 232

AMCTO | Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
2680 Skymark Avenue, Suite 610
Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5L6
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Memo

To: Mayor Stack and Members of Council

From: Fire Chief Rick Desarmia

Date: April 14, 2022

Regarding: OFC - Mobile Live Fire Training Unit

On November 23, 2021, the Fire Marshal's Office and the Province of Ontario announced the launch of the first of two new Mobile Live Fire Training Units to help support fire services' firefighter training needs within the province.

The idea behind the new mobile training units, is part of the province's plan to expand and modernize access to firefighting training, by bringing additional high-quality, hands-on training directly to fire services in all regions of the province.

The Mobile Live-Fire Training Units, which are 16m long, are designed to operate across the province, including at Regional Training Centers and local fire departments.

On Dec 14, 2021, the first day of application Deputy Fire Chief Cory Nicholas submitted an application package to the Ontario Fire College, in an effort to attain the use of Mobile live Training Unit locally to aid in training our firefighters.

I am happy to inform you that March 23, 2022, fire department staff were informed that Arnprior Fire Department was successful in their application.

This is a great opportunity for both our new and veteran members of the fire department to both learn new and expand upon previously learned skills.

As part of the training offered via the mobile training units, firefighters will experience real flames, extreme heat, high humidity, severely restricted visibility, and thick smoke during their real-world training. The training firefighter receive through this fire simulator meets the job performance requirements outlined in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) training standards.

The Mobile Live Fire Training Unit is scheduled for training in Arnprior October 12th – 16th 2022. The submitted application has the unit being set-up on the County property along Meehan Street in front of the Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Center. A Land Use Agreement has been issued with the County of Renfrew for the allotted period. This site will provide easy access for Fire Apparatus, access to fire hydrants with proximity to the fire stations training room and facilities.

The volunteer members of our department will be the priority however there is also, dependent on numbers of individuals to train per day there may be an opportunity to extend an offer to our neighbouring fire departments to aid in their firefighter skills development as well. I have reached out to MBFD Chief Dave Hartwick with this information.

I would like to recognize Deputy Chief Nicholas for his effort in submitting an exceptionally well-prepared application and proposal to the Ontario Fire College selection committee which resulted in this opportunity.

Respectfully Yours



Rick Desarmia
Fire Chief
Arnprior Fire Department



Fire Department
67A Meehan Street
Arnprior, ON K7S 2B7

tel 613 623 4231
fax 613 623 8026

arnprior@arnprior.ca
www.arnprior.ca

COPY

MLFTU – SITE PLAN: TOWN OF ARNPRIOR APPLICATION PACKAGE

The Town of Arnprior Police / Fire Services Building:

- Staffed 24/7 (OPP) with video surveillance
- Utilities – 2 Class AA hydrants on site / 30,000 Kilowatt Diesel Generator Backup Power
- On Site - Training Room/Kitchen Facilities/Sanitary Facilities (Showers)
- Provides for required 30m x 30m level working site and Transport Truck Parking (Gravel)



• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •



Watery Windfall For Local Municipalities

Federal-Provincial funding supports water project

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

Some local municipalities were successful in earning joint federal, provincial, and recipient funding as part of 144 water infrastructure projects in Ontario. Local projects include:

Algonquins of

Pikwākanagān First Nation

Funding will support the replacement of individual groundwater wells with a communal surface treatment system, including a new river intake, a new slow sand water treatment plant with ozone, granular activated carbon filters and ultra violet, a below grade reservoir, and a new distribution system. This will increase access to potable water. Algonquins of Pikwākanagān will receive \$3,750,000 (federal) and \$916,500 (provincial) in funding. They do not have to contribute any funds themselves.

Town of Smiths Falls

Water Tower Replacement

The decommissioning of the existing 96-year-old water tower



will improve access to potable water and increase the safety and durability of water storage infrastructure. The project work includes the relocation and construction of a new elevated water storage tower. Smiths Falls will receive \$2,000,000 (federal) and \$1,666,500 (provincial) in funding plus the municipality will contribute \$1,333,500.

County of Renfrew

Rehabilitation of

Watermains in Renfrew

Funding will support the replacement of approximately

2.8 kilometres of watermains on six streets and the installation of new fire hydrants, valves and service connections. Affected pavement will also be restored to pre-construction condition. This project will improve transmission pipes and the reliability of the transmission infrastructure. The County of Renfrew will receive \$1,999,990 (federal) and \$1,666,491 (provincial) in funding and will contribute \$1,333,493 of their own funds.

Pembroke Bennet Street and Boundary Road Watermain Replacement and Taylor Bridge Watermain Suspension

The project includes the replacement and construction of watermain, the installation of hydrants and a new control valve on a feeder main, configuration of a watermain chamber, and the suspension of a watermain. This project will improve access to potable water and increase reliability of the transmission infrastructure. Pembroke will receive \$1,909,000 (federal) and \$1,590,674 (provincial) in funding and will contribute \$1,272,826 towards the project.

Deep River Drinking Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

The design and installation of new water treatment technology and equipment to reduce contaminants will increase the reliability and efficiency of the water treatment plant. The project will receive \$1,540,000 (federal) and \$1,283,205 (provincial) in funding and will contribute \$1,026,795.

Continued on page 4

101 Things To Do in the Valley

SPRING 2022 EDITION

This edition is attached to your
email for Ottawa Valley Business!



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.

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CONTENT & SUBMISSIONS

Submissions on items related to business are welcome. This includes news, events, new hires, tender and letters to the editor. Content will be edited to fit the space available. If you have an event that is not 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 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 2, 2022

Exporting 101. This webinar will give you an overall view of what you need to know to export goods abroad. 1:00pm-2:30pm. Invest Ottawa Education Centre. www.eventbrite.ca/e/313808197767

May 3, 2022

Understanding QuickBooks Online. Accounting in the cloud is becoming more prevalent in today's world;

QuickBooks Online allows business owners to sync their 'books' with their bank, track expenses online, send professional invoices, get paid faster, and much more! 11:00am-12:30pm. Invest Ottawa Education Centre. www.investottawa.ca/events

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 4, 2022

Board Governance 101. 9:30am-12:00pm. During this workshop, with practical applications and discussion we will discuss roles and responsibilities of boards, contributing to organizational culture, the role of committees, assessing tasks and time commitment, what to expect in an orientation manual and addressing risk. Good to attend for board members, volunteer managers, executive directors who recruit board members. \$145. www.volunteerottawa.ca

May 5, 2022

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

May 5, 2022

The Top Ten Insurance Threats Facing Businesses in 2022. Biggest insurance risks for small businesses, common types of commercial insurance and more. Presented by Cowan Insurance. 11:00am-12:00pm. Free webinar. www.investottawa.ca/events

May 6-7, 2022

The Franchise Expo - Ottawa. Meet face-to-face with representatives from top franchises and businesses who want to expand or develop in your area. 11:00am-5:00pm each day. EY Centre, 4899 Uplands Drive, Ottawa. Call 905-477-7872, info@nationalevent.com or www.franchiseshowinfo.com/ottawa-visitor

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

Public Speaking For Not For Profit Leaders. Speak confidently, find the right words, and radiate a presence that is powerfully authentic. \$145. education@volunteerottawa.ca or www.volunteerottawa.ca

May 10, 2022

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

May 17, 2022

Adding Movement to Social Media with Videos from Canva. Three-part series. Part 3 of 3. Jennifer Baker, presenter. 9:00am-10:00am. Free online webinar. Register with www.smallbizcentre.ca/events

June 15, 2022

Self-employment tax deadline. If you owe money on your self-employment tax return, it is due by May 2, 2022.

*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
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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

AB Receives Funding

Admaston Bromley has received \$100,000 from the ICIP COVID funding stream for the expansion of the fire hall to allow a garage.

Peplinskie Joins

County of Renfrew

The County of Renfrew is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Tina Peplinskie in the role of Media Relations & Social Media Co-ordinator. Tina is a familiar face to many in the county as she has more than 20 years of experience reporting on local events and programs for the Pembroke Observer and News.

Goldberg To Retire

Roger Goldberg, the IT Technician and Webmaster for the County of Renfrew, has provided notice of his retirement effective June 13, 2022.

Goldberg joined the County in 2002 and will reach 20 years of service this month.

Etmanskie Resigning

Erica Etmanskie, Supervisor of Technical Services has resigned from her position with the County of Renfrew effective April 22, 2022. Etmanskie joined the County of Renfrew recently at the end of January 2022 and was working with the real estate division and the Renfrew County Housing Corporation.

Upgrades For Caressant Care

The Ontario government is adding eight new and 46 upgraded beds at Caressant Care in Cobden. There are now 218 new and 370 upgraded long-term care beds in development, under construction or completed in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, including the following projects:

- 53 new and 43 upgraded beds at Groves Park Lodge
- 86 new beds at Deep River Campus of Care, Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care
- 29 new and 131 upgraded beds at Marianhill
- 36 new and 60 upgraded beds at The Grove
- 6 new and 90 upgraded beds at Valley Manor

Horticultural Societies Get Provincial Funds

The Ontario government is providing \$30,296.91 to support agricultural and horticultural societies. Funding is being distributed as follows: Arnprior Agricultural Society (\$4,326.33), Beachburg Agricultural Society (\$7,807.79), Beachburg Horticultural Society (\$1,000), Cobden Agricultural Society (\$4,790.05), Deep River Horticultural Society (\$1,000), Eganville Horticultural Society (\$1,000), Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society (\$1,000),

Pembroke Horticultural Society (\$1,000), Petawawa Horticultural Society (\$1,000) and Renfrew Agricultural Society (\$7,372.74).

Building Permits

Admaston Bromley issued 16 building permits in 2022 which is more than the past two years.

CN Rail Line Purchased

The CN Rail Line in the Pembroke and Laurentian Valley area has been sold. The new landowners are not permitting the property to be used by the public. The property had been used as a travel link for the Renfrew County ATV Club. Details on the new proposed routes for ATVs are available at www.quadon.ca.

AB Elected Official Expenditures

In 2021, the ratepayers of Admaston Bromley paid just under \$86,000 for their council members' expenses. This includes \$24,645.45 for Mayor Michael Donohue, \$16,924.64 for Councillor Robert Dick, \$16,918.52 for Councillor Bob Hall, \$13,547.17 for Councillor Kevin LeGris and \$13,851.29 for Deputy Mayor Mike Quilty.

Continued on page 8

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.

Source: www.epacanada.ca

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Three-Way Contribution Enables Projects

Arnprior, Mississippi Mills, Whitewater Region and more

Continued from page 1

Town of Arnprior Water Filtration Plant Clear Well Replacement

The project includes the decommissioning of the existing clear well Number 1 and design and construction of a new clear well. This project will increase safety and durability of the local water storage infrastructure. The project will receive \$1,000,000 (federal) and \$833,250 (provincial) in funding. The municipality will contribute \$666,750.

Town of Mississippi Mills Union Street Watermain Rehabilitation and Extension

This project includes the restoration of over 500 metres of watermain along Union Street. Upgrades include extending the watermain by 210 metres along Union Street to increase the capacity of the watermain and

improve circulation and water quality. The project will receive \$850,650 (federal) and \$708,804 (provincial) in funding and the municipality will contribute \$567,171.

Township of Whitewater Region, Beachburg Water Treatment Plant Renewal and Optimization

Upgrades to the Beachburg Water Treatment Plant, which will include replacement of two wells and ten pumps as well as other improvements to the building and its equipment will increase the condition of the treatment plant. The project will receive \$825,037 (federal) and \$687,462 (provincial) in funding while \$550,094 will be contributed by the municipality. Township of Laurentian Valley, Roy Street West Watermain Upgrade. The replacement of approximately 1,370 metres of the Roy Street West watermain

and 62 water service connections, and reinstating affected roadways will increase the reliability and capacity of the transmission infrastructure. The project will receive \$372,500 (federal) and \$310,386 (provincial) in funding and the municipality will contribute \$248,364.

Township of Madawaska Valley, Barry's Bay Water Treatment Plant and Water Tower Rehabilitation

Funding will support the installation of an access ladder and fall protection devices, the replacement of valves, piping, and instruments, and a comprehensive inspection of the structure and lining of the water tower. The roof of the water treatment plant will also be replaced. These upgrades will improve access to potable water by increasing the safety and durability of the water storage

and treatment infrastructure. The project will receive \$112,401 (federal) and \$93,658 (provincial) in funding. Madawaska Valley will provide \$74,943.

Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System Upgrade.

The installation of proprietary equipment and programming at the water treatment facility will increase access to potable water by increasing the reliability and efficiency of the water treatment infrastructure. The project will receive \$65,000 (federal) and \$54,161 (provincial) in funding. The municipality will contribute \$43,339.



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Employers often ask how long their job ad should be posted.

We recommend a minimum of 14 days. This is because a job seeker may be away during one week but is on vacation or at an event and is unable to apply immediately to the position. You can always indicate that interviews can take place right away, even giving 14 days to apply.

Federal Budget Tax Highlights: CPA Canada

What the federal budget brings to businesses, individuals in taxes

On April 7, 2022, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland tabled the budget as federal Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister. In last year's budget, the federal government predicted a deficit for 2021-22 of \$154.7 billion. This year, the amount was revised down to \$113.8 billion. A deficit of \$52.8 billion is predicted for 2022-23.

Some key proposed changes are summarized below.

Corporate & Business

Small business phase-out threshold - Under current rules, Canadian-controlled private corporations are eligible for a lower corporate income tax rate on their first \$500,000 of business income. Access to the lower rate begins to be phased out when taxable capital exceeds \$10 million and is fully phased out at \$15 million. The budget proposes to increase these threshold amounts to \$10 million and \$50 million respectively.

Investment tax credit for carbon capture, utilization and storage - A refundable investment tax credit for eligible carbon capture, utilization and storage expenses. Credit rates range from 37.5% to 60% through 2030.

Investment tax credit for clean technology - Establish an investment tax credit of up to 30%, focused on net-zero technologies, battery storage solutions and clean hydrogen. Details of the investment tax credit will be provided in the 2022 fall economic update.

Clean tech tax incentives - CCA classes 43.1 and 43.2 expanded to include air-source heat pumps and their manufacturing eligible for the reduced tax rate for zero-emission tech manufacturing or processing activity proposed in last year's budget.

Critical mineral exploration tax credit - A new 30% credit for renounced exploration expenses incurred as part of an

exploration project that targets specified minerals used to produce batteries and magnets.

Flow-through shares for oil, gas and coal activities - To eliminate the flow-through share regime for oil, gas and coal activities by no longer allowing related exploration or development expenditures to be renounced to a flow-through share investor.

Measures for financial institutions - To increase corporate income tax rates for banking and life insurance groups to 16.5% (from 15%) on taxable income over \$100 million. These companies would also be subject to a temporary Canada Recovery Dividend, a one-time, 15% tax on taxable income above \$1 billion for the 2021 tax year. Legislation will prevent taxpayers from realizing artificial tax deductions using hedging and short selling arrangements.

Inter-generational transfers: Bill C-208 - Plans to consult with stakeholders on how the rules introduced in Bill C-208 should be amended to allow for genuine inter-generational business transfers while protecting tax system integrity. New legislation to address these issues is expected to be tabled in the fall after the consultation.

Substantive CCPCs - Amendments to prevent taxpayers from manipulating the status of their corporations in an attempt to avoid being classified as a CCPC to achieve a tax deferral on investment income earned in their corporations.

Scientific Research and Experimental Development - Review program to ensure it is effective in encouraging research and development and to explore opportunities to simplify it.

Patent box review - Seek views on the suitability of a patent box regime in Canada.

Rollover for small business investments - Reviewing whether the tax system delivers adequate support for investments

in growing businesses including the capital gain deferral for small business investments.

Employee ownership trusts - Create rules for employee ownership trusts to support employee ownership of a business.

Personal Tax Changes

Tax-Free First Home Savings Account - New tax-free first home savings account to allow prospective first-time home buyers to save up to \$40,000. Like an RRSP, contributions would be tax-deductible and withdrawals used to purchase a first home, including investment income, would be non-taxable.

First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit - Double the amount of this credit to \$10,000, for a maximum credit of \$1,500.

Home Accessibility Tax Credit increased - Proposes to double the qualifying expense limit of this credit to \$20,000, for a maximum tax credit of up to \$3,000 for eligible accessibility renovations or alterations.

Multi-generational Home Renovation Tax Credit - Support multi-generational families living under one roof with a credit to provide up to \$7,500 for constructing a secondary unit for a senior or an adult with a disability.

Residential property flipping rule announced - To ensure profits from flipping properties are fully taxed, any person who sells a residential property they have held for less than 12 months would be fully taxed on their profits as business income.

Labour mobility deduction for tradespeople - A tax deduction up to \$4,000 per year in eligible travel and temporary relocation expenses to eligible tradespersons and apprentices.

Medical expense credit for surrogacy - Eligibility for this tax credit would be extended to medical expenses related to a surrogate mother or a sperm, ova

or embryo donor, including expenses reimbursed to a surrogate for in vitro fertilization plus certain fees paid to fertility clinics and donor banks.

Minimum tax for high earners - Examine a new minimum tax regime targeting high-income Canadians and to release details on a proposed approach in its 2022 fall economic and fiscal update.

Other Income Tax Changes

Proposed changes to other income tax rules include:

- increasing the disbursement quota for charities to 5%
- improving operation of tax rules for charitable partnerships
- require financial institutions to report fair market value of RRSs and RRIFs they offer
- intention to follow through on a long list of outstanding income tax and other initiatives previously announced

GST/HST and Other Changes

- allow additional nurse practitioners to qualify for the expanded GST/HST health care rebate by eliminating the geographical restriction
- make all assignment sales of newly constructed or substantially renovated residential housing taxable for GST/HST purposes so the tax would apply to the total amount paid for a new home by its first occupant
- refine the excise duty framework for vaping products
- refine the excise duty framework for cannabis products by, among other changes, allowing certain producers to remit the duties quarterly instead of monthly

For the full details, visit www.cpacanada.ca and download the federal budget tax highlights.

Federal, Provincial Government News In Brief

Inflation, house flipping, Canada Post, three-year degrees, fuel taxes

Federal News

60 Day Deadline Approaching

Section 63 of the *Emergencies Act* requires that cabinet within sixty days, by April 24, "cause an inquiry to be held into the circumstances that led to the declaration being issued and the measures taken for dealing with the emergency." Fifteen civil liberties groups petitioned cabinet on April 13 for an open and independent inquiry into the Prime Minister's use of emergency police powers against the Freedom Convoy.

Inflation Prediction Falls Short

Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem announced April 13 that he now expects inflation to reach 5.8% in June. The same day, the Bank raised the interest rate on interbank loans by 0.5%. In October 2021, the prediction was close to 5%. In January, the prediction was inflation would peak at 5.1%. It is now at 5.7%.

COVID Furloughs Upheld

The Public Service Alliance of Canada, the largest federal union, won an appeal against restrictions on paid COVID furloughs. Cabinet issued a directive permitting employees

who were neither sick nor working from home to take paid leave to care for children or family members at risk of illness. Claims were also accepted if staff were deemed unable to work remotely. 133,000 federal employees took furloughs, totalling \$1.3 billion.

House Flipping Tax

Cabinet will impose a \$15 million-a year tax on house flippers and require all mortgage lenders to report cash transactions. A document *A Plan To Grow Our Economy* proposed to tax as business income all profits from the sale of residential property sold within a year of purchase. The flipping tax is planned to take effect on January 1, 2023.

Quarantine Cops

The Public Health Agency of Canada is looking to have quarantine inspectors to have police powers to issue tickets for breach of the *Quarantine Act*. Currently, the RCMP and local police are tasked with ticketing, but it is being done unevenly. A December 9 report showed not all people were ticketed equally. While people were fined in BC, Manitoba and Ontario, no tickets were issued in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

PHAC \$106M Loss In Procurement

The Public Health Agency of Canada's procurement of COVID-19 items has cost \$106 million for product that was never delivered. Three companies were named in taking payments and not filling orders. They include Tango Communications Marketing of Montreal (\$82 million) for failing to procure 37 million masks, 1245431 BC Limited of Toronto (\$7.9 million) for failing to provide N95 masks and Spartan Bioscience of Ottawa for purchasing COVID test kits that failed clinical trials.

Revamping Canada Post

If it would save money, 54% of Canadians are in favour of receiving mail three days a week according to research by the Privy Council office. Canada Post management reported a \$779 million loss in 2020, \$153 million loss in 2019 and a \$276 million loss in 2018. Total losses from 2014-2017 were \$388 million. 48% of Canadians were in favour of eliminating door-to-door delivery, 40% supported an stamp increases. 72% opposed closure of country postal outlets.

Source: Blacklocks's Reporter
www.blacklocks.ca

Ontario News

Digital Main Street Program Renewed

The Ontario government is renewing the Digital Main Street program which has helped businesses with one-on-one technology support. In the last year, Digital Main Street has supported over 20,000 businesses.

New Three-Year Degrees

As of April 11, 2022, Ontario's public colleges will be able to develop new three-year degree programs and additional four-year degree programs in key sectors to address gaps in the province's labour needs. Three-year applied degrees will provide an opportunity for colleges to develop programs to address workforce shortages, such as highly skilled technology workers in the health care, digital, data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and process automation sectors.

Ontario To Lessen Fuel Taxes

Starting July 1, the Ontario government will cut the provincial gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre for six months.

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Tender Results Around The Valley

PWO-2022-02 Pavement Marking, County of Renfrew.
Provincial Road - \$657,003.00
Almon Equipment - \$754,777.35
Trillium Pavement - Incomplete
Northside Pavement- Incomplete

Tender PW-09-2022, Reconstruction of Albert Street Phase 1, Petawawa.
Bonnechere Ex. - \$2,663,295.16
Do-All Const. - \$1,980,605.80
H & H Const. - \$2,101,529.79

Tender PW-11-2022, Renfrew Street Pumping Station Upgrades, Petawawa.
Black/McDonald - \$587,643.95
Jumec Const. - \$465,174.00
RGT Clouthier - \$472,850.00

Tender PW-12-2022, Repair of Grit Tank #1, Petawawa.
William Sons - \$399,435.00
Staff is recommending that council cancel the tender.

Replace Cooling System at F104, Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to Harrington Plumbing & Heating of Pembroke in the amount of \$54,231.00.

Remove Skylights at P119, Defence Construction Canada.
Awarded to Waterdon Construction of Nepean in the amount of \$21,430.00.

Business News Around The Valley

Deep River Council Remuneration 2021

Remuneration for members of Deep River council include Mayor Suzanne D'Eon (\$27,155.99), Reeve Glenn Doncaster (12,955.98), Councillor Kathy Hughes (\$10,410.88) and \$9,724.00 to councillors Will Fitton, Robert McLaren, Christina Rochon and Terry Myers.

Laurentian Valley Council Remuneration 2021

Remuneration for members of Laurentian Valley council include Mayor Steve Bennett (\$33,152.40), Councillor Keith Watt (\$23,575.80 and \$24,645.36 for councillors Jennifer Gauthier, Brian Hugli, Chris Pleau, Debbie Robinson and Allan Wren.

Cardlock Could Save Time in MB

The public works Glasgow garage in McNab Braeside houses clear and coloured diesel tanks. These tanks allow staff to quickly fill up at the main garage before heading out on jobs. Staff have identified the need to install an unleaded gas tank at the

Glasgow station. They currently drive to Arnprior to fill up at W.O. Stinson (estimated return trip - 40 minutes) and the installation of this tank would cut down on driving time, wear and tear on township vehicles, create a convenient after-hours fill up location, and result in improved productivity. The unleaded tank would be used by fire, recreation and public works staff as the majority of township vehicles are stored at or near the Glasgow station. Once installed, staff will be required to fill up at the Glasgow station rather than drive to Arnprior. Gas cards at the Arnprior W.O. Stinson location will still be needed, but would be reduced significantly. There is sufficient room for an additional tank to be installed at Public Works Glasgow Garage.

ED At Wedding Show

County of Renfrew Economic Development Coordinator Jackie Stott exhibited at the Ottawa Spring Wedding Show, hosted at the EY Centre on April 2 and 3, 2022. Approximately 4,000 brides, friends and relatives attended the show.

It's A Fact

French Language Prominence in Canada

Source: Blacklocks Reporter, April 14, 2022

10%

Francophones who agree it would be useful for their children to learn a second language other than French

38%

Anglophones who agree it would be useful for their children to learn a second language other than French

43%

Canadians with a mother tongue in another language who agree it would be useful for their children to learn a second language other than French

41%

Canadians born outside of Canada who agree it would be useful for their children to learn a second language other than French

47%

Racialized groups who agree it would be useful for their children to learn a second language other than French

\$136,174

Cost for Environics Research to gauge Canadians' current attitudes towards the *Official Languages Act* and issues around bilingualism

16%

Canadians who say they are fluently bilingual (English and French)

45%

Canadians who agree that maintaining two official languages just doesn't make sense for parts of the country which overwhelmingly speak only English or French

2016

Census that showed French is a third, fourth or fifth language in many provinces

5th

French is the fifth language group in Saskatchewan after English, Tagalog, German and Cree

6th

French is the sixth language group in BC after English, Punjabi, Cantonese, Mandarin and Tagalog

6%

French immersion rates in Alberta

7%

French immersion rates in Saskatchewan

11%

French immersion rates in Ontario

12%

French immersion rates in Manitoba and British Columbia

13%

French immersion rates in Nova Scotia

14%

French immersion rates in Newfoundland & Labrador

23%

French immersion rates in Prince Edward Island

25%

French immersion rates in New Brunswick



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Tenders

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest – Design
Drawings for Indigenous
Healing Circle

FOR SALE

Sale of Land – Petawawa

Sale of Land – Pembroke

Sale of Land – Brudenell,
Lyndoch and Raglan

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CS-2022-03 Town Flowers

Almonte Daycare Kitchen
RFP #22-05

Concept Plan for the
Development of Barry's Bay
Lakeshore Park – MV-2022-02

DP-RCHC-22-208 Consultant
Services – Flat Roof
Replacement

DP-RP-22-02 Window
Replacement

DP-2022-03 Architectural
Services and Construction
Administration Management
Services

RFP 2022-ED-01
Redevelopment of 25 Old Mill
Road (Former Water Treatment
Plant)

Town of Mattawa Branding,
Logo and Website Redesign

Engineering Services for Clyde
Forks Bridge Replacement PW-
2022-01

Fire Communications &
Dispatch

Hydrogeological Peer Review
Services

Heating Retrofit Project

DP-RP-22-01 – 9 International
Drive Exterior Envelope Repairs

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

RFQ Fire2022-01 Drawings For
a Garage at the Douglas Fire
Hall

TENDERS

2022-05 Rehabilitation of
Cameron Street, Earl Street and
Vera Crescent

AOTH Exterior Repair &
Painting Tender #22-04

Burnstown Canteen Operator
2022 Season

Operation of Refreshment
Vehicles at Annie's Park

MV 2022-07 Railway Station
Siding Replacement

MV 2022-05 Crushed A Gravel

MV 2022-04 4Wheel Drive or
All-Wheel Drive Vehicle

PW-2022-02 Resurface
Treatment Projects

COR-2022-01 Janitorial
Services – Lanark Highlands
Municipal Office

RFQ PW 2022-05 Public Works
Office Renovation, Garage
Lighting and Air Exchange
Upgrades

PWO-2022-12 Tractor
Attachments

PWO-2022-09 Sign Steel Posts

PWO-2022-04 Tandem Truck &
Plow Unit

PWC-2022-11 Service Truck

Various Tenders

4-Wheel Drive 1/2 Ton Double
Cab

4-Wheel Drive 1/2 Ton Crew
Cab Turbo Diesel

PW2022-01 Repair and/or
Replacement of Roofs Public
Works Garages

McNab Centre Park Building
PW-2022-04

Surface Treatment Projects PW
2022-02

Sidewalk Repairs for 2022
Construction Season – PW-
2022-03

Contract 2022-RFT-002 Water
Tower Rehabilitation

Road Construction Tenders 2

Road Tenders

Hastings Street North (HWY 62)
Reconstruction

W0107-19M048/A – Cable TV
Services Cable TV Services

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You And Your Customers Change

Keeping current in marketing will pay off



MARKETING

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@fwdthink.net

Last week I had a call from a fellow in Ottawa asking if he could get some 2022 copies of Travel Our Backyard magazine. I explained to him that we stopped publishing after the 2019 version and referred him to the 101 Things list, to which he subscribed and forwarded along. The experience provided a good topic for this column on the importance of regular marketing.

Things Change

When people first come across your business, they put the information they gather about you in a folder and store it away in their brains. I'm not talking about tangible information, but things like business hours of operation, the website, the types of products, etc. This is how we navigate through the world - seeing new things, making mental notes of them and using them to refer to in the future.

However, businesses are not stagnant. They stop carrying some products and start carrying others. They quit updating Instagram and focus entirely on Facebook. They stopped opening late on Thursday nights because the traffic just wasn't there.

People don't keep track of those things, not even your most loyal customers. So, they need to be reminded, often many times, when you do something different.

People Change

In addition to the business changing, customers also change. They move to different communities and now shop at different stores. They work from home and need different items than if they worked in the office. They added a baby or bid farewell to a post-secondary grad and have different needs because of that life change. Someone who was not your customer last year could very well be your customer this year, and if you are not regularly marketing, they will not know about you.

No End In Sight

If marketing seems like a never-ending project, it is! You always have to communicate with people about what you are doing and how you are doing it.

The easier you make it for someone to find out about you and know things about you, the easier you will grow your customer base. The catch is that what is easy for them requires hard work from you.

Marketing Steps

To make sure you are regularly communicating, here are three things you can do:

1) Think about what you want to tell people and match it to a time or event. This might be a tradeshow, national recognition day or time of year.

2) Choose a way to communicate that you can commit to doing well. Social media feeds can appear on websites to make one update work in two ways. An email blast once a week can be shared on social media and linked to your website for another easy update.

3) Be consistent and make time to do it well. If you can be consistent or make time yourself, get help from someone who can make you a priority. When things become inconsistent, customers stop being interested in what you have to say.

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

Work Wellness

Lunch & Learns

Consider implementing a lunch and learn series once a month (or more often). Invite people from the community to share tips or information with your employees. You could invite someone to talk about wills and estate planning, a home decor expert, a fitness instructor, a chef or restaurant to talk about food ideas, a mental health practitioner - anything you can think of. It's a great way to connect with the local business community too and invite them into your workspace.

The Origin of Sayings: Running Amok

"Running amok" is commonly used to describe wild or erratic behaviour, but the phrase actually began its life as a medical term. The saying was popularized in the 18th and 19th centuries, when European visitors to Malaysia learned of a peculiar mental affliction that caused otherwise normal tribesmen to go on brutal and seemingly random killing sprees. Amok - derived from the "Amuko," a band of warriors who were known for their penchant for indiscriminate violence - was initially a source of morbid fascination for Westerners. Writing in 1772, the famed explorer Captain James Cook noted that "to run amok is to ... sally forth from the house, kill the person or persons supposed to have injured the Amok, and any other person that attempts to impede his passage." Once thought to be the result of possession by evil spirits, it later found its way into psychiatric manuals. It remains a diagnosable mental condition to this day.

Quotable

"Nothing is less productive than to make more efficient what should not be done at all."

- Peter Drucker

Time to go in a new direction?

The last two years have caused some businesses to make a lot of changes. Maybe that changed your business entirely. If it's time to move forward in a new direction, we can help.

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April 14, 2022

In This Issue

- AMO is preparing for elections.
- ROMA Zone meetings – Briefing on Board advocacy priorities.
- AMO Conference registration - early bird available until May 13.
- Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities for AMO 2022 - Live and in-person.
- Jump-start your digital transformation with an e-signature solution.
- It's time to report your annual energy consumption.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Bomford Turner, Bush Hog.
- Canoe procurement update webinar.
- Road & Sidewalk Assessment info session.
- Blog: Top Five Inclusive Playground Design Considerations.
- Achieve design excellence in public innovation.
- Careers: Greater Sudbury, New Market and Toronto.

AMO Matters

Check out the new [AMO On Topic Podcast](#) on AMO's 2022 Provincial Election Strategy and preparations for Municipal elections in October and AMO Board elections in August.

ROMA Matters

The Board has scheduled meetings with each of the ROMA Zones to provide a focused briefing on the Board's action plan, the thinking behind the recommendations and the strategies and advocacy to move them forward. [Click here](#) for information on the remaining scheduled meetings.

Eye on Events

The AMO Conference registration is officially open! [Register here](#) before May 13 for your early bird rates. Haven't booked your room yet? [The AMO conference website](#) contains all the hotel information you need. Questions: contact events@amo.on.ca.

AMO 2022 is a premier educational event for Ontario's municipal sector. Become a conference sponsor or exhibitor and make face-to-face communications with over 3000 delegates, promoting your products or services. View unparalleled opportunities to support municipalities [here](#).

As municipalities move from paper to electronic filing, authentication of these files is a critical challenge. On April 27 at 12 pm ET, join AMO's partner, Notarius, and learn how ConsignO Cloud can greatly reduce the signing time of documents and allow anyone to sign legally reliable documents electronically with a phone, a tablet, or a computer. [Register today](#).

LAS

The Ministry of Energy is now accepting annual energy reports under [O. Reg. 507/18](#).

Reporting is for energy used in 2020 and due by July 1, 2022. Ministry hosted reporting webinars will be from 11 am - 12 pm on June 7 and 21. For questions, email BPSsupport@ontario.ca.

The Canoe Procurement Group welcomes successful vendors Bomford Turner and Bush Hog to the fold. Both offer a range of equipment to serve your groundskeeping needs. Contact your local retailers to take advantage of special Canoe pricing. Contact Simon to learn more about these and other vendors.

Join us on April 20 for an update from the Canoe Procurement Group legal team. Find out how trade agreements and group purchasing go hand in hand and hear about the latest updates to these agreements. Register here.

The LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service helps your municipality manage some of their most expensive assets. Learn how high-quality data and the right software can help you save money while improving the quality of your road and sidewalk networks. Join us on April 21 at 10 am - Register here.

There are factors to consider when designing an inclusive playground. Read our latest guest blog to get the five top tips on how to design these outdoor spaces.

Municipal Wire*

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) is delivering a 4-module virtual training program in partnership with the Danish Design Centre on applying design driven innovation within public institutions.

Careers

Director of Finance/Chief Financial Officer - City of Greater Sudbury. Accountable for the corporation's core finance functions. Applicants may email their resumes to hrjobs@greatersudbury.ca or fax to 705-688-3979. Deadline: 4:30 pm, April 29.

IT Security & Risk Officer - Town of New Market. Responsible for the design, configuration, deployment, enforcement and maintenance of the Town's technical security infrastructure. Apply online by May 2 quoting file number 22-78.

Manager Green Lane Landfill Operations - City of Toronto. Responsible for the operation of a major municipal landfill, including all planning, development, construction, maintenance, monitoring, contract compliance, environmental, and regulatory compliance. Apply online quoting Job ID 27123, by May 6.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

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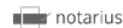
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