



Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: December 12, 2022
Correspondence Package No. I-22-DEC-18

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-22-DEC-18 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

- 1. Correspondence from the Government of Canada**
 - a) [Update from Canada's Minister of Seniors](#)
- 2. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario**
 - a) [All Ontarians Aged 12+ Eligible for Bivalent Booster](#)
 - b) [Ontario Celebrates Local Government Week 2022](#)
 - c) [Ontario Continues to Crack Down on Foreign Real-Estate Speculation](#)
 - d) [Ontario Taking Bold Action to Build More Homes](#)
 - e) [Governments of Canada and Ontario invest over \\$56 million to bring high-speed internet to over 16,000 homes in eastern Ontario](#)
 - f) [Ontario Doing More to Further Expand Health Workforce](#)
 - g) [Ontario Supporting Stronger, More Accessible Communities](#)
 - h) [Province Announces 2023 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Allocations](#)
 - i) [Ontario To Cut Gas and Fuel Taxes For Additional Year](#)
 - j) [Ontario Delivers Progress Report and Advances its Plan to Build](#)
 - k) [Ontario Taking Next Steps to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Tackle the Housing Supply Crisis](#)
 - l) [Ontario Moving Forward with Bold Action to Address the Housing Crisis](#)
 - m) [Ontario Preparing More Students for Careers in the Skilled Trades](#)

- n) Ontario Providing More Support to the Landlord and Tenant Board
- o) Ontario Investing to Reduce Surgical Wait Times in Eastern Ontario
- p) Ontario Increasing Construction Funding for Long-Term Care Homes
- q) Ontario Unveils Plan to Strengthen Food Supply Chain from Farm to Fork
- r) Ontario Upskilling More Nurses to Work in Critical Care
- s) Ontario Supporting Francophone Start-Ups and Entrepreneurs
- t) Ontario Strengthening Emergency Departments in Rural Communities Across the Province
- u) Ontario Continues to Strengthen the Economy
- v) Ontario Celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- w) Ontario Marks National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

3. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) Nominations for Warden's Community Service Awards now open
- b) Nomination for 2023 Renfrew County Warden
- c) County of Renfrew Day at Queen's Park
- d) County Council Inaugural Session 2022
- e) 2023 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar
- f) Committee Appointments

4. Correspondence from the Renfrew County District Health Unit

- a) New Five Year Strategic Plan – Our Journey Forward
- b) 2022-2023 Flu Campaign Update
- c) Board of Health Announces Upcoming Changes to Medical Officer of Health
- d) Get Your Flu Shot as Soon as Possible
- e) Holiday Food Safety Reminder

5. Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Business

- a) November 1, 2022
- b) November 15, 2022

6. Correspondence from Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

- a) [Changes to Development Charges Act, Planning Act and Conservation Authorities Act](#)
- b) [Assessment of Bill 23 - Planning Matters](#)
- c) [Assessment of Bill 23 - Development Charges](#)
- d) [Assessment of Bill 23 - Conservation Authorities Act](#)
- e) [Assessment of Bill 23 - Parkland Dedication](#)
- f) [Assessment of Bill 23 - Community Benefits Charges](#)

7. Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- a) [Watch File – October 13, 2022](#)
- b) [Watch File – November 10, 2022](#)
- c) [Watch File – November 17, 2022](#)
- d) [Watch File – November 24, 2022](#)
- e) [Watch File – December 1, 2022](#)

8. Correspondence from the Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County

- a) [November 2022 Newsletter](#)



Message from the Minister

November 28, 2022

Hello,

I am happy to share that new benefits and increased credit payments are coming to help make life more affordable for older adults [with the 2022 Fall Economic Statement](#) that was announced this month.

The 2022 Fall Economic Statement **builds on the investments we've** made as a government to ensure everyone can earn a good living for **a hard day's work and live with security and dignity in their** retirement years. New measures proposed include, making life more affordable and investing in jobs, growth, and an economy that works for everyone. As Minister of Seniors, I am committed to helping seniors age with security and dignity.

I am also committed to achieving a Canada free from gender-based violence and speaking up against harmful behaviours.

I would like to acknowledge International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25. Next month, it will be 33 years since the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montreal. Every year, we must come together to remember these women and condemn misogyny, sexism and gender based violence in all forms. I encourage you to join me in recognizing the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence from November 25 to December 10.

November is also Fall Prevention Month. Anyone can fall, but as we age, our risk of falling becomes greater. The good news is that falls can be prevented. In this edition of my newsletter, you will find information on how to prevent falls by making changes to your home and lifestyle.

You will also find information about:

- Fall Economic Update
 - How we are making life more affordable with new benefits
- Fall Prevention Information
- Flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine information
- Financial Literacy Month, and more!

Please take a moment to share this link with friends and colleagues so that they can [sign up to receive my updates](#).

Thanks for reading and sharing.

Kamal Khera
Minister of Seniors



Important information for seniors

Fall Economic Update

As we navigate the economic slowdown that is coming for Canada and the world, the government will continue to be there for Canadians who need it most. The [2022 Fall Economic Statement](#) that was release at the beginning of November includes a series of new, targeted measures that are focused on the Canadians most affected by rising prices.

New measures proposed in the 2022 Fall Economic Statement include:

1. Making Life More Affordable
2. Investing in Jobs, Growth, and an Economy That Works for Everyone

The 2022 Fall **Economic Statement** builds on the investments we've made as a government to ensure older adults live with security and dignity in their retirement years. Through these investments, we can ensure that Canadians of every age can enjoy the prosperity we are

building together.

Prior to the 2022 Fall Economic Statement, this year, Canadians have already been receiving significant new support through the **government's Affordability Plan. This includes:**

- Increasing the Old Age Security (OAS) pension by 10 per cent for the most vulnerable seniors, people 75 years and older, which began in July 2022, will provide more than \$800 in new support to full pensioners over the first year, and increase benefits for more than three million seniors.

Important benefits being indexed to inflation, including the Canada Child Benefit, the Canada Pension Plan, OAS, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

New benefits and increased credit payments are coming to help make life more affordable

After a lifetime of hard work, Canadian seniors deserve a secure and dignified retirement. However, for some, the rising cost of living is making it more difficult to make ends meet. As a government, we know the very real impact that challenges with affordability are having on seniors across the country and **we're going to make sure** that we are there, supporting them, every step of the way.

That's why when Parliament returned this fall, the very first thing we did was introduce legislation to help the most vulnerable seniors navigate affordability challenges.

The Government has confirmed it will double the [Goods and Services Tax Credit \(GSTC\)](#) for six months for those who receive it. That payment will be issued starting November 4, 2022. That means putting up to an extra \$225 more money back in the pockets of seniors.

To ensure you are getting the help you need as quickly as possible, there is no need to apply for the additional one-time GST credit. Recipients who have already received, or were entitled to, a payment in October 2022 will receive the payment automatically this November.

We also have a one-time top-up to the [Canada Housing Benefit](#) would provide a \$500 payment to low-income renters, including seniors, facing housing affordability challenges.

Here is how you can get ready so you can get your money faster!

Signing up for [My Account](#) will be the quickest, easiest and most secure way to apply for the one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit. It also allows you to view and manage all of your tax information in one place. Register now using one of our convenient [sign-in options](#)

You could also:

- [Sign up for direct deposit](#)
- [Make sure your personal information is up to date](#)
- [File your 2021 tax return](#)

Fall Prevention Month

Falls are the leading cause of injury among older Canadians. 20-30% of seniors experience one or more falls each year and it is the cause of **85% of seniors' injury related to hospitalizations.**

The good news is that falls can be prevented.

You can prevent falls by making the needed changes to your home and lifestyle. Here are a few ways to start:

- Ensure you have non-slip surfaces in the tub or shower;
- Reduce clutter;
- Make sure your living space is well lit; and
- Have your hearing and vision checked regularly.

If you do fall, don't rush to get up. Make sure you are not injured before trying to get up.

For more information on Fall Prevention Month, please visit the [Fall Prevention Month](#) website.

For more information on preventing falls, please visit: the [you CAN Prevent Falls!](#) website.

November is Financial Literacy Month in Canada

Do you find it challenging to manage your finances and debt? You are not alone!

The financial marketplace can be complex and stressful for many seniors. To make matters worse, some seniors can feel overwhelmed by new financial responsibilities after losing a spouse or partner.

That is why financial literacy is an important life skill for all ages and stages.

During [Financial Literacy Month](#), learn how to manage your money and debt in a changing world. The campaign has five sub-themes designed to manage debt:

- Find the right balance between paying down debt and daily spending.
- Make a plan to pay down your debt.
- Avoid taking on more debt than needed.

- Know what to consider before borrowing money.
- Learn about your rights and your protections as a financial consumer.

Our government is committed to strengthening the financial literacy of seniors and all Canadians. Check out these free tools to help improve your money management skills or help you manage your retirement.

- [Financial literacy self-assessment quiz](#)
- [Your financial toolkit](#)
- [Retirement planning](#)
- [Debt and borrowing](#)

Reminder: Help protect against respiratory illness this fall
Respiratory illnesses are increasing this fall as people spend more time together indoors. One of the best ways to protect yourself from becoming really sick is to stay up to date with your annual flu vaccine and recommended COVID-19 vaccines.

Your best defence against the flu: the flu vaccine
Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada recommend that everyone aged 6 months or older get the annual flu vaccine. This is especially important for people who:

- are at high risk of complications from the flu, or
- could pass on the flu virus to those at high risk

People at high risk of flu-related complications include those who:

- are aged 65 years or older
- have chronic health conditions, or
- reside in nursing homes or other care facilities, [among others](#).

The flu vaccine can help prevent influenza and reduce the severity of your symptoms even if you do get sick. It also helps to prevent flu-related complications such as pneumonia.

People are encouraged to get a flu vaccine annually. It is reviewed each year and updated in most years to try to achieve the best match possible between the vaccine and the strains that are expected to circulate in the upcoming influenza season.

The flu vaccine cannot give you the flu. While some people experience side effects after getting the vaccine, these are generally mild and resolve on their own within a few days.

You can get your flu vaccine at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine.

[Visit your provincial or territorial website](#) to find out where to book a flu vaccine in your area.

Keep up to date: COVID-19 vaccines

Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccination continues to be one of the most effective ways to protect against serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

Protection from COVID-19 vaccination decreases over time. A booster dose increases the immune response and helps improve protection against severe outcomes.

If it has been 6 months since your last dose or since being infected with COVID-19, **it's time to get a booster dose**. A fall booster dose is especially important for people 65 years of age and older and for anyone who is at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19.

[Visit your provincial or territorial website](#) to find out if you are due for a

COVID-19 booster and to book an appointment.

Information resources

- Poster: [Plan to get your flu shot](#)
- [Canada.ca/flu](#)
- Fact sheet: [Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations](#)
- Social media images: [Get the facts about COVID-19 booster doses](#)
- [Canada.ca/covid-vaccine](#)

Save time at the airport! Submit your customs and immigration declaration in advance

Did you know that you can save time at airports by sending your customs and immigration declaration to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) in advance? You can use the Advance CBSA Declaration feature in ArriveCAN up to 72 hours before your flight back to Canada.

To declare in advance, you have to:

1. Visit [canada.ca/arrivecan](#) or download the ArriveCAN app on your mobile device
2. Create an account (you will need a passport or permanent resident card)
3. Answer quick questions about your trip and what goods you are bringing with you and submit your declaration

Once you arrive at the airport, your declaration will automatically be transmitted to the kiosk or eGate when you scan your travel document.

This option to declare in advance is available now to travellers who land at Toronto Pearson, Vancouver, Montreal-Trudeau, Winnipeg Richardson and Halifax Stanfield international airports. It will be available to more international airports in the coming months.

The Canada Border Services Agency is working hard to give you a safe, better and faster experience when arriving in Canada.

Visit our website for more information: [Use ArriveCAN for a faster border experience - Canada.ca](#)

Spread the word:

I hope you will take a minute to ensure that this message reaches as many older adults (and the people who support them) as possible. Please share it with your networks through social media, email or your newsletter. You can now sign up and invite others to [sign up for the newsletter online](#).

For regular updates, please follow:

Twitter: [@ESDC_GC](#)

Facebook: [Seniors in Canada](#)

If you would no longer like to receive updates from the Minister or if you would like to add another email address to this distribution list, please reply to nc-stakeholder_relations_intervenants-gd@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca.



NEWS RELEASE

All Ontarians Aged 12+ Eligible for Bivalent Booster

Flu Shots Available Starting November 1st

October 13, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — With Health Canada approval of the Pfizer bivalent vaccine, everyone aged 12 and over is eligible to get a bivalent COVID-19 booster dose starting Monday, October 17 if they have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series. The Ontario government is reminding people to stay up-to-date with their vaccines as we enter respiratory illness season.

It is also important to get your annual flu shot. Starting November 1, flu shots will be available through your health care provider, public health unit and in participating pharmacies. Flu shots may safely be given at the same time, or at any time before or after COVID-19 vaccine, for individuals aged five years and older. Find out more at ontario.ca/flu.

“The colder weather is here which means an increase in respiratory illnesses,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Getting vaccinated remains the best defence against the flu and COVID-19 to help keep Ontarians healthy and out of hospitals. This will also ensure the province can continue its efforts to keep Ontario and its businesses open.”

As Ontario receives its first shipments of the Pfizer bivalent vaccine from the federal government this week, Ontarians aged 12 to 17 will be able to receive their booster on Monday, October 17. Appointments can be booked now through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#) or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre (PVCC) at 1-833-943-3900. Eligible individuals can also book an appointment directly through public health units that use their own booking systems, Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, participating health care providers and [participating pharmacies](#).

“We are entering into the fall season where traditionally we see a rise in cases of respiratory illness, including COVID-19,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “Vaccines improve your immune response and reduce the risk of

severe illness, hospitalization and post-infection symptoms. We recommend Ontarians stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations at the appropriate interval since their last dose, and get an annual flu shot when it becomes available.”

In addition to getting vaccinated, those over 60 years of age can also access antiviral treatments such as Paxlovid if they have COVID-19 symptoms. Learn more about [COVID-19 treatments](#) and review your eligibility by using [Ontario’s antiviral screener tool](#), speaking with your health care provider or calling 811.

To help keep everyone as healthy as possible this fall and winter season, Ontarians should stay home when they are feeling sick and continue to practise good hand hygiene.

Quick Facts

- Publicly funded PCR testing remains accessible for [high-risk individuals](#) including as a qualifier for accessing antiviral treatment such as Paxlovid.
- Getting a booster dose restores protection, as evidence shows vaccine protection decreases over time.
- Boosters are particularly important for high-risk individuals, who should receive the booster three months after their last dose. Most Ontarians under the age of 65 should receive their booster dose at the recommended six-month interval. However, you can choose to book your next appointment three months after your last dose. All individuals aged 12 and over are eligible for a bivalent booster, which better protects against the currently circulating COVID-19 variants.
- Individuals aged five years and older can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or at any time before or after any other vaccines, including the flu shot. Children between six months and under five years are recommended to wait 14 days before or after the administration of another vaccine before getting their COVID-19 vaccine.
- For questions about eligibility or booking a COVID-19 vaccine, speak with your health care provider or call 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) to speak to a health specialist.
- For additional questions about vaccination, visit the [VaxFacts Clinic](#) to speak with a qualified Scarborough Health Network doctor or the SickKids [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service to book](#) a confidential phone appointment with a SickKids Registered Nurse. More information on COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth can [be found here](#).

- For more information about treatment options for COVID-19, contact your primary care provider, visit a clinical assessment centre, or call Health Connect Ontario at 811 or 1-866-797-0007 (toll-free TTY) for more information on treatments, assistance, or eligibility for virtual care options.

Additional Resources

- [Ontarians Aged 18+ Eligible for Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Dose](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Bookings to Open for Children Aged Six Months to Under Five Years](#)
- [Children Aged Five and Over Eligible for First Booster Shot](#)
- [Ontario Introduces a Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth](#)
- For resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts in responding to COVID-19, visit Ontario's [COVID-19 communication resources webpage](#).
- Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.

Related Topics

Government

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

Health and Wellness

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

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Communications Division

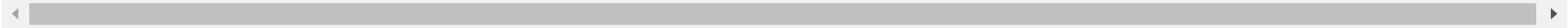
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STATEMENT

Ontario Celebrates Local Government Week 2022

October 17, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, Minister Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing issued the following statement to commemorate Local Government Week from October 16 – 22, 2022:

“Ontario's 444 municipalities are critical partners of the provincial government, with many responsibilities and essential services which our communities rely on. Municipalities also help our government tackle complex issues—from building housing and supporting growth to reducing traffic gridlock and improving transit networks.

Local Government Week gives us an opportunity to reflect on these vital services and the responsibility that rests with local governments. You can use this week to learn about the many ways to get involved with your local government, including attending town hall meetings or having your say in a local consultation.

I know first-hand how important local government is, having first become involved at the age of 22, when I was elected as Mayor of Brockville. Later, I was the President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands. These were great opportunities to learn from others, listen to different perspectives, and work to address the unique challenges municipalities face.

As the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I have applied this experience to build strong relationships with our municipal partners and help Ontario communities thrive.

This year, during Local Government Week, I encourage everyone to learn more about the crucial role local government plays in making Ontario the best place to live, work, and prosper.”

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](#)



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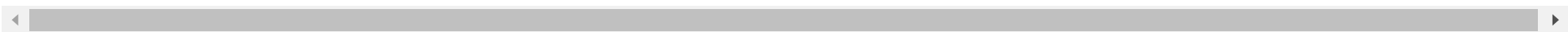


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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Continues to Crack Down on Foreign Real-Estate Speculation

Government increasing Non-Resident Speculation Tax rate to 25 per cent, the highest in Canada

October 24, 2022

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — As part of its plan to tackle Ontario's housing crisis, the government is prioritizing Ontario families and homebuyers by increasing the Non-Resident Speculation Tax rate from 20 per cent to 25 per cent, effective October 25, 2022.

This increase will strengthen efforts to deter non-resident investors from speculating on the province's housing market and help make home ownership more attainable for Ontario residents. For many years, there have been concerns that foreign real-estate speculation is an important factor driving up the cost of housing in Ontario.

"Young families, newcomers and those all over the province dream of having their own home, a dream which continues to be out of reach for too many," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "To help Ontario homebuyers, our government is increasing the Non-Resident Speculation Tax rate by another five percentage points to 25 per cent, making it the highest in Canada, to further discourage foreign speculation in Ontario's housing market."

This increase builds on the government's previous actions taken in March 2022 to make Ontario's Non-Resident Speculation Tax the most comprehensive in Canada, including:

- Increasing the rate to 20 per cent, from 15 per cent;
- Expanding the tax to apply provincewide, as it previously only applied to homes purchased in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region; and,
- Eliminating loopholes by focusing relief eligibility to only newcomers who commit to laying down roots in the province long-term.

This increase to the Non-Resident Speculation Tax rate is part of a suite of concrete actions the Province is taking to address Ontario's housing crisis. Last week, the government announced that Ontario is also cracking down on bad actors by doubling the fines for unethical and illegal new home cancellations. These steps, built on recommendations from the [Housing Affordability Task Force](#) and the first-ever [Provincial-Municipal Housing Summit](#), will deliver both near-term solutions and long-term commitments to provide more attainable housing options for Ontario families.

"Today's announcement is another step in our government's plan to make housing more attainable for all Ontarians," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "We are working to end Ontario's housing supply crisis – both by building 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years, and by ensuring Ontarians are able to access our existing housing supply. These measures are a clear indication of our commitment to do precisely that."

Quick Facts

- The Non-Resident Speculation Tax is applied to the price of homes purchased in Ontario by foreign nationals (individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of Canada), foreign corporations or taxable trustees.
- The tax rate will increase to 25 per cent for binding agreements of purchase and sale entered into on or after October 25, 2022.
- See [the Non-Resident Speculation Tax webpage](#) for further information, including transitional rules.

Additional Resources

[Non-Resident Speculation Tax](#)

[Ontario Cracking Down on Foreign Real-Estate Speculation with the Most Comprehensive Non-Resident Speculation Tax in Canada](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Taking Bold Action to Build More Homes

Next steps in province's plan will get 1.5 million homes built over the next 10 years

October 25, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the *More Homes Built Faster Act*, which takes bold action to advance the [province's plan](#) to address the housing crisis by building 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. The proposals in the *More Homes Built Faster Act* would, if passed, ensure that cities, towns and rural communities grow with a mix of ownership and rental housing types that meet the needs of all Ontarians, from single family homes to townhomes and mid-rise apartments.

“For too many Ontarians, including young people, newcomers, and seniors, finding the right home is still too challenging. This is not just a big-city crisis: the housing supply shortage affects all Ontarians, including rural, urban and suburban, north and south, young and old.” said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Our Housing Supply Action Plan is creating a strong foundation on which 1.5 million homes can be built over the next 10 years. Our government is following through on our commitment to Ontarians by cutting delays and red tape to get more homes built faster.”

The plan puts in place actions to support the development of “gentle density” – housing like triplexes or garden suites – that bridge the gap between single family homes and high-rise apartments. For example, it would remove exclusionary zoning, which allows for only one single detached home per lot. Instead, it would allow property owners to build three units without lengthy approvals and development charges.

The plan, which contains around 50 actions, addresses the housing crisis by reducing government fees and fixing developmental approval delays that slow down housing construction and increase costs. Actions in the plan include:

- Creating a new attainable housing program to drive the development of housing. Sites across all regions of Ontario will be considered, including those in

the north, central, east and southwest regions.

- Increasing the Non-Resident Speculation Tax rate from [20 per cent to 25 per cent](#) to deter non-resident investors from speculating on the province's housing market and help make home ownership more attainable for Ontario residents.
- Freezing and reducing government charges to spur new home construction and reduce the costs of housing.
- Building more density near transit, unlocking innovative approaches to design and construction, and removing red tape to get shovels in the ground faster.
- Increasing [consumer protection measures for home buyers](#) and consulting on ways to help more renters become homeowners.

The government will also consult with the public, stakeholders and municipalities while engaging with Indigenous communities to review provincial housing and land use planning policies to find ways to remove more barriers to getting homes built.

"Ontario's housing supply crisis is a problem which has been decades in the making. It will take both short-term strategies and long-term commitment from all levels of government, the private sector and not-for-profits to drive change," said Michael Parsa, Associate Minister of Housing.

Quick Facts

- Ontario is expected to grow by more than two million people over the next 10 years, with approximately 70 per cent of this growth taking place in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region.
- Ontario's first housing plan, [More Homes, More Choice](#) was released in 2019. It was followed by [More Homes for Everyone](#) in spring 2022. Ontario is seeing [strong progress](#) resulting from these plans, with annual housing starts well above average for the past 30 years.
- The government is committed to developing a new housing supply action plan for every year of its current mandate to continue delivering real, long-term housing solutions.
- A Housing Supply Action Plan Implementation Team, made up of municipal leaders and industry experts, will provide advice on market housing initiatives.
- In Fall 2022, the government passed the [Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act](#) which gives the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa more powers to work effectively with the province to reduce timelines for development, standardize processes and address local barriers to increasing the supply of housing.
- In Spring 2022, Ontario committed to provide comments on any applications for housing developments within 45 days. For more complex applications, the province is providing upfront guidance to help ensure that commitment is met.

This includes Ontario’s planned highway corridor management system, which will provide a seamless and integrated online platform for approvals and permits along provincial highways.

Additional Resources

- [More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022](#)
- [Ontario’s More Homes Built Faster Plan](#)
- [Ontario’s Housing Supply Progress](#)
- [Ontario’s More Homes for Everyone Plan](#)
- [More Homes, More Choice](#)
- [Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act](#)
- [Ontario Continues to Crack Down on Foreign Real-Estate Speculation](#)
- [Ontario Doubling Fines for Unethical and Illegal New Home Cancellations](#)

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](#)

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BACKGROUND

More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

All Levels of Government Working Together to Get More Homes Built Faster

October 25, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

The Ontario Government has introduced legislation that, if passed, would support Ontario's [newest Housing Supply Action Plan](#), More Homes Built Faster. This plan is part of a long-term strategy to increase housing supply and provide attainable housing options for hardworking Ontarians and their families. Initiatives in the plan include:

Addressing the Missing Middle

Building on a suite of as-of-right residential tools Ontario has provided municipalities with since 2019, Ontario is proposing changes to the *Planning Act* to create a new provincewide standard threshold for what's allowed to be built by strengthening the additional residential unit framework. If passed, up to three residential units would be permitted "as of right" on most land zoned for one home in residential areas without needing a municipal by-law amendment. Depending on the property in question, these three units could all be within the existing residential structure or could take the form of a residence with an in-law or basement suite and a laneway or garden home. These new units must be compliant with the building code and municipal bylaws. These units would also be exempt from development charges and parkland dedication fees.

Building More Homes Near Transit

Ontario is taking action to ensure that complete, sustainable communities are built near and centred around our historic investments in provincewide transit expansion. Proposed changes to the *Planning Act* would help move towards "as-of-right" zoning to meet planned minimum density targets near major transit stations, reducing approval timelines and getting shovels in the ground faster. Once the key development policies for major transit stations are approved, municipalities would be required to update their zoning by-laws within one year to meet minimum density targets.

Supporting the Growth and Standardization of Affordable and Rental Housing

Ontario is creating the conditions for building more affordable and purpose-built rental housing across the province. Ontario is proposing regulatory changes to provide certainty regarding inclusionary zoning rules, with a maximum 25-year affordability period, a five per cent cap on the number of inclusionary zoning units, and a standardized approach to determining the price or rent of an affordable unit under an inclusionary zoning program.

Ontario is also taking action to help streamline the construction and revitalization of our aging rental housing stock that in some cases is many decades old, grossly energy inefficient, and is starting to fail. As it stands, under the *Municipal Act* and *City of Toronto Act*, municipalities may enact bylaws to prohibit and regulate the demolition or conversion of multi-unit residential rental properties of six units or more. These by-laws vary among municipalities and can include requirements that may limit access to housing or pose as barriers to creating housing supply. Ontario will be launching consultations on potential regulations to enable greater standardization of these municipal by-laws, while ensuring that renter protections and landlord accountabilities remain in place.

Freezing, Reducing and Exempting fees for Building Attainable, Affordable, and Non-Profit Housing

Government charges and fees significantly impact the cost of housing—adding up to nearly \$200,000 to the overall cost of building a home. That is why Ontario is proposing changes to the *Planning Act*, the *Development Charges Act* and the *Conservation Authorities Act* to freeze, reduce, and exempt fees to spur the supply of new home construction and help address Ontario's housing supply crisis. This includes ensuring affordable, and inclusionary zoning units, select attainable housing units, as well as non-profit housing developments, are exempt from municipal development charges, parkland dedication levies, and community benefits charges. Rental construction would also have reduced development charges and conservation authority fees for development permits and proposals would be temporarily frozen. Ontario is also undertaking a review of all other fees levied by provincial ministries, boards, agencies, and commissions to determine what impact they may have on the cost of housing with the intent of further reducing, if not eliminating these fees altogether.

Streamlining Bureaucratic Processes to Get More Homes Built Faster

Proposed changes to the *Planning Act* would remove site plan control requirements for most projects with fewer than 10 residential units (with limited exceptions). This would reduce the number of required approvals for small housing projects, speeding things up for all housing proposals, while building permits and robust building and fire code requirements would continue to protect public safety. Proposed streamlining changes also include focusing responsibility for land use policies and approvals in certain lower-tier municipalities to eliminate the time and costs associated with planning processes by upper-tier municipalities. This would give the local community more influence over decisions that impact them directly, clarifying responsibilities and improving the efficiency of government services for citizens.

Improving the Ontario Land Tribunal to Support Building More Homes Faster

The Ontario Land Tribunal is a critical part of Ontario's land use planning system. Proposed legislative changes to the *Ontario Land Tribunal Act* would help speed up proceedings, resolve cases more efficiently and streamline processes. This includes by allowing for regulations to prioritize cases that meet certain criteria (for example, that create the most housing), as well as to establish service standards (i.e., timelines for completing specific stages of a case). Proposed changes would also clarify the Tribunal's powers to dismiss appeals due to unreasonable party delay or party failure to comply with a Tribunal order, as well as clarify the Tribunal's powers to order an unsuccessful party to pay the successful party's costs. Building on the \$14.7 million over three years announced in the Budget, Ontario would also invest \$2.5 million in other resources to support faster dispute resolution and to help reduce the overall caseload at the Tribunal.

Creating a New Attainable Housing Program

Ontario is creating a new program to support the dream of homeownership for all Ontarians. The new program will leverage provincial authorities, surplus or underutilized lands, and commercial innovation and partnerships to rapidly build attainable homes in mixed-income communities that are accessible to all and will help families to build portable equity.

Protecting Ontario Homebuyers From Unethical Developers

Ontario is further strengthening consumer protections for new home buyers by doubling maximum fines for unethical builders and vendors of new homes who unfairly cancel projects or terminate purchase agreements. These proposed changes under the *New Home Construction Licensing Act*, would, if passed, increase existing maximum financial penalties from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per infraction, with

no limit to additional monetary benefit penalties, and be retroactively imposed for contraventions that occurred on or after April 14, 2022. These changes would also enable the Home Construction Regulatory Authority to use funds from these penalties to provide money back to affected consumers, making Ontario the first jurisdiction in Canada to provide such funds to consumers. If passed, the amendments would come into force in early 2023.

Taking Action to Crack Down on Land Speculation

In January, during the Ontario-Municipal Housing Summit, Ontario's mayors expressed concerns that lands planned for residential development are sitting empty because home builders are taking too long to complete their planning applications, delaying the creation of new homes. To further investigate these concerns, Ontario will work with industry partners to consult on the issue of land speculation as a detriment to the housing supply goals of the government, and whether potential regulatory changes under the New Home Construction Licensing Act, are needed to address the issue.

Improving Ontario's Heritage and Growth Planning

Proposed changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* would renew and update Ontario's heritage policies and strengthen the criteria for heritage designation and update guidelines. This would promote sustainable development that conserves and commemorates key places with heritage significance and provide municipalities with the clarity and flexibility needed to move forward with priority projects, including housing. Ontario will be consulting on how it manages natural heritage, including improving the management of wetlands, while supporting sustainable growth and development. Ontario will be seeking input on integrating A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the Provincial Policy Statement into a single, provincewide planning policy document. This review will also include consultation on how to address overlapping planning policies that currently negatively impact precision in mapping and municipal planning.

Reducing Taxes on Affordable Rental Housing

Ontario is calling on the federal government to come to the table and work with us on potential GST/HST incentives, including rebates, exemptions and deferrals, to support new ownership and rental housing development. All levels of government need to work together to get more homes built and address the housing crisis.

Promoting Fairness to Support Affordable and Other Rental Housing

Currently, property tax assessments for affordable rental housing are established using the same basis as regular market rental properties. Ontario will explore potential refinements to the assessment methodology used to assess affordable rental housing so that it better reflects the reduced rents that are received by these housing providers.

In addition, Ontario will consult with municipalities on potential approaches to reduce the current property tax burden on multi-residential apartment buildings in the province.

Helping Homebuyers and Renters: Addressing Vacant Homes

This winter, there will also be a consultation on a policy framework setting out the key elements of local vacant home taxes. Right now, only a handful of municipalities have the authority to charge this tax on unoccupied residential units to incentivize owners to sell or rent them out. A provincial-municipal working group will be established to consult on this framework, and to facilitate sharing information and best practices.

Strengthening the Non-Resident Speculation Tax

At 25 per cent and provincewide, Ontario now has the highest and most comprehensive Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST) in the country. This initiative is meant to further discourage foreign speculation in Ontario's housing market.

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](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Governments of Canada and Ontario invest over \$56 million to bring high-speed internet to over 16,000 homes in eastern Ontario

Rural communities to benefit from increased connectivity to high-speed internet

October 26, 2022

[Infrastructure](#)

All Canadians, no matter where they live, need reliable and affordable high-speed internet to access essential services, supports and opportunities. That is why the governments of Canada and Ontario, along with the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB), are taking action to get people living in rural and remote communities connected to high-speed internet.

Today, the Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development — together with Amarjot Sandhu, Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure, on behalf of the Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure — announced more than \$56 million in combined funding for three projects by Bell and Cogeco to bring high-speed internet access to over 16,000 households in rural communities across eastern Ontario. Bell's projects are set to be completed between March and December 2025, and Cogeco's project is set to be completed by March 2024.

In July 2021, the governments of Canada and Ontario [announced](#) that they had partnered with the CIB to support large-scale fibre-based projects to provide high-speed internet access to more than 280,000 rural and remote households across the province. That historic agreement was made possible by a joint federal-provincial investment totaling more than \$1.2 billion. Today's announcement by the governments of Canada and Ontario and the CIB provides details on three of the projects selected under that agreement.

Today's announcement builds 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 announcement also brings 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.

Quick Facts

- The [Universal Broadband Fund](#) (UBF) is a \$2.75 billion investment by the Government of Canada designed to help provide high-speed internet access to 98 per cent of Canadians by 2026 and achieve the national target of 100 per cent access by 2030. Only the hardest-to-reach households may take until 2030.
- [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.
- 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 through a total investment of more than \$1.2 billion, co-funded equally by both levels of government.
- The Ontario government has committed over \$950 million to nearly 190 broadband, cellular and satellite projects to date, bringing faster internet access to over 375,000 homes and businesses across the province and significantly improving cellular connectivity throughout eastern Ontario.
- Earlier this year, Ontario's Ministry of Infrastructure and Infrastructure Ontario [signed contracts](#) with eight internet service providers to bring high-speed internet access to up to 266,000 homes and businesses across as many as 339 municipalities through the [Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program \(AHSIP\)](#).
- In 2021, Ontario passed the [Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021](#) to help speed up construction of broadband projects. To build upon this legislation, the Ontario government passed the [Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022](#), which further reduces barriers, duplication and delays.
- The [Canada Infrastructure Bank](#) is improving the commercial viability of broadband projects, allowing connectivity to expand at a quicker pace and larger scale, with lower implementation costs.

Quotes

"We all know that internet is no longer a luxury in this day and age — it's a necessity. Access to fast, reliable internet helps rural Canadians by levelling the playing field so they can access essential services like health care and education, participate in the digital economy, or simply connect with loved ones. Our government will continue to work side by side with our partners to achieve our connectivity targets and ensure every Canadian, no matter where they live, has access to high-speed internet by 2030."

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

"Our government is building a stronger Ontario by delivering on our commitment to achieve 100 per cent connectivity across the province by the end of 2025. These projects will expand high-speed internet access to more unserved and underserved communities across eastern Ontario, and they will ensure Ontarians have the ability to learn, work, participate in the agriculture sector, access critical health services and connect with loved ones."

**- Amarjot Sandhu
Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure**

"The Canada Infrastructure Bank is committed to expanding broadband service in rural Ontario. Our investment will help finance essential infrastructure for residents, create new economic opportunities and support public services. A tremendous opportunity exists to expand broadband networks by collaborating with internet service providers, and the CIB is part of the solution to connect more Canadians."

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

"Connecting our communities for work, school, social and entertainment needs is a top priority at Cogeco. That's why we are proud to partner with the governments of Canada and Ontario to bring our world-class high-speed internet to more residents and businesses in the areas of Greenhurst-Thurstonia, Omemee and Pleasant Point. We are proud to be your local connection."

- Matt Wickham

**Vice President and General Manager, Customer Experience and B2B,
Cogeco**

"At a time when fast and reliable internet connections are more important than ever, we're proud to partner with the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to expand our all-fibre broadband network to even more communities across Ontario. Through our own fully funded investments and through partnerships like this, Bell continues to deliver on our goal of advancing how Canadians connect with each other and the world."

- Bruce Furlong

Senior Vice-President, Access Engineering and Deployment, Bell Canada

Additional Resources

- [Governments of Canada and Ontario invest over \\$56 million to bring high-speed internet access to over 16,000 rural homes in eastern Ontario](#)
- [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](#)
- [Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Doing More to Further Expand Health Workforce

New changes making it easier and faster for health care workers to register and practice in Ontario

October 27, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is making additional changes that will break down barriers so that more health professionals can work in Ontario. Doing more to expand the province's health workforce is a key part of the [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#) to ensure people can continue to access the health care services they need, when they need them.

"These changes will bring more health care workers into our health system faster, helping to care for people when they need it," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Our government will work with all partners to ensure Ontario's nurses, doctors, personal support workers and other health care professionals have the resources, support and guidance they need to enter the workforce and continue delivering the care Ontarians deserve."

These changes proposed by the Ontario Ministry of Health, the College of Nurses of Ontario and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, will support recruitment efforts and make it faster and easier for health care professionals trained in Ontario, other provinces and internationally to register and practice in Ontario.

Changes that will come into effect immediately, include:

- Allowing internationally educated nurses to register in a temporary class and begin working sooner while they work towards full registration;
- Making it easier for non-practicing or retired nurses to return to the field by introducing flexibility to the requirement that they need to have practiced nursing within a certain period of time before applying for reinstatement; and
- Creating a new temporary independent practice registration class for physicians from other provinces and territories, making it easier for them to work for up to 90 days in Ontario.

Further changes, which come into effect on January 1, 2023, include:

- Requiring health regulatory colleges to comply with time limits to make registration decisions;
- Prohibiting health regulatory colleges from requiring Canadian work experience for the purpose of registration, with some exceptions such as when equivalent international experience is accepted; and
- Accepting language tests approved under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (Canada) to reduce duplicate language proficiency testing for immigrants to Canada.

Finally, on August 31, 2023, health regulatory colleges will be required to have a new category of registration that can be used to facilitate quicker registration to help safeguard the health workforce supply in the event of future emergencies.

Quick Facts

- When fully implemented, the government's [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#) will add up to 19,000 more health care workers, including nurses and personal support workers, to Ontario's health workforce. Over 11,900 health care professionals (including over 8,700 nurses and externs) have been added to the health system since Winter 2020.
 - Ontario is working with the College of Nurses of Ontario and Ontario Health to expand funding for the supervised practice experience partnership program which has already supported over 800 international nurses in getting licensed since January. The province anticipates that by March 31, 2023 another 200 international nurses will gain the practice and language requirements necessary to work in Ontario.
 - Ontario is also working with the College of Nurses of Ontario to reduce the financial barriers that may be stopping some retired or internationally trained nurses from registering to resume or begin practicing, by temporarily covering the cost of examination, application, and registration fees, saving them up to \$1,500.
 - The government has invested \$764 million to provide Ontario's nurses with a retention incentive of up to \$5,000 per person.
-

Quotes

"The CPSO thanks the Ontario Government for fulfilling our request to amend our regulations to allow for the creation of a new temporary class of registration that helps support mobility within Canada. There is still much to do however this is a good first step."

- Nancy Whitmore

Registrar and CEO of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

"The College of Nurses of Ontario protects the public through the promotion of safe nursing practice, this includes the registration of nurses with the knowledge, skill and judgment to practice safely in Ontario. Already in 2022 CNO has registered more nurses than ever and these regulation changes will further support the increase of safe, qualified nurses into the health care system."

- Silvie Crawford

Executive Director and CEO of the College of Nurses of Ontario

"The Ontario Medical Association welcomes today's announcement as a good first step to maximizing the health-care work force. We need more doctors and nurses to care for patients who are returning to the health-care system in large numbers."

- Dr. Rose Zacharias

President of the Ontario Medical Association

"RNAO is delighted that the province will enable faster registration of internationally educated nurses already in Canada who wish to live and work in Ontario. There are about 26,000 RNs, NPs and RPNs currently sidelined instead of working on the front lines where we need them. To make sure these nurses and others stay in Ontario, the province needs to provide robust nurse retention strategies, including competitive compensation and career growth."

- Dr. Doris Grinspun

CEO of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

"As we continue to experience health human resource challenges across the health care system, and particularly in home care, today's announcement is an important step in building our health workforce and ensuring patients get the care they need. Enabling nurses who are here and ready to work, to use their skills and education to care for patients faster, will provide immediate reinforcements and relief to our front-line workers."

- Sandra Ketchen
President and CEO of Spectrum Health Care

"Like the rest of the health care system, Ontario's home care sector continues to struggle with health human resource shortages. The steps announced today will begin to help address these shortages. By removing the barriers that prevent trained nurses from working, the government will help bolster our front-line home care workforce and will allow home care to further reduce the pressure on hospitals by providing more care for more people in the right place – their homes."

- Sue VanderBent
CEO of Home Care Ontario

"Any additional capacity in the nursing sector is welcome news and today's announcement is an important step in expanding Ontario's health workforce. The measures taken by the government over the past year have had a positive impact, with some improvements since staffing shortages peaked earlier this year. We look forward to partnering with the government on ongoing investments for retention and recruitment to support the home and community support sector."

- Deborah Simon
CEO of the Ontario Community Support Association

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Introduces A Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002427/ontario-doing-more-to-further-expand-health-workforce)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Supporting Stronger, More Accessible Communities

EnAbling Change Program now accepting funding applications for 2022-23

November 03, 2022

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

Toronto – The Ontario government is building stronger and more accessible communities by investing up to \$1.5 million in the 2022-23 EnAbling Change Program. The program provides grants to not-for-profits and organizations across a range of sectors for projects that show the value and benefits of accessibility through the development of tools and educational resources that make Ontario open to people of all abilities.

“Our government is investing in people of all abilities by funding projects that raise awareness about how accessibility and inclusion benefits everyone,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “The EnAbling Change Program makes Ontario more accessible, with communities and businesses open to all.”

Applications for funding are open starting today through to December 8. Some examples of previously funded projects include:

- **up to \$112,610 to [Canada’s National Ballet School to deliver integrated dance programs for children of all abilities](#)** across the province so they can experience and enjoy dance.
- **up to \$129,123 to Electricity Human Resources Canada** to build a more inclusive workforce by creating a set of made-in-Ontario reference tools, learning materials and short videos to extend its online resources and support employers in expanding the accessibility of jobs in the electricity sector to people with disabilities.
- **up to \$108,600 to Trucking Human Resources Canada** to provide small and medium sized trucking companies with information about how to create viable employment options for people with disabilities.

This year the EnAbling Change Program focus will be on projects that:

- drive a culture of respect and dignity for people with disabilities,

- support awareness of requirements and regulatory compliance under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and
- create equitable opportunities in the jobs market.

Information on how to apply for the 2022-23 EnAbling Change Program can be found on the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility’s [Age-friendly and accessibility grants web page](#).

Quick Facts

- The EnAbling Change Program started in 1999. Last year, the program supported [14 projects across Ontario](#).
- The program provides funding to not-for-profit, industry and professional associations across a range of sectors.
- The Ontario government is helping drive cultural awareness about the value and benefits of accessibility through the EnAbling Change Program and [Advancing Accessibility in Ontario framework](#).
- [A complete list of the 2021-22 EnAbling Change Program recipients](#).

Additional Resources

[Learn about ways that inclusion improves business.](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Province Announces 2023 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Allocations

Ontario reaffirms its \$500 million commitment to help municipalities deliver critical services

November 09, 2022

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is announcing 2023 municipal funding allocations under the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) that primarily supports northern and rural municipalities across the province. The Ontario government is maintaining the program envelope at \$500 million for 2023 and communicating funding allocations in advance of the municipal budget year to support municipalities with their planning processes.

The OMPF targets funding to municipalities facing challenging fiscal circumstances and supports areas with limited property assessment.

“Our government understands the importance of certainty and stability for municipalities across the province particularly during these times of economic uncertainty. We are maintaining the overall structure and program envelope of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, while ensuring the program continues to be responsive to municipal circumstances,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Northern and rural municipalities face unique challenges. This is why we have been increasing support to northern and rural municipalities through the doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and introducing the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund.”

“Municipalities provide important services that people depend on every day. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund offers predictable and stable funding to help smaller and northern municipalities deliver these critical services,” said Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) President Colin Best. “AMO appreciates the Ontario Government’s commitment to the OMPF, and we continue to work together to ensure we have a strong foundation of municipal services to support growth and prosperity in Ontario.”

The government remains committed to strengthening its relationship with municipalities to continue to build stronger and more resilient communities.

Quick Facts

- The OMPF supports 389 municipalities across the province. The funding provided through the program is unconditional and can be used to support the local priorities and specific needs of each community.
 - In 2023, the program is again providing \$500 million to 389 of Ontario's 444 municipalities.
 - The OMPF primarily supports northern and rural municipalities across the province. Its objectives are to:
 - recognize the challenges of small, northern and rural municipalities, while targeting funding to those with more challenging fiscal circumstances;
 - support areas with limited property assessment; and
 - assist municipalities that are adjusting to year-over-year funding changes.
 - The government has committed \$400 million annually over five years to invest in local infrastructure and asset management through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF). OCIF provides investment to help 424 small, rural and Northern communities construct and rehabilitate roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure.
 - The Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program is providing up to \$15 million annually over five years to northern municipalities to support infrastructure projects.
-

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund](#)
-

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario To Cut Gas and Fuel Taxes For Additional Year

Government providing ongoing relief for businesses and families during uncertain times

November 13, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — As part of its plan to help keep costs down for Ontario families and businesses, the government's 2022 Fall Economic Statement will propose legislation that would, if passed, extend the current gas and fuel tax rate cuts to December 31, 2023.

"At a time when inflation has reached the highest levels in over four decades, we know families are feeling the pressure from rising prices on everything from gas to groceries," said Premier Doug Ford. "To continue providing real relief, our government is proposing to extend the gas tax cut for another year to put more money back in peoples' pockets where it belongs."

The proposed extension of the gas and fuel tax rate cuts for an additional year would save Ontario households \$195 on average between July 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023. This extension follows legislation passed this spring that cut the gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre for six months, from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

"By proposing to extend the gas and fuel tax rate cuts our government is helping Ontario families keep more money in their pockets during this time of economic uncertainty," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "Ontario, like the rest of the world, will continue to face economic challenges in the year ahead. This is why our government's Fall Economic Statement will take a responsible approach to advance our plan to build while also being ready for any challenge that may come our way."

The proposed extension to the gas and fuel tax rate cuts builds on the government's other measures to help keep costs down for families and businesses, including:

- Cutting costs for millions of Ontario vehicle owners by refunding licence plate sticker renewal fees paid since March 2020, and eliminating licence plate renewal fees and plate stickers on a go-forward basis, saving vehicle owners

\$120 a year in southern Ontario and \$60 a year in Northern Ontario for passenger and light commercial vehicles.

- Permanently removing tolls on Highways 412 and 418.
- Enhancing the Low-income Individuals and Families Tax (LIFT) Credit to provide claimants of the credit up to \$875 in tax relief, as of 2022.
- Providing additional tax relief for workers, families and seniors through the Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit, the Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit, the Ontario Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses (CARE) tax credit, and the new Ontario Seniors Care at Home Tax Credit.
- Delivering both near-term solutions and long-term commitments to build more homes faster to put home ownership within reach for all Ontario families, through the government's housing supply action plans.

Quick Facts

- This proposed extension would see the rate of tax on gasoline and fuel (diesel) remain at 9 cents per litre until December 31, 2023. This would save Ontario households \$195 on average between July 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023.
- The price paid at the pump is made up of the cost of crude oil, wholesale margins, retail margins, federal excise tax, the federal carbon tax, Ontario gasoline/fuel tax and HST.

Additional Resources

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

[Gas and fuel tax rate decrease](#)

[Gasoline Tax](#)

[Fuel Tax](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Delivers Progress Report and Advances its Plan to Build

Ontario's 2022 Fall Economic Statement takes action in a time of economic uncertainty and global inflation

November 14, 2022

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — Today, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy released the [2022 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review – Ontario's Plan to Build: A Progress Update](#). It includes the government's first-ever progress report on its plan to build Ontario, as well as new targeted measures that advance its plan to build the economy, address the province's labour shortage and help families and businesses keep costs down.

The government is also providing an update on Ontario's economic and fiscal outlook, highlighting how its flexible and responsible plan is positioning the province to be ready to manage uncertainty and risk as the world faces high inflation and emerging economic challenges.

"Together, we have come so far," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "From attracting investments and good jobs, to training thousands of skilled trades workers and helping keep costs down for families, we have made significant progress. As we navigate these uncertain economic times, our government is enhancing its plan through new targeted measures that support families, seniors and small businesses."

Highlights of targeted measures that advance the government's plan include:

- Launching a voluntary clean energy credit registry to boost competitiveness, attract jobs and provide businesses with more choice in how they pursue their environmental and sustainability goals, as enabled by proposed legislation.
- Providing Ontario's small businesses with \$185 million in income tax relief over the next three years, benefiting about 5,500 small businesses through the proposed extension of the phase-out of the small business tax rate.
- Automatically matching property tax reductions for small businesses within all municipalities that adopt the small business property subclass.

- Making changes that would allow a person with a disability on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) to keep more of the money they earn by increasing the monthly earnings exemption from \$200 to \$1,000 per month. This would allow the approximately 25,000 individuals currently in the workforce to keep more of their earnings and could encourage as many as 25,000 more to participate in the workforce.
- Planning to adjust the maximum monthly amount for the Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities program annually to inflation, beginning in July 2023.
- Helping to manage rising costs for low-income people with disabilities by planning to adjust core allowances under the ODSP to inflation annually, beginning in July 2023.
- Investing an additional \$40 million in 2022–23, for a total of \$145 million for the latest round of funding in the Skills Development Fund, which has already helped over 393,000 people take the next step in their careers in in-demand industries.
- Investing an additional \$4.8 million over two years, beginning in 2023–24, to expand the Dual Credit program, encouraging more secondary school students to enter a career in the skilled trades or in early childhood education.
- Proposing to extend the cuts to the gas tax and fuel tax rates so that the rate of tax on gasoline and fuel (diesel) would remain at 9 cents per litre until December 31, 2023.
- Helping to manage costs for about 200,000 of Ontario's lowest-income seniors by proposing to double the Guaranteed Annual Income System payment for all recipients for 12 months starting January 2023, a maximum increase of almost \$1,000 per person in 2023.
- Proposing to expand eligible expenditures for the Ontario Production Services Tax Credit to include location fees to help attract domestic and foreign film and television production to the province and incentivize more on-location filming in communities across Ontario.

"We are in a time of elevated inflation that is straining household budgets by driving up prices on everyday goods and services," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "But I am confident in the resilience of Ontario's economy, its workers and its people. And I remain confident in our government's plan to maintain our fiscal flexibility, so we can provide targeted support to people and businesses today, while building for the future."

Highlights of the government's first-ever Building Ontario Progress Report:

- Attracted \$16 billion in transformative automotive investments in Ontario by global automakers and suppliers of electric vehicle batteries and battery materials over the last two years.
- Attracted \$2.5 billion in investments over the past year that will support transformation in the steel sector and help make the province a world-leading producer of low-carbon steel.
- Supporting an estimated \$8.7 billion in cost savings and support for Ontario businesses in 2022, with \$4.0 billion going to small businesses, through actions such as lowering payroll costs and providing electricity price relief.
- Unleashing the economic potential of critical minerals, including those in the Ring of Fire, with Ontario's first-ever Critical Minerals Strategy and a commitment of close to \$1 billion to support critical legacy infrastructure such as all-season roads to the Ring of Fire.
- Continuing to support the skilled trades, with Ontario seeing over 71,700 new registrations in apprenticeship programs, more than 25,000 Certificates of Apprenticeship and 5,600 Certificates of Qualification between 2018 and 2020.
- Adding over 11,700 health care workers, including nurses and personal support workers, since 2020; as well as over 800 internationally educated nurses who have become licensed nurses in Ontario through government-funded programming.
- Approximately \$25.1 billion in highway expansion and rehabilitation over the next 10 years to connect communities, fight gridlock and keep goods and people moving across the province, including building Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, and expanding Highway 401.

Quick Facts

- As global economic conditions remain uncertain, driven by a variety of factors beyond the government's control, the government has developed Faster Growth and Slower Growth scenarios that the economy could take over the next several years to provide more transparency about how alternative economic scenarios could impact Ontario's finances.
- The government is committed to eliminating the province's structural deficit in light of ongoing economic uncertainty and fiscal challenges, and is redoubling its efforts to bring Ontario's finances back to balance.
- The government is now projecting a \$12.9 billion deficit in 2022–23, nearly \$7 billion lower than the outlook published in the *2022 Budget*.
- Over the medium term, the government projects declining deficits of \$8.1 billion in 2023–24 and \$0.7 billion in 2024–25. Including 2022–23, this represents a cumulative improvement of \$18.1 billion in the deficit outlook and

a cumulative \$26.1 billion reduction in borrowing needs compared to the 2022 *Budget*.

Additional Resources

- [2022 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review — Ontario's Plan to Build: A Progress Update](#)
- Read the [Backgrounder: Economic and Fiscal Overview](#)
- Read highlights of [Ontario's Plan to Build: A Progress Update](#)
- Read more about the government's plan to [keep costs down](#) and [when the government is delivering relief](#)
- Read the [2022 Budget: Ontario's Plan to Build](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Taking Next Steps to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Tackle the Housing Supply Crisis

Province introduces further measures to deliver on shared provincial-municipal priorities

November 16, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the [Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022](#), which, if passed, would take decisive action to address the housing supply crisis by assessing how best to extend strong mayor powers and reduce municipal duplication to deliver on shared provincial-municipal priorities – primarily the building of 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years.

As the province considers how to best extend strong mayor tools to more of Ontario's rapidly growing municipalities, provincially-appointed facilitators will be tasked with assessing the regional governments in Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York. These facilitators will work with local governments to assess the best mix of roles and responsibilities between upper and lower-tier municipalities and ensure they are equipped to deliver on the government's commitment to tackle the housing supply crisis.

The proposed legislation would allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to appoint the Regional Chairs of Niagara, Peel and York regions for the current term of council. If these proposals are passed, the Minister intends to re-appoint the existing regional chairs – Jim Bradley in Niagara, Nando Iannicca in Peel, and Wayne Emerson in York. This approach will provide continuity and stability at the regional level as facilitators consider how best to extend strong mayor powers to existing two-tier municipalities that are shovel-ready and committed to growth and cutting red tape.

The proposed legislation would also implement additional changes to enable the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa to propose certain municipal by-laws related to provincial priorities and enable council to pass these by-laws if more than one-third of council members vote in favour. Provincial priorities include building more

homes, which could, for example, involve expanding the footprint of [transit-oriented communities](#) so more people can live, work and play near the convenience of public transit.

“These bold actions are necessary if our government is to keep its commitment to Ontarians and remove the obstacles standing in the way of much-needed housing,” said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “That’s why we are again taking decisive action to provide municipal leaders the tools they need to plan for future population growth and get more homes built faster.”

These changes are the latest in a series of measures Ontario is taking to address the province’s serious shortage of housing. These measures include the *More Homes Built Faster Act*, the *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act* and previous housing supply action plans. The government is committed to continued action that will end the supply crisis while ensuring continuity and efficiency at the local level. The government also remains committed to supporting our municipal partners, increasing housing supply and ensuring municipalities have the tools they need to deliver on shared provincial-municipal priorities.

“Today’s announcement by the provincial government is a positive step toward reforming local government in a manner that addresses the concerns of Mississaugans,” said Bonnie Crombie, Mayor of Mississauga. “I’m confident this assessment will create a path for Mississauga’s independence and lead to greater fairness and less red tape for residents and businesses, so both the city and province can plan for future growth and support the province’s goal of building 120,000 new homes in Mississauga over the next decade.”

“Redundancy is the enemy of productivity,” said Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton. “I am glad the provincial government is looking at ways to make municipalities in Peel more efficient by removing duplication. This will help address the challenges of growth and support the construction of the homes Brampton residents so desperately need.”

Quick Facts

- Existing municipal accountability frameworks would continue to apply to heads of council with strong mayor powers, including conflict of interest rules. Heads of council would also be required to provide council and the clerk a copy of the by-law and reasons for the proposal when using the proposed by-law power.
- The Municipal Act and the City of Toronto Act provide Ontario’s municipalities with broad powers to pass by-laws on various matters within their jurisdiction –

such as zoning, parking, and the delivery of local services.

- Ontario’s first housing plan, [More Homes, More Choice](#) was released in 2019. It was followed by [More Homes for Everyone](#) in spring 2022. Ontario is seeing [strong progress](#) resulting from these plans, with annual housing starts well above average for the past 30 years.
- The government is committed to developing a new housing supply action plan for every year of its current mandate to continue delivering real, long-term housing solutions.

Additional Resources

- [Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act](#)
- [Ontario’s More Homes Built Faster Plan](#)
- [More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022](#)
- [Ontario’s Housing Supply Progress](#)
- [Ontario’s More Homes for Everyone Plan](#)
- [More Homes, More Choice](#)

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BACKGROUND

Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022

November 16, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

The Ontario government is introducing new legislation that would, if passed, take decisive action to address the housing crisis by assessing how best to extend strong mayor powers and reduce municipal duplication in order to deliver on shared provincial-municipal priorities – primarily the building of 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years. The proposed changes would also provide an additional tool to the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa to deliver on these shared priorities.

The *Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022* includes proposed changes to the *Municipal Act*, the *City of Toronto Act* and other Acts, to help these large, urban municipalities better meet the needs of their rapidly growing communities.

Explore the Expansion of the Strong Mayors Tools in Certain Regions

As the province considers how to best extend the tools provided for in the *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act* to some of Ontario's fastest-growing municipalities, provincially-appointed facilitators will assess the regional governments in Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York. They will be tasked with determining the best mix of roles and responsibilities between the upper and lower-tier municipalities in those regions, and ensuring they are equipped to deliver on the government's commitment to build 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years in order to address the housing supply crisis.

Create Ministerial Authority to appoint the Chairs of Niagara, Peel and York Regions

The proposed legislation, if passed, would allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to appoint the regional heads of council for Niagara, Peel and York regions.

If these proposals are passed, the Minister's intention is to reappoint the existing chairs: Jim Bradley in Niagara, Nando Iannicca in Peel and Wayne Emerson in York. This will provide stability and continuity as the regions work with the provincially-appointed facilitators to assess the best way to extend strong-mayor powers to existing two-tier municipalities.

Mayoral Power to Propose By-laws that could be passed with more than one-third votes

These proposed changes would enable the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa to propose and amend certain municipal by-laws related to prescribed provincial priorities and enable council to pass the by-law if more than one-third of members of council vote in favour. These bold proposals reflect the severity of Ontario's housing supply crisis and the government's commitment to act decisively to remove barriers to new home building at both the provincial and municipal levels.

Establish Regulation-Making Authorities for the New By-law Power

The proposed legislation, if passed, would allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to prescribe the provincial priorities for which the new mayoral by-law powers could be used. The proposed legislation would also allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to make regulations that establish rules related to the by-law power.

The government plans on making accompanying regulations to set out current provincial priorities. These priorities could include building 1.5 million new homes in 10 years to address the housing supply crisis, and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure, such as transit and roads, to support new and existing housing development.

Repeal the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act, 2005

In response to requests from the City of Pickering, this legislation would also, if passed, repeal the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act to assist in removing barriers to building much-needed housing in Pickering (Durham Region) as part of broader proposed amendments to the Greenbelt, and support Ontario's goal of building 1.5 million homes over the next decade.

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Moving Forward with Bold Action to Address the Housing Crisis

Legislation that supports plan to build 1.5 million homes receives Royal Assent

November 28, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the [More Homes Built Faster Act](#) was given Royal Assent, supporting the government's efforts to tackle the housing supply crisis and get 1.5 million homes built over the next 10 years. More Homes Built Faster removes unnecessary costs and cuts through red tape and other bottlenecks that stand in the way of new homes being built.

"More Homes Built Faster helps fulfill our government's promise to help more Ontarians find a home that meets their needs and budget," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "I am proud of the action this plan takes to increase the supply of housing of all types and restore the dream of homeownership for a generation of Ontarians."

Key actions in the plan include:

- Freezing and reducing government fees to support the construction of new homes and reduce the costs of housing, particularly affordable and not-for-profit housing, inclusionary zoning units and purpose-built rentals.
- Creating a new attainable housing program to drive the development of housing across all regions of Ontario.
- Increased the Non-Resident Speculation Tax rate [to 25 per cent](#) – the highest level in Canada – effective October 25, 2022, to deter non-resident investors from speculating on the province's housing market.
- Protecting new home buyers by increasing [consumer protection measures](#) and consulting on ways to help more renters become homeowners.

The plan also supports the development of "gentle density," which will create more rental housing while minimizing the impact on existing neighbourhoods. These changes will give most urban residential property owners the right to build up to three units on their land – including a basement apartment or a laneway home – without lengthy planning approvals or development charges.

“Too many Ontario families are chasing too few homes that meet their needs. The bold changes passed today are laying the foundation for those currently trying to find a home that is right for them, and for generations to come,” said Michael Parsa, Associate Minister of Housing.

Quick Facts

- Ontario is expected to grow by more than two million people by 2031, with approximately 1.5 million of those new residents expected to settle in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region.
 - Ontario’s first housing plan, [More Homes, More Choice](#) was released in 2019. It was followed by [More Homes for Everyone](#) in spring 2022. Ontario is seeing [strong progress](#) resulting from these plans, with annual housing starts well above average for the past 30 years.
 - In fall 2022, the government passed the [Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act](#) and introduced the [Better Municipal Governance Act](#) which gives the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa more powers to work effectively with the province to move forward on shared provincial-municipal priorities, including building 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years.
 - Ontario has asked the 29 of the province’s largest and fastest-growing municipalities to pledge to address the housing gap over the next 10 years. These pledges are in addition to existing, longer-term targets in municipal land use plans and will help kick start development by highlighting the need for municipal infrastructure, like roads and sewers.
 - The government strengthened the *More Homes Built Faster Act* and listened to feedback to allow municipalities to address green standards.
-

Additional Resources

- [More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022](#)
 - [Ontario’s More Homes Built Faster Plan](#)
 - [Ontario’s Housing Supply Progress](#)
 - [Ontario’s More Homes for Everyone Plan](#)
 - [More Homes, More Choice](#)
 - [Ontario Continues to Crack Down on Foreign Real-Estate Speculation](#)
 - [Ontario Doubling Fines for Unethical and Illegal New Home Cancellations](#)
-

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BACKGROUND

More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

November 28, 2022

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

The Ontario government's legislation to support the province's [newest Housing Supply Action Plan](#), More Homes Built Faster, has been given Royal Assent. This plan is part of a long-term strategy to help build more homes and make life more affordable for Ontario families.

Initiatives in the plan include:

Addressing the Missing Middle

Building on a number of as-of-right residential tools which Ontario provided municipalities with since 2019, the government is changing the *Planning Act* to create a new provincewide standard threshold for what's allowed to be built by strengthening the additional residential unit framework. With the More Homes Built Faster plan, up to three residential units are permitted "as of right" on most land zoned for one home in residential areas without needing a municipal by-law amendment. Depending on the property in question, these three units could all be within the existing residential structure or could take the form of a residence with an in-law or basement suite and a laneway or garden home. These new units must be compliant with the building code and municipal by-laws. These units would also be exempt from development charges and parkland dedication fees.

Building More Homes Near Transit

Ontario has taken action to ensure that complete, sustainable communities are built near and centred around our historic investments in provincewide transit expansion. Changes to the *Planning Act* will help move towards "as-of-right" zoning to meet planned minimum density targets near major transit stations, reducing approval timelines and getting shovels in the ground faster. Once the key development policies for major transit stations are approved, municipalities will be required to update their zoning by-laws within one year to meet minimum density targets.

Supporting the Growth and Standardization of Affordable and Rental Housing

Ontario is creating the conditions for building more affordable and purpose-built rental housing across the province. This legislation supports regulatory changes to provide certainty regarding inclusionary zoning rules, with a maximum 25-year affordability period, a five per cent cap on the number of inclusionary zoning units, and a standardized approach to determining the price or rent of an affordable unit under an inclusionary zoning program.

Ontario is also taking action to help streamline the construction and revitalization of our aging rental housing stock, which in some cases is many decades old, grossly energy inefficient, and decrepit. As it stands, under the *Municipal Act* and *City of Toronto Act*, municipalities may enact bylaws to prohibit and regulate the demolition or conversion of multi-unit residential rental properties of six units or more. These by-laws vary among municipalities and can include requirements that may limit access to housing or pose as barriers to creating housing supply. Ontario is reviewing feedback received through a consultation on potential regulations to enable greater standardization of these municipal by-laws, while ensuring that renter protections and landlord accountabilities remain in place.

Freezing, Reducing and Exempting fees for Building Attainable, Affordable and Non-Profit Housing

Government charges and fees significantly impact the cost of housing—adding up to \$250,000 to the overall cost of building a home. That is why Ontario changed the *Planning Act*, the *Development Charges Act* and the *Conservation Authorities Act* to freeze, reduce and exempt fees, spur the supply of new home construction and help address Ontario's housing supply crisis. This includes ensuring affordable and inclusionary zoning units, select attainable housing units, and non-profit housing developments are exempt from municipal development charges, parkland dedication levies and community benefits charges. Rental construction has reduced development charges of up to 25 per cent, and conservation authority fees for development permits and proposals are temporarily frozen. Ontario is also undertaking a review of fees levied by provincial ministries and agencies to determine what impact they may have on the cost of housing.

Streamlining Bureaucratic Processes to Get More Homes Built Faster

Changes to the *Planning Act* removed site plan control requirements for most projects with fewer than 10 residential units (with limited exceptions). This will reduce the number of required approvals for small housing projects, speeding things up for all housing proposals, while building permits and robust building and fire code requirements continue to protect public safety.

Streamlining changes also include focusing responsibility for land use policies and approvals in certain lower-tier municipalities to eliminate the time and costs associated with planning processes by upper-tier municipalities. This will give the local community more influence over decisions that impact them directly, clarify responsibilities and improve the efficiency of government services for citizens.

Improving the Ontario Land Tribunal to Support Building More Homes Faster

The Ontario Land Tribunal is a critical part of Ontario's land use planning system. Legislative changes to the *Ontario Land Tribunal Act* will help speed up proceedings, resolve cases more efficiently and streamline processes. This includes by allowing for regulations to prioritize cases that meet certain criteria (for example, that create the most housing), as well as to establish service standards (i.e., timelines for completing specific stages of a case). Changes will also clarify the tribunal's powers to dismiss appeals due to unreasonable party delay or party failure to comply with a tribunal order, as well as clarify the tribunal's powers to order an unsuccessful party to pay the successful party's costs. Building on the additional \$14.7 million funding over three years announced in the Budget, Ontario is further investing \$2.5 million for more resources at the tribunal to support faster dispute resolution and to help reduce the overall caseload.

Creating a New Attainable Housing Program

Ontario is creating a new program to support the dream of homeownership for more Ontarians. The new program will leverage a range of tools, including surplus or underutilized provincial lands and commercial innovation and partnerships to help rapidly build attainable homes in mixed-income communities that are more accessible and could help families to build equity.

Protecting Ontario Homebuyers from Unethical Developers

Ontario is further strengthening consumer protections for new home buyers by doubling maximum fines for unethical builders and vendors of new homes that contravene the *New Home Construction Licensing Act, 2017* including unfairly cancelling projects or terminating purchase agreements. These changes under the *New Home Construction Licensing Act, 2017* will increase existing maximum financial penalties from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per infraction, with no limit to additional monetary benefit penalties, and be retroactively imposed for contraventions that occurred on or after April 14, 2022. These changes will also enable the Home Construction Regulatory Authority to use funds from these penalties to provide

money back to adversely affected consumers, making Ontario the first jurisdiction in Canada to provide such funds to consumers. These amendments will come into force in early 2023.

Taking Action to Crack Down on Land Speculation

In January, during the Ontario-Municipal Housing Summit, Ontario's mayors expressed concerns that lands planned for residential development are sitting empty because home builders are taking too long to complete their planning applications, delaying the creation of new homes. To further investigate these concerns, Ontario will work with industry partners to consult on the issue of land speculation as a detriment to the housing supply goals of the government, and whether potential regulatory changes under the *New Home Construction Licensing Act*, are needed to address the issue.

Improving Ontario's Heritage and Growth Planning

Changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* will renew and update Ontario's heritage policies, strengthen the criteria for heritage designation and update guidelines. These changes continue to support the conservation of heritage properties that are important to Ontarians, while providing clarity and flexibility to ensure critical housing and other priority projects can move forward in a timely manner.

Ontario is consulting on how it manages natural heritage, including improving the management of wetlands, while supporting sustainable growth and development. Ontario is seeking input on integrating A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the Provincial Policy Statement into a single, provincewide planning policy document. This review also includes a consultation on how to speed up housing development and increase housing supply (including rural housing) through a more streamlined, provincewide land use planning policy framework, while continuing to protect the environment, cultural heritage and public health and safety.

Calling for Federal Action on GST/HST

Ontario is calling on the federal government to come to the table and work with us on potential GST/HST incentives to support the building of more homes. This could take the form of rebates, exemptions or deferrals of GST/HST to support both new ownership housing development and new rental housing development. All levels of government need to work together to get more homes built and address the housing crisis.

Promoting Fairness to Support Affordable and Other Rental Housing

Currently, property tax assessments for affordable rental housing are established using the same basis as regular market rental properties. Ontario will explore potential refinements to the assessment methodology used to assess affordable rental housing so that it better reflects the reduced rents that are received by these housing providers. In addition, Ontario will consult with municipalities on potential approaches to reduce the current property tax burden on multi-residential apartment buildings in the province.

Helping Homebuyers and Renters: Addressing Vacant Homes

This winter, there will also be a consultation on a policy framework setting out the key elements of local vacant home taxes. Right now, only a handful of municipalities have the authority to charge this tax on unoccupied residential units to incentivize owners to sell or rent them out. A provincial-municipal working group will be established to consult on this framework, and to facilitate sharing information and best practices.

Strengthening the Non-Resident Speculation Tax

Ontario now has the highest and most comprehensive Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST) in the country, set at 25 per cent and applied provincewide. This initiative is meant to further discourage foreign speculation in Ontario's housing market.

Sustainable Building Practices

In response to public and stakeholder input, the government intends to make future changes to the Building Code to allow municipalities to require certain green standards to promote energy-efficient buildings.

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Preparing More Students for Careers in the Skilled Trades

Expansion of dual credit program will help more secondary students participate in apprenticeship training

November 24, 2022

[Education](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$4.8 million to expand the dual credit program, helping prepare more students for the jobs of tomorrow by better connecting learning in the classroom to good-paying jobs. The expansion of the program will create opportunities for an additional 2,200 students to earn college credits and take apprenticeship training while still in high school and help to build interest in skilled trades as a rewarding career.

"This expansion supports our government's broader mission to fill the skills gap by better connecting and ultimately inspiring Ontario students to enter these good-paying jobs," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "By placing a real emphasis on life and job skills like coding, financial literacy and budgeting, along with more hands-on learning opportunities in the classroom, we are ensuring Ontario students graduate with a competitive advantage."

Ontario's dual credit programs support eligible secondary students to take college courses or apprenticeship training that count towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, degree or a Certificate of Apprenticeship. High school students taking dual credit courses benefit from a variety of college supports and services as well as the supervision and support of their dual credit teacher at their school. Additional Training Delivery Agents, including trade unions, will now be included in the delivery of Dual Credit Level 1 Apprenticeship training programs.

With one in three journeypersons today being over 55 years of age, the next generation of workers must emerge to fill critical labour shortages. Currently, 100,000 construction trades workers will be needed by the end of the decade to deliver Ontario's ambitious \$160 billion plan to build critical infrastructure, housing and transit.

“For far too long, parents and students have been told the only path to success in life is by going to university, which is simply not true,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “When you have a job in the trades, you have a job for life. Our government will continue to give students the tools they need to land six-figure salaries and purpose-driven careers.”

The government is also expanding the dual credit program to attract 420 students over two years into Early Childhood Education career pathways, which is critical to ensuring qualified workers enter the sector as demand rises following the implementation of Ontario’s plan to improve affordability and accessibility.

For the 2023-24 school year the dual credit program expansion will include:

- An additional 400 students in apprenticeship in-class training
- An additional 400 students in technological education college courses
- An additional 180 students in Early Childhood Education college courses

“From attracting investments and good jobs, to training thousands of skilled trades workers and helping keep costs down for families, our government has made significant progress on our Plan to Build,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “As we navigate these uncertain economic times, we are advancing our plan with new targeted measures that support families, workers, seniors and small businesses.”

Since 2019, the Ministry of Education has taken action to increase awareness of and exposure to technology, the skilled trades and the apprenticeship pathway by:

- Modernizing curriculum, including the revised Math, Science, and Career Studies courses including mandatory learning about the skilled trades.
- Providing early and ongoing exposure to skilled trades through experiential learning, like co-op education.
- Delivering job skills programs, like Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), in high schools for students to apply their learning across 19 economic sectors including construction, food processing, manufacturing and transportation.

The expansion of the dual credit program is part of the next steps in Ontario’s [Plan to Catch Up](#) and ensures students have exposure and access to learning opportunities to consider skilled trades as a future career.

Quick Facts

- Approximately one in five job openings in Ontario are projected to be in skilled trades-related occupations by 2026.
- 73 per cent of secondary school students are taking at least one credit in technological education before they graduate.
- Of all high school graduates, 41 per cent graduate with exposure to at least one job skills experiential learning program, including Cooperative Education, Specialist High Skills Major, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and Dual Credit.
- Since 2017-18, the number of students participating in the dual credit program, with a skilled trades and technology focus increased by approximately 84 per cent.
- In 2022-23, students are approved to participate in over 25,500 dual credit courses, of which over 10,900 are related to the skilled trades.
- According to the [Dual Credit Students and their Transition to College 2021](#) report by Ontario College Application Service, almost 93 per cent of all dual credit applicants received an offer to attend college compared to 86 per cent of all students.
- The Ministry of Education has partnered with First Robotics and Skills Ontario to provide hands-on learning opportunities and competitions for students and is providing \$3 million to school boards over three years to strengthen the knowledge of guidance teachers on pathways for skilled trades and apprenticeship.
- The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development is investing an additional \$114.4 million over three years in its Skilled Trades Strategy to break the stigma associated with the skilled trades, simplify the system, and encourage employer participation.

Additional Resources

[2022 Ontario Budget: Ontario's Plan to Build](#)

[Dual credit programs](#)

[Province Takes Action to Ensure Students Catch Up](#)

[Ontario's Education Plan for Students to Catch Up](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

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



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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Providing More Support to the Landlord and Tenant Board

Additional \$1.4 million in funding will improve access to justice

November 24, 2022

[Attorney General](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is making an additional \$1.4 million investment into the Landlord and Tenant Board, which will allow the board to hire over 35 additional operational staff to enhance scheduling and client experience, issue decisions and orders faster and help tackle the high number of cases before the board.

The funding builds on the [\\$4.5 million investment](#) over three years announced earlier this year, which will be used to recruit more adjudicators and further help the Landlord and Tenant Board to address longstanding backlog issues.

“We’re investing millions of dollars to increase the number of adjudicators and staff at the Landlord and Tenant Board, so the board can work to alleviate its case load, which was impacted by COVID-related delays,” said Attorney General Doug Downey. “Residents and rental housing providers will get faster results, shorter wait times and a better overall experience when they need to engage the board.”

This funding will also enable the board to create a centre of excellence for client engagement to better assist those involved in cases before the board.

In summer 2021, the Ministry of the Attorney General announced a new multi-year plan aimed at enhancing access to the justice system, which includes a \$28.5-million investment in a new digital case-management and dispute resolution system for Ontario’s tribunals. The Landlord and Tenant Board became the first to use [Tribunals Ontario’s new digital case management system](#), an end-to-end solution that includes online dispute resolution and features to help with mediation.

“This timely investment is a tangible expression of the government’s support of the Landlord and Tenant Board and Tribunals Ontario,” said Sean Weir, Executive Chair of Tribunals Ontario. “These additional resources will provide welcome assistance

in addressing the backlog of cases and challenges that resulted from COVID-related delays.”

“We recognize the important role the Landlord and Tenant Board plays in resolving housing related disputes,” said Tony Irwin, President and CEO of the Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario. “These important investments will help ensure that both residents and rental housing providers receive timely decisions and support the accessibility of quality rental housing in Ontario.”

Quick Facts

- This year the Landlord and Tenant Board had 87 full time and part time adjudicators, the highest number of adjudicators ever.
- The Landlord and Tenant Board resolves disputes between residential landlords and tenants and handles eviction applications filed by non-profit housing co-operatives under the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*.

Additional Resources

[Learn more about tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities](#)

[Learn more about rules and processes at the Landlord and Tenant Board](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Investing to Reduce Surgical Wait Times in Eastern Ontario

Made-in-Ontario innovation will help reduce surgical backlog, meaning shorter wait times for patients

November 25, 2022

[Health](#)

OTTAWA — The Ontario government is funding the implementation of a new, innovative software across hospitals in Eastern Ontario that will help reduce surgical backlogs in the region.

This innovative first-in-Ontario surgical waitlist HUB, built by Novari Health, consolidates patients waiting for surgery into a real-time regional wait list system using interactive mapping and analytics tools. The HUB, which will improve the coordination of surgical services between hospitals in Eastern Ontario, means patients may be able to receive their surgery sooner at a different hospital. In addition to this regional HUB, technology built by Ontario Health will also improve waitlist management across the province.

“Integrating this made-in-Ontario software in hospitals across Eastern Ontario will mean shorter wait times for patients awaiting surgery and a more efficient use of hospital resources,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This is an excellent example of the innovation we are calling for, all with the goal of improving our health system and creating a better experience for the patient.”

The software, in collaboration with hospitals across the region – will integrate with existing hospital IT systems to gain an overall picture of backlogs, speed up wait times and help identify bottlenecks at various stages of the surgical process.

Quick Facts

- All region hospitals that perform adult surgeries will be included in the Champlain Centralized Regional Surgical Waitlist Management “HUB” initiative. Hospitals and their individual surgical wait lists are being onboarded in phases.
- The initial phase included Hôpital Montfort, Queensway Carleton Hospital and Cornwall Community Hospital.

- In the coming weeks, The Ottawa Hospital and Hawkesbury & District General Hospital will be onboarded. Once these hospitals are live on the system, they will be joined by:
 - Almonte General Hospital
 - Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital
 - Carleton Place and District Memorial
 - Deep River and District Hospital
 - Glengarry Memorial Hospital
 - Kemptville District Hospital
 - Ottawa Heart Institute
 - Pembroke Regional Hospital
 - Renfrew Victoria Hospital
 - Winchester District Memorial Hospital
 - Through the provincial Centralized Waitlist Management (CWM) program, Ontario has provided funding to hospitals across the Ottawa region since 2020-21 to support a complex, multiyear transformation initiative aimed at establishing a regional central intake, with an initial focus on endoscopy. The region's implementation of the Novari platform is one component of that broader regional initiative.
 - The CWM program was established in 2020-21 as part of provincial surgical recovery efforts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Investments in the CWM program are providing funding for regionally led projects across the province that support enhanced load balancing of surgical cases and reductions in patient wait times, as well as for Ontario Health's development of the technical infrastructure required to support centralized waitlist management at the provincial level.
 - The HUB enabling technology is being provided by Kingston Ontario based Novari Health, a digital health company focusing on systems that improve access to care.
 - Ontario is investing over \$300 million in 2022-23 as part of the province's surgical recovery strategy, bringing the total investment to approximately \$880 million over the last three fiscal years.
-

Quotes

"The Novari Health team is tremendously proud to launch the Centralized Regional Surgical Wait List Management HUB today in Eastern Ontario. This ground-breaking technology provides the hospitals with the tools they need to coordinate surgical services in real time within the region, all while supporting better patient outcomes while tackling the surgical backlog. Novari Health thanks the Ontario Government for funding this made-in-Ontario technology. "

- John Sinclair
President & Chief Executive Officer, Novari Health

"QCH took a lead in this project because we recognize how important it is to create a complete, real-time view of surgical demand – and capacity – across the region. By working together and using real-time data, we can improve patients' access to surgeries and procedures. Surgical backlogs grew during the pandemic, so we need to look towards new tools and processes to tackle the challenge."

- Dr. Andrew Falconer
President & CEO, Queensway Carleton Hospital

"Montfort has worked tirelessly at maximizing patient access to much needed surgical procedures. Working with Novari and other care providers, the Hub will create better outcomes for patients waiting for surgeries, better use of hospital resources, and a smarter, data-driven, and coordinated approach to address the surgical backlog in our region."

- Dr. Bernard Leduc
President & CEO, Hôpital Montfort

"The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) is always thinking about the advancement of health care and how to improve patient care. We are committed to providing each patient with the care, service and compassion they would want for their loved ones, and are always looking for opportunities to collaborate with regional health partners. The Centralized Regional Surgical Wait List Management HUB will allow us to deliver surgical services to patients and address ongoing pandemic pressures. This system of partnerships will facilitate seamless communication between hospitals while we continue to deliver high-quality patient care."

- Suzanne Madore
Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Executive, The Ottawa Hospital

"Through the implementation of new and innovative technologies, our government is making sure the people of Eastern Ontario receive more timely and efficient medical care. These made-in-Ontario innovations are another example of how, under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is delivering more timely, efficient, and client-focused services to the people who need them most. "

- Dr. Merrilee Fullerton
MPP for Kanata-Carleton

"This innovative new HUB created in Ontario will help people in my community receive life-saving surgeries faster. Today's announcement is great news for the people of Nepean and the entire Ottawa region. "

- Lisa Macleod
MPP for Nepean

"Today's announcement is welcome news for my community, as this innovative made-in-Ontario solution will help people from Carleton and the Ottawa region get the surgeries they need sooner."

- Goldie Ghamari
MPP for Carleton

Additional Resources

- [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Increasing Construction Funding for Long-Term Care Homes

Additional funding ensures long-term care projects get built sooner

November 25, 2022

[Long-Term Care](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is increasing its construction funding subsidy to support the cost of developing or redeveloping a long-term care home. This additional funding will help fast-track the construction of new long-term care beds before August 31, 2023. This supports the government's \$6.4 billion commitment to build more than 30,000 net new beds by 2028 and 28,000 upgraded long-term care beds across the province.

"Construction costs and long-term borrowing interest rates have escalated over the past few years. These financial barriers mean many long-term care projects have stalled before reaching the construction phase," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care. "Increasing the construction funding subsidy will help move the construction of much-needed long-term care homes forward, resulting in the start of construction for thousands of new long-term care beds across the province by the end of next summer."

Eligible projects that start construction by August 31, 2023, will receive an additional construction subsidy of up to \$35 per bed, per day for 25 years. In addition, eligible not-for-profit applicants will be able to convert up to \$15 of the supplemental funding into a construction grant payable at the start of construction, to increase projects' upfront equity and enable them to secure financing.

"These actions represent a game-changing opportunity for not-for-profit homes. By helping homes secure the financing they need, these changes will help build more beds and strengthen our long-term care system," said Minister Calandra.

Without additional funding, many projects will face ongoing delays and may not be completed. Together, these initiatives will reduce barriers to starting construction and help accelerate long-term care development across the province.

Quick Facts

- More information about funding for long-term care home development is available [here](#). Eligible operators who wish to apply for the supplemental construction funding subsidy increase must submit a statement of readiness by December 20, 2022.
- The Ontario government is on track to build 30,000 much-needed net new long-term care beds in the province by 2028, and redeveloping older beds to modern design standards. Through a \$6.4 billion investment, Ontario has 31,705 new and 28,648 upgraded beds in the planning, construction and opening stages of the development process. This will help protect overall bed capacity, address long-term care waitlists and hallway health care, and provide our seniors the care they deserve.
- Building more modern, safe and comfortable homes for our seniors is part of the Government of Ontario's [Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021](#).
- The province is taking innovative steps to get long-term care homes built, including modernizing its funding model, selling unused lands with the requirement that long-term care homes be built on portions of the properties, and leveraging hospital-owned land to build urgently needed homes in large urban areas.

Quotes

"Today's announcement demonstrates the commitment made by our government to the construction of new long-term care homes and the upgrading of existing long-term care homes for our aging Ontario population. We thank the government for addressing rising construction and borrowing costs associated with the development and redevelopment of much-needed long-term care capacity. These homes will enable the safe and comfortable provision of care for some of the most vulnerable in society. We look forward to continued collaboration with this government in shaping the long-term care system of tomorrow."

- Ruth McFarlane
Chair of the Board, Ontario Long-Term Care Association

"The expansion of Ontario's construction funding subsidy is amazing news for Ontario's not-for-profit long-term care homes. By providing those homes with greater upfront financing, this measure could lead to thousands more not-for-profit beds. This is in-line with the preferences of Ontarians, more than two-thirds of whom choose not-for-profit care as their first choice in care. AdvantAge Ontario, which has long advocated for these changes, commends government for recognizing the unique circumstances of Ontario's not-for-profit, municipal and charitable homes."

- Sue Graham-Nutter
Chair of the Board, AdvantAge Ontario

Additional Resources

[2022 Ontario Budget: Ontario's Plan to Build](#)
[Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Unveils Plan to Strengthen Food Supply Chain from Farm to Fork

Grow Ontario Strategy designed to increase production of food grown and consumed in the province

November 28, 2022

[Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is building a strong, secure food supply chain and securing the province's position as a food leader in Canada with the release of the [Grow Ontario Strategy](#). The strategy outlines the province's plan to strengthen the agri-food sector, ensure an efficient, reliable, and responsive food supply and address ongoing vulnerabilities through new innovations. The sector's vulnerabilities include labour shortages, outdated supply chain infrastructure and declining processing capacity.

"The Grow Ontario Strategy is our government's plan to make sure the province's food supply chain remains safe, strong and stable from farm to fork," said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "This plan is a bold vision of pride and trust in the quality and quantity of food produced in Ontario, grown on the foundation of a competitive agri-food industry that serves the needs of Ontarians, Canadians and the world."

The plan focuses on three key priorities:

- **Strengthen Agri-food Supply Chain Stability:** Increase both the consumption and production of food grown and prepared in Ontario by 30 per cent, increase Ontario's food and beverage manufacturing GDP by 10 per cent and boost Ontario's agri-food exports eight per cent annually by 2032. This includes opening applications for the \$10 million Food Security and Supply Chain Fund which will provide funding for projects such as updated inventory software, expanded warehousing to allow increased inventory levels or automation equipment to address labour gaps. The province is also strengthening its food processing capacity and food security to position the sector for growth through the \$25 million Strategic Agri-Food Processing Fund.

- **Increase Agri-food Technology and Adoption:** Boost research infrastructure, advance the uptake of new technologies, grow the market for Ontario innovative technologies domestically and globally, and grow the use of data to support efficiencies in the agri-food sector and value chain. The province will also begin consultations on modernizing the *Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario Act* to fuel innovation and support efforts to provide modern, relevant research information to farmers and agri-food businesses.
- **Attract and Grow Ontario's Agri-food Talent:** The province aims to increase total agri-food sector employment by 10 per cent by 2032, as well as increase awareness of modern, high-tech agri-food careers, opportunities for mentorship and hands-on job training, and support efforts to increase veterinary capacity in underserved areas of the province. This includes launching public consultations to explore opportunities to modernize the *Veterinarians Act* as part of the plan to increase access to veterinary care in Ontario.

"The Grow Ontario Strategy is an important part of *Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario*, our fall red tape reduction package to strengthen provincial supply chains and improve competitiveness," said Parm Gill, Minister of Red Tape Reduction. "We're stepping up our efforts to work directly with Ontarians to remove red tape and regulatory barriers across government, so people can thrive and businesses can prosper."

The Grow Ontario Strategy was informed by the insights of farmers, Indigenous community representatives, food sector leaders and businesses. The government is also working to reduce duplication and unnecessary burden and is encouraging the agri-food sector to [submit their best ideas](#) to reduce legislative and regulatory barriers to help enable a stronger supply chain.

"In these globally troubled times, few things are as critical to the well-being of Ontarians as a secure food supply," said Christine Hogarth, MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore. "This strategy will strengthen our supply chain while supporting our province's all-important agri-food sector."

Quick Facts

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is expanding international trade markets for agri-food businesses by embarking on a trade mission with businesses to Japan and Vietnam in February 2023.
- Ontario's agri-food sector contributes \$47 billion in GDP to the provincial economy, representing 6.4 per cent of total Ontario GDP.

- Food and beverage processing is the province’s largest manufacturing sector in terms of GDP and one of the largest in North America. The Grow Ontario Strategy goal is to increase food and beverage GDP by 10 per cent by 2032.
- Ontario’s agri-food sector employs more than 750,000 people, accounting for one-in-ten jobs in the province.
- 48,346 Ontario farms produce over 200 different commodities.

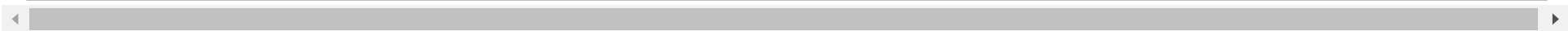
Additional Resources

- [Industry Leaders Endorse Grow Ontario Strategy](#)
- [Grow Ontario Strategy](#)
- [Food Security and Supply Chain Fund](#)
- [Strategic Agri-Food Processing Fund](#)
- [Submit Ideas to Reduce Red Tape](#)

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](#)



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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Upskilling More Nurses to Work in Critical Care

Record number of new nurses registered in Ontario so far this year

December 01, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing over \$4.6 million in the Michener Institute to remove financial barriers for nurses wanting to upskill to work in critical care areas of hospitals.

“While there is still more work to do, our plan to expand Ontario’s health workforce is adding thousands of new nurses, with nearly 14,000 new nurses registered to work in the province so far this year,” said Premier Doug Ford. “We’re breaking down barriers for internationally educated nurses to work here in Ontario and are providing more opportunity for all nurses to grow in the job. It’s all hands on deck as we use every tool we have to get more nurses working in Ontario right now.”

The funding provides free tuition for students and all college and hospital costs, including backfilling their current roles to ensure continuity of care, and allows nurses to train to work in critical care areas of hospitals. By spring 2023, close to 600 registered nurses will have completed their upskilling education and will be ready to support critical care in hospitals across Ontario.

“With a record number of new nurses registering in Ontario this year, our plan to bolster our health care work force and ensure high quality health care is there for patients when they need it is working,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “We will continue to invest in programs to recruit, retain, and train more nurses as we build a stronger, more resilient health care system for generations to come.”

In addition to the Michener Institute, the government is also investing more than \$9.4 million to support accelerated critical care nursing at Centennial College, Conestoga College, George Brown College, Laurentian University, Mohawk College and St. Lawrence College.

Quick Facts

- Between 2018 and 2021, Ontario added over 14,500 net new nurses.
- For 2022, a record number of nurses have registered in Ontario. So far, nearly 14,000 new nurses have registered in the province, of which 6,300 are internationally educated.

Quotes

"Our government knows that a strong health care system starts with a strong postsecondary education system. By increasing postsecondary opportunities for healthcare workers to upgrade their credentials in critical care areas, we are strengthening Ontario's healthcare system and ensuring those in need have the care they need, when they need it."

- Jill Dunlop

Minister of Colleges and Universities

"Part of Ontario's Plan to Stay Open is attracting and retaining more health care workers and, by removing financial barriers for nurses wanting to upgrade their skills, this investment does just that. I am especially excited about the Community Commitment Program for Nurses as well as the Personal Support Worker Return of Service Program, both of which will bring us closer to our goal of providing four hours of direct care per resident per day to long-term care residents."

- Paul Calandra

Minister of Long-Term Care

"For over 60 years, the primary mandate of Michener has been to partner with the Ontario government to graduate much needed health care professionals who move seamlessly into environments where they become invaluable members of health care teams providing high quality and timely patient care. Never in its history has this mandate been more significant, which is why Michener is on an ambitious program of expansion to help fill the health human resource shortages being faced in Ontario and all of Canada."

- Harvey Weingarten

Principal of The Michener Institute of Education at UHN

"Our colleges are very pleased to be a part of this important initiative, along with a number of others, that the government has launched to boost our healthcare workforce at this critical time. The investment outlined today will help us graduate more nurses into high demand areas in our hospitals."

- Linda Franklin
President and CEO of Colleges Ontario

"The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) thanks the Government of Ontario for its strong support for the Critical Care Nursing Upskilling Program. This initiative creates incentives and removes barriers for nurses who are interested in working in critical care and will provide them with supports to provide quality patient care in this environment. Investments in the education and training of health care workers are essential because they help strengthen ongoing access to vitally important health services for the people of Ontario today, and into the future."

- Anthony Dale
President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association

Additional Resources

- [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)
- [Critical Care Nursing Certificate](#) at the Michener Institute website
- Details on how to apply for CCPN can be found on the [HealthForceOntario](#) website

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Supporting Francophone Start-Ups and Entrepreneurs

Funding will help promote economic growth and prosperity in Francophone communities

December 01, 2022

[Francophone Affairs](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is providing \$500,000 to help Francophone entrepreneurs participate in the province's economic prosperity. The funding will support four projects and is being delivered through the [Francophone Economic Development Strategy](#).

The following organizations will share a combined \$400,000:

1. The Cooperation Council of Ontario (CCO) will provide training to a group of entrepreneurs, guiding them through the incubation and implementation phases of their businesses. This training will be offered in Toronto and Sudbury.
2. The college La Cité will develop three audiovisual modules and complementary resource kits as part of its programming for young entrepreneurs. These "reality show"-style modules will be shared with other organizations to maximize the reach of this new tool.
3. The Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario (AFESEO) will create a recruitment and professional integration tool for newcomers. This tool will allow childcare operators to expand staffing at their centres and increase the availability of Francophone childcare spots.

"Support services for new businesses help ensure the prosperity of our Francophone communities," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs. "The projects selected will be used to support Francophone entrepreneurs, thereby promoting the start-up of their businesses. This investment will strengthen a growing ecosystem and showcase the expertise of Ontario's economic Francophonie."

The Ontario government will also provide \$100,000 to the Fédération des gens d'affaires francophones de l'Ontario (FGA) to ensure the continuity of its concierge services and its [Quartier d'affaires](#) and [inkubo.ca](#) portals, as well as to support the

continuation of its work connecting Francophone businesses and entrepreneurs.

"Ontario's strong community of Francophone entrepreneurs continues to grow every day," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "The Francophone Economic Development Strategy will help ensure that they continue to prosper now and in the future. We are proud to support Francophone entrepreneurship across the province as part of our plan to build Ontario."

Quick Facts

- The selected projects are the result of a call for projects issued in September 2022 to organizations that promote Francophone economic development and service delivery.
- According to Statistics Canada, in 2017, 4.3% of businesses incorporated in Ontario were owned by at least one Francophone. This represents a total of 30,150 businesses, or nearly 50% of Francophone businesses outside of Quebec. ([Source: Fédération des gens d'affaires francophones de l'Ontario, June 2022](#))
- The Ontario government's approach to Francophone Affairs is based on two complementary strategies. The French Language Services Strategy and the Francophone Economic Development Strategy aim to recruit and train a skilled bilingual workforce, increasing the availability of front-line services in French and supporting Francophone and bilingual businesses to participate fully in the province's economic development.

Additional Resources

- [Francophone Economic Development Strategy](#).

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Strengthening Emergency Departments in Rural Communities Across the Province

Expansion of Innovative Program Enhancing Care and Support to Patients in Their Home Community

December 02, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is expanding the Emergency Department Peer-to-Peer Program to 21 additional rural and remote hospitals starting in December, bringing the total number of hospital emergency departments participating in the program to 27. The program increases care and support for people in emergency departments by providing physicians 24/7 access to on-demand, real-time support and coaching from highly experienced emergency physicians across Ontario via virtual channels.

“Programs like this ensure that rural and remote emergency departments have an opportunity to share best practices with their colleagues from across the province,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Expanding the program is part of the Plan to Stay Open to support emergency care throughout the province and ease pressure on our hospitals.”

Physicians in rural and remote emergency departments will have access to 24/7 virtual support and advice from an experienced “peer” emergency physician on clinical procedures, new and emerging treatments and medications, and consultations on specific patient cases. The program can also help more people stay and receive care in the comfort of their own communities by giving physicians more support to identify whether a transfer to a larger hospital is necessary.

“The transfer of clinical knowledge and skills from seasoned emergency medicine physicians to peers working in rural and remote hospitals is a vitally important component of the program,” said Matthew Anderson, President and CEO of Ontario Health. “These connections can reduce health inequities for Ontarians living in rural communities, increase integration between rural and urban hospital care, and encourage recruitment and retention of physicians to remote settings.”

The Emergency Department Peer-to-Peer Program, initially launched in October 2022 at six emergency departments in Northern Ontario, complements other existing programs and measures implemented by the government such as the COVID-19 temporary summer locum program to help northern communities address staffing shortages and maintain 24/7 emergency department service.

As part of the Plan to Stay Open, Ontario will also be adding 400 physician residents to strengthen the health workforce in Northern Ontario and will continue to work with its partners to expedite the registration of doctors, including those from out-of-province and those who may want to work in rural and remote emergency departments, so they can start working and caring for patients sooner.

Quick Facts

- The Emergency Department Peer-to-Peer Program is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, supporting all patient acuity levels and all ages, including pediatric patients.
- Early adopters of the program have benefited from peer-to-peer support in real time with cases ranging from resuscitation, toxic overdoses, and mental health crises, allowing patients access to high quality, evidence-based care in their home community.
- There are 23 emergency department peers supporting the current sites, who have on average 15 years of experience each in emergency medicine.
- Emergency department peers do not replace an emergency department physician on duty at a hospital. Rather, peer physicians provide support to rural and remote emergency department physicians outside of the peer physicians' regular shifts and duties in their home hospitals or communities.
- Among the criteria for emergency department peer enrollment was medical experience in rural and remote communities.

Additional Resources

- [The Emergency Department Peer to Peer Program](#)
- [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)

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STATEMENT

Ontario Continues to Strengthen the Economy

Supporting opportunities from domestic and international companies is a key part of the province's plan to build

December 02, 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 that showed employment in Ontario increased by 22,600 jobs in November:

"Our government continues to work around the clock to strengthen the economy and attract investments that will create good paying jobs for the people of Ontario. Domestic and international companies are looking for jurisdictions with a highly skilled workforce, a world-class innovation ecosystem and a competitive business environment that will help them grow, all of which Ontario offers.

Supporting small businesses is a key part of our plan to build Ontario. There are more than 480,000 small businesses across the province, employing one-third of the workforce. Main Street Ontario matters, which is why we are lowering small business costs and putting money back into businesses to invest in workers, expansion and new technology.

As announced in the [Fall Economic Statement](#), we are providing Ontario's small businesses with \$185 million in income tax relief over the next three years.

Approximately 5,500 small businesses will benefit from the proposed extension of the phase-out of the small business tax rate. This means an eligible business could receive over \$36,000 in Ontario income tax relief each year. Furthermore, we are temporarily allowing businesses to accelerate write-offs of capital investments for tax purposes, including the immediate expensing of up to \$1.5 million annually for eligible capital investments.

From making provincially administered taxes more manageable, to introducing savings on brick-and-mortar costs like property taxes and energy bills for businesses, to training the brightest talent, Ontario's support for domestic and international businesses is both deep and broad.

We have heard from companies around the world that Ontario is a trusted and reliable jurisdiction – safe for their employees and safe for their families. As we wrap up our most recent trade mission to India, we know that this continues to ring true. In November, we welcomed L&T Technology Services and Snowflake Engineering to Ontario – two international technology companies that will create a combined total of 400 well-paying jobs. We continue to see new global companies invest in Ontario every day, and we welcome the many opportunities these investments will create.”

Related Topics

Business and Economy

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

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STATEMENT

Ontario Celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 03, 2022

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

TORONTO — Today, Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, issued the following statement:

“Each year on December 3, we recognize the [United Nations’ \(UN\) International Day of Persons with Disabilities \(IDPD\)](#) to bring awareness to the issues that impact people with disabilities and highlight our government’s actions to create a more accessible and inclusive Ontario.

The UN’s theme this year is “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world.” Part of this theme focuses on inclusive employment and workplaces.

Our government believes that any Ontarian who wants to work should have the opportunity to do so.

That is why we [promote the benefits of hiring people with disabilities](#) throughout the whole year and provide relevant programs and resources to connect employers with this skilled, and mostly untapped, talent pool. We also continue to promote the Discover Ability Network – an online portal that provides employers with practical resources on how to hire, retain and accommodate people with disabilities.

Our government has also expanded the [Skills Development Fund](#) by investing an additional \$145 million to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities and prepare jobseekers for meaningful careers.

Building on this, we are [investing up to \\$1.5 million in the 2022-23 EnAbling Change Program](#) to fund projects that show people and employers the value and benefits of accessibility.

Working together with our partners and by investing in these important programs, Ontario will continue to create opportunities for people with disabilities and build a province where everyone can participate in the economy and their communities.”



Media Contacts

Wallace Pidgeon

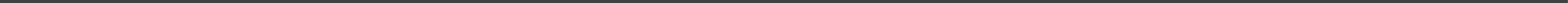
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STATEMENT

Ontario Marks National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

December 06, 2022

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

TORONTO — Today, Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, released the following statement:

“Today, we stand together across the country to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. It is a solemn reminder of the tragic shooting 33 years ago at l’Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal, in which 14 women were killed and 13 injured.

We honour and remember the women who lost their lives that terrible day:

- Geneviève Bergeron
- Hélène Colgan
- Nathalie Croteau
- Barbara Daigneault
- Anne-Marie Edward
- Maud Haviernick
- Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz
- Maryse Laganière
- Maryse Leclair
- Anne-Marie Lemay
- Sonia Pelletier
- Michèle Richard
- Annie St-Arneault
- Annie Turcotte

This horrific mass shooting serves as a sobering reminder of the deadly violence that women have faced throughout history, and which they continue to experience to this day. Sadly, here in Canada, every six days a woman is killed by her intimate partner and one in three women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime.

As we reflect on the women who lost their lives in Montreal – as well as all the others who have perished or had their lives forever altered due to acts of violence – let us be united in our resolve to create a better province, free of gender-based violence.

We must continue to have open conversations year-round about violence against women and encourage survivors to bring their stories forward. We must continue to educate Ontarians of all ages about healthy, equal and non-violent relationships. And we must have zero tolerance for gender-based violence so women and girls can live with hope, and without fear.

Our government believes it is every woman's fundamental right to live safely and securely in her home and community. We know that to achieve this, words are not enough. That's why we are working together with all levels of government and community partners to prevent and address violence against women in all forms. This includes making critical investments in violence prevention initiatives and a broad range of supports to help survivors heal and rebuild their lives. We will continue working to end gender-based violence so all women and girls can live freely, without the fear of violence."

Related Topics

Home and Community

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

Law and Safety

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

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Nominations for Warden's Community Service Awards now open

Posted on Thursday, November 24, 2022

RELEASE DATE:

November 24, 2022

Nominations for Warden's Community Service Awards now open

The County of Renfrew is once again calling on residents to recognize community contributions of friends, colleagues and businesses as nominations are now open for the annual Warden's Community Service Awards.

These awards are a meaningful way to honour and thank an individual, not-for-profit business and for-profit business for their community involvement and commitment.

Individuals in our community step up in many ways to improve and strengthen the quality of life we enjoy here in the Ottawa Valley. From participating in and organizing community events, devoting their time and energy to politics, supporting social support organizations, coaching and managing sports clubs and teams and celebrating our culture and heritage. Nominate an outstanding individual from your community.

For-profit businesses are significant contributors to community well-being. Many for-profit-businesses sponsor sports teams and youth groups, support charity events, or contribute to the arts and culture. This is your opportunity to have these valuable corporate citizens recognized and acknowledged for their good deeds. You can nominate a local for-profit business that makes a difference in Renfrew County.

Not-for-profit business organizations in Renfrew County contribute to and assist community members facing a wide range of challenges, and often these organizations offer services and support to those most in need. Do you know a not-for-profit that is a community champion? Nominate them for this year's award.

"These annual awards allow us to formally recognize and honour the outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations which contribute positively to our community," said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon. "I would encourage citizens to nominate individuals and organizations which they feel really make a difference in improving the lives of

others in the County of Renfrew. This is an important way to celebrate those who continue to make such selfless contributions.”

Once the nominations are received, they will be reviewed by a committee comprised of the Warden Emon, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk Craig Kelley and one member of County Council. All nominees are considered based on the criteria as to how they contribute to the County of Renfrew’s quality of life.

For the criteria or to nominate an individual, for-profit or not-for-profit business for a Warden’s Community Service Award, see the [application package](#) on our website. For a faxed or mailed copy of the nomination documents call 613-735-7288.

The nomination deadline is December 30 and the awards will be presented during the January 25, 2023 County Council meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley	Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288

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By [GHD Digital](http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca) (<http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca>).



Nomination for 2023 Renfrew County Warden

Posted on Monday, November 14, 2022



Councillor-elect Peter Emon has been nominated for the office of County of Renfrew Warden for 2023.

RELEASE DATE:

November 10, 2022

Councillor-elect Peter Emon nominated for 2023 Renfrew County Warden

PEMBROKE: Reeve (acclaimed) of the Town of Renfrew, Peter Emon, has been nominated for the County of Renfrew Warden's seat for 2023.

The sole nomination will be presented to County Councillors on November 23, 2022 during the Inaugural Session of County Council, where the appointment to the Office of the Warden of the County of Renfrew for 2023 is expected to be affirmed.

Starting on November 15, municipalities across Renfrew County will begin the process of swearing-in elected and acclaimed members for their new terms of council. The County

of Renfrew hosts its inaugural meeting on November 23, when the heads of municipal council or those appointed to sit on County Council will take their oath of office for a County seat.

A formal nomination process takes place annually for the Office of Warden, and any member of County Council is eligible after being nominated by two fellow council members. The successful councillor then fills the Office of Warden for a one-year term. The Warden fulfils the role as head of council. In a municipal election year, the nomination process closes 14 days prior to the Inaugural Session and if there is more than one nomination, an election is required to determine a Warden at the Inaugural Session.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley	Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk	613-735-7288
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County of Renfrew Day at Queen's Park

Posted on Monday, November 14, 2022



Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Graydon Smith (second from left), visited the forestry booth during County of Renfrew Day at Queen's Park on November 3. There he spoke with Kris Heideman, president of Lavern Heidman and Sons; Matt Mertins, manager at Roseburg Pembroke MDF and Lacey Rose, County Forester.

RELEASE DATE:

November 7, 2022

First ever County of Renfrew Day held at Queen's Park

TORONTO – The first ever County of Renfrew Day, held at Queen's Park November 3, provided MPPs with the opportunity to meet with business and tourism leaders as well as advocates for the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC).

Introduced in the provincial legislature by Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakubuski, Warden Debbie Robinson and County Councillors Peter Emon and Dan Lynch received a standing ovation and were welcomed by many MPPs in attendance.

The day featured pillars of economic development within the County – manufacturing, tourism, forestry, agriculture and local government initiatives. It was also the first time

since the pandemic that the County was able to meet face-to-face with MPPs to discuss the advantages of RC VTAC and the need for continued funding past March 31, 2023.

"We have waited a long time to meet in person with MPPs and share with them the success of RC VTAC and how it could be used to assist their ridings where lack of family physicians is at critical levels," Warden Robinson said. "Our message was very well received and we will continue to move forward with our goal of making RC VTAC permanent in Renfrew County. Health care plays a vital role in attracting and retaining businesses and employees in rural areas like the County of Renfrew."

The pride of Renfrew County was on display thanks to the businesses and organizations represented at the event. Information booths were set up by the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, Ottawa Valley Tourist Association, Renfrew County 2023 Ontario Winter Games, Square Timber Brewing, myFM Radio, Plain Tree Systems/Elmira Wood Stoves, Lavern Heideman and Sons, Roseburg Pembroke MDF, Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors, Renfrew County Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors and the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus.

During Members' Statements MPP Yakabuski acknowledged the participating businesses, County of Renfrew staff and County Council.

"Today you will have the opportunity to meet some of the most creative and innovative people anywhere, particularly when it comes to the delivery of health care in rural communities," MPP Yakabuski said.

He highlighted the Community Paramedicine Program, which was started by the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service and has since been adopted in many rural areas, as well as RC VTAC, which was created in response to the pandemic but has since evolved into a critical service for thousands of people in Renfrew County without a family physician.

"We are grateful our government has continued to support RC VTAC," he said, adding it could be adapted for use anywhere in Ontario as a permanent component of our health-care system.

"Thank our friends from the County for bringing their message here today and I encourage everyone to get yourself a taste of good old fashioned Renfrew County hospitality," MPP Yakabuski concluded.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley	Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288

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County Council Inaugural Session 2022

Posted on Thursday, December 01, 2022



During the Inaugural Session of Renfrew County Council on November 23, Peter Emon (centre) was acclaimed as County Warden for 2023. He was nominated for the Office of Warden by Councillor Michael Donohue and Councillor Jennifer Murphy (right) seconded the nomination.

RELEASE DATE:

November 30, 2022

Peter Emon acclaimed as Renfrew County Warden for 2023

Peter Emon, Reeve for the Town of Renfrew, has been acclaimed as County of Renfrew Warden.

As of the November 10 deadline, only one nomination was received for the Office of Warden for the 2023 term. Warden Emon was nominated by Councillor Michael Donohue and Councillor Jennifer Murphy seconded the nomination, which was affirmed by County Council during the Inaugural Session on November 23. Following the official swearing-in ceremony, Warden Emon outlined his major themes and goals for the next year:

- Addressing the housing shortage
- Fostering economic development and growth

- Continuing to push for sustainable funding for the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre past March 2023
- Lobbying for the further expansion of Highway 17 through Renfrew County
- Hosting the best games ever in terms of the 2023 Ontario Winter Games, which are coming to Renfrew County in February 2023

Continuing relationships with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Garrison Petawawa, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the City of Pembroke and maintaining a strong presence at the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Rural Ontario Municipal Association and Eastern Ontario Regional Network are also among Warden Emon's priorities.

"Ahead of us we have a lot of hard, but exciting and rewarding work," Warden Emon said during his inaugural address. "We are and will chart a course forward for our entire community; together we will build our community and create and expand opportunities for everyone to succeed and thrive."

He congratulated the eight returning members of County Council and welcomed nine new members to the table. He encouraged his colleagues to adopt a team approach and continue the constructive and professional approach that has worked for past County Councils.

As the nominator, Councillor Donohue highlighted Warden Emon's previous achievements, including serving four consecutive terms as Warden from 2013 to 2016. He presided over the development and adoption of the initial Corporate Asset Management Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan, two documents which have been foundational blueprints in ensuring the continual renewal of capital assets. He was also involved with the development of the Strategic Plan in 2013 and construction of the Renfrew OPP building. Warden Emon served as chair of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus in 2016 and has sat on the Board for AMO for eight years and the Rural Caucus of ROMA for four years. His involvement in these boards has allowed Warden Emon to develop relationship across municipal and provincial sectors.

"I say without reservation, Councillor Peter Emon is distinctly qualified in these turbulent times to provide both stability and vision. He will foster an environment to achieve not just the possible, but perhaps even what may once have been considered impossible," Councillor Donohue added.

In seconding the nomination, Councillor Murphy thanked Warden Emon for his support and mentorship over the years, noting he is currently the longest sitting member of County Council.

"He is always approachable and accessible for any and all questions or concerns – big or small," Councillor Murphy said. "I know that you are the right person at the right time for this job."

Warden Emon recently retired following a 40-year career as a public servant in community services. This will be Emon's fifth term serving as Warden.

The Striking Committee also met to determine who will sit on the County Council standing committees and other ad-hoc committees for the next year. The committee chairs are as follows: Finance and Administration – Jennifer Murphy; Operations – Glenn Doncaster; Development and Property – James Brose; Health – Michael Donohue and Community Services – Anne Giardini.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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CALENDAR OF COMMITTEES and COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be held in the **Council Chambers** of the County Administration Building, 9 International Drive, Pembroke, unless otherwise indicated. Anomalies to the schedule are in **red**, conferences are in **bold**, OWG in **green** and holidays are in **blue**.

DATE	TIME	
Monday, January 9, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Monday, January 9, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Tuesday, January 10, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Tuesday, January 10, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Wednesday, January 11, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Monday, January 16, 2023	9:00 a.m.	Strategic Planning Session
January 22 – 24, 2023		ROMA Annual Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Toronto
Wednesday, January 25, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
February 2 – 5, 2023		Ontario Winter Games (OWG)
February 9 - 12, 2023		Ontario Winter Games (OWG)
Tuesday, February 14, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, February 14, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, February 15, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, February 15, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, February 16, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Monday, February 20, 2023		Family Day Holiday
Wednesday, February 22, 2023	9:00 a.m.	Budget Workshop
Thursday, February 23, 2023	9:00 a.m.	Budget Workshop (if required)
Wednesday, March 1, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Tuesday, March 7, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, March 7, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, March 9, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
March 13 – 17, 2023		March Break
Wednesday, March 29, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Friday, April 7, 2023		Good Friday
Monday, April 10, 2023		Easter Monday
Tuesday, April 11, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, April 11, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, April 12, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, April 12, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, April 13, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, April 26, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Tuesday, May 16, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, May 16, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, May 17, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, May 17, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, May 18, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Monday, May 22, 2023		Victoria Day
May 25 – 28, 2023		Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference, Toronto
Wednesday, May 31, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council

DATE	TIME	
Tuesday, June 13, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, June 13, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, June 14, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, June 14, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, June 15, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, June 28, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Saturday, July 1, 2023		Canada Day (observed on Monday, July 3)
Monday, August 7, 2023		Civic Holiday
Tuesday, August 15, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, August 15, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, August 16, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, August 16, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, August 17, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
August 20 – 23, 2023		Ass'n of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference, London
Wednesday, August 30, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Monday, September 4, 2023		Labour Day
Monday, September 11, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Monday, September 11, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Tuesday, September 12, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Tuesday, September 12, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
September 13 – 15, 2023		Ontario East Municipal Conference-Cornwall
Monday, September 18, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, September 27, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Saturday, September 30, 2023		National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (observed on Monday, October 2)
Monday, October 9, 2023		Thanksgiving Day
Tuesday, October 10, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, October 10, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, October 11, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, October 11, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, October 12, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, October 25, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Saturday, November 11, 2023		Remembrance Day (observed on Monday, November 13)
Tuesday, November 14, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, November 14, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, November 15, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, November 15, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, November 16, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, November 29, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Tuesday, December 12, 2023	10:00 a.m.	County Council Inaugural Meeting

COUNTY OF RENFREW

BY-LAW NUMBER 1-23

**A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE COUNTY COMMITTEES FOR THE
ENSUING YEAR OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE APPOINTED**

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001 c.25, as amended provides that every Council may pass by-laws for governing the proceedings of Council;

AND WHEREAS related acts authorize the appointment of committees, boards and special bodies;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to appoint all committees and board membership by by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew hereby enacts that the committees for the ensuing year, or until their successors are appointed, be as follows and that the first person on each committee, where done in bold, be the Chair:

Striking: **Michael Donohue**, James Brose, Peter Emon, Debbi Grills, Valerie Jahn, Mark MacKenzie, Neil Nicholson

Vice-Chair: Neil Nicholson

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Administration: **Jennifer Murphy**, James Brose, Glenn Doncaster, Michael Donohue, Peter Emon, Anne Giardini, Valerie Jahn, David Mayville

Vice-Chair: Valerie Jahn

- With responsibility for:
 - Association of Municipalities Ontario
 - County Inter-Municipal Relations Committee
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities
 - Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

Operations: **Glenn Doncaster**, Dave Bennett, Peter Emon, Dan Lynch, Mark MacKenzie, Keith Watt, Mark Willmer

Vice-Chair: Dave Bennett

- With responsibility for:
 - Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee

Development & Property: **James Brose**, Dave Bennett, Peter Emon, Dan Lynch, Mark MacKenzie, Gary Serviss, Keith Watt, Rob Weir

Vice-Chair: Rob Weir

- With responsibility for:
 - Algonquins of Pikwakanagan - County of Renfrew Economic and Community Development Committee
 - Chalk River Laboratories Environmental Stewardship Council
 - Trails Advisory Committee
 - Land Division Committee

- Ministry of Natural Resources Forest Management Plan
- Ministry of Natural Resources Regional Advisory Committee
- Ottawa Valley Tourist Association
- Renfrew County Forestry and Wood Processing Committee
- Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development Committee
- Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre

Health: Michael Donohue, Peter Emon, Debbi Grills, Valerie Jahn, Jennifer Murphy, Neil Nicholson, Rob Weir, Mark Willmer; (plus two City of Pembroke representatives)

Vice-Chair: Neil Nicholson

- With responsibility for:
 - Board of Health

Community Services: Anne Giardini, Peter Emon, Debbi Grills, David Mayville, Neil Nicholson, Gary Serviss; (plus one City of Pembroke representative)

Vice-Chair: Debbi Grills

- With responsibility for:
 - Renfrew County Housing Corporation
 - United Way East Ontario

AD-HOC COMMITTEES

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan - County of Renfrew Economic and Community Development Committee: **Peter Emon**, Gary Serviss, Alternate: Jennifer Murphy

Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee: **Peter Emon**, Dave Bennett, Anne Giardini, Neil Nicholson, Gary Serviss (plus one City of Pembroke representative)

K & P Management Committee: James Brose

Land Division Committee: **Debbi Grills**, Valerie Jahn, Mark Willmer; Alternate Mark MacKenzie

Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee: David Bennett

Trails Advisory Committee: James Brose, Peter Emon, Dan Lynch, Keith Watt

APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES OR AGENCIES

Association of Municipalities Ontario: Peter Emon

Board of Health Appointees: James Brose, Peter Emon, Jennifer Murphy, Neil Nicholson

Chalk River Laboratories Environmental Stewardship Council: Dan Lynch

County Inter-Municipal Relations Committee: **Jennifer Murphy**, James Brose Peter Emon, Gary Serviss

Vice-Chair: James Brose

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Glenn Doncaster

Ministry of Natural Resources Forest Management Plan (Algonquin Park and Ottawa Valley Forest): Gary Serviss

Ministry of Natural Resources Regional Advisory Committee: Mark Willmer

Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Board of Directors: David Bennett, Rob Weir

Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development Committee: Dave Bennett

Renfrew County Forestry and Wood Processing Committee: Dave Bennett

Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre: James Brose

United Way East Ontario: Peter Emon

THAT By-law 39-22 enacted on the 20th of April 2022 is hereby repealed.

THAT this by-law shall come into force and take effect upon the passing thereof.

READ a first time this 23rd day of November 2022.

READ a second time this 23rd day of November 2022.

READ a third time and finally passed this 23rd day of November 2022.



PETER EMON, WARDEN



CRAIG KELLEY, CLERK



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 11:10 a.m., October 31, 2022)

RCDHU Releases New Five-Year Strategic Plan, Our Journey Forward

Today, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is pleased to announce the release of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, *Our Journey Forward*. This plan outlines the priorities and strategies RCDHU will follow to deliver successful, effective public health programs and services to Renfrew County and District (RCD) over the next five years.

The Strategic Plan is the result of comprehensive planning and collaboration, with input from employees, community partners, and Board of Health members, and affirms RCDHU's Vision and Mission to protect and promote the health and well-being of all in RCD. To guide RCDHU in the years ahead, the plan identifies a set of four strategic directions and goals which include fostering service excellence, strong partnerships, a healthy workplace, and enhanced communications.

"We are eager to use this plan as the roadmap to guide our journey forward in the coming years. We look forward to working collaboratively with our health care and social services community partners as we continue to strive for optimal health for all in Renfrew County and District," as per a joint statement from Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Ann Aikens, Chair, Board of Health; and Heather Daly, Acting CEO.

To view the complete plan, please visit [Our Journey Forward, Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#). For more detailed information on our programs and services, please visit www.rcdhu.com.

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Renfrew County and District Health Unit
Fax: 613-735-3067
media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 4:00 p.m., November 02, 2022)

RCDHU 2022/2023 Flu Campaign Update

Renfrew County and District Health Unit wants to remind the public that the free flu vaccine is now available to all people living, working, or attending school in Ontario who are six months of age and older. Getting vaccinated will be more important as the weather continues to get colder and more activities move indoors.

"Current viral COVID-19 infection rates are persistently high, and influenza has arrived early in North America after a tough season in the southern hemisphere. We are seeing unprecedented hospitalization of children from a third virus, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). These are all indications that we are going to have a challenging winter. Therefore, I encourage everyone to get a flu shot and the next COVID-19 vaccine available to them. You owe it to yourselves, to your family, friends and to the community at large. Safety and good health are our priority," **states Dr. Cushman.**

The flu vaccine will be offered alongside the COVID-19 vaccine at the community vaccination clinics. Anyone five years of age or older will be able to receive the flu and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. Those six months to four years of age can receive other vaccines 14 days prior to or after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Click here to view the latest [COVID-19 & Flu Clinic Schedule](#).

The best way to protect each other, including those who are most at risk of experiencing severe outcomes resulting from COVID-19 or flu infections, is to reduce the spread of these viruses by:

- Staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines (including the bivalent booster dose, which is available to those 12 years of age and older).
- Receiving the free flu shot.
- Cleaning your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Coughing and sneezing into a tissue or your sleeve, not your hand.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Staying at home if you are sick.
- Cleaning high touch surfaces regularly, such as countertops, telephones and keyboards as flu viruses live on surfaces for up to eight hours.

Currently, walk-in appointments are accepted at all COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics, aside from the Novavax clinics, where appointments are still required. For more information on the

COVID-19 vaccine, including how to book a Novavax COVID-19 vaccination appointment, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid19-vaccine-rollout/>. For more information on the flu vaccine, including which options are available for those 65 years of age or older, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/clinics-classes/flu-clinics/>.

You can also get your flu shot from participating local pharmacies or your health care provider.

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Renfrew County and District Health Unit
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For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 11:30 a.m., October 27, 2022)

Board of Health Announces Upcoming Changes to Medical Officer of Health

The Board of Health for Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is announcing that Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health (MOH), will not be renewing his contract at the end of this year (December 31, 2022). The Board of Health and all RCDHU staff extend their gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for his service to staff and residents of Renfrew County and District (RCD) over the past five years. His exemplary public health leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic provided guidance, support and reassurance to our partners and the residents of RCD during very uncertain times.

To ensure continuity of services, the Board of Health is pleased to announce that Dr. Ian Gemmill has been appointed as Acting MOH for the interim period of January 1 to April 30, 2023. Dr. Gemmill is a public health physician who has worked in Kingston, Ottawa and other areas in Ontario for over 40 years. We look forward to welcoming him to the RCDHU team.

"We cannot thank Dr. Cushman enough for everything he has done over the past five years to help us work toward our goal of achieving optimal health for all in Renfrew County and District. His leadership will be missed. We look forward to working with Dr. Gemmill as we transition into post-pandemic recovery. We are grateful that he has agreed to join our team and share his passion and expertise as we continue to work with our partners to respond to local public health needs," states Ann Aikens, Chair, Board of Health, RCDHU.

While RCDHU welcomes Dr. Gemmill as Acting MOH, the Board of Health is actively recruiting for a permanent, full-time Medical Officer of Health.

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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 2:10 p.m., November 18, 2022)

Get Your Flu Shot as Soon as Possible

Who would have thought that the flu would be back with a vengeance after a decline in cases since 2018. Positive tests for the flu have been doubling week to week adding to the overall burden of COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in the youngest population.

"The good news is that we have a vaccine that is well suited to protect people from the flu strains currently in circulation. Vaccines are developed a year in advance, and it is difficult to predict what influenza strains will be circulating. This year, the match is excellent," **states Dr. Robert Cushman**, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

Currently, COVID-19 cases are relatively stable, but it is predicted that new strains will continue to arise. Thankfully, we have effective vaccines. In contrast, RSV levels are at an all-time high and have had a devastating impact on young children and their families, with no vaccine to combat the current surge in RSV cases.

"We must do everything we can to protect ourselves, our loved ones and the community going into the holiday season and winter. We do not want to jeopardize childcare, school, and ultimately the economy which desperately needs workers and customers at this key time of year," **reminds Dr. Cushman**.

Staying up to date on vaccinations, masking in indoor public settings, practicing good hand hygiene, and staying home if you are ill, remain the top precautions for personal protection. Flu shots (available for all individuals six months of age and older) and COVID-19 vaccines are available through [RCDHU vaccination clinics](#), family doctors, and [pharmacies](#).

"**We** thank you for your cooperation as this is what is needed to get us safely through this critical time, as we work hard to protect ourselves, our hospitals, and to keep the economy going through the holiday season," concludes Dr. Cushman.

Renfrew County and District
Health Unit Fax: 613-735-3067
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www.rcdhu.com



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 11:30 a.m., December 01, 2022)

Holiday Food Safety Reminder

As we enter the holiday season, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) reminds residents of the importance of food safety. Reduce your risk of foodborne illness ("food poisoning") by taking precautions when preparing, cooking, and storing food.

Foodborne illness is caused by eating food contaminated with certain bacteria, viruses, and parasites (e.g., Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria monocytogenes). These bacteria are sometimes found in raw foods, unwashed produce, and unpasteurized milk, fruit juices and cider.

To reduce your risk of illness this holiday season, RCDHU recommends the following:

- Clean hands, surfaces (e.g., kitchen counters) and utensils frequently.
- Always wash fresh fruit and vegetables with clean water.
- Never place cooked food back on the same plate that previously had contact with raw food unless it has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- Use a cooking thermometer to ensure foods are fully cooked to the [recommended internal temperatures](#).
- Throw out perishable foods that have sat at room temperature for more than two hours as bacteria can grow rapidly. You cannot tell whether food is contaminated with bacteria by the way it looks, tastes or smells.

For more information on food safety, please visit RCDHU's [Holiday Food Safety](#) fact sheet and website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-food/>.

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Renfrew County and District
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www.rcdhu.com

Fun Facts About The Municipal Elections

What it takes to be elected, top vote-getters and more

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

The following is an overview of some fun facts about the elections in Renfrew County.

Admaston Bromley

Two incumbents return to council, one as mayor and one as councillor. There are three new members of council. A candidate needed at least 679 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter for the candidates was Keith Gourley, a new candidate, at 1,052 votes. Of note: only one woman ran for a seat on council and she was elected.

Arnprior

Five incumbents return to council as mayor, county councillor and three councillors. There are two new members of council. A candidate needed at least 1,621 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter for the candidates was incumbent councillor Chris Toner with 2,078. Of note: there were 14 people running for six positions on council; 6 of the 7 positions are filled by men.



Bonnechere Valley

Three incumbents return to council, one as mayor (new position) and two councillors. There are two new members of council. A candidate needed at least 802 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was new councillor John Epps at 1,287. Of note: there were 10 people vying for four council seats and four people running for mayor.

Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan

Four incumbents return to council, one as mayor and three as councillors. There is one new member of council. A candidate

needed at least 232 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was mayor Valerie Jahn (a former councillor) at 570. Of note: there were 10 people vying for four council seats and three candidates running for mayor.

Deep River

Six incumbents return to council in the roles of mayor, reeve and four councillors. The mayor was acclaimed. There is one new member of council. A candidate needed 949 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent councillor William Fitton at 1,109 votes.

Greater Madawaska

Greater Madawaska has a 100% new council - one incumbent sought re-election in a new position. A candidate needed 148 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was new mayor Rob Weir at 866 votes. One ward councillor was acclaimed. Of note: 4 candidates raced for mayor and 11 for council

Head, Clara & Maria

Three incumbents returned to council, one as mayor and two as councillors. There are two new members of council. A candidate needed 146 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was new councillor Rachel Richter at 165 votes. Of note: women comprise 4 of 5 seats on council.

Horton

Four incumbents return to council, one as mayor and three as councillors. There is one new member of council. A candidate needed 748 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was new councillor Daina Proctor at 854 votes. Of note: every incumbent running was re-elected.

Continued on page 3

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Ottawa Valley BUSINESS

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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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Events

November 2, 2022

Bookkeeping Essentials: Keeping Your Business on Track. 12:00pm-1:00pm. Free webinar. Visit www.sbcontario.ca

November 3, 2022

How an Online Store Can Boost Your Business. 11:30am-12:30pm. Webinar. Free Ontario program. <https://digitalmainstreet.ca/events>

November 3, 2022

Virtual Economic Outlook Summit. An analysis of the current interest rate environment, an update on inflation and discussion about the potential for a recession. 8:30am-10:00am. Free online session. Featuring Leslie Preston of TD Bank Group. Register at www.orangeville.ca/economic-outlook-summit

November 4, 2022

T1 General Small Business Tax Literacy Seminar. This seminar is offered to owners of small businesses and self-employed individuals who need help in understanding their tax obligations. 9:30am-12:00pm. Free webinar. Visit www.sbcontario.ca

November 8, 2022

Web Presence 1010: Ensuring your foundation is set. 10:00am-11:30am. This is a free webinar. <https://digitalmainstreet.ca/events/>

November 8, 2022

Social Media Strategies that Work. Using social media to grow your business isn't just about social media platforms to be on, but how to interact on them in a way that makes

them worthwhile. 2:00pm-3:30pm. Free webinar. www.sbcontario.ca

November 8, 2022

Creating a Marketing Plan on a Budget. Virtual session. 9:30am-10:30am. Defining goals, analyzing costs, low-budget ideas, creating a content calendar and more. Free. www.sbcontario.ca

November 9, 2022

Boost Your Productivity. Participants will discover how overcoming procrastination, properly executing rest periods, and delegating tasks can enable them to work smarter and not harder. 12:00pm-1:30pm. Free webinar. Visit www.sbcontario.ca

November 9, 2022

Business Valuations for Investor Conversations. Understanding what drives value in your business and how to measure business value is essential for productive discussions with potential and current investors. 12:00pm-1:00pm. Free webinar. Visit www.sbcontario.ca

November 10, 2022

Market Intelligence: What it is and how to use it. Gathering data, data analysis, industry trends and insights, market validation and competitive analysis. Webinar. 9:00am-10:30am. Free. www.smallbizcentre.ca

November 10, 2022

Google Advertising – The business owner's starter guide. Virtual session. 10:00am-11:00am. This webinar is designed specifically for business owners who want to learn more about how Google Ads work, and more importantly, how well it could work for them. Register at www.investottawa.ca

November 15, 2022

Employment Standards Act: What Employers Need to Know. Jason

Bouchard, Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Employment Standards Program. Minimum wage, termination of employment, hours of work limits, leaves of absence, vacation, public holidays and more. Free seminar. 9:00am-12:00pm. www.smallbizcentre.ca

November 17, 2022

Burnout and Boundaries – A Holistic Approach to Supporting Employee Wellbeing Amidst the Quiet Quitting Phenomenon. Virtual session. Free. 10:00am-11:00am. The individual and environmental aspects of burnout and how organizations and entrepreneurs can support mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, while prioritizing their own. Register at www.investottawa.ca

November 24, 2022

Preparing a Cash Flow: Simple Steps for Vital Insight. 9:00am-10:30am. Understanding and predicting the flow of money in and out of your business, can help entrepreneurs make smarter decisions, plan ahead, and ultimately avoid an unnecessary cash flow crisis. Free webinar. www.smallbizcentre.ca

November 28, 2022

Struggling to Hire, Retain and Engage Employees? Session 1 of 2. 9:00am-11:00am. Free webinar. Learn new strategies, tools and processes you can use to attract new employees, assess their skills, and understand what they need to remain loyal to your company. www.smallbizcentre.ca

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Municipal Election Facts: Continued

Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards

Three incumbents return to council, all in councillor roles. There are four new members of council. A candidate needed 309 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was new mayor David Mayville at 983 votes. Of note: there are three wards and there was a race in every ward.

Laurentian Hills

Four incumbents and one new member of council were all acclaimed. Of note: this was the only acclaimed council in Renfrew County.

Laurentian Valley

Five incumbents returned to council, as mayor, reeve and three councillors. The mayor was acclaimed. There are two new members of council. A candidate needed 1,264 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent councillor Allan Wren at 1,827 votes. Of note: there were three women running for positions on council and all three were elected.

Madawaska Valley

Two incumbents return to council, one mayor (formerly a councillor) and one councillor. There are three new members of council. A candidate needed 1,101 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was new councillor Mary Blank at 2,012 votes. Of note: 10 people were vying for four council seats.

McNab Braeside

One incumbent returns to council as a councillor. There are four new members of council. A candidate needed 1,209 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was new deputy mayor Lori Hoddinott with 1,598 votes. Of note: only two women ran for positions and one was elected.

North Algonia Wilberforce

All five incumbents were re-elected to council. A candidate needed 927 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent councillor Janet Reiche-Schoenfeldt with 1,257 votes. Of note: This is the only

council to be completely re-elected in Renfrew County.

Pembroke

Five incumbents have been elected to council including the mayor (formerly a councillor) and four councillors. The mayor was acclaimed. There are two new members of council. A candidate needed 1,146 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent councillor Brian Abdallah with 2,238 votes. Of note: 15 people ran for six councillor positions.

Petawawa

Four incumbents were elected to council, one as the mayor (formerly a councillor) and three as councillors. There are two new members of council. A candidate needed 1,497 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was mayor Gary Serviss with 2,446 votes. Of note: there were 11 people running for six councillor positions.

Renfrew

Two incumbents were elected, one as mayor (previously a councillor) and one as reeve. The reeve was acclaimed. There are five new members of council. A candidate needed 873 votes to be elected (mayor's position). The leading vote-getter was new councillor Jason Legris at 1,619 votes. Of note: there were five people in the race for mayor including three incumbents! There are no women elected.

Whitewater Region

Four incumbents were re-elected in the role of mayor (formerly a councillor), deputy mayor and council (with one incumbent formerly holding the mayor's seat). The deputy mayor was acclaimed. There are three new members of council. A candidate needed 1,188 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was mayor Neil Nicholson at 2,156 votes. Of note: 10 people ran for five seats as councillors.

Renfrew County

Voter Turnout

74.24% – Head, Clara & Maria
59.52% – Killaloe, Hagarty, Richards
52.13% – Madawaska Valley
50.31% – Bonnechere Valley
47.77% – Brudenell, Lyndoch, Raglan

47.59% – Arnprior
45.60% – McNab Braeside
43.72% – North Algonia Wilberforce
43.16% – Renfrew
41.80% – Admaston Bromley
41.06% – Whitewater Region
39.21% – Deep River
37.98% – Horton
37.58% – Laurentian Valley
34.75% – Pembroke
34.58% – Greater Madawaska
27.06% – Petawawa

Renfrew County

Acclamations

11 – 5 mayors, 1 reeve and 5 councillors

The following are interesting facts for the neighbouring municipalities of Bancroft, South Algonquin and Mattawa.

Bancroft

Five incumbents were elected to council including one as mayor and four as councillors. There are two new members of council. A candidate needed 283 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was mayor Paul Jenkins at 697. Of note: there were 12 people running for six councillor seats and three running for mayor.

South Algonquin

Three incumbents return to council, all in the role of councillor. Incumbent councillors in wards two and five were acclaimed. A candidate needed 48 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was mayor Ethel Lavalley at 645 votes. Of note: four members elected to council are women.

Mattawa

Four incumbents were elected to council, all in the position of councillors. There are three new members of council. A candidate needed 319 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was mayor Raymond Belanger at 554 votes. Of note: there were no incumbents running for the mayor's seat and all incumbents running for positions on council were re-elected.

Neighbours Voter Turnout

46.14% – South Algonquin
46.11% – Mattawa
39.19% – Bancroft

Continued on page 4

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Municipal Election Facts: Continued

The following are some facts from the election in Lanark County.

Beckwith

Two incumbents were elected, one reeve and one deputy reeve. The reeve was acclaimed. There are three new members of council. A candidate needed 863 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was new reeve (previously a councillor) Brian Dowdall with 1,313 votes.

Drummond North Elmsley

The entire council was acclaimed and all were incumbents. Of note: This is the only acclaimed council in Lanark County.

Lanark Highlands

Five incumbents were acclaimed including the reeve, deputy reeve (previously a councillor) and three councillors. Two councillors were acclaimed. There are two new members of council. A candidate needed 288 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent

mayor Peter McLaren at 1,113 votes. Of note: 16 people ran for 7 various positions of council.

Mississippi Mills

Four incumbents were elected including the mayor, deputy mayor and two councillors. The mayor and one councillor were acclaimed. There are three new members of council. A candidate needed 1,138 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent deputy mayor Rickey Minnille with 2,099 votes.

Montague

Two incumbents were elected, both to new positions - reeve and deputy reeve. There are three new members of council and all were acclaimed! A candidate needed 493 votes to be elected in the deputy mayor's race. The leading vote-getter was mayor Karen Francis Jennings at 638 votes.

Perth

Four incumbents were elected to council in the position of mayor (formerly a councillor), deputy

mayor and two councillors. The deputy mayor was acclaimed. There are three new members of council. A candidate needed 826 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent councillor Dave Bird at 1,657 votes. Of note: 11 people ran for five councillor positions.

Smiths Falls

Four incumbents were elected to council including the mayor and four councillors. There are three new members of council. A candidate needed 1,160 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent councillor Jay Brennan with 1,792 votes. Of note: 14 people ran for 6 councillor positions.

Tay Valley

Two incumbents were elected, both in new positions. One was reeve and one was deputy reeve. There are six new members of council. A candidate needed 388 votes to be elected. The leading vote-getter was incumbent deputy reeve Fred Dobbie at

1,551 votes. Of note: there were 14 people running for seven total positions available on council.

Voter Turnout: Lanark County

46.14% – Perth
40.94% – Tay Valley
40.85% – Mississippi Mills
39.40% – Smiths Falls
39.39% – Montague
33.26% – Lanark Highlands
25.61% – Beckwith

Acclamations

11 - 3 mayors, 1 deputy mayor, 7 councillors

Voter Turnout Around

The Province

53.45% - Kenora
48.66% - Cochrane
43.79% - Ottawa
40.15% - Peterborough
37.56% - North Bay
31.57% - Windsor
31.12% - Kingston
29.17% - Toronto
25.50% - London
24.56% - Brampton

Setting deadlines for job openings

You should generally allow a minimum of two weeks for someone to apply for a job opening that you have available. This makes it possible for someone who might be on vacation for a week to still learn about the job.

If you have an immediate need, you could indicate that interviews can be scheduled right away for applicants who are best-suited for the role. This will allow you to encourage a quick response without indicating a specific deadline.

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Ontario Government News In Brief

New Changes to Attract Healthcare Workers

The Ontario government is making additional changes that will break down barriers so that more health professionals can work in Ontario. Changes that will come into effect immediately, include 1) allowing internationally educated nurses to register in a temporary class and begin working sooner while they work towards full registration, 2) making it easier for non-practicing or retired nurses to return to the field and 3) creating a new temporary independent practice registration class for physicians from other provinces and territories. Further changes, which come into effect on January 1, 2023, include 1) requiring health regulatory colleges to comply with time limits to make registration decisions, 2) prohibiting health regulatory colleges from requiring Canadian work experience for the purpose of registration and 3) accepting language tests approved under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) to reduce duplicate language proficiency testing for immigrants to Canada. On August 31, 2023, health regulatory colleges will be required to have a new category

of registration that can be used to facilitate quicker registration to help safeguard the health workforce supply in the event of future emergencies.

FAO Says Ontario Government Spending Not Transparent

Canadian Manufacturing is reporting that the Ontario Financial Accountability Office (FAO) said the Ontario government's current spending plan contains \$40 billion in program funding shortfalls over six years, though it also contains \$44 billion in unallocated contingency funds. Financial accountability officer Peter Weltman said he had not seen this level of shortfall or contingency before noting that typical contingency funds are \$1 billion a year. Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy said money is being set aside for things like the effects of the war in Ukraine and rising interest rates. The FAO projects a \$100-million surplus at the end of this fiscal year, and an \$8.5-billion surplus in 2027-28. Ontario ended the last fiscal year with a \$2.1 billion surplus while it has projected a \$33 billion deficit.

Business News Around The Valley

County at Queen's Park November 3

The County of Renfrew is having a day at Queen's Park on November 3, 2022. Staff provided outreach to local businesses representing the county's key sectors and partnerships, including agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, nuclear/energy and tourism to invite representatives to join the delegation. Representation of the Ontario Winter Games being held in 2023 will also be included as part of the delegation.

ATV Trail Pass Required for Algonquin Trail

The County of Renfrew is approving the trail pass requirement for All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on the Algonquin and K&P Recreational Trails starting in the 2023 season. The initiative has been planned since May. Non-ATV users are not required to have a trail pass.

Deli Coming To Cobden

Dante Hoffman is opening Dante's Delicatessen at 47 Main Street in Cobden. The business will have cold cuts, fresh meat, cheese, seafood, charcuterie boards, salads, fresh sandwiches, sauces and more. The business will be opening "very soon"

according to Hoffman.

Gemmill Takes Over as MOH

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is announcing that Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health (MOH), will not be renewing his contract at the end of this year (December 31, 2022). The Board of Health is pleased to announce that Dr. Ian Gemmill has been appointed as Acting MOH for the interim period of January 1 to April 30, 2023. Dr. Gemmill is a public health physician who has worked in Kingston, Ottawa and other areas in Ontario for over 40 years. While RCDHU welcomes Dr. Gemmill as Acting MOH, the Board of Health is actively recruiting for a permanent, full-time Medical Officer of Health.

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Deadlines

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BUSINESS**

Publishing: November 15, 2022

Deadline: November 8, 2022

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Municipal Election Results: Renfrew County

Admaston Bromley

Voter Turnout - 41.80%

Mayor

*Michael Donohue - 718

Jack Kelly - 584

Council

*Keith Gourley - 1,052

*Kevin LeGris - 801

*Brian Hamilton - 703

*Angela Field - 679

Campbell Crogie - 598

Ken Keill - 572

Arnpprior

Voter Turnout - 47.59%

Mayor

*Lisa McGee - 1,868

Walter Stack - 1,191

Mike Defalco - 459

County Councillor

*Daniel Lynch - 1,987

Ron Demmers - 1,259

Council

*Chris Toner - 2,078

*Chris Couper - 1,921

*Lynn Grinstead - 1,674

*Tom Burnette - 1,647

*Billy Denault - 1,621

Maureen Campbell - 1,208

Jake Dunn - 1,121

Tiffany Lepack - 1,108

Leslie Anne Hook - 973

Nic Edge - 829

Brian Dougherty - 680

Kaliopi (Kelly Bee) Balilis - 364

Bonnechere Valley

Voter Turnout - 50.31%

Mayor

*Jennifer Murphy - 778

Zig Mintha - 693

Jackie Agnew - 552

Leanne Panke - 134

Council

*John Epps - 1,287

*Brent Patrick - 833

*Merv Buckwald - 802

*Tracey Sanderson - 749

Kelly Reinert - 741

Jack Roesner - 722

Kayla Desjardins - 605

Kimberly Lehman - 592

Tim Schisson - 649

Shawn Henry - 404

Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan

Voter Turnout - 47.77%

Mayor

*Valerie Jahn - 570

Rick Clements - 333

Andrea Budarick - 144

Council - Ward 1

*Iris Kauffeldt - 310

*Kevin Quade - 245

John Rutledge - 167

Gerald Resmer Jr. - 141

Nicole Alessandro - 85

Council - Ward 2

*Sheldon Keller - 319

*Wayne Banks - 232

John Henry Behnke - 187

Melody-Ann Budarcik - 136

Stephan Woyslaw - 82

Deep River

Voter Turnout - 39.21%

Mayor

*Suzanne D'Eon (acclaimed)

Reeve

*Glenn Doncaster - 949

Catherine Ryan - 318

Council

*William Fitton - 1,109

*Kathy Hughes - 1,001

*Christina Giardini - 995

*Tom Vaughan - 991

*Terry Myers - 990

Larry Dumoulin - 381

Greater Madawaska

Voter Turnout - 34.58%

Mayor

*Rob Weir - 866

Deborah Giffin - 633

Jim Hemlin - 245

Lucie Perrier - 26

Council - Ward 1

*Jeff Levesque - 751

*Rob Tripp - 852

Chris Norton - 258

Don Dilks - 139

Craig Armstrong - 115

Kurt Viehbacher - 77

Amanda Daley - 66

Council - Ward 2

*Taylor Popkie (acclaimed)

Council - Ward 3

*Lois Thomson - 148

Mark Tomlin - 119

Dave Bechamp - 73

Head, Clara & Maria

Voter Turnout - 74.24%

Mayor

*Debbie Grills - 147

Robert Reid - 70

Council

*Rachel Richer - 165

*Chris Dowser - 158

*Karen Leclerc - 148

*Fran Kelly-Chamberlain - 146

Jim Gibson - 132

Ernie Villeneuve - 55

Horton

Voter Turnout - 37.98%

Mayor

*Dave Bennett (acclaimed)

Council

*Daina Proctor - 854

*Glen Campbell - 799

*Douglas Humphries - 768

Tom Webster - 748

Robert Kingsbury - 424

Shane Finnigan - 286

Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards

Voter Turnout - 59.52%

Mayor

*Dave Mayville - 983

Janice Tiedje - 897

Council - Ward 1

*Ted Browne - 361

*Bil Smith - 355

Mike Henry - 154

Council - Ward 2

*Maureen MacMillan - 417

*Carl Kuehl - 372

Dave King - 356

Council - Ward 3

*Brian Pecoskie - 405

*Harold Lavigne - 309

Jenna McRae - 265

Steven Boyle - 97

Laurentian Hills

All of council is acclaimed

Mayor

*Anne Giardini (acclaimed)

Council

*Bruce Boucher (acclaimed)

*Gary McAnulty (acclaimed)

*Brenda Blimkie (acclaimed)

*John Hoyle (acclaimed)

Laurentian Valley

Voter Turnout - 37.58%

Mayor

*Steve Bennett (acclaimed)

Reeve

*Keith Watt - 1,685

Chris Pleau - 1,245

Council

*Allan Wren - 1,827

*Brian Hugli - 1,708

*Jennifer Gauthier - 1,694

*Wendy Hewitt - 1,413

*Betty King - 1,264

Jason Schulz - 1,211

Mike Summers - 1,113

Danny Janke - 1,013

Stewart Ray - 816

Continued on page 7



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Municipal Election Results: Renfrew County

Madawaska Valley

Voter Turnout – 52.13%

Mayor

*Mark Willmer – 1,801

Roger Prince – 1,194

Council

*Mary Blank – 2,012

*Dave Schulist – 1,513

*Joseph Olsheski – 1,201

*Shelley Maika – 1,101

Ernie Peplinski – 1,044

Carl Bromwich – 1,005

Hannah Domagala – 881

Helen Benn – 661

Liz Woosey – 654

Audrey Kaminski – 275

McNab Braeside

Voter Turnout – 45.60%

Mayor

*Mark Mackenzie – 1,363

Oliver Jacob – 867

Tom Peckett – 863

Deputy Mayor

*Lori Hoddinott – 1,598

Brian Armsden – 1,463

Council

*Kevin Rosien – 1,559

*Scott Brum – 1,546

*Robert Campbell – 1,209

Matthew Brearley – 1,192

Andy Kalnins – 1,191

Joanna Jane Hall Davis – 896

Darrell Carson – 748

North Algona

Wilberforce

Voter Turnout – 43.72%

Mayor

*James Brose – 1,220

Deborah Farr – 292

Council

*Janet Reiche-Schoenfeldt – 1,257

*Maria Robinson – 1,119

*Doug Buckwald – 989

*Melvin Berndt – 927

Kevin Clarke – 710

Pembroke

Voter Turnout – 34.75%

Mayor

*Ron Gervais (acclaimed)

Council

*Brian Abdallah – 2,238

*Ian Kuehl – 1,935

*Andrew Plummer – 1,855

*Patricia Lafreniere – 1,800

*Ed Jacyno – 1,433

*Troy Purcell – 1,146

Stacy Taylor – 1,089

Dan Callaghan – 1,073

Dorian Pearce – 1,006

Jane Wood – 882

Chela Breckon – 808

Karen Walsh – 658

Jason Laronde – 480

Andrew Clark – 457

Wade Wallace – 338

Petawawa

Voter Turnout – 27.06%

Mayor

*Gary Serviss – 2,446

Jody Anne McDonald – 855

Council

*Theresa Sabourin – 2,128

*Murray Rutz – 1,773

*James Carmody – 1,760

*Adam Driscoll – 1,617

*Karen Donovan – 1,565

*Lisa Coutu – 1,497

Matthew McLean – 1,213

Cyndi Mills – 1,087

Gerald Hoffman – 1,049

Simon Brooks – 957

Barry Schimmens – 805

Renfrew

Voter Turnout – 43.16%

Mayor

*Tom Sidney – 873

Sandi Heins – 861

Michael Coulas – 691

Kathryn Windle – 168

Callum Scott – 153

Deputy Mayor

*Peter Emon (acclaimed)

Council

*Jason Legris – 1,619

*Clint McWhirter – 1,615

*John McDonald – 1,586

*Kyle Cybulski – 1,506

*Andrew Dick – 1,258

Brady Enright – 1,223

Adam Laviolette – 1,168

Guy Longtin – 1,050

Whitewater Region

Voter Turnout – 41.06%

Mayor

*Neil Nicholson – 2,156

Donna Burns – 548

Deputy Mayor

*Cathy Regier (acclaimed)

Council

*Mark Bell – 1,663

*Connie Tabbert – 1,374

*Christopher Olmstead – 1,346

*Michael Moore – 1,208

*Joey Trimm – 1,188

Daryl McLaughlin – 1,181

Dave MacKay – 1,131

Joe Kowalski – 884

Jim Butterworth – 790

Ron Laronde – 683

Municipal Election Results: Neighbour Communities

Bancroft

Voter Turnout – 39.19%

Mayor

*Paul Jenkins – 697

Scott Munro – 585

Michael Anderson – 189

Council – Bancroft Ward

*Tracy McGibbon – 521

*Mary Kavanagh – 508

*George Eastman – 407

Wayne Wiggins – 365

Tanya Armstrong-Ace – 242

Curtis Sibley – 242

Council – Dungannon Ward

*Barry McGibbon – 327

*Valerie Miles – 293

*Charles Mullett – 283

Dale Anderson – 224

Trevor Stevenson – 219

Mike Van Roon – 105

South Algonquin

South Algonquin – 46.14%

Mayor

*Ethel Lavalley – 645

Bongo Bongo – 201

Barney Baker – 106

Council – Ward 1

*Joan Kuiack – 353

*Laurie Siydock – 277

John Pollak – 139

Council – Ward 2

*Bill Rodnick (acclaimed)

Council – Ward 3

*Sandra Collins – 48

Tom Taylor – 39

Gabriela Hairbedian – 1

Council – Ward 4

*Joe Florent (acclaimed)

Council – Ward 5

*Shawn Pigeon – 118

Loretta Neil – 25

Mattawa

Voter Turnout – 46.11%

Mayor

*Raymond Belanger – 554

Marie Johanne Goyette – 149

Council

*Matthew Gardiner – 441

*Dexture Sarazin – 396

*Fern Levesque – 341

*Loren Mick – 327

*Laura Ross – 325

*Garry Thibert – 319

Mark Duchesne – 312

Kenneth MacDonald – 269

Lise Perreault – 234

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Municipal Election Candidates: Lanark County

Beckwith

Voter Turnout – 25.61%

Reeve

*Richard Kidd (acclaimed)

Deputy Reeve

*Brian Dowdall – 1,313

Sharon Mousseau – 606

Council

*Erin Rose – 1,087

*Jessica McKenna-Kelso – 965

*Kerri Nicholson-Watson – 863

C. Faye Campbell – 782

Ross Trimble – 739

Timothy K. Campbell – 533

Trevor Doraty – 124

Drummond

North Elmsley

All of council is acclaimed

Mayor

*Steve Fournier (acclaimed)

Council

*Ray Scissons (acclaimed)

*Paul Kehoe (acclaimed)

*John Matheson (acclaimed)

*Paul Coutts (acclaimed)

Lanark Highlands

Voter Turnout – 33.26%

Reeve

*Peter McLaren – 1,113

Wesley Pugh – 1,043

James Parsons – 181

Deputy Reeve

*Bill King – 1,111

Adam-Michael Peters – 762

Dennis Munroe – 363

Council – Ward 1

*Ronald Closs (acclaimed)

Council – Ward 2

*Steve Roberts – 288

Rachael Heleniak – 213

Daniel Keating – 14

Council – Ward 3

*Allison Vereyken – 35

Ryan McMurrer – 152

Council – Ward 4

*Marina Summers – 430

Mike Ford – 129

Gregory Drew – 40

Council – Ward 5

*Jeannie Kelso (acclaimed)

Mississippi Mills

Voter Turnout – 40.85%

Mayor

*Christa Lowry (acclaimed)

Deputy Mayor

*Rickey Minnille – 2,099

Paul Watters – 1,797

David Hinks – 1,053

Council – Almonte Ward

*Mary Lou Souter – 1,740

*Jane Torrance – 1,564

John Dalgity – 1,457

Janet Maydan – 615

Council – Pakenham Ward

*Denzil Ferguson (acclaimed)

Council – Ramsay Ward

*Vicki Lowe – 1,138

*Bev Holmes – 1,194

Cynthia Guerard – 632

Montague

Voter Turnout – 39.39%

Reeve

*Karen Francis Jennings – 638

Klaas VanDerMeer – 384

Vince Carroll – 331

Deputy Reeve

*Jeffrey Carroll – 493

Pat Dolan – 481

David Marion – 375

Council

*Jim Abass (acclaimed)

*Morgan Kenny (acclaimed)

*Gerald Crabtree (acclaimed)

Perth

Voter Turnout – 46.14%

Mayor

*Judy Brown – 983

John Fenik – 919

Stephanie Drummond – 563

Deputy Mayor

*Ed McPherson (acclaimed)

Council

*David Bird – 1,657

*Gary Waterfield – 1,360

*Isabel Anne McRae – 1,357

*Jim Boldt – 1,150

*Barry Smith – 826

Roy Van Der Mull – 770

Sheldon Giff – 732

Meredith Toivanen – 682

Leona Cameron – 653

Marlene Donoghue – 403

Derek Zeisman – 393

Smiths Falls

Voter Turnout – 39.40%

Mayor

*Shawn Pankow – 1,635

Justin Duhamel – 944

Council

*Jay Brennan – 1,792

*Jennifer Miller – 1,521

*Peter McKenna – 1,317

*Christopher McGuire – 1,270

*Stephen Robinson – 1,194

*Dawn Quinn – 1,160

Karen Salter – 1,054

Wendy Alford – 993

James Creighton – 847

Lynda Bradford – 717

Chris Samure – 446

Joane Morin – 441

Chance Lauziere-Peterson – 436

Patricia Ann Clark – 356

Tay Valley

Voter Turnout – 40.94%

Reeve

*Rob Rainer – 1,397

RoxAnne Darling – 1,129

Deputy Reeve

*Fred Dobbie – 1,551

Gordon Hill – 929

Council – Bathurst Ward

*Korrine Janet Affleck – 503

*Marilyn Thomas – 732

Gilbert Rossignol – 474

Council – Burgess Ward

*Angela Pierman – 591

*Greg Hallam – 481

Doug Barr – 319

Madison Hainstock – 202

Council – Sherbrooke Ward

*Wayne Baker – 389

*Andrew Kendrick – 388

Mark Burnham – 312

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae



A war poem written during the First World War by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, May 3, 1915. Flanders Fields is a common English name of the World War I battlefields in Belgium and France.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Tender Results Around The Valley

DP-RFP-2022-08 – Janitorial Contract. County of Renfrew.
Glacier Maint. - \$267,300.00
GDI Services - \$270,527.00
Dodds' Janitorial - \$259,044.16
Service Star Bldg - \$418,068.00

DP-RFP-2022-07 – 410 and 450 O'Brien Snow Removal. County of Renfrew.
Lloyd Hisko - \$183,000.00
Eric Hultink - \$189,300.00

Engineering Design and Contract Administration Services for Hunter Street Reconstruction – Mackay Street to Cecelia Street. Pembroke.
Recommended award to McIntosh Perry in the amount of \$105,009.00.

Reconstruction of Pembroke Snow Disposal Facility at Quarry Road – Tender Contract No. 22000550-AO. Pembroke.
Recommended award to RGT Clouthier Construction in the amount of \$1,201,985.70 plus HST.

Snow Clearing – City Parking Lots – 2022-2024 - Request for Tender No. T-22-11. Pembroke.
Only one bid was received.
H&H Construction Inc.
\$298,460.00

Supply and Installation of New Chain-Link Gates and Minor Fence Repairs Tender 2022-14. Whitewater Region.
Recommended award to M&R Feeds Micksburg in the amount of \$8,249.00.

For full tender listings, visit www.ovbusiness.com

Tenders

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Request for Standing Offer –
RFSO PWC-2022-27 Consultant Services

Professional Engineering Services

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Update DSS-01-2022

RFP Admin 2022-01 Service Review

RFP PWC-2022-25 Professional Services for the Development of Transportation Master Plans

General Insurance and Risk Management Services

RFP ADMIN 2022-01 Integrity Commissioner

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

RFP PW2022-13
Speed Limit Review

PWO-2022-24 Slide In U-Body Water Tank

TENDERS

Residential Housing Unit Demolition

Correct Storage Tank Deficiencies

Demolish Building CC-109

Replace Flat Roofs on Three Buildings

Interior Renovation of Residential Housing Units

Replace Hallway Flooring at S-111

Supply and Delivery of Chemicals for Water and Sewage Treatment 2023-2024

Supply & Delivery of One Single Axle Cab and Chassis with Roll-Off

Tender T-22-17 Outlet #27 Reconstruction

Janitorial Services

Repair Elevator Foundation

Construction Services – St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School and SJCHS

LVFD-2022-02 – Extrication Equipment

LVFD-2022-01 – Radio Equipment

BV22-07 One Diesel Powered 6-Ton Tandem Axle Truck Combination Dump Body-Spreader, Snow Plow and Wing

APN_CO/NO Detectors and Fire Alarm Modifications

Complete listings at www.ovbusiness.com

Supply Chains in Canada: 3rd Quarter

Source: Statistics Canada

Annual Inflation

0.7% in 2020; 3.4% in 2021
8.1% in 2022

19.1%

Increase in raw materials prices purchased by manufacturers in Canada versus July 2021

26.8%

Businesses expecting difficulty acquiring products/supplies domestically in next 3 months

47.8%

Construction businesses expecting difficulty acquiring products/supplies domestically

43.9%

Manufacturing businesses expecting difficulty acquiring products/supplies domestically

54.3%

Of businesses expecting difficulty, those expecting challenges to continue for six months or more

14.4%

Businesses expect difficulty acquiring products/supplies from abroad over next three months

36.1%

Wholesale trade businesses that expect difficulty acquiring products/supplies from abroad

33.2%

Manufacturing businesses that expect difficulty acquiring products/supplies abroad over

55.7%

Of those expecting difficulty, those expecting challenges to continue for six months or more

58.2%

Businesses reporting that challenges have worsened over the last three months

82.7%

Businesses saying the key factor in worsening supply chain challenges is delivery delays

30.6%

Businesses who intend to partner with new suppliers

29.6%

Businesses planning to substitute with alternate products/supplies

29.2%

Businesses who plan to work with suppliers to improve timelines

15.1%

Businesses who plan to shift to local suppliers

71.5%

Businesses who bought goods/materials directly from a domestic supplier

40.3%

Businesses who bought directly from 1-9 domestic suppliers

31.2%

Businesses who bought directly from 10+ domestic suppliers

93.2%

Manufacturers who bought directly from domestic suppliers

49.8%

Businesses with domestic suppliers who say their suppliers would be difficult to replace

82.8%

Businesses that purchased materials/goods directly from foreign suppliers

60.7%

Businesses with 1 to 9 foreign suppliers

22.1%

Businesses with 10 or more foreign suppliers

Keep The Momentum Going

Tweak marketing instead of stopping entirely



By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@fwdthink.net

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) just released a survey of business owners that says confidence in the economy is dropping. The Bank of Canada just raised the interest rate with another raise anticipated before the end of the year. Financially challenging situations can make business owners pull back on certain aspects of the business, and marketing is often on the chopping block. The problem is that when the economy turns positive, re-starting marketing is more difficult than picking up steam with current marketing. Here are a few tips to keep the marketing going while minding expenses.

Tip #1

Negotiate Your Advertising

Ask your advertising reps what they can do to make your dollar go further. Maybe they have a

“deal” that if you buy X number of ads, you get X number of ads for free or at a reduced rate. Give your reps the chance to work for you and keep your business. Advertising is a deduction so your business gets this investment back.

Tip #2

Join A Business Organization

Many business organizations will have an end-of-year special if you join at the end of the year. Benefit from the work of chamber staff and boards of directors who keep you informed, organize events and send important information your way. It's a way to stay connected without having to spend a lot of time working at it. Your chamber membership is also a deduction.

Tip #3

Invest in Multi-Use Promotions

Try to get more than one use from the investment in marketing materials. Share the ad you purchase on your social media pages. Use the tradeshow banner as a display option at your financial institution, partner business or in your own business. Attend the chamber business event and post about it on social media. Upload the brochure you hand out to

customers to your website. Look at the things you are doing and find at least one other way to reuse them.

Tip #4

Find a Partner

Partner with another business to make a joint donation to the food bank and then both of you can promote the donation and the partnership. Ask to split an advertising package with another business. You don't have to do things together to benefit from a partnership – you can just split the cost of a large promotion.

A Final Thought

Take a look at your expenses and capitalize on what you can benefit from as a 100% deduction. Meals and entertainment on your own may be less of a deduction than attending a business event with appetizers and networking which is included with your membership (100% deduction) fee. There are many ways to maintain the momentum to the benefit of your business.

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

Quotes

Remembrance Day

In Flanders fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing,
fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

- John McCrae, Canadian poet, doctor and medical officer during WWI

There can be no dedication to Canada's future without a knowledge of its past.

- John Diefenbaker, 13th Prime Minister of Canada

Let us never forget the solemn truth that the nation is not constituted of the living alone.

- Sir Robert Borden, 8th Prime Minister of Canada

Patriotism is not dying for one's country, it is living for one's country. Perhaps that is not as romantic but it's better.

- Agnes Macphail, first woman elected to the House of Commons

When I wear my poppy I'm remembering everyone affected by war, across races, genders, ideologies and borders. I'm remembering the tragedy of war, all wars. I wear it in the hope that wars will be a thing of the past.

- Dave Stewart, Canadian writer, musician and filmmaker

Lest we forget.

- Rudyard Kipling

I am a Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind."

- John Diefenbaker

It takes a little bit of your heart.

This is the month to feel the love for small business.

forwardthinking
MARKETING AGENCY

Take a moment to appreciate the journey that has resulted in you becoming a small business owner. It takes a lot of heart.



The Rising Costs of Uncivil Behaviour

Addressing rudeness before it impacts your workplace

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

If you have noticed people being more on edge and impatient, you're not imagining it. An article in the *Harvard Business Review* confirms that reports of people being uncivil are on the rise and it is impacting businesses in a number of ways.

Christine Porath is the author of two books on community and civility. She conducted a 2022 survey of employees and people who have observed employees at work and found the following:

- 76% of people experience incivility at least once a month
- 73% report it's not unusual for customers to behave badly
- 66% believe bad behaviour from customers toward other customers is more common than it was five years ago.

How we got here

There are five factors that have contributed to how we have become a more uncivil society, starting with stress.

Porath says the pandemic, divisive politics, problems with



the economy and the changing nature of work are all making it difficult to regulate emotions. 74% of respondents to her survey who had been rude to a co-worker blamed it on stress. As stress rises, self-care (sleep, exercise) lessens which further contributes to stress.

The next cause is negative emotions. The more we are exposed to negativity, the more it brews within us, even without us realizing it. Then we lash out at someone because we are unable to restrain the negative feelings.

The fraying of community

feelings is another factor.

Pandemic restrictions removed the ability for gathering and being with people, and some of that messaging continue today. Being separated from people weakens relationships that contribute a positive balance in our lives.

Technology. It is something that further disconnects us from personal relationships and is a constant source of highly negative commentary. It is not uncommon to be so involved with the phone that you become completely unaware of actual

human beings who are right in front of you! There is also a lot of miscommunication through texting and commenting which further deteriorates human relationships.

Finally, many people aren't even aware that they have become uncivil towards others. Porath's study shows that 80-85% of people misunderstand how their tone of voice, nonverbal signals or actions come across to others.

Incivility is costing business

Unfortunately, rudeness is contagious. Studies dating back more than 100 years show that we pick up on the expressions, behaviours and reactions of others to define ourselves. For example, when someone snarls at us or ignores us, it prompts a different feeling than someone who smiles and acknowledges us. These brief interactions signal either respect or disrespect, causing us to feel a certain way that can be detrimental to our personal and work productivity.

Continued on page 3

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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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

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www.facebook.com/OVBbusiness

MAILING ADDRESS

2113 Petawawa Boulevard,
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 7G8

Events

November 15, 2022

Social Enterprise 101. Virtual. 12:00pm-1:00pm. Learn more about this unique type of business that uses revenue-generating activities to achieve a social, environmental or cultural good. Free. Register at www.csedottawa.ca

November 17, 2022

Burnout and Boundaries – A Holistic Approach to Supporting Employee Well-being Amidst the Quiet Quitting Phenomenon. Virtual session. Free. 10:00am-11:00am. The individual and environmental aspects of burnout and how organizations and entrepreneurs can support mental health and well-being in the workplace, while prioritizing their own. Register at www.investottawa.ca

November 17, 2022

How an Online Store Can Boost Your Business. 11:30am-12:30pm. Free. webinar. More details at: www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

November 22, 2022

Social Media for Your Business. 10:00am-11:30am. Free webinar. www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

November 24, 2022

Preparing a Cash Flow: Simple Steps for Vital Insight. 9:00am-10:30am. Understanding and predicting the flow of money in and out of your business, can help entrepreneurs make smarter decisions, plan ahead, and ultimately avoid an unnecessary cash flow crisis. Free webinar. www.smallbizcentre.ca

November 24, 2022

Inventing The Next Big Thing – Why Patents Matter. Virtual. 9:30am-11:00am. Whether you are creating cutting-edge technology or improving a well-known product or process, you need to know more about patents. Patents can increase credibility, boost confidence among investors, keep your competitors at bay, and help you profit financially from your creativity. Free. www.investottawa.ca/events

November 24, 2022

How an Online Store Can Boost Your Business. Free Ontario program. 11:30am-12:30pm. Free. Online webinar. www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

November 28, 2022

Struggling to Hire, Retain and Engage Employees? Session 1 of 2. 9:00am-11:00am. Free webinar. Learn new strategies, tools and processes you can use to attract new employees, assess their skills, and understand what they need to remain loyal to your company. www.smallbizcentre.ca

December 1, 2022

How an Online Store Can Boost Your Business. 11:30am-12:30pm. Free. Online webinar. www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

December 5, 2022

Effective Succession Planning – Do you know who your next leaders should be? Session 2 of 2. 9:00am-11:00am. Free webinar. Are you thinking no one in your organization has the skills and abilities to take over? This is the situation facing many Canadian businesses and organizations. Current managers, owners, and leaders are tired and want to prepare for retirement but they don't feel there is anyone ready to replace them. This workshop will provide you with six key steps you

can use to start effective succession planning. www.smallbizcentre.ca

December 6, 2022

eCommerce 101: What, why, how. 10:00am-11:30am. Free webinar www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

December 7, 2022

Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association breakfast. Featuring Luca Bucci, CEO of the Ontario Home Builders' Association. 7:25am. Centurion Conference & Event Centre. www.gohba.ca/calendar

December 8, 2022

Sharing Power with Volunteers. 12:00pm-1:30pm. Free webinar. Hosted by Volunteer Ottawa. An overview and understanding of the lexicon of words like equity, ally, and solidarity. www.volunteerottawa.ca

December 8, 2022

How an Online Store Can Boost Your Business. Free Ontario program. 11:30am-12:30pm. Free. Online webinar. www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

December 13, 2022

Grow Your Business in 2023. 2:00pm-3:30pm. Free. If you want to make 2023 the best year yet for your business, join us for an interactive online webinar that'll teach you the steps you can take to grow your business. Led by Andrew Patricio of Bizlaunch. www.bizlaunch.com

Send your business events to:
admin@ovbusiness.com

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Verbal Templates, Nudges and Peer Programs

Ideas to use in the workplace to encourage positive behaviour

Continued from page 1

Porthath's study discussed how people perceive rudeness and incivility in a business. When customers witness others being uncivil to employees, their attitudes toward the employees improve, but feelings toward the workers' organization shift.

- 42% report that the rude behaviour changes their perception of the company
- 40% question whether they want to do business there again
- 65% think the business should better protect employees
- 45% question the company's values

Further, when people have this experience, their willingness to use the company's products and services drops 35%.

Knowing this is happening, how does a business address uncivil behaviour?

Portath says the first step starts with recruiting the right people. Ask candidates questions about a time when they felt stressed and how they handled it. Pay attention to the tone of voice and demeanour when the candidate is providing the answer to gain some non-verbal cues. Mention company values and ask the candidate how their past behaviour would align with those values.

Verbal Templates

For all employees, provide expectations of how they are to interact with each other and with customers to ensure a safe and respectful environment. Promote empathy as employees put themselves in someone else's shoes and accept that you may not have "the whole argument" in the situation. Portath shares a verbal template that one organization uses: either you

stop (the problematic behaviour) or (the results of the behaviour.) For example, "Either you stop yelling at me or it's going to make it harder for me to give your mother her meds."

Nudges

Another example comes from Starbucks. A barista didn't make the coffee the way the customer preferred it to be made, but the customer noticed a sign that said, "People who are here chose to be here" and opted not to complain about the coffee.

Peer Recognition

The Motley Fool stock advisor company created a peer-to-peer recognition program called Fools's Gold. Each employee is given an allotment of "gold" they can dole out to coworkers to recognize any action they feel is worthy. Employees can redeem the gold for gift cards and other rewards. There's also a

recognition feed that allows employees to read all posted compliments.

Finally, Porath recommends businesses make sure employees have the tools to handle uncivil behaviour. Training on how to de-escalate a situation, what to handle on their own and when to involve a manager are important. Dealing with uncivil behaviour has impacts on mental and physical health so employees should also be encouraged to "thrive" outside of work as well. In conclusion, while incivility is contagious, so is being civil to each other. While we cannot control how others choose to behave, we can control our reaction to that behaviour and continue to build a workplace of respect that empowers employees to do what they can and supports them when they need help.

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JOB OFFER



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Rural Physicians
OF CANADA**
**SOCIÉTÉ DE LA
Médecine Rurale
DU CANADA**

JOB SUMMARY

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) is growing its membership across the country and requires an experienced Membership/Marketing Coordinator to join our team.

We are looking for an exceptional candidate with excellent organizational and communication skills who is a self-motivated organization builder.

This permanent full-time position is based at our Shawville, Quebec office. While the SRPC does support remote work, working from the office must be an option at certain points.

For full details, visit our webpage (www.srpc.ca/classified-ads). If you are interested in this position, please forward your resume and a cover letter briefly detailing your suitability for the role to Jennifer Barr (jenniferm@srpc.ca), Chief Operating Officer at the SRPC.

The Financial Corner: CPA Tax News

Fall Economic Statement and Tax-Free First Homes Savings Account

Fall Economic Statement (FES)

On November 3, the federal government's 2022 Fall Economic Statement contained new tax notice. Personal tax changes included:

- Extension of the residential property flipping rule to assignment sales. The original will be extended to apply to profits arising from dispositions of residential property via an assignment sale if the rights to purchase a property were assigned after having been owned for less than 12 months.
- Canada Workers Benefit (CWB). The government will automatically provide individuals who received the CWB last year an entitlement for the current year in quarterly advance payments based on their prior year tax return. The payments start in July 2023.
- Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). The government will

examine a new minimum tax regime.

Business tax changes include:

- Investment tax credit for clean technologies. Proposing a refundable Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit of up to 30% of the capital cost of eligible equipment.
- Income reporting by digital platform operators. Draft legislation was released for public comment for income reporting by digital platforms into the Income Tax Act, planned to come into force on January 1, 2024. The consultation period will end on January 6, 2023.
- Tax on stock buybacks. A 2% corporate-level tax on the net value of share buybacks by public corporations in Canada. Proposed to come into force on January 1, 2024.
- Updates on previously announced tax measures include:
 - Excessive interest and financing expenses limitation.

Draft legislation is subject to a consultation period that ends on January 6, 2023. It is proposed these rules will apply to tax years beginning on or after October 1, 2023.

- Mandatory reporting rules. The effective date of the reportable transaction and notifiable transaction proposals will be delayed until the bill receives royal assent. The uncertain tax treatment proposals will apply to taxation years beginning after 2022.

Tax-Free First Home Savings Account (FHSA) Changes

As part of Bill C-32, proposed legislation to implement the new FHSA program was included with several revisions from the previous draft released August 9:

- A taxpayer can now access both the FHSA and Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) for the same qualifying home.

- If a deceased taxpayer does not close their FHSA before its

"cessation date" (generally the end of the year following death), a deemed income inclusion will be taxable to the plan beneficiaries or the estate.

- The definition of a "qualifying individual" no longer includes an individual who has a beneficial interest in a qualifying home.

- In cases where a surviving spouse becomes the holder of an FHSA and the deceased holder had excess contributions immediately before their death, the survivor is deemed to have contributed to the FHSA thereby reducing the spouse's FHSA contribution or potentially putting them into an over-contribution position.

- The legislation includes changes so overall framework for FHSAs is better aligned with other registered plans.

Source: www.cpacanada.ca

COMMUNITY FUTURES FRANCOPHONE JOB CREATION PROGRAM

50% WAGE SUBSIDY

THE COMMUNITY FUTURES FRANCOPHONE JOB CREATION PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO RENFREW COUNTY EMPLOYERS TO HIRE FRANCOPHONE SPEAKING EMPLOYEES THROUGH A 50% WAGE SUBSIDY.

Renfrew County employers are eligible for the following for a new francophone hire:

- Up to 50% employee wage subsidy
- Up to 50% advertising contribution for job position

Employees hired on or after September 24, 2021 eligible.

Available through to March 31, 2022.

CALL 613-431-3951 EXT. 229
OR EMAIL KELLEY.LEMENCHICK@RCCFDC.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PROGRAMME FRANCOPHONE POUR LA CRÉATION D'EMPLOIS

SOCIÉTÉ D'AIDE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT DES COLLECTIVITÉS (SADC)

SUBVENTION SALARIALE DE 50 %

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

Les employeurs du comté de Renfrew qui embauchent des employés francophones pourront recevoir :

- une subvention allant jusqu'à 50% des dépenses salariales encourues;
- un soutien financier allant jusqu'à 50% des frais pour annoncer ces postes.

Les subventions sont disponibles jusqu'au 31 mars 2022.

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



Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation
450 O'Brien Road, Suite 505, Renfrew, Ontario
www.rccfdc.org
613-431-3951



Société d'aide au développement des collectivités du comté de Renfrew
450, rue O'Brien, bureau 505, Renfrew (Ontario)
www.rccfdc.org
613-431-3951



Local Farms Earn Placings at Royal Winter Fair

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair celebrates 100 years

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair took place November 4-13, 2022 at Exhibition Place in Toronto. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the event. Agricultural farms and owners from across Canada and into the United States took part in a variety of competitions. Several local farms recorded success this year. Ottawa Valley native, Crystal Mackay, is a Director for The Royal.

Some of the results of the 2022 Royal Fair include:

Beef Cattle - Angus

Junior Female Calf, 2022

Enright Farms (Renfrew)

4th in Heat 1

Intermed. Jr Female Calf, 2022

Cedarview Cattle (Pakenham)

2nd in Heat 1

Twin Valley (Renfrew)

4th in Heat 2

Senior Female Calf, 2022

Cedarview Cattle (Pakenham)

1st in Heat 1

Katie Cox (McNab Braeside)

1st in Heat 3

Enright Farms (Renfrew)

2nd in Heat 4

Rock Creek (Renfrew)

5th in Heat 6, 8th in Heat 2

Twin Valley Cattle (Renfrew)

6th in Heat 3

Junior Yearling Heifer, 2021

Enright Farms (Renfrew)

1st in Heat 1, 3rd in Heat 1,

4th in Heat 1

Cedarview Cattle (Pakenham)

2nd in Heat 1

Intermed. Yearling Heifer, 2021

Barber Cattle (Shawville)

8th in Heat 1

Female 2020 with 2022 natural

purebred, tattooed calf at foot

Cedarview Cattle (Pakenham)

3rd place

Female born before January 1,

2020 with her own 2022 natural

purebred, tattooed calf at foot

Enright Farms (Renfrew)

Champion Senior Female,

Grand Champion Female.

Supreme Champion of the Show,

Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society

Challenge Cup

Intermediate Bull Calf, 2022

Hootaway Farms (Shawville)

4th place

Senior Bull Calf, 2022

Cedarview Cattle (Pakenham)

Senior Champion Bull

1st in Heat 1

Rock Creek Farms (Renfrew)

4th in Heat 1

Beef Cattle - Hereford

Junior Female Calf, 2022

Stone Hedge (Pembroke)

Junior Heifer Calf Champion-

Reserve, 2nd place, 3rd place

Intermed. Female Calf, 2022

Bar JM Farms (Douglas)

1st in Heat 3

Double H Cattle McNab Braeside)

2nd in Heat 1

Stone Hedge (Pembroke)

3rd in Heat 1, 4th in Heat 2

Senior Female Calf, 2022

Bar JM Farm (Douglas)

2nd in Heat 4

Double H Cattle (McNab Braeside)

4th in Heat 1

Female Born Before January 1st,

2020 with her own 2022 natural,

purebred, tattooed calf at foot

Double H Cattle (McNab Braeside)

3rd in Heat 2

Barr JM Farm (Douglas)

4th in Heat 1

Intermediate Bull Calf, 2022

Stone Hedge (Pembroke)

Intermediate Bull Calf

Champion, 1st place

Double H Cattle (McNab Braeside)

3rd place

Senior Bull Calf Born, 2022

Double H Cattle (McNab Braeside)

2nd in Heat 1

Bar JM Farm (Douglas)

6th in Heat 3

Get of Sire

Bar JM Farm (Douglas)

Champion Get of Sire

Junior Get of Sire

Bar JM Farm (Douglas)

2nd place

Beef Cattle - Charolais

Junior Heifer Calf

Oattes Cattle (Cobden)

Champion Junior Heifer Calf

Banner, Premier Exhibitor

Award, Premier Breeder Award,

1st place

Intermediate Heifer Calf

Oattes Cattle (Cobden)

Champion Intermediate Heifer

Calf, 1st place, Champion

Intermediate Heifer Calf -

Reserve, 2nd place

Senior Heifer Calf

Oattes Cattle (Cobden)

Champion Senior Heifer Calf -

Reserve, 1st place

Cornerview Charolais (Cobden)

4th in Heat 1

Fondook Farm (Renfrew)

5th in Heat 2, 6th in Heat 2

Female Junior Yearling Heifer

Oattes Cattle (Cobden)

Champion Junior Yearling

Heifer, Grand Champion

Female, 1st place

Female Senior Yearling Heifer

Oattes Cattle (Cobden)

Champion Senior Yearling

Heifer - Reserve, 1st place, 2nd

in Heat 1

Blackburn Farms (Foresters Falls)

3rd in Heat 1

J-Star Livestock (Beachburg)

4th in Heat 1

Cornerview Charolais (Cobden)

5th in Heat 2

Junior Bull Calf

Cornerview Charolais (Cobden)

Champion Junior Bull, 1st place

Senior Bull Calf

Cornerview Charolais (Cobden)

3rd in Heat 1

Whitewater Livestock (Haley Stn)

3rd in Heat 2

Two Bulls, Bred And Owned By

Exhibitor

Cornerview Charolais (Cobden)

2nd place

Breeder's Herd

Cornerview Charolais (Cobden)

3rd place

Get of Sire

Cornerview Charolais (Cobden)

2nd place

Progeny of Dam

Oattes Cattle (Cobden)

1st place

Results continued on page 7

We are recruiting for Production Workers

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8-10 hour shifts | High School Diploma required



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Competition Includes Canada and U.S.

Plenty to be proud of across the Ottawa Valley and the Pontiac

Continued from page 6

Beef Cattle - Simmental

Female Calf
Oattes Cattle (Cobden)
Champion Junior Heifer Calf,
1st in Heat 2
Barlee Simmentals (Shawville)
2nd in Heat 1
Senior Heifer Calf
J-Star Livestock (Beachburg)
Champion Senior Heifer Calf-
Reserve, 1st in Heat 1
Oattes Cattle (Cobden)
Champion Senior Heifer Calf,
Grand Champion Female-
Reserve, 1st in Heat 3
J-Star Livestock (Beachburg)
2nd in Heat 1
Female Intermediate Yearling
Dunraven Simmentals (Calumet Is.)
2nd in Heat 2
Female Senior Yearling
Reese Rusenstrom (Bristol)
2nd in Heat 2

Female, born prior to January 1st, 2020 with own 2022, natural purebred, tattooed Calf at Foot
J-Star Livestock (Beachburg)
1st place
Senior Yearling Bull
Dunraven Simmentals (Calumet Is.)
Champion Junior Bull-Reserve,
2nd place
Bull Born in 2020
Oattes Cattle (Cobden)
Senior Champion Bull, Grand
Champion Bull, 1st place
Breeder's Herd
Oattes Cattle (Cobden)
Champion Breeder's Herd, 1st
Progeny of Dam
Oattes Cattle (Cobden)
Champion Progeny of Dam, 1st
Dairy Cattle - Ayrshire
Female Summer Calf
Ian Mackechnie (Quyon) - 2nd
Brett Mackechnie (Quyon) - 3rd
Female Spring Heifer
Ian Mackechnie (Quyon) - 10th
Ian Mackechnie (Quyon) - 11th

Female Winter Heifer
Ian Mackechnie (Quyon) - 8th
Female Fall Heifer
Ian Mackechnie (Quyon) - 11th
Junior Breeder's Herd
Bonniesshade (Quyon) - 4th
Female Senior 3-Yr Old
Ian Mackechnie (Quyon) - 2nd
Premier Breeder
Ian Mackechnie (Quyon) - 3rd
Dairy Cattle - R&W Holstein
Winter Heifer
Carson Edwards Robdot
Holsteins (Cobden)
13th place
TD Canadian 4-H
Dairy Classic - Holstein
Holstein Spring Heifer
Kelsey Edwards (Cobden) - 12th
Alaina Matheson (Cobden) - 18th
Holstein Winter Heifer
Sarah Dean (Arnprior) - 13th
Bryn Swrjeski (Almonte) 19th
TD Canadian 4-H
Dairy Classic - Jersey
Jersey Spring, Winter Fall Heifer
Jesse Hummel (Westmeath) - 9th

John Potter (Arnprior) - 10th
Jersey Summer Yearling
Joyja Hummel (Westmeath) - 10th
TD Canadian 4-H
Dairy Classic - Showmanship
Sarah Dean (Arnprior) -
Reserve Senior Showmanship
Champion, 2nd place

For more details on the competitions and the event itself, visit www.royalfair.org

Deadlines

Ottawa Valley
BUSINESS

Publishing: December 6, 2022
Deadline: November 29, 2022

Publishing: December 20, 2022
Deadline: December 13, 2022

Federal Government News In Brief

Parks Canada Wardens See Increased Powers

Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault is asking that Parks Canada wardens be given police powers to allow for searches and seizures without warrants. The request is being included in *Bill C-23 An Act Respecting Places, Persons And Events Of National Historic Significance*. Section 41 of the bill states a park warden "may enter on and pass through or over private property without being liable for doing so and without any person having the right to object." Section 42 shields wardens from liability "for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith" while on duty. Section 43 permits wardens to "enter and search any place and open and examine any package" with or without a warrant "if the conditions for obtaining a warrant exist but by

reason of exigent circumstances it would not be practical to obtain one."

Labour Solution Could Be Found With Foreign Students

A Commons science committee is recommending Canada cover tuition for foreign students in order to address the skilled labour shortage. A report noted it would help retain top talent but provided no cost estimate.

Consideration of Labour Code Changes

Labour Minister Seamus O'Regan opened consultations October 19 to ban replacement workers in federally-regulated private sector industries (banks, airlines, etc.) In an agreement with NDP, legislation must be introduced by the end of 2023. The NDP has tried to introduce private members' bills to fines employers who hire replacement workers in these sectors.

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Ottawa Valley
BUSINESS

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Page 6
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Tender Results Around The Valley

Ma-te-Way Park Play Structure. Renfrew.

ABC Recreation Ltd.

Proposal 1
\$204,415.20 (Fibar Safety)

Proposal 2
\$204,912.06 (Fibar Safety)

Proposal 3
\$204,697.10 (Fortco Rubber)

Proposal 4
\$204,972.72 (Fortco Rubber)

Henderson Recreation Equip.

Proposal 1
\$204,340.00 (EWF Cedarweave)

Proposal 2
\$203,949.00 (EWF Cedarweave)

Proposal 3
\$204,249.00 (PIP Rubber)

Proposal 4
\$204,249.00 (PIP Rubber)

Play KSL

Did not send proposal for play structure. Freedom Glider for Play Structure - \$35,495.00

Playground Planners

Proposal 1
\$204,584.25 (EWF Cedarweave)

Proposal 2
\$204,759.50 (EWF Cedarweave)

Proposal 3

\$204,731.75 (PIP Rubber)

Proposal 4

\$204,464.50 (PIP Rubber)

Equipment Purchases.

Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan.

Recommended to the purchase of a used CAT motor grader in the amount of not more than \$200,000 plus HST from a reputable dealer and a used tractor to not in excess of \$68,000 plus HST.

2009 F250. Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan.

Recommended accepting the offer of \$550.00.

12-2022 Grinding at Black Donald and Mt. St. Patrick Sites. Greater Madawaska.

Fast Eddie's - \$36,160.00

Northern Bulk - \$42,827.00

Glenview Iron - \$48,194.50

National Grinding - \$53,788.00

IQ Environment - \$225,152.50

Boiler Replacement. Renfrew.

Recommended that the municipality authorize the replacement of the existing boiler and hot water tank at Ma-te-Way Activity Centre at a cost of \$30,895.00 plus HST from Layton Knight-Locke Contracting Inc.

Tender No. RFD 11-2022 Replacement of The Fire Hall Roof. Renfrew.

Two proposals were received ranging from \$63,000 to \$88,000. Recommended award to We Got it Covered Roofing at a cost of \$64,108.

Tender LVPW-2022-13 Plowing of Municipal Parking Lots. Laurentian Valley.

Recommended award to G.P. Splinter Forest Products Ltd.

LVPW-2022-12 Loader Rental. Laurentian Valley.

Recommended award to Bonnechere Excavating Inc.

Tender No RFD 09-2022 Half Ton Truck. Renfrew.

Only one proposal was submitted. Recommended award to Barrhaven Ford for a 2022 Ford F150 Supercrew in the amount of \$70,586.69.

LVPW-2022- 11, Alice & Fraser Storage Garage. Laurentian Valley.

One submission was received. 11425579 Canada Inc. O/A William Sons - \$179,980.75

Replace Hallway Flooring at S-111. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Adias Impex of Concord in the amount of \$9,301.00.

Demolish Building CC-109. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Brian Innnes Construction of Watford in the amount of \$78,750.00.

Continued on page 9

What's in your benefits package?

Be sure to include the benefits you offer employees when you post your job. They might be traditional benefits (health, dental, pension plan, etc.) and they could be other benefits like room to move up, paid volunteer time, social committees, employee recognition, etc.

While it's common for employers to focus on what they want an employee to bring to the workplace, remember to include what the workplace also brings to the employee.

ovjobs.ca

Job postings that get results.

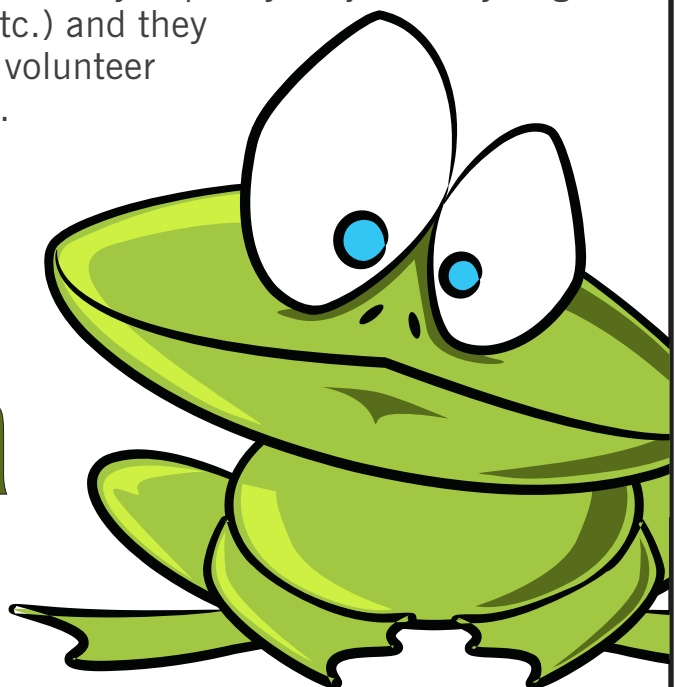
Post your job for \$75 plus HST.

Job postings are shared with more than 5,000 people who follow our Facebook page.

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Tenders

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Standing Offer – RFSO PWC-2022-27 Consultant Services

Professional Engineering Services

FOR SALE

Timber Sale

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP #2023-03 Employee and Family Assistance Program

RFP PWC-2022-25 Professional Services for the Development of Transportation Master Plans

General Insurance and Risk Management Services

TENDERS

Construct Building H-102 Communication and Information Technology Building

Supply and Delivery of Chemicals for Water & Sewage Treatment 2023-2024

Beachburg Water Treatment Plant Renewal and Optimization Engineering Contract 2022-15

Janitorial Services

220-20 Banner Installation & Removal (Ottawa Street)

RFT-DP-2022-09 Affordable Multi Residential Housing Unit in the City of Pembroke

DP-RCHC-22-10 44 Polyurethane Injection Jacking

Residential Housing Unit Demolition

Storage Tank Deficiencies

Replace Flat Roofs on Three Buildings

Interior Renovation of Residential Housing Units

Supply & Delivery of One Single Axle Cab and Chassis with Roll-Off

Tender T-22-17 Outlet #27 Reconstruction

Construction Services – St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School and SJCHS

BV22-07 One Diesel Powered 6-Ton Tandem Axle Truck Combination Dump Body-Spreader, Snow Plow and Wing

APN_CO/NO Detectors and Fire Alarm Modifications

Complete listings at www.ovbusiness.com

Business News Around The Valley

Arnprior Council Complement Correction

In the last edition of Ottawa Valley Business, we noted that in Arnprior, six of positions were filled by men. Instead, it is five of seven positions. The mayor and one returning Councillor are women. Thanks Robin Paquette, CAO for the correction.

Admaston Bromley Grants

As of September 30th, 2022, the township of Admaston Bromley has received the following sources of grant revenue: \$338,250 (Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding), \$419,711 (Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding), \$48,508 (Gas Tax-Canada Community-Building Fund), \$21,000 (Modernization Intake 2 – Roads Review), \$42,739 (Modernization Intake 3 – Org Review), \$31,248 (Recycling Grant Installment 1 & 2) and \$63,172 (Aggregate Resources Grant).

Lauree Armstrong

Lauree Armstrong, the planner for the Township of Laurentian Valley, has been recognized for 25 years of service as a full member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

Laurentian Valley Staff Achievements

Mark Behm, Kendryck Trgovcevic and Cole Hawkins participated in a Minimum Maintenance Update Webinar.

Kendryck Trgovcevic, Cole Hawkins and Shane Hebert successfully completed the two-day Basic Emergency Management Course (EM200) held at the Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre. Andrew Warren and Shane Hebert attended a two-day Waterworks Conference in Belleville.

Charlene Jackson

Charlene Jackson, Treasurer for the Township of Laurentian Valley, has announced her upcoming retirement. Jackson's final day with the municipality will be March 3, 2023.

New Business in Laurentian Valley

Elyna Marie Hairstyling opened October 16. The salon is located at 40 Taylor Heights Drive in Laurentian Valley and is owned by Elyna Tremblay. She can be reached at 613-401-5344 or elynatremblay@hotmail.com.

Emon Is Warden

Nominations for the office of warden for the County of Renfrew closed on November 9, with just one person putting their name forward for 2023. Peter Emon, reeve for the Town of Renfrew, has been nominated for the position and it is expected the nomination will be confirmed at the inaugural session of county council on November 23.

Tender Results Around The Valley

Continued from page 8

Remediate Mold in Building N-101. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Dewar Industrial of Oshawa in the amount of \$46,525.00.

Supply and Install CO and NO Detectors. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to MINE-EODCLR of Shannon in the amount of \$138,000.00.

Supply and Install Safety Platform at CC128. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Wade General Contracting of Petawawa in the amount of \$87,000.00.

Construction Phase Services in Support of PA015187. Defence Construction Canada.

Awarded to Jp2g Consultants of Pembroke in the amount of \$39,940.00. burg in the amount of \$8,249.00.

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The Absolute Truth of Success

Building the business of your dreams is 100% doable



MARKETING

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@fwdthink.net

When I first met with my financial planner, I was putting away a *very* small amount of money every month into an RRSP and then into a TFSA. It seemed almost pointless to start so small, but I just did it and put it out of my mind. Little by little, I increased my contributions, although my retirement age was still in the 80s!

My financial planner was quite diligent in scheduling an annual meeting to review what I had saved and where we were in relation to my goals. I thought it was ironic since I had so little money – surely it was a waste of his time to do this with me. What I learned was that the annual meeting was an important value of his business; he felt people should be knowledgeable of their financial position and have a chance to discuss it regardless of how much money they had.

One day in our discussion, I asked him how I could improve my financial position in a more active way. His answer was surprising to me: “*Jennifer, nothing will contribute more to your savings than to pay off your credit card debt.*” I had five credit cards – two for business and three for personal use – all with balances. I researched how best to pay off credit card debt and decided to put any extra money towards the smallest debt first to give me some momentum to keep going.

As my financial planner and I continued our annual meetings, I would provide an update on my credit card debt situation. He was always encouraging and complimented me on being committed to paying off those cards even in the face of challenges. I tried to amalgamate my debt into a lower interest loan but the banks weren't interested in lending to a single-person, small business, so I just kept on with my strategy.

It took just over two years, but I finally made my last credit card payment. When I had the meeting with my financial planner, he was happier than I was about it! As an adult, it was weird to be commended for paying off debt (I felt like I

should have done that years ago), but it did feel good to achieve that milestone and finally be able to put that money towards myself. (Wow! Does that make an impact over time!)

I think of this story often when I talk with people about marketing. When you start out, it seems like a pointless task – how is it ever going to make a difference? As you keep doing things in a committed and sustainable way, change starts to happen. You notice it a little, and then one day, you notice it a lot. You realize the benefit of your efforts, and you change the course of your business.

All because you made a small commitment to a small change at the very beginning.

Like most great stories of achievement, you always see the final results, never the work to get there. The experience of getting there, however, is so impactful. When you look back, you see all the things you overcame to be successful, and it is truly the greatest inspiration to set another goal.

Small starts are the best starts.

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

Quotes

If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.

- Henry Ford

It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed.

- Napoleon Hill

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

- Booker T. Washington

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.

- H.E. Luccock

It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.

- Charles Darwin

Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.

- Amy Poehler

You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins.

- Jim Stovall

A group becomes a team when each member is sure enough of himself and his contribution to praise the skills of others.

- Norman Shidle

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.

- Mark Twain

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit

- Harry Truman

Are you stressed out trying to reach more customers?

You can outsource some or all of your marketing needs.

forwardthinking
MARKETING AGENCY



October 31, 2022

To Our Municipal and Conservation Authority Clients:

Re: Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 – Changes to the *Development Charges Act, Planning Act, and Conservation Authorities Act*

Further to our correspondence of October 27, 2022, we indicated that we would be providing further information on the changes arising from Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022. On behalf of our municipal and conservation authority clients, we are continuing to provide the most up to date information on the Bill's proposed changes to the *Development Charges Act* (D.C.A.), *Planning Act*, and *Conservation Authorities Act*. As at the time of writing, the Ontario Legislature moved to closed debate on second reading of the Bill.

By way of this letter, we are providing a high-level summary of the proposed changes to the D.C.A., *Planning Act*, and *Conservation Authorities Act*, with some further commentary on the proposed planning changes for the Province. We will be providing a full evaluation and summary of the legislative changes to you in the coming days. We are also available to discuss how these changes may impact your organization at your convenience.

1. Changes to D.C.A.

Additional Residential Unit Exemption: The rules for these exemptions are now provided in the D.C.A., rather than the regulations and are summarized as follows:

- Exemption for residential units in existing rental residential buildings – for rental residential buildings with four or more residential units, the greater of one unit or 1% of the existing residential units will be exempt from development charges (D.C.s)
- Exemption for additional residential units in existing and new residential buildings – the following developments will be exempt from D.C.s.
 - A second unit in a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse if all buildings and ancillary structures cumulatively contain no more than one residential unit;
 - A third unit in a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse if no buildings or ancillary structures contain any residential units; and
 - One residential unit in a building or structure ancillary to a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse on a parcel of urban land, if the detached, semi-



detached, or rowhouse contains no more than two residential units and no other buildings or ancillary structures contain any residential units.

Removal of Housing as an Eligible D.C. Service: Housing is removed as an eligible service. By-laws which include a charge for Housing Services can no longer collect for this service once s.s. 2(2) of Schedule 3 of the Bill comes into force.

New Statutory Exemptions: Affordable Units, Attainable Units, Inclusionary Zoning Units and Non-Profit Housing developments will be exempt from payment of D.C.

- Affordable Rental Unit: Where rent is no more than 80% of the average market rent as defined by a new Bulletin published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Affordable Owned Unit: Where the price of the unit is no more than 80% of the average purchase price as defined by a new Bulletin published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Attainable Unit: Excludes affordable units and rental units, will be defined as prescribed development or class of development and sold to a person who is at “arm’s length” from the seller.
 - Note: for affordable and attainable units, the municipality shall enter into an agreement which ensures the unit remains affordable or attainable for 25 years.
- Inclusionary Zoning Units: Affordable housing units required under inclusionary zoning by-laws will be exempt from D.C.
- Non-Profit Housing: Non-profit housing units are exempt from D.C. installment. Outstanding installment payments due after this section comes into force will also be exempt from payment of D.C.s.

Historical Level of Service: Currently the increase in need for service is limited by the average historical level of service calculated over the 10 years preceding the preparation of the D.C. background study. This average will be extended to the historical 15-year period.

Capital Costs: The definition of capital costs that are eligible for D.C. funding will be revised to prescribe services for which land or an interest in land will be restricted. Additionally, costs of studies, including the preparation of the D.C. background study, will no longer be eligible capital costs.



Mandatory Phase-in of a D.C.: For all D.C. by-laws passed after June 1, 2022, the charge must be phased-in relative to the maximum charge that could be imposed under the by-law. The proposed phase-in for the first 5-years that the by-law is in force, is as follows:

- Year 1 – 80% of the maximum charge;
- Year 2 – 85% of the maximum charge;
- Year 3 – 90% of the maximum charge;
- Year 4 – 95% of the maximum charge; and
- Year 5 to expiry – 100% of the maximum charge
- Note, for a D.C. by-law passed on or after June 1, 2022, the phase-in provisions would only apply to D.C.s payable on or after the day s.s. 5(7) of Schedule 3 of the Bill comes into force (i.e., no refunds are required for a D.C. payable between June 1, 2022 and the day the Bill receives Royal Assent). The phased-in charges also apply with respect to the determination of the charges under s. 26.2 of the Act (i.e., eligible site plan and zoning by-law amendment applications).

D.C. By-law Expiry: D.C. by-laws would expire 10 years after the day the by-law comes into force. This extends the by-laws life from 5 years currently. D.C. by-laws that expire prior to s.s. 6(1) of the Bill coming into force would not be allowed to extend the life of the by-law.

Installment Payments: Non-profit housing development has been removed from the installment payment section of the Act (section 26.1), as these units are now exempt from payment of a D.C. (see above).

Rental Housing Discount: The D.C. payable for rental housing developments will be reduced based on the number of bedrooms in each unit as follows:

- Three or more bedrooms – 25% reduction;
- Two bedrooms – 20% reduction; and
- All other bedroom quantities – 15% reduction.

Maximum Interest Rate for Installments and Determination of Charge for Eligible Site Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Applications: No maximum interest rate was previously prescribed. Under the proposed changes, the maximum interest rate would be set at the average prime rate plus 1%. How the average prime rate is



determined is further defined under s.9 of Schedule 3 of the Bill. This maximum interest rate provisions would apply to all installment payments and eligible site plan and zoning by-law amendment application occurring after s.9 of Schedule 3 of the Bill comes into force.

Requirement to Allocate Funds Received: Similar to the requirements for Community Benefit Charges, annually beginning in 2023, municipalities will be required to spend or allocate at least 60% of the monies in a reserve fund at the beginning of the year for water, wastewater, and services related to a highway. Other services may be prescribed by the Regulation.

Amendments to Section 44 (Front-ending): This section has been updated to include the new mandatory exemptions for affordable, attainable, and non-profit housing, along with required affordable units under inclusionary zoning by-laws.

Amendments to Section 60: Various amendments to this section were required to align the earlier described changes.

In-force Date of Changes: The mandatory exemptions for affordable and attainable housing come into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor. All other changes come into force the day the Bill receives Royal Assent.

2. Changes to the Planning Act regarding Community Benefits Charges (C.B.C.)

New Statutory Exemptions: Affordable Units, Attainable Units, and Inclusionary Zoning Units will be exempt from C.B.C. These types of development are defined in the proposed amendments to the D.C.A. (see above). The exemption is proposed to be implemented by applying a discount to the maximum amount of the C.B.C. that can be imposed based on the proportionate share of floor area, as contained in s.s. 37(32) of the Act. For example, if the affordable, attainable and inclusionary zoning housing units represent 25% of the total building floor area, then the maximum C.B.C. that could be imposed on the development would be 3% of the total land value (i.e., a reduction of 25% from the maximum C.B.C. of 4% of land value).

Incremental Development: Where development or redevelopment is occurring on a parcel of land with existing buildings or structures, the maximum C.B.C. would be calculated on the incremental development only. The amount of incremental development would be determined as the ratio of new development floor area to the total floor area. For example, if development of a 150,000 sq.ft. of building floor area is occurring on a parcel of land with an existing 50,000 sq.ft. building, then the maximum C.B.C. that could be imposed on the development would be 3% of the total land value (i.e. the maximum C.B.C. of 4% of land value multiplied by 150,000/200,000).



3. Changes to the Planning Act regarding Parkland Dedication

New Statutory Exemptions: Affordable Units, Attainable Units, and Inclusionary Zoning Units will be exempt from Parkland Dedication provision. Similar to the rules for C.B.C., these types of development are defined in the proposed amendments to the D.C.A. (see above). The exemption is proposed to be implemented by discounting the application of the standard parkland dedication requirements to the proportion of development excluding affordable, attainable and inclusionary zoning housing units. For example, if the affordable, attainable and inclusionary zoning housing units represent 25% of the total residential units of the development, then the standard parkland dedication requirements of the total land area would be multiplied by 75%.

Non-Profit Housing Exemption: Non-profit housing development, as defined in the D.C.A., would not be subject to parkland dedication requirements.

Additional Residential Unit Exemption: Exemption for additional residential units in existing and new residential buildings – the following developments will be exempt from parkland dedication:

- A second unit in a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse if all buildings and structures ancillary cumulatively contain no more than one residential unit;
- A third unit in a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse if no buildings or structures ancillary contain any residential units; and
- One residential unit in a building or structure ancillary to a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse on a parcel of urban land, if the detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse contains no more than two residential units and no other buildings or structures ancillary contain any residential units.

Determination of Parkland Dedication: Similar to the rules under the D.C.A., the parkland dedication determination for a building permit issued within 2 year of a Site Plan and/or Zoning By-law Amendment approval would be subject to the requirements of the by-law as at the date of planning application submission.

Alternative Parkland Dedication Requirement: The following amendments are proposed for the imposition of the alternative parkland dedication requirements:

- The alternative requirement of 1 hectare (ha) per 300 dwelling units would be reduced to 1 ha per 600 net residential units where land is conveyed. Where the municipality imposes cash-in-lieu (CIL) of parkland requirements, the



amendments would reduce the amount from 1 ha per 500 dwelling units to 1ha per 1,000 net residential units.

- Proposed amendments clarify that the alternative requirement would only be calculated on the incremental units of development/redevelopment.
- The alternative requirement would not be applicable to affordable and attainable residential units.
- The alternative requirement would be capped at 10% of the land area or land value where the land proposed for development or redevelopment is 5 ha or less; and 15% of the land area or land value where the land proposed for development or redevelopment is greater than 5 ha.

Parks Plan: Currently a Parks Plan is required to include the alternative parkland dedication requirements in an Official Plan. This proposed to be revised to require a Parks Plan before passing a parkland dedication by-law under s.42 of the Act.

Identification of Lands for Conveyance: Owners will be allowed to identify lands to meet conveyance requirements, with regulatory criteria requiring the acceptance of encumbered and privately owned public space (POPs) as parkland dedication. Municipalities may enter into agreements with the owners of the land re POPs to enforce conditions, which may be registered on title. Suitability of land for parks and recreational purposes will be appealable to the Ontario Land Tribunal (O.L.T.).

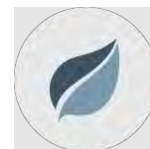
Requirement to Allocate Funds Received: Similar to the requirements for C.B.C. and proposed for D.C.A., annually beginning in 2023, municipalities will be required to spend or allocate at least 60% of the monies in a reserve fund at the beginning of the year.

4. Changes to the Planning Act, and other Key Initiatives regarding Planning Matters

Provided below is a high-level summary of the proposed key changes impacting housing, growth management and long-range planning initiatives at the municipal level.

4.1 2031 Municipal Housing Targets

The Province has identified that an additional 1.5 million new housing units are required to be built over the next decade to meet Ontario's current and forecast housing needs. Further, the Province has assigned municipal housing targets, identifying the number of new housing units needed by 2031, impacting 29 of Ontario's largest and many of the fastest growing single/lower tier municipalities, as summarized in Table 1 below. Key observations include:



- Of the 29 municipalities identified, 25 are within the Greater Golden Horseshoe (G.G.H.) region and four are located in other municipalities within Southern Ontario. Municipalities with the highest housing growth targets include the City of Toronto (285,000 new housing units by 2031), City of Ottawa (151,000 units) City of Mississauga (120,000 units) and City of Brampton (113,000).
- Collectively, the housing targets for the 29 municipalities total 1,229,000 new housing units, representing about 82% of Ontario's 1.5 million housing units needed over the next decade.
- The municipal housing targets do not provide details regarding housing form, density or structure type.
- The province is requesting that identified municipalities develop municipal housing pledges which provide details on how they will enable/support housing development to meet these targets through a range of planning, development approvals and infrastructure related initiatives.
- These pledges are not intended to replace current municipal plans and are not expected to impact adopted municipal population or employment projections.

Table 1: 2032 Housing Growth Target

Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) - Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA)	Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) Outer Ring	Non-GGH
Toronto (City): 285,000	Kitchener (City): 35,000	Ottawa (City): 151,000
Mississauga (City): 120,000	Barrie (City): 23,000	London (City): 47,000
Brampton (City): 113,000	Cambridge (City): 19,000	Windsor (City): 13,000
Hamilton (City): 47,000	Guelph (City): 18,000	Kingston (City): 8,000
Markham (City): 44,000	Waterloo (City): 16,000	
Vaughan (City): 42,000	St. Catharines (City): 11,000	
Oakville (Town): 33,000	Brantford (City): 10,000	
Richmond Hill (City): 27,000	Niagara Falls (City): 8,000	
Burlington (City): 29,000		
Oshawa (City): 23,000		
Milton: (Town): 21,000		
Whitby (Town): 18,000		



Ajax (Town): 17,000		
Clarington: 13,000		
Pickering (City): 13,000		
Newmarket (Town): 12,000		
Caledon (Town): 13,000		

4.2 Potential Changes to Provincial and Regional Planning Framework

Streamlining Municipal Planning Responsibilities

Schedule 9 of the Bill proposes a number of amendments to the Planning Act. Subsection 1 (1) of the Act is proposed to be amended to provide for two different classes of upper-tier municipalities, those which have planning responsibilities and those which do not.

- Changes are proposed to remove the planning policy and approval responsibilities from the following upper-tier municipalities: Regions of Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo, and York as well as the County of Simcoe.
- Future regulations would identify which official plans and amendments would not require approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (i.e., which lower-tier plans and amendments of the lower-tier municipality would need no further approval).
- The proposed changes could also potentially be applied to additional upper-tier municipalities in the future via regulation.

Creation of Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act, 2022

Schedule 10 of the Bill presents the Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act, 2022. The proposed Act would require York and Durham Regions to work together to enlarge and improve the existing York Durham Sewage System. Implementation of this proposal would accommodate growth and housing development in the upper part of York Region to 2051.

Review of Potential Integration of Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is undertaking a housing-focused policy review of A Place to Grow and the Provincial Policy Statement.



The Government is reviewing the potential integration of the PPS and A Place to Grow into a new province-wide planning policy framework that is intended to:

- Leverage housing-supportive policies of both policy documents while removing or streamlining policies that result in duplication, delays or burden the development of housing;
- Ensure key growth management and planning tools are available to increase housing supply and support a range and mix of housing options;
- Continue to protect the environment, cultural heritage and public health and safety; and
- Ensure that growth is supported with the appropriate amount and type of community infrastructure.

Potential key elements of a new integrated policy instrument, as identified by the Government, include the following:

- **Residential Land Supply** – more streamlined and simplified policy direction regarding settlement area boundary expansions, rural housing and employment area conversions that better reflect local market demand and supply considerations to expand housing supply opportunities.
- **Attainable Housing Supply and Mix** - policy direction that provides greater certainty that an appropriate range and mix of housing options and densities to meet projected market-based demand and affordable housing needs of current and future residents can be developed. This includes a focus on housing development within Major Transit Station Areas (M.T.S.A.s) and Urban Growth Centres (U.G.S.) across the Province.
- **Growth Management** - policy direction that enables municipalities to use current and reliable information about the current and future population and employment to determine the amount and type of housing needed and the amount and type of land needed for employment. Policy direction should also increase housing supply through intensification in strategic areas, such as along transit corridors and major transit station areas, in both urban and suburban areas.
- **Environment and Natural Resources** - continued protection of prime agricultural areas which promotes Ontario's Agricultural System, while creating increased flexibility to enable more residential development in rural areas that minimizes negative impacts to farmland and farm operations. More streamlined policy direction regarding natural heritage, natural and human-made hazards, aggregates and with continued conservation of cultural heritage to also be considered.



- **Community Infrastructure** - increased flexibility for servicing new development (e.g., water and wastewater) encouraging municipalities to undertake long-range integrated infrastructure planning. A more coordinated policy direction is also to be considered that ensures publicly funded school facilities are part of integrated municipal planning and meet the needs of high growth communities.
- **Streamlined Planning Framework** – more streamlined, less prescriptive policy direction including a straightforward approach to assessing land needs, that is focused on outcomes that focus more on relevance and ease of implementation.

Review of Revocation of the Central Pickering Development Plan and the Parkway Belt West Plan

The Government of Ontario is proposing to revoke two existing provincial plans as a means to reduce regulatory burdens and remove barriers to expanding housing supply; including;

- Central Pickering Development Plan, under the Ontario Planning and Development Act, 1994; and
- Parkway Belt West Plan, 1978, under the Ontario Planning and Development Act, 1994.

4.3 Potential Changes to Expand/Support Rental and Affordable Housing Supply Opportunities

Potential Changes to Planning Act and Ontario Regulation 299/19: Addition of Residential Units

Schedule 9 of Bill 23 proposes amendments to the Planning Act (Subsection 34 (19.1) with amendments to Ontario Regulation 299/19: Additional Residential Units to support gentle intensification in existing residential areas. The proposed changes would:

- allow, “as-of-right” (without the need to apply for a rezoning) up to 3 units per lot in many residential areas, including those permitting residential uses located in settlement areas with full municipal water and sewage services. This includes encompassing up to 3 units in the primary building (i.e, triplex), or up to 2 units allowed in the primary building and 1 unit allowed in an ancillary building (e.g. garden suite).

Potential Changes to Inclusionary Zoning

Ontario Regulation 232/18 is the regulation to implement inclusionary zoning in Ontario. The proposed amendments to O. Reg 232/18 would:



- Establish 5% as the upper limit on the number of affordable housing units. The 5% limit would be based on either the number of units or percentage share of gross floor area of the total residential units; and
- Establish a maximum period of twenty-five (25) years over which the affordable housing units would be required to remain affordable.

Affordable units are defined as those which are no greater than 80% of the average resale purchase price for ownerships units or 80% of the average market rent (A.M.R.) for rental units.

5. Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Programs and services that are prohibited within municipal and other programs and services: Authorities would no longer be permitted to review and comment on a proposal, application, or other matter made under a prescribed Act. The Province proposes that a new regulation would prescribe the following Acts in this regard:

- The Aggregate Resources Act
 - The Condominium Act
 - The Drainage Act
 - The Endangered Species Act
 - The Environmental Assessment Act
 - The Environmental Protection Act
 - The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act
 - The Ontario Heritage Act
 - The Ontario Water Resources Act
 - The Planning Act
- These changes would focus an authority's role in plan review and commenting on applications made under the above Acts (including the Planning Act) to the risks of natural hazards only. Authorities would no longer be able to review applications with respect to natural heritage impacts.
 - With respect to natural heritage review requirements, the Province is proposing to integrate the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 and A Place To Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe into a new Province-wide planning policy instrument. It is proposed that this new instrument could include changes to natural heritage policy direction (see section 4.2 above).



Minister's ability to freeze fees: The Minister would have the ability to direct an authority to not change the amount of any fee it charges (including for mandatory programs and services) for a specified period of time.

Exemptions to requiring a permit under section 28 of the Conservation

Authorities Act: Where development has been authorized under the Planning Act it will be exempt from required permits to authorize the development under section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. Exemptions to permits would also be granted where prescribed conditions are met.

- Regulation making authority would be provided to govern the exceptions to section 28 permits, including prescribing municipalities to which the exception applies, and any other conditions or restrictions that must be satisfied.

Shortened timeframe for decisions: Applicants may appeal the failure of the authority to issue a permit to the Ontario Land Tribunal within 90 days (shortened from 120 days currently).

6. Next Steps

We will continue to monitor the legislative changes and keep you informed. Further, there will be opportunities for municipalities to provide comments and/or written submissions through the provincial process. We note that there may be further questions and concerns which we may advance to the Province after our detailed review of this Bill and potential regulation(s).

Yours very truly,

WATSON & ASSOCIATES ECONOMISTS LTD.



Presentation to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy on Bill 23

Gary Scandlan, Managing Partner

November 17, 2022

Introduction



- At the outset, we would like to thank the Committee for inviting us to speak.
- We are providing a high-level summary PowerPoint presentation along with a detailed letter submission re Bill 23 as it relates to:
 - Development Charges (D.C.s)
 - Planning
 - Parkland Dedication (P.L.D.)
 - Community Benefits Charges (C.B.C.s)
 - Conservation Authorities (cost recovery and input to the planning process).
- This presentation will provide certain highlights for the Committee's consideration.

Background on Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



- Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. is a firm of municipal economists, planners and accountants which has been in operation since 1982. With a municipal client base of more than 250 Ontario municipalities and utility commissions, the firm is recognized as a leader in the municipal finance/local government and land economics field.
- Our background is unprecedented including:
 - Having undertaken over one-half of the consulting work completed in Ontario in the D.C. field during the past decade;
 - Provided submissions and undertook discussions with the Province when the *Development Charges Act* (D.C.A.) was first introduced in 1989 and with each subsequent amendment undertaken in 1997, 2015 and 2019 (including being a member of the Provincial Technical Working Group on the 2020 D.C. and C.B.C. regulations;
 - Undertaken numerous studies that focus on growth management, population and employment forecasting, urban land needs, municipal competitiveness, land use planning policy and financial/economic impact analysis;
 - Our work also includes the preparation of asset management plans, P.L.D. reviews, C.B.C.s and conservation authority fees and charges.

1. Proposed Changes Which May Restrict/Inhibit the Future Supply of Developable Lands



Present Situation

- For urban growth to occur, water and wastewater services must be in place before building permits can be issued for housing.
- Most municipalities assume the risk of constructing this infrastructure and wait for development to occur.
- Currently, 26% of municipalities providing water/wastewater services are carrying negative D.C. reserve fund balances for these services and many others are carrying significant growth-related debt.
- Where the total cost of infrastructure is unaffordable, or will cause municipalities to exceed their debt capacity limit, many municipalities enter into front-ending and pre-payment agreements to share the cashflow and risk with developers.

1. Proposed Changes Which May Restrict/Inhibit the Future Supply of Developable Lands (Cont'd)



Bill 23 Impacts

- In addition to the present situation, Bill 23 proposes to:
 - Phase-in any new by-laws over five years which, on average, would reduce D.C. revenues by approximately 10%.
 - Introduce new exemptions which would provide a potential loss of 10-15% of the D.C. funding.
 - Remove funding of water/wastewater master plans and environmental assessments which provide for specific planning and approval of infrastructure.
 - Unclear whether land costs for treatment facilities and/or for the purchase of land for linear infrastructure will continue to be an eligible capital cost.

1. Proposed Changes Which May Restrict/Inhibit the Future Supply of Developable Lands (Cont'd)



Bill 23 Impacts (Cont'd)

- Make changes to the *Planning Act* that would minimize upper-tier planning in two-tier systems where the upper-tier municipality provides water/ wastewater servicing. This disjointing between planning approvals and timing/location of infrastructure construction may result in inefficient servicing, further limiting the supply of serviced land.
- ***The loss in funding noted above must then be passed on to existing rate payers. This comes at a time when municipalities must implement asset management plans under the Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act to maintain existing infrastructure. Significant annual rate increases may then limit funding to the capital budget and hence delay servicing of additional developable lands for housing.***
- ***Note that Stormwater and Roads are needed at a similar time to support the creation of developable lands.***



2. Proposed Changes which will Impact the Provision of Municipal Housing

- The removal of housing service as an eligible service will reduce municipalities' participation in creating assisted/affordable housing units.
- Based on present and in-place D.C. by-laws, over \$2.2 billion in net growth-related expenditures providing for over 47,000 units (or 3.1% of the Province's 1.5 million housing target) would be impacted by this change.
- Note that several municipalities who are not collecting for the housing service are considering this service for their updated background studies



2. Proposed Changes which will Impact the Provision of Municipal Housing (Cont'd)

Housing Services For Region and Single Tier Municipalities

Municipality	Year of Bylaw	DC for Single Detached Unit - As per By-law Adoption (\$)	Net DC Recoverable Amount Included - As per DC Background Study (\$millions)	Net DC Recoverable - Indexed to 2022 (\$millions)	Number of New Housing Units
Barrie	2019	626	10.3	13.3	539
Brantford	2021	6,665	37.2	42.6	476
Durham	2018	387	31.2	41.7	416
Guelph	2019	-	-	-	-
Halton	2021	986	50.1	57.3	400
Hamilton	2019	648	18.8	25.1	423
London	2019	-	-	-	-
Niagara	2022	2,039	60.0	60.0	372
Ottawa	2019	179	11.6	14.9	1,190
Peel	2019	3,265	200.5	258.1	521
Simcoe	2022	3,153	67.6	67.6	263
Toronto*	2022	8,603	1,477.0	1,477.0	40,000
Waterloo	2019	-	-	-	-
Windsor	2020	-	-	-	-
York	2022	1,608	181.2	181.2	2,569
Totals				2,239	47,200

*Total number of units - the net DC amount is after BTE



3. Proposed Changes – Affordable Housing vs. Housing Affordability

There are numerous changes which would reduce municipal revenue recovery and shift the financial burden from development to the existing taxpayer and ratepayer, as follows:

- Added exemptions for affordable rental/owned residential units, attainable residential units, inclusionary zoning residential units, non-profit housing and additional units in existing homes provide a loss of funding for all D.C. services as well as C.B.C.s and P.L.D. services.
- D.C. phase-in, loss of study and land costs for new infrastructure, municipal housing as an ineligible D.C. service, loss of C.B.C. revenue and parkland contributions reduced by 50% or more (with 10-15% caps) for higher-density developments.
- Minister freeze on conservation authority fees: lowers funding for the authority which increases costs passed on to existing taxpayers for funding.



3. Proposed Changes – Affordable Housing vs. Housing Affordability (Cont'd)

- While the goal of these proposed changes is to reduce the upfront cost to a new home purchaser, the funding for this will come from the existing taxpayer, i.e., existing residents and businesses subsidizing new home purchasers, hence increasing housing affordability concerns.
- Over the past 40 years, our firm has undertaken numerous fiscal impact studies of residential development – as a whole, the new taxes and fees generated by residential growth do not equal the new operating cost required to support these developments.
- Based on past changes to the D.C.A., historical reductions have not resulted in a decrease in the price of housing; hence, it is difficult to relate the loss of needed infrastructure funding to affordable housing.

4. Considerations for the Standing Committee



- From the proposed legislation, phase-in charges and exemptions for services essential to creating developable land supply (water, wastewater, stormwater and roads) should be removed...or funded by grants from senior levels of government.
- Reductions in parkland contributions, caps for high-density development and developer ability to provide encumbered lands/POPS should be removed from P.L.D. legislation to continue to allow municipalities to determine appropriate levels of service for parks.
- Alternatively, to minimize the overall impact on the taxpayer and ratepayer, provide access to other revenue sources (e.g., HST, land transfer tax) to fund all D.C./P.L.D./C.B.C. revenue losses.
- Municipal housing should continue as an eligible D.C. service.

Thank you.



Questions

November 14, 2022

Dear Clients:

Re: Assessment of Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*) – Planning Matters

On behalf of our many municipal clients, we are continuing to provide the most up to date information on the proposed changes to housing and planning related legislation as proposed by Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*). As identified in our October 31, 2022 letter to you, our firm is providing an evaluation of the proposed changes along with potential impacts arising from these changes. The following comments will be included in our formal response to the Province which we anticipate presenting to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy this week.

Overview Commentary

The Province has introduced Bill 23 with the following objective: “This plan is part of a long-term strategy to increase housing supply and provide attainable housing options for hardworking Ontarians and their families.” The Province’s plan is to address the housing crisis by targeting the creation of 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. To implement this, Bill 23 introduces a number of changes which seek to increase the supply of housing. The following summary of proposed key housing and planning related changes, along with our firm’s commentary, is provided below. It is noted that this letter specifically focuses on the impacts of Bill 23 regarding long-range planning and growth management initiatives at the municipal level.

Streamlining Municipal Planning Responsibilities

Schedule 9 of the Bill proposes a number of amendments to the *Planning Act*. Subsection 1 (1) of the Act is proposed to be amended to provide for two different classes of upper-tier municipalities; those that have planning responsibilities and those that do not. Changes are proposed to remove the planning policy and approval responsibilities from the following upper-tier municipalities: Regions of Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo, and York, as well as the County of Simcoe. In addition, the proposed changes could potentially be applied to additional upper-tier municipalities in the future via regulation.

The proposed amendments under Schedule 9 of the Bill introduce numerous questions related to the approach to ensuring effective leadership, management and integration of regional and local land use planning across the affected jurisdictions. In addition to providing a broad vision and planning direction with respect to the long-term management of urban, rural and natural systems, upper-tier municipal planning authorities also play a critical role regarding the coordination, phasing, and delivery of



water, wastewater and transportation infrastructure as well as other municipal services. The Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (P.P.S.), sets out specific responsibilities for upper-tier municipalities, in consultation with lower-tier municipalities, related to planning coordination, housing, economic development, natural environment and municipal infrastructure. Furthermore, the P.P.S. directs upper-tier municipal planning authorities to provide policy direction to lower-tier municipalities on matters that cross municipal boundaries.

While the proposed amendment to the Bill aims to streamline the land use planning process across the affected municipalities, it risks increasing complexity and miscommunication while adding to the technical and administrative efforts of both lower-tier and upper-tier municipalities, as well as the Province.

Furthermore, it would remove critical planning resources and knowledge at the upper-tier level which are required when addressing matters that cross technical disciplines and municipal jurisdictions. This would potentially result in disjointed efforts and outcomes with respect to local planning approvals and regional municipal service delivery.

Review of the Potential Integration of A Place to Grow and the Provincial Policy Statement (P.P.S.)

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is undertaking a housing-focused policy review of A Place to Grow: the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (G.G.H.), 2019, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Growth Plan, and the P.P.S. The Province is reviewing the potential integration of the P.P.S. and the Growth Plan into a new Province-wide planning policy framework that is intended to:

- Leverage housing-supportive policies of both policy documents, while removing or streamlining policies that result in duplication, delays or burden the development of housing;
- Ensure key growth management and planning tools are available to increase housing supply and support a range and mix of housing options;
- Continue to protect the environment, cultural heritage, and public health and safety; and
- Ensure that growth is supported with the appropriate amount and type of community infrastructure.

Since the release of the Growth Plan in 2006 under the *Places to Grow Act, 2005*, G.G.H. municipalities have been in a continuous cycle of developing and defending growth management processes and Official Plan updates. Over the past several years, all G.G.H. upper-tier, single-tier, and most lower-tier municipalities have initiated the process of updating their respective Official Plans to bring these documents into conformity with the Growth Plan. Within the G.G.H., this process is referred to as a Municipal Comprehensive Review (M.C.R.). Many of these municipalities have



completed their draft M.C.R. analyses and draft Official Plan updates for provincial approval, while several others are approaching completion.

The required technical analysis associated with the growth analysis and urban land needs assessment component of the M.C.R. process is set out in the Provincial Land Needs Assessment (L.N.A.) methodology, which is specific to G.G.H. municipalities.^[1] The M.C.R. process has required tremendous time and effort on behalf of municipalities, consulting agencies, stakeholder groups and involved residents. The results of these efforts represent a key planning milestone for all G.G.H. municipalities and provide a solid foundation to build on as it relates to future growth management implementation, monitoring and benchmarking.

Ontario municipalities located outside the G.G.H. are also now in the process of updating their respective Official Plans in accordance with the P.P.S. For municipalities in these jurisdictions, this process is referred to as a Comprehensive Review (C.R.). While there are potential benefits regarding the consolidation of the P.P.S. and the Growth Plan, as it relates to the M.C.R. and C.R. process, there are a number of issues that should be considered regarding this effort, particularly as they relate to long-term growth management and urban land needs, discussed below.

Long-Term Population and Employment Forecasts

Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan establishes minimum long-term population and employment forecasts for upper-tier and single-tier municipalities in the G.G.H. to the year 2051. The Ministry of Finance (M.O.F.) also establishes long-term population forecasts for all Ontario Census Divisions (C.D.s), which typically represent upper-tier municipalities, separated municipalities, and single-tier municipalities. The M.O.F. forecasts are not recognized as official forecasts for planning purposes in Ontario; however, they are updated annually and can be used to inform population forecasts in Official Plans. Under a consolidated Growth Plan and P.P.S., consideration would need to be given to the role and source of growth forecasts established by the Province for all Ontario municipalities.

Provincial Land Needs Assessment Methodology Guidelines

As previously noted, the L.N.A. methodology for G.G.H. municipalities was updated by the Province in 2020. In accordance with the Growth Plan, the L.N.A. methodology provides a step-by-step approach to conducting growth forecasts and urban land need assessments for upper-tier and single-tier municipalities for both Community Areas (i.e., living areas) and Employment Areas. All other Ontario municipalities rely on the 1995 Provincial Projection Methodology Guidelines (P.P.M.G.) for guidance regarding the technical approach to growth forecasts and urban land need assessments. It is noted

^[1] A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Land Needs Assessment Methodology for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. August 2020.



that the 1995 P.P.M.G. suggests that a simplified methodology can be used for smaller or low-growth municipalities. It is further noted that the P.P.M.G. is meant to be used as “best practices” and the guidelines are not mandatory. Under a consolidated Growth Plan and P.P.S., consideration is required regarding the application of a standardized L.N.A. methodology for all Ontario municipalities.

Addressing Urban Land Needs for Urban Settlement Areas

An important term used in the P.P.S. in the context of both urban land needs and housing affordability is the *Regional Market Area (R.M.A.)*. The R.M.A. is defined in the P.P.S. and Growth Plan (with modifications) as follows:

“an area that has a high degree of social and economic interaction. The upper- or single-tier municipality, or planning area, will normally serve as the regional market area. However, where a regional market area extends significantly beyond these boundaries, then the regional market area may be based on the larger market area. Where regional market areas are very large and sparsely populated, a smaller area, if defined in an official plan, may be utilized.”

With respect to urban residential land needs assessments, the broad objective of this policy is to ensure the efficient and wise use of all designated urban lands, both occupied and vacant, within the R.M.A. before expanding Urban Settlement Area boundaries. Across southern Ontario municipalities, a key challenge with the application of this policy is the mismatch of urban residential land needs at the urban settlement area level within the defined R.M.A. geography.

If the R.M.A. definition is interpreted too rigidly, it can constrain urban residential development within Urban Settlement Areas, and more broadly across entire municipalities, where identified urban land surpluses have been determined elsewhere within the R.M.A. Neither the P.P.S. nor the Growth Plan provide adequate direction for addressing residential urban land supply and demand mismatches within the R.M.A. Subsection 2.2.1.6 of the Growth Plan provides policy direction regarding *Excess Lands*, which applies exclusively to Outer Ring G.G.H. municipalities. Under a consolidated Growth Plan and P.P.S., a review of the R.M.A. and Excess Lands policies would be required to determine an appropriate and standardized approach to addressing localized urban residential land needs for Urban Settlement Areas and local municipalities.

Residential Intensification Targets and Minimum Density Requirements

Subsection 2.2.7.2 of the Growth Plan provides direction with respect to minimum greenfield density targets for G.G.H. upper-tier and single-tier municipalities. These densities range between 40 and 50 people and jobs per gross hectare (ha). Minimum density requirements are also prescribed in the Growth Plan for Strategic Growth Areas,



such as Urban Growth Centres and Major Transit Station Areas (M.T.S.A.s). The P.P.S. does not prescribe minimum density targets for Ontario municipalities but does require municipalities to establish density targets for areas adjacent, or in proximity, to M.T.S.A.s and corridors.

Subsection 2.2.2.1 of the Growth Plan requires upper-tier and single-tier G.G.H. municipalities to establish minimum intensification targets within delineated built-up areas (B.U.A.s). These were established under the Growth Plan, 2006. The delineated B.U.A.s within G.G.H. municipalities have remained unchanged since the Growth Plan was established in 2006. The P.P.S. also requires municipalities to establish residential intensification targets but does not prescribe minimum density targets for Ontario municipalities. Furthermore, the P.P.S. does not require municipalities to delineate built area boundaries in Official Plans; however, some Ontario municipalities outside the G.G.H. have delineated built area boundaries for planning purposes. It is noted that the delineation of built area boundaries may be subject to change or update for municipalities outside the G.G.H., while B.U.A.s within the G.G.H. will remain fixed as of 2006. Under a consolidated Growth Plan and P.P.S., a standardized approach to minimum density requirements and residential intensification targets would be required for all Ontario municipalities.

Rural Housing

An identified area of the Growth Plan and P.P.S. review is to provide policy direction to enable more residential development in Rural Areas. Rural Settlement Areas include existing hamlets or similar existing small settlement areas that are established in Official Plans. These communities are typically serviced by individual, private, on-site water and/or private wastewater systems. Rural Settlement Areas provide clusters of business operations that are essential to future economic growth. Infilling and minor rounding out of existing residential and non-residential development within Rural Settlement Areas is important to ensure that these areas remain vibrant, sustainable and complete communities. Under a consolidated Growth Plan and P.P.S., enabling more residential development in Rural Settlement Areas, and Rural Areas more broadly, would need to be considered within the context of the existing provincial and local policy frameworks, the land use hierarchy identified in Official Plans, the provision of servicing, as well as the protection of natural heritage and agricultural lands.

Employment Area Conversion

An identified area of the Growth Plan and P.P.S. review is to provide policy direction to streamline and simplify the conversion of Employment Areas to new residential and mixed-use development, where appropriate. Employment Areas form a vital component of a municipality's land use structure and represent an integral part of the local economic development potential and competitiveness of municipalities. If not carefully evaluated, the conversion of Employment Areas to non-employment uses can potentially lead to negative impacts on the local economy in several ways. First,



Employment Area conversions can reduce employment opportunities, particularly in export-based sectors, creating local imbalances between population and employment. Second, Employment Area conversions can potentially erode employment land supply and lead to further conversion pressure as a result of encroachment of non-employment uses within, or adjacent to, Employment Areas. Finally, Employment Area conversions can potentially fragment existing Employment Areas, undermining their functionality and competitive position. Under a consolidated Growth Plan and P.P.S., policy direction regarding the conversion of Employment Areas should emphasize principles and criteria that examine both the quantity and quality of Employment Areas within the context of the local and regional market attributes, as well as the planned urban function of the subject conversion sites.

2031 Municipal Housing Targets

The Province has identified that an additional 1.5 million new housing units are required to be built over the next decade to meet Ontario's current and forecast housing needs. Furthermore, the Province has assigned municipal housing targets, identifying the number of new housing units needed by 2031, impacting 29 of Ontario's largest and many of the fastest growing single/lower tier municipalities. Key observations on the Province's plan are as follows:

- The municipal housing targets for 2031 collectively account for 1,229,000 units, representing about 82% of Ontario's overall 1.5 million new homes target.
- Of the 29 municipalities with housing targets identified, 25 are within the G.G.H. and four are located in other areas of southwestern and southeastern Ontario.
- Within the G.G.H. municipalities, the municipal housing targets are generally higher than approved housing forecasts. In non-G.G.H. municipalities, there is generally less discrepancy between the approved housing forecasts and the Province's targets. Having said that, the Municipal Housing Pledges are not intended to replace current municipal Official Plans.
- The municipal housing targets are based on current and future housing needs. A share of the overall housing need is attributed to a structural deficit in existing housing inventories, while a portion of the housing need is linked to anticipated population growth over the next decade.
- The housing targets are adapted from the housing needs assessment provided in the "Ontario's Need for 1.5 Million More Homes" report, prepared by Smart Prosperity Institute, dated August 2022.
- The impacted municipalities are being asked to prepare Municipal Housing Pledges to meet these housing targets. These pledges must include details on how the municipality will enable/support housing development through a range of planning, development approvals and infrastructure related initiatives.
- These housing pledges are not intended to replace current municipal Official Plans and are not expected to impact adopted municipal population or employment projections.



- While the municipal housing targets do not specify housing form, density, or geographic location (e.g., greenfield, intensification), it is anticipated that any needs beyond adopted housing forecasts will largely comprise rental and affordable housing units primarily located within B.U.A.s, and to a lesser extent, designated greenfield areas (D.G.A.s).
- To develop effective local policies and programs to support the achievement of the housing targets, it is recommended that municipalities assess their existing and future housing needs through a local lens, building on the high-level assessment provided by the Province.
- Local housing needs should be considered within a broader growth management framework, reflecting population, labour and employment/economic growth potential, and addressed through a planning, economic, fiscal and housing affordability lens.

Potential Changes to Inclusionary Zoning

Inclusionary zoning is a tool that can be used by municipalities to ensure the provision of affordable housing. Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 232/18 implements inclusionary zoning in Ontario. The proposed amendments to O. Reg 232/18 would:

- Establish 5% as the upper limit on the number of affordable housing units; the 5% limit would be based on either the number of units or percentage share of gross floor area of the total residential units; and
- Establish a maximum period of twenty-five (25) years over which the affordable housing units would be required to remain affordable.

While the proposed changes provide certainty with respect to affordable housing to be provided under inclusionary zoning, they greatly limit a municipality's ability to tailor the provision for affordable housing to the local market and for development feasibility considerations identified through the required Inclusionary Zoning Assessment Report.

We will continue to monitor the legislative changes and advise as the Bill proceeds.

Yours very truly,

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November 11, 2022

To Our Development Charge Clients:

Re: Assessment of Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*) – Development Charges

On behalf of our many municipal clients, we are continuing to provide the most up-to-date information on the proposed changes to the *Development Charges Act* (D.C.A.) as proposed by Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*). As identified in our October 31, 2022 letter to you, our firm is providing an evaluation of the proposed changes to the D.C.A. along with potential impacts arising from these changes. The following comments will be included in our formal response to the Province, which we anticipate presenting to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy next week.

1. Overview Commentary

The Province has introduced Bill 23 with the following objective: *“This plan is part of a long-term strategy to increase housing supply and provide attainable housing options for hardworking Ontarians and their families.”* The Province’s plan is to address the housing crisis by targeting the creation of 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. To implement this plan, Bill 23 introduces a number of changes to the D.C.A., along with nine other Acts including the *Planning Act*, which seek to increase the supply of housing.

As discussed later in this letter, there are proposed changes to the D.C.A. which we would anticipate may limit the future supply of housing units. For urban growth to occur, water and wastewater services must be in place before building permits can be issued for housing. Most municipalities assume the risk of constructing this infrastructure and wait for development to occur. Currently, 26% of municipalities providing water/wastewater services are carrying negative development charge (D.C.) reserve fund balances for these services¹ and many others are carrying significant growth-related debt. In addition to the current burdens, Bill 23 proposes to:

- Phase in any new by-laws over five years which, on average, would reduce D.C. revenues by approximately 10%;
- Introduce new exemptions which would provide a potential loss of 10-15% of the D.C. funding;

¹ Based on 2020 Financial Information Return data.



- Remove funding of water/wastewater master plans and environmental assessments which provide for specific planning and approval of infrastructure; and
- Make changes to the *Planning Act* that would minimize upper-tier planning in two-tier systems where the upper-tier municipality provides water/wastewater servicing. This disjointing between planning approvals and timing/location of infrastructure construction may result in inefficient servicing, further limiting the supply of serviced land.

The loss in funding noted above must then be passed on to existing rate payers. This comes at a time when municipalities must implement asset management plans under the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act* to maintain existing infrastructure. Significant annual rate increases may then limit funding to the capital budget and hence delay construction of growth-related infrastructure needed to expand the supply of serviced land.

The above-noted D.C.A. changes will also impact other services in a similar manner.

The removal of municipal housing as an eligible service will reduce municipalities' participation in creating assisted/affordable housing units. Based on present D.C. by-laws in place, over \$2.2 billion in net growth-related expenditures providing for over 47,000 units (or 3.1% of the Province's 1.5 million housing target) would be impacted by this change.

The proposed changes to the D.C.A. result in a subsidization of growth by the existing rate/taxpayer by reducing the D.C.s payable. Over the past 33 years, there have been changes made to the D.C.A. which have similarly reduced the D.C.s payable by development. These historical reductions have not resulted in a decrease in housing prices; hence, it is difficult to relate the loss of needed infrastructure funding to affordable housing. The increases in water/wastewater rates and property taxes would directly impact housing affordability for the existing rate/taxpayer.

While the merits of affordable housing initiatives are not in question, they may be best achieved by participation at local, provincial, and federal levels. Should the reduction in D.C.s be determined to be a positive contributor to increasing the amount of affordable housing, then grants and subsidies should be provided to municipalities to fund the growth-related infrastructure and thereby reduce the D.C. In this way, the required funding is in place to create the land supply. Alternatively, other funding options could be made available to municipalities as an offset (e.g., the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has suggested municipalities have access to 1% of HST, consideration of a special Land Transfer Tax, etc.).

A summary of the proposed D.C.A. changes, along with our firm's commentary, is provided below.



2. Changes to the D.C.A.

2.1 Additional Residential Unit Exemption: The rules for these exemptions are now provided in the D.C.A., rather than the regulations and are summarized as follows:

- Exemption for residential units in existing rental residential buildings – For rental residential buildings with four or more residential units, the greater of one unit or 1% of the existing residential units will be exempt from D.C.
- Exemption for additional residential units in existing and new residential buildings
 - The following developments will be exempt from a D.C.:
 - A second unit in a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse if all buildings and ancillary structures cumulatively contain no more than one residential unit;
 - A third unit in a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse if no buildings or ancillary structures contain any residential units; and
 - One residential unit in a building or structure ancillary to a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse on a parcel of urban land, if the detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse contains no more than two residential units and no other buildings or ancillary structures contain any residential units.

Analysis/Commentary

- For existing single-family homes, this change will not have an impact. For other existing low/medium-density units and for all new units, however, this allowance of a third additional unit that will be exempt from D.C.s adds a further revenue loss burden to municipalities to finance infrastructure. This is of greatest concern for water and wastewater services where each additional unit will require additional capacity in water and wastewater treatment plants. This additional exemption will cause a reduction in D.C.s and hence will require funding by water and wastewater rates.
- Other services, such as transit and active transportation, will also be impacted as increased density will create a greater need for these services, and without an offsetting revenue to fund the capital needs, service levels provided may be reduced in the future.

2.2 Removal of Housing as an Eligible D.C. Service: Housing services would be removed as an eligible service. Municipalities with by-laws that include a charge for housing services can no longer collect for this service once subsection 2 (2) of Schedule 3 of the Bill comes into force.

Analysis/Commentary

- The removal of housing services will reduce municipalities' participation in creating assisted/affordable housing units and/or put further burden on municipal



taxpayers. This service seeks to construct municipal affordable housing for growing communities. The removal of this service could reduce the number of affordable units being constructed over the next ten years, if the municipalities can no longer afford the construction. Based on present D.C. by-laws in place, over \$2.2 billion in net growth-related expenditures providing for over 47,000 additional units (or 3.1% of the Province's 1.5 million housing target) would be impacted by this change.

2.3 New Statutory Exemptions: Affordable units, attainable units, inclusionary zoning units and non-profit housing developments will be exempt from the payment of D.C.s, as follows:

- Affordable Rental Units: Where rent is no more than 80% of the average market rent as defined by a new bulletin published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Affordable Owned Units: Where the price of the unit is no more than 80% of the average purchase price as defined by a new bulletin published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Attainable Units: Excludes affordable units and rental units; will be defined as prescribed development or class of development and sold to a person who is at “arm’s length” from the seller.
 - Note: for affordable and attainable units, the municipality shall enter into an agreement that ensures the unit remains affordable or attainable for 25 years.
- Inclusionary Zoning Units: Affordable housing units required under inclusionary zoning by-laws will be exempt from a D.C.
- Non-Profit Housing: Non-profit housing units are exempt from D.C. instalment payments due after this section comes into force.

Analysis/Commentary

- While this is an admirable goal to create additional affordable housing units, further D.C. exemptions will continue to provide additional financial burdens on municipalities to fund these exemptions without the financial participation of senior levels of government.
- The definition of “attainable” is unclear, as this has not yet been defined in the regulations.
- Municipalities will have to enter into agreements to ensure these units remain affordable and attainable over a period of time which will increase the administrative burden (and costs) on municipalities. These administrative burdens will be cumbersome and will need to be monitored by both the upper-tier and lower-tier municipalities.
- It is unclear whether the bulletin provided by the Province will be specific to each municipality, each County/Region, or Province-wide. Due to the disparity in



incomes across Ontario, affordability will vary significantly across these jurisdictions. Even within an individual municipality, there can be disparity in the average market rents and average market purchase prices.

2.4 Historical Level of Service: Currently, the increase in need for service is limited by the average historical level of service calculated over the ten year period preceding the preparation of the D.C. background study. This average will be extended to the historical 15-year period.

Analysis/Commentary

- For municipalities experiencing significant growth in recent years, this may reduce the level of service cap, and the correspondingly D.C. recovery. For many other municipalities seeking to save for new facilities, this may reduce their overall recoveries and potentially delay construction.
- This further limits municipalities in their ability to finance growth-related capital expenditures where debt funding was recently issued. Given that municipalities are also legislated to address asset management requirements, their ability to incur further debt may be constrained.

2.5 Capital Costs: The definition of capital costs may be revised to prescribe services for which land or an interest in land will be restricted. Additionally, costs of studies, including the preparation of the D.C. background study, will no longer be an eligible capital cost for D.C. funding.

Analysis/Commentary

- Land
 - Land costs are proposed to be removed from the list of eligible costs for certain services (to be prescribed later). Land represents a significant cost for some municipalities in the purchase of property to provide services to new residents. This is a cost required due to growth and should be funded by new development, if not dedicated by development directly.
- Studies
 - Studies, such as Official Plans and Secondary Plans, are required to establish when, where, and how a municipality will grow. These growth-related studies should remain funded by growth.
 - Master Plans and environmental assessments are required to understand the servicing needs development will place on hard infrastructure such as water, wastewater, stormwater, and roads. These studies are necessary to inform the servicing required to establish the supply of lands for development; without these servicing studies, additional development cannot proceed. This would restrict the supply of serviced land and would be counter to the Province's intent to create additional housing units.



2.6 Mandatory Phase-in of a D.C.: For all D.C. by-laws passed after June 1, 2022, the charge must be phased-in annually over the first five years the by-law is in force, as follows:

- Year 1 – 80% of the maximum charge;
- Year 2 – 85% of the maximum charge;
- Year 3 – 90% of the maximum charge;
- Year 4 – 95% of the maximum charge; and
- Year 5 to expiry – 100% of the maximum charge.

Note: for a D.C. by-law passed on or after June 1, 2022, the phase-in provisions would only apply to D.C.s payable on or after the day subsection 5 (7) of Schedule 3 of the Bill comes into force (i.e., no refunds are required for a D.C. payable between June 1, 2022 and the day the Bill receives Royal Assent). The phased-in charges also apply with respect to the determination of the charges under section 26.2 of the Act (i.e., eligible site plan and zoning by-law amendment applications).

Analysis/Commentary

- Water, wastewater, stormwater, and roads are essential services for creating land supply for new homes. These expenditures are significant and must be made in advance of growth. As a result, the municipality assumes the investment in the infrastructure and then assumes risk that the economy will remain buoyant enough to allow for the recovery of these costs in a timely manner. Otherwise, these growth-related costs will directly impact the existing rate payer.
- The mandatory phase-in will result in municipalities losing approximately 10% to 15% of revenues over the five-year phase-in period. For services such as water, wastewater, stormwater, and to some extent roads, this will result in the municipality having to fund this shortfall from other sources (i.e., taxes and rates). This may result in: 1) the delay of construction of infrastructure that is required to service new homes; and 2) a negative impact on the tax/rate payer who will have to fund these D.C. revenue losses.
- Growth has increased in communities outside the Greater Toronto Area (G.T.A.) (e.g. municipalities in the outer rim), requiring significant investments in water and wastewater treatment services. Currently, there are several municipalities in the process of negotiating with developing landowners to provide these treatment services. For example, there are two municipalities within the outer rim (one is 10 km from the G.T.A. while the other is 50 km from the G.T.A.) imminently about to enter into developer agreements and award tenders for the servicing of the equivalent of 8,000 single detached units (or up to 20,000 high-density units). This proposed change to the D.C.A. alone will stop the creation of those units due to debt capacity issues and the significant financial impact placed on



ratepayers due to the D.C. funding loss. Given our work throughout the Province, it is expected that there will be many municipalities in similar situations.

- Based on 2020 Financial Information Return (F.I.R.) data, there are 214 municipalities with D.C. reserve funds. Of those, 130 provide water and wastewater services and of those, 34 municipalities (or 26%) are carrying negative water and wastewater reserve fund balances. As a result, it appears many municipalities are already carrying significant burdens in investing in water/wastewater infrastructure to create additional development lands. This proposed change will worsen the problem and, in many cases, significantly delay or inhibit the creation of serviced lands in the future.
- Note that it is unclear how the phase-in provisions will affect amendments to existing D.C. by-laws.

2.7 D.C. By-law Expiry: A D.C. by-law would expire ten years after the day it comes into force. This extends the by-law's life from five years, currently. D.C. by-laws that expire prior to subsection 6 (1) of the Bill coming into force would not be allowed to extend the life of the by-law.

Analysis/Commentary

- The extension of the life of the D.C. by-law would appear to not have an immediate financial impact on municipalities. Due to the recent increases in actual construction costs experienced by municipalities, however, the index used to adjust the D.C. for inflation is not keeping adequate pace (e.g., the most recent D.C. index has increased at 15% over the past year; however, municipalities are experiencing 40%-60% increases in tender prices). As a result, amending the present by-laws to update cost estimates for planned infrastructure would place municipalities in a better financial position.
- As a result of the above, delaying the updating of current D.C. by-laws for five more years would reduce actual D.C. recoveries and place the municipalities at risk of underfunding growth-related expenditures.

2.8 Instalment Payments: Non-profit housing development has been removed from the instalment payment section of the Act (section 26.1), as these units are now exempt from the payment of a D.C.

Analysis/Commentary

- This change is more administrative in nature due to the additional exemption for non-profit housing units.

2.9 Rental Housing Discount: The D.C. payable for rental housing development will be reduced based on the number of bedrooms in each unit as follows:

- Three or more bedrooms – 25% reduction;



- Two bedrooms – 20% reduction; and
- All other bedroom quantities – 15% reduction.

Analysis/Commentary

- Further discounts to D.C.s will place an additional financial burden on municipalities to fund these reductions.
- The discount for rental housing does not appear to have the same requirements as the affordable and attainable exemptions to enter into an agreement for a specified length of time. This means a developer may build a rental development and convert the development (say to a condominium) in the future hence avoiding the full D.C. payment for its increase in need for service.

2.10 Maximum Interest Rate for Instalments and Determination of Charge for Eligible Site Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Applications: No maximum interest rate was previously prescribed. Under the proposed changes, the maximum interest rate would be set at the average prime rate plus 1%. How the average prime rate is determined is further defined under section 9 of Schedule 3 of the Bill. This maximum interest rate provision would apply to all instalment payments and eligible site plan and zoning by-law amendment applications occurring after section 9 of Schedule 3 of the Bill comes into force.

Analysis/Commentary

- Setting the maximum interest rate at 1%+ the average prime rate appears consistent with the current approach for some municipalities but is a potential reduction for others.
- It appears a municipality can select the adjustment date for which the average prime rate would be calculated.
- The proposed change will require municipalities to change their interest rate policies, or amend their by-laws, as well as increase the administrative burden on municipalities.

2.11 Requirement to Allocate Funds Received: Similar to the requirements for community benefits charges, annually, beginning in 2023, municipalities will be required to spend or allocate at least 60% of the monies in a reserve fund at the beginning of the year for water, wastewater, and services related to a highway. Other services may be prescribed by the regulation.

Analysis/Commentary

- This proposed change appears largely administrative and would not have a financial impact on municipalities. This can be achieved as a schedule as part of the annual capital budget process or can be included as one of the schedules



with the annual D.C. Treasurer Statement. This, however, will increase the administrative burden on municipalities.

2.12 Amendments to Section 44 (Front-ending): This section has been updated to include the new mandatory exemptions for affordable, attainable, and non-profit housing, along with required affordable residential units under inclusionary zoning by-laws.

Analysis/Commentary

- This change is administrative to align with the additional statutory exemptions.

2.13 Amendments to Section 60: Various amendments to this section were required to align the earlier described changes.

Analysis/Commentary

- These changes are administrative in nature.

We will continue to monitor the legislative changes and advise as the Bill proceeds.

Yours very truly,

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November 14, 2022

To Our Conservation Authority and Municipal Clients:

Re: Assessment of Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*) – Conservation Authorities Act

On behalf of our many conservation authority and municipal clients, we are continuing to provide the most up-to-date information on the proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (C.A. Act) as proposed by Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*). As identified in our October 31, 2022 letter to you, our firm is providing an evaluation of the proposed changes to the C.A. Act along with potential impacts arising from these changes. The following comments will be included in our formal response to the Province.

1. Overview Commentary

The Province has introduced Bill 23 with the following objective: *“This plan is part of a long-term strategy to increase housing supply and provide attainable housing options for hardworking Ontarians and their families.”* The Province’s plan is to address the housing crisis by targeting the creation of 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. To implement this plan, Bill 23 introduces a number of changes to the C.A. Act., along with nine other Acts including the *Development Charges Act* and the *Planning Act*, which seek to increase the supply of housing.

One of the proposed amendments to the C.A. Act is that the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry would have the authority to prevent a conservation authority from increasing their fees and charges. Providing the Minister with this power is proposed to limit the financial burden of any fee increases on developers and landowners in an attempt to accelerate housing in Ontario and make housing more affordable. The proposed limitation would result in a cross-subsidization of the costs of plan review and permitting for development to existing taxpayers. This is a result of these costs having to be offset by the municipal levy charged by conservation authorities.

If these costs cannot be recovered from the municipal levy, then conservation authorities would be under pressure to provide the intended level of service for development approvals with less funding. When considered in combination with the other changes proposed that would limit the scope of conservation authority involvement in the development approvals process, this may impact the quality and efficiency of the approvals process, and potentially impair the Province’s goal of accelerating an increase in housing development.



Over the past 33 years, there have been other changes to legislation, such as the *Development Charges Act*, that have reduced the costs payable by development. These historical reductions have not resulted in a decrease in housing prices; hence, it is difficult to relate how further limiting funding for municipal and conservation authority services will increase the supply of affordable housing. Moreover, conservation authority fees for plan review and permitting in the Greater Toronto Area and outer rim typically comprise less than 0.1% of the cost of a new home. This further illustrates the limited impact this proposal would have on making housing more affordable. The potential increase on the municipal levy, however, would add to the burden of housing affordability for the existing taxpayer, particularly when coupled with the other legislative changes proposed by Bill 23.

2. Changes to the C.A. Act

2.1 Changes to conservation authority involvement in the development approvals process

- Programs and services that are prohibited within municipal and other programs and services:
 - Authorities would no longer be permitted to review and comment on a proposal, application, or other matter made under a prescribed Act (if not related to their mandatory programs and services under O. Reg. 686/21). The Province proposes that a new regulation would prescribe the following Acts in this regard:
 - The *Aggregate Resources Act*
 - The *Condominium Act*
 - The *Drainage Act*
 - The *Endangered Species Act*
 - The *Environmental Assessment Act*
 - The *Environmental Protection Act*
 - The *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*
 - The *Ontario Heritage Act*
 - The *Ontario Water Resources Act*
 - The *Planning Act*.
- Exemptions to requiring a permit under section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
 - Where development has been authorized under the *Planning Act* it will be exempt from required permits to authorize the development under section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Exemptions to permits would also be granted where prescribed conditions are met.
 - Regulation making authority would be provided to govern the exceptions to section 28 permits, including prescribing municipalities to which the exception applies, and any other conditions or restrictions that must be satisfied.



- Shortened timeframe for decisions
 - Applicants may appeal the failure of the authority to issue a permit to the Ontario Land Tribunal within 90 days (shortened from 120 days currently).

Analysis/Commentary

- These changes would focus an authority's role in plan review and commenting on applications made under the above Acts (including the *Planning Act*) to the risks of natural hazards only, limit the developments in which permits under section 28 of the C.A Act would be required, and shorten timeframes for issuing permits. Authorities would no longer be able to review applications with respect to the natural heritage impacts.
- With respect to natural heritage review requirements, the Province is proposing to integrate the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (P.P.S.) and A Place To Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe into a new Province-wide planning policy instrument. It is proposed that this new instrument could include changes to natural heritage policy direction.
- Recent amendments to the C.A. Act have already been implemented to limit a conservation authority to programs and services within their core mandate unless they have entered into an agreement with a municipal partner. Conservation authorities are able to efficiently provide services, such as natural heritage review required under the P.P.S., to municipalities across their watershed. Removing this ability from conservation authorities may result in municipalities having to find other external sources with the expertise to undertake this review, adding to the cost and timeframes for development approvals and negatively impacting the Province's goal of creating more housing.

2.2 Minister's ability to freeze fees

- The Minister would have the ability to direct an authority to not change the amount of any fee it charges (including for mandatory programs and services) for a specified period of time.

Analysis/Commentary

- Limiting the ability of conservation authorities to recover the costs of plan review and permitting from benefiting developers and landowners will place additional financial burdens on conservation authorities and municipalities to fund these activities.
- As the goal of the Province is to create more housing, it is suggested that any limitations to conservation authority fees that are implemented should only apply to plan review and permitting fees related to the construction of new homes.



We will continue to monitor the legislative changes and advise as the Bill proceeds.

Yours very truly,

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November 16, 2022

To Our Parkland Dedication By-Law Clients:

Re: Assessment of Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*)

On behalf of our many municipal clients, we are continuing to provide the most up-to-date information on the proposed changes to the parkland dedication requirements of the *Planning Act*, as proposed by Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*). As identified in our October 31, 2022 letter to you, our firm is providing an evaluation of the proposed changes to section 42 of the *Planning Act*, along with potential impacts arising from these changes. The following comments will be included in our formal response to the Province, which we anticipate presenting to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy later this week.

1. Overview Commentary

The Province has introduced Bill 23 with the following objective: *“This plan is part of a long-term strategy to increase housing supply and provide attainable housing options for hardworking Ontarians and their families.”* The Province’s plan is to address the housing crisis by targeting the creation of 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. To implement this plan, Bill 23 introduces a number of changes to the *Planning Act* (along with nine other Acts, including the *Development Charges Act* (D.C.A.)), which seek to increase the supply of housing.

As discussed later in this letter, the proposed changes to parkland dedication would significantly reduce the amount of parkland conveyance and payments-in-lieu (P.I.L.) of parkland to municipalities. The proposed changes under Bill 23 would impact municipalities by:

- Reducing the amount of development subject to parkland dedication by exempting affordable, attainable, non-profit and additional residential dwelling units;
- Reducing P.I.L. revenues for some developments by grandfathering in charges by up to 2 years, reflecting land values at the time of Site Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications;
- Reducing and capping the alternative requirements for parkland dedication, which results in significant reductions in parkland conveyance and P.I.L. revenues, particularly for high-density developments;
- Increasing the administrative burden on municipalities by requiring the preparation of and consultation on a parks plan with the passage of a parkland



dedication by-law, whether utilizing the standard or alternative requirements, and by requiring the allocation and reporting on funds annually; and

- Limiting local decision-making by allowing the Province to prescribe criteria for municipal acceptance of incumbered lands and privately owned public space (POPs) for parks purposes.

It is anticipated that the resultant loss in parkland dedication from development will result in either a cross-subsidization from existing taxpayers having to provide increased funding for parks services to maintain planned levels of service in their community, or an erosion of service levels over time. The timing of these changes, and others proposed in Bill 23 to limit funding from development, is occurring at a time when municipalities are faced with increased funding challenges associated with cost inflation and the implementation of asset management plans under the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act*.

A summary of the proposed parkland dedication changes under section 42 of the *Planning Act*, along with our firm's commentary, is provided below.

2. Changes to Section 42 of the *Planning Act*

2.1 New Statutory Exemptions: Affordable residential units, attainable residential units, inclusionary zoning residential units, non-profit housing and additional residential unit developments will be exempt from parkland dedication requirements. For affordable, attainable, and inclusionary zoning residential units, the exemption is proposed to be implemented by:

- discounting the standard parkland dedication requirements (i.e., 5% of land) based on the proportion of development excluding affordable, attainable and inclusionary zoning residential units relative to the total residential units for the development; or
- where the alternative requirement is imposed, the affordable, attainable and inclusionary zoning residential units would be excluded from the calculation.

For non-profit housing and additional residential units, a parkland dedication by-law (i.e., a by-law passed under section 42 of the *Planning Act*) will not apply to these types of development:

- Affordable Rental Unit: as defined under subsection 4.1 (2) of the D.C.A., where rent is no more than 80% of the average market rent as defined by a new bulletin published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Affordable Owned Unit: as defined under subsection 4.1 (3) of the D.C.A., where the price of the unit is no more than 80% of the average purchase price as defined by a new bulletin published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



- **Attainable Unit:** as defined under subsection 4.1 (4) of the D.C.A., excludes affordable units and rental units, will be defined as prescribed development or class of development and sold to a person who is at “arm’s length” from the seller.
- **Inclusionary Zoning Units:** as described under subsection 4.3 (2) of the D.C.A.
- **Non-Profit Housing:** as defined under subsection 4.2 (1) of the D.C.A.
- **Additional Residential Units, including:**
 - A second unit in a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse if all buildings and ancillary structures cumulatively contain no more than one residential unit;
 - A third unit in a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse if no buildings or ancillary structures contain any residential units; and
 - One residential unit in a building or structure ancillary to a detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse on a parcel of urban land, if the detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse contains no more than two residential units and no other buildings or ancillary structures contain any residential units.

Analysis/Commentary

- While reducing municipal requirements for the conveyance of land or P.I.L. of parkland may provide a further margin for builders to create additional affordable housing units, the proposed parkland dedication exemptions will increase the financial burdens on municipalities to fund these exemptions from property tax sources (in the absence of any financial participation by senior levels of government) or erode municipalities’ planned level of parks service.
- The definition of “attainable” is unclear, as this has not yet been defined in the regulations to the D.C.A.
- Under the proposed changes to the D.C.A, municipalities will have to enter into agreements to ensure these units remain affordable and attainable over a period of time, which will increase the administrative burden (and costs) on municipalities. An agreement does not appear to be required for affordable/attainable units exempt from parkland dedication. Assuming, however, that most developments required to convey land or provide P.I.L. of parkland would also be required to pay development charges, the units will be covered by the agreements required under the D.C.A. As such, the *Planning Act* changes should provide for P.I.L. requirements if the status of the development changes during the period.
- It is unclear whether the bulletin provided by the Province to determine if a development is affordable will be specific to each municipality or aggregated by County/Region or Province. Due to the disparity in incomes across Ontario, affordability will vary significantly across these jurisdictions. Even within an individual municipality there can be disparity in the average market rents and average market purchase prices.



- While the proposed exemptions for non-profit housing and additional residential units may be easily applied for municipalities imposing the alternative requirement, as these requirements are imposed on a per residential unit basis, it is unclear at this time how a by-law requiring the standard provision of 5% of residential land would be applied.

2.2 Determination of Parkland Dedication: Similar to the rules under the D.C.A., the determination of parkland dedication for a building permit issued within two years of a Site Plan and/or Zoning By-law Amendment approval would be subject to the requirements in the by-law as at the date of planning application submission.

Analysis/Commentary

- If passed as currently drafted, these changes would not apply to site plan or zoning by-law applications made before subsection 12 (6) of Schedule 9 of the *More Homes Built Faster Act* comes into force.
- For applications made after the in-force date, this would represent a lag in P.I.L. value provided to municipalities, as it would represent the respective land value up to two years prior vs. current value at building permit issuance. For municipalities having to purchase parkland, this will put additional funding pressure on property tax funding sources to make up the difference, or further erode the municipality's planned level of parks service.

2.3 Alternative Parkland Dedication Requirement: The following amendments are proposed for the imposition of the alternative parkland dedication requirements:

- The alternative requirement of 1 hectare (ha) per 300 dwelling units would be reduced to 1 ha per 600 dwelling units where land is being conveyed. Where the municipality imposes P.I.L. requirements, the amendments would reduce the amount from 1 ha per 500 dwelling units to 1 ha per 1,000 net residential units.
- Proposed amendments clarify that the alternative requirement would only be calculated on the incremental units of development/redevelopment.
- The alternative requirement would be capped at 10% of the land area or land value where the land proposed for development or redevelopment is 5 ha or less; and 15% of the land area or land value where the land proposed for development or redevelopment is greater than 5 ha.

Analysis/Commentary

- If passed as currently drafted, the decrease in the alternative requirements for land conveyed and P.I.L. would not apply to building permits issued before subsection 12 (8) of Schedule 9 of the *More Homes Built Faster Act* comes into force.
- Most municipal parkland dedication by-laws only imposed the alternative requirements on incremental development. As such, the proposed amendments



for net residential units seek to clarify the matter where parkland dedication by-laws are unclear.

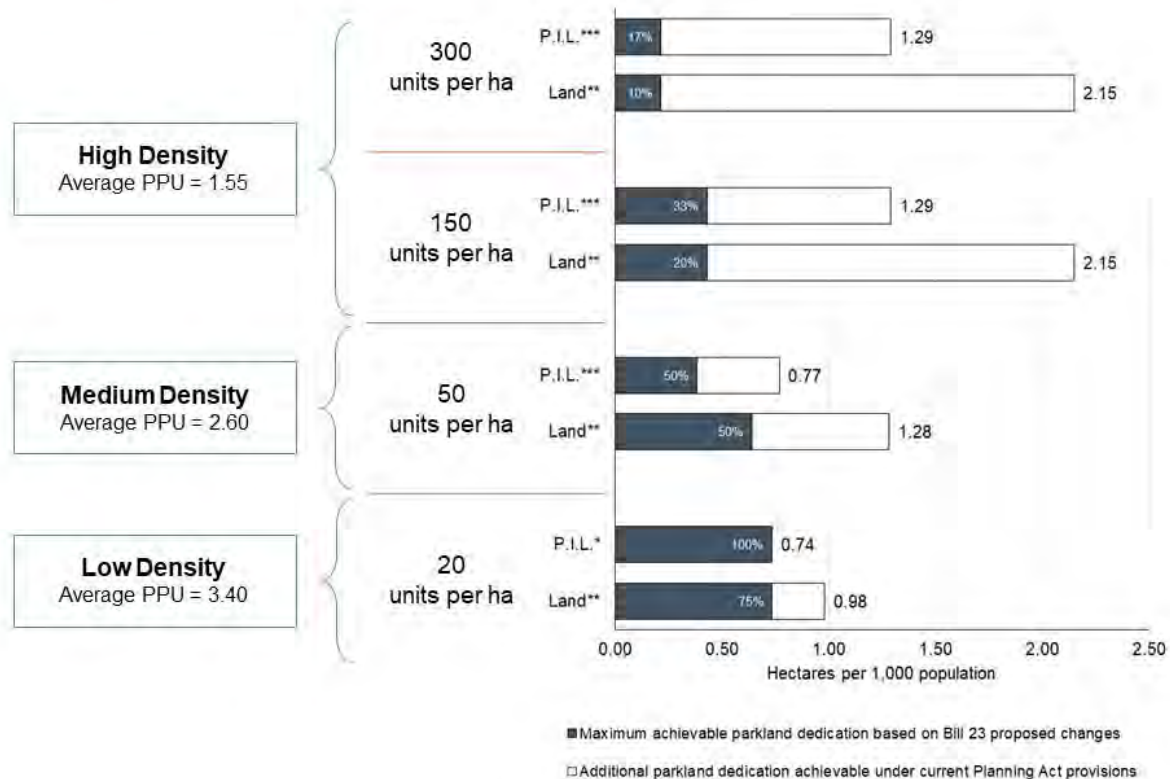
- Section 42 previously imposed the alternative requirement caps of 10% and 15% of land area or value, depending on the respective developable land area, for developments only within designated transit-oriented communities. By repealing subsection 42 (3.2) of the *Planning Act*, these caps would apply to all developable lands under the by-law.
- As illustrated in the figure below, lowering the alternative parkland dedication requirement and imposing caps based on the developable land area will place significant downward pressure on the amount of parkland dedication provided to municipalities, particularly those municipalities with significant amounts of high-density development. For example:
 - Low-density development of 20 units per net ha (uph), with a person per unit (P.P.U.) occupancy of 3.4, would have produced a land conveyance of 0.98 ha per 1,000 population. The proposed change would reduce this to 0.74 ha, approximately 75% of current levels.
 - Medium-density development of 50 uph, with a P.P.U. of 2.6 would produce land conveyance at 50% of current levels (0.64 vs. 1.28 ha/1,000 population).
 - Low-rise development of 150 uph, with a P.P.U. of 2.6 would produce land conveyance at 20% of current levels (0.43 vs. 2.15 ha/1,000 population). P.I.L. would be approximately 1/3 of current levels.
 - High-rise development of 300 uph, with a P.P.U. of 2.6 would produce land conveyance at 10% of current levels (0.22 vs. 2.15 ha/1,000 population). P.I.L. would be approximately 17% of current levels.^[1]

^[1] Low-rise and high-rise developments with sites larger than 5 ha would only be marginally better under the proposed changes, at 30% and 15% of land conveyance and 50% and 25% P.I.L., respectively.



Maximum Achievable Parkland Dedication (hectares per 1,000 population)

Development Sites ≤ 5 hectares



* Using standard requirement (5% of land area or land value)

** Using alternative requirement of 1 hectare of land per 300 units.

*** Using alternative P.I.L. requirement of 1 hectare per 500 units.



- Based on the proposed alternative requirement rates and land area caps, municipalities would be better off:
 - For land conveyance, imposing the alternative requirement for densities greater than 30 units per ha.
 - Sites of 5 ha or less, land conveyance would be capped at 10% of land area at densities greater than 60 units per ha.
 - Sites greater than 5 ha, land conveyance would be capped at 15% of land area at densities greater than 90 units per ha.
 - For P.I.L. of parkland, imposing the alternative requirement for densities greater than 50 units per ha.
 - Sites of 5 ha or less, land conveyance would be capped at 10% of land area at densities greater than 100 units per ha.
 - Sites greater than 5 ha, land conveyance would be capped at 15% of land area at densities greater than 150 units per ha.
 - For densities less than 30 units per ha, imposing the standard requirement of 5% of land area for land conveyance and P.I.L. of parkland.

2.4 Parks Plan: The preparation of a publicly available parks plan as part of enabling an Official Plan will be required at the time of passing a parkland dedication by-law under section 42 of the *Planning Act*.

Analysis/Commentary

- The proposed change will still require municipal Official Plans to contain specific policies dealing with the provision of land for parks or other public recreational purposes where the alternative requirement is used.
- The requirement to prepare and consult on a parks plan prior to passing a by-law under section 42 would now appear to equally apply to a by-law including the standard parkland dedication requirements, as well as the alternative parkland dedication requirements. This will result in an increase in the administrative burden (and cost) for municipalities using the standard parkland dedication requirements.
- Municipalities imposing the alternative requirement in a parkland dedication by-law on September 18, 2020 had their by-law expire on September 18, 2022 as a result of the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* amendments. Many municipalities recently undertook to pass a new parkland dedication by-law, examining their needs for parkland and other recreational assets. Similar transitional provisions for existing parkland dedication by-laws should be provided with sufficient time granted to allow municipalities to prepare and consult on the required parks plan.

2.5 Identification of Lands for Conveyance: Owners will be allowed to identify lands to meet parkland conveyance requirements, within regulatory criteria. These lands may include encumbered lands and privately owned public space (POPs).



Municipalities may enter into agreements with the owners of the land regarding POPs to enforce conditions, and these agreements may be registered on title. The suitability of land for parks and recreational purposes will be appealable to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

Analysis/Commentary

- The proposed changes allow the owner of land to identify encumbered lands for parkland dedication consistent with the provisions available to the Minister of Infrastructure to order such lands within transit-oriented communities. Similar to the expansion of parkland dedication caps, these changes would allow this to occur for all developable lands under the by-law. The proposed changes go further to allow for an interest in land, or POPs.
- The municipality may refuse the land identified for conveyance, providing notice to the owner with such requirements as prescribed. The owner, however, may appeal the decision to the OLT. The hearing would result in the Tribunal determining if the lands identified are in accordance with the criteria prescribed. These “criteria” are unclear, as they have not yet been defined in the regulations.
- Many municipal parkland dedication by-laws do not except encumber lands or POPs as suitable lands for parkland dedication. This is due, in part, to municipalities’ inability to control the lands being dedicated or that they are not suitable to meet service levels for parks services. Municipalities that do accept these types of lands for parkland or other recreational purposes have clearly expressed such in their parkland dedication by-laws. The proposed changes would appear to allow the developers of the land, and the Province within prescribed criteria, to determine future parks service levels in municipalities in place of municipal council intent.

2.6 Requirement to Allocate Funds Received: Similar to the requirements for C.B.C.s, and proposed for the D.C.A. under Bill 23, annually beginning in 2023, municipalities will be required to spend or allocate at least 60% of the monies in a reserve fund at the beginning of the year.

Analysis/Commentary

- This proposed change appears largely administrative, increasing the burden on municipalities. This change would not have a fiscal impact and could be achieved as a schedule to annual capital budget. Moreover, as the Province may prescribe annual reporting, similar to the requirements under the D.C.A. and for a C.B.C under the *Planning Act*.



We will continue to monitor the legislative changes and will keep you informed as the Bill proceeds.

Yours very truly,

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November 16, 2022

To Our Municipal Clients:

Re: Assessment of Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*) – Community Benefits Charges

On behalf of our many municipal clients, we are continuing to provide the most up-to-date information on the proposed changes to the *Planning Act* related to community benefits charges (C.B.C.s), as proposed by Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*). As identified in our October 31, 2022 letter to you, our firm is providing an evaluation of the proposed changes to C.B.C.s along with potential impacts arising from these changes. The following comments will be included in our formal response to the Province, which we anticipate presenting to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy later this week.

1. Overview Commentary

The Province has introduced Bill 23 with the following objective: *“This plan is part of a long-term strategy to increase housing supply and provide attainable housing options for hardworking Ontarians and their families.”* The Province’s plan is to address the housing crisis by targeting the creation of 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. To implement this plan, Bill 23 introduces several changes to the *Planning Act*, along with nine other Acts including the *Development Charges Act* (D.C.A.) and the *Conservation Authorities Act*, which seek to increase the supply of housing.

One of the proposed amendments to the *Planning Act* seeks to exempt affordable housing units (ownership and rental) and attainable housing units from C.B.C.s. While the creation of affordable housing units is an admirable goal, there is a lack of robust empirical evidence to suggest that reducing development-related fees improves housing affordability. Municipalities rely on C.B.C. funding to emplace the critical infrastructure needed to maintain livable, sustainable communities as development occurs. Introducing additional exemptions from the payment of these charges results in further revenue losses to municipalities. The resultant shortfalls in capital funding then need to be addressed by delaying growth-related infrastructure projects and/or increasing the burden on existing taxpayers through higher property taxes (which itself reduces housing affordability). If the additional exemptions from C.B.C.s are deemed to be an important element of increasing the affordable housing supply, then adequate transfers from the provincial and federal governments should be provided to municipalities to offset the revenue losses resulting from these policies.



A summary of the proposed C.B.C. changes, along with our firm's commentary, is provided below.

2. Changes to the *Planning Act* – C.B.C.s

2.1 New Statutory Exemptions: Affordable residential units, attainable residential units, and inclusionary zoning residential units will be exempt from the payment of C.B.C.s., with definitions provided as follows:

- Affordable Residential Units (Rented): Where rent is no more than 80% of the average market rent as defined by a new bulletin published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Affordable Residential Units (Ownership): Where the price of the unit is no more than 80% of the average purchase price as defined by a new bulletin published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Attainable Residential Units: Excludes affordable units and rental units; will be defined as prescribed development or class of development and sold to a person who is at “arm’s length” from the seller.
- Inclusionary Zoning Units: Affordable housing units required under inclusionary zoning by-laws.

The exemption is proposed to be implemented by applying a discount to the maximum amount of the C.B.C. that can be imposed (i.e., 4% of land value, as specified in section 37 of the *Planning Act*). For example, if the affordable, attainable, and/or inclusionary zoning residential units represent 25% of the total building floor area, then the maximum C.B.C. that could be imposed on the development would be 3% of total land value (i.e., a reduction of 25% from the maximum C.B.C. of 4% of land value).

Analysis/Commentary

- While this is an admirable goal to create additional affordable housing units, further C.B.C. exemptions will continue to provide additional financial burdens on municipalities to fund these exemptions without the financial participation of senior levels of government.
- The definition of “attainable” is unclear, as this has not yet been defined in the regulations.
- Under the proposed changes to the D.C.A, municipalities will have to enter into agreements to ensure that affordable units remain affordable for 25 years and that attainable units are attainable at the time they are sold. An agreement does not appear to be required for affordable/attainable residential units exempt from payment of a C.B.C. Assuming, however, that most developments required to pay a C.B.C. would also be paying development charges, the units will be covered by the agreements required under the D.C.A. These agreements should be allowed to include the C.B.C. so that if a municipality needs to enforce the



provisions of an agreement, both development charges and C.B.C.s could be collected accordingly.

- These agreements will increase the administrative burden (and costs) on municipalities. Furthermore, the administration of these agreements will be cumbersome and will need to be monitored by both the upper-tier and lower-tier municipalities.
- It is unclear whether the bulletin provided by the Province will be specific to each municipality, each County/Region, or Province-wide. Due to the disparity in incomes across Ontario, affordability will vary significantly across these jurisdictions. Even within an individual municipality, there can be disparity in the average market rents and average market purchase prices.
- Where municipalities are imposing the C.B.C. on a per dwelling unit basis, they will need to ensure that the total C.B.C. being imposed for all eligible units is not in excess of the incremental development calculation (e.g., as per the example above, not greater than 3% of the total land value).

2.2 Limiting the Maximum C.B.C. in Proportion to Incremental Development:

Where development or redevelopment is occurring on a parcel of land with an existing building or structure, the maximum C.B.C. that could be imposed would be calculated based on the incremental development only. For example, if a building is being expanded by 150,000 sq.ft. on a parcel of land with an existing 50,000 sq.ft. building, then the maximum C.B.C. that could be imposed on the development would be 3% of total land value (i.e., $150,000 \text{ sq.ft.} / 200,000 \text{ sq.ft.} = 75\%$ x 4% maximum prescribed rate = 3% of total land value).

Analysis/Commentary

- With municipal C.B.C. by-laws imposing the C.B.C. based on the land total land value or testing the C.B.C. payable relative to total land value, there will be a reduction in revenues currently anticipated. At present, some municipal C.B.C. by-laws have provisions excluding existing buildings from the land valuation used to calculate the C.B.C. payable or to test the maximum charge that can be imposed. As such, this proposal largely seeks to clarify the administration of the charge.



We will continue to monitor the legislative changes and will keep you informed as the Bill proceeds.

Yours very truly,

WATSON & ASSOCIATES ECONOMISTS LTD.

Andrew Grunda, MBA, CPA, CMA, Principal

Gary Scandlan, BA, PLE, Managing Partner

Jamie Cook, MCIP, RPP, PLE, Managing Partner

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Sean-Michael Stephen, MBA, Managing Partner

Jack Ammendolia, BES, PLE, Managing Partner



October 13, 2022

In This Issue

- MNRF webinar training sessions on *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- ROMA 2023 registration now open.
- AMO 2022-2023 training roster available now.
- AMO's iconic New Head of Council Training & New Councillor Training is back.
- LAS Blog: New Council Orientation: Tips for Treasurers.
- Get a quote for 2023 road/sidewalk surveys.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Flaghouse, Gopher Sport.
- Investments 101 - Training seminars.
- Overdose Prevention and Engagement Network (OPEN) - Ontario chapter.
- ORFA's Fall 2022 Professional Development Program.
- Career: Southwest Middlesex, Dufferin, Wellington, Windsor, Owen Sound & Lincoln.

Provincial Matters

MNRF is hosting *Conservation Authorities Act* webinars on October 20, 10:00 am (Phase 2 Regulation and Policy Overview) and November 3, 1:30 pm (Phase 2 Regulations for Practitioners involved in CA budgets and municipal levy apportionment). Email ca.office@ontario.ca to register.

Eye on Events

Registration for *ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground*, January 22 - 24, 2023 is now open. To register and for hotel and program information, [click here](#). For questions, contact events@ROMA.on.ca.

AMO has released its current roster of training for 2022-2023. This includes the modernized New Head of Council and New Councillor training. [Click here](#) to see everything AMO is offering its members to build skill, insight and understanding to support you in your important role.

AMO has modernized its training to reflect the realities, responsibilities, challenges and opportunities of municipally elected officials in today's context. Essential information on legislation, policy, roles, responsibilities and managing relationships are only some of the things attendees will gain insight and tools on. Register today for [New Head of Council](#) and [New Councillor](#) training.

LAS

New Council orientation sessions are critical to treasurers, given that new members will be making major budget decisions shortly after taking office. Our [latest blog](#) gives Councils an understanding on how to plan for long-term investing.

The [LAS Road and Sidewalk Assessment](#) service uses modern technology to manage your surface assets. Better data ensures maintenance budgets are spent as efficiently as possible. With budget season underway, now's the time to [contact Tanner](#) to receive a customized quote for your 2023 survey.

We're pleased to welcome Flaghouse and Gopher Sport to the [Canoe Procurement Group](#). These vendors supply all the fitness equipment you need for active living and your recreation facilities. [Contact Simon](#) to learn more.

ONE Investment

Join an in person Investment Basics and Beyond workshop near you available in [Milton, October 19](#), [London, October 21](#), [Barrie, November 2](#) and [Kingston, November 4](#). For registration or further details, please contact one@oneinvestment.ca.

Municipal Wire*

OPEN is an online community that brings people together to work to address the opioid crisis. [Visit today](#) to discover events, explore the discussion board, and access the sharing centre.

Only a few days until ORFA's [Fall Professional Development Program](#) to be held October 17-21 in Mississauga. Take advantage of sessions on emerging issues, trends, and challenges, and training courses. Join in-person or connect virtually!

Careers

[Chief Administrative Officer - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex](#). Lead a skilled staff team in implementing Council's directions and be the primary policy advisor. Apply to mhenry@thamescentre.on.ca by November 7.

[Manager of Communications - Dufferin County](#). Provide tactical advice and support to senior leadership and staff to achieve alignment across the County's communications. Apply to hr@dufferincounty.ca October 20.

[County Clerk - County of Wellington](#). Responsible for the management of all legislative, procedural and administrative support. Apply to careers@wellington.ca by October 27.

[Chief Administrative Officer - City of Windsor](#). Responsible for the management of all human, financial and physical resources while providing strategic guidance and advice. [Apply online](#) by November 15.

[Director of Public Works - City of Owen Sound](#). Oversee Engineering Services, Water and Wastewater, Public Works, Waste Management, Transit, and other related areas. Apply to hrjobposting@owensound.ca by October 31.

[Deputy Treasurer - Town of Lincoln](#). Responsible for directing and overseeing the financial functions: budget, treasury, payroll, asset management, billing and full-cycle accounting. [Apply online](#) by October 28.

About AMO

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November 10, 2022

In This Issue

- Call for nominations to the ROMA Board of Directors.
- Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund allocations.
- EnAbling Change Funding applications now open.
- Update on IESO E-LT1 RFP procurement.
- ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground: Program announcement.
- ROMA 2023 registration now open.
- ROMA 2023: Request ministerial delegation meetings.
- AMO's iconic New Head of Council Training & New Councillor Training is back.
- AMO's customized councillor training.
- AMO has your training needs covered.
- Webinar: A Risk & Claims Management System for municipalities.
- Cloudpermit webinar: An Electronic Permitting System for Municipalities.
- LAS presenting at speed enforcement event.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: NIU Toilet.
- Fixed Income in a Rising Interest Rate Environment - ONE Investment webinar.
- Register now - Rural transit workshops.
- Careers: Orillia, Loyalist, MOT, OMAA and Toronto.

AMO Matters

Please be advised that in accordance with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association's Policies and Procedures, ROMA is requesting nominations for Zone Representatives to the 2023-2027 ROMA Board of Directors. Nomination package [available here](#).

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Finance has issued allocation notices for the [2023 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund](#) (OMPF). Through OMPF, \$500 are distributed amongst 389 municipal governments across the province and provide unconditional operating support for local frontline services.

The EnAbling Change program [provides grants](#) for projects that show the value and benefits of accessibility through tools and educational resources. Applications for funding are open now until December 8.

The IESO is extending the schedule for the Expedited Process (E-LT1 RFP). The final E-procurement materials will be published on December 6. Changes to the proposal submission date and contract award date of the E-LT1 procurement will be communicated shortly. For more information, visit the [LT RFP Community Engagement webpage](#).

Eye on Events

ROMA is pleased to announce nationally syndicated columnist, indigenous advocate and author, Jesse Wenté as the 2023 Conference opening keynote speaker. Mr. Wenté will take delegates through his acclaimed novel, *Unreconciled: Family Truth*.

and *Indigenous Resistance to Life*. Click [here](#) for more information.

Registration for *ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground*, January 22 - 24, 2023 is open. To register and for hotel and program information, [click here](#). For questions, contact events@ROMA.on.ca.

Delegates at *ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground* can request to meet with provincial Ministers. Submit your request [here](#) by November 28, 2022. Register for the conference [here](#).

AMO has modernized its training to reflect the realities, responsibilities, challenges and opportunities of municipally elected officials in today's context. Essential information on legislation, policy, roles, responsibilities and managing relationships are only some of the things attendees will gain insight and tools on. Register today for [New Head of Council](#) or [New Councillor](#) training.

Building councils' shared understanding of its roles and responsibilities is one of the key ingredients to an effective council. AMO's Customized Councillor Training is designed to deliver training on the issues that matter most to your community. [Click for more information](#).

From the complexities of human rights legislation, planning legislation and strategic decision making, understanding Indigenous relationships and managing your local relationships, these are some of the training opportunities AMO is offering to assist you in your excelling at local leadership. [AMO roster of training](#).

Interested in how a risk and claims management system can work for your municipality? Join AMO and ClearRisk for a detailed demonstration of the offering including features and pricing of the system. For municipalities with populations over 70,000, [register here](#) and for those under 70,000, [register here](#).

Interested in streamlining your building permit approvals process? Or maybe enhancing your approach to planning and by-law enforcement? On December 7, join AMO's electronic permitting partner, [Cloudpermit](#), for an overview of the partnership, a demonstration of the cloud based system in action, as well as an interactive Q&A session with presenters. [Register today](#).

LAS

LAS and our partner Conduent are excited to present at an [Automated Speed Enforcement](#) event hosted by Canoe partner, [TrafficLogix](#). Join us in Hamilton on November 17 at 8:30 am as we educate ourselves about all things ASE.

We're pleased to welcome NIU Toilet to the [Canoe Procurement Group](#). They offer mobile and permanent washroom solutions for your public community spaces and special events. [Contact Simon](#) to learn more.

ONE Investment

ONE Investment is hosting a webinar on November 17 collaborating with our external Portfolio Manager: MFS Investment Management "Fixed Income in a Rising Interest Rate Environment." To register and find what will be covered in the webinar, [click here](#).

Municipal Wire*

Later in November, the Ontario Public Transit Association is holding free in-person rural transit workshops in Ottawa and Waterloo. Find more details, including how to register, [here](#).

Careers/RFP

Economic Development Coordinator - City of Orillia. Coordination of the Downtown Tomorrow Community Improvement Grant Program pre-consultations, presentations, public meetings, and marketing activities. Apply online by November 18.

CAO - Loyalist Township. Seeking a dynamic CAO with a proven record of accomplishment in achieving administrative, financial, and strategic planning excellence. Apply to Kartik Kumar at careers@lesp.ca by December 3.

ADM, Contract Management and Agency Oversight - Ministry of Transportation. The division will take a steadfast approach in delivering on the ministry's mandate to strengthen oversight and accountability with key agencies. Apply online by November 26.

Executive Director - Ontario Municipal Administrators' Association (OMAA). This is a newly defined role in that the position is evolving from part time to full time. Apply to maureen@omaa.on.ca by December 1.

Project Lead SWM - City of Toronto. Responsible for activities related to communications, engagement, consultation and outreach. Apply online, quoting Job ID 32054, by December 6.

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November 17, 2022

In This Issue

- 2022 Municipal Elections - post election analysis.
- Call for nominations to the ROMA Board of Directors.
- Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund allocations.
- EnAbling Change Funding applications now open.
- Don't miss ROMA Conference Keynote Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon.
- Upcoming deadlines for ROMA 2023 Conference.
- AMO's iconic New Head of Council Training & New Councillor Training is back.
- AMO has your training needs covered.
- Webinar: A Risk & Claims Management System for municipalities.
- Cloudpermit webinar: An Electronic Permitting System for Municipalities.
- Canoe Vendor Spotlight: Gtechna.
- Careers: Kingston, MOT, ADSAB, Kitchener, Lambton County and Simcoe County.

AMO Matters

AMO worked with Municipal Clerks from across Ontario to provide insights into the hundreds of municipal elections that were held across Ontario on October 24. Post election analysis is now available [here](#). As of publishing this information, the post-election data is not final.

Please be advised that in accordance with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association's Policies and Procedures, ROMA is requesting nominations for Zone Representatives to the 2023-2027 ROMA Board of Directors. Nomination package [available here](#).

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Finance has issued allocation notices for the [2023 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund](#) (OMPF). Through OMPF, \$500 are distributed amongst 389 municipal governments across the province and provide unconditional operating support for local frontline services.

The EnAbling Change program [provides grants](#) for projects that show the value and benefits of accessibility through tools and educational resources. Applications for funding are open now until December 8.

Eye on Events

ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground welcomes Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon to address delegates as the Closing Keynote speaker on "Commanding Hope: The Power We Have to Renew a World" in Peril. Full conference information is located [here](#).

Early Bird [registration](#) for *ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground* deadline has been extended to **Friday, December 2**. The deadline to [request a delegation meeting](#) with provincial Ministers is **Monday, November 28**. Full conference information is located [here](#).

and opportunities of municipally elected officials in today's context. Essential information on legislation, policy, roles, responsibilities and managing relationships are only some of the things attendees will gain insight and tools on. Register today for [New Head of Council](#) or [New Councillor](#) training.

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LAS

We're pleased to welcome Gtechna to the [Canoe Procurement Group](#). Gtechna provides solutions for parking enforcement, license plate recognition, and ticket management. [Contact Simon](#) to learn more.

Careers/RFP

[Manager, Accounting Services - City of Kingston](#). Provides leadership and accountability in financial management. [Apply online](#) by December 9.

[Senior Issues Advisor - Ministry of Transportation](#). The ideal candidate will have experience developing issues products, a solid understanding of government issues, and sharp political acuity. [Apply online](#) by November 24.

[Manager of Finance - Algoma District Services Administration Board \(ADSAB\)](#). Seeking a strong communicator with excellent interpersonal skills, who can work effectively with all levels of staff, auditors, and external agencies. Apply to hrdepartment@adsab.on.ca by November 28.

[Director, Parks and Cemeteries - City of Kitchener](#). Responsible for planning, design, operations, maintenance and rehabilitation of parks, playgrounds and amenities, trails, horticulture, sports fields, forestry and cemeteries to ensure the safe, efficient and effective delivery of core services. [Apply online](#) by December 9.

[Communications Officer - Lambton County](#). Responsible for the development and implementation of external communication materials that promote the programs and services offered by the County Library system. [Apply online](#) by November 20.

[Technical Compliance Supervisor - County of Simcoe](#). Responsible for coordinating environmental monitoring programs, managing projects and contracts, and following through with related issues. [Apply online](#) by December 5.

[Special Projects Supervisor - County of Simcoe](#). Responsible for implementing and updating the Solid Waste Management Strategy, supervising special projects and managing processing and transfer contracts. [Apply online](#) by December 5.

About AMO

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November 24, 2022

In This Issue

- AMO's Standing Committee Submission on Bill 23.
- AMO submission to *Cannabis Act* Review.
- Call for nominations to the ROMA Board of Directors.
- MECP Excess Soil webinars.
- Upcoming deadlines for ROMA 2023 Conference.
- AMO's iconic New Head of Council Training & New Councillor Training is back.
- AMO has your training needs covered.
- Cloudpermit webinar: An Electronic Permitting System for Municipalities.
- Blog: Municipal Insurance Renewal.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Food Cycle Science Corporation.
- Careers: MoT, Simcoe and FCM.

AMO Matters

On November 17, AMO submitted [written comments](#) on *Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* to the Legislature's Standing Committee on Heritage and Culture.

AMO has provided a [submission](#) to the legislative review of the *Cannabis Act*. More information on the review can be found [here](#).

Please be advised that in accordance with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association's Policies and Procedures, ROMA is requesting nominations for Zone Representatives to the 2023-2027 ROMA Board of Directors. Nomination package [available here](#).

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is hosting webinars on the key [Excess Soil O.Reg 406/19](#) requirements coming into effect on January 1, 2023. [Project Area Requirements](#) will be held on November 30 at 9:30 am and [Reuse Site Requirements](#) on December 7 at 9:30 am. Click on the links to register.

Eye on Events

Early Bird registration deadline for *ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground* is **Friday, December 2**. Register by then for reduced fees. The deadline to request a delegation meeting with provincial Ministers is **Monday, November 28**. Full conference information is located here.

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Interested in streamlining your building permit approvals process? Or maybe enhancing your approach to planning and by-law enforcement? On December 7, join AMO's electronic permitting partner, Cloudpermit, for an overview of the partnership, a demonstration of the cloud based system in action, as well as an interactive Q&A session with presenters. Register today.

LAS

Municipal risk managers and their colleagues hope for smooth insurance renewals with modest changes to premium, coverage, and deductibles, but that isn't always the case. Our blog outlines what to look for when preparing your municipal insurance for renewal.

Be sure to check out Food Cycle Science Corporation under our Canoe Procurement Group. They offer an exciting green-bin alternative for household composting which is taking the Canadian market by storm. Contact Simon to find out more.

Careers

Director, Design and Engineering - Ministry of Transportation. Lead the development and implementation of the design and engineering program that ensures efficient performance of provincial highways and related infrastructure. Please apply online, only, by November 30.

Program Coordinator, Local Immigration Partnership, Bilingual - County of Simcoe.

Responsible for facilitating, resourcing and supporting the development and implementation of capacity building activities. [Apply online](#) by December 9.

Senior Director, Corporate Services & Finance - Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Responsible for the overall direction and leadership of the financial, accounting, enterprise risk, planning and reporting functions. [Apply online](#) by December 22.

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December 1, 2022

In This Issue

- Call for applications to fill AMO Board vacancies.
- Call for nominations to the ROMA Board of Directors.
- Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) support.
- Emerging vehicle pilot programs.
- Regulation changes - Temporary extensions of outdoor physical premises.
- MECP Excess Soil webinars.
- Upcoming early bird deadline for ROMA 2023 Conference.
- AMO's iconic New Head of Council Training & New Councillor Training is back.
- New dates for Planning and OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness trainings.
- Cloudpermit webinar: An Electronic Permitting System for Municipalities.
- OMERS resource on non-full-time enrolment.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Bucher.

AMO Matters

AMO is soliciting applications to fill seven Caucus vacancies on the AMO Board of Directors; positions for elected officials and municipal employees are open. Application package can be found [here](#).

Please be advised that in accordance with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association's Policies and Procedures, ROMA is requesting nominations for Zone Representatives to the 2023-2027 ROMA Board of Directors. Nomination package [available here](#).

Provincial Matters

\$208 million in grant funding is available to support with the transition to the new Next Generation 9-1-1 emergency services communications system. Deadline to apply is December 21, 2022.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation is interested to know if you have opted into any

of the available [emerging vehicle pilot programs](#). Your response to the [questionnaire](#) would be greatly appreciated before December 23, 2022.

The [regulations](#) under the LLCA taking effect January 1 provide municipalities with permanent and flexible authority to approve temporary creation or extension of an outdoor licensed area, among other changes.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is hosting webinars on the key [Excess Soil O.Reg 406/19](#) requirements coming into effect on January 1, 2023. [Project Area Requirements](#) will be held on November 30 at 9:30 am and [Reuse Site Requirements](#) on December 7 at 9:30 am. Click on the links to register.

Eye on Events

Early Bird [registration](#) deadline for *ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground* is **Friday, December 2**. Register now to take advantage of savings.

AMO has modernized its training to reflect the realities, responsibilities, challenges and opportunities of municipally elected officials in today's context. Essential information on legislation, policy, roles, responsibilities and managing relationships are only some of the things attendees will gain insight and tools on. Register today for [New Head of Council](#) or [New Councillor](#) training.

Registration is now open for AMO's [foundational and strategic planning](#) courses. We have also released two new training dates for [AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness Training](#). These sessions provide you with insight and skills to community building and decision making. Click [here](#) for more information.

Interested in streamlining your building permit approvals process? Or maybe enhancing your approach to planning and by-law enforcement? On December 7, join AMO's electronic permitting partner, [Cloudpermit](#), for an overview of the partnership, a demonstration of the cloud based system in action, as well as an interactive Q&A session with presenters. [Register today](#).

MEPCO

As municipal employers prepare for the January 1, 2023 change to allow non-full-time employees to enrol in the OMERS Plan, please review the [OMERS FAQ resource](#) on non-full-time enrolment.

LAS

Canoe continues to expand! We're pleased to welcome Bucher to the program, offering a wide range of sweepers to keep your municipality clean. Purchase through

the [Canoe Procurement Group](#) to save time and access national discounts. [Contact Simon](#) to learn more.

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From: The Dementia Society of Ottawa & Renfrew County <info@dsorc.org>

Sent: Friday, November 25, 2022 8:00:43 AM

To: Maureen Spratt <mspratt@arnprior.ca>

Subject: Updates from The Dementia Society

The
**Dementia
Society**
Ottawa and Renfrew County



La
**Société de la
démence**
Ottawa et comté de Renfrew

40
40 Years of
Community
40 ans de
communauté



News From The Dementia Society

November 2022

For over 40 years, The Dementia Society has developed numerous programs and approaches to support individuals diagnosed with dementia and the people who care for them. But this year has been extraordinary. Dementia Society clients are expressing unprecedented demand for support. As a result, we are delivering **75% more service** than in previous years.

Your support is needed now more than ever. Read below to see how our community's support is helping us to create innovative

programs and push boundaries to provide free services, coaching, education and activities to people impacted by dementia.

Aging Well with Autonomy



Nearly 100% of Canadians, including people living with dementia report they wish to remain living in their own home as they age [1]. Despite this preference, making plans and home adaptations to age in place is rarely addressed before a crisis occurs.

As a result, seniors living with dementia have higher levels of hospital emergency visits, hospitalizations and admissions to long-term care than do seniors living without dementia [2].

With pilot funding and a contribution from the Arbor Memorial Milestone Fund, The Dementia Society launched the **ADAPT (Alzheimer's and Dementia Aging in Place through Technology) Your Home** pilot program in March 2022 to help people living with dementia age in place. This **first-of-its-kind in Canada program** supports people living with dementia in their homes so they can continue to live safely in their familiar environment for as long as possible.

The program offers free virtual assessment and innovative recommendations through AgeTech such as smart home devices, sensors, wearables and more. Participants also receive general and dementia-specific considerations for proactive aging in place and a personalized plan to outline recommendations and resources based on participants' needs and priorities.

Within seven months of its launch, the ADAPT Your Home program has received **100+ referrals and completed over 65 home assessments**. Eighty

percent of caregivers reported an increase in their well-being and 100% of clients had increased outcomes in overall home safety.

Continue reading to learn how the program is helping people living with dementia in the community to age well with autonomy and how qualifying individuals can request a free assessment.

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A Year of Inspiration and Promise: BrainyActive Challenge Celebration and Updates

The Dementia Society's biggest annual fundraiser, The BrainyActive Challenge, is held every year in September during World Alzheimer's Awareness Month. The campaign is an invitation to build a brain-boosting habit while you raise funds to help people living with dementia in Ottawa and Renfrew County.

This year, more than 200 participants came together to learn about brain health and to exercise their brains. Thanks to our loyal supporters, we **surpassed our fundraising goal and raised \$170,000!**

The 2022 Challenge concluded with our first in-person celebration event in three years. On the sunny morning of Sunday, September 25, we gathered at the scenic Canada Agriculture and Food Museum to support people living with dementia in the 613 region. The **Better Ways, Better Days** information fair at the event showcased information about brain health, dementia support and resources available in our community.

Continue reading to see how your support of our biggest annual fundraiser is helping families in their dementia journey.

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*A big thank you to The BrainyActive Challenge founding sponsor, **Baker Tilly**. Their more than 24 Years of support has been vital to our ability to help more people impacted by dementia. Thank you also to **Star Motors, Kelly Funeral Homes and Richardson Wealth** for sponsoring and believing in The Dementia Society.*



Your contribution to help fund our full range of programs is greatly appreciated. **Help us ensure that here, no one faces dementia alone.**

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