



Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: January 9th, 2023
Correspondence Package No. I-23-JAN-01

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-23-JAN-01 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

- 1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario**
 - a) MPP John Yakabuski – OCIF Funding Allocation Notification
 - b) Ontarians Can Now Visit Local Pharmacies for Paxlovid Prescriptions
 - c) Ontario Moving Forward on Plan to Build with Bill 36 Passage
 - d) Premier Ford to Tour Renfrew County
 - e) Ontario Investing in the Future of Ornge Air Ambulance
 - f) Ontario Providing Free Naloxone Kits in Workplaces
 - g) Ontario Helping Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Lower Electricity Costs
 - h) All Ontarians Aged 5+ Eligible for Bivalent Booster
 - i) Winter is here! Let's be prepared this season
 - j) Ontario Investing in Small, Rural and Northern Communities
 - k) Ontario Creating More Affordable Child Care Spaces Across the Province
 - l) New Justices of the Peace Appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice
 - m) Ontario Expanding Safe Use of Biosimilars
 - n) Premier Doug Ford Names New Chief of Staff
 - o) Spread the Word: Local Pharmacies Now a One-Stop-Shop for Thirteen Common Ailments
 - p) Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2023

- 2. Correspondence from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)**
 - a) [Reminder: New requirements for temporary outdoor physical extensions \(temporary patios\) now in effect](#)
- 3. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**
 - a) [Point of Care Ultrasound Certification for Community Paramedics](#)
 - b) [1000 days of RC VTAC](#)
- 4. Correspondence from the Renfrew County District Health Unit**
 - a) [COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Initiative in Renfrew County and District \(RCD\)](#)
 - b) [Overdose Alert for Renfrew County and District](#)
- 5. Correspondence from Ottawa Valley Business**
 - a) [December 21, 2022](#)
- 6. Correspondence from Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - a) [Watch File – December 8, 2022](#)
 - b) [Watch File – December 15, 2022](#)
 - c) [Watch File – December 22, 2022](#)
- 7. Correspondence from the Pembroke Regional Hospital**
 - a) [Fall 2022 Community Connections Newsletter](#)
- 8. Correspondence from the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)**
 - a) [Fall 2022 Contact Newsletter](#)



John Yakabuski, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

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December 15th, 2022

*Mayor Lisa McGee and Council
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin St. W.
Arnprior, ON
K7S 0A8*

Dear Mayor McGee and Council:

It's my pleasure to announce the Province of Ontario, through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), has approved your 2023 allocation of \$934,657 to meet local infrastructure needs in response to pressures from inflation.

This allocation is part of the government's overall investment of \$400 million in 2023.

The OCIF supports local infrastructure projects by providing stable and predictable funding for rural and northern communities with populations under 100,000. I realize the financial challenges rural municipalities face with infrastructure projects, and I am confident these funds will be well-utilized by the township.

If I can be of assistance in any way, at any time, in my capacity as your Member of Provincial Parliament, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

*John Yakabuski, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke*

NEWS RELEASE

Ontarians Can Now Visit Local Pharmacies for Paxlovid Prescriptions

Providing People More Convenient Access to COVID-19 Antiviral Treatment Closer to Home

December 08, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is giving people more convenient access to care by allowing pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid, an antiviral treatment option used to reduce severe outcomes from COVID-19. All Ontarians are strongly encouraged to keep up to date with vaccinations, which remains the best way for people to stay healthy this flu and respiratory illness season and prevent unnecessary visits to the hospital.

Starting December 12, 2022, pharmacists will be able to prescribe Paxlovid to eligible individuals in-person or virtually (such as by telephone) at no cost. Eligible individuals should contact their local pharmacy to confirm if they prescribe Paxlovid and how to get a prescription for Paxlovid.

Eligibility for Paxlovid includes:

- [Symptoms](#) that are consistent with COVID-19;
- A positive lab-based PCR, rapid molecular, or rapid antigen test (including rapid tests done at home);
- The prescribing occurs within five days of symptom onset;
- The individual receiving the prescription is;
 - 60 years of age or older
 - 18 years of age or older and is immunocompromised
 - 18 to 59 years old and at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes including having chronic medical conditions (such as diabetes, heart or lung disease) or inadequate immunity against COVID-19 (i.e., not up-to-date on vaccines).

“In addition to getting your COVID-19 booster and flu shot, Ontarians are now able to also talk to their local pharmacist about a prescription for Paxlovid,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This expansion of pharmacists’

scope of practice is just one more way our government is making it easier for Ontarians to access health care right in their own communities.”

Paxlovid prescriptions also remain available through any physician or nurse practitioner in Ontario as well as [clinical assessment centres](#) across the province. Individuals with complex health conditions may need to see their primary care provider or go to a [clinical assessment centre](#) for Paxlovid, based on the clinical judgement of the pharmacist.

“Authorizing pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid will expand access and offer increased protection to the most vulnerable and mitigate pressures on the province’s hospital capacity,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “I continue to strongly recommend that everyone across the province stays up to date on their vaccinations as it is the most effective way we can protect ourselves and our loved ones from the most serious effects of COVID-19.”

With COVID-19 vaccines and free flu shots available to everyone six months and older and bivalent booster doses also available to those 12 and over, Ontarians are strongly encouraged to get both their flu and COVID-19 shots as soon as possible this respiratory illness season to help restore protection that may have decreased since their last dose.

Quick Facts

- Individuals who are part of higher risk groups and who have COVID-19 symptoms should immediately seek testing and care by contacting their health care provider, visiting a clinical assessment centre, calling Health Connect Ontario at 811 or 1-866-797-0007 (toll-free TTY), or contacting a local pharmacist.
 - Individuals can access [Ontario’s antiviral screener tool](#) to help determine if they are at higher risk and should be assessed for treatment. A positive rapid antigen test, PCR or rapid molecular test is required as part of the assessment for antiviral treatment. Rapid antigen tests will remain available for pick up at no charge until June 30, 2023, from over 3,000 [retail locations](#) in the province. PCR tests are available at any provincial [testing location](#) to eligible groups.
 - [Clinical assessment centres](#) continue to be available to assess patients with cough, cold, flu and COVID-19 symptoms as well as to test, prescribe and dispense antivirals for COVID-19.
-

Quotes

"Pharmacy professionals have played a critical role supporting patients and the health system throughout the pandemic. By enabling pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid, we will improve access to treatment for Ontarians with the goal of reducing COVID-related hospitalizations."

- Justin Bates
CEO of the Ontario Pharmacists Association

"Pfizer congratulates the Province of Ontario on expanding the scope of practice for pharmacists to prescribe medicines for COVID-19, which will help patients have more timely access to treatments."

- Fabien Paquette
mRNA and Antiviral Portfolio Lead, Pfizer Canada

"Shoppers Drug Mart welcomes the expansion of the scope of practice for pharmacists to prescribe COVID-19 treatments like Paxlovid to patients. With over 800 locations across the province, we stand ready to support this initiative to make it easier for Ontarians to receive this treatment right in their local communities."

- Jeff Leger
President of Shoppers Drug Mart

"We are thrilled with the Government's announcement to expand Ontarians' timely access to effective COVID-19 antiviral therapy by enabling pharmacists to assess for and prescribe Paxlovid to eligible patients. This will both remove barriers to accessing care and support the overall healthcare system by preventing hospitalizations and reducing burden on other providers. The Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada has long advocated for pharmacy's ability to safely and conveniently provide patients with access to this critical medication in their own communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven how pharmacies across Ontario can rapidly scale up these services, and we applaud the Ontario government's investment in another vital tool in the public health toolbox to help Ontarians get back to a new normal."

- Sandra Hanna

CEO of the Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada

"Kohl & Frisch welcomes the decision by Premier Ford and Minister Jones to allow pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid. This will allow patients across the province to more efficiently access the care they need by highly trained and qualified pharmacists."

- Ron Frisch

President and CEO of Kohl & Frisch

"Enabling pharmacists at our independent pharmacies, Guardian, I.D.A, Remedy'sRx and The Medicine Shoppe to evaluate Ontario patients and prescribe Paxlovid when appropriate increases access and reduces barriers to care and treatment for those who need it the most. McKesson Canada supports the Ontario government to get Ontarians COVID-19 treatment in a timely manner."

- Smita Patil

**Vice-President, Retail Member Relations and Professional Affairs,
McKesson Canada**

"We welcome the announcement from Ontario Minister of Health Sylvia Jones today that pharmacists can start prescribing Paxlovid to treat vulnerable Ontarians with COVID-19 infection. Our Rexall pharmacists are enthusiastic to continue the important delivery of accessible health care to Ontarians during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic."

- Mona Sabharwal

Senior Vice President Pharmacy Services, Rexall

Additional Resources

- [Free Flu Shot Available for Ontarians Six Months of Age and Older](#)
- [All Ontarians Aged 12+ Eligible for Bivalent Booster](#)
- [Ontario Introduces a Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)
- Visit ontario.ca/antivirals for more information on eligibility and to find local pharmacies that are dispensing Paxlovid.
- 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.
- To learn more about the flu shot, visit Ontario.ca/flu.

Related Topics

Government

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

Health and Wellness

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Moving Forward on Plan to Build with Bill 36 Passage

Government launches 2023 budget consultations to seek input on next phase of Ontario's Plan to Build

December 08, 2022

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — Today, the [Progress on the Plan to Build Act \(Budget Measures\), 2022](#) received Royal Assent, advancing the government's plan to build Ontario with new targeted measures that build the economy, address the province's labour shortage and help families and businesses keep costs down.

The government's flexible and responsible plan will continue to position the province to be ready to manage uncertainty and risk as the world faces high inflation and emerging economic challenges.

"With the passage of this important piece of legislation, we are making good on our promise to help families, seniors and small business navigate these uncertain economic times through targeted measures," said Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy. "To continue to deliver support where it is most needed, we are now looking ahead to the next phase of our plan with the launch of consultations for the *2023 Budget*."

The government is seeking ideas from workers, families, business owners and communities on what they need and what they want to see in the next phase of the government's plan as part of Ontario's 2023 Budget.

"As we visit communities across the province, we want to hear from the people and businesses of Ontario on how our government can continue to build the province," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "Together we have made great progress on our plan to build and by continuing together we can create a prosperous Ontario for today and tomorrow."

Minister Bethlenfalvy, President of the Treasury Board Prabmeet Sarkaria, and Parliamentary Assistants Stephen Crawford and Rick Byers will hold in-person consultations across the province from January 11 to February 10, beginning in

Brampton.

“Our mission to build Ontario represents a bold vision to move the people and businesses of our province forward,” said Minister Sarkaria. “Listening to the voices and perspectives of Ontarians is key to crafting a budget that reflects them and is a critical part of keeping their priorities at the centre of everything we do.”

People and organizations are also welcome to submit their ideas by email or mail to the Ministry of Finance. In January, the government will also launch an online survey.

Visit [Ontario.ca/budgetconsultations](https://ontario.ca/budgetconsultations) for more information about how to participate.

Quick Facts

- The government will deliver the 2023 Budget by March 31, 2023.

Additional Resources

- Learn how to participate at [Ontario.ca/budgetconsultations](https://ontario.ca/budgetconsultations).
- Learn more about the [2022 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review – Ontario’s Plan to Build: A Progress Update](#).

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Premier Ford to Tour Renfrew County

December 11, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)
[Energy](#)
[Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

Premier Doug Ford will be joined by Todd Smith, Minister of Energy, Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, and John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke, to mark the 175th anniversary of Shaw Lumber and tour Renfrew County.

Date: Monday, December 12, 2022

Time: Remarks at 12:15 p.m.

A media availability will follow.

Location: Pembroke, ON

Livestream: With English closed captioning — [Premier’s official YouTube channel](#)

With French interpretation and closed captioning — [Premier’s official YouTube channel - French](#)

Notes: Media representatives can register to attend the event by emailing Stephanie.Bellotto@ontario.ca. Accredited media only.



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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Investing in the Future of Ornge Air Ambulance

New Ornge Fleet Will Connect Rural and Remote Communities to the Urgent Care They Need

December 13, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is renewing Ornge Air Ambulance’s fixed wing fleet with a new fleet of state-of-the-art aircraft. This investment in the future of Ornge will ensure it can continue to provide safe and consistent air ambulance services to all Ontarians, especially in rural and remote areas of the province.

“We are investing historic amounts to ensure every Ontarian can access urgent health care services regardless of where they live,” said Premier Doug Ford.

“Today’s announcement is more proof that no part of the province will be left behind as we build Ontario for the future.”

The existing fixed wing fleet of eight planes was acquired between 2009 and 2010. With this funding, Ornge will replace the currently aging fleet with eight new planes so training can begin with paramedics, pilots, and aviation mechanics. The new fleet will help ensure crew and patient safety while providing patients with continued and timely access to emergency health care, including for Indigenous communities and northern and remote regions of the province.

“Investing in a new Ornge fleet will ensure Ontarians continue to have the best care, no matter where they live in the province,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “These new state-of-the art aircraft are one more way we are providing people quicker access to urgent care, especially in rural and remote parts of the province.”

The government is also considering future Ornge fleet expansion for larger and faster aircraft to ensure Ontarians continue to have access to the safe, reliable and rapid service Ornge provides for years to come. The new fleet will be procured by Ornge through an open, fair and transparent competitive procurement process.

Quick Facts

- Ornge provides a range of air paramedical services including moving patients between facilities, responding to emergency on-scene incidents and supporting health care in northern and remote communities.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Ornge helped to distribute and administer vaccines to the most remote areas of the province through Operation Remote Immunity and assisted with managing the hospital surge response across Ontario.
- Annually, Ornge conducts approximately 21,000 patient transports, with the fixed wing fleet making up 15 per cent of total patient transport volumes.
- Ornge currently operates 20 aircraft including eight fixed wing planes and 12 helicopters. The planes are used for longer distance transports and the helicopters are for shorter distances and for emergency on-scene response.
- Ornge provides air ambulance services from 9 air bases across the province, with the fixed-wing bases located in Thunder Bay, Timmins, and Sioux Lookout.

Quotes

"Ornge's fixed wing fleet plays a key role in supporting health care within Northern, Indigenous communities. This is a welcome investment in ensuring rural and remote access to emergency health care for years to come."

- Dr. Homer Tien
CEO, Ornge

Additional Resources

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Providing Free Naloxone Kits in Workplaces

Life-saving kits required to be on hand in at-risk workplaces by June 1, 2023

December 14, 2022

[Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is launching a first-of-its-kind program to make free naloxone kits (and free training) available at workplaces where there is a risk of staff witnessing or experiencing an opioid overdose.

In 2021, 2,819 people died from opioid-related causes in Ontario – the highest number on record and up from 366 in 2003. Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose, restore breathing within two to five minutes, and allow time for medical help to arrive.

“Ontario, like the rest of Canada, is in the middle of an opioid epidemic made worse by a toxic supply of recreational street drugs,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “That’s why our government is the first in North America to require naloxone kits be accessible in at-risk workplaces by June 1, 2023, to raise awareness for those struggling with addiction, reduce stigma and save lives.”

Of the workers who died from opioid-related causes last year, 30 per cent were employed in construction – by far the most impacted industry. Bars and nightclubs have also seen increased opioid usage and accidental overdoses, often because of recreational drugs laced with deadly opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil.

“Our new Workplace Naloxone Program, as part of our Narcotic Transition Services, will save lives,” said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “Everyone in Ontario deserves access to these kits, and this innovative program will bring a new level of safety to our province’s workplaces.”

For up to two years, Ontario will provide free nasal spray naloxone kits to businesses at risk of opioid overdoses through the Workplace Naloxone Program and free training needed to equip staff with the tools to respond to an opioid overdose.

Businesses can determine if they are eligible for the program and find additional information on accessing naloxone kits and training at [Ontario.ca/workplacenaloxone](https://ontario.ca/workplacenaloxone). Once the requirement is in effect, Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development's inspectors will take an education-first approach to enforcement.

Quick Facts

- On June 1, 2023, at-risk employers will be required by legislation to ensure their workplaces have life-saving naloxone kits and workers are trained on how to use them.
 - This includes employers who become aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, that there may be a risk of an opioid overdose in their workplace, i.e., if a worker discloses an opioid use issue, if needles or other opioid paraphernalia are found at the workplace, or if they are otherwise given information that would lead them to reasonably conclude there is a risk of an overdose in the workplace.
 - Businesses with questions about their responsibilities under the legislation can visit [Ontario.ca/workplacenaloxone](https://ontario.ca/workplacenaloxone).
 - For up to two years, the Workplace Naloxone Program provides at-risk employers with access to free training for up to two workers and one nasal spray naloxone kit for each eligible workplace.
 - Separately, individuals can also contact their local pharmacy to receive a naloxone kit.
 - To protect the health and safety of workers in Ontario, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development has hired over 100 new inspectors to build the largest workplace inspectorate in the province's history and increased occupational health and safety fines to the highest level in the country.
-

Quotes

"Naloxone saves lives, and more access to naloxone will save more lives. I should know, it saved my life, and has saved the lives of people close to me. I won a gold medal as the goalie for Team Canada's national sledge hockey team at the 2006 Paralympic Games in Torino and live in addiction recovery from decades of legal prescriptions to opioids from injuries at the highest athletic level of international competition. Premier Ford, Minister McNaughton, Minister Tibollo and this government are to be commended for their commitment to saving lives through awareness and access to naloxone. I live by the words "Never Give Up" and am still here because naloxone saved my life. Thank you Premier and Ministers for Never Giving Up! "

- Paul Rosen
Paralympian and Motivational Speaker

"Minister McNaughton has done incredible work to support the hospitality sector as we continue to recover post-pandemic, with skills development and training and most importantly workplace safety. We are proud to build on that great work by supporting the expansion of the Workplace Naloxone Program which will improve safety. Naloxone is a tool that we never want to use. But if needed, it's important that it's accessible, and that's what this program accomplishes."

- Hanif Harji
CEO of Scale Hospitality

"Through the Workplace Naloxone Program, we are committed to supporting employers with the costs associated with training and kits and supporting workers with access to high-quality training that will equip them to safely respond to an opioid overdose."

- Dr. Joel Moody
Ontario Chief Prevention Officer

"As a leader in first aid training, the Canadian Red Cross commends the Government of Ontario for its investment into training Ontarians to prepare for and respond to opioid poisoning. We encourage workplaces to sign up to receive more information on how they can apply for free training on how to prevent death caused by opioid poisoning. Together, we can address the growing opioid crisis."

- Liane Fernandes

Vice President, Ontario Operations, Canadian Red Cross

"The opioid crisis in Ontario continues to be a significant public health crisis and unfortunately shows no sign of ending any time soon. The steps being taken today will save lives and St. John Ambulance is proud to be a partner in this program."

- Shawn McLaren

Chief Learning Officer, St. John Ambulance

"The number of people dying from opioid-related deaths is a major health crisis in Ontario. We commend the government for equipping higher-risk workplaces with free naloxone kits and training. This will save lives, not only by providing the means and education but also in removing the stigma to seek support. "

- Camille Quenneville

CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario

Additional Resources

- [The Workplace Naloxone Program](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 559/22](#)

Media Contacts

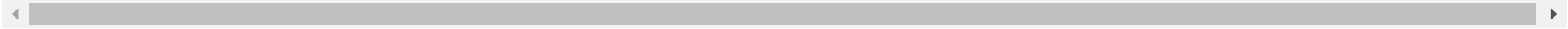
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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Helping Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Lower Electricity Costs

New pilot program will increase consumer choice and support provincial grid

December 14, 2022

[Energy](#).

TORONTO – The Ontario government is launching a new pilot program to explore dynamic electricity pricing and its ability to lower electricity bills for small and medium-sized businesses including retail stores, commercial offices and farms. This new program builds on the government’s commitment to give consumers more control of their energy bills while benefiting the provincial grid.

“Keeping electricity costs down for businesses helps create jobs and promote economic development,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “That’s why we’re launching our new dynamic pricing pilot to give them more choice in how they use and are billed for electricity – just like we’ve done for residential consumers.”

The pilots will test alternate pricing structures that encourage participants to shift electricity consumption to hours where electricity demand is low, helping to reduce costs for businesses. The pilots will help inform the government on the potential for alternate pricing options to provide electricity system benefits and in turn, lower electricity bills for all customers.

Small and medium-sized businesses, farms and community centres that are included in the Class B electricity rate class and don’t have access to time-of-use or tiered rates may be eligible to participate in the new pilot program.

This builds on the government’s commitment to provide more choice to all electricity consumers. Residential and some small business consumers already have the opportunity to select the price plan – Time-of-Use or Tiered – that keeps their bills lowest. The government is also launching a new ultra-low overnight electricity price plan that will be available to consumers next year, helping to support the adoption of electric vehicles.

The government has directed the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to work with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to deliver these dynamic pricing pilots. The OEB plans to open applications for the program by the end of 2022.

Quick Facts

- The government is keeping electricity costs down for all businesses through its [Comprehensive Electricity Plan](#) which is reducing electricity costs by between 15 to 17 per cent.
 - “Dynamic” pricing refers to prices that vary depending on the weekday or hour of the day.
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Additional Resources

[Manage energy costs for your business](#)

[Learn more about the dynamic pricing pilots](#)

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](#)

Environment and Energy

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

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NEWS RELEASE

All Ontarians Aged 5+ Eligible for Bivalent Booster

Get your bivalent booster dose and flu shot to stay protected this winter season

December 15, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — With the Health Canada approval of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for five to 11 year-olds, all Ontarians aged five and over are eligible to book a bivalent booster dose starting December 21. All Ontarians are strongly encouraged to keep up to date with their flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to restore protection that may have decreased since a previous dose, which remains the best way for people to stay healthy this winter and prevent unnecessary visits to the hospital.

“As the weather gets colder and more people spend time with their loved ones indoors this holiday season, vaccination remains the most effective way we can protect ourselves from the most serious effects of COVID-19 and influenza,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Vaccines provide strong protection against severe illness from COVID-19 and its variants and will help ease pressures on our hospitals and emergency departments.”

A COVID-19 bivalent booster targets the original COVID-19 virus and provides better protection against the other variants currently circulating. Flu shots can also be safely given at the same time, or at any time before or after a COVID-19 vaccine for individuals aged six months and older. Find out more at ontario.ca/flu.

Appointments can be booked via the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#) or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre (PVCC) at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007). Parents and caregivers can book for their child. 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](#).

“COVID-19 vaccines continue to protect Ontarians from COVID-19 and its variants,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “Vaccines are safe, they improve your immune response and reduce the risk of severe illness,

hospitalization and post-infection symptoms. I 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.”

To help keep everyone as healthy as possible this respiratory illness season, Ontarians should stay home when they are feeling sick and practise good hand hygiene. It is also strongly recommended that Ontarians wear face masks in indoor public settings, or where it feels right for them.

Quick Facts

- Ontarians aged five and older and not at high-risk of severe COVID-19 illness are recommended to get a booster dose this respiratory illness season if it has been six months since their last dose.
 - Ontarians at [high risk for severe COVID-19 illness](#) are recommended to get a booster dose this respiratory illness season if it has been three months since their last dose.
 - Individuals can access [Ontario’s antiviral screener tool](#) to help determine if they are at higher risk and should be assessed for treatment. A positive rapid antigen test, PCR or rapid molecular test is required as part of the assessment for antiviral treatment. Rapid antigen tests will remain available for pick up at no charge until June 30, 2023, from over 3,000 [retail locations](#) in the province. PCR tests are available at any provincial [testing location](#) to eligible groups.
 - Pharmacists are able to prescribe Paxlovid to eligible individuals in-person or virtually (such as by telephone) at no cost. Eligible individuals should contact their local pharmacy to confirm if they prescribe Paxlovid and how to get a prescription for Paxlovid.
 - [Clinical assessment centres](#) continue to be available to assess patients with cough, cold, flu and COVID-19 symptoms as well as to test, prescribe and dispense antivirals for COVID-19.
 - Parents are reminded to also stick to [the Ontario routine immunization schedule](#). If your child missed vaccinations or if you are unsure about which vaccinations they have received, contact your health care provider or [public health unit](#) to get their vaccination schedule back on track.
 - If you have questions about vaccinating your child, book a confidential conversation with a registered nurse through the SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service at www.sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult or [1-888-304-6558](tel:1-888-304-6558) (appointments are available in multiple languages).
-

Additional Resources

- [Free Flu Shot Available for Ontarians Six Months of Age and Older](#)
- [All Ontarians Aged 12+ Eligible for Bivalent Booster](#)
- [Ontario Introduces a Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)
- Visit ontario.ca/antivirals for more information on eligibility and to find local pharmacies that are dispensing Paxlovid.
- 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.
- To learn more about the flu shot, visit Ontario.ca/flu.

Related Topics

Health and Wellness

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Winter is here! Let's be prepared this season

Having a plan and emergency supplies for your home and car will help keep you safe this winter

December 16, 2022

[Treasury Board Secretariat](#)

TORONTO — As Ontario approaches the start of the winter season, the government is reminding Ontarians to have an emergency plan and supplies on hand to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

Whether shovelling snow or clearing ice from our sidewalks, we must do our part to keep ourselves and others safe every winter. When it comes to winter emergencies like heavy snow, ice storms and power outages, there are simple ways to ensure everyone is ready.

“Safety starts with having a plan and being prepared,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Emergency Management in Ontario. “From developing an emergency plan for your household, to ensuring your family has what it needs to be self-sufficient for up to three days, there are simple things we can do now to keep ourselves and loved ones safe when it matters most.”

Steps you can take to ensure you are prepared this winter season include:

Keeping a winter survival kit in your car

Be prepared for winter driving and always keep a winter survival kit in your car.

Kits should include:

- charged phone
- water
- non-perishable food
- flashlight
- blanket and warm clothes
- jumper cables
- shovel

- traction mats or sand
- candles and a lighter or matches

“The winter months can pose significant challenges for drivers. Before heading out, I encourage everyone to check Ontario 511. It has many winter safety features and provides drivers with near real-time highway and traffic information so they can plan ahead,” said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. “Remember to slow down and drive according to weather and road conditions. Together, we can keep Ontario’s highways safe for everyone this winter.”

Build a 72-hour kit

During an emergency, it may take time to get to your household while first responders are assisting those in immediate danger. Having a 72-hour kit will allow your family to be self-sufficient and supported in an emergency.

Visit [Ontario.ca/BePrepared](https://ontario.ca/BePrepared) for a comprehensive list of what can be part of your household’s kit.

Quick Facts

- Ontario is spreading awareness of how you can be prepared for emergencies this winter season. Visit [Ontario.ca/BePrepared](https://ontario.ca/BePrepared) and [@OntarioWarnings](https://twitter.com/OntarioWarnings) on Twitter for more tips.
- Before travelling this winter, plan your travel by visiting [Ontario.ca/511](https://ontario.ca/511) or using the 511 app available for free on the [App Store](https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/ontario-511) and [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ontario.511). Ontario 511 allows you to plan your route by reviewing road conditions, cameras, weather, and Track My Plow to find out where plows are on provincial highways.

Additional Resources

[Ontario.ca/BePrepared](https://ontario.ca/BePrepared)

[Ontario.ca/511](https://ontario.ca/511)

[Ontario.ca/WinterDriving](https://ontario.ca/WinterDriving)

Related Topics

Business and Economy

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

Government

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

[Learn more](#)

Health and Wellness

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



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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Investing in Small, Rural and Northern Communities

Province supports economic growth and job creation with funding for roads, bridges, water and wastewater projects

December 16, 2022

[Infrastructure](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$400 million in critical infrastructure for small, rural and northern communities. The funding is being delivered in 2023 through the [Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund \(OCIF\)](#) and will support economic growth and job creation in 425 communities across the province.

“Ontario’s small, rural and northern communities are essential to the growth and prosperity of the province,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “As part of our plan to build Ontario, our government is continuing to provide stable funding to meet local infrastructure needs and provide support in response to pressures from inflation. By supporting key community infrastructure projects, we are helping communities attract jobs and build local capacity to grow and thrive for generations to come.”

OCIF provides funding to eligible communities every year to help them renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water and wastewater projects.

In December 2021, the [Ontario government announced an additional \\$1 billion](#) for critical infrastructure projects that support economic growth and job creation in small, rural and northern communities, bringing the government’s total investment to nearly \$2 billion dollars over five years.

Quick Facts

- OCIF supports local infrastructure projects by providing stable and predictable funding for communities with populations under 100,000, along with all rural and northern communities.

- Funding allocations are based on a [formula](#) that recognizes the different needs and economic conditions of communities.
- In 2022, the government provided \$400 million in funding through OCIF, an increase of \$200 million from the previous year. Communities may accumulate their funding for up to five years to address larger infrastructure projects.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund Recipients](#)
- [Ontario Builds map](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Creating More Affordable Child Care Spaces Across the Province

New grant program encouraging new spaces in locations and for populations most in need

December 19, 2022

[Education](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is making child care more affordable and accessible for families across the province, creating an additional 53,000 new, affordable licensed child care spaces by December 2026 – bringing our total to 86,000 new spaces since 2019.

In March 2022, Ontario secured a six-year, \$13.2 billion agreement with the federal government which will lower fees for families and deliver an average of \$10 a day child care by September 2025. This included an initial investment of \$10.2 billion for the first five years of the agreement and an additional commitment for at least \$3 billion in year six. Today, as part of that agreement, Ontario is announcing a targeted plan to create new licensed child care spaces, with a focus on increasing access to families across Ontario.

“We are delivering savings directly to families while increasing access to child care spaces in communities small and large,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “Our government is making child care affordable — with savings averaging between \$6,000 to \$10,000 per child by the end of this year — and investing in new spaces that will benefit parents for years to come. With the cost of living rising across the country, the Ontario government is increasing access to child care spaces and delivering needed financial relief for families.”

The new spaces will be allocated to communities across Ontario using a model that incorporates demographics, socio-economic indicators, and existing licensed child care capacity. The new spaces will be part of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system and includes a mix of not-for-profit and for-profit centres, a key priority of the Government of Ontario to respect and ultimately provide families with choice and flexibility. Additionally, the province will enhance

the availability of flexible models of care for a changing economy and labour market – for example, child care spaces that are available on weekends and overnight to support people who work shifts.

To ensure child care spaces are also created in locations and for populations most in need — including for children with special needs, Indigenous and Franco-Ontarian communities — Ontario is launching a \$213 million grant program for new and existing operators. These one-time grants, prioritizing regions with historically low rates of space availability, will help child care operators offset the initial costs of expanding or creating spaces, such as purchasing equipment or renovating facilities.

To date, 92 per cent of Ontario’s licensed child care sites have enrolled in the CWELCC system. Families across the province with children in these centres are already seeing fee reductions of up to 25 per cent, retroactive to April 1, 2022. By the end of this year, families with children under the age of six in participating licensed child care programs will see a further fee reduction of up to 50 per cent relative to 2020 levels.

“Access to affordable, high-quality, flexible and inclusive early learning and child care is increasingly becoming a reality for families in Ontario, and across the country,” said Karina Gould, federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. “The fee reduction announced today for centres as part of the Canada-wide system is a key step toward our ultimate goal for an average of \$10-a-day regulated child care. We will continue to work with the provinces and territories toward a better future for children, and families, everywhere in Canada.”

Ontario remains committed to the success of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system and will continue to work with municipalities and stakeholders across the province to ensure affordable child care is available in communities where it is needed most.

Quick Facts

- Ontario’s child care system offers a range of options for families with differing needs, including licensed, unlicensed, for-profit, not-for-profit, centre/school-based and home-based child care.
- To ensure improved access, new child care space allocations will focus on the creation of affordable spaces in communities with children who need them most – rural communities, growth communities, low-income children,

vulnerable children, children from diverse communities, children with special needs, Francophone and Indigenous children.

- The Ontario government is streamlining the application process for new child care operators when they apply for a licence. They will learn about their eligibility for child care funding before investing heavily in becoming licensed. The applicants will also have to submit key municipal approvals, including zoning and permitted use, together with their application. This will significantly reduce the time it takes the applicant to acquire a licence.
- Currently, there are more than 5,500 child care centres, 139 licensed home child care agencies, and around 464,000 licensed spaces in Ontario.
- Since 2018, the Ontario government has invested over \$1.5 billion in capital projects within the education sector, including 4,908 new, licensed child care spaces within schools. In 2021, the Ontario government invested more than \$95 million to create 3,094 more school-based licensed child care spaces for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- On [November 24, 2022](#), the government announced an expansion to the dual credit program to attract 420 students over two years into Early Childhood Education career pathways.

Quotes

"This announcement is going to put more power in the hands of parents across Ontario. As a mother of five children, I know how important child care is. In order for women with children to reach their full economic potential they need to have affordable child care options. It is an added benefit that we will also be delivering savings to families throughout the province. This is just another example of our governments commitment to ensuring women and families have the resources they need to be successful."

- Charmaine Williams

Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity

"We are pleased to see the expansion of licensed child care spaces in communities across Ontario. Children and families will benefit from more equitable access to affordable, high-quality, licensed care. As Ontario's largest provider of licensed child care, we are eager to work together with the Province and our municipal partners to expand child care, particularly in equity-deserving communities with diverse populations."

- Linda Cottes

Senior Vice-President of Child and Family Development, YMCA of Greater Toronto and Chair of the YMCA Ontario Child Care Advisory Group

"AMO is pleased that the federal and provincial governments are working together to lower child care fees and make other improvements to Ontario's child care and early years system. Municipal governments and District Social Service Administration Boards are playing a key role to make this a reality in communities. New investments to create new, high-quality child-care spaces are needed and will benefit more children and their families in Ontario"

- Colin Best

President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Councillor, Halton Region

"In this challenging economy, working parents continue to demand high quality programs. In our 30 years we have worked hard to provide a quality program in Peel Region. We enrolled in the CWELCC system to allow us to continue to provide quality services to families – that families can afford. CWELCC reduces the fees and gives families money to help with other expenses. We applaud the province for working with other levels of government to make child care more affordable and accessible to the folks who need it."

- Jacky

Owner of Streetsville Children's Centre

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Investing in Licensed Child Care](#)
- [\\$13.2 Billion Child Care Deal will Lower Fees for Families](#)
- [Ontario's Child Care Action Plan Puts Families First](#)

- [Canada-Ontario early years and child care agreement](#)

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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BULLETIN

New Justices of the Peace Appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice

December 19, 2022

[Attorney General](#)

Attorney General Doug Downey announced the appointment of 28 justices of the peace to the Ontario Court of Justice, effective December 29, 2022.

Justice of the Peace Estelle Thérèse Bérubé was executive director of La Maison Arc-en-Ciel since 2019, where she worked with at-risk youth living with addiction and mental health issues. She developed treatment programming during this time that included counselling, therapy using horses and Indigenous-specific healing practices. As part of this role, she sat on the Cochrane mental health planning table to help coordinate health services between local providers. For over 25 years, Justice of the Peace Bérubé was owner and operator of Starview Stables in Kapuskasing, Ontario.

Justice of the Peace Bérubé has been assigned to Cochrane.

Justice of the Peace Shawn Patrick Borgford worked for the Brockville Police Service since 2001, most recently as a sergeant. Prior to this, he was a constable for the Peel Regional Police Service. He graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Guelph. Justice of the Peace Borgford has extensive volunteer experience, including as chair of the board for RNJ Youth Services, as president of the board for Rose Garden Family Support Centre, and as a first aid/CPR Instructor for St. John Ambulance.

Justice of the Peace Borgford has been assigned to Ottawa.

Justice of the Peace Beverly Maureen Brooks has worked as a communications professional and has developed public, media, investor and government relations strategies for over 25 years. Most recently, she was the founding president of Brooks Communications, which developed investor and media relations strategies for companies in a variety of sectors, including technology, energy, cannabis, telecommunications and mining. She was also a vice chair of the Licence Appeal Tribunal. Prior to her career in the private sector, Justice of the Peace Brooks spent

over 20 years in five different federal government departments including Procurement Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, Transport Canada, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Finance. She was chair of the Infrastructure and Housing Committee and the Secretary for the Bayview Cummer Neighbourhood Association. She prepared submissions for various levels of government on building projects in the area.

Justice of the Peace Brooks has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Anthony Joseph Charles worked for the Toronto Police Service since 1982. He started his career as a summons server and cadet in training and moved on to assume a wide range of positions including detective sergeant and staff sergeant of various divisions, including the Sex Crimes Unit, Professional Standards Unit and Team Lead of the Risk Management Section of Courts Services. Most recently, Justice of the Peace Charles was the supervisor of the Armed Response Unit of the Ontario Legislature. He is the president of the Toronto Police Amateur Athletic Association, member of the Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association and he championed a community outreach program using the sport of soccer to positively connect police officers as coaches with new Canadians and marginalized youth. He was awarded the Exemplary Service Medal by the Governor General of Canada. Justice of the Peace Charles holds a bachelor's degree in Justice Studies.

Justice of the Peace Charles has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Ava-Gaye M. Colquhoun has a Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the bar in 2010. She was employed with the City of Toronto Legal Services Division, both as a prosecutor and a solicitor. Justice of the Peace Colquhoun is the co-chair of Toronto's Legal Services Diversity Committee. She is also a legal consultant and member of the board of directors for Stand Social and has volunteered with Cornerstone Community Church in Markham. Previously, she also worked as a Japanese-English teacher employed by the government of Japan.

Justice of the Peace Colquhoun has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Mary-Louise Cortese was the student mental health consultant in the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board since 2010. In this position, which she helped create and design, she developed strategies and mental health programming and educated teachers and staff on ways to identify and support mental health needs in the student population. Prior to this, Justice of the

Peace Cortese worked as a teacher and guidance counselor in the London Catholic District School Board for 14 years. She also completed an internship in a therapeutic role at the former St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital.

Justice of the Peace Cortese has been assigned to Windsor.

Justice of the Peace Virginia Danos was a 22-year member of the Peel Regional Police, including 11 years within court services. She has held various positions including police constable, court officer, school resource officer, criminal investigator, intelligence officer and, most recently, sergeant. Through her work, Justice of the Peace Danos mentored at-risk youth and assisted members of marginalized communities. She has also worked closely with assigned mental health Crown attorneys and courts to help improve quality of life for people with mental illness. Justice of the Peace Danos has extensive volunteer experience including as a United Way campaign coordinator, where she helped raise over \$80,000 for community agencies.

Justice of the Peace Danos has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Carl Everett DeJong worked for the Ottawa Police Service for 16 years, most recently as a sergeant in specialized investigations. In collaboration with victim services agencies and other partners, he worked on developing a system to help identify, refer and provide appropriate supports for high-risk victims, drawing upon his prior experience investigating intimate partner violence as a detective constable in the partner assault unit. Prior to this, Justice of the Peace DeJong worked as a sergeant assigned to temporary custody and prisoner care, assisting with restructuring plans made in response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the police representative on the board of directors for the Ottawa Mission, Justice of the Peace DeJong advised on various strategies to support people experiencing homelessness and poverty and advocated for wellness supports for staff.

Justice of the Peace DeJong has been assigned to Pembroke.

Justice of the Peace Sharon Patricia Agatha Floyd has held leadership positions at Embrace: Agency to End Violence, formerly known as Interim Place since 2003. She has held the position of executive director since 2010. This is an organization that provides shelter, support counselling and advocacy to survivors of gender-based violence. She was also an associate faculty member at the Royal Roads University School of Leadership Studies. Justice of the Peace Floyd has previously worked at Community Living Burlington and ParaMed Home Health Care Services. Justice of the Peace Floyd served the community as the co-chair of the Peel Coalition for the

Prevention of Hate Crimes, as a member of Peel Region's Anti-Black Racism and Systemic Discrimination Committee, and as co-chair of Peel Region's Sexual Assault Case Review Advisory Committee.

Justice of the Peace Floyd has been assigned to Brampton.

Justice of the Peace Eli Douglas Fox has spent over two decades working in Indigenous justice in the Manitoulin District. Most recently, he was a program worker for the Indigenous Bail Verification and Supervision Program. As part of this role, he traveled to all First Nations across Manitoulin District to provide supervision, support, counselling and referrals for a number of clients, and he also attended court to develop suitable bail release plans in coordination with clients, duty counsel and Crown attorneys. In addition to his duties in the bail program, Justice of the Peace Fox worked as the fire prevention officer for M'Chigeeng First Nation, inspecting homes and ensuring fire equipment was up to date, as well as training volunteer firefighters. He served as a volunteer firefighter in the community for two decades. He has also been an active member of bushido martial arts and achieved the rank of 2nd Dan black belt in karate. As a member of the M'Chigeeng First Nation, Justice of Peace Fox has contributed to numerous cultural activities and cared for the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising's sacred bundle.

Justice of the Peace Fox has been assigned to Kitchener.

Justice of the Peace Arlene Gonash-Nelson most recently worked as a manager of community supports at Strides Toronto, where she managed the Gender-Based Violence Anti-Human Trafficking Program and the Youth in Transition program. Previously, Justice of the Peace Gonash-Nelson was a manager of community clinical services for East Metro Youth Services and a manager of child and family support services at the Griffin Centre where she supervised the Youth Mental Health Court Worker Program at the Metro East and Metro West courts. Justice of the Peace Gonash-Nelson also helped develop the Youth Community Restoration Court at Metro West.

Justice of the Peace Gonash-Nelson has been assigned to Brampton.

Justice of the Peace Jennifer Leeanne Grant has been a provincial offences prosecutor and a licensed paralegal for 11 years. She has experience providing legal services in Small Claims Court, Provincial Offences Court, Appeal Court and for the Landlord and Tenant Board. Justice of the Peace Grant volunteers as a board

member for the Renfrew and Area Community Resource Centre, as a parent member of the Central Public School Council Board and for various minor league sports such as hockey, skating and soccer.

Justice of the Peace Grant has been assigned to Pembroke.

Justice of the Peace Brigitte Hammond was a prosecutor with the Regional Municipality of York since 2001. Previously, she was a hearings officer with the Ministry of Transportation and a prosecutor with the City of Toronto. Justice of the Peace Hammond held a variety of volunteer positions with the Prosecutors' Association of Ontario, including chair of the membership committee, chair of the awards committee and co-chair of the education committee. She was also a volunteer ambassador for York Region where she provided support for various events in aid of community and children. Justice of the Peace Hammond holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from York University.

Justice of the Peace Hammond has been assigned to Brampton.

Justice of the Peace David Michael Horton has held various positions at Public Safety Canada working on national security files since 2004. Most recently, he was an executive manager where he managed an operational division in the Greater Toronto area. Justice of the Peace Horton has represented Public Safety Canada at various international conferences and has collaborated with domestic and foreign partners. Prior to his work for the Canadian government, he was a youth counsellor working with young people from diverse communities and young offenders. He also volunteers on the board of directors with the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton.

Justice of the Peace Horton has been assigned to Windsor.

Justice of the Peace Andrea M. Jones has a master of social work degree from McGill University and has spent over two decades working with families as a registered social worker. Since 2017 she was provincial manager of clinical services for the Office of the Children's Lawyer (OCL). There she provided clinical direction on high conflict family disputes for OCL clinical panel members across the province. She also co-developed the Ministry of the Attorney General's (MAG) training on Vicarious Trauma which was delivered to over 8000 MAG employees. Before this, she worked as a Regional Clinical Supervisor for the OCL. She also worked for the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services as an adoption/reunification manager, coordinating local and international adoption services for the Montreal area, and prior to this as a frontline social worker in child protection. Justice of the

Peace Jones volunteers as a board member for the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, an international and interdisciplinary association of family law professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflicts.

Justice of the Peace Jones has been assigned to Orangeville.

Justice of the Peace Charles Safo Kissi was the co-founder of Equity Connections Inc. where he provided equity, diversity, and inclusion training, education and consulting services to organizations. Previously, he had held various positions in the Toronto Police Service including police constable, school resource officer and detective constable. Justice of the Peace Kissi has also led, coached and managed a variety of basketball teams including the Toronto Metropolitan University women's team, the Brock University men's team, the Guelph Nighthawks, the Toronto Raptors 905 and the Fort Wayne Mad Ants. He has volunteered as a youth basketball coach in Scarborough and St. Catharines and as a board member for the Lay-Up Youth Basketball Foundation.

Justice of the Peace Kissi has been assigned to St. Catharines.

Justice of the Peace Thomas Joseph McNeil was the deputy commanding officer of the Regional Cadet Support Unit Central for the Canadian Armed Forces since 2014. In this position, he led the execution of the Cadet Program in Ontario for over 16,500 cadets. Prior to that, and for the last 34 years, he held various other positions in the Cadet Program for the Canadian Armed Forces. Justice of the Peace McNeil has acted as presiding officer at citizenship ceremonies with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and has volunteered with the Community Relations Committee of the Barrie Simcoe Muskoka Branch of St. John Ambulance, and the Program Advisory Committee for the Bachelor of Business Administration Program at Georgian College.

Justice of the Peace McNeil has been assigned to Parry Sound.

Justice of the Peace Tanya Elizabeth Moss LL.B LL.M in Dispute Resolution, was the director of Kii-we-yan Pikangikum Health Authority Bail Bed Program where she trained staff, set up in-house courtrooms for clients to access justice and developed and implemented policy and procedure specific to Pikangikum. She was also self-employed as a consultant for policy and legislation. Prior to these roles, Justice of the Peace Moss had almost 20 years experience in justice services, including at Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, the Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office, the Offender Transport Unit for the Ontario Provincial Police and as a correctional

officer for the Department of Justice. She has volunteered for several organizations including the Salvation Army, Diabetes Canada, and a legal aid clinic in Cape Town, South Africa.

Justice of the Peace Moss has been assigned to Sioux Lookout.

Justice of the Peace Azadeh Nourbakhsh Lavictoire was bilingual criminal duty counsel with Legal Aid Ontario since 2021, where she represented clients with complex legal issues, including at bail and sentence hearings. Prior to this, she was the managing partner at Nourbakhsh Law and represented clients in areas such as the real estate, estate law, and non-profit sectors since her call to the bar in 2009. She has also served as the chair of the official languages committee of the Ontario Bar Association. Since 2017, Justice of the Peace Nourbakhsh Lavictoire has been president and co-founder of Spinal CSF Leak Canada, a charitable national health organization. In her role within the organization, she has been an advocate for advancing medical research and worked closely with medical professionals, charitable organizations and persons with disabilities.

Justice of the Peace Azadeh Nourbakhsh Lavictoire has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Mary Jeanette Pagani worked at the Peel Addiction Assessment and Referral Centre for 18 years, most recently as manager of programs, partnerships and operations. In this role, she assisted the executive director in managing clients, overseeing operations of the agency and working with community and justice system partners and stakeholders. Before this, she worked as a clinical supervisor at the agency, supervising clinicians and representing the agency on more than 20 committees. Justice of the Peace Pagani also helped to establish the Brampton Drug Treatment Court in 2016 and was a volunteer with the Association of Justice and Treatment Professionals. She sat as a board member at St. Leonard's Place Peel, an organization that provides supportive housing to men who have been involved with the justice system and she has also volunteered for various minor hockey league organizations.

Justice of the Peace Pagani has been assigned to Brampton.

Justice of the Peace Meredith Doreen Porter was an independent external decision-maker with Public Safety Canada since 2019. In this role, she provided independent external oversight for Structured Intervention Units in federal correctional institutions. Prior to this position, she was a senior commission counsel for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, conducting community, expert and institutional hearings, and providing legal services to the four inquiry commissioners. She was a board member of

Crime Prevention Ottawa from 2018 to 2019 and the chair of the Ottawa Carleton Detention Centre Community Advisory Board from 2014 to 2017. In the latter role, she visited detention centres to discuss conditions of confinement and challenges related to operations. She was a member of the board of governors for Carleton University.

Justice of the Peace Porter has been assigned to Ottawa.

Justice of the Peace Andrea Danielle Racine was a prosecutor for Durham region since 2012. In this role, she conducted trials on provincial offences and participated in court proceedings and judicial pre-trial hearings. She has experience helping the public navigate the justice system and has trained new Crown students and paralegals. Since 2007, Justice of the Peace Racine has been founder and team lead of the Roddy's Riders Fundraiser for the Princess Margaret's Hospital Ride to Conquer Cancer. She has also been a volunteer firefighter for the Port Hope Fire and Emergency Services since 2019.

Justice of the Peace Racine has been assigned to Durham.

Justice of the Peace Vedanand Sudesh Ramphal has a bachelor's degree in law & society and political Science and a master's degree in emergency and Disaster Management. He was a police constable with the Toronto Police Service since 2005. During this time, he spent six years working alongside community agencies to enhance police and community relationships. He was also an armoured reconnaissance soldier with the Canadian Armed Forces since 1996 and has been awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration Medal. Justice of the Peace Ramphal also volunteers with Grace Place Church Food Bank where he interacts with community members and assists with food bank operations.

Justice of the Peace Ramphal has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Robert Michael Gordon Shawyer was called to the bar in 2006. He holds an LL.B. and an M.A. and has been the principal and owner of Shawyer Professional Corporation since 2006. He began his legal career practising criminal law but switched to family law in 2010, representing clients in cases involving adoption, child protection, constitutional issues, and domestic issues. Justice of the Peace Shawyer is the president of council for the College of Dental Technologists of Ontario, and he is the Vice President of the board of directors of the Society of Sharing, an inter-city charity that assists vulnerable senior citizens. He also volunteers with the Law Society of Ontario's Coach and Advisor Network.

Justice of the Peace Shawyer has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Andrea Elizabeth Swinton worked as the executive director of the Senior Living CaRES Fund since 2021. Previously, Justice of the Peace Swinton held key executive positions with the Samuel Family Foundation, Mental Health Research Canada, the Hearing Foundation of Canada, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada and ProAction Cops & Kids. She is a volunteer board member at Progress for Mental Health, Endeavour Consulting for Non-Profits and is chair of the Governance Committee of Hazel Burns Hospice.

Justice of the Peace Swinton has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Illana Shoshanah Szenes worked as a bilingual municipal prosecutor for the City of Toronto since 2005. Previously, she was a paralegal for the Department of Justice at the Toronto Drug Treatment Court, Toronto Old City Hall and Youth Court and the Agent Supervision Unit. Justice of the Peace Szenes worked as a member of the Legal Division Wellness Committee and as a trainer/mentor for the City of Toronto. She volunteered for several years as secretary of the school council executive for Rosedale Heights Public School.

Justice of the Peace Szenes has been assigned to Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Richard Ronald Therrien has been the principal at Summerhill Strategies since 2010. He has also worked as a director of special projects at the Ministry of Long-Term Care, as a principal gift manager at the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation and as a senior campaign director for One-to-One Fundraising Consultants. Justice of the Peace Therrien has been a volunteer for Healthy Minds Canada, an alumni volunteer for Laurentian University, a volunteer delegate for Canada at the Francophonie Summit and a volunteer board member for Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto.

Justice of the Peace Therrien has been assigned to Barrie.

Justice of the Peace Henry Tso was a director at MNP LLP, an accounting, tax and business consulting firm, since 2019. He retired as a superintendent of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, after serving for 24 years in various key positions including officer in charge of the Federal Serious and Organized Crime Unit and internationally as first secretary of the Canadian Mission to China when he was seconded to Global Affairs Canada. Justice of the Peace Tso serves as an investigative consultant for the International Justice Mission and as vice president of the board of directors for the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers Canada. He holds a Master of Business Administration and is a chartered professional accountant.

Justice of the Peace Tso has been assigned to Newmarket.

Additional Resources

- [Read about the Ontario Court of Justice](#)
- [Read about the appointment of judges to the Ontario Court of Justice](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expanding Safe Use of Biosimilars

Transitioning to biosimilars will allow province to invest in and improve access to medicines

December 20, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — Ontario is joining several other provinces and territories by expanding the use of biosimilar drug treatments for Ontarians. Starting March 31, 2023, Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) recipients who are on an originator biologic will begin to transition to a Health Canada approved biosimilar version of the drug at no cost.

“Ontario is joining other provinces and territories in the country by expanding the use of safe and effective biosimilar drugs,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Patients will continue receiving the same high-quality treatment, while allowing the government to fund more new drug therapies, bring innovation to the health care system and continue its work to deliver better, connected patient care.”

Patients and health care providers can be confident that the quality, safety and patient benefits of the biosimilar are highly similar to the biologic drug. Biosimilars undergo the same robust and rigorous approval process by Health Canada and to be approved in Canada, a biosimilar must be proven to be highly similar, with no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety and efficacy.

Ontarians receiving coverage under the ODB program for Copaxone®, Enbrel®, Humalog®, Humira®, Lantus®, NovoRapid®, Remicade®, and Rituxan®, will be required to transition to the biosimilar version by December 29, 2023. During the transition period between March 31 and December 29, 2023, patients are encouraged to discuss a transition plan with their health care provider through in-person, telephone or virtual visits. Exemptions will be considered for patients in certain clinical circumstances on a case-by-case basis in consultation with their health care provider.

Ahead of the transition period starting on March 31, 2023, the ministry will continue to work with partners, including physicians, pharmacists and manufacturers, to ensure a smooth and successful transition. This switch will allow

Ontario to invest more in new and innovative drug treatments and continue to grow the roster of publicly funded life saving drugs.

Quick Facts

- Biosimilars have been used in the European Union for more than 15 years and Ontario is the eighth Canadian jurisdiction to expand the use of biosimilar medications, following British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick, Quebec, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.
 - Biologics are drugs made with living organisms (e.g., yeast or animal cells), rather than being synthetically manufactured, and are often used to treat patients with chronic health conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and diabetes. An originator biologic is the first version of a biologic drug.
 - Biosimilars are biologic drugs that enter the market after the patents or data protection rights for the originator biologic expire, have similar effectiveness, safety, and quality as the originator biologic and have been approved for use in Canada by Health Canada.
-

Quotes

"Expanding the use of biosimilars will support the sustainability of Ontario's drug program by encouraging companies to bring more products to market which will provide patients with the high quality treatments and support services they need and deserve. Biosimilars Canada and its member companies congratulate the Government of Ontario for moving ahead with a biosimilars switching policy and remain committed to working with the government, specialists and stakeholders to ensure the smooth transition to biosimilars for Ontarians."

- Jim Keon
President, Biosimilars Canada

"We applaud the Ontario government's decision to adopt a biosimilar switch policy. Not only will this deliver meaningful savings which can be reinvested elsewhere in the healthcare system, but importantly, it provides increased access and options for patients instead of relying on more expensive brand-name biologic products."

- Jeff Watson
President and CEO, Apotex

"Arthritis Society Canada believes a switch to a biosimilar can take place safely under the right conditions, can improve access to treatment and provide savings to the healthcare system. We look forward to working with the Ontario government to ensure the transition is seamless for patients and their families. Arthritis Society Canada has educational and support materials available to help patients and families learn more about biosimilars."

- Dr. Siân Bevan
Chief Science Officer, Arthritis Society Canada

"Today's drug policy announcement will help ensure continued reimbursement coverage for patients with inflammatory arthritis who transition to a biosimilar biologic. Biosimilars are as effective and safe as originator biologics but are available at a much lower cost. Based on the successful patient experience in B.C, Alberta, Quebec and other provinces and territories, patients should feel confident about the transitioning and that the Ontario government will reinvest savings into their healthcare system, especially at this time when resources to maintain and improve patient care are urgently needed."

- Cheryl Koehn
Founder and President, Arthritis Consumer Experts

"Both biologics and biosimilars have gone through rigorous standards for authorization by Health Canada, to which both have been found safe and effective for use in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). CDHF knows having to change any kind of medication can be very stressful. While we believe in patient-physician choice, we acknowledge political policy decisions and our organization is committed to providing clear and unbiased information on biosimilars."

- Kelsey Cheyne
Executive Director, Canadian Digestive Health Foundation

"Pfizer supports the Ministry of Health's efforts to expand access to cost-effective biosimilar treatments for Ontario residents."

- Frederic Lavoie
Pfizer Canada

"I have been following the development of the Biosimilars for over 10 years, and experience in other countries and more recently in sister provinces has convinced and reassured me that physician-supervised switching is a safe and effective in clinical practice, and supported by numerous studies. Biosimilars are not new and are approved by Health Canada as safe and effective, with over 50 biosimilars currently approved for use in Canada."

- Dr. Carter Thorne
Chair, Centre of Arthritis Excellence

"The Ontario Rheumatology Association has been a longstanding supporter of a biosimilar switch policy as we know that biosimilars are safe and effective for our patients and will result in significant cost savings to the health care system."

- Dr. Felix Leung
President, Ontario Rheumatology Association

Additional Resources

- [Get coverage for prescription drugs](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Premier Doug Ford Names New Chief of Staff

Jamie Wallace taking on new role as Chief Executive Officer of Supply Ontario

December 23, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — Today, Premier Doug Ford named Patrick Sackville as his new chief of staff, effective immediately. Jamie Wallace will remain available to support a smooth and effective transition until January 23.

“Since day one of our government, Patrick has been a constant source of support and leadership as he’s successfully stickhandled some of the most pressing and challenging files,” said Premier Ford. “Patrick has my complete confidence and will do great things as the new chief. There’s no better person to take on this role as our government continues to build Ontario.”

Mr. Sackville brings extensive private-sector and government experience to the role. He currently serves as principal secretary, before which he held various leadership roles in the premier’s office. Mr. Sackville also brings a deep knowledge of the province’s energy and infrastructure sectors.

“There are no words to express my gratitude to Jamie for his many years of advice, leadership and, most of all, friendship,” said Premier Ford. “He leaves behind an amazing legacy that he should be extremely proud of, including helping to steer Ontario through the COVID-19 pandemic. I’m thrilled he’ll be leading Supply Ontario next as he brings the important mission of this agency to life.”

Jamie Wallace, who has served as chief of staff since 2019, has been named the new chief executive officer of Supply Ontario, the government agency charged with transforming and modernizing public procurement in Ontario to deliver better value and outcomes for taxpayers and public sector partners.

“It has been humbling and a privilege to serve Premier Ford, his government and the people of Ontario over the past four years,” said Mr. Wallace. “I’m enormously grateful for the partnership we’ve built with Michelle DiEmanuele and our incredible public service. And I couldn’t be prouder of, or more confident in the

amazing team now in place in our office to carry on the important work of implementing Premier Ford’s important and ambitious agenda to build a better Ontario.”

Supply Ontario will provide more details about Mr. Wallace’s appointment in the near future.

Related Topics

Government

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

Spread the Word: Local Pharmacies Now a One-Stop-Shop for Thirteen Common Ailments

Highly trained pharmacists able to prescribe for common ailments with no cost for the visit

December 28, 2022

[Health](#)

TORONTO — Ontario is making it more convenient for people to connect to care closer to home by launching pharmacist prescribing for some of the most common medical ailments.

As of January 1, 2023, Ontarians will be able to stop in at pharmacies across the province to receive prescriptions for thirteen common ailments, including rashes, pink eye, insect bites and urinary tract infections with just their health card. This service makes it more convenient to access care by removing a doctor's office visit and will come at no extra cost to Ontarians.

"Stopping by your local pharmacy for quick and easy access to treatment for some of your most common ailments increases your access to the care you need closer to home," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Expanding the ability of pharmacists to provide care is one more way we're putting people at the centre of our health care system, making it easier, faster and more convenient to access health care in their community."

Pharmacists will be able to offer prescriptions for:

- hay fever (allergic rhinitis);
- oral thrush (candidal stomatitis);
- pink eye (conjunctivitis; bacterial, allergic and viral);
- dermatitis (atopic, eczema, allergic and contact);
- menstrual cramps (dysmenorrhea);
- acid reflux (gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD));
- hemorrhoids;
- cold sores (herpes labialis);
- impetigo;
- insect bites and hives;

- tick bites (post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent Lyme disease);
- sprains and strains (musculoskeletal); and
- urinary tract infections (UTIs).

Allowing pharmacists to prescribe for these common ailments will make it more convenient for Ontarians to receive the care they need, while offering patients more convenient choices for how they access and receive health care. With a large, provincewide footprint, pharmacist prescribing will help to increase access to care in rural parts of Ontario.

In addition to providing more convenience, pharmacy prescribing will also help free-up doctors' bandwidth to provide care for more complex needs, helping to reduce wait times for these services.

Quick Facts

- A common ailment is a health condition that can be reliably self-diagnosed and managed with self-care strategies and/or minimal treatment.
 - Anyone with symptoms should contact their local pharmacist to confirm whether they provide prescribing services for certain common ailments before visiting the pharmacy.
 - This change builds on pharmacists' current knowledge, skills and judgement to recommend over-the-counter medications and allows physicians to focus on the more complex health care needs of their patients.
 - These changes are being made in partnership with the Ontario College of Pharmacists.
 - Ontarians can now also visit local pharmacies for Paxlovid prescriptions. Visit ontario.ca/antivirals for more information on eligibility and to find local pharmacies that are dispensing Paxlovid.
-

Quotes

"Empowering pharmacists to use their expertise to assess and treat minor ailments helps patients get the care they need sooner and closer to home – but the benefits go much further," says Justin Bates, CEO, Ontario Pharmacists Association. "It reduces demand on hospitals, emergency departments, walk-in clinics and family physicians. It also frees up time for our healthcare partners, allowing doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers to focus on more complex care cases."

- Justin Bates
CEO of Ontario Pharmacists Association

"Shoppers Drug Mart applauds the Ontario government for helping make it easier for patients to access health care right in their own communities. With over 800 locations across the province, our pharmacy teams stand ready to help provide this service at no cost to Ontarians."

- Jeff Leger
President of Shoppers Drug Mart

"Our Rexall pharmacies and pharmacists are proud to call hundreds of communities across Ontario home. We know that pharmacists are critical to the delivery of accessible healthcare in the province, and we are excited to be able to assess and prescribe the necessary medication for the 13 identified minor ailments. We're pleased that all our Rexall stores in Ontario will be participating and continue to be part of the solution to help a strained healthcare system, for the benefit of the people in Ontario."

- Nicolas Caprio
President of Rexall Pharmacy Group

"McKesson Canada applauds the Ontario government for supporting minor ailment prescribing services for pharmacists and making health care more accessible and efficient in our province. Our independent pharmacists at Guardian, I.D.A., Remedy'sRx and The Medicine Shoppe have a long history of assisting patients in communities across the province. We look forward to working with the government to help provide greater convenience and choice to patients obtain quality health-care services where they need them the most."

- Smita Patil

Vice President Retail Member Relations and Professional Affairs at
McKesson Canada

Additional Resources

- Visit ontario.ca/commonailments for more details
- [Ontario Introduces a Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)

Related Topics

Health and Wellness

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

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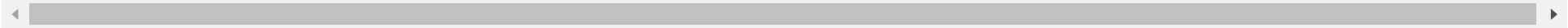
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BACKGROUND

Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2023

December 30, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

The following legislation and regulation changes come into effect on January 1, 2023. They are listed by responsible ministry.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

The Ontario government is amending the *Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act* to better support the province's 483 agricultural and horticultural societies. These groups educate citizens about agriculture, beautify downtowns, and host fall fairs and exhibitions. Amid some societies reporting a drop in membership levels partly due to the pandemic, the proposed amendment would lower the minimum member thresholds for the societies to qualify for annual provincial grants needed to operate and ensure financial sustainability. The new threshold for agricultural societies would be reduced from 60 to 40 members. For horticultural societies, it would be reduced from 50 to 25 members except in territorial districts where it would be reduced to 15 from 25 members.

Ministry of the Attorney General

The Ontario government is amending a regulation under the *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019* to generate revenue and opportunity for growth in the hospitality industry on a permanent basis. Bars, restaurants and other licensed establishments are now able to create or extend temporary patios, as long as their municipality or band council has the approved extension, on a permanent basis. Temporary patios may only operate for a maximum of eight months per calendar year. Temporary patio extensions were previously enabled through AGCO Registrar Policy.

The Ontario government is amending a regulation under the *Professional Engineers Act* to make the Professional Engineers Ontario's Professional Evaluation and Knowledge Program mandatory for all licence holders to ensure continued education and professional development.

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

The Ontario government in accordance with a regulation under the *Anti-Racism Act, 2017* and the Anti-Racism Data Standards is requiring all Ontario school boards to collect race-based data as it relates to academic performance, special education received and suspensions, expulsions or a decision of a principal to refuse to admit students to a school or classroom.

The Ontario government is bringing into force amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* to streamline and focus processes for heritage protection while reducing approval delays for housing and other projects, including:

- Changes to the processes and requirements governing provincial heritage properties.
- Improve requirements around the inclusion of non-designated properties on a municipal register that would encourage increased information sharing and timely decision-making.
- New limitations on designation for properties subject to proposed development.
- Prescribe criteria for including non-designated properties on a municipal register and establishing heritage conservation districts while raising the threshold for designation of individual properties.

Ministry of Education

The Ontario government has declared that individuals who applied for a letter of certificate from the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario or the Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario, no later than December 31, 2010, and received their approved letter of certificate by February 23, 2014, are no longer considered to have met the necessary education and training requirement to become a member of the College of Early Childhood Educators.

The Ontario government is amending the licensing requirements under the *Child Care and Early Years Act* to streamline the child care licensing process. The new amendments will ensure all licensing applicants have their eligibility for the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding confirmed prior to investing in becoming licensed and operational by requiring them to:

- Consult with their local service system managers (SSMs) and obtain advice as to whether they will be eligible to receive CWELCC funding (in alignment with local targeted growth plans); or
- Advise their local service system manager of their application and that they will not be applying for enrolment in CWELCC.

Amendments will also streamline and expedite the application process by requiring applicants to submit key municipal approvals together with their application.

New regulations will be implemented to set modernized standards for lodgings at provincial and demonstration schools in Ontario by enhancing student safety, supporting a healthy learning environment and promoting consistency, accountability, and transparency in all provincial and demonstration school lodging programs.

Ministry of Energy

The Ontario government is establishing a voluntary Ultra-Low Overnight (ULO) Price Plan for consumers who pay Regulated Price Plan (RPP) electricity rates. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will be required to direct local distribution companies (LDCs) to allow RPP customers – which includes residences, small businesses and farms – the ability to switch to the new plan.

The Ontario government is amending its efficiency regulation under the *Electricity Act, 1998* to update energy efficiency standards for 18 products (e.g., residential heat pumps, air conditioners, commercial water heaters, commercial gas furnaces, liquid-filled transformers, vending machines, etc.) to maintain harmonization with federal, U.S. government and other industry standards.

The Ontario government is amending a regulation under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, for Ontario Power Generation to establish a variance account to track additional revenues and costs associated with the revised shutdown schedule for Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (i.e., September 2026 instead of December 2025). The Ontario Energy Board would review the account balance and determine its disposition in a future rate-setting period.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

The Ontario government is amending its Emissions Performance Standards program to meet stricter benchmark criteria set by the federal government, allowing the program to extend to 2030 and ensuring Ontario industries remain covered by our own Ontario-made program that will continue to be fair, cost-effective and flexible to meet the unique needs and circumstances of our province. The government will bring forward plans for the use of proceeds from the EPS program in 2023.

In addition, the Ontario government is amending its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting program to support the implementation and delivery of the province's Emissions Performance Standards program for the 2023-2030 period

and maintain harmonization with federal GHG reporting requirements.

Regulatory amendments will require the use of a new hazardous waste reporting registry with streamlined reporting processes for more than 40,000 businesses and institutions regulated by the Hazardous Waste program, while modernizing by shifting from paper to electronic reports. Information will be submitted through a digital reporting service delivered by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority. The reporting service opened on November 15, 2022, and the regulated community will be required to use it starting January 1, 2023. A new regulation was also created to carry over existing fee exemptions from Regulation 347 (e.g., fee exemptions for municipalities running hazardous waste days) and outlines other fee setting requirements the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority must follow when recovering the full cost of the Hazardous Waste program.

In setting clear rules to support the appropriate beneficial reuse of excess soils and working with municipalities and other law enforcement agencies to help put a stop to the illegal dumping of excess soil, the Ontario government implemented a pause beginning in April 2022 of certain requirements in the Excess Soil Regulation that came into effect January 1, 2022. The provisions that were paused will come back into effect on January 1, 2023, and include an amendment that removes the reuse planning requirements, such as registration, sampling and tracking, for excess soil moved from lower-risk projects, and amending the Rules for Soil Management and Excess Soil Quality Standards (Soil Rules) to remove limits on the pile size for temporary piles of soil for storage.

The Ontario government brought in a regulation providing an exemption for certain Peel Region roads from the prohibition under the *Environmental Assessment Act* on proceeding with a planned undertaking within 30 days of completion of the class EA (Environmental Assessment) process. As this 30-day waiting period ended in September 2022, the regulation is now spent and no longer needed.

Amendments to the regulation for Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities of Hydro One will be revoked on January 1, 2023. The revocation provision was included to provide MECP with time to update the approved Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities ("Class EA") to reflect the amendments made by the regulation.

On January 1, 2023, a time-limited exemption for Northern Ontario from the renewable content requirements for gasoline prescribed in the Cleaner Transportation Fuels regulation will expire.

Ontario finalized amendments to regulations made under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*. In the case of the Tires regulation, the government made the following changes intended to reduce unnecessary administrative requirements while ensuring the environment and consumers are protected:

- Amend the small producer exemption to require only record-keeping for all small producers.
- Update producer hierarchy to replace Ontario brand holders with Canadian brand holders.
- Add a provision to clarify what producer responsibility organizations can do for producers and how they share liability.
- Allow repair of tires to count toward management targets.

In the case of the Batteries regulation, the government made the following changes intended to streamline enforcement efforts and increase transparency related to visible fees:

- Amend the small producer exemption to require just record keeping for all small producers.
- Add a promotion and education requirement related to visible fees.
- Add a provision to clarify that producer responsibility organizations have shared liability with producers for certain aspects of the regulation, such as establishing the collection network and ensuring the collection is managed properly.

In the case of the Electrical and Electronic Equipment regulation, the government made the following changes intended to reduce streamline enforcement efforts and increase transparency related to visible fees:

- Add a promotion and education requirement related to visible fees.
- Update “producer agreement” provision to clarify how producer responsibility organizations and producers share liability.

The government finalized a new regulation under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* to establish a framework for administrative penalties (AP) orders for non-compliant producers and others regulated by the Act, thus allowing for the use of administrative penalties as an enforcement tool. As a result, the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority will have an additional compliance tool to ensure obligations under the RRCEA and its regulations are being met and to ensure there are no disruptions in waste diversion services to Ontarians.

Ministry of Finance

The Ontario government is making amendments to the *Ontario Business Corporations Act* that will require privately held business corporations to collect and retain certain beneficial ownership information and make it available upon request by law enforcement, tax, regulatory and other prescribed authorities.

The Ontario government has passed legislation regarding the current temporary reduction to provincial fuel and gas taxes. The legislation extends the current rate cut to December 31, 2023. This follows legislation passed in spring 2022 that cut the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre and the gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre for six months, from July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

The Ontario government has passed legislation to help vulnerable seniors by doubling the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payment for 12 months, starting January 2023. This measure will increase the maximum payment to \$166 per month for single seniors and to \$332 per month for couples – a maximum increase of almost \$1,000 per person in 2023. About 200,000 of the province's lowest income seniors will receive additional support in 2023.

Ministry of Francophone Affairs

Ontario is amending a regulation under the *French Language Services Act* to designate four new agencies: *Centre de santé communautaire de Timmins*, *Équipe de santé familiale académique Montfort*, *Foyer St. Jacques* and *Timiskaming Home Support*. As well, three existing designated agencies are expected to be amended to reflect an expansion of the programs they provide in French: Counselling and Family Service Ottawa, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario/Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre and Renfrew Victoria Hospital. Sixteen additional designated agencies are expected to be amended to reflect administrative changes with respect to the name of sponsoring ministries, agencies, and designated programs.

Ministry of Health

The Ontario government is making it easier for people to connect to care closer to home by bringing into force a new regulation under the *Pharmacy Act, 1991* that enables a pharmacist, an intern or registered pharmacy student to prescribe treatment options for 13 of the most common minor medical conditions.

The Ontario government will also bring into force amendments to a regulation under the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act* that will require the owner and operator of laboratories to report the results of tests into the Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS), where OLIS has the functional capability to receive the results of that particular test.

The Ontario government will bring into force a new regulation for health care professionals under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* that will reduce barriers to registration and help nurses start practising sooner, such as requiring timely decisions and responses from the College of Nurses, language proficiency testing requirements and exemption from Canadian experience requirements.

New legislation around the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019* will come into force that replaces references to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services in the *Mandatory Blood Testing Act, 2006* with the Minister of Health.

Ministry of Infrastructure

Ontario is making changes to an existing regulation under the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021* (BBFA) to set out circumstances in which the Minister of Infrastructure may modify rulings issued by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) related to work undertaken by electrical utilities on high-speed internet projects. It will also ensure compensation decisions related to high-speed internet projects can be made by the OEB when necessary. At the same time, Ontario is removing a separate BBFA regulation that no longer serves any purpose as a result of amendments to the BBFA that were passed in April 2022 under the *Getting Ontario Connected Act*. These changes will align the BBFA with existing legislation like the *Ontario Energy Board Act* to help build and deliver high-speed internet projects as quickly as possible.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Ontario government is improving community housing by requiring service managers to have an access system. This will make it easier to understand the different types of housing assistance available, who is eligible and how to apply.

To eliminate duplication, the Chief Electoral Officer is being given the authority to create a register of voters that can be used for both provincial and municipal elections.

To help municipalities accelerate the creation of new housing, the planning approval process has been streamlined and modernized. This includes incentivizing municipalities to make timely decisions by requiring them to refund rezoning and site plan control application fees if they fail to make a decision within legislated timelines. Recognizing that municipalities are working to speed up housing permits

and approvals, we will introduce legislation that would, if passed, delay the implementation of planning application refunds by six months, from January 1, 2023, to July 1, 2023.

Maximum income levels for rent-geared-to-income housing eligibility are updated to match the most recent data provided by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This supports Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy, including access to affordable housing and supports that meet people's needs.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

On July 1, 2022, regulation amendments under the *Aggregate Resources Act* were implemented to provide consistency with the On-site and Excess Soil Management Regulation under the *Environmental Protection Act*. In accordance with the details of the decision notice, as of January 1, 2023, *Aggregate Resources Act* licensees/permittees will be required to keep records detailing the soil quality deposited at a pit or quarry for seven years after the date on which rehabilitation of the pit or quarry is completed.

As part of *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, a new Minister's regulation will require conservation authorities to include fee provisions in cost apportioning agreements with municipalities and to identify lands suitable for housing or housing infrastructure in their land inventories.

As part of *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, a new Minister's regulation will focus conservation authorities' role when reviewing and commenting on proposals, applications or other matters under prescribed Acts related to development and land use planning.

The ministry has made changes to some of the short form wordings for offences under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* and *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Designating short form wordings for offences is necessary to allow provincial offences officers (e.g., conservation officers) to issue an offence notice (i.e., ticket) for offences in appropriate circumstances.

As of January 1, 2023, amendments to the Open Seasons regulation come into force for Wildlife Management Unit 93 to:

- Shorten the early bows-only season start date to September 1 and permit the use of bows during the gun seasons.
- Remove the alternating Saturday-Sunday bow-only and gun seasons and extend the alternating bow-only and gun Monday-Friday seasons to Monday-Sunday.

- Create a consistent season end date of December 31.

As of January 1, 2023, certain provisions introduced in the CAA through Schedule 2 of the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* will be brought into force.

- Conservation authorities will be required to conduct public consultation prior to disposing of certain lands that were previously purchased through a provincial grant.
- Conservation authorities may not review and comment on certain matters under prescribed Acts.
- The Minister can impose terms and conditions on projects carried out by a conservation authority under section 24 of the Act.
- The Minister may direct a conservation authority not to change the fees it charges for a specified period of time.

The proposed *Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Repeal Act, 2022* was introduced as part of *Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022* on November 16, 2022. It ends the deeming of easements or covenants that restrict the use of the lands in this area to agricultural only. Now, landowners and holders of the easements and covenants, like the City of Pickering or a conservation authority, will have the option to negotiate a change to or end current easements or covenants to make lands available for other uses without the consent of the Minister under the *Conservation Land Act*.

Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery

The Ontario government is amending regulations under the *Condominium Act, 1998* to set out a new interest rate calculation – based on the Bank of Canada rate – that condominium (condo) developers must use to pay purchasers interest on their money (deposits or other payments) when terminating purchase agreements, including for condo cancellations. The new rate applies to terminations related to condo projects that start selling on or after January 1, 2023. This new interest rate calculation would generally give purchasers more interest under these circumstances. This regulation revokes one that was previously filed in April 2022.

The government is also enhancing consumer protections for purchasers of new and pre-construction condos with amendments to a regulation under the *Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act*. Those amendments require that Tarion Warranty Corporation (Tarion) provide information about condo cancellations and terminated purchase agreements to the Home Construction Regulatory Authority for posting to the Ontario Builder Directory. Additionally, Tarion's authority to

require vendors and builders to provide information about cancelled condo projects and terminated purchase agreements (when they are terminated through no fault of the purchaser) has been clarified in regulation.

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ontario is amending use of force reporting under the *Police Services Act* to clarify and enhance reporting requirements in relation to use of force incidents in alignment with the *Anti Racism Act* and Anti Racism Data Standards. The modernized use of force report will be implemented by police services across Ontario.

Ministry of Transportation

The Ontario government is providing Ministry of Transportation enforcement officers and police with additional tools to enforce existing hours of service rules for commercial truck and bus drivers. Hours of service rules require commercial drivers to take a break after driving for a certain number of hours. Effective January 1, 2023, MTO enforcement officers and police will be able to prohibit a driver who has violated hours of service rules from operating a commercial vehicle for a period of time. Hours of service requirements help reduce driving fatigue and make roads safer for all drivers.

Effective January 1, 2023, most existing exemptions to Commercial Vehicle Operator Registration (CVOR) requirements are removed and new equipment requirements are added under the *Highway Traffic Act* to improve safety and ensure tow truck operators are held to the same standards as other commercial vehicle operators.

Ontario has introduced a new digital platform called DriveON to modernize and streamline the province's vehicle safety and emissions inspections processes. DriveON enables "one test, one result," meaning owners of diesel commercial vehicles can have both their emissions and their safety inspections done at the same time. DriveON will reduce opportunities for fraud, eliminate paper waste and help protect people and the environment from smog-causing pollutants.

Ontario is revoking or amending regulations that allowed extensions to driver licensing, vehicle registrations, accessible parking permit renewals and other vehicle products and/or carrier fees that were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Treasury Board Secretariat

Setting January 1, 2023, as the proclamation date for provisions under Schedule 1 of the *Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness Act, 2022* that requires publication and regular review of a provincial emergency plan. Additionally, housekeeping amendments have been made to an existing order in council, which outlines ministry responsibilities in emergencies, in order to update ministry names and reflect current responsibilities.

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

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

Education and Training

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

Environment and Energy

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

Government

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

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](#)

Taxes and Benefits

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

Media Contacts

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AGCO

Alcohol and Gaming
Commission of Ontario

**Alcohol and Gaming
Commission of Ontario**
90 Sheppard Avenue East
Suite 200
Toronto ON M2N 0A4

January 3, 2023

(La version française suit la version anglaise)

Reminder: New requirements for temporary outdoor physical extensions (temporary patios) now in effect

The AGCO would like to [remind](#) liquor sales licensees and manufacturers that hold a by-the-glass endorsement that the Ontario government's new approval framework for temporary outdoor physical extensions (temporary patios) is now in effect.

As of January 1, 2023, licensees located in [municipalities](#) no longer apply to the AGCO for a temporary patio.

Licensees in Municipalities:

- Must get approval of your temporary patio from your local [municipality](#)
- Must [notify](#) the AGCO of your approval, the duration of your approval and any conditions on the approval (see [Notifying the AGCO of an Approved Temporary Patio](#))
- **Please note: The AGCO no longer accepts applications or otherwise approves temporary patios for licensees in municipalities.**

Licensees on First Nations Reserves:

- Must get approval from the AGCO, unless the Band Council has chosen to manage temporary patio approvals (see [Temporary Patios on First Nation Reserves](#))
- Must [notify](#) the AGCO of any temporary patios approved by a Band Council, the duration of your approval and any conditions on the approval

Licensees in Unorganized Areas

- Must apply online to the AGCO for approval through the [iAGCO portal](#)

Note:

- If you have been operating a temporary patio for the past two years during the COVID-19 pandemic under the Registrar's policy, your patio will no longer be approved under the [Registrar's Policy](#) as of January 1, 2023 3:00 a.m., when the

policy expires. Starting January 1, 2023, you must get approval from the municipality, band council or AGCO (as applicable) to operate your temporary patio.

- If you get approval from the municipality or band council under the Ontario government's new approval framework, you must [notify](#) the AGCO before selling or serving liquor on the temporary patio.

Contact Information

For questions about temporary patio requirements unique to a municipality or First Nations Reserve where your licensed establishment is located, contact your [municipality](#) or First Nations Band Council.

For any other questions, local AGCO Inspectors are here to help and support you with additional information and education. If you are unsure who your AGCO Inspector is, please email Compliance@agco.ca with your licensed establishment address to get connected.

AGCO Customer Service is available online via the [iAGCO](#) portal or by phone Monday to Friday from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm at 416-326-8700 or (toll free) 1-800-522-2876.



CAJO

Commission des alcools
et des jeux de l'Ontario

3 janvier 2023

Rappel : Nouvelles exigences pour les agrandissements extérieurs temporaires (terrasses temporaires), maintenant en vigueur

La CAJO souhaite [rappeler](#) aux titulaires de permis de vente d'alcool et aux fabricants qui détiennent un avenant de vente au verre que le nouveau cadre d'approbation gouvernemental de l'Ontario pour l'exploitation d'un agrandissement extérieur temporaire (terrasse temporaire) est maintenant en vigueur.

À compter du 1er janvier 2023, les titulaires de permis dans les [municipalités](#) ne doivent plus s'adresser à la CAJO pour l'exploitation d'une terrasse temporaire.

Les titulaires de permis dans une municipalité :

- doivent faire approuver leur terrasse temporaire par leur [municipalité](#);
- doivent [informer](#) la CAJO de l'obtention d'une approbation, de la durée de celle-ci et de toute condition s'y rapportant (voir la page [Informer la CAJO de l'obtention d'une](#)

[approbation d'agrandissement extérieur temporaire \(terrasse temporaire\)\)](#).

- **Remarque : La CAJO n'accepte plus les demandes ni n'approuve les terrasses temporaires de titulaires de permis dans les municipalités.**

Les titulaires de permis dans une réserve des Premières Nations :

- doivent obtenir une approbation de la CAJO, sauf si le conseil de bande a décidé de gérer l'approbation des terrasses temporaires (voir la page [Agrandissement extérieur temporaire \(terrasse temporaire\) dans une réserve des Premières Nations](#)));
- doivent **informer** la CAJO de l'approbation de toute terrasse temporaire par le conseil de bande, de la durée de celle-ci et de toute condition s'y rapportant.

Les titulaires de permis dans un territoire non organisé :

- doivent demander l'approbation de la CAJO en ligne dans le [portail iCAJO](#).

Remarque :

- Si, depuis deux ans, vous avez exploité une terrasse temporaire pendant la pandémie de COVID-19 en vertu de la [politique du registraire](#), votre terrasse ne sera plus approuvée à compter du 1er janvier 2023 à 3 h, moment auquel la politique cesse d'être en vigueur. À compter du 1er janvier 2023, vous devez obtenir l'approbation de la municipalité, du conseil de bande ou de la CAJO (selon le cas) pour exploiter votre terrasse temporaire.
- Si vous obtenez l'approbation de la municipalité ou du conseil de bande, vous devrez en **informer** la CAJO avant de commencer à vendre ou à servir des boissons alcoolisées sur la terrasse temporaire.

Coordonnées

Pour toute question sur les exigences liées aux terrasses temporaires propres à la municipalité ou à la réserve des Premières Nations où se trouve votre établissement pourvu d'un permis, communiquez avec l'[administration municipale](#) ou le conseil de bande.

Si vous avez d'autres questions, consultez un inspecteur local de la CAJO, dont le rôle est de vous informer et de vous aider. Si vous ne savez pas qui est votre inspecteur, veuillez envoyer un courriel à Compliance@agco.ca en précisant l'adresse de votre établissement pourvu d'un permis.

Vous pouvez joindre le service à la clientèle de la CAJO à tout moment sur le portail en ligne [iCAJO](#) ou par téléphone du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 17 h, au 416 3268700

ou sans frais au 1 800 5222876.



AGCO | Alcohol and Gaming
Commission of Ontario

CAJO | Commission des alcools
et des jeux de l'Ontario

[View online - agco.ca](#) - [Unsubscribe](#)





Point of Care Ultrasound Certification for Community Paramedics

Posted on Tuesday, December 20, 2022



Taking part in the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) certification event earlier this month (from left) were Advanced Care Paramedics: Lee Chantrell, Wade MacPherson, Samantha Sloan, Justin Jordens, Matt Cruchet and Dan Palubiskie. MacPherson is an Independent Practitioner and Program Lead for Point of Care Ultrasound.

RELEASE DATE:

December 19, 2022

Renfrew County Paramedics break new ground in Point of Care Ultrasound

Once again, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service is leading the way, becoming the only Paramedic Service in Canada utilizing Point of Care Ultrasound in Community Paramedicine.

On Monday, December 5, the Service completed its first internal Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) certification event. This event saw six Advanced Care Paramedics complete a rigorous education curriculum involving ultrasound examinations that have the potential

to enhance patient safety, improve time to diagnosis, and guide treatment decisions out of hospital.

Renfrew County Paramedics have been exploring the use of Point of Care Ultrasound in Paramedicine for several years. Paramedics have completed education certifying instructors as Independent Practitioners under the Canadian Point of Care Ultrasound Society – Canada’s leading organization for certification and accreditation for family and emergency physicians across the country.

As improvements to technology allow ultrasound to be more portable, affordable, and reliable, its expansion into paramedicine medicine is timely. According to current available information, the County of Renfrew is the only Paramedic Service in Canada utilizing Point of Care Ultrasound in Community Paramedicine.

“I am incredibly proud of the specialized Paramedics who have undertaken this new certification, bringing next-generation care to patients in Renfrew County,” said Advanced Care Paramedic Wade MacPherson, Independent Practitioner and Program Lead for Point of Care Ultrasound. “Community Paramedics specialize in striving for health equity among the vulnerable – those who are located remotely, have limited mobility or support, and who are managing serious chronic illnesses. This technology has equipped us to continue delivering high quality care, with a high(er) degree of clinical accuracy, and I believe future research will demonstrate that ultrasound has enormous potential to enhance patient safety and expand patient care in our community.”

Paramedic Chief Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services for the County of Renfrew, is thrilled that Renfrew County Paramedics continue to lead the way in Community Paramedicine.

“Your paramedics are a critical link in keeping our communities safe. POCUS represents a leap in the quality of care they can provide,” he said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Nolan	Chief, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288

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



1000 days of RC VTAC

Posted on Wednesday, December 21, 2022



The Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre has transitioned into Clinical Assessment Centres, like the one in Arnprior located at the Grove Nursing Home on Ida Street.

Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre recognizes 1,000 days and nights

December 21, 2022 – For 1,000 days and nights, and counting, Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) has made a remarkable impact serving our community. As a, “made-in-Renfrew County” innovative solution, RC VTAC was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Over 70 per cent of people who get help from RC VTAC for an urgent health concern do not have a family doctor or alternative primary care provider. The incredible professionalism and dedication of our family doctors, paramedics, medical receptionists and administrative staff have provided a lifeline for families across Renfrew County and beyond,” said Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon, RC VTAC’s Medical Lead.

RC VTAC ensures that everyone, especially those without a doctor, can access family doctors and community paramedics for urgent healthcare needs, including COVID-19 assessment, testing and treatment.



The Clinical Assessment Centre at the Grove Nursing Home on Ida Street in Arnprior is set up with a number of exam rooms. Today, the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre is marking 1,000 days since it became operational.

"RC VTAC strengthens timely access to integrated healthcare services for all residents for any non-emergency medical concerns they may have. It has been used by tens of thousands of residents, resulting in fewer calls to 911 and emergency department visits, protecting these important resources for people experiencing a life-threatening emergency condition," said Michael Nolan, Chief of the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.

RC VTAC is facilitated by the County of Renfrew and Warden Peter Emon is actively advocating to secure long-term funding for the service.

"RC VTAC has emerged as a trusted tool for many and an essential component of ensuring the health of our family and friends in our community. Managing our health is important to us but also to the strained health system," said Warden Emon. "Continued investment in RC VTAC is a wise investment in improving our personal health and also an investment in improving the health of the healthcare system."

The County of Renfrew was honoured with the Peter J. Marshall Innovation award last year by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. And most recently, RC VTAC received the Community Impact Award from the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Gala in September. The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service was previously named Newsmakers of the Year by the Renfrew Mercury Newspaper, for its vital role in RC VTAC. Dr. Fitzsimon was recognized by the Ontario Medical Association with the Glenn Sawyer Service Award for service to the medical profession at the community level for his leadership role at RC VTAC.

RC VTAC is a collaboration between family doctors, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, primary care teams, Renfrew County Hospitals and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. Funding and support for this vital service are provided by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health. Learn more at www.rcvtac.ca or call 1-844-727-6404, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information contact:

Lindsay McLeese, RC VTAC Coordinator and Administrative Lead
at LMcLeese@countyofrenfrew.on.ca



The County of Renfrew received the Community Impact Award at the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Gala in September. Here with the award (from left) are Chief Michael Nolan, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service; Councillor Michael Donohue, Chair of the County Health Committee; Warden Debbie Robinson and Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

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

COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Initiative in Renfrew County and District (RCD)

Last updated: December 08, 2022

Overall interpretation

RCDHU is monitoring signals for viral COVID-19 particles in Pembroke and Petawawa wastewater. While average signals from both Pembroke and Petawawa sampling sites were **lower** in month of November compared to October, COVID-19 particles are still being detected in local wastewater. This data compliments other evidence (such as new outbreaks in high-risk settings being declared on a weekly basis) that demonstrate COVID-19 is still circulating in RCD.

Other respiratory diseases such as **influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** are also circulating, presenting a “triple threat” to our communities as we enter the holiday season.

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.

Please note that wastewater sampling in RCD is currently limited to Pembroke and Petawawa wastewater treatment plants, which service 30% of RCDHU's total population. As such, trends in wastewater may not necessarily reflect COVID-19 levels in RCD overall.

Use of [Provincial and regional wastewater data trends](#) is therefore recommended to supplement this data.

For example, current signals in Ontario overall show that wastewater detection levels are moderate and slightly increasing, while Eastern region public health units show moderate and stable levels after a period of decrease in recent weeks (as of Dec 8, 2022).

Please refer to [RCDHU's Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page for more information.



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

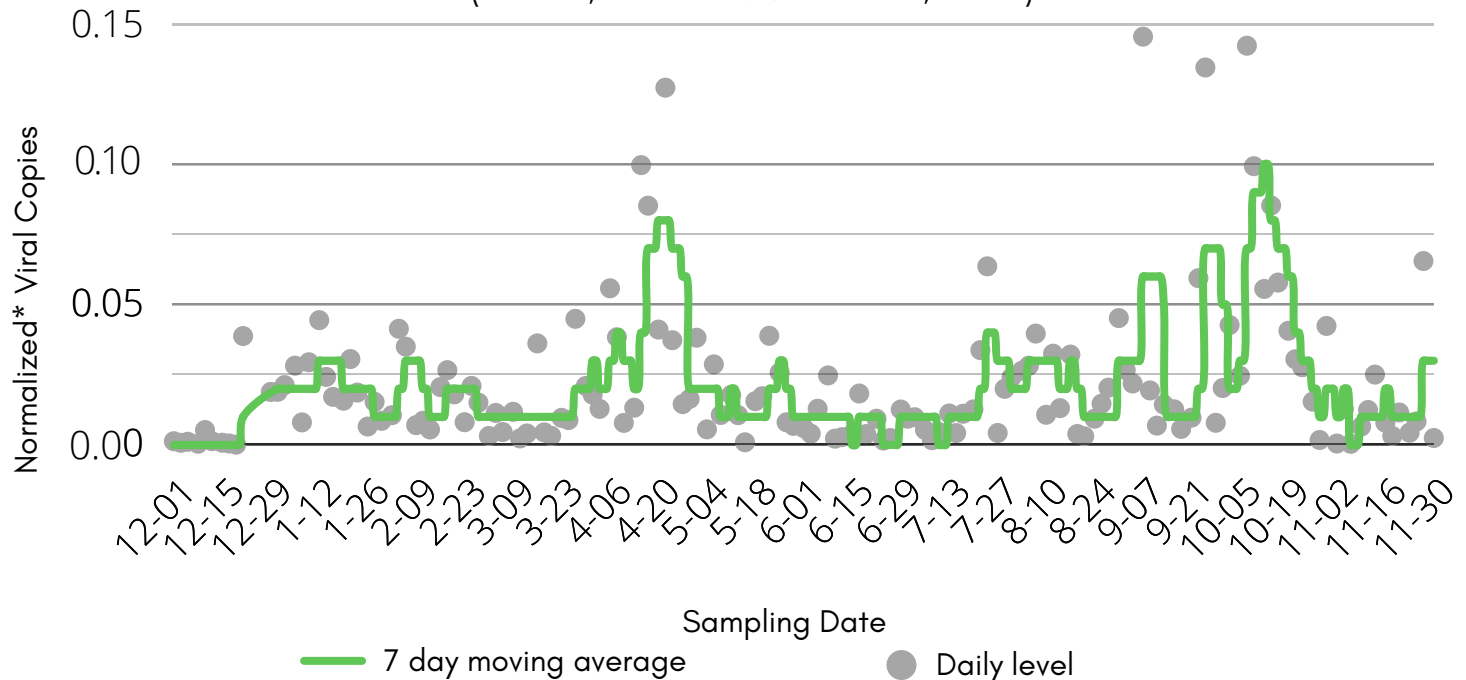
www.rcdhu.com

Page 1 of 2

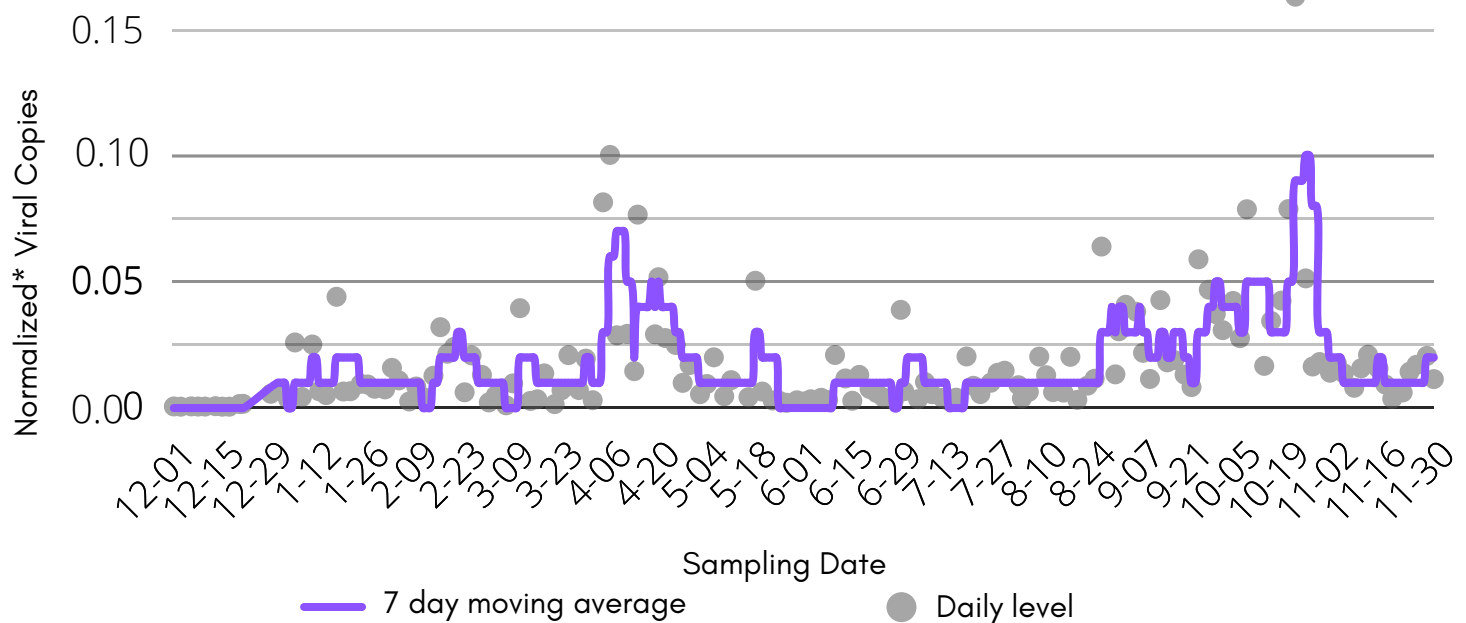
COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Initiative in Renfrew County and District (RCD)

Last updated: December 08, 2022

Pembroke Pollution Control Plant
(Dec. 01, 2021 to November 30, 2022)



Petawawa Wastewater Treatment Facility
(Dec. 01, 2021 to November 30, 2022)



***SARS-CoV-2 viral copies are normalized using a fecal biomarker that is seasonally stable. For more information, please visit RCDHU's [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page.**



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

www.rcdhu.com

Page 2 of 2



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 6:10 p.m., January 2, 2023)

Overdose Alert for Renfrew County and District

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) and the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service are alerting residents about several overdoses that have occurred over the last week in Renfrew County and District. "Paramedics have identified this concern and with our partners at RCDHU are notifying the public that life-threatening drugs likely are circulating, and lives are at risk" says Acting Commander Steve Osipenko.

Although the specific substance(s) related to the overdoses have not been confirmed, it is suspected that in some cases, cocaine may have been tainted with a highly potent opioid (such as, fentanyl). It is important to remember *that all* street drugs must be considered highly toxic and potentially fatal.

Individuals who use street drugs can reduce their risk of an overdose by putting the following measures in place:

- **Don't use alone** - If you overdose, there will be no one there to help.
- **Carry naloxone (Narcan®)** - Naloxone can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose and kits are available for free throughout RCD at local pharmacies and other locations. For more information on where to get a kit please visit [this link](#).
- **Don't mix drugs** - Don't mix drugs with other drugs or alcohol, as it puts you at higher risk of overdosing.
- **Go slow** - Quality of street drugs is unpredictable. If you are using street drugs, start by using in small amounts (testers or test doses) to check the strength of what you are using.
- **Know your tolerance** - Risk of overdose increases if you are a new user or have not used in 3+ days.
- If you have no other choice than to use alone, always call the Overdose Prevention Hotline 1-888-688-6677 ([National Overdose Response Service](#)) to have someone standing by to call for help if needed. A volunteer will check in periodically and call 911 if there's no response.

Understanding the signs of an overdose can help to save a life. These signs can include, but are not limited to:

- Slow or irregular breathing, or no breathing at all.
- Fingernails and/or lips are blue/purple.
- Body is limp.
- Deep snoring or gurgling sounds.
- Loss of consciousness/passed out (can't wake the person up).
- Unresponsive (not answering when you talk to them or shake them).
- Pinpoint (tiny) pupils.

All overdoses are a medical emergency and calling 911 is an important step in saving someone's life.

We ask that people who are aware of overdoses assist us by completing RCDHU's anonymous online [Overdose Reporting Form](#), which is used to support tracking overdoses within the community. The Overdose Reporting Form does not ask for any identifying information and can be completed directly on RCDHU's website.

Support is available; the [Renfrew County Addiction Treatment System](#) delivers assessment, counselling and treatment programs to individuals who use substances.

It's ok to not be ok... If you, or someone you know are experiencing feelings of stress, anxiety, grief etc. supports can be accessed [here](#).



Naloxone and the Workplace

Some employers required to provide kits and train staff

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

Some Ontario employers will be required to provide care for a drug overdose by an employee in their workplace and train staff to do it.

Naloxone is a drug that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Opioids are doctor-prescribed medication and are often used recreationally. Common names include heroin, morphine, oxycodone, fentanyl, codeine and hydromorphone.

Starting June 1, 2023, employers must provide naloxone in the workplace if certain circumstances described in the Occupational Health and Safety Act apply. In addition, employers must ensure someone in the workplace always has the required training. The employer must ensure that the training provided to the worker in charge of the naloxone kit includes training on any hazards related to the administration of naloxone and possible training on how to respond to a potentially violent



person and protections related to biological exposure. Opioid withdrawal symptoms can include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The government did not indicate if the training was provided free of charge or if it is to be paid by the employer.

For a limited time only, free training and nasal spray kits are provided through Ontario's Workplace Naloxone Program. The government did not indicate the length of the "limited time."

Not all employers will be required to comply. Employers must provide a naloxone kit

when an employer becomes aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, of the following:

- 1) There is a risk of a worker opioid overdose
- 2) There is a risk the worker overdoses in a workplace where they perform work
- 3) The risk is posed by a worker who performs work

If all scenarios are present, the employer must provide naloxone in the workplace. If any one is not present, an employer does not need to comply.

The rules on how to ascertain if an employee could succumb to

an overdose are not explained. However, the following suggestions were provided:

- A worker opioid overdose may have already occurred
- A worker who uses opioids may voluntarily disclose this
- An employer may observe opioid use among workers in their workplace
- An employer may find discarded opioid paraphernalia (i.e. used needles)

- The health and safety committee, a union rep, human resources staff, or someone else in the workplace may bring this risk to the employer's attention.

If the employer is not aware of a risk of one of their workers having an opioid overdose at the workplace, an employer would not need to comply. The legislative requirements do not apply to opioid overdoses by a customer or non-worker.

For more information visit www.ontario.ca/workplacenalozone



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Events

December 22, 2022

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

www.digitalmainstreet.ca/events

January 4, 2023

The Money Side of Business: Tools and Techniques to Manage Your Finances. 10:00am-11:00am. Free virtual session. This financial literacy session will enable you to be able to use financial management tools to evaluate business and make informed financial decisions for your small business. Speaker is a registered CPA.

www.sbcontario.ca

January 9, 2023

T2 Corporation Tax Literacy Seminar. Free virtual session. 9:30am-11:30am. Presented by the Canada Revenue Agency's liaison officer service program. The presentation is geared towards small incorporated businesses and will provide participants with the basic principles and resources needed to navigate the tax system.

www.sbcontario.ca

January 10, 2023

Starting Your Business Basics. Free virtual session. 12:00pm-1:30pm. Sessions are geared towards those considering entrepreneurship and those who have already decided to start their own business and are ready to take the next steps.

www.sbcontario.ca

January 10, 2023

Web Presence 101: Ensuring your foundation is set. Free virtual session. 10:00am-11:30am. In this workshop hosted by the Toronto Digital Service Squad we'll discuss the importance of getting your business online and where to start with developing your online presence. www.sbcontario.ca

January 11, 2023

Social Enterprise 101. Virtual. 3:00pm-4:00pm. In this webinar, you will learn more about social enterprise models and characteristics, local examples, support resources, and considerations for starting. Free. www.csedottawa.ca/events

January 11, 2023

Getting Read For ONCA: An introductory legal clinic. 9:00am-11:00am. Free virtual session. Ontario's Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA) was proclaimed on October 19, 2021. Non-profits have until October 18, 2024 to update their bylaws and letters patent to comply with ONCA. This session is aimed at helping organizations incorporated under the Ontario's Corporations Act or a special Act transition to the ONCA.

www.volunteerottawa.ca or education@volunteerottawa.ca

January 11, 2023

Plan for an Extraordinary 2023. Free virtual event. 9:30am-11:00am. In this session we will create 2023 business plans for your business. Please make sure you have reviewed 2022 using the online workbook provided and be ready to work on 2023 plans in this session.

www.sbcontario.ca

January 11, 2023

Insurance for Small Business. Free virtual session. 10:00am-11:30am. This informative webinar will provide you with working knowledge of small business insurance, demystifying all the jargon. It will also enable you to ask the right kinds of questions from insurance professionals.

www.sbcontario.ca

January 12, 2023

Bookkeeping 101: What business owners need to know. 9:00am-11:00am. Free webinar. How to set up records and filing systems, quarterly and annual remittances, best practices in payroll, allowable expenses and more. www.smallbizcentre.ca

January 16, 2023

Google Advertising: The Business Owner's Starter Guide. Virtual. 12:00pm-1:00pm. In this free workshop, we will unveil the facts about this often misunderstood form of online promotion, and lay out a framework that will help you decide if it's right for your business. Register at:

www.eventbrite.ca/e/482601874197

January 19, 2023

Income Tax Preparation for Sole Proprietorship and Partnership Businesses. Free virtual session. 9:00am-10:30am. Business income tax reporting, costs of goods sold, business expenses, calculating business use of home expenses, capital cost allowance and motor vehicle expenses.

www.smallbizcentre.ca

January 23, 2023

Importing 101. Virtual. 1:00pm-2:30pm. This seminar will provide a broad outline of what

you need to know to start importing goods from abroad including financial issues, permits and licences, free trade agreements and more. Free. Register at:

www.eventbrite.ca/e/487083739577

January 24, 2023

From Strategy to Execution in Non-Profits. \$145. 9:00am-12:00pm. Project design and execution feature prominently in the operations of most not-for-profits. Whether it is at the planning stage of a project, applying for a grant, or when moving on to carry out the project, questions arise about timelines, costs, and implementation. This workshop focuses on key project planning and management questions, providing participants with concrete suggestions and steps regarding how to navigate the period between strategy and execution.

www.volunteerottawa.ca or education@volunteerottawa.ca

January 31, 2023

Finding Opportunities on CanadaBuys. Free webinar. 12:00pm-1:00pm. CanadaBuys is where you will find federal bid opportunities and related procurement information. This webinar provides an overview and demonstration of the CanadaBuys website's key features and functions. Register by calling 873-355-9796 or email TPSGC.PASACRCN-APPACNCR.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

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Tax-Free First Home Savings Account

How the account can be used, contributions and withdrawals

Source: CPA Canada
www.cpacanada.com

The federal government has released new details about a new type of registered savings plan aimed at helping Canadians save for their first home. The Tax-Free First Home Savings Account (FHSA) was proposed in Budget 2022. Assuming the bill will be passed, the FHSA rules will enter into force on April 1, 2023.

The FHSA offers prospective first-time home buyers the ability to save \$40,000 tax-free. Contributions to an FHSA would be tax deductible, much like an RRSP. Income and gains inside an FHSA as well as withdrawals would be tax-free.

Eligibility

To open an FHSA, you must be an individual resident of Canada who is at least 18 years of age. You must also be a first-time

home buyer. This means that you, or your spouse or common-law partner did not own a home that you lived in as a principal residence in the year the account is opened or the preceding four calendar years. A home owned by your spouse in which you lived during the relevant period will put you off-side if that person is still your spouse when the FHSA is opened.

Maximum Contribution

You can contribute up to \$40,000 over your lifetime and up to \$8,000 in any one year, including 2023. The annual limit applies to contributions made within the calendar year only. You may carry forward up to \$8,000 of unused contribution to a later year. For example, if you open an FHSA in 2023 and contribute \$5,000, you can contribute up to \$11,000 in 2024. Finally, like RRSPs, you can

make a contribution but defer the deduction until a later year.

Withdrawals

Qualifying withdrawals must meet these conditions:

- A first-time home buyer when making the withdrawal
- Have a written agreement to buy or build a qualifying home before October 1 of the year after the year of withdrawal; and intend to occupy the home as a principal residence within one year after buying or building

A qualifying home is a housing unit located in Canada (or a share in a cooperative housing corporation).

Any funds left over after making a qualifying withdrawal can be transferred to an RRSP or RRIF, penalty-free and tax-deferred, as long as you transfer the remaining funds by December 31 of the following year.

If you take out FHSA savings as a non-qualifying withdrawal, you must include the amount in income for the year of the withdrawal and tax will be withheld.

Which is Best: FHSA, Home Buyers' Plan or TFSA?

The Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) allows a first-time home buyer to withdraw up to \$35,000 from their RRSP to purchase or build a home without having to pay tax on the withdrawal. You must then repay any amounts withdrawn to an RRSP within 15 years, starting the second year following the year in which you made the withdrawal.

The HBP continues to be available under existing rules. Thus, you can make both an FHSA withdrawal and HBP withdrawal for the same qualifying home purchase.



**When you can fly
anything is possible**



**Pembroke & Area
AIRPORT**
We make it possible.

On behalf of the airport staff and commission, we wish our local and extended community the very best of the holiday season. May 2023 be good to all of us.



The Spirit of
Entrepreneurship
Inspires A
Community

With greatest appreciation to our courageous and determined business community that has made it through another year of uncertainty. Your perseverance is what keeps us all going.

**Ottawa Valley
BUSINESS**

www.ovbusiness.com | admin@ovbusiness.com

Ontario Government News In Brief

Electric vehicles, francophone funding, electricity, Ornge and more

First All-Electric Vehicle

Manufacturing Facility Opens
On December 5, the first General Motors manufacturing facility for electric vehicles opened in Ingersoll. The Ontario government contributed \$259 million to the project.

Francophone

Entrepreneurs Funded

The Ontario government is providing \$500,000 to help Francophone entrepreneurs. The Cooperation Council of Ontario (CCO), The college La Cité and The Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario (AFESEO) will share \$400,000. The Ontario government will also provide \$100,000 to the Fédération des gens d'affaires francophones de l'Ontario (FGA). 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.

Software Program Implemented in Eastern Ontario Hospitals

The Ontario government is funding the implementation of a new, innovative software across hospitals in Eastern Ontario. This HUB, built by Novari Health, consolidates patients waiting for surgery into a real-time regional waitlist system. 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. All hospitals that perform adult surgeries will be involved including Almonte, Arnprior, Carleton Place, Deep River, Glengarry, Kemptville, Ottawa Heart, Pembroke, Renfrew and Winchester. Ottawa Hospital and Hawkesbury will be

onboarded first. The government is investing \$300 million in 2022-23 for this initiative.

Ontario Experiments with Electricity Costs

The Ontario government is launching a new pilot program to explore dynamic electricity pricing and its ability to lower electricity bills for small and medium-sized businesses. The pilots will test alternate pricing structures that encourage participants to shift electricity consumption to hours where electricity demand is low, helping to reduce costs for businesses. The pilots will help inform the government on the potential for alternate pricing options to provide electricity system benefits and in turn, lower electricity bills for all customers. Small and medium-sized businesses, farms and community centres that are included in the Class B electricity rate class and don't

have access to time-of-use or tiered rates may be eligible to participate in the new pilot program.

Ornge Air Ambulance

Gets Fixed Wing Investment

The Ontario government is renewing Ornge Air Ambulance's fixed-wing fleet with a new fleet of state-of-the-art aircraft. The existing fixed-wing fleet of eight planes was acquired between 2009 and 2010. With this funding, Ornge will replace the current aging fleet with eight new planes so training can begin with paramedics, pilots, and aviation mechanics. The government is also considering future Ornge fleet expansion for larger and faster aircraft. Annually, Ornge conducts approximately 21,000 patient transports. Ornge currently operates 20 aircraft including eight fixed-wing planes and 12 helicopters.



Get a new employee for Christmas!

There have been thousands of jobs posted on www.ovjobs.ca this year. If the job opening you had wasn't one of them, be sure to post with us in 2023.

The cost is \$75 plus HST. We can help you with the writing of the ad and some direction on how best to promote it.



All jobs are shared on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/ovjobs

ovjobs.ca
Job postings that get results.

Facts

Discretionary Spending

In the last few months, have you or your household done any of the following to cut back on spending?

Cutting back on discretionary spending

August – 57%

December 64%

Spending less on Christmas preparations

August – NA

December – 56%

Delaying a major purchase

August – 42%

December – 44%

Diving less

August- 41%

December – 38%

Scaling back on donations and charitable giving

August – 27%

December 37%

Cancelling or scaling back on planned travel

August – 32%

December- 37%

Deferring or not making contributions to an RRSP or TFSA

August – 26%

December – 27%

Charitable Donations

Canadians Cutting Back on Charitable Donations

37%

Males Ages 18-34

33%

Males Ages 35-54

42%

Males Ages 55+

25%

Females Ages 18-34

39%

Females Ages 35-54

41%

Females Ages 55+

37%

Average Canadian

35%

Household income under \$25K

38%

Household income \$25K-\$50K

38%

Household income \$50K-\$100K

24%

Household income \$100K-\$150K

39%

Household income \$150K-\$200K

32%

Household income \$200K or more

37%

Average Canadian regardless of household income

Financially Better Off Than Last Year?

Are You Financially Better Off or Worse Off Than You Were a Year Ago?

Household income under \$25K

8% - better now

32% - the same

57% - worse now

Household income \$25K-\$50K

12% - better now

36% - the same

50% - worse now

Household income \$50K-\$100K

14% - better now

32% - the same

53% - worse now

Household income \$100K-\$150K

16% - better now

38% - the same

45% - worse now

Household income \$150K-\$200K

19% - better now

34% - the same

48% - worse now

Household income \$200K or more

19% - better now

44% - the same

37% - worse now

Source: Angus Reid Poll

Local Municipalities Receive OCIF FUNds

A review of Renfrew County, Lanark County and neighbours

The Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) grants for 2023 were released by the Ontario government. \$400 million was dispersed to 425 communities across Ontario. Local allotments are as follows:

Renfrew County

Admaston-Bromley - \$579,201
 Arnprior - \$934,657
 Bonnechere Valley - \$588,426
 Brudenell, Lyndoch - \$371,839
 Deep River - \$258,627
 Head, Clara, Maria - \$100,000
 Horton - \$219,964
 Killaloe, Hagarty - \$231,179
 Laurentian Hills - \$138,323
 Laurentian Valley - \$408,281
 Madawaska Valley - \$317,608
 McNab-Braeside - \$124,782
 North Algona - \$326,318
 Pembroke - \$1,481,112
 Petawawa - \$1,030,433

County of Renfrew - \$2,815,973
 Renfrew - \$1,294,950
 Whitewater Region - \$561,652

County of Lanark

Beckwith - \$302,379
 Drum.-North Elm. - \$186,047
 County of Lanark - \$1,018,648
 Lanark Highlands - \$121,723
 Mississippi Mills - \$546,641
 Montague - \$115,000
 Perth - \$539,797
 Smiths Falls - \$1,336,185
 Tay Valley - \$100,000

Neighbouring Municipalities

Bancroft - \$289,705
 Mattawa - \$232,630
 South Algonquin - \$137,916



Wishing our community the best of the holiday season.

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Changes to Ottawa Valley Business

What you'll find inside in upcoming issues in 2023

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

The content you will find in Ottawa Valley Business is going to be changing in 2023. The main focus will be to provide more business content which will continue to include information that has an impact to businesses. This can include local, provincial and federal news.

What's Changing

A key change will be not carrying as much municipal content. Most municipalities have their own newsletters and ways to communicate with their ratepayers so there is no need to duplicate providing that information. In the new year, I will provide a list of websites and Facebook pages that you can access for the regional municipalities. This will include ways to find their tender

information and results (for those that make the results public.) We will continue to accept submissions from municipalities, but we will leave that direction to them of what they would like to be provided in Ottawa Valley Business.

We also continue to encourage submissions from local businesses who have news to share. This includes moving locations, adding new staff, grand openings, mergers and acquisitions, etc.

To make the publication easier to reference, we will return to a monthly schedule. This will make it easier for people to catch up on monthly news and be less time consuming to read every two weeks. This also allows for more business content in one issue as opposed to less content spread over more issues.

What's Staying The Same
Events, marketing, business

news, quotes, advertising, provincial and federal news, financial news and such will all remain. Some new content is also being sourced for upcoming issues and a return to some things we used to include (i.e. book club or apps).

Why Make Changes?

It's always good to make changes and keep things current. The changes for Ottawa Valley Business will be more niche-focused on business. Maybe someone will start an Ottawa Valley Community newsletter and cover off all the non-business information. Publishing is a different business now and being in a niche market is, in my opinion, the way to continue successfully.

Suggestions and submissions are always welcomed. Send them to jenn@ovbusiness.com

Quotes

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." *Oprah Winfrey*

"Begin somewhere; you cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do." *Liz Smith*

"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." *Carl Bard*

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." *Edith Lovejoy Pierce*

"There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." *C.S. Lewis*

"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice." *T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets*

"Every year you make a resolution to change yourself. This year make a resolution to be yourself." *Unknown*

"Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day." *Michael Josephson*

"Any new beginning is forged from the shards of the past, not from the abandonment of the past." *Craig. D. Lounsbrough*

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." *Michael Altshuler*

"The magic in new beginnings is truly the most powerful of them all." *Josiyah Martin*

"Don't live the same year 75 times and call it a life." *Robin Sharma*

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 FRENCH 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

Employees hired on or after September 6, 2022 are eligible.
Available through to March 31, 2023.

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

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

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

Ontario



Key Tax Dates

February 2023

CRA opens its service to electronically receive submitted returns

March 1, 2023

RRSP contribution deadline for 2022 tax year

April 30, 2023

Date to pay what you owe on your taxes to avoid late penalties, even if your return is not due til later

May 1, 2023

The tax filing deadline for individual tax returns.

(April 30, 2023, is a Sunday.) Tax deadline for most businesses (sole proprietors or partnership) if their business fiscal year matches the calendar year

June 15, 2023

Deadline to file your taxes if you are self-employed

The Increasing Value of the Words You Use

Communicating is more intense, but also a little easier



MARKETING

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@fwdthink.net

One of the new work assignments I picked up a year ago was content writing for a larger marketing firm. It was a new line of work for me to be just the writer and not have any client-facing responsibilities, but it also gave me the opportunity to work for larger companies that invested heavily in digital marketing. Within the company, there is an insights team who have the job of determining how people search for information online, how the competitors rank in search engines and then devising some content that could increase organic traffic (non-paid) to the client's websites and social media accounts. When organic content performs well, it can save the client from having to run paid advertising.

My job, along with several other writers, is to write engaging and informative content that ranks high in searches and results in leads for the client. The team tracks the performance of the content and can show the client how their

rankings are improving. Having sat in on some of these sessions, it is fun to see how that happens over a period of three, six, nine and 12 months.

The account manager can then take the results of that performance and apply them to other aspects of the client's marketing plans. For example, if the client is a restoration company and the organic content is performing well when keywords like "how does mould spread" are used, then information on how mould spreads can be used in printed materials, advertisements, tradeshow booth handouts, etc. In addition, some of the blog content pulls double-duty by being referenced in social media posts or can be picked up by online publications that are referencing reliable content.

The bottom line is that when you connect with the client in the language that they use, you can communicate more effectively and draw them into the sales funnel of becoming a customer.

I have always known the value of using the right language when communicating with customers, and it has often been one of the areas where clients are reluctant to make changes that are different from their industry-speak. However, when it comes to driving traffic online, the customer is telling you what he is searching for, so it really just

makes sense to meet him on his own terms.

The internet is a busy, busy place and having the right information in language that resonates with the customer is going to put you ahead of your competition in attracting them to your website and social media if your goal is to make people more aware of what you do.

The other side of the coin is how poor communication can deter potential customers. As we review competitor websites, there are often out-of-date statistics, broken links and poor sources of information that are leaving a poor impression on a website visitor. I remember seeing a statistic that was from 11 years ago that was being highlighted on a competitor's website. The worse part was that the more current statistic, which I referenced in my content for the client, was better than the 11-year-old one!

Today, marketing is a role that needs to be done consistently. It can no longer be an afterthought or something that gets done when someone has free time. The pandemic restrictions that forced everyone home and onto their computer have had an enormous impact on the future of marketing and the way to reach people effectively has changed forever.

The good news is that customers are telling you exactly what they want. The right marketing can

turn that information into awesome results.

What You Can Do

Search for something about your business in Google. It might be a product or service you provide, or even a common question that customers have asked you in the past. See what comes up on the first page. You will likely see a few things:

1) Paid ads. These are links that someone has paid to have. They are connected to what you are searching. So in the previous examples in this article, when I search water restoration companies, a few ads come up. This helps you see who is coming to the top of the page on these search terms.

2) Business listings. The next thing you will likely see is a list of businesses (or organizations) in your vicinity. This is a good look at your nearby competition.

3) People also ask. This section tells you what people are also searching that is close to your search terms. This can help you see what others might be searching for information, and will give you a chance to incorporate some of this language into your website and social media presence.

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

There's always a little bit of magic at Christmas. Enjoy it.

forwardthinking
MARKETING AGENCY

www.fwdthink.net | Phone: 613-312-7824 | jenn@fwdthink.net

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December 8, 2022

In This Issue

- Call for applications to fill AMO Board vacancies.
- Call for nominations to the ROMA Board of Directors.
- 4th Independent Review of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, 2005.
- Municipal transit funding announcement.
- Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) support.
- Emerging vehicle pilot programs.
- Register today for the 2023 ROMA Conference and Annual General Meeting.
- Councillor training at ROMA Annual General Meeting and Conference.
- Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Head of Council & New Councillor Training.
- New dates for Planning and OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness trainings.
- OMERS confirms 2023 contribution rates.
- LAS Blog: Year End Message.
- LAS training session at FCM Sustainable Communities Conference.
- Data-driven roads: Barrie's Case Study.
- LAS Digital Incident Response Program to launch in 2023.
- Applications open for 2023 Community Climate Transitions Cohort.
- IESO launches E-LT1 procurement.
- Careers: AMO, County of Brant, Ministry of Education, and City of Ottawa.

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](#).

AMO provided a [submission](#) for the Fourth Independent Review of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, 2005 (AODA). There is opportunity for municipal governments to provide their input. Visit the AODA Independent Review [website](#) to learn more.

Provincial Matters

The Ontario government has allocated funding to help ensure municipal transit systems can continue to deliver safe and reliable transit service through a Phase 4 of the federal-provincial [Safe Restart Agreement](#).

\$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.

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.

Eye on Events

ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground offers so much, including an outstanding educational [program](#), an opportunity to hear from provincial leaders, participate in ROMA Board elections and meet the new Board. If you haven't [registered](#) yet, here is the opportunity.

AMO is offering councillor training live and in-person at the 2023 ROMA Conference. For more information and to register [click here](#).

AMO training examines 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.

MEPCO

In the [November 2022 Pension Administration Update](#), OMERS has confirmed that no changes will be made to contribution rates for 2023. See the full pension administration update for full details and other employer information.

LAS

The [year end blog](#) is a reflection of 2022 and LAS' new programming opportunities in 2023 and beyond. Read Judy Dezell, Director AMO Enterprise Centre, Business Partnerships & LAS message and thanks to our Ontario communities.

[LAS and Stephen Dixon](#) are working hard to build a [training session](#) for the 2023 FCM Sustainable Communities Conference. This limited-space workshop will show how to use Life Cycle Costing (LCC) to help you on your pathway to net-zero. [Register here](#) and be sure to attend our session on February 7 at 9 am.

Looking to get the best bang-for-the-buck on your roads budget? [Find out how](#) the City of Barrie used AI and objective data to plan their road repairs. [Contact Tanner](#) to learn how LAS' [Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service](#) can help in your community.

The Digital Incident Response Program will be available as a new program in early 2023 to assist municipalities during an incident and to prepare and review related policies and plans.

Municipal Wire*

The Tamarack Institute is accepting applications for municipalities interested in participating in the 2023 Climate Transitions Cohort. [English](#) applications are open until Dec 13 and [French](#) until Jan 6.

The IESO's Expedited Process (E-LT1) procurement has launched and final documents are now available on the Long-Term RFP [website](#). The E-LT1 is the first of a series of long-term procurements that the IESO will run in order to help address emerging system needs.

Careers

[Policy Intern - AMO](#). Assisting senior advisors and the Director of Policy, the successful candidate will support AMO's policy development process. Apply with a

cover letter and resume to: careers@amo.on.ca by January 16.

Chief Administrative Officer - County of Brant. Duties and responsibilities are subject to the provisions of the *Municipal Act* and include implementation of the approved strategic plan. Apply online by January 8.

Director, Programs and Service Integration - Ministry of Education. Responsible for leading the implementation of province-wide early years initiatives. Apply online by December 14.

Director, Housing - City of Ottawa. Accountable for developing and maintaining strategic business and community partnerships to respond to housing requirements. Apply online January 13.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

AMO Watchfile Tel: 416.971.9856

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[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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[ONE Investment](#)

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[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

AMO's Partners



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December 15, 2022

In This Issue

- Joint Annual Memorandum of Understanding Statement.
- Call for applications to fill AMO Board vacancies.
- Deadline for nominations to the ROMA Board of Directors.
- Municipal transit funding announcement.
- Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) support.
- Emerging vehicle pilot programs.
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- Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Head of Council & New Councillor Training.
- New dates for Planning and OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness trainings.
- Webinar: A Barrier Free Website Builder for Municipalities.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Fisher Engineering, Western Products, SnowEx.
- Applications open for 2023 Community Climate Transitions Cohort.
- AdvantAge Ontario Long-Term Care webinar for councillors.
- Careers: AMO, Thunder Bay and York University .

AMO Matters

AMO and the Province of Ontario released the [2022 Joint Annual Memorandum of Understanding Statement \[FR\]](#). The Joint Statement provides an update of some of the activities and accomplishments under the MOU during 2022.

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](#).

Nominations for ROMA Board zone representatives are due Friday, December 23, 12:00 p.m. Nomination package [available here](#).

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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.

Join AMO and our partner of a barrier free website solution, [GHD Digital](#), for a [webinar on January 26](#) at noon to see Govstack, the newest content management system (CMS) for your municipal website. You will learn about the exclusive AMO offering, see the key features and capabilities of the new platform, and get a full understanding of why Govstack is your next best move in digital transformation.

LAS

Canoe is expanding the [Snow & Ice Equipment](#) category just in time for winter! We're pleased to welcome Fisher Engineering, Western Products, and SnowEx to the program. This category includes 12 vendors offering a huge range of products to keep your roads and sidewalks safe during the winter months. Contact [Simon](#) to learn more.

Municipal Wire*

The Tamarack Institute is accepting applications for municipalities interested in participating in the 2023 Climate Transitions Cohort. [English](#) applications are open until Dec 13 and [French](#) until Jan 6.

[Registration](#) is open for AdvantAge Ontario's free LTC Orientation webinar for municipal councillors. The webinar will be February 15 from 12-1pm. A [brief on municipalities and LTC](#) is also available.

Careers

[Policy Intern - AMO](#). Assisting senior advisors and the Director of Policy, the successful candidate will support AMO's policy development process. Apply with a cover letter and resume to: careers@amo.on.ca by January 16.

[General Manager, Corporate Services & Long Term Care - City of Thunder Bay](#). Lead the Corporation and provide expertise in the development of financial and fiscal management policies. [Apply online](#) by December 22.

[Executive Director, Community Safety - York University](#). Responsible for providing leadership and relevant subject matter expertise to a suite of community safety services. Apply to jchupik@bipocsearch.com by January 12.

About AMO

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December 22, 2022

*Everyone at AMO wishes you, your friends and family,
and your community a happy and safe holiday season!*

In This Issue

- AMO office closure during the holidays.
- Call for applications to fill AMO Board vacancies.
- Invitation to golf car consultations.
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19.
- Time to reserve your AMO 2023 hotel room!
- Register today for the 2023 ROMA Conference and Annual General Meeting.
- Councillor training at ROMA Annual General Meeting and Conference.
- Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Head of Council & New Councillor Training.
- New dates for Planning and OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness trainings.
- Webinar: A Barrier Free Website Builder for Municipalities.
- Canoe webinar series.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Dynapac, Cimline.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

The AMO Office will be closed from the afternoon of December 23 to January 2, 2023 and will re-open on January 3. The next issue of the Watchfile will be on January 5, 2023.

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](#).

Provincial Matters

Since June 2021, MTO has been piloting golf cars in Huron-Kinloss and Pelee Island. It is now exploring expansion and offering [municipal consultation](#) on February 1.

Federal Matters

The [COVID-19 Resilience Stream program](#) provides up to 80% of costs for municipal infrastructure projects up to \$10 million that start by September 30, 2023 and are completed by the end of 2023.

Eye on Events

AMO is excited to begin planning for the 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference hosted by the City of London, August 20 - 23. Book your hotel room on January 10, 2023, beginning at 10:00 am EST. Click [here](#) for information.

ROMA 2023: Breaking New Ground offers so much, including an outstanding educational [program](#), an opportunity to hear from provincial leaders, participate in ROMA Board elections and meet the new Board. If you haven't [registered](#) yet, here is

the opportunity.

AMO is offering councillor training live and in-person at the 2023 ROMA Conference. For more information and to register [click here](#).

AMO training examines 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.

Join AMO and our partner of a barrier free web solution, [GHD Digital](#), for a [webinar on January 26](#) at noon to see Govstack, the newest content management system for your municipal website. Learn about the exclusive AMO offering, see the key features and capabilities of the new platform, and get a full understanding of why Govstack is your next best move in digital transformation.

LAS

LAS is excited to host a series of webinars related to the Canoe Procurement Group starting February 1! Learn about efficient arenas, green bin alternatives, ambulance procurement, and fleet electrification. Registration is now open - visit the [LAS Events](#) page for more details.

Roadway Maintenance Equipment is a popular category under the [Canoe Procurement Group](#). As two of our latest vendors, Dynapac and Cimline offer a wide range of equipment options to keep your roads in tip-top condition. [Contact Simon](#) to learn more and purchase products the easy way.

Careers

[Policy Intern - AMO](#). Assisting senior advisors and the Director of Policy, the successful candidate will support AMO's policy development process. Apply with a cover letter and resume to: careers@amo.on.ca by January 16.

[Senior Project Engineer \(Mechanical\) - City of Waterloo](#). Responsible for the day-to-day oversight of capital construction projects. [Apply online](#) by January 16.

[Change Management Lead - Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery](#). Lead the development of frameworks and tactics that influence best practice across OPS Agencies, vendors and the broader public sector. [Apply online](#) by January 13.

[Bursar and Chief Administrative Officer - Victoria University, University of Toronto](#). Responsible for the operational success, financial and real estate planning, and stewardship. Apply to jchupik@bipocsearch.com by January 19.

[Director of Community Services - Town of Smiths Falls](#). To explore this opportunity please apply online via email by January 14, 2023 to careers@waterhousesearch.net quoting project TSF--DCOM in the subject line.

[Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer - Town of Smiths Falls](#). To explore this opportunity, please apply online via email by January 14, 2023 to careers@waterhousesearch.net quoting project TSF-DCS in the subject line.

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk - Township of Frontenac Islands. To explore this opportunity please apply via email by January 20, 2023 or sooner to careers@waterhousesearch.net quoting project TFI-CAO.

About AMO

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

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Community Connection



Pembroke Regional Hospital Fall 2022 Edition



Phone (613) 732-2811 Email/Version Françaises Disponibles au pr@prh.email

Website pembrokeregionalhospital.ca - Facebook/Instagram pembrokeregionalhospital - Twitter @PRHhospital

A Fond Farewell As President and CEO Pierre Noel Transitions Into Retirement



Pierre Noel

A lot can happen in 16 years. While on most days it doesn't seem like all that long ago, it's really incredible just how much has happened since I returned to the community in 2006 to take on the role of President and CEO at our local hospital.

For me, my first days were rooted in a deep sense of homecoming and nostalgia as I remembered my father, Gerry, a great dad and local chartered accountant, who had strong ties to the hospital as its auditor, as a long-time volunteer Board member, and as the hospital's Board Chair during the early 1980s. In fact, it was my father who encouraged me to pursue a career in health care administration and I must say that it's been an extremely rewarding and interesting career with many challenges and a fair degree of success along the way.

When I look back on the many milestones over the past 16 years, I do so with pride in the people who made such great things happen. The staff and physicians at the hospital and my management team who dug deep to make improvements every day and helped shape our region's hospital into the state-of-the-art facility and progressive organization that it is today.

While the specific improvements and advancements are too many to mention, there are a few key highlights that spring to mind, including significant investments in technology that brought us to the next generation of CT scanning and the acquisition of Renfrew County's first and only MRI. Construction and renovation projects have been plentiful over the years, including the creation of new birthing suites and state-of-the-art surgical suites.

Our team worked hard to bring much-needed health care services closer to home which resulted in the establishment of an array of local cancer care services and the launch of a new full-service orthopaedic program. The creation of Zone B in our Emergency Department helped reduce wait times and provides more timely care for people with less urgent medical needs. And, the establishment of our Family Medicine Teaching Unit in collaboration with the University of Ottawa became a key component of our local recruitment efforts for family physicians and expanded our teaching role in training future medical professionals.

Health care delivery also changed significantly over the course of my time at PRH, with a greater shift towards automation in many areas and the expanded use of electronic information storage and dissemination. Our use of Lean management strategies, the imbedding of patient and family advisors, and stronger partnerships amongst our region's health care partners has also helped to improve efficiency and integration which ultimately means an improved patient experience for those in our care.

While a lot has happened in the past 16 years and health care is ever-changing; I also know in my heart that high-quality compassionate care is deeply rooted in our local hospital, as it has been since its founding by the Grey Sisters in 1878. As I transition to retirement and welcome Sabine Mersmann into the hospital's lead role, I want to thank everyone who has supported PRH in so many ways, and I especially want to thank each and every member of our health care team for doing what they do so well, every day, and with such dedication, grace and kindness. *Pierre*

Pembroke Regional Hospital Announces Board Appointment Of New President/CEO



Sabine
Mersmann

The Pembroke Regional Hospital's Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the appointment of Sabine Mersmann as the hospital's new President and CEO effective November 1st.

Mrs. Mersmann will replace Pierre Noel who is set to retire at the end of this year after 16 years in the role. Mr. Noel will continue in an advisory capacity during the months of November and December.

Mrs. Mersmann was educated as an Occupational Therapist in Germany, and moved to Canada in 1986. For 13 years she worked in various clinical roles as part of the team at Renfrew County's Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) before being hired by PRH in 1999 as Director of the hospital's new Rehabilitation program.

The next 13 years were spent in Clinical Director roles at PRH for a wide variety of programs. In addition, she helped to lead the major capital expansion in the early 2000s, while helping bring much-needed services closer to home such as cardiac rehab, systemic therapy and new programs serving our geriatric population.

In July 2012, Mrs. Mersmann moved into the position of Vice-President of Patient Services, Seniors, and Community Care where she has been a leader in quality and patient safety and was pivotal in the organization-wide implementation of Lean management. She also helped bring MRI technology to our region, developed ways in which to embed patient and family advisors into our care processes and continued to find ways to form community partnerships through initiatives like Health Links and the early development work for our area's Ontario Health Team.

Since January 2021, Mrs. Mersmann has served as Senior Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services, Partnerships and Integration.

In addition to participating in, and chairing several regional and local committees, Mrs. Mersmann has led the COVID-19 response for the Pembroke Regional Hospital and served in regional roles on the Champlain incident command structure. She continues to support the development of the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OHT) as a member of the steering committee.

Married, with two adult children, Mrs. Mersmann is deeply committed to her community. She enjoys a variety of sports like running, cycling and skiing and enjoys the fun and community experience these sports provide.

"After holding a series of progressive leadership roles over the past 23 years, I feel privileged to have been selected as the next President and CEO of the Pembroke Regional Hospital," Mrs. Mersmann said, adding that she cares deeply for people and the community she lives in.

"Over the years, our hospital has experienced great advancements in technology, significant improvements in the patient experience, continuous growth and many upgrades. I could not be more proud of our team and the work they have done collectively to ensure our community has the health care it needs and deserves," she said.

Continued on page 2

PRH Launches Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Recently, the Pembroke Regional Hospital held its first Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee meeting, representing a significant step forward in our hospital's journey to ensure that we are offering a welcoming, inclusive and accessible space for everyone.

Scheduled to meet quarterly, our EDI Committee is comprised of 13 members who represent a diverse cross-section of employee groups, person groups and departments. The

Committee's mandate is to advise and assist the Senior Leadership Team in the identification, development and implementation of measures and initiatives to ensure there are no groups excluded from the employee and patient experience at Pembroke Regional Hospital. Specific areas where improvements can be made



include policy, communication, celebration and education.

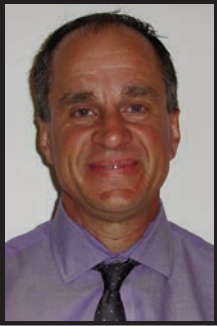
Recommendations from the first meeting include the integration of gender and pronoun preference into the registration process, plans to standardize non-gender-based greetings across the organization and improved wayfinding for all-gender washrooms. We look forward to sharing more about the work this group is doing on an ongoing basis so stay tuned!

PRH Announces Appointment Of New President and CEO...Continued From Front

Mrs. Mersmann added that while all of this progress has not come without challenges, particularly during the last several years, she is enthusiastic about the future of local health care and is excited to continue to be part of the hospital's growth and the opportunities for greater local and regional collaboration and health system improvement through Ontario Health Teams.

Mrs. Mersmann's professional skillset includes planning and results-oriented leadership, human resource and financial management, quality improvement and risk management, policy and contract development, program and project management, and partnership building.

Mrs. Mersmann's appointment follows a robust search conducted by a CEO Selection Committee comprised of David Unrau (Board Chair), Richard Wilson (Past Board Chair), Sheila Clarke (Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario Designate), Dean Sauriol (Board Vice-Chair), Mitchell Stillman (Board Director), Daniel Burke (Board Director) and Dr. Jack Kitts (Former



Board Chair
David Unrau

CEO of The Ottawa Hospital who assisted with the second round of candidate interviews).

Board Chair David Unrau said the hospital had a strong response to the CEO opportunity with a total of 55 candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds and profiles expressing interest in the role.

"As part of the lengthy process for recruiting a new CEO, our Selection Committee had a long list of qualifications, skillsets and attributes that we were looking for in a candidate who would be able to lead our hospital into the future," Mr. Unrau said.

"Sabine brings all of these to the table in addition to her expansive knowledge of the hospital and its needs as well as her involvement in the local, regional and provincial health system improvements."

Mr. Unrau said that as the Board thanks Mr. Noel for his contributions, they look forward to working with Mrs. Mersmann in her new capacity.

CONSTRUCTION CORNER

If you've been to the hospital lately, it's likely that you've seen a lot of construction activity in many parts of the facility. While some of the work is on a smaller scale, we are excited to share that the initial phases of several large projects are now in progress including significant work being done on our *Cancer Care* and *Surgical Redevelopment* projects.

Phase 1 of the *Cancer Care Project* has involved extensive renovations on the fifth floor of Tower A within our Pharmacy department where chemotherapy medications for local cancer patients are prepared and other medications requiring sterile preparation are handled. As part of the \$2.5 million investment, two state-of-the-art preparation rooms have been built to the latest specifications and the Pharmacy department has also purchased additional equipment required for the production of sterile products which will enable them to handle expanding demand.

As a result of the renovations, these new rooms will be fully compliant with the latest standards of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) and the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP).

Work on our *Surgical Redevelopment Project* is also being conducted in a number of phases with one of the key early pieces being the relocation of our Chapel from the third floor of Tower A to the first floor. This will free up space on the third floor to accommodate the expanded surgical footprint.

On October 5th, a poignant final Mass was held in the hospital's current Chapel during which its long history was recalled.

Spiritual Care Coordinator Reverend Garry Engler said many people who he has spoken with have fond memories of the Chapel which was part of the original hospital building constructed in the 1950s. Some have spoken about attending services there in earlier days with their parents and grandparents, while former students from the Lorrain School of Nursing remember sitting in the old balcony for special religious celebrations.

"Ecclesiastes reminds us that for everything there is a time and a season. In this season of change, we are excited to celebrate this milestone in our hospital's history as we transition to a new Chapel facility which will represent a refreshed worship space, albeit smaller, with a more centralized and easy-to-find location," Rev. Engler said.

This relocation will make room for our new endoscopy suite, scope cleaning room and minor procedure room as part of the \$18 million *Surgical Redevelopment Project* which will result in the co-location of all surgical services and surgical patient space on the third floor of Tower A and D which are linked by an enclosed walkway.

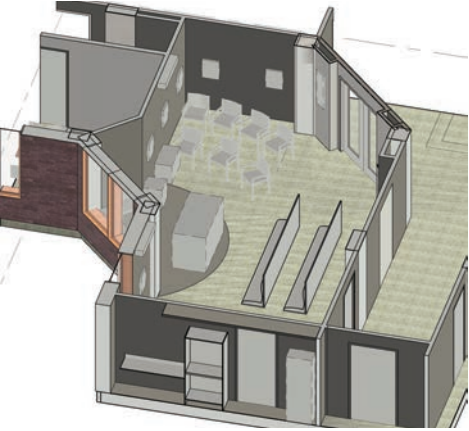
Approximately 90% of the project's \$18 million cost will be funded by the province while the remaining 10% and equipment costs will be covered by the close to \$3 million that was raised through the PRH Foundation's Cutting Edge Campaign and the many generous donors in our region.

Please note - the following hospital services have recently relocated:

- Our Geriatric Day Hospital is now located on the 1st floor of Tower C
- The Community Stroke Rehabilitation Program has moved to 1st floor, Tower C
- Our Finance office / Cashier window is now located on the 2nd floor of Tower C, room C215
- Our Release of Information office is now on the 5th Floor of Tower A



The existing 3rd floor Chapel



A rendering of the new
1st floor Chapel

Follow us on our socials

Pembroke Regional Hospital

LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS
Wayfinding

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS
Wayfinding volunteers will be located at building entrances, and will greet and help patients find their way around the Hospital.

Scheduled based on your availability

If interested:
Contact Micayla

micayla.sewell@pemreg.hos.org
(613) 732-3675 ext 6504

For The Protection Of Patients And Staff, Masking And Other COVID-19 Safety Measures Remain In Place At PRH

While the majority of COVID-19 safety measures within the broader community have now been lifted and life, for many, is "back to normal", community transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses continues.

For this reason, the Pembroke Regional Hospital and other "highest risk" settings continue to require masking for all who enter the facility as well as strict adherence to all COVID-19 safety measures.

"Nothing has changed in terms of COVID-19 safety measures for those facilities caring for our community's vulnerable populations," said PRH President and CEO Pierre Noel.

"We rely on the safety measures we have in place to not only protect those who are at higher risk of severe illness and death, but also to protect the members of our health care team so that they are able to provide the care and services our community needs," Mr. Noel said.

Masking, in particular, not only protects patients, visitors and staff from COVID-19 but also from all other respiratory and contagious illnesses which is why it's extremely important that masks be worn, not only while travelling through the hospital but when at a patient's bedside as well.

Failure to adhere to hospital policies could result in further restrictions and puts PRH at risk of internal outbreaks, something we have already experienced a number of in the past couple of months.

Those coming to the hospital for appointments who feel unwell are asked to ensure that their health care provider is aware of their symptoms.

For visitors, guidelines remain as follows:

- Return home if you feel unwell or have symptoms of any illness that may be contagious.
- Wear all appropriate personal protective equipment (including masks) at all times and strictly adhere to all health and safety guidelines.
- Do not eat or drink inside patient rooms or in other areas which are not designated for food or drink consumption.

WASH YOUR HANDS

WEAR A MASK

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

PRH Finds Innovative Ways To Address Unprecedented Staffing Challenges



Beth Brownlee

While staffing challenges in the health care sector are nothing new, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic two-and-a-half years ago coupled with high staff infection rates has now shed light on a broader, acute labour challenge, not only within our own organization, but across the province and beyond.

In recent weeks, hospitals across the country have had to take drastic measures to cope with staff shortages, including temporarily closing emergency departments and other services. While the Pembroke Regional Hospital has not had to make such a critical decision, the work going on behind the scenes to ensure appropriate staffing is in place each day is unprecedented, said Beth Brownlee, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services.

"We have been asking our workforce to do a lot in order to fill in the gaps and ensure that the uninterrupted, high quality care that our patients deserve remains in place. However, with everyone stepping up, including our management team, our health care team is fatigued," Ms. Brownlee said.

One of the ways in which hospitals, including ours, are now addressing this situation in the short term is to work with our health care teams to trial a number of innovative staffing models and

alternative models of care including a team-based approach that ensures all health care professionals are working at their skill level and within their scope of practice, while contributing their knowledge and skills in the best way possible.

"This team-based staffing model has long been a goal in our organization and requires a new way of thinking but ultimately it is about working together to support one another and ensure safe, uninterrupted care of our patients," Ms. Brownlee said.

Another aspect of the innovative staffing model involves the expansion of health care teams to include new roles and welcome in other health care professionals.

This is not entirely new to PRH. We have experienced workforce issues in various staffing categories over the years. As an example, Rehabilitation Assistants were introduced into the hospital and teams and we have also worked to expand the scope of practice of our Pharmacy technicians. "More recently though, we have integrated Health Care Aides who are supporting clinical operations on our Rehabilitation, Acute Mental Health and Intensive Care units, with further expansion of this model planned for other clinical units," Ms. Brownlee said. "We have also added Unit Support Workers to our Medical program to assist with non-clinical duties. Furthermore, we have welcomed an International Nursing Graduate to our Rehabilitation program

and hope that we will be able to expand this initiative in the future."

Other pilot initiatives underway to help support staffing and optimal patient care include Physician Assistants supporting our hospitalist team, increased Respiratory Therapy support in our ICU and the addition of Advance Care Paramedics in our Emergency Department as part of the team.

While these trials are helping to decrease the number of unfilled shifts, they alone aren't enough to guarantee a long-term solution to the staffing crisis. For that, the hospital is working towards a number of long-term recruitment and retention strategies.

Human Resources Director Brent McIntyre said the hospital is expanding its recruitment efforts by taking full advantage of social media channels and traditional methods such as in-person job fairs. They are also connecting with clinical educators in nursing to ensure that students are fully aware of career opportunities at PRH.

"We also want to ensure that our newest recruits not only feel welcome but supported through mentorship opportunities while finding new and innovative ways to express gratitude and ensure that our existing team members feel valued," Mr. McIntyre said.

PRH is extremely appreciative of the work being done by all staff and physicians in these challenging times, calling the level of commitment and dedication to working together, "outstanding".

Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation Launches New Digital Donor Wall



The Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation is excited to share that they now have a new way to recognize and celebrate donors with the launch of a Digital Donor Wall located on the ground floor of Tower B in the atrium area by Mulvihill Drug Mart.

The new Digital Donor Wall not only showcases donors, but also highlights the Foundation's fundraising activities and ways the community can get involved. In addition, thanks to state-of-the-art technology, the new wall features an area with QR codes that can be quickly and safely scanned with

a smart phone, allowing donors to select a project of their choice, and then be redirected to the Foundation's secure donation site.

At the ribbon cutting event, PRH Foundation Chair Lisa Edmonds thanked the many donors who adorn the new Digital Wall. "Thank you for supporting our many campaigns, which in turn support all of those who use the hospital's many services."

For more information about the wall, or to donate, please visit www.prhfoundation.com.

A Spotlight On...The First Episode Psychosis Program

"We all want our loved ones to be well. Mental illness can present at any time and when it does, we need to be able to find the support that we need in a timely manner. When my 16-year-old son first presented with symptoms, I was stressed, scared and in need of knowledgeable, experienced and compassionate support. Our family found that in the First Episode Psychosis team. Not only did they provide the immediate care we required, but they were also able to link us to other services. They provided light in a dark moment."

What is psychosis?

Psychosis is a medical condition that affects the brain and causes people to have trouble distinguishing between what is real and what is not. When this occurs, it is called a psychotic episode. An affected individual may experience hallucinations, paranoia and feelings of anxiety or depression. Psychosis usually occurs in a person's late teens or early twenties and can be accompanied by disrupted sleep patterns, poor attention and concentration, loss of energy and motivation, social withdrawal and a decline in function at school or work.

Psychosis has multiple potential causes including stress, genetic factors, various medical conditions and the use of street drugs. The journey to recovery from a first episode of psychosis varies from person to person and can range from a quick reduction of symptoms to the need for weeks or months of ongoing support and treatment.

How we help:

The *First Episode Psychosis* program is offered

to Renfrew County residents by Mental Health Services of Renfrew County (MHSRC) in collaboration with the Ottawa Hospital's *On-Track* program. The program is operated by a small team of health professionals with the support of a psychiatrist and targets individuals aged 16 to 35 who are experiencing their first symptoms of psychosis.

Once in the program, individuals are provided with out-patient intervention and support for a period of one to three years with the aim of putting symptoms in remission through effective medications and coping strategies.

Those in the program undergo an initial assessment in order to determine the type of psychosis being experienced and then treatment is prescribed based on that outcome.



Improving the client experience:

Earlier this year, representatives of Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) - Ontario Network and the Provincial System Support Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health conducted a specialized review of the *First Episode Psychosis* program to ensure that the services delivered in Ontario EPI programs are consistent, high quality and in alignment with the EPI program model.

In total, 26 aspects of the program were rated on five-point scale by two trained assessors based on a review of program data, 10 client charts, and interviews with staff, psychiatrists, clients and family members. Of those, the program received ratings of four or five (considered good/excellent) in 16 of the sections.

The final report provided an opportunity for the team to celebrate their strengths which included timely, person-centred intervention, good family involvement and consistently positive feedback from clients and families alike with many clients feeling that the program improved their lives and, in one case, saved their life.

It also identified ways in which the team can improve the program by expanding the skillset of the team, finding additional ways to engage and support families and look into peer support options for families who wish to connect with others who have had similar experiences.

"Our team is very proud of the work that has been done to date to help the clients in our region who need this service and we are very appreciative of the feedback we have received which we can use to improve and enhance the service going forward," Mireille Delorme, Director, MHSRC

To learn more about this and other programs, call the MHSRC Central Referral and Information Line Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays: (613) 732-8770, extension 8006, or 1-800-991-7711 extension 8006

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call the Crisis Line at 1-866-996-0991.



www.PRHFoundation.com (613) 732-2811 extension 7408



Corporate Pricing

\$250 / 1 year
\$500 / 3 year

Individual Pricing

\$100 / 1 year
\$200 / 3 year

*Have a photo taken with your plaque at the Giving Garden and posted on our social media. (optional)

*Businesses will be listed with logo on our "Giving Garden" web page.

www.PRHFoundation.com/givinggarden/

OR call the Foundation Office at
(613) 732-2811 extension 7408



Plaques can be purchased for the garden by businesses or individuals and dedicated in memory or in honour of someone special.



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Launching
October 25, 2022
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HELP KEEP CANCER CARE CLOSE TO HOME

Our cancer treatment areas require updates and overall improvements including the pharmacy where much-needed medications are prepared, the Chemo treatment areas, and our waiting rooms.

These spaces are vital in the treatment and care of each and every cancer patient, and through this campaign, our goal is to ensure they are comfortable, easily accessible and state-of-the-art.

We need your help so that every single cancer patient has the most up-to-date equipment available to them at the Pembroke Regional Hospital, meaning one less worry for cancer patients and their families.



- **Help support local cancer patients.**
- **Help to expand the Chemotherapy treatment areas to care for even more local cancer patients.**
- **Help make a difference with a one time donation or every month by joining our monthly giving club.**

I have had three "encounters" with breast cancer during my 92 years and one with bladder cancer. My most recent diagnosis was in 2009 where it was determined that the cancer had metastasized into the wall of my sternum and was 4th stage. I have been taking chemotherapy every three weeks and have just completed my 100th treatment! The treatment has kept me alive much longer than predicted.

My early treatments were at the Queensway Carleton Cancer Centre and later, I was able to transfer to the Pembroke Chemotherapy Clinic. I was very happy to be able to make this move to avoid all the travel and long day trips which were exhausting and involved a lot of travelling in poor conditions.

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to receive cancer treatment right here at the PRH. With continued treatment, I am hoping to see my 100th birthday! ~ Doris Siegel, 28+ years cancer survivor ~

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE *Cancer Care Campaign*

Please complete this donation form and return it with an enclosed payment, if applicable, to
Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation at 705 Mackay St, Pembroke, ON, K8A 1G8
A tax receipt will be issued for gifts of \$10 or more. Charitable Registration No. 870047610RR0001

☐ One-time donation of ☐ Recurring monthly donation of

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$20 prefer to give \$_____

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

I wish to pay by:

☐ Cash ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

☐ Cheque (payable to Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation)

Card #: _____

Expiry: ____/____/____ Signature: _____

DONOR INFORMATION

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*Providing your email helps us to keep costs low with electronic receipting

By selecting "Recurring Monthly Donation," you can make a gift that keeps on giving and help us purchase our highest priority needs, as we need them! For additional information please call 613-732-2811 ext. 7408 or email: foundation@prh.email. To make an online donation visit www.PRHFoundation.com.



FALL 2022

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Laboratoires Nucléaires
Canadiens

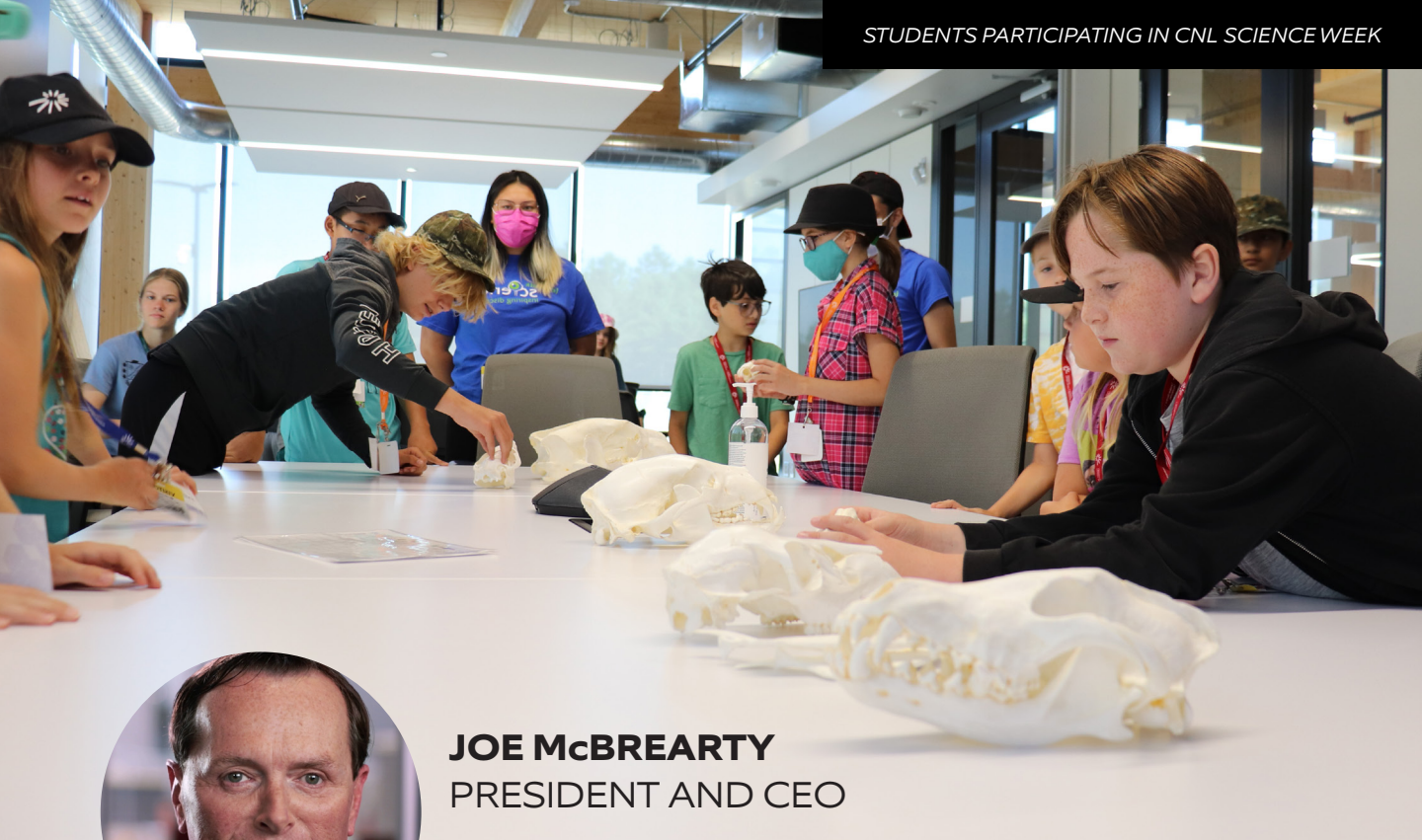
CHALK RIVER

Science of tomorrow. La science de demain.



THE CEDIR INITIATIVE

BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE



JOE McBREARTY PRESIDENT AND CEO

On behalf of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, I want to thank you for picking up the latest issue of *CONTACT*, our community newsletter that is designed to provide you with a glimpse into all the innovative and exciting work that is underway here at Canada's national nuclear laboratories.

These past six months have been an incredibly busy but productive period for CNL, with meaningful progress realized across all of our missions. If you haven't done so already, I would really encourage you to follow our social media accounts for ongoing updates and news on our work to develop clean energy technologies for today and tomorrow, contribute to the health of Canadians, and restore and protect Canada's environment.

That work includes efforts to establish a new Clean Energy Demonstration, Innovation and Research (CEDIR) Park at the Chalk River Laboratories, a project that you can learn more about in this issue. This work is closely connected to our small modular reactor (SMR) siting program, and is an important initiative for the Government of Canada in the ongoing fight against climate change and the pursuit of net-zero emissions by 2050.

As part of our efforts to better engage with the general public and local Indigenous communities, CNL held our first Open House in five years at the Chalk River Laboratories this summer, an event that welcomed over 3,000 visitors to the campus. We also hosted our very first Summer Science Camp, where local children were given the opportunity to try their hand at some of our work, from environmental sampling to robotics. And if that wasn't enough, we even launched a new podcast, allowing people to gain a much more comprehensive and detailed understanding of our many projects and programs.

Most exciting of all? CNL has launched a bold and ambitious new corporate strategy, known as Vision 2030, which charts an exciting new direction for Canada's national nuclear laboratory. While Vision 2030 was introduced several years ago as a concept with the general public, the release of this document allows us to provide a clear picture of our vision, the key actions for each mission, and all of the initiatives which must be delivered in order to be successful. You can find it at www.cnl.ca/vision2030.

It is clearly a busy time for CNL, full of promising new projects and programs. We hope you enjoy reading about our work here in *CONTACT* and, as always, please reach out to us at communications@cnl.ca if you have any questions.

*Signing of MOU between CNL and Portland will see organizations collaborate
in the areas of clean energy, health sciences and environmental responsibility*

CNL and Portland Holdings Limited, via its subsidiary AIC Global Holdings Inc., announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in September to collaborate in the areas of clean energy, health sciences and environmental responsibility. Under the terms of the agreement, CNL will contribute scientific and technological knowledge and capabilities, and Portland will provide business expertise and funding support for opportunities jointly developed by the parties. The alliance will center on long term solutions for the decarbonization of global economies and the development of radiopharmaceuticals to combat cancer.

"I am pleased to partner with CNL to accelerate climate and health innovations and technologies. This collaborative effort aims to address what we see as some of humankind's most unmet needs and biggest challenges, and to provide citizens with clean, affordable and reliable energy, as well as access to novel therapies globally," said Michael Lee-Chin, Chairman of Portland. "The Portland Holdings group of companies brings nearly 40 years of experience in investment management, and as owners and operators of successful businesses globally, we will work alongside our network to jointly develop innovative initiatives."

Mr. Lee-Chin added, "In the spirit of "Doing Well and Doing Good", we aim to foster economic growth through invest-

ments via the creation of employment opportunities in sectors and geographies worldwide, address climate challenges and improve the quality of life for people living with cancer."

"CNL is excited to enter into this agreement with Portland Holdings, a Canadian investment firm that has grown into an international leader in private equity," commented Joe McBrearty, CNL's President and CEO. "A cornerstone of CNL's corporate strategy, known as Vision 2030, is to better enable collaboration between academia, industry and government. This MOU is a clear example of the connective role that CNL can play as the nexus between these sectors, and we look forward to working in concert with Portland and others across the Canadian nuclear landscape to spur innovation and economic growth."

CNL and Portland's alliance reflects a shared commitment to advancing Canada's goal of achieving net-zero electricity supply by 2035 and safeguarding the well-being of Canadians. CNL's core competency in developing radioisotopes, clean energy and environmental stewardship, combined with the Portland track record and investment expertise, are expected to bring together individuals, companies and governments with an unwavering commitment to develop technologies and find solutions that aim to have a positive social and scientific global impact.

MICHAEL LEE-CHIN AND JOE MCBREARTY

CNL SIGNS

MOU WITH PORTLAND



JEFF GRIFFIN

VP, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

In order to confront climate change and ensure Canada's energy security, the Government of

Canada has established an ambitious national target of net-zero emissions by the year 2050. Winning the battle against climate change will take every tool in the clean energy tool box. Meeting the expected rise in electricity generation will too, with many estimates as high as two to three times the electric energy requirements by 2050 to reach net-zero.

While CNL's Small Modular Reactor (SMR) program has understandably garnered a lot of attention in recent years for its potential to advance an exciting new clean energy technology in the fight against climate change, this project is part of a bigger vision that is unfolding at Canada's national nuclear laboratory here in the Ottawa Valley.

That vision is the creation of a Clean Energy Demonstration, Innovation and Research (CEDIR) Park at the Chalk River Laboratories campus, where our research into the production of nuclear power can be carried out alongside work to develop other clean energy technologies. Through this program, CNL hopes to leverage SMRs to enable the demonstration of other technologies, and to advance the science behind how

various clean energy technologies can work together alongside other renewable energy sources in what is known as a hybrid energy system (HES).

This research could include the use of SMRs to provide baseload power for intermittent renewable energy sources like wind and solar, or using excess heat from SMRs to produce hydrogen for clean energy purposes or to enable district heating. Other applications might include desalination plants that produce clean drinking water, the use of heat for greenhouses to enable agriculture in cold climates, and the use of heat for other industrial processes. Overall, CNL wants to examine how these technologies can be used in tandem with one another to fully maximize their potential.

The initiative will unfold in two phases, with the construction of research facilities expected to follow later in the decade, likely in parallel with the siting of a demonstration SMR.

THE HESO MODEL: CNL'S EXCITING NEW TOOL

A critically important consideration in the wider adoption of hydrogen, nuclear, and renewable technologies is understanding the cost and viability of transitioning to cleaner technologies. CNL has been supporting government and industry to better understand the key factors and opportuni-



A CLEAN ENERGY PARK AT CHALK RIVER LABS

ties in energy transition via a proprietary techno-economic assessment tool – the Hybrid Energy System Optimization (HESO) model. Although a number of energy models exist, the majority were not developed to include advanced nuclear power plants, a reliable zero carbon emission base-load generating technology.

HESO determines the best energy mix for a select community, geographical area or industry in a technology-neutral way by minimizing system cost while also achieving performance requirements and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Since its development, the HESO model has been used to demonstrate the feasibility of several clean energy transition scenarios, including studies for commercial customers in government and industry. Among the findings produced using the HESO model is that nuclear, renewables, energy storage, and carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies are important elements in supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. Electrification can play a key role in realizing a clean economy provided that the resulting increase in electricity generation is met with low emissions technologies.

For more information on the CEDIR Initiative, including CNL's HESO model, please visit www.cnl.ca/CEDIR.



CEDIR

Clean Energy Demonstration,
Innovation, and Research

The CEDIR Initiative is being delivered in two phases. Phase 1 will be in advance of deployment of an SMR at the Chalk River Laboratories, while Phase 2 will likely take place in parallel with the SMR deployment.

The emphasis of the first phase will be on laboratory-scale clean energy research activities, as well as opportunities to work with federal stakeholders and the identification of potential commercial participants. This includes modelling work, testing of lab-scale components, as well as systems integration research.

The second phase will build on this experience. In consultation with federal and commercial stakeholders, a CEDIR facility is envisioned to follow later this decade.



2022 OPEN HOUSE

WELCOMES RECORD TURNOUT

The hot and humid weather didn't deter over 3,000 visitors from taking part in what was a record turnout for the 2022 Chalk River Laboratories Open House. Hosted by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, the special event was organized to give the public a rare opportunity to see Canada's national nuclear laboratories up close, and to celebrate the continued revitalization of the campus, AECL's 70th anniversary, and all the great accomplishments being made by AECL and CNL's respective teams.



GUESTS PARTICIPATE IN THE 'NERF GUN CHALLENGE'

While there was plenty of family-friendly entertainment for the kids to enjoy, including free cake and watermelon, mega-machines, bouncy castles, a nerf gun challenge, and robot demonstrations, it was CNL's science and technology that took centre stage at this year's event. Overall, the Open House featured over 50 informative booths and displays, hands-on experiments, demonstrations and tours, all of which provided the public with the opportunity to learn

more about the innovative research carried out at Canada's national nuclear laboratories.



VISITORS SPEAK WITH CNL RESEARCHERS

"What a day! On behalf of CNL, I want to thank all of the visitors who made the effort to come and see the Chalk River Laboratories in person this weekend, and to learn more about all the exciting and innovative research that is carried out here in the Ottawa Valley by your friends, family and neighbours," commented Joe McBrearty, CNL's President and CEO. "This is Canada's national nuclear laboratories, which means that all of the work we perform here is designed to improve the lives of the Canadian public. So, it means a lot to our employees that so many people braved the warm weather to see the campus up close, and to learn about the incredible work that goes on here."

In addition to the many booths and displays, visitors also had the opportunity to tour some of the new buildings and



laboratories that have been constructed as part of the site revitalization program, as well as waste management areas and the site of CNL's proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) project. CNL also hosted a series of seminars and presentations that provided attendees with more details about some of the exciting new research projects and programs underway at the campus, with topics that include

egy, known as Vision 2030. CNL released the vision this fall, which details how it intends to help address national priorities in clean energy, public health, environmental protection and national security.

"This is truly an exciting time to work at CNL, as we pursue a brand new corporate vision that is putting the Chalk River Laboratories back on the map as an organization that can confront some of the most challenging issues in the world," added McBrearty. "So, the timing of the Open House could not have been better, and provided us with the opportunity to talk about all this work directly with local residents, all of whom have been so supportive to us over the years."



JOE MCBREARTY SPEAKS AT THE OPEN HOUSE

small modular reactors (SMRs), research related to a rare new medical isotope known as Actinium-225, hydrogen energy, and work to establish a new clean energy research park at Chalk River Laboratories.

The event comes during an exciting time of renewal and revitalization at the campus. According to McBrearty, CNL is not only modernizing the Chalk River Laboratories through a \$1.2 billion investment from AECL on behalf of the Government of Canada, but they are also pursuing exciting new research projects as part of a brand new corporate strat-



DECOMMISSIONING ROBOTS ON DISPLAY

To learn more about the 2022 Open House and to see photos from the event, people are encouraged to visit CNL's Facebook page. For additional information on CNL's science and technology programs, please visit www.cnl.ca.



CNL PARTICIPATES IN CNSC HEARINGS ON NSDF

Beginning on May 31, 2022, CNL participated in Part 2 of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) hearings to consider CNL's application to authorize the construction of the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF). At the hearing, CNL President and CEO, Mr. Joe McBrearty, was joined by CNL colleagues Phil Boyle, Chief Nuclear Officer and Licence Holder; Sandra Faught, Manager of Licensing Support; Meggan Vickerd, General Manager of Waste Services; Pat Quinn, Director of Corporate Communications; and George Dolinar, Director of Corporate Environmental Protection, along with multiple subject matter experts.

Back in February at Part 1 of the hearing, CNL had the opportunity to present the details of the proposal and answer questions directly from the Commission. The Part 2 hearings were divided into four themes for interventions: Environmental Assessment and Environmental Protection; Long-Term Safety Case; Indigenous Consultation and Engagement; and, Requested Licence Amendment.

"Our experts demonstrated that the NSDF is a safe, engineered modern facility that ensures the low-level waste will not pose any risk to the public or the environment now and into the future," stressed Joe McBrearty during his opening remarks. "We strongly believe it is our responsibly to deal with these legacy waste issues now, rather than leaving it to our children or grandchildren to deal with."

Over the course of the week, the top concerns about the project were the protection of the environment, the waste inventory, long-term safety, proper waste management, adherence to international guidance, alternative means assessment and site selection, engagement in Quebec and Indigenous engagement. CNL and CNSC staff answered count-

less questions over the course of the week. When it came to responding to questions on inventory, waste characterization and long-term safety, Meggan Vickerd, stated that "all waste, including legacy waste, will be characterized according to modern practices and standards as it is retrieved to ensure it is acceptable for placement into the NSDF."

The focus on Indigenous engagement and consultation was a reflective moment for all who participated. CNL and CNSC staff listened to the views and concerns of the five Indigenous communities who made oral interventions. Pat Quinn confirmed CNL's commitment to meaningful engagement, and to establishing mutually beneficial relationships and opportunities for collaboration between CNL and Indigenous First Nations and organizations.

Peter Emon, Renfrew County councilor, commented on the positive economic impact the project will have in the area for future generations, while Mayor Sue D'Eon, Town of Deep River said the project is the "right proportionate solution to the problem." Phil Boyle also expressed his confidence in CNL to "construct, operate, and safely close the NSDF in accordance with all applicable requirements and consistent with international standards."

Following the hearing, the CNSC has decided to leave the record open to allow more time for engagement and consultation with Kebaowek First Nation and the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, and for the filing of additional information about these consultative efforts. Kebaowek First Nation, the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, AECL, CNL, and CNSC staff will have until January 31, 2023 to file additional information. If you would like to learn more about the process, please visit www.cnl.ca/nsdf.



THE FUTURE OF THE CHALK RIVER SITE

The Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) campus is undergoing a site revitalization in order to ensure a continued operational future as a world class nuclear research site. This mission includes a key focus on decommissioning and environmental remediation activities to address the aging infrastructure and legacy liabilities resulting from the last 70 years of operations at the site.

The general approach to the CRL site cleanup is through integrated planning of site revitalization, next and final land uses, decommissioning, environmental remediation, and waste management, in order to reduce risks and liability. All of these activities must be considered in conjunction with the ongoing needs of the operating site. The Overview Decommissioning and Cleanup Plan (ODCP) provides the integrated, high-level strategy for how to realize the goal of achieving a revitalized world class campus by outlining CNL's overall proposed approach to the required large-scale cleanup of the CRL site. The ODCP will guide engagement with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities/organizations and provide the necessary context to inform their feedback and input related to site cleanup.

This ODCP is a living document and will be updated as characterization, monitoring, decommissioning and remediation work proceeds, and as new information and strategies are developed. CNL is committed to revising the ODCP every five years at a minimum.

To support this journey, CNL has formed a Community Advisory Panel (CAP) comprised of members of the public and who provide ongoing input into key elements of planning the cleanup of the CRL site and other broader topics, as part of their mandate. So far, the CAP members have provided advice, information and recommendations on proposed and ongoing CNL site cleanup activities and how CNL can share that information with the public. CAP members have spent lots of time learning about the ODCP, the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility, other cleanup enabling facilities and much more!

CNL is looking for interested members of the public and Indigenous communities to join the CAP! For more information on the CAP and to apply to be a member visit www.cnl.ca/cap or email ermstakeholder@cnl.ca.



**YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS**

**VOTRE
OPINION
COMPTE**

**Apply to join
Canadian Nuclear Laboratories'
new Community Advisory Panel.**

**Posez votre candidature
pour devenir membre du nouveau
Comité consultatif communautaire
des Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens.**

For more information and an application form: ermstakeholder@cnl.ca
Pour obtenir un formulaire de candidature et plus d'information, envoyez
un courriel à ermstakeholder@cnl.ca



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NUCLEAR SCIENCE WEEK

To celebrate Nuclear Science Week this year, CNL hosted a number of fun and educational activities and initiatives for the public. Running from October 17 – 21, Nuclear Science Week is an international week-long celebration established to provide the public with more awareness and insight into the contributions, innovations and opportunities generated through nuclear science and technology.

As part of this year's campaign, CNL engaged with local elementary and high school students through activities that included site tours of the Chalk River Laboratories campus, as well as in-class presentations in partnership with the North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NAYGN) at schools across the region. CNL also donated educational books to local libraries, hosted pop-up displays in public buildings throughout local communities, and shared a series of informative online presentations designed to help local residents better understand some of the exciting and innovative projects that are underway at CNL.

Among the schools that CNL visited were St. Francis of Assisi in Petawawa, Mackenzie Community School in Deep



CNL REPRESENTATIVES VISITING A LOCAL SCHOOL

River, and Pontiac High School in Shawville, while classrooms from St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew and Jeanne-Lajoie secondaire in Pembroke participated in tours of the Chalk River Laboratories. Hosted by CNL scientists and technical experts, CNL's educational presentations and 'social media take-overs' covered topics that included CNL's proposed CE-Dir Park, Actinium-225 program, cyber security program, Port Hope Area Initiative, and a 'Nuclear 101' introduction to nuclear science.

CNL LAUNCHES NEW PODCAST: 'FREE OF CHARGE'

FREE OF CHARGE: CONVERSATIONS IN CANADIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE



A conference room turned into a recording studio, six interviews in 48 hours, and two amazing hosts ... the end result? Free of Charge: Conversations in Canadian Nuclear Science.

That's right! CNL has launched its very own podcast to facilitate the growing conversations on the role of nuclear science and technology in Canada, and to amplify awareness about all of the exciting work that is happening at Canada's national nuclear laboratories.

As part of the pilot series launch, co-hosts Larkin Mossdrop and Mike Welland, both CNL employees, sat down with the Head of our Directorates and Project Offices at CNL for some fun and free-flowing conversations designed to help better understand the innovative work underway at CNL and what makes it significant. Squeezing each of these into a 20 minute podcast segment is easier said than done, but they did it!

If you want to check them out, you can access new episodes online at www.CNL.ca/podcast or download them directly to your mobile device through Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts or Spotify. And if you enjoy the podcast, you are encouraged to rate and review it, and to help us get the word out by sharing the episodes with your friends and family!



A GOLD CERTIFIED SITE

CNL has been awarded Gold Certification by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) for the Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) campus, a designation that recognizes broad-based biodiversity efforts and conservation education activities on corporate land. The recognition represents the third consecutive certification awarded to CNL by the WHC since 2016, and reflects CNL's continued efforts to preserve and protect vulnerable species and their habitats on the Chalk River site.

In addition to the WHC certification, CNL also received the WHC 2022 Reptiles and Amphibians Project Award for the installation of new turtle eco-passages, was named a finalist in the WHC 2022 Bats Project Award for their bat telemetry study and bat box monitoring project, and was a candidate for the Gold Program Award, which recognizes one exceptional program in the Gold Certified tier.

WOMEN IN NUCLEAR

After a two-year "in-person" hiatus, the annual Women in Nuclear (WiN) conference returned to regular programming. The 19th annual conference titled "Forward Together" was held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, September 25-28. In line with our continued commitment to make more space for women in nuclear and STEM careers, both CNL and AECL were present with large delegations of participants.

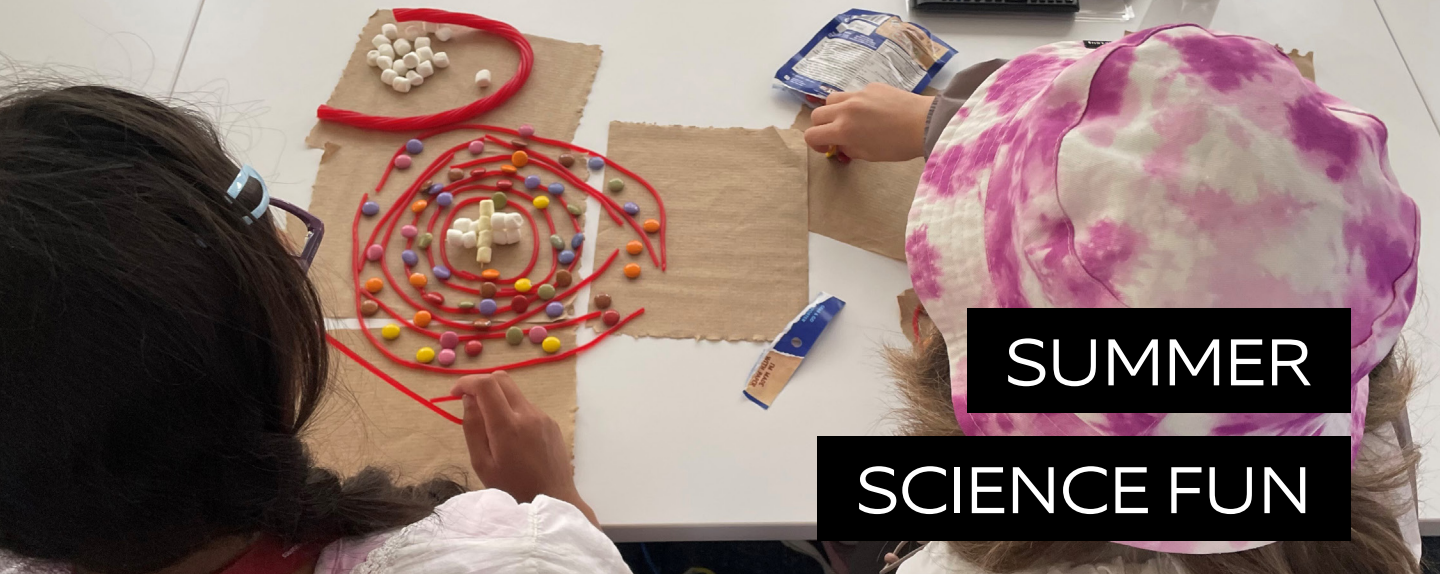
WiN was an opportunity for everyone in our industry to network, share ideas and celebrate the accomplishments of women in the industry. For CNL, it was also an opportunity

for two members of our research team to showcase their accomplishments. Radiochemical Technologist, Denise Gendron presented "CNL's Program to Produce Actinium-225," discussing work at CNL to produce quantities of this extremely rare material, while Operations Research Analyst, Pronnapa Sanongboon presented a seminar on CNL's Hybrid Energy System Optimization (HESO) tool. CNL's Director of Indigenous Relations, Patricia Stirbys, also introduced the "Forward Together: Indigenous Panel," to hear from Indigenous women in the nuclear industry, discussing their unique perspectives and experiences.

The WiN conference also provided an opportunity for CNL to connect with potential candidates. Overall, CNL's booth hosted over 400 visitors throughout the three-day event.



CNL & AECL PARTICIPANTS AT THE WIN CONFERENCE



SUMMER SCIENCE FUN

This summer, CNL launched a new initiative designed to inspire the next generation of Canadian scientists! Held at the Chalk River Laboratories campus, the "CNL Science Week" was a week-long summer science camp that provided children ages 9 – 12 with an opportunity to explore a range of scientific disciplines with the support of some of Canada's leading researchers.

Through a partnership with the Town of Petawawa and the Town of Deep River, CNL hosted two groups of approximately 20 students from each community, who spent a week at the Chalk River site getting into the field and CNL laboratories for some fun, hands-on learning experiences.

"For decades, the Chalk River Laboratories have served to inspire and develop Canada's next generation of scientists, engineers and research professionals," commented Todd Cook, Vice-President of Human Resources. "This summer camp is a natural extension of that mission; connecting aspiring young scientists with the resources of Canada's national laboratory. There was a lot of learning through the week, but I am sure they also had a little fun along the way."

Given the breadth of work delivered by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, the camp programming was enriched by activi-

ties underway at the site, with each day showcasing a new discipline or area of study. Among the many activities, students had the opportunity to participate in water and environmental sampling, biodiversity studies, health sciences, radiation and health physics, engineering, robotics, chemistry or computing, to name just a few.

Overall, CNL's Summer Science Camp was a resounding success, and the company is now considering making it an annual event. Thanks to all the local children who participated!



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