



**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: May 8th, 2023**

Correspondence Package No. I-23-MAY-09

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-23-MAY-09 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario

- a) Ontario Launches Plan to Boost Math, Writing and Reading Skills
- b) Province Improving Accountability and Transparency in Ontario Schools
- c) Ontario Getting More Boots on the Ground by Making it Easier to Recruit and Train Police Officers
- d) Ontario Building Safer and Secure Communities
- e) Ontario Creating Safer Communities through Second Chance Hiring
- f) Ontario Takes Action on High-Risk and Repeat Violent Offenders
- g) Ontario Launches New Interactive High-Speed Internet Map
- h) Ontario to Celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III
- i) Ontario Launching New Mental Health Learning and Increasing Funding
- j) Ontario Marks Sexual Assault Prevention Month
- k) Ontario Declares May as Building Safety Month
- l) Ontario Appoints New Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice
- m) MECP – Save The Date – Provincial Day of Action on Litter

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) [OVTA hands out 2023 Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards](#)
- b) [Ontario increasing support for Homelessness Prevention in Renfrew County](#)
- c) [County Council Summary for April 2023](#)

3. Correspondence from the Renfrew County District Health Unit

- a) [Flood Water Safety](#)

4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) [Watch File – April 20th, 2023](#)
- b) [Watch File – April 27th, 2023](#)

5. Correspondence from the Ontario East Municipal Conference

- a) [2023 OEMC Dates](#)

6. Correspondence from the Arnprior Public Library

- a) [May 2023 Newsletter](#)

7. Correspondence from Cogeco Connexion Inc.

- a) [Cogeco bringing fibre-to-the-home to Arnprior](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Launches Plan to Boost Math, Writing and Reading Skills

New initiatives will raise standards, ensure consistency and focus students' time in the classroom on building life, job and critical thinking skills

April 16, 2023

[Education](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$180 million in targeted supports in the classroom and at home to help students build the math and reading skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the workforce. This investment will support nearly 1000 more educators to help students develop these important skills.

“We are getting back to the basics, because that’s what matters most when it comes to students’ skills with reading, writing and math,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “I am proud to unveil Ontario’s plan to boost literacy and math skills, designed to deliver better schools, jobs and outcomes for students. This plan will up our game and send a signal across the province: we will do better to improve the skills that actually matter to the success of your child, from the classroom to the workforce. Ontario’s plan will help ensure students graduate with a competitive advantage that will lead them to a good-paying job, a home and a life of opportunity.”

Ontario is investing more than \$71 million in 2023-24 in a new math plan, supported by the recently introduced modernized math curriculum that mandates financial literacy and coding in every grade.

The province’s plan to boost math skills will:

- Support more than 300 educators to support student learning in math
- Double the number of school math coaches in classrooms to provide direct support to teachers and students
- Introduce one math lead per board to spearhead math curriculum implementation and standardize training, and provide additional supports for math coaches in the classrooms

- Expand access to digital math tools that students and parents can access anytime
- Continue live teacher-led virtual tutoring services focused on math
- Enhance skills of new teachers through dedicated training and covering costs of additional math qualification courses to enhance math fluency and competency.

To further support students facing challenges with math, the government is deploying Math Action Teams to school boards or schools to raise standards, training and student outcomes. Teams will work with school boards to identify and recommend targeted, evidence-based responses to improve math achievement for Ontario students.

To help more young students build stronger reading skills, the province is investing \$109 million in 2023-24 to boost literacy rates, which will:

- Introduce new, Canada-leading, early reading screening requirements for all students in Year 2 of Kindergarten to Grade 2, along with a standardized and fully funded screening tool and training for educators, to ensure students receive the necessary foundational skills and early interventions in reading that are critical to future success
- Fund additional specialist teachers who can work one-on-one or in small groups to help students who need additional support in reading
- Invest in almost 700 educators to support development and excellence in literacy for Ontario students
- Introduce an overhauled language curriculum in September of 2023 with an emphasis on ensuring students at an early age can master basic literacy.

“This investment is an investment in our kids’ futures. Supporting them to develop strong, life-long skills in important areas like reading, writing and math will set our kids up for success in the long run,” said Patrice Barnes, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education. “I am proud this government is providing our kids with the opportunity to achieve success today, tomorrow and in the jobs of the future.”

These initiatives complement previous actions including a revamped math curriculum introduced in 2020 which goes back to the basics; de-streaming of Grade 9 math and science; the restoration of merit-based hiring of educators and a one-of-a-kind, publicly funded tutoring program designed to empower students with proven learning strategies and techniques.

Quick Facts

- [Beginning with the Grade 9 cohort starting in September 2024, all students will now be required to earn a Grade 9 or 10 Technological Education credit as part of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.](#)
- [Ontario's government is taking new steps to support students understand financial literacy.](#)
- Ontario is [expanding Dual Credit opportunities for health care related courses, ensuring Ontario's students have the skills they need to fill high-paying, in-demand jobs.](#)
- In November 2022, [Ontario announced the expansion of the Dual Credit program to help more secondary students participate in apprenticeship training.](#)
- Ontario has recently helped families pay for learning supports for over 1.4 million Ontario students through Catch Up Payments to fill gaps that may have emerged because of COVID-19.
- In December 2022, [Ontario announced the modernization of the Computer Studies and Technological Education curriculum to ensure students are prepared for the jobs of the future.](#)

Quotes

"With the rapidly changing labour market and nature of jobs and work, it is vitally important to equip our students with the fundamentals and underlying abilities that can be applied across a range of career paths. Rapid developments in AI and related technologies will likely require our youth to adapt and pivot in their careers more so than any prior generation. Having a solid foundation of important core skills such as math, numeracy, science, technology and overall problem solving will help them greatly to respond to these future changes. We commend the province of Ontario for launching this initiative that will help to ensure Ontario students can build successful careers - and, along with that, successful futures."

- Gary Rabbior
President of the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education

"Dyslexia Canada sees today's funding announcement as a positive and necessary step that will help Ontario school boards shift their approach to early literacy to align with evidence-based practices."

- Alicia Smith
Executive Director, Dyslexia Canada

"Community Literacy of Ontario is the voice of over 100 Community-Based Adult Literacy programs across Ontario and we agree that literacy is an essential skill that will affect all areas of a person's life: at school, at work, personal health, and more. The changes that the Ministry of Education is making to the current public school curriculum directly addresses literacy and aims to support children building this crucial life skill. We also agree that confidence is a key indicator of success for learners of all ages. Building young learners' confidence will have a direct impact on their ability to continue learning, for life, just as our programs support countless adult learners achieve more than they ever thought possible."

- Catherine Toovey
Executive Director, Community Literacy of Ontario

Additional Resources

[Plan for Students to Catch Up](#)

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

[Ontario Continues Supporting Students](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Province Improving Accountability and Transparency in Ontario Schools

Proposed legislation will help deliver better schools, jobs and outcomes for students

April 17, 2023

[Education](#)

TORONTO – Today, the Ontario government introduced *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*, which would, if passed, ensure the province's public education system focuses on what matters most: important life-long skills, like reading, writing and math. The act would also ensure accountability and transparency for parents and families.

"We are taking action to refocus Ontario's education system on what really matters: strengthening reading, writing and math skills," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "Our proposed legislation would centre the education system on preparing students to succeed in life and work, putting more highly qualified educators in the classroom while ensuring parents have the information they need at their fingertips to support their kids. These reforms would ensure students graduate with a competitive advantage while learning modern lessons in modern schools, preparing them for the jobs of the future."

If passed, *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act* would help students and families by:

- Improving accountability and transparency by allowing the Minister of Education to set priorities in important areas on student achievement, like reading and math, and requiring school boards to update parents on progress
- Requiring school boards to publicly post a multi-year Board Improvement Plan that reflects the minister's priorities for student achievement, creating authority to deploy personnel to support school boards when needed, along with greater oversight over provincially funded tax dollars
- Ensuring new teachers and educators have the skills they need to teach students effectively in math, reading and literacy
- Directing school boards to increase engagement and reporting to parents on student achievement and ensuring parents have easy access to the information

they need to meaningfully engage with their children's education and success

- Building schools faster and implementing measures to utilize current school spaces, ensuring Ontario is getting more classrooms into communities who need them
- Strengthening the requirement for school boards to have a code of conduct for boards of trustees, creating a neutral dispute resolution process and authority to standardize and mandate training requirements for school board leadership
- Building on our progress to establish a leading system of student safety and educator oversight, furthering measures to expedite disciplinary decisions for educators convicted of a criminal offense
- Expanding eligibility for therapy counselling for student victims of sexual abuse through the Ontario College of Teachers
- Providing for more consistent approaches to student learning and well-being, including on student mental health
- Improving processes at the Ontario College of Teachers and College of Early Childhood Educators to enable them to operate more efficiently, including more consistent disciplinary processes.

Currently, school boards set their own education priorities, resulting in differences across the education system. For example, there are some schools consistently underperforming in EQAO data, including declining reading, writing and math scores. Moreover, it takes on average five to 10 years to build a standard school in Ontario and it can take more than 100 days to certify internationally educated teachers.

The province will work with the Ontario College of Teachers and Ontario's faculties of education to modernize teacher training and certification processes to meet the needs of students in the classrooms, including decreasing times to process applications to certify teachers.

Nearly 2,000 front-line educators will be hired, supported by overall education funding at the highest levels in Ontario history. This includes \$693 million more in base Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding compared to the year prior, or a 2.7 per cent increase. With a focus on supporting students across the province, and building off the approximately 8,000 additional staff hired since 2018, the government will fund:

- Nearly 1,000 specialized math and literacy educators to boost skills
- Over 940 educators to support students from grades 7 to 10 with a seamless transition into high school and in de-streamed courses.

In addition, Ontario's students are supported with the highest level of per-student base funding in provincial history at \$13,125. This record-setting investment will support school boards and educators as they prepare Ontario's students with the skills they need to succeed in life. To prepare and support students in the de-streaming of Grade 9, Ontario is investing in nearly 1,000 educators.

"Our mission is simple: drive continuous improvement to Ontario's education system so that we graduate the brightest, most ambitious, skilled and entrepreneurial students in the country," said Minister Lecce. "We are sending a signal across the province: we must – and we will – do better to ensure your children get a quality education that leads them to a good-paying job, home ownership and a life of opportunity."

Quick Facts

- Yesterday, Ontario introduced a [\\$180-million reading and math strategy](#) to help students build the skills they need to succeed.
- For the 2023-24 school year, the province is providing school boards with \$1.4 billion in funding to revitalize and renew aged building systems and components.
- Ontario is launching a new student transportation funding formula in 2023-24, with an additional investment of \$111 million. The new formula is designed to be more transparent and help school boards provide more effective student transportation.

Additional Resources

- [Improving Accountability and Transparency in Ontario Schools](#)
- [Education Funding, 2023-24](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

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

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BACKGROUND

Improving Accountability and Transparency in Ontario Schools

April 17, 2023

[Education](#)

The government is committed to delivering a world-class education system that helps prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.

The legislative changes proposed through *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*, together with future regulatory amendments, would if passed, lay the groundwork for a truly world-class education system unified with a singular focus: to improve student outcomes in important life-long skills like reading, writing and math.

Accountability and transparency

Ontario's school boards are not consistently working toward the same priorities. School board performance varies across the province on indicators related to literacy, math, graduation and student attendance.

In addition, some parents can review and assess their school board's performance, while other boards do not proactively share this information.

In response, Ontario is taking action through proposed legislation to set student achievement priorities and expectations for Ontario's education sector. Proposed legislative and future regulatory changes, if passed, would:

- Allow the Minister of Education to set provincial priorities to focus boards in important areas of student achievement, like reading, writing and math
- Require school boards to report on progress toward these priorities and enable the Ministry of Education to support struggling boards sooner
- Allow the minister to require school boards to make any report that the minister may require from the board available to the public
- Require enhanced school board financial reporting on funding and spending, planned and actuals
- Allow the minister to strengthen rules around financial accountability and transparency

- Allow the minister to prescribe school board limitations in participating in business activities that could place school boards in financial risk
- Allow the minister to enhance financial accountability of school board-controlled entities
- Promote greater school board-municipality co-operation on delivering child care
- Enable an accelerated apprenticeship pathway.

Governance and leadership

There are about 700 trustees that make critical decisions in Ontario's school boards who bring valuable perspectives and local considerations into how school boards are governed.

Directors of Education also play a vital leadership role in school boards by managing the day-to-day operations of schools, student transportation, the building of schools and oversight of thousands of teachers, education workers and administrators.

Together, school board leadership plays a critical role in ensuring Ontario's education system is focused on what is most important: life-long skills like reading, writing and math. We also know that parents and students need more tools for transparency and accountability. As such, it is imperative the individuals in these roles are trained with the knowledge to deliver high-quality public education to the students in their school boards.

However, there is currently inconsistency across the province in the support and training provided to trustees and how the performance of Directors of Education is assessed.

Proposed legislative changes, if passed, would:

- Authorize the minister to establish policies and guidelines setting out training, including the content, timing and frequency of training to be completed by trustees
- Allow the government to establish a performance appraisal process for Directors of Education.

To strengthen trustee codes of conduct and reduce disruption so trustees can focus their attention on student achievement, the proposed changes, if passed, would establish a new impartial Integrity Commissioner-led process for resolving code of conduct complaints.

Maximizing capital assets

It is more important than ever that school board capital assets are used effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of growing communities, support student learning and ensure value for taxpayer dollars.

Providing the Minister of Education with additional powers regarding school board sites would support the government's goals of ensuring modern schools are built faster, school capacity is better utilized, surplus school property is leveraged for provincial priorities, and accountability and transparency are enhanced.

Proposed legislative and future regulatory changes would:

- Establish a framework for property identified by school boards as excess property that is not needed to meet current or future pupil accommodation needs, and better leverage surplus property for provincial priorities, including affordable housing, and long-term care spaces
- Establish a framework that reduces barriers to facilitate agreements for schools in multi-use buildings to address accommodation needs in urban and high-growth areas
- Require school boards to collaborate with municipalities to better plan for schools, aligned with the government's new Provincial Planning Statement
- Enable the minister to direct school boards to utilize available classroom spaces more efficiently by operating schools in joint-use facilities
- Enable the minister to direct school boards to utilize specific design standards for capital projects, speeding up approvals and helping get new schools built faster.

Teacher training and oversight

The Ontario College of Teachers and College of Early Childhood Educators play a vital role in governing their respective professions. The government has made important advancements to ensure fair and effective disciplinary measures and is building on this progress through proposed reforms.

There is also an opportunity to enhance how teachers are trained in Initial Teacher Education programs to ensure they have the skills and knowledge required to deliver students a world-class education which will help them succeed in the jobs and economy of tomorrow.

Proposed legislative changes, if passed, would:

- Provide clarity on membership status for teachers

- Build on our progress to establish a leading system of student safety and educator oversight, further measures to expedite disciplinary decisions for educators convicted of a criminal offense
- Expand eligibility for therapy funding to all students that have been impacted by sexual abuse by teachers through the Ontario College of Teachers
- Enable more efficient disciplinary processes.

In addition, the Ministry of Education will work with the Ontario College of Teachers to help cut in half the amount of time it takes to process an application for certification of a teacher in Ontario, ensuring we are getting the educators we need into classrooms.

Consistent information and approaches to student learning

Consistency in the classroom experience is vital to ensure that no matter where one lives, a student is getting the education they need to master important life-long skills, like reading, writing and math, while learning about mental health and getting the support they need. The same can be said for parents when it comes to knowing what is happening in their child or children's classrooms.

Proposed legislative and future regulatory changes would:

- Ensure Ontario's curriculum reflects current and future trends by authorizing the minister to issue a guide on curriculum review for greater transparency to students and families
- Enable the minister to issue binding policies and guidelines respecting student mental health
- Strengthen parent involvement by authorizing the minister to require school boards to provide parent-friendly information about their child's education, so they can have the information they need at their fingertips to support their children.

As implementation moves forward, there will be opportunities to engage with sector partners.

Additional Resources

- [Province Improving Accountability and Transparency in Ontario Schools](#)
- [Plan to Catch Up](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Getting More Boots on the Ground by Making it Easier to Recruit and Train Police Officers

Free tuition and expanding enrollment for basic constable training will help address policing shortages

April 25, 2023

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is making it easier for police services across the province to recruit and train more police officers by removing tuition fees for the Basic Constable Training program at the Ontario Police College (OPC) and immediately expanding the number of recruits that can be trained each year.

“Ontario is grateful to the thousands of brave women and men who serve as police officers across the province, keeping our communities safe,” said Premier Doug Ford. “To push back the growing tide of crime in our communities, we’re urgently getting more boots on the ground. That’s why our government is making the path to becoming a police officer as open as possible, expanding enrollment at the Ontario Police College and covering 100 per cent of the tuition cost for Basic Constable Training.”

To get more boots on the ground, the Basic Constable Training program at the Ontario Police College will be expanded immediately to accommodate an additional 70 recruits per cohort, from 480 to 550. Starting in 2024, the Basic Constable Training program will also be expanded to four cohorts per year instead of three. Additionally, to support recruitment efforts at a time when local police officers have signaled challenges in doing so, the province is introducing legislation that, if passed, will eliminate the post-secondary education requirement to become a police officer, as set out in the *Community Safety and Policing Act* (CSPA). If passed, the act would amend the CSPA to provide that a secondary school diploma or equivalent is sufficient education for the purposes of being appointed as a police officer.

“These changes are good news for police services across the province, as well as for Ontarians considering a career as a police officer,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “We listened to the concerns about recruitment shortfalls and training

limitations and have taken steps to remove barriers and expand the possibilities for those considering a career as a police officer.”

Ontario’s new measures compliment other recent enhancements in Basic Constable Training at the OPC. Earlier this year, the duration of the training program was expanded from 60 to 66 days to accommodate immediate rapid deployment and active attacker and mental health response training for individuals in crisis. The college’s mental health response training for individuals in crisis provides police officers with the skills they need to work with on-the-ground supports such as mobile crisis response teams.

The elimination of the tuition fee for the Basic Constable Training program at the Ontario Police College will be retroactive to January 1, 2023. Recruits who paid for their twelve-week Basic Constable Training earlier this year will be reimbursed.

Quick Facts

- Under the *Police Services Act*, municipal police recruits in Ontario are required to complete the Basic Constable Training (BCT) program within six months of being hired.
- Ontario Provincial Police and Indigenous Police Services recruits also complete the BCT at the Ontario Police College.
- Legislation proposing to eliminate the post-secondary education requirement to become a police officer, as set out in the *Community Safety and Policing Act 2019* (CSPA), is expected to be introduced later today along with several amendments required to bring the CSPA into force. If passed, the Bill would amend the CSPA to provide that a secondary school diploma or equivalent is sufficient education for the purposes of being appointed as a police officer. This change, if passed, would come into effect when the CSPA comes into force.
- BCT courses cover a variety of topics, including federal/provincial/traffic law, human rights, diversity and professional practice, leadership, ethics, mental health for first responders and for people in crisis, physical wellness and fitness for duty, community safety, defensive tactics, use of force and de-escalation techniques, firearms, and officer safety.
- The Ontario Police College is continually reviewing and modernizing its curriculum, programming, and training to address current needs, trends and best practices.

Additional Resources

- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-police-college>

Related Topics

Education and Training

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Building Safer and Secure Communities

Legislation will clear the path for more people to consider a career in policing and strengthen animal welfare enforcement across the province

April 25, 2023

[Solicitor General](#)

[Attorney General](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the *Strengthening Safety and Modernizing Justice Act, 2023*, which would, if passed, clear the path for more people to consider a career in policing, strengthen protections for animals and increase access to the courts by reducing backlogs.

Proposed amendments to the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA) include:

- **Police recognition and education:** such as expanding King's Commissions to include municipal and First Nations police officers; and eliminate the postsecondary education requirement in the CSPA to become a police officer to address the recruiting shortage of police officers in Ontario.
- **Improved budget arbitration:** such as clarifying responsibility for costs for municipal police service board budget disputes.
- **Enhanced oversight and governance:** such as strengthening governance of the future Ontario Police Arbitration and Adjudication Commission by creating the possibility for the appointment of one or more vice chairs. This change is intended to improve governance of the agency and to support the integrity of its arbitration and adjudication related functions.

Once in force, the CSPA will update the police discipline process in Ontario. This includes increasing the availability of suspension without pay including where charges have been laid for serious offences as defined in regulation.

There are several other pieces of legislation that would be amended if passed:

- **A strengthened animal welfare enforcement framework:** the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act, 2019* - amendments would improve animal welfare

through enhanced enforcement capabilities as well as streamline processes related to the Animal Care Review Board.

- **Improved efficiency in fire operations and oversight:** the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* - amendments would close gaps in cost recovery provisions and support effective decision making at the Fire Safety Commission.
- **Enabling future health and forensic testing:** the *Coroners Act* - amendments would allow regulations on the collection of tissue samples during a coroner's investigation for reasons that go beyond the investigation, including for current and future advances in health and forensic sciences, such as genetic testing.
- **Supporting education of judges and justices of the peace:** the *Courts of Justice Act* and the *Justices of the Peace Act* – amendments would support judicial education related to gender-based violence for provincially appointed judges and justices of the peace.
- **Reducing backlog in the courts:** the *Courts of Justice Act* – amendments would free up judicial time and resources in the Superior Court of Justice by preventing plaintiffs from starting low-value claims at the Superior Court of Justice if the claims are in the Small Claims Court's jurisdiction, unless the court orders otherwise.
- **Improving administration in municipal courts:** the *Provincial Offences Act* – amendments would and clarify that it is court staff and not judicial officers who file judicial review application materials with the courts.

Additional Resources

- [Strengthening Safety and Modernizing Justice Act](#)

Related Topics

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

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BACKGROUND

Strengthening Safety and Modernizing Justice Act

April 25, 2023

[Solicitor General](#)

The *Strengthening Safety and Modernizing Justice Act, 2023* includes legislative amendments that if passed, would support bringing the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA) into force. It proposes amendments that would clear the path for more people to consider a career in policing, strengthen protections for animals and increase access to the courts by reducing backlogs.

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)

On March 26, 2019, the CSPA received Royal Assent; however, there are several important operational and critical amendments to make to bring the act into force. These amendments focus on oversight and governance, labour arbitration, police recognition and education, and providing clarification and alignment with other statutes.

Through the CSPA and its regulations, the government will establish a legislative framework that improves Ontario's approach to policing and community safety that addresses changes to policing over the last 30 years, including improving accountability for the policing sector. This updated framework is designed to advance policing that is fair, equitable, safe, transparent, and effective.

Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act, 2019

The PAWS Act came into force on January 1, 2020 and sets out standards of care and prohibitions against causing animals distress, that help ensure that animals in the province are protected and treated in a humane manner.

The proposed statutory amendments to the PAWS Act will help improve animal welfare, strengthen compliance, and enhance enforcement capabilities. These amendments relate to improving cost recovery for Animal Welfare Services (AWS), clarifying Animal Care Review Board processes, and narrowing gaps related to AWS inspector authorities to help strengthen protections for animals. It is anticipated that these changes will lead to improvements in enforcement, compliance, and animal welfare.

Coroners Act

The *Coroners Act* creates the authority to examine a body to determine the circumstances of the death (who, how, when, where and by what means); if an inquest is necessary; and to collect and analyze information about the death to prevent further deaths.

The Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Services (OCC/OFPS) have the authority under the *Coroners Act* (Regulation 180) to retain and store tissue samples and body fluids obtained during a post-mortem examination. The regulation identifies the types of specimens that can be stored and the retention period.

The proposed statutory amendment would enable the government to make regulations to allow for the collection of tissue samples during a coroner's investigation that are not immediately required for the investigation under the *Coroners Act*. Such tissue samples may be of benefit in relation to current and future advances in health and forensic sciences, such as genetic testing.

Tissue samples retained by the OCC/OFPS may be used for DNA testing to assist with identifying fatal genetic conditions both at the time of death and in the future as medical advances continue to improve knowledge about genetic connections to medical conditions.

Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA)

The FPPA establishes the legislative framework for the delivery of fire protection services in Ontario including, among other things: rights of entry in emergencies and fire investigations, inspection powers, offences and enforcement, and recovery of costs.

The proposed amendments to the FPPA would:

- allow full implementation of cost recovery provisions added in 2019 for immediate Authorizations to Close
- allow more than one deputy fire marshal to be appointed and fulfill the duties of the deputy fire marshal in the act
- provide the Fire Safety Commission (FSC) with the authority to extend the time to appeal an order beyond the current 30-day period in exceptional circumstances
- eliminate the three-member quorum requirement so that appeals before the FSC can be heard by a single member.

Courts of Justice Act and Justices of the Peace Act

The federal government has recently passed legislation enhancing the judicial education provisions under the *Judges Act* to encourage training on sexual assault for federally appointed judges. Similar legislation for educational changes related to intimate partner violence is at third reading in the Senate.

The proposed changes to the *Courts of Justice Act* and *Justices of the Peace Act* will support judicial education related to gender-based violence for provincially appointed judges and justices of the peace. These changes would ensure a consistent approach to the way judges are educated about gender-based violence and its impacts on children, families and communities.

Courts of Justice Act

Currently, claims for money or personal property valued up to \$35,000 can generally be started in either the Small Claims Court or the Superior Court of Justice (SCJ).

The proposed change to the Courts of Justice Act would prevent plaintiffs from starting claims in the SCJ that are within the jurisdiction of the Small Claims Court (unless the SCJ orders otherwise). This would eliminate cases in the Superior Court that could instead be heard in the Small Claims Court and would free up judicial time and resources to focus on urgent priorities. In this way, this amendment should reduce case backlogs in the SCJ.

Provincial Offences Act

The Provincial Offences Act (POA) governs the prosecution of offences established under provincial law and municipal by-laws. The POA creates a system for the prosecution of non-criminal charges such as traffic offences, as well as trespass to property charges, environmental charges, and liquor licensing violations.

The proposed housekeeping amendment would clarify the current practice that it is court staff and not judicial officers who file judicial review application materials with the court.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Building Safer and Secure Communities](https://news.ontario.ca/en/background/1002973/strengthening-safety-and-modernizing-justice-act)

Related Topics

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Creating Safer Communities through Second Chance Hiring

New projects will help up to 2,000 people with criminal records escape the cycle of poverty, incarceration, and crime

April 26, 2023

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

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$12 million to support nine innovative projects designed to help up to 2,000 people leaving the justice system or with prior criminal records find meaningful jobs with local businesses, helping them create connections and a sense of belonging within their communities. More than one million people in Ontario live with a criminal record, which can decrease the chances of a second interview by 50 per cent and drastically increases the likelihood of long-term poverty. Stable employment has been shown to help address the root causes of crime and reduce the likelihood of someone re-offending.

“Across Ontario, tens of thousands of people have paid their dues and just want to roll up their sleeves and give back,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government believes in the power of second chances. I urge business leaders to join us as we smash through the stigma of a criminal record.”

Led by various organizations across [multiple sectors](#), the programs announced today will prepare jobseekers for well-paying careers in construction, manufacturing, hospitality, food and beverage processing, and other industries. They will provide a range of employment and training needs through apprenticeship and technical training, on-the-job learning, and improving job readiness and interview skills. The projects include wrap-around support like mentorship, job placement, and mental health resources to ensure a smooth transition to the job market.

“We believe in second chances and in the inherent potential of each person,” said Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General. “Building a strong Ontario means that no one gets left behind, including those with previous criminal records. By connecting

those with criminal records to skills training, we are creating brighter futures and better tomorrows.”

The government will be unveiling additional programs to help people with prior involvement in the criminal justice system over the coming months. These projects are funded through the Skills Development Fund, a \$700 million initiative, which supports ground-breaking programs that connect jobseekers with the skills and training they need to find well-paying careers close to home.

"Minister McNaughton and his team have done incredible work to support training and skills development in the hospitality sector," said Terry Tsianos, Chairman of Scale Hospitality. "The ongoing funding received through the provincial SDF program has allowed us to provide second chance training to at-risk youth across the GTA and provide them with valuable training to transform their lives. The support this year will, once again, position the hospitality sector as a viable option for individuals who want meaningful, well-paying employment. We are thankful for the leadership of Premier Ford, Minister McNaughton, and Minister Kerzner for their continued support for skills development and second chance programs."

For more information and the full list of funding recipients, see the [backgrounder](#).

Quick Facts

- In the winter, there were over 316,000 job vacancies in Ontario.
 - Through its first two funding rounds, the Skills Development Fund has supported 388 projects aiming to help nearly 400,000 people around the province take the next step in their careers.
 - Ontario's Skills Development Fund is supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.
 - This year the government is investing \$1.9 million in the Corrections Literacy Initiative to help close to 1,000 learners across 13 correctional facilities improve their math, reading, and writing skills. This improves their chances to land a good job after they have served their sentence.
-

Quotes

"Fernie Youth Services is ecstatic to have received a Skills Development Fund grant to expand the Fernie Works Employment Program with the confidence of empowering young racialized and justice-involved job-seekers facing barriers to meaningful employment. Fernie Works provides second chances to youth in conflict with the law to guide them in career planning, education, and real-world job placements. The holistic program, rooted in Fernie Youth Services' commitment to Caring Beyond Reason and in partnership with the Skills Development Fund will create a win-win-win for youth, employers, and Ontario's economy."

- Madison Perdue
Resource Development Coordinator, Fernie Youth Services

"This support from the province allows us to deliver a network of supports to marginalized Ontarians that does not only ensure that they have access to apprenticeship opportunities, but also that they have the long term support they need to complete their apprenticeship, break the cycle of poverty, and create a more diverse workforce at all levels of the construction sector."

- Marc Soberano
Founder and Executive Director, Building Up

"Everyone deserves a chance to make positive changes, and with the accelerated essential skills training, job matching, and effective coaching delivered through the Bridging the Skills Gap Project, these equity deserving individuals could be well on their way to securing meaningful employment at local companies who are struggling to fill open positions."

- Bonnie Macklin
President & Director of Recruitment Solutions, Calibre Recruitment Inc.

"As a restorative justice organization, Community Justice Initiatives believes that communities are safer when people feel included and their social and financial needs are met. If we want people leaving prison to succeed in the community, then we need to build the community's capacity to receive them and include them in the workforce. By connecting employers with criminalized people, this grant allows us to co-create opportunities to address the barriers that prevent people from a career path toward decent work after prison."

- Kate Crozier

Director of Programs, Community Justice Initiatives

"We are very excited to continue working with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. Through their Skills Development Fund, Hammer Heads will support under-resourced and under-represented youth in obtaining a life-changing career in the skilled construction trades."

- James St. John

Business Manager of the Central Ontario Building Trades and Director of the Hammer Heads Program

"The Funding the Prison Fellowship Canada is receiving through the Ontario government will help identify 30 newly released prisoners for meaningful employment opportunities, assisting them with wrap-around support they need to secure and thrive in a job placement. The Bridgecare program will support clients with career development upskilling, training and certification; transportation, and mental health supports."

- Stacey Campbell

President and CEO, Prison Fellowship Canada

"Spotwork is excited to participate in the Government of Ontario's effort to offer justice system-involved people new opportunities for employment. Thanks to Minister McNaughton and the government's Skills Development Fund, Spotwork will create a unique technological solution to open new labour sources for employers and give thousands of job seekers a well-deserved second chance at work."

- Darren Perlman
Co-Founder, Spotwork

"The funding the Oaks Revitalization Association is receiving through the Ontario government will help provide training and mentorship to justice-involved individuals, giving them the opportunity to turn their lives around and become productive citizens in their communities. This funding is a powerful tool to help our clients overcome the challenges they often face and give them a second chance in life."

- Joe Williams and Mark Tenaglia
Managing Director and Executive Director, The Oaks Revitalization
Association

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Providing Second Chances for those with Criminal Records](#)
- [Skills Development Fund](#)
- [Employment Ontario: Free Employment Services and Training Programs for Job Seekers, Workers and Employers](#)

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BACKGROUND

Ontario Providing Second Chances for those with Criminal Records

April 26, 2023

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

The Ontario government is investing \$12 million to provide people with criminal records a second chance to find meaningful jobs and give back to their communities.

This is part of Ontario's \$700 million Skills Development Fund, which supports innovative ideas for training and skills development to help drive Ontario's economic growth and build a stronger province.

The funding recipients include:

Building Up

- Building Up is receiving **\$593,956** for a holistic project aimed at improving job retention and career progression for individuals who face significant barriers to employment and that have completed their pre-apprenticeship program.
- This project will help 200 people work in the skilled trades in communities in the Toronto area.

Calibre Recruitment Inc.

- Calibre Recruitment Inc. is receiving **\$590,365** for a project that aims to reduce the barriers that people with previous interactions with the criminal justice system face when trying to access employment, while also helping local employers address critical labour shortages.
- The program is designed to give individuals the skills training, job coaching, and wrap-around supports required to access and transition into stable employment opportunities.
- This project will help 30 people access employment in sectors including food and beverage processing, hospitality, and manufacturing in communities in London and the surrounding area.

Community Justice Initiatives of Waterloo Region

- Community Justice Initiatives of Waterloo Region is receiving **\$119,552** for a project that will work with people who have lived experience of incarceration or criminalization and local business leaders to co-design an approach to training and employment that supports both the needs of the employer, along with the needs of program participants.
- This project will help 96 people work in various sectors in the Kitchener Area.

Fernie Youth Services

- Fernie Youth Services is receiving **\$514,459** for a project focusing on removing barriers in education and skills training opportunities for justice-involved and racialized youth by delivering new and innovative approaches to skills training. This includes providing tools, equipment, and wrap-around supports to jobseekers, such as mentorship, job placement and coaching, mental health supports, educational supports, career and learning plans, and social supports, such as housing and medical care.
- This project will help 25 people work in various sectors in communities in the Toronto Area.

Hammer Heads Program

- Hammer Heads Program is receiving **\$204,850** to support a project aimed at improving job retention and career progression for apprentices in their program, by guiding them through the first years of their employment with regular follow-ups in the field to ensure sustainability and long-term success.
- This project will help 200 people work in the skilled trades in communities in the Toronto area.

Prison Fellowship Canada

- Prison Fellowship Canada is receiving **\$500,000** for a comprehensive project that will provide in-class and on-the-job training support for apprentices, including tutoring, exam preparation, mentorship, and wrap-around supports that promote apprentice progression and obtaining the highest level of certification possible in a particular trade. It will also provide on-the-job supports to help journeypersons provide the training that apprentices need to successfully progress through their program.
- This project will help 100 people work in the skilled trades in communities in Mississauga.

SPOT App

- SPOT App is receiving **\$1,640,000** for a specialized program that will provide jobseekers from the second chances population with job opportunities and training through a new mobile job placement app. They will also work with employers to reduce stigma and promote the benefits of giving people with prior involvement in the criminal justice system a second chance.
- This project will help 260 people work in a range of sectors in communities in the Toronto area.

Scale Hospitality

- Scale Hospitality is receiving **\$6,000,000** to support an industry-led initiative aimed at supporting growth in the hospitality sector through various training opportunities. These include initiatives such as micro-credential training programs and increasing accessibility for those who face barriers to employment through community partnerships.
- This project will help 1,205 people work in hospitality in communities in the Toronto area.

The Oaks Revitalization Association

- The Oaks Revitalization Association is receiving **\$1,943,177** for a project that will support young offenders by training them as apprentices and helping them to transition into employment in the Skilled Trade industry.
- The Skilled Trade Development program provides access to the Skilled Trade labour market and rehabilitates and reintegrates young offenders back into society. The mentorship program will provide core life skills, mental health support, reintegration, anti gangs/crime, and support dealing with on-the-job challenges. Clients will be mentored and placed into apprenticeships within the skilled trades industry.
- Breaking the cycle of recidivism will have meaningful change for marginalized communities. The Oaks will be working with Toronto Police Service, Correctional Services, Toronto Focus Tables, Community Agencies, and DAP (Direct Accountability Program).
- This project will help 16 people work in communities in Central Toronto in the first cohort.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Creating Safer Communities through Second Chance Hiring](https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1002976/ontario-providing-second-chances-for-those-with-criminal-records)

Related Topics

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Takes Action on High-Risk and Repeat Violent Offenders

Province working alongside federal government to fix broken bail system

April 27, 2023

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Attorney General](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

SCARBOROUGH — The Ontario government is investing \$112 million to immediately strengthen the province's bail system and ensure that high-risk and repeat violent offenders comply with their bail conditions. The funding will be used to support new technology, establish violent crime bail teams, expand the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement Squad and provide prosecutors with the resources they need to conduct complex bail hearings.

"As the country and our province face rising crime rates and people are feeling increasingly unsafe in their communities, this funding will help ensure anyone out on bail is following the rules and high-risk, repeat offenders are kept in jail," said Premier Doug Ford. "We can't have a justice system where violent criminals are arrested one day and back out on the streets the next. We're doing our part to fix a broken bail system and look forward to working with our federal partners to finish the job."

Specifics of the investment include:

- The creation of a new Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Grant
 - \$24 million will be made available over three years to help the OPP and municipal and First Nations police services establish dedicated bail compliance teams. Teams will also assist prosecutors with gathering evidence and assessing public safety risk during the bail hearing stage.
 - Grant funding may also be used to acquire bail compliance technology or support a network that police services could use to share bail offender information.
- Expansion of the OPP Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement (ROPE) Squad

- \$48 million to create a dedicated Bail Compliance Unit within the OPP's Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement Squad. This new dedicated, provincewide, Bail Compliance Unit will apprehend high-risk provincial offenders who have broken their bail conditions or are unlawfully at large.
- Establishment of Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams
 - \$26 million to create Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams within the courts system to ensure that there are dedicated prosecutors and subject matter experts to prepare for and properly conduct the often lengthy and complex bail hearings.
- Rollout of the Bail Compliance Dashboard
 - A new provincewide bail monitoring system to allow police services to monitor high-risk offenders with the most accurate data possible.

"When it comes to keeping people safe and addressing crime in our communities, we'll stop at nothing," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. "This funding will help police and justice sector partners address issues of bail compliance by expanding the resources needed to monitor and apprehend high-risk repeat offenders violating bail conditions. It will also help to ensure that both sentencing and bail processes work to reduce violent acts and keep our communities safe."

Today's announcement follows months of advocacy from all of Canada's premiers for the federal government to amend the *Criminal Code* and implement meaningful bail reform to prevent violent and repeat offenders from being released back into communities. The federal government has signalled its willingness to work with all provinces and territories to identify and implement meaningful solutions. Ontario will continue to be a partner in this work and looks forward to these changes being made.

"As part of our ongoing efforts with the federal government to reform the broken bail system, we are adding new resources to support our work to make Ontario's bail process stronger," said Attorney General Doug Downey. "These investments will immediately help to address serious, violent and repeat offenders by providing more resources to police to investigate and apprehend these accused persons and to prosecutors and courts to conduct complex, time consuming bail hearings with the best evidence possible."

Quick Facts

- On March 10, 2023, federal, provincial and territorial Attorneys General and Ministers of Justice and Ministers of Public Safety [met to discuss Canada's bail system](#). The federal government agreed to take action through amendments to

the *Criminal Code* that would target repeat violent offenders and serious offences committed with firearms and other dangerous weapons.

- Ontario experienced a 57 per cent increase in serious violence and weapons cases before the courts between 2018 and 2021. ([Ontario Court of Justice](#))
- Toronto Police Service report that over the last two years in the city of Toronto, 17 per cent of accused charged with shooting-related homicides were already out on firearms bail at the time of the alleged fatal shooting.

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Launches New Interactive High-Speed Internet Map

Province announces service providers for 14 high-speed internet projects

April 27, 2023

[Infrastructure](#)

THUNDER BAY — The Ontario government is launching a [new interactive map](#) that will make it easier for residents and businesses to learn more about provincially funded high-speed internet projects across the province. Users can search the map by address, community or municipality to find project details, including information on construction status and internet service providers that will be delivering reliable high-speed internet in unserved and underserved communities.

“I am so proud to launch this new online tool that will help people learn more about high-speed internet access currently available and coming soon to communities across the province,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “This user friendly map will provide Ontarians with the latest information about our government’s progress in bringing reliable high-speed internet access to every community by the end of 2025. Through our ambitious plan, our government will ensure that no community will be left behind in today’s digital world.”

Ontario has finalized agreements totalling more than \$2.3 billion for nearly 200 high-speed internet and cellular projects across the province. As part of these agreements, the Ontario government is announcing the internet service providers for [14 high-speed internet projects](#) that will receive over \$8.4 million in provincial funding through the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program. These projects, which are also featured on the [new high-speed internet map](#), will bring reliable high-speed internet access to more than 11,000 homes and businesses across the province.

Ontario is providing families, businesses and communities with the infrastructure they need by investing more than \$184 billion over the next 10 years in roads, highways, public transit, hospitals, long-term care homes, schools, and high-speed internet.

Quick Facts

- The Ontario government is investing nearly \$4 billion to bring access to reliable high-speed internet for every community across the province by the end of 2025. This is the largest single investment in high-speed internet, in any province, by any government in Canadian history.
- In 2021, Ontario passed the [Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021](#) to help speed up construction of broadband projects. To build upon this legislation, the Ontario government passed the [Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022](#) which further reduces barriers, duplication and delays.
- High-speed internet provides easy access to more than 55 ServiceOntario online services. Renew your health card, driver's products and more at [Ontario.ca/Renew](#), book appointments at [Ontario.ca/Appointment](#), and sign up for important renewal reminders at [Ontario.ca/Reminders](#) or at 1-800-387-3445 (TTY 1-800-268-7095).

Quotes

"The new interactive map will enable Ontarians to track the status of broadband infrastructure projects in their community and across the province with confidence. This step forward is another example of our government's commitment to expand access to high-speed internet to rural communities across the province to ensure people can live, work and farm wherever they want."

- Lisa Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

"Our government is taking action to improve access to reliable high-speed internet for Northern Ontarians. We recognize the importance of broadband for education, job creation and economic growth to keep the North connected and competitive."

- Greg Rickford
Minister of Northern Development and Minister of Indigenous Affairs

"High-speed internet and cellular services are a game changer for our communities, offering connections to a world of opportunities. The Ontario government is making good on its promise to deliver them. This interactive tool will help our residents track when services are coming and who is providing them."

- Colin Best
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Additional Resources

- [Bringing High-Speed Internet Access to More Residents and Businesses](#)
- [Ontario connects: making high-speed internet accessible in every community](#)
- [Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program](#)
- [Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario to Celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

The King's Coronation will be celebrated with free festivities at Queen's Park and free admission to parks and attractions across the province

April 28, 2023

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — On May 6, 2023, Ontario will celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty The Queen. This historic occasion will mark the first coronation of a Canadian Head of State in seven decades.

To commemorate The King's Coronation, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Premier Doug Ford, Speaker Ted Arnott, and Indigenous leaders will hold a flag raising ceremony, 21-gun salute, and drum circle at 11:15 a.m. on May 6. The ceremony will also include a special presentation of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. Members of the public are invited to attend; the event will also be available to view via livestream on the [Government of Ontario YouTube Channel](#).

Following the ceremony, 'Coronation Celebration: A Fun Royal Fair' will be held on the South Lawn of Queen's Park from noon to 6 p.m. Free family fun activities will include carnival rides and live entertainment. A 'Taste of Ontario' will provide complimentary food and beverages from Ontario farmers and processors. The Coronation Celebration is open to the public, free of charge.

Extending the celebrations across the province, 10 major cultural attractions and 39 provincial parks will offer free admission for day use. To find out more about the provincial parks, please visit [Ontario Parks](#).

Participating cultural attractions

Cultural attractions offering free admission on May 6 include:

- [Art Gallery of Ontario](#)
- [Fort William Historical Park](#)
- [McMichael Canadian Art Collection](#)
- Niagara Parks' [Butterfly Conservatory](#) and [Floral Showhouse](#)

- [Ontario Science Centre](#)
- [Royal Botanical Gardens](#)
- [Royal Ontario Museum](#)
- [Sainte-Marie among the Hurons](#)
- [Science North](#)
- [Upper Canada Village](#)

Participating provincial parks

39 provincial parks across Ontario will be open and offer free admission to the public. [Find the list of open parks at Ontario Parks.](#)

- Visitors will be able to book their day use permit at 26 parks that will be open on May 6 and participating in the advance daily vehicle permit service starting on May 1 at 7 a.m.
- The Ontario Parks Reservation website can be found at the following link, [Ontario Parks Reservation System](#) or customers can navigate from our OntarioParks.com webpage. Where available, reservations for a daily vehicle permit are recommended but not required.
- Customers can go directly to the reservation website through the link, or they can navigate through the “Reservations” drop down if they are on the ontarioparks.com main page.

Quick Facts

- Canada is a constitutional monarchy, and The King is Canada’s Head of State
- His Majesty King Charles III acceded to the Throne on September 8, 2022, following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.
- The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III is the first coronation of a Canadian Head of State in seven decades.
- The Lieutenant Governor is the King’s representative in Ontario.

Additional Resources

- [Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Celebrates the Coronation](#)
- [About His Majesty, King Charles III](#)

Related Topics

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Launching New Mental Health Learning and Increasing Funding

Province introducing new mandatory learning on mental health starting this upcoming school year

May 01, 2023

[Education](#)

BURLINGTON — Following a motion in the legislature by Natalie Pierre, Member of Provincial Parliament for Burlington, to strengthen mental health learning and supports in the classroom, the Ontario government is updating the Grade 10 Career Studies curriculum and is introducing mandatory resources for teachers and students on mental health literacy in Grades 7 and 8. These resources, developed in consultation with experts, would support students as they achieve and prepare for the next steps in their future.

Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, and MPP Pierre also announced an additional \$12 million this year and \$14 million next year to provide mental health services over the summer months. This funding will further students' access to school-based mental health professionals and services year-round, with the aim of providing students consistent and reliable support, responding to a key recommendation of families and student trustees.

"We know that strengthening mandatory mental health literacy in the curriculum is the right thing to do. Natalie Pierre is a strong advocate and MPP, but most of all she is a mother driven to ensure we prevent tragedies and save lives," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "That is why it is so critical that all students learn healthy coping strategies, stress management and better recognition of the early signs. We want children to have the tools and confidence to succeed in the classroom and to always know that they are not alone."

Announced at the start of National Mental Health Week and proposed for introduction in schools in the next school year, the new mandatory mental health literacy resources will include:

- New learning materials for Grade 7 and 8 students that are aligned with the Health and Physical Education curriculum. This includes important tools like

student activities, videos and interactive programming and information that will help students learn how to manage stress, understand the relationship between mental health and mental illness, recognize the signs and symptoms of a mental health concern, counteract mental health stigma and know when and how to get help.

- Mandatory learning on mental health literacy for Grade 10 students will start in fall 2024 and will include how to recognize signs of being overwhelmed or struggling, as well as where to find help locally when needed. This will be included in the Career Studies course.

“Improving mental health literacy in schools is a critical part of building the resiliency skills that our children and youth need to grow up to be happy and healthy adults,” said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “There is no health without mental health. By providing schools these resources, we can lower stigma and improve connections to the community sector where students and their families can access Ontario’s continuum of care.”

The Ontario government is also announcing an increase in mental health funding in schools to a historic \$114 million in 2023-24, representing an over 500 per cent increase since 2018.

This includes:

- \$50.4 million to help school boards meet local needs and priorities related to mental health, including professional development, student engagement, wellness promotion and mental health professionals
- \$26.5 million to hire permanent mental health workers in secondary schools
- \$10.8 million for mental health leaders in school boards who collaborate with community partners to provide integrated student mental health services
- \$6.5 million to School Mental Health Ontario to provide clinical expertise, resources and practical tools for educators, and the delivery of professional learning to school-based mental health clinicians
- \$3.75 million towards mental health supports for racialized and marginalized students
- \$2 million to increase awareness for parents and guardians on student mental health
- \$2 million to support emerging student mental health needs, including initiatives that promote healthy behaviours such as the prevention and awareness of substance use and addiction.

The new learning on mental health aligns with Ontario's nation-leading updated [2019 Health and Physical Education Curriculum](#) that includes learning on mental health literacy in every grade.

To date, over \$525 million in funding has been provided as part of the [Roadmap to Wellness](#) to improve the quality and access to mental health supports while shortening wait times and removing gaps in service. This includes over \$130 million for child and youth mental health services and supports. In addition to expanding services and launching the "One Stop Talk" virtual counselling program for youth and their families, our government has also significantly expanded the number of Youth Wellness Hubs across the province to make it faster and easier for youth to connect with primary care, mental health and substance use support, social services and more.

This past fall, the government consulted with parent and student groups, educators, community-based child and youth mental health organizations and school-based mental health professionals to discuss ways to further improve student mental health supports. Ontario will continue to work with community partners to build a stronger continuum of care, so students have access to appropriate mental health services when they need it.

Quick Facts

- The [Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023](#) was introduced two weeks ago and would, if passed, give the Minister of Education the authority to issue policies and guidelines for school boards respecting student mental health.
 - [School Mental Health Ontario](#) is a provincial organization that provides school boards with student mental health evidence-informed resources, programs and professional training.
 - The Grade 10 Career Studies course is a compulsory course requirement towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
 - Through the [Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System](#), Ontario is better connecting people to mental health services that are convenient for them, including strengthening the continuity of mental health care for youth in schools and in the broader community.
 - In the 2023 Budget, the government committed an additional \$425 million over three years to support mental health and addictions services, including a five per cent increase in the base funding of community-based mental health and addictions services providers funded by the Ministry of Health.
-

Quotes

"The mental health and well being of students continues to be a priority for our government. I am beyond thrilled and proud that our government is introducing mandatory mental health education in our schools. Mental health literacy can be taught just like any other subject in school, and we know that students who receive appropriate supports have improved academic success. Our government is getting it done by leading the way in Canada to make mental health education a required part of elementary and secondary school education."

- Natalie Pierre
MPP for Burlington

"Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO) recognizes the critical importance of supporting children and youth's mental health, including through education. With a comprehensive and connected system of mental health care in Ontario we can ensure timely access to the services and treatment that kids need. We welcome the government's focus on child and youth mental health and are committed to working with all partners in government to build a system that is there for our youth when they need it most."

- Alisha Tharani
Chief Executive Officer, Addictions and Mental Health Ontario

"Kids Help Phone knows firsthand that young people are struggling with their mental health, the need for support is greater than ever. These additional investments for increased community based mental health programs and services are important, necessary and welcome – it is great news! As Canada's only 24/7 multi-lingual e-mental health service offering free, confidential support to young people, Kids Help Phone is proud to continue to work alongside the Ontario Government to maximize access and to support students and youth of all ages, no matter how they identify – unlocking hope for young people to thrive in their world."

- Katherine Hay
Chief Executive Officer, Kids Help Phone

"Children's Mental Health Ontario has always advanced a comprehensive system of mental health care, where children and youth have access to the supports and treatment they need, when and where they need it – at schools, at home and in the community. We welcome Minister Lecce's attention to child and youth mental health and look forward to working with government to ensure that the full system of care, including the community sector, is appropriately supported, so that all kids and families have timely access to high quality mental health care."

- Tatum Wilson

Chief Executive Office, Children's Mental Health Ontario

"School Mental Health Ontario welcomes these additional investments to promote student mental health. The important new curriculum offerings to enhance mental health literacy in grades 7, 8 and 10 will help to equip every student with identity-affirming, research-based knowledge, skills and strategies to support their mental health and wellness. These investments acknowledge and support the critical role of educators in mental health promotion, and also appreciate the role of school mental health professionals in prevention and early intervention service delivery, as part of a wider system of care alongside community and health partners."

- Theresa Kennedy

Associate Director, School Mental Health Ontario (Seconded
Superintendent with Responsibility for Mental Health)

Additional Resources

- [Find mental health support](#)

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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STATEMENT**Ontario Marks Sexual Assault Prevention Month**

May 01, 2023

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

[Women's Social and Economic Opportunity](#)

TORONTO — Today, Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, released the following statement:

"May marks an important opportunity for us to reaffirm our support for girls and women, and to shine a light on the horrific crime of sexual assault.

Sadly, statistics show that one in three women and one in eight men in our country will experience sexual violence in their lifetime. Sexual assault and gender-based violence have devastating impacts on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole. It is critical that people affected by violence and exploitation receive the supports they need to recover and heal, while offenders are held accountable for their actions through the justice system.

Our government has zero tolerance for sexual assault and other sexual offences, and we are taking action to prevent and address violence against women and gender-based violence in all forms. To support victims, last year alone, our ministry invested more than \$250 million for victims of violence and violence prevention initiatives. This investment provides critical services and supports across the province.

We also want to thank our community partners for their work and dedication to helping victims, survivors and their children rebuild their lives.

As we mark Sexual Assault Prevention Month, we encourage people to have conversations with friends, colleagues and family members about how we can all play a role in stopping gender-based violence. Together, we can work towards an Ontario free of violence and full of opportunity for all."

Related Topics

Home and Community

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

Law and Safety

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Declares May as Building Safety Month

Updated Building Code will support efforts to increase Ontario's housing supply

May 01, 2023

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government declared May to be Building Safety Month. This recognizes the importance of the province's Building Code and the critical role building officials play in maintaining public health and safety, while making it easier and faster to build new homes.

"Building Safety Month is an excellent opportunity to highlight the important role Ontario's building officials play in protecting public safety and tackling Ontario's housing supply shortage," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "It is also a time to reflect on the many ways Ontario's Building Code impacts our daily lives — from establishing safety standards for our homes to ensuring people have barrier-free access to buildings, restrooms and other public spaces as we work to build 1.5 million homes by 2031."

Ontario's Building Code establishes high standards for construction to keep people safe, including requirements for fire safety devices, accessibility, structural sufficiency and water and energy conservation. It is updated regularly to reflect technical advancements, expert research and government priorities. The government works closely with its partners in the sector — building officials, fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders and the construction industry — to ensure that Ontario's buildings continue to be some of the safest and most accessible in North America.

"Every day, Ontario's building officials play a critical role in ensuring the safety of homes and buildings in municipalities across the province," said Lawrence Wagner, CEO of the Ontario Building Officials Association. "We like to refer to them as 'guardians of building communities' and we're pleased that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is proclaiming May as Building Safety Month across Ontario to recognize their important contributions and the importance of the Ontario Building Code."

The province is making changes to Ontario's Building Code to unlock housing, reduce barriers and help speed up housing construction. The changes make it easier to use innovative construction materials and techniques that can save time and money, including allowing encapsulated mass-timber construction for buildings up to 12-storeys tall. The province also streamlined modular multi-unit residential building requirements so they can be quickly assembled and occupied. The government is also encouraging innovative approaches to homeownership and increasing housing supply — such as [tiny homes, second units and laneway housing](#).

Last year, Ontario introduced a new [digital Building Code compendium](#) that can be used on mobile phones and tablets, making it easier to use on construction sites and in remote areas. The province is also working to better align Ontario's Building Code with the National Construction Codes. Increased harmonization of construction codes will help reduce red tape and overcome barriers related to trade, product manufacturing, and building design and maintenance, supporting market standardization across the country.

The government recognizes that labour shortages are limiting home construction. The province's latest Housing Supply Action Plan, [Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants](#), proposes to address the shortage of building inspectors by redesigning the qualification program and supporting uptake of the new internship program. Developing more tools and guidance materials would also help to make their jobs more efficient.

The government will continue to respond to the needs of the sector, work with its municipal and building sector partners to keep people safe and better meet the needs of Ontario's building professionals. This is critical to helping the province address Ontario's housing supply shortage and reach its goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031.

Quick Facts

- The province continues to take decisive action to tackle Ontario's housing supply shortage and deliver on its promise to build 1.5 million homes by 2031 – most recently, with the introduction of the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants plan.
- The [Building Code Act, 1992](#) lays out the legislative framework governing the construction, renovation, demolition and change of use of buildings in Ontario. The [Building Code](#) is a regulation under the Act that includes standards for public health and safety, fire protection, structural sufficiency, energy

conservation, water conservation, environmental integrity and barrier-free accessibility of buildings.

- Municipalities are responsible for the enforcement of the Building Code within their jurisdiction. Municipal councils must appoint a chief building official and building inspectors to ensure proper enforcement of the Building Code.
- The province has fulfilled over 9,000 requests for the [digital Building Code Compendium](#) since its initial release in March 2022. This product provides the building industry and public with a more convenient way to access Ontario's Building Code than the original 2,300-page paper document.

Related Topics

Government

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

Home and Community

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

Law and Safety

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

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STATEMENT

Ontario Appoints New Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice

May 01, 2023

[Attorney General](#)

TORONTO — Today, Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, issued the following statement:

“Today, the Government of Ontario announced the appointment of the Honourable Sharon Margaret Nicklas as Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice.

Associate Chief Justice Nicklas was first appointed a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in Kitchener in 2007, where she presided over criminal and family law matters. From 2013 to 2019, she was Regional Senior Judge for the Central West Region. In 2019, she was appointed Associate Chief Justice – Co-ordinator of Justices of the Peace.

Associate Chief Justice Nicklas graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 1992 and was called to the bar in 1994. She was an Assistant Crown Attorney in Hamilton, Brantford and Waterloo Region from 1994 to 2003. In 2003, she became the Deputy Crown Attorney in Waterloo Region, and shortly before her appointment in 2007, she was the Acting Crown Attorney in that region.

Associate Chief Justice Nicklas will replace outgoing Chief Justice Lise T. Maisonneuve, whose eight-year term ends May 31, 2023.”

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From: Minister, MECP (MECP) <Minister.MECP@ontario.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:47 AM

To: Minister, MECP (MECP) <Minister.MECP@ontario.ca>

Subject: Save the date - Provincial Day of Action on Litter - (May 9, 2023) / Invitation à prendre date de la Journée provinciale d'action contre les détritrus, le 9 mai 2023

Hello,

We are excited to invite you to save the date to celebrate the fourth annual Provincial Day of Action on Litter, taking place on Tuesday, May 9, 2023! Ontario's annual Day of Action on Litter encourages individuals, students, municipalities and businesses across the province to work together to raise awareness about the impacts of litter and waste and take part in a litter cleanup.

We hope you will be able to join us in promoting and supporting the 2023 Day of Action.

Specifically, we welcome your support for a successful 2023 Day of Action by:

- promoting public participation in a cleanup on Tuesday, May 9 or on the weekends surrounding the Day of Action on Litter and educate participants on the impact of litter and waste using your communications channels.
- hosting a litter cleanup and inviting the public, volunteers, employees, or members to participate.
- posting to your social media accounts on May 9, 2023 to officially recognize the day, using the hashtag #actONlitter, and follow us for more posts to share.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will provide further resources to support the 2023 Day of Action on Litter shortly, including a litter clean up reporting form closer to the date.

We know there is still more to do to reduce waste and litter and keep our land and water clean and healthy, and that Ontarians will do their part to make this happen. We hope you will help us continue to build awareness and to keep our communities clean!

If you have any questions, please reach out to actONlitter@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your support in working together to keep our province clean.

David Piccini

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



OVTA hands out 2023 Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards

Posted on Thursday, April 27, 2023



Teresa Hebb of Renfrew County ATV Club received the Tourism Champion Award, which was presented by Chris Hinsperger, Co-Chair of the Tourism Awards Committee.

RELEASE DATE:

April 27, 2023

Pembroke, ON – The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2022 Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards:

- **Tourism Champion Award:** Teresa Hebb, Renfrew County ATV Club
- **Business / Organization of the Year Award:** Madawaska Kanu Centre
- **Event of the Year Award:** Pembroke Multicultural Festival

- **Sustainability Champion Award:** Somewhere Inn Calabogie
- **New Tourism Product Award:** Rio Tap & Grill – Rooftop Patio
- **Tourism Marketing Award:** Oh-el-la Café

The awards were handed out April 25, 2023 during the OVTA's Annual General Meeting, held at the Maplehaus Banquet Hall and Event Space in Hardwood Lake.

The Tourism Champion Award recognizes an OVTA member who is an active tourism champion for the Ottawa Valley. This year's recipient, Teresa Hebb, was instrumental in reforming the Renfrew County ATV Club. She has steered the focus of the club to include safe and informed riding of the trails.

"Through her volunteer role, the club is encouraging riders to be aware of the environment and heritage," says her nominator, Beth Kennedy of Placemaking Designs.

The Business / Organization of the Year Award recognizes an OVTA member business or organization that demonstrates leadership, innovation and dedication to the local tourism industry. This year's recipient was Madawaska Kanu Centre, whose mission is to create a safe, fun learning environment where beginners can learn the basics and expert paddlers can refine their skills.

Claudia Van Wijk nominated Madawaska Kanu Centre and noted "to date, more than 50,000 paddling students have learned the joys and thrills of whitewater paddling at MKC!"

The Event of the Year Award recognizes an event or festival that exemplifies industry best practices in all aspects of its operations, and is an example of excellence for other events and festivals. The winner of this year's award, the Pembroke Multicultural Festival, is the only cultural event of its kind in the Ottawa Valley with the main theme being togetherness.

"The festival broke down barriers and misunderstandings through the common language of food, music and art which allowed participants to focus on what unites, rather than what divides," said nominator Angela Siebarth.

The first of three new awards, the Sustainability Champion Award, is awarded to an OVTA member who creates a positive impact on their community and their environment through responsible and sustainable tourism and tourism products. This year's winner, Somewhere Inn Calabogie, is certified through Green Step, Rainbow registered, ECO Fund program participants, One tree planted per stay participants, and Living Wage certified.

"Somewhere Inn provides a sustainable, inclusive, and year round employment opportunity with a focus on growth, education, and the mental and physical wellbeing of their team," said nominator Meghan James.

The New Tourism Product award was granted to Rio Tap & Grill for the creation of their rooftop patio. This new award was created to recognize innovation and excellence including an existing business who develops a new tourism product as part of their experiences.

"The rooftop patio is a draw for visitors while at the same time provides an offering for locals that is unique and in our own community," said nominator Chris Hinsperger.

Finally, the Tourism Marketing Award was granted to Oh-el-la Café. This award was created for an OVTA member who has implemented an exceptional digital marketing or promotional strategy based on execution, impact, creativity and contributing to the success of the business or tourism product.

"Oh-el-la's promotional strategy of consistency with daily Instagram stories, business partnerships, and social media giveaways are what keep clients coming back for more," noted Ella Guckes in her nomination.

The OVTA would like to thank all nominators for taking the time and consideration to publicly recognize the talents and drive of those in the tourism industry. This highlights how a thriving tourism industry plays an invaluable role in a healthy local economy.

The OVTA is the destination marketing organization for the Upper Ottawa Valley and proudly represents over 250 tourism businesses, comprised of attractions and outfitters, accommodation, food, beverage and retail establishments, artists and galleries, municipalities and community organizations, as well as media and industry suppliers. The OVTA is supported by the County of Renfrew, Renfrew County municipalities and the City of Pembroke.

-30-

For more information:

Email [Erin Norris](#)

Tourism Industry Relations & Digital Marketing
Coordinator

613.732.4364 ext. 416

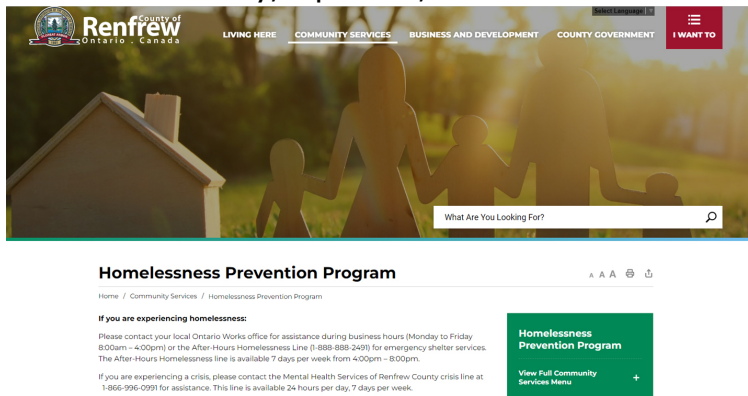
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By [GHD Digital](#) (<http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca>).



Ontario increasing support for Homelessness Prevention in Renfrew County

Posted on Friday, April 21, 2023



RELEASE DATE:

April 21, 2023

The Ontario government is investing an additional \$202 million annually in the Province's Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supporting Housing Program, bringing Ontario's total yearly investment in these programs to close to \$700 million. The additional funding will help those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness and support community organizations delivering supportive housing.

This includes a \$3.5 million investment in 2023-24 for the County of Renfrew's Community Services Department, nearly doubling the previous year's funding allocation. The funds from this program are used to cover a variety of housing and homelessness supports that help with housing acquisition, retention, and affordability. The County of Renfrew's Homelessness Prevention Program includes funding for emergencies, rent allowances, and essential home repairs. More information about these programs can be found at the [Community Services section](#) of the County's website.

"This increase in funding demonstrates our government's commitment to addressing the housing supply crisis, which we know impacts individuals across Ontario," said Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, following the funding announcement which was part of the 2023 Ontario Budget. "Investing in programs that support housing affordability and security will help Renfrew County residents to stay housed safely in our community."

The additional funding represents a 40 per cent increase in provincial funding to support the most vulnerable by providing supportive housing and homelessness prevention services across Ontario. Under the \$202 million investment, \$190.5 million each year will be allocated to the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), which gives Ontario's 47 Service Managers greater flexibility to allocate funding and make better use of existing resources to focus on delivering supports.

"We are extremely grateful for this injection of funding as it will increase the number of households we are able to assist and have a positive impact on the wellness of low-income households in Renfrew County," said County of Renfrew Warden Peter Emon. "These funds will certainly help with our plans to create affordable housing in Renfrew County and allow us to develop more supportive housing stock and housing options. The government listened when we spoke of the need and provided the funding to allow us to work toward solutions."

The increased funding is a result of a revised funding model that better reflects the current needs of individuals who are facing homelessness across Ontario. Funding dollars are being increased to address growing needs, particularly during a time of rising inflation, and to help ensure that no service manager receives a decrease in funding compared to 2022-23 because of the transition to the new model.

Ontario will continue to support the most vulnerable by providing supportive housing and homelessness prevention services to help those most in need.

Through this announcement, the County of Renfrew is pleased the Province has also provided details about funding allocations for the two following fiscal years which will assist in planning purposes for ongoing and seamless program delivery.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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County Council Summary

April 26, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from April 26, 2023.

Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

The full [County Council package](#) can be found here.

April meeting [YouTube](#) link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

During the month of April, Warden Peter Emon attended 17 meetings on County business.

- On April 3, he met with the Chair of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus to discuss shared initiatives and priorities, including common advocacy topics for upcoming meetings with members of Federal and Provincial Parliament.
- On April 5, he presented the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus '7 in 7' housing initiative to the Council of the County of Leeds and Grenville, and on April 7, he made the same presentation to the Council of Frontenac County.
- On April 6, he attended the Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network via zoom.
- On April 14, he attended a ROMA Board of Directors meeting. Discussion was held on the 2023 budget review, LAS Cyber Insurance Program, and updates on broadband, housing, drainage action and Justice of the Peace vacancies.
- On April 14, the Warden also participated in the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Tourism Awards judging panel. These awards were presented at the OVTA Annual General Meeting and Conference April 25 at Maplehaus in Harwood Lake in the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan. See our media release highlighting the [award winners](#).
- On April 14, he attended an electronic meeting with the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the MP and MPP from southwestern Ontario about EOWC priorities.
- On April 15, he attended the Hospice Renfrew 15-year anniversary held at St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew.
- On April 17, he attended a ROMA Board of Directors meeting via zoom (FCM Legal Counsel).
- On April 19, he attended an SVN Research Affordable Housing Seminar Planning Session Webinar.
- On April 24, the Warden, along with CAO Craig Kelley, met with Garrison Petawawa Commander Colonel J.C. Guiney. This was an opportunity to meet and discuss mutual interests. The Warden has invited Colonel Guiney to the May County Council meeting.

Delegations

- County of Renfrew Paramedic Service Chief Michael Nolan presented Chief's Commendations to Dr. Robert Cushman, former Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit and Leah Levesque, President and CEO, Arnprior Regional Health, to recognize their contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout the development and early days of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre. The Chief's Commendation is an award which was created more than 10 years ago for exemplary service and going above and beyond in our community. It's been awarded to members of the public, paramedics, administrative staff and individuals to recognize their extraordinary efforts.
- Darrel O'Shaughnessy, founder of the Arnprior McNab/Braeside Men's Shed, spoke about his group, which he called a social healthcare innovation. Men's Sheds help senior men lead healthy, active lives and stay connected with their communities through companionship and fun. They provide a place to hang out, tinker on projects, connect and tell stories. They also help to form age-friendly communities. The Arnprior McNab/Braeside Men's Shed, which began with five members, now boasts about 50 regular members and is the fastest growing Men's Shed in Canada. He asked members of County Council to help promote the Men's Shed concept in their own communities and consider establishing new Men's Sheds across the County of Renfrew.
- Dr. Jason Morgenstern, the new Medical Officer of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, attended the meeting and introduced himself to members of County Council. This marks the first time since 2015 that the RCDHU has had a full-time and permanent MOH. Dr. Morgenstern was the Associate MOH for Halton Region and earlier in his career worked in Southern Ontario. This is a homecoming of sorts since Dr. Morgenstern spent his childhood in Renfrew and Lanark Counties.
On the job since April 3, 2023, Dr. Morgenstern indicated his focus is listening and learning, getting to know the community, getting to know the programs and partners better and introducing himself to County Council is an important part of that.
He is optimistic about the future of the RCDHU, which he said has been doing amazing work and he is eager to continue collaborating and working together to support optimal health for Renfrew County and District residents.

Announcements

- The Development and Property Committee provides the option for local municipalities to host one of its regular meetings at the offices of local municipalities. In response to this, the Township of McNab/Braeside has requested to host the Development and Property and Operations Committees in June in their municipal Council Chambers. The objective with hosting in the local municipality is to enable the staff and local municipal Councils to meet with the Development and Property Committee and Operations Committee to discuss any matters of common interest or concern.
- County Councillor Dan Lynch made a special presentation to Warden Peter Emon, Chair of the Renfrew County 2023 Ontario Winter Games Organizing Committee and Councillor Jennifer Murphy, Finance Chair for the OWG committee. He had a vision and he took some of the wooden stumps used as benches by the athletes during the Opening Ceremony on Feb. 2, 2023. He commissioned Arnprior artist Bonnie Giles to paint the sport logos from the Games on the log, along with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan logo and the Renfrew County side of the medals

on top. He also presented wooden cookies with the same medal logo to Warden Emon, Councillor Murphy and one for Games Manager Cindy Burwell. Councillor Lynch offered his thanks and congratulations for leading such a successful event.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- The 2023 Warden's Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2023 at the Dragonfly Golf Course in Renfrew. Further details will follow.
- The annual Service Award dinner for County of Renfrew staff will be held on Thursday, November 23, 2023. Further details will follow.
- On November 23, 2022, proposed amendments to the POA aimed at modernizing and streamlining processes in POA courts were introduced in the Ontario Legislature as Schedule 8 under Bill 46, the *Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act, 2023*. Bill 46 received Royal Assent on March 22, 2023.
As a result, the following change to the POA have been approved:
 - Clerks of the court will grant, but not deny, applications to strike a conviction on a ticket, if satisfied that the defendant, through no fault of their own, missed a notice or was unable to attend a meeting or hearing related to the ticket. If the clerk is not able to grant the application and strike the conviction, the clerk must forward the application to a justice of the peace to make the determination whether to grant or deny the request for a reopening.
- At the request of the Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, the Human Resources division created and launched a survey designed to capture feedback on the experiences of County employees in a number of key areas. Among the proposals to come out of the survey are implementing alternative work arrangements; offering management training curriculum; launching recognition and referral programs; and implementing quarterly all-staff meetings. County Council approved Corporate Policies J-04 – Employee Referral Bonus Program and J-05 – Employee Recognition Program.
- County Council passed a resolution approving changes to the September Standing Committee schedule to allow elected officials the opportunity to attend the rescheduled Ontario East Municipal Conference in Ottawa. The September meeting schedule is as follows:
 - September 12, 2023 (9:30 a.m.) Development and Property Committee
 - September 12, 2023 (1:00 p.m.) Operations Committee
 - September 13, 2023 (9:30 a.m.) Health Committee
 - September 13, 2023 (1:00 p.m.) Community Services Committee
 - September 14, 2023 (9:30 a.m.) Finance and Administration Committee
- County Council passed a resolution approving the 2023 membership fee to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in the amount of \$23,093.95 including HST.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the use of \$112,879.25 from the existing Community Paramedic Reserve to cover the operating deficit within the Community Paramedic Long-Term Care Program as of December 31, 2022.
- Several by-laws were passed in relation to the 2023 Tax Policy:

- A by-law to set tax ratios for County and lower-tier purposes.
- A by-law to include a revenue neutral ratio for the Landfill class at 1.189066.
- A by-law to approve a final reduction in the Broad Industrial Ratio down to the Provincial Threshold of 2.63, which was phased in over a 2-year period beginning with the 2022 taxation cycle.
- County Council adopted a by-law to establish the 2023 Tax Rates for County of Renfrew purposes.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The Renfrew County Housing Corporation has demolished a single-family unit structure located at 202 Cecil Street, Pembroke, Ontario as it was deemed to be uninhabitable due to significant structural deficiencies and evidence of mold. The Renfrew County Housing Corporation Board of Directors approved a proposal to construct a new two-unit structure at the location, prioritizing energy efficiency and accessibility. The cost for the contract to replace the original home and add an additional unit, which will be an increase to the RCHC portfolio, is covered under the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) program funding through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The approved budget for design and build is \$545,471.
- County Council approved the transition of the two Licensed Home Visitor positions within the Child Care and Early Years Division from full-time equivalent (FTE) contract to full-time permanent with benefits.
- County Council approved an additional full-time permanent Inclusion Coordinator position with benefits within the Child Care and Early Years Division.
- County Council approved a by-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with child-care agencies and recreation programs for special needs resourcing funding be amended to enter into a special needs resourcing agreement with Wise Owl Child Care Centre.
- County Council approved a by-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with Tiffany Ploughman (Pembroke), to provide Licensed Home Child Care services.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- In partnership with the Township of Whitewater Region, the Economic Development Division is hosting the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs' (OMAFRA) [Community Economic Development 101 workshop](#) on Wednesday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Cobden Legion. Presented by Economic and Business Advisors from OMAFRA, the Community Economic Development 101 workshop aims to share the basics about economic development in a community and how the concepts can be applied in a municipal environment. Elected officials, economic development boards/committees, municipal staff and community leaders from across Renfrew County and the Ottawa Valley are encouraged to attend the free workshop.

- The Ontario East Municipal Conference will be held in Ottawa this year from September 6-8, 2023 at the Ottawa Conference and Events Centre and Courtyard Marriott Hotel. Register at: [Home - Ontario East Municipal Conference \(oemc.ca\)](https://oemc.ca)
- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) engaged the services of the Culinary Tourism Alliance to develop the strategy, which was completed between August and December 2022. The strategy contains research and data, as well as a three-year action plan aimed to support the development, growth and awareness of the Ottawa Valley's culinary tourism offerings by focusing on four areas of opportunity including:
 - Improve stakeholder awareness and appreciation for regional food identities and foodways;
 - Increase business and marketing literacy, to grow the number of market-ready businesses within the culinary tourism value chain;
 - Support the development of new and/or enhanced culinary and agri-tourism experiences;
 - Increase awareness of the Ottawa Valley as a culinary destination through marketing efforts.

The [culinary tourism strategy](#) (Appendix II of the Development and Property Report) was presented to members and stakeholders at the OVTA tourism conference on April 25.

- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Clerk to enter into a formal agreement with the City of Pembroke and the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association with respect to ongoing financial and program participation in a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for a five-year term commencing on January 1, 2023.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving Official Plan Amendment No. 35 (OPA 35). OPA 35 was drafted as a result of Provincial amendments to the Planning Act under Bill 109 "More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022" and Bill 23 "More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022". Among many changes, Bill 109 would implement financial penalties on municipalities in the form of application refunds if applications (Zoning, Official Plan, and Site Plan) were not processed within specific time periods.

Bill 109 did not change the municipalities' responsibility for the review of planning applications, however, did change the timeframe that municipalities have to make a decision on a complete application. The proposed revised process is already implemented in many municipalities across Ontario and will likely become "industry standard" moving forward. While staff understands that a few of the proposed amendments implementing Bill 109 have been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal, the majority have not been appealed and are in effect including the Town of Petawawa and the Township of Laurentian Valley. The amendment was circulated and provided to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Ministry did not indicate any concerns with the enhanced or "front-ended" pre-consultation review proposed in OPA 35.

- County Council passed a resolution requesting a letter be sent under the Warden's signature expressing the County of Renfrew's support to Videotron | Freedom Mobile in their intent to submit a request for funding to build and upgrade fibre transport network in Renfrew County through the CRTC Broadband fund.
- County Council passed a resolution directing staff to continue engagement with local municipalities regarding potential impacts as a result of the proposed Bill 97 "Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act" and the changes to Provincial Policy Statement.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- On Friday, March 24, 2023 at the Renfrew Paramedic Base, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski announced that the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) will become a permanent service in the County of Renfrew, with an initial annual investment by the provincial government of \$3.2 million in 2023-24. Council reviewed a letter from Mr. Evan Mills, Director, Digital Health Program Branch, Digital and Analytics Strategy Division, confirming the operational funding for 2023-24.
- County Council reviewed a letter and funding schedule from Assistant Deputy Minister Susan Picarello, providing funding details for COVID-19 response in the emergency health services sector. The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service will receive one-time funding of up to \$1.2 for 2022 calendar year and \$357,470 for January to March 2023.
- County of Renfrew Long Care Homes will undergo the Accreditation Canada Survey process June 26 to June 29, 2023. Members of the Health Committee recently completed the Renfrew County Long Term Care Homes Accreditation Canada Governance survey. The results were reviewed by Council along with an action plan setting out how compliance will be achieved.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Clerk to sign the Lease Agreement and letter of agreement between the County of Renfrew and Carefor Health and Community Services to lease office space at 425 Cecelia Street, Pembroke for tenancy of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre for a term of one year: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the Long-Term Care Service Accountability Agreements from April 1, 2023 until March 31, 2024 between Ontario Health and Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge for submission by April 27, 2023.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 between Ontario Health and Bonnechere Manor Senior/Adult Day Program for submission by April 27, 2023.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- The Fire Dispatch System for the County of Renfrew located at the Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) in the Town of Renfrew is at its end of life and requires upgrading. The system is used to dispatch 18 Fire Departments within the County of Renfrew (with the exception of Arnprior) and includes the City of Pembroke and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. BearCom, which maintains the equipment, has provided a quote in the amount of \$318,710 plus taxes to replace the equipment. As this purchase is unbudgeted for in 2023, staff has been directed to develop a business case and explore options for the County of Renfrew's Fire Dispatch System for Council consideration.
- The reconstruction of County Road 512 (Foymount Road) is being impacted due to the delays in the relocation of utility poles on the road. The Design Consultant has recommended that the

tender for the road works in 2023 include both Part 1 [from Harrington Creek (B257) to Buelow Road (2.88km long)] and Part 2 [from Buelow Road to Miller Road (3.96km long)], but specify a completion date in 2024. The tender would note the operational constraints as follows:

- Utility relocations for Part 2 will not be complete until October 1, 2023 (this is a conservative date to make sure utilities will be done);
- No section of roadway shall be left without base course asphalt over any winter shutdown period;
- All paving shall be completed prior to November 15, 2023.

Staff has requested that the consultant proceed with tender preparation on this basis; and is continuing discussions with Hydro One and Bell to attempt to move up the October 1 utility date to complete as much road works as possible in 2023.

- County Council passed a resolution requesting the Warden write a letter to Garrison Petawawa endorsing the construction of a roundabout on County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard) at the gate leading into Garrison Petawawa and that a second letter be written advising that the County of Renfrew will be responsible for the asset once completed, however, indicating it is not in a position to provide financial contributions to this project.
- County Council approved removing County Road 24 (White Water Road) from Stafford Third Line to Highway 17 at a budget of \$1,309,911 from the 2023 Capital Budget and further adding County Road 4 (Storyland Road) from County Road 653 (Chenau Road) to Alex Lane to the 2023 Capital Budget in the amount of \$1,309,911.
- County Council approved a reduction of the 2023 Capital Budget allocation for County Structure C325 (Neilson Creek Culvert) from \$450,000 to \$31,000 and the addition of County Structure C168 (Lake Clear Tri Culverts) to the 2023 Capital Budget in the amount of \$419,000.
- County Council approved the fees associated with signage permits be altered from their existing values to \$450 for a three-year permit. This fee structure is for private advertising signage within a County Road allowance. The change would require a greater level of commitment from businesses when considering placing signage within a County Road allowance, however, would also reduce the level of burden placed on staff in administering the program.
- County Council adopted a by-law appointing Mr. Richard Bolduc as Weed Inspector for the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved a number of contracts as submitted:
 - For the rehabilitation of County Structure B310 (Ski Hill Bridge) located on County Road 58 (Round Lake Road) in the Township of Laurentian Valley, to Bonnechere Excavating Inc. (BEI), Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$847,082 plus HST.
 - For the manufacture, supply, and delivery of a single glass reinforced plastic pipe liner for County Structure C197 (Etmanskies Swamp Culvert) located on County Road 62 (John Street), Township of Madawaska Valley, to Channeline International Fiber Glass Manufacturing LLC, Dubai in the amount of \$332,408 plus applicable taxes.
 - For rehabilitation of County Structure B044 (Douglas Bridge) located on County Road 5 (Stone Road), Township of Admaston/Bromley, to Bonnechere Excavating Inc. (BEI), Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$741,223 plus HST.
 - For rehabilitation of County Road 37 (Murphy Road) from Portage Road to Woodland Crescent, a distance of 1.20 km in the Town of Petawawa, to H&H Construction Inc., Petawawa, Ontario in the amount of \$710,091.74 plus HST.
 - For pavement markings in the amount of \$650,117.40 plus HST to Trillium Pavement Marking, Carleton Place, Ontario.

- County Council adopted a by-law restricting the weight of vehicles passing over bridges in the County of Renfrew. Since a by-law was initially passed in 2021 setting out bridges requiring load postings, major rehabilitation or reconstruction has taken place to bring some of the structures into compliance.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving Corporate Policy PW-02 Bridges which outlines the criteria for new, existing or replaced bridges to be considered for County of Renfrew structures. Amendments to Policy PW-02 Bridges include the removal of the requirement for County structures to be located on maintained roads; a stipulation that the design for County structures on seasonal roads include a review of potential removal for Council's consideration; and greater description of design, construction, and maintenance responsibilities on County Structures. Comments received from the local municipalities have been incorporated into the Policy.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the execution of a Road Access Agreement to County Road 56 (Woito Station Road) in the Township of North Algona Wilberforce between Tera Dojczman and Jacob Dojczman and the County of Renfrew.
- County Council adopted a by-law to Amend By-law No. 7-21, being a by-law to Regulate the Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on County of Renfrew Roads to remove restrictions for Off-Road Vehicles from County Road 72 (Ridge Road) and County Road 73 (Deep River Road). This is in response to a request from the Town of Deep River.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving the 'Class A' estimate by Hydro One for the relocation of the lines along the corridor of County Road 512 (Foymount Road), between Buelow Road and Miller Road, Township of Bonnechere Valley, in the amount of \$423,740.13 plus applicable taxes.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 3:50 p.m. April 19, 2023)

Flood Water Safety

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has issued a Flood Warning for [Pembroke District](#) and [Bancroft District](#); this includes Renfrew County, and the Township of South Algonquin. Rising water levels may pose a threat to the health and safety of residents.

Flood water and water ponding around wells can affect the safety of your drinking water. Renfrew County and District Health Unit is recommending that residents with water wells **in contact with flood water**:

1. boil their water for one minute at a rolling boil before drinking, food preparation or brushing teeth with the water,
2. use bottled water or,
3. use water from an alternate potable water source.

Well water should be tested for bacteria after flood waters recede. Water sample bottles can be picked up and dropped off at the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. For more locations, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-water/>.

During floods, the ground can become saturated, preventing proper operation of septic systems. If your septic system has been affected, avoid using the septic system if possible, or reduce the amount of water used by limiting toilet flushing, dishwashing, washing clothes, and showering.

Do not pump your septic system when the ground around it is still saturated. High ground water levels may cause an empty septic tank to float out of the ground and damage the inlet and outlet fittings.

Flood waters can be contaminated with sewage and cause illness. The following tips will help protect your family during flooding events:

- Keep your family safe by keeping family members and pets away from and out of the flood water.
- DO NOT enter areas where electrical systems have been affected by flood water, as there is a risk of electrocution. Always wait for clearance from an electrical authority before entering these areas.
- Building materials, clothing and furniture exposed to flood waters may be contaminated with sewage or other hazards and can support the growth of mould. Some items can be cleaned and disinfected; others may need to be thrown out.

Visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/be-flood-ready/> for more information on what to do before and during flooding events.

Visit the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry: [Flood Forecasting and Warning Program \(gov.on.ca\)](http://gov.on.ca) daily to view your community flood risk.

For more information, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/>, call 1-800-276-1097 extension 505, or email environmentalhealth@rcdhu.com.

-30 -

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

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April 27, 2023

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Provincial Matters

Please review the Ontario Community Environment Fund program [application guide](#) for guidance on applying to the program. The deadline to submit through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#) is May 30 at 5pm. Contact OCEF@ontario.ca for more details.

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Join us May 16 for our Human Rights & Equity training offering insights, understanding and skills to support your role as an employer in these complex areas.

LAS

LAS has a new program designed to help municipalities manage cyber incidents. Our latest blog outlines the details of this program and how your municipality can participate.

You know about the LAS Group Benefits Service, but do you know the person behind the scenes? We get up-close and personal with Mosey and Mosey's Account Executive in our blog.

Did you know you can now survey gravel roads through the LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service? Our 360-camera based system evaluates distresses and conditions to create an objective rating for your roads. Contact Tanner for a free quote, and to get on the schedule for a Summer 2023 survey.

Save on Energy is offering three online workshops in May and June to help municipal facility and energy staff save energy in their buildings. Learn how to benchmark and analyze your energy use. Space is limited. Email trainingandsupport@ieso.ca for more info or to participate.

Now renting Caterpillar, Inc. equipment through the Rental Equipment & Sales category of the Canoe Procurement Group. Access the equipment you need with more options and greater flexibility. Contact Sarah to learn more.

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Careers

Director of Council Services/City Clerk - City of Orillia. Provides leadership, overall direction, management and administration of functions associated with Clerk Services and Real Estate. Apply online only by May 4 at noon.

Procurement and Insurance Specialist - City of Orillia. Develop and maintain standardized procedures, systems and tools which support risk management activities. Apply online only by May 4 at noon.

Director, Programs (Ontario Works) - District of Muskoka Responsible for leadership and management of programs and special projects that serve vulnerable persons. Closing date May 5, at 12:00 p.m.

Assistant City Solicitor - City of Sarnia. Responsible for ensuring appropriate insurance coverage for all assets; investigating, administering and managing insurance claims; and developing and implementing policies and procedures. Apply to hr@sarnia.ca by May 16.

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Join us in Ottawa for OEMC 2023



OEMC 2023 will be hosted Wednesday, September 6 - Friday, September 8 at the Ottawa Conference and Event Centre!

The Ontario East Municipal Conference (OEMC) is the most popular, and one of the longest running, annual regional municipal conferences held in eastern Ontario. Each year our speakers, delegates and exhibitors comprise a diverse group of elected officials, economic development professionals, entrepreneurs, municipal service providers, private sector business leaders and provincial and federal partners involved in community economic development.

The 2023 Ontario East Municipal Conference (OEMC) is in person only from Wednesday, September 6 to Friday, September 8, 2023 at the [Ottawa Conference and Event Centre](#) providing easy access and great facilities for participants and exhibitors with close proximity to Highway 417 and VIA Rail Ottawa.

The Ontario East Economic Development Commission presents the conference with a goal of providing relevant, dynamic programming and opportunities to share knowledge and best practices to enhance economic opportunities and successes, along with many opportunities for networking and a lot fun! With three streams (Economic Development, Municipal & Community Development and Workforce Development), we have another great line-up of sessions of interest for all our delegates.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Registration Now Open!

Register before **June 15** for early bird savings!

[Registration Details](#)

Room Block Open - You Can Reserve Your Room!

The Ottawa Conference and Event Centre is less than 10 minutes from Parliament and national museums, and only minutes from the highway, train station and airport access.

One connected location! The accommodations are connected directly to the meeting space! You can walk directly from the convention floor to your room!

Rooms are only available for booking until August 11, 2023. Limited rooms available – please book as soon as possible to reserve your room!

[Learn more about the venue & room block details](#)



Join Our Growing List of Sponsors & Exhibitors

Support OEMC and take advantage of the many opportunities to access Ontario East Members and OEMC attendees.

Please contact Megan Howes at oemc@ontarioeast.ca if you are interested in purchasing a sponsorship and/or exhibit booth. Limited space available - don't miss this opportunity to support and participate in this eastern Ontario event that has key decision makers in attendance!

[Learn more about the opportunities available](#)



Thank you to our Sponsors!

Platinum



Gold



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Connect with us



OEMC Conference Office | 4 Cataraqui Street, Suite 310, Kingston,
K7K1Z7 Canada www.oemc.ca



Welcome spring and all sorts of new beginnings at the Arnprior Public Library.

Newsletter May 2023

Our long-awaited renovations are nearly complete!

In the very near future, we will be able to use these new indoor and outdoor programming spaces to better serve our growing community. So far this year we have signed up more than 490 new members and we welcome each and everyone of you to explore all our resources.



Digital content readers please be reminded of the switch to the Libby App for eBooks, eAudio and digital magazines that were offered via

OverDrive. For details on the switch, visit the Libby App information [link](#). If you are interested in French digital content, please visit our collection on the Cantook Station platform.



These and other electronic resources are available through our [Virtual Library](#).

We're thrilled to be hosting a province-wide library conference for small and rural libraries. More than 130 attendees will gather in Arnprior for 3 days of sessions, workshops, networking and special events. The library will be closed May 4, 5, 6 to accommodate this conference. We thank you for your understanding and patience.



During the conference, the Book Drop will remain open and we will accommodate curbside printing. We also have the opportunity to invite you to be part of the excitement and volunteer for the event. If you are interested in helping out, please complete this [registration form](#) and we will be in touch!



Our children's programming calendar is bursting with Monday after school programs, Tuesday drop-in LEGO Lounge, Wednesday Baby Rhyme Time (by registration) and Friday morning drop in programs for toddlers and preschoolers. Visit the [Youth Services](#) page for details and registration for the Monday programs. There's always something happening in the children's department - special displays, class visits and of course new books every week! We're also getting ready for summer fun. Registration for the TD Summer Reading Club will open in June with a full calendar of events and reading incentives.

Our adult programming schedule is busy too.

Monday mornings at 10am we welcome you to join the Whatknots. These creative folks bring their needlework and talk projects and books!

The Arnprior 10 Senior Book Clubs meet Tuesday mornings.

Tuesday afternoons, the Chess Club attracts a large group of enthusiasts of all ages who play anytime between noon - 6pm in the Art Corridor. Everyone is welcome.

Friday mornings, the Art Corridor is the destination for our ESL group, led by volunteers who are assisting our newcomers. The Library Bridge Group meets Friday afternoons from 1 - 3pm. If you're interested in playing or learning to play bridge, stop by. No sign up is required.



We'll be adding a new game to the roster. If you are interested in learning to play American Mahjong, [let us know](#) and we'll get a group started!

If you like to garden, let us know! We'd like to revitalize our reading garden and start some pollinator flower beds adjacent to our new outdoor programming space. Simply send us an [email](mailto:library@arnpriorlibrary.ca) (library@arnpriorlibrary.ca) and we'll be in touch!



We've got some new resources for you to access with your library card. Later this month, you'll be able to check out WiFi hotspots, radon detectors and CO2 monitors.

Following the Little Branches Rural Roots Library Conference we'll be updating the Art Corridor with a new

exhibit from a local artist. If you'd like to reserve the space for a showcase of your work, send us an [email](#)

We've got plans for some great events this fall and we're already planning for a return of our *"Talk of the Town"* New Year's Eve Gala featuring the Fabulous Heartbeats!



Remember to follow us on social media - now including Instagram - to keep up to date on what's happening at the library!

Good morning,

Here is an update from Cogeco that you are welcome to share with your residents via a website update and/or in a newsletter.

Cogeco bringing fibre-to-the-home to Arnprior

Starting in 2019, Cogeco began a fibre backbone project in partnership with Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED) as part of their Connect to Innovate (CTI) program. This project is the crucial first step to providing high-speed Internet in the region, as it establishes a fibre connection between Petawawa and Deep River/Chalk River, providing increased bandwidth. As this project is nearing completion, with the final components planned for Spring 2023, Cogeco now intends to move into Phase 2 for the area.

As part of Infrastructure Ontario's Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP), Cogeco will be expanding its high-speed broadband services to almost 6,000 premises across Arnprior, Deep River, Head, Clara & Maria, Laurentian Hills, Laurentian Valley, Petawawa, and Whitewater Region with a predominantly fibre-to-the-home solution.

Design work is now underway, and full project completion is planned for December 2025, with Cogeco's goal of having some homes progressively serviceable by the end of 2024. Further details, including specific communities within the scope of work, will be communicated as the design work progresses and permitting begins.

The attached graphic identifies the stages of our network expansion process and are welcome to include this in your update.

Thank you.

