



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: October 23rd, 2023**

Correspondence Package No. I-23-OCT-18

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-23-OCT-18 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Ontario Making it Easier and More Convenient to Connect to Home Care
- b) Ontario Helping More Children and Youth Access Healthy Food
- c) Ontario Continues to Strengthen the Economy with New Jobs
- d) Ontario Investing in Mobile Crisis Response Teams
- e) Ontario Strengthening Occupational Illness Protections
- f) Ontario Strengthening Wildland Firefighting Efforts

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) Nominations for 2023 Warden's Community Service Awards now being accepted

3. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) Watch File – October 5th, 2023
- b) Watch File – October 12th, 2023

4. Correspondence from the Ontario Ombudsman

- a) 2022-2023 Annual Report



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Making it Easier and More Convenient to Connect to Home Care

Changes will create Ontario Health atHome to seamlessly connect people to home care services

October 04, 2023

[Health](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is taking the next step to better connect and coordinate people's care through Ontario Health Teams. The *Convenient Care at Home Act, 2023*, if passed, will make Ontario Health Teams responsible for connecting people to home care services starting in 2025.

Working together with Ontario Health, the province has already approved [57 out of 58 Ontario Health Teams](#) across the province that over time will help people experience easier transitions from one provider to another, with one patient record and one care plan being shared between providers. To support this work, the government is investing over \$128.2 million to provide every Ontario Health Team with \$2.2 million over three years to better coordinate people's care.

As a next step, today's legislation, if passed, would establish a new, single organization called Ontario Health atHome that would take on responsibility for coordinating all home care services across the province through Ontario Health Teams. These changes will make it easier for people to connect to the home care services they need. Instead of navigating a complex system and waiting for a call at home, through Ontario Health atHome, Ontario Health Teams will be a one-stop shop that provides people with easy-to-understand home care plans that let them know the care they are going to receive and when before going home from hospital.

Ontario Health atHome care coordinators would be assigned to work within Ontario Health Teams and other front-line care settings. They also work alongside care providers like doctors

and nurses, and directly with patients while in the hospital or in other care settings to facilitate seamless transitions for people from hospital or primary care to home care services.

“Ontario Health atHome will make it easier for people to find and navigate home care services, giving them the tools they need to know the care options available to them to stay in the comfort of their own home longer,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “With this next step, Ontario Health Teams can continue to ensure people get the right care, in the right place and seamlessly move between care providers during their care journey.”

An initial group of [12 Ontario Health Teams](#) have been chosen to accelerate their work to deliver home care in their local communities starting in 2025. With support from the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health, these teams will start by focusing on seamlessly transitioning people experiencing chronic disease through their primary care, hospital, and home and community care needs.

Work is already underway on new models of care, and this will be accelerated by Ontario Health Teams. An early leader is Southlake Regional Health Centre, a member of the Southlake Community Ontario Health Team, who is already providing more convenient and coordinated transition services through their Geriatric Alternate Level of Care Reduction Program to ensure people who have completed a hospital stay in acute care are safely transitioned home with a home care plan already in place before they leave.

This initial group of 12 Ontario Health Teams will also begin to work on innovative solutions to provide people access to tools to navigate local health care services 24/7 including online information and referral services and telephone referral services. Over time, these local navigation services and Health811 will be connected, providing a seamless navigation experience for users.

Quick Facts

- The *Convenient Care at Home Act, 2023*, if passed, would consolidate the 14 Home and Community Care Services organizations into a single organization - Ontario Health atHome – to provide a strong and centralized foundation to support stability of home care services now, and as care is delivered through Ontario Health Teams in the future.
- Ontario is investing an additional \$10.3 million in 2023-24 to support Ontario Health Teams to implement better ways to connect primary, hospital and home and community care for patients with diabetes, heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including options for connecting with providers online.
- With an investment of more than \$124 million, Ontario Health Teams and other health service providers are also investing in digital and virtual care options so people in Ontario can easily connect with a health care worker from the comfort of their home, including remote care monitoring and online appointment booking.

Quotes

"Ontario must massively expand the size and role of the provincial home and community care system to properly care for a growing and aging population. The legislative changes being introduced today are an important step towards ensuring more Ontarians can get the health care they require in the most appropriate setting – at home."

- Sue VanderBent
CEO, Home Care Ontario

"Today's announcement is an important step in modernizing Ontario's home care system. We look forward to continuing to work together to provide the best possible care to patients, in the comfort of their homes."

- Sandra Ketchen
President and CEO of Spectrum Health Care

"Home and community care plays a critical role in the future of a strong Ontario health care system. Legislative changes that strengthen this vital service will be important for supporting client care in an integrated health system."

- Deborah Simon
CEO, Ontario Community Support Association

"This 'connected care' approach, and the provincial investments to support it, will help transform health care delivery and support the vision of all Ontarians having full access to the care they need, across the spectrum of health care - all working together to deliver integrated care, through their Ontario Health Team."

- Matthew Anderson
President and CEO of Ontario Health

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Ontario Making it Faster and Easier to Access Health Care in Northern Communities](#)
- [Ontario Taking Further Steps to Support Integrated Patient Care](#)
- [Improving health care in Ontario](#)
- Learn more about [Ontario Health Teams](#)



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Helping More Children and Youth Access Healthy Food

\$5 million investment providing nutritious meals so students can focus and succeed at school

October 05, 2023

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

MISSISSAUGA — The Ontario government is investing an additional \$5 million this year in the Student Nutrition Program and the First Nations Student Nutrition Program which provides more than 600,000 school-aged children and youth with healthy meals and snacks throughout the school year to ensure they are well-nourished and ready to learn.

This investment brings the total provincial funding for this year to \$38 million and will help ensure the program can continue to deliver almost 90 million nutritious meals and snacks to students.

"Proper nutrition is an important foundation for academic success, and students should have access to healthy and nutritious food to support their growing minds and bodies," said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "We are grateful for the generosity of our partners, local community members and volunteers who contribute their time and money to help the next generation succeed. I commend their work and encourage Ontarians to get involved to support the success of Ontario students."

To build on the government's investment in the two student nutrition programs, the province is partnering with the Arrell Family Foundation, [the Breakfast Club of Canada](#), the Schad Foundation, [the Grocery Foundation](#) and [Student Nutrition Ontario](#) to launch the Healthy Students Brighter Ontario campaign, the first province-wide fundraising partnership of its kind.

To kick off the campaign, the partner organizations have raised \$1.67 million from [The Arrell Family Foundation](#), [The Schad Foundation](#), [Peter Gilgan Foundation](#), [Maple Leaf Foods and the Maple Leaf Centre for Action on Food Security](#), The Honourable Margaret McCain, and The Sprott Foundation. The partner organizations will continue to work with local groups and

businesses to encourage community involvement and fundraise to reach a combined goal of \$10 million, which includes the government's investment.

The Student Nutrition Program is delivered in partnership with local agencies, school boards, and community partner organizations, and the First Nations Student Nutrition Program is delivered through a First Nations-led process. Both programs provide breakfast, snacks or lunch programs to school-aged children and play a vital role in supporting students' nutritional needs and promoting positive academic outcomes.

Quick Facts

- Ontario's \$5 million investment will be split into \$4.25 million for the Student Nutrition Program and \$750,000 for the First Nations Student Nutrition Program to help more children and youth access healthy food.
 - The Student Nutrition Program operates in about 4,500 or 70 per cent of provincially funded schools.
 - Countless volunteers support the program by preparing and serving food in school settings.
 - The First Nations Student Nutrition Program helps provide children and youth with access to nutritious meals and snacks at 145 sites across 63 First Nations and 27 urban Indigenous communities.
 - Additional funding for the Student Nutrition Program and the First Nations Student Nutrition Program comes from municipalities, corporate donations, industry associations, charities and other local fundraising endeavours.
 - Organizations and businesses that want to get involved can contact [Student Nutrition Ontario](#), [the Breakfast Club of Canada](#) and [the Grocery Foundation](#).
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Quotes

"It's entirely unacceptable in a prosperous country like Canada that some students will go to school hungry. Our government has stepped up before and we are doing so again, by significantly expanding the Student Nutrition Program to ensure kids have access to nutritious food that will help support their learning and improve their physical and mental health. "

**- Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education**

"Setting up Ontario's next generation for success begins with ensuring they have a strong, nutritious start to their day. Investing in Indigenous youth through the Student Nutrition Programs supports their health and well-being on a daily basis so they can focus on achieving their goals."

- Greg Rickford
Minister of Indigenous Affairs

"The Arrell Family Foundation is proud to partner with the province to promote healthy food access for school-aged children through this critical initiative. As the Ontario government, private donors, and community members are coming together in support of the Ontario Student Nutrition Program, we look forward to working with all levels of government to ensure the health of our nation's students."

- Laura Arrell
Managing Director, The Arrell Family Foundation

"We are pleased to partner with the Government of Ontario. This collaboration exemplifies the power of collective action in making a meaningful impact on children's lives because success tomorrow starts with a breakfast today."

- Judith Barry
Breakfast Club of Canada's Co-Founder and Government Relations Director

"When students have adequate nutrition at school, they're empowered with the fuel they need to concentrate, learn, and grow. We applaud the Government of Ontario for making this critical investment in a healthier future for Ontario's children and youth."

- Claire Kealey Schad
Program Director, Schad Foundation

"The Coalition for Healthy School Food welcomes this new investment by the Ontario government in our province's student nutrition programs. It will go a long way to helping provide students with nutritious food at school. "

- Debbie Field
National Coordinator of the Coalition for Healthy School Food, representing 265 member organizations in all parts of Ontario and Canada

"Today's announcement is important for a growing number of students in Ontario and the programs that support them during their crucial learning and development years. We are most encouraged by this investment, which comes at a critical time. We all stand to benefit when children are well-nourished and poised to thrive with access to a healthy breakfast."

- Shaun McKenna
Executive Director, The Grocery Foundation

"As food prices continue to rise and the need for Student Nutrition Programs continues to grow, it has become increasingly challenging for programs to keep up with demand. As well, securing donations and volunteers at the local level has become a challenge. This \$5 million

investment from the Province of Ontario has come at a good time and is greatly appreciated; it will help programs provide much-needed nourishment for children right across our province."

- Catherine Parsonage
Co-Chair, Student Nutrition Ontario

"We are thrilled that the government of Ontario is continuing to support the growth of this essential program in our community with increased funding. We look forward to working together to establish a long-term sustainable plan to continue to support the growing nutrition needs of the student population within Six Nations of the Grand River."

- Kelly Gordon
Portfolio Lead, Community Health & Wellness, Six Nations of the Grand River

"When children and youth come to school hungry, it's impossible for them to focus on learning. This is an unfortunate reality for far too many students in our schools. The funding announced today is a great step towards addressing this challenge and ensuring that all of our students have stigma-free access to nutritious foods. Students need to be fully prepared to face their learning day without worrying about where their next meal might come from. Simply put, children who are not hungry are more prepared to learn and participate in our classrooms and extra-curricular activities."

- Cathy Abraham
President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association

"Food insecurity is a growing crisis in Canada, with 1 in 4 children now living in a household that is struggling to access food. School nutrition programs ensure that children can learn and thrive. We are pleased to be providing support for the expansion of school food programs in Ontario."

- Sarah Stern
Executive Director, Maple Leaf Centre for Food Security & Director, Community Involvement, Maple Leaf Foods

"As Canada faces overwhelmingly high costs of food and living, it is imperative that we support young minds with fresh, nutritious food at school. By supporting the Ontario and First Nations Student Nutrition Programs, The Sprott Foundation joins a caring community of supporters who believe that students should have access to a reliable, nourishing meal at school to fuel their potential."

- Juliana Sprott
Chief Giving Officer, The Sprott Foundation

Additional Resources

[Student Nutrition Program](#)



STATEMENT

Ontario Continues to Strengthen the Economy with New Jobs

Province celebrates made-in-Ontario manufacturing

October 06, 2023

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

TORONTO — Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued the following statement on today's monthly employment release by Statistics Canada, which showed Ontario added 19,900 jobs last month.

"Ontario is Canada's economic engine, and today's employment figures reinforce that, with close to 250,000 jobs created in the province in just the past 12 months. Despite global economic uncertainty, our government remains laser focused on building a strong and resilient economy that creates [good-paying jobs](#) for people across the province. Since June 2018, over 700,000 jobs have been created in Ontario, uplifting workers, strengthening communities and setting a strong foundation for the future.

Today's employment figures also coincide with [Ontario Made Manufacturing Day](#), an opportunity to celebrate the more than 36,000 manufacturers and 813,000 hard-working men and women in the manufacturing sector. In the last three years, Ontario has also welcomed close to 40,000 new manufacturing jobs. Ontario's world-class manufacturers are a critical part of the global supply chain, and the sector will continue to be the economic engine of the province.

During recent business missions to [Germany, Switzerland](#), Texas and Detroit, we strengthened our economic ties and reinforced the province's strengths in manufacturing and innovation. Missions like these have helped to attract billions of dollars in investments, across all sectors, and demonstrate that international businesses recognize Ontario's advantages as they prepare their expansion plans.

During this time of uncertainty, our government continues to create the conditions to attract jobs and investments. No matter what the future may hold, we will be ready with our plan to build a resilient economy and a stronger Ontario."



Ontario Investing in Mobile Crisis Response Teams

October 10, 2023

[Solicitor General](#)

The Ontario government is investing more than \$4.5 million to help police services provide specialized support to people who are experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis. The [Mobile Crisis Response Team \(MCRT\) Enhancement Grant](#) enables police to work with trained crisis workers when responding to those in need.

The following police services and Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachments are receiving MCRT Enhancement Grant program funding for 2023-2024:

- Collingwood & The Blue Mountains OPP - \$119,949
- Cornwall Police Service - \$120,000
- Dryden OPP - \$113,419
- Dufferin OPP - \$207,851
- Essex County OPP - \$120,000
- Gananoque Police Service - \$98,770
- Greater Sudbury Police Service - \$120,000
- Grenville OPP - \$128,436
- Guelph Police Service - \$118,248
- Haldimand County OPP - \$117,360
- Hawkesbury OPP - \$120,000
- Huntsville and Bracebridge OPP - \$120,000
- Huronia West OPP - \$119,949
- Kawartha Lakes Police Service - \$109,229
- Kirkland Lake OPP - \$120,000
- Lambton OPP - \$120,000
- Lanark County OPP - \$120,000
- Leeds OPP - \$118,458
- Lennox and Addington OPP - \$110,654
- Middlesex County OPP - \$117,750
- Niagara Regional Police Service - \$120,000
- Norfolk County OPP - \$120,000
- North Bay OPP - \$120,000

- Orillia OPP - \$120,000
- Owen Sound Police Service - \$113,236
- Peel Regional Police Service - \$120,000
- Peterborough County OPP - \$60,401
- Quinte West OPP - \$120,000
- Renfrew OPP - \$120,000
- Russell County OPP - \$120,000
- Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry OPP - \$45,000
- Smiths Falls Police Service - \$112,853
- South Simcoe Police Service - \$117,865
- St. Thomas Police Service - \$92,500
- Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service - \$108,850
- Temiskaming OPP - \$120,000
- West Grey Police Service - \$93,000
- West Parry Sound OPP - \$119,970
- Woodstock Police Service - \$118,648



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Strengthening Occupational Illness Protections

Occupational Exposure Registry, Leadership Table and new report will deliver improved protections for workers

October 10, 2023

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

The Ontario government is protecting and supporting workers by committing to create Canada's first-ever Occupational Exposure Registry to track harmful exposure levels, help diagnose workplace diseases faster, improve worker compensation, and reduce costs to the healthcare system. The registry will help address many of the 41 recommendations resulting from the province's first-ever review of the occupational illness landscape, [released in a report today](#).

"While Ontario has one of the strongest health and safety records of any jurisdiction anywhere, too many workers are falling through the cracks when it comes to occupational illness," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government will leave no stone unturned to ensure we have the best science and data needed to protect workers and make room for everyone's voice at the table as we build a stronger system that works for everyone."

Many workplace illnesses currently go undiagnosed or unreported because of the delay between exposure and symptoms, making it difficult to identify occupational disease risks and for workers to get financial support when they fall ill. The new registry would include comprehensive exposure records, identify at-risk workers, help with earlier diagnoses, and potentially contribute to expanding the list of presumptive illnesses in Ontario to improve worker compensation.

"Through our government's Your Health plan, we are building a healthcare system that better provides Ontarians with the right care, in the right place," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "With this innovative, first-of-its-kind Occupational Exposure Registry, our government is making it easier for workers across the province to connect to the care and support they need, when they need it."

In addition, Ontario is creating an Occupational Illness Leadership Table made up of industry experts and worker advocates to guide the implementation of the report's recommendations. The table will include some of the province's foremost medical voices along with representatives from workplace health and safety groups to ensure the province keeps pace with advancements in medical science and technology and delivers for workers.

To build the Occupational Exposure Registry, which is expected in 2025, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development is working with the [Occupational Cancer Research Centre](#) (OCRC) to collect and analyze data from existing Ministry industrial hygiene records. The Ministry and OCRC are also working with healthcare providers and industry associations to gather new data and catalogue past and current occupational exposures across Ontario's hundreds of thousands of workplaces.

"The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) has long advocated for greatly increased recognition of occupational diseases by Ontario's workers' compensation system," said Patty Coates, OFL President. "A government commissioned study by Dr. Paul Demers recently found that less than 10 per cent of Ontarians with occupational cancers ever get compensated. The OFL welcomes the government proposal to establish an occupational disease registry as a first step towards moving on other key recommendations in the Demers report, such as increasing the number of cancers recognized for workers' compensation."

The Occupational Disease Landscape Review report was authored by Dr. Linn Holness and Janet Brown of the [MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions](#) at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, a site of Unity Health Toronto, and an internationally recognized research organization. The 58-page report includes recommendations on workplace prevention and monitoring of occupational disease, healthcare delivery and ways to strengthen connections within the system.

In addition to the Registry, work is underway to deliver on the report's recommendations, including the development of a web-based Silica Control Tool that will assist in detecting and monitoring workplace silica exposure in the construction and mining industries.

Quick Facts

- The province recently passed [new legislation](#) that [increases the maximum fines for businesses that fail to protect their workers](#) and released Ontario's five-year [Prevention Works strategy](#).
- The Occupational Illness Leadership Table will be chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development with support from the Ministry of Health.
- An occupational illness is a condition that results from exposure to a physical, chemical or biological agent in the workplace to the extent that normal physiological mechanisms are affected, and the health of the worker is impaired.

- There were 40,185 allowed occupational disease claims in 2022, according to the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).
 - Occupational illness claims totalled \$82.5 million in 2022 according to the WSIB.
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Quotes

"I'd like to thank Dr. Linn Holness and Janet Brown for their unwavering commitment to preventing occupational illnesses in Ontario's workplaces. The recommendations in their Occupational Disease Landscape Review report will help guide the ministry and stakeholders over the next several years so that we bridge the gaps between the province's occupational health and safety and healthcare systems."

- Dr. Joel Moody
Ontario Chief Prevention Officer

"The new Occupational Exposure Registry is a big step forward to help answer questions and connect the dots between historic exposures and current illness. It will provide us with valuable information to help make evidence-based decisions to give people the help and support they need."

- Jeff Lang
President and CEO, WSIB

Additional Resources

- [The Occupational Disease Landscape Review](#)
- Information on [Workplace Exposure and Illnesses](#)
- [Prevention Works – Ontario's 2021-2025 Occupational Health and Safety Strategy](#)
- [Supporting Ontario's Safe Employers](#)
- [WSIB Scientific Advisory Table on Occupational Disease](#)



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Strengthening Wildland Firefighting Efforts

Province investing \$20.5 million to keep people and property safe

October 12, 2023

[Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

TIMMINS – The Ontario government is investing an additional \$20.5 million in wildland fire management to continue to improve and modernize how we fight wildland fires.

This funding is being used over three years to enhance aerial technologies, hire and train critical fire staff and help increase understanding of evolving fire science and behaviour.

“The 2023 wildfire season has been one of the most challenging fire seasons Ontario has faced in recent memory,” said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. “As the demands on our resources increase, it is imperative that Ontario continues to look at ways to strengthen our firefighting efforts so that we remain an internationally recognized leader in wildland fire management. “

With this funding, the government is:

- Investing in new aerial fire suppression technologies, including drones
- Building capacity to support Indigenous wildland fire management and community resilience
- Strengthening Ontario’s FireRanger workforce by recruiting new staff, enhancing skills development and promoting and maintaining safety
- Investing in science and risk assessment, including entering into collaborative research agreements with universities and other institutions to better understand the evolving science behind wildland fire management.

In addition, the government is working on several staffing improvements, including developing a psychological safety program to prevent and respond to mental stress and protect the overall psychological well-being of staff working in the wildland fire program.

Ontario is also addressing financial barriers to recruitment and retention by reimbursing eligible FireRangers for expenses related to training and reviewing collective agreement entitlements, including stand-by and on-call pay.

Quick Facts

- In Ontario, more than 700 wildland fires have been reported so far, burning more than 420,000 hectares across the province – nearly triple the 10-year average of total hectares burned on the landscape.
 - Ontario is internationally recognized as a leader in wildland fire management, with hundreds of staff who are highly trained and skilled in fighting wildland fires.
 - Ontario has a fleet of specialized aircraft used to suppress wildland fires and transport staff across the province, as well as 14 fire management headquarters, three attack bases and 17 forward attack bases.
 - Ontario has increased its base funding for 2023-2024 by \$35 million for emergency forest firefighting and our government has increased its commitment for funding Emergency Fire Preparedness by more than 92 per cent since 2018.
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Quotes

"This year, we had a very challenging wildfire season in Ontario, which led to fires spreading around Timmins, across the north and throughout the country. Our government is investing \$20.5 million to strengthen Ontario's firefighting efforts so that we can keep our environment and people living in northern Ontario safe."

- George Pirie
Minister of Mines and MPP for Timmins

"Today's announcement is welcome news. Ensuring that Ontario has the most up-to-date technology to fight fires, while investing in community resilience will help ensure communities in Northern Ontario are kept safe."

- Danny Whalen
President, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

"We commend the Ontario government for investing in additional wildfire management initiatives. The funding announced today to build capacity in Indigenous and Northern communities will help ensure continued preparedness and resiliency when facing threats from forest fires."

- Mayor Wendy Landry
President, Northwestern Ontario Municipalities Association

"We are very pleased to see the investment that the Ontario government is making to strengthen wildland firefighting. The resource-based tourism sector relies on providing safe and high-quality outdoor adventures in Northern Ontario to global travellers. It is imperative that we do more to protect the investments that tourism businesses have made in remote areas."

- Laurie Marcil
Executive Director, Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario

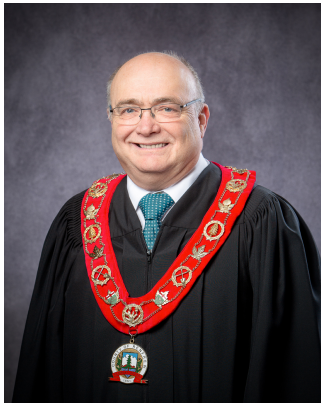
Additional Resources

- [Ontario's response to wildland fires](#)
- [Find out how to prevent forest fires](#)
- [Learn more about the science behind fire](#)
- [Learn how to become a fire ranger](#)



Nominations for 2023 Warden's Community Service Awards now being accepted

Posted on Wednesday, October 04, 2023



Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon

RELEASE DATE:

October 4, 2023

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

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

Individuals in our community step up in many ways to improve and strengthen the quality of life we enjoy here in the Ottawa Valley - from participating in and

organizing community events, devoting their time and energy to politics, supporting social support organizations, coaching and managing sports clubs and teams and celebrating our culture and heritage. Nominate an outstanding individual from your community.

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

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

"These awards provide an opportunity to honour and recognize individuals and organizations which have made positive contributions to our community," said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon. "We've had many deserving recipients in our council chambers over the years and we look forward to acknowledging the efforts of Renfrew County residents again this year."

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

For the criteria or to nominate an individual, not-for-profit organization or for-profit business for a Warden's Community Service Award, complete the [fillable PDF](#) or [online form](#) on the County of Renfrew website. For other inquiries or to submit the fillable form, email wardensawards@countyofrenfrew.on.ca. To request a faxed or mailed copy of the nomination documents call 613-735-7288.

The nomination deadline is November 3, 2023 and the awards will be presented at the November 29, 2023 session of County Council.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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AMO Watchfile not displaying correctly? [View the online version](#)
Add Communicate@amo.on.ca to your safe list



October 5, 2023

In This Issue

- AMO's Healthy Democracy Project update.
- Local Government Week - October 15-21.
- New Baseline Waste & Recycling Report released.
- ROMA 2024 Conference has launched: Registration and hotel information.
- ROMA 2024 Conference: Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.
- AMO 2023 mainstage programming videos now available.
- AMO-LAS Energy Symposium program release.
- Councillor training is not just for new councillors!
- Land Use Planning: Strengthen your planning prowess through AMO training.
- Municipal Cybersecurity 101 forum.
- 4S Webinar: Double WSIB rebates for Municipal Health & Safety Programs.
- LAS at the Energy Symposium.
- Canoe webinars.
- Reminder - CFTA Compliance Notice.
- Changes to SaveONenergy incentives.
- SaveOnEnergy Energy Management and Efficient Electrification webinars.
- Fleming College seeking municipal partnership projects.
- Solar eclipse planning webinar for municipalities.
- Ontario Nature's Wetland Conservation and Offsetting webinar.
- Careers: Oakville.

AMO Matters

AMO is excited to launch a new [Healthy Democracy Project](#) website section full of resources, articles, and videos related to our three streams of work. And you can check out our first [Healthy Democracy video](#). Please enjoy and share these new resources with your networks.

Understanding municipal government is to appreciate the range of services provided to residents and business community. It is the order of government closest to the people. [Local Government Week](#), October 15-21, is meant to educate youth on the importance and operation of municipal government, but one is never too old to learn.

AMO's [Baseline Waste & Recycling Report](#) reviews Ontario's current circular economy efforts. With only 10 years of disposal capacity remaining in Ontario, new waste diversion policy is required.

Eye on Events

The 2024 ROMA Conference, themed, *Closer to Home*, will provide rural municipal leaders the opportunity to address policy issues, funding concerns, and to meet directly with Provincial Ministers on local issues. Register by October 27 to access early bird rates. For full registration and hotel information, [click here](#).

Don't be disappointed! Book your trade show booth today to ensure your participation in the 2024 ROMA Conference. Limited spaces available. Download the [exhibitor package](#) or [sponsorship package](#) today.

If you missed the opportunity to attend AMO 2023 in the City of London, you now can [view the rich mainstage program](#) offered.

AMO and LAS have finalized the program for this years important conversation on energy and the municipal role. Don't miss this event November 2-3 at the Novotel Centre, Toronto. [View the program and register now](#). Space is limited.

AMO's Councillor Training provides the knowledge and insights to support you as a local leader. AMO's training explores the key areas related to your role as a local leader including: conflict of interest, code of conduct, insight into legislation and policy, finance and strategic planning, asset management - and more! [Register today](#) for October 20 training.

Whether you are looking for better understanding of legislation and planning processes, or are ready to dive into strategic decision making, these sessions will prepare you in your not always easy role of an elected official. Register for the [Foundations](#) or [Advanced](#) land use training fall opportunities.

It's back! AMO and MISA ON's joint Municipal Cybersecurity 101 Forum returns this fall in time for Cybersecurity Month. Join us virtually on October 12, 10am - 2pm to learn more about building a cyber resilient municipality. [Register today](#).

AMO's Health and Safety Program Management partner, [4S Consulting](#), is hosting a webinar on October 17 at 8:30am ET on the double rebate offering from WSIB for municipal health and safety programs. [Register and learn](#) more on how to create sustainable health and safety programs.

LAS

LAS staff have been working alongside AMO on a riveting in-person Energy Symposium on November 2-3! [Check out the program](#) and while you're there, be sure to register for the event! Need a login to register? Simply email amo@amo.on.ca if you don't have yours.

[LAS/Canoe Procurement Group](#) webinars are a great way to learn about topics of interest to your work. Join us for free sessions on project contracting, fuel management, fleet electrification and more. Visit our [Events page](#) to register.

Did you know that any municipality using an LAS program may need to post a notice on their website? The Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) Notice of Participation is required for any municipality purchasing through a buying group if you exceed a [certain threshold](#). [Visit our website](#) for more details.

The [IESO is changing](#) the SaveONenergy lighting incentive program this fall. Now is the time to take advantage of these existing incentives. Contact [Christian Tham](#) to participate in the LAS [Facility Lighting Service](#) today.

SaveOnEnergy is offering free training webinars for municipal energy/facility managers and directors. Learn how to integrate energy management principles, identify savings, and reduce cost in your municipal facilities. [Register](#) today.

Municipal Wire*

Fleming College is seeking municipal environmental land-use planning and management projects to be implemented by students in the Environmental Land Management program. Contact Emily Markovic to discuss partnership opportunities.

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is offering a free informational webinar on October 10, 11:30-1PM EST to help plan for the total solar eclipse in April 2024. Register today!

Wetland Conservation and Offsetting: Leading Policy Standards and Examples is a webinar for municipal and conservation authority planning and environment staff. Host: Ontario Nature. October 17, 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Register here!

Careers

Supervisor, Stores - Town of Oakville. Provide the planning, analysis, materials management, organization, and distribution of required goods and services. Apply online by October 15.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

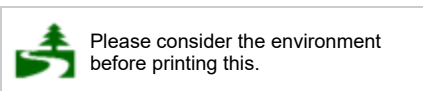
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- LAS Local Authority Services
- MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario
- ONE Investment
- Media Inquiries
- Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions

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AMO's Partners



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October 12, 2023

In This Issue

- Local Government Week - October 15-21.
- New Baseline Waste & Recycling Report released.
- ROMA 2024 Conference: Registration and hotel information.
- ROMA 2024 Conference: Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.
- AMO training - Understanding Competing Human Rights.
- AMO-LAS Energy Symposium program release.
- Councillor training is not just for new councillors!
- Land Use Planning: Strengthen your planning prowess through AMO training.
- 4S Webinar: Double WSIB rebates for Municipal Health & Safety Programs.
- LAS IPE Risk Symposium.
- Upcoming Canoe Fall webinars.
- Energy reporting deadline approaches.
- SaveOnEnergy Energy Management and Efficient Electrification webinars.
- Ontario Nature's Wetland Conservation and Offsetting webinar.
- Release of public information service.
- Careers: Brampton, Hamilton, and Simcoe.

AMO Matters

Understanding municipal government is to appreciate the range of services provided to residents and business community. It is the order of government closest to the people. Local Government Week, October 15-21, is meant to educate youth on the importance and operation of municipal government, but one is never too old to learn.

AMO's Baseline Waste & Recycling Report reviews Ontario's current circular economy efforts. With only 10 years of disposal capacity remaining in Ontario, new waste diversion policy is required.

Eye on Events

The 2024 ROMA Conference, themed, *Closer to Home*, will provide rural municipal leaders the opportunity to address policy issues, funding concerns, and to meet directly with Provincial Ministers on local issues. Register by October 27 to access early bird rates. For full registration and hotel information, [click here](#).

Don't be disappointed! Book your trade show booth today to ensure your participation in the 2024 ROMA Conference. Limited spaces available. Download the [exhibitor package](#) or [sponsorship package](#) today.

AMO and Hicks Morley have developed training to support municipal elected officials and council in understanding their obligations related to human rights and understanding how to manage seemingly competing human rights. You can register for this important training [here](#).

AMO and LAS have finalized the program for this year's important conversation on energy and the municipal role. Don't miss this event November 2-3 at the Novotel Centre, Toronto. [View the program and register now](#). Space is limited.

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LAS

On October 4, LAS and IPE hosted our biennial Risk Symposium where topics from 'polycrisis' to climate adaptation were covered. Learn more [here](#).

Join LAS and the [Canoe Procurement Group](#) for a series of free webinars on topics including fuel management, fleet electrification, and drone technology. Visit our [Events page](#) to register and [subscribe to our YouTube channel](#) to watch archived videos.

Annual utility reporting under O.Reg 25/23 (formerly 507/18) is due on October 31, 2023. For support with the [LAS Energy Planning Tool](#) please contact tswatt@amo.on.ca. For support with Portfolio Manager or other questions related to the regulation please contact BPSSupport@ontario.ca.

SaveOnEnergy is offering free training webinars for municipal energy/facility managers and directors. Learn how to integrate energy management principles, identify savings, and reduce cost in your municipal facilities. [Register](#) today.

Municipal Wire*

Wetland Conservation and Offsetting: Leading Policy Standards and Examples is a webinar for municipal and conservation authority planning and environment staff. Host: Ontario Nature. October 17, 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. [Register here!](#)

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority ([TSSA](#)) is Ontario's public safety regulator. TSSA releases public information (e.g., licence statuses or devices at a location) per its privacy codes.

Careers

[Manager, Standards & Training - City of Brampton](#). Provide a comprehensive training and mentoring program for new recruits to the Building Division. [Apply online](#) by October 22.

[Program Analyst, Corporate Asset Management - City of Hamilton](#). Responsible for supporting the engagement of asset owners from across the organization. [Apply online](#) by October 20.

Deputy Clerk - County of Simcoe. Assists the County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives in the performance of all of the statutory duties. Apply online by October 27.

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OMBUDSMAN UNDERLINES VALUE OF INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT

October 5, 2023

Annual Report 2022-2023: Promoting rights and fairness for vulnerable youth, long-term care residents, inmates, landlords and tenants, Francophones and more

- [Read the Ombudsman's 2022-2023 Annual Report](#)
- [Ombudsman's remarks on the 2022-2023 Annual Report \(accessible PDF\)](#)
- [2022-2023 Annual Report's Facts & Highlights \(accessible PDF\)](#)

(TORONTO – October 5, 2023) Releasing his eighth Annual Report today, Ombudsman Paul Dubé reflected on how his office’s “stronger, broader, more consistent oversight” has helped more vulnerable Ontarians and improved public services.

Two significant expansions of his mandate, a global pandemic, and a succession of major investigation report releases have allowed his office to exercise its unique strengths, “extending our ability to promote transparency, accountability, fairness, and a respect for rights,” he says in the report.

The Ombudsman received 24,551 cases – complaints and inquiries – in fiscal 2022-2023, and resolved 54% of them in two weeks or less. Complaint trends were largely consistent with the previous year (there were 610 fewer cases in total), but some areas saw upticks. In a year when many Ontarians struggled to make ends meet, there were increases in cases about programs like Ontario Works (up 75%) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (up 22%, on top of a 37% increase the previous year). Cases also increased 16% across all areas in the first six months of fiscal 2023-2024 (April 1-September 30), the Ombudsman reported.

Mr. Dubé’s report explains how his team helped many of these complainants receive benefits and resolve issues with caseworkers. For instance, they helped a family get

\$4,400 in shelter allowance payments they missed because officials failed to update their address.

Along with statistics on cases received during the past fiscal year (April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023), the Ombudsman's report contains updates on significant developments to date, including the results of his systemic investigations regarding delays at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) and inspections of long-term care homes, released in May and September 2023, respectively.

The Ombudsman made a total of 137 recommendations in those reports, all of which the government has accepted, and improvements have already begun. For instance:

- More inspectors, training and personal protective equipment are being added by the Ministry of Long-Term Care, and it is developing a plan to ensure inspections and oversight continue in the next public health emergency.
- More adjudicators, staff and other improvements to ease backlogs at the LTB (the source of 1,894 complaints to the Ombudsman in 2022-2023) will be implemented, thanks to a promised \$6.5 million investment by the province.

Mr. Dubé stressed that these cases – along with hundreds of individual case resolutions – illustrate his office's ability to leverage direct contact with complainants to spark wide-reaching improvements to public services. "The only thing more satisfying than resolving complaints is preventing them," he says, citing the "unique, twofold" strengths of his office: "The expertise to help a broad diversity of Ontarians overcome the problems they encounter with public services, and the power to help improve those services for the future."

It's an approach that has worked particularly well in the newer areas of his jurisdiction: Child protection services and French language services (both added in 2019), as well as municipalities, universities and school boards (since 2016), he notes.

The Ombudsman's dedicated Children and Youth Unit, which deals directly with hundreds of children to resolve individual concerns and flag systemic issues, has "done tremendous work in promoting the rights of young people in care," he writes. His recent reports on two investigations conducted by the unit have resonated throughout the child protection system, inspiring regulatory reform and other improvements, as all 76 recommendations in them were accepted:

- "Brandon's story," the case of a boy who suffered from neglect for years despite children's aid society supervision, is being used as a training tool by several agencies.
- "Misty's story," about a 13-year-old Indigenous girl from the North who went missing in Southwestern Ontario while in care of a foster agency, highlighted a grave need for agencies to incorporate learnings from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls into their practices.

Similarly, the Ombudsman's dedicated French Language Services (FLS) Unit has "accomplished meaningful results in the promotion and protection of French language services," he says. This is thanks to "the ombudsman approach," which he describes as: "Engaging directly with Franco-Ontarians, encouraging them to come forward with their issues, promoting their rights, conducting impartial, independent reviews and making evidence-based recommendations."

More details on FLS cases will be provided in December, when the office publishes the Annual Report of the French Language Services Commissioner. Meanwhile, today's report includes several examples of how the Ombudsman's broader oversight powers benefited Francophones who raised concerns related to education, municipalities and other matters not strictly related to the *French Language Services Act*.

In the area of municipalities – the Ombudsman's second-largest category of cases, after correctional facilities – staff not only handled thousands of files about everything from housing to by-law enforcement, they also promoted transparency and accountability at the local level by distributing expert guides on open meetings, codes of conduct and the role of municipal integrity commissioners. As the closed meeting investigator for 266 of Ontario's 444 municipalities, the Ombudsman reviewed 79 meetings in 2022-2023 – and his team also raised awareness of similar rules for school board meetings.

As usual, the Ombudsman's report includes updates on the progress made – or the lack thereof – on recommendations from his previous investigations. For instance, all but nine of his 60 recommendations (from a 2016 report) to improve services for adults with developmental disabilities who are in crisis have been implemented by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. However, he launched a new investigation in March, focused specifically on adults with developmental disabilities who are inappropriately housed in hospitals due to lack of supports and services in the community.

He also reports that none of the recommendations he made in 2016 (and reiterated in several submissions to the Ministry of the Solicitor General) to improve and standardize police de-escalation training have been implemented – but he is hopeful that they will be "incorporated into pending legislative changes this fall."

The bulk of the Ombudsman's work involves resolving individual cases and proactively prompting improvements, and the report includes examples of cases across the 12 general areas of his jurisdiction, along with testimonial comments from people whose issues were resolved. In the next few years of his mandate, Mr. Dubé says his priority is to develop his office's commitment to constitutionally recognized First Nations, Métis and Inuit people within Ontario, "to raise awareness and seek to engage with these communities in all aspects of our jurisdiction."

About the Office of the Ombudsman: The Ombudsman is an independent and impartial officer of the Ontario Legislature. Under the *Ombudsman Act*, the Ombudsman

reviews and resolves complaints and inquiries from the public about provincial government organizations, as well as French language services, child protection services, municipalities, universities and school boards. The Ombudsman does not overturn the decisions of elected officials or set public policy, but makes recommendations to ensure administrative fairness, transparency and accountability. The Ombudsman's investigations have benefited millions of Ontarians and prompted widespread reforms, better newborn screening, a more secure lottery system, more tracking of inmates in segregation, and improvements to the Landlord and Tenant Board.

For more information, contact:
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