



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior**  
**Regular Meeting of Council: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Correspondence Package No. I-24-JAN-01**

**Recommendation:**

That the Correspondence Package No. I-24-JAN-01 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

**1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario**

- a) Ontario Ministry of Transportation - Notice of Study Commencement - Main Line Pavement Rehabilitation (Highway 417 from Panmure Road to Ottawa Road 29)
- b) Ontario Investing in Programs to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence
- c) Ontario Increasing Funding to Combat Antisemitism and Islamophobia
- d) Ontario Unveils Plan to Build Modern Schools Faster
- e) Ontario Connecting Children and Youth in Eastern Ontario to Care Close to Home
- f) Ontario Protecting the Economy and Environment by Taking Action Against Invasive Species
- g) Ontario Taking Action to Enable Storage of CO<sub>2</sub> Underground
- h) Ontario Taking Action to Support Municipal Partners in Building More Homes and Protecting Taxpayers
- i) Ontario Consumers Will be Able to Buy Beer, Cider, Wine and Low-Alcohol Ready-to-Drink Beverages at Convenience, Grocery and Big Box Stores

**2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**

- a) [Peter Emon acclaimed as Renfrew County Warden for 2024](#)
- b) [County of Renfrew's 2023 Capital Works Completed](#)
- c) [2024 Calendar of County Council and Committee Meetings](#)

**3. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario**

- a) [Watch File – December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023](#)
- b) [Watch File – December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023](#)
- c) [Watch File – December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023](#)

**4. Correspondence from the Renfrew County District School Board**

- a) [Press Release – New Director of Education \(Kristen Niemi\)](#)

**5. Correspondence from the Arnprior Regional Health**

- a) [Leah Levesque to retire June 2024](#)
- b) [COVID-19 Outbreak Declared on Oak and Maple RHA at the Grove Home](#)

**Ministry of Transportation**

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December 19, 2023

**Re: Notice of Study Commencement  
G.W.P. 4109-17-00 - Main Line Pavement Rehabilitation  
Highway 417 - Panmure Road to Ottawa Road 29  
Townships of Huntley, Fitzroy & McNab  
Town of Arnprior & City of Ottawa**

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The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Eastern Region is undertaking the detail design and Class Environmental Assessment for mainline pavement rehabilitation of Highway 417 from Panmure Road to west of Ottawa Road 29 through the Townships of Huntley, Fitzroy and McNab, and in the City of Ottawa. A key map showing the location of the study area is attached.

This project is following an approved planning process for a Group 'C' undertaking in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000). The study will include an assessment of the impacts of the undertaking on the study area environment. Upon completion of the study, an Environmental Screening Document will be prepared for internal use documenting the existing natural and socio-economic environment, summary of design features, potential impacts resulting from the undertaking, and required mitigation measures.

The proposed work for this project includes resurfacing of main line lanes of Highway 417 within MTO right of way. All work will be restricted to the highway platform. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024 and is subject to provincial priorities and funding, and environmental approvals.

There are no anticipated full closures of Highway 417 associated with the proposed improvements, however, motorists can expect temporary traffic delays due to Highway 417 lane reductions.

Any comments or questions can be directed to the MTO Project Manager by **January 19, 2024**.

Mr. Chris Teepell  
Senior Project Manager  
Ministry of Transportation – Eastern Region  
1355 John Counter Boulevard  
Kingston, ON  
K7M 5A3  
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Tel: 613 583-3109

All information/comments received will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in the study documentation. With the exception of personal information, all comments become part of the public record in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

If you have any accessibility requirements, please let me know, and we will gladly accommodate.

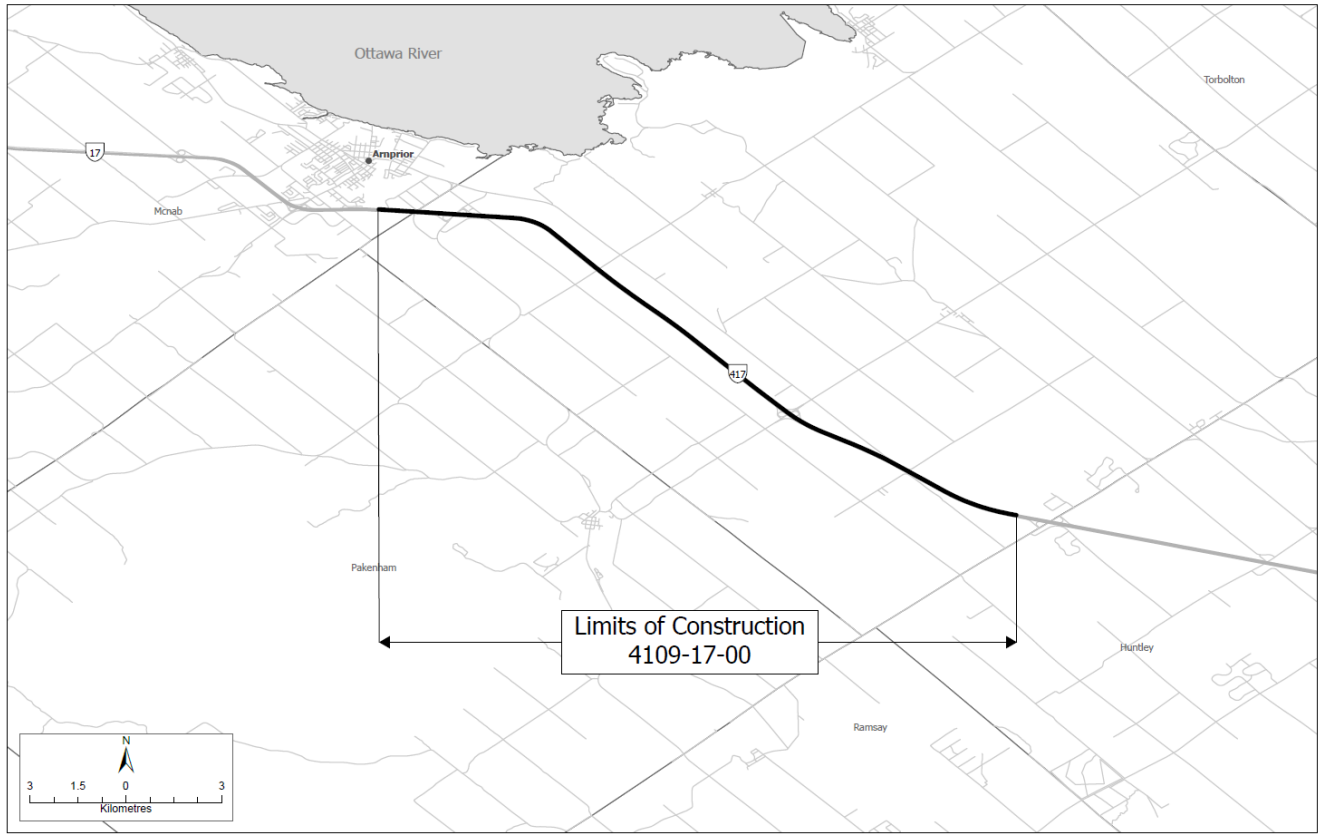
Sincerely,



**Chris Teepell**  
Project Manager

Encl. Study Area Key Map

cc: Maddison Arsenault, MTO Environmental Planner



**Study Area Key Map**

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Investing in Programs to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence

New funding will help more women and survivors access critical support services

December 06, 2023

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

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

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TORONTO – The Ontario government is investing an additional \$18.7 million this year to help prevent and address violence against women and girls. This funding builds on the province's existing investments of \$1.4 billion over the next four years to end gender-based violence and support victims.

"Today marks the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, which honours the 14 women killed and those injured 34 years ago at l'Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal," said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "This day is a solemn reminder of the importance of ensuring that we do all we can to prevent gender-based violence and address its root causes. Our investments will help ensure women and girls can live in safety – free from violence."

The \$18.7 million investment includes an additional \$18.14 million to approximately 400 gender-based violence service providers across the province to help them hire more staff, improve services and increase their ability to provide services to women and children.

An additional \$546,000 will be invested in the [Women's Economic Security Program](#) and the [Investing in Women's Futures](#) program to create more opportunities for women to build skills, gain employment and become financially independent.

"These investments are a continuation of our wider work to support women's success and build a stronger Ontario together," said Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity. "Increasing women's participation in the economy is critical to their financial independence, their family's prosperity, and Ontario's economic growth. Because when women succeed, Ontario succeeds."

This funding is part of Ontario's \$162 million agreement with the federal government through the National Action Plan to end Gender- Based Violence.

"The Government of Canada is proud to support programs that help women and children experiencing gender-based violence, through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Ontario-STANDS is one of many examples of this funding in action, and we commend the frontline workers who are working day after day to save lives. During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we remember the lives lost to violence and commit to building a safer Canada for everyone," said Minister Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth of Canada.

Over the next four years, the province will implement a cross-government strategy to increase funding to service providers to increase their ability to provide supports, expanding initiatives that help stop gender-based violence before it occurs, making it more seamless for women and children to transition between supports, and expand programs that provide training and employment opportunities for women so they can gain financial independence.

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### Quick Facts

- Ontario's investments over the next four years to help end gender-based violence is guided by [Ontario-STANDS: Standing Together Against gender-based violence Now through Decisive actions, prevention, empowerment and Supports](#).
  - In 2019, Ontario recorded more than 30,000 incidents of intimate partner violence. (source: [Number of male and female intimate partner violence victims in Canada in 2019, by province](#)).
  - 62 women and children were killed through gender-based violence between November 26, 2022, and November 25, 2023. (source: [2023 Annual Femicide List Press Release OAITH](#)).
  - Ontario's plan is aligned with other Canadian and international jurisdictions that focus on building safer and healthier communities through violence prevention while supporting women's well-being and economic opportunities.
-

## Quotes

"On behalf of our membership, Family Service Ontario applauds the government's commitment to addressing gender-based violence through a comprehensive strategy that includes a focus on prevention. This is a pivotal step, and family service agencies stand prepared to collaborate, working together with all stakeholders to ease the growing epidemic of gender-based violence in our communities."

**- Susan Somogyi Wells**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Family Service Ontario**

"We applaud the Ontario government's commitment to funding initiatives that help stabilize critical programs, ease service system pressures, and enhance connections to vital services. This announcement underscores the dedication to supporting survivors in their journey to leave and recover from violence and exploitation, fostering a safer and more resilient community."

**- Carly Kalish**  
**Executive Director, Victim Services Toronto**

"For over 50 years ONWA has been working to empower, support and end violence against Indigenous women. Indigenous women, like all people, have the fundamental right to be safe. When Indigenous women are safe and well, communities and families are better able to thrive. I am pleased to see the Ontario government's commitment to ending gender-based violence. It will take everyone working together to address violence against women and systemic racism. I look forward to working in partnership towards systemic change."

**- Cora McGuire-Cyrette**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Native Women's Association**



"Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes wishes to thank the Ontario government for the new investments in the field of violence against women. Action ontarienne also appreciates the government's commitment to the Francophone community. French-speaking women have the right to access quality and continuous services in their language and should be able to rely on the support of stable and sustainable organizations. Action ontarienne is proud to continue collaborating with the government in the elimination of violence against women."

- Maira Martin

**General Director, Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes**

"Gender-based and intimate partner violence is a crisis in Ontario's municipalities requiring an urgent and coordinated response across all levels of government. The province's plan strengthens critical services and supports, recognizes the importance of community-specific approaches, and commits to important reforms in the justice system. Municipalities look forward to working with the province and broader partners to build an Ontario free of gender-based violence."

- Colin Best

**President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario**

"Expertise exists in community-based organizations in Ontario, such as sexual assault centres and other community supports. At Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC), we laud a gender-based violence plan that builds on the existing work of the sector; a strong gender-based violence response plan also includes investment in Indigenous organizations supporting women, girls and gender diverse people. We support an Ontario plan that recognizes this expertise."

- Elise Hineman and Joanna Brant

**Co-chairs, Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC)**

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### **Additional Resources**

[Government of Canada National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence Framework](#)

[Get help if you are experiencing violence | ontario.ca](#)

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

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## Related Topics

### Health and Wellness

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

### Home and Community

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Increasing Funding to Combat Antisemitism and Islamophobia

Increased anti-hate grant will help keep Muslim and Jewish communities safe

December 07, 2023

[Citizenship and Multiculturalism](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing an additional \$20.5 million this year, to help address the rise of hate incidents against religious and minority groups, particularly amid the recent spike in antisemitism and Islamophobia.

The new funding, prioritizing Jewish and Muslim communities, will expand the province's Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant, helping faith-based and cultural organizations implement measures to ensure community spaces remain safe and secure.

"The rise in antisemitic, Islamophobic and other acts of hate we have seen in recent weeks is completely unacceptable and has no place in Ontario," said Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "We stand firm in our support of Ontario's Muslim and Jewish communities and will continue to work with them, and all faith-based and cultural groups, to ensure their safety."

The funding will provide community facilities, including synagogues, mosques, community hubs and Jewish and Muslim schools and childcare centres, with up to \$20,000 to help better protect their spaces from hate-motivated incidents, graffiti, vandalism or other damage. Grant funding can be used for measures such as hiring security staff, surveillance cameras, security assessments, cybersecurity, and building repairs.

"Acts of antisemitism, Islamophobia and hate have no place in Ontario and are toxic to our democracy," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. "People of all faiths have the inherent right to feel safe in their communities and their places of worship deserve respect. This strategic investment will support these institutions in making facility enhancements to further protect their patrons and their property."

This \$20.5 million investment builds on the \$12.5 million provided to over 1,400 faith-based and cultural organizations through the first round of the Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant. Previous recipients of the grant are eligible for a top-up payment. The application portal opens on December 14, 2023.

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### Quick Facts

- The new dedicated stream of funding will provide up to a maximum of \$20,000 per non-profit organization, based on its revenues.
  - From October 7 to November 20, the Toronto Police Service reported 55 hate crimes and 280 hate-graffiti incidents related to antisemitism or Islamophobia. This represents a significant increase compared to the same time last year with 14 hate crimes and 21 hate-motivated graffiti related to antisemitism or Islamophobia reported.
  - Since 2021, the government has allocated a total of \$86 million in grants and programs to protect faith and cultural communities.
  - All faith-based, cultural, 2SLGBTQQA+, First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous organizations who need support and meet the criteria are eligible to receive funding; however, priority will be given to those that primarily serve Jewish and Muslim communities.
  - Based on 2021 StatsCan Police Reported Hate Crime data, Jewish and Muslim communities are among those most targeted.
- 

### Quotes

"This new dedicated stream of the Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant is an important step in the right direction. The Muslim community has seen a 1,300% rise in hate incidents in the last few weeks. We need to continue to ensure the safety of our communities."

- Uthman Quick

Director of Communications, National Council of Canadian Muslims

"CIJA is grateful that, in this time of escalating antisemitism, Minister Ford and the Government of Ontario are taking significant measures to protect and safeguard the Jewish community from hate-motivated crime. This emergency funding is necessary to keep our communities safe from targeted attacks on Jewish childcare centres, schools and places of worship."

- Jaime Kirzner-Roberts

Vice President - GTA, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Strengthening Supports to Combat Hate and Create Safer Communities](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Law and Safety

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Unveils Plan to Build Modern Schools Faster

New measures will reduce construction timelines by nearly 50 per cent and get shovels in the ground faster

December 11, 2023

[Education](#)

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BRAMPTON — The Ontario government is introducing new measures to build modern schools faster that will cut construction timelines by nearly 50 per cent to meet the unprecedented pace of growth across the province. In Ontario, the average school construction timeline is 4-7 years, which comes from an obsolete capital process that has not been meaningfully overhauled since 2010-11.

For the first time, Ontario will ensure school boards are building schools in nearly half the amount of time it took before through a faster, transparent, accountable and clearer process that prioritizes shovel-ready projects. School boards will follow a more streamlined process to identify and dispose of unused property, generate more revenue to reinvest back in schools, create schools in mixed-use buildings like condominiums and use existing buildings in their communities.

"As our government delivers on our promise to Build Ontario, ease the housing crisis and meet the expanding population need, it is vital that students have access to modern schools close to home," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "It is no longer acceptable for schools to take a decade to be built, and that is why we are reforming the way schools are built by working with school boards to speed up the construction through design standardization, reduced approval requirements and increased transparency and accountability to ensure value for taxpayer dollars."

The strategy overhauls the development, planning and building of schools so projects can be completed faster for the benefit of families in growing communities. Key reforms include:

- **Prioritizing shovel-ready projects** and enhanced accountability requirements as school boards provide realistic project costs and timelines.
- **Strengthened accountability framework** to reduce approval timelines and stronger project oversight with the introduction of project agreements that lay

out key milestones and delivery timelines.

- **Standardizing designs** of new schools to reduce school board planning time and mitigate scheduling delays.
- **Greater collaboration** between school boards and municipalities to ensure planning and construction of schools is targeted to ongoing and future growth.
- **Reducing red tape** with streamlined approval and reporting requirements on new school builds.
- **Effectively using space** by supporting school boards in working together to operate schools in joint-use facilities between two or more boards within the same building, where appropriate, or as shared-use sites where a school is part of a larger building with multiple users, such as a school within a mixed-use condominium.
- **Identifying and disposing of unused surplus** school board property at fair market value, first considering local school board pupil accommodation needs and then provincial priorities such as long-term care and affordable housing before being sold by school boards on the open market. School boards will continue to reinvest proceeds of disposition back into their school facilities.

These measures have been incorporated into this year's (2023-24) Capital Priorities Program as well as through new regulation that takes effect December 31, 2023. The reforms will address the changing needs of the province and ensure that Ontario is building schools faster and better utilizing taxpayer dollars effectively, bringing more and improved accountability and transparency for parents and families.

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### Quick Facts

- School boards submit detailed project proposals to the ministry through the Capital Priorities Program (CPP) to address their current or anticipated accommodation needs for funding consideration. This program provides funding for capital projects to address accommodation pressures, facility condition, access to French-language schools and create new child care spaces in schools.
  - Ontario is committed to providing about \$15 billion over 10 years to support school construction, repair, and renewal.
  - Since 2018, the government has approved or supported the development of nearly 300 school-related projects including child care.
  - Since 2022, 38 new school construction or school addition projects have opened across the province.
-

## Quotes

"By leveraging surplus properties and cutting red tape to build new schools faster, our government is delivering on our historic plan to build Ontario. With these changes, we are one step closer to getting shovels in the ground to build new, modern, STEM-focussed schools as we prepare young students for the jobs of tomorrow. The construction of new schools by standardizing design will help build schools faster to meet the growing demand for infrastructure in our communities province-wide."

- The Honourable Kinga Surma  
Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure

"Building communities is about so much more than just housing. These measures will support stronger collaboration between municipalities and school boards as we all work together to build the complete communities critical for Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life."

- Colin Best  
AMO President

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## 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 Connecting Children and Youth in Eastern Ontario to Care Close to Home

\$40.5 million boost in funding to expand pediatric services in Ottawa and the surrounding area

December 11, 2023

[Health](#)

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OTTAWA — Ontario is investing more than \$40.5 million to increase access to pediatric services for children and youth in Eastern Ontario so they have the care they need, when they need it, right in their own community. This is part of the Ontario government's [investment of an additional \\$330 million](#) each year in pediatric health services at hospitals and community-based health care facilities across Ontario.

“Our government is making record investments in the health and well-being of our children,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “The pediatric funding provided to the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario will have a tremendous impact on children and their families, ensuring they receive faster access to care when they need it.”

The \$40.5 million in additional funding will support programs and services at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), its Children’s Treatment Centre and the Kid’s Come First Health Team, including:

- Increasing the number of surgeries being performed to reduce surgical wait times and backlogs.
- Connecting children and youth to faster access to MRI and CT scans.
- Reducing wait times for children to connect to care in local emergency departments by increasing access to care in other more appropriate settings, such as rapid access clinics.
- Increasing the number of beds and staff to connect more families to inpatient post-operative rehabilitation care.
- Implementing an immunization catch-up program for children and youth in Eastern Ontario with the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario and Ottawa Public Health.

- Increasing access to both mental health supports for youth experiencing eating disorders and psychosocial care for children and youth with cancer.
- Increasing access to children’s rehabilitation services, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language services.

“Ontario is putting children and youth first by ensuring they receive the care they need when they need it,” said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. “Our government’s significant investment in pediatric care at the CHEO Children’s Treatment Centre and children’s rehabilitation service providers across the Eastern region will reduce waitlists and improve access to clinical assessments, early intervention, and children’s rehabilitation services. This means less time waiting for speech-language pathology, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy services, and quicker recovery and better quality of life for children and their families.”

This consistent and stable annual funding increase will ensure CHEO can serve patients in Eastern Ontario with the people, resources and technology to improve access to pediatric care and prevent backlogs. Over 100 high-priority initiatives are being quickly implemented across Ontario to ensure children and youth in every corner of the province can connect to emergency care, surgeries, ambulatory services, diagnostic imaging, and mental health services.

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government is providing significant financial support to hospitals and communities to improve how they deliver pediatric care – ensuring Ontarians of all ages can access care easier, faster, and closer to home in their communities.

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### Quick Facts

- East Region children’s rehabilitation agencies will receive over \$8.4 million this year to support children’s rehabilitation, and preschool speech and language services.
- Supporting the mental health and well-being of people in Ontario is a key priority for this government. That is why we are providing a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions (MHA) system that offers high-quality, evidence-based services and supports where and when they need them.
- In 2020, the government released Roadmap to Wellness, our plan to build a world-class mental health and addictions system.
- In addition to investing in existing services, Roadmap to Wellness investments are supporting the introduction of new innovative programs to begin to address wait lists and times and ensure access to timely and appropriate services.

- For example, Ontario recently expanded [One Stop Talk](#), a virtual walk-in mental health counselling service for children, youth and families. Once fully implemented, it will provide immediate, low barrier access to brief counselling services through a single virtual access point from anywhere in the province.
- The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services funds children's rehabilitation services for children and youth with special needs, which includes speech and language pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy delivered in schools and community locations. The Preschool Speech and Language program provides assessments and services for children with speech and language difficulties and disorders from birth to transition to school.
- The government has also removed barriers for parents who have concerns about their child's development by ensuring that all [Children's Treatment Centres and Surrey Place](#) can assess a child without requiring a referral, which will help with early interventions and access to services.

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## Quotes

"Thanks to this historic investment, we will be able to provide more care to more kids more quickly - surgeries, diagnostic imaging, urgent care, outpatient appointments and more. For instance, with more kids in crisis coming to the Emergency Department every year, the new Mental Health Transition Unit opening today and the expansion of 1Call1Click will connect more children, youth and families to the help they need."

**- Alex Munter**  
**President and CEO, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario**

"Our government's record investments will ensure children and youth in Eastern Ontario can connect to the care they need closer to home, now and in the future. By reducing wait times and increasing capacity for surgeries and mental health supports, patients can continue to receive care faster, where and when they need it most."

**- Goldie Ghamari**  
**MPP for Carleton**

"Today's announcement is welcomed news for children and youth living in the Ottawa region, and for the team at CHEO. This new funding will increase the number of inpatient beds and provide faster access to MRI and CT scans, allowing more patients to connect to the high-quality care they need, closer to home."

- Lisa MacLeod  
MPP for Nepean

"Children, and their families, need comprehensive and integrated care that they can access close to home to meet their needs. This investment helps to support high-impact initiatives that will enhance the Ottawa region's ability to build access and improve capacity for the community."

- Dr. Chris Simpson  
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Executive, Ontario Health

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### Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Ontario Connecting Children and Youth to Care Close to Home](#)
- [Ontario Expanding Mental Health Services for Children and Youth in Every Corner of the Province](#)
- [Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

#### Health and Wellness

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Protecting the Economy and Environment by Taking Action Against Invasive Species

Province prohibiting and restricting 10 new invasive species from establishing or spreading

December 11, 2023

[Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

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TORONTO – Ontario is prohibiting and restricting 10 new non-native species under the *Invasive Species Act* to help prevent and reduce their spread to protect Ontario's economy and biodiversity.

"Invasive species damage our ecosystems, impact our ability to enjoy outdoor activities and harm our economy by threatening the forestry and agriculture sectors," said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. "That's why we are taking action to restrict these invasive species to protect Ontario's economy and ecosystems."

Examples of new species that will now be prohibited include certain fish, aquatic plants and invertebrates. Restrictions will also be placed on groups of new aquatic and terrestrial plants. The full list of the new prohibited and restricted invasive species can be found [here](#).

In addition, the government has initiated consultation to renew the [Ontario Invasives Species Strategic Plan](#) to address the evolving and increasing threat of invasive species in Ontario.

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## Quick Facts

- Ontario invested more than \$5 million in 2023-24 to support ongoing research, monitoring, and management of invasive species through programs and education across the province.
- The *Invasive Species Act, 2015* currently lists 42 species, four groups, one family and two carriers. The Act provides legislative tools to prohibit and restrict certain invasive species, as well as carriers that facilitate the movement of invasive species.

- Ontario has the highest number of invasive species in Canada. Once established, invasive species can harm the natural environment and are extremely difficult and costly to control or eradicate.
- In 2019, the Invasive Species Centre estimated that the potential impacts of invasive species to agricultural, fisheries, forestry, healthcare, tourism and the recreation industry may be as high as \$3.6 billion per year in Ontario.

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## Quotes

"Invasive species are one of the most significant threats to biodiversity and a major concern to Ontario's natural ecosystems. The Nature Conservancy of Canada is pleased to see the designation of these additional species under the *Invasive Species Act*. Included in the list of newly designated species are several that are not known to currently exist in Canada but are a considerable risk to our natural ecosystems if introduced."

**- Kyle Borrowman**  
**NCC's Director of Habitat Restoration in Ontario**

"The Invasive Species Centre supports the regulation of these invasive species. This action will help protect Ontario's lakes, lands and forests from these species and avoid future ecological and economic costs."

**- Sarah Rang**  
**Executive Director of the Invasive Species Centre**

"The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and its Invading Species Awareness Program are pleased to see the addition of 10 new prohibited and restricted species under the *Invasive Species Act*. With over 30 years of collaboration with the province, we will continue to support their goals of preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species in Ontario."

**- Angelo Lombardo**  
**Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters**

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## Additional Resources

- [Ontario Designates New Invasive Species](#)
- [Invasive Species Act, 2015](#)

- [Invasive species in Ontario](#)
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## Related Topics

### Environment and Energy

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

### Rural and North

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Taking Action to Enable Storage of CO2 Underground

Carbon storage projects would help industries reduce emissions and create new jobs

December 13, 2023

[Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

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SARNIA – The Ontario government is taking steps to encourage innovation and reduce emissions by enabling industries to begin testing and demonstrating small-scale underground carbon storage projects on private land.

Carbon storage involves capturing carbon dioxide from large emission sources like power generation or industrial facilities and directly from the atmosphere. It can be compressed and transported to be injected into underground rock formations.

“There is growing interest and acceptance of the role that carbon capture and storage will play in achieving net-zero emissions in a global economy,” said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. “I’m incredibly proud of the work we are doing to advance carbon storage in Ontario and ensure we are a leader when it comes to emissions reductions efforts.”

Ontario is taking a measured and phased approach to enabling and regulating geologic carbon storage to provide clarity for businesses to plan and invest in Ontario, while ensuring safe and responsible development. This will include looking at other Canadian jurisdictions where carbon storage projects already exist and exploring options to access underground space that is used for carbon storage.

Work is underway on a framework to allow for the development of large commercial projects. Public consultations are scheduled to begin in the new year.

“Carbon storage plays an important role in Ontario's Low-Carbon Hydrogen Strategy, which sets out a vision for a low-carbon hydrogen economy in our province,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “This will help develop a self-sustaining sector in Ontario, evolve our energy system, create local jobs and attract investment while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

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## Quick Facts

- Geologic carbon storage is the permanent storage of carbon dioxide in deep underground geologic formations. Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) involves many activities that capture, transport, use and store carbon dioxide. Geologic carbon storage is one part of CCUS activities.
- Ontario's geologic resource potential will need further assessment and confirmation, however most of Ontario's geologic storage potential is expected to be in southwestern Ontario.
- According to the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute – an international think tank seeking to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture and storage – there are almost 400 carbon capture and storage projects at various stages of development worldwide in 2023.

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## Quotes

"Our government continues to unlock the benefits of carbon capture and storage for Ontario's sustainable energy future. Investing in carbon storage technology will play an important role in decarbonizing our economy and support green jobs."

**- Andrea Khanjin**  
**Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**

"Enbridge Gas supports Ontario's efforts to enable carbon capture and storage opportunities, which are essential to reducing emissions from energy-intensive industries like steel, cement and fertilizers. Government must continue engaging with industry leaders and communities to introduce world-class safety, financial and technical expertise requirements, and undertake a competitive process to maximize economies of scale."

**- Jim Redford**  
**VP Energy Services, Enbridge Gas Inc.**

"Stelco applauds the Ontario government's work and their continued support of business and industry by making the necessary tools available to allow reductions in carbon emissions while protecting and generating jobs and encouraging investment in Ontario. The government's ongoing work to support decarbonizing the economy, including efforts around carbon capture, utilization and sequestration, are critical steps in achieving our goals."

**- Trevor Harris**  
**Vice President Corporate Affairs, Stelco**

"This announcement is an important step in decarbonizing Ontario's fuels sector and building up the green economy. Carbon Capture technology is already being safely deployed around the world to reduce GHG emissions. This government has shown a strong commitment to supporting Ontario's manufacturing sector in implementing environmentally responsible emissions reduction solutions."

**- Landon Tresise**  
**Director, Government and Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Fuels Association**

"The Chemistry Industry Association of Canada applauds the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on the continued progress of Ontario's Carbon Storage Roadmap. The chemistry sector is transforming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions and carbon storage is an essential element. Carbon storage is recognized and supported by the federal government and is operational elsewhere in Canada."

**- Don Fusco**  
**Director, Government and Stakeholder Relations – Ontario and Corporate Secretary, Chemistry Association of Canada**

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#### **Additional Resources**

[Geologic Carbon Storage](#)

[Ontario's Low-Carbon Hydrogen Strategy](#)

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## Related Topics

### Environment and Energy

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

### Jobs and Employment

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Taking Action to Support Municipal Partners in Building More Homes and Protecting Taxpayers

December 13, 2023

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

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**TORONTO** — The Government of Ontario is responding to feedback from its municipal partners and is taking steps to clarify and enhance collaborative efforts to build at least 1.5 million homes across the province by 2031, protect frontline services, and keep costs down for taxpayers.

“Since becoming the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I have been focused on working constructively with municipalities to reach our shared goal of building at least 1.5 million new homes by 2031,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “I have heard from mayors across the province about the significant positive impact that several recent legislative changes will have on their ability to meet their housing targets and chip in on meeting our shared province-wide goal. I am acting now to provide the certainty and stability they require so we can get more shovels in the ground quickly.”

In response to municipal and community feedback, the Government of Ontario is:

- Providing immediate clarity to residents and taxpayers of Peel, as well as the police, paramedics, and frontline workers who serve them, with legislation that would, if passed, mean the region will not be dissolved and these essential shared services and jobs of those who deliver them are secure, and that would recalibrate the mandate of the transition board to focus on options to enhance the self-determination of local governments to support building more homes faster and improve local service delivery;
- Consulting on proposed revocations, amendments and monitoring of existing minister’s zoning orders as part of a new “use it or lose it” approach to support improved municipal planning and resourcing while holding builders to account;
- Providing clarity about the application of development-related charge exemptions for attainable housing to support improved municipal budgetary planning; and

- Consulting on development-related charges and fee refund frameworks to support municipalities with sustainably building more homes faster.

### **Updating legislation to improve service delivery in Peel Region**

The government will introduce legislation in the new year that, if passed, would recalibrate the mandate of the Peel Region Transition Board to focus on making local government in Peel Region more efficient and responsive to the needs of taxpayers, including by improving regional services like policing, paramedics and public health, instead of dissolution.

“While we originally thought that the best way to achieve our goals of better services and lower taxes was through dissolution, we’ve since heard loud and clear from municipal leaders and stakeholders that full dissolution would lead to significant tax hikes and disruption to critical services the people of Peel Region depend on. This is something our government will never support,” said Minister Calandra. “While some might be okay with raising taxes on hard-working people, families, and businesses, we aren’t. This new mandate of the board will deliver improvements to local services like police, paramedics and public health while always respecting taxpayers.”

Over the last six months, the Peel Transition Board has worked closely and diligently with municipal governments and service agencies in Peel Region to support high-quality services for taxpayers while improving the efficiency of local governments as they prepare for future growth, including by making good on their municipal housing pledges. The new, more focused mandate also asks the board to bring forward recommendations on optimizing the delivery of services that support the commitment to build more homes, including land-use planning, servicing, roads and waste management.

These services are key to building homes and housing-enabling infrastructure. Removing the duplicative layer of regional bureaucracy from the administration of these services will get shovels in the ground faster so more people in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon can find a home that meets their needs. This balanced approach will provide certainty and stability for taxpayers and municipal employees in Peel Region while continuing the province’s efforts to provide the best value for taxpayers.

### **Minister’s Zoning Orders: zoning order amendments, revocations and enhanced monitoring**

In September 2023, the province announced a review of minister’s zoning orders to increase transparency and support government priorities. The review on zoning orders approved since 2018 considered whether there has been substantial

progress on:

- Additional downstream approvals needed for project development and implementation; and
- Addressing water and wastewater servicing within a reasonable timeframe.

As part of the review, consideration was given to whether substantial progress was made on all of the lands, or just part of the lands approved under the zoning order.

Some zoning orders were considered out of scope for the review. These zoning orders were:

- Requested by ministries within the Government of Ontario to deliver on provincial priorities, such as transit-oriented communities, long-term care facilities, hospitals or more;
- Made to fulfill contractual obligations; and
- Made since December 1, 2022, because in these instances, proponents and municipalities may not have had time to demonstrate significant progress.

“I have always been clear that if we do not see the results we expect from a zoning order, our government will not hesitate to amend or revoke it,” said Minister Calandra. “This approach sends a clear message that when our government issues a minister’s zoning order to support priorities such as housing or long-term care, we expect to see results.”

### **Non-housing related zoning orders for potential revocation or amendment**

The zoning orders listed below are currently being consulted on for proposed amendment or revocation. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their feedback before Saturday, January 27, 2024. Details about each zoning order consultation can be found on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario bulletin](#).

#### Lack of downstream implementation

- Brampton [O. Reg. 38/22](#)
- Kingston [O. Reg. 159/22](#)
- Markham [O. Reg. 482/22](#)

#### Lack of water or wastewater servicing

- Markham [O. Reg. 599/21](#)

#### Lack of downstream implementation and lack of water or wastewater servicing

- McNab-Braeside [O. Reg. 537/21](#)
- McNab-Braeside [O. Reg. 538/21](#)

- Oro-Medonte [O. Reg. 609/20](#)

### Substantial progress not made on part of project lands

- Pickering [O. Reg. 607/20](#) (amended by [O. Reg. 515/21](#))

### **Housing-related zoning orders for enhanced monitoring**

The below housing-related zoning orders are now under enhanced monitoring because they are showing a lack of progress. These sites will potentially be considered for future revocation or amendment, or to add an expiry date in the future if they fail to make substantial progress. More information is available on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#).

### Lack of downstream implementation

- Cambridge [O. Reg. 611/20](#)
- Brampton [O. Reg. 248/22](#)

### Lack of water or wastewater servicing

- Belleville [O. Reg. 495/22](#)
- Cavan Monaghan [O. Reg. 160/22](#) (amended by [O. Reg. 491/22](#))
- Innisfil [O. Reg. 251/19](#)
- New Tecumseh [O. Reg. 166/21](#)
- Southgate [O. Reg. 161/22](#)
- Southgate [O. Reg. 162/22](#)
- Whitchurch-Stouffville [O. Reg. 172/20](#)
- Whitchurch-Stouffville [O. Reg. 610/20](#)
- Whitchurch-Stouffville [O. Reg. 770/21](#)

### Lack of downstream implementation and lack of water or wastewater servicing

- Collingwood [O. Reg. 525/22](#)

### Substantial progress not made on part of project lands

- Kawartha Lakes [O. Reg. 771/21](#) (amended by O. Regs. [163/22](#), [490/22](#), [54/23](#))
- Kawartha Lakes [O. Reg. 40/22](#)

### **Consulting on a go-forward framework**

The province will launch consultations on a go-forward framework for how requests for zoning orders will be received and considered. The intention is to develop a new process that is more open and transparent while maintaining this important tool to cut through red tape to get shovels in the ground sooner.



The province is in receipt of three zoning order requests that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing intends to approve ahead of these consultations:

- A request received from the Minister of Health related to the protection of air flight paths of Orange emergency helicopters, patients, and crews that need to land at hospitals in downtown Toronto.
- A request received from the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade that allows Ontario to create jobs and protect taxpayers by issuing downstream permits to meet project timelines associated with the new battery plant mega-site investment in St. Thomas.
- A request endorsed by Mayor Olivia Chow intended to support a new location for a regionally significant Halal grocery store in the Thorncliffe Park neighbourhood of Toronto.

The province will not consider or issue any other zoning order requests until the completion of consultations on the go-forward framework.

### **New attainable housing program**

The government is developing an attainable housing program that will make homeownership a reality for more Ontario families. Following Ontario's first ever Housing Forum on November 27, the province is using insights and ideas from municipalities and partners in the housing sector to define attainable housing and to inform a modular housing framework that will be used, in part, to build attainable homes. These homes will be built on demonstration sites located on surplus government lands using innovative construction techniques, such as modular manufacturing.

In the *More Homes Built Faster Act*, the government's third Housing Supply Action Plan, the province introduced provisions to allow select attainable units to be exempt from municipal fees under the *Development Charges Act* to support the development of attainable homes. The government's definition of attainable homes will apply only to modular home demonstration sites, including surplus provincial lands and surplus lands made available by municipalities, in order to incentivize early development of modular, attainable homes.

The province will be consulting with key stakeholders over the coming months on this definition of attainable.

### **Development-related charges and fee refund frameworks**

As discussions between the government and its partners continue, the province is terminating the ongoing audits of municipal finances for the City of Toronto, Peel Region, Mississauga, Caledon, Brampton and Newmarket. Instead, the province will engage in consultations with its municipal partners on the impacts of the *More Homes Built Faster Act* and municipalities' ability to fund growth-related infrastructure that will support the construction of more homes, including a review of the five-year phase-in of development charge increases and fee refund framework.

"Over the past few months, our government has introduced significant investments in municipalities to support housing-enabling infrastructure, including the \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund and the \$200 million Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, both of which are on top of the \$400 million Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund," said Minister Calandra. "Looking ahead, we'll continue to work with our municipal partners to ensure that they have the tools and revenue streams needed to get shovels in the ground. As we do, we need the federal government to be a willing and able partner in supporting our province's growth."

The goal of the consultations will be to inform potential legislative changes for the government's upcoming Housing Supply Action Plan that would enhance municipalities' ability to invest in housing-enabling infrastructure (water, wastewater, local roads, etc).

The following potential changes will be consulted on for inclusion in upcoming legislation:

- The requirement to phase-in development charge rates over five years for development charge by-laws passed as of January 1, 2022;
- The removal of studies as an eligible capital cost for development charges; and
- The planning application fee refund framework introduced through the *More Homes For Everyone Act*.

Development charge exemptions and reductions for non-profit, affordable and purpose-built rental homes will remain unchanged.

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

### Home and Community

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Consumers Will be Able to Buy Beer, Cider, Wine and Low-Alcohol Ready-to-Drink Beverages at Convenience, Grocery and Big Box Stores

Province will ensure a stable and responsible transition to new marketplace that promotes Ontario-made products and local jobs

December 14, 2023

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Finance](#)

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Today, the Ontario government announced that beginning no later than January 1, 2026, consumers will be able to buy beer, wine, cider, coolers, seltzers, and other low-alcohol ready-to-drink beverages at all participating convenience, grocery and big box stores across the province. This new, more open marketplace will introduce up to 8,500 new stores where these products can be purchased, the largest expansion of consumer choice and convenience since the end of prohibition almost 100 years ago. Spirits like vodka, gin and whisky will continue to be sold at the LCBO.

"We made a promise to the people of Ontario to deliver more choice and convenience," said Premier Doug Ford. "Today, we're delivering on that promise. There's no reason why Ontario consumers shouldn't enjoy the same convenient shopping experience as Canadians in every other province when buying some wine for their holiday party or a case of beer or seltzers on their way to the cottage."

As a first step in the transition to a new retail marketplace, the government has informed Brewers Retail Inc. (The Beer Store) that the Master Framework Agreement (MFA), signed and extended for ten years by the previous government in 2015 and limited the number of retail stores that could be authorized to sell alcohol, will not be renewed after it expires on December 31, 2025. The Beer Store and LCBO will continue their retail operations in Ontario's new marketplace.

"The people of Ontario will soon have more choice and convenience on where they can buy alcohol," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "As we move towards implementing this expansion, our government will be taking a responsible,

measured approach so we can ensure our transition to a new marketplace is smooth, safe and stable.”

The government’s balanced approach also includes the following initiatives:

- **Competitive pricing:** Ontario will introduce competitive pricing to all private retailers to promote competition and a better deal for consumers. LCBO retail stores will maintain consistent pricing across the province to help ensure consumers do not pay more based on where they live, including in rural and northern Ontario. As they do in other provinces, retailers will have the option to set promotional prices consistent with relevant regulations. Minimum pricing policies will remain in effect to preserve standards for responsible consumption.
- **Pack sizes:** Ontario is removing restrictions and exclusivities on pack sizes. Consumers will be able to purchase any pack size, including 12-packs, 24-packs or even 30-packs as is popular in Quebec of beer, cider and ready-to-drink alcohol beverages at convenience, grocery and big box stores, in addition to the LCBO and The Beer Store.
- **Recycling program:** The Beer Store has agreed to continue to run the provincewide recycling program for alcoholic beverage containers until at least 2031 as part of a transition period in the new marketplace. This program, which is well liked and convenient for consumers with hundreds of locations across the province, helps keep costs down for producers and consumers while helping to protect the environment by diverting significant amounts of waste from landfills. The government will consult with retailers and industry stakeholders on the future of recycling and deposit return to ensure this important feature is maintained beyond 2031.
- **Support for local beverage alcohol producers:** Ontario will provide a range of transitional and time-limited supports to Ontario-based producers to help with the transition to a more open marketplace, including:
  - Extending dedicated shelf space requirements across all new retailers for craft producers to provide opportunities for small producers to compete
  - Immediately enhancing the Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) Wine Support Program beginning in 2024-25 for up to five years to 2028-29 to support the growth and sale of Ontario-grown VQA wines
  - Extending the Wine Marketing Fund and the Small Cidery and Small Distillery Support Program for up to five years
  - Supporting local economic development by directing the LCBO to promote and prioritize Ontario-made products, producers and workers by providing

more and enhanced programs, promotions and strategies to help local producers grow Ontario product sales

- Establishing a wine and grape industry sector table between government and industry partners
- Introducing legislation that will, if passed, eliminate the 6.1 per cent wine basic tax at on-site winery retail stores, making Ontario's tax regime competitive with other provinces, including British Columbia
- **Social responsibility:** The government is providing an additional \$10 million over five years in funding to the Ministry of Health to support social responsibility and public health efforts to ensure alcohol continues to be sold and consumed safely in the expanded marketplace. Existing requirements related to staff training, minimum pricing, hours of sale and warning signs will be maintained and applied to all new retail outlets.
- **Wholesale:** The LCBO will be the exclusive wholesaler for all retail, bars and restaurants selling alcohol and will offer consumers an extensive array of choices, including domestic and imported products. This structure will continue to offer the benefits of the LCBO's world-leading purchasing power and economies of scale and ensures sector stability, including maintaining an important employment footprint across Ontario and a significant revenue stream for government so that it can continue to invest in critical frontline services like health care and education. The province is proud of its LCBO workforce and will continue to support them through this transition.
- **Distribution:** The LCBO will continue to work with producers and retailers to distribute wine and spirits in an expanded marketplace, including retail stores, bars and restaurants. The Beer Store has agreed to maintain its primary role in the distribution of beer to retailers, bars and restaurants until at least 2031 as part of the transition period, helping to provide stability to the sector and frontline workers. The province will also permit more flexible distribution models for small producers.

In the months ahead, the government will continue to meet and consult with industry partners, local beverage alcohol producers and other stakeholders on additional areas of the future marketplace including licensing, wholesale pricing and taxes, mark-ups and fees. The province will also conduct a broader review of taxes and fees on beer, wine and alcoholic beverages with the aim of promoting a more competitive marketplace for Ontario-based producers and consumers.

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## Quick Facts

- The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) will continue to manage the licensing of alcohol sales in the province in the new marketplace.

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## Quotes

"Today is one of the best days the Ontario wine industry has had in decades. The measures announced by the Government of Ontario are the first step in allowing Ontario wineries and grape growers to grow and thrive."

**- Aaron Dobbin**  
**President and CEO, Wine Growers Ontario**

"For decades, Ontario wineries have faced disadvantages that other wine producing regions do not face in their home markets. Today's announcement by the Ontario government recognizes what we have long said: wine regions are catalysts for economic growth. Every dollar spent on wine grown in Ontario is a dollar going back into the economic growth of Ontario, through agricultural jobs, small business growth and agri-tourism. The government's plan will put us back on track for not only sustaining, but growing our agricultural businesses for generations to come."

**- Richard Linley**  
**President, Ontario Craft Wineries**

"The Grape Growers of Ontario extends our heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Ontario for its visionary approach to help Ontario's grape and wine industry thrive and grow into its true potential. The decision to extend the VQA support program for five years is a game-changer. It not only provides stability for both farmers and wineries, but it will also fuel growth. The elimination of the 6.1% Winery Retail Tax will invigorate Ontario wineries and make it possible for them to reinvest in their businesses and drive innovation. Together, we toast to a thriving grape and wine landscape in Ontario."

**- Debbie Zimmerman**  
**CEO, Grape Growers of Ontario**

"Today's announcement is welcome news for Ontario's convenience stores. Removing antiquated restrictions on the sale of beer, wine, coolers and ready-to-drink beverages will create new revenue streams for our local businesses and meet customer demands in an increasingly competitive marketplace. This is an important step, and we are committed to working with the government on the specific details on a responsible and successful transition of these new products into our stores."

**- Anne Kothawala**  
**President & CEO, Convenience Industry Council of Canada**

"Spirits Canada welcomes this important step in modernising Ontario's outdated alcohol retail options. Today's announcement brings Ontario closer to a level playing field for the province's hard-working distillers."

**- Jan Westcott**  
**President and CEO, Spirits Canada**

"We applaud the announcement by the government today and welcome the decision to restore more fairness in how these products are sold. We know that competition in the marketplace will ensure that products are still priced fairly. This will mean more stores will decide to sell these products and therefore provide more choice and convenience for consumers. Clearly the government has not only been listening to what Ontarians want, but they have listened to what independent grocers and smaller businesses need."

**- Gary Sands**  
**Senior Vice President, Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers**

"We are pleased to see the government move to end the Master Framework Agreement with The Beer Store. By ending the MFA, Premier Ford is moving Ontario forward and opening up choices for consumers; more grocery stores will soon sell more alcohol options in all formats and sizes – 12-packs, 24-packs, and even larger formats."

**- Diane J. Brisebois**  
**President & CEO, Retail Council of Canada**



"The Ontario Craft Brewers (OCB) applaud the government for delivering on its promise to expand the province's alcohol retail system, which will put consumers first and make it easier for Ontarians to find and purchase local craft beer. We are particularly pleased the government is building the system to support Ontario-made producers, for example, by maintaining dedicated shelf space for craft beer and continuing to prevent stocking fees so consumer choice determines what is on the shelves."

**- Scott Simmons**  
**President, Ontario Craft Brewers**

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### Additional Resources

- [Alcohol sales in retail stores](#)
- [Ontario Cutting Wholesale Alcohol Prices to Support Restaurants and Bars](#)
- [Terms sheet with The Beer Store](#)

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**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

### **RELEASE DATE:**

December 15, 2023

## **Peter Emon acclaimed as Renfrew County Warden for 2024**

Peter Emon, Reeve for the Town of Renfrew, has been acclaimed as County of Renfrew Warden for 2024.

As of the November 10 deadline, only one nomination was received for the Office of Warden for the 2024 term. Warden Emon was nominated by Councillor Michael Donohue and Councillor Jennifer Murphy seconded the nomination, which was affirmed by County Council during the Inaugural Session on December 12. Following the official swearing-in ceremony, Warden Emon outlined his major themes and goals for the next year:

- Addressing the housing and homelessness crisis;
- Fostering economic development and growth, including developing an economic development strategy;
- Building on the success of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre and promoting it as a model of care to be adopted across the province;
- Lobbying for the further expansion of Highway 17 through Renfrew County.

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

"Ahead of us we have a lot of hard, but exciting and rewarding work," Warden Emon said during his inaugural address. "It's the most exciting time to be in municipal government in my 30-plus years. We are forming policy and building community; creating and expanding opportunities for everyone to succeed and thrive. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of that."

He warned his council colleagues there will be challenges ahead but he is confident they can work together to make Renfrew County the best place to live, work, invest and play.

As the nominator, Councillor Donohue highlighted Warden Emon’s previous achievements, including moving forward on the declaration of Intimate Partner Violence as an epidemic; supporting the opening of a warming centre in the City of Pembroke; working to find efficiencies in shared services and accommodating growth; promoting the ‘7 in 7’ regional housing plan of the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus; and delivering a successful Renfrew County 2023 Ontario Winter Games and showcasing all the County has to offer to residents from across the province.

“The key elements of leadership are engrained in Councillor Peter Emon, along with the compassion to constantly seek improvement in the lives of all who call Renfrew County home,” Councillor Donohue told those assembled at the Inaugural Session. “The issues confronting us today are complex and challenging, but Peter refuses to see any issue as intractable.”

Councillor Murphy enthusiastically seconded Warden Emon’s nomination, noting his dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to the County makes him an exemplary candidate for the position of Warden for the County of Renfrew in 2024.

“Peter has proven a tireless dedication to the betterment of our County. His decades of service to the people of Renfrew County are not just a testament to his character, but a shining example of true leadership,” she said. “His involvement in regional bodies such as EOWC, ROMA and AMO reflects his commitment to amplify Renfrew County’s voice across the province. Peter Emon stands as a beacon of dedication and leadership and community spirit.”

This is Emon’s sixth term serving as Warden.

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

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# County of Renfrew's 2023 Capital Works completed

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Posted on Tuesday, December 19, 2023

**RELEASE DATE:**

December 19, 2023

The Department of Public Works and Engineering had a successful 2023 construction season, completing a wide range of projects to improve the transportation network across Renfrew County.

The County of Renfrew is responsible for approximately 816 kilometres of road and 251 bridges and culverts. In 2023, approximately 43 kilometres of County Roads were rehabilitated or reconstructed at a cost of \$23.8 million. Of these roads, approximately 30 kilometres included the addition of new paved shoulders in an effort to reduce future maintenance costs and improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Ten (10) County Structures were rehabilitated or replaced in 2023 at a cost of approximately \$6.1 million. Of these structures, three (3) were significant bridge rehabilitation projects; two (2) were significant structural culvert rehabilitations; and five (5) were structural culvert replacements.

In 2023, the Public Works and Engineering Department assumed responsibility for the continued expansion and maintenance of the County's Recreational Trails. The Algonquin Trail had 12.3 kilometres newly built in 2023, two kilometres of which are now open for public use; and an additional 10 kilometres of the existing Algonquin Trail were rehabilitated. Additionally, three bridges were rehabilitated or replaced. Approximately \$1.5 million was spent on work on the Algonquin and K & P Recreational Trails.

A significant amount of maintenance was also completed along the County's roads, structures, and trails in 2023. Maintenance work is typically undertaken by County

staff and includes but is not limited to road/trail side mowing, snowplowing, brushing, ditching, patching, grading, inspecting and more.

For a complete list of projects, and to provide feedback about the impact of any of the projects, please refer to our [ZenCity Engage](#) page.

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Tina Peplinskie 7288	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-

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

**CALENDAR OF COMMITTEES and COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

All meetings will be held in the **Council Chambers** of the County Administration Building, 9 International Drive, Pembroke, unless otherwise indicated. Conferences are in **bold**, and holidays are in **blue**.

DATE	TIME	
<b>January 10 - 12, 2024</b>		<b>EOWC</b>
Tuesday, January 16, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, January 16, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, January 18, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
<b>January 21 – 23, 2024</b>		<b>ROMA Annual Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Toronto</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 24, 2024</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Budget Workshop</b>
<b>Thursday, January 25, 2024</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Budget Workshop (if required)</b>
Wednesday, January 31, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
<b>February 6-8, 2024</b>		<b>EDCO, Toronto</b>
Tuesday, February 13, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, February 13, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, February 14, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, February 14, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, February 15, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
<b>Monday, February 19, 2024</b>		<b>Family Day</b>
Wednesday, February 28, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Tuesday, March 5, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, March 5, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, March 6, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, March 6, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, March 7, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
<b>March 11-15, 2024</b>		<b>March Break</b>
Wednesday, March 27, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
<b>Friday, March 29, 2024</b>		<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>Monday, April 1, 2024</b>		<b>Easter Monday</b>
Tuesday, April 9, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, April 9, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, April 10, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, April 10, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, April 11, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
<b>April 21-24, 2024</b>		<b>Good Roads Annual Conference, Toronto</b>
Wednesday, April 24, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Tuesday, May 14, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, May 14, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, May 15, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, May 15, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, May 16, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
<b>Monday, May 20, 2024</b>		<b>Victoria Day</b>
Wednesday, May 29, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
<b>June 6-9, 2024</b>		<b>Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference, Calgary</b>
<b>June 9-12, 2024</b>		<b>AMCTO, Collingwood</b>
Tuesday, June 11, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee

Tuesday, June 11, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, June 12, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, June 12, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, June 13, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, June 26, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
<b>Monday, July 1, 2024</b>		<b>Canada Day</b>
<b>Monday, August 5, 2024</b>		<b>Civic Holiday</b>
Tuesday, August 13, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, August 13, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, August 14, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, August 14, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, August 15, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
<b>August 18 – 21, 2024</b>		<b>Assoc. of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference, Ottawa</b>
Wednesday, August 28, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
<b>Monday, September 2, 2024</b>		<b>Labour Day</b>
Monday, September 9, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Monday, September 9, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Tuesday, September 10, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Tuesday, September 10, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
<b>September 11 – 13, 2024</b>		<b>Ontario East Municipal Conference, Ottawa</b>
Monday, September 16, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, September 25, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
<b>Monday, September 30, 2024</b>		<b>National Day of Truth and Reconciliation</b>
<b>Monday, October 14, 2024</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
Tuesday, October 15, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, October 15, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, October 16, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, October 16, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, October 17, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, October 30, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
<b>Monday, November 11, 2024</b>		<b>Remembrance Day</b>
Tuesday, November 12, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Development and Property Committee
Tuesday, November 12, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Operations Committee
Wednesday, November 13, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Health Committee
Wednesday, November 13, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Renfrew County Housing Corp and Community Services Committee
Thursday, November 14, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee
Wednesday, November 27, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council
Tuesday, December 10, 2024	10:00 a.m.	County Council Inaugural Meeting



December 7, 2023

### **In This Issue**

- AMO is moving!
- Webinar on public health mergers.
- Help promote Canada's 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis line.
- Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.
- Volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention.
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- ROMA 2024 Conference: *Closer to Home* programming updates.
- Save the date: OSUM 2024 Conference.
- Don't get left in the dark!
- Municipal climate internship recruitment.
- Join changemakers at the Future of Aging Summit next May.
- Must attend: ORFA's Outdoor Ice Symposium.
- Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications: Terminology.
- Fleming College seeking municipal partnership projects.
- Careers: North Huron and Aurora.

### **AMO Matters**

Effective January 2, 2024, AMO is moving to a new location:

*Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)*  
*155 University Ave, Suite 800*  
*Toronto, ON M5H 3B7*

Telephone and fax remain the same. Please amend your records with our new address.

On December 13, AMO and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies are hosting a webinar on voluntary mergers with Ministry of Health staff. See our [webpage for additional information](#).

### **Guest Column**

Last Thursday, Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health launched the [9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline](#). 9-8-8 provides lifesaving mental health support via phone or text. Help spread the word about 9-8-8 with this [social media toolkit](#)

### **Provincial Matters**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is [seeking feedback](#) on the proposed renewal of the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.

The Ontario Fire Marshal is conducting an [online survey](#) for volunteer firefighters and fire chiefs to inform their understanding on recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters.



## **Federal Matters**

Infrastructure Canada is now accepting applications for the Planning and Design Projects Stream of the [Rural Transit Solutions Fund](#) (up to \$50,000). Visit their website for [webinars for potential applicants](#).

## **Education Opportunities**

The ROMA 2024 Conference program will address important issues facing rural municipalities in Ontario, including housing, economic development, responding to gender based violence, and risk management. [View the program](#) outline including a full list of topics and [register today](#).

Mark April 30 - May 2 in your calendar for the OSUM 2024 Conference in Orillia. Check back [here](#) as details are confirmed.

## **LAS**

Countries around the world, including Canada, are looking to phase out fluorescent and other mercury containing lights. Don't get left in the dark - consider the [LAS Facility Lighting Service](#) for environmentally-friendly, efficient LED upgrades. [Contact Christian Tham](#) to find out more and get started today.

## **Municipal Wire\***

Environmental Leadership Canada is recruiting environmental leaders (aged 18-30) for a Municipal Climate Internship in eastern Ontario with Lanark, Frontenac, and Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry. [Applications are due December 12, 2023](#).

The [Future of Aging Summit](#) in Toronto, May 15 - 17, 2024, will bring together policymakers, researchers, designers, planners, advocates, and others focused on supporting healthy aging, ending ageism and building age-friendly societies. See the speaker lineup and get early bird pricing when you [register](#) by December 31.

ORFA's [Outdoor Ice Symposium](#) is a two-day event (January 23-24, 2024) focused on the opportunities and challenges of offering outdoor ice-skating experiences for communities. [Register](#) to join them in-person at The Bentway, Toronto or connect virtually!

The Digital Governance Standards Institute has opened public review on [terminology](#) that will be used to establish consistency in data requirements for planning and development applications in Ontario.

[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.

## **Careers**

[Director of Recreation & Children's Services - Township of North Huron](#). Closing date: December 20.

[Associate Solicitor - Town of Aurora](#). Closing Date: January 5, 2024.

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## **About AMO**

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

[@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

**AMO Contacts**

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

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AMO's Partners



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December, 14 2023

### **In This Issue**

- AMO is moving!
- Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.
- Volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention.
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- ROMA Conference 2024: Programming update.
- Free asset management webinar series.
- Join changemakers at the Future of Aging Summit next May.
- Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications: Terminology.
- Fleming College seeking municipal partnership projects.
- Careers.

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Effective January 2, 2024, AMO is moving to a new location:

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### **Education Opportunities**

With just over a month until the ROMA 2024 Conference, the full slate of concurrent sessions is available. [View the program](#) and [register today](#).

The [webinar series](#) will unravel the intricacies of infrastructure asset management

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working with nearly 100 municipalities in partnership with FCM's [Municipal Asset Management Program](#). The first webinar is on [Asset Hierarchy and Data Gaps](#) on January 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. EST. Click [here](#) for more details.

### **Municipal Wire\***

The [Future of Aging Summit](#) in Toronto, May 15 - 17, 2024, will bring together policymakers, researchers, designers, planners, advocates, and others focused on supporting healthy aging, ending ageism and building age-friendly societies. See the speaker lineup and get early bird pricing when you [register](#) by December 31.

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[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.

### **Careers**

[Director of Finance/Treasurer - Municipality of North Grenville](#). Deadline: December 22, 2023.

[Traffic Engineer - City of Markham](#). Deadline: January 14, 2024.

[Administrative Monetary Penalty System \(AMPs\) Business Analyst / Policy Advisor - City of Markham](#). Deadline: January 7, 2024.

[Chief Administrative Officer - Town of Erin](#). Deadline: January 10th, 2024.

[Executive Director, Digital Government & Service Innovation - Town of Midland](#).  
Deadline: January 2, 2024.

[Director, Seniors Services - Municipality of Chatham-Kent](#). Deadline: December 21, 2023.

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### **About AMO**

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### **AMO Contacts**

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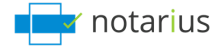
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December, 21 2023

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

#### **In This Issue**

- AMO has moved!
- AMO office closure during the holidays.
- Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.
- Volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention.
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- ROMA Conference 2024: Programming update.
- Free asset management webinar series.
- Happy holidays from the LAS team.
- IESO Procurement #2 - Feedback on proposed process.
- Public safety personnel mental health support.
- Join changemakers at the Future of Aging Summit next May.
- Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications: Terminology.
- Careers: AMO, Midland, Orillia, Halton and Thunder Bay.

#### **AMO Matters**

AMO's new address:

*Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
155 University Ave, Suite 800  
Toronto, ON, M5H 3B7*

Telephone and fax remain the same. Please amend your records with our new address.

The AMO office will be closed December 25 through January 1, 2024 and will re-open on January 2. The next issue of the Watchfile will be on January 4, 2024.

#### **Provincial Matters**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is [seeking feedback](#) on the proposed renewal of the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.

The Ontario Fire Marshal is conducting an [online survey](#) for volunteer firefighters and fire chiefs to inform their understanding on recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters.

#### **Federal Matters**

Infrastructure Canada is now accepting applications for the Planning and Design Projects Stream of the [Rural Transit Solutions Fund](#) (up to \$50,000). Visit their website for [webinars for potential applicants](#).

#### **Education Opportunities**

One month until the ROMA 2024 Conference! Take a look at the full slate of concurrent sessions available. [View the program](#) and [register today](#).

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experiences that AMO and Asset Management Ontario have learned working with nearly 100 municipalities in partnership with FCM's [Municipal Asset Management Program](#). The first webinar is on [Asset Hierarchy and Data Gaps](#) on January 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. EST. Click [here](#) for more details.

## LAS

From [all the staff at LAS](#), we want to wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and a safe and joyous new year. Thanks for all your support this past year - we look forward to [serving you](#) in 2024!

## Municipal Wire\*

IESO is [seeking feedback](#) on the proposed next round of procurements for energy projects including requirements for municipal support prior to applications being submitted.

[PSPNET](#) offers free online cognitive behavior therapy for Canadian public safety personnel (PSP) dealing with mood, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress. They provide therapist-guided and self-guided courses.

The [Future of Aging Summit](#) in Toronto, May 15 - 17, 2024, will bring together policymakers, researchers, designers, planners, advocates, and others focused on supporting healthy aging, ending ageism and building age-friendly societies. See the speaker lineup and get early bird pricing when you [register](#) by December 31.

The Digital Governance Standards Institute has opened public review on [terminology](#) that will be used to establish consistency in data requirements for planning and development applications in Ontario.

## Careers

[Policy Intern - AMO](#). Closing Date: January 22, 2024

[Executive Director, Digital Government & Service Innovation - Town of Midland](#). Closing Date: January 2, 2024.

[Senior Financial Planning Analyst - City of Orillia](#). Closing Date: January 12, 2024

[Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health - Halton Region](#). Closing Date: January 15, 2024.

[Manager, Corporate Financial Services - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: January 21, 2024.

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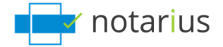
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**For Immediate Release**

December 18, 2023

## **Renfrew County District School Board Announces Kristen Niemi as New Director of Education**

The Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB), Board of Trustees is pleased to announce Kristen Niemi as Director of Education, effective January 2024.

Kristen Niemi joins RCDSB from Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board where she recently served as Superintendent of Education. No stranger to rural communities, Kristen spent over twenty years as an Educator, Vice Principal, Principal, and Superintendent at the District School Board Ontario North East and the Near North District School Board.

An experienced educational professional with a BSc from Laurentian University, a BEd from Western University, and a Masters of International Education (School Leadership) from Charles Sturt University in New South Wales, Kristen has worked in both Secondary and Elementary public schools.

Chair of the Board Susan Humphries noted “The RCDSB is proud to have attracted Kristen Niemi, whose outstanding career in education is an ideal fit to help us move forward with our strategic goals. Kristen’s understanding of the opportunities and challenges of small rural boards, her experience fostering authentic relationships with Indigenous partners, as well as her strategic thinking about our current initiatives with a strong student focus, resonated with the Board of Trustees.”



I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to join the Renfrew County District School Board and I look forward to meeting with the students and staff of the District very soon. I am eager to join in the work of the RCDSB's motto, to Inspire, Empower, Achieve - together," said incoming Director of Education Kristen Niemi.

The students, families, and staff of the RCDSB will be supported and valued by Kristen's leadership. There will be an opportunity to extend a hearty Ottawa Valley welcome to our new Director, who will make the District home as of January 1st, 2024.

A media availability will follow in January 2024.

**For more information, please contact:**

Meredith Caplan Jamieson  
Executive Officer of Public Affairs  
Renfrew County District School Board  
jamiesonm@rcdsb.on.ca  
613-433-2305 ext. 2231



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARNPRIOR REGIONAL HEALTH BOARD CHAIR

**December 6, 2023** - On behalf of the Arnprior Regional Health (ARH) Board of Directors, I would like to share that Leah Levesque, President and CEO of ARH, has advised the Board of her intention to retire in late June 2024. Leah's contributions to ARH have been exceptional. Although we are thrilled for her to begin this next chapter of her life, her presence at ARH will be missed.



Under Leah's expert guidance over the past two and a half years, ARH has achieved some truly significant milestones: the opening of the new Grove Home facility, attaining Accreditation with Exemplary Status, the launch of the collaborative Total Knee Program with Queensway Carleton Hospital and expansion of the surgical services, the introduction of an Integrated Risk Management Framework, the development of a new Strategic Plan to lead ARH forward – there are many more that could be listed.

Leah's dedication to the ARH Mission, Vision, and especially Values, has driven a profound cultural shift in the organization. Through the introduction of CEO Townhalls, Senior Team rounding, and other methods, Leah has helped to establish a clear culture of accessibility and accountability. Her focus on *living* the values herself and encouraging and supporting all staff to do the same has created a stronger and more resilient organization that staff are proud to be a part of.

Over the next few months, the Board will commence a comprehensive search for our next President and CEO, who will continue Leah's legacy of excellence and guide ARH forward in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Cathy Jordan  
Chair  
ARH Board of Directors

*Creating a thriving community together.*

350 John Street North, Arnprior, ON K7S 2P6 Phone: (613) 623-3166 Fax: (613) 623-4844

[ArnpriorRegionalHealth.ca](http://ArnpriorRegionalHealth.ca)



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## COVID-19 Outbreak Declared on Oak and Maple RHA at the Grove Home

**December 25, 2023** – On December 24th, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) declared a COVID-19 outbreak on **Maple and Oak Resident Home Areas** (RHA) at the Grove Home.

The following guidelines are in effect on the listed RHAs:

### Maple and Oak

Due to the outbreak, visitor access is restricted to **essential visitors only**. Essential visitors include Essential Caregivers who provide care to a resident, including supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity, and assistance in decision making.

If you are visiting a resident who is currently isolated, you **must** wear a gown, gloves, visor or eye protection, and mask.

All visitors must adhere to the outbreak protocols posted in Home Areas.

All visitors must be asymptomatic when visiting a resident.

### Pine

There are currently no visitor restrictions. Please wear a mask while visiting the Grove Home in accordance with the masking policy.

All visitors must adhere to the outbreak protocols posted in Home Areas.

All visitors must be asymptomatic when visiting a resident.

### Outbreak Protocols

In partnership with RCDHU, The Grove has implemented the necessary outbreak protocols to protect the health and safety of residents and staff. This includes:

- Contact tracing and testing
- Isolation protocols
- Enhanced cleaning of high-touch areas
- Increased PPE measures for staff and essential caregivers

**Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Charge Nurse directly if you have any questions: (613) 623-5304 extension 257.**

[What's New @ ARH](#)

[Media releases](#)

[Publications](#)

## Thank a Staff Member

Send a special thank you message to one of our departments, staff members, physician's or volunteers.

[Send A Message](#)

## Provide Feedback

Share any concerns or an experience you had while accessing our services, we welcome your feedback.

[Provide Feedback](#)



### QUICK LINKS

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### CONTACT US

Arnprior Regional Health  
350 John Street North