



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior**  
**Regular Meeting of Council: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Correspondence Package No. I-24-FEB-03**

**Recommendation:**

That the Correspondence Package No. I-24-FEB-03 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

- 1. Correspondence from the Government of Canada**
  - a) [MP Cheryl Gallant – Tourism Growth Program](#)
  
- 2. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario**
  - a) [Ontario Provincial Police – 2024 OPP Annual Billing Statements under New Act](#)
  - b) [Ontario Connecting Children and Youth to Mental Health Care Close to Home](#)
  - c) [Ontario Taking Action to Improve Integrity of Postsecondary Education and Promote Employment in Critical Sectors](#)
  - d) [Ontario Health Teams Now Providing Care In Every Corner of the Province](#)
  - e) [Ontario Making it Easier and More Convenient to Access Government Services](#)
  - f) [Ontario Training Thousands of New Long-Term Care Staff](#)
  - g) [Ontario Connecting Over 300,000 People to Primary Care Teams](#)
  
- 3. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**
  - a) [Starter Company Plus spring 2024 – Intake open](#)
  - b) [County Council Summary – January 2024](#)

**4. Correspondence from the Renfrew County & District Health Unit**

- a) [Report from the RCDHU Medical Officer of Health](#)
- b) [Report on Food Affordability in Renfrew County and District](#)

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

- a) [2024 Pre-Budget Submission: A new provincial-municipal partnership is needed in every part of Ontario](#)
- b) [Watch File – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024](#)
- c) [Watch File – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024](#)

**6. Correspondence from the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus**

- a) [EOWC's 2024 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation](#)

**7. Resolutions from Other Municipalities**

- a) Support Tax Credits for Firefighters
  - a. [Municipality of Wawa](#)
- b) Speeding related Road Safety Emergencies
  - a. [Town of Mono](#)
- c) Provincial Water Management Permitting Use
  - a. [Township of Alnwick/Haldimand](#)
- d) Unaffordable Water and Wastewater Rates in Rural Municipalities
  - a. [Township of Whitewater Region](#)



# Cheryl Gallant

Member of Parliament  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke  
Member of Standing Committee on National Defence  
Member of Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology



Town of Arnprior  
105 Elgin St W  
Arnprior ON, K7S 0A8

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Dear Town of Arnprior,

Greetings for the New Year and trusting 2024 will be a prosperous for you. I am pleased to announce the Tourism Growth Program is currently accepting applications for the first round of funding. This program is meant to help those working in the tourism industry improve and expand their businesses. The aim in developing new projects is to draw more people into our communities year-round.

The program is planning to cover a maximum of 50% of costs for new projects to increase tourism. An eligible applicant can receive up to a maximum of \$250,000 for a project. Funding opportunities are available to small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profit organizations.

**The deadline to apply is February 29, 2024 at 8:59 pm EST.**

For more information about the Tourism Growth Program, please contact FedDev Ontario by e-mail at [info@feddevontario.gc.ca](mailto:info@feddevontario.gc.ca) or at 1-888-593-5505.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gallant, M.P.  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Ontario  
Provincial  
Police

Police  
provinciale  
de l'Ontario



**Municipal Policing Bureau**  
**Bureau des services policiers des municipalités**

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Orillia ON L3V 7V3

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File Reference:

612-20

January 30, 2024

Dear Mayor/Reeve/CAO/Treasurer,

April 1, 2024, has been proclaimed as the official date on which the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)* will come into force. At that time, it will repeal and replace the current *Police Services Act, 1990 (PSA)*.

We wish to confirm that the OPP 2024 Annual Billing Statements remain in effect after April 1, 2024, and municipalities will continue to be billed in accordance with costs in the statements.

Under the CSPA, all municipalities policed by the OPP will be subject to Regulation 413/23 *Amount Payable by Municipalities for Policing from Ontario Provincial Police*. This regulation preserves the cost-recovery methodologies currently in effect. The OPP Billing Model cost allocation method remains the same under Reg. 413/23. There are transitional provisions included in the Regulation that stipulate that 2024 annual billing statements will not need to be reissued.

Should you have any further questions about your annual billing statements or any other billing inquiries, please reach out to the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau Financial Services Unit at [OPP.MPB.Financial.Services.Unit@opp.ca](mailto:OPP.MPB.Financial.Services.Unit@opp.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Whitton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phil Whitton  
Superintendent  
Municipal Policing Bureau Commander

c: Detachment Commander

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Connecting Children and Youth to Mental Health Care Close to Home

\$44.6 million boost in funding to expand pediatric mental health services

January 24, 2024

[Health](#)

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BURLINGTON — The Ontario government is investing an additional \$44.6 million per year to connect children and youth to mental health services across the province so they have access to the care they need, when they need it, in their community. This is part of the government's [investment of an additional \\$330 million](#) each year in pediatric health services at hospitals and community-based health care facilities across the province.

"Our government is making record investments in the health and well-being of our children now and for the future," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This investment in child and youth mental health services will support children in receiving more connected and convenient mental health care when they need it most.

The funding will be used to:

- Expand access to community-based intensive services for children and youth with complex mental health needs.
- Expand [One Stop Talk](#) / Parlons maintenant to connect even more youth to an innovative virtual walk-in mental health counselling service.
- Expand the [Complex Transition Fund](#) that provides short term, flexible support for children and youth as they transition into or out of community-based live-in treatment programs.
- Add 10 complex care beds in London and Owen Sound to reduce wait times and connect more children and youth to care closer to home.
- Create two new step-up step-down programs that help youth transition from hospitals to less-intensive services in their communities as they return home, including one in Northern Ontario.
- Add 2,200 clinical training spots at Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) to train clinicians who treat to children and youth with complex service needs

across the province.

- Establish quality guidelines and standards for live-in treatment programming, so children and youth with complex mental health needs have consistent high-quality services no matter where they are in the province.
- Develop and implement a provincial bed registry to track and manage live-in treatment capacity to help facilitate faster access to services and reduce wait times.

This consistent and stable annual funding increase will give community-based child and youth mental health providers the resources, staff, and technology to expand and improve access to complex mental health care service and reduce wait times. 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 the actions taken to date as part of [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), Ontario is connecting more people to mental health services and reducing wait times. Progress over the past year includes:

- Expanding the [Ontario Structured Psychotherapy](#) (OSP) program to connect adults who have depression, anxiety and anxiety-related concerns to free cognitive behavioural therapy and other related services through 10 network-lead organizations with over 100 service delivery sites across the province. To date, over 75,600 people have enrolled in the OSP program.
- Opening over 400 addiction treatment beds since 2019.
- Providing children and youth with complex mental health needs with secure treatment by opening 16 additional treatment beds since 2021 with 12 new treatment beds slated to open soon once the new Roberts Smart Centre youth facility is completed.
- Making it more convenient for children to access mental health supports through [One Stop Talk/Parlons maintenant](#) which, as of December 31, 2023, has provided immediate, virtual mental health counselling to 1,264 children and youth.
- Helping people access mental health supports through [Health811](#), Ontario's free, secure and confidential health advice line.
- Investing nearly \$33 million in 2022-23 into over 100 mental health and addictions supports and programs designed to meet the needs of Indigenous communities across the province.



“Children and youth need reliable and accessible services if they are to grow into happy and mentally healthy adults”, said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “This investment shows that our government is treating youth mental health with the seriousness it deserves. We will continue lowering barriers to safe and effective mental health care for everyone in Ontario.”

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

- Since 2018, the Ontario government has opened 22 new Youth Wellness Hubs to connect children and youth aged 12-25 to mental health and addiction services as well as primary care and education resources in one convenient location.
  - 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.
  - In [Budget 2023](#), Ontario invested an additional \$425 million over three years into mental health services. This investment has provided community-based mental health and addictions service providers funded by the Ministry of Health with a five per cent increase in base funding.
  - During Bell Let’s Talk Day all Ontarians are encouraged to reach out for help and support when they need it.
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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](#)
- 

### 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 Taking Action to Improve Integrity of Postsecondary Education and Promote Employment in Critical Sectors

Changes will help get more young people into rewarding careers in health care and skilled trades

January 26, 2024

[Colleges and Universities](#)

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TORONTO – The Ontario government will introduce a suite of measures to protect students and improve the integrity of Ontario’s postsecondary education.

“The challenges stemming from the recent spike in students coming to Canada, including predatory practices by bad-actor recruiters, misinformation regarding citizenship and permanent residency, false promises of guaranteed employment, and inadequate housing for students, require immediate attention and collaborative action,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. “At the same time, we need to strengthen the links between Ontario’s labour market needs and the programs being offered to students so we can get even more people into rewarding careers in health care and the skilled trades.”

To protect the integrity of postsecondary education and promote employment in critical sectors like health care and the skilled trades, the government’s measures will include the following:

## Colleges and Universities

- Institute a review of programs offered by postsecondary institutions that have a sizeable amount of international students to ensure that program quality protects Ontario’s reputation as a world leader in education and meets Ontario’s labour market demands.
- Ensure that programs being offered are meeting the needs of the labour market so that students can build a life in Ontario once their education is complete.
- Introduce a moratorium on new public college-private partnerships while further work is done to strengthen oversight mechanisms and ensure the quality of existing partnerships.

- Implement measures to improve the response rate to student outcome surveys that will help ensure the best academic outcomes are being achieved.
- Require all colleges and universities to have a guarantee that housing options are available for incoming international students.

## Career Colleges

- Better integrate enforcement efforts across ministries to strengthen oversight of career colleges, including enhanced data management, documentation processes, and the efficacy of compliance investigations, ensuring timely responses to concerns and complaints.

The Ontario government will also work with sector partners and the federal government to explore ways to further crack down on bad-actor recruiters who take advantage of international students and make dubious claims of employment and citizenship.

“We must find more ways to work together to combat gross recruitment practices while protecting our ability to attract the world’s best and brightest to study here in Ontario,” said Minister Dunlop. “These actions will also ensure that we implement sensible policies that protect against worsening Ontario’s housing affordability issues. We need to ensure that students coming to study here have a place to live.”

The government is also [continuing to evaluate the recommendations](#) on postsecondary financial stability that were submitted by the blue-ribbon panel late last year. As this review process continues, the government will work closely with the sector to reach an outcome that provides stability and certainty for postsecondary institutions and students alike, with further details to be announced by the end of February.

As the Ontario government takes the necessary action to protect students, it will work jointly with the federal government to protect the stability of post-secondary education across the province and country.

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## Quick Facts

- Postsecondary institutions are important sources of job creation, skills training, research, innovation and commercialization, making them leading contributors to Ontario’s overall economic growth.
- Every \$1 invested in postsecondary education generates a positive economic return on investment estimated at \$1.36.
- In March 2023, Ontario created a blue-ribbon panel of experts to provide advice and recommendations for keeping the postsecondary education sector

financially stable and focused on providing the best student experience possible.

- Ontario provides oversight of the career college sector through the *Ontario Career Colleges Act, 2005*.
- The Ministry of Colleges and Universities ensures that institutions and programs in the career college sector are of high quality and that student protections are in place, through inspections, investigations, and appropriate enforcement actions.

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#### Additional Resources

- [Colleges and universities](#)
- [Career colleges](#)

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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 Health Teams Now Providing Care In Every Corner of the Province

Parry Sound among a group of 58 health teams connecting people to care close to home

January 26, 2024

[Health](#)

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PARRY SOUND — The Ontario government, in partnership with Ontario Health, has approved the West Parry Sound Ontario Health Team, bringing the total number of teams to 58 and marking an important milestone in achieving full provincial coverage. Working together, these Ontario Health Teams break down barriers for people connecting to care by ensuring a seamless transition from one provider to another, with one patient record and one care plan being shared between their providers.

“Ontario Health Teams play a critical role in transforming the way people access health care by building a better-connected and more convenient health care system that puts people at the centre of their care journey,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “With the approval of the West Parry Sound Ontario Health Team, our government has reached an important milestone in bringing the support of an Ontario Health Team to every corner of the province, ensuring faster and easier access to the care they need, when and where they need it.”

Starting in April 2024, the government is investing up to \$130.5 million to provide every Ontario Health Team with \$2.25 million over three years to better coordinate people’s care by connecting people to different types of care throughout their care journey and providing 24/7 help navigating the health care system. Ontario Health Teams bring together a wide variety of health care providers from across health and community sectors, including primary care, hospitals, home and community care, and mental health and addiction services. By working as one collaborative team, providers can better coordinate care and share resources, while giving patients the choice in who they see for their care.

Since the introduction of Ontario Health Teams, health and community providers have come together to transform how people access care in their communities. Ontario Health Teams continue to design and implement new and innovative integrated models that are responsive to the unique needs of the communities they serve. For example:

- The Algoma Ontario Health Team's Community Wellness Bus service connects vulnerable patients to primary care and harm reduction, improving health outcomes and reducing gaps in mental health and addictions care.
- Through their Neighbourhood Care Team, the North Toronto Ontario Health Team offers low-income seniors a range of services, including regular blood pressure checks, foot care, access to social workers, wellness checks, and connecting them to primary care.
- Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC), as a member of The Noojmawing Sookatagaing Ontario Health Team has been successful in reducing the number of patients visiting emergency department in the 30 days after their surgery by 32 per cent, by allowing patients to recover at home while being monitored through a hospital to home virtual care team.
- The Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team is implementing an Integrated Patient Care Team model that integrates home care services (including those delivered by Home and Community Care Support Services coordinators and in-home service providers) into existing primary care teams. This integration of home care providers as dedicated members of the patient's care team will support better communication, improved care planning and delivery and better patient, caregiver and provider experiences.
- Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team partners, including Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Team and The Gilbert Centre, Barrie and Community Family Health Team, Barrie Community Health Centre, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, County of Simcoe and Home and Community Care Support Services successfully launched the Good Foot Forward program, which offers foot care to people who are without access to foot care services and meet the eligibility criteria. The program helps fill a gap in foot care services for equity-deserving populations including those without extended health benefits or the ability to pay for services.

As part of [Your Health: A Plan for Connect and Convenient Care](#), Ontario Health Teams are delivering better connected and more convenient care to communities across the province. With the approval of the West Parry Sound Ontario Health

Team, Ontario has a total of 58 Ontario Health Teams and has achieved the goal of full provincial coverage, ensuring that every person in Ontario can access the supports and high-quality care they need, where and when they need it.

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### Quick Facts

- An initial group of 12 Ontario Health Teams has been chosen to accelerate their work to deliver home care in their local communities starting in 2025.
  - This initial group of 12 Ontario Health Teams is also working on innovative solutions to provide people access to tools to navigate local health care services 24/7, including online information and referral services and telephone referral services. Over time, these local navigation services and Health811 will be connected, providing a seamless navigation experience.
  - As Ontario Health Teams mature, the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health will continue to work with them to advance their implementation and broaden their partnerships so they can deliver a full and coordinated continuum of care and meet the unique health needs of their communities.
  - Ontario is working with First Nations in the planning, design, delivery and evaluation of programs and services for their communities that respects Indigenous autonomy and self-determination.
- 

### Quotes

"It has been a pleasure for me to witness Ontario Health Teams grow – from the time they submit their full applications to when they begin to implement bold plans to deliver integrated patient care within their communities. I'd like to extend my congratulations to the West Parry Sound Ontario Health Team on this exciting milestone. With the province achieving its goal of full provincial coverage, I am thrilled to continue my work with Ontario Health Teams, strengthening authentic partnership, engagement, and co-design with patients, families and caregivers to support improved health outcomes."

**- Betty-Lou Kristy**

**Chair of the Minister's Patient and Family Advisory Council**



"I'm very proud of all the hard work by the many health system partners across West Parry Sound to achieve Ontario Health Team status. This announcement will bring residents an enhanced continuity of care, and patients will be better able to navigate their path within our health care system. The creation of the West Parry Sound OHT will bring health and social service providers closer together in ways that will directly benefit local care and individuals. Thank you to Minister Jones and the Ministry of Health for recognizing the importance of having an OHT in West Parry Sound to better serve local communities."

**- Graydon Smith**  
**MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka**

"Today's announcement is wonderful news for West Parry Sound, and I am very grateful to the Minister for being here today to share it with us. West Parry Sound's health and social service providers have a robust history of working together to integrate services whenever possible in order to better serve our communities. Today's announcement will ensure that our partnerships have the resources and structure needed to do this in a more meaningful and effective way. Together we will build a better future for the care of all residents, citizens, patients, and families. "

**- Donald Sanderson**  
**Chief Executive Officer, West Parry Sound Health Centre, and Lakeland Long Term Care**

"The OHT will enhance existing collaborations and partnerships of healthcare organizations in the area, that provide caring and compassionate care to our community."

**- Dr. Peter Istvan**  
**Executive Director, Parry Sound Family Health Team**

"Having witnessed firsthand the extraordinary regional partnerships that exist within the health and social services sector, today's announcement represents a very meaningful recognition of the value of our work. Those of us in Long Term Care are truly grateful to have been involved with this initiative from the inception. We appreciate that our OHT partners value our insight and know that today's announcement will greatly further our work to enhance the experience of our valued Residents, families, and caregivers. Our community will benefit from having these existing partnerships acknowledged and supported by the Province."

**- Kami Johnson**  
**Administrator, Belvedere Heights Home of the Aged**

"Hospice West Parry Sound is very pleased to have been a member of the team working towards the establishment of the West Parry Sound Ontario Health Team. We believe its establishment will help further our mission in providing excellent palliative care services to clients, families, and their loved ones. In addition, today's announcement will further enhance the work our regional partners are doing to provide seamless care for all."

**- Melissa Crossman**  
**Executive Director, Hospice West Parry Sound**

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## Additional Resources

- [Ontario Making it Easier and More Convenient to Connect to Home Care](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Improving health care in Ontario](#)
- Learn more about [Ontario Health Teams](#)

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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 Making it Easier and More Convenient to Access Government Services

New retail partnership with Staples Canada will provide greater convenience including extended hours and savings for taxpayers

January 29, 2024

[Public and Business Service Delivery](#)

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OAKVILLE – Ontario is making it easier and more convenient to access government services such as applying for or renewing health cards and driver's licences. Today, the province officially launched the expansion of ServiceOntario in six Staples Canada stores which will open on February 1. These new centres are part of the government's ongoing work to explore new ways to make ServiceOntario more accessible for Ontario residents.

"By partnering with an experienced, established retailer with a strong community presence like Staples Canada, we can create simpler, faster and better ways to connect Ontarians to the vital services they depend on," said Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery. "Our retailer partnership program will enhance the customer experience and meet the needs of communities by bringing government services where people live, work and shop."

The Staples Canada model is projected to save approximately \$1 million over the duration of the three-year pilot. The new centres provide extended operating hours, increasing service hours by 30 per cent compared to the centres they are replacing. The centres also offer readily available parking, access to public transit routes and access to retail services all in one convenient hub.

The new Staples Canada-operated ServiceOntario centres are in the following communities:

- **Oakville**, 2460 Winston Churchill Boulevard
- **Newmarket**, 17810 Yonge Street
- **Toronto (Scarborough)**, 1980 Eglinton Avenue, East
- **Strathroy**, 425 Caradoc Street, South
- **Tillsonburg**, Tillsonburg Town Centre, 200 Broadway Street
- **Welland**, Seaway Mall, 800 Niagara Street

“We are pleased to welcome ServiceOntario full-service centres at six of our store locations as of February 1,” said Rachel Huckle, President, Staples Canada. “We believe this pilot project will demonstrate that our stores will be a convenient option for busy Ontarians, offering more flexible hours to provide better access to the services they rely on.”

Additional ServiceOntario centres will open in Staples Canada stores in Hamilton, Keswick and Toronto (Leaside) later this year.

The Staples partnership is one part of ServiceOntario’s innovative alternative service delivery model designed to meet the unique needs of local communities. These initiatives include:

- New municipal partnerships operating ServiceOntario centres in Chatham, Dresden and [Pickle Lake](#), providing one-stop municipal and provincial services in a single location.
- A partnership with the North Shore Tribal Council, which operates a bricks-and-mortar centre in Cutler as well as a mobile service unit that travels to communities throughout the Robinson-Huron Treaty area;
- A central service hub with Employment Ontario in Eganville; and
- Upcoming mobile service centres to better meet the needs of Ontarians in remote communities.

The government will continue to explore expanding and adding new models for ServiceOntario locations, including co-locations with municipalities, First Nations communities, in public libraries and other retail partners, which could include small businesses.

Appointments for the Staples ServiceOntario centres and other centres across the province can be booked at [Ontario.ca/Appointments](#) or by calling ServiceOntario at 1-800-387-3445 (TTY 1-800-268-7095).

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### Quick Facts

- ServiceOntario provides services via telephone, online and in-person through 276 centres. More than 190 are privately operated (71 per cent).
- In 2023, over 18.9 million individuals and businesses conducted transactions online through ServiceOntario.
- More than 24 million transactions are completed in person at ServiceOntario centres throughout the province. Find a centre near you by visiting [Ontario.ca/Locations](#).

- ServiceOntario has retail partnerships with Canadian companies, including Canadian Tire, IDA, and Home Hardware. These partnerships have expanded the ways customers can access government services in their local communities.

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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](#)

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Training Thousands of New Long-Term Care Staff

\$100 million investment will provide 32,000 nursing and personal support worker students with hands-on training

January 31, 2024

[Long-Term Care](#)

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STRATFORD — The Ontario government is investing more than \$100 million in two programs that will train more than 32,000 new personal support workers (PSWs) and nurses in long-term care over the next three years. The investments are part of the government's [Your Health](#) plan to recruit and retain tens of thousands of long-term care staff over the coming years.

"Our government is fixing long-term care by training, hiring and retaining thousands of health care workers to provide high-quality care for residents," said Stan Cho, Minister of Long-Term Care. "We're investing in programs that are building a pipeline of talent for the future and giving them more hands-on clinical training so our long-term care residents get the high-quality care they deserve."

Ontario is investing \$94.5 million over three years to extend the [Preceptor Resource and Education Program for Long-Term Care](#) (PREP LTC). Since its [launch in 2021](#), the program has already helped 500 long-term care homes provide clinical placements for over 17,000 nursing and personal support worker students. With the new investment, the program now aims to train more than 3,000 new preceptors and support 31,000 new clinical placements by 2027.

Clinical placements are key to providing nursing and personal support worker students with hands-on experience on-site in long-term care homes under the supervision of preceptors — experienced staff who are trained for this role. Positive clinical placement experiences drive recruitment, as students often take jobs in the homes where they complete their placements. Meanwhile, becoming a preceptor gives existing long-term care staff the opportunity for career development and growth.

Ontario is also investing nearly \$11 million over three years to expand [Living Classrooms](#), a program that helps students train to become PSWs on-site in local long-term care homes. With this investment, the program will double the number

of living classrooms from 20 to 40, which will support the training of up to 1,300 new personal support workers by 2026.

Unlike traditional PSW training programs, where students start with a classroom education and then move on to clinical placements, living classrooms integrate education into a long-term care home. Students alternate between in-class learning — delivered in the home or nearby — and applying what they learn as they work with residents within the home. The program is especially beneficial to rural, remote and northern regions, as homes can grow their own staff and students can train without having to leave their communities.

The government is fixing long-term care to ensure Ontario's seniors get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve. The plan is built on four pillars: staffing and care; quality and enforcement; building modern, safe and comfortable homes; and connecting seniors with faster, more convenient access to the services they need.

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### Quick Facts

- PREP LTC is delivered on behalf of the province by the Ontario Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care (Ontario CLRI) at the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging, in collaboration with the Ontario CLRI teams at Baycrest Academy for Research and Education and Bruyère Research Institute.
  - The expanded Living Classroom program will be delivered on behalf of the province by the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging in collaboration with the Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators.
  - Ontario is offering [incentives of up to \\$25,400](#) to students and recent graduates of personal support worker education programs to launch careers in long-term care homes and in the home and community care sector.
  - The Ontario government is investing up to \$4.9 billion to create thousands of new positions for personal support workers and nurses in long-term care.
  - As part of its plan to fix long-term care and address sector waitlists, the government is building more than 30,000 net new long-term care beds in Ontario by 2028 and upgrading more than 28,000 older beds to modern design standards.
-

## Quotes

"The Living Classrooms program has been a game changer for our campus of care. Not only have the students helped to ease the burden for our staff during peak times of the day, but some students who were not already employed elsewhere, choose to stay. We have seen many enter the program who previously would not have been able to swing it financially. With course fees covered, the classes have enabled a steady stream of potential new recruits."

**- Peter Bolland**  
**Administrator, Spruce Lodge Home for the Aged**

"Both the Living Classroom and PREP LTC initiatives help build and retain a skilled workforce to meet the unique needs of long-term care home residents. These programs have already made a valuable contribution to the care of older adults by equipping and encouraging students to pursue meaningful careers in the long-term care sector."

**- Tina M. Mah, PhD.**  
**Executive Director, Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging**

"Increasing staffing in long-term care is central to ensuring safe and quality care for residents and peace of mind for families. The retention of personal support workers and nursing students requires proper training and quality clinical placements. RNAO is proud to contribute to these goals through its best practice guidelines and clinical pathways that ensure evidence-based person-centred care."

**- Dr. Doris Grinspun, RN, O.ONT**  
**CEO, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)**

"Thank you to the Ontario government for continuing this significant investment to train and provide clinical placements for personal support workers and nursing students. Both the PREP LTC and Living Classrooms programs are making a tremendous difference in growing a much-needed and skilled long-term care workforce to care for Ontario's seniors."

**- Donna Duncan**  
**CEO, Ontario Long Term Care Association**

"Seniors living in long-term care deserve the best caregivers. AdvantAge Ontario supports government efforts to boost hands-on training and career development for PSWs and nurses working in our homes. We are very pleased to see government expanding the PREP LTC program and Living Classrooms. These initiatives integrate education into long-term care homes and provide valuable, real-life experiences that prepare students to better serve the needs of residents."

**- Lisa Levin**  
**CEO of AdvantAge Ontario**

"The Ontario Personal Support Workers Association (OPSWA) applauds today's announcement by the Minister of Long-Term Care and hopes that the PREP LTC and Living Classrooms programs will continue to offer PSW students dynamic training while contributing to building a stronger profession. As the professional association for PSWs, we welcome this news and its positive supports of recruiting and retaining Ontario's PSWs of the future."

**- Miranda Ferrier**  
**CEO and Provincial President, Ontario Personal Support Worker Association (OPSWA)**

"Ontario's young people are playing a critical role in delivering quality health care and support for family and seniors living in long-term care, as we invest in graduating thousands of students into rewarding professions like nursing and PSWs. We will continue to support more hands-on learning programs that encourage high school students to pursue meaningful careers that make a difference in our community and country."

- Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education

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## Additional Resources

- [2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building a Strong Ontario Together](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [A better place to live, a better place to work: Ontario's long-term care staffing plan](#)
- [The Living Classroom: Shared Learning Environments in Long-Term Care](#)

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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](#)

### 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 Connecting Over 300,000 People to Primary Care Teams

\$110 million investment brings the province one step closer to connecting everyone in Ontario to primary care

February 01, 2024

[Health](#)

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PETERBOROUGH — The Ontario government is investing \$110 million to connect up to 328,000 people to primary care teams, bringing the province one step closer to connecting everyone in Ontario to primary care.

“Our government is making record investments to ensure that everyone that wants to have a primary care provider can connect to one,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “While there is more work to do, giving hundreds of thousands of more Ontarians the opportunity to connect to primary care brings us that much closer to this goal.”

Ontario currently leads the country with 90 per cent of people connected to a regular health care provider. As a next step to close the gap for the 1.3 million people not connected to primary care, the government is making a record investment of \$90 million to add over 400 new primary care providers as part of 78 new and expanded interprofessional primary care teams. In addition to other historic investments to expand medical school spots and efforts to break down barriers so highly-skilled internationally-trained doctors can care for people in Ontario, Ministry of Health modelling shows that these initiatives will help connect up to 98 per cent of people in Ontario to primary care in the next several years.

Interprofessional primary care teams connect people to a range of health professionals that work together under one roof, including doctors, nurse practitioners, registered and practical nurses, physiotherapists, social workers and dietitians, among others. Timely access to primary care helps people stay healthier for longer with faster diagnosis and treatment, as well as more consistent support managing their day-to-day health while relieving pressures on emergency departments and walk-in clinics.

An additional \$20 million will provide a boost to all existing interprofessional primary care teams to help them meet increased operational costs for their facilities and supplies so that they continue to provide high-quality care to the people they provide care to.

In Peterborough, more than \$3 million in funding will allow the newly established Peterborough Community Health Centre to connect up to 11,375 people to primary care. Programs and services will include comprehensive primary care, mental health services, and chronic disease management. The inclusion of culturally appropriate care provided by traditional wellness practitioners will be an important part of the centre which will also serve as a hub for coordinating social services, home care and working with health care and Indigenous partners in the community.

Another example is in Kingston where more than \$4 million in funding will help up to 10,000 people connect to team-based primary care at the Periwinkle model site. The team will be part of the Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Ontario Health Team (FLA-OHT) and will integrate with hospitals, and community agencies to provide care to perinatal patients, newborns, and people who have been discharged from hospital and require timely follow-up care, including cancer patients.

Since the launch of [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#) one year ago, the government has been making steady progress to ensure the health care system has become better equipped to respond to the needs of patients and provide them with the right care in the right place, faster access to services and access to an expanded health care workforce.

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## Quick Facts

- Today's investment triples the original \$30 million dollars earmarked to expand interprofessional primary care teams and will deliver over four times as many initiatives as outlined in our Your Health Plan almost a year ago.
- The new and expanded teams will include Family Health Teams, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, Community Health Centres and Indigenous Primary Health Care Organizations
- Ontario is the first province to have a publicly funded Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic program.
- This is in addition to the new [Practice Ready Ontario Program](#) that will add 50 new physicians this year.
- The new and expanded teams are the result of a province-wide call for proposals that took place in 2023. All proposals were thoroughly reviewed by

Ontario Health based on criteria prioritizing areas of greatest need, to connect a greater number of people currently without a regular primary care provider with these services closer to home.

- Ontario leads the country in how many people benefit from a long-term, stable relationship with a family doctor or primary care provider. Since 2018 the province has added over 80,000 new nurses and 10,300 new physicians to the health care system.
- Ontario invests over \$1 billion in interprofessional primary care teams annually.

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## Quotes

"I am very pleased that the government is making this investment in primary care. The funding of a Community Health Centre will bring huge gains to our community and the significant provincial investment will deliver positive returns benefitting the entire healthcare system."

**- Duff Sprague**  
**CEO, Peterborough Family Health Team**

"This funding announcement is great news for the people of Ontario. We know that provinces built with strong systems of primary care will offer people the best health outcomes, at the most affordable public cost, providing care that is both equitable and accessible. Today's news moves us one big step closer to the dream of ensuring that every person in Ontario will have a primary care home."

**- Dr. Jane Philpott**  
**Dean, Queen's Health Sciences**

"Family doctors are the foundation of our health-care system. Every Ontarian, no matter where they live, should have access to a doctor and a well-co-ordinated health-care team supporting them when and where they need it. This is an important step towards that goal."

**- Dr. Andrew Park**  
**OMA President**

"The OMA has been advocating for increased investments in teams to improve access to care and ensure doctors and health professions are able to do what they do best, care for patients. There are benefits to team-based care for both patients and providers so our goal is to get every Ontarian access. This announcement to triple the original funding plan is a significant move in the right direction."

**- Kimberly Moran  
OMA CEO**

"The expansion of primary care, and – in particular the enhanced utilization of NP expertise alongside RN prescribing – will unlock timely, safe and quality care for Ontarians. Better care and health outcomes also lead to lower system costs – a win for Ontarians as patients and as taxpayers. We are pleased that the government is demonstrating commitment to publicly-funded, team-based primary care, which will begin transforming the health system for all and especially for marginalized and vulnerable populations."

**- Dr. Doris Grinspun, RN, O.ONT  
CEO, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario**

"The Ontario Hospital Association thanks the Government of Ontario for making new investments in primary health care teams, which will improve access to high-quality primary care and address some of the capacity pressures on hospitals by keeping more Ontarians well and less likely to require hospitalization. Demand for health care services is expected to rise dramatically in the years ahead as Ontario's population grows and ages. Continued investments in all areas of health care services are needed to allow care to be delivered in the most appropriate setting and in the most cost-effective manner. We look forward to continued collaboration and innovation with the province and our health system partners to ensure that Ontario's health care system is prepared to meet the future demands that will be placed upon it."

**- Anthony Dale  
President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association**

"Today's announcement to expand and grow access to teams of health care providers will ensure that more Ontarians can get the right care, from the right provider, while adding needed support for family doctors. The Ontario College of Family Physicians has been advocating for expanded team-based care in this province, and today's announcement is a positive step forward. We look forward to continuing to work with the Ontario government to ensure that every Ontarian has access to a family physician."

**- Dr. Mekalai Kumanan  
President, Ontario College of Family Physicians**

"Increasing and expanding interprofessional primary care teams will provide more people access to primary care, which is critical for a stable and high-functioning health system. This expansion is an important step in advancing our goal of a more connected and coordinated health system in Ontario."

**- Matthew Anderson  
President and CEO, Ontario Health**

"The announcement made today by the Government of Ontario is historic. The expansion of interprofessional team-based care is a critical step to addressing access to primary health care and realizing the government's vision of connected and convenient care. This is an important step towards positioning primary health care as the foundation of the health system. We are thrilled with the investment in a new Community Health Centre in Peterborough and the new Periwinkle-Union Street team, as we know these primary health care models will provide much needed care to people who face the most barriers to access. We want to thank the government for the increased operational support for existing teams. This helps our members keep the doors open for their communities, by ensuring they can pay the rent, and keep the lights on."

**- Sarah Hobbs  
CEO, Alliance for Healthier Communities**

"The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) is thrilled by the recent announcement from the Ontario Ministry of Health regarding the allocation of additional funding towards expanding interprofessional primary care and existing programs. This is a significant investment that will support Nurse Practitioners, as integral healthcare team members, in ensuring Ontarians receive the high-quality, timely care they deserve. NPAO looks forward to continuing to work with the Ministry of Health to advance our shared goals of comprehensive and accessible healthcare delivery."

**- Dr. Michelle Acorn, CEO of NPAO and Barbara Bailey, President of NPAO**

"We commend the government of Ontario for further investing in interprofessional team-based primary care across Ontario. These projects are going to be critical to ensure more Ontarians have access to primary care teams that can provide the wraparound services we know result in better outcomes and faster access to care. This is an important step in building upon the comprehensive programs offered through team-based primary care and expanding these teams as the foundation of Ontario's health care system."

**- Leslie Sorensen  
CEO, Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario**

"This is a great step in the right direction, and we are thankful for the investment into the integrated primary healthcare sector. By targeting underserved groups and areas, this historic investment will help tackle issues around access to interprofessional primary care and the IPHCC looks forward to partnering with new and existing agencies. We are also thrilled that this investment includes supports for operational facilities and supplies, and most importantly includes provisions for culturally appropriate care provided by Indigenous traditional practitioners."

**- Caroline Lidstone-Jones  
CEO, Indigenous Primary Health Care Council**



"On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic Association, I extend heartfelt gratitude to the provincial government for their visionary commitment to primary care. The allocation of \$90 million towards the expansion of interprofessional care teams is a testament of their dedication to fostering comprehensive, patient-centered care. This commitment will reduce barriers for underserved communities and improve access for unattached patients, particularly those in marginalized or vulnerable populations. Additionally, the wise decision to invest an additional \$20 million in supporting the operational pressures faced by existing primary care teams exemplifies a deep understanding of the challenges our primary healthcare teams navigate daily. This significant financial support not only empowers us to broaden the reach of collaborative care but also fortifies the foundations of our existing teams. I commend the provincial government for prioritizing the well-being of our communities. Together, we are charting a course towards a more resilient, inclusive, and connected healthcare system."

**- Teresa Wetselaar**  
**Chair, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic Association**

"As part of Your Health, the government is making sure seniors waiting for long-term care as well as current long-term care residents get the right care in the right place. We're providing community paramedicine to support them in their own homes, increasing diagnostic services in long-term care homes to reduce avoidable hospital visits, adding specialized care to look after people with dementia and training tens of thousands of long-term care staff to care for residents over the coming years."

**- Stan Cho**  
**Minister of Long-Term Care**

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## Additional Resources

- [Your Health, Your Results](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Ontario Reducing Wait Times for Publicly Funded Surgeries and Diagnostics](#)
- [Community surgical and diagnostic centres](#)

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## Related Topics

### Government

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

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# Starter Company Plus spring 2024 – Intake open

Posted on Monday, February 05, 2024



## RELEASE DATE:

February 5, 2024

**Pembroke, (ON):** Are you an entrepreneur ready to start, expand or purchase an existing business in the County of Renfrew or City of Pembroke? Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) is seeking applicants motivated to participate in the 2024 Starter Company Plus program, funded by the Government of Ontario.

This fast-track, intensive training program has proven to be transformational for entrepreneurs with new business ideas and for owners of businesses that have been operating for five years or less. Starter Company Plus provides three months of business coaching, business plan and cash flow projection development, mentoring and instruction from staff and professional trainers. At the end of the Starter Company Plus program there is an opportunity for participants to compete, by pitching their business plan, for a grant of up to \$4,000 to be applied to their business operations.

“Starter Company Plus provided an opportunity to objectively break down my business, instilling confidence to know that I had a plan. It was eight weeks well spent! I highly recommend this program for new business owners,” states Krisanne Mascarenhas, co-owner of Ottawa Valley Sport & Spine and past program participant.

Interested entrepreneurs are encouraged to contact [Heather Inwood-Montrose](#), Small Business Advisor, or sign up by visiting <https://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/starter-company-plus> to obtain an invite to register for an information session. Participants must attend one information session to be eligible to apply to the program. Information sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, from 10-11 a.m. or Thursday, April 4, from 1-2 p.m. via Zoom. The application deadline for the spring intake is Friday, April 19, 2024.

Enterprise Renfrew County is a non-profit organization funded by the Government of Ontario, County of Renfrew, Town of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke. Its mandate is to encourage and contribute to the enterprising spirit and economic development of Renfrew County by assisting entrepreneurs with the development of new or existing companies.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Heather Inwood-Montrose	Small Business Advisor	613-735-8224
Tina Peplinskie 7288	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-

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

# County Council Summary

**January 31, 2024**

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from January 31, 2024

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

The full [County Council package](#) can be found on our website.

[January meeting](#) YouTube link.

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## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

- Warden Emon thanked Councillors and staff who attended the ROMA conference and advocated for the County of Renfrew, whether through important topics in their municipality or for the general betterment of all residents in the County.

During the months of December 2023 and January 2024, Warden Peter Emon attended 36 meetings on County business.

- On December 1, 2023, he joined Councillor Jennifer Murphy and Development and Property Committee Chair James Brose at a press conference in Eganville for a funding announcement by the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, along with John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, to recognize two local forestry companies in Renfrew County:
  - Lavern Heideman & Sons, in partnership with Harvest Bioindustrial Group from Burlington, will receive \$120,000 to study and increase the use of underutilized hardwoods to produce biochemicals and other products.
  - Roseburg Forest Products Inc. will receive \$100,000 to improve supply chain resiliency, support forest sector diversification and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by exploring energy production using forest biomass.
- On January 12, he attended the inaugural meeting of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus in Kingston. He was re-elected as Chair for this coming year while Peterborough County Warden Bonnie Clark was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Caucus for 2024.
- During the ROMA Conference in Toronto Warden Emon participated in the following EOWC Delegation Meetings: Hon. Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Long-Term Care – Parliamentary Assistant John Jordan, the Liberal Caucus, and the NDP Caucus.
- He attended the AMO Board meeting on January 26, and noted the board received updates on the following:
  - Housing, including the Government priorities for the next Housing Supply Action Plan

- Access and Privacy Legislation
- Ontario Health and Safety Act (OHSA) City of Greater Sudbury Decision
- Energy Procurements
- Child Care Update
- Response to the Final Report of the Independent Fourth Review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

## Delegations

- Warden Jane Toller, MRC Pontiac, presented a proposal to build a 400,000-ton energy-from-waste facility in the MRC Pontiac which could receive municipal waste from the City of Ottawa, County of Renfrew, City of Pembroke and other regions in the Outaouais. An energy-from-waste facility works by taking waste that cannot be recycled or composted and converting its potential energy into any type of usable energy, with the three main forms being heat, electricity and transportation fuels. It is proposed the MRC Pontiac facility could produce 45 megawatts of electricity and steam heat for district heating.
- Sean Teixeira, Business Development Manager & Support and Saad El-Kassab, Lead Consultant, from Ainsworth, provided an overview of the process of developing the County of Renfrew's Climate Change Action Plan which will outline short-term targets and actions required to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, scale up renewable energy generation, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that the plan will be completed by the consultants in July 2024.

## Announcements

- Councillor Neil Nicholson presented [a motion on the unaffordability of rural and small urban water and wastewater systems](#) and cited a study which shows Renfrew County residents, as a percentage of their household income, disproportionately pay for these services. The motion received unanimous support from members of County Council.
- Councillor Dan Lynch challenged Council and staff to participate in the Push-Up Challenge for the Canadian Mental Health Association. The challenge takes place from February 1-23. Teams or individuals can register online, pledge to complete 2,000 push ups in the push for mental health and raise funds towards key mental health services in Canada. For more information visit [www.thepushupchallenge.ca](http://www.thepushupchallenge.ca).

## Finance & Administration Committee

### Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- The County of Renfrew was successful in obtaining five delegations at the ROMA Annual Conference held from January 21-23, 2024:
  - Ministry of Health – Seeking the Government of Ontario's policy and financial support to better engage people in our communities struggling with life-threatening mental health, addictions and homelessness circumstances and requesting \$2.1 million annually for the creation and operation of the Community Well-Being Program serving 17 municipalities in the County of Renfrew, the City of Pembroke and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan.

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Requesting the Province to fund and launch a new round of funding under the Municipal Modernization Fund that would enable municipalities of all sizes to build on the progress and efforts made during previous iterations.
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport – Joint meeting on behalf of the Counties of Frontenac, Haliburton, Hastings, Lanark, and Lennox and Addington requesting increased financial support for the Ontario’s Highlands Tourism Organization – Regional Tourism Organization 11.
- Ministry of Transportation – Requesting continued expansion and widening of Highway 17/417 and improved safety enhancements along the Highway 17 within the County of Renfrew.
- Solicitor General – Seeking funding to improve first responder interoperability, access and reliability of the public safety radio systems in the County of Renfrew.
- The Canada Revenue Agency Automobile Allowance rates for 2024 have increased to 70 cents per kilometer for the first 5,000 kilometers and 64 cents over 5,000 kilometers.
- MIS Municipal Insurance Services has advised the annual renewal premium for the County of Renfrew for 2024 will increase by 8% over the 2023 premium. The driving factors behind our premium increases are a 5% increase in our liability rates, a 3% increase in auto rates, a 5% increase in property insurance rates, a 38 % increase in medical malpractice and cyber liability remains unchanged. This increase is a result of insurers working to adjust premiums to align with the new and growing exposure. Insurance premiums for municipalities across the province continue to rise; it is the understanding of staff that the average 2024 premium increase is around 12%. Due to the continuing pressure of this issue, AMO has created a working group to study the problem.
- The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) provided details of the 2024 funding requirements. Due to the current economic situation, MPAC is facing the need to increase the levy amount to address the impact of inflation on its operations, including rising labour costs. Based on assessment data, the annual 2024 levy amount for the County of Renfrew will be \$1,570,574.71 a 1.96% increase over 2023. The 2023 funding requirement for the County of Renfrew was \$1,540,414.86.
- Renfrew County and District Health Unit has provided notice to the County of Renfrew that the Board of Health estimates it will require \$1,954,497.00 to defray expenses for 2024, which is an increase of 10.55% from 2023.
- A resolution from the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) regarding advocacy efforts with the Province of Ontario to ensure that a social and economic prosperity review is completed, given the financial challenges faced by all municipalities was passed. Read the [full AMO resolution](#) on our website.
- A resolution to pay the 2024 membership fee to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in the amount of \$23,859.16 including HST was approved.
- County Council supported a resolution from the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023 seeking an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of “Employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project.
- Revised Corporate Policies A-03 – Recruitment, J-06 – Return of Service Incentive Program; new Corporate Policy A-19 – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the removal of A-09b – Equality and Diversity were approved.



## Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The County of Renfrew received a memorandum from the Early Years and Child Care Division for the Ministry of Education regarding the 2024 Child Care, EarlyON Child and Family Centres and Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding. The County will receive \$18.9 million for the provision of these programs.
- County Council approved a By-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to approve the addition of a new policy to the Licensed Home Child Care Policies and Procedure, outlining the requirement to have a safe arrival and dismissal policy for children in all programs.

## Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Staff is working towards creating an all-encompassing by-law in relation to governing activities in the County of Renfrew-owned forests and on trails including the Algonquin Trail and K & P Recreational Trail. To assist with this process, staff is requesting input on the trails through a [Zencity public engagement page](#), which is open until February 29, 2024.
- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has announced the Commission's decision to amend the nuclear research and test establishment operating licence held by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) for Chalk River Laboratories. The amendment authorizes the construction of a Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) on the Chalk River Laboratories site, which is located in Deep River, Ontario, and on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg peoples. The amended Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Operating Licence that was issued to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories for Chalk River Laboratories will remain valid until March 31, 2028.
- Enterprise Renfrew County is hosting a variety of webinars in February, including a tax information series in preparation for the upcoming tax season. More information and registration available at <https://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events>.
- Work commenced in November 2023 on the first phase of the future Eganville Paramedic Base to address Post Disaster compliance with the Post Disaster Structural Work, which was completed in December 2023. Staff met with the Paramedic Service in late December 2023 to review the next phase which includes the interior design and office renovation fit-up for the first and second level. County Council approved a contract in the amount of \$154,500, plus applicable taxes as submitted by TS General Contracting, Pembroke, Ontario for the proposed retrofit at the new Paramedic Service Base in Eganville, Ontario.
- County Council supported the resolution received from the City of Stratford requesting the Federal Government extend the full Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) program deadline by extending the forgiveness (up to \$20,000 of the maximum \$60,000) deadline for businesses to coincide with the new repayment deadline of December 31, 2026. Council also directed Warden Emon to send a letter of support to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Finance Minister.

## Health Committee

**Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair**

- County Council reviewed the initiatives taken by the Community Paramedics within the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service within the month of December. Among the items was an update on the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre Statistics for December 2023:
  - 5,907 medical reception triage encounters (inbound phone calls)
  - 3,165 virtual visits booked with RC VTAC physicians,
  - 367 in-person visits booked with paramedics at Clinical Assessment Centres across Renfrew County.
- The annual submission to the Office of the Fire Marshall and Emergency Management was completed in December 2023. Health Committee, as the Emergency Management Planning Committee, took part in an exercise in October of 2023, as required to meet compliance legislation. A Certificate of Compliance for 2023 should be received in March 2024.
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the 2023/24 Virtual Care Programs – Online Appointment Booking Agreement with Ontario Health. The implementation of Online Booking will improve access and the patient experience, as they will be able to book appointments with their primary care provider online. This will provide more choice to patients in how and when they access their care as well as increasing their ability to schedule based on individual needs.

## Operations Committee

**Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair**

- Staff from the County of Renfrew and Town of Petawawa will continue to work together to find cost savings and come to a cost-sharing agreement for the County Road 37 (Murphy Road) project. Originally planned for a complete rehabilitation spanning 2.6 kilometres from Portage Road to County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard) in the summer of 2023, the project scope was adjusted to 1.2 kilometres. This decision was influenced by ongoing neighbourhood developments along the roadway, prompting collaboration with the Town of Petawawa to finalize an urban design for the section between Woodland Crescent and County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard).
- Staff is in the process of preparing tenders for a variety of procurements relative to the maintenance, materials and services for roadway operations. A letter has been circulated to all the local municipalities, advising them of the planned tenders and providing them with an opportunity to participate.
- County Council declared the land identified as part of Lot 1, Concession 6, in the Township of Madawaska Valley as surplus. The County of Renfrew Public Works and Engineering Department has been approached by a landowner who wishes to purchase a portion of land adjacent to its property. The land currently forms a part of County Road 62 (Combermere Road) road allowance, located in part of Lot 1, Concession 6, in the Township of Madawaska Valley. The subject road allowance once formed part of a Ministry of Transportation (MTO) highway and the overall width of the road allowance in this location is greater than 50 metres, which exceeds the desired County Road Right-of-Way width of 26 metres.

- County Council passed a Speed Limit By-law to revise the location for the 60 km/hr speed limit on County Road 512 (Foymount Road) currently set from Civic Address 3467 Foymount Road to Miller Road to reflect the change from Civic Address 3467 Foymount Road to Lake Clear Road.
- County Council approved a By-law amendment to implement a No Parking Zone on both sides of County Road 52 (Burnstown Road) from the intersection of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) to the northern limit of the Burnstown Bridge, a distance of approximately 250 metres. The Township of McNab/Braeside made the request and will be responsible for enforcement of the No Parking Zone in accordance with the County of Renfrew By-law.
- County Council approved a contract in the amount of \$1,564,071, plus applicable taxes, as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, for rehabilitation of County Structure B007 (Butler Bridge), located on Butler Road, approximately 1km south of Highway 60, in the Township of Admaston/Bromley.
- County Council adopted a By-law amendment with respect to Roads and Bridges included in the County Road System, to add County Structure C338 (McMahon Road Culvert) to the County Road System effective February 1, 2024. Due to the failed state of condition of the culvert, located on McMahon Road, 0.18km east of Ferguslea Road, Township of Admaston/ Bromley, it was replaced in 2023. The costs for design and construction on the McMahon Road Culvert were shared equally by the County and the Township.

## **Additional Information**

**Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk**

613-735-7288



# Renfrew County and District Health Unit

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

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## **Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board**

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

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### **Health Protection**

#### *Healthy Environments*

##### Institutional Enteric Outbreak Management:

Enteric outbreaks involve bacteria or viruses that cause infections in the gastrointestinal system, usually including symptoms of nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. These pathogens can be spread from person-to-person or from a contaminated water or food source. Enteric outbreaks are managed by public health inspectors (PHI) in the Healthy Environments team.

There have been two declared enteric outbreaks so far in 2024, both involving retirement homes with an unknown causative agent. Most commonly, the causative agent is norovirus, which can easily be spread person-to-person or through the environment. PHIs provide institutions with enteric outbreak management guidance during outbreak situations.

##### Food Recalls:

Under the Food Safety Protocol, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) inspectors support food recall notifications when requested by the Ministry of Health, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, or the Chief Medical Officer of Health (MOH). This support, when requested, usually is in the form of verbal notifications to local long-term care homes (LTCH), retirement homes (RH), day cares, or grocery stores. Inspectors may also attend facilities to conduct physical checks for recalled food products.

In November 2023, the Chief MOH requested assistance from health units to notify LTCH, RH and childcare settings of the Malichita and Rudy brand cantaloupe recall. These cantaloupes have been linked as the likely source of a nation-wide Salmonella outbreak. As of the latest Federal update, there were 164 cases and 7 deaths linked to the outbreak. There have not been any local cases linked to this outbreak.

##### Salmonella Prevention and Case Management:

The number of Salmonella infections across RCDHU in 2023 was lower than the previous five-year average. Beyond assisting with food recalls as required, our key local

preventive measures are education and inspections. Public health inspectors offer food handler training courses and they conduct regular inspections of food premises to ensure regulatory compliance with the Food Premises Regulation. The inspected food premises also include home-based food operators that supply food to the public. These measures help not just in preventing Salmonella infections, but also many other enteric infections.

In 2023, inspectors took part in a food safety education workshop with the County of Renfrew and local farmers market vendors to explain the importance of food safety in preventing disease. This partnership is ongoing and the education workshop is planned once again for 2024.

In terms of case management, public health inspectors follow up with each individual who is infected with Salmonella to discuss the disease characteristics, treatment (if necessary), and methods to control spread to others, including exclusion from certain high-risk settings if required.

There have not been any Salmonella outbreaks in 2023.

Tick Surveillance:

In 2023, 60 ticks were collected through the passive surveillance program and submitted to the National Microbiological Laboratory for analysis. 55 ticks were tested for the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Out of those 55 ticks, 17 were positive for the Lyme disease bacteria, 32 were negative, and we are still awaiting results for 6 specimens. This is a positivity rate of 35% for those ticks with results. This updated positivity rate will be communicated to local physicians, as it informs post-exposure prophylaxis against Lyme disease (the use of an antibiotic that is sometimes indicated after a tick exposure).

### *Immunization*

COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine:

RCDHU concluded its large-scale community COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics for the general public in December. In an effort to keep the community informed, a media release was issued to announce the winding down of community mass clinics: [RCDHU COVID-19 and Flu Community Mass Clinics Winding Down](#). Despite the conclusion of these community clinics, it's important to note that COVID-19 and flu vaccines remain accessible through participating pharmacies and some primary care providers. Additionally, RCDHU continues to offer booked appointments for individuals at higher risk of severe respiratory illness and for children 11 years of age and younger, whom pharmacies cannot always vaccinate.

As of January 11th, RCDHU has administered 7,761 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and 3,724 doses of influenza vaccine throughout the fall campaign. RCDHU delivered vaccines through a combination of mass community-based clinics, in-home vaccination services, and mobile vaccination services, which targeted retirement homes and congregate care settings. RCDHU has also dispensed a total of 20,605 doses of influenza vaccine to health care partners across Renfrew County and District (RCD). Pharmacies continue to play an active role in the administration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines. As of January 11<sup>th</sup>, pharmacies in RCD have administered 11,374 doses of COVID-19 vaccine and 13,921 doses of influenza vaccine.

Thanks to the efforts of RCDHU's immunization team, our health system partners, and residents of RCD we achieved a higher COVID-19 immunization rate with the new XBB vaccine than Ontario both for all ages and for those older than 65.

#### Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine:

The Ministry of Health launched a publicly funded high-risk RSV vaccination program targeting individuals 60 years and older living in long-term care homes (LTCH), including Elder Care Lodges and residents of licensed retirement homes providing dementia care. Initially, RCDHU dispensed doses to long-term care homes and directly administered 49 doses of the RSV vaccine to eligible retirement home residents. Effective December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the eligibility criteria expanded to include individuals aged 60 and older in the following populations:

- Patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC)
- Patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants
- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis

RCDHU is currently reaching out to several community partners to support with the administration of RSV vaccine to our eligible populations. RCDHU will also be offering booked appointments to offer RSV vaccine to clients that are eligible.

#### Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA):

ISPA surveillance will continue into 2024, involving the distribution of immunization notices to all students in RCD who are overdue for the required ISPA vaccines, or missing immunization information. Currently, approximately 2,445 (15.7%) students in RCD are overdue for at least one ISPA vaccine. Notably, the active surveillance efforts in December have reduced the number of students with no immunization records from approximately 738 (4.7%), to approximately 541 (3.4%) as of January 11, 2024.

Throughout the winter months, RCDHU will host ISPA school clinics in all high schools across RCD, along with community-based clinics for students. Students also have the

option to receive vaccinations through their health care providers and report their immunizations to RCDHU, preferably using the online [Immunization Connect Ontario tool \(ICON\)](#).

### *Respiratory Illness*

As seen on RCDHU's [Respiratory Illness Data Summary](#), overall respiratory illness activity across RCD remains high, with the majority of indicators showing "very high" levels. In recent weeks, there have been early signs of decreasing activity.

#### Outbreaks:

Throughout December 2023 and the first few weeks of January 2024, outbreak activity was relatively consistent, with an average of 2 new respiratory outbreaks declared each week. Roughly half of the respiratory outbreaks declared during this time were COVID-19 related, while the other half were due to pathogens such as influenza, RSV, or rhinovirus. In recent weeks, the number of outbreaks has slowed down somewhat. There are currently 3 active respiratory outbreaks in RCD (as of January 24<sup>th</sup>).

#### Respiratory Disease Outcomes:

On average, there have been 6-7 new hospitalizations for COVID-19 each week over the past six weeks. This is similar to the weekly number of new admissions in November 2023, but higher compared to September-October 2023. Additionally, hospitalizations for influenza and RSV have been reported by local hospitals.

There were 6 COVID-19 related deaths reported in the past 6 weeks. While weekly death rates have been relatively high in RCD compared to Ontario during this time, overall COVID-19 death rates for 2023 are very similar (10.9 per 100,00 in RCD vs. 12.4 per 100,000 in Ontario).

#### Test Percent Positivity and Cases:

The first influenza case of the 2023-24 season was reported to RCDHU in early December 2023. Weekly case numbers increased over the first two weeks of January, with a total of 23 influenza cases (22 influenza A + 1 influenza B) reported as of January 17<sup>th</sup>. Correspondingly, percent positivity for influenza has increased during this time, reaching ~12-13%. Provincially, influenza percent positivity may have peaked and has decreased recently.

COVID-19 testing percent positivity remains high for both Ontario and Eastern Region PHUs but appears to be trending downward (currently sitting around 17%). Our local



positivity over the past 6 weeks has ranged between 15-25% and decreased to 16.7% in our most recent respiratory illness data summary update.

Wastewater:

Preliminary data for Eastern region health units shows that COVID-19 [wastewater signals](#) may be starting to decrease following sustained high levels. Local signals from both Pembroke and Petawawa sites increased throughout the month of December but appear to be decreasing in more recent weeks.

## **Health Promotion**

### *Substance Use Harms*

Drug-related deaths and harms remain a major focus for RCDHU. Preliminary reports indicate that there were 38 suspect drug poisoning deaths across RCD in 2023, which is approximately double the number of deaths in 2022 and three times the number of deaths that usually occurred from 2018-19. Over the first 8 months of 2023, preliminary reports have identified 16 deaths that were specifically related to opioids. In terms of opioid-related emergency department (ED) visits, there were approximately 70 ED visits to local hospitals in 2023, which is 1.5-2 times higher than the annual number of visits seen in 2018-19.

Our substance use and harm reduction team is planning the development of a community-wide drug strategy, that will require collaboration with numerous community partners. This strategy will systematically assess and plan work across the four pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement.

Alongside partners, we continue to work on enhanced outreach and mobile support models to better serve people who use drugs across RCD. This collaboration resulted in the submission of a funding application to Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program in the fall. In the past two weeks we also submitted a separate application to the Public Health Agency of Canada for funding to support implementation planning of the Icelandic Prevention Model, an evidence-based and well-established means of preventing substance use among youth.

Alongside these new initiatives, we continue our work to provide harm reduction supplies and education supports in the community, to provide updated epidemiological information to support planning and advocacy, and to communicate with partners and the media about the situation. Recently, we have developed a regional analysis of the burden of opioid-related deaths across RCD, shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Number of opioid-related deaths and rate of opioid-related deaths per 100,000 people per year by geographical area in RCD, January 2018 to June 2023

<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Population (Census 2021)</b>	<b>Number of opioid-related deaths</b>	<b>Rate of opioid-related deaths per 100,000 people per year</b>
Arnprior and Area (including McNab/Braeside)	17,220	6	6.3
Barry's Bay and Area (including Algonquin Provincial Park; Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan; Killaloe, Haggarty, Richards; Madawaska Valley; North Algona Wilberforce; South Algonquin)	12,157	4	6.0
Deep River and Area (including Laurentian Hills; Head, Clara, Maria)	7,327	5	12.4
Renfrew and Area (including Admaston/Bromley, Horton, Greater Madawaska)	17,231	8	8.4
Pembroke and Area (including Bonnechere Valley, Laurentian Valley, Whitewater Region)	34,937	34	17.7
Petawawa	18,160	5	5.0

Data source: Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario (2). Data is preliminary and subject to change.

Notes:

- Opioid-related deaths include both confirmed and probable cases as defined by the Office of the Chief Coroner.
- Deaths are primarily categorized according to the location where the death occurred.
- Table does not include deaths that occurred within the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation.

*Enabling Aging in Place - Healthcare Excellence Canada*

In November 2023, RCDHU contributed to the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team's (OVOHT) application for funding under the Enabling Aging in Place – Healthcare Excellence Canada initiative as part of a cross-sectoral team. Healthcare Excellence Canada has selected our group's "Falls Pathway" proposal for participation in Phase 1 Seed Funding (January to April 2024). The funding will support the development of implementation and evaluation plans for the pathway, designed to prevent and reduce harms from falls among older adults. RCDHU will contribute in-kind support by providing demographic data for older adults and current falls data. Additionally, RCDHU will continue to participate as a core member of the working group.

Submitted by: Dr. Jason Morgenstern  
Medical Officer of Health  
Renfrew County and District Health Unit

# FOOD AFFORDABILITY

*in Renfrew County and District, 2023*



Some people are unable to consistently access food due to financial constraints, resulting in a condition known as **food insecurity**. When incomes are low, people may have to choose between paying for food or paying for other basic necessities, like housing and utilities. **This is a significant public health problem.**

Each year, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) monitors local food affordability and food insecurity rates in Renfrew County and District (RCD).



**1 in 6 households**  
are food insecure in Renfrew County  
and District<sup>1</sup>



**1 in 4 children**  
are food insecure in  
Ontario<sup>2</sup>

## Monitoring Food Affordability

RCDHU used the **Ontario Nutritious Food Basket** (ONFB) tool to monitor food affordability across RCD. In May 2023, staff went to nine local grocery stores and collected prices for the same 61 food items. Food costs were then combined with housing rental rates and compared to various income situations to determine the local affordability of food.



The ONFB is a list of food items that make up a hypothetical grocery basket based on Canada's Food Guide. It is intended to model what a family might buy while following nutritional guidelines.



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Housing rental rates were calculated using the 2021 Canadian Rental Housing Index (CRHI), adjusting for inflation. RCDHU conducted additional research to assess how well this data represents the current rental market in RCD. Findings suggest that the CRHI rental prices may be as much as **70% below** prices for new rentals in the current market. RCDHU recommends caution when evaluating the following income scenarios.

## Identifying Food Insecurity in RCD

As seen below, local income scenarios show the difficulties low-income households experience when paying for housing and food. After paying for food and rent, the **remaining monthly income** is available for necessities like utilities (like heating and electricity), childcare, medical and dental bills, phone and internet services, transportation costs, clothing, pets, etc.

### What's Left each month for...



**Results indicate that families with lower incomes struggle to afford food.** This is due not only to high food prices, but also to incomes that are **too low** to cover basic necessities.

## Income Scenarios in Renfrew County and District

Note: Food and rental costing methodologies were changed in 2023. As a result, the data described in this report should not be compared to previous reports.

### One Person, ODSP\* Monthly income: \$1,372



### One Person, Ontario Works Monthly income: \$868



### Family of Four, Ontario Works Monthly income: \$2800



\* Ontario Disability Support Program



*Income scenarios in RCD*

	Monthly Income <sup>a</sup>	Estimated Monthly Rent <sup>b</sup>	Monthly Cost of Food	What's Left
<b>Households with Children</b>				
Family of Four, Ontario works	\$2,800	\$1,232	\$1,177	<b>\$391</b>
Family of Four, One Full-Time Minimum Wage Earner	\$4,166	\$1,232	\$1,177	<b>\$1,757</b>
Family of Four, Median Income (after tax, in Ontario)	\$9,290	\$1,232	\$1,177	<b>\$6,881</b>
Single Parent Household with 2 Children, Ontario Works	\$2,566	\$1,132	\$868	<b>\$566</b>
Single Parent Household with 2 Children, Full-Time Minimum Wage Earner	\$4,308	\$1,132	\$719	<b>\$2,457</b>
<b>Households without Children</b>				
One Person Household, Ontario Works	\$868	\$759 <sup>c</sup>	\$421	<b>-\$312</b>
One Person Household, Ontario Disability Support Program	\$1,372	\$821	\$421	<b>\$130</b>
One Person Household, Old Age Security/ Guaranteed Income Supplement	\$1,996	\$821	\$306	<b>\$869</b>
Married Couple, Ontario Disability Support Program	\$2,437	\$821	\$702	<b>\$914</b>
Single Pregnant Person Household, Ontario Disability Support Program	\$1,412	\$821	\$401	<b>\$190</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes benefits and credits

<sup>b</sup> May or may not include utilities

<sup>c</sup> This scenario uses rental rates for a bachelor apartment

Note: The ONFB tool used to calculate the monthly cost of food assumes that people have the time, skills, and equipment to make meals from scratch. Also, the Canada Food Guide and ONFB may not cover the dietary needs of all religious and cultural groups. They do not include traditional Indigenous foods and food acquisition practices. Additionally, the ONFB excludes certain items like pre-packaged foods, baby foods, special dietary products (like gluten-free), or cleaning and personal hygiene products. RCDHU recognizes these significant limitations to the ONFB.





## Food Insecurity is a Public Health Concern

The widespread nature of food insecurity is a serious public health concern.

**In RCD, nearly 1 in 6 (17%) households are food insecure.**<sup>1</sup>

This includes those who are marginally, moderately, and severely food insecure. **In Ontario, 1 in 4 children** (24.6%) live in food-insecure households, affecting nearly 700,000 children.<sup>2</sup>



Food insecurity has **long-lasting health impacts** for children and adults. Read more at: [Food Insecurity](#).



### Food insecurity can affect anyone:

**Being employed, receiving wages, or having a salary does not guarantee protection from food insecurity.** More than half (**60.2%**) of food-insecure households in Canada indicated wages, salaries, or self-employment as their main source of income.<sup>2</sup>

Besides income, individuals may experience a **disproportionately high rate of food insecurity** if they: <sup>2-4</sup>

- live in rental housing
- are a single female parent
- are a member of a racialized group
- identify as Indigenous

Individuals receiving **social assistance** are at higher risk of experiencing food insecurity. In Canada, **69.9%** of households receiving social assistance report experiencing food insecurity.<sup>2</sup>

## Food insecurity is a result of poverty.

POVERTY

To solve the problem, we need to **take action against poverty** and implement income-based solutions.

You too can take a stance against food insecurity and advocate for change. Find out how you can take action by visiting: [Food Insecurity](#).

**We all deserve to have our basic needs met and live with dignity.**





## References

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# A new provincial-municipal partnership is needed in every part of Ontario

January 25, 2024

TORONTO, Jan. 25, 2024 /CNW/ - Today the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) released its [Pre-Budget Submission](#) calling on the province to commit to reviewing the provincial-municipal fiscal framework as part of the upcoming provincial budget.

Ontario's municipalities invest almost \$65 billion each year into critical infrastructure and services, including clean drinking water, public health, parks, public transit, policing, and much more. They own and operate nearly half a trillion dollars of infrastructure – more than both the provincial and federal governments.

The financial arrangement that municipalities rely on to serve Ontarians is broken – failing residents, small businesses and major industries. Unlike the province, municipal revenues – mostly from property taxes – do not grow with the economy or inflation. New realities, including the pressures of growth, economic factors like inflation and interest rates, social challenges, and provincial policy decisions are pushing municipalities to the brink.

"Ontarians expect governments to work together and respect tax dollars," said Colin Best, AMO President. "Municipal governments across the province want to address affordability, invest in infrastructure and the economy, and tackle social challenges like increasing homelessness. Tackling today's challenges requires a modern provincial-municipal partnership."

Municipalities outspend the provincial government by almost \$4 billion each year on provincial responsibilities such as social housing, long-term care, public health, and childcare. Homelessness is growing across the province. There are now nearly 1,400 encampments in municipalities across Ontario. Municipalities are stepping up to address homelessness, but they simply do not have the financial tools needed to solve systemic

social problems. In the last five years, property taxpayers have seen a 200% increase in costs to support homelessness services in their communities.

Property taxpayers can't afford to keep paying for growing provincial costs. Ontario's property taxes are already the second highest in Canada. At the same time, provincial per capita spending is the lowest in Canada and Ontario needs to spend almost \$2,000 more per person to approach the national average.

As Ontario grows, major investment in municipal infrastructure is required to achieve the province's ambitious target of building 1.5 million new homes by 2031. However, Bill 23 created a \$1 billion annual hole in municipalities' ability to pay for the foundational infrastructure that supports new housing. Municipalities are planning for \$250 - \$290 billion in capital expenditures over the next decade – with around \$100 billion of that investment connected to growth. The province continues to benefit from housing market growth, collecting \$4.48 billion in Land Transfer Taxes in 2022 alone. The provincial share of the purchase price of a new home has climbed steeply over the last decade – increasing by 55% compared to local governments' 13%. The province can and should invest more in our communities.

Ontario's provincial and municipal governments have a strong history of collaboration. AMO believes the time is right for municipalities and the province to work together on a social and economic prosperity review so that we can find a better path forward for all of Ontario.

For further information: Brian Lambie, AMO Media Contact, 416-729-5425, [lambie@redbrick.ca](mailto:lambie@redbrick.ca)

## Category

Pre-Budget

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January, 25 2024

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- Free webinar - Check out the latest version of RETScreen Expert!
- Housing access in higher education host communities survey.
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- Kraft Hockeyville nominations open - Your community could win!
- Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents.
- Future of Aging Summit in May 2024.
- Careers: Brampton, Peterborough, Ajax and Georgina.

### AMO Matters

As part of [AMO's Workforce Development Project](#), over 2400 municipal employees responded to our survey about their experience working in the sector. [Click here](#) for an overview of the results.

### Provincial Matters

Join free webinars to get [Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund](#) details. [Register for the February 7](#) application session, which includes a Q & A portion.

The province announced at the 2024 ROMA Conference that they are opening a new intake for the Rural Economic Development (RED) program. [Intake is open](#) until February 21.

The province is conducting a [survey](#) to inform the creation of a Rural Economic Development Strategy. Share your ideas on how the province can support rural communities plan for economic success.

The province is conducting a [survey](#) to shape the development of a modular housing strategy. Share your insights on barriers and opportunities for modular and innovative home construction by Feb 4, 2024.

### 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 more information.

### Education Opportunities

Registration is now open for the following AMO Education workshops: Antisemitism: Then and Now, Municipal Codes of Conduct: Essential to Good Governance, Councillor Training 101. [View full details](#) on these and all the AMO Education offerings.

### LAS

In 2023 risk became more complex as organizations continued to navigate cyber security, labor shortage and employee turnover, supply chain issues, and shifting risk profiles. Our [latest blog](#) by our Risk and Claim Management System digital partner, ClearRisk, outlines the latest trends expected this year.

It's that time of year again - check your compliance with the [Canadian Free Trade Agreement](#). If your

municipality plans on using one or more LAS [programs and services](#), and the value meets the CFTA threshold, be sure to post your [Notice of Participation](#) on your procurement website.

The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) was purpose-built for municipalities to make buying easy. As a not-for-profit, Canoe is a key partner offering municipal products you use everyday - from Aggregates to Zambonis. Take a minute to see how Canoe will work for you. Contact [Sarah Hubble](#) for more information and get started today.

Thinking of a low carbon retrofit but need a software to model your project? [RETScreen International](#) and LAS are offering a free municipal-focused webinar to showcase the latest version of RETScreen Expert. Space is limited so be sure to [register today](#). Attendees will receive a free 14-day RETScreen trial license.

### Municipal Wire\*

The International Town and Gown Association and Town and Gown Association of Ontario [launched a survey](#) seeking input from municipal leaders on Canada's student housing crisis. Participate by March 5.

The Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation has [released resources for municipalities](#) on basement flooding, extreme heat and wildfire protection to be shared through municipal websites and tax notices.

The grand prize community winner will have an opportunity to host an NHL preseason game and receive \$250,000 for arena upgrades. All three runners-up will receive \$25,000 for arena upgrades. To submit a nomination visit the [Kraft Hockeyville website](#). Nominations close February 18, 2024

The Condominium Authority of Ontario's [2024 Winter Information Kit](#) offers useful and shareable tips to help Ontario condo residents navigate the ins and out of condo living this season.

The Future of Aging Summit in Toronto from May 15-17, 2024 will bring together policymakers and others focused on building age-friendly societies. See the speaker lineup and register at [agingsummit.ca](#).

### Careers

[Technical Lead, HR/Finance - City of Brampton](#). Closing Date: February 11, 2024

[Committee Support Specialist - City of Peterborough](#). Closing Date: February 2, 2024

[Planning Clerk - Town of Ajax](#). Closing Date: February 16, 2024.

[Senior Development Planner - Town of Georgina](#). Closing Date: February 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!

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- Rural Economic Development Program Intake open.
- Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy.
- Survey: Help advance Ontario's modular housing sector.
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- Register for February Councillor Training.
- Municipal Codes of Conduct: February workshop.
- Anti-Semitism and Anti-Islamophobia: Winter workshops.
- Navigating Conflict - Pre-requisite for NEW advanced strategies course.
- New AMO workshops for municipal councillors - Spring dates.
- LAS supports for Municipal Energy Reporting.
- Calls to action for municipalities on economic abuse.
- Housing access in higher education host communities survey.
- Climate change resources for residents.
- Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents.
- Future of Aging Summit in May 2024.
- Careers: Clarington, York, and Ottawa.

### AMO Matters

As part of [AMO's Workforce Development Project](#), over 2400 municipal employees responded to our survey about their experience working in the sector. [Click here](#) for an overview of the results.

### Provincial Matters

Join free webinars to get [Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund](#) details. [Register for the February 7](#) application session, which includes a Q & A portion.

Ontario's electrification and energy transition panel has released its [final report](#) outlining recommendations for long-term energy planning.

On February 9, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), [will present information](#) related to energy project siting.

The province announced at the 2024 ROMA Conference that they are opening a new intake for the Rural Economic Development (RED) program. [Intake is open](#) until February 21.

The province is conducting a [survey](#) to inform the creation of a Rural Economic Development Strategy. Share your ideas on how the province can support rural communities plan for economic success.

The province is conducting a [survey](#) to shape the development of a modular housing strategy. Share your insights on barriers and opportunities for modular and innovative home construction by Feb 4, 2024.

### 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 more information.

### Education Opportunities

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



The Councillor Training interactive workshop delves into the key areas of your responsibility as an elected official in a forum where you can ask questions that you can't always raise locally. Register for the [February 14 Councillor Training workshop](#) today.

As AMO and municipalities await provincial direction, your Association has developed a course that helps and guides municipal leaders in the development, communication, adherence, and issues management of codes of conducts. Register for the [February 28 Code of Conduct workshop](#) today.

Build your understanding on the historical and contemporary roots of anti-semitism and anti-islamophobia, how to address these and how to build relationships and allyships. Register for the [February 22 anti-semitism](#) workshop and [March 6 anti-islamophobia](#) workshop today.

Navigating Conflict Relationships for Elected Officials is one of AMO's most popular training offerings. This course helps you understand and navigate why relationships are or become challenging. Join your colleagues at the [March workshop](#) to gain skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult ones in your role as an elected municipal official. Attendees are invited to register for the [April Advanced Strategies workshop](#).

Don't miss out on [spring workshops](#), space is limited: Cyber Security, Advanced Councillor Training, Managing Communications through Crisis, Indigenous Community Awareness, Foundations in Planning, Advanced Land Use Planning and Competing Rights.

### LAS

Act NOW! The July 1, 2024 Energy Reporting deadline is going to be a big one, requiring 2 years of consumption data and a new 5-year Conservation Plan. LAS is here to help with an updated [EPT software](#) and consulting service for reporting, and [energy training](#) & [lighting upgrade](#) services to help you meet your goals. Contact us to get the help you need.

### Municipal Wire\*

The [Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment](#) (CCFWE) released [calls to action for municipalities](#) to address economic abuse in gender-based violence strategies. For more information contact [Michaela Mayer](#).

The International Town and Gown Association and Town and Gown Association of Ontario [launched a survey](#) seeking input from municipal leaders on Canada's student housing crisis. Participate by March 5.

The Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation has [released resources for municipalities](#) on basement flooding, extreme heat and wildfire protection to be shared through municipal websites and tax notices.

The Condominium Authority of Ontario's [2024 Winter Information Kit](#) offers useful and shareable tips to help Ontario condo residents navigate the ins and out of condo living this season.

The Future of Aging Summit in Toronto from May 15-17, 2024 will bring together policymakers and others focused on building age-friendly societies. See the speaker lineup and register at [agingsummit.ca](#).

### Careers

[Associate Solicitor – Municipality of Clarington](#). Closing Date: February 26, 2024.

[Director, Homelessness Community Programs – Regional Municipality of York](#). Closing Date: February 14, 2024.

[City Solicitor – City of Ottawa](#). [FR](#). Closing Date: February 23, 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!

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[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

**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](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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



\*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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EOWC  
**2024 ONTARIO  
PRE-BUDGET  
CONSULTATION**

JANUARY 31, 2024

**EOWC**  
Eastern Ontario  
Wardens' Caucus



# The EOWC's Recommendations

## Undertake a Social and Economic Prosperity Review

The EOWC joins the [Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#) to request that the Ontario Government work with municipal governments to undertake a [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#).

This includes a detailed and objective analysis of the current fiscal arrangements for services and infrastructure investment that is affordable for both orders of government and for taxpayers.

The Province has recognized the unsustainable nature of current arrangements with its New Deal for Toronto. But these structural challenges extend well beyond Toronto's borders and impact every municipality – big and small – across the province including the 103 EOWC member municipalities.

## Invest in housing across the continuum



- That the Province commits to providing annual direct financial investments toward the construction of new affordable/attainable rental housing and new community housing sufficient to support projects like the [EOWC's 7 in 7+ Regional Housing Plan](#)
- That the Province provides programs, funding and policies that support rural municipalities with innovative housing and infrastructure development to build more housing faster. All municipalities, including upper-tiers, need to be eligible to enable projects to move forward

Ontario municipalities are legislated to operate community housing and require funding to maintain and build new supply. Our counties / Service Managers (CMSMs) across Eastern Ontario currently own and manage 14,800 community housing units. It only makes sense that these municipalities be able to access any provincial or federal funding programs.

The lack of housing has become a fundamental systemic barrier to the economic and social well-being of residents in our region, across Ontario, and in Canada as a whole.

Increasing the supply of all types of housing across Eastern Ontario requires all three orders of government, government agencies, Indigenous communities, private and not-for-profit builders, and financial institutions to come together to tackle this priority. The need is so great that some say it requires an all-in 'war-time' effort.

If governments can resume direct investment, we the EOWC is confident that people in partnership among members of the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors will solve the housing supply challenge.

Organizations that have indicated support for funding of the 7 in 7+ Regional Housing Plan in the 2024 Ontario Budget:



**United Way  
Centraide**  
East Ontario  
Est de l'Ontario



**Eastern Ontario  
Mayors' Caucus**



**Ontario  
Home Builders'  
Association**

## Invest in next generation infrastructure to build rural Ontario

- That the Province develop infrastructure programs and funding eligibility with a rural perspective
- That the Province earmark existing program funds for rural projects because small investments can go a long way
- That the Province fund municipal governments accordingly ahead of the July 2024 asset management plan deadlines — these plans cannot be based on property taxpayer dollars alone
- That the Province work with the Federal Government to reach an agreement to reinstate a grant-based, multi-year funding program so municipalities can execute their asset management plans



## Address the disparity in social assistance rates and rent scales

A growing number of Ontarians can no longer afford the basic necessities of life. Forty-five percent of Ontario tenant households spend 30 percent or more of their total income on shelter. This is the highest rate in the country.

The EOWC is encouraged that the Province has recognized that a transformation of social assistance programs is required, but the Province has yet to recognize the critical importance of increased social assistance rates.

Despite recent increases to Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates, in real terms ODSP and Ontario Works (OW) rates have not kept up with inflation for decades. The result is significantly less purchasing power. Outdated and overly complicated rules keep people in poverty. Increasing social assistance rates and transforming social assistance to better help people get back on their feet and fully participating in the economy is a critical part of ending homelessness.

In addition, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing needs to increase the Social Assistance Rent Scales under the *Housing Services Act*. Under *the Act*, certain housing providers that receive significant municipal subsidies are only eligible to charge a single OW recipient \$85 per month for rent. But the maximum shelter allowance under the *Ontario Works Act* is \$390 per month. This results in the municipality subsidizing the Province \$305 per month for that rental unit. In the case of a family or an ODSP recipient, the amounts are even more alarming.

The total-units tally under these policies represent millions of dollars that would be better spent by municipalities on building more affordable housing units.

## Invest in municipal long-term care homes, staffing, and residents

- That the Province provide funding to offset premiums that municipalities have to pay for private staffing-agency workers
- That the Province fund temporary foreign workers to fill the human resources gap in rural long-term care homes
- That the Province reinstate the Construction Funding Subsidy (CFS) that ended in August of 2023 to help municipalities build and reinvest in long-term care homes
- That the Province implement a low-interest loan program to assist municipalities with the capital redevelopment and expansion of long-term care homes, and that these loans apply to homes that are both under construction and yet to be built



The EOWC believes that rural residents require access to the same level of care as their urban counterparts. Government investment – taxpayer dollars – are being poured into private staffing-agency profits. It is not sustainable and is demolishing municipal budgets.

The EOWC stands with the Ontario Government and its goal of building 58,000 new long-term care beds. The redevelopment of long-term care homes is a significant capital investment for small, rural municipalities. The ongoing debt charges are difficult for property tax payers to afford especially in light of the infrastructure deficit rural municipalities are addressing for roads, bridges, and other assets. Tax dollars would be saved under this approach and more homes could be built.

Reports by Auditor General of Ontario, AdvantAge Ontario, KPMG, and the Institute on Municipal Finance and Government show that municipally operated long-term care homes have better outcomes for residents than do privately operated homes.

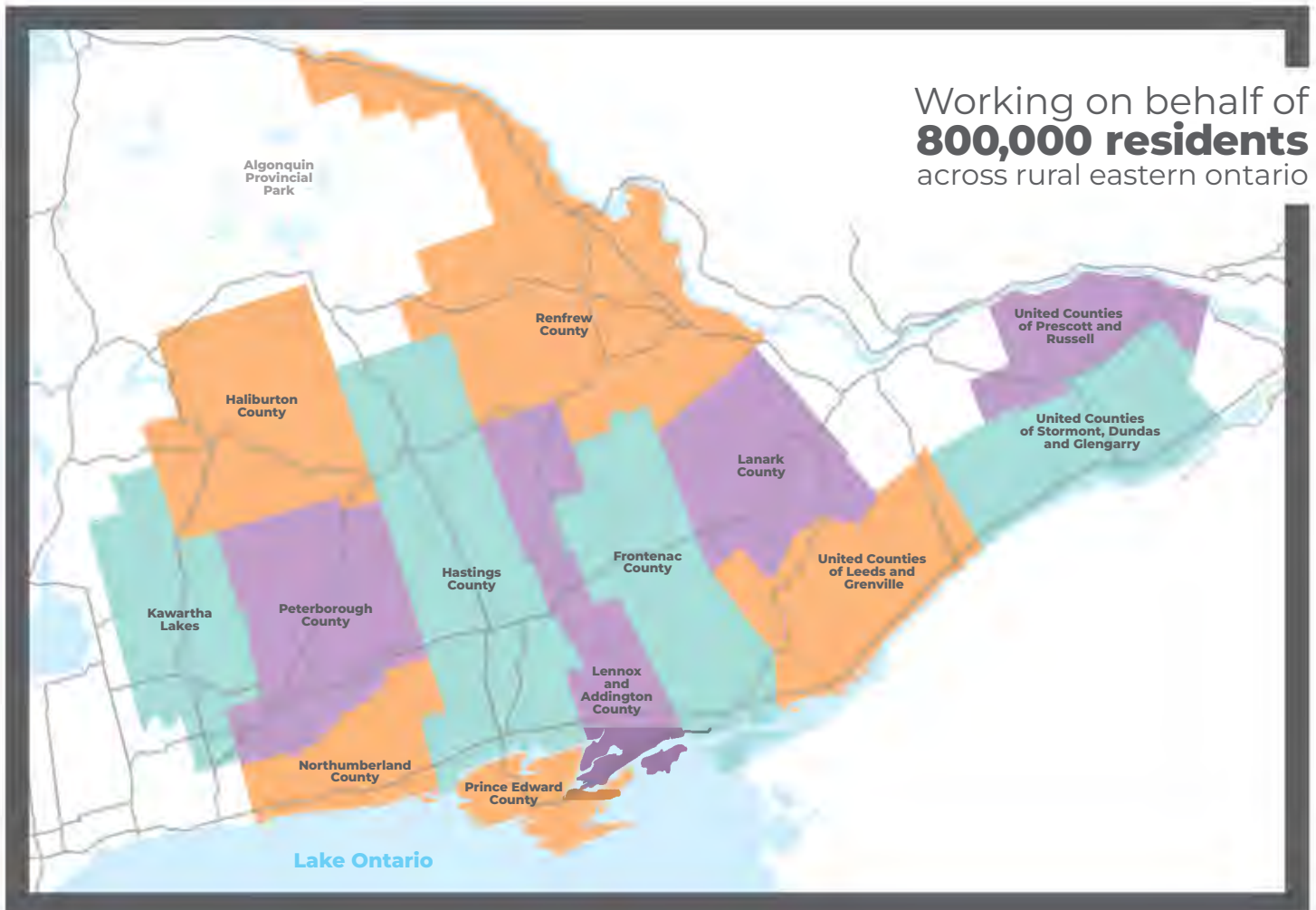
The money saved from interest payments would allow municipalities to move beyond a basic model to deliver higher quality support to residents.

[See the EOWC's advocacy briefing package for full details.](#)



# About the EOWC

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) Inc. is an incorporated non-profit organization comprised of the Heads of Council of 13 municipalities (*11 upper-tier counties and two single-tier municipalities*). The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometres from Northumberland County east to the Québec border. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of its 90 lower-tier municipalities and 800,000 residents across the region. The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with the government, business leaders, the media, and the public.



## EOWC Members

- County of Frontenac
- County of Haliburton
- County of Hastings
- City of Kawartha Lakes
- County of Lanark
- United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
- County of Lennox and Addington
- County of Northumberland
- County of Peterborough
- United Counties of Prescott and Russell
- Prince Edward County
- County of Renfrew
- United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry





Contact the EOWC at

EOWC Chair, **Peter Emon**  
*(Warden of Renfrew County)*  
info@eowc.org

EOWC Vice-Chair, **Bonnie Clark**  
*(Warden of Peterborough County)*  
info@eowc.org

Manager of Government Relations and Policy  
Meredith Staveley-Watson  
647-545-8324  
Meredith.Staveley-Watson@eowc.org

Follow the EOWC on  
[X/Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Resolution # RC23265	Meeting Order: 10
Moved by: <i>Cathy Fannon</i>	Seconded by: <i>J. Mal</i>

**WHEREAS** Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

**WHEREAS** many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and;

**WHEREAS** without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and;

**WHEREAS** in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals, and calling on the federal government to increase this tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

**WHEREAS** volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour;
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required;

*p.2...*



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

- It would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

**FURTHERMORE THAT** a copy of the resolution be shared with the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Algoma Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield	
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann	
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato	

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR - MELANIE PILON	CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL



Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
[minister.mto@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mto@ontario.ca)

January 15, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria  
Minister of Transportation

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria:

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Council for the Town of Mono passed the following resolution declaring a **Road Safety Emergency**, calling on the province to take action to address traffic safety through measures including public education, increased Highway Traffic Act fines and expanded use of Automated Speed Enforcement.

Resolution #4-1-2024

*Moved by Elaine Capes, Seconded by Melinda Davie*

**WHEREAS** road safety is of continuing and increasing concern to Ontarians;

**AND WHEREAS**, the number of traffic collisions, injuries and fatalities are at unacceptable levels[i];

**AND WHEREAS**, recent statistics and media reports show increasing fatalities and police roadway activities[iii];

**AND WHEREAS**, speeding is a leading contributing factor in many accidents including fatalities[iiii];

**AND WHEREAS**, fines for basic speeding have not increased for three decades or more thus losing at least 50% of their deterrent value through inflation;

**AND WHEREAS**, over 60% of all other Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Set Fines remain at \$85, an amount also suggesting no increase in decades[iv];

**AND WHEREAS**, municipalities are frustrated in their attempt to roll out Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) with current rules that restrict it to less than 80 km/h speed zones and make it contingent upon declaring Community Safety Zones where not warrant except to use ASE;

**AND WHEREAS**, Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) are the logical and efficient means of dealing with offences including parking violations, red light camera infractions and ASE charges, the Regulations involving its use are mired in red tape leading to unnecessary complexity and cost.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that we call on other municipalities and the Province of Ontario to recognize a Road Safety Emergency and take the following actions;

1. Launch a province wide road safety educational program to be funded from a portion of monies currently spent by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) to advertise games of chance and lotteries in Ontario.
2. Review and increase all HTA fines and penalties to reflect a deterrent amount and consequence that sends a message that driving is a privilege subject to conditions.
3. Permit municipalities to deploy ASE in 80 km/h zones or less without having to declare Community Safety Zones and without onerous conditions.
4. Establish a Working Group with municipalities to identify and recommend elimination of regulatory red tape associated with the use of ASE and AMPs.
5. Develop mechanisms that ensure POA fines and penalties do not lose their deterrent effect over time.
6. Work with municipalities to create better means of collecting outstanding POA fines and Victim Surcharge monies estimated to exceed \$1 billion as far back as 2011 <sup>[v]</sup>.

**"Carried"**

---

<sup>[i]</sup> The Preliminary 2022 Ontario Road Safety Annual Report indicates a total of 25,165 fatal and personal injury collisions and of that, some 530 fatal collisions (3.9 persons per 100,000 in Ontario).

<sup>[ii]</sup> [https://www.caledonenterprise.com/news/map-fatal-collisions-nearly-doubled-in-caledon-in-2023/article\\_3131acaf-acae-5b21-bee4-a67a33600c33.html](https://www.caledonenterprise.com/news/map-fatal-collisions-nearly-doubled-in-caledon-in-2023/article_3131acaf-acae-5b21-bee4-a67a33600c33.html). Since publication of this article, the number of Caledon fatalities has increased to nearly 20 last year. The Town of Mono has experienced an explosion of traffic stop occurrences, up over 300% since 2019.

<sup>[iii]</sup> Speeding convictions account for over 50% of all HTA convictions - see <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/statistics/>.

<sup>[iv]</sup> <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/provincial-offences/set-fines/set-fines-i/schedule-43/>.

<sup>[v]</sup> <http://oapssb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OAPSB-POA-WHITE-PAPER-FINAL-1-Nov-2011.pdf>. This report, prepared by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards,

*suggests a number of effective mechanisms to collect unpaid fines including garnishment of Federal income tax refunds and other payments as is currently done in other provinces.*

Respectfully,

Fred Simpson, Clerk

Copy: Minister of Finance  
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario municipalities



The Township of Alnwick/Haldimand

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Council Meeting Date: November 28, 2023
Council Resolution Number:
Agenda Item Number: 16.16
Agenda Item Title: County of Prince Edward - Resolution 'MOE to Expand Use of Permit-By-Rule'
Mover: M. Mansworth
Seconded: M.C. O'Neill

"Whereas the Council of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand reviewed the resolution from the County of Prince Edward regarding support for the Province to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to certain water taking activities, waste management systems and storm water management systems;

Be it resolved that Council support this resolution and direct staff to forward a copy of Council's resolution to Premier Doug Ford, MPP David Piccini, the Minister of the Environment, Labour, Conservation and Parks, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ganaraska Conservation Authority, Lower Trent Conservation Authority, and all Ontario municipalities."

Immigration, Training & Skills Development

- Carried
Defeated
Deferred
Recorded Vote

Mayor, John Logel



## Council Members

Mayor Neil Nicholson  
Deputy Mayor Cathy  
Regier

Councillors:  
Mark Bell  
Michael Moore  
Chris Olmstead  
Connie Tabbert  
Joey Trimm

## Certified True Copy

### Re: Resolution - Water and Wastewater Unaffordable Rates - Mayor Neil Nicholson

At its meeting of December 6, 2023, the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region adopted the following resolution:

#### THAT the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region:

1. Advocate to the County of Renfrew:
  - a. to make County Council aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable and seek a resolution to support advocacy for additional financial supports from the provincial and federal levels of government; and
  - b. to seek support from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs is systemic provincially and nationally.
2. Establish "Water and Wastewater Task Force," that would report to Council with advice and policy recommendations relating to operating and life-cycle costs of water and wastewater systems, including a review of existing programs, policies, and solutions both locally and in other relevant jurisdictions.
3. That this resolution be circulated to the Honorable Cheryl Gallant MP, John Yakabuski MPP, AMO, ROMA, FCM, all municipalities within the County of

(613) 646-2282

P.O. Box 40,  
44 Main Street  
Cobden, ON  
K0J 1K0



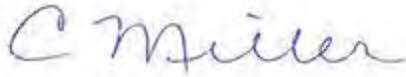
[whitewaterregion.ca](http://whitewaterregion.ca)



**Renfrew, County of Renfrew Warden, and the City of  
Pembroke.**

Carried - as amended Resolution #2023-5010

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized.

Carmen Miller  
Clerk/CEMC

