



ARNPRIOR

Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: February 26th, 2024
Correspondence Package No. I-24-FEB-04

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-24-FEB-04 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Ontario Helping Public Libraries Provide Public Internet Access
- b) Cutting Wait Times, Delivering Better Health Care in Ontario
- c) Ontario Continues to Attract New Investments Across Key Sectors
- d) Ontario Releases 2023–24 Third Quarter Finances
- e) Ontario Banning Road Tolls, Freezing Driver's Licence Fees to Keep Costs Down
- f) Ontario Making it Easier to Build Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- g) Ontario Streamlining Complex Approval Processes
- h) Ontario Government Delivering on Commitments to Get it Done
- i) Seniors Community Grant Program Applications Now Open

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) 2024 Water and Wastewater Rates

3. Correspondence from the Renfrew County District Health Unit

- a) RCDHU Considering Potential Mergers with Neighbouring Public Health Units

4. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

- a) [FCM's Green Municipal Fund updates its funding offer](#)

5. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) [Watch File – February 8th, 2024](#)
- b) [Watch File – February 15th, 2024](#)

6. Public Notices

- a) [Zoning By-Law Amendment No. 1/24 \(Village Creek – Block 139\)](#)

7. Resolutions from Other Municipalities

- a) [Municipality of Calvin – Provincial & National Fire Fighting Strategy](#)
- b) [Coleman Township – Conservation Officer Reclassification](#)
- c) [Prince Edward County – Ontario Works \(OW\) and Ontario Disability Support Program \(ODSP\) Financial Assistance Rates](#)
- d) [Prince Edward County – Expand the Lifespan of Fire Apparatus](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Helping Public Libraries Provide Public Internet Access

Investment helps small, rural and First Nation communities access digital resources and in-demand services

February 06, 2024

[Tourism, Culture and Sport](#)

GRAVENHURST — The Ontario government is investing up to \$582,000 in Ontario's public libraries this year through the Internet Connectivity Grant program to provide Ontarians with reliable access to digital resources and in-demand services at their local public library.

"Public libraries are a critical part of the infrastructure that makes our communities thrive," said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "This increased investment in public libraries will ensure people across the province have reliable access to the digital resources and in-demand services that they require to learn, grow and thrive."

Today's funding announcement will increase the support provided to Ontario's public libraries last year by \$122,000, enabling up to 155 eligible public libraries that serve communities of 20,000 or less – in particular, those in small, rural and First Nation communities – to be fully reimbursed for the costs of providing publicly accessible internet access.

Ontarians rely on their local public library to access online tutoring and homework assistance, job training resources, learn or improve their language skills, and build and maintain social connections.

"This initiative reflects our government's commitment to small town and rural Ontario. We're ensuring that residents of communities like Gravenhurst and those throughout Parry Sound-Muskoka have access to the same level services as residents of big cities," said Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka. "Expanding access to high-quality internet connectivity enhances local quality of life for people throughout our riding. I'm proud to be a part of a government that is prioritizing investing in communities like Gravenhurst."

Since 2018, the Internet Connectivity Grant program has provided the province's public libraries with more than \$3 million to ensure the communities they serve have reliable access to the internet.

"Access to reliable, high-speed internet is more critical than ever in an increasingly digital world and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Michelle Arbuckle, Executive Director, Ontario Library Association. "With more services, resources and businesses shifting to virtual platforms, the Ontario government's enhanced investment in the Internet Connectivity program will support public libraries by helping to make high-speed internet and digital resources accessible for all Ontarians."

"High-speed internet is critical for public libraries to offer the residents and communities they serve with access to digital resources and learning tools, subscription-based databases, and government services," said Dina Stevens, Executive Director, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. "Public libraries also provide reliable internet access to Ontarians of all ages who cannot otherwise access or afford it. The enhanced internet connectivity funding from the Ontario government will ensure public libraries serving hundreds of thousands of Ontarians in smaller communities will be able to continue providing access to fast, reliable internet services."

Quick Facts

- In 2023-24, the ministry committed to maintaining the \$27 million dollars in annual funding to the public library sector, and to work with Ontario's libraries to ensure services are delivered in the most efficient and effective ways possible.
- The Ontario government provided \$4.85 million in 2020-21 through the Connecting Public Libraries initiative to upgrade broadband at approximately 55 library branches in unserved and underserved communities across the province. To date, 20 sites have received broadband upgrades.

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NEWS RELEASE

Cutting Wait Times, Delivering Better Health Care in Ontario

February 09, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

KING CITY — Universal public health care is a core part of what it means to be Canadian. It is the idea that no matter where you live or what you earn, you will always be able to get the care you need. Unfortunately, our health care system has not been living up to expectations. From overwhelmed emergency rooms to surgery backlogs to health care workers under enormous strain – Canadians deserve immediate action to deliver better health care, when and where they need it. That is why the Government of Canada is making transformative investments to improve how provinces and territories deliver health care across the country.

Today, the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, alongside the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, announced a new \$3.1 billion agreement to improve health care in Ontario. This investment will help increase access to family doctors, reduce wait times, hire more health care workers, and ensure faster care for Canadians, including mental health care.

Under this agreement, Ontario will continue to deliver on its *Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care* and create new primary care teams to help more people connect to family doctors. With more family doctors, as well as nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, and social workers, health teams will ensure families can access timely, quality primary care. This will also help reduce backlogs for surgeries and wait times in emergency rooms while improving access to care for patients without a family doctor, especially in rural, remote, and underserved areas.

To fill health care shortages, Ontario will add hundreds of new family physicians and nurse practitioners, as well as thousands of new nurses and personal support workers. Enrollment in health care education programs will be expanded by over 700 spots – including over 70 in Northern Ontario. To keep building the talent for the future, Ontario will support students with tuition fees, help practising professionals gain new skills, and bring more health workers into the field.

The agreement will also make it easier for Canadian and internationally trained doctors and health professionals to practise in Ontario, so they spend less time dealing with red tape and more time helping patients in need. This includes removing barriers to foreign credential recognition, simplifying licensing processes, and increasing program access for highly educated and skilled health professionals. The Province will modernize digital infrastructure – from information reporting, to collection, to sharing. By expanding the availability of electronic health information and increasing the number of health care professionals who can securely access and share this information, health care will be more convenient, connected, and patient-centred.

Mental health is a central pillar of this important investment. Ontario will add five new Youth Wellness Hubs to the 22 that have opened since 2020, making it faster and easier for youth to connect to much needed mental health and substance use services in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. The Province will also continue to expand its Structured Psychotherapy Program, helping thousands more Ontarians get timely help for depression or anxiety through free cognitive behavioural therapy and other related supports.

The federal and provincial governments will engage and work with Indigenous Peoples to address gaps and systemic inequities in Indigenous health care services and improve access to culturally safe care. Under the agreement, funds will go to Ontario's Support for Indian Residential Schools Burials Funding program, which provides culturally safe mental health supports to Survivors of residential schools, families, and communities. As we move forward on the shared path of reconciliation, safe and timely health care is a priority for Indigenous communities.

This investment is part of the Government of Canada's larger work to invest over \$200 billion to improve health care, including funding through tailored bilateral agreements with provinces and territories. The agreement with Ontario is the fifth agreement announced, after [British Columbia](#), [Prince Edward Island](#), [Alberta](#), and [Nova Scotia](#). Through the agreement announced today, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario will deliver better results for patients, support health care workers, and protect our health care system now and into the future.

Quick Facts

- Today's agreement reinforces Canada's and Ontario's commitment to protect Canadians' access to health care based on need, not their ability to pay, as outlined in the [Canada Health Act](#).

- Ontario's three-year action plan can be found [here](#). Progress on the Province's initiatives and broader commitments under this new agreement will be measured against targets which the Province, together with the Canadian Institute for Health Information, will publicly report on annually.
- Budget 2023 outlined the Government of Canada's plan to invest over \$200 billion over 10 years, including \$46.2 billion in new funding for provinces and territories, to improve health care for Canadians. Within this funding, \$25 billion is allocated through tailored bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to address the unique needs of their populations and geography in four shared health priorities:
 - expanding access to family health services, including in rural and remote areas;
 - supporting health workers and reducing backlogs;
 - increasing mental health and substance use support; and
 - modernizing health care systems with health data and digital tools.
- All provinces and territories are already making considerable investments to advance progress in all four priority areas, and this new federal funding is complementing and expanding those efforts.
- As part of bilateral agreements, provinces and territories are asked to develop action plans that outline how funds will be spent and how progress will be measured to demonstrate to Canadians that improvements are occurring in Canada's health care system.
- The government is also working with provinces and territories to implement a second bilateral agreement focused on helping Canadians age with dignity close to home, with access to home care or care in a safe long-term care facility.
- In addition to tailored bilateral agreements, the federal government is supporting provinces and territories through:
 - Guaranteed Canada Health Transfer (CHT) increases of at least 5 per cent from 2023-24 to 2027-28 (amounting to \$17.5 billion over 10 years in additional funding through the CHT); and
 - A one-time CHT \$2 billion top-up to address the urgent needs of emergency rooms and paediatric hospitals, which was delivered in June 2023.
- As part of its investment of over \$200 billion over 10 years to improve health care for people in Canada, the Government of Canada is providing \$2 billion for the new Indigenous Health Equity Fund to make further progress on Indigenous health priorities across the country.
- The federal government works collaboratively and in partnership with Indigenous partners and communities to support improved access to high quality, culturally appropriate health services, greater Indigenous control of

health services, and improved health outcomes. Each year, the government invests approximately \$5 billion in Indigenous health.

- Today's announcement builds on the Government of Canada's [recent announcement](#) that up to \$86 million will be provided to 15 organizations across the country to increase capacity for foreign credential recognition of approximately 6,600 internationally educated health care professionals. This investment will help ensure highly educated and skilled immigrants receive proper recognition for their international credentials in Canada.
- The [Foreign Credential Recognition Program](#) works with provinces, territories, regulatory bodies, and other organizations by funding projects to support faster and more efficient credential recognition systems with the goal of growing Canada's economy, creating quality employment, and promoting a more sustainable health workforce.

Quotes

"This new ten-year agreement will help support our ongoing work in Ontario to connect more people to convenient care close to home. Right across the province, we're making historic investments in health care to build more hospitals, bring on more doctors and nurses, expand home and community care, and reduce wait times. We look forward to continuing working with our federal partners to ensure Ontarians get the health care they need and deserve."

**- The Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario**

"Canadians value our universal public health care system, but recently this system hasn't been living up to its promise. That's why we're signing agreements with provinces and territories to help ensure Canadians can access reliable, timely, and safe health care. Today's agreement with Ontario will increase access to family doctors, reduce backlogs, increase the workforce, and make the health care system work better. Let's give Canadians the quality health care they expect and deserve."

**- The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada**

"Ontario is making historic investments to help improve the patient experience through Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care. As we continue to put our bold plan into action, today's agreement will complement our ongoing work to ensuring Ontarians have unparalleled access to convenient care in their communities, no matter where they live."

**- The Hon. Sylvia Jones
Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister of Health**

"Making sure everyone in Canada can get health care when they need it is a big promise and it's something Canadians deserve. People are relying on all levels of government to work together and address the challenges in front of us. Reaching this agreement and action plan is a significant step in our collaboration with Ontario to take measurable action to improve our health care system. Together with all provinces and territories, we will continue working to achieve better health outcomes for everyone."

**- The Hon. Mark Holland
Minister of Health**

"Today's agreement demonstrates our steadfast commitment to making mental health and substance use services an integral part of our universal health care system. Through this agreement, Ontario will be able to deliver more integrated youth mental health and psychotherapy services to people throughout the province. We will continue to work together to ensure all Canadians have access to supports and services for their mental health and well-being – when they need them, wherever they need them."

**- The Hon. Ya'ara Saks
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health**

"This agreement will provide welcome support for our ongoing work to rebuild and modernize Ontario's mental health and addictions system. We are improving the quality of services across the province, lowering barriers to access, and collaborating with partners to develop innovative and culturally appropriate solutions to close gaps in care. Our government is building a continuum of care that is based on treatment and recovery, and we will continue to make effective, evidence-based investments that connect more people to crucial mental health and addictions supports, closer to home."

- The Hon. Michael Tibollo

Ontario's Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Additional Resources

- [Working together to improve health care for Canadians](#)
- [The Government of Canada and Ontario Reach Agreement in Principle to Improve Health Services for Canadians](#)
- [Canada's health care system](#)
- [Canada Health Transfer](#)
- [Canada Health Act](#)

Related Topics

Government

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

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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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STATEMENT

Ontario Continues to Attract New Investments Across Key Sectors

Province welcomes regional expansions and strengthens strategic partnerships abroad

February 09, 2024

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

TORONTO — Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued the following statement on today's monthly employment numbers released by Statistics Canada, which showed Ontario added nearly 24,000 jobs last month, including 9,700 jobs in the construction sector, leading the nation in job creation for January.

"At a time when Ontario, Canada and jurisdictions around the world are facing economic uncertainty, our government is maintaining a targeted and responsible approach to attracting investments and creating more good-paying jobs for the people of Ontario. Across key sectors, companies are choosing Ontario as an ideal location to support their growth and innovation.

In January alone, six businesses announced \$133 million in investments to expand operations, creating 152 new, good-paying jobs in regions across the province. These businesses include Kitchener's [FluidAI Medical](#), London's [Starlim North America Corp.](#) and [Andriani Ltd.](#), and [Niagara Region's](#) Stanpac Inc., AMSI Inc. and St. David's Cold Storage. As part of these investments, Ontario is providing close to \$12 million in funding through the [Regional Development Program](#) and the Ontario Together Fund.

In January, Ontario delegations attended two successful trade missions promoting the province's growing automotive, technology, life sciences, and manufacturing sectors in both the [United States](#) and [Mexico](#). These missions provided an important opportunity to promote the province's industrial might at some of the largest conferences in the world, including the Biotech Showcase in California, the Consumer Electronic Show in Nevada, and Expo Manufactura in Monterrey, Mexico.

And, as part of Ontario's [strategy for trade](#) with the United States, Ontario and Indiana finalized a new [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to promote increased trade and investments.

Our government's responsible approach is creating more opportunities for people and businesses today, while laying the foundation for a strong and resilient economy for future generations. By connecting Ontario businesses to the international marketplace, the province continues to be positioned as one of the best jurisdictions in the world for companies to invest, grow and create jobs."

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](#)

Jobs and Employment

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Releases 2023–24 Third Quarter Finances

Despite economic challenges, Ontario is expected to see continued growth

February 12, 2024

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — Today, the government released the [2023–24 Third Quarter Finances](#), to provide an update on Ontario’s economic and fiscal outlook since the release of the [2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review](#) (also referred to as the Fall Economic Statement, or FES).

While inflation-related pressure has eased slightly across the province, high interest rates and unpredictable consumer price inflation continue to pose risks to the province’s economic outlook. In spite of this, Ontario’s economy is expected to see continued growth in 2024.

“Ontario’s economy is continuing to grow, largely driven by the hardworking people in every corner of this province,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “As this year unfolds, our government will continue to take a prudent, responsible approach to managing Ontario’s finances, ensuring there is capacity to respond to economic headwinds while continuing to invest in building Ontario’s future.”

Real GDP growth has been slowing, in part due to the impact of higher interest rates. Following a 0.4 per cent increase in the second quarter of 2023, Ontario’s real GDP was unchanged in the third calendar quarter of 2023.

The *2023–24 Third Quarter Finances* projects a deficit of \$4.5 billion in 2023–24, an improvement of \$1.1 billion compared to the outlook published in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement. The improvement to the deficit is primarily due to increased revenue and lower interest on debt expense. The *2023 Budget* published in March 2023 projected a deficit of \$1.3 billion.

The outlook for revenue in 2023–24 is projected to be \$202.7 billion, \$0.9 billion higher than forecast in the 2023 FES. Increases in revenues since the *2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review* mainly reflect stronger than expected Broader Public Sector revenues, slightly higher taxation revenue and transfers from the Government of Canada.

Overall program expense in 2023–24 is projected to be \$193.4 billion, \$0.4 billion higher than forecast in the 2023 FES. Increases in program expense since the 2023 FES are primarily due to expense commitments for the health sector and support for the City of Toronto. New commitments announced since the release of the 2023 FES are primarily funded through third-party revenues, lower-than-expected spending and existing contingencies within the fiscal plan.

The government plans to provide its next update by March 31, 2024 as part of the *2024 Budget*.

Additional Resources

- Read Ontario's [2023–24 Third Quarter Finances](#)
- Read the [2023 Ontario Economic and Fiscal Review](#).
- Read the [2023 Budget](#).

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Banning Road Tolls, Freezing Driver's Licence Fees to Keep Costs Down

Province also saving drivers time by automating licence plate renewal process

February 15, 2024

[Transportation](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is keeping costs down for drivers by introducing legislation that would, if passed, ban tolls on provincial highways. This ban would apply to the Don Valley Parkway and Gardiner Expressway once uploaded to the province, as well as the province's 400-series highways.

"Our government under the leadership of Premier Ford is on a mission to keep costs down for families and businesses," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "First, we scrapped the tolls on Highways 412 and 418, now we're protecting drivers from the costs of new tolls. Together with our cut in the gas tax and eliminating the licence plate sticker fee, we're saving drivers hundreds of dollars every year."

To further keep costs down for people, the province is also proposing to make the [current freeze on driver's licence and Ontario Photo Card fees](#) permanent through legislation, saving drivers an estimated \$66 million over the next five years. By legislating the current freeze, which was originally put in place through regulation and which has saved applicants \$22 million since 2019, the government is ensuring that any future increases can only be made through legislation.

The province is also proposing to save drivers time by automating the licence plate renewal process starting this summer, saving vehicle owners more than 900,000 hours each year. This follows recent action by the government to eliminate the cost of renewing your vehicle permit. Until the automatic renewal process begins, drivers are still required to renew their licence plates at no cost, which [can be done online](#) or in person at ServiceOntario. The automatic renewal process will only be available to drivers in good standing who do not have outstanding fines or tickets.

These measures are part of upcoming legislation that will kick off the spring sitting of the legislature on February 20, 2024. The *Get It Done Act* will include a variety of measures that, if passed, would build on the government's commitments to date to streamline approvals for major infrastructure projects and housing, keep costs down for people and businesses, and support economic growth for long-term prosperity.

With Ontario's population expected to grow by five million people over the next decade, the province is moving forward with building [Highway 413](#) and the [Bradford Bypass](#). These highways will bring relief to one of the most congested corridors in North America, helping commuters save 30 minutes a trip so they can spend time doing what matters most to them.

Over the next ten years, Ontario is also investing more than \$70 billion to transform public transit in the province, which includes the largest subway expansion in Canadian history, including the Ontario Line, the Scarborough Subway Extension, the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and the Yonge North Subway Extension. The province is also moving forward with plans to extend the Hazel McCallion Light Rail Transit line by building the Mississauga loop and bringing the line into downtown Brampton and is calling on the federal government to join in a cost-sharing partnership to deliver two-way, all-day GO service on the Milton line.

Quick Facts

- If passed, the proposed legislation would amend the *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act* to prohibit Ontario from introducing new tolls on provincial highways and potentially require public consultation before considering new tolls.
 - If passed, the proposed legislation would ensure any future increases for driver's licence renewals or Ontario Photo Cards would require a legislative amendment.
 - [Highways 412 and 418 have not been tolled since April 2022](#). Removing tolls on these highways is expected to save drivers \$68 million between 2022-27.
-

Quotes

"Our government is putting customers at the centre of everything we do to save people precious time and money. We are constantly working to offer time-saving services such as automatic licence plate renewal, which we look forward to rolling out in the summer."

- Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery

"I applaud the Ontario government's proposed legislation, which would prohibit the introduction of any new tolls on highways – a common-sense approach, which builds on the much heralded removal of tolls last year on Highways 412 and 418. This measure prioritizes the financial well-being of residents and commuters, reflecting responsible governance, and fostering a future where citizens will have a say on strategic infrastructure investments."

- Kevin Ashe
Mayor of Pickering

"It is critically important that we help to keep our residents moving and our economy growing while not adding any financial burden to the people we represent. I thank the Ontario government for introducing legislation that will help to accomplish these important goals."

- Steven Del Duca
Mayor of Vaughan

"Ontario's 1,100 new car and truck retailers whole heartedly support Premier Ford hitting the brakes on new highway tolls. Keeping vehicle ownership costs low is critical to supporting the auto sector and protects the family budget from higher transportation costs. There is no doubt about it – Doug Ford is the most pro-auto sector premier in Ontario's history."

- Frank Notte
Director of Government Relations, Motor Vehicle Retailers of Ontario

"Today's announcement recognizes the financial uncertainties associated with the cost of living, including those felt by Ontario commuters. Record investments are being made in public transit, which will become a future, viable and safe option for Ontarians who want alternatives to driving. While those transit lines are being built, this legislation will provide some financial stability for those dependent on Ontario's highway system."

- Teresa Di Felice
AVP, Government & Community Relations, CAA Club Group

"Roads are an investment in the supply chain. The trucking industry – through provincial and federal fuel taxes, federal carbon taxes, provincial registration and permit fees – is already contributing a major portion of the revenues the province of Ontario invests in road infrastructure. The trucking industry greatly appreciates this legislation, which is a recognition that all road users, including the commercial trucking industry, already pay their fair share of road investment. This is also the type of legislative measure that all governments should be looking at to control inflation and help the entire supply chain and families reduce their costs. Preventing future governments from arbitrarily placing tolls on the supply chain without due diligence and consultation is a measure welcomed by the Ontario Trucking Association."

- Stephen Laskowski
President, Ontario Trucking Association (OTA)

"We commend the government's action to enact legislation that maintains the current freeze on fee increases for new and renewed driver's licences and Ontario Photo Cards. If passed, this will deliver long-term cost savings to the motor coach industry and professional bus drivers throughout Ontario."

- Vince Accardi
President, Ontario Motor Coach Association and Motor Coach Canada

"We support the government's commitment to maintaining the accessibility of our travel infrastructure for both domestic and international visitors, enabling them to explore the Greater Toronto Region and access tourism destinations across Ontario. As a pivotal tourism partner in the region, the Greater Toronto Hotel Association advocates for policies that foster long-term growth in our tourism economy."

- Sara Anghel
CEO, Greater Toronto Hotel Association

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

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

Jobs and Employment

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

Travel and Recreation

Learn more about hunting and fishing, provincial parks, festivals and events, and visiting Ontario. [Learn more](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Making it Easier to Build Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Province streamlining process to connect public EV charging stations to the grid

February 16, 2024

[Energy](#).

TORONTO – The Ontario government is making it easier to build and connect new public electric vehicle (EV) chargers to the province’s world-class clean electricity grid. Starting May 27, 2024, all local utilities will follow a streamlined process for EV charging connections that will make it easier to set up new charging stations and support the adoption of electric vehicles in Ontario.

“As the number of EV owners in Ontario continues to grow, our government is making it easier to put shovels in the ground to build the critical infrastructure needed for drivers to charge their vehicles where and when they need to,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “This is just another step we are taking to reduce red tape, increase EV adoption, and use our clean electricity supply to support the electrification of Ontario’s transportation sector.”

Today, each of Ontario’s 58 local electricity utilities have different procedures for connecting new public EV charging stations, with different timelines, information requirements and responsibilities for customers.

In response to Minister Smith’s Letter of Direction, which called on the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to take steps to facilitate the efficient integration of EV’s into the provincial electricity system, the OEB issued provincewide, streamlined procedures that all local utilities must follow for installing and connecting new EV charging infrastructure. This new procedure includes the implementation of standardized forms, timelines, and information requirements which will make it easier for EV charging providers to deploy chargers in all regions of the province.

“Our government is paving the way to an electric future by building the EV charging infrastructure drivers need, where they need it,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “By increasing the accessibility of public EV charging stations across

the province, including for rural and northern communities, we are providing more sustainable and convenient travel options for drivers.”

“Having attracted over \$28 billion in automotive investments in the last three years, our province is a leading jurisdiction in the global production and development of EVs,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “By making it easier to build public charging infrastructure, our government is supporting Ontario’s growing end-to-end EV supply chain and ensuring EV drivers can confidently and conveniently power their journeys.”

This initiative is part of the government’s larger plan to support the adoption of electric vehicles and make EV charging infrastructure more accessible, which includes:

- The EV ChargeON program – a \$91 million investment to support the installation of public EV chargers outside of Ontario’s large urban centres, including at community hubs, Ontario’s highway rest areas, carpool parking lots, and Ontario Parks.
- The new Ultra-Low Overnight price plan which allows customers who use more electricity at night, including those charging their EV, to save up to \$90 per year by shifting demand to the ultra-low overnight rate period when provincewide electricity demand is lower.
- Making it more convenient for electric vehicle (EV) owners to travel the province with EV fast chargers now installed at all 20 renovated ONroute stations along the province’s busiest highways, the 400 and 401.

The initiative also builds on the government’s [Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario’s Automotive Sector](#) plan which aims to create a domestic EV battery ecosystem in the province and position Ontario as a North American automotive innovation hub by working to support the continued transition to electric, low carbon, connected and autonomous vehicles.

Quick Facts

- As of December 2023, there are more than 150,000 EVs registered in Ontario, including both battery-electric vehicles (BEV) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV). By 2030, there are expected to be more than one million EVs on the road in Ontario.
- The Ontario Energy Board’s new Electric Vehicle Charging Connections Procedures (EVCCP) applies to public charging connections including those found along highways and at service centres, workplace charging, multi-residential buildings and charging stations used for EV fleets.

- On February 16, 2024, the OEB issued the final EVCCP that establishes requirements which LDCs must follow under the Distribution System Code (DSC). The amendments will come into force on May 27, 2024.

Additional Resources

- [Distributed Energy Resources \(DER\) Connections Review](#)
- [Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector](#)
- [Distributed Energy Resources \(DER\) Connections Review | Engage with Us \(oeb.ca\)](#)
- [Consumer Protection and Information: Electric Vehicles](#)

Related Topics

Environment and Energy

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Streamlining Complex Approval Processes

Changes will protect world-class environmental standards while helping get shovels in the ground sooner

February 16, 2024

[Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

BRAMPTON — As the Ontario government is investing nearly \$98 billion over the next ten years to build new roads, highways and public transit, including Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, it is streamlining and simplifying the complex 50-year-old environmental assessment (EA) process to make it easier and faster to build the infrastructure needed to support the province's growing population.

"As Ontario grows at record speed, it's never been more important to build new roads, highways, public transit and homes, so we can get drivers out of bumper-to-bumper traffic and bring the dream of home ownership into reach for more people," said Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Our government is supporting municipal partners by streamlining and simplifying complex environmental assessment processes to get shovels in the ground and finish major projects faster. We're doing so while protecting strong environmental oversight and ensuring meaningful consultations before projects can move forward."

After several months of consultations, one of the changes to the EA process is moving to a project list approach, which will list the types of infrastructure projects that still require the highest level of environmental assessment such as large landfills and electricity generation facilities. The project list approach is a shift from the previous focus on project proponents to what the project is and its potential for environmental effects. Using a project list approach will bring Ontario in line with other similar jurisdictions, including the federal government, Quebec and British Columbia.

These changes, which come into effect on February 22, 2024, will help get highways, rail and electricity transmission lines built up to four years sooner by allowing them to follow a streamlined EA process that will save time and money while maintaining environmental safeguards. The projects that are being moved to

streamlined processes continue to have requirements to identify and mitigate environmental impacts and for consultation, including Indigenous consultation, prior to implementation.

For example, the comprehensive EA process for the East-West Tie Transmission Project that runs from Wawa to Lakehead in Northern Ontario took more than five years to complete. With these changes, a similar project could follow a streamlined process and be completed within two years, while still undergoing a mandatory consultation process and continued strong environmental oversight. Some of the time savings are a result of the streamlined processes not requiring a Terms of Reference (up to two years) for the project as the streamlined process already sets out the requirements.

The Ontario government is also [beginning consultation](#), including with municipal partners, on a new streamlined process for certain municipal water, shoreline and sewage system projects. This new process would help accelerate project planning by limiting the process to six months from 18 months or more. These time changes could be achieved by providing a regulated timeline, whereas under the current process there is no time limit.

An example of a municipal project that would be able to go through this proposed process is building a new large wastewater treatment plant. To build this, the municipal class EA process can take up to two years or more. The proposed process could see the EA process completed in as little as six months.

The government is also considering a minor change to the *Environmental Assessment Act* that would make it clearer for municipalities, provincial ministries and agencies that expropriation is one of the ways property can be acquired for a project before the EA process is completed.

This measure is part of the upcoming *Get It Done Act*, that will kick off the spring sitting of the legislature on February 20, 2024. The Act, if passed, would make it faster to build and easier to save money.

Quick Facts

- The environmental assessment process provides important environmental oversight by assessing environmental impacts and showing how impacts can be avoided or reduced.
- Streamlined environmental assessment processes already exist for projects like transit, which is being used successfully by Metrolinx to help get projects done faster.

- Consultations were held in [2020](#), 2021 and [2023](#) on the planned changes to move Ontario's environmental assessment program to a project list approach. The ministry sought feedback on what projects should be subject to a comprehensive environmental assessment, the highest level of assessment. The ministry then consulted on draft regulations setting out the projects proposed to be subject to a comprehensive EA and related actions required to move to a project list approach.

Quotes

"As Ontario's population continues to grow, our government is ensuring we have the transportation network and infrastructure needed to build a better province for generations to come. By streamlining building approval processes, we can get shovels in the ground faster and deliver on our historic infrastructure investments to get cars and trains moving."

**- Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation**

"Hydro One is building critical electricity infrastructure across the province to meet the growing electricity demand in Ontario and welcomes changes to Environmental Assessments that modernize and streamline the process. We take our responsibility and stewardship of our natural resources seriously and are committed to ensuring all of our infrastructure projects are built in an environmentally responsible manner, with local interests in mind."

**- Andrew Spencer
Executive Vice President, Capital Portfolio Delivery, Hydro One**

"Modernizing Environmental Assessments for municipal infrastructure will help reduce the duplication of approvals necessary for the installation of low-risk infrastructure that is a required part of new housing developments. Streamlining this approvals process will save time and resources for individuals, businesses, and government agencies without compromising any environmental outcomes. By simplifying regulations and reducing administrative burdens, Ontario is making it easier for businesses to operate and invest in growth."

- **Steven Crombie**

Director of Government Relations and Public Relations, Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association

"Modernized environmental assessment processes are a critical enabler for housing, streamlining processes for municipalities to help them build infrastructure like roads, sewers, and water systems more quickly. The initiatives announced today take a risk-based approach to environmental management, removing red tape for straight-forward municipal infrastructure projects and focusing resources where they are needed most. AMO looks forward to continuing to work with the ministry on implementation details."

- **Colin Best**

AMO President, Regional Councillor for Halton

Additional Resources

[Learn how Ontario is modernizing its environmental assessment program](#)

[Read the proposal for environmental assessments municipal infrastructure projects](#)

Related Topics

Environment and Energy

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Government Delivering on Commitments to Get it Done

Proposed changes will help get people out of traffic, build more homes and keep costs down for people and businesses

February 20, 2024

[Transportation](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced legislation that, if passed, would make it easier and faster to build transit, housing and other critical infrastructure. The *Get It Done Act* would also help people keep more of their hard-earned money by banning new tolls on provincial highways and give them a veto over any future provincial carbon tax.

“Our government made a promise to get it done,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “Under the leadership of Premier Ford, we’re delivering on that promise. We’re rebuilding our economy with better jobs and bigger paycheques. While previous governments neglected critical infrastructure, we’re getting shovels in the ground to build roads, highways and houses while we keep costs down for people and businesses. We’re getting it done.”

Last week, the government announced its intention to [ban new tolls on provincial highways](#), automate the licence plate renewal process and legislate the current freeze on driver’s licence and Ontario Photo Card fees. The province also announced it would [protect people and businesses from the high cost of a provincial carbon tax](#) by requiring the government to first obtain the consent of Ontario voters through a referendum before implementing a new provincial carbon pricing program.

The Ontario government is also moving forward with several other initiatives aimed at streamlining building approvals to get shovels in the ground sooner on roads, highways and public transit, as well as other key infrastructure projects. These initiatives include:

- Declaring the [Hazel McCallion Light Rail Transit \(LRT\) Line Extensions to the downtown Mississauga loop and downtown Brampton](#) as a priority transit project under the [Building Transit Faster Act, 2020](#).

- Moving more projects to a streamlined environmental assessment process that would help get critical infrastructure such as highways, railways and transmission lines built faster to support Ontario's growing population, while continuing to protect the environment.
- Exploring opportunities to improve the permitting process for mine development and operation to ensure the province's mining sector remains competitive and attractive to investors.

The government is also proposing amendments to the *Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023* that, if passed, would modify the legislatively approved official plans for some of Ontario's fastest-growing municipalities to better reflect both local and provincial priorities.

Quick Facts

- The government is investing \$28 billion over the next 10 years to renew, build and expand roads and highways. This includes building the Bradford Bypass and Highway 413, which will help reduce travel times up to 30 minutes each way, saving drivers an hour a day on one of the most congested corridors in North America.
- The ban on new provincial highway tolls would apply to the Don Valley Parkway and Gardiner Expressway, once uploaded to the province, as well as Ontario's 400-series highways.
- The Hazel McCallion LRT will provide one of Canada's quickest-growing cities with faster, more frequent and more reliable transit than the existing bus service, travelling in an exclusive right-of-way with signal priority at intersections.
- To help Ontario families and businesses keep costs down, the government extended the gas and fuel tax rate cuts through to June 30, 2024. Along with the rate cuts previously in place, this extension is expected to save households \$260 on average since the cuts were first implemented in July 2022.
- Until the automatic renewal process begins, drivers are still required to renew their licence plates at no cost, which can be done online or in person at [ServiceOntario](#).
- The automatic renewal process will only be available to drivers in good standing who do not have outstanding fines or tickets.

Quotes

"Carbon pricing schemes on the backs of taxpayers are unfair, especially at a time when residents, workers and businesses across the province are seeing their hard-earned dollars stretched further than ever. We have a responsibility to do everything we can to keep costs down and find ways to put money back into people's pockets and that includes giving voters a direct say before implementing any new provincial carbon pricing program."

- Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance

"As Ontario continues to experience unprecedented growth, it is critical that our province's infrastructure is upgraded and modernized to accommodate the everyday needs of people across the province. The Get It Done Act would make the approvals process more efficient by reducing red tape and potential delays, ensuring we get shovels in the ground faster to deliver the critical infrastructure Ontarians deserve today, and for future generations to come."

- Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure

"Our government has been working hard over the past several years to modernize Ontario's 50-year-old environmental assessment program to better serve our growing province now and in the future. By streamlining and simplifying the process for routine projects like new roads and highways, we are making it easier and faster to get public infrastructure projects built while maintaining strong environmental oversight."

- Andrea Khanjin
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

"If we want to seize the generational opportunity to fuel the EV revolution, we must ensure we remain a competitive mining jurisdiction. That's why our government is reviewing Ontario's permitting processes to eliminate duplication and bring prosperity to our entire province, especially in northern and Indigenous communities."

- George Pirie
Minister of Mines

"Our government stands unwavering in its commitment to deliver Ontarians the modern services and infrastructure they need while keeping money in families' pockets where it belongs. Under the leadership of Premier Ford, we are unburdening Ontarians and saving their precious time and money through streamlining and improving government services, freezing unnecessary fees, and strengthening protections against increasing costs."

- Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery

Additional Resources

- [The Get It Done Act](#)
- [Ontario Launching "One Fare" to Save Transit Riders \\$1,600](#)
- [Ontario Protecting People from the High Costs of a Provincial Carbon Tax](#)
- [Ontario Taking Next Step to Build New Highway 7](#)
- [Ontario Banning Road Tolls, Freezing Driver's Licence Fees to Keep Costs Down](#)
- [Ontario Streamlining Complex Approval Processes](#)

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

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

Jobs and Employment

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

Travel and Recreation

Learn more about hunting and fishing, provincial parks, festivals and events, and visiting Ontario. [Learn more](#)

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BACKGROUND

The Get It Done Act

February 20, 2024

[Transportation](#)

Ontario is getting it done for people across the province by delivering policies that will grow the province's economy and make it easier to build the infrastructure we need to support growing communities while helping families keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets, right where it belongs.

As Ontario's population continues to grow, the province is taking action to ensure it has the transit and housing infrastructure needed to support future generations. The *Get It Done Act*, if passed, will allow Ontario to reduce red tape and streamline approval processes for key infrastructure investments to help get shovels in the ground sooner and save taxpayer dollars.

Ministry of Transportation (MTO)

Banning new tolls on provincial highways: Ontario is proposing amendments to the *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act* to prohibit Ontario from introducing new tolls on provincial highways and require public consultation before considering new tolls. In April 2022, the government removed tolls on Highways 412 and 418, which is expected to save drivers \$68 million between 2022-27.

Legislating the freeze on driver's licences and Ontario Photo Card fees: Ontario is proposing to legislate the current freeze on driver's licence and Ontario Photo Card fees, which has saved applicants \$22 million since 2019. If passed, any future increases for driver's licence renewals or Ontario Photo Cards would require a legislative amendment. The continued freeze on fee increases, which was scheduled to rise roughly two per cent a year, will help save Ontarians an additional \$66 million this decade.

Designating the Hazel McCallion Line extensions as priority transit projects: Ontario will use measures introduced in the [Building Transit Faster Act, 2020](#), to declare the Hazel McCallion Line extensions to downtown Mississauga via the Confederation Parkway loop and downtown Brampton as priority transit projects.

The Hazel McCallion Line extensions will join the Ontario Line, the Yonge North Subway Extension, the Scarborough Subway Extension, the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and the Hamilton LRT as priority transit projects in the province.

Introducing automated licence plate renewals: In 2022, the government eliminated licence plate renewal fees for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles and mopeds, saving vehicle owners \$120 a year in southern Ontario and \$60 a year in Northern Ontario. The government is proposing changes to the *Highway Traffic Act* that will allow for the transition to automated renewal of licence plates.

Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Giving voters a veto over future carbon taxes: To protect taxpayers' hard-earned dollars, the government is introducing legislation that would protect the people of Ontario from the risk of new provincial carbon pricing programs by requiring the government to first ask Ontarians via a referendum before implementing a new provincial carbon pricing program. As the province takes this step to keep costs down and protect Ontario taxpayers, the Ontario government continues to call on the federal government to reduce the cost of the federal carbon tax.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Helping get critical infrastructure built faster: To help get critical infrastructure such as highways, railways and transmission lines built faster, Ontario is streamlining and simplifying the complex 50-year-old environmental assessment (EA) process to make it easier and faster to build the infrastructure needed to support the province's growing population.

After several months of consultations, one of the changes to the EA process is moving to a project list approach, which will list the types of infrastructure projects that still require the highest level of environmental assessment such as large landfills and electricity generation facilities. The project list approach is a shift from the previous focus on project proponents to what the project is and its potential for environmental effects. Using a project list approach will bring Ontario in line with other similar jurisdictions, including the federal government, Quebec and British Columbia.

These changes will help get highways, rail and electricity transmission lines built up to four years sooner by allowing them to follow a streamlined EA process that will save time and money while maintaining environmental safeguards. The projects

that are being moved to streamlined processes continue to have requirements to identify and mitigate environmental impacts and for consultation, including Indigenous consultation, prior to implementation.

Streamlining environmental assessments to support municipalities:

To help get more homes built and support municipal priorities, the Ontario government is beginning consultations, including with municipal partners on a new streamlined process for certain municipal water, shoreline and sewage system projects. This new process would help accelerate project planning by limiting the process to six months from 18 months or more. These time changes could be achieved by providing a regulated timeline, whereas under the current process there is no time limit.

An example of a municipal project that would be able to go through this proposed process is building a new large wastewater treatment plant. To build this, the municipal class EA process can take up to two years or more. The proposed process could see the EA process completed in as little as six months. There will continue to be environmental oversight of projects that follow a streamlined process, including requirements for mandatory Indigenous and public consultation, prior to implementation.

Clarifying the *Environmental Assessment Act*: To help municipalities, provincial ministries and other provincial government agencies when planning for infrastructure development, Ontario is proposing a minor change to the *Environmental Assessment Act* that would make it clearer that expropriation is one of the ways property can be acquired for a project before the EA process is completed. Acquiring property for a project is already allowed under the Act before a proponent is authorized to proceed with the project. This clarity will provide greater certainty to municipalities and other proponents as they plan for future projects and get shovels in the ground sooner. Project proponents will continue to have to comply with other applicable legislation for expropriating land, such as the *Expropriations Act*.

Ministry of Mines (MINES)

Improving the process for mine permitting: Ontario is exploring opportunities to improve the permitting process for mine development and operation, as part of its efforts to ensure the province's mining sector remains competitive and attractive to investors. Efforts will focus on reviewing current government permitting processes.

Any proposed future changes from this review would be subject to consultation, including when it arises, Ontario's obligations to consult with Indigenous communities.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

Supporting municipalities to build more homes: Ontario will propose changes to the legislatively approved official plans of some of the province's fastest-growing municipalities to address local priorities while continuing to support the government's goal of building at least 1.5 million new homes by 2031. The [proposed changes](#) follow recent consultations with the affected municipalities and, where appropriate, respond to feedback from the local municipalities. Changes would apply to the legislatively-approved plans for the cities of Barrie, Belleville, Guelph, Hamilton, Ottawa, Peterborough, Wellington County and the regions of Halton, Peel, Waterloo and York. Modifications maintained through Bill 150 impacting these municipalities and the Niagara Region would continue to apply.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Government Delivering on Commitments to Get it Done](#)
-

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Seniors Community Grant Program Applications Now Open

Community organizations can apply for funding for initiatives benefiting Ontarians aged 55+

February 20, 2024

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

TORONTO — Applications are now open for the Ontario Seniors Community Grant Program. The seniors grants support local, not-for-profit community groups and organizations to deliver programs and learning opportunities for Ontarians aged 55+.

Every year, the Ontario government provides hundreds of [Seniors Community Grants](#) ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 each. This funding allows community groups across the province to offer a wide variety of activities that help seniors to live independently, ensure their safety and security, connect them to their community, avoid isolation and help them achieve greater financial security and social connections.

“Our government is keeping our seniors safe, active and socially connected,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “That’s why we’re proud to provide support through the Seniors Community Grant Program, which gives so many people the opportunity to learn new skills, socialize and take part in community life.”

Activities and services supported by the program include:

- Fitness and nutrition classes to keep adults aged 55+ active, healthy, and socially connected to their communities.
- Opportunities for community engagement, such as book club gatherings and technology training seminars, to reduce social isolation and increase volunteerism.
- Increasing access to information through initiatives such as free lectures and supports for health prevention and promotion.

Applications for 2024-25 are open now until March 28, 2024. Community organizations interested in applying can visit [Ontario.ca/getfunding](https://ontario.ca/getfunding) for more information.

Last year, approximately \$6 million in funding was given to over 280 Seniors Community Grants. Throughout their lives, seniors have helped build and contribute to Ontario's quality of life and these community grants provide them with new ways to engage with their local communities to promote physical, mental and social well-being.

Quick Facts

- The Seniors Community Grant Program is dedicated to promoting health, community engagement and well-being for Ontarians aged 55+.
 - Seniors are Ontario's fastest growing demographic.
 - Eligible organizations must apply for a Seniors Community Grant through [Transfer Payment Ontario](https://transferpayment.ontario.ca).
 - In 2022, the Ontario government doubled its Seniors Community Grant Program funding to \$6 million.
-

Additional Resources

- [Find more information about applying for a Seniors Community Grant](#)
 - [A guide to programs and services for Seniors](#)
 - [Age-Friendly Communities Planning Guide](#)
-

Related Topics

Home and Community

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

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January 31, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

RE: Rural and Small Urban Municipalities – Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on January 31, 2024, The County of Renfrew passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (Section 1.6.6.2) states that municipal sewage services and municipal water services are the preferred form of servicing for settlement areas to support protection of the environment and minimize potential risks to human health and safety and that intensification and redevelopment within these settlement areas should be promoted; and

WHEREAS the PPS (Section 2.2.1 (f)) states that planning authorities shall protect, improve, or restore the quality and quantity of water by implementing the necessary restrictions on development and site alternation to protect all drinking supplies and designated vulnerable areas, and protect, improve, or restore vulnerable surface and ground water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive groundwater features, and their hydrologic functions; and

WHEREAS the PPS (Sections 2.2.1(h) and (i)) states that there is consideration of environmental lake capacity as well as stormwater management practices; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Protection and Conservation (MECP) Procedural Guideline B-1-5 Policy 2 provision states that water quality which presently does not meet the Provincial Water Quality Objectives shall not be further degraded and all practical measures shall be undertaken to upgrade the water quality to the Objectives; and

WHEREAS in 2014 the Township of Whitewater Region authorized Jp2gConsultants Inc. to undertake a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of evaluating viable options to upgrade the 1979 Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant did not meet guidelines for effluent flow into Muskrat Lake and Cobden Wetland being highly sensitive, at-capacity, inland lake, and Provincial Significant Wetland (PSW) and acknowledged as one of

the most eutrophic in the province. The plant had ongoing seasonal overflow events, and was operating at maximum capacity; and

WHEREAS in 2018 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region approved the construction of a new parallel mechanical system that would meet all provincial environmental and regulatory requirements including accommodating future growth. Federal and provincial contributions only covered 50% of the final construction costs, as there was no ability to renegotiate with federal and provincial partners once real costs were known. As a result, the balance of costs (\$6M) was debentured over 30 years at interest rates that are slightly punitive to rural and small urban municipalities; and

WHEREAS in 2019 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region conducted a Water and Wastewater Rate Study that demonstrated the need for rate increases of over 100% to fund the new wastewater treatment plant construction debenture and the significantly increased operating costs for a parallel mechanical system. Rural and small urban municipalities experience very limited growth as federal and provincial policies heavily support growth in urban centers. As there are no other sources of available operational funding, rural and small urban municipalities are expected to fund the construction and operation of these state-of-the-art systems from existing property owners and nominal forecasted growth; and

WHEREAS in 2023 the Township of Whitewater Region combined water and wastewater rates have risen to almost \$3,000/year for its five hundred and eleven (511) users and are among the highest in the County of Renfrew and across the Province of Ontario. There are similarly high user rates in the Township of Madawaska Valley as a result of Provincial regulations and a small number of users. Other examples of rapidly increasing rates include the Towns of Deep River, Renfrew, Arnprior, Laurentian Hills, and Petawawa, and the Townships of Bonnechere Valley, Laurentian Valley and Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, where significant upgrades in short periods of time are making rates unaffordable even with an increased number of users.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Renfrew:

Advocate to the provincial and federal levels of government to make them aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable; and Advocate to 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.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario); the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada); the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), Cheryl Gallant, MP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; AMO; ROMA; FCM; and all Municipalities in Ontario.

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Emon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Emon, Warden

County of Renfrew

warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

cc: Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario)
Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada)
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), Cheryl Gallant, MP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
AMO; ROMA; FCM; and all Municipalities in Ontario.



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, February 15, 2024)

RCDHU Considering Potential Mergers with Neighbouring Public Health Units

In 2023, the Ontario Ministry of Health announced a new initiative to support public health units that decide to pursue mergers with other health units. Three years of funding to support mergers and stabilization of programming will be provided to public health units pursuing a merger. The goal of supporting mergers is to enhance capacity, stability, and sustainability in the public health sector.

Specific objectives include increasing the populations served by public health units to be closer to 500,000 (with consideration of geographical challenges), improving critical mass through increasing the size of health units, enhancing health units' ability to recruit and retain staff, improving organizational performance, and retaining local service delivery and frontline jobs. The province has indicated that mergers are not intended to reduce costs, and any efficiencies realized in a merger would be retained by public health units to support service delivery.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) serves a population of 107,522 across a large geographical area of approximately 15,000 square kilometers. In the context of the support for mergers offered by the province, RCDHU's Board of Health passed a motion to apply for provincial funding to explore the feasibility of amalgamation with neighbouring health units. As a result, RCDHU is exploring benefits, risks, and local impacts of potential mergers by collaborating on studies of several different merger scenarios.

"We welcome this opportunity to explore potential mergers with other public health units, in support of enhancing public health capacity and effectiveness to better protect and promote the health of Renfrew County and District residents," states Joanne King, Chair of the RCDHU Board of Health. "Ensuring that we retain local service delivery and enhance public health services will be our primary focus as we consider the results of the feasibility studies and whether a merger makes sense for RCDHU."

All involved boards of health will independently consider the results of these studies and decide whether to proceed with any merger. Proposals for mergers must be endorsed by all involved boards of health and are to be submitted to the province in early April 2024. Implementation of mergers is intended for January 2025.

- 30 -

Renfrew County and District Health Unit

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[HOME](#) > [NEWS & MEDIA](#) > [NEWS RELEASES](#) > **FCMS GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND UPDATES ITS FUNDING OFFER**

FCM's Green Municipal Fund updates its funding offer



February 7, 2024

Ottawa – Scott Pearce, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), announced today that its [Green Municipal Fund](#) (GMF) is revising its core funding to enhance its flexibility and adaptability and maximize its impact.

The new funding streams, which are part of GMF's \$1.65 billion endowment from the Government of Canada and aim to support a wide range of low-carbon focused are:

Sustainable Municipal Buildings: Funding for high-efficiency new construction of municipal and community buildings, and retrofits of municipal buildings.

Community Energy Systems: Support for the adoption of renewable energy solutions that meet community needs and are aligned with a net-

zero future.

Municipal Fleet Electrification: Funding for the electrification of municipal and transit fleets to help municipalities achieve net-zero transportation emissions.

Organic Waste to Energy: Support for communities with established waste diversion programs to generate renewable energy from organic waste streams or landfill gas.

Local Net-Zero Transformation: Funding for innovative projects that have significant GHG reduction benefits and are not eligible under other GMF funding offers.

Recognizing the unique challenges smaller, northern and Indigenous communities face, GMF is also providing more supportive grant options, such as first-time applicants receiving access to funding that can cover up to a 100 percent of their plans, studies and pilot projects. With the launch of its refresh today, GMF aims at continuing to be the preferred resource and partner for Canadian municipalities that are advancing their transition to resilient net-zero communities.

Associated links

[About the Green Municipal Fund](#)

[About GMF funding](#)

Quotes



“In twenty years since its inception, FCM’s Green Municipal Fund has built a strong track record of supporting municipalities in transitioning to sustainable practices. Thanks to its now updated offer, the quality

of life for Canadians will be further enhanced and the transformation to resilient, net-zero communities will be accelerated. Building and improving local sustainable practices requires substantial financial resources and we are glad that municipalities which have limited access to them can continue to receive relevant support through GMF, an endowment by the Government of Canada.”

– Scott Pearce, FCM President

“Municipalities have changing needs when tackling climate change, which means that they need to be provided with resources to overcome their specific challenges and to capitalize on opportunities. That’s exactly what the revised funding initiative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Green Municipal Fund is designed for. Various initiatives, such as constructing energy-efficient municipal infrastructures and implementing community-scale renewable energy systems, converting municipal fleets to electric vehicles and transforming organic waste into renewable energy will receive support. Together, we can create more resilient and vibrant communities.”

– Alan DeSousa, GMF Council Chair

FCM is the national voice of municipal governments, with more than 2,000 members representing more than 90 per cent of Canadians.

FCM’s [Green Municipal Fund](#), together with municipalities and the Federal Government, helps enhance the quality of life for people in Canada by accelerating a transformation to resilient, net-zero communities. It empowers innovation and accelerates replication through initiatives in five sub-sectors: circular economy, energy, land use, transportation, and water. GMF is a \$1.65 billion program funded by the Government of Canada and delivered by FCM.

For more information: FCM Media Relations (613) 907-6395,
media@fcm.ca

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Green Municipal Fund

Energy

Environment

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Sustainability



24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5P3
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February, 08 2024

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- LAS consulting service for Municipal Energy Reporting.
- Blog: Workflows with Professional Digital Signatures in 2024.
- Occupational Health & Safety free webinar.
- Battery energy storage systems fire safety webinar.
- Calls to action for municipalities on economic abuse.
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Nominations are open for the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration, Ontario's highest honour for public service. [Nominate someone](#) from your municipality by April 30.

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.

Federal Matters

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Connect with over 2,000 AMO Conference delegates as an exhibitor. View the exhibitor package and application form [here](#).

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.

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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

With the July 1, 2024 Energy Reporting deadline less than 5 months away, it's time to update your 5-year Conservation Plan. LAS is here to help with a limited time energy consulting service. Don't wait til the last minute - [contact us](#) to get started.

Is your municipality ready to accelerate its workflows and make more time to connect with its citizens in 2024? Our [latest blog](#) suggests four tips to streamline operations and improve transparency to benefit your municipality's workers and citizens.

Our Occupational Health and Safety Management program partner will host a legal council webinar on February 29 and March 26. Learn OHS due diligence and legal responsibilities. [Registration](#) is free.

Municipal Wire*

On February 14, Energy Storage Canada [will host a webinar](#) on fire safety measures for battery storage technology including a Q&A session.

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

[Digital Communications Intern - AMO](#). Closing date: February 23, 2024

[Manager, Parks Capital Planning & Management - Town of Oakville](#). Closing Date: February 12, 2024.

[Planner III - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: February 19, 2024.

[Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Treasurer - County of Renfrew](#). Closing Date: February 21, 2024.

[Senior Policy Analyst, Bilingual \(English/French\) - Ministry of the Attorney General.](#)

Closing Date: Feb 16, 2024

[Senior Planner - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.](#) Closing date: February 28, 2024

[Planner - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.](#) Closing date: February 28, 2024

[Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Oro-Medonte.](#) Closing date: February 28, 2024

[Temporary Senior Systems Analyst - Town of Whitby.](#) Closing Date: February 13, 2024.

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- Using Energy Planning Tool for your 5-yr Conservation Plan.
- Upcoming webinar: Financial Analysis for Energy Projects.
- Guidelines for acoustical engineering services.
- Ontario Age-Friendly Communities 2024 Conference.
- Calls to action for municipalities on economic abuse.
- Housing access in higher education host communities survey.
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The [Energy Planning Tool](#) takes the guesswork out of your 5-yr Conservation Plan. Check out [our video](#) to learn how, in just a few simple clicks, you can be well on your way to developing a strong, compliant plan. Not yet using EPT? [Contact us](#) today to get started.

How do you know if an energy conservation opportunity in your facility is worth pursuing? Join SaveONenergy and LAS on March 8 for a free webinar and take a deep dive into the complexities of energy projects financing and life cycle costing. Space is limited. [Register here today](#) - Part Four of the Municipal Series.

Municipal Wire*

Professional Engineer's Ontario has released [a guideline](#) to support the preparation of acoustical assessments and studies to support land use applications.

[Register](#) for the "[Building Healthy Communities: Uniting Experience, Research, and Practice for Ontario's Age-Friendly Future](#)" virtual conference. The free conference is organized into three themed morning sessions on March 20-22.

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](#).

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[Business Development Intern, Risk Management - LAS](#). Closing date: February 21.

[Chief Human Resources Officer - City of Ottawa](#). Closing Date: February 22.

[Chief Administrative Officer - Town of New Tecumseth](#). Closing Date: March 1.

[Senior Planner - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#). Closing date: Feb 23.

[Senior Financial Analyst - Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury](#). Closing date: February 18.

[Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - City of Sault Ste. Marie](#). Closing Date: March 1.

[City Manager - City of St. Thomas](#). Closing Date: February 29.

[Manager, Human Rights - City of London](#). Closing Date: March 5.

[Commissioner, Community Services - Town of Oakville](#). Closing Date: March 11.

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**The Corporation of the Town of Arnprior
Notice of Application for Zoning By-Law Amendment
ZBLA-1/24 and Notice of Public Meeting**

Take Notice that pursuant to the requirements of the Planning Act, the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior advises that an application for amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 6875-18, as amended, has been received and was deemed a complete application.

And Further, Take Notice that an in-person public meeting giving the public an opportunity to make representations in respect of the zoning amendment will be held on **Monday, March 11th, 2024**, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior.

Subject Lands: The lands affected by the Amendment are known as Block 139, Registered Plan 49M-76 Geographic Township of Arnprior Part Lot 5, Concession A with frontage on Desmond Trudeau Drive, Russett Drive and Campbell Drive.

Purpose & Effect of the Amendments: The purpose of the proposed amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-law 6875-18 is: firstly, to transition the parent zone from R4 to R3, allowing for the inclusion of single and semi-detached dwelling units; and secondly, to introduce alternative development standards. These proposed development standards aim to address aspects such as the private road, building setbacks, and other performance criteria that do not align with the existing Zoning By-law.

More Information: Copies of the proposed amendment, material provided under Section 34 of the Planning Act and any additional information relating to the proposal, are available for inspection by contacting the Planning office at 613-623-4231 during regular office hours or by emailing planning@arnprior.ca.

Any Person may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the amendment.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Town of Arnprior to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Arnprior before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Arnprior before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Town of Arnprior on the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must make a written request to Town of Arnprior c/o Planning, Town of Arnprior, 105 Elgin St. W., Arnprior ON K7S 0A8.

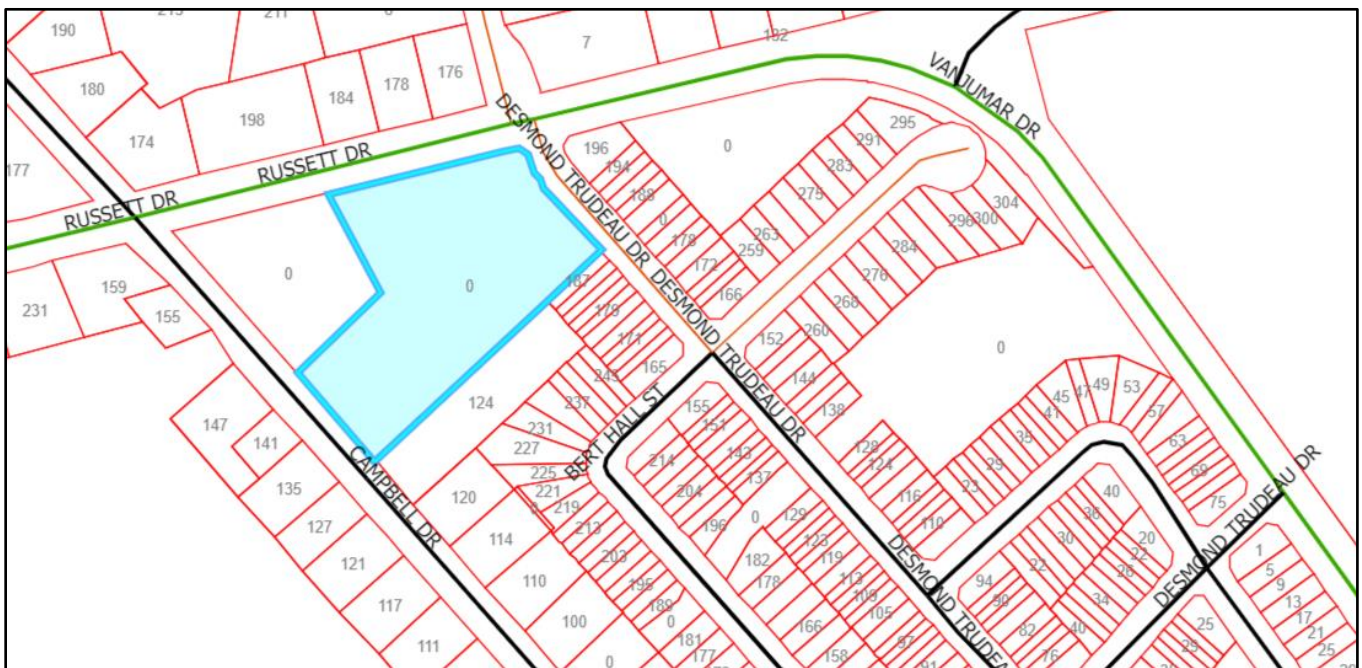
If you are receiving this notice because you are the owner of property in the area of the amendment that contains seven or more residential units, you must also post this notice in a location that is visible to all of the residents of your property.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record. The Town to such persons, will disclosed/make this information available as the Town deems appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Town with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Dated at the Town of Arnprior this 20th day of February 2024.

Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Key Map:





Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin

Council Resolution

Date: January 30, 2024

Resolution Number: 2024-31

Moved By: Councillor Moreton

Seconded By: Councillor Manson

Background: Before Calvin township became a township, it was burned by numerous forest fires. This was before the time of fire towers, water bombers, and municipal fire departments. A 1881 report from Lawrence Tallan, Provincial Land surveyor, states: *"The township of Calvin has been traversed by repeated and severe fires – so well have the flames done their work that with the exception of an insignificant portion, scarcely a vestige of the original timber remains."*

History has a way of repeating itself, and now rural municipalities and remote areas need more than ever to be prepared to respond to forest fires. Invasive pests like the emerald ash borer and the spruce bud worm are killing large numbers of trees, leaving copious amounts of dry kindling in our forests just waiting for a careless human or a lightning strike. Our forests are choked with deadfall and forest fires are becoming increasingly difficult to control. Add to this the effects of rising temperatures and drier seasons, or climate change, and we could be facing increasingly disastrous forest fires. This is not the time to be caught short with limited forest fire-fighting resources.

Jordan Omstead of the Canadian Press recently wrote: "But as Canada's water bombers age – and wildfire seasons are expected to intensify – some wildland

firefighters and emergency preparedness experts say the country needs to prop up its fleet of firefighting aircraft, even though several provinces are playing down concerns about capacity.” He quotes Eric Davidson, president of the Ontario Professional Association of Wildland Firefighters, “We’re really starting to see the effect of the aging fleet.”

The article further states the John Gradek, lecturer at McGill University estimates that almost half of the larger water bombers used to fight Canadian forest fires are nearing the end of their service life.

However, a Canadian company making a large skimmer-style water bomber is backed up with orders from European countries until the end of the decade.

Ontario has its own fleet of aircraft. They have 20 fixed-wing aircraft which includes 9 CL215 and CL415 water bombers that are 24 years old on average. The remaining 11 aircraft are an average of 54 years old. Melissa Candelaria, a spokesperson for Minister Graydon Smith says the MNR can handle Ontario fires with these aircraft, but Jennifer Kamau, communications manager for the Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre, CIFFC, noted that other provinces contract out firebombers and last year there was a strain in Canada to get the resources to areas in need because there were so many fires across the country at the same time and very few aircraft available.

Peter Zimonjic of the CBC quoted the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) President Ken McMullen, “It's not often that the fire chiefs sound the alarm. We are very concerned about this impending crisis that the summer of 2024 and beyond is going to bring our sector.”

In 2023 we all smelled the smoke and saw the sky turn brown. Buildings can be replaced, but lives cannot. And once an area is burned it takes more than a lifetime for it to return to its original state.

WHEREAS Forest fires are a very real threat to rural municipalities.

AND WHEREAS smoke from forest fires put people's health at risk. This is especially true of children and the elderly. The David Suzuki Foundation reports that wildfires kill many thousands of people per year and most of the deaths are from smoke inhalation.

AND WHEREAS forest fires are a very real danger to the climate and according to The Guardian, in 2023 they emitted three times as much carbon as the entire carbon footprint of Canada.

AND WHEREAS according to the John Crace interview in The Guardian with William Kurz, a retired scientist with Natural Resources Canada, around two billion tonnes of carbon have been released into the atmosphere from forest fires in 2023.

AND WHEREAS carbon emissions from forest fires are not counted against Canada's Paris agreement commitments, according to Kurz, but they far exceeded all of the emissions tied to Canada's economy (670 mega tonnes, or 0.67 billion tonnes, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada).

AND WHEREAS that standing healthy forest serves as a carbon sink, drawing in carbon, but once destroyed by fire, even though second growth takes its place, it is much less effective for many decades.

AND WHEREAS the federal government owns no water bombers and assists the provinces through the CIFFC, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, a spokesperson with CIFFC says that last year there were too many requests and not enough inventory to meet the needs of the country.

AND WHEREAS as reported by De Havilland Canada who manufacture the Canadian made water bomber, they have contracts with European countries for the next 22 of its new DHC-515 planes, which will take until 2029 or 2030 to complete and there will be very little production available to replace the aging water bombers in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the council of the Corporation of Calvin Township urges and encourages the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting. Furthermore, we urge the federal government to consider the measures necessary for acquiring a national fleet of Canadian-made waterbombers, with home bases strategically located to best serve and respond to the needs of rural communities, and a national fire administration to better coordinate and manage efforts across the country. We also encourage the introduction of a program similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) which was ended in 2013.

And we encourage Minister Graydon Smith to step up the on-the-ground firefighting capability and water bomber acquisitions in Ontario.

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry of Ontario, The Honourable Vic Fideli, Minister of Economic Development Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FMC) and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO).

AND THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and adoption.

Results: Carried

Recorded Vote:

<u>Member of Council</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Mayor Gould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Moreton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Latimer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Manson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Resolution
Regular Council Meeting



Agenda Number: 9.4.
Resolution Number 23-371
Title: 23-R-49 Letter of Support - Conservation Officer Reclassification
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023

Seconded by: M. Lubbock

Moved by: S. Cote

WHEREAS Ontario has 196 field Conservation Officers including 6 canine handlers who provide protection to Municipalities Natural Resources and uphold public safety by enforcing hunting and firearm laws and investigate gruesome injuries and even deaths that result from hunting-related accidents; in addition, Conservation Officers are often First Responders and ensure public safety by facilitating evacuations and enforcing Emergency Area orders during forest fires during record breaking wildfires such as we witnessed this past summer; and

WHEREAS Conservation Officers perform comparable work to Police Officers and other Enforcement Officers within the province and are professional, armed Peace Officers trained to police standards and undergo the same training; and

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required that their constituents are informed, and their interests are safeguarded and ensure they have access to outreach and natural resources compliance services; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Coleman does here by support the Ontario Conservation Officer's Association (OCA) in their efforts to have Conservation Officers in the Province of Ontario reclassified as Enforcement Officers and be compensated fairly; and

FURTHER request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

FURTHERMORE, THAT this resolution with a letter of support be forwarded to Ontario Premiere Doug Ford, the Minister of Natural Resources Graydon Smith, the Local Provincial Member of Parliament (MPP) John Vanthof, Temiskaming Municipal Association and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

YES: 4

NO: 0

ABSENT: 0

S. Cote

M. Lubbock

P. Rieux

L. Perry

Certified True Copy

Christopher W. Oslund
CAO/Clerk - Treasurer

February 16, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for a review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81

DATE: February 13, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hirsch

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 per cent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month)

WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

WHEREAS the poverty risk profile for Prince Edward County created by Vital Signs states that 10.1% - 13.5% of County residents are living on low income;

WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Prince Edward County joins the Town of Orangeville to calls on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by “Raise the Rates” campaign and the “Income Security Advocacy Centre”;
- b) Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
- c) Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

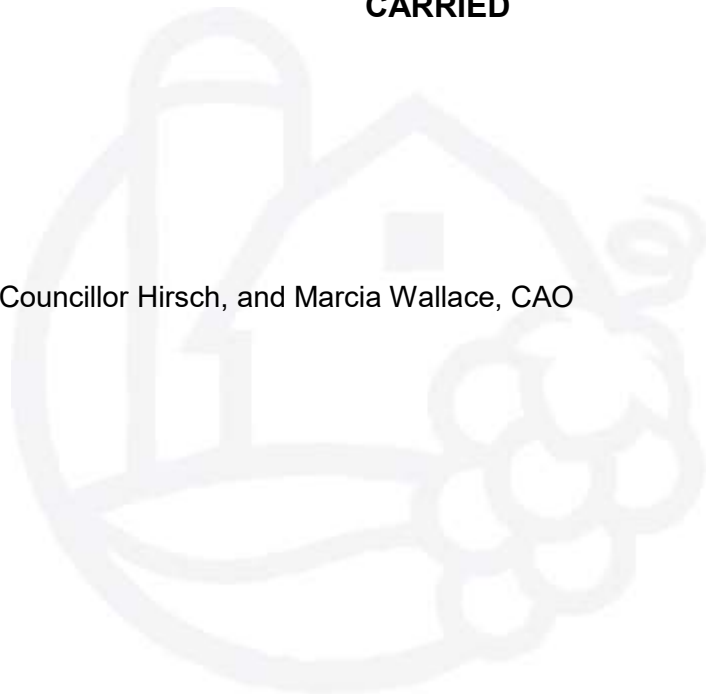
CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Hirsch, and Marcia Wallace, CAO



January 22, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of January 16, 2024 the following motion regarding support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-46

DATE: January 16, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Nieman

SECONDED BY: Councillor Branderhorst

WHEREAS By-Law 3256-2013, being a By-Law to Establish, Maintain, and Operate a Fire Department established service level standards for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Fire Department;

AND WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law 3256-2013, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS on November 16, 2023, Council, received report FD-06-2023 regarding asset Management - Fire Apparatus Fleet Report and noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules;

AND WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County direct the Mayor to draft a letter to MPP Minister Todd Smith requesting a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and

THAT the Mayor draft a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Nieman, Councillor Branderhorst, Marcia Wallace, CAO and Fire Chief Chad Brown

