



**Town of Arnprior  
Regular Meeting of Council: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Correspondence Package No. I-24-APR-07**

**Recommendation:**

That the Correspondence Package No. I-24-APR-07 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

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

- a) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – 2024-2025 Annual Work Schedule for the Algonquin Park Forest
- b) Ontario Investing Over \$1.8 Billion to Build More Homes
- c) Ontario Passes Fourth Working for Workers Act
- d) Ontario Extending Gas Tax Cuts to Keep Costs Down for Families
- e) Building a Better Ontario
- f) A New Deal for Ottawa
- g) Ontario Releases 2023 Public Sector Salary Disclosure
- h) Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to Support Workers
- i) Premier Ford Announces Updated Parliamentary Assistant Roles
- j) Province Levelling Playing Field for Ontario Businesses
- k) Ontario Prepares for Upcoming Wildland Fire Season

**2. Correspondence from the Renfrew County District Health Unit**

- a) Food Affordability in Renfrew County and District, 2023
- b) RCDHU Reminds Residents of Solar Eclipse Safety

### **3. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

- a) Canada and FCM Invest \$655,000 to Support Energy and Cost Saving Efforts in Communities Across Ontario
- b) FCM welcomes new \$6 billion fund to address housing and urgent municipality infrastructure needs

### **4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario**

- a) Watch File – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- b) Watch File – March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **5. Town of Arnprior Correspondence**

- a) Public Notice – Application for Consent No. B2-24 (244 Harrington Street)
- b) Public Notice – Zoning By-Law Amendment No. 2-24 (10 William Street West)

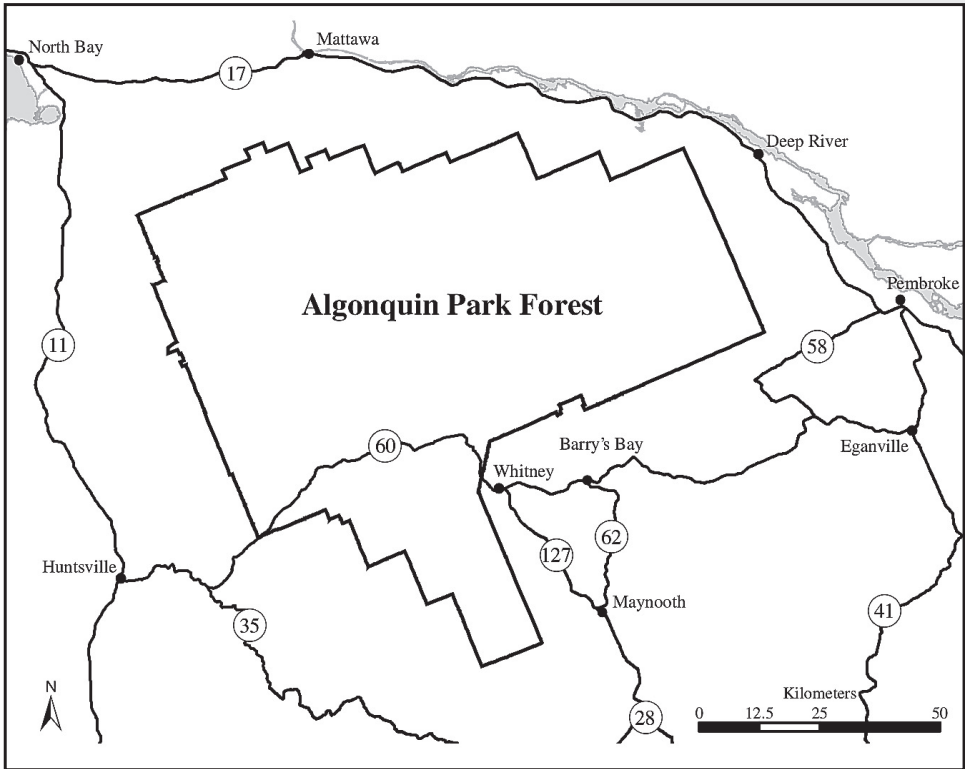
### **6. Resolutions from Other Municipalities**

- a) Township of Terrace Bay – Energy Transition
- b) Township of Terrace Bay - Combine OGRA and ROMA Conferences
- c) Town Township of Adelaide Metcalfe - Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit
- d) Town of Whitby - Support Ontario Energy Board's Decision to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy
- e) Township of Asphodel-Norwood - Public Health Ontario (PHO) Laboratories
- f) Township of Bonnechere Valley - Carbon Tax Increase
- g) Township of Clearview - Endorsement of Bill C-63 (the *Online Harms Act*) in the House of Commons

# INSPECTION

## Inspection of 2024-2025 Annual Work Schedule for Algonquin Park Forest

The April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Algonquin Park Forest** is available for public viewing by contacting the **Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA)** during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> beginning **March 15, 2024** and for the one-year duration of the AWS.



### Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

### Tree Planting and Fuelwood

The AFA is responsible for tree planting on the Algonquin Park Forest. Please contact the Area Forester, AFA Pembroke Office listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities or for obtaining fuelwood.

### More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a virtual meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNRF staff listed below:

#### Meena Gurung, R.P.F.

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### Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

[ontario.ca/CrownLandWood](https://ontario.ca/CrownLandWood)

Renseignements en français : Elizabeth Holmes au tel: 613 258-8210 ou courriel: [elizabeth.holmes@ontario.ca](mailto:elizabeth.holmes@ontario.ca).

Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry

Ministère des Richesses naturelles  
et des Forêts



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**SUBJECT:** Pembroke District, Algonquin Park Forest MNRF Digital Mail List

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is transitioning to digital distribution of District mail-outs for all Forest Management Planning (FMP) notifications (e.g. Annual Work Schedule notifications) as per provincial direction outlined in the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) 2020.

To receive future Pembroke District FMP notifications regarding the Algonquin Park Forest (like the one on the opposite page) via email, please send an email request to [Kaitlyn.Koopman@ontario.ca](mailto:Kaitlyn.Koopman@ontario.ca) using the subject line AFA Mail List. All future notifications will be sent to you digitally at the e-mail address provided. We strongly encourage switching to email notices for efficiency and cost savings. Paper mailings may discontinue in the future. However, if you do not have email you can disregard this notice and continue receiving hard-copy mailings through Canada Post.

If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding the transition to digital notifications, please contact Kaitlyn Koopman, Resources Clerk, via e-mail at [Kaitlyn.Koopman@ontario.ca](mailto:Kaitlyn.Koopman@ontario.ca).

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Investing Over \$1.8 Billion to Build More Homes

New housing-enabling infrastructure funding will help municipalities get shovels in the ground

March 21, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**TORONTO** — The Ontario government is investing more than \$1.8 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure funding to help [build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031](#). This funding includes \$1 billion for the new Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program and \$625 million more for the [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#), bringing its total funding to \$825 million. This new funding complements existing and ongoing provincial investments in housing- and community-enabling infrastructure, including the \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund, the original \$200 million investment in the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund and the investment of nearly \$2 billion for the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund since 2021–22.

“Time and time again, I’ve heard from our municipal partners that a lack of infrastructure is one of the biggest barriers to getting more homes built,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Today’s announcement of more than \$1.8 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure funding, on top of the billions of dollars of infrastructure funding we’re already providing, will help get more shovels in the ground so we can keep the dream of homeownership alive in Ontario.”

The new \$1 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program will support core infrastructure projects that help enable housing for growing and developing communities, such as roads and water infrastructure. This funding will help municipalities get shovels in the ground on critical infrastructure that will lay the groundwork for more homes across the province, with an emphasis on projects that can build the greatest number of homes. More information about the program, including eligibility and application intake details, will be announced later this year.

“Our government is helping municipalities get more shovels in the ground faster on the critical infrastructure needed to build more homes,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “By significantly growing our investments, we’re able to more quickly build the roads, sewers and reservoirs needed to connect new homes to the grid and help more Ontarians become homeowners.”

Ontario is more than quadrupling its investment from \$200 million to \$825 million over three years to expand the [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#), which will help municipalities repair, rehabilitate and expand drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure needed to build more homes. First announced in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement, municipalities can still submit an application for the program until April 19, 2024.

“Our government is making targeted investments in key infrastructure projects to ensure Ontario’s communities have the roads, bridges, and water infrastructure needed to support our province’s growing population,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “With this additional funding for the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, we are helping more municipalities repair, rehabilitate, and sustain their critical infrastructure so that more homes can be built for their communities.”

Ontario is also supporting housing outcomes through its [Building Faster Fund](#), that was announced in August 2023 to provide up to \$1.2 billion over three years to reward municipalities that are building more homes. The fund is designed to help municipalities pay for critical housing- and community-enabling infrastructure needed to accommodate growth, such as site servicing and building new roads. The Building Faster Fund includes \$120 million that is being reserved for small, rural and northern municipalities to help build housing-enabling infrastructure and prioritize projects that speed up the increase of housing supply.

“We have heard from many municipalities that their biggest obstacle in getting more shovels in the ground faster is infrastructure and that is why we are making this historic investment,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “We are removing barriers and providing every tool we can to our municipal partners so that more homes can be built than ever before.”

The government is giving municipalities the tools they need to build more homes faster and tackle the affordability crisis that is pricing too many people, especially young families and newcomers, out of the dream of homeownership. In partnership with municipalities, Ontario will continue working hard to unlock

housing opportunities and support growing communities. The province continues to call on the federal government to pay its fair share and help fund housing-enabling infrastructure investments, and support vibrant, growing communities.

“Municipal infrastructure is the foundation of Ontario’s economy and quality of life. From the water and sewer systems that enable our housing to the roads and bridges that connect our province, this critical funding will allow municipalities to support Ontario’s growth,” said Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Halton Regional Councillor. “AMO commends the province for this investment in Ontario’s prosperity and looks forward to working with the Ministry of Infrastructure on implementation.”

The government will provide more information on its plan to build critical infrastructure, while keeping costs down for families and businesses in the 2024 Budget, to be released on March 26.

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### Quick Facts

- To support the future of Ontario, the government is investing \$185 billion over the next 10 years in hospitals, long-term care homes, highways, public transit and other key public infrastructure.
  - As announced in [Ontario’s 2023 Fall Economic Statement](#), the government is introducing additional measures to help build critical infrastructure faster and smarter. This includes the [Ontario Infrastructure Bank](#), and the building of more rental homes by taking steps to [remove the full eight per cent](#) provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).
  - The three-year [Building Faster Fund](#), announced in August 2023, supports municipalities in achieving their housing targets, including housing- and community-enabling infrastructure. Funding is provided to municipalities that have reached at least 80 per cent of their provincially assigned housing target for the year with increased funding for municipalities that exceed their target.
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## Quotes

"We are thankful that the province is listening to municipalities and working with our Mayors to address the issues we are facing in our communities to build more housing. Funding for critical infrastructure including water and wastewater, roads and bridges is necessary if we are going to achieve our housing goals. We look forward to continuing to work with the government to build thriving, complete communities across Ontario."

**- Marianne Meed Ward**

**Mayor of Burlington, Chair of Ontario's Big City Mayors**

"It's a simple fact: to meet Ontario's ambitious housing targets, more housing supportive infrastructure is needed. The Ford government is putting the fact into action and is making the necessary investments in water, wastewater and core infrastructure to support the building of complete communities. We applaud the government for making this investment and leading the way to get more housing built in Ontario."

**- Dave Depencier**

**President of the Ontario Home Builders Association**

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## Additional Resources

- [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#)
- [Building Faster Fund](#)
- [Tracking Housing Supply Progress](#)
- [Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)
- [Building at least 1.5 million homes](#)

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## STATEMENT

# Ontario Passes Fourth Working for Workers Act

Changes will improve cancer coverage for firefighters and strengthen wage protection for restaurant, hospitality and service workers

March 21, 2024

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

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TORONTO — David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, issued the following statement after the [Working for Workers Four Act, 2024](#) received Royal Assent.

“By putting workers first, we are filling the labour shortage, incentivizing employers to create more local jobs and helping more workers land a better job with a bigger paycheque. With our fourth Working for Workers Act, we continue to lead the country in ground-breaking protections for workers, including:

- [Improving cancer coverage for firefighters and fire investigators](#) by lowering the employment period needed to receive compensation when diagnosed with esophageal cancer from 25 to 15 years.
- [Strengthening wage protections for restaurant, hospitality and service workers](#) by clarifying that employers can never deduct an employee’s wages in the event of a dine and dash, gas and dash or any other stolen property and providing that trial shifts are paid. Further, our government is requiring employers to post in the workplace if they are sharing in pooled tips – something that is only allowed if they perform the same work as their staff – and requiring employers who pay tips using direct deposit to allow their employees to select which account they want funds deposited.
- [Banning the use of Canadian experience](#) as a requirement in job postings or application forms – the first province in Canada – to enable qualified workers to fill highly in-demand jobs, especially in health care. This change would help more qualified candidates progress in the interview process and follows [historic legislation](#) to prohibit regulated professions from requiring discriminatory Canadian work experience requirements in licensing for more than 30 occupations, which came into effect December 2023.
- [Making it easier for international students](#) in Ontario to qualify for the [Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program \(OINP\)](#).

- [Helping workers make informed decisions in their career search](#) by requiring employers to disclose salary ranges in job postings and if artificial intelligence (AI) is used during the hiring process.
- [Improving oversight and accountability](#) of how regulated professions use third-party organizations to assess international qualifications to ensure it is done transparently and fairly.
- [Clarifying vacation pay provisions](#) to ensure employees are aware that their written agreement is required if vacation pay is paid in any way other than a lump sum before their vacation.
- [Supporting injured workers](#) by enabling additional “super indexing” increases to Workplace Safety and Insurance Board benefits above the annual rate of inflation.

To complement our new legislation, we are also launching consultations to identify legislative options to [restrict the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements](#) (NDAs) in the settlement of cases of workplace sexual harassment, misconduct or violence, while protecting the rights of victims and survivors.

We will also consult on options to create a new, [job-protected leave for critical illnesses](#) (like cancer) to match the length of the 26-week federal Employment Insurance sickness benefits.

These changes expand on the historic measures in the *Working for Workers Acts*, [2021](#), [2022](#) and [2023](#), which are helping millions of people in Ontario earn bigger paycheques and supporting newcomers in building the province.”

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## Additional Resources

- Background: [Stakeholders welcome changes to support workers](#)

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

### Jobs and Employment

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

### Law and Safety

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Extending Gas Tax Cuts to Keep Costs Down for Families

Continued gas tax cuts would save households \$320 on average since 2022

March 25, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)  
[Finance](#)

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**TORONTO** — To continue keeping costs down for families and businesses, the Ontario government is introducing proposed legislation through its spring 2024 *Budget* that would, if passed, extend the existing gasoline and fuel tax rate cuts until December 31, 2024.

“With the federal government about to increase its costly carbon tax, it’s never been more important to provide relief at the pumps and put hundreds of dollars back into peoples’ pockets. That is why we are extending our gas tax cut,” said Premier Doug Ford. “I urge the federal government to join us by scrapping its planned 23 per cent carbon tax hike on April 1, which will only make life more expensive for hardworking Ontario families.”

The Ontario government temporarily cut the gasoline tax by 5.7 cents per litre, and the fuel (diesel) tax by 5.3 cents per litre, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024. Today’s announcement would ensure the rates remain at 9 cents per litre until December 31, 2024, saving Ontario households \$320 on average over the two and a half years since the tax rate cuts were first introduced.

“Our government understands that high inflation and interest rates are hurting Ontario workers and their hard-earned paycheques,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “That’s why we acted early to keep costs down and will continue to support Ontario families at the pump with our latest gas tax cuts.”

The proposed extension to the gasoline and fuel tax rate cuts builds on the government’s additional measures to help put more money back into people’s pockets, including:

- Eliminating the licence plate renewal fee in March 2022, saving the average household \$600 to date.

- Banning new road tolls on 400-series highways in Ontario and permanently freezing driver's licence and photo card fees, saving drivers an estimated \$66 million over the next five years.
  - Launching [One Fare](#), which will save daily riders on participating systems an average of \$1,600 each year
  - Introducing [legislation](#) that, if passed, would give Ontario voters a veto over a new provincial carbon tax, cap-and-trade system or other carbon pricing program.
  - Ending the [Drive Clean Program](#), saving taxpayers over \$40 million every year.
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### Quick Facts

- The government will provide more information on its plan to keep costs down for families and businesses in the *2024 Budget*, to be released on March 26.
  - The price paid at the pump is made up of the cost of crude oil, wholesale margins, retail margins, federal excise tax, the federal carbon tax, Ontario gasoline/fuel tax and HST.
  - Ontario continues to call on the federal government to eliminate the federal carbon tax, which increased to 14.31 cents per litre on gasoline and 17.38 cents per litre on diesel on April 1, 2023 and is scheduled to increase by 23 per cent on April 1, 2024.
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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Extending Gas and Fuel Tax Cuts to June 30, 2024](#)
  - [Gas and fuel tax rate decrease](#)
  - [Gasoline Tax](#)
  - [Fuel Tax](#)
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## NEWS RELEASE

# Building a Better Ontario

*2024 Budget* delivering on plan to rebuild Ontario's economy

March 26, 2024

[Finance](#)

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TORONTO — Today, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy released the [2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#). Like the rest of the world, Ontario continues to face economic uncertainty due to high interest rates and global instability.

These challenges are putting pressure on Ontario families and their finances, as well as on the province's finances. Despite these challenges, Ontario is continuing to deliver on its Plan to Build by investing in infrastructure to get more homes built faster, attracting better jobs with bigger paycheques, keeping costs down for families and businesses, and retaining a path to balance.

"In the face of global economic uncertainty and high interest rates that continue to put pressure on Ontario families, our government is taking a responsible approach by investing to rebuild Ontario's economy without raising taxes," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "As we invest in key public services and infrastructure, including new roads, highways and the largest public transit expansion in North America, we refuse to offload the costs onto hardworking Ontario families or municipalities at a time when they're counting on us to keep costs down."

Highlights of the Province's actions include:

- Helping to get more homes built by investing \$1 billion in the new Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program and quadrupling the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund to a total of \$825 million to help municipalities repair and expand the critical infrastructure needed to reach their housing targets.
- Connecting approximately 600,000 people to primary health care with a total additional investment of \$546 million over three years.
- Launching a new \$200 million Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund to strengthen communities across Ontario by investing in new and upgraded sport, recreation and community facilities.

- Investing \$46 million over three years, including for the purchase of four police helicopters, to improve community safety in the Greater Toronto Area by supporting increased patrols and faster response times to major incidents and serious crimes.
- Keeping costs down for people and businesses by proposing to extend the temporary cuts to the gasoline tax rate by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel (diesel) tax rate by 5.3 cents per litre until December 31, 2024. This would save Ontario households \$320 on average since the cuts were first introduced in July 2022. This relief is especially important as the federal carbon tax is set to increase on April 1, 2024.
- Helping workers and job seekers, including apprentices, get the skills they need to advance their careers with an additional \$100 million investment in 2024–25 through the Skills Development Fund Training Stream.
- Supporting individuals facing unstable housing conditions and dealing with mental health and addictions challenges by investing an additional \$152 million over three years towards various supportive housing initiatives designed to support vulnerable people.

“Our responsible approach allows us to support Ontario families, workers and municipalities while retaining a path to balance,” said Minister Bethlenfalvy. “We will keep investing prudently to help create stronger communities and better opportunities for future generations.”

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### Quick Facts

- For 2023–24, the government is projecting a deficit of \$3.0 billion. As part of its path to balance, the government is projecting deficits of \$9.8 billion in 2024–25 and \$4.6 billion in 2025–26, before reaching a surplus of \$0.5 billion in 2026–27.
  - Ontario’s real GDP grew by an estimated 1.2 per cent in 2023 and is projected to increase by 0.3 per cent in 2024, 1.9 per cent in 2025, 2.2 per cent in 2026 and 2.2 per cent in 2027. For the purposes of prudent fiscal planning, these projections are slightly below the average of private-sector forecasts.
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### Additional Resources

- [Read the 2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#)
  - [Read highlights of the 2024 Budget](#)
  - [Read the Backgrounder: Economic and Fiscal Overview](#)
  - [Read the 2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building a Strong Ontario Together](#)
-

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## NEWS RELEASE

## A New Deal for Ottawa

Agreement between province and city invests in Ottawa's unique needs as national capital, regional economic hub

March 28, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**OTTAWA** — The Government of Ontario and the City of Ottawa have reached a new deal that recognizes and invests in the city's unique needs as Canada's national capital and eastern Ontario's economic hub, helping ensure the city's sustainable, long-term growth and prosperity. The agreement includes a phased plan to guide the upload of Ottawa Road 174 to the province, provincial support for the repair and upgrade of the city's major connecting routes and rural roads, designing and building a new interchange at Highway 416 and Barnsdale Road, and improving public safety by opening a new police neighbourhood operations centre in the ByWard Market area.

"This historic new deal reflects our government's dedication to the economic success of Ottawa and all of eastern Ontario," said Premier Doug Ford. "I want to thank Mayor Sutcliffe for working with us to reach an agreement that will help Ottawa continue rebuilding its economy and deliver on key priorities, including building homes and highways. Now it's up to the federal government to step up with support for our national capital, particularly when it comes to funding infrastructure and supporting shelters and asylum claimants."

Ontario and Ottawa are calling on the federal government to step up with support that recognizes its responsibility to the national capital and helps restore public transit ridership while revitalizing Ottawa's downtown economy.

"This is a big win for Ottawa," said Mayor Mark Sutcliffe. "These investments will relieve significant budget pressures for the city and will help us to deliver better services to our residents. It's also an example of what happens when elected officials do what the voters expect them to do: work together to solve problems and build better, safer, more affordable communities. I want to thank Premier Ford and Minister Bethlenfalvy for being great partners and for understanding the unique challenges that Ottawa faces."

In recognition of the unique economic and social challenges faced by the City of Ottawa, which has had a slower rebound from the effects of the pandemic and is an economic and social service hub for people across eastern Ontario and western Quebec, Ontario is providing up to \$543 million in operating and capital funding tailored to fuelling Ottawa's economic recovery and accelerating revitalization of the downtown core. Funding will further support upgrading and building essential road and highway infrastructure to support the local economy and drivers across Ottawa's large suburban and rural footprint.

The agreement includes up to \$197 million over three years in provincial operating supports and up to \$346 million over 10 years in provincial capital supports, including:

- Maintenance and rehabilitation for Ottawa Road 174 while a three-stage phased assessment of potential provincial ownership of the road is underway.
- Funding to help revitalize the downtown area, with dedicated funding to [Invest Ottawa](#).
- Funding to support public safety and address increased levels of crime, which have had an impact on city services.
- Additional conditional funding for emergency shelters and homelessness prevention to address the needs of increasing levels of homelessness.
- The repair and upgrade of major connecting routes and roads critical to keeping the people, goods and services of Ottawa moving.
- Advancing design and construction of a new interchange at Highway 416 and Barnsdale Road to support population growth and development.
- Funding for the Kanata North Transitway to support economic growth and recovery.
- Support for housing- and community-enabling infrastructure through the Building Faster Fund, conditional on the city achieving at least 80 per cent of its housing targets.

In addition to financial supports, Ontario commits to working with Ottawa to explore opportunities to fund and build more infrastructure, including through the [Building Ontario Fund](#) and policy changes to assist the city in removing barriers to getting more homes built faster.

The City of Ottawa has made a number of reciprocal commitments to Ontario, including opening up municipal lands for housing development to support shared housing priorities, ensuring Ottawa meets and exceeds its housing targets,

strengthening the city's vacant home tax, implementing efficiency measures that minimize the property tax burden on Ottawa's people and businesses and facilitating the development of a long-term care home at The Ottawa Hospital.

Together, Ontario and Ottawa are calling on the Government of Canada to provide federal support on shared priorities, including shelter supports for asylum claimants, infrastructure funding to support new housing, and support for Ottawa's unique and excess costs arising from managing protests and demonstrations in the capital.

In addition, as the largest employer in the city, Ontario and Ottawa ask the federal government to do its part to help revitalize the downtown economy. The federal government has an important responsibility to revive Ottawa's downtown and ensure the city's unique character and attractions continue making the nation's capital a tourism destination for Canadians and international visitors.

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### Quick Facts

- Ottawa is Canada's national capital, Ontario's second largest local municipality and the largest city in eastern Ontario, with a growing population of more than one million residents. Ottawa is geographically four times larger than Toronto, encompassing interconnected urban, suburban and rural areas. The city is an important interprovincial gateway to Quebec and Eastern Canada and is uniquely reliant on the public administration sector.
  - Through an extensive range of municipal funding supports, including the newly announced [\\$1.8 billion for housing-enabling infrastructure](#), the Building Faster Fund and the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, the province is supporting all of Ontario's 444 municipalities to deliver valuable services for growing communities.
  - The [2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#) includes funding for highways and community infrastructure in Ottawa, including moving forward with The Ottawa Hospital's Civic Campus redevelopment project, maintaining supportive housing for Salus Ottawa, building a new interchange at Highway 416 and Barnsdale Road and replacing bridges on Highway 417.
-

## Quotes

"Today's agreement is about building up and bringing back Ottawa's vitality and growing its local economy. By working together, we'll ensure sustainable growth for our iconic nation's capital, while continuing to make life better and more affordable for the people and businesses who call Ottawa home."

**- Peter Bethlenfalvy**  
**Ontario Minister of Finance**

"We need all levels of government to step up to support our communities and build the infrastructure and housing needed to support the growth we're seeing. The City of Ottawa has shown that it is removing obstacles and finding ways to get more shovels in the ground to build much-needed homes faster. However, it is critical that the federal government also provides desperately needed funding to help support the construction of homes and build stronger communities."

**- Paul Calandra**  
**Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

"As the largest city in eastern Ontario, Ottawa plays a significant role in our province's economic ecosystem. Today's agreement will aid in revitalizing the city's longstanding history as a prosperous tourist hub and key jurisdiction for the advancement and adoption of critical technologies. As our province continues to foster resiliency and stability, this partnership between the Government of Ontario and the City of Ottawa will play a pivotal role in attracting strategic investments and the creation of good-paying jobs within the nation's capital."

**- Vic Fedeli**  
**Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade**

"Today's agreement is another example of our government's plan to support Ottawa and bring economic growth to eastern Ontario. These targeted investments will keep people and goods moving in our nation's capital while connecting communities living in the surrounding region to new businesses, better jobs, and more housing."

**- Prabmeet Sarkaria**  
**Ontario Minister of Transportation**

"Public safety will always remain a top priority for our government. This agreement will increase the police officer presence in the downtown core and improve safety on transit. The people of Ottawa deserve to feel safe in their community and Ontario will work in lockstep with the Ottawa Police Service on crime prevention efforts."

**- Michael Kerzner**  
**Ontario Solicitor General**

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## Additional Resources

- [Terms of the New Deal for Ottawa](#)

---

## 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](#)

### Driving and Roads

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

### Government

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

### Home and Community

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

### Jobs and Employment

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers.

[Learn more](#)

#### Law and Safety

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

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STATEMENT

# Ontario Releases 2023 Public Sector Salary Disclosure

March 28, 2024

[Treasury Board Secretariat](#)

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TORONTO — Caroline Mulroney, President of the Treasury Board, issued the following statement:

“Today, the Ontario government released the salaries of Ontario Public Service and broader public sector employees who were paid \$100,000 or more in 2023.

The largest year-over-year increases were in the hospitals, municipalities and services, and post-secondary sectors, which together represented approximately 80 per cent of the growth of the list.

*The Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act, 1996* requires organizations that receive public funding from the Province of Ontario to make public by March 31 each year the names, positions, salaries, and total taxable benefits of employees paid \$100,000 or more in the previous calendar year.

The Act applies to the provincial government, Crown agencies and corporations, Ontario Power Generation and subsidiaries, publicly funded organizations such as hospitals, municipalities, school boards, universities and colleges, and not-for-profit organizations that receive \$1 million or more or receive between \$120,000 and \$1 million if the provincial government funding they receive is 10 per cent or more of their gross revenues.

The 2023 data is available in a downloadable, machine-readable, sortable, searchable table format on [Ontario.ca/salarydisclosure](#).”

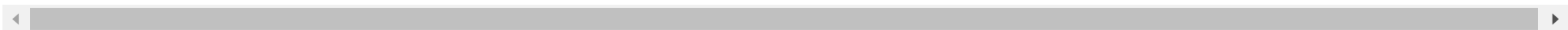
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## Related Topics

### Government

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to Support Workers

Increase to \$17.20 an hour follows passage of government's fourth Working for Workers Act

March 28, 2024

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

---

**TORONTO** — The Ontario government is increasing the minimum wage from \$16.55 per hour to \$17.20, effective October 1, 2024. This 3.9 per cent annualized wage increase is based on the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) and brings Ontario's minimum wage to the second highest in Canada.

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is helping nearly one million workers earn more money for themselves and their families," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "We are providing businesses with certainty and predictability by announcing this annual wage increase six months in advance, while also helping families offset the rising cost of living, so that Ontario continues to be the best place to live, work and raise a family."

A worker making the general minimum wage and working 40 hours per week will see an annual pay increase of up to \$1,355. There were 935,600 workers earning at or below \$17.20 per hour in 2023.

This minimum wage increase builds on the government's [Working for Workers Four Act, 2024](#), which provides ground-breaking protections for millions of workers in Ontario, including strengthening wage protections for restaurant, hospitality and service workers by clarifying that employers can never deduct an employee's wages in the event of a dine and dash, supporting injured workers and banning requirements for Canadian work experience in job postings – a first in Canada.

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## Quick Facts

- Under the [Employment Standards Act](#), Ontario's minimum wage increases annually based on the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure of inflation that represents changes in prices experienced by Ontario consumers.

The CPI rose by 3.9 per cent, resulting in an increase in the minimum wage of 65 cents an hour, to \$17.20.

- Ontario's new minimum wage will be the second highest provincial rate, after British Columbia at \$17.40 per hour.
- About 35 per cent of workers at or below the current general minimum wage of \$17.20 per hour are in retail trade and 24 per cent are in accommodation and food services.

---

## Additional Resources

- New [minimum wage rates](#) starting October 1, 2024
- Learn about rights and responsibilities under the [ESA](#)
- Learn more about the [Working for Workers Act, 2024](#)
- [Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#).

---

## 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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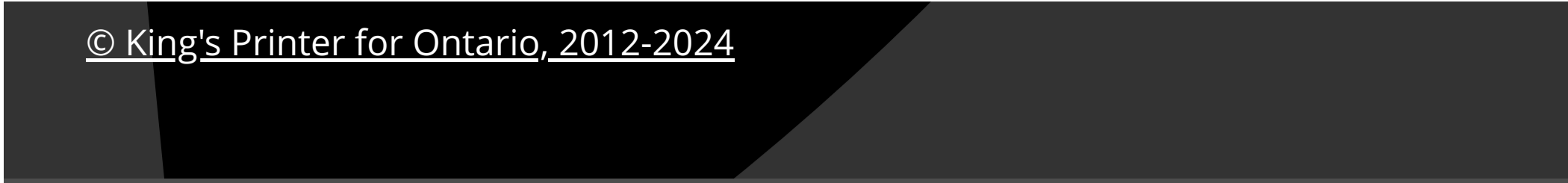
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## NEWS RELEASE

# Premier Ford Announces Updated Parliamentary Assistant Roles

Renewed team will continue working hard to build Ontario and keep costs down

March 28, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**TORONTO** — Today, Premier Doug Ford announced changes to his team of parliamentary assistants to help the government rebuild Ontario's economy while keeping costs down for families and workers.

"By supporting ministers with legislative and committee responsibilities or taking on important projects with dedicated leadership, parliamentary assistants play a critical role in delivering on our plan to rebuild Ontario's economy," said Premier Ford. "With today's announcement, I'm thrilled to recognize and showcase our team's in-depth experience, which will help us continue to get it done for the people of Ontario."

The complete list of parliamentary assistants, including additional responsibilities as designated, is as follows:

- Lorne Coe, Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier
- Mike Harris, Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier
- Will Bouma, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Northern Development, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Chair of Caucus
- John Jordan, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Anthony Leardi, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Deputy Government Whip
- Brian Saunderson, Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General
- Laura Smith, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- Logan Kanapathi, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children,

## Community and Social Services

- Sheref Sabawy, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
- Hardeep Singh Grewal, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities
- Trevor Jones, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Effie Triantafilopoulos, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Billy Pang, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education
- Natalie Pierre, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education
- Rudy Cuzzetto, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy
- John Yakabuski, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy
- Andrew Dowie, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Deepak Anand, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
- Stephen Crawford, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
- Nolan Quinn, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health
- Amarjot Sandhu, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure
- Patrice Barnes, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
- Robert Bailey, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Legislative Affairs
- Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility
- Daisy Wai, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility
- Dave Smith, Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Kevin Holland, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Mines
- Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Brian Riddell, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
- Christine Hogarth, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Red Tape Reduction
- Stéphane Sarrazin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Small Business and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Francophone Affairs

- Graham McGregor, Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General
- Sam Oosterhoff, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- Ric Bresee, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation
- Rick Byers, Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board
- Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board
- Jess Dixon, Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity

David Smith (Scarborough Centre) will be nominated for Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. The government is not proposing any other changes to chairs of committees.

---

## Related Topics

### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Province Levelling Playing Field for Ontario Businesses

New regulation helping modernize the public sector procurement process

April 02, 2024

[Treasury Board Secretariat](#)

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TORONTO — Effective April 1, 2024, a new regulation under the *Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act, 2022* (BOBIA) gives businesses across the province access to more government and public sector procurement opportunities.

The new regulation enshrines in law that Ontario's public sector — including hospitals, schools, colleges and universities — give preference to Ontario businesses when conducting procurements for goods and services such as acquiring school supplies or food for cafeterias.

"Ontario businesses should benefit from the investments of its own government," said Minister Caroline Mulroney, President of the Treasury Board. "Prioritizing Ontario-made products and services will help protect the supply chain, create good paying jobs and rebuild the province's economy."

This Act is part of Ontario's ambitious plan to centralize and modernize public sector procurement. The new regulation, which defines what is considered an Ontario business and what goods and services are covered under the Act, leverages the province's purchasing power to support Ontario businesses and made-in-Ontario innovations.

"As the underlying engine of Ontario's economy, local businesses play a vital role in creating jobs, and positioning the province as a prime jurisdiction for investment attraction," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Through the adoption of this new regulation, our government is supporting Ontario-made innovation and taking another step towards ensuring a strong and resilient economy for future generations."

To ensure Ontario remains compliant with its trade obligations, this regulation applies to procurements below \$121,200 for goods and services in the Broader Public Sector. Similarly, for the Ontario Public Service, the thresholds are set at \$30,300 for goods and \$121,200 for services.

The government anticipates that at least \$3 billion in contract awards will be targeted to Ontario businesses through to 2026.

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### Quick Facts

- Every year, the Ontario Public Service and Broader Public Sector spends about \$29 billion on goods and services. The province is leveraging this to help grow Ontario's local businesses, including technology and manufacturing sectors.
  - [Supply Ontario](#) is a provincial agency created to address challenges faced in the public sector supply chain system. Supply Ontario works with partners to transform and modernize the procurement process to benefit the economy and businesses across the province.
- 

### Quotes

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy with over 400,000 businesses operating in our province, employing more than 2 million people. This new regulation will mean more opportunity for every one of our Ontario businesses and a brighter economic future we can all be proud of. "

- Nina Tangri  
Associate Minister, Small Business

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### Additional Resources

[Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act, 2022](#)

[Doing Business with the Government of Ontario](#)

[Building Ontario Businesses Initiative](#)

[Broader Public Service Procurement Directive](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Business and Economy

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

---

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Prepares for Upcoming Wildland Fire Season

Additional staff and equipment ready to manage forest fires

April 02, 2024

[Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

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TORONTO – Ontario’s wildland fire season officially began April 1 and this year the Ontario government is adding new firefighting positions to ensure the people and resources are in place to protect communities. The province is also offering a payment incentive for fire rangers and critical support staff this season and has purchased new equipment to help manage forest fires.

“Throughout the fire season, Ontario’s firefighting staff work tirelessly – under very difficult conditions – to keep people, communities and property safe,” said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. “The start of the fire season is an important time to recognize how important these fire crews are and the brave work they perform to keep the public safe.”

In recognition of the critical services wildland firefighters and pilots perform amid challenging and often dangerous conditions, an attraction and retention incentive payment of up to \$5,000 is being provided to employees in front-line fire, aviation and critical support positions to support the 2024 fire season.

The government is also taking action to support the wildland fire program with the creation of more than 100 permanent positions to meet the demands of escalated and increasingly complex fire seasons. These positions will contribute to building leadership and experience within our wildland fire program by adding new year-round positions that will support career path opportunities for fire rangers and other staff.

“The government is strengthening emergency preparedness and response by ensuring communities across the province have the resources and equipment they need to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies,” said Caroline Mulroney, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Emergency

Management. “We are working closely with municipalities, First Nations communities and partners to ensure the people of Ontario are safe, practiced and prepared for the upcoming wildland fire season.”

Last year’s wildland fire season was one of the most challenging Ontario has faced and we are supporting these brave wildland firefighting staff by expanding eligibility for standby pay and reimbursing eligible expenses for training and special safety equipment. The government has also invested \$20.5 million to be used over three years to enhance aerial technologies and help increase understanding of evolving fire science and behaviour.

Ontario will continue to work with our partners, Indigenous communities, emergency organizations and agencies to provide support and share personnel, equipment and aircraft as needed to manage fires.

---

### Quick Facts

- Approximately 50 per cent of all wildland fires are caused by humans.
- More than 700 wildland fires were reported in Ontario last year, with over 440,000 hectares of forests burned – nearly triple the 10-year average of total hectares burned on the landscape.
- Ontario is internationally recognized as a leader in wildland fire management and its resources to fight wildland fires include:
  - Hundreds of staff who are highly trained and skilled in supporting and fighting wildland fires
  - A fleet of specialized aircraft used to suppress wildland fires and transport staff across the province
  - Fourteen fire management headquarters, three attack bases and 11 forward attack bases, two regional fire centres, one provincial fire centre (which houses the ministry emergency operations centre), two regional logistics centres and one provincial logistics centre, seven hangars and one flight training centre.

---

### Additional Resources

[Ontario's response to wildland fires](#)

[Find out how to prevent forest fires](#)

[Learn more about the science behind fire](#)

[Learn how to become a fire ranger](#)

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## Related Topics

### Law and Safety

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

### Rural and North

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

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# FOOD AFFORDABILITY

*in Renfrew County and District, 2023*



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

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



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



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

## Monitoring Food Affordability

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

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



**Renfrew County and District Health Unit**

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

[www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com) • 1.800.267.1097 • @RCDHealthUnit



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

## Identifying Food Insecurity in RCD

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

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

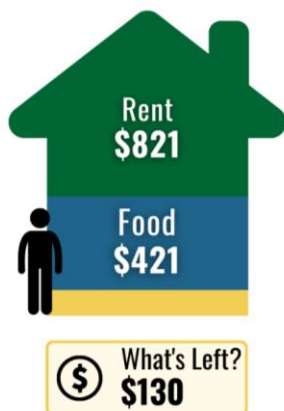


**Results indicate that families with lower incomes struggle to afford food.** This is due not only to high food prices, but also to incomes that are **too low** to cover basic necessities.

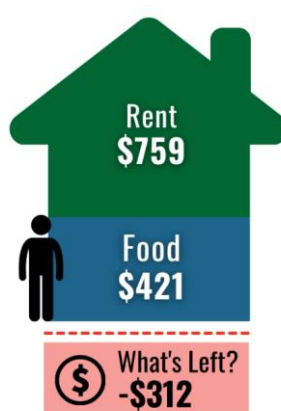
## Income Scenarios in Renfrew County and District

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

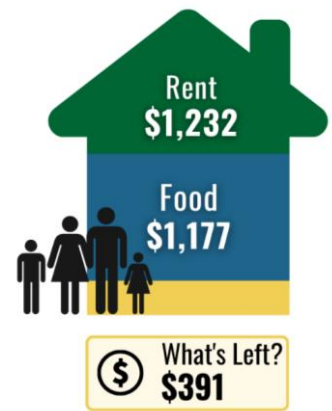
### One Person, ODSP\* Monthly income: \$1,372



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



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



\* Ontario Disability Support Program



*Income scenarios in RCD*

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

<sup>a</sup> Includes benefits and credits<sup>b</sup> May or may not include utilities<sup>c</sup> This scenario uses rental rates for a bachelor apartment

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



## Food Insecurity is a Public Health Concern

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

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

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



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



### Food insecurity can affect anyone:

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

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

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

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

## Food insecurity is a result of poverty.

POVERTY

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

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

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



## References

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Household food insecurity estimates from the Canadian Income Survey: Ontario 2019-2022. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2023.
2. Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. Household food insecurity in Canada, 2022. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). 2023. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2022-PROOF.pdf>
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# FOOD AFFORDABILITY

*in Renfrew County and District (RCD), 2023*



**1 IN 6 HOUSEHOLDS**  
are experiencing food  
insecurity in RCD

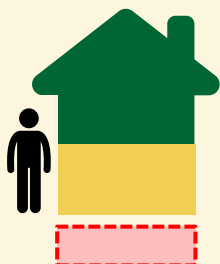
**1 IN 4 CHILDREN**

live in a food-insecure household in Ontario



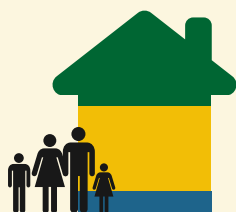
How Much is **Left Over** for  
Necessities After Paying for  
Monthly **Rent** and **Food**?

One Person,  
Ontario Works:  
**- \$312**



One person,  
Ontario Disability  
Support Program:  
**\$130**

Family of Four,  
Ontario Works:  
**\$391**



**Food insecurity** means  
**inadequate access to food**  
due to a lack of money. Food  
insecurity is **caused by poverty**.



## SIGNIFICANT HEALTH IMPACTS



- poor physical health
- poor mental health
- high blood pressure
- diabetes
- depression

## THE SOLUTION?

**Policies that target poverty**, guaranteeing  
adequate income to pay for  
the basic necessities of living.



View the full report at [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com): [Food Affordability in Renfrew County and District, 2023](#)





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

## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, April 2, 2024)

### **RCDHU Reminds Residents of Solar Eclipse Safety**

On Monday, April 8, 2024, there will be a solar eclipse. Renfrew County and District (RCD) is just north of the path of totality (the path traced on Earth's surface by the Moon's shadow during a total solar eclipse). RCD will experience a partial eclipse.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is reminding residents to take simple precautions to stay safe and protect their eyes. Viewing the sun with the naked eye during the eclipse may cause retinal burns, blurred vision, and loss of eyesight (immediate or delayed onset). Looking at even a small sliver before or after the eclipse without approved eye protection can be harmful to your vision. Eye damage may not be immediately apparent, and symptoms can take 12-48 hours to appear. Symptoms can be permanent or temporary.

#### **How to watch the solar eclipse safely:**

- Use approved eye protection with specialized filters adhering to the ISO 12312-2 international standard to prevent eye damage. Use these tips when using approved eye protection:
  - Eclipse glasses should be inspected for wrinkles or scratches ahead of use and should not be used if damaged.
  - Ensure that eclipse glasses fully cover your field of vision.
  - Put on eclipse glasses when looking away from the Sun, then look at the eclipse. Look away from the Sun before taking eclipse glasses off.
- Do not view the eclipse through regular sunglasses.
- Do not view the eclipse through a camera/phone lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device.
- If watching the eclipse with children, they should always be supervised as they may not fully comprehend the risks involved. Ensure children do not look at the eclipse without approved eye protection, help them to properly use approved eye protection, and consider alternate viewing methods.
- If approved eye protection is not available, alternative viewing strategies should be considered, such as [an eclipse box](#) or a [Livestream](#).

If you begin to experience temporary vision loss, blurred vision or eyesight loss, during or after the event, speak to your eye care professional (e.g., optometrist) or your health care provider as soon as possible. If you are experiencing blindness after viewing the eclipse (immediate or delayed), seek emergency care immediately.

For more information, please visit RCDHU's [Solar Eclipse](#) webpage.

- 30 -

Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
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ENERGY AND COST SAVING EFFORTS COMMUNITIES ACROSS ONTARIO

# Canada and FCM Invest \$655,000 to Support Energy and Cost Saving Efforts in Communities Across Ontario



March 25, 2024

## Collingwood, Ontario — Natural Resources Canada

Across the country, we are striving to offer Canadians more affordable and more sustainable communities to live in. This is why the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) are continuing to invest in projects to help communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast retrofit their buildings and reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Today, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, and FCM President Scott Pearce announced an investment of \$655,000 through the Green Municipal Fund's Community Buildings Retrofit (CBR) initiative to support efforts by four

communities to lower their emissions and improve energy performance through building retrofits and upgrades.

The following communities received grants to conduct feasibility studies to reduce GHG emissions across publicly accessible buildings:

- \$200,000 to the City of Collingwood
- \$200,000 to the City of Burlington
- \$200,000 to the City Cambridge

In addition, the City of Markham received \$55,000 to recommission its fire and emergency services administration office, two fire stations, two cultural facilities, the Armadale Community Centre, and the Markham Village Library.

The Community Building Retrofit initiative is part of a \$950-million federal investment in FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) and is designed to scale up energy efficiency and lower emissions across Canada. GMF, administered by the FCM, is funded through an endowment by the Government of Canada and helps local governments switch to sustainable practices faster.

## Quotes

**“The Community Buildings Retrofit program is providing federal support for municipal climate action — today’s investment of over \$650,000 will help municipal buildings across Ontario to make improvements including in energy efficiency, helping to lower both emissions and operating costs. Congratulations to our municipal partners on advancing these innovative projects.”**  
**—The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources**

**“The Community Buildings Retrofit initiative will offer long- and short-term benefits to help municipalities fight climate change and reduce costs. The partnership of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Government of Canada through the Green Municipal Fund is helping communities transition to a healthy, net-zero emissions future. The smart investments we make today will help build a more sustainable and affordable world for years to come.”**

***—The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change***

**“Municipalities influence over half of Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2001, the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has developed a successful track record of helping local communities with thousands of projects to achieve greater sustainability. That’s why we can only welcome, with support from the federal government, GMF’s delivery of the Community Buildings Retrofit initiative to enable communities across Canada, including Ontario today, to lower their emissions and improve energy performance. Together, we’re on the path towards net zero.”**

***—Scott Pearce, FCM President***

## Associated links

[Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#)

[Green Municipal Fund](#)

[2030 Emissions Reduction Plan: Clean Air, Strong Economy](#)

## Contacts

## Natural Resources Canada

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Press Secretary

Office of the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

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[HOME](#) > [NEWS & MEDIA](#) > [NEWS RELEASES](#) > **FCM WELCOMES NEW 6 BILLION FUND  
ADDRESS HOUSING AND URGENT MUNICIPALITY INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS**

# FCM welcomes new \$6 billion fund to address housing and urgent municipality infrastructure needs



April 2, 2024

Ottawa, ON —The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) welcomes the new \$6-billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund announced today by the federal government to meet the needs of Canadian communities, especially those experiencing record growth.

This significant investment, most notably with \$1 billion dedicated towards urgent community infrastructure needs including for water and wastewater management, signals the federal government is responding to FCM's ongoing advocacy for more investments in community infrastructure. FCM has been clear that for every new home built, there must be a corresponding investment in infrastructure.

“Today’s announcement represents a vital stepping stone towards supporting the ambitious number of new homes Canada needs to build over the next decade,” said FCM President Scott Pearce.

“It also represents clear recognition from the federal government that investing in infrastructure must be part of a plan for growth. There is no doubt Canada’s housing challenge is also an infrastructure challenge. To build the 5.8 million housing units that CMHC says we need by 2030, existing infrastructure must be renewed, and new infrastructure needs to be built.”

Halifax Mayor and Chair of FCM’s Big City Mayors’ Caucus Mike Savage also noted that Canada’s cities and communities know effective growth is tied to infrastructure.

“Even as we are responsible for most of the infrastructure people rely on every day, municipalities still only collect one-tenth of every tax dollar,” he said.

“Indeed, funding models for municipalities have not changed since confederation; our property tax system is simply not designed to meet this extraordinary growth. Wherever housing is built, it should be part of a complete community – this may mean water and wastewater, emergency services, parks and playgrounds, recreation centres, and transit connectivity.”

FCM and its members look forward to collaborating with the federal government and our partners in provincial and territorial associations to fully analyze and ensure the success of this newly announced funding arrangement.

Today’s announcement is timely in the context of ongoing re-negotiations of the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), which remains a crucial funding program for Canadian communities of all sizes.

Additionally, FCM welcomes the government's \$400-million top-up to the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), which will encourage local initiatives to build more homes faster across the country. With Canada's cities and communities leading on the ground, the HAF is on track to support the delivery of well over 750,000 new homes in the next decade, with this top-up set to further facilitate many new housing builds.

While today's announcements represent upfront investment in urgent needs, a serious conversation is needed on supporting long-term funding for municipalities.

As governments of proximity, municipalities must be directly engaged in the growth of this country. FCM urges the federal government to convene all orders of government and discuss how a new Municipal Growth Framework would better support communities in the long-term.

In addition, FCM looks forward to additional details on the housing front, as referenced today by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Minister Sean Fraser. FCM continues to call for a holistic approach to end chronic homelessness in Canada, including through long-term investments in supportive housing and the associated wraparound health and social supports.

*The [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) is the national voice of municipal governments, with over 2,100 members representing more than 92 per cent of the Canadian population.*

**For more information please contact:**

FCM Media Relations, (613) 907-6395, [media@fcm.ca](mailto:media@fcm.ca)



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March, 21 2024

### In This Issue

- Conservation Authority regulations.
- Information to assist Municipalities in flood preparedness.
- Consultation on *Ontario Energy Board Act* changes
- Consultation on *Seniors Active Living Centres Act*.
- Consultation on Rural Economic Development Strategy.
- Nominations open for Lieutenant Governor's Award.
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) data.
- Applications open: My Main Street Fund.
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- Consultation: 2025 National Construction Codes.
- Disability inclusion workshop and discussion: Beyond AODA compliance.
- Managing Communications through Uncomfortable Times - Limited space.
- Strategies for Navigating Conflict Relationships for Strong Council Outcomes.
- Land Use Planning - Foundations and Deeper Dive workshops.
- AntiSemitism and Anti-Islamophobia: Spring workshops.
- Advanced Councillor Training Series to Revitalize Your Leadership.
- Municipal Codes of Conduct Workshop: Essential to Good Governance.
- OSUM 2024 Conference - Register today.
- Blog: How AI is changing cybersecurity and impacting accessibility.
- Using the Energy Planning Tool to its fullest.
- Book your 2024 road and sidewalk inspections now.
- Invasive Species Action Fund.
- Energy procurements webinar for elected officials
- Future of Aging Summit: May 15-17.
- Careers.

### Provincial Matters

Regulatory changes under the Conservation Authorities Act to support streamlined, timely and consistent conservation authority permitting decisions and ensure permit decisions are focused on natural hazard considerations will [come into effect April 1](#).

As Ontario flood season arrives, MNRF has circulated a [fact sheet](#) with [roles and responsibilities](#) to assist municipalities in flood preparedness (French versions [1](#) & [2](#)). Information is also available [online](#).

The Ministry of Energy is considering [changes to the Ontario Energy Board Act](#) that would require broader consultation by the OEB (including with municipalities) and increase the leave to consult threshold. Submissions due by April 7.

MSAA is [proposing a new regulation](#) that would prescribe entities that could contribute towards a Seniors Active Living Centre program's operational cost. The deadline for comments is March 22, 2024.

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.

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.

### Federal Matters

CMHC developed housing data [Qs and As](#) for Ontario municipalities, to address questions following their recent webinar. The webinar deck is [here](#), which the Qs and As reference.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

offering [two streams of funding](#) for initiatives to support main streets in southern Ontario. Apply by March 31.

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

The Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes is [consulting on proposed changes](#) for the 2025 national codes. Feedback collected will also serve as [consultation for Ontario's 2026/27 Building Code](#). Submissions due April 14.

### Education Opportunities

Participants will leave this workshop with a greater depth of knowledge and understanding of building accessible and inclusive communities as an elected official. Register for the [March 25 Disability Inclusion Workshop](#).

The [Managing Communications through Uncomfortable Times](#) interactive will teach participants how to manage all aspects of crisis communications during an emergency or large-scale event. Book your seat today for this interactive and exclusive workshop. Space is limited (only 8 spots remain).

AMO's Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials is an invaluable resource for AMO members and your councils. Hone your skills at the [June 26 - 27 Navigating Conflict workshop](#). If you have completed this training already, take your skills to the next level at the [April 9 - 10 Advanced Strategies to Navigating Conflict workshop](#).

AMO's is offering two education opportunities focused on planning issues and strategies: [April 17 Foundations in Planning workshop](#) builds foundational knowledge and insight into planning legislation and municipal requirements and roles and the [April 18 Advanced Land Use Planning workshop](#) works through case studies and lessons learned to build your strategic management and decision making on local planning issues.

Register for the [April 24 antisemitism workshop](#) and the [May 15 anti-islamophobia workshop](#) and don't miss this limited opportunity. These informative workshops provide you invaluable insight on the historical and contemporary roots of antisemitism and anti-islamophobia, how to address these and how to build relationships and allyships.

As an elected municipal official we know the pressure you deal with is real and we are here to support you. AMO has developed Advanced Councillor Training in 3 sessions focused on core elements of leadership. Register for the [May 8 Session 1 workshop](#), [May 29 Session 2 workshop](#), and the [October 2 Session 3 workshop](#).

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 April 25 Code of Conduct workshop](#) today

Join your small urban colleagues in Orillia May 1 - 3 in discussion, examination and advocacy on matters unique to your communities and to hear provincial leaders. [View the full program](#) and [register today](#).

### LAS

The effect of Artificial Intelligence is being felt across industries and sectors. Our [latest blog](#) focuses on its impact on cybersecurity - especially as it pertains to government.

The LAS Energy Planning Tool is your 3-in-1 resource for all your energy reporting needs: 1) commodity database, 2) project tracking, and 3) CDM plan generation. Watch [this video](#) to see how it works, then contact [ept@las.on.ca](mailto:ept@las.on.ca) to get started.

Beat the summer rush and get your road and sidewalk inspections in the queue. The [LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service](#) provides accurate data resulting in better management decisions for your community. [Contact Tanner](#) for a free quote

### Municipal Wire\*

The Invasive Species Centre with support from Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry opens the [Invasive Species Action Fund](#) intake. The fund assists municipalities in combating priority species.

Apply by April 11

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

The Independent Energy Systems Operator (IESO) is hosting an [information session](#) with multiple provincial ministries on March 26 at 1:00 PM. The session will address project siting, land use planning approvals, and environmental assessments.

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

### Careers

[Tenant Services Coordinator - County of Simcoe](#). Closing date: March 28.

[Senior Economic Development Officer - County of Simcoe](#). Closing date: March 29.

[Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Muskoka Lakes](#). Closing date: April 12.

[Manager - Diversity and Inclusion - Peel Regional Police](#). Closing date: April 1.

[Manager of Tenant Services - City of Greater Sudbury](#). Closing date: April 4.

[Director of Ontario Works - County of Wellington](#). Closing date: April 5.

### About AMO

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

### AMO Contacts

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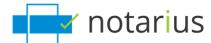
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March, 28 2024

### In This Issue

- 2024 is an AMO Board election year!
- Application for the PJ Marshall Awards is open.
- Conservation Authority regulations.
- Information to assist Municipalities in flood preparedness.
- Consultation on *Ontario Energy Board Act* changes.
- Consultation on Rural Economic Development Strategy.
- Nominations open for Lieutenant Governor's Award.
- Applications open: My Main Street Fund.
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- Consultation: 2025 National Construction Codes.
- Strategies for Navigating Conflict Relationships for Strong Council Outcomes.
- Land Use Planning - Foundations and Deeper Dive workshops.
- AntiSemitism and Anti-Islamophobia: Spring workshops.
- Councillor Training - Refresh and refine your leadership, May workshop.
- Advanced Councillor Training Series to revitalize your leadership.
- Municipal Codes of Conduct Workshop: Essential to Good Governance.
- Understanding Competing Human Rights - Upcoming workshop.
- OSUM 2024 - Join the OSUM Executive and colleagues in beautiful Orillia.
- Canoe spring webinar series starts soon.
- Upcoming webinar: Measurement and Verification for Energy Projects.
- Don't forget to vote for Elliot Lake on March 29 and 30 - Kraft Hockeyville!
- Ontario Bike Summit - April 3 - 5, 2024, Waterloo.
- Captive wildlife resolution.
- Leading local change through Canada's net-zero building codes.
- Call for delegates to SIESLR Conference.
- Invasive Species Action Fund.
- Recorded webinar on energy project siting.
- Future of Aging Summit: May 15-17.
- Careers: Guelph, Georgina, and Peel Regional Police.

### AMO Matters

Elections for positions to the AMO Board of Directors will occur at the AMO Annual Conference, hosted by the City of Ottawa in August 2024. [Click here](#) for answers to some frequently asked questions if you are considering running.

The Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award celebrates municipal governments in Ontario that implement new and innovative ways to make public services, facilities, and infrastructure better for Ontarians. View [full details here](#).

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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 [May 14 Councillor Training workshop](#) today.

As an elected municipal official we know the pressure you deal with is real and we are here to support you. AMO has developed [Advanced Councillor Training](#) in 3 sessions focused on core elements of leadership. Register for the [May 8 Session 1 workshop](#), [May 29 Session 2 workshop](#), and the [October 2 Session 3 workshop](#).

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 April 25 Code of Conduct workshop](#) today.

AMO and Hicks Morley have developed training to support municipal elected officials and council in understanding their obligations related to human rights and understanding how to manage seemingly competing human rights. Register for this important [Competing Rights May 23 workshop](#).

Join your small urban colleagues May 1 - 3 for discussion, examination and advocacy on matters unique to your communities and to hear provincial leaders. [View the full program](#) and [register today](#).

### LAS

The Canoe Procurement Group is hosting a [series of webinars](#) this spring. Join our colleagues at Canoe on **April 11 at 11am** as they discuss their experience helping governments prepare for natural disasters like floods and fires. [Register here](#) to attend.

'You can't manage what you can't measure'. Measurement & Verification is the missing link that plays a crucial role in energy projects. Join SaveONenergy with us on **April 18 at 2:30pm** to explore how to monitor and assess your project outcomes. [Register here](#) today.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Elliot Lake was named as a Top 4 Finalist for Kraft Hockeyville, the only Ontario community to be in this year's contest and they are looking for all of Ontario's support for votes! On March 29 and 30, please visit [Kraft Hockeyville](#) and vote for Elliot Lake. There is no limit to how many votes you can cast so don't miss your chance to vote!

The [Ontario Bike Summit](#) (OBS) is Canada's largest cycling and active transportation conference. OBS brings together municipal and industry leaders, policy makers, and advocates from communities across the province to share their expertise and best practices, in an effort to make Ontario more bicycle friendly.

World Animal Protection is asking municipalities to support and adopt a [resolution to restrict the keeping of exotic wild animals](#) in Ontario.

Efficiency Canada's [Municipal Guides](#) contain everything you need to leverage the 2020 model codes to enhance building performance, drive decarbonization, and amplify local benefits in climate action initiatives.

Explore economic trends impacting Canada and the world at the [Summer Institute on Economic Security and Local Resilience](#) (SIESLR) conference on July 18-19, 2024 in Orillia. Register by June 1.

The Invasive Species Centre with support from Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry opens the [Invasive Species Action Fund](#) intake. The fund assists municipalities in combating priority species. Apply by April 11.

A [recording is available of a March 26 webinar](#) with representatives from IESO, MECP, MNRF, OMAFRA and MMAH to discuss how municipalities can address siting considerations for energy projects.

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

#### Careers

[Program Manager of Zoning Services - City of Guelph](#). Closing date: April 14.

[Senior Development Planner - Town of Georgina](#). Closing date: April 10.

[Analyst-Time and Labour - Peel Regional Police](#). Closing date: April 9.

#### About AMO

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

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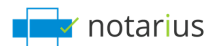
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Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior

File No. B2/24

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
Application for Consent

In The Matter of Section 53, Chapter P.13 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990; and  
In The Matter of an application for consent, with respect to the following:

**Location of Property:** 244 Harrington Street, Arnprior

**Purpose and Effect of Consent Application:**

The purpose of the application is to sever a parcel of land 4.88 metres x 11.67 metres to be added to 58 Kinsmen Crescent and to retain a parcel of land 46.27 metres x 11.78 metres being 244 Harrington Street. The retained parcel is occupied by a single detached dwelling. The severed parcel is vacant.

Parcel	Frontage	Area	Structures
Retained – 244 Harrington Street	11.78 metres	545 m <sup>2</sup>	Single detached dwelling
Severed – to be added to 58 Kinsmen Crescent	0 frontage on the street	56.9m <sup>2</sup>	Vacant

The effect of the proposed lot line adjustment is a reconfiguration of the two lots, reducing the rear yard of one and enlarging the rear yard of the other by squaring off the lot. Both resulting lots meet the minimum requirements of the Zoning By-law.

Take notice that the consent application will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior on **Thursday, April 11th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior.**

A key plan is attached. Application B2/24, as well as additional related information are available for inspection during regular office hours. Please contact the Planning Department prior to attending the Township Offices to set up an appointment.

If you wish to make written comments on this application, they may be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment at the address below. If you do not attend the hearing, it may proceed in your absence. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment.


If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment in respect of the proposed consent does not make a written submission to the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2024.

**Robin Paquette,**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment  
(613)-623-4231 or [planning@arnprior.ca](mailto:planning@arnprior.ca)  
Town of Arnprior  
105 Elgin Street West  
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

---

### Key Plan:

Subject Lands to be severed from 244 Harrington Street and added to 58 Kinsmen Crescent: 





**The Corporation of the Town of Arnprior  
Notice of Application for Zoning By-Law Amendment  
ZBLA-2/24 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, April 22nd, 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 10 William Street, legally described as Lot 60 and Part of Lot 61, Plan 115, Town of Arnprior.

**Purpose, Effect & Location of the Amendment:** The purpose of the proposed amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-law 6875-18 is to permit industrial use as a temporary use of the property for a period of up to 3 years, with possible one-year extensions.

**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](mailto: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.

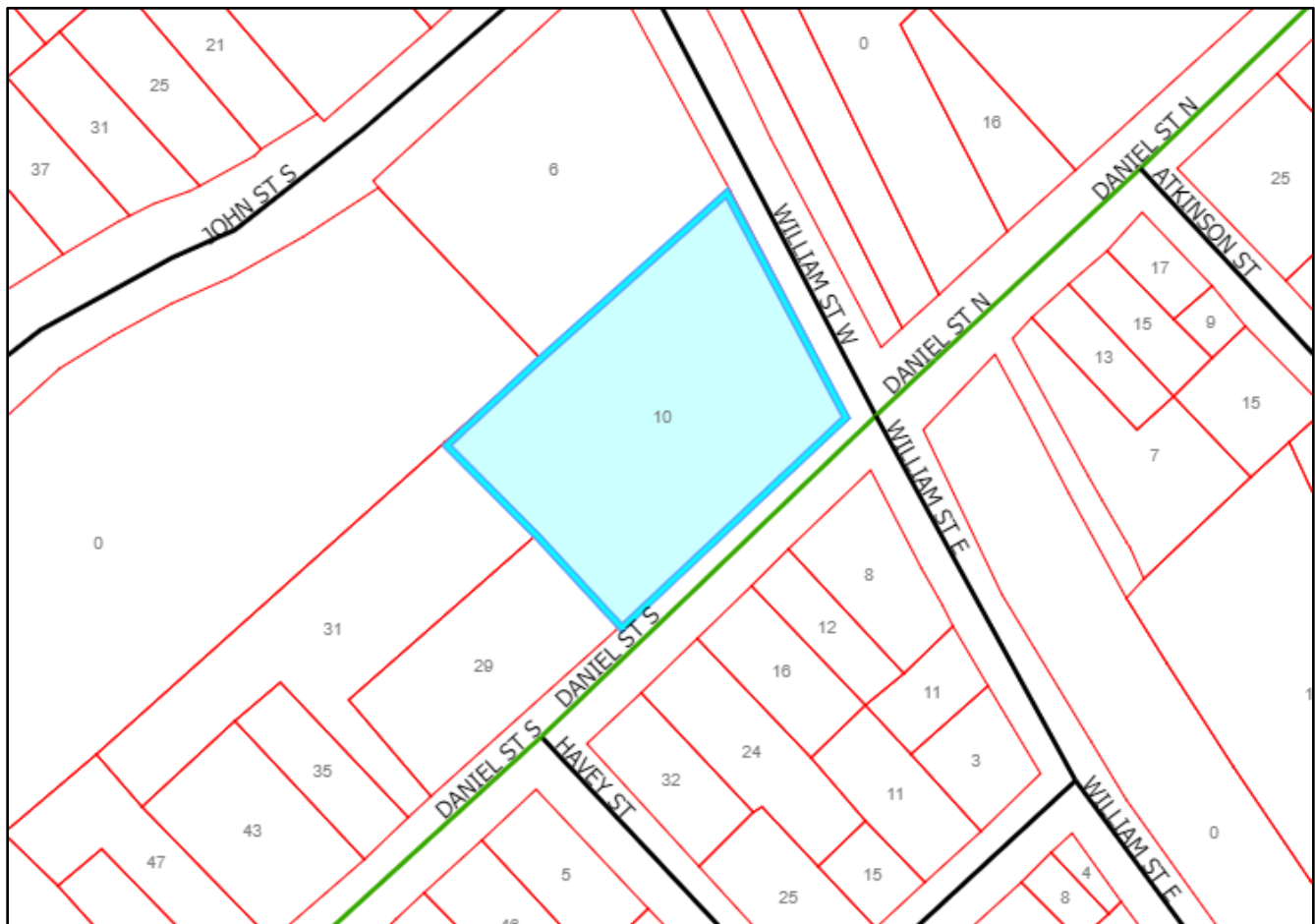
If you are receiving this notice because you are the owner of property in the area of the amendment that contains seven or more residential units, you must also post this notice in a location that is visible to all of the residents of your property.

**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 28th day of March, 2024.

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

### Key Map:



**Terrace Bay**  
**Regular Council - 04 Mar 2024**

Item b)

Date: March 4, 2024

CR60-2024

Moved by *Gary Adduono*  
Seconded by *[Signature]*

WHEREAS access to natural gas is important to residents and businesses in our community for affordability and reliability

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application, issued on 21 December 2023, has concerning implications including putting into question the future access to natural gas that support of economic development, affordable housing growth, and energy reliability in communities such as the Township of Terrace Bay;

AND WHEREAS Ontario is growing and access to affordable energy to support this growth for homes and businesses is crucial, as is a measured approach to energy transition as not having access to natural gas will stifle economic growth and put housing and energy affordability at risk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: THAT the Township of Terrace Bay supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition;

AND FURTHER, that the Municipality of ~~Tweed~~ *Terrace Bay* recognizes that there may not be enough electricity available to replace the energy provided by natural gas and meet the increased demand from electrification;

AND FURTHER, that natural gas must continue to play an integral role in meeting the energy needs of Ontario;

AND FURTHER, that the Municipality of ~~Tweed~~ *Terrace Bay* supports the work the Government of Ontario has done to date, including the Natural Gas Expansion Program and Electrification and Energy Transition Panel's call for a clear policy on the role of natural gas to secure access to affordable energy;

AND FURTHER, that this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Todd Smith, the Minister of Energy, Lise Vaugeois, Member of Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay - Superior North, all regional municipalities as significant actors to ensuring the need for natural gas in Ontario as part of a measured approach towards energy transition, and submitted to [municipalaffairs@enbridge.com](mailto:municipalaffairs@enbridge.com)

☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☐ Recorded Vote

**Recorded Vote:**

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		

Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**

**Terrace Bay**  
**Regular Council - 18 Mar 2024**

Item a)

Date: March 18, 2024

CR78-2024

Moved by  
Seconded by



WHEREAS as a past attendee of combined conferences, it makes great sense for the OGRA & ROMA conferences to be returned to a combined conference effort, not only financially for the municipality but also for availability for participation of members of Council and staff; and

WHEREAS these conferences afford a vital opportunity for delegations with members of our provincial parliament, returning to a combined conference provides a better respect to their availability and participation; and

WHEREAS during the 2019 OGRA conference AGM a resolution was passed regarding the re-establishment of an annual combined conference for both OGRA & ROMA; and

WHEREAS it is understandable that little movement has happened since the resolution at the 2019 OGRA conference AGM was passed, due to delays of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS not all persons who wish to attend can do so in person, that a hybrid participation option be considered for the sessions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Terrace Bay call upon both the ROMA & OGRA boards to re-establish a combined OGRA & ROMA annual conference.

FURTHERMORE that this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister Paul Calandra, MPP Vaugeois and be circulated to Municipalities of Ontario; as required.

☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☐ Recorded Vote

**Recorded Vote:**

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		
Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		



**Mayor**



TOWNSHIP OF  
**Adelaide  
Metcalf**

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

The Honourable Lisa Thompson  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
11th Floor  
77 Grenville St.  
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

**RE: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe – Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit**

Dear Minister Thompson,

On March 18, 2024, the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Council approved the following resolution:

*WHEREAS farm drainage is of paramount importance in Ontario due to its significant impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability. Effective drainage systems help mitigate waterlogging, control soil moisture levels, and enhance soil structure, thereby optimizing growing conditions for crops;*

*WHEREAS improved drainage also facilitates timely field operations, reduces erosion, and minimizes nutrient runoff, contributing to environmental conservation efforts;*

*WHEREAS Ontario's diverse agricultural landscape, where weather variability is common, well-maintained drainage systems play a crucial role in ensuring stable yields, economic viability, and long-term resilience for farmers across the Province;*

*WHEREAS the Tile Loan Drainage Act, R.S.O 1990, c. T.8 allows for the borrowing of money for the purpose of constructing drainage works;*

*WHEREAS the maximum annual limit for these loans, unchanged since 2004, is currently set at \$50,000.*

*WHEREAS costs for Tile Drainage has increased markedly since 2004;*

*NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requests that the Province through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Loan limit to a minimum of \$100,000.*

*AND THAT this resolution be circulated the Honourable Lisa Thompson – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities.*

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Barnier  
Clerk & Manager of Legislative Services  
Township of Adelaide Metcalfe  
[mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca](mailto:mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca)

Cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)  
All Ontario Municipalities

March 25, 2024

Via Email:

Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Re: Memorandum from H. Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator, dated February 2, 2024 re: Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Request that Council Support the Ontario Energy Board's Decision to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy

Please be advised that at its meeting held on March 18, 2024, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 50-24:

Whereas residents are struggling with energy bill increases and need relief; and,

Whereas natural gas is no longer the cheapest way to heat homes because electric heat pumps are now much more efficient, can provide all heating needs even in cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills compared to gas heating; and,

Whereas natural gas is methane gas, which is a fossil fuel that causes approximately one-third of Ontario's GHG emissions, and must be phased out because it is inconsistent with all climate targets, while heat pumps result in the lowest GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future; and,

Whereas the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decided to end a subsidy for methane gas pipelines to be built in new construction developments, effective 2025, finding that this would lower energy bills for existing gas customers and improve affordability for new homebuyers, but this decision is at risk of being overturned by the provincial government; and,

Whereas the OEB decision will help lower energy bills and encourage heating systems that are consistent with climate targets and plans; and,

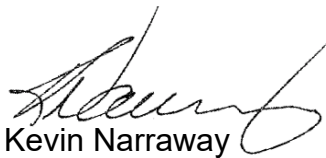
Whereas the construction of new methane gas pipelines, which have 60-year lifetimes, should not be subsidized because they are inconsistent with the Town's climate targets and will result in higher carbon emissions, higher energy bills, higher future decarbonization retrofit costs to phase out fossil fuel heating, and a

continued financial drain as dollars leave the province to pay for fossil fuels extracted in other jurisdictions.

Now therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Town of Whitby expresses its support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end the gas pipeline subsidy and ask the Ontario Government to allow the decision to stand; and,
2. That this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith; the Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Associate Minister of Housing, Rob Flack; President of AMO, Colin Best, the Region of Durham, and all local Ontario municipalities requesting support of the proposed changes.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives at 905-430-4338.



Kevin Narraway  
Sr. Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: C. Harris, Director, Legislative Services/Town Clerk – [clerk@whitby.ca](mailto:clerk@whitby.ca)  
S. Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives – [kleins@whitby.ca](mailto:kleins@whitby.ca)

Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Energy  
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance  
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Honourable Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing  
Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
A. Harras, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Durham  
All Ontario Municipalities

March 26, 2024

**Sent by E-mail**  
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health  
5th Floor - 777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**Re: Public Health Ontario Labs**

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Dear Minister Jones,

At its regular meeting held March 12, 2024, the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood passed a resolution expressing concern about the possible closure of regional Public Health Ontario (PHO) laboratories, as stated in the [Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's Value-for Money Audit: Public Health Ontario](#).

WHEREAS the mission of Public Health Ontario (PHO) is to "enable informed decisions and get actions that protect and promote health and contribute to reducing health inequities", there are grave concerns that the closure of six community-based PHO labs will increase health inequities, especially for rural communities; and

WHEREAS combined these labs collect and process thousands of water samples and time sensitive medical tests each day; and

WHEREAS there are grave concerns about the integrity of samples being compromised if travel time is increased by centralizing all tests to a few locations; and

WHEREAS these labs already process overflow tests and samples when labs such as Toronto and Ottawa cannot keep up to demand and many scaled up to meet demand during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS frequent drinking water testing services is vital for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (i.e. wells) and protecting groundwater quality and quantity is a shared responsibility.

As stewards of care for the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022*, Council urges the provincial government to take caution against acting on the recommendations stated in the aforementioned audit report.

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-2-

Sincerely,



Melanie Hudson, Clerk  
Township of Asphodel-Norwood

Encl./ Letter of Concern from former senior managers of Public Health Ontario (PHO)

Cc: MPP David Piccini | david.piccinico@pc.ola.org  
MP Philip Larence | philip.lawrence@parl.gc.ca  
Ontario Municipalities

## Letter of Concern regarding Regional Public Health Ontario Laboratories

December 18, 2023

We, the undersigned, are a group of retired senior managers who were long term employees of Public Health Ontario (PHO), with extensive knowledge of regional laboratory operations and the public health system. We are writing to express our concerns with PHO's laboratory modernization plan, discussed recently in the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario* (report dated December 2023).

Our major concern rests with the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional, fully accredited laboratories based in Peterborough, Orillia, Hamilton, Kingston, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins, which serve communities in 15 public health unit jurisdictions. This change will impact about 85 laboratory personnel and a number of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPAC) staff who are also housed in some of those sites. In addition to these closures, there is a concerning recommendation to gradually eliminate drinking water testing services for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (e.g. wells). We believe the associated risks to public health were not properly analyzed during the investigative process and such measures, if approved by the Ontario government, could be detrimental.

The regional laboratory sites serve all of PHO's clients located outside the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). They act as a first contact when specific testing is required by public health units, hospital and community labs, long term care homes, clinicians and private citizens within their regions; and they provide access to over 270 diagnostic tests related to diseases of public health significance listed in O. Reg 135/18 under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. The high number of specimens processed during the COVID pandemic at these locations is a testament to the ability of these labs to respond quickly to emerging pathogens, to manage outbreaks and to assist with surveillance.

The Auditor General's report has a financial focus, and in this respect, inefficiencies are outlined which we acknowledge need to be addressed. However, PHO's regional laboratory sites indicated for closure offer analyses requiring specialized training, such as the identification of parasites, ticks (important due to the increasing risk of Lyme disease), and pathogenic fungi. Having multiple sites competent in these specialty tests adds backup support into the system and enables the management of surge capacity, especially in outbreak situations. Two of these regional sites are also associated with postsecondary institutions, providing academic placements and research opportunities.

In addition to the diagnostic testing of medical samples, regional laboratory locations conduct the majority of testing for indicators of bacterial contamination in private drinking water systems, as well as public drinking water and beach water submitted by Ontario Parks and public health unit staff, supporting their Safe Water programs under Ontario public health standards. With water samples being time and temperature sensitive, any increase in the transportation time can have a negative impact on sample integrity. The current geographical configuration of PHO's laboratory network allows clients direct access to information and testing, and samples are transported from drop off depots in the communities quickly and efficiently. Loss of these regional labs could result in increased courier costs, increased turn-around times, and possible rejection of samples, due to integrity issues. In short, their closing will have a direct and dramatic impact on PHO's ability to achieve its mandate: the protection and promotion of public health.

PHO's laboratory sites test between 150,000 to 175,000 private drinking water samples each year at no cost to the submitter. With the recommendation to phase out PHO's drinking water service, private citizens who do not have access to municipally treated drinking water will have to submit their samples to a licensed private laboratory, which currently can cost more than \$150 per sample. Considering the current economic state in Ontario, some residents may consider the cost prohibitive and decide not to monitor their water source, thereby reducing sampling rates. As a result, people will be unaware of the quality of their drinking water, which can put them at a higher risk of contamination. Private drinking water sources, in particular, are susceptible to contamination at significantly higher rates than municipal systems. With the removal of this testing service at PHO, there will also no longer be a centralized database containing bacteriological test results that are available for PHO's researchers or public health unit staff, who use it to determine contamination rates in their regions.

The *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry* (2002) discusses the tragic impact of provincial budget cuts on water testing services in the 1990s in Walkerton, Ontario. In 1996, the Ministry of Environment regional laboratories were closed as a cost saving measure, and the testing that they performed on municipal drinking water systems was privatized. Justice Dennis O'Connor, who authored the Walkerton report, highlighted how this action "connected directly" to the Walkerton *E.coli* O157:H7 and *Campylobacter jejuni* outbreak in May 2000 (part 1, p. 406), which resulted in seven deaths and 2,300 illnesses. Recognizing the importance of the private drinking water testing service offered by Ontario's public health laboratory sites, Justice O'Connor suggested that the province maintain free, bacteriological water testing for private well owners.

Overall, we are concerned that, if the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional PHO locations and to phase out private water testing is approved, there will be serious negative impacts on public health. Rather than reduce health inequities across the province of Ontario, we feel the proposed changes will do the opposite. We caution the provincial government against acting on these recommendations without fully understanding the ramifications and the complex logistics required in specimen handling to deliver timely results. While the Auditor General's report has a financial focus, which is important, we caution that an up-to-date, independent impact assessment be carried out using a *public health* focus. Stakeholders, including members of the public, should be consulted, as well. As we have seen in the past, an effective public health network is needed, not only to ensure essential day-to-day testing, but also to respond to emerging public health emergencies, such as Walkerton, SARS, West Nile and COVID.

### **Key Resources**

O'Connor, Dennis R. (2002). *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*. 2 parts. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. [https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/e\\_records/walkerton/index.html](https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/e_records/walkerton/index.html)

Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. (2023). *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario*. [https://auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR\\_publichealth\\_en23.pdf](https://auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR_publichealth_en23.pdf)

### **Signatories**

Rena Retallick

Former Operations Director, Regional Public Health Laboratories

CONTACT: rena.retallick@gmail.com

Jean Cousineau

Former Technical Manager, Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratory

Elizabeth Pszczolko  
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Regional Public Health Laboratory

John Jessop  
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratories

Leslee Shuttleworth  
Former Manager, Ottawa Public Health Laboratory

Robin Eddington  
Former Manager, Orillia Public Health Laboratory

Cindy Froats  
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Pamela O'Brien  
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory

Suzan Breton  
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie Public Health Laboratory

Monica Murphy  
Former Quality and Technical Manager, Public Health Laboratories  
Former Manager, Windsor Public Health Laboratory

Debbie Sikora  
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Doreen Graham  
Former Senior Manager, Central North Region

Dr. Fred Ball  
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Public Health Laboratory

Twyla Harcourt  
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory

# *The Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley*

49 Bonnechere Street East  
P.O. Box 100  
Eganville, Ontario K0J 1T0



Phone (613) 628-3101  
Fax (613) 628-1336  
e-mail [annetteg@eganville.com](mailto:annetteg@eganville.com)

March 26, 2024

Re: Support of Resolution to Cancel Carbon Tax

At its regular council meeting of March 20, 2024, the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley reviewed correspondence on

This letter is to advise that Council voted in support of this correspondence with the following resolution:

The Corporation of the  
Township of Bonnechere Valley 24.041  
Box 100, 49 Bonnechere Street East  
Eganville, Ontario K0J 1T0

## RESOLUTION

Dated this 19th day of March 2024

MOVED BY: Brent Patrick  
SECONDED BY: Tracey Sanderson

**WHEREAS** the federal government recently increased the carbon tax in April 2023 and will almost triple it by 2030; and  
**WHEREAS** the Parliamentary Budget officer has admitted that when fiscal and economic impacts of the federal fuel charge are considered that the vast majority of households will see a staggering loss; and  
**WHEREAS** this tax flows through from producers to transporters to the grocery store floor for our citizens; and  
**WHEREAS** this tax does very little to reduce pollution and emissions; and  
**WHEREAS** two thirds of Canadians are approximately \$200 away or less from not being able to pay all their bills at the end of the month; and  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley write a Letter to the Federal government strongly urging them to cancel the carbon tax which is financially hurting our citizens at a time when affordability concerns are at an all-time high to ease the financial and inflationary pressure on our Citizens.  
**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of the letter be sent to MP Cheryl Gallant, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and all Municipalities in Renfrew County and the City of Pembroke.

CARRIED

Janifer Mapley  
MAYOR

I trust you will find this satisfactory, but if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Annette Gilchrist, CMO., AOMC  
CAO/Clerk/Treasurer  
Township of Bonnechere Valley

# The Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley

24.041

Box 100, 49 Bonnechere Street East  
Eganville, Ontario K0J 1T0

## RESOLUTION

Dated this 19th day of March 2024

MOVED BY: Brent Patrick

SECONDED BY: Tracey Sanderson

**WHEREAS** the federal government recently increased the carbon tax in April 2023 and will almost triple it by 2030; and

**WHEREAS** the Parliamentary Budget officer has admitted that when fiscal and economic impacts of the federal fuel charge are considered that the vast majority of households will see a staggering loss; and

**WHEREAS** this tax flows through from producers to transporters to the grocery store floor for our citizens; and

**WHEREAS** this tax does very little to reduce pollution and emissions; and

**WHEREAS** two thirds of Canadians are approximately \$200 away or less from not being able to pay all their bills at the end of the month; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley write a Letter to the Federal government strongly urging them to cancel the carbon tax which is financially hurting our citizens at a time when affordability concerns are at an all-time high to ease the financial and inflationary pressure on our Citizens.

**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of the letter be sent to MP Cheryl Gallant, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and all Municipalities in Renfrew County and the City of Pembroke.

CARRIED

Janifer Murphy  
MAYOR



**Clerk's Department**  
Township of Clearview  
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street  
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0  
[clerks@clearview.ca](mailto:clerks@clearview.ca) | [www.clearview.ca](http://www.clearview.ca)  
Phone: 705-428-6230

March 27, 2024

Honourable Arif Virani  
Minister of Justice & Attorney General  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Sent by Email

**RE: Township of Clearview Endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons**

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Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview at its meeting held on March 25, 2024, passed the following resolution in support of the endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons:

Moved by Councillor Dineen, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, Whereas The Canadian Federal Government has drafted Bill C-63, The Online Harms Act, currently in front of Parliament and has had its first reading; and,

Whereas Bill C-63 requires that online tech companies and social media platforms remove child pornography and other dangerous content within 24 hours once the operator identifies the content, while also mandating the following duties:

- Duty to protect children;
- Duty to act responsibly;
- Duty to remove egregious content; and,

Whereas The Canadian Federal Government proposes to establish a "Digital Safety Commission" and nominate an "independent" Ombudsperson to proactively circumvent potential harms on behalf of Canadians; and,

Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to adhere to existing Criminal Laws; and,

Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to be held accountable to keep platforms safe from predators targeting children and other vulnerable Canadians and to protect them from bullying, hate, extremism, violence, discrimination, self harm, exploitation and sexual extortion that can lead to the most dire of consequences; and,

Whereas Clearview Township, as all Canadians, endeavours to foster safe homes, communities, schools and public spaces;

Be It Resolved That the Mayor and Council of Clearview Township endorse the passing of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons and the establishment of a "digital safety commission" and nomination of an "independent" Ombudsperson; and,

That a copy of this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Terry Dowdall, MP; The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada. Motion Carried.

Sincerely,



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Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC

Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
Simcoe Grey MP Terry Dowdall  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Ontario Municipalities