



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: May 27th, 2024**

Correspondence Package No. I-24-MAY-10

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-24-MAY-10 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Office of the Solicitor General – Ontario Provincial Police Detachment Leads
- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Municipal development and community benefits charges, and parklands
- c) Applications Now Open for Ontario Learn and Stay Grant
- d) Ontario Connecting Children and Youth to Mental Health Care Close to Home
- e) Ontario Connecting Seniors to Specialized Care and Support
- f) Ontario Continuing to Attract New Investments and Jobs
- g) Ontario Combating Gender-based Violence in Youth
- h) Ontario Strengthening Cyber Security and Protecting People Online
- i) Ontario Introducing Stiff Penalties to Combat Auto Theft
- j) Ontario Taking Impaired Drivers Off the Road
- k) Ontario Building Safer Roads and Communities
- l) Ontario Investing in More Accessible Communities

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) Renfrew County adopting new Paramedic dispatch system May 9
- b) Silver Chain Challenge returns this June

3. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

- a) [Government of Canada and FCM's Green Municipal Fund Collaborate on 2 Billion Trees Program](#)

4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) [Watch File – May 9th, 2024](#)
- b) [Watch File – May 16th, 2024](#)

5. Correspondence from the Pembroke Regional Hospital

- a) [Spring 2024 Community Connections Newsletter](#)

6. Correspondence from Enbridge Gas Inc.

- a) [Update on ongoing activity regarding Enbridge Gas' rate rebasing application and the Keeping Energy Costs Down Act](#)

7. Correspondence from Home Suite Homes

- a) [Accessory Dwelling Unit \(ADU\) Sales Presentation](#)

8. Resolutions from Other Municipalities

- a) [Municipality of Huron Shores – Urging the Government to Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle](#)
- b) [Prince Edward County – National Housing Affordability Crisis](#)
- c) [Township of Lake of Bays – Request for Royal Assent of Administrative monetary Penalty System in the Ontario Building Code Act](#)

9. Town of Arnprior Correspondence

- a) [Public Notice – Application for Minor Variance No. A2/24 \(50 Chats Crescent\)](#)

Solicitor General

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132-2024-1621

By email

May 15, 2024

Dear Heads of Council and First Nation Chiefs:

I am pleased to share that the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA) came into force on April 1, 2024, and would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to you and your communities. You have been instrumental in shaping the compositions for the newly established Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachment board framework.

The detachment board framework, as laid out in the CSPA and the new OPP Detachment Board Regulation, introduces a modernized approach to OPP policing by providing avenues for greater civilian governance. It ensures that each municipality and First Nation community receiving policing services from the OPP has an opportunity to represent their local perspectives, needs, and priorities.

The regulation with details of the board compositions and other board matters is available here: [O. Reg. 135/24: OPP DETACHMENT BOARDS \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/regulation/135/24).

With the OPP detachment board framework now in effect, I would like to remind you of some key operational requirements.

Detachment Board Catchments

The maps that are referred in the regulation are attached for your reference. These maps have been developed to show the catchments for situations in which there are multiple boards for the same detachment. Should you have any questions related to the maps or OPP detachment board regulation, please contact Rachel Ryerson, Manager of the Public Safety Policing Policy Unit, at Rachel.Ryerson@ontario.ca.

Training and Appointments

With the new framework there are three types of appointments to the new OPP detachment boards as set out in the regulation: members who are members of a council of a municipality or band council of the First Nation; members representing the community who are neither a member of the council or band council of, nor an employee of the municipality or the First Nation; and provincial appointees. The appointment of council and community representatives are to be conducted locally, with the communities and First Nations assuming responsibility for the process for making appointments identified in the regulation.

.../2

Agency Profiles have been created on Ontario's Public Appointment Management System (PAMS), that will be used to facilitate the appointment of provincial appointees to OPP Detachment Boards ([OPP Detachment Board – Public Appointments Secretariat \(gov.on.ca\)](#)).

All board members are required to have completed mandatory roles and responsibilities training before exercising their responsibilities as detachment board members. Information regarding the roles and responsibilities training and provincial appointments have been shared with detachment leads who are the key contacts identified collectively by the communities after 2021 for each detachment who have acted as the liaison for the Ministry of the Solicitor General, municipalities and First Nations throughout this process. Should you have any additional questions regarding the training and the provincial appointments, please contact the lead for your detachment. If you need help identifying the lead for your detachment, please contact Rachel Ryerson, Manager of the Public Safety Policing Policy Unit, at Rachel.Ryerson@ontario.ca.

Police Service Advisor Support

As you may know, the Inspector General's duties under the CSPA include collaborating with detachment boards to tackle local issues and offer guidance on CSPA compliance. For any further inquiries or for more information, please reach out to the designated Police Services Advisor within the Inspectorate of Policing. If you need help identifying the Police Services Advisor for your specific region, please contact Jeeti Sahota, A/Manager, Police Services Liaison Unit, Inspectorate of Policing, at Jeeti.Sahota@ontario.ca.

I would like to thank you once again for your continued collaboration and significant support in this ongoing process.

Sincerely,



Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General

- c. Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M., Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety
- Commissioner Thomas Carrique, C.O.M., Ontario Provincial Police
- Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Lisa Darling, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Police Service Boards
- Ontario Provincial Police Detachment Leads

From: Jones, Alex (MMAH)
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 3:53 PM
Subject: Affordable Housing Bulletin

Good afternoon,

I would like to share an update related to municipal development-related charge (MDRC) exemptions and discounts for affordable residential units.

On April 10, 2024, the government introduced Ontario's Spring 2024 Red Tape Reduction Package, including the proposed Bill 185, the *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024*, as part of the province's ongoing commitment to build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031. As part of this package, the province announced it will bring into force on **June 1, 2024**, through a proclamation, the relevant provisions from the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* to provide exemptions and discounts from MDRCs for affordable residential units. This will incentivize builders to create housing at a lower cost across the province.

To support implementation, a Minister's bulletin entitled, "Affordable Residential Units for the Purposes of the Development Charges Act, 1997 Bulletin" has been posted on the following webpage (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/municipal-development-and-community-benefits-charges-and-parklands#section-4>), ahead of the June 1, 2024 effective date. This bulletin sets out the market-based and income-based thresholds for affordable ownership and rental residential units by local municipality.

If you have technical questions, please feel free to contact the Municipal Finance Policy Branch at MFPB@ontario.ca.

Best regards,

Alexander Jones
Municipal Advisor | Conseiller municipal
Eastern Municipal Services Office | Bureau des services aux municipalités de l'est de l'Ontario
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing | Ministère des affaires municipales et du logement

Ontario 

Taking pride in strengthening Ontario, its places and its people
Fiers de renforcer l'Ontario, ses lieux et sa population

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Municipal development and community benefits charges, and parklands

Information on how municipalities can predict and recover costs of development and help increase housing supply in Ontario.

Overview

Municipalities can help pay for the important local infrastructure, services, and parkland that growing communities need through municipal development-related charges (MRDCs), which include:

1. development charges
 2. community benefits charges
 3. parkland dedication
-

Development charges

Municipalities can apply development charges on a new development to help pay for the capital costs of infrastructure to support new growth.

Development charges are discretionary fees. This means that municipalities can choose whether to use development charges and, if they are used, which services or infrastructure they want to include from the list of eligible services in the *Development Charges Act, 1997*

(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/97d27#BK4>). These services are:

- water supply services, including distribution and treatment services
- wastewater services, including sewers and treatment services
- storm water drainage and control services
- services related to a highway as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01m25#BK1>) or subsection 3 (1) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/06c11#BK4>), as the case may be
- electrical power services
- Toronto-York subway extension, as defined in subsection 5.1 (1) in O. Reg 192/07 Toronto-York subway extension (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/070192#s5s1>)
- transit services other than the Toronto-York subway extension
- waste diversion services
- policing services
- fire protection services
- ambulance services
- services provided by a board under the *Public Libraries Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p44>)
- services related to long-term care
- parks and recreation services, but not the acquisition of land for parks
- services related to public health

- child care and early years programs and services under part VI of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>) and any related services
- services related to proceedings under the *Provincial Offences Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p33>), including by-law enforcement services and municipally administered court services
- services related to emergency preparedness
- services related to airports, but only in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo

How municipalities can implement a development charge

Municipalities must pass a by-law to set development charges for different types of development. Before passing a development charge by-law, a municipality must prepare a development charge background study as set out in legislation

(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/97d27#BK16>).

Municipalities must calculate development charges separately for each eligible service, or class of services, detailed in their development charge by-law.

To give more predictability and certainty about development charges:

- rates are frozen either at the time of site plan or zoning application and will remain frozen for a period of two years after the relevant application is approved.
- multi-year deferrals of payments apply for certain types of development, such as:
 - rental housing
 - institutional developments such as long-term care

To encourage the supply of affordable and rental housing:

- non-profit housing developments are exempt from development charges, community benefits charges and parkland dedication
- affordable and select attainable residential units are exempt from development charges, and developments that include this type of housing are subject to reduced community benefits charges and parkland dedication (effective June 1, 2024)
- purpose-built rental units receive discounts on development charges of up to 25% for family-friendly units

Development charge by-laws may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/citizens-guide-land-use-planning/ontario-land-tribunal>). The application of development charge by-laws to specific sites may also be appealed to the Tribunal following a complaint to municipal council.

Community benefits charges

This is a flexible tool under the *Planning Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>) that helps municipalities tackle the costs of higher density in communities with new developments. This tool replaced the former section 37 height and density bonusing in the *Act*, subject to transition rules.

Municipalities can use community benefits charges to fund the capital costs of any public service associated with new growth, including parkland, if those costs are not already recovered from development charges and parkland provisions.

How municipalities can implement a community benefits charge

To set a community benefits charge, municipalities must:

- develop a community benefits charge strategy
- pass a by-law

Requirements for a community benefits charge strategy are included in regulation (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200509>).

Community benefits charges on a development cannot exceed 4% of the value of the land. Single-tier and lower-tier municipalities (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-ontario-municipalities#section-1>) can levy these charges for developments with 10 or more residential units and five or more storeys.

Community benefits charge by-laws may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/citizens-guide-land-use-planning/ontario-land-tribunal>). Disputes about whether a charge exceeds the maximum allowable amount can be resolved through the land value appraisal process set out in legislation.

Parkland dedication

The *Planning Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>) lets municipalities fund the growth-related costs of land for parks and other recreational purposes.

This ensures that residents in growing communities will continue to have access to parks and greenspace.

How municipalities can implement parkland provisions

Municipalities can get land for parks using the basic parkland dedication provisions (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13#BK66>) (up to 2% of the land proposed for development or redevelopment or the cash equivalent for commercial or industrial development or 5% for any other type of development or redevelopment).

In certain circumstances municipalities can also use the alternative rates (up to 1 hectare of parkland for every 600 dwelling units or if cash-in-lieu, a ratio of 1 hectare of parkland for every 1,000 dwelling units).

For sites that are five hectares or less, the maximum alternative parkland dedication requirement is capped at 10% of the site.

For sites greater than five hectares, the maximum alternative parkland dedication requirement is capped at 15% of the site.

Parkland by-laws that use alternative rates may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/citizens-guide-land-use-planning/ontario-land-tribunal>).

Parkland by-laws that only use basic parkland rates cannot be appealed.

When a parkland requirement is imposed as a condition of approval of a plan of subdivision or consent, it may be appealed like any other condition.

When municipalities require cash-in-lieu, the value of land may also be appealed to the Tribunal.

Exemptions and discounts from municipal development-related charges

Through the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, we introduced exemptions and discounts from municipal development-related charges (MDRCs) for affordable residential units. These exemptions and discounts come into effect on June 1, 2024.

Affordable Residential Units for the Purposes of the *Development Charges Act, 1997* Bulletin

This bulletin is effective June 1, 2024, and applies until replaced by a new bulletin (anticipated June 1, 2025).

This bulletin sets out the market-based (that is, average purchase prices and market rents) and income-based thresholds that are to be used to determine the eligibility of a residential unit for an exemption from development charges and exclusions from the maximum community benefits charge and parkland dedication requirements.

Applicable units must be subject to agreements that provide for them to remain affordable residential units for 25 years. Units must also be sold or rented on an arm's length basis.

For ownership housing, a unit would be considered affordable when the purchase price is at or below the lesser of:

- Income-based purchase price: A purchase price that would result in annual accommodation costs equal to 30% of a household's gross annual income for a household at the 60th percentile of the income distribution for all households in the local municipality; and
- Market-based purchase price: 90% of the average purchase price of a unit of the same unit type in the local municipality.

For rental housing, a unit would be considered affordable when the rent is at or below the lesser of:

- Income-based rent: Rent that is equal to 30% of gross annual household income for a household at the 60th percentile of the income distribution for renter households in the local municipality; and
- Market-based rent: Average market rent of a unit of the same unit type in the local municipality.

In cases of disagreement, a person (or person's agent) required to pay a development charge may complain to the council of the municipality imposing the development charge that there was an error in the application of the development charge by-law.

Data last updated: April 5, 2024

Displaying 1 results for "arnprior"

Affordable Residential Units for the Purposes of the Development Charges Act, 1997 Bulletin

Municipality	Affordable purchase price of a detached house	Affordable purchase price of a semi-detached house	Affordable purchase price of a row/townhouse	Affordable purchase price of a condominium apartment	Affordable monthly rent of a bachelor unit	Affordable monthly rent of a 1-bedroom unit
Arnprior T	\$319,800	\$319,800	\$319,800	\$225,000	\$812	\$935

Note: Where data is unavailable at the local municipality level, values are substituted based on the following: 1) price threshold for the upper-tier municipality or census division; 2) price threshold for the region. The substitution method used is noted in the table, where applicable (columns can be shown/hidden). Income-based thresholds are based on 2021 Census data, inflation-adjusted to 2023 values (Adapted from Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product). Income-based purchase price assumes 5% down payment, 25-year amortization, 5-year fixed mortgage rate, 0.125% house value/month property taxes and 4.0% mortgage insurance premium. Market-based purchase price is a ministry estimate based on available data from 2022 (adjusted) and 2023. Market-based rent is based on the 2023 Rental Market Survey (Adapted from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Rental Market Survey, 2023. This does not constitute an endorsement by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation of this product.).

Related

Citizen's guide to land use planning (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/citizens-guide-land-use-planning>)

Updated: May 01, 2024

Published: November 03, 2022

Applications Now Open for Ontario Learn and Stay Grant

Students enrolled in eligible health human resource programs could receive free tuition, books and other supplies

May 08, 2024

[Colleges and Universities](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government has opened grant applications for the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant for the 2024-25 academic year. Postsecondary students who want to pursue a career in nursing, paramedicine or medical lab technology can now apply for the grant. Nearly 3,800 learners have already received funding through the grant to help pay for their postsecondary education.

The grant is designed to encourage students to learn and stay locally, helping to bring in-demand health care workers to underserved communities across the province.

“As the first year of the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant wraps up with great success, we’re excited to open applications for the 2024-25 academic year,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. “By making it easier for future health care workers to access world-class training through this grant, we’re helping to build a stronger, more resilient health care workforce in the communities that need it most.”

The grant provides full, upfront funding for tuition, books and other costs for students who enrol in the first or second year of an eligible nursing, paramedic or medical laboratory technologist program and agree to stay in underserved communities to work after graduation.

“Our government is taking bold action to continue to grow Ontario’s health care workforce for today and years to come,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “The Learn and Stay Grant is adding more health care workers in communities across the province to ensure no matter where you live, you can connect to the care you need, where and when you need it.”

Grant applications are now open for postsecondary students who enrol in their first or second year in the following programs and regions:

- Nursing programs in northern, eastern and southwestern Ontario
- Medical laboratory technologist/medical laboratory sciences programs in northern and southwestern Ontario
- Paramedic programs in northern Ontario.

Students can find the application, as well as information about eligible programs and regions, at ontario.ca/learnandstay.

Quick Facts

- Since the launch of the grant in 2022, there has been a nearly 40 per cent uptake in paramedic programs compared to the previous year's enrolment in those programs.
 - Students can apply for the grant up to 60 days before the end of their study period, meaning they can apply well after they've started their eligible 2024-25 program.
 - To be eligible for the grant, students must:
 - be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or protected person and live in Ontario
 - enrol in the first or second year of an eligible diploma, advanced diploma, undergraduate, masters or post-graduate program in a priority region
 - commit to work in the region where they studied for a minimum of six months for every year of study funded by the grant.
 - Students can also apply for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to help pay for other costs, such as living expenses.
-

Quotes

"Ontario's Learn and Stay Grant embodies Ontario public colleges' commitment to fostering local talent, supporting the needs of communities and providing opportunities for jobs close to home. Our colleges stand behind this initiative, empowering students to thrive in their communities, learn at local public colleges and support Ontario's health care workforce."

- Marketa Evans
President and CEO of Colleges Ontario

"The Ontario Learn and Stay Grant will ensure support for students in health programs, including nursing and nurse practitioners, and help address labour market shortages in health care. Universities will continue to educate the critical health care talent needed to deliver highest quality care to the people of Ontario for a strong, healthy province."

- Steve Orsini

President and CEO, Council of Ontario Universities

"Ontario has set an exemplary precedent in Canada for investing in medical laboratory professionals. The Learn and Stay Grant has played a critical role to drive recruitment in the lab sector and we commend Ontario for continuing this program."

- Michelle Hoad

CEO, Medical Laboratory Professionals Association of Ontario

Additional Resources

- [About the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant](#)
- [About the Ontario Student Assistance Program](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. [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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Ontario Connecting Children and Youth to Mental Health Care Close to Home

\$12.5 million boost in funding to expand pediatric mental health services for Black and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth

May 09, 2024

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing an additional \$12.5 million to connect Black children, youth and their families, as well as 2SLGBTQIA+ youth to mental health services across the province, closer to home.

This funding is part of the government's [investment of an additional \\$330 million](#) each year in pediatric health services at hospitals and community-based health care facilities across the province and will provide community-based child and youth mental health providers with the resources, staff and training to expand and improve access to services for Black and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

“Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is making record investments in the health and well-being of our children and youth, now and for the future,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This investment will connect more children and youth to mental health care closer to home that is supportive and inclusive of their individual needs.”

This investment will help to expand and improve community programs and services delivered by more than 25 organizations across the province, with services including:

- Prenatal, post-natal and pediatric care for Black mothers and children facing mental health challenges.
- Increasing the number of Black therapists and 2SLGBTQIA+ counsellors to reduce stigma and provide a more welcoming environment for care.
- Reducing barriers to accessing care by establishing mobile mental health and addictions clinics for children and youth in Black communities.
- Supporting anti-Black racism education and training for health care providers and clinical skills development for primary care providers and social workers working with 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

- Providing suicide prevention, supports for eating disorders, depression and anxiety, and well-being and self esteem care for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.
- Improving access to counselling, case management and drop-in services for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

“Every child and youth deserves reliable and accessible mental health services that respect and address their race, gender and sexual orientation,” said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “We will continue to support initiatives that address stigma and improve mental health, while lowering barriers to safe and effective mental health care for everyone in Ontario.”

This investment also builds on the government’s work to significantly expand the number of [Youth Wellness Hubs](#) across the province to make it faster and easier for young people to connect to mental health and substance use support, primary care, social services, and more. Ontario is adding 10 new [Youth Wellness Hubs](#) to the network of 22 hubs already opened since 2020, bringing the total to 32 across the province.

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government is investing in pediatric care delivery at hospitals and communities across the province, ensuring children and their families can connect to quality care faster and closer to home, for generations to come.

Quick Facts

- [Learn more about symptoms and signs of mental illness](#) including information about common mental health disorders among children and youth and what parents can do to support them.
- Through the [Roadmap to Wellness](#) and the funding for pediatric health services, Ontario has flowed nearly \$6 million in new annual funding to support the Substance Abuse Program for African and Caribbean-Canadian Youth (SAPACCY) to support 10 service sites across the province.
 - In 2021-22, Ontario invested new annual funding of \$2.9 million to broaden the SAPACCY program at the original location at CAMH and expand the program across the province by establishing satellite sites in: Etobicoke, Hamilton, North York, Peel, Ottawa, Scarborough, and Windsor.
 - In 2023-24, Ontario built on this investment with an additional \$2.9 million in new annual funding to enhance the delivery of evidence-based mental health and substance use supports for Black youth, and expand the program with two additional satellite sites, increasing the number of SAPACCY satellite locations to nine sites province-wide.

- This funding supports community-based services for Black children and youth facing mental health issues and their families, in alignment with [Ontario's Black Health Plan](#).
- Ontario is investing \$3.8 billion over 10 years to fill gaps in mental health and addictions care, create new services and expand programs through [Roadmap to Wellness](#).
- As part of [Budget 2024](#), Building a Better Ontario, the government is building on its work through the Roadmap by investing an additional \$396 million over three years to improve access and expand existing mental health and addictions services and programs.

Quotes

"This critical funding for organizations like Wanasah is essential in addressing the unique mental health challenges faced by Black children and youth due to systemic racism. We hope this funding will bridge the Black mental health care gap in our system, ensuring that Black children and youth dealing with mental health concerns receive the care they desperately need, when they need it."

- Namarig Ahmed

Executive Director, Wanasah: Mental Health Services for Black Youth

"During Children's Mental Health Week, it has never been more important to recognize the needs of the diverse communities across Ontario. Children's Mental Health Ontario welcomes support for community-based child and youth mental health agencies to expand access to services, resources and training that support Black and 2SLGBTQIA+ children, youth and families facing mental health challenges. We look forward to working with the government towards an equitable system that serves the needs of all of Ontario's populations."

- Tatum Wilson

CEO, Children's Mental Health Ontario

"Our government's investment of an additional \$12.5 million is a crucial step in ensuring that Black children, youth, their families, and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth have improved access to vital mental health services. This funding will help to bring essential support closer to their communities, promoting timely and effective care."

- Charmaine Williams

Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity

"Our government is committed to strengthening pediatric health services across Ontario which is why we are investing an additional \$12.5 million to connect Black and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth to the services they need. This investment is helping build a stronger health care system that delivers on timely, easy, and convenient access to services supporting the individual needs of our youth and their families."

- Patrice Barnes

MPP for Ajax

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Making it Easier for Peel Region's Black Community to Connect to Care Close to Home](#)
- [A Black Health Plan for Ontario](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Ontario Making It Easier for Youth in Port Hope to Connect to Mental Health Services](#)
- [Find Mental Health Support](#)
- [Ontario Connecting Children and Youth to Care Close to Home](#)
- [Ontario Connecting Children and Youth to Mental Health Care Close to Home](#)
- [Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System](#)

Related Topics

Health and Wellness

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

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Ontario Connecting Seniors to Specialized Care and Support

Over \$4 million will expand GeriMedRisk program to connect more seniors to dementia care and other supports

May 10, 2024

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$4.1 million over two years to expand [GeriMedRisk](#), a program that makes it easier and faster for seniors living with complex medical needs to access coordinated care, in their community.

“Our government is continuing to take action to ensure people of all ages can access the right care, in the right place,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Our investment to expand GeriMedRisk will help Ontario’s seniors connect to the care they need, in their community, allowing them to stay at home longer with help to better manage their health and avoid unnecessary trips to the emergency room.”

GeriMedRisk connects primary care providers with an interdisciplinary team of geriatric specialists that help create and support care plans for seniors to make it easier for older adult patients to connect to the specialized care they need.

Based out of the Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, the Ontario government expanded GeriMedRisk to be a province-wide service in 2019 to help seniors in every corner of the province benefit from the service. With today’s additional funding, up to 21 additional geriatric specialists and pharmacists will be hired to provide more than 1,000 additional consults annually, helping primary care providers improve their patients’ health and quality of life with:

- Fast, convenient and coordinated access to geriatric specialists during one appointment
- Timely education on how to manage their medication
- Fewer transfers to emergency departments and hospitals for seniors with complex medical needs, such as dementia
- Tools and supports to better manage complex conditions, such as dementia.

“GeriMedRisk is a made-in-Kitchener, innovative program that connects seniors in Waterloo Region and across the province to the care they need,” said Mike Harris, MPP for Kitchener-Conestoga. “Our government is continuing to invest in expanding this important program, so more seniors will benefit from the support of a better, more connected and convenient health care system for years to come.”

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), Ontario is connecting seniors to faster and more convenient care by expanding access to services in their home or community.

Quick Facts

- Based out of Kitchener’s Grand River Hospital, who also serves as a program partner, GeriMedRisk serves patients and primary care providers across the province using a secure e-consult telemedicine platform that ensures protection and safety of patient information.
 - GeriMedRisk reports a hospital diversion rate of 88 per cent.
 - As part of the [2022 Budget](#), Ontario is investing \$120 million over three years for dementia services, to support an additional 6,500 people across the province.
 - As part of the [2024 Budget](#), the provincial government is investing an additional \$2 billion over three years to further boost, modernize and expand home and community care services. This builds on the \$1 billion investment as part of the 2023 budget.
-

Quotes

"Thank you to the Ministry of Health for the opportunity to expand GeriMedRisk. Our vision is to optimize medications for healthier ageing, and to make that equitably accessible to all older Ontarians. In addition to providing care, we also build capacity within the health care system to care for complex older adults on multiple medications. We are grateful to our team who worked tirelessly during the pandemic and beyond, and to all our partners who made this work possible."

- Dr. Sophiya Benjamin and Dr. Joanne Ho
Co-Executive Directors, GeriMedRisk

"At Grand River Hospital, we're pleased to partner with the Ministry of Health to support GeriMedRisk, a best practice program to ensure seniors get the care they need in the community. Expanding access to this provincial program ensures that aging patients receive specialized consultation and care plans that are tailored to their unique health needs. Grand River Hospital celebrates this investment in GeriMedRisk and remains encouraged by the outcomes this high-quality service provides for senior Ontarians."

- Elizabeth Ferguson

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Grand River Hospital

"It has been thrilling to see GeriMedRisk grow from a feasibility trial into an in-demand essential service across Ontario, exemplifying RIA's incubation, acceleration, and mobilization model. These research initiatives ensure older adults receive the best medication management care and the development of innovative programs of care necessary to live a healthy and enriching quality of life."

- Dr. Tina Mah

Executive Director, Research Institute for Aging

"Investments that increase access to dedicated care are critical for seniors, especially as our community grows. GeriMedRisk speaks to Waterloo Region's innovation and collaboration, ensuring those across Ontario can stay connected to their community and are supported every step of their healthcare journey."

- Karen Redman

Chair, Region of Waterloo

"Today's announcement is a proud moment for our community in Waterloo Region. GeriMedRisk, born right here at Grand River Hospital, has proven to be a lifeline for seniors, not only in our region but across Ontario. Our commitment to expanding this vital program reflects our dedication to supporting our seniors in accessing the care they deserve. Seniors are the foundation of our communities, and investing in programs like GeriMedRisk ensures they can age gracefully in their homes with the support they need."

- Jess Dixon
MPP for Kitchener South—Hespeler

"Our government's investment in GeriMedRisk is good news for seniors in our region and across the province who require specialized care and support. Seniors with dementia and other complex medical conditions benefit in many ways when care is co-ordinated and provided close to home."

- Brian Riddell
MPP for Cambridge

Additional Resources

- [GeriMedRisk](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#)
- [Home and community care](#)

Related Topics

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STATEMENT

Ontario Continuing to Attract New Investments and Jobs

Province adds 25,000 new jobs in April

May 10, 2024

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

TORONTO — Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued the following statement on today's employment release by Statistics Canada, which showed Ontario is leading the nation in job creation, adding 25,000 jobs in April, including 5,800 jobs in the manufacturing sector.

"For the fourth straight month, employment in Ontario has increased reflecting our government's targeted and responsible approach to fostering good-paying jobs and economic growth across the province.

Despite ongoing economic headwinds, Ontario is creating the conditions to attract record investments from both domestic and international companies.

Last month, we welcomed a \$15 billion investment from [Honda Motor Ltd.](#), and its joint venture partners, to build four new manufacturing plants in Ontario. This investment, the largest auto investment in Canadian history, will strengthen our electric vehicle supply chain and create thousands of good-paying jobs across the province.

Honda's investment in Ontario's auto sector represents yet another vote of confidence in our province's competitive business environment, world-class workforce, reliable clean energy and dependable supply chains. Because of these advantages, our province has attracted over \$43 billion in auto and EV-related investments over the past four years, helping to spur growth throughout our manufacturing industries.

Our government will continue working hard to rebuild our economy by attracting and supporting important investments in the province – investments that will create jobs and prosperity for generations to come."

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Business and Economy

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Ontario Combating Gender-based Violence in Youth

Giving students skills to foster healthy relationships

May 10, 2024

[Education](#)

HAMILTON — The Ontario government is investing nearly \$875,000 to train high school coaches on prioritizing important conversations with young male athletes about youth dating- and gender-based violence, consent and healthy relationships, and building cultures free from violence. This will help support safer schools as Ontario implements restrictions on cellphones, removal of social media from school devices, and the banning of vaping.

Through this funding, Interval House of Hamilton will certify up to 23 violence against women (VAW) agencies across the province in the Coaching Boys into Men program. In turn, these agencies will work with local school boards to train up to 400 coaches/teachers to engage with students aged 12 and up through sports on healthy relationships, mental health practices and gender-based violence. The program will benefit students in approximately 200 high schools in Ontario.

This investment builds on Ontario's plan to make schools and school settings safer, bring awareness to students about the dynamics of healthy relationships, consent, and new efforts to re-focus classrooms as places of learning and universal respect.

"It is critical that boys and young men in this province learn how to build healthy relationships, prevent violence, and respect girls and women in schools and across our society," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "Thanks to the leadership of Jess Dixon, we are taking action to advance Ontario's commitment to getting distractions out of the classroom and restoring focus and safety back in schools. These real-life skills will support students well beyond the classroom."

Coaching Boys into Men is a 12-week, evidence-based violence-prevention program that trains high school coaches to engage with male athletes about healthy relationship skills and that violence is not a sign of strength. The program leverages sports to help:

- Improve male students' and coaches' knowledge and understanding of gender-based violence, its impacts and how we can safely intervene when we witness or experience it
- Translate the sports environment and its numerous benefits into an effective site for talking about these issues
- Bolster and nurture athletes' and coaches' leadership skills to stand up for respect and positively impact their school cultures
- Reduce incidences of bullying, hazing, harassment, violence and abuse among male student athletes and within their outside relationships
- Increase positive bystander behaviours and likelihood of reaching out for support among youth

“As a former Crown Attorney turned Member of Provincial Parliament, I entered public office in 2022 with a singular mission: to advocate for evidence-based crime-prevention initiatives on a provincewide scale. This allocation of nearly \$875,000 toward the Coaching Boys into Men program represents a monumental stride in governmental backing for expansive, school-based prevention endeavours. It also has profound personal significance in my own political career, as this is a program that I personally identified and advocated for. Reducing gender-based violence among youth is something everyone in society can get behind, and I am so proud that Interval House of Hamilton will now be able to significantly expand this program across Ontario,” said Jess Dixon, MPP Kitchener South—Hespeler. “We will never succeed in combating gender-based violence if we fail to give young men and boys the tools they need to foster healthy relationships, challenge harmful behaviours and ultimately become allies of women. This program does exactly that, and I am immensely grateful for the unwavering support extended to this initiative by our Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, and for the trust he has placed in me as both a colleague and an advocate.”

This investment showcases Ontario’s commitment to proactively support healthy relationships and address violence in schools by offering resources that help students navigate challenges and build meaningful connections.

Quick Facts

- Dating violence starts early and is more prevalent among young women. Dating violence can begin as early as grade school, with 29 per cent of young girls and women in Grades 7, 9, and 11 reporting experiencing dating violence, compared to 13 per cent of young boys and men.
- According to the 2023 SafeSport survey conducted by the Coaches Association of Ontario (CAO), one in five coaches have heard offensive language (for

example, sexist, racist, homophobic) in their organization or at competition within the past six months. While most coaches (85 per cent) say they are comfortable intervening when they hear offensive comments, 45 per cent of them indicate they are only somewhat comfortable speaking out or interrupting.

- A national study looking at 3,000 Canadian youth found that in the past year, 12 per cent were physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating, 18 per cent had a person they were dating use social media to hurt, embarrass, or monitor them, and 28 per cent reported a dating partner who tried to control them or emotionally hurt them.
- For the 2023-24 school year, the Ministry of Education is providing \$24 million to support initiatives and programs that help build a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students.
- Ontario requires all school boards to have an anti-bullying policy in place to help foster more welcoming and supportive school communities.

Quotes

"Our government is working to build positive and safe sports cultures by equipping high school coaches with the training and skills to engage young male athletes in important conversations about healthy relationships and respectful behaviour. I am proud of our ongoing efforts to work with community partners like Interval House of Hamilton to develop athletes that lead by example both on and off of the field of play."

- Neil Lumsden
MPP for Hamilton East—Stoney Creek

"Coaching Boys into Men is a transformative program that empowers young athletes to champion respect and reject violence, creating safer and more inclusive communities. This new program will help boys to develop healthy behaviours around dating and relationships and become the next generation of leaders in our communities."

- Charmaine Williams
MPP for Brampton Centre and Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity

"Through collaborative partnerships with Future without Violence, Centre de Santé Hamilton/Niagara and Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH), we will work with women's organizations and high schools across the province to roll out Coaching Boys into Men. By engaging men and boys, we can begin to dismantle the harmful platforms that perpetuate gender inequities and violence, and we can build safer schools and communities. We are truly thankful to receive this funding from the Ontario Ministry of Education."

- Sue Taylor
Executive Director, Interval House of Hamilton

"The program assists our coaches to have valuable conversations with their male athletes regarding healthy relationships and respectful behaviour, which aligns with our Catholic Social Teaching priority: respect for the dignity of the human person."

- Julie Angiolillo
Superintendent of Education, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

"Gender-based and intimate partner violence are a threat to the safety and security of our communities. As rates of incidents skyrocket and investments fail to match, we welcome this prevention-focused funding in Hamilton and look forward to continuing to work with the Ministry to secure more supports for survivors."

- Nrinder Nann
Ward 3 City Councillor, City of Hamilton

"In policing, we often encounter the negative outcomes of gender-based violence. The 'Coaching Boys into Men' program is crucial in shifting this narrative by educating young men early on about the importance of respect, consent, and healthy relationships. Teaching these values is not just about preventing crime; it's about fostering communities where healthy relationships are the norm and violence is unacceptable."

- Ryan Diodati

Deputy Chief – Operations, Hamilton Police Services

"We have been incredibly proud to partner with Interval House of Hamilton since 2017 with the Tiger-Cats and since 2019 with Forge FC. Our players from both teams have made countless appearances, educating the youth on gender-based violence, and we're excited to continue to support Interval House of Hamilton's Be More Than a Bystander and Coaching Boys into Men programs for the foreseeable future."

- Matt Afinec

President and Chief Operating Officer, Hamilton Sports Group

Additional Resources

- [Promote a positive school environment](#)
- [Creating safe and accepting schools](#)
- [Ontario Strengthening Protections Against Bullying and Violence at School](#)
- [Bullying, We Can all Help Stop It](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Strengthening Cyber Security and Protecting People Online

Proposed legislation also laying groundwork for the responsible use of artificial intelligence

May 13, 2024

[Public and Business Service Delivery](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is introducing legislation that, if passed, would provide new tools to prevent and respond to cyber security threats and safeguard critical public services, such as health care and education. By enhancing cyber resilience, the government is ensuring these essential sectors remain secure and operational, protecting the safety and privacy of all Ontarians while providing them with more connected and convenient services across government.

The Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024 would also strengthen safeguards for children's personal information and lay the foundation for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the public sector.

"Our government is helping ensure people and businesses in Ontario have the right protections in place to freely and safely participate and thrive online," said Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery. "This new legislation would provide the right tools to prevent and quickly respond to future cyber-attacks and privacy breaches, improve our digital delivery of services and provide a strong framework for artificial intelligence governance."

The legislation works to better protect the people of Ontario by:

- **Strengthening cyber security in the public sector.** This includes critical sectors such as hospitals, schools and children's aid societies. The legislation will help these organizations prevent and rapidly respond to cyber threats and attacks and minimize service interruptions, ensuring these organizations can continue to operate even when breaches occur.
- [Safeguarding the data of children and youth](#) from being stolen or used inappropriately with stronger privacy protections when they are in settings like

schools. Future regulations could prevent the misuse or sale of student data for predatory marketing by third parties, ensuring children are not unduly targeted or exploited by technology providers.

- **Modernizing privacy protections.** Increase the authority of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) to investigate and respond to privacy breaches and inappropriate use of personal data and mandating organizations to complete privacy impact assessments.
- **Building a strong foundation in artificial intelligence (AI) governance** to solidify Ontario's leadership in the responsible adoption of AI and emerging technologies. AI has the potential to transform vital programs and enhance services for the people of Ontario and we are ensuring it is used in a transparent, accountable, and ethical way.
- **Improving online customer service delivery.** With the proposed changes, Ontarians who choose to opt-in can enjoy a more efficient experience with government services. The introduction of "tell us once" features means users will not have to repeatedly enter the same information during their interactions. This not only speeds up processes but also reduces the potential for errors, making government services more user-friendly and effective.

With more than 400 artificial intelligence firms and institutions, our province is at the centre of an AI-enabled future. As part of our ongoing work to develop safe and responsible AI applications while encouraging collaboration and fostering new partnerships, the Ontario government provided the [Vector Institute with up to \\$27 million in June 2023](#), to help more Ontario companies connect with Vector's AI experts. By continuously working to strengthen our partnerships with organizations like the Vector Institute, we are ensuring Ontario stays at the forefront of AI innovation, retains top AI talent and enhances the delivery of smarter, more efficient government services.

Our government will consult key public sector stakeholders, Indigenous partners, academia, technology and AI experts, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the IPC as it develops regulations. As technologies continue to rapidly evolve, we are committed to continuously working with all partners to better protect Ontarians, especially our children.

Quick Facts

- [Ontario is implementing new and improved digital health care tools and services](#) to improve patient care and enhance health system coordination. By

strengthening cyber security and privacy measures, Ontario is safeguarding personal data to ensure a safe and seamless health care experience for people in Ontario.

- Ontario is requesting comments on the draft bill from the public through the [Ontario Regulatory Registry](#) until June 11, 2024.
- [Ontario's Cyber Security Centre of Excellence](#) provides guidance, best practices and education on cyber security to the broader public sector to ensure our schools, hospitals and children's aid societies have the best and most reliable access to every resource Ontario has to offer to prevent and respond to cyber threats and attacks.
- Ontario is engaging the [AI Expert Working Group](#), experts from tech and AI industry and academia to provide advice and recommendations on the development of [Ontario's Trustworthy AI Framework](#) and responsible use of AI within the public service.
- According to the [Canadian Centre for Cyber Security](#), cyber-attacks are a growing threat to Ontario. IBM reports that the average cost of an incident in 2023 was [\\$6.94 million](#).

Additional Resources

[Read more about the proposed legislation](#)

[Ontario Strengthening Safeguards for Children's Personal Information](#)

Visit the [K-12 Zone](#), an online resource for students to learn the importance of online safety.

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Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Digital Trust

May 13, 2024

[Public and Business Service Delivery](#)

Safeguarding data and privacy in today's increasingly digital world is a top priority for the Ontario government. As a global leader in the digital space, Ontario is committed to providing the right tools to quickly respond to cyber-attacks and emerging threats, keeping people safe from data and artificial intelligence (AI)-related harms while supporting the growth of a safe and prosperous digital economy.

The proposed *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024* would, if passed, establish a modern foundation to better protect the data entrusted to us by the people of Ontario, with the flexibility to address emerging challenges with a particular focus on safeguarding children.

The proposed new legislation includes the following initiatives:

Protecting Children

Children are particularly vulnerable to the impact of digital technologies and face greater risks of exploitation, discrimination or exclusion that could have a lasting impact on them. The proposed legislation would establish regulation-making authorities to set information protections for children and youth engaging with schools and children's aid societies.

These protections would help prevent inappropriate data practices in our schools and ensure that applications support the health and well-being of all students. They would also help ensure digital tools for children are safer, such as by restricting software used in schools on school issued devices, like laptops, that do not meet certain standards.

The proposed scope of protections reflect feedback from sector experts and stakeholders, including the [Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario](#) who stressed the importance of safeguarding children. If the legislation is passed, the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery will work with partner ministries to

develop consultation plans with priority sectors, the public and targeted experts. Consultations will include school boards, parents, all groups overseeing children in provincial settings, social media and tech industry experts, and law enforcement.

Strengthening Cyber Security

Cyber threats are on the rise and continuously evolving with the advancement of technologies, such as AI. The proposed legislation would establish regulation-making authority and empower the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery to lead the cyber security direction for select public sector entities, especially for vulnerable sectors such as hospitals, schools and children's aid societies. Regulations may include sector-specific requirements and mandatory cyber incident reporting to government. These regulations would be developed through consultations with key government and public sector stakeholders to help these organizations better prepare, respond, and recover from cyber threats and attacks.

Ontario is also proposing centralized reporting within government to better respond, deploy and get involved in emergency management of cyber incidents, particularly with those public sector organizations that don't have strong cyber security practices.

Not only will this elevate the overall maturity of Ontario's cyber security regime but will lead to long-term cost-savings by mitigating the quantity and severity of cyber-attacks. On average, a cyber-attack costs an organization almost \$7 million. Cyber-attacks on public institutions are not just attacks on Ontarians' data, but also their tax dollars that fund and maintain these institutions.

Enhancing Privacy Protections

Being online has become vital to everyday life. Protecting personal data, especially our children's, is critical so that everyone in Ontario can confidently and safely participate in today's digital world, even as technologies rapidly advance.

Ontario is proposing to modernize privacy protections and reduce risks associated with privacy breaches and unauthorized data access, including identity theft through proposed amendments to the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (FIPPA).

The proposed amendments would include establishing requirements for privacy breach notifications and mandatory privacy breach statistical reporting to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) for the Ontario government

and FIPPA institutions. This would provide information that is key to mitigating breaches and better ensuring personal information is kept safer and more secure.

To ensure appropriate privacy provisions, analyses, mitigation and oversight, the proposed amendments would also formalize the requirement of FIPPA institutions to conduct privacy impact assessments (PIAs). A PIA is an evaluation process used to identify the actual or potential effects that a program, system or service may have on the privacy of an individual. Mandating PIAs would also help to support responsible, risk-based artificial intelligence (AI) use by ensuring that AI systems are used in a privacy protective manner.

Personal data sharing would be further protected with proposed changes to the IPC's oversight of personal data. The proposed amendments would increase the IPC's oversight of FIPPA institutions by allowing the IPC to proactively conduct privacy investigations and administer compliance orders — ensuring there is an independent body safeguarding personal data.

Protections for whistleblowers are also being proposed that would enable individuals to report privacy wrongdoing confidentially to the IPC without reprisal against them. This would further assist the IPC with investigating inappropriate use of personal data.

Setting a Strong Foundation in AI Use

As we embrace transformational and powerful artificial intelligence (AI) tools to help us build a better province, Ontario is introducing safeguards to ensure AI systems are used transparently, accountably, and responsibly in the public sector.

The proposed legislation includes introducing a definition of an “artificial intelligence system” that is in alignment with leading jurisdictions to create consistency in how AI is defined across the public sector and to support AI-related initiatives across the government.

Ontario is proposing to establish accountability and transparency requirements for the Ontario government and public sector when using AI. For example, requiring these organizations to inform the public of when they are interacting with AI, or mandating that decisions made by AI always have a channel for human review — recognizing AI's capacity for bias.

The proposed legislation includes creating regulation-making authority to ensure responsible, risk-based AI use by select public sector organizations. This includes ensuring they are following [Ontario's Trustworthy AI Framework](#) to protect people from unintentional harms and reduce liability and reputational risks that can arise

from using AI technologies. These regulations would be developed through consultations with government and public sector stakeholders, Indigenous partners, and AI experts.

These proposed legislative changes would ensure Ontario remains an emerging leader in the guidance and use of AI in a transparent, responsible, and accountable way.

Modernizing Digital Service Delivery

Ontario is continually improving service delivery to provide a consistent, secure, and seamless experience when accessing government programs and services.

The proposed amendments to FIPPA include expanding the definition of customer service information, such as date of birth and language preferences, that service provider organizations, like ServiceOntario, with a person's consent, can collect, use, and retain for the purposes of digital service delivery.

Updating Ontario's legislative framework to modernize digital service delivery will offer those who provide consent to benefit from "tell-us-once" features, like pre-populated fields and communications preferences, so they don't need to restate their information every time they interact with the government.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Strengthening Cyber Security and Protecting People Online](#)
- [Ontario Strengthening Safeguards for Children's Personal Information](#)

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Ontario Introducing Stiff Penalties to Combat Auto Theft

Thieves will face licence suspensions including lifetime ban for repeat offenders

May 14, 2024

[Transportation](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is cracking down on auto theft by introducing legislation that, if passed, would suspend driver's licences for people convicted of the crime. With auto thefts and carjackings on the rise across the province, the legislation would help deter potential thieves and make it more challenging for criminals to re-offend.

"Car theft is a cowardly and often violent crime that can traumatize victims and communities who experience it," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is sending a clear message to those who commit these crimes and using every tool in our toolbox to keep them off our streets."

Under the proposed legislation, thieves convicted of motor vehicle theft under the *Criminal Code* would face a 10-year licence suspension for a first offence, a 15-year licence suspension for a second offence and a lifetime licence suspension for a third offence. Licence suspensions would apply to convictions where the court found that aggravating factors were involved in the commission of the offence, such as violence, use of a weapon, use of force, threat, or pursuit of financial gain.

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is taking bold action to stop what is a serious and often violent crime," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. "Criminals who want to steal a car in Ontario need to know there will be severe consequences for doing so."

In addition to stiff penalties for auto theft, the province is also proposing to strengthen penalties for stunt driving. The proposed legislation would ensure that anyone convicted of stunt driving receives a minimum mandatory licence suspension – one year for a first conviction, three years for a second conviction and a lifetime suspension, reducible to 10 years under certain criteria, for a third conviction.

Quick Facts

- Every 14 minutes, a vehicle is stolen in Ontario, with Toronto experiencing a 78 per cent increase in violent carjackings since 2021.
 - The federal mandatory minimum prison sentence for a third auto theft offence is six months.
 - In 2023, over 12,000 immediate roadside licence suspensions were issued for street racing and/or [stunt driving](#) – the highest number since the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The Ontario government is [investing \\$18 million](#) over three years to help police services combat and prevent auto theft.
 - Together with the federal government, Ontario has invested more than \$250 million through the [Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy \(GGVRS\)](#) to fight gun and gang crime, including auto theft.
-

Quotes

"I applaud the provincial government for introducing this legislation to help deter auto theft. In Peel, car thefts continue to be a growing problem, and in Brampton and Mississauga, have increased by 187 per cent between 2019 and 2023. Peel Region and Peel Regional Police are committed to working with the provincial government to tackle auto theft and identify and implement solutions to keep our communities safe."

- Nando Iannicca

Regional Chair of Peel Region and Chair of Peel Police Services Board

"I thank the Ontario government for this new legislation that introduces a lifetime licence suspension upon third offence for auto theft convictions, as this is a crucial tool in our fight against this escalating crime. Next, we urgently need our federal partners to immediately implement scanners at our ports so we can plug the hole in the bucket of auto thefts in Canada. We need to continue taking a tough, comprehensive approach to deter these violent criminals and protect our community."

- Patrick Brown

Mayor of Brampton

"I want to thank the provincial government for its efforts to tackle auto theft head-on. Too many Vaughan residents have had their vehicles stolen, and we have a duty to protect them and their property. Introducing escalating licence suspensions for criminals who steal cars is a great example of the kind of innovative penalty that we need."

**- Steven Del Duca
Mayor of City of Vaughan**

"Auto theft has reached a crisis level across Ontario. The Insurance Bureau of Canada supports the Ontario government's continued commitment to combatting auto theft and better protecting Ontarians and their families."

**- Amanda Dean
Vice-President, Ontario and Atlantic, Insurance Bureau of Canada**

"Convicted auto thieves and violent carjackers do not deserve the privilege of driving on Ontario's roads. Ontario's 1,100 new car and truck retailers support the Ontario government's approach to punishing these criminals with a lifetime driver's licence suspension for people convicted of a third offence. This legislation is another example showing how focussed and committed Premier Ford and his government are to fighting auto theft."

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

"The profits generated through auto theft grossly outweigh the risks for vehicle thieves in Canada. Measures such as this bring us one step closer to ensuring real consequences for vehicle theft."

**- Brian Kingston
President & CEO, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association**

Additional Resources

[Ontario Taking Action to Combat Auto Theft](#)

[Ontario Introduces Legislation to Take Action Against Stunt Driving and Street Racing](#)

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

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

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Ontario Taking Impaired Drivers Off the Road

Tough new measures, including lifetime licence suspensions, will protect families and keep communities safe

May 15, 2024

[Transportation](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is cracking down on impaired driving by introducing legislation that, if passed, would impose stiffer penalties for those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs – including a lifetime licence suspension for those convicted of impaired driving causing death.

“Everyone deserves to return home to their loved ones safely at the end of the day,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “Too many families in Ontario have had their lives torn apart by the careless and shameful actions of impaired drivers. That’s why our government is introducing tough new measures, including lifetime licence suspensions, that will protect families and keep our communities safe.”

Additionally, the government will require anyone convicted of impaired driving to install an ignition interlock device in their vehicle and undergo mandatory remedial education and treatment for first and second-time alcohol and drug-related offences respectively.

“Mothers Against Drunk Driving commends the Ontario government for taking steps to make roads safer and hold impaired drivers accountable,” said Steve Sullivan, CEO of MADD Canada. “Despite progress, too many people are still making the choice to drive impaired, and we need to ensure sanctions hold drivers accountable while focusing on reducing recidivism.”

The proposed legislation would also increase immediate roadside licence suspensions for first and second-time alcohol and drug-related offences and clarify police authority to stop vehicles and/or administer sobriety tests for drivers on or off the highway.

In response to increasing instances of cannabis-impaired driving, the government will also work to provide additional tools and training to help police officers detect drug-impaired driving and launch a province-wide campaign to highlight the dangers of drug-impaired driving, with a focus on cannabis and young drivers.

Quick Facts

- In Ontario, one in three roadway fatalities involves impaired driving.
 - A 2022 roadside survey found that one in five drivers tested positive for drugs, alcohol, or both.
 - The percentage of drivers killed while under the influence of cannabis more than doubled between 2012 and 2020.
 - Ignition interlocks are in-car alcohol breath screening devices that prevent the vehicle's engine from starting if it detects alcohol in the driver's system.
 - For alcohol and drug-related offences, the province is proposing to increase the first and second-time roadside licence suspensions from three and seven days to seven and 14 days, respectively.
 - To keep communities safe, the Ontario government is also cracking down on auto theft by introducing legislation that, if passed, would [suspend driver's licences](#) for people convicted of the crime.
-

Quotes

"Good Roads supports the Ontario government's proposed measures to combat impaired driving. Reckless motorist behaviour such as speeding and impaired driving are on the rise, and penalties must increase to serve as an effective deterrent. Our municipal members are pleased by the province's proactive approach to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads."

- Scott Butler
Executive Director, Good Roads

"The Ontario Road Builders' Association welcomes today's important announcement to strengthen impaired driving rules in the province. We are pleased to see the Ontario government prioritize road safety to ensure Ontarians, including the over 56,000 workers in our industry, return home safely to their families and loved ones every day."

- Walid Abou-Hamde
Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Road Builder's Association

"This proposed legislation will toughen penalties for all impaired driving and save lives. Paramedics know all too well the catastrophic injuries and tragic deaths on Ontario's roads caused by alcohol and drug-impaired driving."

- Michael Sanderson
**President of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs and Chief of
Hamilton Paramedic Service**

"arrive alive DRIVE SOBER supports ignition interlock as a mandatory licence reinstatement condition for convicted impaired drivers. We encourage all drivers and vehicle owners to be aware of all the consequences of impaired driving and plan accordingly. And given that impaired driving seems to be on the rise, arrive alive DRIVE SOBER asks all road users to report erratic and unsafe driving when observed on our roads by calling 9-1-1."

- Anne Leonard
President of arrive alive DRIVE SOBER

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

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

Jobs and Employment

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Ontario Building Safer Roads and Communities

Proposed changes will help combat impaired driving, auto theft and improve trucking safety

May 16, 2024

[Transportation](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced legislation that, if passed, would improve community safety and protect people and families from road users who engage in dangerous and illegal activities such as impaired driving, stunt driving and auto theft. The *Safer Roads and Communities Act* would also strengthen the province's commercial vehicle enforcement program and improve e-bike safety.

"While Ontario has some of the safest roads in North America, one in three fatalities is caused by impaired driving and one in five involves large trucks," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "That is why our government is introducing tough new legislation that will target road users who engage in reckless behaviour including driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, stunt driving and auto theft."

The *Safer Roads and Communities Act* would increase the powers of Ministry of Transportation Enforcement Officers (TEOs) by allowing them to exceed posted speed limits for enforcement purposes, compel trucks and commercial vehicles to pull over and confiscate fraudulent or suspended driver's licences. Additionally, the government will lead a comprehensive review of commercial driving training and hold provincewide stakeholder roundtables to seek industry and public feedback on measures to improve road safety.

"This bill is paving the way by ensuring that enforcement officers have all the necessary powers to keep our roads safe and that our province has the best qualified commercial drivers operating to meet the growing demands of the Ontario supply chain," said Stephen Laskowski, President of the Ontario Trucking Association. "We applaud the government for the proposed changes and launching industry discussions to identify gaps and meaningful improvements to keep Ontario's roads safe for everyone."

As the popularity of e-bikes continues to rise in Ontario, so does the reported number of collisions, significant injuries and fatalities. The proposed legislation would enable the government to categorize more dangerous e-bikes into distinct classes such as by maximum weight or speed, to improve safety on the road for pedestrians, bikes and cars.

Also included in the *Safer Roads and Communities Act* are proposed changes that would introduce escalating licence suspensions for people convicted of auto theft and stunt driving and a lifetime licence suspension for anyone convicted of alcohol or drug-impaired driving causing death.

Quick Facts

- In 2023, 78 per cent of reported e-bike collisions resulted in serious injuries.
 - In 2022, 20,000 drivers were suspended for impaired driving – that’s one every 26 minutes.
 - Every 14 minutes, a vehicle is stolen in Ontario, with Toronto experiencing a 78 per cent increase in violent carjackings since 2021.
 - In February, the Ontario government introduced the [Get it Done Act](#) which will make it easier and faster to build transit, housing and other critical infrastructure, while also helping Ontarians to keep more of their hard-earned money.
-

Additional Resources

- [The Safer Roads and Communities Act](#)
-

Related Topics

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

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The Safer Roads and Communities Act

May 16, 2024

[Transportation](#)

The Ontario government is introducing new legislation that would improve safety and protect families and communities by targeting road users who engage in reckless behaviour including impaired driving and stunt driving, as well as those convicted of auto theft. The *Safer Roads and Communities Act*, if passed, would also introduce measures to improve safety for e-bike users and enhance enforcement of commercial vehicle safety.

Combatting Alcohol and Drug-Impaired Driving

Lifetime licence suspensions for impaired driving causing death: The *Safer Roads and Communities Act* would introduce a lifetime licence suspension for anyone convicted of impaired driving causing death under the *Criminal Code*.

Mandatory ignition interlock devices for anyone convicted of impaired driving: Anyone convicted of impaired driving would be required to install an ignition interlock device following their post-conviction licence suspension.

Longer roadside licence suspensions for first- and second-time alcohol/drug-related occurrences: Drivers currently receive an immediate roadside three-day licence suspension for their first drug- or alcohol-related occurrence and a seven-day licence suspension for their second occurrence. If passed, this would increase licence suspensions for first- and second-time alcohol and drug-related occurrences to seven and 14 days, respectively.

Zero-tolerance condition for anyone convicted of impaired driving: The *Safer Roads and Communities Act* would implement a time-limited zero-tolerance condition for anyone convicted of impaired driving. The zero-tolerance condition would apply to the presence of both alcohol and drugs and commence after a driver has completed the mandatory ignition interlock period.

Mandatory remedial education for first-time alcohol/drug-related occurrences: Ontario is proposing to require drivers who receive a first-time roadside suspension for alcohol- or drug-related occurrences to complete a remedial

education course. Drivers who receive a second-time roadside suspension would be required to complete a treatment program.

Clarifying police authority to stop vehicles for impaired driving off the highway:

The *Safer Roads and Communities Act* would amend the *Highway Traffic Act* to clarify that police can stop a vehicle for sobriety testing of a driver off the highway and stop a vehicle that has recently left the highway.

Aligning look-back periods for all sanctions related to alcohol/drug-related

occurrences: The *Safer Roads and Communities Act* would harmonize the look-back periods for Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs), licence suspensions, ignition interlock and remedial education for all alcohol- and drug-related occurrences to 10 years.

Launching a provincewide campaign on drug-impaired driving:

Ontario plans to develop a public education and awareness campaign on the dangers and consequences of drug-impaired driving with an emphasis on young drivers and cannabis use.

Enhancing support for police to detect drug-impaired driving:

Ontario will explore options to increase the capacity for Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and Drug Recognition Expert evaluations across the province, for cannabis and other substances, and enhance drug-detection capacity to support roadside enforcement.

Strengthening Public Safety.

Escalating licence suspensions for motor vehicle theft:

To crack down on auto theft, the government is introducing escalating licence suspensions under the *Highway Traffic Act* for motor vehicle theft. Individuals convicted of motor vehicle theft under the *Criminal Code* would face a 10-year licence suspension following their first conviction, 15 years for their second and a lifetime licence suspension for their third conviction, meaning they will no longer be able to operate a motor vehicle in Ontario.

Ensuring minimum mandatory licence suspensions for stunt driving:

Amend the *Highway Traffic Act* to ensure anyone convicted of stunt driving receives the minimum mandatory licence suspension – one year on the first conviction, three years for the second, and a lifetime suspension for the third conviction.

Enhancing Alternative and Commercial Vehicle Safety.

Improving e-bike safety: The *Safer Roads and Communities Act* would create regulation-making powers under the *Highway Traffic Act* that would allow e-bikes to be categorized into distinct classes, with each class having prescribed operator and vehicle safety requirements.

Strengthening enforcement of commercial vehicle safety: Increase Ministry of Transportation Enforcement Officers' (TEOs) authority to deliver the Ministry's commercial vehicle enforcement program. This includes permitting TEOs to exceed posted speed limits for enforcement purposes, requiring traffic to pull over for MTO enforcement vehicles when lights and signals are flashing, and enabling TEOs to seize fraudulent or suspended driver's licences.

Reviewing commercial driver training: The government plans to lead a comprehensive review of commercial driver training to identify gaps and areas for improvement. The review will include holding provincewide stakeholder roundtables to seek industry and public feedback on measures to improve road safety.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Building Safer Roads and Communities](#)
- [Ontario Introducing Stiff Penalties to Combat Auto Theft](#)
- [Ontario Taking Impaired Drivers off the Road](#)

Related Topics

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Ontario Investing in More Accessible Communities

Applications now open for the 2024-25 EnAbling Change Program

May 21, 2024

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is investing up to \$1.5 million in the EnAbling Change Program this year to support not-for-profits, municipalities, and other organizations across the province that are developing and implementing innovative initiatives to make Ontario accessible to people of all abilities.

“By working together with businesses, organizations and communities, we can build a stronger and more accessible Ontario,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “The EnAbling Change Program allows organizations to develop tailored supports to ensure Ontario is open and inclusive to everyone.”

Applications for the 2024-25 EnAbling Change Program are [open now](#) until June 27, 2024. Eligible projects can include those that increase the accessibility of community programs and services, as well as online initiatives, educational tools, and public outreach programs that help communities and businesses understand the benefits of accessibility and inclusion.

Examples of projects [currently funded through the 2023-24](#) program include:

- **BioTalent Canada** is receiving approximately **\$150,000** to promote equitable employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- **The Geneva Centre for Autism** is receiving approximately **\$112,500** to create The Inclusive Education Resource Hub to support better outcomes and experiences for neurodiverse students in publicly funded education.
- **The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum** is receiving approximately **\$100,000** to develop a guide for employers on recruiting and retaining apprentices with disabilities in the skilled trades.
- **Toronto Metropolitan University** is receiving approximately **\$150,000** to develop, pilot and disseminate a curriculum called The Enabling Accessible Healthcare Delivery project, which aims to foster accessible and sensitive health care for disabled people.

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's [Age-friendly and accessibility grants web page](#) has information on how to apply for the 2024-25 EnAbling Change Program.

Quick Facts

- The EnAbling Change Program started in 1999 and has supported more than 230 projects across Ontario. It provides funding to municipalities, not-for-profit, industry and professional associations across a range of sectors.
-

Additional Resources

- [2023-24 EnAbling Change Program Recipients](#)
 - [Learn about ways that inclusion improves business.](#)
 - [Find out how you can make your organization more accessible and inclusive.](#)
-

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Renfrew County adopting new Paramedic dispatch system May 9

Posted on Wednesday, May 08, 2024



RELEASE DATE:

May 8, 2024

Renfrew County's new paramedic dispatch system launches tomorrow, bringing changes to the way paramedics respond to prioritized emergency calls.

As of May 9, the Renfrew Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) will adopt the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) and work with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service to improve and optimize the deployment of paramedic resources. This will help meet patient needs by matching resources with the clinical situation and prioritize the most urgent calls to 911 and ensure the right care at the right time for people living in the region.

With the MPDS, people in the region calling 911 can expect more detailed questions from Emergency Medical Dispatchers. These questions will assist emergency personnel gather specific information about a patient's condition to make quick and effective dispatch decisions.

The MPDS is a safe and proven emergency medical call taking system that is thoughtfully structured, and patient focused. The tool is designed to help Emergency Medical Dispatchers understand a patient's level of urgency and triage them accordingly. This system allows the CACCs to match available paramedic resources with a patient's condition – ensuring that the right paramedic resources are appropriately dispatched and patients with life-threatening conditions receive care immediately.

Low-urgency incidents will be dispatched as soon as paramedics are available, but these situations will be continually monitored by the CACC and callers will receive follow-up call backs to check on the patient's status. If the patient's status changes and requires immediate medical attention, residents are encouraged to call 911 again to provide an update on patient condition.

MPDS is based on a more comprehensive and patient-focused presentation to efficiently determine the best resources for each individual call. This will allow for a better allocation of resources and helps to distribute the workload among all crews.

The MPDS is currently being used by CACCs in the Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara, Kenora, and Peel and Halton Regions. The expansion of the MPDS is part of the Ontario Government's Your Health Plan, working collaboratively with the County of Renfrew to ensure the Paramedic Service provides the right care at the right time while easing pressure on emergency departments.

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By [GHD Digital](https://www.govstack.com) (<https://www.govstack.com>).



Silver Chain Challenge returns this June

Posted on Friday, May 17, 2024



RELEASE DATE:

May 17, 2024

Get ready to move

Lace up your sneakers and pump up your bike tires: the annual Silver Chain Challenge is back this June 2024! This exciting month-long event invites participants from Renfrew County and Lanark County to demonstrate their commitment to healthy living and active transportation, all while enjoying the scenic beauty of eastern Ontario.

The Silver Chain Challenge is not just a competition; it's a celebration of health, community, and the great outdoors. Participants are encouraged to walk or cycle as often as they can throughout the month of June and capture these moments with a photo. These photos can then be uploaded to the event's official website and attributed to either Renfrew or Lanark County. The County with the most submissions by the end of the month will be declared the winner, earning the bragging rights of being the most active and engaged community.

"We would like to encourage residents of all ages to take part in the Challenge, especially families with children. Our community's love for getting outdoors and staying active is incredible. The Challenge focuses on the benefits of being more

active outdoors, which can result in improved mental and physical health, as well as supporting our vibrant, healthy communities and our superior trail system in the County,” said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon.

“We hope that the Silver Change Challenge will help our community become more aware of the benefits of active transportation, the Algonquin/Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail and have fun at the same time.”

Lanark County Warden Steve Fournier is also looking forward to the friendly competition as his residents embrace the Challenge.

“This is a great opportunity to get active with your family and friends and explore our communities. Let’s all help Lanark County win!” he said.

Participants are also encouraged to share their adventure snapshots on social media using the hashtags #RenfrewCounty or #LanarkCounty (depending on your location), and #SilverChainChallenge. The challenge is open to everyone – families, friends, solo adventurers, and visitors. Whether you’re a seasoned cyclist or just enjoy leisurely strolls, every step, pedal, and photo counts.

Mark your calendars, grab your gear, and get ready to explore the trails, communities, and roadways of Renfrew and Lanark Counties this June. Let’s see which county can claim the title of being the most active in 2024!

For more information on how to participate in the Silver Chain Challenge, please visit <https://bit.ly/SilverChainChallenge>.

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MUNICIPAL FUND COLLABORATE 2 BILLION TREES PROGRAM**

Government of Canada and FCM's Green Municipal Fund Collaborate on 2 Billion Trees Program



May 15, 2024

North Vancouver, British Columbia

Planting two billion trees across the country by 2031 will help Canada's efforts to tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, but such an endeavour requires strong partnerships. Trees capture and store carbon from the atmosphere, improve air and water quality, support biodiversity, and the forest sector supports thousands of good jobs.

Today, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, and Scott Pearce, the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), announced that FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) will play an important role in Canada's ambitious goal to plant two billion trees and contribute to climate action. This will be

achieved through Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC), a new \$291-million initiative designed to be implemented in and around communities across the country, both large and small. Working together, Canada and FCM will expand the reach of the 2 Billion Trees program to accelerate planting efforts and contribute to Canada's broader approach to nature-based climate solutions.

GCCC will work to ensure that the right type of tree is planted in the right places so that communities across Canada can grow, manage and protect their tree canopies, which will maximize the environmental and social benefits provided by trees, while also ensuring that these trees survive long-term.

This initiative was developed with smaller, rural, and remote communities in mind and aims to plant at least 1.2 million new trees across the country by the end of March 2031. Local governments can access funding for new ambitious and equitable tree planting projects valued at up to \$10 million for tree planting, planning and operations through GCCC.

This funding will also support community-wide planting activities, including planting trees and seedlings in parks, community access and naturalized areas, as well as localized planting including street trees. The deadline to submit a full application for this round of funding is July 12, 2024.

GCCC will contribute to Canada's efforts to mitigate climate change while achieving key biodiversity and conservation goals, as well as improving the health of Canadians. This includes providing shade, cooling temperatures, preventing flooding, improving air quality, boosting mental health, and fostering equitable access to trees across communities.

Quotes

“Trees are essential to our lives, as they clean the air we breathe, make our urban spaces more enjoyable, provide new habitats for wildlife and help us adapt to our changing climate while mitigating its impacts by sequestering carbon emissions. Supported by federal funding announced today, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities will play an important role in bringing these benefits to Canadians and in helping to achieve our ambitious goal to plant two billion trees over the next decade. Through this initiative, we are showing how collaborative work between the federal government and communities across the country, both large and small, can ensure that the right tree is planted at the right place at the right time for the benefit of all Canadians.”

—The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

“Restoring nature is one of the best strategies we have to fight climate change, while improving air and water quality at the same time. It’s also one of the best ways to build healthy, thriving, livable cities. Urban forests clean the air that we breathe, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity and help cool our urban centres. The trees we plant today will improve our quality of life, health and well-being for generations to come.”

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

“Trees stand as a powerful ally in our efforts to combat climate change and enhance the well-being of Canadians. GMF’s Growing Canada’s Community Canopies initiative ensures we plant the right trees in the right places. This not only helps prevent flooding and supports wildlife but also enriches our urban areas. Our commitment to green spaces further bolsters our pledge to a sustainable future,

ensuring our communities prosper alongside nature.”

—Scott Pearce, FCM President

“Trees and resilient ecosystems are essential to the wellbeing of all communities, large and small, and to our collective efforts in addressing the impacts of a changing climate and declining biodiversity. As a GCCC partner, Tree Canada looks forward to sharing our long-standing expertise in urban forestry with municipalities to maximize the long-term environmental and social benefits of their tree planting and greening efforts.”

—Nicole Hurtubise, CEO Tree Canada

Quick Facts

- GCCC is funded through the Government of Canada’s 2 Billion Trees program and is a further expansion of GMF’s mandate to focus on nature-based climate solutions.
- Additional calls for applications for tree planting funding are expected to be announced for the Fall and Winter seasons.
- GMF has partnered with Tree Canada, a non-profit organization renowned for its urban forestry expertise, to ensure that local governments have access to tailored support services and knowledge that will enhance tree planting projects. This support includes guiding how to improve tree species and site selection with careful consideration for biodiversity and climate, ensuring the success and longevity of this initiative.

The FCM’s Green Municipal Fund is a globally unique organization providing funding and education to municipalities to help them both reach net-zero and build resilient communities, while also delivering economic and social benefits such as jobs, housing and infrastructure. It is funded by the Government of Canada and delivered by the

Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Since inception in 2000, it has helped reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2.87 million tonnes, funded nearly 13,000 person-years of employment, enabled nearly 30,000 sustainable affordable housing units, and contributed \$1.2 billion to the national GDP via the more than 2,100 approved projects.

Associated links

[Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#)

[Green Municipal Fund](#)

[Growing Canada's Community Canopies](#)

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

[2 Billion Trees Commitment](#)

[Tree Planting funding](#)

[Urban Forest Coaching](#)

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May, 09 2024

In This Issue

- Nominations open for AMO Board of Directors.
- Submit your application for the PJ Marshall Awards.
- Save the date - *Conservation Authorities Act* webinar.
- ERO posting: Development Charges.
- ERO posting: Land Use Planning matters under Bill 185.
- ERO posting: Newspaper Notice Requirements.
- ERO posting: Removing Barriers for Additional Residential Units.
- ERO posting: Municipal Planning Data Reporting Regulation.
- ERO posting: Streamlining Pipeline Relocation to support Transit.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Lake Erie habitat restoration efforts.
- AMO 2024 delegation request forms launched!
- AMO members' guide to request, prepare for & participate in delegation meetings.
- Disability Inclusion Virtual Workshop.
- Cybersecurity workshop for Municipally Elected Officials.
- Councillor training - Refresh and refine your leadership, May workshop.
- Councillor workshops.
- Understanding Competing Human Rights - Upcoming workshop.
- Managing Communications During a Time of Crisis.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships: Transforming conflict into collaboration.
- Streetlogix makes asset management simple.
- Future of Aging Summit - May 15-17.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO is seeking candidates to serve on its Board of Directors. [Click here](#) for information on eligibility and nomination requirements. Elections will occur at the AMO Annual Conference in August.

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](#).

On June 14, Conservation Ontario and AMO will host a webinar on recent legislative and regulatory changes under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Registration details coming soon.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on proposed changes to repeal the five-year DC phase in and reinstate certain costs as eligible for DCs. [Comments are open](#) until May 10, 2024.

The province has posted land use planning changes to be made under *Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act* [for comment](#) until May 10, 2024.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is proposing to allow digital publication of public notices for certain land use and development charge by-laws where local newspapers are not available. [Comments are open](#) until May 10, 2024.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking input on barriers to the development of additional residential units. [Comments are open](#) until May 10, 2024.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is proposing expanding the list of municipalities required to report municipal planning data, and to enhance the quality of the data provided. [Comments are open](#) until

The Ministry of Energy is proposing exempt energy infrastructure relocation from seeking leave to construct if the relocation supports priority transit. [Comments are open](#) until May 11, 2024.

Federal Matters

If you are a municipality located in the Lake Erie watershed and interested in DFO's Fish and Fish habitat restoration initiative, contact [DFO](#) on how to participate in upcoming engagements.

Education Opportunities

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) has launched the delegation forms to request your meetings at the 2024 AMO Annual Conference. Submit your delegation request by **June 7, 2024, 5:00pm EST**. [English Delegation Requests](#) | [French Delegation Requests](#).

The [AMO Guide to Delegation Meetings](#) provides information for you to consider what issues to focus on for your delegation meetings, what information you need to provide in your delegation forms and how to prepare for your delegation meetings. Make the most of your delegation meetings with this guide.

AMO Education has partnered with the Abilities Centre to deliver a workshop designed to enhance elected official understanding and approach to inclusion. Register for this important [Disability Inclusion June 5 workshop](#).

AMO has partnered with the Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst to prepare elected officials in understanding cybersecurity and to make critical decisions related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to cyber security incidents. Register for the [June 12 Cybersecurity workshop](#) to learn how to prevent, prepare, and respond.

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.

AMO is offering a number of education workshops focusing on the most integral aspects of municipal leadership and governance. For full information including workshop descriptions, dates and registration visit [amoeducation.ca](#)

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](#).

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](#).

During times of crisis such as natural disasters or public disruption, municipally elected officials find themselves at the front line and facing the expectations of providing up to date and useful information to their communities. The [June 19 Managing Communications through Crisis workshop](#) is an opportunity to develop and enhance your approach to managing all aspects of crisis communications during and emergency. Join your colleagues to learn techniques for effective and proactive communications with community and media.

Having conflict-free and collaborative relationships can play a significant role in helping locally elected officials carry out your collective responsibilities as decision-makers of their communities. Learn how to accomplish this at the [June 26-27 Navigating Conflict Relationships workshop](#).

LAS

Asset management software can be hard to use. The Streetlogix software, part of the [LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service](#), is designed to be easy to use by different departments with varying needs. [Contact Jon-Erik](#) for a demo to see how it works.

Municipal Wire*

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

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Careers

[Engineering Technologist, Traffic - City of Markham](#). Closing date: May 10.

[Supervisor of Planning - City of Cornwall](#). Closing date: May 16.

[Planner - City of Cornwall](#). Closing date: May 15.

[Zoning/Planning Examiner - King Township](#). Closing date: May 24.

[General Manager, Development Services and Engineering - City of Orillia](#). Closing date: May 24.

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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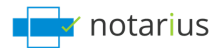
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May, 16 2024

In This Issue

- AMO Board nominations open.
- Submit your application for the PJ Marshall Awards.
- Save the date - *Conservation Authorities Act* webinar.
- IPC Transparency Challenge.
- AMO 2024 Conference: Request delegation meetings by June 7.
- AMO members' guide to request, prepare for & participate in delegation meetings.
- Understanding Competing Human Rights - May 23 workshop.
- Advanced Councillor Training workshops.
- Disability Inclusion Virtual Workshop - June 5.
- Cybersecurity June 12 workshop for Municipally Elected Officials.
- Managing Communications During a Time of Crisis - June workshop
- Navigating Conflict Relationships: Transforming conflict into collaboration.
- Blog: The water service line to a resident's home erupts. Now what?
- Join a live discussion on Ontario Health & Safety challenges and opportunities.
- Canoe spring webinar on streamlining procurement.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

Have you considered serving on AMO's Board? Participate in setting strategic objectives, policy and program initiatives, and the budget. [Click here](#) for more information.

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](#).

On June 14, Conservation Ontario and AMO will host a webinar on recent legislative and regulatory changes under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Registration details coming soon.

Provincial Matters

Show and tell us how your transparency project or program is modern and innovative, improves government transparency creatively, and has a solid positive impact for Ontarians. [Submissions](#) due May 31.

Education Opportunities

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) has launched the delegation forms to request your meetings at the 2024 AMO Annual Conference. Submit your delegation request by **June 7, 2024, 5:00pm EST**. [English Delegation Requests](#) | [French Delegation Requests](#).

The [AMO Guide to Delegation Meetings](#) provides information for you to consider what issues to focus on for your delegation meetings, what information you need to provide in your delegation forms and how to prepare for your delegation meetings. Make the most of your delegation meetings with this guide.

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](#).

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](#) focused on core elements of leadership. Register for the [May 29 Strategic Thinking, Planning and Leading workshop](#), and the [October 2 Community Engagement Strategic Approaches workshop](#).

AMO Education has partnered with the Abilities Centre to deliver a workshop designed to enhance elected official understanding and approach to inclusion. Register for this important [Disability Inclusion June 5 workshop](#).

AMO has partnered with the Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst to prepare elected officials in understanding cybersecurity and to make critical decisions related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to cyber security incidents. Register for the [June 12 Cybersecurity workshop](#) to learn how to prevent, prepare, and respond.

During times of crisis such as natural disasters or public disruption, municipally elected officials find themselves at the front line and facing the expectations of providing up to date and useful information to their communities. The [June 19 Managing Communications through Crisis workshop](#) is an opportunity to develop and enhance your approach to managing all aspects of crisis communications during and emergency. Join your colleagues to learn techniques for effective and proactive communications with community and media.

Having conflict-free and collaborative relationships can play a significant role in helping locally elected officials carry out your collective responsibilities as decision-makers of their communities. Learn how to accomplish this at the [June 26-27 Navigating Conflict Relationships workshop](#).

LAS

We often take for granted the infrastructure around constituents' homes, until something goes wrong. [What can your residents do](#) if water was spewing from their driveway due to a damaged water line?

Our Occupational Health and Safety Management digital service partner invites you to attend a [live symposium](#) on health and safety, in Markham on May 30.

Canoe's [spring webinar series](#) wraps up next week - May 23 at 11am. Procurement expert Stephanie Dion shares her insights on how to do group procurement and comply with trade agreements. [Register here](#) to attend.

Careers

[Integrity Commissioner - City of Toronto](#). Closing Date: June 10, 2024.

[Fitness Coordinator - City of Orillia](#). Closing Date: May 24, 2024.

[Deputy Chief Building Official - Township of The Archipelago](#). Closing Date: June 3, 2024.

[Coordinator, Environmental Services - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: May 21, 2024.

[Manager - Capital Planning and Corporate Asset Management - Region of Durham](#). Closing Date: May 21, 2024.

About AMO

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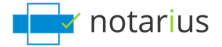
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May 10, 2024

Hello. I am very pleased to share with you the Spring 2024 edition of our Community Connection public newsletter.

I must say it's been a busy few months since my last update and we are excited to see so much transformative work taking place in various areas of our organization.

This edition provides a detailed update about our construction projects including completion of our modernized Surgical Day Care space.

We also have features on the work being done to ensure accessibility needs are met and exceeded and the story of a local resident whose orthopaedic surgery helped get his life back on track.

As you may have heard, we've been in development of a new five-year Strategic Plan for PRH over the past several months and we are close to rollout. While it is mentioned in this newsletter, more detail will be shared in our next edition scheduled for publication around the end of June so stay tuned!

As always, your feedback is important. Feel free to connect if you have any suggestions on how we can improve our public communication or if there are aspects of our care and services that you would like to hear more about!

Sincerely,



**Sabine Mersmann, President and CEO
Pembroke Regional Hospital**



Community Connection



Pembroke Regional Hospital Spring 2024



Phone (613) 732-2811 Email/Version Françaises Disponibles au pr@prh.email

Website pembrokeregionalhospital.ca - Facebook/Instagram pembrokeregionalhospital - Twitter @PRHhospital

Pembroke Regional Hospital Welcomes Surgical Day Care Patients Into Newly Renovated Space Following Phase 2 Completion Of Redevelopment Project

With Phase 2 of our Surgical Redevelopment Project now complete, Surgical Day Care patients have been welcomed into the transformed space that is bright, modern and is already getting great reviews by those who have seen it.

Roger Martin, Executive Director of the Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation who had the opportunity to view the space before patients moved in February 21st said he was amazed to see what has been created in areas formerly occupied by the old operating rooms and the hospital's original chapel on the third floor of Tower A.

"What was obvious right away is how bright the space is thanks to the abundance of natural light coming in from the large windows throughout the unit. The open concept layout is also a great improvement over the 1950s footprint that originally occupied the space," Mr. Martin said.

He noted that the endoscopy suite and minor procedure rooms which are now housed in the area formerly occupied by the chapel feature enhanced technology and up-to-date equipment. In addition, and as a tribute to the building's history, the beautiful terrazzo flooring that adorned the chapel and has stood the test of time was preserved and incorporated into the new design.

"This incredible transformation and upgrade was only possible thanks to the generous donations made by those in our community as part of the



Cutting Edge Campaign and while there is still work to be done on the inpatient side of the Surgical floor, this is a moment to celebrate as it will really enhance the patient experience and the environment in which we care for our family and friends," he said.

Valued at \$18 million, the three-phase Surgical Redevelopment Project is 90% funded by the province while community fundraising is covering the cost of equipment and the remaining 10%.

The construction began nearly two years ago with the relocation of the hospital's chapel to the first floor of Tower A in order to free up the space needed on the third floor to expand the Surgical program and make room for the area that now houses the surgical registration, endoscopy suite, multi-procedural room, Surgical Day Care unit and the hospital's medical device scope reprocessing area.

Beth Brownlee, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services and Chief Nursing Executive (CNE) said the goal of the project is to co-locate and improve all surgical services and patient space on the third floor of Towers A and D, linked by an enclosed walkway.

Doing this will lead to improved patient flow as patients will register at the point of care and receive their surgical procedure and care all on the same level in newly updated patient space. **Continued on Page 2**



Looking for Mental Health, Substance Use Health, and Addictions Support?

AccessMHA can help.

www.AccessMHA.ca
1-833-527-8207

**One starting point.
One referral.
One assessment process.**

PRH Partners With Others To Help The Region's Vulnerable Population

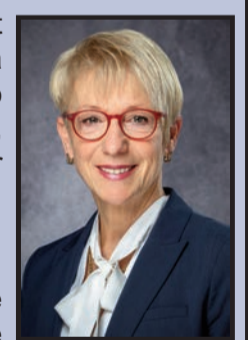
Aligned with our mission, and in the spirit of collaboration, members of our Mental Health Services Mobile Crisis Team have joined with community paramedics and other partners to support vulnerable individuals within the community, in addition to their ongoing partnership with the OPP (Ontario Provincial Police).

They are part of a broader community-based approach named mesa (derived from the term used for a flat-topped hill; a formation in the landscape that is stable and supported) which addresses the root cause of substance use, addictions, mental health issues and homelessness. The team has recently been part of patrols in downtown Pembroke, responding to calls and offering assistance to those in need. The paramedics address immediate health concerns or injuries, while the mental health crisis workers provide crucial links to local resources. In response to the region's escalating drug crisis, education around drug safety is also an important part of their interactions.

"We are proud to collaborate with our many community partners on the mesa approach, working to find innovative ways to support the safety and wellbeing of those in our community who are most at risk," said Melanie Henderson, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services, Partnerships and Integration at PRH.

Significant Investments Are Transforming Care Delivery And The Patient Experience

While only a few months have passed since my last update, I am very happy to share that there has been a great amount of activity at PRH, all of which continues to be focused on patient experience improvements, infrastructure upgrades and strategic planning to guide our care delivery over the next five years.



Sabine Mersmann

Timeline for Epic Implementation

Since announcing our hospital's investment in Epic, the new health information system which is best known as the system that features *MyChart*, I'm very excited to share that we now have a project team and implementation timeline in place. The initial phases of work will begin this September and, overall, given the magnitude of the change this represents to our hospital, we are anticipating a 14-month implementation period with a projected go-live date in November, 2025.

By implementing Epic, we will become part of a fully integrated network of 10 hospitals in our region using this state-of-the-art and best-in-class health information system. The Ottawa Hospital is the host hospital for this system which means that Pembroke Regional Hospital will have the same access to standardized care pathways and best practices as TOH.

Installation of Automated Dispensing Units (ADUs) for Medication

In February, our hospital completely transformed the way medication is dispensed with the installation of Automated Dispensing Units (ADUs) on all clinical units.

Recognized as best-practice in the health care industry and representing a \$2.2 million investment in the way we deliver medication to patients, ADUs are locked, automated cabinets that provide secure medication storage while making most medications immediately available to be safely dispensed right on the patient unit when they are needed, all while tracking drug distribution. **Continued on Page 2**

Surgical Day Care Patients Welcomed Into New Space...Continued From Front

Phase 3 of the project, which is now underway, involves a complete reconstruction of the hospital's inpatient surgical space and should be ready for occupancy in early fall. In preparation for this phase, the inpatient Surgical program was temporarily moved to Tower A's second floor last June.

PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann said the final phase will result in another incredible transformation of a space built in the 1950s. The "new" wing, which has been completely gutted, will be built to all current codes, housing a mix of private and semi-private patient rooms which are larger than those there previously.

Two new isolation rooms will also be added along with all new infrastructure, and new and enhanced comfort and safety features including the following:

- Central air and large energy efficient windows
- Larger accessible bathrooms with modern fixtures, new plumbing, grab

bars, an upgraded nurse call system and safety doors that can open in both directions

- Brand new plumbing, improved electrical systems and terrazzo flooring

On average there are currently between 20 and 40 tradespeople working in the space each day.

"We recognize the impact that all of this work has had on our patient environment and while we have worked hard with our contractor to minimize disruption we know that, at times, it has been challenging. Being able to welcome patients into the transformed spaces has been wonderful and we look forward to being able to share with the community the final transformation that has taken place when the work is fully complete."

Mrs. Mersmann said that the hospital will make plans to host a grand opening celebration for the entire Surgical unit as well as a public tour opportunity once Phase 3 wraps up.



Patient Satisfaction Survey Goes Digital

To help gather timely feedback about the hospital experience through a new electronic survey, patients are now being asked to provide their email address at the time of registration.

Previously, paper-based satisfaction surveys were mailed to patients post-discharge.

The new tool which went "live" in early December surveys our inpatients and those visiting the Emergency Department. It is emailed post-discharge with consent, and is also available for completion on the units and in the ED via a QR code.



Being able to regularly assess how patients perceive the care we deliver helps to guide our Quality Improvement Plan while also ensuring that the patient voice is well represented in other improvement initiatives.

The switch to electronic distribution enables us to collect survey responses in real-time while the results automatically populate an accessible dashboard. Having the data in this format also enables us to share the real-time comments with those impacted in a timely manner.

New Process Improves Care For ED Patients With Heart Attack Symptoms

Thanks to a new process implemented in our Emergency Department last August, patients who are experiencing chest pain and other heart attack symptoms are now being assessed by ECG in record time.

An electrocardiogram (ECG) is a test that checks heart function by measuring and recording the electrical activity that passes through the heart. A doctor can then determine if this electrical activity is normal or irregular.

Under the previous process, patients presenting with these symptoms were required to complete a number of steps before they received their ECG. This often resulted in some delays between the patient's arrival time and when the ECG took place.

Recognizing that there was room for improvement, our Emergency Department team came together to look at ways to enhance the process by safely bypassing some of the steps, enabling patients to go directly into the department where a trained RPN (Registered Practical Nurse) does the ECG and the physician reads the results. If the results are not life-threatening, the patient is further assessed and registered, otherwise they are treated immediately based on the test outcome and medical assessment.

Now seven months in, the door to ECG time has been reduced to well within the 10 minute provincial target time, patients experiencing these symptoms are receiving answers in a more timely fashion and our RPNs are excited to perform this skill within their scope of practice.

"Being able to enhance the care we provide through improvement initiatives like this leads to a great outcome for all involved," said Beth Brownlee, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services, noting that it enhances the skill level for our nurses, while ensuring safe, efficient, quality care for our patients.



RPN Alex M. sets up to perform an ECG.

Significant Investments...Continued

These ADUs have significantly enhanced our medication dispensing and administration processes, while improving efficiency, and ensuring the highest level of patient safety.

In addition to ensuring that 400 front line staff received training on this new technology, there was a great deal of work leading up to implementation that involved many of our team members throughout the organization from Pharmacy to Information Technology, Plant Services and Nursing.

Cancer Care Project

As you will see in the Foundation's update, the \$3.5 million dollar *Cancer Care Campaign* has recently come to a successful close with funds allocated for the expansion, upgrade and overall improvement of our Chemotherapy and Medical Day Care unit – specifically the waiting and treatment areas, along with the Pharmacy where chemotherapy medication is prepared.

Phase 1 of this project involving the Pharmacy was completed a year ago and included the construction of two new state-of-the-art sterile rooms.

Phase 2 involving the Chemotherapy and Medical Day Care unit began in mid March and is scheduled for completion by late fall. This renovation work will significantly enhance the patient care experience with the creation of an open-concept unit, with an enhanced focus on patient safety and care.

The expanded unit will feature three additional treatment chairs, two patient washrooms, an infection control isolation room, a private examination room, a multi-use area where patients can obtain ice, water and light snacks, and a centralized nursing station.

This phase of the project will also include the creation of education space for patients and their families as well as a meeting room and comfortable waiting area for families who want to accompany their loved ones.

During construction, we will create some temporary space for our Chemotherapy area to ensure patients have uninterrupted service.

Tower C Main Entrance Project

Work has also begun on the ground floor of Tower C where a \$2.3 million investment will completely transform the space to create a distinct main entrance for our hospital as well as beautiful new space for The Sunshine Gift Shop and Mulvihill Drug Mart.

While things in that area may look a little different, ground floor access for those with appointments will not be impacted. The total timeline from start to finish for this project is anticipated to be about 12 months so we will be keeping our team and the public updated as things progress!

New Five-Year Strategic Plan

And last, but not least, I'm very excited to share that our new five-year Strategic Plan was approved by the hospital's Board March 27th.

Development of our five-year plan was a direct result of thoughtful, positive, collaborative engagement with more than 1,000 individuals including members of our health care team, partners, stakeholders, patients and families, and their voices are clearly reflected in the document that we are in the process of rolling out.

At its core, this version of our Strategic Plan revolves around caring. Our patients (all who receive services), their families, as well as the friends, neighbors, and caregivers they consider family are at the heart of our plan and will remain our focus as we enhance, build upon and shape the services we provide in the days, months and years to come.

Our hospital was built on a foundation of caring by its founders who vowed to address the unmet needs of the community and ensure the population's most vulnerable residents were cared for. While this mission has evolved, it's one we continue to uphold today, and our plan reflects this in so many ways.

I look forward to sharing more details of this plan with you in the coming weeks. Until then, know that we are working hard, through all of our endeavors, to ensure that the quality care you and your loved ones need and deserve not only meets, but exceeds your expectations.

PRH Works Hard To Ensure Evolving Accessibility Needs Are Met And Exceeded

For many years, our hospital has addressed accessibility through the work of a large committee with broad representation that creates and implements a plan to identify, prevent and remove accessibility barriers. This Board-approved plan can be found on our website.

The Accessibility Plan also addresses the evolving needs of our patients and ensures that we, as a health care organization, are compliant with provincial legislation.

Our accessibility work is broadly defined, referring not only to our hospital's physical space but also to policy development, employee and volunteer training, procurement of goods and services, customer service, employment (safety plans and recruitment), public information and the PRH website.

Some examples of the work that's been done in these areas over the past few years include:

- The re-design of the Rehabilitation patio
- The installation of new parking equipment in the Deacon and Mackay Street parking lots
- The addition of elevator audio cues
- The installation of accessible paper towel dispensers and electronic door openers
- Aligning action plans with our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Visual audits with members of the Patient and Family Advisory Council to identify accessibility improvement ideas
- Ensuring that our website is compliant to meet the standards for persons with visual concerns
- Updating policies in HR for accommodation of workers with disabilities
- Establishing assessment processes for all purchased equipment to ensure it meets accessibility guidelines.

But the work doesn't stop there. With an aging population and recognition that accessibility goes beyond the physical attributes of our hospital, we are always looking for ways to improve above and beyond what is required.

This means finding better ways to provide direction and wayfinding throughout our buildings, introducing improved translation services, looking at the way we do things from a "senior-friendly" perspective, updating our Service Animal Policy and installing a hitching post in an appropriate area for those in our region who may travel to the hospital by horse and buggy.

In addition, we have launched a public-facing email address accessibility@prh.email, and an accessibility feedback form on our website's accessibility page. If there are ways in which we can do better, or if you feel some aspect of accessibility needs to be addressed, please be sure to let us know.

Staff And Physicians Gather To Celebrate Hospital-Wide Achievements

Recently, we gathered to celebrate a cross-section of achievements for which our hospital and health care team have been recognized. Each represented either an enhancement to the patient experience, an improvement in the care we deliver or a way in which we give back to the broader community. Four of these are showcased below.

Advancements Made In Stroke Care

Last October, in consultation with the Regional Stroke Centre, our District Stroke Centre rolled out an improved Code Stroke process, utilizing TNK (Tenecteplase), a powerful blood-thinning medication given to patients experiencing a stroke caused by a sudden blockage of an artery that supplies blood to the brain. With this change in medication, there's been a noticeable 7-8 minute decrease in our "door to needle" times - meaning, on average, patients are receiving treatment, if eligible, within 48.7 minutes. In addition to improving the process, because TNK is given as a single dose, it means faster treatment for our patients.

In addition, PRH continues to be a provincial leader with 98.7% of stroke and TIA patients treated on our inpatient acute stroke unit during their hospital stay. These same patients who may need rehabilitation are quickly transferred to our inpatient Rehabilitation program within four days of admission - this is one quarter of the time that other patients in the Champlain region are waiting to receive stroke rehabilitation services.

Surgical Services Team Recognized For Participation In National Quality Improvement Initiatives

Our Surgical Services team has participated in the *National Surgical Quality Improvement Plan* and the *Ontario Quality Improvement Plan* since

2018. This program provides surgical patient outcome information enabling the team to identify and implement quality improvement initiatives.

This year, PRH has received the distinction as an *American College of Surgeons Surgical Quality Partner*. This designation means that PRH has demonstrated adherence to the most rigorous standards in surgical quality showing commitment to maintaining, evaluating, and improving surgical quality standards for patients. Department representatives regularly review our data and seek out opportunities to improve, while the team as a whole helps implement all necessary changes to drive improvement.

Two primary areas of focus showing great success to date have been a reduction in opioid prescribing post operatively and surgical site infection rates.

Pharmacy Upgrades Contribute To Success Accreditation

We are proud to share that, as a result of the latest Pharmacy department renovations, our hospital has one of the region's first hospital-based pharmacies to be completely compliant with the standards of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) and the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP).

Materials Management Department Supports Hospitals In Need

Our Materials Management team has been recognized for their ongoing support of several Cuban hospitals, including a paediatric hospital and a heart institute, through the donation of used and expired medical products.

The donations are facilitated through non-profit groups, *Not Just Tourists* and the *Canada Cuba Care Connection*.



Staff from multiple departments attended our recent ceremony to speak about their teams' achievements, celebrate those involved and accept the awards to be displayed on the units.

Orthopaedic Surgery Helped White Lake Resident Get His Life Back On Track



Steve Waterston

White Lake resident Steve Waterston says that he has finally regained his life and his freedom thanks, in part, due to the life changing surgery he had at PRH and the care he has received from all of his health care professionals.

Two years ago, the 58-year-old year old was skating with family when he heard a "crunching" sound in his hip and experienced pain that radiated into his back and leg. After multiple diagnostic tests and physician consultations, an MRI at PRH confirmed a hip injury and the need for hip replacement surgery.

Steve was waitlisted for the procedure and suffered excruciating pain for the better part of two years. While he praised the care and compassion he received through community-based physiotherapy, the pain worsened. As a result he had limited his mobility and was forced to make

the difficult decision to step back from his automotive shop, doing what he could virtually while his son managed the business in his place.

Thankfully, an opportunity arose to have his surgery in Pembroke with orthopaedic surgeon Dr. George Mathew. Following an initial assessment, Steve said it wasn't long before he got the call that the surgery would take place December 6th.

As part of his preparations, Steve heeded the doctor's recommendations and did what he could to prepare his body for surgery and recovery, while also connecting with local resources to ensure that he would have the equipment he required at home post-op.

Acknowledging that the surgery itself couldn't have gone better, Steve had nothing but praise for all involved in his care – noting that they were a "wonderful team" with a high level of professionalism, knowledge and compassion. He also appreciated Dr. Mathew's transparency in what to expect throughout the process and said that once the initial surgical pain was managed, he

was very pleased to see that his hip and back pain that he had lived with for so long, was now gone.

In fact, Steve felt so good that he was up using his walker and baking a cake two days after discharge much to the amusement of his family who credited that to the pain medication while Steve called it testimony to the excellent work of Dr. Mathew.

He adds that having a support system in place to assist with recovery, especially in the first 2-3 weeks was very important and he feels blessed that his family was there for him.

Now a little more than four months post-surgery, Steve continues with physiotherapy in the community, has made some transformative lifestyle changes and even returned to light duties at work on April 1st.

He said that his surgical experience at PRH helped get his life back on track and he is now looking at life with a renewed sense of optimism as a result.

Join Us As A Patient Advisor Or Part Of Our Patient And Family Advisory Council

Patient advisors volunteer in various capacities to provide feedback and ideas that help us improve the quality and safety of the care we provide.

To apply, or learn more, please call (613) 732-2811, extension 6161 or email laurie.tomasini@prh.email




Cancer Care CAMPAIGN

YOU DID IT!

\$3,500,000.00

Raised for local cancer care!

The Cancer Care Campaign will fund the expansion, upgrades and overall improvements for the Pembroke Regional Hospital's Chemotherapy and Medical Day Care Unit! Renovations are now underway!

Thank you!

The Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation is very excited to update you on the success of our *Cancer Care Campaign*. This incredible campaign of \$3.5 million dollars was launched in early 2021 and, thanks to supporters in our community just like you and some incredible fundraisers like *Catch the Ace* and our signature *Black & White Gala*, the campaign has come to a successful close.

Renovations to the Chemotherapy and Medical Day Care unit have already begun!

We thank our community for their incredible support!

Help Keep Healthcare Close to Home!

Building on the Pembroke Regional Hospital's commitment to having quality care closer to home, we are focused on raising the necessary funds that will advance and expand our ability to provide top quality patient care, and ensure our teams have access to the very best equipment and advanced technology to serve our community.

As the purchase of equipment is not funded by the government, it is up to the generous support of the community to ensure that we have state-of-the-art equipment available at PRH. In continuing the Foundation's mission of raising, managing and distributing funds to our hospital for it's highest priority equipment needs, here are some of the upcoming items we are raising funds for:



Our hospital's high priority needs:

- **Replacement CT Scanner:** PRH's existing CT Scanner (purchased in 2012) currently services 12,000 cases per year and is approaching end-of-life (estimated date of 2026). An updated CT Scanner is required to ensure patients have continued access to this critical diagnostic imaging service at Pembroke Regional Hospital.
- **Health Information System (EPIC):** Recognized as the system with **MyChart**, all information will be transferred from a primarily paper-based system to a connected digital system that receives and organizes all patient information. Having this system will improve staff and physician access to patient information from other sites in the region that use this technology, while patients will be able to access their information through **MyChart**, a patient portal that enables access to health information including appointments, lab and diagnostic imaging results, and discharge/medication instructions.
- **Other equipment needs:** Bone Density Test Unit, Thyroid Uptake System, Ultrasound machines, patient beds, Maternal Fetal Monitor, GlideScope and more.

You can be part of this remarkable journey to advance local healthcare by making a donation using the attached donation form or becoming a **Monthly Donor**.

Thank you for your support of local healthcare!

YES, I will help my Pembroke Regional Hospital

- Here is a one-time gift to help my PRH when it needs me the most.
- I want to make a monthly gift to ensure the continued health and well being of Renfrew County families for the foreseeable future.
- I wish to make a pledge gift of \$_____ per year for 3 years to act as a transformation gift towards the greatest equipment needs at the Pembroke Regional Hospital.

Gift Amount: \$30 \$50 \$100 Other: _____

Please use my credit card: VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS

DONATE ONLINE: www.prhfoundation.com/donate

Full Name	Card #	Expiry Date
Phone Number	Email (for electronic newsletters and tax receipt)	
Address	Municipality, Province	Postal Code

Charitable registration #: 870047610 RR0001 705 Mackay Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 1G8 (613) 732-2811 x 7408

More ways to help:

DONATE ONLINE: prhfoundation.com/donate



Catch the Ace:

prhcatchtheace.ca



Spring Lotto For Healthcare:

prhspringlotto.ca

Charitable registration #: 870047610 RR0001
705 Mackay Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 1G8
(613) 732-2811 x 7408

By selecting "Recurring Monthly Donation", you can make a gift that keeps on giving and help us purchase our highest priority needs, as we need them! For additional information, please call (613) 732-2811 extension 7408 or email: foundation@prh.email. To make an online donation visit www.PRHFoundation.com.

May 2024

Your Worship and Members of Council,

I am writing to provide an update on the ongoing activity regarding Enbridge Gas' rate rebasing application and the Government's introduction of the Keeping Energy Costs Down Act.

Enbridge Gas raised numerous concerns with the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of our rate rebasing application. We took action by appealing the decision in Divisional Court and filing a Motion to Review evidence with the OEB. Many municipalities and stakeholders across Ontario passed motions to support access to natural gas and continue to bring the issues that matter to your municipalities forward – your voices matter tremendously in this important conversation.

We commend the Government of Ontario for its definitive action in support of affordable energy and consumer choice with the introduction of Bill 165, the [Keeping Energy Costs Down Act](#). The legislation reinforces the critical role of natural gas in keeping energy costs down for Ontarians and the importance of natural gas and its associated infrastructure in achieving Ontario's energy transition in a measured and practical way. The Standing Committee on the Interior considered Bill 165 in April 2024, where interested parties, including many municipal voices, delivered presentations and provided submissions. Bill 165 received royal assent on May 16, 2024.

This legislation is an important step to addressing energy affordability, resiliency, and reliability. However, there continues to be critical barriers that must be addressed to ensure the remainder of the OEB's decision does not have significant negative impacts on Ontario's growth plans. The reduction in capital continues to put at risk thousands of planned connections in 2024 and will significantly constrain our ability to invest in energy projects that contribute to addressing Ontario's economic development, competitiveness, and emissions reductions. It is imperative that strategic investments in the energy infrastructure are backed by a supportive regulatory environment that ensures the availability of capital to meet Ontario's growing demand for affordable, reliable, and resilient energy. To that end, the Government must send a clear signal in its Natural Gas Policy Statement that for capital investments in energy infrastructure, which are required to meet Government policy goals, the OEB shall ensure cost-recovery mechanisms that provide regulatory certainty for recovery of these capital investments.

In addition, on April 26, Enbridge Gas filed evidence for Phase 2 of our rate rebasing application. Our Phase 2 application was structured to provide our customers with what they have identified is most important to them: the continued safe and dependable delivery of natural gas at a reasonable cost while simultaneously taking measured steps to advance an orderly transition to a sustainable energy future for Ontario. This is an open and public process. Interested groups or individuals can find out more information on the [OEB's website](#) under case number EB-2024-0111.

We have shared information on the role of natural gas in Ontario and facts to correct the record on numerous claims being circulated by activists that are simply untrue. We encourage municipalities and stakeholders to become familiar with the facts before voting or making decisions. You can find information and resources on our website at [Natural Gas Matters | Enbridge Gas](#) and reach out with questions at any time.

As local leaders across the province, your voice on the future of Ontario's energy system matters. Access to affordable energy supports economic development, housing growth and energy reliability. We encourage you to continue to highlight the need for natural gas and its infrastructure for Ontario today and into the future.

As always, we welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these items with you. Please reach out to your municipal advisor or find us at municipalaffairs@enbridge.com.

With thanks,



Heidi Bredenholler-Prasad
Vice President and Chief Customer Officer
Enbridge Gas Inc.

Khalid Ghadban 613.884.1650



HomeSuiteHomes.co

HOME SUITE HOMES

**TRANSFORMING PROPERTIES EMPOWERING LIVES
WITH ACCESSIBLE DWELLING UNITS**

Are you looking for a smart and lucrative investment opportunity that can generate a reliable stream of rental income? Look no further! Our team at Home Suite Homes is thrilled to introduce you to the exciting world of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), and how they can transform your property into a profitable income-generating asset. Big dream, small budget? Let's make your homeownership dreams come true! ADUs are secondary living spaces that can be built on your existing property, either attached to your primary residence or as a separate structure on your land. They offer a myriad of benefits for homeowners, and earning rental income is just the beginning.

We put the YOU in ADU!

Introducing Home Suite Homes! The Future of Real Estate Investment is with Multigenerational & Rental Dwelling Units.

In an ever-evolving real estate landscape, one concept stands out as both innovative and timeless—multigenerational dwelling units. We are excited to present Home Suite Homes, a visionary company dedicated to creating unique living spaces designed for modern families looking to invest in their future. At Home Suite Homes, we understand that housing needs are as diverse as the generations themselves. As an investor looking to maximize rental income, or a homeowner planning for the long term, our multigenerational dwelling units offer a compelling solution.

In this document, you'll find a chart that provides investors with calculations for the comparison chart considering the mortgage rates of 6.00% on a \$120,000 mortgage amortized over 25 years and a \$500,000 mortgage with the same rates and terms. The rental income for the \$120,000 investment is \$1,500 per month, while the rental income for the \$500,000 investment is \$2,300 per month. The chart will illustrate the potential cash flow before expenses and compare it against the mortgage payments over 5 and 10 years.

Assumptions:

- Mortgage rates: 6.00%**
- Mortgage term: 25 years (300 months)**
- Rental income for \$120,000 investment: \$1,500 per month**
- Rental income for \$500,000 investment: \$2,300 per month**



WE MOVE QUICKLY SO YOU CAN TOO

01

Permits & Planning

We will help you get all of the necessary permits, connect you with a mortgage broker to get your financing in order and plan your dream space!

02

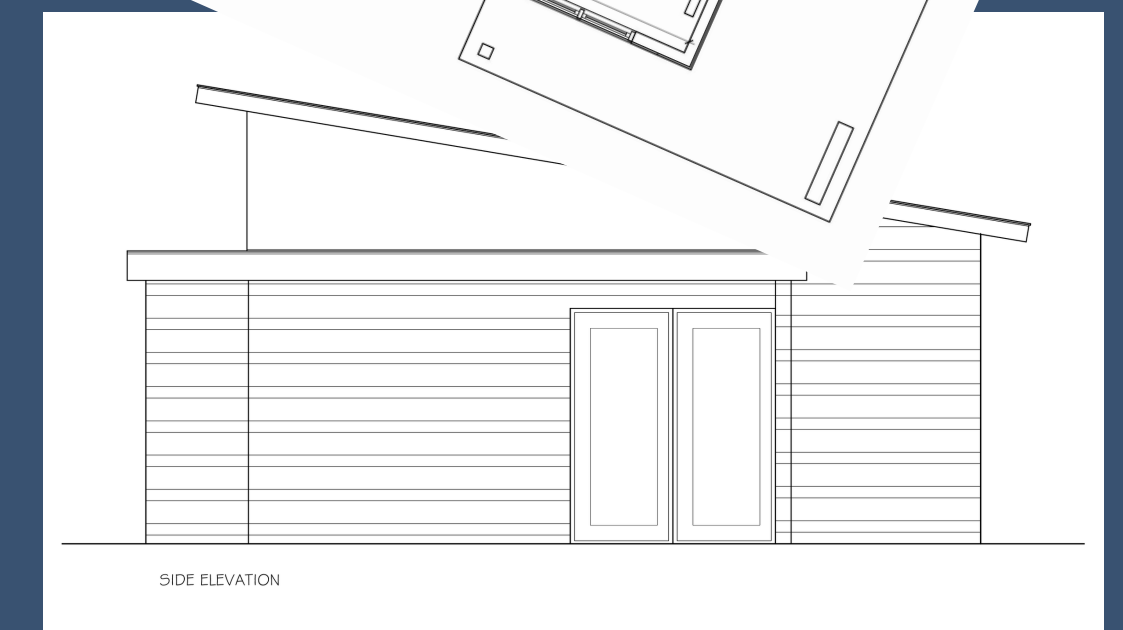
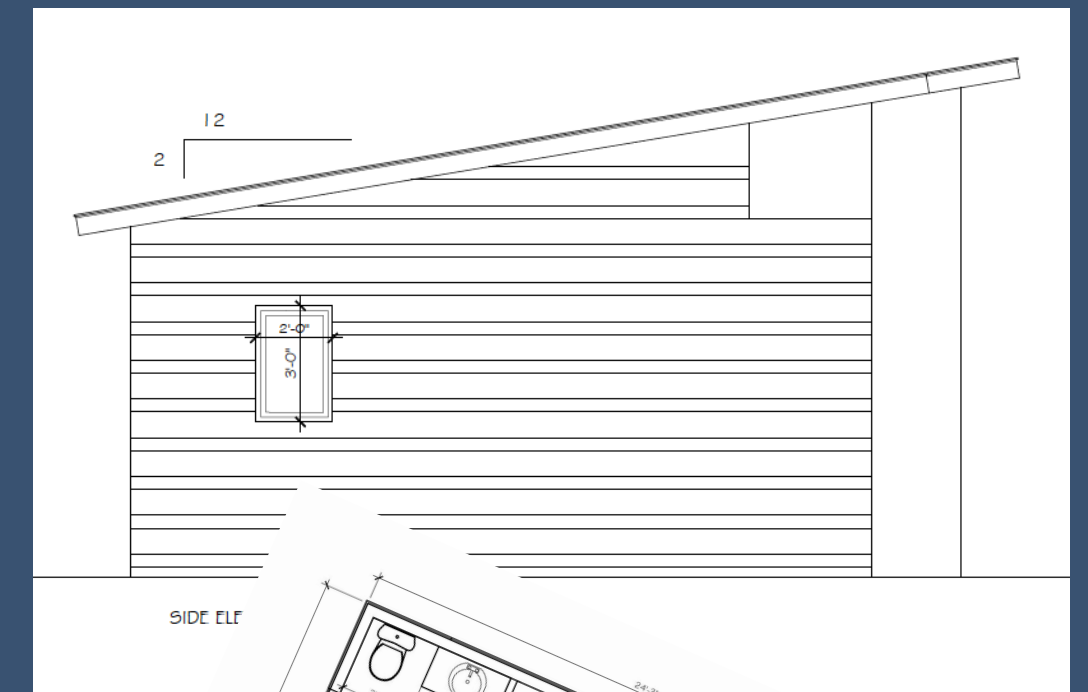
Choosing your custom finishings and floor plan

We work with high quality products, from roofing to windows, right down to the radiant floor heating. We work with you to choose the floor plan, products and finishings to make your ADU custom to fit to suit your needs and budget.

03

Building Process

Once your permit is secured, our team will arrive onsite to start the build! We tie in water, sewer and electrical with your existing property. The process typically takes 8 weeks.



WHY INVEST IN MULTIGENERATIONAL DWELLING UNITS?

01

Income Potential:

With the rising cost of living, renting out additional units within your property can significantly boost your rental income. Our carefully designed multigenerational units offer separate living spaces while maintaining a sense of unity, making them highly desirable among renters.

02

Future-Proofing:

Multigenerational living is on the rise, driven by changing demographics and economic factors. By investing in multigenerational units today, you're preparing for a future where flexible living arrangements are increasingly sought after.

03

Diverse Tenant Pool:

Multigenerational units appeal to a wide range of potential renters, including extended families, working professionals, and students. This diversity can lead to stable occupancy rates and reduced vacancy risks.

04

Tax Benefits:

Depending on your location and tax regulations, you may be eligible for certain tax incentives or deductions when you invest in multifamily properties. **Click here to [learn more](#).**



WHY INVEST IN MULTIGENERATIONAL DWELLING UNITS?

05

Family Harmony:

For families seeking a closer, yet separate living arrangement, our multigenerational units provide the perfect balance of togetherness and privacy. Create cherished memories while maintaining your individual lifestyles.

06

Sustainable Design:

Our units incorporate sustainable and energy-efficient features, reducing utility costs for both residents and property owners. Investing in a greener future has never been easier.



At Home Suite Homes, we are committed to redefining real estate investment by providing the means to generate income, foster stronger family bonds, and embrace the changing dynamics of our world. Join us on this exciting journey to discover the endless possibilities of multigenerational living.

Welcome to the future of real estate investment with Home Suite Homes.

LET'S TALK DOLLARS

The cash flow before expenses, considering the rental income, is calculated for 5 years and 10 years. The mortgage payments are also calculated over 5 years and 10 years. The cash flow vs. mortgage payments comparison shows the difference between the cash flow and the total mortgage payments over the specified time periods.



MORTGAGE DETAILS	\$120,000 INVESTMENT	\$500,000 INVESTMENT
Mortgage Amount	\$120,000	\$500,000
Mortgage Rate	6.00%	6.00%
Mortgage Term	25 years (300 months)	25 years (300 months)
Cash Flow Before Expenses	\$120,000 Investment	\$500,000 Investment
Rental Income	\$1,500 per month	\$2,300 per month
5-Year Cash Flow	\$42,371.40	(\$-60,361.80)
10-Year Cash Flow	\$84,742.80	(\$-120,723.60)
Mortgage Payments	\$120,000 Investment	\$500,000 Investment
Monthly Payment	\$793.81	\$3,306.03
Total Mortgage Payments (5 years)	\$47,628.60	\$198,361.80
Total Mortgage Payments (10 years)	\$95,257.20	\$396,723.60
Cash Flow vs. Mortgage Payments	\$120,000 Investment	\$500,000 Investment
5-Year Comparison Rental Income - Mortgage Payments	$\$90,000 - \$47,628.60 = \$42,371.60$	$\$138,000. - \$198,360.80 = (-\$60,361.80)$
10-Year Comparison Rental Income - Mortgage Payments	$\$180,000 - 95,257.20 = \$84,742.80$	$\$276,000. - \$396,721.60 = (-120,721.60)$



COSTS OF A MULTIGENERATIONAL DWELLING UNIT COMPARED WITH SENIORS RESIDENCES



Embracing Independent Retirement Living with an Accessory Dwelling Unit! When you're living in a retirement community, expenses can add up quickly. Building an ADU is often a more cost-effective solution. By utilizing your existing property, an ADU can provide you with the potential for rental income, helping to offset living expenses or provide an additional income stream. Here's a comparison chart between senior's home fees of \$6000 a month and a conventional secondary mortgage added to your current property.

In order for the this to work, the following must be true:

- Current household income, at least \$125-\$150,000 or more
- Current valuation of property between 600 and \$800,000 or more
- Current outstanding debt mortgage on the subject property \$200,000-\$300,000 or less

Building and financing the ADU, requires an investment of \$130,000 which will be added to your current mortgage, either as a blended mortgage with one payment, or partition a 2nd Mortgage, with two different parts to it. You'll be able to do this with a very little cost, only appraisal and legal fees, if you fit the model.

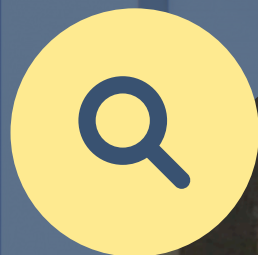
MORTGAGE DETAILS	Conventional Mortgage
MORTGAGE AMOUNT	\$130,000
ESTIMATE MORTGAGE RATE	6.00%
MORTGAGE TERM	5 Years on a 25 Year Amortization Note there are a number of options here.
MONTHLY PAYMENT	\$832



COMPARISON COST	SENIOR HOME FEES	CONVENTIONAL MORTGAGE
MONTHLY	\$6,000	VS \$832

THE TEAM BEHIND US

Teamwork Is The Key



Khalid Ghadban

Founder

613.884.1650

Homesuitehomes42@gmail.com

www.homesuitehomes.co



Carl

General Contractor

www.homesuitehomes.co



Brad Nemes

Mortgage Broker

brad@capitalmortgages.com

www.bradsmortgages.com



Value of ADUs

ADUs are secondary living spaces that can be built on your existing property, either attached to your primary residence or as a separate structure on your land. They offer a myriad of benefits for homeowners, and earning rental income is just the beginning. Connect with us to learn more about how we can work together to build an ideal investment for those seeking to maximize their income potential.

OUR VISION & MISSION



Mission

We are here to provide optimal service to customers by respecting all their requests and using new and innovative strategies to help improve lives and create new income streams.

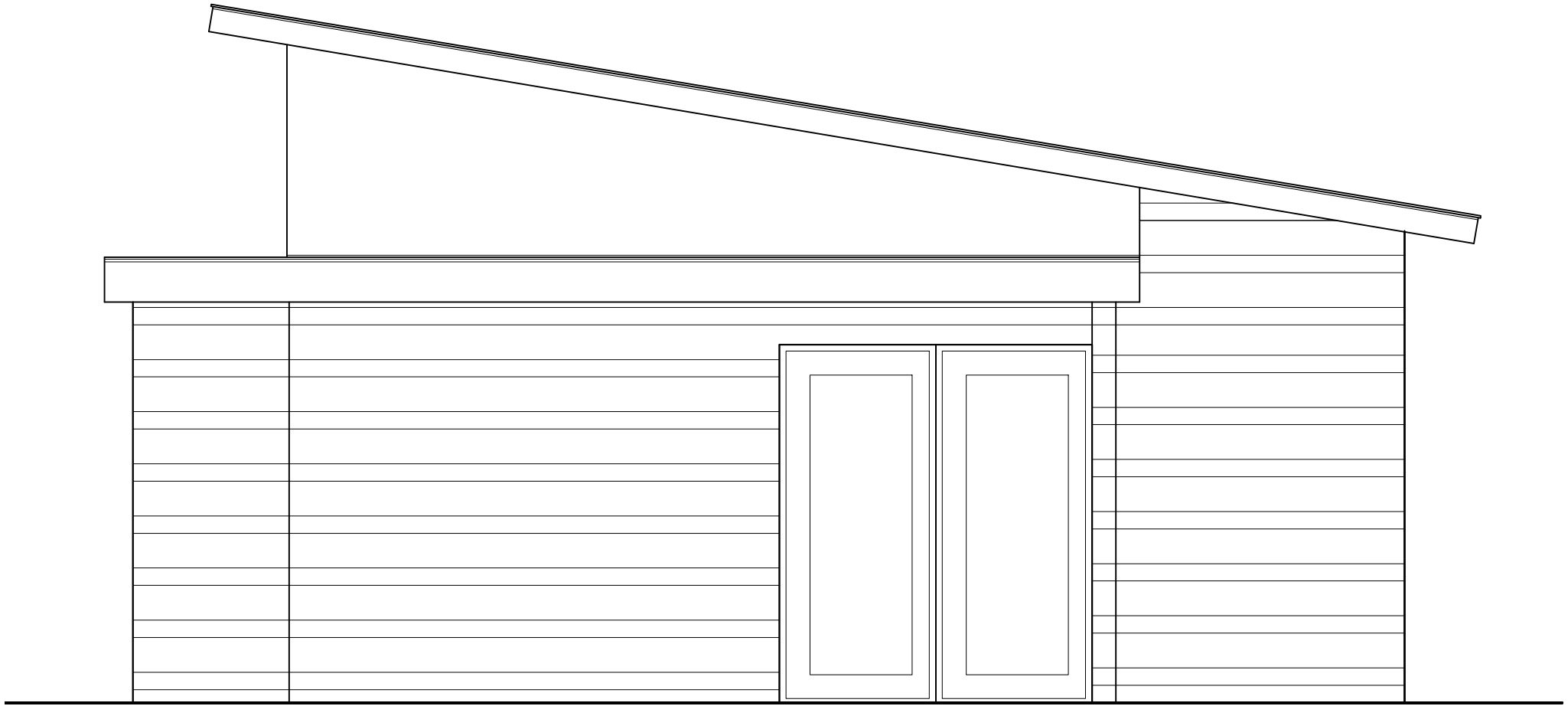


CONTACT US

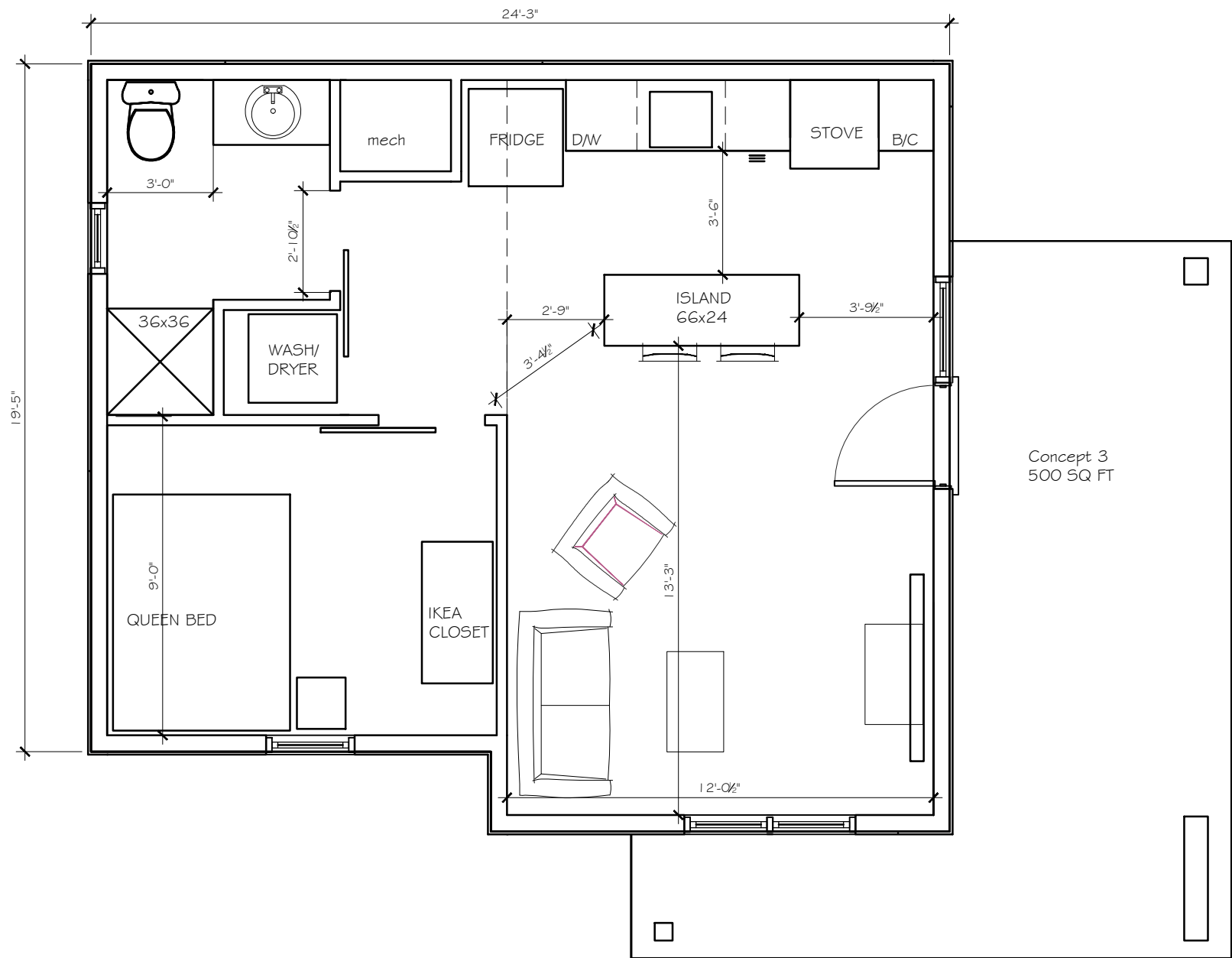
Khalid Ghadban 613.884.1650

www.homesuitehomes.co



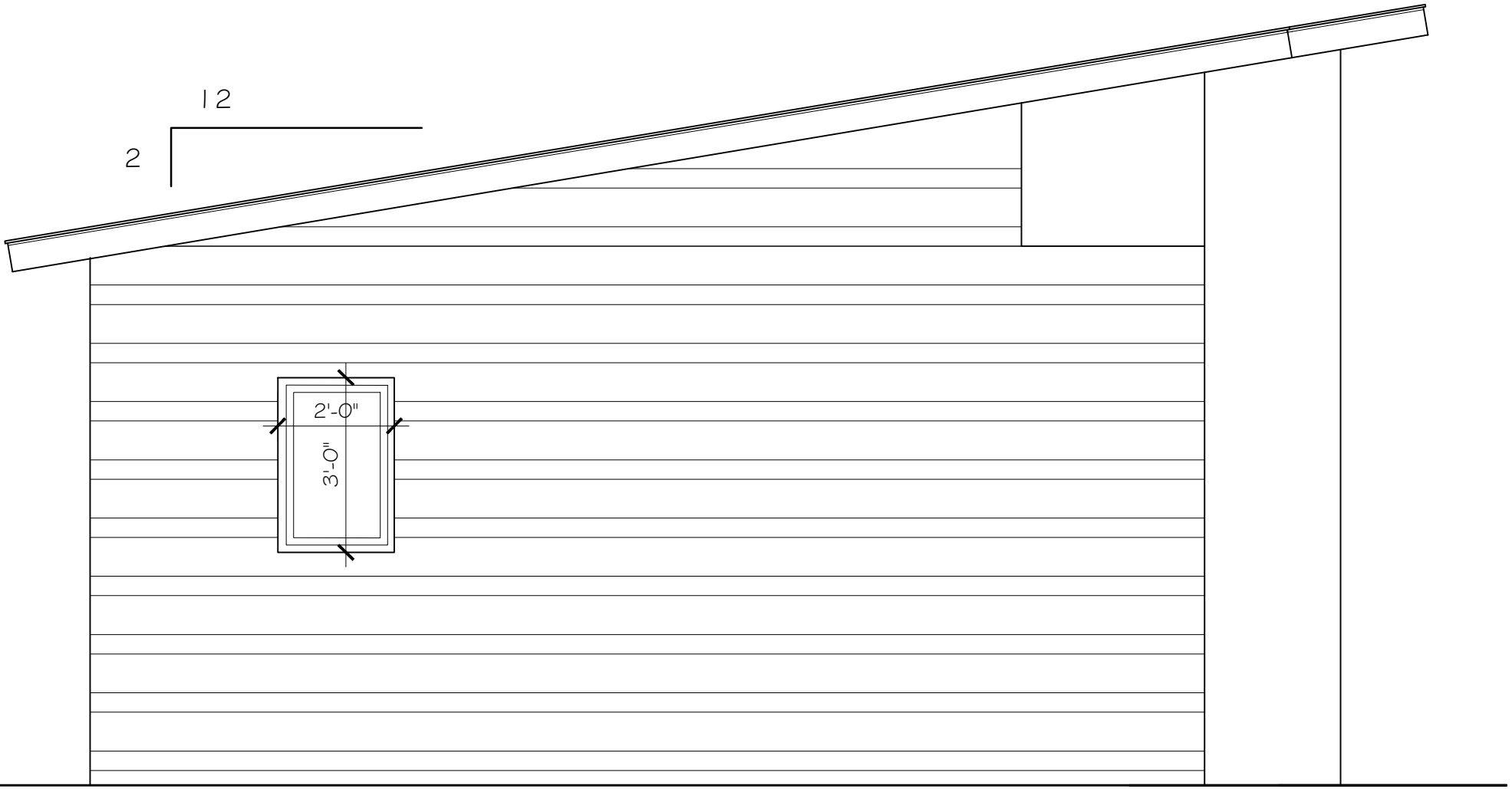


SIDE ELEVATION





FRONT ELEVATION 1



SIDE ELEVATION



Municipality of Huron Shores
7 Bridge Street, PO Box 460
Iron Bridge, ON P0R 1H0
Tel: (705) 843-2033 Fax: (705) 843-2035

April 12, 2024

Resolution #24-12-02 – Urging the Government to Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores passed Resolution #24-12-02 at the Regular Meeting held Wednesday, April 10th, 2024, as follows:

“WHEREAS the assessment cycle is an essential process for maintaining the fairness and predictability of property taxes in our province;

AND WHEREAS the pause in the reassessment cycle has created uncertainty and instability in property taxation, impacting both residential and commercial property owners;

AND WHEREAS the government has delayed an assessment update again in 2024, resulting in Ontario’s municipalities continuing to calculate property taxes using 2016 property values;

AND WHEREAS both current and outdated assessments are inaccurate, increase volatility, and are not transparent;

AND WHEREAS frequent and accurate reassessments are necessary to stabilize property taxes and provide predictability for property owners, residents, and businesses alike;

AND WHEREAS the staff at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation would benefit from further skills enhancement and training in assessments, recognizing the importance of ensuring accurate evaluations for 100% of our municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Government has announced a review of the property assessment and taxation system with a focus on fairness, equity, and economic competitiveness, and therefore further deferring new property assessment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Huron Shores hereby calls upon the Premier to promptly resume the assessment cycle to ensure the stability and predictability of property taxes while the Government conducts its review of the property assessment and taxation system, or respond with an alternative method for every municipality in Ontario to achieve fair taxation;

AND THAT all Municipalities in Ontario and their constituents are encouraged to apply pressure to the Premier, daily, weekly, and monthly, to resolve the situation before it causes undo stress to everyone in the Municipality;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the relevant provincial authorities, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, and all municipalities in Ontario for their consideration, to make proper changes as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

Should you require anything further in order to address the above-noted resolution, please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Natashia Roberts

CAO/Clerk
NR/KN

Cc: Premier of Ontario, the relevant provincial authorities, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, and all municipalities in Ontario

May 9, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 7, 2024 the following resolution regarding seeking support for the Province and Federal Government to work together to help end the national housing affordability crisis.

RESOLUTION NO. **2024-224**
DATE: **May 7, 2024**
MOVED BY: **Councillor Branderhorst**
SECONDED BY: **Councillor Roberts**

WHEREAS there is an unprecedented national housing affordability crisis and substantial investments in new affordable social housing are required to address the overwhelming need;

WHEREAS substantial investments in revitalizing existing affordable social housing are required to maintain existing housing stock so as not to make the national housing affordability crisis worse;

WHEREAS social support expansions are required to prevent families choosing between housing and other basic necessities of life;

WHEREAS the national housing affordability crisis is most acute in Ontario, and unlike most Provinces and Territories in Canada, 47 Service Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards (SM/DSSAB) are responsible for delivering social supports, including housing affordability supports in this Province;

WHEREAS many of these 47 SM/DSSABs in Ontario are larger than many provinces and territories in other provinces in the country, but lack the revenue, policy tools and powers of the Provincial and Federal governments to end the housing affordability crisis on their own;

WHEREAS on March 25, 2024 our local SM/DSSAB (Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services) was notified by the Province that the Federal Government would be cutting \$355 million in funding intended to support affordable social housing across the province, due to a disagreement about how community housing units are counted as part of the National Housing Strategy Action Plan;

WHEREAS any reductions in funding from the Federal and Provincial governments risks the termination of critically needed housing and social supports for some of the most vulnerable across Ontario;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward requests that the funding dispute between the Federal and Provincial governments be resolved to limit mounting harms to some of Ontario's most vulnerable people;

THAT the Federal and Provincial governments to continue to fund SMs/DSSABs in an amount equivalent to the monies under the CMHC-Ontario Bilateral agreement in the National Housing Strategy until a new funding agreement can be reached;

THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward advocate to the Federal and Provincial governments to establish a trilateral table including the SMs/DSSABs, to negotiate the final 3 year tranche of funding under the National Housing Strategy;

THAT Council direct the Mayor to write to the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Housing urgently requesting confirmation that financial support will continue for vulnerable households across Ontario currently in receipt of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit prior to May 31, 2024; and

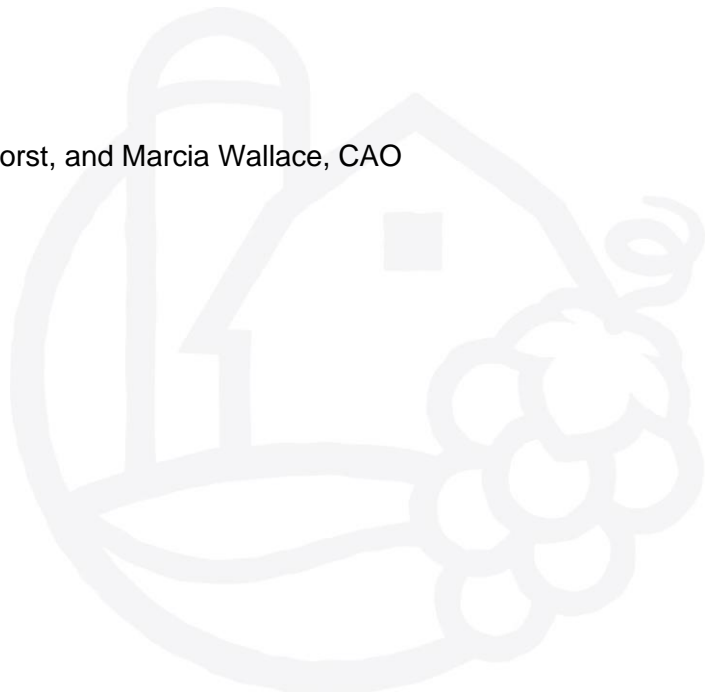
THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Branderhorst, and Marcia Wallace, CAO





T 705-635-2272
TF 1-877-566-0005
F 705-635-2132

TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS
1012 Dwight Beach Rd
Dwight, ON P0A 1H0

May 14, 2024

Via email: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Attention: Paul Calandra
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Mr. Calandra:

RE: Request for Royal Assent of Administrative Monetary Penalty System in the Ontario Building Code Act.

The Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS) is an enforcement tool approved by the Provincial Government in August of 2009 and was originally used for parking offences to free up court time and cost.

A large number of municipalities have adopted an AMPS program and have applied AMPS to other Municipal enforcement by-laws as a replacement to the standard Part 1 Provincial Offences Act (POA) ticket system, as it provides the alleged offender with a flexible appeal system and the municipality the ability to apply unpaid penalties on to the property taxes. AMPS frees up valuable Provincial Offences Court time saving the province and the municipalities valuable resources and funds.

AMPS was written into the Building Code Act in December of 2017 however it has not received Royal Assent. AMPS has proven to be a valuable tool for education and enforcement of other Municipal by-laws. On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays, we ask that AMPS receive Royal Assent. In doing so this would free up time for Building Officials to conduct their primary job (building inspections) instead of having to attend court normally a full day to hear an appeal to Part 1 ticket, at the same time providing the offender a more streamlined appeal system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carrie Sykes', is written over a light blue circular background.

Carrie Sykes, *Dipl. M.A., CMO, AOMC*,
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk.

TG/v
Copy to:

MPP, Graydon Smith
Association of Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipal Clerk and Treasurers of Ontario
All Area Municipalities



ARNPRIOR

Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior

File No. A2/24

Notice of Public Hearing (Electronic Format Via Zoom)

Application for Minor Variance

In The Matter of Section 45, of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990; and
In The Matter of an application for minor variance, with respect to the following:

Take Notice that the minor variance application will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior on **Wednesday, June 5th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. (zoom meeting)**.

Location of Property: **50 Chats Crescent., Arnprior ON**

Purpose and Effect of Minor Variance Application:

Permission is requested for variance from Section 4.15.3 of the Town of Arnprior Zoning By-law No. 6875-18, to reduce the required minimum setback from the high water mark of 30m to 12m to allow for the construct an inground pool

Official Plan: Established Residential Area
Zoning: Residential One (R1)

A key plan is attached. Application A2/24 as well as additional related information, are available for inspection during regular office hours. Please contact the Planning Department prior to attending the Town Hall to set up an appointment.

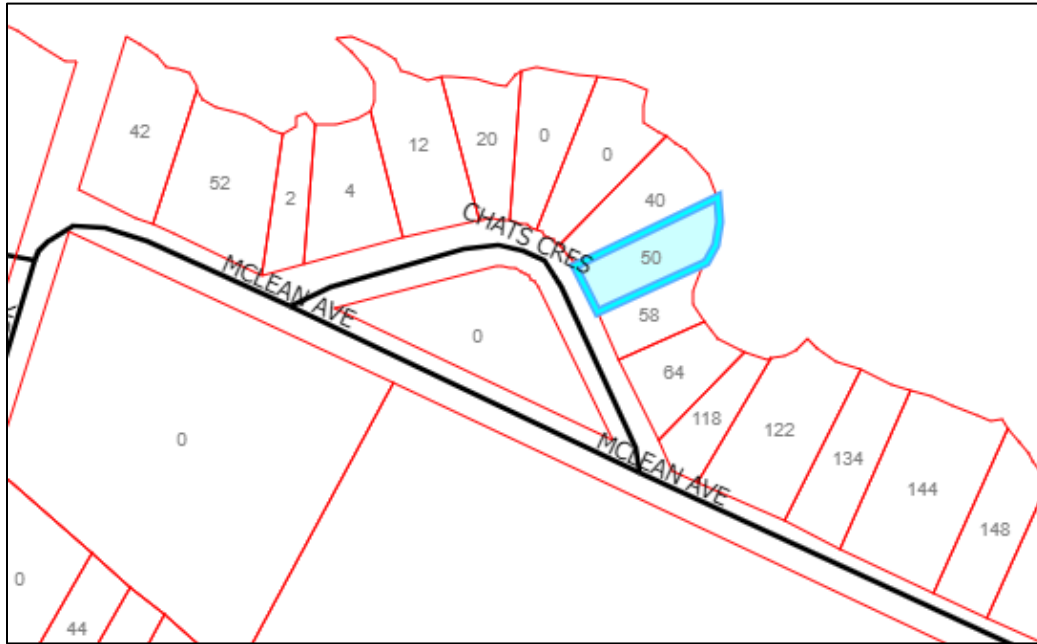
If you wish to make written comments on this application, they may be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment at the address below. If you do not attend the hearing, it may proceed in your absence. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee 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 22nd day of May, 2024

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

Key Plan:



Proposed Variance:

