



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: June 10th, 2024**

Correspondence Package No. I-24-JUN-11

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-24-JUN-11 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Canada

- a) Building stronger, more climate-resilient communities
- b) Budget 2024 - Building homes, communities, and getting major projects done

2. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Ontario Expanding Support for Aspiring Entrepreneurs
- b) Ontario Introducing Online Booking to Exchange Driver's Licences
- c) Ontario Delivering Choice and Convenience by Expanding the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages Starting this Summer
- d) Ontario Strengthening Protections for Homeowners and Homebuyers
- e) Province Introduces New High School Graduation Requirements for a Stronger Ontario Diploma
- f) Ontario Reducing Wait Times for MRI and CT Scans

3. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) May 2024 County Council Summary
- b) Stakeholders gather to officially launch County of Renfrew Mesa initiative
- c) County of Renfrew officials visit Queen's Park
- d) Construction Update - June 2024
- e) Event Poster – Silver Chain Challenge

4. Correspondence from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU)

- a) [Overdose Alert for Renfrew County and District](#)

5. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

- a) [Canada, FCM's GMF and partners launch new municipal database to address gaps in combating climate change](#)

6. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) [Watch File – May 23rd, 2024](#)
- b) [Watch File – May 30th, 2024](#)



[Canada.ca](#) › [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

Building stronger, more climate-resilient communities

From: [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

News release

The Government of Canada provides \$530 million to municipalities through the Green Municipal Fund to help communities adapt to climate change

June 3, 2024 – Ottawa, Ontario

Communities across Canada need new infrastructure that is built for healthy, affordable living, economic sustainability and ensures the safety of homes and businesses in the 21st century. Making our communities more liveable in a world impacted by climate-related events including floods, storms, and wildfires means planning ahead and building more resilient roads, bridges, water treatment facilities, telecommunication, networks evacuation routes and much more.

To provide fairness for every generation, create new opportunities and launch Canadian Environment Week, the Government of Canada is accelerating adaptation support for resilient municipal infrastructure.

Today, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, along with the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, President of the King's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, and Minister

responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada, and Tim Tierney, Third Vice-President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), on behalf of FCM President Scott Pearce, announced the Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) initiative, through the Green Municipal Fund.

This \$530-million initiative represents one of the largest ever investments in building liveable and resilient communities in preparation for climate change in Canadian history and is a key initiative under Canada's National Adaptation Strategy.

Through collaboration with local governments, the initiative will support adaptation planning, capacity building, implementation, and financing, to help municipalities and their partners build long-term, resilient infrastructure. By 2031, the initiative will have funded more than 1,400 municipal activities.

As part of today's announcement, the federally funded Green Municipal Fund is accepting applications through its [website](#) under the Adaptation in Action funding stream of LLCA. In all, there are three funding streams that will provide substantial support for municipalities to carry out climate adaptation projects. In addition to support for climate adaptation planning, municipalities can apply for up to \$1 million for implementation projects and up to \$70,000 for feasibility studies. Municipalities that have completed climate adaptation plans and/or risk assessments are eligible to apply. The deadline for applications is August 14, 2024.

The Green Municipal Fund is also introducing funding for partner-led initiatives that will enable skills development and training to help local governments build more resilient communities. Eligible partners will receive funding and support to design and deliver training programs that equip municipalities with the tools they need for proactive and equitable climate resilience planning.

While all people in Canada are at risk of climate change impacts, these risks are not shared equally. Those already facing inequities in our society, including marginalized groups, the elderly, and the people living with disabilities, are among those most likely to be impacted by severe weather events. The new climate adaptation initiative announced today will focus on advancing meaningful equity and inclusion outcomes through projects to help build stronger, more liveable, and more resilient communities all across Canada.

Quotes

“Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change, and they know best what local challenges—and solutions—are affecting local neighbourhoods, transportation, and businesses. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Government of Canada partnership is helping build stronger, more liveable communities, providing safety and security in the face of a changing climate. With smart investments, forward planning, and active collaboration, we can support communities that are already feeling the impacts of climate change and help make them more sustainable and prosperous for generations to come.”

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

“Today’s announcement marks a significant step forward in empowering local governments to address climate change head-on. By funding climate adaptation initiatives, we are not only supporting communities in their efforts to become more resilient, but also contributing to building stronger, more robust infrastructure. This program ensures a sustainable future and stronger, safer communities for all Canadians.”

– The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

“Extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and severity. We are committed to helping communities build resilience to these hazards. The new LLCA initiative is a great example of the improvements in adaptation and disaster resilience we can achieve through collaboration across all levels of government.”

– The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, President of the King’s Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada

“The Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Green Municipal Fund and the federal government are stepping up to meet the challenges of a changing climate with innovative and community-focused solutions. With the launch of the LLCA initiative, we can bring real, tangible benefits to municipalities. Imagine a new green space in your community that also serves as a flood barrier, or a local training program that empowers residents to tackle climate change head-on. From projects that support storm-resistant coastal barriers and water conservation practices, to slope stabilization for fire-impacted and permafrost-degraded areas, this initiative is a national declaration with locally felt impacts. LLCA will build resilient communities that not only anticipate future climate challenges but actively adapt to them.”
– Scott Pearce, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Quick facts

- Since 1971, Canada has celebrated Canadian Environment Week in alignment with the United Nations World Environment Day, observed on June 5. This year’s theme for World Environment Day is “Generation Restoration”, focused on land restoration, halting desertification, and building drought resilience. Canadian Environment Week expands upon this theme by celebrating all of the actions that we are taking, at home and globally, to achieve a greener future.
- Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy lays out goals, objectives, and targets to reduce the risks associated with climate-related disasters, improve health outcomes, protect nature and biodiversity, build and maintain resilient infrastructure, and support a strong economy and workers.

- To support the Strategy, the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan outlines what the federal government is doing to prepare for climate change. It highlights over 70 actions across 22 departments and agencies to help meet Canada's adaptation goals and address climate change risks facing Canadians.
- The Government of Canada has invested more than \$6.6 billion in adaptation since 2015. This includes \$2.1 billion in commitments since fall 2022 to implement the National Adaptation Strategy and support other adaptation-related activities.
- The Green Municipal Fund manages approximately \$2.4 billion in programs funded by the Government of Canada to support municipal environmental priorities, including the new \$530 million investment in community-based adaptation initiatives.
- This \$530-million investment was first announced on November 24, 2022, as part of over \$2 billion in new federal funding commitments to help protect communities from coast to coast to coast to prepare for climate change under the National Adaptation Strategy.

Related products

- [Update on federal climate change adaptation actions](#)
- [Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation: backgrounder](#)

Associated links

- [Canada's National Adaptation Strategy](#).
- [Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan](#)

- [Green Municipal Fund](#)
- [Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation](#)
- [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#)

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[Canada.ca](#) > [Department of Finance Canada](#) > [News](#)

Budget 2024: Building homes, communities, and getting major projects done

From: [Department of Finance Canada](#)

News release

June 4, 2024 - Ottawa, Ontario - Department of Finance Canada

Budget 2024 is seizing the opportunities of today to build a Canada that works better for every generation.

First, the new **\$6 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund** will accelerate the construction of the infrastructure communities need to build more homes. This fund includes \$1 billion to address the urgent infrastructure needs of municipalities, such as water and sewer systems, so they can build more housing. The fund also includes \$5 billion to be allocated to provinces and territories that have ambitious housing plans, to support long-term infrastructure priorities. Provinces and territories can only access this \$5 billion in funding if they commit to the following key actions:

- Requiring municipalities to broadly adopt four units as-of-right and allow duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, and other multi-unit apartments;
- Implementing a three-year freeze on increasing development charges from April 2, 2024, levels for municipalities with a population greater than

300,000;

- Adopting forthcoming changes to the National Building Code to support more accessible, affordable, and climate-friendly housing options;
- Requiring as-of-right construction for the government's upcoming Housing Design Catalogue; and,
- Implementing measures from the Home Buyers' Bill of Rights and Renters' Bill of Rights.

Provinces will have until January 1, 2025, to secure an agreement, and territories will have until April 1, 2025. If a province or territory does not secure an agreement by their respective deadlines, their funding allocation will be transferred to the municipal stream.

Second, in Budget 2024, the federal government is **cutting red tape to get major job-creating projects done**. The government is making regulatory reforms to improve efficiency of assessment processes so that more clean growth projects can get across the finish line, faster, to unlock new well-paying opportunities for Canadian workers. These reforms include:

- **Investing \$9 million over three years in a Clean Growth Office**, located in the centre of government at the Privy Council Office, which will implement the recommendations of the Ministerial Working Group on Regulatory Efficiency for Clean Growth Projects to reduce interdepartmental inefficiencies, ensure that new permitting deadlines are met across government, improve data sharing between departments, and reduce redundant studies;
- **Establishing a new Federal Permitting Coordinator** to improve permitting for clean growth projects;
- **Setting a target of five years or less** to complete federal impact assessment and permitting processes for federally designated projects, and a **target of two years or less** for non-federally designated projects;

- **Driving culture change to get clean growth projects built in a timely and predictable manner**, by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of federal departments and agencies;
- **Improving predictability for project proponents** and increasing the federal government's transparency and accountability to Canadians, by building a Federal Permitting Dashboard reporting on the status of large project permitting;
- **Setting a three-year target for nuclear project reviews**, by streamlining the work of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and Impact Assessment Agency of Canada by reducing overlapping roles between the two agencies; and,
- **Work to establish a Crown Consultation Coordinator** to ensure efficient and meaningful Crown consultation with Indigenous Peoples on the issuance of federal regulatory permits to projects that do not undergo federal impact assessments.

Budget 2024's transformative investments will help to build more homes in vibrant, livable, and growing communities and get more major clean growth projects across the finish line, faster, so they can keep the Canadian economy competitive and create new jobs for Canadians today — and for generations to come.

Quotes

“Our government’s plan to build nearly 4 million new homes is the most ambitious housing plan in Canadian history. To put homeownership back into reach for every generation, especially Millennials and Gen Z, we’re helping communities build more housing-enabling infrastructure. And, to create well-paying jobs that help every generation reach their full potential, we’re accelerating approvals of major projects that will grow the economy, keep Canada on track to net-zero by 2050, and increase productivity.”

– The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Finance

“Our housing plan is focused on solving the housing crisis, and has specific measures that will help build the homes Canadians need. One way we are going to be able to do that is through the new \$6 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund, which will help build the housing-enabling infrastructure communities rely on.”

– The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure
and Communities

“We can get big things built in this country. Because we've got the resources, we've got the people, and we've got the wherewithal.”

– The Honourable Seamus O’Regan, Minister of Labour and Seniors

Quick facts

- In Budget 2024, the government is delivering fairness for every generation with a housing plan that includes nearly 4 million new homes, transformative expansions to Canada's social safety net to make life cost less and ensure Canadians get the care they need, and investments to create good jobs and economic growth. The government's plan for tax fairness makes these investments in younger generations possible by increasing capital gains taxes on 0.13 per cent of Canadians to generate \$19.4 billion in new revenue over five years.
- In addition to the \$6 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund, the federal government is helping growing communities build the infrastructure needed to build more homes through the Canada Community-Building Fund and the Canada Infrastructure Bank:
 - Since 2015, the Canada Community-Building Fund has provided \$24.2 billion to 3,600 communities across the country. The Fund has supported important infrastructure projects to help communities across the country become more livable for generations to come, such as the revitalization of the historic downtown in Oakville, Ontario, the broadband connectivity project in the Regional District of Central Kootenay, British Columbia, and upgrades to the water system in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.
 - Since 2017, the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) has made investment commitments of over \$11 billion in more than 50 projects, and catalyzed over \$31 billion in total investment, to address critical infrastructure gaps in communities across the country. This includes supporting improved public transit, broadband, clean power, and green infrastructure. In April, the CIB

introduced its new Infrastructure for Housing Initiative, designed to improve communities' access to the low-cost financing needed to build housing-enabling infrastructure.

- Budget 2024 also announced that, to access long-term, predictable funding for public transit through the federal government's forthcoming public transit fund, municipalities will be required to take action that will directly unlock housing supply. This includes measures to:
 - Eliminate all mandatory minimum parking requirements within 800 metres of a high-frequency transit line.
 - Allow high-density housing within 800 metres of a high-frequency transit line.
 - Allow high-density housing within 800 metres of post-secondary institutions.
 - Complete a Housing Needs Assessment for all communities with a population greater than 30,000.
- In Budget 2024, the federal government is also **launching the \$5 billion Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program** to unlock access to capital for Indigenous communities, create economic opportunities, and ensure Indigenous Peoples share in growth in a way that works for them.
- The Ministerial Working Group on Regulatory Efficiency for Clean Growth Projects coordinates the federal government's efforts to grow the clean economy and progress towards net-zero commitments by reforming regulatory frameworks to accelerate clean growth project approvals.

Associated links

- [Budget 2024: Fairness for Every Generation](#)
- [Budget 2024: Address by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance](#)
- [Budget 2024: Key Measures \(available in non-official languages\)](#)
- [Growing communities and building more homes, faster](#)

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Ontario Expanding Support for Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Starter Company Plus program helps more people launch new businesses

May 22, 2024

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

MISSISSAUGA — The Ontario government is investing \$4.8 million over the next two years to expand the Starter Company Plus program, helping an additional 500 entrepreneurs seed, start or grow a business.

“Ontario’s entrepreneurs are vital to our economy. Our goal is to ensure we continue to provide the right supports and tools to help the province’s businesses thrive,” said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business. “The Starter Company Plus program provides training, mentoring and business advice alongside a grant to help ensure people have the support they need to grow their business.”

The [Starter Company Plus](#) program, delivered through the province’s Small Business Enterprise Centres, provides entrepreneurs aged 18 and up with one-on-one support, access to workshops, seminars or networking events and grants up to \$5,000 to help start or expand a business. Over the past five years, Starter Company Plus has supported over 5,500 companies resulting in the creation of more than 6,300 jobs across Ontario. This new investment will increase total funding for the program to \$6.5 million per year.

“Ontario’s next generations of entrepreneurs will help determine our province’s bright economic future, and it is our job to ensure they have the tools they need to thrive in tomorrow’s economy,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “By continuing our investments to support the Starter Company Plus program, our government is one step closer to securing Ontario’s place as the best place to do business anywhere in the world.”

Small businesses play a critical role in our communities and are an essential part of Ontario's economy, employing over two million people. Ontario offers a range of programs and supports to assist entrepreneurs towards starting and growing new

companies, including [Regional Innovation Centres](#), [Intellectual Property Ontario](#), [Summer Company](#) and tailored options, advice and business analysis through [business advisory services](#).

Quick Facts

- Ontario's Small Business Enterprise Centres provide entrepreneurs access to advisors, programs and services, as well as learning opportunities for small business owners specific to their region.
 - To apply for the grant, you must be 18 or older, an Ontario resident and Canadian citizen/permanent resident, not attending school full-time, and able to contribute at least 25 per cent of the grant amount. All applications must be done through a [Small Business Enterprise Centre](#).
 - The [Digitalization Competence Centre](#) is a \$10 million investment that provides small businesses support with digital literacy, accelerating digital adoption, and enhancing technological capacity.
-

Quotes

"Investing in the Starter Company Plus program is a strategic move from our government that will drive innovation and economic growth in Mississauga. By supporting aspiring entrepreneurs, we're investing in the future prosperity of our community."

- Rudy Cuzzetto
MPP, Mississauga—Lakeshore

"The Starter Company Plus program is a testament to our government's commitment to maintaining the thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem we are blessed with here in Mississauga. I am so excited that this new expansion will unlock new opportunities for our residents to transform their business ideas into successful ventures."

- Sheref Sabawy
MPP, Mississauga—Erin Mills

"The Starter Company Plus program is a game-changer for aspiring entrepreneurs in Mississauga. This additional investment will provide crucial support and resources to help our community's small businesses thrive and grow."

- Deepak Anand
MPP, Mississauga—Malton

"Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and the Starter Company Plus program is a vital lifeline for entrepreneurs in Mississauga. This expansion will empower more individuals to turn their entrepreneurial dreams into reality."

- Natalia Kusendova-Bashta
MPP, Mississauga Centre

Additional Resources

- [Starter Company Plus](#)
- [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#)

Related Topics

Business and Economy

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

Jobs and Employment

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

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Ontario Introducing Online Booking to Exchange Driver's Licences

Newcomers to Ontario have 60 days to exchange an out-of-province or international licence

May 23, 2024

[Transportation](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is making it easier and more convenient for newcomers to exchange out-of-province and international driver's licences. Appointments can now be made online at 15 DriveTest locations across the province.

"Ontario is proud to welcome more than 200,000 new residents each year, coming from near and far," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "That is why our government is working to make their transition as seamless as possible by making it easier than ever to exchange a driver's licence, while also reducing wait times and line-ups at DriveTest locations."

After moving to Ontario, new residents have 60 days to exchange an out-of-province or international driver's licence for an Ontario driver's licence. People with valid driver's licences from countries with reciprocal licence agreements like the United States, Great Britain and Japan, can exchange their licences for an Ontario driver's licence without undergoing testing.

Newcomers can visit drivetest.ca to book an appointment at one of the following DriveTest locations: Brampton, Downsview, Etobicoke, Hamilton, Kitchener, London, Mississauga, Metro East, Newmarket, Oakville, Orangeville, Oshawa, Ottawa Walkley, Port Union and Windsor.

Quick Facts

- In 2023, Ontario exchanged more than 300,000 out-of-province driver's licences.
- Starting this summer, the Ontario government is making life more convenient and saving drivers time by automating the licence plate renewal process.
- In 2022, the Ontario government eliminated licence plate renewal fees for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles and mopeds, saving vehicle

owners \$120 a year in southern Ontario and \$60 a year in northern Ontario.

- In 2018, the Ontario government froze fees for driver's licences, saving drivers across the province more than \$22 million to date.

Additional Resources

[Exchange an out-of-province driver's licence](#)

[See Licence Exchanges- Cars, Trucks, Vans - DriveTest Home for a complete list of countries with reciprocal licence agreements and further details](#)

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

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

Jobs and Employment

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

Travel and Recreation

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

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Ontario Delivering Choice and Convenience by Expanding the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages Starting this Summer

Phased rollout will allow beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages to be sold in convenience, grocery and big-box stores

May 24, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is delivering on its commitment to expand the province's alcohol beverage marketplace to increase choice and convenience for shoppers earlier than planned. Starting in August, consumers will be able to purchase new products like coolers and other ready-to-drink beverages alongside more pack sizes at grocery stores that currently sell wine or beer, followed by new retailers being able to sell an increased selection of local, domestic and international alcohol products in a safe and responsible manner. By the end of October 2024, every convenience, grocery and big-box store in Ontario will be able to sell beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages if they choose to do so.

"We are delivering on our commitment to give consumers in Ontario the choice and convenience every other Canadian enjoys and we're doing so even sooner than we had originally promised," said Premier Doug Ford. "In the coming weeks and months, people in Ontario, like many Canadians across the country, will have the option to responsibly and conveniently purchase a case of beer or a bottle of wine on their way up to the cottage or to a summer barbecue, all while having even more opportunity to support local Ontario breweries and wineries."

The phased expansion and rollout will begin later this summer and will include the following milestones:

- On August 1, 2024, the up to 450 grocery stores that are currently licensed to sell beer, cider or wine will also be able to sell ready-to-drink beverages. These grocery stores will also be able to start offering consumers large-pack sizes like the 30-pack that is popular in Quebec.
- After September 5, 2024, all eligible convenience stores will be able to sell beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages.

- After October 31, 2024, all eligible grocery and big-box stores will be able to sell beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink beverages, including in large pack sizes.

Through this phased rollout, the government is creating the conditions for a more open and convenient alcohol beverage marketplace. Individual retailers and businesses will make their own decisions about how they participate and when.

“Our responsible and balanced approach treats Ontario consumers like adults by giving them more choice and convenience, while also supporting Ontario retailers, domestic producers and workers in the alcohol industry,” said Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy. “As we launch this new marketplace, we will continue to meet, consult and work closely with industry partners, local beverage alcohol producers and other stakeholders.”

As [part of its agreement with The Beer Store](#), the Ontario government is providing The Beer Store with up to \$225 million to make the necessary investments over the next 19 months to support a stable transition to a more open and convenient marketplace, including funding to protect jobs across the province and to keep The Beer Store locations open for the continued availability of recycling and bottle return.

The government has posted the regulations related to eligibility and license structure, along with the terms of who can sell alcohol, the rules for selling alcohol, including the social responsibility standards and the licensing framework, which will be on a first come, first served basis. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) oversees the enforcement of the *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019*, and determines consequence for retailers who breach these rules, up to and including the loss of their licence to sell alcohol. If a retailer's licence is revoked or an application is denied, they cannot reapply for two years. The AGCO will be taking strong measures with respect to social responsibility infractions as part of its continued role in the new marketplace.

As [announced in December 2023](#), the government is providing an additional \$10 million over five years to support social responsibility and public health efforts to ensure alcohol continues to be sold and consumed safely in the expanded marketplace. Existing requirements related to staff training, minimum pricing, hours of sale and warning signs will be maintained and applied to all new retail outlets. As was also previously announced in December, the government is supporting Ontario alcohol beverage producers with a range of transitional and time-limited supports as they adapt to this new marketplace.

Over time, this new, more open marketplace will introduce up to 8,500 new stores where consumers can purchase these products, the largest expansion of consumer choice and convenience since the end of prohibition almost 100 years ago.

The Beer Store and LCBO will continue to play a significant role in the future marketplace, with The Beer Store continuing to be active in distribution, recycling and as a retailer. The Beer Store will continue to run the effective and efficient provincewide recycling program for alcoholic beverage containers until at least 2031, which helps keep costs down for producers and consumers while helping to protect the environment by diverting significant amounts of waste from landfills. The LCBO will remain a public asset and will continue to operate as a wholesaler and a retailer. A full complement of beverages like vodka, gin and whisky will continue to be sold exclusively through the LCBO network. As part of this expansion, consumers will also benefit from competitive retail pricing across all new points of sale and The Beer Store.

Quick Facts

- Ontario [halted the estimated 4.6 per cent increase](#) to the beer basic tax and LCBO mark-up rates that was scheduled for March 1, 2024. This increase would have resulted from rates being indexed to inflation, which the government has consistently stopped over the last six years, resulting in approximately \$200 million in relief. This latest freeze will be in place for two years, until March 1, 2026.
- The government has been working closely with the [LCBO](#), [AGCO](#), The Beer Store and other retailers as it prepares to launch this new marketplace. The government will continue to meet and consult with industry partners, local beverage alcohol producers and other stakeholders on additional areas of the future marketplace. The government will also conduct a broader review of taxes and fees on beer, wine and alcoholic beverages with the aim of promoting a fairer and more competitive marketplace for Ontario-based products and consumers. The government expects this review to be completed before the end of the year.
- Ontario has reached an agreement with The Beer Store to help create the conditions to increase choice and convenience for consumers starting in summer 2024. As part of this agreement, The Beer Store has agreed to continue to run the provincewide recycling program for alcoholic beverage containers until at least 2031 as part of a transition period in the new marketplace.
- An interim wholesale discount of 10 per cent from the LCBO basic retail price for retailers will apply until 2026. A post-2026 wholesaler price that is consistent

for all retailers will be determined by a formula that adds taxes, mark-ups and fees to a supplier's set price. The government will continue to consult with stakeholders on the new model.

- The government has demonstrated ongoing support for the wine sector representing over \$330 million, including:
 - Elimination of the 6.1 per cent wine basic tax at on-site winery retail stores
 - Enhancing the VQA Wine Support Programs for up to five years
 - Extending the Wine Marketing Fund for up to five years

Quotes

"Today's announcement is another important step toward modernizing Ontario's alcohol regime for our businesses and consumers. The Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC) commends Premier Doug Ford and Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy for providing Ontarians with the choice and convenience they want, while creating new economic opportunities for thousands of local corner stores. Given the unique nature of our industry, getting the final details of the new retail and distribution framework right will require all hands on deck over the coming months, and we at CICC are ready to do our part. We are fully committed to continuing our work with the government to ensure we can keep prices competitive for both our businesses and customers. "

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

"It is great news that craft brewers will be able to sell their fantastic products in more retail stores starting this year. We have been relentless in advocating for a new retail system that puts consumers first and makes it easier to find local beer. Today's announcement is a big step in that direction. We also applaud the government's commitment to complete its review of craft beer taxes by the end of 2024, and to eliminate the LCBO cost of service fees, as these two changes are critical to the success of the new system. The savings will help ensure that local craft breweries can invest, grow, and succeed in existing and expanded retail channels."

- Scott Simmons
President of the Ontario Craft Brewers

"This is great news for all convenience store owners and their staff in Ontario. We at OSCA and OKBA have been petitioning the Ontario government for beer and wine at our stores for the last 30 years. I thank Premier Ford for trusting Ontario convenience store owners as responsible retailers who have been handling age restricted products such as tobacco and lottery tickets for many years with proven records. We believe this introduction of beer and wine will greatly improve the current state of the industry by creating more traffic to our stores. I know there is lots of work to be done but we look forward to work together with our partners in the alcohol industry and the government."

- Kenny Shim

**President of the Ontario Convenience Stores Association (OCSA), President
of the Ontario Korean Business Association**

"Ontario has made award winning craft ciders for over 20 years. With these exciting announcements in expanded alcohol distribution, many more consumers in Ontario will have the opportunity to experience quality Ontario Craft Ciders and Ontario Craft Cider will no longer be Ontario's best kept secret in craft beverage alcohol. This is a game changer for an industry fuelled by rural based passionate small businesses."

- Jenifer Dean

Chair of the Ontario Craft Cider Association

"Grape Growers of Ontario welcome the news that the Ontario government is moving forward with an expanded and more modern beverage alcohol marketplace. The availability of Ontario wine (VQA) across the province is great news for wine lovers, and a tremendous growth opportunity for Ontario grape growers and the economy of the province."

- Matthias Oppenlaender

Chair, Grape Growers of Ontario

Additional Resources

- [General Regulation](#)
- [Licencing Regulation](#)
- [Pricing Regulation](#)

- [Ontario Consumers Will be Able to Buy Beer, Cider, Wine and Low-Alcohol Ready-to-Drink Beverages at Convenience, Grocery and Big Box Stores](#)
- [Ontario Stopping Scheduled Beer Tax Increase](#)
- [Alcohol sales in retail stores](#)
- [Ontario Cutting Wholesale Alcohol Prices to Support Restaurants and Bars](#)

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Ontario Strengthening Protections for Homeowners and Homebuyers

New legislation would ban registration of consumer Notices of Security Interest on land title

May 27, 2024

[Public and Business Service Delivery](#)

CAMBRIDGE — The Ontario government is introducing legislation today that, if passed, would significantly strengthen protections for homeowners and buyers of new freehold homes. The *Homeowner Protection Act, 2024*, would ban the registration of Notices of Security Interest (NOSIs) for consumer goods on the Land Registry and deem NOSIs for consumer goods currently registered on title to be expired. It would also provide additional protections for new homebuyers by establishing a 10-day cooling-off period for buyers of new freehold homes.

“This is a landmark piece of legislation – the first of its kind in Canada – to protect consumers from fraud and bad actors,” said Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery. “By banning the registration of consumer Notices of Security Interest on land titles, we're putting an end to the exploitation that has targeted our elderly and most vulnerable residents. Moreover, we're giving Ontarians the crucial information and time they need to confidently make one of the biggest financial decisions of their lives through our enhanced protections for new homebuyers.”

Notices of Security Interest are registrations that may be made on the land registry system by a business when it rents, finances or leases goods such as a water heater or furnace installed on a property. While NOSI registrations are intended to help a business protect their interest in those goods, investigations have revealed bad actors use NOSIs to extort exorbitant payments from consumers, particularly seniors. These scams can sometimes involve leveraging the NOSI, or multiple NOSIs, to secure high-interest mortgages on the property, which can ultimately lead to the homeowner losing their property.

The proposed changes do not eliminate a business' security interest in the fixture or invalidate their contract with the consumer. If the consumer defaults on payment, the business may still be able to repossess the fixture and seek repayment through other means, such as through the courts.

The proposed legislation would further strengthen consumer protections for homeowners and buyers by establishing a 10-day cooling-off period for purchases of new freehold homes, allowing buyers to cancel agreements without penalties. This provides buyers with time to fully understand their commitments and back out if they choose.

The province also intends to further strengthen consumer protections for condominium communities and people buying new freehold homes by:

- Ensuring public disclosure of builder cancellations of purchase agreements for new freehold homes to promote transparency, protecting consumers from unreliable builders.
- Consulting on proposals to crack down on illegal home building and selling.
- Expanding the Condominium Authority Tribunal's jurisdiction to cover a broader range of disputes, giving condo owners more accessible and efficient resolution options and improving condo management. Additionally, the province will consult with stakeholders to strengthen protections for condo owners and purchasers to improve how condos are run.

The province intends to consult in the coming months on changes to support the implementation of the cooling-off period for purchases of new freehold homes, improve access to information and transparency for buyers of new freehold homes, and better support condo communities.

As part of the legislation, the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is proposing amendments to the [Ontario Heritage Act](#), to help ease administrative pressures related to the conservation of legacy listed heritage properties. This would help ensure municipalities are prioritizing the review of properties most important to their communities, by extending the timeline for them to review listed properties by an additional two years to January 1, 2027. These proposed changes will help with the conservation of heritage properties while supporting housing construction and future growth.

Quick Facts

- In fall 2023, the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery held extensive consultations on specific approaches to address the misuse of NOSIs. The

ministry received feedback from businesses, legal organizations, law enforcement, other regulators, and consumer advocates, as well as many consumers negatively affected by NOSIs.

- Based on all the information received through the consultation process, it has become apparent that the harms caused by the misuse of consumer NOSIs on the [Land Registry](#) far outweigh the benefits provided by their legitimate use.
- Ontario passed the [Better for Consumers, Better for Businesses Act, 2023](#), in December 2023. As part of [this legislation](#), a new [Consumer Protection Act, 2023](#), once in effect, will strengthen protections for Ontarians from unfair business practices while enhancing enforcement.

Quotes

"Our government remains committed to ensuring that the heritage properties most important to Ontario communities are conserved and protected for generations to come. This legislation, if passed, will help advance our shared conservation goals while supporting Ontario's future growth and our government's efforts to build at least 1.5 million homes. "

- Michael Ford
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

"On behalf of the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS), I would like to extend our appreciation to Minister McCarthy and the Ontario government for working to eliminate the registration of consumer Notices of Security Interest (NOSIs) in the province. I am immensely proud of the role WRPS Detective Adam Stover played in bringing public attention to how organized criminals have been misusing NOSIs to hold the homes of vulnerable seniors hostage. We are hopeful the proactive policy approach announced today will put an end to this devastating fraud."

- Chief Mark Crowell
Waterloo Regional Police Service

"This legislation takes historic action in protecting the financial well-being of Ontario's seniors. Through the banning of Notices of Security Interest, vulnerable Ontarians including seniors are assured to see the government taking proactive measures to prevent predatory behaviours from bad actors. CanAge commends the government for taking decisive action to address this problem and make Ontario a safer marketplace for senior homeowners. "

- Laura Tamblyn Watts
President & CEO, CanAge

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Strengthening Protections for Homeowners and Homebuyers](#)
- [Consumer Protection Ontario | ontario.ca](#)
- Learn your rights and [how to protect yourself](#) before, during or after you make a purchase.

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Province Introduces New High School Graduation Requirements for a Stronger Ontario Diploma

Suite of reforms will modernize requirements for a secondary school diploma for the first time in 25 years

May 30, 2024

[Education](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is modernizing the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements for the first time in 25 years, and launching consultations with parents, job creators, educators and stakeholders on what skills students need to be better prepared for life beyond the classroom through the reintroduction of modernized home economics education.

The province is introducing a suite of reforms to ensure Ontario's diploma embraces the back-to-basics agenda, including:

- A **new financial literacy graduation requirement** to ensure students exit Ontario's school system with both literacy and practical financial literacy skills.
- Consulting on important **life skills** and the return of **home economics** education.
- Ensuring **new teachers hold basic competency in math**. Teacher applicants to the Ontario College of Teachers must pass the **Math Proficiency Test** beginning in February 2025.
- For the first time in 13 years, a wholesale **revitalization of guidance and career education** to support students' understanding of local labour market needs and pathways to good careers.
- Up to **\$14 million** in 2024-25 to **launch career coaching** for Grade 9 and 10 students and to explore **new opportunities** into STEM and skilled trades.
- Return of the **student exit survey** to benchmark success and **garner feedback** on the impact of reforms with an emphasis on guidance.

"Too many parents, employers and students themselves tell me that students are graduating without sufficient financial literacy and basic life skills," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "As we go back-to-basics in the classroom, we will introduce Ontario's first financial literacy graduation requirement, along with the

return of modernized home economics education. By elevating life skills in the classroom, along with better career education and higher math standards on educators, we are setting up every student for life-long success. Our bottom line: ensuring students graduate with practical learning that leads them to better jobs and bigger paycheques.”

Ontario will be introducing a new financial literacy assessment as a graduation requirement to ensure students have the skills and knowledge to create and manage a household budget, save for a home, learn to invest wisely, and protect themselves from financial fraud. Starting in 2025, students will be required to score 70 per cent or higher to meet the financial literacy graduation requirement in their Grade 10 math course. Furthermore, the province will standardize making EQAO Grade 9 Math scores 10 per cent or more of a student’s final mark, a practice already used by the majority of teachers.

Students will also benefit from modernized career education programming in their schools with more exposure to the skilled trades and priority economic sectors. The government is investing up to \$14 million in 2024-25 for career coaching for Grade 9 and 10 students in the publicly funded education system. In partnership with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, this funding will also provide resources and tools to help at-risk youth, individuals in youth justice facilities, and students in other publicly funded educational settings outside of regular classrooms. Through shared agreements with school boards and other existing structures, this career coaching will help young people succeed and become positive members of their communities.

“All children and youth in Ontario deserve to have the resources and supports they need to succeed and thrive,” said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. “Today’s announcement is an important step as we work to empower youth-at-risk and those involved in the justice system with the tools they need to get their life on the right track. Together, we can help them build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.”

The government is also working with the Ontario College of Teachers to support aspiring guidance counsellors by revising Additional Qualification guidelines. New changes will update guidance counsellor qualifications and impose annual training to deliver meaningful value to students. School boards will be required to provide opportunities for guidance counsellors to keep current on labour market trends and work with local employers to support skilled young people to find career opportunities in the communities where they were raised.

Ontario will begin consultations this fall with parents and experts on what practical life skills students should learn in school to build a strong foundation that sets them up for success. This can include the mandatory inclusion of life skills like nutritious cooking, changing a tire, sewing a button, using first aid, personal responsibility and basic economics, all of which can prove valuable throughout a student's lifespan. This places an emphasis on personal development, decision-making and intrapersonal skills, all of which are in demand by employers across the economy.

Quick Facts

- The last major overhaul of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma was in 1999 with the removal of OAC (Grade 13) and introduction of community involvement hours.
 - According to a 2022 Royal Bank of Canada poll, nearly 83 per cent of young Canadians reported needing more information and support on money management, and 68 per cent reported feeling overwhelmed and needed help.
 - Ontario is [Making It Easier to Enter Skilled Trades](#) by introducing new policy and legislative measures to attract more young people to the skilled trades, including adding a new apprenticeship pathway and an online job matching platform.
 - [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.
-

Quotes

"Our government recognizes the need to prepare the next generations of Ontarians with the right tools necessary to help build the best possible financial future for themselves and our whole province. We will not take the wellbeing of young Ontarians for granted. This is a step in the right direction to ensure our children and grandchildren learn the basics of financial literacy and responsibility that will help them prepare for the future."

**- Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance**

"Ontario's new financial literacy graduation requirement is a major step forward for our high school students. By prioritizing financial education, we are equipping our next generation with the foundation they need to make informed financial decisions, build a secure future and contribute to a robust and resilient economy. "

- MPP Billy Pang
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education

"Modernizing the Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements will provide secondary school students with a more relevant and comprehensive education that better prepares them for the challenges of the future. This approach will benefit students by contributing to the development of a more skilled and adaptable workforce, incorporating life skills such as financial literacy into graduation requirements that will prepare students to become well-rounded adults. These skills are crucial for personal and professional success."

- MPP Natalie Pierre
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education

"Financial literacy is an essential life skill that gives young people the tools they need to plan for the future. Part of that planning also involves preparing for their careers, so it's equally important that school counsellors work collaboratively with local employers to provide students with the most informed guidance possible."

- Goldy Hyder
President and CEO, Business Council of Canada

"The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) would like to commend the Minister, and the Ministry of Education in Ontario, for taking a leadership position on such important areas of learning for our children's future – their financial literacy and capability, their essential life skills that will be addressed in a long-needed new approach to home economics, and their ability to navigate a pathway to a career for which they have interest and passion and that can lead to meaningful employment or self-employment. We have long needed such leadership, not only in this province but throughout the country. We wish the Minister and his team much success and will do all we can to support their efforts."

- Gary Rabbior
President, Canadian Foundation for Economic Education

"The Ontario Chamber of Commerce has long advocated for a stronger talent pipeline between our education system and key industries with market need — and for graduates with financial literacy and life skills. Today's announcement promised to give Ontario's young talent a greater understanding of diverse career pathways and the skills to succeed in the economy of the future."

- Daniel Tisch
President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

"CPA Ontario applauds the Ministry of Education for taking important steps to prioritize financial literacy among Ontario's high school students. Making financial literacy a graduation requirement will empower our youth with essential life skills and help them navigate an increasingly complex economy. With our mandate to protect the public, we understand the vital role financial literacy plays in securing Ontario's future."

- Carol Wilding
President and CEO, Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

"We applaud the government and Minister Lecce for these positive steps that will help students succeed in school, in their careers and in life. These are valuable and much needed skills that will greatly benefit those in secondary school and help them deal with the changing times and economy."

**- Ian Howcroft
CEO, Skills Ontario**

"By introducing a financial literacy graduation requirement, the Ontario government is taking a bold step to equip students with an essential life skill. It will ensure high school students have the knowledge they need to successfully manage their finances, from budgeting to investing. We will need a future workforce that is financially savvy and resilient, capable of making informed decisions and contributing to a stronger economy."

**- Giles Gherson
President and CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade**

"The new OSSD requirements in financial literacy, the consultation on a new life skills course and a refreshed approach to career exploration and work readiness support youth to gain the skill set and mindset they need to realize their boundless potential. JA's approach to immersive, experiential learning brings curriculum off the page and into real world application. We look forward to collaborating with the ministry and our educator partners to fuel student success in these subjects."

**- Jennifer Holmes Weier
President & CEO, JA Central Ontario**

"By equipping our youth with financial knowledge, we are empowering them to navigate life's financial landscape with confidence and competence. This investment in their education not only secures their future but also lays the groundwork for a stronger, more prosperous Ontario. As a financial wellness educator, I echo the sentiments of Minister Lecce and commend the Ford government for championing this essential step towards equipping our students with the tools for lifelong success."

- Saijal Patel

Founder & CEO, Saij Wealth Consulting Inc.

"JUMP Math looks forward to supporting all efforts to further Ontario students' financial literacy skills, foundational skills and broaden their pathways into STEM and skilled trades to support our provincial labour market needs. We also welcome the opportunity to expand new Ontario teachers' math knowledge through our suite of evidence-based math education tools and resources."

- Ken Aucoin

CEO, JUMP Math

"FIRST Robotics Canada enthusiastically supports the Ontario government's initiative to modernize the Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements. Integrating financial literacy, life skills and enhanced STEM education will equip students with essential tools for success in a rapidly evolving technological landscape. These reforms will not only foster critical thinking and innovation but also prepare students for meaningful careers, driving economic growth and prosperity. They also align well with the goals we have at FIRST Robotics Canada with respect to STEM skills and the Skilled Trades, effectively preparing our students for the future!"

- Arti Javeri

Vice President, Partnerships, First Robotics Canada

Additional Resources

- [Modern, Relevant and Skills Focused: A Stronger Ontario High School Diploma](#)
- [High school graduation requirements](#)

- [Education and career planning](#)
 - [Financial literacy in schools](#)
 - [Parent guides and resources](#)
-

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 Reducing Wait Times for MRI and CT Scans

Community surgical and diagnostic centres connecting people to faster, more convenient care with their health card

June 03, 2024

[Health](#)

TORONTO — As part of the *Your Health* plan, the Ontario government is taking the next step to make it easier and faster for people to connect to publicly-funded surgeries and procedures by adding 100,000 more MRI and CT scans at community surgical and diagnostic centres across the province each year.

“When it comes to wait times for surgeries and procedures, the status quo is not acceptable. That’s why our government is taking bold action to boost access to surgeries and diagnostic imaging so that Ontarians can conveniently access the care they need sooner, closer to home,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Increasing the number of MRI and CT scans being done each year is the next step we’re taking to reduce wait times for more publicly funded surgeries and procedures, ensuring people get the care they need, when they need it.”

A call for applications opens today, with new licences expected to be issued starting in Fall 2024 that will connect nearly 100,000 more people to scans each year. This expansion of services will also help to reduce wait times for MRI and CT scans to 28 days in every region of the province from the date the order/requisition was received to the date that people receive their scan, ensuring every person who needs imaging receives it within the medically recommended period of time.

Two additional calls for applications will be launched this summer and fall to also expand the number of community surgical and diagnostic centres that can connect people to GI endoscopy procedures and orthopedic surgeries.

New community surgical and diagnostic centres build on the successes the Ontario government has achieved since the launch of [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#) including:

- Achieving the shortest surgical wait times of any province in Canada in 2023, with nearly 80 per cent of people receiving their procedure within clinically recommended target times.
- Funding up to 65,568 MRI and 31,220 CT operating hours in existing community surgical and diagnostic centres over the past year.
- Adding 49 new MRI machines in 42 hospitals across the province.
- Adding four new licensed cataract centres to provide more publicly funded cataract and other eye surgeries. In the past year, the government has funded 32,000 eye surgery procedures at community surgical and diagnostic centres.
- Eliminating the backlog of cervical cancer screening tests at the end of August 2023. Testing turnaround times returned to the pre-pandemic standard of 10 to 14 days.

As the government significantly expands the number of surgeries being done through community surgical and diagnostic centres, it is ensuring these centres are integrated and linked with the broader public health system. This includes requiring new facilities to provide detailed staffing plans that protect the stability of staffing resources at public hospitals, reporting into the province's wait times information system and participating in regional central intakes, where available, to ensure people get the surgery they need as quickly as possible. All community surgical and diagnostic centres are now also under the [oversight of Accreditation Canada's](#) new quality assurance program which provides the same strong requirements as public hospitals to improve quality standards at facilities and ensure consistent patient safety and quality care.

Quick Facts

- Existing centres have begun their transition to the new Quality Assurance (QA) program. Routine inspections by Accreditation Canada's new QA program are set to begin October 2024.
- As legislated in Bill 60, all applications must submit a detailed staffing plan, details on how they consulted with health system partners, show current linkages to the health care system as well as detailing their processes for providing information and obtaining patient consent amongst other requirements.
- No centre can refuse an insured service to a patient who chooses not to purchase uninsured upgrades and no patient can pay to receive insured services faster than anyone else.
- This is an open province-wide call for applications – all eligible applicants are welcome to apply.

- The [call for applications is open](#) for 10 weeks starting June 3, 2024, and will close at 11:59 p.m. on Monday August 12, 2024.
- Questions about the call for applications process, the application guidelines, and/or the application form must be emailed to ICHSC.Applications@ontario.ca by June 17, 2024, 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) so that answers can be posted on the ministry's website to assist all applicants in completing their application.
- For over 30 years, community surgical and diagnostic centres have been providing publicly funded diagnostic imaging, surgeries and procedures in the community.
- There are currently over 900 community surgical and diagnostic centres throughout Ontario; the majority provide diagnostic imaging services.

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Learn more about community surgical and diagnostic centres](#) including services, locations, patient safety and more.
- [Learn about what OHIP covers and how to contact the Ministry of Health if you believe you may have been charged incorrectly.](#)
- [Ontario Taking Next Steps in Plan to Further Reduce Wait Times for Surgeries and Diagnostic Procedures](#)
- [Ontario Reducing Wait Times for Surgeries and Procedures](#)

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County Council Summary

May 29, 2024

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from May 29, 2024

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

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

[May meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- Monday, May 27 was the [County of Renfrew Day at Queen's Park](#). Warden Peter Emon, other elected officials and senior staff spent time in the legislature to listen to Question Period, and formally met with Ministers Michael Parsa, Paul Calandra, Rob Flack, Lisa Thompson, Kinga Surma, Prabmeet Sakaria, Laura Smith and Michael Tibollo. The meetings were incredibly valuable as the group discussed the Mesa Program, the County's philosophy of Housing First, and concerns of infrastructure funding to the Province. He thanked MPP John Yakabuski for organizing the day.
- The [Mesa Gathering](#) was held on May 22 with more than 140 attendees from various agencies that have been affected by the recent surge of people experiencing homelessness, mental health issues and substance abuse. The County of Renfrew in conjunction with the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, hosted the event to officially launch Mesa highlighting the collaborative approach to compassionate care and building a healthier, more resilient community.
- On May 3 a [Ribbon Cutting Ceremony](#) was held at the new housing development at Lea and Douglas Streets in Pembroke. This is the first home constructed by the County of Renfrew to be added to the Renfrew County Housing Corporation portfolio. The Warden acknowledged and thanked MPP John Yakabuski and Associate Minister of Housing the Honorable Rob Flack for attending and speaking at the ceremony. He also acknowledged the financial contribution from the Province provided towards the new building.
- The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus meeting was held in Picton on May 23, where the caucus approved the [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#) which identifies three strategic priorities which will guide its decision-making and advocacy focus for the next three years - infrastructure investment, housing for all and health-care access.
- On May 10, the Warden attended the Community Service Department's 11th annual May Day event at the Petawawa Civic Centre. May Day provides an opportunity for professionals working in the childcare and early years sector across Renfrew County to come together for a professional development opportunity. Over 450 people attended this year's event.

- The Eastern Ontario Housing Summit was held in Ottawa on May 28. The Warden along with County staff and the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus, attended the event, which was a collaboration with several organizations, including the Ontario Home Builders’ Association (OHAB). The summit delved into the coordination efforts among regions and agencies to ensure present and future residents have ample housing options that address affordability and needs that align with individual’s lifestyles.
- On May 1, the Warden attended the rededication of Fred Blackstein Way along the Pembroke waterfront as it was renamed First Responders Way. The gathering included County of Renfrew Paramedics, along with other emergency service providers throughout Renfrew County, as they were honoured as part of First Responder Day, which has been recognized in Ontario since 2013.

Delegations

- Jade Nauman, Regional Director, United Way Eastern Ontario – Renfrew County, attended the meeting to receive a cheque for nearly \$1,250, which was raised through staff jean days and payroll deductions. She thanked staff for their generous and continued support of the organization’s work in Renfrew County. She looks forward to continuing to partner with the County of Renfrew to help make a better Renfrew County for all.
- Kathryn Carruthers, Board Chair, Senior Women Living Together, presented about the non-profit organization which helps senior women (aged 55+) find compatible housemates and then creates successful shared living arrangements in rental housing. The group also helps arrange rentals through partnering with private landlords and real estate investors. Senior Women Living Together began as a Facebook group in February 2019 and grew to 1,700 members in the first year. To date, the group has helped more than 60 senior women find housemates and affordable housing.
- Derek Nighbor, President and CEO, Forest Products Association of Canada talked to County Council about strengthening the regional economy for forestry workers and businesses in the Ottawa Valley.

Announcements

- The [Silver Chain Challenge](#) is back for another year, but with a new twist. While residents of Renfrew County are still encouraged to get out and be active during the month of June, this time we want people to share photos of their cycling, hiking and walking adventures, including those using the Algonquin Trail and K & P Recreational Trail. This is a friendly competition with Lanark County so we would love residents and visitors help Renfrew County win by submitting the most photos to our [online collector](#) beginning June 1.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Recruitment efforts for the Director of Corporate Services position have been paused while additional assessment is completed to determine the needs of the Corporate Services Department and the Corporation as a whole. In the interim, the Chief Administrative Officer

(CAO) will act as the Department Head, and the four managers of the department will report directly to the CAO.

- Staff is working with Diligent Community (an updated version of iCompass Technologies) to set up report and meeting templates for the meeting management software which has been purchased by the Corporation. Training has begun with the anticipated soft launch in June and full implementation in August.
- The County of Renfrew welcomed 15 new and returning summer students across the various departments of the County. Supporting summer students is a valuable investment for the County of Renfrew. It provides students with practical experience, helping them bridge the gap between education and the professional world.
- County Council supported the resolution from Hastings County regarding sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities. The resolution calls on the Ontario and Federal Government to implement sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities. It also asks small rural municipalities not be overlooked and disregarded on future applications for funding; and that both the Federal and Ontario Governments begin by acknowledging that there is an insurmountable debt facing small rural municipalities. The upper levels of Government are called to immediately commission a Working Group that includes a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, to develop a plan on how to deal with the impending debt dilemma.
- County Council nominated County Councillor Peter Emon for the position of Rural Caucus Director on the AMO Board of Directors with the added responsibility of serving on the ROMA Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term.
- County Council directed staff to submit delegation request(s) for the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference, taking place August 18-21 in Ottawa, that are: consistent with the 2023-2026 County of Renfrew Strategic Plan, current initiatives that require further advocacy, and previous delegations that addressed funding shortfall(s).
- County Council adopted a By-Law to provide certain delegations of authority From County Council to the Warden and/pr Senior County Staff for the administration of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved amendments to several corporate police and procedures with respect to Human Resources.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The first meeting of the Renfrew County District Drug Strategy (RCDDS) Steering Committee was held on April 25, 2024, at the Pembroke Fire Hall. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to lead and guide the development and implementation of the RCDDS, which will aim to minimize substance use related harms in Renfrew County and District. Membership will consist of leaders from organizations representing the pillars of substance use prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and community safety. Meetings will be held quarterly or more frequently as required. The guiding principles for the Steering Committee are based upon the Canadian Public Health Association's Framework for a Public Health Approach to Substance Use.
- On May 10, 2024, the Child Care and Early Years Division hosted its annual Professional Learning Day, known within the sector as May Day. This event provided the opportunity for all professionals in the Child Care and Early Years sector within the County of Renfrew to come

together to learn, reflect and collaborate. May Day took place in person at the Petawawa Civic Centre and included over 450 participants.

- The Renfrew County Housing Corporation (RCHC) and Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley (CLUOV) have signed a memorandum of understanding in relation to housing. CLUOV agrees to a \$200,000 donation to RCHC in exchange for two affordable housing units being designated to CLUOV for a 15-year term. The RCHC values its ongoing partnership with CLUOV and recognizes the importance and stability derived from a consistent presence of both CLUOV tenants and support staff within community housing buildings.
- The Renfrew County Housing Corporation has engaged [OrgCode Consulting](#) to develop a comprehensive 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. This initiative is part of the broader Mesa project, with its goals and strategies aligning with both Mesa and the County of Renfrew's Strategic Plan. There are several phases to preparing the plan – analyzing the housing stock; consulting County staff, non-profit housing providers, individuals with lived experience in housing, those with lived/living experience with homelessness, the business community, and the public; conducting a community survey and focusing on plan development, monitoring, evaluation, and implementation. It is anticipated the new 10-year housing and homelessness plan will be completed by September 2024.
- County Council approved the Affordable Housing Summit Report as presented, along with the 12 key recommendations. The Housing Summit was held on April 4 in Renfrew. It was a full day which opened a dialogue towards the development of critical relationships to grow affordable housing across the Renfrew County region. The full [Affordable Housing Summit Report](#) begins on page 232 of the County Council package.
- County Council supported the resolution from the Corporation of the City of Pembroke Council to lobby the Provincial Government to establish a mental health, drug addiction treatment and residential rehabilitation facility serving the County of Renfrew.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The County of Renfrew, in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC), is participating in the Rural Ontario Institute's (ROI) 2024 [Rural Change Makers Program](#). The Rural Change Makers Program welcomes applications from engaged young leaders aged 18-35 in rural and northern Ontario eager to become the next faces of change and mobilize action around issues important to their communities. [Applications](#) for the 2024 program close on July 1, 2024, with the selection process commencing in August 2024, when up to 36 motivated young adults will be selected to join the experience for a year. These leaders will participate in a series of developmental training sessions, come together for experiential gatherings, complete self-assessments, form planning committees for local activities, and lead entrepreneurial or community initiatives.
- On June 22, 2024, the [Valley Diversity Emporium](#) will take place at the Nick Smith Centre in Arnprior from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. With a focus on celebrating the crafts and creations of progressive makers and showcasing equity-deserving vendors from across the Ottawa Valley and beyond, the event is dedicated to the principles of anti-oppressive activism, with an emphasis on showcasing and uplifting the works and voices of those committed to feminism, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, disability advocacy, racial justice, and the support of marginalized communities.

- At the April 16, 2024 annual general meeting, the membership elected a new board of directors for the 2024-25 term. The Chair and Vice-Chair positions were appointed at the first board meeting of the new term on April 29, 2024. The board members are as follows: Stefani Van Wijk, Madawaska Kanu Centre – Chair; Meghan James, Somewhere Inn Calabogie – Vice-Chair; Councillor David Bennett, County Council/Horton Township; Councillor Rob Weir, County Council/Greater Madawaska Township; Chris Hinsperger, Bonnechere Caves; Julia Klimack, Upper Ottawa Valley Heritage Centre; Joel Kowalski, Wilderness Tours; Michelle Logan, Comfort Inn Pembroke; Jill McLellan, End of the Leash Pet Boutique & Watch My 6; Elijah McKeown, City of Pembroke; Jolene Meloche, Renfrew County ATV Club; Emily Stovel, Arnprior & District Museum; and Rachel Worth-Cappell, Braiding Rivers.
- A plan of subdivision for Baskin Drive in the Town of Arnprior received final approval on April 29, 2024, and creates an additional 24 row-house units and 64 apartment units.
- A plan of subdivision for Pinnacle View in the Town of Renfrew was draft approved on May 7, 2024. The plan will create 62 single detached units, 70 semi-detached units, and 72 row house units for a total of 204 units. The developer has three years to meet the conditions of draft approval to finalize the subdivision.
- County Council approved the terms of reference for the Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Committee as presented. On March 4, 2024, the Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development and Renfrew County Agricultural Leadership Advisory Committees approved the terms of reference, previously two separate committees which began to duplicate efforts over time, for the amalgamated committees, now referred to as the Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development Committee. Keanan Stone, co-owner of Valley Bio Ltd. from the Township of Whitewater Region, is the Committee Chair for the 2024 term. The Committee is scheduled to be a delegation at County Council on June 26, 2024.
- County Council passed a lengthy resolution in relation to the International Student Cap. The resolution came about following discussions with the Algonquin College Waterfront Campus which has more than 240 international students currently studying on campus. County Council requests the Federal Government reconsider its decisions, reinstate the programs, reconsider the cap on the total hours permitted to work per week by returning to the pandemic level of 40 hours per week, and confer with the college and university representatives to ensure all students receive quality education experiences.
- County Council approved an additional amount of \$140,000 to complete the renovations to the rear structure of the new Eganville Paramedic Base.
- County Council recommended a letter under the Warden’s signature be sent to the Premier of Ontario and the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, recognizing the positive items introduced in Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024, to simplify home construction and approvals.
- County Council adopted a By-Law to Prohibit Certain Activities on County of Renfrew-Owned Forests. As a result of the implementation of a By-law to Regulate and Govern the Use of the Lands Identified as County of Renfrew Recreational Trails as Linear Parks, to align all trail related permitted and prohibited activities, a review of the 2009 Forest By-law was undertaken. The changes reflect the higher costs associated with dealing with issues on the Renfrew County Forest after reviewing similar by-laws in other counties and adding prohibited activities that have become problematic in our land base.

Health Committee

Presented by: **Michael Donohue, Chair**

- Mesa Community Paramedics are working with Public Health to help assist and distribute anti-stigma campaign information bulletins and harm reduction and prevention information for clients at the Grind. The Mesa team is also expanding their outreach with the OPP Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team at the Arnprior and Renfrew locations. From March 22 to April 22, 2024, the Mesa team had 147 client encounters. There were 69 new clients on boarded to the Paramedic Service electronic medical records system. The top four reasons for the Mesa paramedic encounters were community outreach, hospital diversion, wellness check/concern, and clinical intervention.
- Miramichi Lodge has received “Outstanding” Butterfly Accreditation status from Meaningful Care Matters from the audit completed by Nurse Consultant Mary Kneale of 1A Resident Home Area (RHA) on February 27, 2024. Miramichi Lodge is one of only four Homes in Canada awarded “Outstanding” status, the highest level of accreditation that can be achieved.
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Deputy Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario 211 Services (O211S) and the County of Renfrew to provide 211 contact centre (telephony system) access and support the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre team.
- County Council adopt a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Deputy Clerk to sign the Lease Agreement between the County of Renfrew and Carefor Health and Community Services for a one-year term for the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC).
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Deputy Clerk to execute an agreement with the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) for the 2024-25 Level-of-Care funding increases to Long-Term Care Homes effective April 1, 2024. The funding increased by 6.6 per cent.

Operations Committee

Presented by: **Glenn Doncaster, Chair**

- County Council adopted a By-law to Regulate and Govern the Use of the Lands Identified as County of Renfrew Recreational Trails as Linear Parks for the Algonquin Trail and K & P Recreational Trail.
- County Council adopted a By-law to Regulate the Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on County of Renfrew Roads to update restrictions for Off-Road Vehicles. The amendment would permit Off-Road Vehicles on sections of County Roads in the Town of Petawawa, following a request from the town to allow greater access to the Algonquin Trail.
- County Council approved a By-Law to Acquire Lands on County Road 512 (Foymount Road): Parts 1 and 2 on Plan 49R-20185 from Robert and Cecilia Buelow in the sum of \$2,259.53 and Parts 1 and 2 on Plan 49R-20183 from David Hoey in the sum of 2,000.
- County Council approved several contracts/agreements, amounting to approximately \$9 million, as submitted:
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 1 (River Road), from Poole Street to Dochart Street, a distance of 2.3km, Township of McNab/Braeside, and from Algonquin Trail to

- Bonnechere River, a distance of 1.88km, Township of Horton, Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,564,525.20, plus applicable taxes.
- Rehabilitation of county Road 19 (Mud Lake Road), from County Road 24 (White Water Road) to Pembroke South City limit, a distance of 5km, Township of Laurentian Valley, Walker Construction, Niagara Falls, Ontario, in the amount of \$747,507, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 30 (Lake Dore Road), from Sperberg Road to Trailblazers Road, a distance of 2.28km, Township of North Algona/Wilberforce, Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,372,377.04, plus applicable taxes.
 - Contract Administration and Construction Supervision Services to WSP Canada Incorporated (WSP) for Structure B181 (Peter Black Bridge) located on County Road 24 (White Water Road), approximately 1.5km east of Highway 41, Township of Laurentian Valley and County Structure C204 (Bellows Creek Culvert), located on County Road 12 (Westmeath Road), approximately 4.5km east of County Road 21 (Beachburg Road) in the Township of Whitewater Region, in the amounts of \$125,881.70 and \$108,598.45, plus applicable taxes, respectively.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 64 (Opeongo Road), an extension to the project limits, to a maximum amount of \$1,400,000.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road), from Brougham/Matawatchan Township Line to Civic Address 2872, a distance of 2.23km, Township of Greater Madawaska, JWK Contracting, Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$867,248.63, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 70 (Ruby Road), from County Road 512 (Brudenell Road) to Gorman Road, a distance of 4.28km, Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, JWK Contracting, Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,192,373.78, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road), from Stacey Drive to Goshen Road, a distance of 4.02km, Township of McNab/Braeside, McCrea Excavating Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,338,036, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of Country Structure B108 (Tramore Bridge), located on Tramore Road, approximately 350m north of County Road 58 (Round Lake Road), Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, DW Building Restoration Services Inc., Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$467,748, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of Country Structure C268 (St. Columbkille's Culvert), located on County Road 58 (Round Lake Road), approximately 50m south of TV Tower Road, Township of Laurentian Valley, Dalcon Constructors Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$262,712, plus applicable taxes.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer

613-735-7288



Stakeholders gather to officially launch County of Renfrew Mesa initiative

Posted on Friday, May 24, 2024



Omar Dabaghi-Pacheco, CBC Ottawa News host and producer (second from left), was the keynote speaker for the Mesa Gathering, held May 22 at Miramichi Lodge. Following his talk about his reporting on the opioid crisis in Ottawa, he was joined on stage by (from left) County of Renfrew Paramedic Service Chief Michael Nolan, Community Services Director Andrea Patrick, Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon and Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley.

RELEASE DATE:

May 24, 2024

The County of Renfrew's Mesa initiative was officially launched May 22 with a successful, well attended gathering of stakeholders at Miramichi Lodge in Pembroke.

The Mesa initiative is a collaborative approach to compassionate care and building a healthier, more resilient community. The Mesa Gathering was a joint venture

between the County of Renfrew, Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

It brought together more than 140 individuals representing approximately 30 organizations from across Renfrew County already working to address the unprecedented crisis around the precariously housed and those facing mental health, substance abuse and addictions challenges.

The day was about sparking conversations between the organizations, allowing those in attendance to learn more the services others are providing and encouraging collaborations where possible. There was a great energy in the room throughout the day.

The day started in a powerful way as Leonard Baskin and Corey Clouthier shared their stories of recovery and offered messages of hope for life after addictions. Both recounted their journeys from a place of desperation to the programs, the people, and the assistance that they both received that helped them on a renewed path of resiliency. Both gentlemen now give back to the communities that supported them over the years by sharing their stories with the hopes of helping just one person that has been down the same spiral that they have been down.

Keynote speaker CBC reporter and producer Omar Dabaghi-Pacheco shared videos of some of the individuals whose stories have stuck with him as he reports on the opioid crisis in the City of Ottawa. He was first intrigued to delve into the lives of these individuals after he and his producer witnessed a man in his 20s using drugs in plain view on Sparks Street in downtown Ottawa.

He has slowly earned the trust of people living in these precarious situations, is helping build connection to the community and putting a face to those suffering in the opioid crisis through his documentary series.

He has plans to come back to Renfrew County to focus on the heart of the crisis here and share the stories of clients of the Mesa Program.

Deirdre Freiheit, former President and CEO of Shepherds of Good Hope in Ottawa, shared her experiences leading the organization and stressed compassion, listening and hope when dealing with this vulnerable population.

“We’ve learned, time and time again, that in times of crisis, the people of the County of Renfrew have risen to the occasion and found a solution. This is a housing crisis, a mental health crisis, an opioid crisis, and a community crisis. It’s time we all worked together to find solutions,” said County of Renfrew Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley

Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon noted we are witnessing a distressing surge in drug-related fatalities and opioid overdoses, reflecting a broader, pressing issue that demands our immediate attention and collaborative action.

“It's important that we come together as a community to address the root causes of substance use disorders, enhance access to treatment and support services, and implement evidence-based harm reduction strategies. If not the collective us, then who?” the Warden added.

Other organizations to share information about their services were Mental Health Services at the Pembroke Regional Hospital, the Upper Ottawa Valley Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, Addictions Treatment Services at Renfrew Victoria Hospital, Mackay Manor, County of Renfrew and Renfrew County and District Health Unit. The representatives from the organizations also took part in a panel discussion.

This phased approach, named *mesa* (pronounced “mey-suh”), builds relationships and finds solutions; ignites community-based, multi-sector support; mobilizes a paramedic mental health and addictions crisis team; upholds an ‘evidence to action’ framework; invests in a collaborative Housing First approach and increases access to safe, affordable and including housing.

The full [mesa Report](#) can be found on the County of Renfrew website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley	Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288



The Mesa Gathering panellists listen as a member of the audience asks a question during the discussion. Taking part in the discussion (from left) were facilitator Paul Moreau; Inspector Stephan Neufeld, Upper Ottawa Valley OPP; County of Renfrew Community Services Director Andrea Patrick; Kim McLeod, Service Director, Addictions Treatment Service at Renfrew Victoria Hospital; Melanie Henderson, Vice-President Clinical and Support Services at Pembroke Regional Hospital; Patti Smith, Director Health Promotion and Chief Nursing Officer at the Renfrew County and District Health Unit and Corey Clouthier, Harvest House Ministries.



County of Renfrew officials visit Queen's Park

Posted on Friday, May 31, 2024



At Queen's Park on May 27, the County of Renfrew delegation had a series of meeting with Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants and policy staff to highlight innovative programs and advocate for funding. Here the group speaks with Minister Paul Calandra, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Associate Minister of Housing Rob Flack (seated at the head of the table).

RELEASE DATE:

May 31, 2024

County of Renfrew officials visit Queen's Park to highlight innovative programs and advocate for funding

TORONTO – On Monday May 27, 2024, elected officials and senior staff held a series of successful meetings at Queen's Park in Toronto, promoting and advocating on behalf of significant strategic priorities with Ministries of the Ontario Government.

Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski served as host for the day as Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon led the group in a series of meetings with Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants, and policy staff, highlighting the

County's renewed Housing First philosophy through the context of the recently launched Mesa Initiative. The meetings were an effort to seek support for funding to ensure the program can continue to provide services for vulnerable members of the community.

The current affordable housing crisis and the need for additional supports for the most marginalized residents were sprinkled throughout the discussions with the Ministers. The Mesa Initiative, a joint venture between three internal County departments – County of Renfrew Paramedic Services, Community Services and the Development and Property Department – and other community partners, was the common thread throughout.

Mesa was introduced to Associate Minister Michael Tibollo, Mental Health and Addictions; Minister Michael Parsa, and Parliamentary Assistant Laura Smith, Children, Community and Social Services; and Minister Paul Calandra, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Associate Minister of Housing Rob Flack.



On May 27 at Queen's Park, the County of Renfrew delegation met with Associate Minister Michael Tibollo, Mental Health and Addictions (fourth from right) to discuss the Mesa Initiative. Taking part in the meeting (from left) were Chief Michael Nolan, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service; County Councillor Anne Giardini, Community Service Committee Chair; Director Jason Davis, Development and Property Department; County Councillor James Brose, Development and Property Committee Chair; Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy; Associate Minister Tibollo; Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon; Director Andrea Patrick, Community Services Department and Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley.

Mesa was introduced to Associate Minister Michael Tibollo, Mental Health and Addictions; Minister Michael Parsa, and Parliamentary Assistant Laura Smith, Children, Community and Social Services; and Minister Paul Calandra, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Associate Minister of Housing Rob Flack.

With the Ministers in the room, other topics of discussion included challenges within the local social services sector, affordable housing crisis and providing assistance for vulnerable persons.

The local housing crisis was also addressed with Minister Lisa Thompson, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, including a request to expand the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grants to consider projects or strategies for those communities with a Housing First focus.

Maintaining transportation infrastructure is a key issue facing municipalities. During the meeting with Infrastructure Minister Kinga Surma, the County of Renfrew presented a proposal for the implementation of a standardized Pavement Condition Index (PCI) across the province. The County also sought clarification on eligibility for a funding stream for housing-based infrastructure to fund shovel-ready projects, including a major key intersection project located in the Town of Petawawa, and potential housing developments led by the County in the Town of Renfrew.

The continuing expansion of Highway 17 from Arnprior to Renfrew and alternative solutions for a Highway 17 expansion, including modernization of several signalized intersections from Renfrew to Deep River, was discussed with Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria.

The County of Renfrew group also attended Question Period and was introduced by MPP Yakabuski in the Ontario Legislature.

The County of Renfrew is thankful to MPP Yakabuski for coordinating this opportunity to highlight the great work being done in his home riding.

"We are very pleased with the reception we received from our Provincial Ministers and look forward to a path forward on these key initiatives," said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon "MPP Yakabuski played an integral role in arranging these meetings and we cannot thank him enough for his continued support."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley Chief Administrative Officer 613-735-7288

Tina Peplinskie Media Relations Coordinator 613-735-7288



At Queen's Park on May 27, the County of Renfrew delegation met with Minister Lisa Thompson (centre), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, to discuss the local housing crisis. Taking part in the meeting (from left) were Director Jason Davis, Development and Property Department; Chief Michael Nolan, County of Renfrew

Paramedic Service; Chair Glenn Doncaster, Operations Committee; Chair Anne Giardini, Community Service Committee; Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy; Minister Thompson; Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon; Chair James Brose, Development and Property Committee; Director Andrea Patrick, Community Services Department and Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley.

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



Construction Update – June 2024

Posted on Tuesday, June 04, 2024



County Structure B102 (Brennans Creek Bridge) - Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards

Construction Update - June 4, 2024

The County of Renfrew Department of Public Works and Engineering provides monthly updates on construction projects within the County. This notice can be shared with members of the public, or in public forums, in order to keep residents, businesses, and stakeholders informed of any potential upcoming traffic interruptions due to construction projects. For up-to-date information on active projects and their traffic impacts, please visit [Municipal511](#).

Please contact our office should you have any questions or concerns about a County construction project or our general operations.

Upcoming Projects

County Road 1 (River Road) – Townships of McNab/Braeside and Horton
The rehabilitation of County Road 1 (River Rd.), from Moore Street to Dochart Street as well as from Algonquin Trail to the Bonnechere River crossing in Castleford, is anticipated to commence the week of July 8 and be completed in late August. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

County Road 19 (Mud Lake Road) – Township of Laurentian Valley

The rehabilitation of County Road 19 (Mud Lake Rd.), from County Road 24 (White Water Road) to the City of Pembroke boundary, is anticipated to commence the week of July 8 and be completed in late July. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road) – Township of Greater Madawaska

The rehabilitation of County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Rd.), from former Matawatchan/Brougham Township Line to Civic Address 2872, is anticipated to commence the week of July 2 and be completed in early August. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

County Structure B102 (Brennans Creek Bridge) – Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards

The rehabilitation of County Structure B102 (Brennans Creek Bridge), located on County Road 512 (Queen Street), approximately 1.45km south of Highway 60, in Killaloe, is anticipated to commence the week of July 2 and be completed in late August. During construction, the road at the bridge will be closed to traffic with an alternate route, using Cameron Street and Lake Street, posted. Pedestrian access across the bridge will be maintained during construction.

County Structure B181 (Peter Black Bridge) – Township of Laurentian Valley

The rehabilitation of County Structure B181 (Peter Black Bridge), located on County Road 24 (White Water Road), approximately 1.5km east of Highway 41, is anticipated to commence the week of June 17 and be completed in early October. During construction, the road at the bridge will be closed to traffic with an alternate route, using Highway 17 and Highway 41, posted.

County Structure C339 (Lynch Road Culvert) – Township of Admaston/Bromley

The replacement of County Structure C339 (Lynch Road Culvert), located on Lynch Road, approximately 3km south of County Road 5 (Stone Rd.), is anticipated to commence the week of June 24 and be completed in early July. During construction, the road at the structure will be closed to traffic with an alternate route, using County Road 5 (Stone Rd.) and McNulty Road, posted.

Ongoing Projects**County Road 5 (Stone Road)** – Township of Admaston/Bromley

The rehabilitation of County Road 5 (Stone Rd.), from Mhusk Rd. to Highway 60, commenced construction on June 3 and is anticipated to be completed in early July. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations and portions of the roadway may also be temporarily closed with alternates routes posted.

County Road 13 (Mountain Road) – Township of Laurentian Valley

The rehabilitation of County Road 13 (Mountain Rd.), from Stafford Third Line to Highway 17, commenced construction on June 3 and is anticipated to be completed in late June. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

County Road 64 (Opeongo Road) – Township of Bonnechere Valley

The rehabilitation of County Road 64 (Opeongo Rd.), from Wieland Shore Road to Highway 41, commenced construction on May 27 and is anticipated to be completed in early August. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

County Road 512 (Foymount Road) – Township of Bonnechere Valley

The reconstruction of County Road 512 (Foymount Rd.), from Miller Road to B257 (Harrington Creek Bridge), resumed construction on May 27 and is anticipated to be completed in early November. The works in this phase will primarily occur from Lake Clear Road to Harrington Creek Bridge, and will include the replacement of County Structure B257 (Harrington Creek Bridge). During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

County Structure B007 (Butler Bridge) – Township of Admaston/Bromley

The rehabilitation of County Structure B007 (Butler Bridge), located on Butler Road, approximately 1km south of Highway 60, commenced construction on May 13 and is anticipated to be completed in early November. During construction, the road at the bridge will be closed with alternate routes, using South McNaughton Road, Bonnechere Road, and Highway 60, posted.

For the safety of all, please use extra caution when travelling through construction zones.



County Structure B102 (Brennans Creek Bridge) - Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards

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JOIN THE
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Experience Our History, Share Our Future!

Share your
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lifestyle and
help Renfrew
County win!

The Silver Chain Challenge is a friendly competition between Renfrew and Lanark Counties designed to promote active lifestyles and sustainable transportation. Take a photo of your walk or bike ride and share through our link for a chance to win!

For more information:
www.bit.ly/SilverChainChallenge

Silver  Chain



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, May 22, 2024)

Overdose Alert for Renfrew County and District

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is alerting residents about an increase in overdoses and suspected overdose-related deaths in the Pembroke and Renfrew catchment areas.

Although specific substance(s) related to the overdoses have not been confirmed, it is important to remember that *all* street drugs must be considered highly toxic and potentially fatal.

RCDHU would like to remind residents that street drugs may contain other substances, as areas of the province have reported the presence of potent tranquilizers for which the overdose reversal drug naloxone is not effective. It is important to call 9-1-1 immediately if you suspect that you or someone is experiencing an overdose. Note that the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act can protect you, the person who is overdosing and others at the scene from simple possession charges or breaches in pre-trial release, probation orders, conditional sentences or parole related to simple possession.

Friends, family members and individuals who use street drugs can work together to reduce the risk of an overdose by putting the following measures in place:

- **Don't use alone** – If you overdose and are with someone, they can get urgent help.
- **Carry naloxone (Narcan®)**- Naloxone can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose and kits are available for free throughout RCD at local pharmacies and other locations. For more information on where to get a kit please visit [this link](#).
- **Don't mix drugs** – Don't mix drugs with other drugs or alcohol, as it puts you at higher risk of overdosing.
- **Go slow** – The quality of street drugs is unpredictable. If you are using street drugs, start by using in small amounts (testers or test doses) to check the strength of what you are using.
- **Know your tolerance and set a limit for yourself** - Risk of overdose increases if you are a new user or have not used in 3 or more days.
- If you have no other choice than to use alone, always call the Overdose Prevention Hotline 1-888-688-6677 ([National Overdose Response Service](#)) to have someone

standing by to call for help if needed. A volunteer will check in periodically and call 911 if there's no response.

Understanding the signs of an overdose can help to save a life. These signs can include, but are not limited to:

- Person can't be woken up.
- Breathing is slow or has stopped.
- Snoring or gurgling sounds.
- Fingernails and lips turn blue or purple.
- Pupils are tiny or eyes are rolled back.
- Body is limp.
- Person may be having a seizure.

It is possible an individual treated with naloxone may have a re-emergence of the opioid overdose once the naloxone 'wears off', since the duration of action of most opioids exceeds that of naloxone. All overdoses are a medical emergency and calling 9-1-1 is an important step in saving someone's life.

We ask that people who are aware of overdoses assist us by completing RCDHU's anonymous online [Overdose Reporting Form](#), which is used to support tracking overdoses within the community. The Overdose Reporting Form does not ask for any identifying information and can be completed directly on RCDHU's website.

Support is available; the [Renfrew County Addiction Treatment System](#) delivers assessment, counselling and treatment programs to individuals who use substances.

It's ok to not be ok...If you, or someone you know are experiencing feelings of stress, anxiety, grief etc. supports can be accessed [here](#).

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Renfrew County and District Health Unit
Fax: 613-735-3067
media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com



[HOME](#) > [NEWS & MEDIA](#) > [NEWS RELEASES](#) > **CANADA FCM GMF PARTNERS LAUNCH NEW MUNICIPAL DATABASE ADDRESS GAPS**

Canada, FCM's GMF and partners launch new municipal database to address gaps in combating climate change



May 27, 2024

Ottawa, ON - Municipalities are responsible for over half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, making them crucial players in the fight against climate change. But existing gaps in critical climate planning and reporting data can make it challenging to keep the public informed on progress toward net zero by 2050.

Today, Scott Pearce, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in partnership with University of Waterloo, FCM's Green Municipal Fund, Concordia University and ICLEI Canada, are announcing a new [online database](#) to assist municipalities in addressing gaps when fighting climate change. This new tool was made possible thanks to the [Municipal](#)

[Net-Zero Action Research Partnership](#), a research project working with 12 academic institutions, 10 national organizations and 15 municipal partners aiming to support Canadian municipalities in monitoring, measuring and achieving their GHG mitigation goals.

The database, hosted by the Waterloo Climate Institute, contains valuable information that can aid municipalities in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The [summary report](#) includes details on municipal climate action plans, targets, interventions, and stakeholder engagement methods.

The new tool was made possible following a four-month long survey that looked at the state of climate action in Canadian municipalities. Of the 256 municipalities across 10 provinces who were surveyed last year, approximately 52.3 percent have adopted GHG emissions reduction targets while about 63 percent have developed climate action or alternative plans to address climate change.

The survey was led by Dr. Adriane MacDonald, an associate professor at the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University, one of the academic institution partners.

The survey also showed that only 27 percent of those surveyed had pledged to achieve net-zero corporate emissions by 2050 or earlier. Municipalities also relied heavily on voluntary actions from residents and local organizations, such as through education and awareness campaigns. While this may show short term results, this approach may not lead to the widespread changes needed to reduce emissions and meet targets, the survey showed.

The Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership intends to further study the results to better understand the most effective methods to achieve net-zero targets.

The full survey report can be found [here](#).

About the Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership (N-ZAP)

N-ZAP is a research partnership funded in part by the Government of Canada through the Climate Action and Awareness Fund and jointly led by the University of Waterloo, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund and ICLEI Canada, working with 11 other academic institutions, 8 national organizations and 13 municipal partners.

About the FCM's Green Municipal Fund

FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) 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. 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. GMF manages approximately \$2.4 billion in programs funded by the Government of Canada.

Quotes



“Municipalities across the country are taking charge in the face of extreme climate events such as flooding and wildfires and are playing a critical role in reducing emissions. Seeing the proactive steps many municipalities are taking by setting GHG emissions reduction targets and tackling climate change head-on is inspiring. Nevertheless, there is still much work to be done. This new database will be a crucial tool for municipalities to pinpoint and address gaps in combating climate change while sharing best practices. By working together, we are

making strides towards achieving net zero emissions.”

—Scott Pearce, FCM President

“

“As the lead academic overseeing the development and roll-out of the survey, I am thrilled to see the culmination of our efforts in the form of this innovative online database. With the launch of this new municipal database, we are equipping municipalities across Canada with the data they need to accelerate their journey towards a sustainable, net-zero future.”

—Dr. Adriane MacDonald, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Governance and Sustainability, Concordia University

“

“The ongoing research led by the Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership (N-ZAP) continues to support Canadian municipalities as they address gaps and transition to net-zero. The N-ZAP research survey has showcased the climate actions of Canadian municipalities and their progress toward reducing GHG emissions. Drawing from the survey, our team has put together a comprehensive database and report, equipping municipalities with the key data and analysis to achieve their climate goals, which, in turn, can lead to informed climate decisions that benefit Canadians nationwide.”

—Ying Zhou, PhD candidate, Sustainability Management, University of Waterloo

“

“The Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership (N-ZAP) supports Canadian municipalities to monitor, measure and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas mitigation goals. The database and report benchmark existing efforts, which provide researchers, policy-makers, and municipal leaders the data we need to determine next steps and support initiatives that help address the climate emergency.”

—Dr. Amelia Clarke, Professor, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development(SEED), University of Waterloo

“In our work with municipalities across Canada, we are seeing the widespread adoption of mitigation practices like fleet electrification, building retrofit programs, and waste diversion strategies—but we are also seeing gaps and challenges, especially in smaller, rural, and Northern municipalities. The new database from N-ZAP puts these observations into perspective. It will help municipalities understand where they stand on the route to net zero and offers a valuable tool to guide decision-making when setting greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.”

—Megan Meaney, Executive Director, ICLEI Canada

Associated links

[Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#)

[Green Municipal Fund](#)

[Municipal Net-Zero Action Partnership](#)

[Waterloo Climate Institute](#)

[ICLEI Canada](#)

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

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Green Municipal Fund

Climate change

Sustainability



May, 23 2024

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- Navigating Conflict Relationships: Transforming conflict into collaboration.
- IESO Municipal Series – Operating for Energy Efficiency – W/WW.
- Last chance: 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.

[Registration is now open](#) to municipal elected officials and senior municipal staff for the Conservation Ontario and AMO webinar on June 14, 2024 regarding updates to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Provincial Matters

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

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 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

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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

Want to reduce energy consumption at your treatment plants? Join the IESO webinar on June 4 to review key principles of energy efficiency and gain insights on potential for energy optimization while protecting your effluent quality. [Register here](#) today.

Canoe's [spring webinar series](#) continues today at 11am. Procurement expert Stephanie Dion shares her insights on how to do group procurement and comply with trade agreements. It's not too late - [register here](#) to attend.

Careers

[Asset Management Analyst, Fire - City of Mississauga](#). Closing Date: May 29

[Data Analysis Coordinator - Region of Durham](#). Closing Date: May 31, 2024

[Senior Policy Advisor - Treasury Board Secretariat](#). Closing Date: May 30, 2024

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

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[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

[ONE Investment](#)

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- AI cybersecurity webinar: Safeguard Your Digital Future.
- Blog: Boost your Asset Management with a Digital Twin.
- On-demand webinar: Group Benefits Program Overview.
- Fill out this survey for a chance to win eSignature software.
- IESO Municipal Series - Operating for Energy Efficiency - W/WW.
- Registration opens for Western Ontario Municipal Conference.
- ParticipACTION: Win \$100,000 for your community!
- Call for delegates to SIESLR Conference.
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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 [Municipal Codes of Conduct pre-conference workshop](#) on Saturday, August 17 is for those municipal leaders who are looking to guide and strengthen their council and corporation's conduct, behaviour, and practices. Register today - space is limited.

It is important to know that AMO will never solicit its members participation in our annual conference through other parties. A number of members have reported receiving emails from third parties to book your hotel rooms for the conference. This is a scam/phishing exercise. Be diligent, hackers are becoming more and more sophisticated. If it seems odd, or doesn't feel right, trust your instinct. Feel free to reach out to us at events@amo.on.ca.

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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

Municipal Risk Managers! Join us for an [Artificial Intelligence \(A.I.\) 101 webinar](#) on June 25, 11:00 am. What is it and how is it being used today in Canada, around the world and within government.

In the world of managing infrastructure, new technologies are bringing about a significant change. [Read about digital twins](#) and what this means for your roads and sidewalks assessments.

Are you interested in learning more about our Group Benefits trends and our LAS program offered with Mosey and Mosey? If you were looking to attend the webinar on May 22, but couldn't make it, you can watch the recording [here](#).

Want to reduce energy consumption at your treatment plants? Join the IESO webinar on June 4 to review key principles of energy efficiency and gain insights on potential for energy optimization while protecting your effluent quality. [Register here](#) today.

[Share feedback](#) on what would help your municipality tackle its biggest digital citizen service challenges. Answer 10 short questions for a chance to win a 60-day Enterprise free trial of ConsignO Cloud, AMO's preferred eSignature platform.

Municipal Wire*

WOWC is holding its annual [Western Ontario Municipal Conference](#) in Chatham-Kent on October 25, 2024. Explore and collaborate on a wide range of topics affecting our municipalities.

On June 1, ParticipACTION will celebrate National Health and Fitness Day and launch its search for Canada's Most Active Community. Past winners of the challenge include Enderby, BC (2019), North Grenville, ON (2021), Red Deer, AB (2022), and Salisbury, NB (2023). To learn more about how to participate, visit ParticipACTION's [website](#).

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

Careers

[Chief Administrative Officer - City of Guelph](#). Closing Date: June 27, 2024.

[Assistant Park Superintendent, Business Operations Lead - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks](#). Closing date: Jun 7, 2024.

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