



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior**  
**Regular Meeting of Council: August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Correspondence Package No. I-24-AUG-14**

**Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package No. I-24-AUG-14 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

- 1. Correspondence from the Government of Canada**
  - a) [MP Cheryl Gallant – Tourism Growth Program](#)
- 2. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario**
  - a) [Ministry of Natural Resources - Proposal Regarding Developing a commercial-scale framework for geologic carbon storage](#)
  - b) [Ready-to-Drink Beverages and Large Beer Pack Sizes Available in Grocery Stores Sooner Than Planned](#)
  - c) [Ontario Expanding Seniors Active Living Centres](#)
  - d) [Premier Ford Announces Updated Parliamentary Assistant Roles](#)
  - e) [Ontario Exploring More Ways to Expand Role of Pharmacists](#)
  - f) [Ontario Enhancing Protections for More People Throughout Fall Respiratory Illness Season](#)
  - g) [Ontario's Water Infrastructure Investments Helping Build More Than 500,000 New Homes](#)
  - h) [Ontario Releases 2024–25 First Quarter Finances](#)
  - i) [More Child Care Fee Reductions Coming for Ontario Families](#)
  - j) [Ontario Investing in New Supports to Address Gender-based Violence](#)
  - k) [Premier Doug Ford Makes Changes to Cabinet](#)
  - l) [Ontario Supporting Communities with New and Upgraded Sport and Recreation Facilities](#)

### **3. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**

- a) Starter Company Plus Spring 2024 Grant Recipients
- b) Enterprise Renfrew County assists seven students start businesses this summer
- c) Construction Update - August 2, 2024
- d) Municipal leaders support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign to address homelessness and mental health

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

- a) Letter of Support re Infectious Disease Wastewater Surveillance
- b) West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes in Renfrew County and District

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

- a) Policy Update – AMO-OMA Resolution Campaign, SALC Regulations, and Advocacy Updates
- b) Policy Update – Call to Action - Social and Economic Prosperity Review
- c) AMO's Workforce Development Project Roadmap
- d) Policy Update – Municipal Infrastructure, Gender-Based Violence and Unlicensed Event Spaces
- e) Policy Update – Homelessness and Opioids
- f) Watch File – July 18th, 2024
- g) Watch File – July 25th, 2024
- h) Watch File – August 1st, 2024
- i) Watch File – August 8th, 2024
- j) Watch File – August 15th, 2024

### **6. Correspondence from the Ontario Provincial Police**

- a) New Uniform and Civilian Collective Agreements (2023-2026)

### **7. Correspondence from the Ontario Ombudsman**

- a) 2023-2024 Annual Report

**8. Correspondence from Enbridge Gas Inc.**

- a) [Application to Dispose of Balances of Certain Deferral and Variance Accounts](#)

**9. Correspondence from the MacNamara Field Naturalists' Club**

- a) [Event Poster – 40th Anniversary Celebration](#)

**10. Correspondence from Pembroke Regional Health**

- a) [Summer 2024 Community Connection Newsletter](#)

**11. Correspondence from Victim Services of Renfrew County**

- a) [Event Invitation – 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament](#)

**12. Correspondence from Residents**

- a) [Abigail Daniels – Thank You Card](#)
- b) [Arnprior Regional Health Foundation – Thank You Card](#)

**13. Correspondence from Other Municipalities**

- a) [Municipality of Tweed – Ontario Provincial Police Funding Formula](#)
- b) [Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury – Ontario Long Service Medals for Police Officers and Paramedics](#)
- c) [City of St. Catharines – Green Roads Pilot Project](#)
- d) [Township of Bonnechere Valley – Exempt Emergency Vehicles from Emission Standards](#)
- e) [Municipality of Wawa – Supporting Ontario's Forest Sector](#)
- f) [Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Underserviced Cellular Communications](#)



# Cheryl Gallant

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



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

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Town of Arnprior,

In trusting you are already enjoying a prosperous summer, I am pleased to announce the Tourism Growth Program is currently accepting applications for its next round of funding. This program is meant to help those working in the tourism industry improve and expand their businesses. The aim in developing new projects is to draw more people into our communities year-round.

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

**The deadline to apply is September 17, 2024 at 4:59 pm Eastern Time.**

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

Sincerely,

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



July 10, 2024

Subject: *Proposal Regarding Developing a commercial-scale framework for geologic carbon storage*

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Hello,

The Ministry of Natural Resources is seeking feedback on the development of a legislative and regulatory framework for commercial-scale geologic carbon storage. The current posting is available at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-8767>. It provides an overview of how various components of the framework could function and has a series of questions at the end seeking feedback on how Ontario could regulate the activity.

This proposal follows four previous engagement opportunities related to the framework development in January 2022, November 2022, April 2023 and September 2023. A roadmap towards regulating geologic carbon storage was released in November 2022 and can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/geologic-carbon-storage>.

Although Ontario's framework would apply provincially, to help provide for the responsible development of commercial-scale projects, the framework could initially focus on enabling commercial-scale projects within saline aquifers and depleted oil and gas reservoirs in southwestern Ontario at depths of 800 metres or more. These are expected to be the most viable opportunities for geologic carbon storage in Ontario given the current state of carbon storage technologies. To continue to advance the development of new technologies, projects that do not meet the above criteria could be permitted under a testing and demonstration permit.

For more information on what geologic carbon storage is, and where it could occur, Ontario has included a background information document at the end of this letter.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Andrew Ogilvie, Manager of Resources Development Section, through email: [Resources.Development@ontario.ca](mailto:Resources.Development@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Keyes  
Director, Development and Hazard Policy Branch

Attachment: Geologic Carbon Storage background document

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ready-to-Drink Beverages and Large Beer Pack Sizes Available in Grocery Stores Sooner Than Planned

Ontario also making regulatory changes to cut red tape for alcohol sales in bars, restaurants and grocery stores

July 15, 2024

[Finance](#)

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TORONTO — As the next step in the government's plan to give people in Ontario more choice and convenience, licensed grocery stores will be able to order ready-to-drink beverages and large beer pack sizes starting Thursday, July 18, 2024, and begin selling them immediately upon arrival. This new timeline accelerates the first phase of the government's plan to expand alcohol sales to grocery, convenience and big-box stores by allowing the 450 grocery stores that are currently licensed to sell beer, cider or wine to sell them once they arrive in store, rather than August 1.

"Our government is keeping our promise to give people in Ontario choice and convenience while supporting Ontario-made beverage producers across the province, including the Ontario businesses that produce more than 80 per cent of the ready-to-drink beverages sold here in our province," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "This is an important milestone for grocery retailers and consumers alike as we continue our work modernizing Ontario's alcohol marketplace."

By the end of October 2024, as part of the government's plan to expand alcohol sales that was originally [announced in May 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. Over time, this new, more open marketplace will introduce up to an estimated 8,500 new stores where these products can be sold, the largest expansion of consumer choice and convenience since the end of prohibition almost 100 years ago. As the province implements its plan, the government will continue to constantly evaluate how it can deliver choice and convenience.

In addition to beginning the sale of ready-to-drink beverages and large pack-sizes of beer in the existing licensed grocery stores later this month, the government is also creating temporary flexibility to allow licensed grocery stores to display alcohol in multiple areas of a store, with some limits. To help bars and restaurants manage inventory and to help ensure consistent supply of products, the government is also temporarily allowing the transfer of wine and spirits between locations with the same owner and/or affiliated licensees.

To help consumers connect with local retailers and producers close to home, the province has also launched a [new searchable and interactive map](#) of retailers that remain open and ready to serve. These retailers include more than 1,000 local Ontario breweries, wineries, wine shops and distilleries, in addition to other retailers such as LCBO Convenience Outlets, The Beer Store and licenced grocery stores that sell a range of Ontario-made and imported products. As new retailers are licenced to sell alcoholic beverages, they will be added to the map.

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### Quick Facts

- There are thousands of alcohol retailers open across Ontario, including more than 1,000 local wineries and winery retail stores, distillery retail stores, breweries, approximately 1,200 grocery stores, LCBO Convenience Outlets and The Beer Store locations, and many bars and restaurants that sell takeaway alcohol.
- The government is working closely with the LCBO, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and The Beer Store, while consulting and meeting with industry partners, local beverage alcohol producers and other stakeholders as it prepares to launch this new marketplace.

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### 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](#)
  - [Where to buy alcoholic beverages](#)
-

## Media Contacts

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Expanding Seniors Active Living Centres

Call for proposals now open for new Seniors Active Living Centre programs

July 16, 2024

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

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**QUEEN'S PARK** —The Ontario government is expanding access to services and activities for seniors through a call for proposals for new Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC) programs. These programs provide social, cultural, learning, and recreational opportunities for seniors to stay fit, healthy and connected in their communities.

“Seniors Active Living Centres improve the lives of Ontario’s seniors,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “Our government is expanding the number of programs with this call for proposals so more seniors can have access to services and activities to live healthy, active and independent lives.”

Due to the overwhelming success of the more than [300 Seniors Active Living Centres](#) being delivered by municipalities, new changes to the *Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017* came into effect June 1, 2024 that enable more types of organizations to deliver Seniors Active Living Centre programs.

The call for proposals is [now open](#) to eligible organizations until September 12, 2024, at 5 p.m. In addition to municipalities, other local and community-based organizations such as Legions, Lion’s Clubs, and recreational clubs, are now welcome to apply.

This expansion is in addition to the more than [\\$15 million announced last month](#) to support all current SALC programs across the province, an increase of approximately \$1 million from last year. This will result in a majority of SALC programs getting a maintenance and operating funding increase from \$42,700 to up to \$50,000. Organizations that deliver SALC programming contribute 20 per cent of the cost of delivering the program, with the province providing the remaining 80 per cent.

The Ministry is conducting information webinars for those interested in submitting a call for proposal. If you would like to learn more about the program and how to complete and submit your application, please register for one of the dates below:

- Wednesday, July 24, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (English) [Register here.](#)
  - Wednesday, July 24, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (French) [Register here.](#)
  - Tuesday, August 27, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (English) [Register here.](#)
  - Tuesday, August 27, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (French) [Register here.](#)
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### Quick Facts

- The number of seniors aged 65 and over is projected to increase significantly, from 2.8 million or 18.4 per cent of population in 2022, to 4.4 million, or 20.3 per cent by 2046.
  - While more seniors live in large urban centres, smaller or rural regions tend to have a higher proportion of seniors in their communities.
  - There are now 316 Seniors Active Living Centre programs across Ontario.
  - Seniors can use the online [search tool](#) to find a program near them.
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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Helping Seniors Stay Fit, Healthy and Active | Ontario Newsroom](#)
  - [Ontario.ca/seniors](#)
  - [Seniors Active Living Centres](#)
  - [Guide to Programs and Services for Seniors](#)
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## NEWS RELEASE

# Premier Ford Announces Updated Parliamentary Assistant Roles

Renewed team remains focused on building Ontario while keeping costs down for Ontario workers and families

July 19, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**TORONTO** — Today, Premier Doug Ford announced changes to his team of parliamentary assistants. This renewed team will support cabinet in delivering on key government initiatives, with a focus on building Ontario, making life more affordable and connecting workers across the province to better jobs with bigger paycheques.

“Our team of parliamentary assistants play an important role by supporting ministers in the legislature and across the province and taking leadership on critical files within their ministries,” said Premier Ford. “I’m proud of the depth of talent and experience on our team and I look forward to seeing them deliver for the people of Ontario.”

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

- Deepak Anand, Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Small Business
- Robert Bailey, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure (Legislative Affairs)
- Patrice Barnes, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
- Will Bouma, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Northern Development and Chair of Caucus
- Ric Bresee, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation
- Rick Byers, Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board

- Lorne Coe, Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier
- Rudy Cuzzetto, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Electrification
- Jess Dixon, Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity
- Andrew Dowie, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Hardeep Singh Grewal, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
- Zee Hamid, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
- Christine Hogarth, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Red Tape Reduction
- Kevin Holland, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Mines
- John Jordan, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
- Logan Kanapathi, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- Anthony Leardi, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health
- Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board
- Graham McGregor, Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General
- Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources
- Billy Pang, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education
- Natalie Pierre, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Sport and Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Steve Pinsonneault, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Rural Affairs
- Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Brian Riddell, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement
- Sheref Sabawy, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
- Amarjot Sandhu, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure (Infrastructure)
- Stéphane Sarrazin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Francophone Affairs and Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Small Business

- Brian Saunderson, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General
- Dave Smith, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
- Laura Smith, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- Effie Triantafilopoulos, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Daisy Wai, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility
- John Yakabuski, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Electrification

In addition, Anthony Leardi is appointed to the role of Deputy Government House Leader and Natalie Pierre is appointed to the role of Deputy Government Whip.

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### Media Contacts

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Exploring More Ways to Expand Role of Pharmacists

Pharmacies provided over 1 million assessments for common ailments since last year, providing even more convenient care closer to home

July 24, 2024

[Health](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is looking at additional innovative and creative ways to make pharmacies a one-stop-shop for people to conveniently connect to care, close to home by further expanding the ability of pharmacists to provide care. Starting today, the government is consulting with its partners on further expanding the ability of pharmacists to provide care by treating additional common ailments, administering more vaccines, and performing more point-of-care testing.

“Our government is continuing to expand our bold and innovative plan to make it easier for people to connect to the care they need, close to home,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Pharmacist prescribing has been a huge success in Ontario, and we are excited to work with our partners to help explore more opportunities to leverage pharmacies to connect people to care in Ontario, no matter where they live.”

Since January 2023, Ontario’s pharmacies have provided more than 1 million assessments to treat and prescribe for [19 common ailments](#) such as cold sores, pink eye, insect bites and urinary tract infections. Over 4,600 pharmacies, or 99 per cent of all Ontario pharmacies, are now participating in the program, connecting people to care in every corner of the province.

Building on this success, Ontario is consulting on more ways to leverage the skills and expertise of pharmacists to continue making pharmacies a one-stop-shop for more convenient care closer to home, including:

- treating and prescribing for 14 additional common ailments, such as sore throat, calluses and corns, mild headaches, shingles, and minor sleep disorders including insomnia

- ordering specific laboratory tests and performing additional point-of-care tests such as strep throat testing, to make it faster and easier to assess and treat common ailments
- administering additional publicly funded vaccines at pharmacies, including Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pneumococcal, and Shingles to increase access to care and save people a visit to the doctor's office
- allowing pharmacy technicians to administer additional vaccines, such as Hepatitis A and B, Rabies, Meningococcal, and Human Papillomavirus
- identifying barriers in hospital settings that limit pharmacists from ordering certain laboratory and point-of-care tests, to make it easier for people to connect to care and reduce burden on nurses and doctors
- improving the [MedsCheck](#) program to support health outcomes and reduce unnecessary service duplication and administrative red tape, while continuing to protect patient choice.

In addition to providing more convenience, allowing pharmacists to connect people with more care options at their local pharmacy will also give family doctors more time to help people with more complex needs. As with visiting a family physician or walk-in clinic, Ontarians can receive a prescription from a pharmacist for common ailments with just their Ontario health card. The cost of the medication being prescribed will continue to be paid for by people directly or through their drug benefits plan.

As part of [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the government is strengthening all aspects of the health care system, including making it easier for highly skilled, regulated health care professionals, like pharmacists to work to the full extent of their training and expertise to provide people more connected and convenient care.

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### Quick Facts

- Pharmacy assessment of common ailments began in January 2023, with an initial 13 ailments, and was expanded in October 2023 to include 6 additional ailments.
- More than 1 million assessments have been completed since allowing pharmacists to treat and prescribe for 19 common ailments, including pink eye, UTIs, and acne. More than 4,600 pharmacies (99 per cent) have participated in the program.
- Recent changes by the province also allow pharmacists to administer certain injection and inhalation treatments so that they can better care for people who

need help taking certain medications, such as insulin, vitamin B12, or osteoporosis treatment.

- Anyone with symptoms should contact their local pharmacist to confirm whether they provide prescribing services for certain common ailments before visiting the pharmacy.
- On July 1, 2022, regulatory amendments came into force under the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, allowing pharmacy professionals to collect specimens and perform the following point-of-care tests for the purpose of medication management to treat chronic disease: Glucose, HbA1c, Lipids, and PT/INR.
- Vaccines that are part of [Ontario's publicly funded immunization program](#) are free if administered by a primary care provider or local public health unit. At this time, pending the consultation and implementation timing, patients who choose to receive vaccines in a pharmacy will need to pay for the vaccine and the administration, other than COVID-19 and influenza vaccines.

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## Quotes

"The ongoing and expanded role of pharmacists is fundamental to delivering accessible, high-quality care for Ontarians. Pharmacists have consistently shown we can assess and treat common ailments, deliver vaccinations to help close vaccination gaps and improve health across our communities. Through innovative and future-oriented health education, pharmacy learners are trained and prepared to practice to our full scope alongside and in collaboration with other healthcare professionals. We support the Government of Ontario for their commitment to expanding the scope of pharmacy professionals and strengthening Ontario's health care system."

- Lisa Dolovich

Dean, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto



"We are pleased to support ongoing opportunities for pharmacy professionals to utilize their skills to deliver safe, quality and timely care that Ontarians want and deserve. Last year, OCP made recommendations to the Minister of Health to further expand the scope of practice of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians along with additional changes that would further strengthen the ability of pharmacy professionals to meet the needs of patients within an integrated healthcare system. Today's announcement, including the focus on improving the valuable MedsCheck program, is great news and an important step towards more effective delivery of safe, quality care for all Ontarians."

**- James Morrison**  
**Board Chair, Ontario College of Pharmacists**

"Thanks to the Government of Ontario's investment in the pharmacy sector through programs like the assessment and treatment of minor ailments, communities have trusted their local pharmacy teams to deliver the high-quality care they need and deserve. As Ontarians seek accessible and convenient ways to access care, Ontario's pharmacy professionals are ready with the knowledge and expertise to safely and effectively do more to meet their healthcare needs in a setting of their choice. The Ontario Pharmacists Association thanks the Government of Ontario for their continued investment in pharmacy delivered care and looks forward to continuing our strong collaboration to ensure that care is always available when and where Ontarians need it most."

**- Justin Bates**  
**CEO, Ontario Pharmacists Association**

"We are delighted to see the Ontario government recognize the immense value of pharmacy-led primary care by expanding the minor ailments program, as well as, authorizing lab test orders and point-of-care test administration at local pharmacies. With over 1 million minor assessments conducted since 2023, it is evident that accessing healthcare close to home via local pharmacies is improving the health of Ontarians. We are also thrilled to see the expansion of publicly funded vaccines offered in pharmacies, which we have long advocated for and will significantly enhance public health outcomes in the province. We look forward to continued collaboration to further develop pharmacies as community health hubs, ensuring timely and equitable care for everyone in the province."

- Sandra Hanna  
CEO, Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada

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### Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- More information about the types of health care services you can get through your local pharmacy can be found [here](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

#### Health and Wellness

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

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### Media Contacts

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Enhancing Protections for More People Throughout Fall Respiratory Illness Season

Expanded vaccine program to include more infants, high-risk children and pregnant women

July 25, 2024

[Health](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is expanding the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) program to connect more infants, high-risk children and pregnant women to RSV vaccines that can help protect themselves and their loved ones during the fall respiratory illness season.

“Our government is taking steps to ensure Ontarians of all ages have the tools they need to be prepared and keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By expanding the number of children eligible under the RSV prevention program, our government is making it easier for families to access the care and protection they need ahead of respiratory illness season.”

Starting this fall, families with infants and high-risk children up to 24 months old, will now have access to the new RSV immunization, Beyfortus®, through the publicly funded RSV prevention program. Pregnant women will also have the option to receive a single dose of Abrysvo®, an RSV vaccine that can provide protection for their infant from birth to six months of age. More details on the expanded RSV program, including where families will be able to access vaccines will be provided in the coming weeks.

“To be ready for this year's respiratory illness season, we all need to take the simple and effective steps to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities and our health care system,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health. “RSV is a highly contagious virus that causes infections of the respiratory tract, especially in the very young and older members of our communities. By expanding the RSV prevention program to include all infants born in 2024 and high-risk children up to 24 months old through the 2024/25 RSV season, we can better protect them from the virus and prevent severe outcomes.”

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government is providing people with the tools they need early to connect to the care they need to keep themselves, and their loved ones safe and healthy.

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### Quick Facts

- As Ontario, and the rest of the world, moves closer to respiratory illness season, more information will be available regarding when people can expect to receive their free flu shot and latest dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
  - Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that causes cold symptoms in many infants and young children. Most children will experience at least one RSV infection by the age of two.
  - The risk of severe outcomes from RSV infection is highest among infants under six months of age and children under 24 months of age with chronic conditions such as chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, compromised immune systems, or neuromuscular disorders.
  - In alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Beyfortus® is the preferred product to protect infants. Receiving both Abrysvo® and Beyfortus® is not expected to provide additional benefits.
  - Sanofi's Beyfortus® delivers passive immunization, providing protective antibodies to infants.
  - Pregnant women should consult with their health care provider before receiving Abrysvo®.
  - As part of the Ontario government's historic \$330 million investment in pediatric care, new rapid access clinics for children and youth were added at health care providers to provide families with faster and easier access to care during respiratory illness season.
  - Immunizations are important to help protect children from serious illnesses. Help keep them healthy by making sure they get all recommended immunizations on time. Vaccines in [Ontario's routine immunization schedule](#) are provided free of charge if you meet the eligibility criteria.
  - All Ontarians should stay up to date on their immunizations, especially children. Talk to a health care provider or [public health unit](#) if you are unsure if your child has missed [routine immunizations](#) or if you are unsure about which immunizations they have received.
  - Visit [Health811 online](#) or call 811 (TTY: [1-866-797-0007](#) toll free) for health advice and information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
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## Quotes

"Sanofi commends the Government of Ontario for implementing a program to protect all babies and newborns from RSV beginning this fall with Beyfortus®(nirsevimab). The global impact of this disease has been felt in homes and healthcare facilities, touching the lives of countless families. Our commitment as a healthcare company is to bring innovative solutions to protect the health of Canadians and make a meaningful impact for the betterment of public health."

- Delphine Lansac  
General Manager, Vaccines, Sanofi Canada

"We applaud Ontario for acknowledging the need to help protect all infants and offer comprehensive options to future parents. We are pleased by the decision to incorporate ABRYSVO® into their extended program, including pregnant persons and their infants. This development marks considerable progress in the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections among infants and Pfizer is prepared to support Ontario with this immunization program as well as other jurisdictions that follow Ontario's lead."

- Najah Sampson  
President, Pfizer Canada

"This new preventative therapy to prevent RSV infection in kids is an absolute game changer. In addition to keeping infants and children at higher risk safe, it has the promise to dramatically reduce hospitalizations during the viral surge season – a huge benefit to our health care system as a whole."

- Dr. Chris Simpson  
Chief Medical Executive, Ontario Health

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## Additional Resources

- To learn more about the flu shot, visit [Ontario.ca/flu](https://ontario.ca/flu)
- To learn more about Respiratory Syncytial Virus, visit [Ontario.ca/rsv](https://ontario.ca/rsv)
- To learn more about COVID-19, visit [Ontario.ca/COVID-19](https://ontario.ca/COVID-19)
- Learn about eligibility for [COVID-19 antiviral treatment](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)

## Related Topics

### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

### Health and Wellness

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario's Water Infrastructure Investments Helping Build More Than 500,000 New Homes

Funding includes \$35 million to support nearly 47,000 new homes in Peel Region

August 07, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**MISSISSAUGA** — The Ontario government is helping enable the construction of more than 500,000 new homes across the province through the first round of investments from the province's [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#). This first round will see the province invest \$970 million in 54 projects across 60 municipalities to help municipalities develop, repair, rehabilitate and expand drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. In response to the high demand for funding, the government is also allocating an additional \$250 million for a second round of applications starting on August 14, bringing the total amount in the fund to \$1.2 billion.

"Our government's historic investments in infrastructure are helping to tackle Ontario's housing supply crisis and get more homes built across the province," said Premier Doug Ford. "The investments we are announcing today alone will help get more than half-a-million homes built, including nearly 47,000 here in Peel Region. We're going to keep working with our municipal partners to make the dream of homeownership a reality for more families across Ontario."

As part of the first round of funding, the province is providing the Regional Municipality of Peel with \$35 million to support the expansion of the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility. This project will enable 46,784 housing units in the Region of Peel and includes the extension of water systems and installation of new features, such as an aeration tank and filtering systems. Additional projects that have been approved for funding will be announced in the coming weeks.

"By investing in drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities and connecting pipes to land, we are helping municipalities build more homes," said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. "Homes can't be built without connections to drinking water and wastewater."

In this year's budget, the province announced more than \$1.8 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure funding through the \$825 million Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund and the \$1 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program that complements funding announced previously through the province's Building Faster Fund. In response to the significant demand for investments in water and wastewater infrastructure to enable the construction of more homes and after consulting with municipalities, the province is transferring \$275 million from the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program to the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund in order to meet this demand. In addition, the \$120 million from the Building Faster Fund that was reserved for small, rural and northern communities is being flowed to these communities through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund.

"When interest rates began to soar and put significant pressure on housing starts, our government focused on making historic investments in infrastructure so that our municipal partners would have the tools in place to unleash development as soon as the Bank of Canada began cutting rates, which Premier Ford has called for repeatedly," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "We have heard loud and clear that infrastructure is the number one obstacle for our partners and we will continue to do everything we can to help them build more homes faster."

More information about the remaining funding in the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, including eligibility and application intake details, will be announced in the coming weeks.

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### Quick Facts

- Through this first round of the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, the province's investment includes a total of \$456 million to support 30 projects in small, rural and northern municipalities without housing targets.
- Details about the second application intake and eligibility will be available at [ontario.ca/watersystemsfund](https://ontario.ca/watersystemsfund) on August 14, 2024. The second intake will provide an additional \$250 million in funding.
- Investing in key local infrastructure through programs like the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund is part of the province's capital plan of over \$190 billion to build critical infrastructure and build at least 1.5 million homes to support growing communities and lay a strong foundation for future generations.
- Ontario is also providing municipalities improved and flexible borrowing terms for housing-enabling water projects under [Infrastructure Ontario's loan program](#). This new lending stream would build on the valued financing Infrastructure Ontario already provides to many municipal partners and would

provide them with options for deferred interest payments until projects are substantially complete, longer loan terms, more flexible repayment terms and lower administration costs.

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## Quotes

"The Government of Ontario is glad to announce a significant investment of \$35 million into the expansion of the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility in the Region of Peel. This vital initiative addresses the essential infrastructure needs of our rapidly growing population and supports the creation of over 46,000 new housing units. The enhancements, including the new aeration tank and advanced filtering systems, are critical to ensuring that our water systems can sustain our community's growth and enhance the quality of life for all residents. This project stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to sustainable development and the future prosperity of the Peel Region."

**- Amarjot Sandhu  
MPP, Brampton West**

"We have heard from many stakeholders about the importance of this wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater management is critical to ensuring our region is able to continue accommodating new growth while maintaining existing systems. So, it is great to see this investment which will allow more homes to be built faster here in Mississauga."

**- Sheref Sabawy  
MPP, Mississauga-Erin Mills**

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government continues to make record investments to build vital infrastructure to support communities across the province. This expansion to municipal water infrastructure will allow more homes to be built in growing communities like Dufferin-Caledon and ensure a strong foundation for years to come."

**- Sylvia Jones  
MPP, Dufferin-Caledon**

"As Peel continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in our country, we must invest in the infrastructure needed to support our community. The expansion of the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility will ensure residents and newcomers have access to quality water they deserve now and for generations to come."

**- Prabmeet Sarkaria  
MPP, Brampton South**

"The Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund is a vital step towards ensuring sustainable growth and enhancing the quality of life for our communities. By investing in critical infrastructure, we are not only safeguarding public health and protecting our environment, but also unlocking new housing opportunities and fostering economic growth for our province's future."

**- Nina Tangri  
MPP, Mississauga-Streetsville**

"Peel is one of the fastest growing regions in North America and new water and wastewater infrastructure is critical to support this growth. Our government's commitment of \$35 million to expand and improve the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility will help get shovels in the ground to build over 46,000 new homes, including our new waterfront communities of Brightwater and Lakeview Village. Together with Mayor Parrish and our partners at the Region of Peel, we're ensuring that more families can achieve the dream of homeownership in Mississauga, and across Ontario."

**- Rudy Cuzzetto  
MPP, Mississauga-Lakeshore**

"As Ontario faces a housing supply crisis, our government is committed to using all the tools at our disposal to build more homes. By enabling over 46,000 new housing units across Peel Region, we are committed to ensuring that everyone can achieve the dream of home ownership."

**- Graham McGregor  
MPP, Brampton North**

"Expanding the G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility will help us to build more homes and support Peel Region's growing population. This is fantastic news for residents in Mississauga and across Peel Region."

**- Natalia Kusendova-Bashta  
MPP, Mississauga Centre**

"Peel Region welcomes the Government of Ontario's \$35 million dollar investment in G.E. Booth Water Resource Recovery Facility, as part of the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Funding announced today. G.E. Booth currently processes an average of 518 ML of wastewater per day. Earlier this year, Peel Region council approved an investment of \$130 million to increase flow capacity. The province's additional investment in G.E. Booth will help achieve our goal of increasing wastewater capacity by 40 million litres per day. This increased flow capacity will support the province's goal of helping build more homes, including up to an additional 47, 000 housing units in Peel Region."

**- Nando Iannicca  
Peel Regional Chair & CEO**

"These important provincial investments mean that municipalities big and small across Ontario can build the water and wastewater projects needed to support housing. New housing requires funding for municipal infrastructure. The investments are a critical part of progress towards Ontario's ambitious housing targets."

**- Colin Best  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) President, Halton Regional  
Councillor**



"Ontario's Big City Mayors applaud today's announcement on the first round of municipal projects to receive the province's Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund and are excited to see how it will assist municipalities in repairing, rehabilitating and expanding critical drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure – issues championed by OBCM. We pleased to see the province heard our concerns about water infrastructure funding being a significant barrier in getting housing built and we are eagerly anticipating the second round of application intake. OBCM looks forward to continuing to collaborate closely with provincial partners to deliver on our shared commitment to accessible, resilient housing and essential services for all."

**- Marianne Meed Ward**  
**Mayor of Burlington, Chair of Ontario's Big City Mayors**

"RCCAO welcomes the Government of Ontario's timely action in advancing the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund. Recent flooding across the GTA underscores the real need for robust investment to upgrade aging water infrastructure and support sustainable growth across the region. This funding is essential to help facilitate more housing in Ontario, mitigate future risks and maintain the smooth operation of our critical infrastructure as the province grows. Our members commend Premier Ford and Minister Surma's continued leadership in prioritizing water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure."

**- Nadia Todorova**  
**Executive Director, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario**  
**(RCCAO)**

"RESCON supports the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund which focuses on building the critical infrastructure required to support the new construction of much needed low, mid and high-rise residential units. By investing in drinking water, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure, Premier Ford and Minister Surma are laying the foundations needed to provide housing for all Ontarians."

**- Richard Lyall**  
**President of the Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON)**



"The Ontario Home Builder's Association commends Premier Ford, Minister Surma and the Ontario government on this first round of investments from the province's Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund and the additional \$250 million for a second round of applications. OHBA is very pleased that the government is providing direct financial support to municipalities to enable the shovel-ready land required to build houses that families can afford. This action by the Ontario government is the right approach and will get us closer to the target of 1.5 million new homes built by 2031."

**- Scott Andison**

**Chief Executive Officer, The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA)**

"BILD supports and applauds today's Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund announcement. Investments in the expansion of water and wastewater systems are critical to the growth of our region. These investments are literally the foundation of our ability to support housing and employment growth in Mississauga and throughout the GTA. The province's investment is vital to our future economic well-being and ability to service land required to build housing."

**- Dave Wilkes**

**President and CEO, Building Industry and Land Development Association  
(BILD)**

"The Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association applauds Doug Ford and the Ontario government's continued commitment to building the critical water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure that is needed to address the growth-related pressures on our municipal systems and help build more homes across the province."

**- Patrick McManus**

**Executive Director, The Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction  
Association**

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### **Additional Resources**

- [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#)
- [Ontario Investing Over \\$1.8 Billion to Build More Homes](#)

- [Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)
- 

## Related Topics

### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

### Home and Community

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

[more](#)

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Releases 2024–25 First Quarter Finances

Government remains focused on keeping costs down and rebuilding Ontario's economy

August 13, 2024

[Finance](#)

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TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government released the [2024–25 First Quarter Finances](#), the first update on the province's economic and fiscal outlook since the release of the [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#).

The report, which provides updated information about Ontario's finances as of June 30, 2024 for the 2024–25 fiscal year, demonstrates that the province's fiscal outlook remains on track despite ongoing global economic and geopolitical uncertainty.

"From day one, our government has been a prudent, responsible manager of Ontario's finances," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "We've reversed a trend of credit downgrades that our province faced under the previous government and we're continuing to focus on keeping costs down for families, supporting Ontario workers and making our province a centre of investment so we can create more good-paying jobs, support high-quality services and put more money back into Ontario businesses and taxpayers' pockets."

In the first calendar quarter of 2024, Ontario's real gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 0.7 per cent, after remaining unchanged in the fourth quarter of 2023, supported by higher exports and household spending.

Other key indicators throughout the report are on track with the projections in the *2024 Ontario Budget*. The [2024–25 First Quarter Finances](#) show the government is projecting a deficit of \$9.8 billion in 2024–25, unchanged from the *2024 Ontario Budget* forecast. Projections for government revenues are also aligned with the *2024 Ontario Budget* forecast, projected to be \$205.7 billion.

The outlook for program expense, at \$200.6 billion, interest on debt expense and the cost of borrowing in 2024–25 also remain unchanged from the forecasts in the *2024 Ontario Budget*.

The government will provide a comprehensive multi-year fiscal outlook as part of the *2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review* later this year.

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### Quick Facts

- Interest on debt expense is projected to be \$13.9 billion, unchanged from the forecast in the *2024 Budget*. Ontario's forecast cost of borrowing has remained at 4.0 per cent.
  - Distinct from the Contingency Fund, the *2024 Ontario Budget* included a \$1.0 billion reserve in 2024–25, to protect the fiscal outlook against any unforeseen changes in the province's revenue and expense forecasts. The \$1.0 billion reserve has been maintained as part of the current fiscal outlook
  - Ontario has a double-A credit rating with three of the four credit rating agencies. In June, [Morningstar DBRS upgraded Ontario's credit rating](#), the first credit rating upgrade since 2006.
  - Ontario has issued 16 Green Bonds totalling \$19.25 billion since 2014–15, with \$17.2 billion outstanding. [Green Bonds remain a core component of Ontario's borrowing program](#), and the province remains the largest issuer of Canadian dollar Green Bonds.
  - The government will provide its next financial update as part of the *2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review*, also referred to as the Fall Economic Statement, on or before November 15, 2024.
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### Additional Resources

- [2024-25 First Quarter Finances](#)
  - [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Stronger Ontario](#)
  - [Ontario's annual financial cycle](#)
  - [Quarterly Finances from previous years](#)
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## NEWS RELEASE

# More Child Care Fee Reductions Coming for Ontario Families

New funding model for operators, coupled with fee reduction, bringing more stability and affordability to the sector

August 15, 2024

[Education](#)

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TORONTO — Ontario is taking the next step in lowering child care fees for families as part of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system. Starting in January 2025, parent fees will be capped at \$22 per day for children under the age of six in CWELCC programs, resulting in additional savings of nearly \$300 million in 2025 for families.

“Our government is determined to make life more affordable for families, that’s why we’re putting more money in their pockets by cutting child care fees even further,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Education. “When kids are in child care, they’re able to learn and grow, and their parents are able to enter the workforce with peace of mind.”

Since signing an agreement with the federal government in 2022 for their signature national program, Ontario has already reduced child care fees by an average of 50 per cent from 2020 levels, introduced its [Child Care Workforce Strategy](#) and launched a plan to create thousands of new licensed child care spaces in communities across the province.

Ontario continues to call on the federal government to increase funding to this national program so it is sustainable for families throughout the province. This advocacy reflects Ontario’s unique agreement with the federal government which included a mid-agreement program review. Ontario’s new \$22 per day fee cap for children under the age of six in programs enrolled in the CWELCC system will reduce fees for 44 per cent of these spaces. That means families facing the highest fees — often those with the youngest children living in less affordable communities — will see the largest fee reductions. This change will result in additional savings of nearly \$300 million in 2025 for these families.



Based on extensive consultations with partners in child care delivery, including all types of child care operators as well as service system managers and school boards, the Ontario government is also introducing a new, cost-based funding approach for operators in the CWELCC program. The new funding approach, which will also be effective January 2025, prioritizes a simple and easy-to-administer system, which is consistent across the province and funds operators based on the true costs of operating child care.

“I’m so pleased to be bringing forward this new funding formula that has been designed based on the extensive input of operators,” said Minister Smith. “This new formula will provide the stability and predictability operators need to continue to expand and create more affordable child care spaces for Ontario families.”

Ontario will continue to work with the federal government, municipalities, and operators to build a sustainable early years and child care system that meets the needs of children, families, and professionals in all communities across the province.

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### Quick Facts

- In [March 2022](#), Ontario secured a six-year \$13.2-billion commitment from the federal government, which will lower fees for eligible children to an average of \$10-a-day by March 2026. This funding builds on the estimated \$21.6 billion the province is investing in full-day kindergarten and the estimated \$11.8 billion the province is investing in early years and child care over the same period for an estimated total provincial investment of \$33.4 billion.
- In [December 2022](#), as part of the CWELCC agreement, Ontario announced a targeted plan to create thousands of new licensed child care spaces, with a focus on increasing access for Ontario families.
- In [November 2023](#), Ontario launched a Child Care Workforce Strategy (CCWS) to support the retention and recruitment of registered early childhood educators (RECEs) working in licensed child care programs enrolled in the CWELCC system. Through the CCWS, Ontario is increasing wages for RECEs employed by child care programs enrolled in CWELCC, improving working conditions, supporting career laddering and entry to the profession, and building the profile of the profession.
- Ontario increased the amount of Start-up Grant funding per licensed child care space by allocating an additional \$75 million to the program in 2024, for a total of about \$161 million this year. Another \$151 million in funding has been earmarked for 2025. This will amount to a total of \$366.5 million in investments for Start-up Grants for 2023-2025.



- On July 5, 2024, the Minister of Education and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) sent a joint letter to the federal government asking to remove the cap on for-profit child care to enable the creation of more spaces. The CWELCC agreement requires the province to have a maximum of 30 per cent of CWELCC spaces operated by for-profit operators.
- As of March 2023, there were more than 5,770 licensed child care centres, 148 licensed home child care agencies, and around 505,000 licensed spaces in Ontario.

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## Quotes

"We're thrilled the Province of Ontario has heard our charity's concerns and is working to ensure the full cost of delivering high-quality child care is funded. The release of the funding formula and cap on parent fees are further steps towards successfully implementing \$10-a-day child care. This program supports thousands of families across Ontario, and is vital to creating healthy, equitable communities. As the largest not-for-profit provider of child care in Ontario, we're committed to continuing to work with all levels of government to ensure that families can access sustainable, high-quality, and affordable child care."

- Lesley Davidson

President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Toronto and President of YMCA Ontario

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## Additional Resources

- [Supporting Child Care in Ontario](#)
- [Canada-Ontario early years and child care agreement](#)
- [Financial Support for Child Care](#)
- [Become a registered early childhood educator](#)

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## Related Topics

### Education and Training

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Investing in New Supports to Address Gender-based Violence

\$100 million investment will support community initiatives that help prevent violence and support survivors

August 16, 2024

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

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TORONTO - The Ontario government is launching a call for proposals for new community-based projects that support survivors of gender-based violence. These initiatives will focus on preventing violence through education and awareness, building safer, healthier communities and enhancing well-being and economic opportunities for people and families.

Ontario is investing \$100 million over the next three years in its four-year, cross-government action plan to combat gender-based violence, building on the province's existing investments of \$1.4 billion over four years to end gender-based violence and support victims.

"Our government is continuing to take action to end violence against women and girls in all its forms," said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "We know that preventing gender-based violence before it occurs is critical to breaking the cycle of abuse. This call for proposals will fund projects that address violence and tackle its root causes. By focusing on prevention, we are working towards safer and healthier communities for generations to come."

The [call for proposals](#) is now open until October 11, 2024. Organizations with innovative projects or approaches that help prevent or address gender-based violence are invited to apply. The province will invest in projects that respond to the needs of local communities in four key areas:

- education and awareness
- early intervention and prevention
- community planning and service integration
- economic security and financial independence

“Strengthening people’s economic security is a key part of reducing vulnerability to gender-based violence and empowering survivors to break the cycle of abuse,” said Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women’s Social and Economic Opportunity. “This investment will help more people gain financial independence and support survivors to rebuild their lives, so they and their families can live safely and securely.”

“Governments cannot wait for violence to occur to start thinking about how we can stop it,” said Minister Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth of Canada. “That is why, in addition to supporting victims, survivors and their families, we need to create communities and systems that prevent violence and create space for all people to thrive. I am pleased to see that this Call for Proposals, funded by Ontario’s \$162 million agreement with the federal government through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, is focused on prevention, education, community building, and economic security and financial independence, and look forward to continued work to end gender-based violence in Ontario.”

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### Quick Facts

- In December 2023, Ontario announced its four-year action plan to prevent and address gender-based violence. The plan includes a broad range of services for survivors such as emergency shelters, counselling, 24-hour crisis lines, safety planning and transitional housing supports. The plan also helps women build skills and get jobs to gain financial security and independence.
  - This funding is part of Ontario’s \$162 million agreement with the federal government through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, and it builds on Ontario’s existing investments of \$1.4 billion from 2023-24 to 2027-28 to end gender-based violence and support victims.
- 

### Additional Resources

[Learn more about this call for proposals](#)

[Ontario’s action plan to prevent and address gender-based violence](#)

[Get help if you are experiencing violence](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Health and Wellness

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

## Home and Community

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Premier Doug Ford Makes Changes to Cabinet

Government remains focused on rebuilding Ontario's economy and protecting public safety

August 16, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**TORONTO** — Premier Doug Ford has named Jill Dunlop as the new Minister of Education and Nolan Quinn as the new Minister of Colleges and Universities. Kevin Holland has joined Cabinet as the new Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products as part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Graham McGregor has joined Cabinet as the new Associate Minister of Auto Theft and Bail Reform as part of the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

“With these changes, our government remains focused on rebuilding Ontario's economy and protecting public safety as we deliver better jobs and bigger paycheques for workers in every part of the province,” said Premier Ford. “I'm thrilled to recognize Jill, Nolan, Kevin and Graham for their leadership and know they will each work tirelessly to serve the people of Ontario.”

Todd Smith has resigned as Minister of Education and Member of Provincial Parliament for Bay of Quinte to pursue a new opportunity in the private sector.

“From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank Todd for his many years of service to our government, our province and our party,” said Premier Ford. “He leaves politics with a record that he can be incredibly proud of, including and especially fixing the previous government's energy policies and bringing electricity prices down for hardworking families and businesses. Todd will always be a friend and I can't wait to watch his every success as he starts this next chapter of his life.”

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Supporting Communities with New and Upgraded Sport and Recreation Facilities

Applications open for \$200-million Community Sport and Recreation Fund

August 19, 2024

[Sport](#)

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**OTTAWA** —The Ontario government is now accepting applications for the new [Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund \(CSRIF\)](#). [Announced](#) as part of the 2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario, the province is investing \$200 million through the fund to help communities revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and build new facilities.

“Today’s announcement is just one example of how we are working shoulder-to-shoulder with our municipal partners to ensure they have the infrastructure and support their growing communities need,” said Premier Doug Ford. “By working together, we can build growing, healthy and complete communities across Ontario and ensure people have access to the services and recreational opportunities they need to thrive.”

Premier Ford announced the intake of the CSRIF during his remarks at the 2024 Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa.

Ontario’s investments in new and upgraded sport and recreation infrastructure makes it easier for people to create healthier, more active lifestyles, makes sports more accessible, and helps more communities across the province host local, national and international events and competitions.

Starting today, applications are open to municipalities, Indigenous communities, non-profit organizations and (for new builds only) for-profit organizations, through two streams:

**Stream 1:** Repairing and upgrading existing sports and recreation facilities into more accessible, state-of-the-art facilities that better meet the community’s needs. Eligible projects will receive between \$150,000 and \$1 million and must be completed within twenty-four months. The deadline to submit applications is October 29, 2024.

**Stream 2:** Building new and transformative sports and recreation facilities, including replacing existing facilities that have reached the end of their lifespan. Eligible projects will receive up to \$10 million and must be completed no later than March 31, 2027. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until funding has been fully allocated.

More information about eligibility is available in the [application guidelines](#).

“The launch of this new fund is one more way our government is helping to build stronger communities where people can live, work, play and thrive,” said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Sport. “Participation in sport and recreation offers many benefits, and by extending the lifespan of local spaces and supporting the construction of new facilities, we’re ensuring that youth, seniors, families and all Ontarians will have the opportunity to stay active in their community for decades to come.”

Investing in new and improved sport and recreation facilities through the [2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#) will continue to support the province’s growing population and ensure that all Ontarians have access to opportunities to thrive.

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### Quick Facts

- The Ontario government is hosting an information webinar on August 27, 2024, to help prospective applicants navigate the application process.
  - For general program inquiries, more information on the webinar and to register, please email: [CSRIF@ontario.ca](mailto:CSRIF@ontario.ca).
  - For additional assistance and questions about eligibility, prospective applicants may also contact their local [regional development advisor](#).
  - To apply for CSRIF funding, please visit: [Ontario.ca/communitysportfund](https://ontario.ca/communitysportfund)
  - The sport and recreation sector contributed an estimated \$2.6 billion to Ontario’s economy in 2021 and accounted for approximately 38,000 jobs.
-

## Quotes

"This announcement is exciting news for municipalities across Ontario, while our government continues to build critical infrastructure, we understand communities need places to gather for recreation. The fund will support a growing population by investing in new and revitalized sport, recreation and community facilities for youth and families."

**- Peter Bethlenfalvy  
Minister of Finance**

"We commend the province for making this key funding investment to support recreation infrastructure across Ontario. Supportive funding programs are the difference-maker that ensure successful renewal and/or rebuilding of community recreation facilities. As Ontario grows, dedicated infrastructure investment in our sector ensures that recreation remains a public good and supports livable and healthy communities."

**- Kim Gavine  
CEO, Parks and Recreation Ontario**

"More than ever before, we are seeing record demand for sport and recreation funding in communities across Ontario. With the support of the new Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund, we can meet these needs head-on as we continue to build an inclusive and accessible sport landscape for all kids."

**- Marco Di Buono, PhD  
President, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities**

"This new funding opportunity to support the revitalization of sport and recreation facilities across the province, will have a positive impact for people with disabilities to remove barriers to participation. By ensuring older or newly built facilities are accessible and up to current AODA standards, it will ensure that no facility excludes people with a disability because of physical barriers. This is an important first step to offer and provide parasport and adapted recreation programming that is available and welcoming to all!"

**- James Murphy**  
**Executive Director, ParaSport Ontario**

"Jays Care has a longstanding history of infrastructure investments focused on building spaces where communities can connect and kids can grow. Through our Field Of Dreams program, Jays Care has proudly invested \$15 million in more than 160 community diamonds. We believe the Ontario government's Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund is an important commitment in prioritizing recreational infrastructure for children and families across the province. This infrastructure support will give kids across Ontario safe spaces where they can play, learn, and find a sense of belonging in their local communities."

**- Robert Witchel**  
**Executive Director, Jays Care Foundation**

"Canadian Sport Institute Ontario commends the Government of Ontario in launching a new Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund. This funding will allow more high-performance athletes to train at home in Ontario on their path to representing Canada on the world stage. We have seen the successes that can come from having world-class sport facilities in the province, including World Records like that of swimmer Summer McIntosh who trained at Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, and Olympic Gold Medals like that of track cyclist Kelsey Mitchell who trains at Mattamy National Cycling Centre in Milton, both legacies of the Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games. Thank you to Premier Ford and Minister Lumsden for their vision for sport and sport infrastructure in the province, and their continued support in making the Ontario sport system stronger at all levels of play."

- **Debbie Low**

**Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Sport Institute Ontario**

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### Additional Resources

- [Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund](#)
- [Ontario Building New and Upgraded Sports and Recreation Facilities](#)
- [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Business and Economy

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

#### Health and Wellness

Get help navigating Ontario's health care system and connecting with the programs or services you're looking for. [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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### Media Contacts

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Communications Branch

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Accessibility

Privacy

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# Starter Company Plus Spring 2024 Grant Recipients

Posted on Wednesday, July 24, 2024



**RELEASE DATE:**

July 24, 2024

**Enterprise Renfrew County awards 10 grants totalling \$42,000**

Pembroke, (ON): Enterprise Renfrew County is excited to announce the Starter Company Plus Spring 2024 grant award recipients.

The Starter Company Plus program provides three months of business coaching, business plan and cash flow projection development, mentoring and instruction from staff and professional trainers. At the end of the program there is an opportunity for participants to compete, by pitching their business plan, for a grant of up to \$5,000 to be applied to their business operations.

With more than 20 dedicated entrepreneurs fast-tracking development of their business, marketing, and financial plans during the training, the following individuals successfully earned grant awards totalling \$42,000:

Tyler Armstrong of Pinnacle Haven Farms located in Horton Township; Maria Arvizu of Salsa Sabor a Mexico located in the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria; Tyson Bromley of Bromley Acres Wagyu located in Laurentian Valley Township; Zuzana Keslerova of Kesler Architect located in McNab/Braeside Township; Hani Morsi of Montu Canada located in Arnprior; Alyssa Pearce of Barron Canyon Coffee & Tea Co. located in Petawawa; Shawna Plotz of Bloom Wildly located in Bonnechere Valley Township; Noelle Shangraw of Ottawa Valley Sports located in Petawawa; Tauney Stinson of Forager Bee located in Renfrew; and Bronwyn Wearing of White Forest Farm located in Whitewater Region.

"The Starter Company Plus program was incredibly beneficial for me as a new business owner," states Noelle Shangraw, Founder and CEO of Ottawa Valley Sports. "It provided a wealth of information on integrating legal aspects, taxes, marketing strategies, and business planning. This comprehensive program was extremely helpful in identifying areas where I still need to grow and focus on building my business successfully."

She adds the program equipped her with the tools and knowledge to navigate the complexities of starting, running and building a business.

"I am truly grateful for the guidance and support, the entirety of the program provided. Big thanks for this incredible program for our growing community of entrepreneurs," Shangraw says.

Information sessions for the fall training program of Starter Company Plus are scheduled for August 13 from 10-11 a.m. and August 15 from 1-2 p.m. For more information and to register for an information session visit [www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/starter-company-plus](http://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/starter-company-plus) or contact [Heather Inwood-Montrose](#), Small Business Advisor. The application deadline is Friday, August 23, 2024.

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

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

Heather Inwood-Montrose      Small Business Advisor      613-735-8224

Tina Peplinskie      Media Relations Coordinator      613-735-7288

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Tyler Armstrong

Tauney Stinson

Maria Arvizu

Bronwyn Wearing



# STARTER COMPANY PLUS

Spring 2024



Shawna Plotz



Noelle Shangraw



Tyson Bromley



Alyssa Pearce



Hani Morsi



Zuzana Keslerova

Ontario





# Introducing the 2024 Summer Company Participants

Posted on Monday, July 29, 2024



**RELEASE DATE:**

July 29, 2024

**Enterprise Renfrew County assists seven students start businesses this summer**

**Pembroke, ON:** Celebrating youth entrepreneurship, Enterprise Renfrew County proudly presents this year's Summer Company Program participants; seven ambitious students turning their business dreams into reality across Renfrew County.

Introducing On-The-Go Car Care by Cayden MacKinnon from Renfrew offering auto detailing; BlueBird Company by Haley Vanderzwaag from Westmeath offering subscription care packages; Unicorn Kitty Balloons by Katie White from McNab/Braeside providing event balloon animals; Ottawa Valley Grill Doctor by Kyle Radford from Eganville offering mobile BBQ cleaning; "I've Got Your Back" Babysitting Services by Scarlytte Merrill from Deep River offering mobile babysitting services; Ki's Creations by artist Ki Myra from Pembroke; and SportsHub by Isa Jilani O'Brien from Barry's Bay offering large lawn game rentals.

Meet these inspiring young entrepreneurs for a celebratory event during the Pembroke Business Improvement Area's (PBIA) Youth Market taking place at Pembroke's Shamrock

Park (corner of Moffat Street and Pembroke Street West) August 29, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Summer Company Program empowers students aged 15 to 29 to launch their own businesses, fosters entrepreneurial skills and provides crucial startup funding. Participants receive up to \$1,500 initially after completing training, with the potential for an additional \$1,500 based on their summer business performance.

For more information about the Summer Company Program and upcoming application deadlines, visit [www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/summer-company](http://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/summer-company).

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lindsay Debertin	Program Officer	613-312-9355
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288

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# Construction Update - August 2024

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Posted on Wednesday, August 07, 2024



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

## **Construction Update – August 2, 2024**

The County of Renfrew Department of Public Works and Engineering provides monthly updates on construction projects within the County. This notice should 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](https://www.municipal511.on.ca).

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

### **Upcoming Projects**

#### **County Road 8 (Cobden Road) – Township of Whitewater Region**

The rehabilitation of County Road 8 (Cobden Rd.), from County Road 9 (Bulger Rd.) to the urban limits of Cobden, is anticipated to commence the week of August 12 and be completed in late-August. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

#### **County Road 73 (Deep River Road) – Town of Deep River**

The rehabilitation of County Road 73 (Deep River Rd.), from Algonquin St. to Champlain St., is anticipated to commence the week of August 19 and be completed in mid-October. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations and short term closures may be required with detours in place.-

**County Road 512 (Foymount Road)** – Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

The rehabilitation of County Road 512 (Foymount Rd.), from Hubers Rd. to County Road 515 (Palmer Rd.), is anticipated to commence the week of September 2 and be completed in late-October. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

**County Road 515 (Palmer Road)** – Township of Madawaska Valley

The rehabilitation of County Road 515 (Palmer Rd.), from County Road 62 (Combermere Rd.) to Finch Rd., is anticipated to commence the week of August 5 and be completed in early September. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

**County Structure C062 (John Watson Culvert 2)** – Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

The replacement of County Structure C062 (John Watson Culvert 2), located on John Watson Rd., approximately 3.3km west of County Road 66 (Opeongo Rd.), is anticipated to commence the week of August 12 and be completed in late August. During construction, the road at the structure will be limited to a single alternating lane of traffic.

## Ongoing Projects

**County Road 1 (River Road)** – Townships of McNab/Braeside and Horton

The rehabilitation of County Road 1 (River Rd.), from Moore St. to Dochart St. as well as from Algonquin Trail to the Bonnechere River crossing in Castleford, commenced on July 2 and is anticipated to be completed in late August. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

**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-August. 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 alternate routes posted.

**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 Rd.) to the City of Pembroke boundary, commenced the week of July 8 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 30 (Lake Dore Road)** – Township of North Algona/Wilberforce

The rehabilitation of County Road 30 (Lake Dore Rd.), from Sperberg Rd. to

Trailblazers Rd., commenced the week of July 29 and is anticipated be completed in early-September. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations.

**County Road 37 (Murphy Road) – Town of Petawawa**

The reconstruction of County Road 37 (Murphy Rd.), from Woodland Crescent to County Road 51 (Petawawa Blvd.), commenced construction on June 17 and is anticipated to be completed in late-November. During construction, the road will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in locations and short term closures will occur with detours in place.-

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

The rehabilitation of County Road 64 (Opeongo Rd.), from Wieland Shore Rd. 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 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, commenced construction on July 2 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 Rd. 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 Rd. 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 Rd., 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 Rd., Bonnechere Rd., and Highway 60, posted.

**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, commenced construction on July 2 and is anticipated to 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 B108 (Tramore Bridge) – Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards**

The rehabilitation of County Structure B108 (Tramore Bridge), located on Tramore Road, approximately 0.25km north of County Road 58 (Round Lake Rd.), commenced construction on July 15 and is anticipated to be completed in early-October. During construction, the road at the bridge will be closed to traffic with an alternate route, using County Road 58 (Round Lake Rd.) and Highway 60, posted.

**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, commenced construction on June 17 and is anticipated to 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 C001 (Berlanquet Creek Culvert)** – Township of Admaston/Bromley  
The rehabilitation of County Structure C001 (Berlanquet Creek Culvert), located on County Road 5 (Stone Road), approximately 4km west of Highway 132, commenced the week of July 15 and is anticipated to be completed in late-September. During construction, the road at the structure will be limited to a single lane of alternating traffic.

**County Structure C134 (Campbell Drive Culvert)** – Township of McNab/Braeside  
The rehabilitation of County Structure C134 (Campbell Drive Culvert), located on Campbell Drive, approximately 3km west of Highway 417, commenced the week of July 15 and is anticipated to be completed in late-September. During construction, the road at the structure will be limited to a single lane of alternating traffic.

### **Completed Projects**

**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 was completed in early-July.

**County Structure C215 (Elm Creek Culvert)** – Township of Whitewater Region  
The replacement of County Structure C215 (Elm Creek Culvert), located on Snake River Line, approximately 1km north of Waterview Road, commenced construction on July 22 and was completed August 2.

**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.), commenced July 8 and was completed July 22.

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



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

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# Municipal leaders support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign to address homelessness and mental health

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Posted on Monday, August 19, 2024

## **Eastern Ontario Wardens and Mayors support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign**

Sunday, August 18, 2024

**OTTAWA** - Representing 230 municipalities and over 2.6 million people across Ontario, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus join the call to action around the 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign, led by the Ontario Big City Mayors.

During their joint meeting at the start of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 125<sup>th</sup> Conference, the three caucuses stated their collective support around the need for the Ontario and Federal Governments to take immediate and targeted action to help solve the crisis around homelessness and mental health.

There is a homelessness and mental health crisis happening on streets across our communities, small and big, rural and urban. Municipalities continue to step up, but do not have the tools, expertise or capacity to fully address the intersectional and complex issues around housing, homelessness, health care, and social services.

We appreciate the actions that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have taken to date including Ontario's Roadmap to Wellness, the creation of the Homelessness Prevention Program, and investing in youth wellness hubs. But we need to do more to 'Solve the Crisis' together as government partners, and we need to act swiftly.

Municipalities continue to raise a number of issues and concerns that need to be addressed – the rising number of homeless encampments and the human toll of the



opioid crisis are a symptom of deeper system failures that hurt Ontario's overall social and economic prosperity.

The WOWC, EOMC, and EOWC will be sending a letter to Premier Doug Ford to further underscore the need for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. We need a municipal fiscal relationship that supports the foundations of a strong economy, sustainable communities and quality of life that reflects modern day and front-line realities.

Organizations and Ontarians can join the call to support the 'Solve the Crisis' campaign by visiting [www.solveethecrisis.ca](http://www.solveethecrisis.ca).

## Quotes

"In communities of all sizes, not just big cities, people are unhoused, suffering and dying. We need to help them and municipalities do not have the financial tools and resources to do it alone. It is time to take action to 'Solve The Crisis' together with municipalities, the Ontario Government, the Federal Government, and community partners at the table." – **EOWC Chair, Peter Emon, Warden of Renfrew County**

"As Chair of the WOWC, I see the impacts first-hand around the homelessness and mental health crisis. Municipalities have been working tirelessly on the frontlines to address complex issues. We want to build safe, healthy communities and the only way to do so is to work together. Let's step up and 'Solve the Crisis' together." – **WOWC Chair, Glen McNeil, Warden of Huron County**

"This is something we (the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus) have been pursuing, over the last year: the need for substantial investment by both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, to deal with this unprecedented humanitarian crisis that all municipalities are now facing." – **EOMC Chair, Jeff Leal, Mayor of the City of Peterborough**

## About our organizations

### Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (WOWC) serves as a unified voice for the 15 upper- and single-tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, advocating for their collective interest. Through collaborative efforts, WOWC works to address the unique challenges faced by rural and small urban communities, playing a pivotal role in shaping policies and initiatives that positively impact the region's 1.6 million residents.

### Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (EOWC) is a non-profit organization advocating for 103 small urban and rural municipalities across Eastern Ontario. The EOWC covers an area of 50,000 square kilometres, serving 800,000 residents. For

more than 20 years, the EOWC has gained support by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with the government, businesses, non-profit organizations, Indigenous leaders, the media, and the public.

### The Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus

The Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC) is comprised of ten Eastern Ontario municipalities that advocate for the region's needs and priorities, especially in the areas of health care, infrastructure, and economic development. The caucus works collaboratively with other levels of government, health-care providers, community organizations, and interest holders to address the challenges and opportunities facing Eastern Ontario.

### Ontario Big City Mayors

Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) is an organization that includes mayors of 29 single- and lower-tier cities with a population of 100,000 or more, who collectively represent nearly 70 per cent of Ontario's population. OBCM advocates for issues and policies important to Ontario's largest cities.

## **Media Contacts**

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# Renfrew County and District Health Unit

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

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July 24th, 2024

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

Hon. Sylvia Jones  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Government of Ontario  
[sylvia.jones@ontario.ca](mailto:sylvia.jones@ontario.ca)

Hon. Andrea Khanjin  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Government of Ontario  
[minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

Dear Honourable Premier and Ministers,

**Re: Continued Support for Infectious Disease Wastewater Surveillance and Modern Case and Contact Management Software**

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Board of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit passed a resolution to request continued provincial funding and support for important public health enhancements achieved during the pandemic: cross-provincial infectious disease wastewater surveillance and modernized case and contact management software (i.e., the Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM)).

The Board has reviewed and supports the letter issued by Peterborough Public Health dated June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, regarding [continued provincial coordination and support of wastewater surveillance](#).

In May and April of 2024, the province announced discontinuation of funding for both initiatives. This means that there will no longer be local infectious disease wastewater surveillance in Renfrew County and District (or most other communities across Ontario) and that public health units must revert to using an older software platform for case and contact management with less functionality.

Wastewater surveillance of infectious diseases, previously supported by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, is a novel approach, and one of the successful innovations scaled up to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a cost-effective means of providing timely information on disease spread throughout the community that doesn't rely on individual testing, which is costly, has delays, and doesn't reflect the whole community. For example, individual testing for COVID-19 and influenza is limited to a small group of eligible people. Community members across Ontario have voiced the importance of this information to inform their risk assessments, and RCDHU has included it in its weekly Respiratory Illness Data Summary.

Additional benefits of wastewater surveillance that are being explored include the ability to rapidly identify emerging pathogens that may be circulating in a community, such as H5N1 (avian flu), and the potential to rapidly identify outbreaks in vulnerable populations, such as long-term care homes. These are exciting opportunities to better protect health that are only beginning to be explored.

The province has highlighted that there is a federal wastewater surveillance system. However, Toronto is the only city in Ontario included in the Federal program. Without ongoing support from the province, local wastewater surveillance will no longer be possible.

Additionally, the Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM) was a modern, highly functional software platform for COVID-19 case, contact, and outbreak management. CCM enabled greater efficiency, collaboration, and real-time analytics of disease trends; it was a key enabler for an effective pandemic response.

Public health units have been advised that CCM will eventually be superseded by a more all-encompassing, modern provincial platform. However, public health unit work would be more efficient and effective if the existing improvements were maintained until the full vision for Ontario's public health information technology infrastructure is realized.

Infectious disease pandemics cause immense mortality, morbidity, and economic burdens. It is essential that we learn from the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain investments in public health preparedness so that we can reduce and mitigate the harms of the next pandemic. Already, H5N1 avian flu is being closely monitored for its pandemic potential. A robust infectious disease wastewater surveillance system and highly functional case and contact management software are key enhancements from the COVID-19 pandemic that should be sustained so that we are more prepared for the next pandemic.

Sincerely,



Joanne King  
Chair, Board of Health  
Renfrew County and District Health Unit

cc: The Honourable John Yakabuski, MPP  
Renfrew County and District Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)  
Ontario Boards of Health



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

## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, August 13, 2024)

### **West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes in Renfrew County and District**

Mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus have been confirmed in the Town of Arnprior. Every year, the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) monitors West Nile virus activity through 14 mosquito traps across Renfrew County and District. Mosquitoes from the traps are collected weekly and tested for West Nile virus during the summer months.

West Nile virus disease can be spread to people through the bite of infected mosquitoes. Older adults and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of severe illness. There have not been any local human cases of West Nile virus disease reported to RCDHU so far in 2024.

"RCDHU has received confirmation of mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus in Renfrew County and District," says Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health for RCDHU. "While the risk of infection is low, this is an important reminder for everyone to prevent mosquito bites and reduce breeding sites."

#### **Cover up** when outside by:

- Wearing light-coloured clothing such as long-sleeved shirts, jackets, long pants, hats, and socks, especially between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Applying Health Canada approved insect repellent containing DEET or Icaridin on exposed skin. Follow label instructions for proper application.

#### **Clean up** by:

- Removing any standing water around your home, cottage, or campsite. Mosquitoes need stagnant water to lay their eggs, and even small amounts will do such as bird baths, old tires, and unused containers.
- Keeping bushes and shrubs clear of overgrowth and debris. Adult mosquitoes like to rest in dense shrubbery.
- Turning over compost piles on a regular basis.
- Making homes and businesses "bug tight" by ensuring windows and door screens fit tightly.

West Nile virus is spread to humans by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Four out of five people infected will not show any symptoms. Others may have symptoms of fever, headache, body aches, skin rash, and vomiting. Approximately 1 in 150 people develop severe illness affecting



the brain, such as encephalitis or meningitis. Symptoms of severe illness include stiff neck, confusion, tremors, numbness, or sudden sensitivity to light. Older adults and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of severe illness. If you believe you are experiencing symptoms of West Nile virus infection, please contact your healthcare provider.

For more information about West Nile virus including tips on how you can protect yourself and your family , please visit the health unit website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/diseases>.

-30-

Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
[media@rcdhu.com](mailto:media@rcdhu.com)  
Fax: 613-735-3067

**Oliver Jacob**

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** July 9, 2024 10:39 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update: AMO/OMA Resolution Campaign, SALC Regulations, and Advocacy Updates



## **AMO Policy Update: AMO/OMA Resolution Campaign, SALC Regulations, and Advocacy Updates**

### **AMO/OMA Joint Resolution Campaign on Physician Shortage**

Communities across Ontario have been facing critical health-care challenges, including long waitlists for primary care, shortages of doctors and other health care workers, and emergency room closures. These cracks in Ontario's health care system are impacting economic development, health, and well-being at the local level. AMO and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) have jointly developed a council resolution ([PDF](#), [Word](#)) urging the provincial government to recognize the physician shortage in your municipality and throughout Ontario. By adopting this resolution, your municipality can play a crucial role in highlighting the urgent need for more healthcare resources and support.

Access to health services will be a key discussion at the AMO Conference in Ottawa from August 18-21. In addition to being a concurrent session on the topic, the OMA will be sponsoring the Rural Caucus Lunch on August 20 and has reserved meeting space at the Fairmont Château Laurier for both August 20 and 21 to meet directly with municipal leaders. To set up a meeting with the OMA, please reach out to [Tarun.Saroya@OMA.org](mailto:Tarun.Saroya@OMA.org) (Senior Advisor for Government Relations and Advocacy) to book a 15-30 minute time slot at your earliest convenience.

### **New Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017 Regulations**

The [new regulation](#) under the *Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017* intends to improve access to the Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC) program for underserved communities so more older Ontarians have opportunities to stay active and engaged. Municipalities play an important role in supporting SALC programs, however they may not have the budget to support the number of SALC programs needed in their community. The new regulation prescribes additional entities, and combinations of entities, that can make the required 20% funding contribution to better support underserved communities (e.g., Francophone, Indigenous, rural/remote).

The Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility worked with AMO to conduct two focus groups of municipal representatives to inform this regulation, and AMO provided a [submission](#) outlining our support for expanding the entities that can contribute to Seniors Active Living Centres. For more information about the program please contact the Seniors Policy Unit at [seniorspolicyunit@ontario.ca](mailto:seniorspolicyunit@ontario.ca)

## **Update on AMO's Advocacy on Provincial Cyber Security Legislation**

AMO [submitted comments](#) on Bill 194, the proposed *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024*. AMO appreciates that the province is as concerned as the municipal sector about the increased number of cyber security threats, but is concerned that a one-size-fits-all solution across the broader public sector could be challenging for municipalities to implement. We will continue to work with the province to ensure that municipal needs are reflected as cyber security regulations are brought forward.

## **AMO's Advocacy to the Province's Skilled Trades Special Advisor**

On June 11, AMO [sent a letter](#) to the Minister of Labour, Immigration and Skills Development regarding the [recently appointed](#) Skilled Trades Special Advisor who has been given a mandate to advise the province on the needs of Ontario's workforce with a focus on manufacturing and automotive industries. AMO's letter emphasizes the urgent need to train, attract and retain workers in the construction trades so municipalities can continue to deliver growth-enabling infrastructure to support housing and economic development.

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**Oliver Jacob**

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** July 30, 2024 12:07 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Call to Action on Social and Economic Prosperity Review



## **AMO Policy Update - Call to Action: Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

### **Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

We are calling on our members in advance of the AMO conference to help us communicate the need for action on municipal fiscal sustainability to address the things Ontarians care most about – like housing affordability, healthcare, cost of living and public safety. We would encourage you to echo these key messages during important conversations leading up to and at the conference, and with cabinet ministers during delegations.

We have also developed a template letter that you can send to provincial ministers in advance of the conference and sample news release. We are encouraging all members to send this letter in advance of the conference to ensure the provincial government knows this is still a key priority of the municipal sector.

- [One Pager](#)
- [Template Letter](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Social Media and News Release](#)

### **AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing**

**October 1-2, 2024**

AMO is excited to announce this important event, which will convene elected officials, municipal staff, federal and provincial representatives, Indigenous partners, and other sector partners for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on how we can work together to advance community and supportive housing solutions in communities across Ontario. It will showcase what municipalities are and could be doing to find solutions to the housing and homelessness challenges in our communities, including innovative financing solutions, how to engage with community members to overcome NIMBYism other tangible take-aways.

Please see the AMO [website](#) for more information and to register.

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**Oliver Jacob**

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** July 31, 2024 10:01 AM  
**To:** Group Annprior  
**Subject:** New resource: Municipal workforce development project roadmap



## Launching AMO's Workforce Development Project Roadmap

AMO is proud to launch [Careers that build communities: AMO's Municipal Workforce Development Project Roadmap](#). The Roadmap discusses the project work to date and identifies priority areas and future actions for AMO and its partners and best practices for municipalities to support employee recruitment and retention.



[Click here](#) for a one-pager with the priority areas and planned actions.

The Roadmap is based on engagement with over 30 municipal CAOs and human resources professionals, over 2,400 municipal employees through our Municipal Employee Survey, and sector partners such as AMCTO, CUPE, OMAA, OMERS, OMHRA, and OMSSA.

In the coming months, you will hear more about AMO's initiatives to implement the Roadmap's priorities. We encourage you to read the Roadmap and consider how your municipality can implement the identified best practices.

*In 2022, AMO established its Workforce Development Project to identify priorities and work with partners to support municipalities with employee recruitment and retention.*

*[Click here](#) for more information on the Project.*

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** August 7, 2024 2:17 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Municipal Infrastructure, Gender-Based Violence and Unlicensed Event Spaces



## **AMO Policy Update – Municipal Infrastructure, Gender-Based Violence and Unlicensed Event Spaces**

### **Province Announces Housing-Enabling Infrastructure Investments**

Today, Ontario [announced](#) that it has awarded \$970 million to 54 projects across 60 municipalities under the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF). Under HEWSF, municipalities receive funding to develop, repair, rehabilitate and expand drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Peel Region’s funding was announced today, and other approved projects will be announced in the coming weeks.

The province also announced an additional \$250 million for a second intake of the program [opening on August 14](#). This includes the previously announced \$120 million under the Building Faster Fund for municipalities without provincial housing targets. HEWSF projects announced today included \$456 million to support 30 projects in small, rural and northern municipalities without housing targets.

Provincial investments in municipal infrastructure are critical as municipalities’ plan to invest over \$250 billion in capital over the next decade. While municipalities own and manage more infrastructure than other levels of government combined, they have the fewest resources and tools to fund capital needs. Municipalities cannot do it alone and must rely on other levels of government.

### **Standing Committee Appearance on Bill 173, *Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024***

On July 31st, AMO appeared before the Standing Committee on Justice Policy's study on Bill 173, *Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024*. The Bill, if passed, would declare intimate partner violence an epidemic in Ontario. This would implement the first recommendation of the Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest and follow the lead of AMO and 93 municipalities across the province in making this declaration.

As outlined in [AMO's submission](#), making this commitment concrete will require coordinated provincial action to address root causes and impacts on children, enhance system supports and culturally appropriate responses, improve data collection and analysis, and support the implementation of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans. AMO is working to support municipalities to take action against gender-based violence, focused on training for elected officials as well as partnership with Ontario Native Women's Association and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres to address violence against Indigenous women and girls.

## **Submission to Standing Committee on Policy on Land Use for Unlicensed Event Venues**

AMO submitted [written comments](#) to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure, and Cultural Policy to highlight the need to retain local planning authority and discretion around event venues while calling on the province for more resources to support enforcement.

AMO also highlighted a related issue on unlicensed trucking operations and dumping, urging the province to establish a strong monitoring and enforcement regime.

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** August 13, 2024 10:25 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Homelessness and Opioids



## **AMO Policy Update – Homelessness and Opioids**

### **Municipal Associations are United in Calling for Provincial Action on Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions**

Aligned with AMO advocacy on the [opioid crisis](#) and [homeless encampments](#), Ontario’s Big City Mayors (OBCM) have called for the provincial government to address the humanitarian crises of homelessness and mental health and addictions in their new “[Solve the Crisis](#)” campaign. AMO supports OBCM’s campaign to draw attention to this crisis.

Municipalities are on the frontlines of these complex social and health issues, but lack the resources, tools and expertise to solve them. The rising number of homeless encampments and the human toll of the opioid crisis are a symptom of deeper system failures that hurt Ontario's social and economic prosperity.

Complex matters like homeless encampments and the opioid crisis underscore the critical need for a [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#). We need a municipal fiscal relationship that supports the foundations of a strong economy, sustainable communities and quality of life.

# National Summit on the Substance Use Crisis in Small Cities and Towns

To further the discussion on the opioid crisis, the City of Timmins and the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) have partnered to launch a multi-event initiative to address the impact of the substance use crisis on small cities and towns across Canada. The first event will be a national summit held in Timmins on September 5–7, 2024.

The event will bring together Mayors and Councilors from municipalities with populations ranging from approximately 50,000 – 150,000 residents. AMO would encourage members to attend and gain insight into practical solutions to the opioid crisis impacting communities across Ontario and Canada.

For additional information, please email Dr. John Weekes, CCSA Director of Knowledge Mobilization and Strategic Partnerships at [jweekes@ccsa.ca](mailto:jweekes@ccsa.ca).

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July 18, 2024

### In This Issue

- Get access to MIDAS!
- Next Generation 9-1-1 Transition Funding applications open.
- LAS discussion on water & wastewater feasibility study at AMO Conference.
- Municipal Codes of Conduct: Pre-conference workshop at AMO 2024.
- AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community & Supportive Housing Symposium.
- Plan your fall education schedule.
- Removing barriers: Best practices for accessible web content.
- Fill out survey for a chance to win eSignature software.
- Click Before You Dig! It's the law (Locates Campaign).
- IESO municipal webinar for next round of energy procurements.
- Registration open for Western Ontario Municipal Conference.
- Careers.

### AMO Matters

The [Municipal Information & Data Analysis System](#) (MIDAS) - recently enhanced - is a web-based tool that provides access to the Financial Information Returns (FIRs) data to all Ontario municipalities. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email [MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca](mailto:MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca).

### Provincial Matters

The next wave of applications are open for the 2024-25 NG9-1-1 funding program until August 23, 2024. Information sessions are available. Please contact [estd.ng9-1-1@ontario.ca](mailto:estd.ng9-1-1@ontario.ca) for more information.

### Education Opportunities

LAS is undertaking a feasibility study to create joint municipal services board(s) or municipal service corporation(s) to provide water and wastewater services. Whether you are an elected official or a subject matter expert your insights and expertise on governance, operations of water and wastewater systems, and impacts of municipal service corporations are invaluable. Stop by on August 18 between 1:30 and 3:30pm at the AMO Conference to talk to the LAS Water and Wastewater Expert Panel, LAS/AMO staff regarding challenges and opportunities for water and wastewater systems.

The [Municipal Codes of Conduct pre-conference workshop](#) on Saturday, August 17 is for municipal leaders who are looking to guide and strengthen their council and corporation's conduct, behaviour, and practices. Register today - space is limited.

The [AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing Symposium](#), October 1 - 2, will convene elected officials, municipal staff, federal and provincial representatives, Indigenous partners, and other sector partners for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on how we can work together to advance community and supportive housing solutions in communities across Ontario. View full details and [register today](#).

AMO has released a number of its fall education workshops. Sign up today for a range of workshops including, communication skills, planning for and understanding cyber security, Indigenous cultural awareness and a number council leadership programs. [Click here](#) to see all opportunities.

### LAS

Making the internet accessible to all is not recommended but prescribed. The blog focuses on four main principles: perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust. Read more [here](#).

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.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Help protect underground infrastructure by spreading the Click Before You Dig safety message to your community residents this summer. No matter the size of your project, always Click Before You Dig at [OntarioOneCall.ca](https://OntarioOneCall.ca).

The IESO is hosting a [webinar for municipalities](#) and indigenous communities on July 30 about the next round of energy procurements which will include renewable generation and storage projects.

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

#### Careers

[General Manager, Corporate Services - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: August 9.

[Road Specialist - Intact Public Entities](#). Closing Date: August 15.

[Deputy Chief Information Officer, Digital Workplace & IT Service Management - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: August 6.

[Deputy Chief Information Officer, Business Solutions & Project Delivery - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: August 6.

[Program Manager, Housing Programs - Region of Durham](#). Closing Date: July 31.

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#### About AMO

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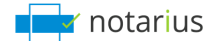
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July 25, 2024

### In This Issue

- Next Generation 9-1-1 Transition Funding applications open.
- LAS discussion on water & wastewater feasibility study at AMO Conference.
- Municipal Codes of Conduct: Pre-conference workshop at AMO 2024.
- AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community & Supportive Housing Symposium.
- Plan your fall education schedule.
- Blog: Heat Pumps - the Low Carbon Technology of the Future.
- Click Before You Dig! It's the law (Locates Campaign).
- IESO municipal webinar for next round of energy procurements.
- Opportunity to help project researching municipal energy needs.
- Careers.

### Provincial Matters

The next wave of applications are open for the 2024-25 NG9-1-1 funding program until August 23, 2024. Information sessions are available. Please contact [estd.ng9-1-1@ontario.ca](mailto:estd.ng9-1-1@ontario.ca) for more information.

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AMO has released a number of its fall education workshops. Sign up today for a range of workshops including, communication skills, planning for and understanding cyber security, Indigenous cultural awareness and a number council leadership programs. [Click here](#) to see all opportunities.

### LAS

Heat pumps contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80% compared to conventional heating and cooling systems. [Our latest blog](#) explains why.

### Municipal Wire\*

Help protect underground infrastructure by spreading the Click Before You Dig safety message to your community residents this summer. No matter the size of your project, always Click Before You Dig at [OntarioOneCall.ca](http://OntarioOneCall.ca).

The IESO is hosting a [webinar for municipalities](#) and indigenous communities on July 30 about the next round of energy procurements which will include renewable generation and storage projects.

Pollution Probe and QUEST Canada aim to talk for one hour with Ontario communities for an [OEB funded project](#) to address your community's innovative energy needs and priorities. Register by emailing

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

**Careers**

[Chief Administrative Officer - Municipality of Lakeshore](#). Closing Date: August 19.

[CAO/Clerk - Municipality of Whitestone](#). Closing Date: August 23.

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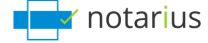
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August 01, 2024

### In This Issue

- Launching Municipal Workforce Development Project Roadmap.
- Next Generation 9-1-1 Transition Funding applications open.
- LAS discussion on water & wastewater feasibility study at AMO Conference.
- Municipal Codes of Conduct: Pre-conference workshop at AMO 2024.
- AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community & Supportive Housing Symposium.
- Plan your fall education schedule.
- Managing Risk with a Sidewalk Assessment.
- Careers.

### AMO Matters

AMO encourages you to read AMO's Workforce Development [Project Roadmap](#) which identifies priority areas and future actions for AMO and its partners to support employee recruitment and retention.

### Provincial Matters

The next wave of applications are open for the 2024-25 NG9-1-1 funding program until August 23, 2024. Information sessions are available. Please contact [estd.ng9-1-1@ontario.ca](mailto:estd.ng9-1-1@ontario.ca) for more information.

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### LAS

Sidewalk trip hazards are a safety and liability issue for municipalities. An [LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment](#) survey shows all deficiencies along with imagery to focus your sidewalk repairs and address legal challenges. [Contact Tanner](#) for a no-obligation quote.

### Municipal Wire\*

#### Careers

[Technical Director, Engineering Services - Credit Valley Conservation](#). Closing Date: August 18.

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August 08, 2024

### In This Issue

- Get access to MIDAS!
- Next Generation 9-1-1 Transition Funding applications open.
- Feedback on Accessible Built Environment Requirements.
- AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community & Supportive Housing Symposium.
- Plan your fall education schedule.
- Blog: Group Benefits Can Save Time and Money.
- Visit LAS program partners at the AMO Conference.
- Cyber Risk Management for Municipalities workshop.
- Careers: Township of Hornepayne.

### AMO Matters

[MIDAS](#) - the Municipal Information & Data Analysis System - is a web-based tool that provides access to the Financial Information Returns (FIRs) data to all Ontario municipalities. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email [MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca](mailto:MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca).

### Provincial Matters

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The Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee seeks feedback on [initial recommendations](#) on proposed changes to the Accessible Built Environment Standards and the Ontario Building Code by August 24.

### Education Opportunities

The [AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing Symposium](#), October 1 - 2, will convene elected officials, municipal staff, federal and provincial representatives, Indigenous partners, and other sector partners for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on how we can work together to advance community and supportive housing solutions in communities across Ontario. View full details and [register today](#).

AMO has released a number of its fall education workshops. Sign up today for a range of workshops including, communication skills, planning for and understanding cyber security, Indigenous cultural awareness and a number council leadership programs. [Click here](#) to see all opportunities.

### LAS

How are municipalities leveraging Mosey and Mosey to develop their benefit plan philosophy, control expenditures, and minimize the internal resources required to effectively manage their employee [group benefit program](#)?

If you have questions about how to help your community save money, time, resources, and energy, [visit LAS](#) and our program partners at the [AMO Conference](#) trade show on August 18 and 19. We look forward to seeing you there.

[Join us](#) for a half-day session to explore how we can better manage cyber risk in the public sector space, with TMU Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, ISA, MISA and more!

### Careers

[Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk - Township of Hornepayne](#). Closing date: August 30.

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August 15, 2024

### In This Issue

- Municipal leaders head to Ottawa for 2024 AMO Conference.
- Feedback on Accessible Built Environment Requirements.
- AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community & Supportive Housing Symposium.
- Plan your fall education schedule.
- AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum.
- LAS welcomes you to the AMO Conference.
- Municipal claims protection through Minimum Maintenance Standards.
- Substance Use Crisis Summit for elected officials.
- Careers.

### AMO Matters

[More than 2,500 participants](#) from hundreds of municipalities and organizations across Ontario will take part in the annual AMO Conference, August 18 to 21, at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa.

### Provincial Matters

The Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee seeks feedback on [initial recommendations](#) on proposed changes to the Accessible Built Environment Standards and the Ontario Building Code by August 24.

### Education Opportunities

The [AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing Symposium](#), October 1 - 2, will convene elected officials, municipal staff, federal and provincial representatives, Indigenous partners, and other sector partners for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on how we can work together to advance community and supportive housing solutions in communities across Ontario. View full details and [register today](#).

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Since 2022 AMO has been working on building a healthy and sustainable local democracy in Ontario. The [2024 Healthy Democracy Forum](#) is a 2 day working session, October 19 - 20, on a number of initiatives and strategies for municipalities to undertake. Join government officials, academics, community leaders and colleagues. Read more about AMO's [Healthy Democracy Project](#). The Forum is in partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University.

### LAS

LAS is excited to see you at the AMO Conference on Sunday. Stop by Booth #200 to say 'hi' and be sure to visit with [AMO/LAS and Canoe partners](#) in Partners' Row and around the tradeshow. We'll see you there!

[Explore the Minimum Maintenance Standards \(MMS\) for municipal highways](#) with leading experts Charles Painter and Brian Anderson. Gain practical knowledge, ask questions, and strengthen your municipal defense strategy.

### Municipal Wire\*

From September 5-7, the [Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction](#) and the City of Timmins are hosting a summit for elected officials on the substance use crisis in small Canadian communities. To attend, please RSVP at [rsvp@ccsa.ca](mailto:rsvp@ccsa.ca).

### Careers

[Planning and Regulations Supervisor - Kettle Creek Conservation Authority](#). Closing date: August 23

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

[Housing Community Planning Manager - Wellington County](#). Closing date: August 26, 2024.

[Network Analyst - City of Kawartha Lakes](#). Closing date: August 21 2024

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**About AMO**

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

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**AMO Contacts**

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

[ONE Investment](#)

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

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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provinciale  
de l'Ontario



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

777 Memorial Ave.  
Orillia ON L3V 7V3

777, avenue Memorial  
Orillia ON L3V 7V3

Tel: 705 329-6200  
Fax: 705 330-4191

Tél. : 705 329-6200  
Télec.: 705 330-4191

File Reference:600

July 23, 2024

Dear Mayor/Reeve/CAO/Treasurer,

The Ontario Provincial Police Association and the Provincial Government have ratified new uniform and civilian collective agreements in effect for the term January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2026 (four-year term agreements).

The new agreements include general salary year-over-year rate increases of 4.75% (2023), 4.5% (2024), and 2.75% (2025 and 2026). Additionally, effective September 1, 2024, many OPP detachment front-line constables and sergeants will be receiving an additional 3% front-line patrol premium.

Included in the new collective agreements were other compensation adjustments, which, for the most part, will take effect in the 2025 calendar year.

Further analysis is required before the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau communicates the full impact of the new agreements on municipal policing cost.

The OPP Municipal Policing Bureau will issue the 2025 annual billing statements in the fall of 2024 based on the estimates of the impact of the new collective agreement terms.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau at [OPP.MunicipalPolicing@opp.ca](mailto:OPP.MunicipalPolicing@opp.ca)

I would like to thank you for your support and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Ridout", is written over a horizontal line.

Superintendent Steve Ridout  
Municipal Policing Bureau Commander

Cc: OPP Regional and Detachment Commanders



**Ombudsman**  
ONTARIO

J. Paul Dubé, Ombudsman

Greetings,

I am pleased to send you two hard copies of my latest Annual Report (one English, one French). This report covers the 2023-2024 fiscal year and reflects on record and near-record complaints in several areas, including those focused on the rights of vulnerable children, people with disabilities, inmates and Ontarians seeking services in French.

We received 27,030 cases – complaints and inquiries – in fiscal 2023-2024, and resolved 57% of them in two weeks or less. The near-record case volume is up 10% from the previous year.

We encourage you to read the chapters of the report that relate to the topic areas relevant to your interests. In each chapter, we discuss the most common issues and the types of cases we have resolved. Please feel free to share this information with your colleagues and any other interested parties.

You can find the entire report, media materials and statistics on our website. We would be happy to provide more copies upon request.

Should you have any questions about the report or cases related to your organization, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are also happy to assist you with any general questions about our work. Our staff can be reached via email at [info@ombudsman.on.ca](mailto:info@ombudsman.on.ca).

Sincerely,



Paul Dubé,  
Ombudsman of Ontario

483 Bay Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, South Tower / 483, rue Bay, 10<sup>e</sup> étage, Tour sud  
Toronto, ON M5G 2C9

Tel./Tél. : 416-586-3300 Facsimile/Télécopieur : 416-586-3485 TTY/ATS : 1-866-411-4211

[www.ombudsman.on.ca](http://www.ombudsman.on.ca)

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## Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied to dispose of the balances of certain deferral and variance accounts.

If the application is approved as filed, then a typical residential customer and a typical general service customer of Enbridge Gas Inc. would see the following one-time billing adjustments, effective January 1, 2025:

### EGD Rate Zone (former Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. customers)

- **Residential Rate 1 Sales Service and Direct Purchase** customers will see a one-time billing credit of \$5.12, effective January 1, 2025.

### Union Rate Zone (former Union Gas Limited customers)

- **Union South Residential Rate M1 Sales Service** customers will see a one-time billing charge of \$9.51, effective January 1, 2025.
- **Union South Residential Rate M1 Direct Purchase** customers will see a one-time billing charge of \$1.60, effective January 1, 2025.
- **Union North-West Residential Rate 01 Sales Service and Direct Purchase** customers will receive a one-time billing charge of \$0.13, effective January 1, 2025.
- **Union North-East Residential Rate 01 Sales Service and Direct Purchase** customers will see a one-time billing charge of \$0.47, effective January 1, 2025.

Other customers, including businesses, may also be affected. It is important to review the application carefully to determine whether you may be affected by the proposed changes.

Under the OEB-approved Earnings Sharing Mechanism, Enbridge Gas Inc. is required to share with customers any earnings that are 150 basis points over the OEB-approved return on equity. Enbridge Gas Inc. says that its 2023 earnings were below the 150 basis point threshold and as a result it is not proposing to share any earnings with customers.

## YOU SHOULD KNOW

There are three types of OEB hearings: oral, electronic and written. The applicant has applied for a written hearing. The OEB is considering this request. If you think a different hearing type is needed, you can write to us to explain why.

During this hearing, we will hear questions and arguments from participants about this case. We will also hear questions and arguments from participants that have registered as Intervenor. After the hearing, we will decide whether to approve the application.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information about this application and to participate in the process. Visit [www.oeb.ca/notice](http://www.oeb.ca/notice) and use file number **EB-2024-0125** to:

- Review the application
- File a letter with your comments
- Apply to become an intervenor

### IMPORTANT DATES

You must engage with the OEB on or before **July 15, 2024** to:

- Provide input on the hearing type (oral, electronic or written)
- Apply to be an intervenor

If you do not, the hearing will move forward without you, and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.

### PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. If you are a business or if you apply to become an intervenor, all the information you file will be on the OEB website.

### COST AWARDS

The OEB intends to consider cost awards in this proceeding that are in accordance with the Practice Direction on Cost Awards and only in relation to the following:

1) The review of the following deferral and variance accounts:

#### *Enbridge Gas Inc. Accounts*

- Tax Variance - Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance – Enbridge Gas Inc.
- Integrated Resource Planning Operating Costs Deferral Account
- Getting Ontario Connected Act Variance Account
- Accounting Policy Changes Deferral Account (2019-2023)

#### *EGD Rate Zone (former Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.) Accounts*

- Storage and Transportation Deferral Account
- Transactional Services Deferral Account
- Unaccounted for Gas Variance Account
- Average Use True-Up Variance Account
- Deferred Rebate Account
- OEB Cost Assessment Variance Account
- Incremental Capital Module Deferral Account (2020-2023)
- RNG Injection Service Variance Account (2022-2023)

*Union Rate Zones (former Union Gas Limited) Accounts*

- Upstream Transportation Optimization Deferral Account
- Unabsorbed Demand Costs Variance Account
- Short-Term Storage and Other Balancing Services
- Normalized Average Consumption Deferral Account
- Deferral Clearing Variance Account
- OEB Cost Assessment Variance Account
- Parkway West Project Costs Deferral Account
- Lobo D/Bright C/Dawn H Compressor Project Costs Deferral Account
- Panhandle Reinforcement Project Costs Deferral Account
- Incremental Capital Module Deferral Account (2019-2023)
- Unaccounted for Gas Price Variance Account

- 2) The review of Enbridge Gas Inc.'s 2023 earnings, earnings sharing calculations and the 2023 Performance Scorecard.
- 3) The review of the methodology for disposing and allocating the deferral and variance account balances.

## LEARN MORE


### Ontario Energy Board

 1 877-632-2727 TTY: 1-877-632-2727

 Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

 [oeb.ca/notice](https://oeb.ca/notice)

### Enbridge Gas Inc.

 1-866-763-5427

 Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

 [enbridgegas.com](https://enbridgegas.com)





# Macnamara

FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

## 40th Anniversary Celebration



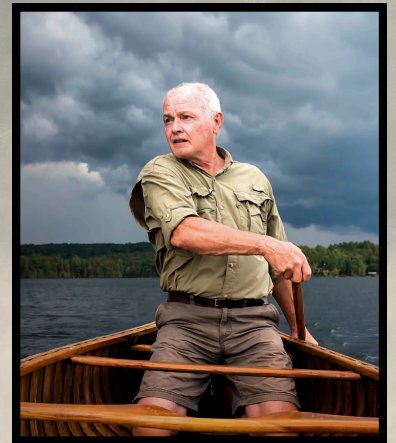
### DATE

Saturday September 7, 2024

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Event begins at 7:00 p.m.

### LOCATION

St. John Chrysostom Hall,  
295 Albert Street, Arnprior  
**\*Cash Only Venue\***



Join us for a special evening as we discover the beauty of nature by canoe with **Michael Runtz**, and the mysterious disappearance of Tom Thomson with **Roy MacGregor**.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes to win!

**BUY YOUR TICKET BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1st AT**

**MFNC.CA**

or

**WHITE PINE BOOKS  
152 JOHN STREET N., ARNPRIOR**



**July 29, 2024**

**Hello. I am pleased to share with you the 2023-2024 Annual Report edition of our Community Connection public newsletter.**

**In addition to showcasing our new five-year Strategic Plan, this edition features an update on the transformative work being done at Pembroke Regional Hospital as well as a detailed report by our Chief of Staff on physician recruitment efforts and some of the challenges we are facing in our Emergency Department.**

**Other key features include an overview of our new medication delivery system, a summary of patient-centred quality improvement work that has taken place over the past year, the work being done to achieve a partial designation for French language services and a tribute to our volunteers.**

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

**Should you wish to access the French translation of our newsletter, this will be available on our website soon. ([www.pembrokeregionalhospital.ca](http://www.pembrokeregionalhospital.ca)).**

**I wish you all a safe and happy summer!**

**Sincerely,**



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





# Community Connection



## Annual Report To The Community 2023-2024



Phone (613) 732-2811 Email/Version Françaises Disponibles au pr@prh.email  
Website pembrokeregionalhospital.ca - Facebook/Instagram pembrokeregionalhospital - Twitter @PRHhospital

### CEO Provides Update On Transformative Work Being Done At PRH



**Sabine Mersmann**

As we head into the summer months, we like to send out an expanded edition of our public newsletter so that we can recap some of the milestones, successes, and patient experience improvements that have taken place over the past year.

I want to share with you the current status of some key projects that are well underway and stand to transform our hospital, not only physically, but in the way much of our care and services are guided and delivered, starting with the completion and approval of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

#### New Five-Year Strategic Plan

Development of our five-year plan was a direct result of thoughtful, positive, collaborative engagement with more than 1,000 individuals including members of our health care team, partners, stakeholders, patients and families.

Their voices are clearly reflected in the document which you can view on our website (<https://www.pemreghos.org/strategicplan>) and read more about in this newsletter edition.

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

#### Timeline for Epic Implementation

Part of our plan speaks about the need to have robust data and digital health capabilities. Our \$17.5 million investment in *Epic*, the new health information system which is best known as the system that features the *MyChart* patient portal, is a significant part of this.

I'm pleased to share that we will be launching the implementation phase for *Epic* this September, with a projected go-live date in late 2025.

With this launch, we will be joining The Ottawa

Hospital and 10 other hospitals in our region who have already adopted *Epic* including Deep River and District Health, Renfrew Victoria Hospital and St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Renfrew County.

In preparation for the fall kick-off, our team will be doing a fair bit of preliminary work over the summer, including an assessment of our network and computer equipment needs, and ensuring we have adequate power supply to support all of the *Epic*-related technology.

Team members will also be participating in site visits to other *Epic*-based hospitals in order to hear about lessons learned through their implementation and get a first-hand look at how processes will change.

#### Surgical Program Construction Update

There is an incredible amount of construction taking place throughout our complex. While we recognize that it is noisy at times, we are doing our best to work with the crews in order to minimize the impact on those in our care.

Continued on Page 2

### Hospital Shares New Strategic Plan

Following the successful completion of a collaborative development process, the Pembroke Regional Hospital is excited to share its 2024-2029 Strategic Plan fittingly titled, "Together, we care."

"Our new Strategic Plan which is focused on enhancing local health care and meeting the needs of our community, will guide the work our hospital will do over the next five years," said PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann.

Starting last fall, with the help of a facilitator, the hospital embarked on a Strategic Planning process that began with the gathering of health, service utilization and demographic data.

The hospital's Board and planning committee heard from provincial and local leaders such as Ontario Health and Ontario Health Teams about their vision, our region's health care trends and future needs.

Broad consultation followed through surveys, interviews and focus groups in order to ensure that the plan would reflect the needs of those served and that nothing was missed.

Continued on Page 2



### Hospital Auxiliary Fulfills \$500,000 Pledge In Support Of Surgical Program Upgrades



From left, Kathy Green (Auxiliary Treasurer), Helene Giroux (Auxiliary's Outgoing Treasurer), Diana Gagne (Auxiliary President), Sabine Mersmann (PRH President and CEO), Brenda Long (Auxiliary Gift Shop Manager) and Harlene Buske (Auxiliary Secretary)

The Pembroke Regional Hospital Auxiliary is excited to share that its \$500,000 fundraising pledge in support of the hospital's orthopaedics program and inpatient Surgical unit upgrades has officially been paid in full!

Announced at their *Spring Tea & Fashion Show* held April 26th, Auxiliary President Diana Gagne said despite the best efforts of her organization's 120 volunteers, it took a little longer than planned to complete the fundraising because of the pause in activities during the pandemic. However, that didn't put a damper on their enthusiasm and drive to get it done.

"From the onset, our volunteers saw great value in this project. Not only are we able to support an incredible orthopaedics program close to home, but our funds will also help improve the inpatient experience for Surgical patients once the upgrades are complete. We are very happy to have been part of the fundraising efforts to achieve all of this," Ms. Gagne said.

Raised over the past seven years, the Auxiliary's \$500,000 donation to the hospital is comprised of \$210,100 from Delta Bingo & Gaming Pembroke, \$19,000 from the sale of Nevada tickets and \$270,900 made up of proceeds from The Sunshine Gift Shop, The Mural Café, the hospital's two ATM machines, the TV rental program and annual events like the most recent tea and fashion show.



## CEO Provides Update On Transformative Work At PRH...Continued From Front

The upgrades to our Surgical inpatient unit are still on track for fall completion and I can tell you first-hand following a recent tour that we are delighted with the look of our upgraded patient rooms which feature more space, abundant natural light, and larger washrooms. The anticipated addition of four private patient rooms with private bathrooms that feature a wheel in/walk in shower will make stays here so much more comfortable.

In addition to the new inpatient unit, we are building a new suite for ophthalmology in order to have a more private and comfortable space for those having cataract surgery.

With anticipated project completion in mid to late September, we are starting to look at plans for a celebration and open house. We will be sure to provide details as soon as they are finalized, as we are excited to tour as many people as we can before the space is open for patient care.

### Cancer Care Project

In Tower D, Phase 2 work has started on the first floor expansion, upgrade and overall improvement of the hospital's Chemotherapy and Medical Day Care unit which should be completed by the end of December.

This multi-million renovation project will significantly improve the patient care experience with the creation of an open-concept Chemotherapy unit, with an enhanced focus on patient safety and care.

The expanded unit will feature three additional treatment chairs, two patient washrooms, an infection control isolation room, a private examination room, a multi-use area where patients can obtain ice, water and light snacks, and a centralized nursing station. The expansion will also include education space for patients and their families as well as a meeting room and a comfortable waiting area for those accompanying loved ones.

### Tower C Main Entrance Renovation Project

And lastly, work is well underway on the ground floor of Tower C where our \$2.3 million investment will create a distinct main entrance for our hospital as well as beautiful new space for The Sunshine Gift Shop and Mulvihill Drug Mart.

This project will also create a spacious waiting area overlooking our atrium corridor, and make it easy to access the ramp which aligns with the ground floor of Tower B.

Locating this main entrance so close to our main parking areas will mean quick entry into the facility during inclement weather. It will also allow for safer passage into the complex without the need to walk through a busy parking area at the front of our buildings.

We can't wait to share more with you on all these hospital and health care improvements in the coming months.

## New Strategic Plan...Continued From Front

In many ways, Mrs. Mersmann said the feedback validated that the hospital is moving in the right direction with the improvement projects that are in progress while also guiding the need to prioritize other strategies.

The Strategic Plan will lead Pembroke Regional Hospital through 2029 with tangible goals that align with the work being done locally by Ontario Health Teams as well as regional and provincial priorities and direction.

Acknowledging that the Pembroke Regional Hospital was built on a foundation of caring by its founders who vowed to address the unmet needs of our community and ensure the population's most vulnerable residents were cared for, she noted that while the hospital's scope of work has evolved and expanded, its goals are the same, and the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan reflects this in so many ways.

In addition to the three new Strategic Pillars "Care for our People", "Care for our Community" and "Care with our Partners", the hospital has a new Vision statement: "Together, we care for our patients, our community and each other." The hospital's Values have also been aligned with the feedback from staff, physicians and the community as follows:

**Compassion** - We believe everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

**Collaboration** - We believe in the strength of working together as one team.

**Commitment** - We always strive to do better.

**Courage** - We believe that being brave will unlock new opportunities and innovations.

Remarking that the plan features images of the hospital's patients, physicians and staff, Mrs. Mersmann said she's very excited about the work that has been done. "I'm very proud of the work we have done to develop this plan and, together with my team, the staff and physicians at PRH, we now look forward to bringing it to 'life'."

For a closer look at the details of the plan, we encourage you to visit our website where it is posted <https://www.pemreghos.org/strategicplan>.



### Our Senior Leadership Team

From left, Dr. Tom Hurley (Chief of Staff), Melanie Henderson (Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services / Partnerships and Integration), Beth Brownlee (Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services / Chief Nursing Executive), Sabine Mersmann (President and CEO), Brent McIntyre (Vice-President of Human Resources) and Scott Coombes (Vice-President of Finance and Corporate Services / Chief Financial Officer).



### Our Board Of Directors

Front row, from left, Lisa Edmonds (Foundation Board Chair), Diana Gagne (Auxiliary President), Sabine Mersmann (President and CEO), Dave Unrau (Board Chair) and Suli Adams.

Back row, from left, Les Scott, Richard Wilson (Past Chair), Clay Deighton, Scott Coombes (Vice-President of Finance and Corporate Services / Chief Financial Officer), Brent McIntyre (Vice-President of Human Resources), Daniel Burke, Matthew Neadow, Dr. Tom Hurley (Chief of Staff) and Neil Nicholson.

Missing from photo: Rebecca Paulsen (Vice-Chair), Dean Sauriol (Vice-Chair), Amy Sicoli (Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario Designate), Kim Drake, Dr. Margarita Lianeri (President of Medical Staff), Beth Brownlee (Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services and Chief Nursing Executive) and Melanie Henderson (Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services, Partnerships and Integration).

### Fast Facts 2023/2024

- Total # of Staff **909** Nurses (RNs/RPNs) **369** Support Staff **440**
- Allied Health Professionals **100** Volunteers **193**
- Active/Associate Physicians and Midwives **73**
- Trainees throughout our organization **300+**
- Admitted patients **5,573** Emergency Department visits **30,498**
- Ambulatory Clinic visits **21,681** Births **652** Lab tests **443,916**
- Community Mental Health visits (virtual and in-person) **57,932**
- Surgical procedures (Inpatient and Day Surgery) **6,949**
- Diagnostic test **78,979** (Includes **14,800** MRIs and **13,191** CTs)

## Kudos Corner

We are grateful to receive positive feedback from our patients and their families. Here are a couple of recent examples we would like to highlight.

**Cathy Williamson** "On two occasions in the past month, I have experienced visits to the Pembroke Regional Hospital, experiencing chest pain and shortness of breath. I want you to know how very impressed I was with the treatment I received from all staff. While I was treated humanely and professionally by all nurses, Lab and X-ray staff, I am particularly grateful to two doctors who dealt with me in the ED - Dr. Gregory Mosdossy and Dr. Chika Offiah.

*It is for their compassionate listening and caring that I am nominating both as "Guardian Angels". I am also so grateful to the Emergency Department and ICU staff for their wonderful care. Thank you for all you do to ensure such a positive, friendly environment at PRH. I will continue to "sing your praises" in the community and do all I can to promote the health and well being of my fellow citizens. I am so grateful."*

**Anonymous** "From start to finish, I have nothing but good things to say about my hospital experience. Everyone, from housekeeping, dietary (food is amazing), nursing staff (so caring, kind and knowledgeable), and surgeons (so knowledgeable about my disease and procedure) were so kind and caring. I am absolutely gob smacked with the level of knowledge of Malignant Hypothermia. I was greatly reassured by everyone I encountered in care. Everyone went above and beyond. I want the staff to know of the impact they had on me."



## Chief Of Staff Highlights Recruitment Efforts, Success Of VTAC And Challenges Faced



**Dr. Tom Hurley**

Over the past year, our professional staff consisting of 196 physicians, dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physician assistants have worked together to support the hospital in its endeavours, while providing the best possible health care to all those who need it.

### Physician Recruitment

As we continue to face staffing challenges, the effort put into recruitment has become more vital than ever.

For many potential recruits, they want to hear first-hand about work-life balance from those already practicing, so we gladly share our experience of interesting and varied professional work, as well as a collegial work environment, beautiful surroundings, and a welcoming community.

One way we pro-actively recruit is by hosting Community Week each spring when we welcome first year medical students, pair them with our physicians for a first-hand look at medicine outside of the urban setting and also introduce them to our community through social activities.

This year, we took on 20 students, 10 each from Queens and the University of Ottawa, for two weeks in total, and received rave reviews so we anticipate seeing many of them again for future placement opportunities at PRH.

In the past year, our Medical Affairs team has attended a number of in-person recruitment events including Family Medicine and Rural and Remote Medicine job fairs, and one that specialized in Emergency Medicine. This summer, they will also showcase our region and hospital at an International Medical Graduate Expo in Toronto which is also attended by Canadian students who have trained abroad.

Thanks, in part, to these efforts, PRH has had some success including the recruitment of Dr. Chika Offiah (Internist/Neurologist) who joined the Internal Medicine Department full time in last October and his since taken over responsibility of our Stroke Prevention Clinic.

Our ICU (Intensive Care Unit) physician group has welcomed new physicians providing regular coverage, and we are actively engaged with 15 physicians in varied specialties including Internal Medicine, Emergency, Urology, Family Medicine and Psychiatry.

From a recruitment perspective, I also want to highlight the work of Dr. Richard Johnson and his Family Medicine Teaching Unit team for bringing additional Medical Residents to the area which has proven to be one of the county's most successful recruiting strategies to date.

### Celebrating Our Long-Standing Physicians

This past year, we honoured retirees Dr. Daniel Plante (Emergency Medicine/Family Medicine) for 29 years of service and Dr. Ben Mgbemena (Internal Medicine) who retired after an incredible 44 years of service.

We also celebrated a long service milestone for Dr. Evelyn Weatherston (Family Medicine) after 45 years of service. I know that her patients and our community are grateful for her care and dedication.

### Emergency Department Wait Times

This year, Eastern Ontario has been hit hard by a shortage of Emergency Department physicians, resulting in a number of occasions where we were down to 75% of our professional staff coverage.

While this and other factors can affect wait times, it should be noted that regional treatment of stroke, heart disease and trauma have not been impacted. And as an important reminder, no one should ever delay their ED visit due to wait times.

### Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RCVTAC)

If your health matter isn't urgent, be sure to contact your family doctor, if you have one, or RCVTAC (1-844-727-6404), if you don't.

In the past year, just over 17,500 patients used this service, 11,000 of whom have no family physician. In partnership with RCVTAC, we determine which patients should go to the ED, and of the past year's visits, less than 2% required Emergency Department care.

On behalf of our professional staff and the entire health care team at PRH, I want to thank all those involved in RCVTAC for the great work they are doing and for the service they are providing to those in Renfrew County.

## Pembroke Regional Hospital Invests \$2.2 Million In New Medication Delivery System

Three months after implementation, the Pembroke Regional Hospital is already seeing the benefits of a new medication delivery system that is designed to enhance safety, improve efficiency and eliminate waste.

Recognized as best-practice in the health care industry and representing a \$2.2 million investment, Automated Dispensing Units (ADUs) were installed on all Clinical units this past February, replacing the traditional manual fill process using medication carts and pill bottles.

ADUs are locked, automated cabinets that provide secure medication storage while making most medications immediately available to be safely dispensed right on the patient unit when they are needed, all while tracking drug distribution.



**Beth Brownlee**

"The addition of ADUs has completely transformed the way medication is delivered to patients," said Beth Brownlee, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services and Chief Nursing Executive. "While we recognize that no technology shift goes without challenges, overall, the transition has gone incredibly well and we are already seeing great benefits."

While she noted that little has changed from a patient perspective, the majority of benefits are being realized behind-the-scenes where the ADUs have truly modernized the medication delivery process from Pharmacy to patient.

Ms. Brownlee shared that, in addition to the 400 front line staff who received training on this new technology, there was a great deal of work leading up to implementation that involved many team members throughout the organization from Pharmacy to Information Technology, Maintenance and Nursing, under the leadership of Clinical Director Laurie

Menard.

"I want to celebrate not only the 76 staff members who stepped up to receive additional training to become super users, trained others and continue to be available to offer support, but also all those throughout the organization who had a part in this immensely important project," Ms. Brownlee said.

She added that the new technology will be fully compatible with Epic, the hospital's new health information system featuring the MyChart patient portal which will go-live in November, 2025.

Prior to, and during ADU implementation, the hospital's Chief Pharmacist Tina Davidson said the Pharmacy team worked hard configuring the new dispensing system while continuing to offer high quality pharmacy services to our patients.

"This transformative change in medication dispensing has brought many changes to the physical layout of pharmacy and the entire workflow for the Pharmacy team. The end result is a 'best practice' medication delivery system that we are all very proud of."



**Pictured here with one of the new Automated Dispensing Units (ADUs) are, from left, Grace Weisenberg, Technical Manager for the Pharmacy, Pharmacy Technician Amy Warlich and Clinical Educator Ayla Dery.**

## Support Improvements At PRH By Joining Our Patient And Family Advisory Council



**Back row, from left, Public Affairs Coordinator Carolyn Levesque, Leanne Rautio, Patricia Proctor, Co-Chair Richard Sheppard, Co-Chair and Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services/Partnerships/Integration Melanie Henderson, President and CEO Sabine Mersmann, Quality and Risk Management Manager Andrew Keck, Lean Process Improvement Manager Sarah Selle and Laurie Tomasini. Front row, from left, Wendy Lewis, Justine Mutlow, Tracy Gagne and Anna Walsh.**

In support of a patient and family-centred approach to care, our Patient and Family Advisory Council acts in an advisory capacity to ensure the patient and families' voice is integrated into the planning, delivery and evaluation of services offered at PRH and makes recommendations on the matters that impact their experiences here.

The Council is comprised of former patients, caregivers, family members and PRH representatives.

We also welcome Patient Advisors who work with specific programs or on specific projects in order to share feedback and ideas that will help us improve the quality and safety of the care we provide. Your skills and experience might make this the right fit for you!

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



## Quality Improvement Work At Pembroke Regional Hospital 2023/2024

A Quality Improvement Culture is alive and well at Pembroke Regional Hospital.

Using our Lean Management System, our staff and physicians have identified and implemented over 300 improvements over the past year! In the spirit of *Caring for our People*, many of our improvements have direct impact on the experience of patients and families visiting our hospital.

Here's just a sample of some of the improvements from the past year.

### Acute Mental Health (AMH)

- Created a support package for those grieving the loss of a loved one that is available on AMH, in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) and in the Emergency Department.

- Created a Smudge Kit for those wishing to hold Indigenous smudging ceremonies.

### Environmental Services

- Partnered with the Maintenance department to improve the process for patients wishing to rent a television during their hospital stay.

### Inpatient Rehabilitation

- Invested in a pull-out chair bed for family members of palliative patients who wish to stay overnight with their loved ones.

- Acquired phone chargers to lend to patients so that they can stay in touch with their loved ones.

### Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

- Improved wayfinding and entrance signage for the ICU so that visitors can easily find their way.

### Maintenance

- Purchased additional battery packs for emergency lighting to ensure patient areas remain well lit during a power-outage.

### Medical Unit

- Implemented a process to create specialized care plans for medically complex patients in order



The Medical unit's health care team gathers for a Lean Huddle where improvement ideas are brought forward.

to better inform those in their circle of care of their needs and possibly shorten their length of stay.

- Began using communication whiteboards with patients who are hearing impaired in order to improve the assessment process and better understand the needs of the patient.

### Mental Health Services of Renfrew County

- Improved the discharge communication process for clients by creating a standard letter which is sent to clients post-discharge. The letter outlines the client's completed goals and provides information on services they can continue to access, and how to get reconnected.

### Obstetrics

- Improved and streamlined the discharge

teaching packages to support and guide families when going home with their newborn babies.

- Identified and implemented new pain diversion kits during labour support which includes twinkle lights, stress balls and soothing music.

### Operating Room

- Implemented additional precautions for patients who are being sedated for eye surgery in order to optimize patient safety.

### Outpatient Rehabilitation

- Created a bulletin board in the outpatient physiotherapy area where patients can post notices offering equipment for sale or to give away to other patients who may require these aides.

### Surgical Unit

- Collaborated with the Clinical Dietician to create an information package which guides patients on what foods they can or should avoid when they go home post-surgery.

- Staff received additional training to improve their knowledge with regards to medication administration and specialized care for pregnant or post-partum women who have had surgery.

- Created a guide for patients receiving knee and hip replacements which outlines the process from referral to consultation to surgery to discharge so that they have a better understanding of what to expect.

## Did You Know... Infection Prevention And Control

Our Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) team plays an important role in day-to-day hospital operations, working in partnership with all members of the health care team to ensure the safety and well-being of patients, visitors and staff.

Our IPAC program has been developed using evidence-based research and we ensure that all of our practices are aligned with our regional health care partners.

One of the ways we help reduce infections and the spread of germs is by encouraging good hand hygiene and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer is the preferred method for cleaning hands if they are not visibly soiled. Whether you're visiting a patient or having a procedure performed, remember to clean your hands when you enter and leave the hospital.

When visiting a patient who has special isolation signage posted outside their room, please follow the instructions every time you enter and leave the room. Depending on the circumstances, this may include the need to wear a gown, gloves, mask and/or eye protection while you are in the patient's room. There also special instructions on how to remove these items when you exit the room. Our staff are here to assist with this process if you have any questions.

Because many of our patients are vulnerable to infection, it's important that we all work together to help reduce the spread of communicable diseases and hospital-acquired infections. Thank you for keeping our patients safe!



IPAC team members Jennifer Krieger, left and Collinda Elliott illustrate some of the protective gear that could be required to enter a patient room if isolation signage is posted outside.

## Community Partnership Provides Workplace Experience For MHSRC Clients

In partnership with local businesses and non-profit organizations throughout Renfrew County, a number of our Mental Health Services clients have now been given opportunities to enter or re-enter the workforce.

What began as an initiative coordinated by Mental Health Services of Renfrew County's Vocational Committee in 2021 with one employer and two placement opportunities, has now expanded to 10 placements with six employers (The Grind, The Pembroke Farmer's Market, Pembroke's Mission Thrift Store, the Renfrew Dollar Store, Mallard's Milk Bar in Arnprior, and Valley Manor Long Term Care in Barry's Bay).

The Vocational Committee, which is comprised of MHSRC staff, was established in 2019 as part of an effort to support clients wishing to achieve vocational goals.

In addition to the Work Placement Program which offers valuable experience to clients while ultimately helping them in their recovery, the Committee's programming efforts include a monthly *Career Cafe* where clients learn skills that may help reduce barriers to employment.

They also run a Volunteer Program which pairs individuals with volunteer opportunities within MHSRC or the community.



Audra Tucker enjoys work at Mission Thrift.



Kyle Schroeder, right, spends time at The Grind with Outreach Worker Eric McLaughlin.

## Ontario Lung Screening Program Soon To Be Available At PRH

By early fall, our hospital will be accepting up to 500 patients per year as a newly designated site for the Ontario Lung Screening Program. Designed for those at high risk of getting lung cancer, the program uses low-dose CT imaging in order to find lung cancer early when treatment has a better chance of working.

People may qualify for lung cancer screening if they meet the referral inclusion criteria:

- are 55 to 74 years old, and
- have smoked cigarettes every day for at least 20 years (not necessarily 20 years in a row, which means there could be times when they did not smoke)

Not everyone who meets the referral inclusion criteria will be eligible for lung cancer screening in the program.

Health care providers may refer patients to the program, or individuals may self-refer. To find out if you qualify for screening, please call the Ontario Lung Screening Program at (613) 761-4535.





## PRH Recognizes And Celebrates The Contributions Of Its Volunteers

As a cap-off to April's National Volunteer Month, and in appreciation for all that they do, over half of the Pembroke Regional Hospital's nearly 200 volunteers gathered together to share a meal and be celebrated at Pembroke's Clarion Hotel on April 30th.

PRH volunteers include those in the Auxiliary who support Delta Bingo & Gaming in exchange for significant donations back to the hospital, their Executive, The Mural Café, Nevada ticket sales, and The Sunshine Gift Shop.

Others support various aspects of the hospital-based volunteer program through activities such as wayfinding, pet therapy, friendly visiting, recreation therapy, and other services that help enhance the patient experience.

Volunteers also give their time to the hospital's Spiritual Care program, hold positions on the PRH Board and Board committees, and contribute improvement ideas through the Patient and Family Advisory Council and other advisory roles.

And finally, a large number of volunteers assist the PRH Foundation, not only with major fundraising activities but also in the capacity of ticket sellers, event coordination and more.

Speaking to those in attendance, PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann expressed that while not every volunteer has direct patient interaction, many are doing incredible work behind-the-scenes that has vital importance to the organization and the patient experience.



**Above, Geraldine Levesque, left accepts her awards from Auxiliary President Diana Gagne and PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann.**



**Below, Helene Giroux is celebrated for 62 years of service by Sabine Mersmann.**

"Thanks to your contributions and the many hours you generously give to our hospital, we have the help we need to fundraise for equipment and other capital needs; we have the support we need for our patients, our programs and our services; we have the feedback we need to make improvements from the patient and family perspective; we have assistance in areas of governance, and we have enough resources to offer the full range of amenities to our patients, visitors and their families," Mrs. Mersmann said.

Acknowledging that there are many worthy volunteer opportunities in the region, she added how grateful she is that each has chosen to give their time in support of PRH.

As part of the celebration, 16 volunteers were recognized for achieving long service milestones between five and 25 years of service and two special awards were presented.

PRH Auxiliary member Geraldine Levesque not only received a certificate and pin for 25 years of service, but she was also presented with the Auxiliary's Life Membership Award in recognition of her 25 years of exceptional service and dedication.

Outgoing Auxiliary Treasurer Helene Giroux was recognized for a total of 62 years of service at Pembroke Regional Hospital – first, as a dedicated employee who retired from the hospital's Finance department after 47 years of service, and most recently, as Auxiliary Treasurer, a position she held from 2009 to April of this year.

**If you are interested in volunteering in some capacity at the Pembroke Regional Hospital, please consider calling:**

PRH Auxiliary (613) 732-3675, extension 6169 / PRH Foundation (613) 732-3675, extension 7408 / Volunteer Services (613) 732-3675, extension 7103

**THE RCC  
E-WALK-IN  
COUNSELLING CLINIC.  
OFFERS FREE, SAME-DAY  
MENTAL HEALTH AND  
ADDICTION THERAPY BY  
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\*SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR  
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Call 1-844-441-0981 every Thursday  
from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. or visit  
[www.counsellingconnect.org](http://www.counsellingconnect.org) to book  
directly online.



## Health Care Team Recognized For Communication Improvement Initiative

In recent years, the use of whiteboards as a means for encouraging engagement and improving communication and information sharing has emerged as a best practice for hospitals.

Our hospital's Quality Improvement Team took this a step further by re-designing in-room whiteboards so that communication between patients, their families and health care team members would be improved at point of care and current patient information would be available for all to see.

Success of this initiative was recognized during the hospital's 2023 Accreditation survey and, as a result, it was awarded a "Leading Practice" acknowledgement through *Health Standards Organization (HSO) Leading Practices Program* earlier this year.

HSO leading practices are published in the *Leading Practices Library* and are shared with the public, policymakers, and organizations who are interested in improving and making real quality and health system changes.

In addition to the HSO acknowledgment, the whiteboard initiative was also shared in poster format at a patient safety conference last fall, and at the virtual *Rehabilitation Best Practices Day Conference* in May where it was accepted as one of the "Top 7" out of 43 submissions deemed an "abstract of distinction" for presentation virtually at a *Rehabilitation Best Practices Day* conference.

Originally adopted on our Rehabilitation unit, the re-designed whiteboards feature:

- More space to record important information about patient transfer requirements and mobility
- More consistency in the type of patient information being shared
- Up-to-date information about patient safety based on the latest risk assessment

The use of customized whiteboards has proven to be a simple and effective way to increase communication amongst the health care team, better inform the patient and their family, and enhance inpatient satisfaction with communication.

Given the success of this initiative, use of the new whiteboards in this manner has been expanded to other patient care areas where the boards are being adapted based on health care provider, patient and caregiver feedback about the type of information that needs to be communicated.

In addition, the whiteboard templates will be reviewed annually by our Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), and the team is exploring ways to use the whiteboard information to support patient transfers between clinical units and throughout their entire hospital journey.

**The Rehabilitation Unit's Whiteboard template.**

## PRH Aims To Achieve Partial Designation Under French Language Services Act

In an effort to better serve the region's French speaking population, our hospital has, for some time, been working towards achieving a partial designation under Ontario's *French Language Services Act*.

"This is a great way for us to be able to enhance the patient experience by offering, at least in some capacity, the opportunity for individuals to receive care in their first language, especially at a time when they may be anxious or in distress," said Melanie Henderson, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services, Partnerships and Integration who is also a member of the hospital's French Language Services Committee.



**Melanie Henderson**

However, she notes that the designation journey has been a lengthy process because there are many criteria that need to be met and the hospital has had to determine which program can sustain an active offer of French services.

After a thorough review, it was determined that we would seek a partial designation for our X-ray service within Diagnostic Imaging and our French Language Services Committee has been working behind-the-scenes to ensure all criteria are met for this so that we can hopefully submit our application this summer.

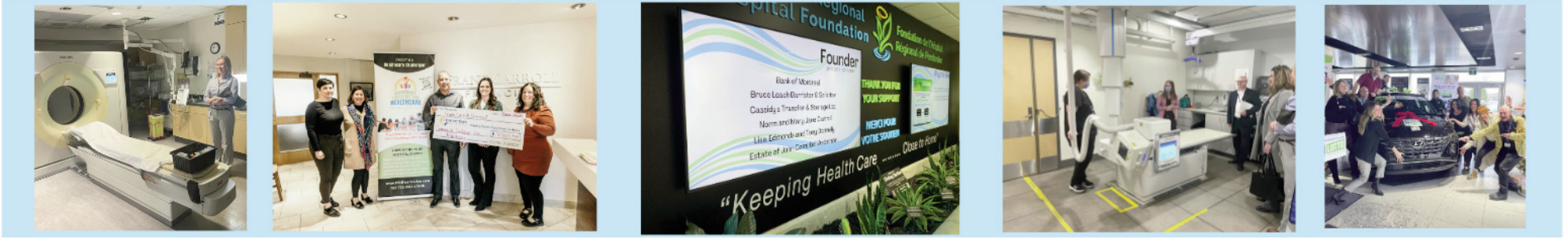
The work required has included updating our French Language policy, reviewing signage and other forms of communication to determine where bilingualism is required, updating forms and other patient-facing publications to ensure bilingual options are available, delivering information sessions for the Diagnostic Imaging team regarding active offer and also making changes to our website to ensure our French speaking population can easily access information in their preferred language.

We are also exploring additional ways in which our French speaking staff can be identified in addition to the current ID badge.

In the meantime, for all languages, we have translation services readily available through the use of a virtual platform.

Please speak with any member of our health care team if you or a loved one require services in French or another language while at PRH.





**Board Chair Message**

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 fiscal year at the Foundation, we have much to celebrate. We are thrilled to announce that our *Cancer Care Campaign* has come to a successful close this year. With your donations, we raised an incredible \$3,500,000!!! Thank You!!! What a special Fundraising Milestone. Together, we ARE keeping "Health Care Close to Home". The expansion and renovations of the Chemotherapy and Medical Daycare Unit are currently underway. We look forward to sharing photos and patient stories on how YOUR donations (time, volunteering, fundraising, giving) have made such a difference at our hospital. Our Foundation Team and our Board of Directors are currently working with our Hospital Leadership Team to identify our next top priority needs. With the help of a caring community, we look forward to raising more funds for important health care needs. It is a privilege to be joining together with our generous supporters in creating a healthier tomorrow. Thank You,

**Lisa Edmonds, PRH Foundation Chair**



# YOU DID IT!

## \$3,500,000.00

**Raised for local cancer care!**

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



Thank you!



**Executive Director Message**

We want to first thank all of our donors, volunteers, sponsors, our Board of Directors and the staff at PRH for the contributions made over the past few years. Together, we have worked very hard to complete the *Cancer Care Campaign* and make a difference in thousands of lives, as patients receive their much-needed cancer treatments, close to home. You have shown what perseverance looks like and come together as a community for our families and friends, so thank you. You are truly making a difference! Having new, modern, state-of-the-art equipment in order to be able to ensure first-class care is a priority need of the Pembroke Regional Hospital! The Foundation will continue to work with the community to address these needs, gather feedback, form friendships and of course, raise the much needed funds to assist the Hospital with their number one goal, patient care. Thank you so much for your continued support.

**Roger Martin, Executive Director, Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation.**



*Black & White*  
**GALA**

October 19th



**AUTO LOTTO**  
FOR HEALTHCARE

Oct 3-Dec 12th



*Catch the Ace*  
PROGRESSIVE LOTTERY

Ongoing



**COMMUNITY CHALLENGE FOR HEALTHCARE**

March 1-31st

**YES, I will help my Pembroke Regional Hospital**

Here is a one-time gift to help my PRH when it needs me the most.

I want to make a monthly gift to ensure the continued health and well being of Renfrew County families for the foreseeable future.

I wish to make a pledge gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year for 3 years to act as a transformation gift towards the greatest equipment needs at the Pembroke Regional Hospital.

**Gift Amount:**  \$30  \$50  \$100  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my credit card:  VISA  MasterCard  AMERICAN EXPRESS

**DONATE ONLINE: [www.prhfoundation.com/donate](http://www.prhfoundation.com/donate)**

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

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

**More ways to help:**

**DONATE ONLINE:**  
[prhfoundation.com/donate](http://prhfoundation.com/donate)



**Catch the Ace:**

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

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





## Renfrew County

---

July 24, 2024

Dear Robin Paquette & Staff:

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee of Victim Services of Renfrew County, we are writing to invite you to participate in our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Victim Services Golf Tournament on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Oaks of Cobden Golf Course.

As you are aware, Victim Services is a non-profit, community-based organization that works in partnership with police and fire agencies to meet the immediate and short-term needs of individuals throughout Renfrew County who have been victimized by crime, tragic life events, and/or disaster. We also provide referrals to additional community support agencies for ongoing and long-term support. Victim Services of Renfrew County strives to reduce the negative impact of victimization by providing emotional and practical support to individuals on-site at the time of the incident. This 24/7 support is provided by a network of well-screened and highly trained volunteers throughout Renfrew County.

The proceeds from this golf tournament will go directly towards the direct service work/needs of the Volunteer Crisis Responders and the community members they support. Please note that all money raised from this fundraiser will remain in Renfrew County for the benefit of residents.

*Supporting those victimized by crime and tragedy in  
Renfrew County since 2002*

*Aider ceux victimes de la criminalité et de la  
tragédie dans le comté de Renfrew depuis 2002*

[www.victimservicesrenfrewcounty.ca](http://www.victimservicesrenfrewcounty.ca)

1766 Barr Line, RR # 1, Douglas, ON K0J 1S0 ~ 613-649-2852 / 1-877-568-5730

To that end, we would like to formally invite you to support our Golf Day fundraising event. There are several ways to support our efforts, including:

- Being a Corporate Sponsor for this tournament at the cost of \$100.00. Each sponsor will have their name prominently displayed on a sign indicating their support of Victim Services of Renfrew County and on our website.
- Making a financial donation in the amount of your choice. Each donation will be publicly acknowledged.
- Donating items for door/raffle prizes.
- Registering a team and joining us on the greens for the day.
- Assisting us to spread the news about this tournament with work and personal contacts by displaying our poster prominently in your community/office spaces.

We thank you for your support in past years, and welcome your continued support with this critical agency fundraiser.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the greens. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 613-649-2852.

Sincerely,

*Faye*

Faye Cassista  
Program Coordinator

*Casey*

Casey Dodge  
Executive Director

*Supporting those victimized by crime and tragedy in  
Renfrew County since 2002*

*Aider ceux victimes de la criminalité et de la  
tragédie dans le comté de Renfrew depuis 2002*

[www.victimservicesrenfrewcounty.ca](http://www.victimservicesrenfrewcounty.ca)

1766 Barr Line, RR # 1, Douglas, ON K0J 1S0 ~ 613-649-2852 / 1-877-568-5730





17th ANNUAL  
VICTIM SERVICES  
GOLF TOURNAMENT!!

OAKS OF COBDEN GOLF COURSE  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**GOLF AND DINE**

T-Off Time Noon/ Four Person Scramble

\$400.00 per team / \$100.00 per person  
(Includes 18 holes golf, cart and meal)

Paid RSVP by Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Proceeds to benefit the direct service work of

*Victim Services of Renfrew County*

For further information call the Victim Services Office at  
613-649-2852 / 1-877-568-5730





## Registration Form

# 17th Annual Victim Services Golf Tournament

Friday September 20th, 2024

Oaks of Cobden Golf Course

T-Off time at noon/ 4 Person Scramble

---

**Paid Registration to be received by Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.**

### Team:

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	PHONE NUMBER	CELL NUMBER
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

**Note:** Please make cheque payable to **Victim Services of Renfrew County Inc.** and include with your registration form.

Mail to: Victim Services of Renfrew County  
ATTN: Golf Tournament Committee  
1766 Barr Line, RR#1  
Douglas, ON K0J 1S0

Inquiries: Faye at 613-649-2852 or e-mail us at:

[info@victimservicesrenfrewcounty.ca](mailto:info@victimservicesrenfrewcounty.ca)



*St. Joseph's High School*

*Thank You*

Hello,

My name is Abigail Daniels and this year I was an honoured recipient of the Town of Arnprior Secondary School Bursary. ~~Not~~ This fall I will be attending the University of Victoria, and I am so excited! Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,  
Abigail Daniels

*Thank You*



On behalf of the Arnprior Regional Health Foundation, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your invaluable support in making the 2024 Jeep Adventure ~~totally~~ a resounding success! Through your partnership, we have exceeded our goals and significantly enhanced local healthcare initiatives.

July 27, 2024

Dear Town of Arnprior,

Your dedication and contributions have been instrumental in strengthening the health and well-being of our community. Together, we have built upon the success and created lasting positive impacts for the Arnprior Regional Health Foundation. We eagerly anticipate continuing this journey with you and reaching even greater milestones in the future.

Sincerely, Katherine Luchetti-Chau  
ARHF



**ARNPRIOR REGIONAL  
HEALTH FOUNDATION**

350 John Street North, Arnprior, Ontario K7S 2P6  
For information contact Bruce.Hill@arnpriorhealth.ca  
(613) 623-3166 ext.532 or ext.362

Charity Number: 83258 3744 RR0001



Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting  
Council Meeting



**Resolution No.** 229  
**Title:** Councillor P. Valiquette  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024

---

**Moved by** P. Valiquette  
**Seconded by** J. Palmateer

WHEREAS it is apparent that the Ontario Government has overlooked the needs of small rural Ontario;  
AND WHEREAS Ontario's small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads, bridges, water/ wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities, libraries and other tangible capital assets;

AND WHEREAS small rural Ontario's operating needs consume the majority of property tax revenue sources;

AND WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

AND WHEREAS in 2015 the provincial government moved to standardized billing for all non-contract J.P.P. (5.1) locations;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway; and \$534 million to Ottawa for the repatriation of Hwy 174;

AND WHEREAS the annual cost of the Ontario Provincial Police, Municipal Policing Bureau for small rural non-contract (5.1) municipalities is approximately \$428 million;

AND WHEREAS this annual cost is significantly less than the repatriation costs of the Gardiner Express Way, the Don Valley Parkway and Highway 174 (Ottawa Region) but provides a greater impact to the residents of the Province overall;

AND WHEREAS this will afford relief to small rural municipalities for both infrastructure and operating needs while having a minimal impact on the provincial budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Municipality of Tweed call on the Ontario Government to immediately implement sustainable funding for small rural municipalities by reabsorbing the cost of the Ontario Provincial Police Force back into the provincial budget with no cost recovery to municipalities;

AND FURTHER, that Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to Premier Doug Ford ([premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)), Minister of Solicitor General, Minister of Finance, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ([amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)) and all Municipalities in Ontario.

**Carried**

June 20, 2024

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

Hon. Doug Ford MPP  
Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario

Dear Premier,

As I know you will agree, Ontario's paramedics, police officers and firefighters are our frontline heroes, regularly putting themselves at risk to protect the rest of us.

In recent months, local resident, paramedic and former volunteer firefighter, Charles Shaw, has been advocating for paramedics and all police officers to receive the same long-service medal as exists today for firefighters and Ontario Provincial Police officers.

Our Town Council agrees with Mr Shaw, and passed the below resolution unanimously requesting the province create such medals. Here is the resolution:

Resolution 2024-206

*Whereas paramedics, firefighters and police officers are our frontline heroes, regularly putting their own health and safety at risk to help others in need;*

*Whereas the Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal was created in 1971 to honour firefighters who have served the public for twenty-five years or more and the Governor General's Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal was created in 1985 and 'honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks;*

*Whereas the Ontario Provincial Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal honours OPP officers who have served for twenty years or more and the Governor General's Police Exemplary Service Medal, created in 1983, 'recognizes police officers who have served in an exemplary manner having completed 20 years of full-time service with one or more recognized Canadian police forces;*

*Whereas many non-OPP police services have similar local long-service medals within their forces, but there is not a province-wide long-service medal for non-OPP police officers;*



*Whereas the Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal, created in 1994, recognizes 'professionals in the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical services to the public who completed 20 years of exemplary service, including at least 10 years in the performance of duties involving potential risk;*

*Whereas there is no province-wide long-service medal for paramedics in Ontario;*

*Therefore, The Corporation of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council:*

- 1. Endorse the creation of a province-wide long-service medal for police and for paramedics, modelled after the existing such award for firefighters;*
- 2. In furtherance of this resolution, that the Mayor write to the Premier, Minister of Health, Solicitor General, Minister of Citizenship and our local MPP urging them to work collaboratively to create such awards; and*
- 3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities.*

I believe this is a relatively simple but important measure your government could take to honour our paramedics and police officers, as we already honour our firefighters. I understand the creation of such an award would involve several different ministries, and I hope you might instruct your cabinet to work together to create this award.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



James Leduc  
Mayor  
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

cc

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health  
Hon. Michael Krezner, Solicitor General  
Hon. Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP for York—Simcoe  
Cllr Jonathan Scott, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury  
Mr. Charles Shaw  
Ontario's Municipal Councils

June 27, 2024

Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
155 University Ave | Suite 800  
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

Sent via email: [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

**Re: Green Roads Pilot Project  
Our File 35.72.3**

To Whom it May Concern,

At its meeting held on June 24, 2024, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS St. Catharines has declared a climate emergency, recognizing the urgent need to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change on our community and environment; and

WHEREAS alternatives to traditional road surfacing materials exist, including green roads technologies that are more sustainable and environmentally friendly; and

WHEREAS bioresin is a natural alternative that can be used to support road surfacing, providing a more sustainable option that reduces our reliance on petrochemical-based products; and

WHEREAS many secondary roads in St. Catharines require resurfacing, presenting an opportunity to explore and implement innovative and sustainable road surfacing solutions; and

WHEREAS Good Roads, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) have presented alternatives for municipal road restoration that include sustainable and environmentally friendly materials and methods; and

WHEREAS other municipalities, such as Centre Wellington, have entered into a similar pilot project using bioresin and other sustainable materials, demonstrating a commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS implementing pilot projects using bioresin on city roads can provide valuable data and insights into the feasibility, performance, and environmental benefits of this alternative material; and

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has established the Green Municipal Fund which includes new funding for pilot projects to test innovative and ambitious technologies to improve environmental outcomes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that St. Catharines City Council directs staff to investigate the feasibility and potential benefits of using bioresin on City road works; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff investigate other alternative construction materials and methods for road works that minimizes the City's carbon footprint and are more environmentally sustainable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff prepare a report on the findings, no later than Q3 2024, including potential costs, benefits, and environmental impacts of using bioresin or other sustainable construction materials or methods for road works, and if feasible, a list of City streets where a pilot project may be considered in accordance with the City's procurement policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the FCM to encourage the exploration and adoption of sustainable road surfacing alternatives.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Donna Delvecchio, Acting City Clerk  
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk  
:sm

cc: all Ontario Municipalities





**AND WHEREAS** Freightliners with the Cummings L9 have run out of carbon credits in Canada meaning these trucks can not be sold in Canada if the L9 engine was produced after May 31/2023;

**AND WHEREAS** many of the Freightliners that are built have the L9, all these trucks manufactured are unavailable for use in Canada, creating a Canadian supply issue;

**AND WHEREAS** most Ontario and Canadian municipalities currently have the L9s in their fleet of trucks, including roads and fire departments just to illustrate the how popular this engine and set up is for municipalities;

**AND WHEREAS** the cost of heating our halls, fueling our vehicles and the purchase of Fire Trucks will continue to increase at a predicted rate of at least 12% per year. This could mean a 60% increase over the next 5 years;

**AND WHEREAS** any apparatus over 20 years of age significantly impacts our insurance grade leading to additional insurance costs for our residents through their personal insurance if our department is unable to sustain a high enough rating;

**AND WHEREAS** we currently have two Pumpers that are less than 20 years of age. One is turning 20 next year and the other is turning 20 in 2032 which will impact the township's insurance rating should we decide not to purchase a replacement truck in the next 5 years;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** in these times of financial uncertainty, costly mandates such as the emission standards should be rolled back and reviewed for emergency vehicles to confirm realistic timelines, reliability of new technology and reduce the impacts on the supply chain and cost to the public to ensure success;

**AND FURTHERMORE THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs and The *Honourable Steven Guilbeault* Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, *Jagmeet Singh*, Leader of the New Democratic Party and MP Cheryl Gallant;

**AND FINALLY RESOLVE THAT** this resolution be shared with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Rural Ontario Municipal Association and all municipalities within Renfrew County.

Carried

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

Yours truly,

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



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

<b>Resolution # RC24168</b>	<b>Meeting Order: 11</b>
<b>Moved by:</b> <i>M Hatfield</i>	<b>Seconded by:</b> <i>Cathy Cannon</i>

**WHEREAS** Council of the Municipality of Wawa received correspondence from the Ontario Forest Industries Association dated June 19, 2024 regarding Immediate Action Needed to Support Ontario's Forest Sector;

**NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa does hereby receive and support the correspondence dated June 19, 2024 from the Ontario Forest Industries Association and urges the Ontario government support all measures targeting the immediate challenges the Ontario Forest sector faces.

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

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.**

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

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

<b>MAYOR – MELANIE PILON</b> <i>M. Pilon</i>	<b>CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL</b> <i>Maury O'Neill</i>
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June 19, 2024

The Hon. Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1W3

The Hon. Nolan Quinn  
Associate Minister of Forestry  
Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1W3

Submitted via email.

**Re: Immediate Action Needed To Support Ontario's Forest Sector**

Minister Graydon Smith and Associate Minister Nolan Quinn,

Congratulations on your recent appointments within Premier Doug Ford's Cabinet. The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) looks forward to our productive and continued work together.

Over the last six months, three of Ontario's six pulp and paper mills have permanently closed or idled. Adding to the issue was the closure of a critical softwood pulp market in Quebec. As you know, these facilities served as important consumers of solid-wood byproducts from Ontario sawmills.

The OFIA appreciates the many opportunities we have had to speak with you and senior leadership within Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Premier's Office. This includes in-person meetings with members of OFIA's Board Executive Committee on January 19<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, and May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. During these meetings, the OFIA presented short and long-term actions Ontario could take to address the regional chip and pulpwood market crisis endorsed by the OFIA membership (incl.).

The industry eagerly anticipates government action on this matter, as operating conditions for many have continued to worsen over the past six months. Combined with weak markets for some finished products, many companies struggle to continue their operations. We are now facing an unprecedented challenge in the sector, which could have negative and long-lasting implications for northern and rural communities across Ontario.

Without immediate action in response to OFIA recommendations and, critically, the vetting of potential solutions through the industry to ensure programs truly meet the sector's needs, we fear Ontario could face further curtailments, job losses, and lost economic opportunity.

The OFIA is ready to work with the Ontario government to set the forest products sector on a long-term and stable path towards economic development and prosperity. This includes our

vision of a *Forest Energy Directive* to develop bioheat, district heating, liquid fuels, renewable gases, biocarbon, and electricity generation projects, supporting Ontario's massive forecasted growth in non-emitting energy demands.

We urge you and your colleagues to continue supporting all measures targeting the immediate challenges the Ontario forest sector faces and look forward to future discussions with you.

Sincerely,

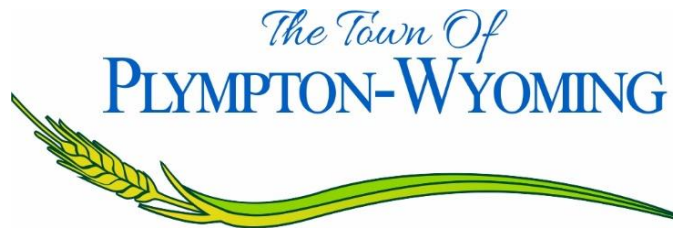


Ian Dunn, R.P.F.  
President & CEO  
Ontario Forest Industries Association  
Cell: 647-297-3827

Incl. March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Slide Deck – Summary of Input from the Membership – OFIA Meeting with the Hon. Graydon Smith

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Slide Deck – Ontario Forest Energy Directive

CC The Hon. Caroline Mulroney, President of the Treasury Board  
The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance  
The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
The Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs  
The Hon. George Pirie, Minister of Mines  
The Hon. Steven Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification  
The Hon. Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy Intensive Industries  
The Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Education  
The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
MPP John Yakabuski, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy  
MPP Kevin Holland, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Mines  
Deputy Minister Drew Vanderduim, Ministry of Natural Resources  
OFIA Membership



Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada  
Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade & Economic Development of Canada  
Hon. Francois-Phillip Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science, & Industry of Canada  
Innovation Science & Economic Development Canada (ISED)  
Government of Canada  
MP Marilyn Gladu  
MPP Bob Bailey  
(sent via e-mail)

Re: Underserviced Cellular Communication Services in Rural and Urban Centres in the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, other Rural and Urban Centres across Lambton County, and beyond

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, passed the following resolution:

**Whereas** the Government of Canada and The Town of Plympton-Wyoming have approved 2 new Cell Tower installations, yet no installations have occurred. ISED regulations state, *“Following the consultation, and once the company and local municipality agree, the tower must be built within three years.”*

**And Whereas** the Town of Plympton-Wyoming is not able to utilize all the available modern technology for Fire Services due to the lack of cell signals and reliable cellular service coverage in our rural and urban communities.

**And Whereas** residents of our community are not able to have reliability and confidence in our telecommunications infrastructure for our commercial establishments and economic growth, employment, school, virtual medical appointments, mental health, welfare and emergency services.

**And Whereas** Many areas are considered “Dead Zones” causing rural and urban communities to incur prohibitive costs which include roaming and overage fees and/or alternative resources in order to gain basic and limited communication functionality.

**And Whereas** the Federal Government is already exploring 6G services, yet existing Cell Towers in The Town of Plympton-Wyoming are only providing 3G which is ending in 2025, LTE and 4G service – where these services are even available.

**And Whereas** the ISED has committed to have a reliable Network and states that, *“Reliable telecommunications networks have never been more crucial. They support not only a wide range of economic and social activities but also other critical infrastructure sectors and*



*government services, and they are crucial for emergency services and public safety. They are fundamental to the safety, prosperity and well-being of Canadians.”*

**And Whereas** the top priority of the ISED as stated in the Telecommunications Reliability Agenda is, *“Robust Networks and Systems – This means there is robust architecture for telecommunications networks with appropriate redundancy, diversity, and hardening against hazards, with particular care for emergency services. There are systems with controls and monitoring and the telecommunications supply chain including supplier equipment is trusted and secure. Investments are made to support these activities including in rural and remote areas or to address coverage gaps.”*

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming requests that the Federal Government and ISED and make it their priority to push forward with their commitment to provide this crucial infrastructure in a meaningful and timely manner and provide action and enforcement of the regulations that mandate timely installation of approved Cell Tower Installations.

The health and well-being of our community is at the mercy of our Federal Government taking these matters seriously; taking action to reduce the harm being caused to our residents well being and allowing our emergency services to perform at standard that our larger urban municipalities are able to.

Sincerely,



Ella Flynn  
Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk  
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Cc:  
All Ontario Municipalities