



ARNPRIOR

Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: November 12th, 2024
Correspondence Package No. I-24-NOV-19

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-24-NOV-19 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Best Management Practices on Managing Nighttime Greenhouse Light Emissions
- b) Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility – 2024 Ontario Senior Achievement Award
- c) Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility – AODA Toolkit
- d) Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration – 2025 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards
- e) Ontario Reducing Costs for Future Homeowners
- f) Ontario Tackles Energy Demand by Introducing Affordable Energy Act
- g) Ontario Extending Gas and Fuel Tax Cuts to Keep Costs Down for Drivers
- h) Free Flu Shot and New COVID-19 Vaccines Now Available Across Ontario
- i) Ontario Providing Taxpayers with \$200 Rebate
- j) Ontario's Fifth Working for Workers Act Receives Royal Assent
- k) Building Ontario for You
- l) Ontario Recognizes Treaties Recognition Week 2024
- m) Ontario Increasing Financial and Community Supports for Veterans
- n) Ottawa New Deal Continuing to Deliver for Eastern Ontario

- 2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**
 - a) [County Council Summary – October 2024](#)
- 3. Correspondence from the Renfrew County & District Health Unit**
 - a) [2023 RCDHU Annual Report](#)
- 4. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities**
 - a) [Canada and FCM Wrap Up Successful 8-Year Municipal Asset Management Program](#)
- 5. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario**
 - a) [Watch File – October 24th, 2024](#)
 - b) [Watch File – October 31st, 2024](#)
 - c) [AMO Policy Update – Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario's Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs](#)
 - d) [AMO Policy Update – Fall Economic Statement](#)
- 6. Correspondence from the Local Immigration Partnership of Renfrew and Lanark (LIP)**
 - a) [Launch of 2024/2025 Newcomer Survey](#)
- 7. Correspondence from Enbridge Gas Inc.**
 - a) [Notice of Hearing on 2025 Rates](#)
- 8. Correspondence from Other Municipalities**
 - a) [City of St. Catharines – Green Roads Pilot Project](#)
 - b) [Municipality of Wawa – Immediate Action Needed to Support Ontario's Forest Sector](#)
 - c) [Northumberland County – Public Sector Salary Disclosure](#)
 - d) [Town of Petawawa – 2025 Costs for Ontario Provincial Police \(OPP\) Services](#)
 - e) [Town of Aurora – Request for Municipal Share of Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST](#)



Best Management Practices Managing Nighttime Greenhouse Light Emissions

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The objectives of this document are to:

- 1 Outline the latest research in greenhouse light emissions management.
- 2 Recommend best management practices (BMP) for using greenhouse light abatement curtains.
- 3 Provide information on managing nuisance complaints should they arise.

The document is based on a multi-year project launched in 2020 to understand greenhouse light emissions and the effect of light abatement curtains on the greenhouse environment and crops. It summarizes results from multiple research projects and includes recommendations for BMP.

Key Research Findings:

- Nighttime light emissions from greenhouses depend on the intensity of the light fixtures, the level of vegetation in the greenhouse and closure of light abatement curtains.
- The effect of greenhouse light emissions on skyglow is variable depending on several factors such as location, moon elevation and cloudiness levels.
- Greenhouse light abatement curtains cause fluctuation in humidity levels and air and plant temperatures.
- Long-photoperiod, low-intensity light recipes may reduce fluctuations in the greenhouse environment under light abatement curtains.

Recommendations for Best Management Practices

Light abatement curtains are beneficial for reducing nighttime light emissions when supplemental lighting is used in greenhouses. They also have the added benefit of increasing energy efficiency by reducing heat loss to the outside environment. Alongside the benefits of light abatement curtains, there may be some impacts on the growing environment, such as fluctuations in temperature and humidity which can impact crop physiology. These impacts can be managed by:

BMP #1

Gapping ceiling light abatement curtains to ventilate the greenhouse and maintain ideal growing conditions. This is the most common way that producers manage the increase in temperature and humidity that is observed in some greenhouses by allowing the heat and water vapour to escape. This strategy, however, also reduces energy efficiency by allowing other elements of the growing environment to escape. Gapping light abatement curtains up to 10% may not cause significant increases in light emissions or skyglow.

BMP #2

Employing a long-photoperiod low-intensity lighting strategy to reduce fluctuations in the growing environment under light abatement curtains. By using lower intensity lighting and longer photoperiods, producers can reduce the temperature and humidity fluctuations allowing for easier management of the greenhouse environment under light abatement curtains.

BMP #3

Lighting before sunrise (2:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) rather than after sunset (8:00 a.m. to midnight) to reduce the amount of time light abatement curtains are used and allow producers to manage the greenhouse environment more easily. Producers can take advantage of changes in sunrise and sunset times in autumn and winter months to reduce the amount of time that light abatement curtains are used. This also allows the producer to manage the greenhouse environment more easily, because temperatures outside the greenhouse are lower before sunrise than after sunset.

Introduction

An increase in the use of supplemental lighting in greenhouses has been accompanied by an increase in the amount of light emitted from greenhouses at night mostly during autumn and winter months. Without proper management strategies, light emitted from greenhouses during nighttime hours can potentially be disruptive to neighbours. The purpose of this BMP document is to maintain successful, optimal production system conditions while minimizing impact of nuisance light.

Why is Supplemental Lighting Necessary in Greenhouse Production?

Shorter days in the autumn and winter seasons and low light levels during cloudy days in the spring and summer seasons make the use of supplemental lighting necessary for the production of high-quality greenhouse crops year-round in Ontario. Greenhouse producers may use supplemental lighting throughout the year for a variety of reasons based on the crops they produce, such as:

1. To increase the amount of light (intensity) and/or duration of light (photoperiod) a plant receives during a day and ensure optimal growth. This can be achieved through **day length extension** by using lights before sunrise or after sunset. Lights may also be used during the day to provide increased light intensity on cloudy days or during sunrise and sunset.
2. To **control flowering in ornamental and cannabis plants**. Night interruption may be used to control flowering time in ornamental crops by providing a brief period of light during the dark/night period. Certain species of cannabis need a fixed light period to promote the transition from vegetative growth to flowering.
3. There are two common types of supplemental lighting used in greenhouse production. **High pressure sodium (HPS)** lights are the most common because they were available first, but the transition to more energy efficient **light-emitting diodes (LED)** is ongoing. LED fixtures also allow producers to use different spectra of light to optimize plant development. The lower amount of heat generated by LEDs also allows them to be placed closer to the crop, and where appropriate, within the crop canopy (inter-lighting).

Supplemental lighting is most commonly delivered from above the crop with fixtures hung from greenhouse trusses. This **overhead** supplemental lighting is typically used to extend the day length in the autumn and winter months, but it can be used year-round to increase the amount of light a crop receives. **Inter-lighting**, where lights are placed within the canopy of vine vegetable crops like tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, can also be used year-round to improve light delivery to shaded areas of the canopy where the plant develops fruit.

What are Greenhouse Curtains and How are they Used?

Greenhouse ceiling curtains are commonly used in greenhouses to diffuse and scatter sunlight for a more even distribution of light, to reduce sunlight intensity and to control the temperature within the greenhouse. Light diffusion, energy conservation and shade are some of the primary uses for greenhouse curtains and many curtains have multiple functions. For example, some curtains retain thermal energy at night and provide cooling shade to the crop during the day.

Unlike greenhouse shade curtains, which are intended to allow a certain amount of sunlight through, light abatement curtains are designed to prevent light from passing

through the curtain. This keeps light produced by supplemental lighting fixtures from escaping the greenhouse. Light abatement curtains are mainly used to reduce light emissions when supplemental lights are on during nighttime hours. Light abatement curtains are similar to blackout curtains, but where light abatement curtains are designed to keep light inside the greenhouse blackout curtains are designed to keep light from entering the greenhouse.

Ceiling light abatement curtains span the gap between the walls above the crop production area (Figure 1A). They act as a semi-permeable barrier between the lower portion of the greenhouse and the attic. Some light abatement curtains are specifically designed for sidewalls and endwalls of greenhouses. These wall light abatement curtains are placed vertically on greenhouse walls to reduce light emissions from the side of greenhouses (Figure 1B). Wall light abatement curtains are typically heavier than ceiling light abatement curtains, but their light transmission and energy saving properties are similar, depending on the model.

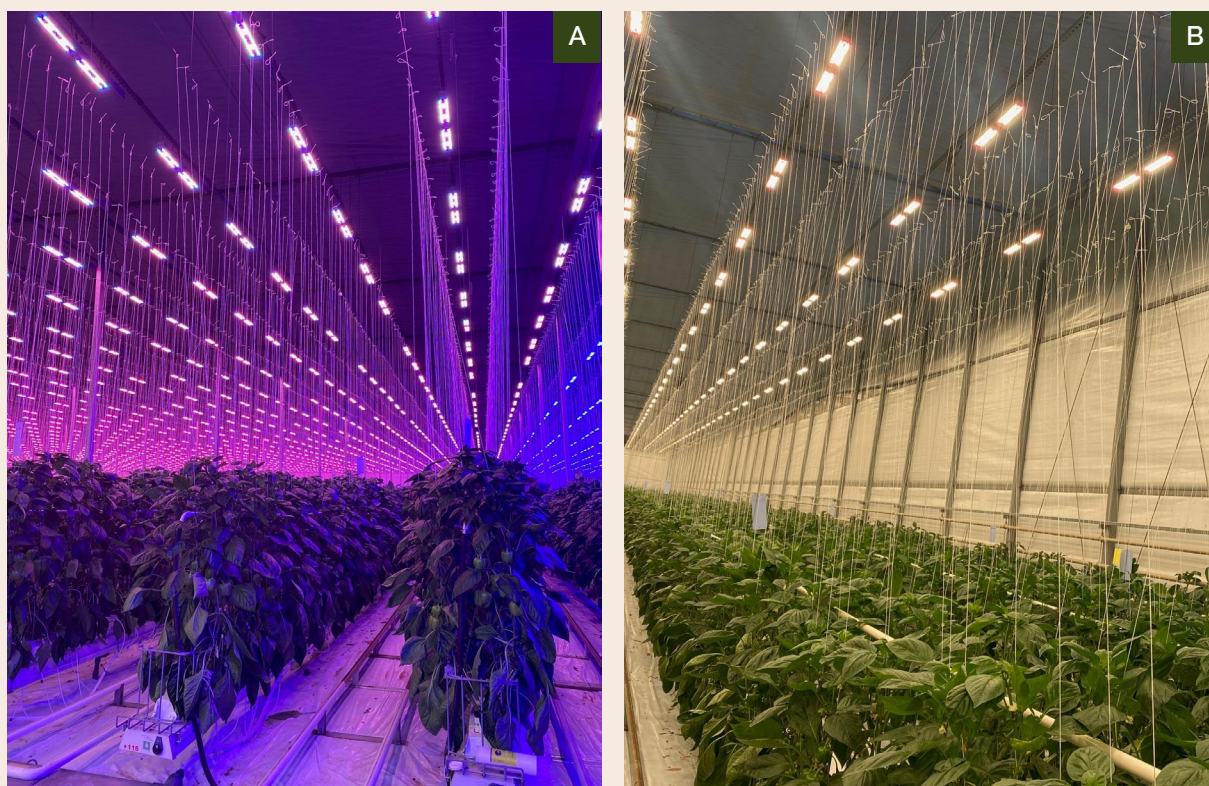


Figure 1. Fully-closed ceiling light abatement curtains (A) and wall light abatement curtains (B) in a pepper greenhouse.

Source: Gene Ingratta, Allegro Acres.

Greenhouse light abatement curtains are made from an opaque material with reflective properties. They are composed of polyester, polyolefin or a mixture of the two. These materials are resistant to water, wind, light and heat. They combine well with other fibres allowing them to be more easily modified to suit unique needs. Producers should verify that all their curtains are fire retardant and are installed and operated as per the manufacturer's instructions (Table 1).

Table 1. Examples of Available Light Abatement Curtain Models and their Manufacturer Specifications¹

Model	Ceiling or wall curtain	Material	Weight (g/m ²)	Fire retardant	Light transmission (%)	Energy savings (%)
A	Ceiling	Polyester	67	Yes	1	50
B	Wall	Polyolefin	252	Yes	0.01	70
C	Ceiling	69% Polyolefin, 31% Polyester	109	Yes	0.5	51
D	Ceiling	61% Polyolefin, 39% Polyester	127	Yes	0.5	58
E	Wall	Polyester	255	Yes	2	45

¹ This is not a comprehensive list.

When light abatement curtains are being installed in a greenhouse, they may have additional features like fastening strips, zippers or magnetic closures to minimize light leakage from gaps. They may be layered on top of other curtains to provide greater versatility according to the needs of the producer. Light abatement curtains are typically installed with an automated system that is controlled by the greenhouse environment management computer system to open and close the curtains.

When the light abatement curtains are fully closed, they can reduce light emissions by more than 99%. They also function as an energy or thermal curtain by reducing heat loss from the greenhouse to the nighttime environment by around 50%. Furthermore, the white reflective surface facing the interior of the greenhouse reflects light from lighting fixtures back to the crop, resulting in improved light use and therefore more energy savings. Light transmission and energy saving properties of ceiling and wall light abatement curtains vary depending on the model.^{[6],[7],[8],[15]}

■ Research Results

Nighttime Greenhouse Light Emissions

The amount of light emitted from greenhouses using supplemental lighting at night depends on light intensity, closure of light abatement curtains and amount of greenhouse vegetation.

Light Intensity of the Fixtures Installed in the Greenhouse

In general, crops that produce fruits like high-wire vegetables or large flowers such as cannabis require more light than potted ornamental plants or lettuce.^[4] The use of higher intensity supplemental lighting in greenhouses is associated with higher light emissions when light abatement curtains are not being used.^[18]

Amount of Vegetation in the Greenhouse

More light is emitted from walkways and areas with less plant volume than areas in full production. This is most likely due to more light being reflected by surfaces than plants.^[18]

Closure of Light Abatement Curtains

There are many models of light abatement curtains on the market that are made of different materials to suit the needs of greenhouse producers for managing the greenhouse environment for the crop (Table 1). These curtains reduce the amount of light emitted from greenhouses by reflecting the light back into the greenhouse. Current ceiling light abatement curtains allow less than 1% light transmission and wall light abatement curtains allow less than 2% light transmission when fully closed. This allows for greater use efficiency of the supplemental lighting since most of the light is contained inside the greenhouse to be used by the crop.

Light emitted from the sides and ceiling of greenhouses using supplemental lighting at night may impact neighbouring land uses. These light emissions can be minimized by using ceiling, side and end wall light abatement curtains. Research showed that as ceiling light abatement curtains are opened to different gapping degrees (10%, 20% gapping, etc.), there is an increase in the amount of light emitted that is somewhat proportional with the gapping (Table 2).^{[13],[17]}

Table 2. Effectiveness of Greenhouse Curtains at Reducing Light Emissions

Site	0% Gap (Fully Closed) ¹	10% Gap ¹
Greenhouse with Light Abatement Curtains		
Greenhouse 1	99.7%	90.3%
Greenhouse 2	95.8%	86.8%
Greenhouse with Energy Curtains (No Light Abatement Curtains)		
Greenhouse 3	67.9%	52.9%
Greenhouse 4	28.4%	27.8%

¹ Light emission reduction compared to fully open curtains.

Note: These results are based on data collected using a sky quality meter (light sensor) attached to a drone that was flown over greenhouses at nighttime. This is an excerpt from a more complete dataset that can be found in Snow et al (2021).^[17]

Skyglow

1 The following research supports the recommendations for **BMP #1: Gapping ceiling light abatement curtains to ventilate the greenhouse and maintain ideal growing conditions.**

Light emitted from the top of greenhouses that use supplemental lighting at night may be observed farther from the source due to illumination of the night sky. This is known as **skyglow**. Research showed that sky brightness when light abatement curtains are opened to a 10% gap may not change much compared to when they are fully closed. However, as light abatement curtains are fully opened, sky brightness may increase significantly near the greenhouse (Figure 2). Closing curtains sometimes markedly reduced sky brightness near a greenhouse, while at other times, the impact of curtain closure on sky brightness was variable or negligible.^[16]

Skyglow: dark  bright

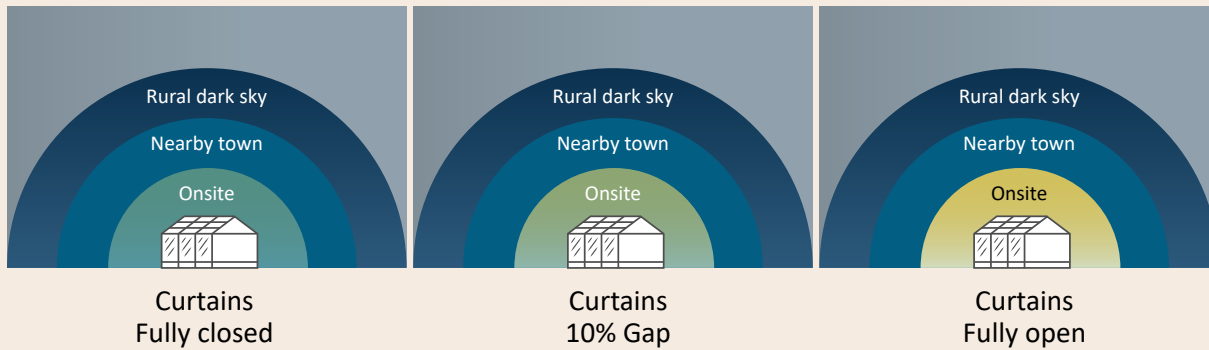


Figure 2. Depiction of average sky brightness (skyglow) measured from an upward facing car-mounted sky quality meter (SQM) light sensor, with greenhouse light abatement curtains at 0%, 10%, and 100% open, compared to the average measured for rural dark sky and/or nearby town. No significant changes were observed in sky brightness of rural dark sky or nearby town in any scenario.

In another study between November 2022 and April 2023, nighttime sky brightness measurements were collected at four different locations in southwestern Ontario:

1. a remote rural location
2. an urban location in the city of Windsor
3. a small town location within the town of Leamington
4. a rural area with several nearby greenhouses and urbanization

While the urban area was the brightest and rural area was the darkest, the outside town area with some greenhouses using supplemental lighting was as bright as the urban area. An increase in sky brightness at 2:00 a.m. was noticeable. This coincided with many greenhouses turning on their lights.

Overall, there was a pattern of increasing sky brightness with increasing moon elevation (brighter skies with fuller moon) and with cloud cover.

The authors caution readers not to over-interpret the data or results because the results are case studies (i.e., not in a controlled laboratory environment) and it is difficult to make general conclusions because results may vary depending on location. Also, a number of factors can contribute to skyglow:

- The moon increases sky brightness when it is present, in both clear and cloudy conditions: this effect would be difficult to quantify and remove.
- The study region contains many greenhouses, other industrial facilities and commercial and residential developments, all of which produce light emissions that contribute to local sky brightness. It would be difficult to identify the contribution of a single facility or light source to regional sky brightness, unless that source was the only light source.^[9]

Overall, the research showed an increase in light emissions that was proportional to the gapping of ceiling light abatement curtains, but the effect of a 10% gap on skyglow

was variable and depended on other external factors. Therefore, a maximum 10% gap is recommended for ventilating greenhouses under light abatement curtains while minimizing skyglow impacts.

Effect of Light Abatement Curtains on the Greenhouse Environment and Crop Physiology

Stratification of Air Temperature

1

The following research supports the recommendations for **BMP #1: Gapping ceiling light abatement curtains to ventilate the greenhouse and maintain ideal growing conditions.**

Maintaining consistent growing conditions throughout the greenhouse, horizontally and vertically, is important for optimal production. To understand the potential effect of ceiling light abatement curtains on the greenhouse environment, modeling was conducted by researchers at the University of Guelph to investigate potential differences that could occur between the air layers above and below fully closed light abatement curtains. The model assumed that the greenhouse air was exchanged once per hour, and the simultaneous use of a light abatement curtain and an energy curtain.

Fully closed curtains created a barrier between the attic area above the curtains and the growing area below the curtains resulting in differences in air temperature and humidity. This climate heterogeneity within the greenhouse — variations in climate between the upper and lower portions of the interior — can lead to abnormal or inefficient plant growth. During cold weather periods with curtains closed, attic air can become much cooler overnight than air below the curtains in the growing area.^[10] **Care must be taken to open curtains slowly in these conditions, so plants are not shocked by large volumes of cold air descending suddenly from the cooled attic.**

The location of air vents in the greenhouse and the amount of gapping in the ceiling curtains will impact the degree and nature of air temperature stratification. When curtains are closed, roof air vents located above the curtains, which are typical in modern greenhouses built for high-wire vine crops, allow mixing of the air layer in the attic but not in the growing area. Conversely, in greenhouses with air vents located in walls below the curtains, it is possible to observe mixing of the air layer in the growing area and not the layer in the attic.^[11] **Experience suggests that gapping of curtains to different degrees allows for more air circulation between attic and growing area and reduces air stratification.**

Some of the modeling results were verified with a case study using air temperature data from a commercial vegetable greenhouse in southwestern Ontario. Similar to the model, this site also used an energy curtain and light abatement curtain simultaneously. As expected, stratification of air temperature developed when the curtains were fully closed. At night, warmer air was present in the growing area and cooler air was present in the attic. The temperature of the air in the attic and the growing area converged when the curtains were fully opened (Figure 3). This air temperature stratification was more pronounced during months when curtains were used more frequently and outside temperatures were lower than months when curtains were used less frequently and outside temperatures were higher.^{[10],[12]}

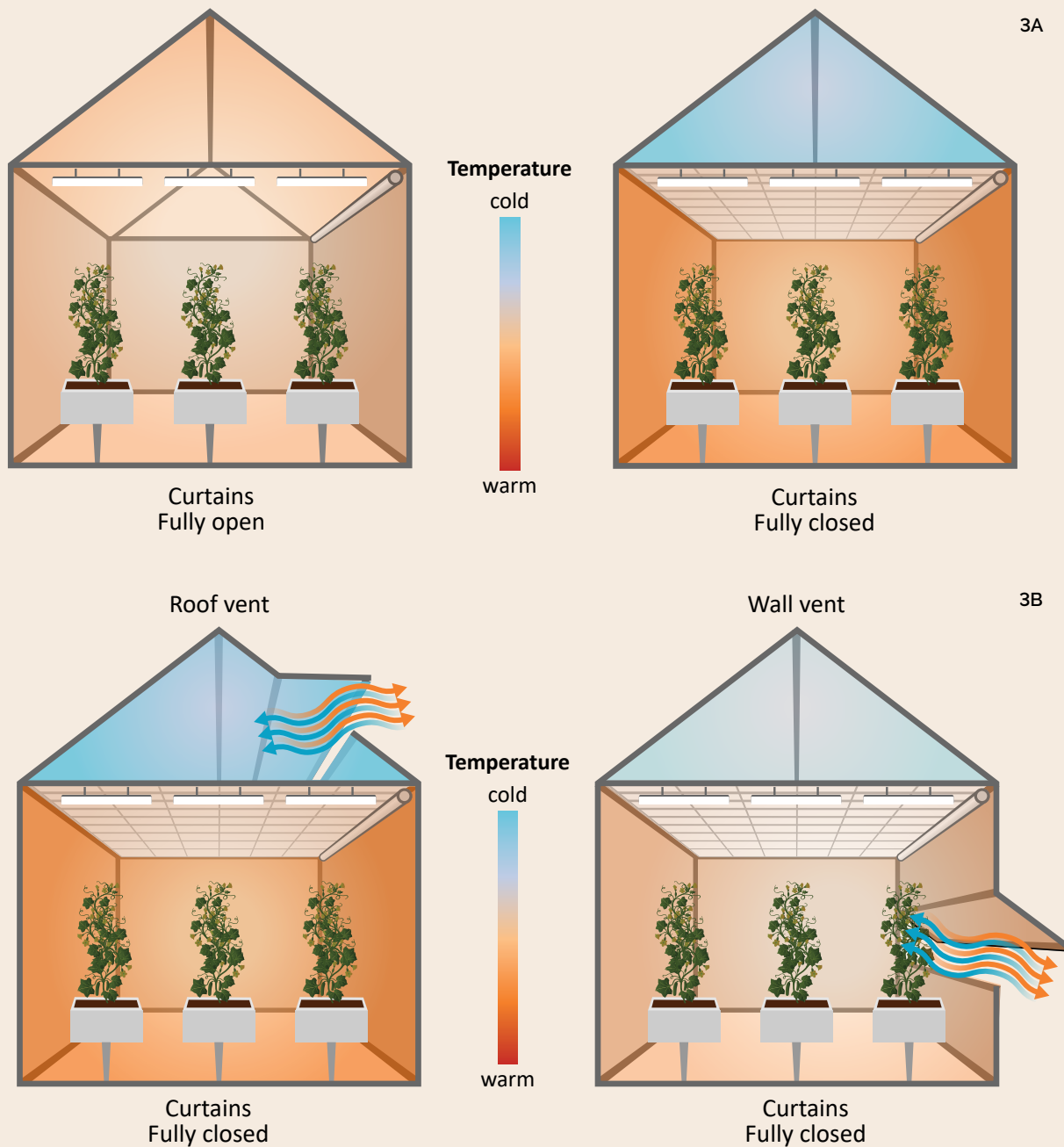


Figure 3. Depiction of the effect of (A) an open and closed ceiling light abatement curtain and (B) roof and wall vents, on air temperature in the attic above the curtain and in the growing area below the curtain.

Increase in Greenhouse Air Temperature and Plant Temperature

1

The following research supports the recommendations for **BMP #1: Gapping ceiling light abatement curtains to ventilate the greenhouse and maintain ideal growing conditions.**

To investigate the effects of light abatement curtains on greenhouse relative humidity, air temperatures and plant temperatures, researchers at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Harrow Research and Development Centre (Harrow) used four mini-greenhouses (50 m² each) outfitted with light abatement curtains to grow tomatoes

in the winter of 2021/2022 (December 2021–April 2022). Two mini-greenhouses had high pressure sodium (HPS) lights and the other two had light-emitting diode (LED) lights. One mini-greenhouse with HPS lights and one with LED lights used light abatement curtains. The other two mini-greenhouses did not use light abatement curtains. The light abatement curtains were fully closed when the lights were on between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Increases in air temperature were observed under both HPS and LED lights when light abatement curtains were closed. As expected, this increase in air temperature was more pronounced under HPS lights compared to LED lights. The temperature of the tomato plants was also higher when grown under light abatement curtains compared to plants that were not grown under light abatement curtains. This increase in plant temperature was observed under both HPS and LED lights. The increase in air and plant temperatures under LED lights and light abatement curtains was accompanied by higher relative humidity, whereas under HPS lights and light abatement curtains there was a drop in relative humidity levels (Figure 4).^{[2], [14]}

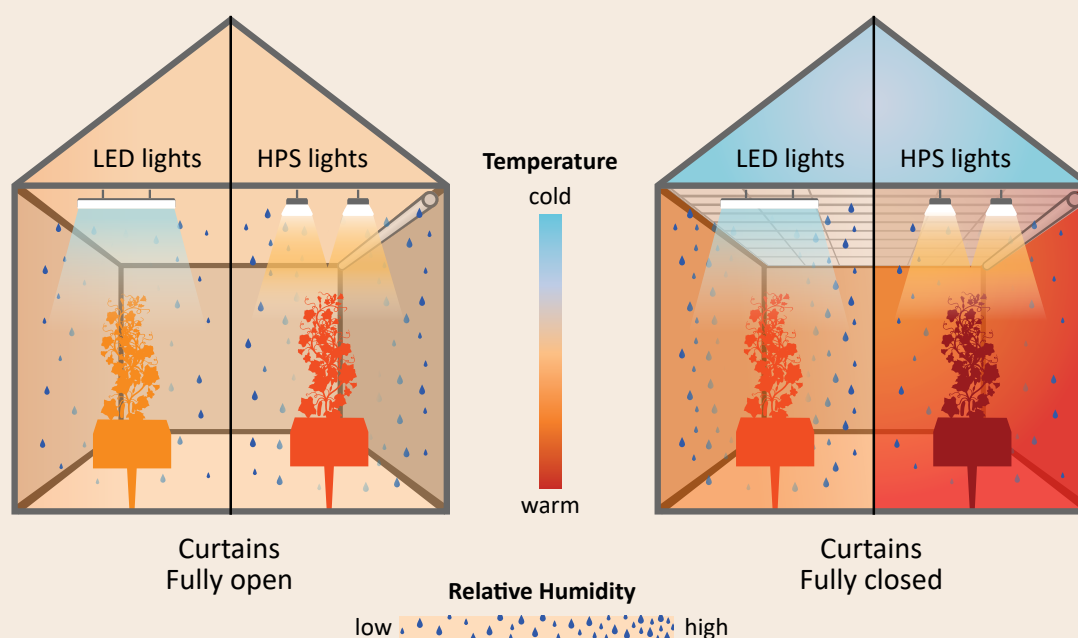


Figure 4. Depiction of air and plant temperatures, and relative humidity levels in experimental mini-greenhouses with and without light abatement curtains under HPS and LED lights.^[2]

2 The following research supports the recommendations for **BMP #2: Employing a long-photoperiod low-intensity lighting strategy to reduce fluctuations in the growing environment under light abatement curtains.**

Between December 2022 and May 2023, another experiment was conducted in Harrow, where two mini-greenhouses with LED lights and light abatement curtains used different lighting strategies:

1. Typical 16-hour lighting strategy (2:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. with 250 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{sec}$).
2. Long photoperiod (24 hour) low-intensity lighting strategy (2:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m. with 200 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{sec}$ and 6:00 p.m.–2:00 a.m. with 100 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{sec}$).

The daily light integral (DLI) in both mini-greenhouses was equal (14.4 mol/m²/day), and the light abatement curtains were fully closed between sunset and sunrise for both lighting treatments. There were fluctuations in air temperature under both treatments between warmer daytime temperatures and colder nighttime temperatures, but the fluctuations under the longer photoperiod low-intensity lighting strategy were less pronounced during some days (Figure 5). Although the yield of the tomato plants grown in both greenhouses were similar, the longer photoperiod low-intensity growing strategy requires less light fixtures thereby saving money for greenhouse producers.^{[3],[14]}

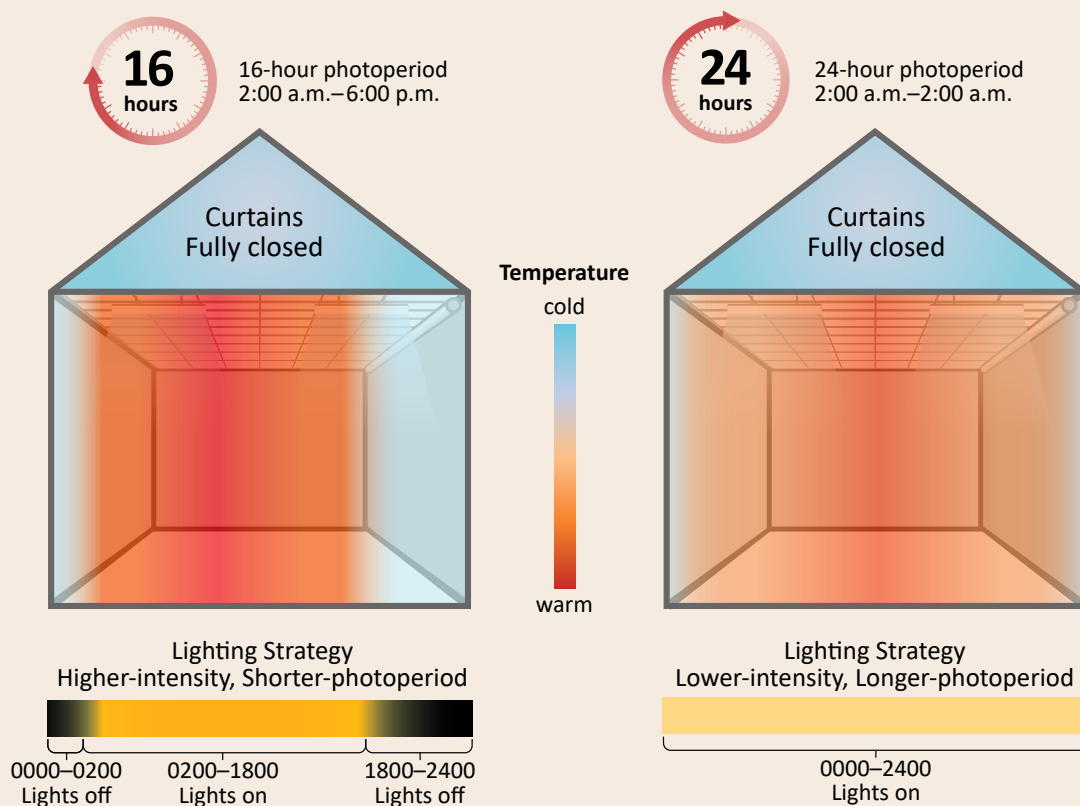


Figure 5. Depiction of air temperature fluctuations with time in experimental mini-greenhouses using a conventional 16-hour higher-intensity lighting recipe or a 24-hour lower-intensity lighting recipe under light abatement curtains. Less air temperature fluctuations over time with the 24-hour lighting strategy is ideal.

Lighting Before Sunrise Reduced Use of Light Abatement Curtains

3

The following research supports the recommendations for **BMP #3: Lighting before sunrise (2:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)** rather than after sunset (8:00 a.m. to midnight) to reduce the amount of time light abatement curtains are used and allow producers to manage the greenhouse environment more easily.

Most vegetable greenhouses in Ontario use supplemental lighting between 2:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. during winter production, but some producers prefer to extend the daylength after sunset rather than before sunrise. But, does extending the day by lighting before sunrise or after sunset affect the length of time that producers need to close their light abatement curtains and manage the resulting changes in the greenhouse environment? To answer this question researchers in Harrow used sunrise and sunset

data for southwestern Ontario to calculate how long light abatement curtains would be closed under each scenario. It was assumed that light abatement curtains would be closed only when lights were on between sunset and sunrise, and that lights were on from 2:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. in the “before sunrise” scenario and 8:00 a.m.–12:00 a.m. for the “after sunset” scenario using a typical 16-hour photoperiod. The length of time that light abatement curtains would be closed was calculated for each month between October 2022 and March 2023.

It was found that using supplemental lighting before sunrise reduced the amount of time that light abatement curtains would be used in each month. The biggest difference was observed in December when using supplemental lighting before sunrise resulted in light abatement curtains being closed 1 hour and 25 minutes less than using supplemental lighting after sunset (Figure 6). When the researchers looked at the outside temperature for the same period of time under the two lighting scenarios, it was found that there was a greater difference in temperature between the greenhouse environment (assumed to be 21°C) and the temperature outside the greenhouse before sunrise as compared to after sunset. **This temperature gradient suggests it would be easier for producers to reduce the heat buildup in their greenhouses under light abatement curtains if they use supplemental lighting before sunrise rather than after sunset.** This would allow producers to manage the greenhouse environment more easily.^{[3],[14]}

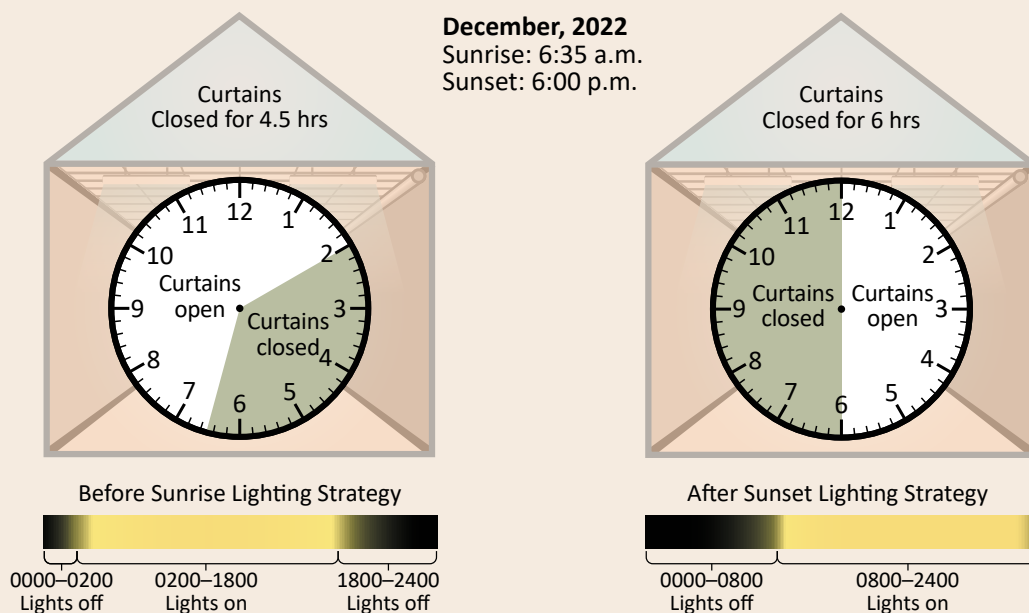


Figure 6. Depiction of the amount of time light abatement curtains would have to be closed in December, 2022, using “before sunrise” and “after sunset” lighting strategies.

Other Technology Considerations

Other technologies that may also help producers maintain a consistent environment under light abatement curtains include through-curtain fans. Through-curtain fans are typically installed in the growing area below the ceiling curtains with a duct leading through the curtain to the attic space. They blend air from above and below the light abatement curtains when curtains are fully closed. Cooler air from the attic is pulled into

the fan where it is mixed with warmer air from the growing space to achieve the desired temperature before the mixed air is blown back into the growing space (Table 3). The use of this technology in Ontario greenhouses is currently being studied.

Table 3. Examples of Available Through-Curtain Fans and their Manufacturer Specifications

Model	Ventilation Capacity (m ³ /hr)	Installation	Air Flow Direction under Curtain
A	Up to 5,200	Side of truss, hole in screen cloth is needed	Horizontal
B	Up to 5,200	On truss, no hole in the screen cloth needed	Horizontal
C	Up to 5,500	Side of truss, hole in screen cloth may not be needed as it is thin	Horizontal and vertical

Note: This is not a comprehensive list.

Dehumidification technologies may also provide additional climate control in the greenhouse and energy savings in the autumn and winter months;^{[1],[5],[11]} or when outside ventilation is limited by curtain closure. However, the use of dehumidification technology needs to be tested in greenhouses with light abatement curtains.

Public Concerns Around Greenhouse Light Emissions: Municipality By-laws and the *Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998*

When neighbours express concerns about light emissions, it is in the interest of both parties to resolve issues and maintain good neighbour relations. While it is best to take a proactive approach to managing light emissions from greenhouses, there may be times when complaints are received even by the best managed operation.

When complaints are received, producers can take a number of steps:

1. Document the complaint:
 - time and date the complaint is received
 - time and date the light or other impact was experienced by the complainant
 - contact information for the complainant (if not anonymous)
2. Note details of the complaint:
 - perceived light intensity
 - outside conditions such as any fog that may amplify the perception of stray light levels
 - operational information including factors which may impact light emissions, such as light intensity settings, gaps in curtains or structure any other relevant information
3. Respond to the complainant in a professional and timely manner with a brief acknowledgement that their complaint has been received and heard.

4. Make any necessary or possible adjustments needed to address the issue. It may not be possible to make immediate changes, but consider future changes to address the concerns.
5. Provide the complainant with additional information such as any changes that have been made or are anticipated to address the concerns. If the complaint has been received through a municipality or other agency, ensure the information about the complaint and response is also communicated to them.

Producers should be aware that if a resolution cannot be reached between a producer and their neighbours, either party can contact OMAFA to initiate the Farm Practices Conflict Resolution Process by contacting the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or ag.info.omafa@ontario.ca.

Legislation, Municipal By-Laws and FFPPA

It is in the provincial interest that in agricultural areas, agricultural uses and normal farm practices be promoted and protected in a way that balances the needs of the agricultural community with health, safety and environmental concerns. To establish this balance, Ontario passed the *Farming and Food Production Protection Act* (FFPPA) in 1998. The FFPPA established that agricultural operations are protected from liability associated with normal farm practices. The FFPPA also does not permit by-laws to restrict normal farm practices.

Normal farm practice is defined as one which:

- Is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards, as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances.
- Makes use of innovative technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm management practices.

Farmers must still comply with other legislation such as the *Environmental Protection Act, 1990 Pesticides Act, 1990, Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act, 1990*.

Municipalities can establish by-laws that require agricultural operations to apply for permits or set guidance around agricultural practices. If an agricultural operation feels a by-law restricts their normal farm practice, they should engage with their municipality to better understand the by-law and to confirm if their farm practice can accommodate the municipal by-law.

If neighbours have concerns about the practices of a farming operation or an agricultural operation (including greenhouses) feels a municipal by-law restricts their normal farm practice, they can contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or ag.info.omafa@ontario.ca to learn about the Farm Practices Conflict Resolution Process and the [Normal Farm Practices Protection Board](#). For more information on the *Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998* and nuisance complaints, please visit www.ontario.ca/page/farming-and-food-production-protection-act-1998-and-nuisance-complaints.

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Ministry Resources

Supplementary information is available at ontario.ca or ONGreenhouseVegetables.ca.

Agricultural Information Contact Centre

1-877-424-1300

ag.info.omafa@ontario.ca

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Editor/Technical Writer

Dr. Fadi Al-Daoud, OMAFA

Technical Writers

Dr. Chevonne Dayboll, OMAFA

Mitch Bussineau (Intern), OMAFA

The editor would like to thank members of the **Greenhouse Light Management Research Advisory Committee** (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Fadi Al-Daoud, OMAFA

Kevin Baines, OMAFA

Dr. Rupp Carriveau, University of Windsor

Drew Crinklaw, OMAFA

Anna Crolla, OMAFA

Dr. Chevonne Dayboll, OMAFA

Quade Digweed, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

Dr. Sara Epp, University of Guelph

Anna Formusiak, OMAFA

Dr. Thomas Graham, University of Guelph

Dr. Xiuming Hao, AAFC

Vicki Hillborn, OMAFA

Dr. Roselyne Labbé, AAFC

Dr. David Lubitz, University of Guelph

Dr. Joe Lyons, University of Western Ontario

Dr. Geneviève Marchand, AAFC

Cara McCreary, OMAFA

Daniella Molnar, OMAFA

Susan Murray, OMAFA

Rebecca Shortt, OMAFA

Dr. Bill Van Heyst, University of Windsor

Abigail Wiesner, OMAFA

Dr. Qinglu Ying, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre

Dr. Youbin Zheng, University of Guelph

Project Management

Dr. Nicole Berardi, OMAFA

Art Direction

Andrea Vieira, OMAFA

Illustrations

Michael Custode

Photo Credit (Cover)

Gene Ingratta, Allegro Acres

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**Ministry for Seniors and
Accessibility**

Minister

College Park
777 Bay Street
5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

**Ministère des Services aux aînés et de
l'Accessibilité**

Ministre

College Park
777, rue Bay
5e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1S5

October 25, 2024

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to submit a nomination for the 2024 [Ontario Senior Achievement Award](#).

Each year, the program recognizes extraordinary seniors who, **after the age of 65**, have made significant contributions to their community or province.

This is to inform you the deadline to nominate someone has been extended to December 1st. You can submit a nomination online by [registering through the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal](#).

For more information about the program, please visit the [Ontario Senior Achievement Award webpage](#).

You may also contact Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at OntarioHonoursAndAwards@ontario.ca, if you have questions about the Ontario Senior Achievement Award and how to submit a nomination online.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider putting forward the name of a special senior in your community.

Sincerely,



Raymond Cho
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

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AODA Toolbox



What you need to know about Ontario's accessibility laws

The [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#) (AODA) is about identifying, removing and preventing barriers to inclusion for people with disabilities. Collaboration among businesses, organizations, communities and all levels of government is key to creating a more accessible and inclusive province.

In this issue

- Assistant Deputy Minister's corner
- October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month!
- Promoting accessible employment
- The AODA Customer Service Standards Development Committee Initial Recommendations Report is now posted
- Compliance corner

Assistant Deputy Minister's corner

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Meenu Sikand**

Assistant Deputy Minister
Accessibility for Ontarians
with Disabilities Division
Ministry For Seniors and
Accessibility

**Accessibility is a priority across the Ontario government**

As many of you are aware, October marks National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). To commemorate NDEAM, much of the content in this issue focuses on a variety of topics in the area of employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs). This issue highlights some events that took place to commemorate NDEAM, as well as some useful insights on how employers can promote accessible employment.

Alongside this, I want to remind our readers that Ontario continues to prioritize investing in accessibility, including increasing access to for PWDs.

Statistics Canada reports that 3.8 million Ontarians or 28 percent of all people in Ontario age 15 or older identify as having a disability. With these numbers in mind, I believe it is crucial to strengthen disability and employment supports, by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers that PWDs experience when trying to gain meaningful employment in Ontario.

One initiative in this area is the province's Skills Development Fund (SDF) Training Stream. This fund provides financial support to organizations for innovative projects that address challenges in hiring, training, or retaining workers, including apprentices, to drive Ontario's economic growth.

The SDF Training Stream offers support to various groups who may face barriers to employment, including people with disabilities. By providing targeted funding, it aims to create inclusive training opportunities that enhance employability and foster economic participation for all individuals.

I encourage stakeholders to explore the opportunities that it can offer, particularly in creating accessible and supportive pathways for people with disabilities.

I know that organizations, whether they be municipalities, in the broader public sector, non-profits or the business sector, are always looking to tap into a bigger talent pool and have a

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Finally, to close, by the time you read this newsletter, [the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games](#) will have wrapped up. I wanted to give a quick shout out to the many outstanding Canadian Paralympians who competed across a wide range of sports. Their dedication and commitment to excellence is a great example to anyone who is passionate about driving accessibility forward!

With Regards,

Meenu Sikand, Assistant Deputy Minister

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month!

Light It Up! For NDEAM

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) offers a reminder about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and creating more inclusive and accessible workplaces.

People with disabilities help to create more innovative, productive, and profitable businesses. In fact, [research from McMaster University](#) suggests that employees with disabilities may perform at a higher level, have better attendance and have a lower turnover rate than employees without disabilities.

NDEAM continues a conversation about inclusive employment and how the disability community offers a skilled and under-tapped talent pool.

This year, the Ontario government took part in [Light It Up! For NDEAM](#), a nationwide event taking place on October 17. Led by the Ontario Disability Employment Network, this event saw buildings across the country lit purple and blue to help raise awareness about the importance of inclusive and accessible workplaces.

The Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN's) key event partners include [The Canadian Association for Supported Employment](#), [MentorAbility Canada](#), and [Jobs Ability Canada](#). They offer a variety of programs and services to help employers

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[connect with, hire and retain skilled employees with disabilities.](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Visit ontario.ca/AccessibleBusiness for more programs and resources to help you connect with people with disabilities and create a more inclusive workplace.



Horseshoe Canadian Falls participates in Light Up! For NDEAM - photo provided by ODEN

Making workplaces more accessible

Did you know about the accessibility requirements for workplaces? The Employment Standards of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) require employers to ensure that workplaces are accessible at every stage of employment. This includes accessible practices related to:

- **Recruitment and selection:** ensuring accessibility during the hiring process, including interviews.
- **Workplace information:** providing [accessible workplace information](#) for employees, e.g., making documents available in large print for employees with low vision
- **Accommodation and support:** offering workplace accommodations, which could include flexible scheduling, technology like screen readers or an adjustable desk, etc., performance management, and career development support.
- **Emergency response:** providing [individual accessible emergency information](#) to staff with disabilities, e.g., providing information in the event of an emergency to a staff member with a hearing disability, who cannot hear an alarm.
- **Returning employees:** facilitating the return of an employee after a disability-related leave.

The AODA promotes equal participation in the workforce for employees with disabilities and accessibility in employment practices. Organizations have a legal duty to develop,

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policies.

Organizations often struggle with common misconceptions about complying with accessibility requirements. For example, they might think that getting help from a third party organization in areas like hiring or career development, or providing accommodation and/or support on adapting work environments to be more accessible, means that they don't need to create their own policies. They also may not understand their responsibilities under the various laws in Ontario which include the:

- Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA) which governs the minimum requirements for employers and employee rights, e.g., hours of work, pay, leave)
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 (WSIA) which focuses on workplace injuries
- AODA's employment standard which complements these laws, promoting inclusivity.

Finally, according to the General Standards, it is important for organizations to be aware that they must also train employees and third parties on their employment policies and notify everyone involved of policy changes.

[Learn more about accessible workplaces](#)

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Telus Tower, 25 York Street, Toronto - photo provided by ODEN

The AODA Customer Service Standards Development Committee Initial Recommendations Report is now posted

Providing accessible goods, services and facilities can attract more customers by removing as many barriers to access as possible, making Ontario open for everyone.

The customer service standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) include requirements that can help obligated organizations identify and remove barriers in order to provide customer service that is more accessible to people with disabilities.

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A Standards Development Committee has reviewed the customer service standards under the AODA, as well as the general requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation, and submitted their initial recommendations report to the government. The [report is now available online](#) along with information on [how to provide feedback](#).

Public consultation will be open until January 9, 2025.

Feedback from the consultation will be considered by the Committee before preparing their final report.

Compliance corner

As the Director responsible for compliance under the AODA, I want to emphasize the importance of engaging with organizations, along with having a physical presence in the community to support them in meeting their legal obligations.

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) compliance team works directly with regulated organizations, i.e., organizations that need to file an [accessibility compliance report](#), through inspections to ensure that they understand and follow Ontario's accessibility laws. This hands-on approach helps organizations to achieve compliance assurance and build more accessible communities.

MSAA's compliance program for organizations is designed to offer assistance where needed, providing education and a range of online tools and resources. The AODA and its standards have been in place for several years and it is up to each organization to understand and comply with the requirements. When compliance is not achieved voluntarily, we employ a progressive enforcement approach, including formal measures such as inspections and penalties, when necessary.

MSAA recently took escalated enforcement action against organizations in the retail sector that had missed the December 31, 2023 deadline and had not yet filed their Accessibility Compliance Report. Our actions resulted in a number of compliance reports being filed.

Compliance with the AODA is not optional. Our team actively follows up to ensure businesses are meeting their responsibilities. Inspections and audits are conducted to verify compliance, and non-compliance could result in penalties.

The AODA is a critical step towards making Ontario more inclusive and all organizations throughout the province play an essential role in helping to build a more accessible

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- Rory Burke, (Director, Compliance Assurance Branch, MSAA)



Brantford City Hall - photo provided by City of Brantford

Find us at events across the province

The Outreach and Education Unit (OEU) at the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) works with disability organizations, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and the broader public sector to help Ontarians understand the requirements of the AODA, and to champion accessibility broadly.

The key to addressing barriers to accessibility is to learn from each other. When we engage with our stakeholders, OEU has the opportunity to provide important information and learn about the needs of those impacted by accessibility legislation.

OEU participates in events across the province by sending guest speakers to inform people about the AODA requirements and the benefits of making communities and businesses more accessible. It's just one way MSAA is working to achieve our shared goal of a more accessible Ontario.

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We would love to share your successes in our Toolbox newsletters!

Do you have an accessibility success story that benefitted your organization, or a best practice that is breaking down barriers? We would love to share your successes in our Toolbox newsletter! Send your stories and photos to AODAoutreach@ontario.ca.

The Toolbox newsletter editors will consider all article contributions to be included in the newsletter and will contact you in advance if your contribution has been selected.

Was this newsletter helpful?

Please forward this email to others interested in accessibility, so that they can [subscribe to the Toolbox newsletter](#).

For more accessibility information and resources you can visit: ontario.ca/accessibility.

Follow us on our social media channel links below for regular news updates.

Tell us what you think!

Let us know if the newsletter was helpful to you! Please use this [survey](#) to share your thoughts.

Links to other websites and social media platforms

You may see links in this newsletter to websites and some widely-used social media platforms. We have included them because they may be of interest to you. To be clear, providing a link to them doesn't mean that the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility endorses or recommends them to you. The Ministry also cannot control and is not responsible for the accessibility of non-government web properties that may be linked to in this newsletter.


Since other websites and social media platforms are controlled and maintained by other people, we cannot be sure that the link will still work when you click on it or that the service or content is useful, appropriate, virus-free or reliable. You need to decide for yourself whether you want to follow any link or to agree to receive or rely on any service or content that is made available to you.


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Ontario Honours and Awards
Secretariat

1075 Bay Street, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2B1
Tel: 416-314-7526
Toll Free: 1-877-832-8622
www.mcm.gov.on.ca

October 2024

Dear Friends,

Voluntarism is often described as the heartbeat of our communities. Recognizing volunteers for their selfless efforts formally acknowledges their essential role in addressing needs, building trust, and creating stronger communities across Ontario.

The province of Ontario recognizes the contributions of our volunteers in a number of impactful ways. It is my pleasure to invite you to consider nominating volunteers in your community for one or more of our volunteer recognition programs.

[Ontario Volunteer Service Awards](#)

Deadline: November 15, 2024

Organizations can nominate their volunteers for an [Ontario Volunteer Service Award](#) to recognize their continuous service ranging from five to 65 years. Youth (under 24 years old) can be recognized for two or more years of continuous service.

[June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism](#)

Deadline: December 15, 2024

Individuals and groups are recognized for outstanding commitment to volunteering and service to their community.

Nominations are reviewed by an independent selection committee who are appointed by the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

Recipients are presented with this award during Volunteer Service Award ceremonies in their community.

To submit a nomination online, please [register for the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal](#).

All nominations must be submitted electronically through the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal. Paper copies will not be accepted.

The Ministry will provide more information about the ceremonies to recognize these volunteers in early 2025.

If you have questions about the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards or the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Awards, or how to submit a nomination online, please contact the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at OntarioVolunteerServiceAwards@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Lang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jennifer Lang, Director

Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Reducing Costs for Future Homeowners

Province prioritizing affordability for families by unveiling plan to fix “last mile” barriers

October 21, 2024

[Energy and Electrification](#)

TORONTO –The Ontario government is removing barriers that slow the construction of new homes and businesses by making it easier and more affordable to connect to the province's world-class clean electricity grid.

According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator, the province's demand for electricity is forecast to increase by 75 per cent by 2050. That includes growing demand from new homes and industry, each of which will need to be connected to the province's growing grid. Under existing rules, the process can be slow and burden homebuyers and new businesses with unreasonable costs.

“Too many families face barriers to homeownership, and that is why we are acting on all fronts to reduce the cost for future homeowners and investors,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification. “We are taking a generational lens to fixing a long-standing barrier for young Canadians to enter the housing market. As our population increases, our government will act decisively to implement our plan to connect the “last mile” so that ultimately, we cut costs for prospective homeowners and end the barriers to job-creating investment.”

The government intends to introduce legislation that will, if passed, support the construction of new homes and businesses by making it easier and more affordable to make those “last mile” connections. The legislation would amend *the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to enable regulation making authority to protect existing ratepayers while reducing upfront capital costs of new lines that would otherwise increase the costs to new homes and businesses.

Minister Lecce has also asked the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to implement all recommendations from its [Housing Connections Report](#), to dramatically reduce barriers to home building, job-creating investment, and agricultural expansion. Ontario's plan to reduce costs for families and businesses owners includes:

- Amending the Distribution System Code (DSC) to extend the revenue horizon for connecting residential developments from 25 years up to 40 years, allowing the costs of new infrastructure that will serve this province for generations to be spread over a longer period.
- Amending the DSC to provide clarity regarding the conditions under which a local distribution company should extend the connection horizon for new developments.
- Establishing a new capacity allocation model that considers multi customer, multi-year projects.
- Establishing a Housing Electricity Growth Forum to bring together designated municipalities with housing targets, impacted local utilities, industry and construction leaders, and the OEB to discuss ways to accelerate connections while reducing costs.
- Minister Lecce also asked the OEB to consider further amendments to the DSC to extend the connection horizon for new electricity lines to housing development projects to 15 years.

“Our government knows that we need all hands-on deck when it comes to addressing the province’s growth and housing supply challenges,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “We owe it to the hardworking people of Ontario to help deliver the fully functioning infrastructure that supports the homes they need.”

These moves to reduce the costs of connecting to the grid will form a key part of the government’s vision for the future of the energy sector, which will be released in the coming days, and build on [Powering Ontario’s Growth](#), the government’s pragmatic plan to meet growing energy demand and reduce emissions by expanding Ontario’s reliable, affordable and clean grid, including:

- **Ontario’s Largest Competitive Energy Procurement** – Advancing [competitive procurement](#) for new energy resources to Ontario’s growing energy needs.
- **Nuclear Energy** – Advancing reliable, affordable and clean nuclear power through [pre-development work at Bruce Power](#), [four small modular reactors at Darlington](#) and supporting Ontario Power Generation’s plan for [refurbishing the Pickering Nuclear Generation Station](#).
- **New Transmission Infrastructure** – Designating and prioritizing transmissions lines in [Southwestern, Northeastern and Eastern Ontario](#) that will power job creators including EV and EV battery manufacturing and clean steel production.
- **Keeping Costs Down** – Launching new energy efficiency programs on January 1, 2025, building on the government’s [\\$342 million expansion of existing energy](#).

[efficiency programs](#) which are helping families and businesses reduce their electricity use so they can save money on their energy bills.

- **Additional Competitive Procurements** – A successful re-contracting of existing resources at about a 30 per cent discount and planning more competitive procurements for non-emitting electricity resources including wind, solar, hydroelectric, and bioenergy.
-

Quick Facts

- New regulatory making authority could allow the government to reduce costs for first-mover customers by allowing costs of new infrastructure to be allocated as additional customers in high-growth areas connect to the line, rather than all costs being paid by the “first mover.”
 - The Housing Electricity Growth Forum will be chaired by the Deputy Minister of Energy and Electrification and the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The first meeting will take place before the end of the year.
 - Ontario’s electricity system is among the cleanest in the world, powered by a diverse supply mix including nuclear, hydroelectric, renewables, natural gas and biomass.
-

Quotes

"We are actively listening to job creators in every industry across Ontario, addressing the barriers they've identified around connecting to the energy grid quickly and cost-effectively. By providing tools to get faster, more responsive, and more affordable last-mile connections to the grid, we're ensuring industries can continue to invest and grow in our province, creating good, high-paying jobs for families now and into the future. We have also heard from Local Distribution Companies across the province about the need to continue efforts to build out the last mile connection and will continue working with them to ensure economic growth in every community in Ontario."

- Sam Oosterhoff
Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries

"As our province continues to attract record numbers of new investments by both domestic and international companies, these businesses will require clean, affordable and reliable sources of energy as they expand and grow their operations in Ontario. Reducing electricity cost burdens on businesses will help to ensure a competitive business climate that will spur economic growth and the creation of new, good-paying jobs for our highly skilled workforce."

- Vic Fedeli

Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

"We thank the Minister of Energy and Electrification for his endorsement of our recommendations. We are grateful to our stakeholders for their participation as we developed our advice, and we look forward to working with them to implement this important work."

- Susanna Zagar

Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Energy Board

"We recognize the importance of making it more affordable to connect new homes and businesses to Ontario's electricity grid. The government's initiative to reduce upfront costs will help ensure that our growing communities have access to reliable and affordable power and will continue to make Ontario a destination of choice for families and economic investment."

- Teresa Sarkesian

President and CEO, Electricity Distributors Association

"Facilitating supportive infrastructure like last mile connections is precisely the type of leadership we need from the Minister of Energy and Electrification to build more homes in Ontario. I'm very happy to see the Ministry continue to reduce regulatory barriers and help make housing more attainable for Ontarians."

- Scott Andison

CEO, Ontario Home Builders' Association

Additional Resources

[Powering Ontario's Growth](#)

Learn about Ontario's plan to provide families and industries with reliable, low-cost and clean power.

[Building More Homes](#)

Learn about the progress Ontario is making towards reaching its housing goals

Media Contacts

Isha Chaudhuri

Minister's Office

isha.chaudhuri@ontario.ca

Natasha Demetriades

Communications Branch

Natasha.Demetriades@ontario.ca

[416-327-3855](tel:416-327-3855)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Tackles Energy Demand by Introducing Affordable Energy Act

New legislation will help keep energy costs down as province expands the grid

October 23, 2024

[Energy and Electrification](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is introducing legislation that would, if passed, enable the implementation of the province’s first-ever integrated energy plan which will ensure the entire energy sector is aligned behind the government’s pro-growth agenda. The *Affordable Energy Act* would also prioritize zero-emissions nuclear energy as the province’s grid expands, support the government’s significant expansion of energy efficiency programs to help families save money, help get more electric vehicle (EV) chargers built and reduce “last-mile” connection costs for electricity infrastructure.

“Energy demand is increasing quickly and our government will deliver the province’s first integrated energy plan to ensure we build for the future, with a focus on keeping energy rates affordable,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification. “The *Affordable Energy Act* lays the groundwork for large-scale energy expansion, more affordable homes, expanded energy efficiency programs and more – all focused on saving families their hard earned money. That is why we have and will continue to vigorously oppose the punitive Carbon Tax.”

[Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future: The Pressing Case for More Power](#) outlines the challenges facing the province as demand for energy continues to rapidly grow, as well as the government’s all-of-the-above approach to meet this demand. The implementation of that vision starts with legislative changes through The *Affordable Energy Act* that would:

- **Establish the Province’s First Integrated Energy Plan:** Introduce a new framework for integrated energy planning that would coordinate all energy resources, including electricity, natural gas and other fuels to ensure energy remains affordable.
- **Prioritize Nuclear Power in Generation Build Out:** For the first time in legislation the province will prioritize the role of reliable, affordable and zero-

emissions nuclear power generation to meet future increases in demand.

- **Expand Energy Efficiency Programs to Save Families Money:** Ahead of the government introducing a significant expansion of energy efficiency programs to save families and businesses money the government is expanding the mandate of the Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) so they can deliver programs to help even more customers reduce costs and emissions.
- **Get More EV Chargers Built:** Supporting the adoption of EVs by providing EV charging companies with a regulatory environment that supports and enables further deployment of EV charging stations.
- **Reduce Costs for Last Mile Connections:** Provide government with new regulation-making authority that would work to ensure more timely and cost-effective electricity system connection for new homes and industry.

According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator, the province's demand for electricity is forecast to increase by 75 per cent by 2050 - the equivalent of adding four and a half cities the size of Toronto to the grid. There is also continued demand for other fuels including gasoline and natural gas, that currently play a critical role in powering vehicles, heating homes and attracting new jobs in manufacturing, including the automotive industry and agriculture.

"Over the past six years our government has restored our province's clean and affordable energy advantage," said Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries. "This is enabling unprecedented investments from electric vehicle and battery manufacturing to critical minerals and green steel."

The Affordable Energy Act and Ontario's Affordable Energy Future build on significant initiatives already underway to meet the needs of the province for the next decade and beyond, including:

- **The Largest Competitive Procurement in Ontario's History** – Advancing [competitive procurement](#) for new energy resources to meet Ontario's growing energy needs.
- **Nuclear Energy** – Advancing reliable, affordable and clean nuclear power through [pre-development work at Bruce Power](#), [four small modular reactors at Darlington](#) and supporting Ontario Power Generation's plan for [refurbishing the Pickering Nuclear Generation Station](#).
- **New Transmission Infrastructure** – Designating and prioritizing transmissions lines in [Southwestern](#), [Northeastern and Eastern Ontario](#) that will power job creators including EV and EV battery manufacturing and clean steel production.

- **Keeping Costs Down** – Launching new energy efficiency programs that would build on the government’s [\\$342 million expansion of existing energy efficiency programs](#) which are helping families and businesses reduce their electricity use so they can save money on their energy bills.
 - **Additional Competitive Procurements** – A successful re-contracting of existing resources at about a 30 per cent discount and planning more competitive procurements for non-emitting electricity resources including wind, solar, hydroelectric, and bioenergy.
-

Quick Facts

- The Independent Electricity System Operator’s forecasted demand stems primarily from Ontario’s rapid increase in population, new manufacturing facilities, advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) data centres, the electrification of industry, and the charging energy required for electric vehicles.
 - Under the IESO’s current mandate they were limited in their ability to deliver broad-based energy efficiency programs, such as a limitation on serving customers who used natural gas or other fuels for home heating. This legislation would expand their mandate and allow them to help more customers save money.
 - Ontario’s first Integrated Energy Resource Plan would be launched, if approved, in 2025.
-

Additional Resources

[Ontario’s Energy Affordability Vision](#)

[Ontario Reducing Costs to Support Building New Homes](#)

Media Contacts

Isha Chaudhuri

Minister's Office

isha.chaudhuri@ontario.ca

Natasha Demetriades

Communications Branch

Natasha.Demetriades@ontario.ca

[416-327-3855](tel:416-327-3855)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Extending Gas and Fuel Tax Cuts to Keep Costs Down for Drivers

Extended tax cut would save Ontario households \$380 on average

October 27, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

ETOBICOKE — As part of the upcoming 2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, the Ontario government is keeping costs down for drivers and businesses by introducing legislation that would, if passed, extend the temporary rate cuts on the gasoline and fuel taxes for the fourth time, until June 30, 2025. These extended cuts would ensure the rates remain at 9 cents per litre through to June 30, 2025, saving Ontario households \$380 on average over the three years since the cuts were first introduced.

“Too many Ontario families are struggling as a result of the federal carbon tax and high interest rates, which is why we’re always working to help taxpayers keep more of their hard-earned money,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Our government’s gas and fuel tax cuts are just one way that we’re getting this done, in addition to scrapping the license sticker fee, banning new road tolls on provincial highways, cancelling the previous government’s cap-and-trade program and continuing to stand up for Ontario taxpayers by fighting the federal carbon tax.”

On July 1, 2022, the government temporarily cut the gasoline tax rate by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel (diesel) tax rate by 5.3 cents per litre. When combined with the province’s previous cancellation of the cap-and-trade system, the government is saving drivers 10 cents per litre off the cost of gasoline. This relief is especially important as the federal carbon tax is set to increase again on April 1, 2025, putting further financial strain on families.

“Rising costs over the past few years have put a strain on household budgets, which is why we’ve taken action to offer relief where we can, including at the pumps,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Our government will always look at ways to put more money back in people’s pockets.”

The proposed extension to the gasoline and fuel tax rate cuts builds on a host of measures to make life more affordable for people across the province, including:

- Eliminating the licence plate renewal fee in March 2022, saving the average household \$600 to date.
- Banning new road tolls on new and existing highways in Ontario. This ban would also apply to the Don Valley Parkway and the Gardiner Expressway once uploaded to the province. The government removed tolls on Highways 412 and 418 in April 2022.
- Permanently freezing driver's licence and photo card fees, saving drivers an estimated \$66 million over the next five years.
- Launching One Fare, which will save daily riders on participating systems an average of \$1,600 each year.
- Ending the Drive Clean Program, saving taxpayers over \$40 million every year.
- Requiring the government to first obtain the consent of Ontario voters through a referendum before implementing a new provincial carbon pricing program.

More information about the government's plan to keep costs down for families and businesses will be included in the 2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, to be released on October 30, 2024.

Quick Facts

- The price consumers pay at the pump is made up of the cost of crude oil, wholesale margins, retail margins, federal excise tax, the federal carbon tax, Ontario gasoline/fuel tax and HST.
- While the government has taken action on tax rates for unleaded gasoline and fuel (diesel), there will be no change to tax rates for leaded gasoline, propane, or aviation fuel.
- Ontario continues to call on the federal government to eliminate the federal carbon tax, which increased to 17.61 cents per litre on gasoline and 21.39 cents per litre on diesel on April 1, 2024 and is scheduled to increase again on April 1, 2025 to 20.91 cents per litre on gasoline and 25.40 cents per litre on diesel.

Additional Resources

- [Gas and fuel tax rate decrease](#)
 - [Gasoline Tax](#)
 - [Fuel Tax](#)
-

Related Topics

Government

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

[Learn more](#)

Taxes and Benefits

Learn about taxes in Ontario and what they support, including tax credits you can get to help you with living and business costs. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Grace Lee

Premier's Office

Grace.Lee5@ontario.ca

Colin Blachar

Minister Bethlenfalvy's Office

Colin.Blachar@ontario.ca

Scott Blodgett

Communications Branch

Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Free Flu Shot and New COVID-19 Vaccines Now Available Across Ontario

RSV immunizations available November 4, expanded program will protect more infants and high risk children

October 28, 2024

[Health](#)

TORONTO — Starting today, Ontarians can receive their free flu shot and the new, updated COVID-19 vaccine at local pharmacies, public health units and primary care providers across the province. Staying up to date on vaccinations continues to be the best way for people to stay safe and healthy this respiratory illness season and avoid unnecessary visits to the hospital.

“Our government is taking steps to ensure Ontarians of all ages have the tools they need to 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 program and ensuring people have access to convenient, publicly funded flu and COVID-19 vaccines, our government is making it easier for families to access care and protection this respiratory illness season.”

The flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine are available at participating pharmacies, local public health units, and primary care providers, and it is safe and convenient to receive both vaccines at the same time. All Ontarians six months and older can receive their next COVID-19 dose if it has been a recommended six months since their last dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection. Ontarians are encouraged to speak with a health care professional to help determine their appropriate vaccination schedule.

Starting November 4, doses of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) immunization, Beyfortus®, will also be available for infants and high-risk children up to 24 months. The province’s expanded RSV immunization program, available to all babies born in 2024, will help over 200,000 families access the Beyfortus® immunization for free through their public health unit, health care provider, as well

as within hospital settings for infants born during the 2024/25 respiratory illness season. Pregnant women also have the option of receiving a single dose of Abrysvo®, to provide protection for their infant from birth to six months.

The province has also expanded the high-risk older adult RSV prevention program and has already received doses for all those 60 years of age and older living in long-term care homes, Elder Care Lodges and all retirement homes. Ontario is the first in Canada to have a publicly funded older adult RSV program and is one of the first in the world.

“Ontario’s RSV programs will play a pivotal role in protecting the babies, young children and older adults who are most susceptible to severe outcomes caused by the virus, including serious lung infections and hospitalization,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “To be well-protected this respiratory illness season, I also encourage everyone to get their COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, especially those aged 65 and older, as well as those who are at higher risk for severe outcomes.”

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government is providing people with the tools they need to stay safe and healthy throughout respiratory illness season.

Quick Facts

- The risk of severe outcomes from RSV infection is highest among those over the age of 60, 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.
- 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.
- 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 provider settings to provide families with faster and easier access to care during respiratory illness season.
- 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.
- Vaccines in Ontario’s routine immunization schedule are provided free of charge if you meet the eligibility criteria. If you are unsure about which

immunizations you or your family have received or are eligible for, talk to your health care provider or public health unit.

- To reduce the risk of spreading illness, individuals are advised to wash their hands often, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, clean surfaces and shared items regularly, and stay at home when sick.
- 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.

Quotes

"Let's stay up to date on our vaccines. That is why it is so important for all of our seniors, older adults and everyone living in retirement homes to roll up their sleeves and get their vaccines. Getting our flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines will go a long way to keeping everyone safe, healthy and avoid visits to the hospital this fall or winter."

- Raymond Cho
Ontario's Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

"Parents and caregivers across Ontario have the opportunity to protect infants and all newborns from RSV with Beyfortus® (nirsevimab). Sanofi is proud to partner with the Government of Ontario to deliver innovative solutions that help safeguard the most vulnerable and help alleviate strain on the healthcare system during respiratory illness season."

- Delphine Lansac
General Manager, Vaccines, Sanofi Canada

"We applaud the efforts of the Ontario government in promoting vaccination and prioritizing the health and wellness of Ontarians during the fall and winter season when respiratory illnesses are more common. Vaccination plays an important role in preventing illness from COVID-19 and RSV and reducing the burden on our healthcare system. Our partners have our continued commitment to ensuring that our vaccines are readily available and accessible to all eligible individuals in Ontario."

- Ranjita Banerjee
Primary Care Lead, Pfizer Canada

"Ontario pharmacists are proud to offer some of the most accessible healthcare services in the province. With extended hours and close to 4,000 participating locations across Ontario, we are proud to play a key role in ensuring Ontarians have access to flu and COVID-19 shots at their convenience. This season, we're here to support our communities by ensuring that flu and COVID-19 vaccines are within reach for everyone, helping to keep Ontarians safe and reduce the spread of illness."

- Justin Bates
CEO, Ontario Pharmacists Association

"By expanding access to flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines at pharmacies, the government is making essential immunizations more accessible and convenient for Ontarians and is empowering pharmacy professionals to continue to play a key role in safeguarding public health this season."

- Sherif Guorgui
Co-Chief Executive Officer, OnPharm United

"CSL Seqirus applauds Ontario's proactive approach to protecting Ontarians this respiratory illness season as influenza is among the 10 leading causes of death in Canada. We are proud to partner with the Ontario government to offer Flucelvax® Quad, a cell-based influenza vaccine for the general population, as well as Fluad® for Ontario's seniors to help protect themselves from flu, while reducing the burden on the healthcare system."

- Gillian Stafford
CSL Seqirus Country Head Commercial Operations, Canada

"GSK recognizes Ontario's leadership in expanding its first-in-Canada RSV program for older adults to include additional vulnerable populations this fall and winter. We are pleased that AREXVY remains among the vaccines being offered this season, and that older Ontarians will continue to benefit from the protection offered by RSV vaccines."

- Sridhar Venkatesh
President and General Manager, GSK Canada Commercial

"As a company invested in protecting public health, Moderna is proud to provide the government of Ontario with COVID-19 vaccines to support this critical initiative. The start of the fall respiratory vaccination season is a reminder of the ongoing impact these viruses have on our communities."

- Stefan Raos
General Manager, Moderna Canada

"This preventative treatment will help protect infants, kids and higher risk adults from severe outcomes caused by RSV, which could have a significant effect in reducing hospitalizations this respiratory season. Additionally, it's important for all health care professionals to do all they can to stay healthy so we can continue to serve our patients and families across the province."

- Dr. Chris Simpson
Executive Vice-President, Acute and Hospital-Based Care, and Chief
Medical Executive Ontario Health

Additional Resources

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

Media Contacts

Hannah Jensen

Minister Jones' Office

Hannah.R.Jensen@ontario.ca

Media Relations

Communications Branch

media.moh@ontario.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Providing Taxpayers with \$200 Rebate

Payments will support families facing high interest rates and the federal carbon tax

October 29, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Finance](#)

SCARBOROUGH — As part of the upcoming *2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review*, the government is supporting Ontario families struggling with the high costs of the federal carbon tax and interest rates by proposing to provide a \$200 taxpayer rebate to all eligible Ontario taxpayers. To ensure families with children are not overlooked, the government is also proposing to provide families with an additional \$200 for each eligible child.

“We’re doing everything we can to keep costs down for Ontario families, but the federal carbon tax and high interest rates are still hurting taxpayers across the province,” said Premier Doug Ford. “This \$200 taxpayer rebate will give Ontario taxpayers, especially families with children, some much-deserved help so they can make ends meet.”

The government would begin mailing cheques to recipients of the taxpayer rebate in early 2025. A family of five with two adults and three children would receive \$1,000, if eligible. In total, this rebate is expected to provide \$3 billion in support for approximately 12.5 million adults and 2.5 million children.

“At a time when the cost of living remains stubbornly high, our government is taking action for the families and workers of this province with much-needed relief to their household budgets,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “We encourage taxpayers to watch their mailboxes for this taxpayer rebate in early 2025 as we continue making life more affordable for Ontarians while retaining prudent, responsible fiscal management.”

The government is able to provide taxpayers with this relief because of higher-than-expected revenues as a result of the impact of inflation on provincial sales tax revenues and the impact of recent changes to the federal government’s capital

gains tax. More information about the government's plan to keep costs down for people, families and businesses will be included in the *2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review*, to be released on October 30, 2024.

Quick Facts

- Those eligible for the tax-free taxpayer rebate must be 18 years or older at the end of 2023; be a resident in Ontario on December 31, 2023; have filed their 2023 Income Tax and Benefit Return by December 31, 2024; and not be bankrupt or incarcerated in 2024.
- Families who qualify for a Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment for 2024 would receive an additional \$200 for each eligible child under age 18. The taxpayer rebate payment for children would be made to the person(s) who receives the CCB in respect of the child, who must be a resident of Ontario. In the case of a shared custody arrangement in respect of a child, payments would be split based on the most recent CCB available.
- For families with children who did not receive the CCB for 2024, the government would provide an opportunity for a taxpayer rebate payment of \$200 per child through an alternative process.
- The government is proposing to extend the temporary rate cuts on the gasoline and fuel taxes for the fourth time, until June 30, 2025. These extended cuts would ensure the rates remain at 9 cents per litre through to June 30, 2025, saving Ontario households \$380 on average over the three years since the cuts were first introduced.
- The government is providing relief to individuals and families across Ontario by making it less expensive to take transit, drive a car and attend postsecondary education, keeping energy costs down and increasing support for seniors with low income.

Additional Resources

- For general inquiries on the taxpayer rebate, call ServiceOntario at 1-833-351-0409.
 - [Learn about filing your personal income tax and benefit return](#)
-

Media Contacts

Grace Lee

Premier's Office

Grace.Lee5@ontario.ca

Colin Blachar

Minister Bethlenfalvy's Office

Colin.Blachar@ontario.ca

Scott Blodgett

Communications Branch

Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca

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STATEMENT

Ontario's Fifth Working for Workers Act Receives Royal Assent

Changes will open pathways into the skilled trades, remove barriers to employment, support frontline heroes, protect workers and support women at work

October 29, 2024

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

TORONTO — David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, issued the following statement after the *Working for Workers Five Act, 2024* received Royal Assent.

“With our fifth Working for Workers Act now law, our government continues to lead Canada by strengthening supports for frontline heroes, growing Ontario’s workforce, and cutting red tape to help more workers get better training, for better jobs, with bigger paychecks. The legislative and regulatory changes in the Working for Workers Five package will:

- [Support frontline heroes](#) by implementing the lowest required duration of service in Canada for firefighters, investigators and volunteers to be eligible for presumptive WSIB coverage for primary-site skin cancer, from 20 years to 10 years, and ensuring wildland firefighters and wildland fire investigators have the same coverage for occupational cancers, heart injuries, and PTSD as municipal firefighters do.
- [Encourage and enable more women to start a career in the trades](#) by requiring menstrual products be made available on larger construction sites, cracking down on virtual harassment, and requiring all workplaces to have clean and sanitary washrooms and records of cleaning – a first-in-Canada measure that is bringing clean washrooms from Bay Street to Main Street
- [Crack down on bad actor employers](#) by increasing the maximum fines that can be issued to individuals convicted of violating the *Employment Standards Act*.
- [Improve fairness for jobseekers and employees](#) by requiring employers to disclose whether a vacancy truly exists in publicly advertised job postings and respond to interviewees within a specified period.

- [Put patients before paperwork](#) by prohibiting sick notes as evidence of entitlement to the three job-protected unpaid sick-leave days.

These changes expand on groundbreaking measures included in our four previous Working for Workers Acts since 2021, which are already helping millions of people.

By putting workers first, we can and will bring the Ontario dream within reach of more people, and ensure Ontario remains the very best place to live, work and raise a family.”

Additional Resources

- [Stakeholders Respond to Passage of Fifth Working for Workers Act](#)
 - [Working For Workers Five Act, 2024](#)
 - [Working for Workers Four Act, 2024](#)
 - [Working for Workers Act, 2023](#)
 - [Working for Workers Act, 2022](#)
 - [Working for Workers Act, 2021](#)
-

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](#)

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](#)

Jobs and Employment

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

Law and Safety

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

Media Contacts

Michel Figueredo

Minister's Office

michel.figueredo@ontario.ca

Media Relations

Communications Branch

mlitsdmedialine@ontario.ca

[Accessibility](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Building Ontario for You

Ontario's *2024 Fall Economic Statement* continues to invest in rebuilding the provincial economy while keeping costs down for workers and families.

October 30, 2024

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — Today, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy released the [2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building Ontario for You](#). The government continues to take a fiscally responsible approach towards building the critical infrastructure our growing communities need, reducing gridlock, and making life more affordable by keeping taxes low and putting more money back in your pocket.

“Our government’s responsible approach has resulted in an improved fiscal position since the *2024 Budget*, allowing us to keep taxes low, invest in infrastructure like roads, highways, hospitals and schools, and provide immediate relief to Ontario families as part of our plan to keep costs down,” said Minister Bethlenfalvy. “We’re going to continue investing responsibly to support Ontario’s growth and rebuild Ontario’s economy to make our province the best place to live, work and raise a family, all while reducing the debt burden for future generations.”

The government’s plan reduces the deficit and retains a path to balance the budget by 2026–27, even with uncertain global economic conditions and other headwinds beyond the government’s control. Compared to the *2024 Budget*, Ontario is also projected to see both stronger growth in real GDP and employment in 2024.

Highlights of how the government is keeping costs down in the *2024 Fall Economic Statement* include:

- Providing a \$200 taxpayer rebate early next year, which would give immediate relief for Ontario families in the face of high interest rates and the federal carbon tax. This proposed \$200 taxpayer rebate would be sent to all eligible adults in Ontario who have filed their 2023 Income Tax and Benefit Return by December 31, 2024. Eligible families would receive an additional \$200 for each child under 18.

- Proposing to further extend the temporary gas tax and fuel tax rate cuts so that the rate of tax on gasoline and fuel (diesel) would remain at 9 cents per litre until June 30, 2025. This would save Ontario households \$380, on average, over the three years since July 2022. This relief is especially important as the federal carbon tax is set to increase again on April 1, 2025.
- Starting in 2026, the government is investing an estimated \$88 million over three years to expand Learn and Stay grants for 1,360 eligible undergraduate students that commit to practise family medicine with a full roster of patients once they graduate. This includes \$17.7 million for the 2026–27 academic year. It is estimated the total investment will enable the connection of an additional 1.36 million people to primary care based on average attachment rates for family doctors. The funding will cover all tuition and other direct educational costs like books, supplies and equipment in exchange for a term of service as a physician in any community across Ontario.
- Expanding access for families who are seeking fertility treatment. Beginning in 2025–26, the government will invest an additional \$150 million over two years to expand the Ontario Fertility Program (OFP). This funding will nearly triple the number of individuals who are able to receive a government-funded in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycle, increasing the capacity of fertility clinics and reducing waitlists in hospitals and community settings. In 2025, the government will introduce additional support to families who are seeking fertility treatment through a new tax credit, which would provide support of up to 25 per cent of eligible fertility treatment expenses for Ontario residents, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year, which could include IVF cycles, fertility drugs, travel for treatment and diagnostic testing. The government is setting aside \$115 million for this initiative over three years.
- Increasing the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) — the province’s main general assistance grant to municipalities — by \$100 million over the next two years, bringing total funding provided through this program to \$600 million by 2026. In 2025, municipalities will benefit from an immediate \$50 million increase to the OMPF.

“We’re delivering on our plan to rebuild Ontario’s economy, creating better jobs and bigger paycheques for Ontario workers, while keeping costs down for families and businesses,” said Minister Bethlenfalvy. “We’re supporting workers, families and municipalities, investing in their success to create stronger communities and better opportunities for years to come.”

Quick Facts

- The government is now projecting a deficit of \$6.6 billion in 2024–25 — an improvement of \$3.2 billion from the outlook published in the *2024 Budget*. This reflects updated economic and revenue information and higher contingencies to mitigate near-term risks.
- Over the medium term, the government projects a deficit of \$1.5 billion in 2025–26, followed by a surplus of \$0.9 billion in 2026–27.
- Ontario's net debt-to-GDP ratio for 2024–25 is projected to be 37.8 per cent. Over the medium term, the net debt-to-GDP ratio is forecast to be 37.9 per cent in 2025–26 and 37.5 per cent in 2026–27.
- Ontario's historic infrastructure investment includes over \$191 billion over the next decade to build and improve transit, highways, housing-enabling infrastructure, hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities and other critical public infrastructure.
- On November 14, 2024, the government will launch consultations to help inform the *2025 Budget* and hear from Ontarians on the most pressing challenges of today, such as making life more affordable, building more homes, schools, and creating good jobs for Ontario workers.

Additional Resources

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

Media Contacts

Colin Blachar

Minister's Office

Colin.Blachar@ontario.ca

[416-325-0400](tel:416-325-0400)

Scott Blodgett

Communications Branch

Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca

[416-728-9791](tel:416-728-9791)

STATEMENT

Ontario Recognizes Treaties Recognition Week 2024

November 04, 2024

[Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation](#)

TORONTO — Today, Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, issued the following statement to mark the beginning of Treaties Recognition Week:

"This week is Treaties Recognition Week, an annual opportunity to learn about the more than 40 Treaties and agreements that define the rights, responsibilities and relationships between First Nations and the federal and provincial governments.

Strengthening public understanding of these legal agreements is an important part of advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and responding to the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action](#).

Our government is working in lockstep with Indigenous and education partners to promote Treaty awareness events in schools and public libraries across the province.

By honouring Treaty relationships, we continue to support equitable and respectful partnerships with First Nation communities, fostering a better future for all of Ontario.

As part of our collective goal to achieving meaningful reconciliation, I encourage everyone to take time this week to learn about the integral role Treaties play in our province, our lives and relationships with each other."

Additional Resources

- [Learn about the history of Treaties in Ontario.](#)
 - [Learn about the Treaties that cover where you live, work or go to school.](#)
 - [Listen to Indigenous Elders and knowledge keepers share their perspectives on Treaties.](#)
 - [Watch the Heritage Minute video about the history of Treaties.](#)
-

Related Topics

Arts and Culture

Learn more about the live performances, cultural institutions and creative grants the province has to offer. [Learn more](#)

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](#)

Rural and North

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

Media Contacts

Curtis Lindsay

Minister's Office

Curtis.Lindsay@ontario.ca

[437-240-7317](tel:437-240-7317)

Rosemary Parker

Communications Branch

Rosemary.Parker2@ontario.ca

[437-247-3736](tel:437-247-3736)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Increasing Financial and Community Supports for Veterans

Province making GO Transit free for veterans and increasing financial support to up to \$3,000 each year

November 05, 2024

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

RICHMOND HILL – The Ontario government is increasing the financial assistance available to veterans and their family through the [Soldiers' Aid Commission](#). The government is making new regulatory amendments alongside the changes proposed in the *Honouring Veterans Act, 2024*, which will allow eligible veterans and their family members to receive up to \$3,000 each year, up from \$2,000, to help pay for essential services and supports.

“Veterans have made tremendous sacrifices to make our country and province what it is today and they deserve our unwavering commitment to their well-being,” said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. “That’s why we are working across government to make it easier for eligible veterans and their families across Ontario to access additional financial supports. Our government will continue to stand behind every man and woman who has served in our armed forces and honour their service – lest we forget.”

Eligible veterans can find out how to apply to the Soldiers' Aid Commission at [Ontario.ca/SoldiersAid](https://ontario.ca/SoldiersAid) to help cover health-related expenses such as hearing aids and eye glasses, specialized equipment like wheelchairs, home repairs and moving costs, as well as personal items such as clothing. To make it faster and easier for veterans to access support, the government is also removing the requirement for veterans to apply to non-federal funding sources before becoming eligible to apply to the Soldiers' Aid Commission.

Ontario is also strengthening community services and supports for veterans to help keep costs down and improve their health and well-being, including:

- Introducing a transit relief program that removes fares for Canadian Armed Forces veterans and active Regular Force members on GO Transit starting

March 1, 2025, with future plans to extend this benefit to UP Express—putting more money back in their pockets.

- Expanding [Health811](#) to connect veterans to specialized services that meet their unique health care needs, including those in rural areas or who may require support in other languages.
- Exploring opportunities to partner with municipalities and organizations that support veterans in need of housing to improve access to housing, housing supports and services.

The proposed changes are part of the ongoing work the Ontario government is doing to continue to recognize and honour veterans for their pivotal role in the nation's past and future, and build on the government's [Honouring Veterans Act, 2024](#).

Quick Facts

- The Soldiers' Aid Commission has supported veterans and their families for more than 100 years. In 2021, the program was expanded to include all eligible Ontario veterans and their families, regardless of when or where they served.
- Under the Soldiers' Aid Commission, a veteran is defined as a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces who has completed basic training and was released from service.
- Ontario is home to approximately 149,000 veterans and this number is growing. Each year, approximately 8,000 to 9,000 Canadian Armed Forces members are released from military service. Their average age upon release from service is 40.

Quotes

"The Royal Canadian Legion's mission is to serve veterans and their families. Veterans' needs are becoming increasingly complex and costs of meeting these needs has grown exponentially. Thus, any funding announcement that will assist us in attaining our goals of ensuring every veteran gets the help they need, and deserve, is gratefully anticipated."

- Terri O' Connor
President, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 375

"I'm happy to hear about the updates to the Soldiers' Aid Commission. These changes reflect the economic conditions of today and will better help Ontario's veterans and their families in need. The Commission will continue its important work providing financial assistance to eligible applicants to ensure our veterans have the quality of life they stood to preserve."

- Philip ten Kortenaar
Chair of the Soldiers' Aid Commission

"Our veterans have made incredible sacrifices to protect the safety of Ontarians and our government continues to work to support their health and well-being, when and where they need it. By increasing access to virtual health care services through Health 811 and expanding service reach across the province, our government is ensuring veterans and their families can connect to specialized services and supports that meet their unique needs, close to home."

- Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

"Through their bravery and selflessness, veterans have protected our values, defended our rights and freedoms, and shaped our nation's history. These proposed changes and initiatives reaffirm our government's gratitude for their sacrifices and our commitment to better support veterans and their families. These important initiatives will also help build a stronger and more inclusive Ontario, where everyone can succeed and thrive, while recognizing the unique needs of veterans."

- Graham McGregor
acting Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

"Ontario owes an immense debt of gratitude to our veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces. By removing transit fares on GO Transit and UP Express, our government is showing Ontario's appreciation to those who have served, making travel easier and more affordable so they can reintegrate successfully into civilian life."

- Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation

Additional Resources

- [Learn more about the Soldiers' Aid Commission.](#)
- [Find information about financial assistance, employment supports and other resources for veterans.](#)

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

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

Government

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

Health and Wellness

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

Taxes and Benefits

Learn about taxes in Ontario and what they support, including tax credits you can get to help you with living and business costs. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Sean Forsyth

Minister's Office

Sean.Forsyth@ontario.ca

Media Relations

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

media.mccss@ontario.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Ottawa New Deal Continuing to Deliver for Eastern Ontario

New funding will support public safety and address homelessness in nation's capital

November 05, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

OTTAWA — The Government of Ontario and the City of Ottawa are continuing to work together to implement the historic [New Deal](#) for Ottawa, with \$48 million in new provincial funding to improve public safety on transit and in the downtown core and \$40 million to help address the increased number of asylum seekers and people experiencing homelessness in Ottawa. The province and city are also continuing to make progress on other aspects of the New Deal, including supporting the economic recovery of Ottawa's downtown area to ensure the sustainable, long-term growth and prosperity of the nation's capital.

"With our historic New Deal for Ottawa, our government is demonstrating our ongoing support and commitment to the success of Ottawa and all of Eastern Ontario," said Premier Doug Ford. "As today's announcement shows, we're continuing to work closely with Mayor Sutcliffe to improve public safety, tackle homelessness and rebuild the city and region's economy. As we do so, we continue to call on the federal government to be an active partner in the success of our nation's capital."

To enhance public safety and address community concerns related to increases in violent local crime, mental health issues and substance use, particularly in the ByWard Market area, the province will invest \$48 million over three years in seven initiatives that will improve safety and security on transit and in the downtown core. This follows the approval of the city's comprehensive Public Safety Plan that will increase the number of uniformed OC Transpo special constables on the transit system, implement new community-based initiatives including outreach and alternative mental health supports and establish a police neighbourhood operations centre near the ByWard Market to address community safety concerns.

To help address the increased numbers of asylum seekers and people experiencing homelessness, the province will provide \$40 million in 2024–25 to the city to support emergency shelter operations. This is in addition to \$9.5 million in funding announced in May 2024 to help create more than [100 supportive housing units in Ottawa](#). Providing housing with support services on-site helps people to move out of the shelter system and achieve long-term housing stability.

“This funding is a significant step forward for the safety and well-being of our community. Ottawa’s unique challenges as the nation’s capital require targeted solutions and we are grateful for the province’s investment,” said Mayor Mark Sutcliffe. “Programs like the Downtown Safety Outreach Partnership and CORE Strategy will expand outreach and proactive policing to reduce crime, while the Market Safe Initiative ensures a strong law enforcement presence during peak hours in the ByWard Market. Together, these efforts enhance public safety and support Ottawa’s economic recovery. I look forward to continuing our collaboration with Premier Ford to build a safer and more vibrant city.”

Work continues on other New Deal commitments, such as a three-phased assessment of potential provincial ownership of Ottawa Road 174, a new interchange at Highway 416 and Barnsdale Road and providing funding to repair and upgrade major connecting routes and rural roads critical to keeping the people, goods and services of Ottawa moving. In addition, Ottawa and Ontario continue to work together on a plan to revitalize Ottawa’s downtown and ensure the city’s unique character and attractions continue making the nation’s capital a tourism destination for Canadians and international visitors.

In turn, the City of Ottawa is taking steps to open up municipal lands for factory-built, attainable housing development to ensure Ottawa meets and exceeds its housing targets, strengthen the city’s [vacant home tax](#) and implement efficiency measures that minimize the property tax burden on Ottawa’s people and businesses.

Quick Facts

- The agreement between the province and city invests in Ottawa’s unique needs as national capital and regional economic hub, helping ensure the city’s sustainable, long-term growth and prosperity. Ontario is providing up to \$543 million in operating and capital funding tailored to fuelling Ottawa’s economic recovery and accelerating revitalization of the downtown core. Funding will further support upgrading and building essential road and highway

infrastructure to support the local economy and drivers across Ottawa's large suburban and rural footprint.

- In April 2024, [Ontario opened a new regional office in Ottawa](#), led by Sean Webster, to support greater engagement with both municipal and federal governments and play an important role in implementing the New Deal.
- Ottawa is Canada's national capital and Ontario's second largest municipality, with a growing population of more than one million residents. Ottawa is geographically four times larger than Toronto, encompassing interconnected urban, suburban and rural areas. The city is an important interprovincial gateway to Quebec and Eastern Canada and is uniquely reliant on the public administration sector.
- Ontario has been steadily increasing support to municipalities. From 2019–2023, key provincial support to municipalities grew by over 45 per cent. In 2023 alone, the government provided almost \$10 billion to Ontario municipalities through key transfers.
- In its [2024 Fall Economic Statement](#), the province announced it will be increasing the [Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund](#) (OMPF) by \$100 million over the next two years, for a total of \$600 million each year by 2026. The OMPF is Ontario's main general assistance grant to municipalities.

Quotes

"We're making tremendous progress in implementing the Ontario-Ottawa New Deal thanks to the strong partnership between Ontario and Ottawa. Our government will continue holding the line from the threat of new taxes or fees. Together, we are ensuring the nation's capital comes back to life through targeted measures for the people and businesses who call Ottawa home."

- Peter Bethlenfalvy
Ontario Minister of Finance

"Our government will never waver in our commitment to public safety. We are standing behind the Ottawa Police Service with the funding they need to put more uniformed officers on the ground. These neighbourhood police officers and transit special constables will prevent crime and protect residents, businesses and visitors to our nation's capital."

- Michael Kerzner
Ontario Solicitor General

"Home to the largest concentration of technology talent in North America, Ottawa plays a pivotal role in Ontario's economic landscape. By implementing this New Deal for Ottawa, in partnership with the City of Ottawa, we look forward to revitalizing the downtown as a prosperous economic hub and tourism destination."

- Vic Fedeli

Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

"The City of Ottawa is critical to eastern Ontario's economic growth and the well-being of our province. As our population continues to grow, we must ensure that Ontario's transportation network keeps families and businesses moving. The Ontario-Ottawa New Deal will fight gridlock and connect more people to good-paying jobs and housing in the region."

- Prabmeet Sarkaria

Ontario Minister of Transportation

Additional Resources

- [A new deal for Ottawa](#)
- [Terms of the agreement between Ontario and Ottawa](#)
- [Full Terms of the Ontario-Ottawa Agreement through the Ottawa Consultation Mandate](#)
- [Ontario to establish new regional office in Ottawa](#)

Related Topics

Business and Economy

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

Government

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

Media Contacts

Grace Lee

Premier's Office

Grace.Lee5@ontario.ca

Colin Blachar

Minister Bethlenfalvy's Office

Colin.Blachar@ontario.ca

Scott Blodgett

MOF Communications Branch

Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca

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County Council Summary

October 28, 2024

Special Meeting of County Council

Key highlights

A meeting was held October 28, 2024 to discuss the proposed changes to the County of Renfrew Procedural By-law. The County's Asset Management Plan and Long-term Financial Plan were also discussed, highlighted by a proposed 2025 Capital Advancement Plan.

The full [Special Meeting Council Package](#) can be found on our website. View the meeting on YouTube: [Special meeting](#) Link.

October 30, 2024

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting October 30, 2024.

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

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

[October meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

During the month of October, Warden Peter Emon attended 35 meetings on County business:

- On October 1 and 2, the Warden and senior staff attended the AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Social Housing. He felt it was a valuable meeting for conversations and presentations regarding insights and actions to advance and grow Ontario's community and supportive housing, with over 200 municipal, Indigenous and sector leaders in attendance.
- The County hosted the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Board Directors meeting at Calabogie Peaks Resort, October 17 and 18. The County of Renfrew Paramedics presented on our paramedic services in a rural community, as well as highlighting the RCVTAC and Mesa initiatives.
- On October 25, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus participated in the Western Ontario Wardens' Conference. This event provided a valuable opportunity to exchange insights and support efforts aimed at enhancing rural communities across Ontario and advocating for improvements in the two regions.

Delegations

- Jason Hagan, Program Manager, and Keith Taylor Chief Investment Officer, from One Investments, overviewed the not-for-profit organization which has been dedicated to serving the investment needs of the Ontario municipal sector for more than 30 years.
- Jennifer White, Executive Director, Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County, gave an update on the services provided by the child welfare agency, and highlighted the funding challenges the organization is currently facing.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- An increasing number of issues are arising on forested land owned by the County of Renfrew. With the recently revised By-law to Prohibit Certain Activities on County of Renfrew-Owned Forests, the activities not permitted are clear and fines have been increased, but significant resources are needed to enforce this By-law.
New/ongoing and unresolved major issues in 2024 include, frequent dumping of garbage, bonfires (out of control), encroachments and uncertainty about legal access at Centennial Lake Tract.
Ontario Provincial Police and municipal fire services have been enlisted in dumping, fires and trespassing where there is a risk of encountering volatile perpetrators with varying levels of success. The extent of many of these issues is beyond the capacity of staff and additional information (e.g. surveys) is needed before encroachments can be fully dealt with. To date, letters have been sent to request encroachments be rectified.
- County Council directed staff to issue a Request for Proposal for architectural services for the design of a paramedic base within the Pembroke area. The County of Renfrew currently leases the paramedic building at the Pembroke Regional Hospital, with the lease set to expire on September 30, 2025.
- County staff are currently working to identify the costs associated with transitioning the Esri Small Local Government License Agreement (ELA) to a post-term solution and will be working with local municipalities on the potential budget impacts in 2025.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- The County of Renfrew hosted an Open House and Career Fair on Monday, October 21, 2024 as part of Local Government Week. This dynamic event was attended by over 100 visitors and showcased the many roles within local government and offered a unique opportunity to explore careers in public service. From interactive booths and information sessions to a "Touch a Truck" exhibit featuring municipal vehicles, there was something for everyone. Attendees met professionals from various departments, learned about the vital services provided, and discovered pathways to rewarding careers. The event was targeted to students, job seekers, staff and family, and community members, to offer an engaging way to connect with local government.

- County Council considers the increased costs of OPP billing as a matter of shared advocacy on behalf of the local municipalities. The Finance and Administration Committee acknowledged ongoing discussions and concerns among all local municipalities related to the increased OPP billing costs. While the County of Renfrew is not directly impacted it was brought forward for further discussion. The issue will further be raised with the ROMA Board, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Since March 2024, Mesa Paramedic outreach teams, with the County of Renfrew's Emergency Services Department, have had approximately 1,480 encounters with individuals. Of these encounters, approximately 1,257 occurred in the City of Pembroke; 1,229 were with an individual who identified as experiencing homelessness, addictions, and mental health challenges; 96 were follow-ups post 911 activation and 282 resulted in 911 and emergency department diversions.
Mesa continues to be a collaborative approach between the Paramedic Service, Caseworkers from Community Mental Health (Pembroke Regional Hospital), Addictions (Mackay Manor, and Renfrew Victoria Hospital), and the Community Services Department with referrals flowing through the partners.
- As a participating member of the Collaborative Project to Sustain a Palliative Approach to Care in Long-Term Care, the Bonnechere Manor team was recently awarded a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of efforts undertaken to integrate a palliative approach to care. The project focuses on strategies to improve resident quality of life; support families during the illness of their loved ones and during bereavement; provide team members support and education; and support the continuous improvement of palliative care.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- County Council passed a resolution in relation to Child Welfare Funding, directing the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke to formally request the Province of Ontario to consult with and collaborate with Child Welfare agencies to develop an updated and equitable Child Welfare funding formula. The resolution further asks that the newly developed funding formula be structured to ensure an equitable and proportionate distribution that meets the diverse, unique, individual, and complex needs of the communities and populations served and directs the Warden of the County of Renfrew and the Mayor of the City of Pembroke to write a letter to the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. This resolution be shared with Premier Doug Ford, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC), Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), and local municipalities.
- County Council adopted a By-law to approve a two-year collective agreement between the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4425, the Renfrew County Housing Corporation and the County of Renfrew for the term January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. The agreement was ratified by the CUPE membership on October 28, 2024.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council passed a resolution to table discussion on Development Charges, and continue to utilize Corporate Policy GA-14, Infrastructure Expansion, and the Growth Reserve resolution approved by County Council on May 16, 2024, to address growth related infrastructure pressures.
- County Council discussed staff direction from the Operations Committee to explore the options of a Dual-Purpose Transit Solution, including convening a meeting amongst all local and regional suppliers of transit options. This includes contacting the appropriate Ministries to determine funding that may be available and developing terms of reference for a Transit Solution Ad-Hoc Committee in order to address a critical gap in rural regional transit.
- County Council County passed a resolution to incorporate the development of Recreational Trails into the Capital Asset Management Plan going forward and that an annual Capital Budget be developed based on an approved Asset Management Plan for Recreational Trails.
- County Council adopted a By-law to govern the use of the County of Renfrew Recreational Trails. Staff has been in consultation with the Ministry of the Attorney General with regards to having fines implemented and has received some feedback with regards to additional wording that is required to implement the fee structure.
- County Council adopted a By-law to authorize speed limits on County Roads in order to reinstate the speed limit of 80 km/h on a section of County Road 512 (Foymount Road) following the completion of reconstruction. The posted speed limit on County Road 512 (Foymount Road), from civic address 3467 Foymount Road to Lake Clear Road, was reduced to 60km/h prior to reconstruction of the roadway due to the poor condition of this section of road.
- County Council approved a contract for the supply of one tandem truck and plow unit as submitted by Viking Cives Ltd., Mount Forest, Ontario, in the amount of \$451,130, plus applicable taxes.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

613-735-7288

From: Melissa Ziebarth <MZiebarth@rcdhu.com>

Sent: October 31, 2024 4:19 PM

Subject: RCDHU's 2023 Annual Report

Good afternoon,

We are pleased to share RCDHU's 2023 Annual Report. This report illustrates the tremendous commitment of our staff. It was a year of renewal and optimism as we worked together with community partners to advance our vision of "Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District." Please visit the report at: [2023 Annual Report](#).

This report can be found on the website under [About](#).

Kind regards,
Melissa

Melissa Ziebarth
Executive Assistant, Corporate Services



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
141 Lake Street
Pembroke, ON K8A 5L8

Phone: 613-732-3629 ext. 796

Fax: 613-735-3067

www.rcdhu.com

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"



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[HOME](#) > [NEWS & MEDIA](#) > [NEWS RELEASES](#) > [CANADA AND FCM WRAP SUCCESSFUL 8 YEAR MUNICIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM](#)

Canada and FCM Wrap Up Successful 8-Year Municipal Asset Management Program



November 4, 2024

Ottawa, ON—Municipalities are at the forefront of maintaining and renewing infrastructure assets such as roads, buildings, and wastewater systems to meet the critical needs of the community and ensure a high quality of life for all Canadians. Empowering communities with the necessary tools and support to enhance their decision-making processes is crucial to help them plan for a healthy, safe, and prosperous future for their residents.

Recognizing this imperative, the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities partnered to launch the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) in 2017. This \$110-million program supported municipalities across Canada to make effective, holistic, and data-informed investment decisions about maintaining, replacing and repairing municipal infrastructure. The program proved so impactful that Budget 2019 committed an additional \$60 million to the program's initial \$50 million offer.

Over the course of its eight years, MAMP has funded nearly 1,600 asset management projects, reached more than 2,770 Canadian municipalities through its grants, training and awareness raising activities, and funded \$63.7

million worth of municipal asset management projects. MAMP leveraged the regional expertise of 35 partner organizations who delivered group learning, hands-on and online training to support communities where they were at in their asset management journeys.

With the program wrapping up this fall, MAMP has supported municipalities transform how they manage infrastructure and services critical to the lives of Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast, including:

- The Regional Municipality of Waterloo, ON, which received \$50,000 to develop an asset management training program.
- The City of Sainte-Catherine, QC, which received \$21,200 to conduct surveys of its existing infrastructure to address gaps.
- The City of Salmon Arm, BC, which received \$40,000 to develop an asset management policy, strategy and a five-year roadmap for staff.

Although MAMP is concluding, communities will continue to be supported through other Green Municipal Fund initiatives, including the newly launched Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) initiative. This \$530-million initiative provides funding and skills development support to local governments to adapt and build long-term resiliency to the impacts of climate change. New funding will support local governments of all sizes develop comprehensive climate adaptation strategies by evolving or developing municipal plans, processes and management systems, such as climate-focused asset management strategies. LLCA directly benefited from the lessons learned from MAMP and will carry on its legacy of supporting community-based sustainable solutions.

About the FCM's Green Municipal Fund

GMF is a globally unique organization providing funding and education to municipalities to help them both reach net-zero and build resilient communities, while also delivering economic and social benefits such as jobs, housing and infrastructure. Since inception in 2000, it has helped reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2.9 million tonnes, funded over 13,000 person-years of employment, supported over 30,000 sustainable affordable housing units, and contributed \$1.24 billion to the national GDP via the more than 2,300 approved

projects. GMF manages approximately \$2.4 billion in programs funded by the Government of Canada.

Quick facts

- MAMP provided funding directly to the municipalities of all sizes and at varying stages of asset management maturity.
- The Green Municipal Fund manages approximately \$2.4 billion in programs funded by the Government of Canada to support municipal environmental priorities, including the new \$530 million investment in community-based adaptation initiatives.
- The \$530-million investment was first announced on November 24, 2022, as part of over \$2 billion in new federal funding commitments to help protect communities from coast to coast to coast to prepare for climate change under the National Adaptation Strategy.
- [LLCA launched on June 3, 2024.](#)

Associated links

[Municipal Asset Management Program](#)

[Infrastructure in your Community](#)

[Investing in Canada: Canada's Long-Term Infrastructure Plan](#)

[Investing in Canada plan project map](#)

[Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation](#)

[Climate-Ready Plans and Processes](#)

FCM Media Relations

613-907-6395

media@fcm.ca

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24 Clarence Street

Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5P3
T. 613-241-5221

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October 24, 2024

In This Issue

- Applications open for AMO's 2025 Youth Fellowship Program!
- Ontario investing in transportation for rural communities - apply today!
- Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund - October 29 deadline.
- Funding available: Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative.
- ERO posting on Electricity Energy Efficiency Framework.
- ERO posting on Additional Residential Units Regulation.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- Applications open for Codes Acceleration Fund.
- New fire weather projections app.
- ROMA 2025 Annual Conference - *Rural Routes*.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.
- Open mic session - Ask Canoe Anything!
- Registration open for Western Ontario Municipal Conference.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO is seeking applicants for its 2025 Youth Fellowship Program. Please share this opportunity with students and youth interested in local government, governance, and the health of our democracy. Through this Fellowship, participants learn about municipal governance and policy while gaining exposure to real-time issues facing Ontario's municipalities. [Applications](#) are due October 29.

Provincial Matters

The province is investing \$5M annually to help smaller communities build safe and reliable transit services through the new Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF). Municipalities [can apply for OTIF funding](#) on an ongoing basis, with programs expected to begin in 2025.

Ontario has announced an additional \$5 million through an application-based program to help increase emergency preparedness. CEPG offers funding for equipment and services up to \$50,000 to strengthen local emergency readiness. Municipalities under 100,000 are eligible to apply. [Applications are due October 31, 2024](#).

The Ontario government's [Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund](#) will revitalize existing infrastructure and support new construction across the province. Apply by October 29, 2024 for repair and rehabilitation projects.

[Application intake](#) is open until December 3 for organizations including municipalities to support underrepresented groups in starting or growing their own agri-food business.

The Ministry of Energy is [seeking comments](#) on a proposed energy efficiency framework to improve energy affordability and expand efficiency programs offered by local distribution corporations.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is [seeking comments](#) on a proposed regulation that would override municipal by-laws to remove barriers to building additional residential units.

Federal Matters

The \$6 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund launches with \$1 billion for direct municipal and Indigenous infrastructure projects supporting housing-enabling infrastructure. Visit the [CHIF website](#) for [application details](#) and upcoming webinars.

The [Codes Acceleration Fund](#) (CAF) is open to projects geared towards accelerating the adoption and implementation of the higher tiers of the national model energy codes or other mandatory energy regulations. Approximately \$30M in funding available.

The [Canadian Centre for Climate Services](#) launched a new [online app](#) that projects future fire weather conditions. [Register here](#) by November 1 for the November 6 webinar.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Register for the ROMA 2025 Annual Conference by **October 31** to access early bird rates. For full registration and hotel information, [click here](#).

Book your trade show booth today to ensure your participation in the 2025 ROMA Conference. Limited spaces available. Download the [exhibitor package](#) or [sponsorship package](#) today.

LAS

Looking to learn more about the [Canoe Procurement Group](#)? Join the 'Ask Canoe Anything' open mic webinar on October 30 at 11am to have all your questions answered. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Municipal Wire*

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

Careers

[Senior Advisor, Regional & Community Engagement - The Independent Electricity System Operator](#).
Closing Date: November 18, 2024.

[Analyst, Recreation Planning - City of Brampton](#). Closing Date: Oct 28, 2024.

[Infrastructure Supervisor - Municipality of Redlake](#). Closing Date: November 24, 2024.

[Municipal Planner - Municipality of Redlake](#). Closing Date: November 24, 2024.

[Integrity Commissioner - Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#). Closing Date: November 20, 2024.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

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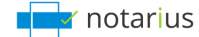
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October 31, 2024

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- New fire weather projections app.
- ROMA 2025 Annual Conference - *Rural Routes* - Keynote Chantal Hébert.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: Exhibit hall 50% sold out.
- Plan your professional development for 2025 with AMO Education Workshops.
- Blog: LAS Commodity Programs Updates.
- Is your team trauma-informed?
- Careers.

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Education Opportunities

ROMA is excited to announce Chantal Hébert as the 2025 opening keynote speaker at its Annual Conference who will examine and provide insight into the implications of the current political landscape for rural municipal leaders. [Register for the ROMA Conference today](#).

Book your trade show booth today to ensure your participation in the 2025 ROMA Conference. Limited spaces available. Download the [exhibitor package](#) or [sponsorship package](#) today.

Our workshops are custom designed for municipal leaders focusing on the issues, skills and tactics that you need as a community leader and decision maker. To help you plan your time and budget for 2025, registration is now open for a number of our in-demand workshops. You can [click here](#) to scroll through our current offerings.

LAS

The LAS Electricity and Natural Gas Procurement Programs provide Ontario municipalities with predictable commodity costs. [Read here](#) to learn more.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Enhance your services with practical, trauma-informed strategies. Foster safety, resilience, and responsiveness in your team and community by integrating trauma-informed practice into your work. [Learn more about this virtual training.](#)

Careers

[City Manager - City of St. Thomas.](#) Closing Date: November 11, 2024

[Chief Administrative Officer - City of Orillia.](#) Closing Date: November 11, 2024

[Chief Administrative Officer - Township of The Archipelago.](#) Closing Date: November 15, 2024

[General Manager, Community and Corporate Services - City of Barrie.](#) Closing Date: November 17, 2024.

[Truck and Coach/Automotive Technician Apprentice - City of Thunder Bay.](#) Closing Date: November 21, 2024

[Program Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Region of Durham.](#) Closing Date: November 10, 2024

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

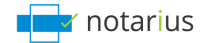
[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: October 28, 2024 6:10 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs



AMO Policy Update - Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs

AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing

On October 1st and 2nd, AMO held a gathering of over 200 municipal, Indigenous, and sector leaders to share understandings, insights, and actions to advance and grow Ontario’s community and supportive housing system.

Municipalities fund more than \$1 billion in social housing per year, yet the need for deeply affordable housing continues to rise across the province. The scale of this need surpasses the fiscal capacity of municipalities to address it.

Housing is a top priority in AMO’s call to the province for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. The stability and sustainability of municipal governments are critical to ensuring that important municipal services continue to support the quality of life of residents and the economic and social prosperity of communities.

AMO is working hard to drive change across Ontario, and we are pleased that so many municipalities joined us at this important event and in our work.

Learn more about the key outcomes of the Knowledge Exchange through reading the [summary of proceedings](#).

Provincial Vision for Ontario's Energy Future, and Introduction of Bill 214, *The Affordable Energy Act*

Last week the Minister of Energy and Electrification released [Ontario's Affordable Energy Future](#), which set out a vision for meeting rising electricity demand while keeping costs down and reducing emissions. Electricity demand is expected to increase by 75% by 2050. Key elements of this vision are:

- Meeting 2030 emissions targets by investing in a mix of energy sources including nuclear, hydro, renewables, natural gas and storage solutions
- Developing an integrated energy resource plan to coordinate planning across all energy partners, including municipalities
- Modernizing local distribution corporation (LDC) funding models to support grid upgrades
- Expanding energy efficiency programs to help people save money on their energy bills
- Exporting electricity

To begin implementing this energy vision, the province [has introduced](#) Bill 214, *The Affordable Energy Act*. This legislation provides a framework for advancing key priorities such as developing an integrated energy plan, prioritizing nuclear generation, and expanding energy efficiency plans.

The province's vision responds to AMO's recent calls for a provincial energy plan that commits to decarbonization and sets out a path for meeting Ontario's growing energy needs. AMO will continue to advocate for these commitments and a plan that ensures residents and businesses have access to clean, reliable and affordable energy.

AMO Advances Advocacy on Additional Residential Units

AMO [submitted comments](#) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on a [proposed regulation](#) that seeks to remove barriers to Additional Residential Units (ARUs) by limiting some local zoning by-law requirements for ARUs, such as maximum lot coverage, etc. AMO supports removing barriers to building new housing so long as municipalities have the appropriate tools and flexibility to responsibly manage local growth. At the same time, we remain

concerned about the cumulative impact of continued changes to Ontario's land use planning framework. AMO's comments call on the province to provide certainty so municipalities and builders can focus on delivering new housing instead of catching up to policy changes.

OPP Billing

AMO has heard ongoing concerns from members related to sizeable increases on their bills from the Ontario Provincial Police. We understand that the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Ontario Provincial Police have heard these concerns and are interested in working with municipalities to mitigate their concerns. AMO will continue to work with the provincial government and share additional information as it becomes available.

Province's 2024 Housing Forum

Last Friday, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing brought together community partners and municipal representatives to discuss how Ontario can best continue to work closely with its partners to remove barriers and get more homes built faster. The forum included presentations and discussion components on:

1. Housing-enabling infrastructure, focusing on municipal service corporations and private communal sewage systems. AMO and its members were strong on the critical need for provincial and federal funding to build housing-enabling infrastructure and highlighted key insights from [AMO and MFOA's Water & Wastewater Municipal Services Corporations Backgrounder](#).
2. An update on factory-built (modular) housing indicating that the province is developing a "Factory-Built and Innovative Housing Strategy."

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: October 30, 2024 5:15 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Fall Economic Statement



AMO Policy Update - Fall Economic Statement

This afternoon, the province released its [2024 Fall Economic Statement](#). The statement included the following announcements impacting municipalities:

- A \$100 million increase in the **Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)** over the next two fiscal years. AMO welcomes this OMPF enhancement as an important step in addressing municipal fiscal sustainability, including rural and Northern communities who will benefit from this increase. 2025 OMPF allocations, totaling \$550 million, and supporting materials have been posted [online](#).
- Supporting consolidation of **municipal electricity utilities (MEUs)** by extending and expanding transfer tax breaks. AMO welcomes this measure to ease the financial burden when local decisions are made to merge utilities.
- While the **provincial property tax review** is ongoing, property tax reassessments will continue to be deferred. The province is also undertaking work to permit municipalities to reduce municipal tax rates on affordable rental housing properties, explore property tax changes for student housing, and improve

information and data sharing between the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and municipalities. AMO looks forward to continued engagement on the property tax review, and these specific measures to ensure that the property tax system continues to work for municipalities.

- Scope expansion on Bill 212: *Fighting Gridlock, Saving You Time Act*. It now proposes to give the province power to **remove existing bike lanes**. AMO's recent [policy update](#) on the Bill highlights how the province's overreach into municipal planning is ineffective and counterproductive. AMO will oppose this in its comments to standing committee.

The province has included stronger revenue and economic growth projections than were included in the 2024 Budget. The provincial fiscal foundations are in place for meaningful partnership with municipalities on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review.

On behalf of municipalities, AMO is calling on the provincial government to make investments that will improve the quality of life of Ontarians in communities across the province. Municipalities need a provincial partner that will:

- **Sustainably invest in public infrastructure** to support growth, improve transportation, and prepare for the impacts of climate change.
- **Reduce the province's \$4 billion reliance on municipal revenues to fund provincial programs**, like health and social services, so municipal tax dollars can go toward supporting thriving communities.
- **Take action on the root causes of homelessness** through investments in mental health and addictions programming and improved income security that allows people to keep a roof over their heads.

This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).

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Local Immigration Partnership - Lanark & Renfrew Newcomer Survey

Renfrew and Lanark Counties are enriched by the diverse contributions of immigrants, and your personal experience is a key part of that story. We want to hear from you about how welcoming, inclusive, and supportive these communities have been.

Through a mixed-method approach, we aim to gather insights that will help shape the work of local organizations, enhancing services and improving the overall experience for immigrants in these counties. The Newcomer Survey will be the first step, collecting quantitative data to capture how newcomers feel during their transition to a new environment. The data will then be analyzed using aggregate and proportional methods.

Following the survey, interviews will be conducted with a select group of participants to collect qualitative data. These interviews will be conducted via telephone or zoom, and participants will have the option to keep their cameras off. All interviews will be recorded with participants' consent, and the data will be securely stored and accessible only to the research team. The interview responses will be analyzed using a constant comparative method, ensuring that the voices and experiences of newcomers are deeply understood.

LIP's research officer will liaise with local partner organizations to distribute invitations for both the survey and interviews. The target population includes immigrants and newcomers living in the Eastern Ontario region, specifically Lanark and Renfrew Counties, using a simple purposive sample selection method. We expect to include 20-30 participants for the interviews, considering the smaller population size of immigrants in these counties.

The findings from both the survey and interviews will be anonymously included in a final report that will be shared on the LIP website. This report will help local organizations make informed decisions to foster more welcoming, inclusive communities.

Participation in the survey is voluntary, and we want to assure you that your responses will remain confidential. Only the research team will have access to the unprocessed data. By participating, you will have a chance to enter a draw for 1 of 5 \$200 gift cards (digital or handheld), which can be redeemed at one of three retailers selected during registration.

If you're 16 or older, were born outside of Canada, and now live, work, or study in Renfrew or Lanark Counties—whether as a permanent resident, Canadian citizen, refugee, temporary resident, refugee claimant, or international student—this survey is for you. You'll need about 10-15 minutes to complete it, and your name is only required if you wish to enter the prize draw.

We appreciate your time and participation in helping to make our communities more inclusive and supportive for everyone. Should you have any questions, prefer to complete the survey via phone or paper, or need assistance, please contact Gabriella at salerag@algonquincollege.com or (613) 735-4308 ext. 2878.

If reflecting on your experience brings up challenging emotions, we encourage you to access mental health resources available in Renfrew and Lanark Counties, which you can find [here](#).

Thank you for contributing to this important initiative!



Local Immigration Partnership
Partenariat local pour l'immigration
LANARK & RENFREW

localimmigrationpartnership@algonquincollege.com
[LIP Lanark & Renfrew Website](#)

NOTICE OF A RATE HEARING

Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied to increase its natural gas distribution rates

Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied to increase its natural gas rates effective April 1, 2025, to recover costs associated with meeting its obligations under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* and the regulations under the *Ontario Emissions Performance Standards*, as well as to recover other related account balances.

If the application is approved as filed, a typical residential customer of Enbridge Gas Inc. would see the following total annual increase:

EGD Rate Zone (2,400 m3)	\$70.84
Union South Rate Zone (2,200 m3)	\$63.83
Union North Rate Zone (2,200 m3)	\$64.10

For a typical residential customer, these increases include an annual bill increase arising from the 2025 carbon charges of \$68.71 (EGD) and \$62.98 (Union South and Union North); plus, a one-time charge of \$2.13 (EGD), \$0.85 (Union South) and \$1.12 (Union North) to recover the balances in the related deferral and variance accounts.

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

The federal government's *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* establishes a carbon pricing program under which a natural gas utility in Ontario, such as Enbridge Gas Inc., is required to pay a carbon charge to the federal government on the volume of natural gas that it delivers to its customers, and on the volume of natural gas used in the operation of Enbridge Gas Inc.'s natural gas distribution system. The federal carbon charge came into effect on April 1, 2019, has increased annually on April 1st between 2020 and 2024 and will increase again on April 1, 2025.

The *Ontario Emissions Performance Standards* program is the Ontario government's carbon pricing system for industrial emitters that came into effect on January 1, 2022, and replaced the federal government's Output-Based Pricing System in Ontario.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

This hearing will be held under section 78 of the **Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998**.

Ce document est aussi disponible en français.

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 Intervenors. 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 and use file number **EB-2024-0251** 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 **November 12th, 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.

LEARN MORE

Ontario Energy Board

☎/TTY: 1 877-632-2727

🕒 Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

🌐 oeb.ca/notice

Enbridge Gas Inc.

☎ 1 877-362-7434

🕒 Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

🌐 <https://www.enbridgegas.com/en/about-enbridge-gas/regulatory>

June 27, 2024

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

Sent via email: 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



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Resolution # RC24168	Meeting Order: 11
Moved by: <i>M Hatfield</i>	Seconded by: <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	MAYOR AND COUNCIL		
<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: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON <i>M. Pilon</i>	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL <i>Maury O'Neill</i>
---	--



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 19th, March 19th, and May 28th, 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 19th, 2024 Slide Deck – Summary of Input from the Membership – OFIA Meeting with the Hon. Graydon Smith

May 28th, 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



Northumberland County Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

October 21, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
Hon. Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Hon. David Piccini (Minister of Labour Immigration, Training and Skills Development and
MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Correspondence, Township of Stirling-Rawdon 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure

At a meeting held on October 16, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2024-10-16-717, adopting the below recommendation from the October 1, 2024 Corporate Support Committee meeting:

Moved by: Councillor John Logel
Seconded by: Council Alternate Michael Metcalf

"**That** the Corporate Support Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Stirling-Rawdon regarding 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland- Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Council Resolution # 2024-10-16-717

Carried

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at matherm@northumberland.ca or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely,
Maddison Mather



Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By J. Logel Agenda Item 10 Resolution Number 2024-10-16- 717
 Seconded By M. Metcalf


Council Date: October 16, 2024

"That Council adopt all recommendations from the four Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held September 30, 2024 and October 1 and 2, 2024), with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:

Committee Name	Item #	Description	Held By
		- Economic Development, Tourism and Land Use Planning Committee, Item 9.b, Correspondence, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 'Request to Repeal Official Plan Amendments Adopting By-law' – Held by Councillor Logel	
		- Public Works Committee, Item 9.a, Report 2024-122, 'Transfer of Thompson Bridge from Northumberland County to the Municipality of Trent Hills' – Held by Council Alternate Michael Metcalf.	
		- Social Services Committee, Item 5.a, Delegation, James Bisson 'Homelessness and Encampment Response Report' – Held by Deputy Warden Hankivsky	
		- Social Services Committee, Item 8.a(1), Delegation, Vivian Vandenhazel 'Encampment Response and Progress on 310 Division Street, Cobourg Update – Presentation' – Held by Councillor Cleveland	
		- Social Services Committee, Item 8.a(2), Encampment Response and Progress on 310 Division Street, Cobourg Update - Presentation – Held by Councillor Cleveland	

And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."

Recorded Vote Requested by _____
 Councillor's Name

Carried 
 Warden's Signature

Deferred _____
 Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
 Warden's Signature

Corporate Support Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: October 1, 2024

Agenda Item: 7.a

Resolution Number: 2024-10-01- 615

Moved by: S. Dibb

Seconded by: B. Ostrander

Council Meeting Date: October 16, 2024

"**That** the Corporate Support Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Stirling-Rawdon regarding 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland- Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried 
Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated _____
Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred _____
Committee Chair's Signature



2529 Stirling-Marmora Road
Box 40
Stirling, ON K0K 3E0
Phone: 613-395-3380 Fax: 613-395-0864

August 21, 2024

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Hon. Ford,

Re: Public Sector Salary Disclosure

At the August 6, 2024 Standing Committees meeting, Committee made the following recommendation:

Moved by Councillor Dean Graff
Seconded by Councillor Don Stewart

That the report from the CAO-Treasurer entitled, "Public Sector Salary Disclosure" be received; and

That Committee recommends to Council the following resolution be adopted and forwarded to the Province of Ontario Premier's Office, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act be updated to reflect the inflation rates since 1996; and further

That the Act be further updated so that the inflation rate is applied each year to the requirement to report public salaries.

Carried.

This resolution was subsequently ratified and confirmed by Council at their meeting of August 19, 2024.

Sincerely,

Sydney Dodson
Deputy Clerk

/sd

Cc: Roxanne Hearn – CAO/Treasurer, Premier Doug Ford, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, all Ontario Municipalities



TOWN OF PETAWAWA

1111 Victoria Street, Petawawa, Ontario K8H 2E6
☎ (613) 687-5536 ✉ email@petawawa.ca 🌐 petawawa.ca

October 25, 2024

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Via email: premier@ontario.ca

Premier Ford:

RE: Ontario Provincial Police Costs 2025

Please be advised that at its meeting of October 21, 2024, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petawawa endorsed the following resolution:

MOVED BY: James Carmody
SECONDED BY: Theresa Sabourin

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petawawa supports Resolution No. 229 of the Municipality of Tweed and further calls 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, Minister of Solicitor General, Minister of Finance, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

The Town of Petawawa appreciates the Province's attention to the financial challenges faced by small rural municipalities and looks forward to a collaborative solution.

Sincerely,

Colin Howard, Dipl.M.M., Bus.Admin.
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Encl: Municipality of Tweed Resolution No. 229

cc: The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Municipalities of Ontario
Neil Nicholson, Mayor, Township of Whitewater Region

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), Minister of Solicitor General, Minister of Finance, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca) and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Oliver Jacob

From: De Bartolo, Betty <BDeBartolo@aurora.ca> on behalf of Mrakas, Tom <TMrakas@aurora.ca>
Sent: October 29, 2024 2:39 PM
To: Mrakas, Tom
Subject: Motion - Fair Share

Good day Elected Official,

For many years, we have advocated for our fair share of funding from both Provincial and Federal governments. Through FCM and AMO, we've pushed for reforms and for sustainable, predictable funding for municipal infrastructure. With both Provincial and Federal elections approaching, I believe it's time for us to unite and propose a solution for municipalities' fair share.

As we're asked to meet growth targets, our municipalities urgently need predictable, long-term funding to support critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public transit. We need all levels of government to collaborate on a solution that doesn't rely solely on property taxes to fund essential infrastructure in our communities. That's why we're calling on the Province to allocate a portion of the Land Transfer Tax, and on the Federal Government to allocate a portion of the GST from new home sales—no new taxes, just a fair distribution of our own funds for our communities!

Bellow is a Motion I respectfully ask you to bring forward at your council.

This motion ensures that we have the resources to build and maintain the infrastructure that keeps our municipalities running smoothly, without increasing property taxes.

Please consider adding this Motion to your Council agendas. It is essential that our collective voices are heard. Local governments deserve predictable, long-term funding to support critical infrastructure. Together, we can build a brighter future for all Ontarians.

Motion: Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

Whereas municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and

Whereas the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and

Whereas the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

Whereas redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to

municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

Whereas a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That _____ Municipality _____ Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That _____ Municipality _____ Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and

3. Be It Further Resolved That this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and

4. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and

5. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Regards,

Tom Mrakas
Mayor Town of Aurora
416-543-1624



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