



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: January 13th, 2025**

Correspondence Package No. I-25-JAN-01

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-25-JAN-01 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Emergency Management Ontario – Proposed Amendments to Modernize the EMCPA
- b) Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Municipal Codes of Conduct
- c) Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Support for Homelessness Prevention and Encampments
- d) Ontario Connecting People to Dementia Care and Supports for Caregivers
- e) Ontario Continuing to Build a More Connected and Convenient Health Care System
- f) Ontario Appoints Third-Party Advisor to Lead Review of OMERS
- g) Ontario Investing \$20 Million to Revitalize Downtown Ottawa
- h) Ontario Supporting Seniors and Their Caregivers
- i) Ontario Adding 100 New Family Doctors in Rural and Northern Communities
- j) Ontario Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Emergency Management
- k) Ontario Restoring Safety to Parks and Public Spaces
- l) Ontario Introducing Legislation to Strengthen Local Governance
- m) Premier Doug Ford Launches Ontario Corps

- n) Ontario Protecting Firefighters from Cancer-Causing Chemicals
- o) Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2025
- p) Ontario Approves Transition of Nine Drug Injection Sites into Treatment Hubs
- q) Ontario Launches “Operation Deterrence” to Strengthen Security Along Ontario-U.S. Border

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) Construction Update for December 2024
- b) Algonquin Trail extension through Garrison Petawawa complete
- c) Renfrew Reeve Peter Emon re-elected to seventh term as Warden
- d) Algonquin Trail joins Trans Canada Trail
- e) Local businesses donate to Mesa Warming Centre

3. Correspondence from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit

- a) RCDHU Encourages Families to Update Immunization Records for School-aged Children

4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) AMO Policy Update – Gender-Based Violence Toolkit
- b) AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, Advocacy on Water, Recent Bills and Building Officials
- c) AMO Policy Update – Homelessness Encampments Legislation
- d) AMO Policy Update – Municipal Codes of Conduct Legislation
- e) AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Key Messages for Use at ROMA Delegations, Conservation Authority Fees, Energy Supply and Distribution Plans, Environmental Bill
- f) Watch File – December 5th, 2024
- g) Watch File – December 12th, 2024
- h) Watch File – December 19th, 2024

5. Correspondence from Entreprise Renfrew County

- a) [Free Webinars in Early 2025](#)
- b) [Women's Circle Programme Series](#)

6. Correspondence from Arnprior Public Library

- a) [Holiday Edition Newsletter](#)

7. Correspondence from Northern Ontario Women's Caucus

- a) [Call for MPP Resignation \(Michael Mantha\)](#)

8. Correspondence from Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO)

- a) [OACAO Applauds the Government of Ontario for Increasing Funding and Expanding Access to Seniors Active Living Centres Programs](#)

9. Town of Arnprior Correspondence

- a) [Public Notice – Minor Variance Application No. A13/24 and Consent Application No. B10/24 \(245 Daniel Street South\)](#)
- b) [Public Notice – Minor Variance Application No. A14-24 \(30 Daniel Street North\)](#)
- c) [Public Notice – Minor Variance Application No. A4-21 \(235 Arthur Street\)](#)

10. Resolutions from Other Municipalities

- a) [Township of Puslinch – Pre-Budget Announcement](#)
- b) [City of Guelph – Fees for Use of Municipal Property by Natural Gas Distributors](#)
- c) [City of Markham – SolveTheCrisis.ca Campaign on Homelessness](#)
- d) [Municipality of Kincardine – Property Tax Implications Related to Non-Market Valuation of Electricity Industry Properties](#)

Treasury Board Secretariat

Secrétariat du conseil du trésor

Emergency Management Ontario

gestion des situations d'urgence

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DATE: December 9, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO: Emergency Management Partners

FROM: Bernie Derible
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency
Management
Emergency Management Ontario

SUBJECT: **Proposed Amendments to Modernize the
*Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act***

I am pleased to share an update on an important milestone in modernizing emergency management in the province.

On December 9, 2024, the government [introduced Bill 238, the Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2024](#). This bill proposes amendments to modernize the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA).

The EMCPA is Ontario's legislative framework for emergency management. The EMCPA and its regulations have not been comprehensively updated in more than 15 years. With an increasingly complex emergency management landscape, it is more important than ever to ensure that Ontario is safe, practiced and prepared.

Proposed Amendments to the EMCPA

If passed, the proposed amendments to the EMCPA would strengthen provincial leadership and co-ordination of emergency management. It would also support enhanced community capacity in emergency management to ensure Ontario is ready for the challenges of today and the future.

Proposed amendments to the EMCPA if passed, would:

- Support a unified understanding of emergency management across Ontario.
- Strengthen provincial leadership and co-ordination by facilitating the role of Emergency Management Ontario as the one window for co-ordinating provincial emergency management activities.

- Strengthen planning and co-ordination with emergency management partners, including by outlining the ability to enter into agreements and liaise with public and private sector partners, including municipalities, Indigenous communities and other governments.
- Support municipal emergency management by enabling regulations to allow flexibility for municipal emergency management programs based on needs and capacity, as well as clarify processes for municipal declarations of emergency and requests for assistance.
- Enable a future emergency management program and plan requirements to be established for designated entities that provide or operate critical infrastructure, subject to further engagement with partners, to support continuity of services and operations.

Partner and Stakeholder Feedback

The proposed amendments to the EMCPA are informed by feedback from partners, best practices in emergency management and lessons learned from past emergencies. Over the summer of 2024, Emergency Management Ontario directly engaged over 480 partners and stakeholders through 45 engagements and received 90 written submissions on the [publicly posted discussion guide](#). I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the valuable feedback received.

Emergency Management Ontario is committed to ongoing engagement with our partners and the people of Ontario to ensure we are effectively supporting our collective vision of a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario. The proposed amendments are posted on the [Ontario Regulatory Registry and the Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) for review and feedback.

Phased Implementation Approach

If passed, Emergency Management Ontario would continue to engage partners throughout the phased implementation of proposed amendments and to support regulatory development. This would include ongoing support and guidance on what would be needed to implement required emergency management programs and plans.

If you have any questions, please contact the Emergency Management Policy and Governance Branch at EMOPolicy@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for your valued partnership as we work together to ensure the safety and wellbeing of communities across Ontario.

Best always,



Bernie Derible
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management
Emergency Management Ontario in Treasury Board Secretariat

Cc:

Eric Everett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Strategy, Monitoring and Intelligence Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat

Heather Levecque, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Operations Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat

Lisa Priest, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Preparedness, Programs and Planning Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat

Michelle Astill, Director, Emergency Management Policy and Governance Branch, Emergency Management Strategy, Monitoring and Intelligence Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
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Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2024-5801

December 12, 2024

Dear Head of Council,

I am pleased to inform you of the introduction of the proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024 on December 12, 2024, which, if passed, would make changes to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and *City of Toronto Act, 2006* to strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework.

I appreciate the valuable feedback we have received from municipalities and share your commitment to safe and respectful workplaces. The proposed changes, if passed, would:

- enable the creation of a standard municipal code of conduct and standard municipal integrity commissioner investigation processes to help ensure consistency across all Ontario municipalities;
- create a role for the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario in municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner matters, including providing training to municipal integrity commissioners; and
- establish a mechanism to remove and disqualify members of council and certain local boards for a period of four years for the most serious code of conduct violations following a recommendation from the local integrity commissioner, a concurring report from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, and a unanimous vote of council.

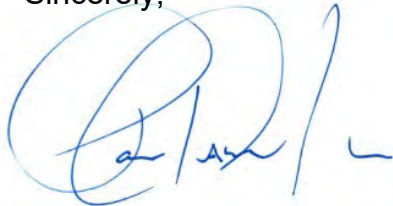
In the coming months, I will want to hear your feedback on the Bill as well as other matters regarding local accountability regimes. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, where we will have the opportunity to discuss these changes and other matters of importance to your communities.

If passed, important work to develop the regulations to support this new framework would lie ahead, and I remain committed to engaging with you throughout that process. Our intention is to have these changes in effect for the new term of councils beginning in Fall 2026 to ensure there is adequate opportunity for local implementation.

For more information on these amendments, please see the [news release](#). To share your comments on the proposed legislation, please see a posting on the [Regulatory Registry](#) that will be open for comments for 60 days.

If you have any questions regarding these new provisions, please contact your local [Municipal Services Office](#) with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Sincerely,



Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c: Jessica Lippert, Chief of Staff
 Owen Macri, Deputy Chief of Staff
 Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
 Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
 Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Services Division
 Municipal Clerks and CAOs

**Ministry of
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234-224-5838

December 13, 2024

Dear Head of Council:

Our government recently announced that we are better protecting community safety and making investments to further support homelessness prevention and provide people living in encampments with access to reasonable alternative accommodation. With this [announcement](#), we are responding to the calls for action to address encampments in our communities and restore safety to public spaces.

We are taking a strategic approach to increase resources to support and provide more long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments, including:

- **\$5.5 million** to top-up the **Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)** to immediately free-up emergency shelter spaces for people living in encampments by helping people living in shelters move into longer-term housing.
- **\$20 million** to expand shelter capacity and create additional temporary accommodation spaces, like tiny modular units and climate-controlled semi-permanent structures, to provide people living in encampments with accessible alternative living options
- **\$50 million** in last-mile funding for ready-to-build long-term affordable housing projects across the province. This funding will be allocated based on how close a project is to completion, as well as its value for money, to help projects near completion but, in need of targeted additional funding, to open their doors faster.

Let me be clear that it is my expectation that this funding is tied to clearing out encampments. The intent is to provide funding to municipalities that demonstrate their commitment to and show results in winding down these sites. **In order for your municipality to be considered for additional funding, the Ministry must receive a written pledge from the local Service Manager to use the funds towards ending encampments in your region.**

The additional funding will be supported by new reporting and accountability requirements to ensure these funds support the shared provincial and municipal goal of ending encampments by providing safe and stable housing for people at risk of homelessness. I encourage you to work closely with municipal and community partners in the coming weeks. Please share eligible funding proposals with your Service Manager, who is to forward these to the Ministry for our consideration.

This investment complements:

- proposed amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act*, which applies to private businesses, offices, stores, hotels, parks, and vacant land.
- These amendments, if passed, will enhance penalties for people who deliberately and continually break the law by adding the new aggravating factors of continuous trespassing and the likelihood to reoffend.
- the new *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2024* that will, if passed, allow police officers and other provincial offences officers to direct individuals to stop using illegal substances or to leave the public space. This will allow them to issue a ticket or arrest someone who does not comply, providing an important additional tool to stop the consumption of illegal drugs in public spaces.

While these new tools address public safety directly, we know these additional investments in shelter and housing are critical for people to move along their journey to stable housing and will move us closer to our long-term goals of everyone having a place to call home.

Our government is working with all our partners across the province to keep the most vulnerable members of our society safe and housed. Ontario has dedicated \$700 million annually since 2023 to address homelessness through the Homelessness Prevention Program and the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program. This funding is part of the nearly \$1.7 billion Ontario invested in 2023-24 to grow and enhance community and supportive housing and address homelessness for vulnerable Ontarians.

Call for Business Case Applications

To access funding under the **Encampment Response Initiative** and the **Last Mile**, Service Managers who have provided a pledge are invited to submit business case applications for Ministry consideration. Please refer to the Ministry-prescribed templates attached for further guidelines.

The COHB top-up is not applicable to your Service Manager area given priority needs in other communities. This initiative for selected communities will expand shelter capacity and create additional temporary accommodation spaces to provide people living in encampments with accessible alternative living options.

Encampment Response Initiative (Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP))

The new **Encampment Response Initiative** supports urgent expansion of shelter capacity by providing funding to support the creation of additional alternative emergency accommodations to be offered to individuals in encampments through temporary structures such as tiny cabins and sprung structures.

This funding may also be used for operations of these shelters and remediation of encampment sites up to March 31, 2025. Funding will flow through Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Transfer Payment Agreements to approved Service Managers.

Project proposals will be evaluated based on criteria outlined in the attached business case template and should include:

- Demonstrated capacity to expand temporary shelter availability and provide alternative accommodations quickly through temporary sprung structures, tiny cabins, and other similar structures.
- Clear implementation strategy including partnerships with grassroots level agencies to move individuals from encampments to shelters.
- Plans for encampment site restoration efforts, where applicable.

As a part of the business case, Service Managers will also be required to provide an estimate of the existing number of unique encampment sites and the encampment residents within them. In addition to providing the Ministry with monthly updated reporting on the number of encampments and estimated number of encampment residents, Service Managers will be required to report on how many residents have been moved from encampments to shelter and housing.

The business case must be completed in the Ministry-prescribed templates attached to this letter and submitted as an attachment to your HPP Investment Plan (IP) 2024-25 case in the Transfer Payment Ontario System (TPON) no later than **January 3, 2025, at 5 p.m.**

Last Mile Funding

The Ministry is aware that municipalities across the province have affordable and supportive housing projects that are in advanced stages of construction where the injection of extra funds into these projects could lead to their faster completion. Service Managers are expected to work with the municipalities and non-profit organizations in your service area to identify such projects and submit them through the business case process for consideration of the Ministry's funding approval. The Ministry encourages heads of council to work with their Service Managers to identify project proposals for potential funding. The Ministry expects that all municipally endorsed proposals shared with Service Managers will be forwarded to the Ministry for its consideration. There is no restriction on the number of business cases that you can submit to the Ministry for funding consideration.

Proposed projects must be:

- Commitment-ready, with the ability to sign a contribution agreement and provide security within the fiscal year;
- Shovel-ready, with construction activities able to commence within 120 days of signing the contribution agreement;
- Able to demonstrate value for money; and
- Align with current Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) guidelines.

Last Mile Funding business cases must be completed in the Ministry-prescribed template attached to this letter and submitted as attachments to your COCHI-OPHI Investment Plan (IP) **2023-24** case in TPON no later than **January 10, 2025, at 5 p.m.**

The Ministry reserves the right to allocate funding under these initiatives at its sole discretion based on the review and evaluation of business case submissions. Any communication regarding additional funding must remain confidential until publicly announced by the province. We appreciate your commitment to our shared goal of restoring safety to our public spaces and expect this additional funding to help address the immediate crisis.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

cc. Burke Christian, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community and Supportive Housing Division,
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

One-Time — Shelter Expansion / Encampment Response Initiative Funding under the Homelessness Prevention Program (2024-2025)

Business Case Template for Service Manager (SMs)

Submission Deadline: January 3, 2025, 5 p.m

Introduction

To be considered for one-time funding under the Encampment Response Initiative, Service Managers (SMs) are invited to submit business cases for proposals aimed at providing temporary shelter expansion and site restoration of former encampments. Proposals must demonstrate readiness to rapidly implement.

The intent funding is to support the creation of temporary structures (e.g., tiny modular units, temporary sprung structures, etc.) and expand shelter capacity to provide urgent accessible accommodations for individuals living in encampments. Funding may also be used for operations of the temporary shelters and encampment site restoration up to March 31, 2025.

See Appendix A for a high-level list of eligible expenses.

See Appendix B for reporting requirements.

Note: Following review of the submitted business cases, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) will notify successful Service Managers that they have been selected for Encampment Response Initiative funding and communicate next steps. To ensure alignment with eligible expenditures and other requirements, MMAH reserves the right to request a Service Manager to revise and resubmit its business case. Any use of Encampment Response Initiative funding must be in accordance with a Service Manager's business case, as approved by MMAH. The approved business case may be appended to the Service Manager's agreement with MMAH.

Business Case Questions

1. Project Overview
a. What is the name of your proposal?
b. What is the full address of the proposed site? i. Do you have access to the land (Yes/No). If no, please specify date by when you will have access.
c. What is the address of the existing encampment site that this project aims to help transition individuals to other housing options? How many individuals are residing at this encampment?? If the project is focused on multiple encampment sites, please provide details for each site.
d. What type of temporary structure(s) are proposed for the project? (e.g., tiny modular units, sprung structures, factory-built units, etc.)
e. How many temporary shelter spaces will be created? (Specify total capacity, type, and features designed for individuals to support them to transition from encampments.)
f. How will barriers faced by individuals in encampments access shelter be address (e.g., couples; families; pets; accessibility, etc.)

2. Alignment with Objectives
a. How does the proposal align with the goal of expanding shelter capacity?
b. How does the proposal address the needs of individuals currently living in encampments?
c. Does the proposal include plans for encampment site restoration? If yes, provide details (e.g., location of encampment; activities to be undertaken, costs, etc.).

d. What specific local or regional challenges does this proposal aim to address?

3. Implementation Plan
a. What is the proposed timeline for the proposal? If there are operating costs included in the proposal, please note that this will only available be available operational costs incurred prior to March 31, 2025).
b. How long do you anticipate these temporary shelters will be operational for? Is there a plan to transition these shelters for long-term use?
c. Do you plan to partner with local organizations or agencies? If yes, specify the organizations and their roles.
d. What is the strategy for moving individuals from encampments to these newly created shelter units?
e. What are the risks associated with the implementation of this proposal? Describe them and the mitigation strategies.

4. Milestones			
Item	N/A	Complete	(Estimated) Completion Date
Council/Board Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Site Plan Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Site Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
First available Building Permit (i.e. staged permits: excavation, foundation etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Site Activity Start	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Confirmation of Occupancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. Financial	
Item	Value (\$)
Cost of the Proposal	
Land Acquisition Costs	
Hard Costs (labour, construction materials, structure, site preparation etc.)	
Soft Costs (legal, insurance, taxes, fees, etc.)	
Restoration costs of encampment site	
Operating cost to March 31, 2025	
Other Cost – Specify	
Total Cost of the Proposal	\$
Financing for the Proposal	
Funding from the Shelter Expansion / Encampment Response Initiative	
Other Funding Sources (Specify Source and if Funding is Secured): (Add additional rows, as needed)	
[Specify Source and if Funding is Secured]	\$
Total Financing for the Proposal	\$

Note – Total Project Financing must equal Total Project Cost

6. Operational Sustainability
a. What are the estimated annual operating costs for the proposal? Please note: funding for this initiative will only cover operating-based costs up to March 31, 2025.
b. Are these costs planned for the long-term, if so, how will these costs be funded?
c. Will support services be provided to occupants? If yes, specify the services and funding sources.

7. Additional Context
a. Provide additional information (if any) to support your application.
b. Are there unique aspects of your proposal? If yes, please provide details.

Appendix A: Eligible Costs

Eligible costs include:

- Conversion of an existing property and/or expansion of an existing facility to create additional emergency shelter spaces.
- Temporary modular units, sprung structures, or similar structures to increase emergency shelter capacity:
 - Site preparation, operation and maintenance costs may be included up to March 31, 2025.
- A portion of project costs may include site restoration costs for encampment sites once individuals are relocated to the new expanded shelter capacity.

Ineligible Costs Include:

- Beds provided in hotels/motels and vouchers for hotels/motels
- Operational costs incurred beyond March 31, 2025

Appendix B: Reporting Requirements

Performance Reporting Requirements

If funding is approved, Service Managers will be required to report on the outcomes of their project(s) using the following indicators. This will allow the ministry to track progress towards the goals of reducing homelessness and providing housing to unsheltered individuals.

Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Frequency and Source of Data Collection
Additional capacity is created to shelter people in encampments	Number of spaces/beds created in shelter facilities	Annual; TBC
People in encampments are moved to other accommodations (shelter and housing)	Number of individuals in encampments moved to shelter facilities	Monthly; TBC
	Number of individuals in encampments moved to housing	Monthly; TBC
Proportion of people who stay in encampments is reduced among Service Managers participating in Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) program	Number of individuals who are staying in encampments across Ontario	Monthly; Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Monthly Emergency Shelter Survey
Number of unique encampments is reduced among Service Managers participating in HPP program	Number of unique encampment sites across Ontario	Monthly; Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Monthly Emergency Shelter Survey

Financial Reporting Requirements

- Monthly financial reporting (February 2025 and March 2025) will be required. The ministry will provide successful funding recipients with a reporting template.

“Ready-to-Build” Housing Projects Service Managers/Indigenous Program Administrators Business Case

Introduction

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recognizes the potential to accelerate the completion of affordable and supportive housing projects in advanced construction stages through additional funding.

As a Service Manager, you are expected to work with the municipalities and non-profit organizations in your service area to identify such projects and submit them through the business case process for consideration of the Ministry’s funding approval.

The Ministry is also reaching out to heads of council for all municipalities and encouraged them to work with their Service Managers to identify projects proposals for potential funding. The Ministry expects that all municipally endorsed proposals shared with Service Managers will be forwarded to the Ministry for its consideration. There is no restriction on the number of business cases that you can submit to the Ministry for funding consideration.

The Ministry will evaluate business cases based on established criteria and prioritize projects that are aligned with provincial goals.

Key Requirements

- Projects must broadly align with the National Housing Strategy (NHS) program requirements, including affordability and rent criteria, contributing to the rent-assisted unit expansion target.
- Projects should be “ready-to-build”, or under construction but are in need of targeted additional funding to advance to completion.
- Submissions must follow the business case template to provide all necessary details for evaluation.

Submission Guidelines

- Attach your business cases to your COCHI-OPHI Investment Plan (IP) 2024-25 in the Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) system under the attachment type “Priority Projects for Municipalities Business Case.”
- Submit business cases by **January 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

MMAH Contacts for Questions

If you have any questions regarding the completion of this business case, please contact your respective MMAH Municipal Services Office (MSO) or Housing Programs Branch staff contact, as noted below:

City of Toronto: Melissa Doyle	Melissa.Doyle@ontario.ca
Indigenous Program Administrators (IPAs): Kathy McLachlan	Kathy.McLachlan@ontario.ca
MSO Central: Luigi Di Palma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving: Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Muskoka, Niagara, Peel, Simcoe, and York 	Luigi.Dipalma@ontario.ca
MSO Western: Cynthia Cabral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving: Brantford, Bruce, Chatham-Kent, Dufferin, Grey, Huron, Lambton, London, Norfolk, Oxford, St. Thomas, Stratford, Waterloo, Wellington, and Windsor 	Cynthia.Cabral@ontario.ca
MSO Northeastern: Cindy Couillard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving: Algoma, Cochrane, Greater Sudbury, Manitoulin-Sudbury, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sault Ste. Marie, and Timiskaming 	Cindy.Couillard@ontario.ca
MSO Northwestern: Jessica Vail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving: Kenora, Rainy River, and Thunder Bay 	Jessica.Vail@ontario.ca
MSO Eastern: Mila Kolokolnikova <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving: Cornwall, Hastings, Kawartha Lakes, Kingston, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Lennox and Addington, Northumberland, Ottawa, Peterborough, Prescott and Russell, and Renfrew 	Mila.Kolokolnikova@ontario.ca

Business Case Questions

Please ensure that the project business case is clear and concise to minimize the need for follow-ups. The business case can be completed by the Service Manager, municipality, or proponent, but it must be submitted to the Ministry by the Service Manager.

<p>1. Provide a concise overview of the project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Project name/location:b. Project proponent:c. Proponent type:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Corporation<input type="checkbox"/> Co-operative<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Non-Profit<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality<input type="checkbox"/> Private For-Profit<input type="checkbox"/> Private Non-Profit<input type="checkbox"/> Otherd. A detailed description of the building and any innovative or special features or amenitiese. The number of units (both market & affordable)f. Target client groups, including any priority populations such as individuals experiencing homelessness or those on social assistance.
<p>2. Explain the criteria and process used to select this project for submission. Ensure you include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. How the project addresses the “Last Mile” funding criteria for timeliness and viability.b. Alignment with provincial priorities such as value for money, geographic considerations, and innovative construction methods.
<p>3. Identify the specific community needs you are addressing with this proposed project. Provide evidence or data supporting needs, including the demand for affordable housing and alignment with local and regional housing strategies.</p>

4. Provide a summary on the project proponent's experience and background. If applicable, include details about partnerships with other organizations including the nature and structure of these partnerships.

Construction Readiness			
Milestone	N/A	Complete	(Estimated) Completion Date
If this project will be built on existing Social Housing lands, SM consent is required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Contribution Agreement Signed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Council/Board Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Site Plan Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Site Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
First available Building Permit (i.e. staged permits: excavation, foundation etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Construction Start	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Structural Framing or 50% Completion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Confirmation of Occupancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Financial	
Item	Value (\$)
Project Cost (for all Units)	
Land Costs	
Construction or Hard Costs (labour, construction materials, equipment, etc.)	
Soft Costs (legal, architecture, engineering, insurance, taxes, fees, etc.)	
Total Project Costs for all Units (A)	\$
Total Number of Units for Project (B)	
Cost per Unit (A/B)	\$
Number of Affordable Units for Funding Request (C)	
Project Financing (for all Units)	
Other Funding Sources (Specify Source and if Funding is Secured): (Add additional rows, as needed)	
[Specify Source and if Funding is Secured]	\$

Program Funding Request (D)	
Total Project Financing (E)	\$
Program Funding per Affordable Housing Unit (D/C)	\$

Units and Rents information (click on the embedded Excel document to provide the information).



UNIT & RENT
INFORMATION

5. Describe the measures taken to ensure the project costs are reasonable and align with comparable projects in the area?
6. Can the project be scaled down to proceed with a reduced funding amount? If yes, provide specifics on how this would be implemented.
7. Estimate the annual operating costs for the project and outline how these costs will be managed or funded over the long-term.
8. Will the project include support services to tenants? If yes, detail the support services offered and specify the sources of funding for these support services.
9. Use this section to include any additional information or context that would support the evaluation of your business case.

Signature:

Service Manager:

Date:

Ontario Connecting People to Dementia Care and Supports for Caregivers

Province proposing new legislative changes to expand supports for seniors and caregivers

December 02, 2024

[Long-Term Care](#)

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government will soon introduce legislation that, if passed, will better connect seniors and their caregivers to complex care supports, including enhanced dementia supports, as well as increasing access to community and social programs that help seniors stay fit, active and healthy in their communities.

"Our government is putting forward bold, innovative changes to ensure Ontario's seniors receive the best possible care," said Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care. "That's why we will soon be taking further steps to support and protect seniors living with dementia and the loved ones that take care of them, whether they are living in their family homes, congregate settings or long-term care."

As part of the [Your Health](#) plan to conveniently connect people in Ontario to the care they need, when and where they need it, the government is introducing proposed changes that invest almost \$80 million over three years to improve dementia care and supports to improve the well-being of seniors, their caregivers and families, including:

Improving Dementia Care in Ontario

- Requiring all long-term care homes to have a dementia program, with an investment of \$9 million over three years to launch a new program to train staff in emotion-based models of care that prioritize relationships and empathy in a culture of dignity and respect when caring for residents living with dementia. The new program is expected to train staff in up to 15 long-term care homes in its first year, serving more than 1,800 residents.

- \$15 million over two years to launch Community Access to Long-Term Care that will give seniors still living in their own homes access to certain services in long-term care homes, such as personal care, clinical services, and recreational and social programming. In the first year, the pilot is expected to launch at up to three sites
- \$9 million over three years to continue support of the Alzheimer Society of Ontario's First Link program and the Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County's Dementia Care Coaches. These programs connect people diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia to advisors who can connect them with a range of supports, including home and community care services, behavioural supports, and adult day programs.
- \$6 million over three years to continue support for GeriMedRisk, which provides telemedicine consultation and education services for clinicians in Ontario.

Supports for Seniors, Families, and Caregivers

- \$20 million over three years to expand adult day programs, which offer social programming and peer connections, helping reduce isolation for seniors, including those with dementia.
- \$20 million over three years to expand access to respite services, to support the caregivers of people living with dementia. Respite services provide those living with dementia recreational activities, adult day programs, or substitute living arrangements, to allow their caregivers to have a much-needed break.

"Our government is continuing to take action to ensure that Ontarians have access to the health care and services they need, at every stage of life," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This investment will improve access to high-quality dementia care across the province, allowing more seniors and their loved ones to connect to the compassionate services and supports they need, in their community."

These changes are part of a larger proposed package that will take actions to meet the needs of Ontario's aging population and better support the people who care for seniors by improving and expanding supports for seniors living in long-term care, congregate settings and in the community.

Quick Facts

- By 2046, there will be [1.7 million more seniors](#) living in Ontario.
- According to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, the number of people living with dementia is [expected to triple by 2050](#).

- As part of its plan to fix long-term care and address sector waitlists, the government is building 58,000 new and upgraded long-term care beds across the province.
- Ontario is offering [incentives of up to \\$25,400](#) to students and recent graduates of personal support worker education programs to launch careers in long-term care homes and in the home and community care sector.
- The Ontario government is investing up to \$4.9 billion to create thousands of new positions for personal support workers and nurses in long-term care.

Quotes

"Supporting initiatives that strengthen our community and enhance the lives of seniors remains a top priority for our government. This investment will significantly improve the care and treatment of seniors living with dementia and provide vital support to their caregivers and families in Ontario."

- Lorne Coe
MPP for Whitby and Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier

"AdvantAge Ontario applauds today's landmark investments by the provincial government. For years we have been asking for measures to support older adults with dementia. Today the government made it clear they are listening. Ontario seniors, their families and those who care for them will benefit from the transformational investments in emotion-focused care, which is a game-changing approach for those with dementia. Older adults will also benefit from significant investments in community access to care by leveraging long-term care homes. Taken together, these coordinated investments by three ministries are commendable and worth celebrating."

- Lisa Levin
CEO, AdvantAge Ontario

"With this further support from the Ontario government our Adult Day Programs can get seniors out of their homes and enrich their well-being and quality of life in a welcoming atmosphere. These investments will help give caregivers a critical break, giving them time to recharge or attend to other responsibilities, knowing their loved ones are in good hands. Investments in these programs will help reduce our waitlists, support seniors, their families, and caregivers, providing relief and peace of mind."

- James Meloche
CEO, Community Care Durham

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building a Strong Ontario Together](#)

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Ontario Continuing to Build a More Connected and Convenient Health Care System

New legislation will strengthen governance and transparency, enhance patient care and improve service delivery

December 02, 2024

[Health](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the *More Convenient Care Act, 2024*, which would, if passed, take the next step in the province's plan to provide more people with the right publicly funded care, in the right place by building healthier communities, and bolstering the province's health care workforce today and in the future.

"With the *More Convenient Care Act*, our government is taking the next steps to improve how the health care system connects people to high-quality care, at every stage of life," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "With this legislation, we are continuing to bring forward bold actions and innovative solutions to create a stronger, more connected health care system."

Included in the package of proposed initiatives, the government would deliver on its commitment to support the voluntary mergers of nine Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) into four new entities. These mergers will address long-standing issues in Ontario's public health sector, such as capacity limitations, organizational performance inconsistencies and challenges with staff recruitment and retention of health care staff. The province is also working with public health partners to clarify the roles and responsibilities of public health units to build healthier communities across the province.

Other legislative and regulatory changes being proposed in order to connect more people to convenient care, close to home, include:

Strengthening Governance and Transparency

- Creating a transparency framework for staffing agencies that operate in the hospital, long-term care and community health sectors, to disclose

administrative mark-up rates to the government through the new *Health Care Staffing Agency Reporting Act, 2024*.

- Enhancing hospital governance by working with the sector to define best practices, ensuring providers across the province have access to the tools and resources they need to deliver high-quality care.

Enhancing Patient Care

- Modernizing the provincial electronic health record (EHR) as the next step to being able to provide eligible Ontarians with safe, secure and direct access to their personal health information online through Health811 next year.
- Allowing nurse practitioners to complete and sign mandatory blood testing forms to expand access to care for people submitting applications, including victims of crimes, correctional officers, members of the College of Nurses of Ontario, medical or nursing students, and paramedics.
- Exploring options that would support consistent and quality mental health and addiction services by better understanding the variety of services provided by this workforce.
- Reviewing the ambulance vehicle and equipment standards to enhance patient safety and make it faster for paramedics to access the tools they need to deliver emergency care.

Improving Service Delivery

- Strengthening the authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to promote greater alignment, and consistency when issuing orders to local Chief Medical Officers of health across different health regions.
- Updating public health regulations for public pools, zoonotic diseases, and diseases of public health significance to reduce burden and align with best evidence.

If passed, the [More Convenient Care Act, 2024](#) builds on the [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), to connect Ontarians to the care right care, where and when they need it.

Quick Facts

- The voluntary mergers of nine LPHAs into four will include:
 - Porcupine Health Unit and Timiskaming Health Unit
 - Brant County Health Unit and Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
 - Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Peterborough County-City Health Unit

- Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit and Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
- Last year, the Ontario government released [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#) to bring more convenient care options closer to home while shortening wait times for key services across the province and growing the health care workforce for years to come.
- Since [expanding the role of registered nurses to prescribe medications](#), 291 registered nurses have completed the required training and are authorized to prescribe.
- The province also continues to expand the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, [recently announcing new changes](#) to make it faster and more convenient to connect people to the care they need, when they need it. Ontario is investing \$743 million over three years to continue to address immediate health care staffing needs, as well as to grow the workforce for years to come.
- Across government and in collaboration with the Ontario Medical Association, the government is reviewing key forms to streamline and simplify them, minimize any duplication, and identify opportunities for digital solutions, while helping doctors put [patients before paperwork](#).

Quotes

"We are taking bold, government-wide action to modernize service delivery and strengthen systems that Ontarians rely on every day. The passage of our Ministry's Bill 194 last week reinforces our government's commitment to protecting personal information and ensuring the responsible use of data in hospitals, schools, and public institutions. These measures align closely with the goals of the More Convenient Care Act, which builds a more connected and transparent health care system. Together, we are creating a future where technology, data security, and innovative solutions come together to enhance government services, strengthen public trust, and support better health care for all Ontarians."

- Todd McCarthy

Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

"The proposed changes will strengthen Ontario's long-term care sector and ensure transparency. Our government understands the challenges facing the health care sector and is working to ensure Ontario's investments result in the highest quality of care for residents."

**- Natalia Kusendova-Bashta
Minister of Long-Term Care**

"The Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) supports the move by this government to review the vehicle and equipment standards for paramedic services. This will reduce weight in paramedic bags as well as waste due to expiring medications. Reviewing the vehicle standards will allow for smaller ambulances and open up more options for paramedic services to take advantage of new vehicle design and technology."

**- Greg Sage
President, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC)**

"The Police Association of Ontario supports the Ministry of Health's decision to expand the Mandatory Blood Testing Act to include nurse practitioners in authorizing mandatory blood tests. This change enhances the efficiency and accessibility of a critical process that protects first responders, including police officers, who may be exposed to potentially infectious and/or communicable diseases. It reflects a modern, collaborative approach to healthcare and ensures timely interventions that safeguard our members' health and well-being."

**- Mark Baxter
President, Police Association of Ontario**

"Addiction counsellors work with people during an extremely vulnerable period in their lives. CACCF applauds the Ontario Government's initiative to consult stakeholders to ensure that Addiction Counsellors are well-trained, certified, credentialled, and up-to-date with emerging trends and treatments. This important step towards developing a regulatory framework aligns with CACCF's 40-year mission to advocate for professional excellence while prioritizing public safety and trust."

- Doug Brewer
Executive Director, Canadian Addiction Counsellors Certification
Federation

Additional Resources

- [More Convenient Care Act, 2024](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Ontario Expanding Learn and Stay Grant to Train More Health Care Workers](#)
- [New "As of Right" Rules a First in Canada to Attract More Health Care Workers to Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Reducing Wait Times for Surgeries and Procedures](#)
- [Ontario Exploring More Ways to Expand Role of Pharmacists](#)

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Ontario Appoints Third-Party Advisor to Lead Review of OMERS

Robert Poirier to undertake pension plan governance review

December 03, 2024

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Ontario has appointed a third-party advisor to undertake a governance review of the Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System (OMERS), the first review since 2012, to ensure that its governance model is serving the interests of plan members in a fair, equitable, and transparent manner that supports the plan's long-term financial sustainability.

Former Metrolinx board member and former chair of the Toronto Port Authority Robert Poirier will oversee the review. As third-party advisor, he will offer recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to help deliver the best pension plan possible for plan members.

"We are committed to strengthening OMERS governance to ensure that it works in the best interests of its members," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "This review will ensure important decisions that impact members continue to be made in a transparent way."

The review will look at various aspects of the OMERS Sponsors Corporation and the OMERS Administration Corporation, such as board representation and the effective delivery of their mandates. This includes how plan assets are managed and how investment decisions are made by the Administration Corporation. It will also look at best practices in pension governance that could potentially be implemented by OMERS.

The review will not focus on any financial details or decisions regarding contribution rates, fairness of plan benefits, or the supplemental plan.

Quick Facts

- OMERS is one of the largest defined benefit pension plans in Canada with more than 1,000 participating employers and more than 600,000 active, deferred, and

retired employees of municipalities, local agencies, public utilities, firefighters, police, paramedic, and non-teaching school board staff across the province.

- In 2006, the *Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act, 2006* came into effect, transferring sponsor responsibilities such as making changes to the OMERS pension plan from the Province of Ontario to the OMERS Sponsors Corporation.
- In 2012, the government appointed a third-party advisor to conduct a governance review in line with requirements set out in the *OMERS Review Act, 2006*. The advisor identified areas where OMERS governance should be improved at that time.

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Ontario Investing \$20 Million to Revitalize Downtown Ottawa

New Deal investment will support safety and economic growth

December 04, 2024

[Finance](#)

OTTAWA — As the next step in the government’s historic [Ontario-Ottawa New Deal](#), Ontario is investing \$20 million over three years to revitalize Ottawa’s downtown and ensure the nation’s capital’s unique character and attractions continue making it a tourism destination for Canadians and international visitors.

“Through our New Deal, our government is taking action to ensure Ottawa is a premier destination for tourism and a safe, vibrant place for those who call it home,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Through our investments and partnership with the city, we’re making our national capital safer and helping attract visitors, jobs and investment for the long term.”

“Ottawa’s downtown, including the ByWard Market, is vitally important to the local economy and quality of life for our residents,” said Mayor Mark Sutcliffe. “This investment of \$20 million from the Provincial Government is a boost to our revitalization efforts in the Market. This important funding will enhance the safety, vibrancy and economic growth of our downtown core.”

Revitalization initiatives include:

- \$1.05 million over three years for community safety initiatives by the Somerset West Community Health Centre that support people experiencing homelessness, substance use or mental health challenges and provide job-skills training.
- \$11.8 million over three years to transform William Street into a permanent pedestrian-only street and to enhance the ByWard Market, including to make ByWard Market Square into a seasonal street open to traffic and parking most of the year and pedestrian-only in the summer. Completion is expected by fall 2026, leading up to the 200th anniversary of the ByWard Market.

- \$3.85 million over three years to improve signage and other street-specific upgrades.
- \$1.5 million to Invest Ottawa to attract new investment from international and local companies to help stimulate sustainable, long-term economic growth.
- \$1.35 million over three years for marketing and promotion to attract residents, visitors and new businesses downtown, and develop a culture and entertainment district, which would be launched in 2026 as part of 200th anniversary commemorating the founding of Ottawa.

The initiatives also include \$450,000 for a new Downtown Vibrancy Office that will be managed by the Ottawa Board of Trade and build business and investor confidence by implementing additional revitalization projects.

“As a leading jurisdiction for the research and development of critical technologies, Ottawa is an ideal destination for domestic and multinational companies looking to expand their operations,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “Through Invest Ottawa, our government is ensuring the Ottawa Region remains at the forefront of industry collaborations and strategic investments that will drive economic growth and create new, good-paying jobs across key sectors.”

The New Deal is helping ensure Ottawa’s sustainable, long-term growth and prosperity. To date, Ontario has made local investments to [enhance public safety, address increased numbers of asylum seekers and people experiencing homelessness](#) through emergency shelter operations. Work continues on transportation initiatives, 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.

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.

- 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.

Quotes

"Small businesses are the backbone of Ontario's economy, representing 98 per cent of all businesses and employing nearly 2.5 million people. Our Small Business Enterprise Centres are vital to their success and provide them with the support they need to scale and grow. SBEC's are an integral part of our small business ecosystem and ensuring they have the resources they need to carry out this very important work is paramount. I am thrilled that Ontario is dedicating \$1.5 million over three years in Invest Ottawa as part of the New Deal for Ottawa. This investment is key to ensuring Ontario remains the best place to live, raise a family, and start a business."

- Nina Tangri
Associate Minister of Small Business

"We extend sincere thanks to the Government of Ontario for this critical funding for our region. It will catalyze powerful foreign direct investment and business expansion, driving economic growth in key sectors across Ottawa and Eastern Ontario. As a global tech and business hub with the highest concentration of tech talent in North America, our region represents a wealth of expertise, capability, and economic opportunity for our province. Ottawa is a magnet for global high-growth tech firms and talent that create multi-generational jobs, revenue, and economic impact. Together with partners across our community, we look forward to attracting new companies, investment, and business opportunity by harnessing the full potential of Canada's Capital. This will fuel new jobs and further increase Ottawa's impact as an economic engine for the province."

- Sonya Shorey
President and CEO, Invest Ottawa

"The Ottawa Board of Trade commends the Ontario government for this significant investment in downtown Ottawa as an important economic driver in our region and our province. This commitment builds on the collaborative work we've undertaken with the city and key economic partners to launch the Downtown Ottawa Action Agenda. It also demonstrates the power of working together at all levels of government to drive positive change. The new Downtown Vibrancy Office will be instrumental to implementing revitalization projects and boosting investor confidence. We're eager to continue our partnership with the province, the city, and local stakeholders to transform Ottawa's downtown into a more diverse, resilient and vibrant city core, one that attracts residents, businesses, and visitors alike."

- Sueling Ching
President and CEO, Ottawa Board of Trade

Additional Resources

[Ottawa New Deal Continuing to Deliver for Eastern Ontario](#)

[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](#)

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Ontario Supporting Seniors and Their Caregivers

New legislation and investments will enhance quality of life and care for seniors across the province

December 04, 2024

[Long-Term Care](#)

[Health](#)

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the [Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2024](#). The proposed legislation includes a \$114-million suite of initiatives to improve the lives of seniors through enhanced dementia care and supports, assistance for families and caregivers, and by creating more opportunities for seniors to build stronger social connections in their community.

“Our government is determined to give the best possible care to the people who raised us,” said Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care. “That’s why we are working across government to ensure Ontario’s seniors can enjoy the best possible quality of life, supported by safe, high-quality care.”

“Our government is continuing to take action to ensure that Ontarians have access to the health care and services they need, at every stage of life,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This investment will improve access to high-quality dementia care across the province, allowing more seniors and their loved ones to connect to the compassionate services and supports they need, in their community.”

The proposed legislative amendments, investments and policies are designed to better support seniors and those who care for them, whether they live in long-term care homes, retirement homes or with their families. Initiatives span across the ministries of Long-Term Care, Health, and Seniors and Accessibility.

The proposed [Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2024](#), would, if passed:

- Invest almost \$80 million over three years to [improve and expand dementia care and supports](#) to support the well-being of seniors, their caregivers, and families. This includes requiring all long-term care homes to have a dementia

care program and giving primary care providers the tools and resources needed to connect people to fast, effective and high-quality dementia care

- Expand adult day programs and respite services to provide recreational and social programs for people living with dementia, while giving their loved ones a much-needed break
- Further strengthen protections for long-term care residents against abuse and neglect, and enhancing the province's ability to investigate and prosecute offences under the [Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021](#)
- Strengthen the existing requirements for long-term care homes to recognize and respect, at a minimum, the cultural, linguistic, religious, and spiritual needs of residents. This includes new regulations that require long-term care homes to increase information available in French.

These changes are one more way the province is taking action to meet the needs of Ontario's aging population and better support the people who care for seniors by improving and expanding supports for seniors living in long-term care, congregate settings and in the community.

Quick Facts

- A summary of the proposed legislative amendments will be available publicly on Ontario's Regulatory Registry from December 4, 2024, to January 6, 2025.
 - By 2046, there will be [1.7 million more seniors](#) living in Ontario.
 - As part of its plan to fix long-term care and address waitlists, the government is building 58,000 new and upgraded long-term care beds across the province.
 - Ontario is offering [incentives of up to \\$25,400](#) to students and recent graduates of personal support worker education programs to launch careers in long-term care homes and in the home and community care sector.
 - The Ontario government is investing up to \$4.9 billion to create thousands of new positions for personal support workers and nurses in long-term care.
-

Quotes

"Every year as the number of older adults increases, we must do all we can to ensure seniors are healthy and socially connected to their communities. This legislation, once passed, will build on our government's historic investments that keep seniors fit, active, engaged, close to their homes and most importantly end social isolation."

**- Raymond Cho
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility**

"The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario welcomes a cross-government approach to enriching the quality of life and care for older persons whether they reside in long-term care homes, retirement homes, or their own homes. We applaud the investments to support seniors, their families and caregivers; enhance social connections; and improve dementia care. These, alongside a continuous focus on much needed staff increases, will begin addressing a population that has been under-resourced for decades. We are delighted with the inclusion of nurse practitioners as clinical directors in long-term care homes — a role they successfully performed during the pandemic. Nurse practitioners bring advanced clinical education, the legal authority to diagnose and treat illnesses, and a deep understanding of policy and regulatory frameworks. This change will make a meaningful difference for residents of long-term care, their families and staff."

**- Dr. Doris Grinspun
RN, PhD, O.ONT., CEO RNAO**

"NPAO is pleased to see the provincial government's recognition of nurse practitioners (NPs) as leaders in delivering high-quality, compassionate care in long-term care homes, ensuring Ontario's seniors receive the support they deserve to maintain their health and well-being. This is a necessary step in leveraging the full extent of NPs' training and expertise, and we look forward to continuing our work with the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Long-Term Care to improve resident outcomes across the province."

**- Dr. Michelle Acorn
CEO of the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO)**

"We thank the government for recognizing the important role long-term care homes play in the continuum of care, allowing seniors to age in place in their communities when they can no longer stay in their family home. The changes announced today will complement the government's historic investments in the sector and support the transformation that is underway in long-term care homes across Ontario. Ontario's long-term care homes continue to embrace innovation and strive to provide resident-centered care that meets the clinical, social, emotional, cultural, and spiritual needs of their residents."

- Donna Duncan
Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association

"Government has introduced a comprehensive suite of investments aimed at supporting seniors both in long-term care, retirement homes and the community. As we know, our aging population will add significant demand within the seniors care ecosystem. The measures announced today will help provide coordinated and sustainable support along the continuum of care that we so desperately need."

- Dr. Steven Harrison
CEO Tri-County Mennonite Homes; Chair – Advantage Ontario Board of Directors

"At Partners Community Health, we are excited by the Government of Ontario's proposed legislative changes and investments. We look forward to the opportunity to further support staff and caregivers and, alongside partners, deliver integrated quality care to residents in our long-term care homes, as well those waiting for long-term care in the community."

- Tess Romain
President & CEO, Partners Community Health

Additional Resources

- [Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act](#)
 - [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
 - [2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building a Strong Ontario Together](#)
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Ontario Adding 100 New Family Doctors in Rural and Northern Communities

Practice Ready Ontario program will connect more than 120,000 people to primary care in 2025

December 05, 2024

[Health](#)

PALMERSTON — The Ontario government is continuing to create new pathways to connect more people to primary care in the province by breaking down barriers for 100 internationally trained family physicians to practice medicine in a rural or northern community in 2025. Through the Practice Ready Ontario program, foreign-trained doctors can become licensed more quickly and connect an additional 120,000 people to care, where and when they need it.

“Our government is continuing to take bold and innovative action to ensure everyone who wants a primary care provider can connect to one,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Through the Practice Ready Ontario program, we are taking another step to connect more people to world-class primary care right in their own communities, now and for years to come.”

The province launched the [Practice Ready Ontario](#) program in 2023 to bring more internationally trained physicians into Ontario’s health care workforce faster by removing the requirement to complete unnecessary re-education programs. Starting in 2025, up to 100 internationally trained physicians with training in family medicine who have completed their field assessment will begin practicing as a family doctor in northern and rural communities.

Each internationally educated physician who participates in the program is required to complete a 12-week assessment to ensure they have the skills and competencies needed to practice in Ontario. This program also requires physicians to complete a three-year return of service as a family doctor in a rural or northern community. To ensure they are prepared for their return of service, the assessment includes training in all aspects of rural family medicine across a variety of practice settings. This includes an office, hospital, emergency department, and long-term care and home care settings.

The new Practice Ready Ontario program builds on the considerable investments the government is making to close the gap for the remaining 10 per cent of people who want to connect to a primary care provider, including increasing the number of [primary health care teams](#) and making the largest [expansion of medical schools](#) in over a decade.

As announced in the [2024 Fall Economic Statement](#), the province is investing an estimated \$88 million over three years to expand [Learn and Stay](#) grants for 1,360 eligible undergraduate students who commit to practice family medicine with a full roster of patients once they graduate. It is estimated the total investment will connect 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.

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government continues to take bold and decisive action to grow the province's highly-skilled health care workforce and ensure people and their families have access to high-quality care closer to home for generations to come.

Quick Facts

- Only candidates who met the registration requirements and safeguards set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) were selected to participate in the program. These safeguards are based on national Practice Ready Assessment Standards established by the Medical Council of Canada.
- Ontario leads the country in how many people benefit from a long-term, stable relationship with a family doctor or primary care provider. Since 2018, more than 15,000 physicians have joined the health care system, including a nearly 10 per cent increase in family doctors.
- Ontario has opened two new medical schools and expanded medical school seats adding 260 undergraduate seats plus 80 undergraduate seats from York University as well as 449 postgrad positions plus 102 postgrad positions from York University.
- The province recently [appointed Dr. Jane Philpott](#) to lead the government's Primary Care Action Team with a mandate of connecting everyone to primary care within five years.
- The Ontario government's historic expansion of interprofessional primary care teams is connecting 330,000 more people across the province to primary care. Through the [2024 Budget](#) the province is investing an additional \$546 million to connect 600,000 additional people to primary care.

- Touchstone Institute is working with the Government of Ontario and the CPSO and others to administer the Practice Ready Ontario program.

Quotes

"This is another example of our government working to expand primary care access in rural Ontario. Whether it is family physicians or nurse practitioners, we are ensuring more people in Ontario have access to the care they need, closer to home. It is great to see local organizations like Minto Mapleton Family Health Team leading this charge."

**- Matthew Rae
MPP for Perth-Wellington**

"This important initiative continues to demonstrate our government's commitment to ensuring rural and northern communities have the supports they need, close to home. By way of the Practice Ready Ontario program, we are ensuring more people and families have access to necessary primary care in their communities, all the while recognizing and appreciating the international training and medical expertise of individuals who choose to make Ontario their home."

**- Lisa Thompson
Minister of Rural Affairs**

"We are so excited to have been matched with an internationally trained physician through the Practice Ready Ontario program. Dr. Luzinga's expertise and commitment will be a huge asset in meeting the healthcare needs of our growing and aging community. This opportunity will ensure more people in our community will have access to a primary care provider, strengthening health outcomes and supporting our commitment to accessible, team-based, quality care."

**- Elizabeth Boyne
Administrator for Minto Mapleton Family Health Organization**

"The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) supports the Government of Ontario's continued effort to expand primary care access through the Practice Ready Ontario Program. This program expansion will increase the availability of family doctors in Ontario and improve access to care in many communities that face unique challenges in recruiting physicians. Improving access to primary care, including family medicine, means greater focus on prevention, less pressure on hospitals in rural and remote parts of Ontario and better health outcomes for patients."

- Anthony Dale
President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association

"The Practice Ready Ontario initiative expedites the integration of internationally trained physicians into Ontario's health care system, allowing them to provide much-needed care to Ontarians faster. It's encouraging to hear that more internationally trained family physicians will be able to begin practicing in rural and Northern communities where the needs are immense."

- Deepy Sur
CEO, Ontario College of Family Physicians

"Creating more opportunities for internationally educated physicians to practice family medicine in Ontario will help ensure every Ontarian has a family doctor and timely access to specialists. Many qualified internationally trained physicians would like to practise in Ontario but face unnecessary barriers to getting their licence. We are pleased to see the additional investment in this program, which will help provide care for unattached and underserved communities. We look forward to continuing to work with the government to build on this success by expanding and further strengthening the program."

- Kimberly Moran
CEO, Ontario Medical Association

"Practice Ready Ontario's success reflects Touchstone Institute's 20 years of dedication to supporting internationally trained physicians. This program is a powerful solution that makes a real difference in underserved communities. We thank our partners and the government for their leadership in expanding this vital initiative."

- Nicole Beben
Chief Executive Officer, Touchstone Institute

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Ontario Doing Even More to Grow its Health Care Workforce](#)

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Ontario Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Emergency Management

Government proposing to modernize legislation for the first time in more than 15 years

December 09, 2024

[Treasury Board Secretariat](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is taking steps to better prepare Ontario for floods, wildland fires and other emergencies with the introduction of the *Emergency Management Modernization Act*. The proposed legislation aims to update and strengthen the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA), ensuring a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to provincial and municipal emergency prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

"The rise of extreme weather events and cyber-attacks means the nature of modern emergencies has changed," said Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. "By modernizing our emergency management legislation, we will ensure Ontario remains ready to respond to these new challenges and keep people and communities safe."

If passed, the new EMCPA amendments — the first comprehensive updates in more than 15 years — would modernize Ontario's emergency management framework by strengthening provincial leadership and coordination. Emergency Management Ontario would enhance its role as the central hub, or "one window," for coordinating provincial emergency management efforts, streamlining communication and resources. The proposed legislation also prioritizes community-led approaches, helping municipalities design emergency management programs that reflect their unique needs and capacities.

Additionally, the process for municipalities to declare local emergencies would be clarified, including procedures for emergency declarations and requests for assistance.

The legislation builds on the government's Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan (PEMSAP). Introduced in 2023, the PEMSAP highlights key actions the province is taking to ensure communities across Ontario are safe, practiced and prepared before, during and after emergencies.

Quick Facts

- This proposed legislative modernization is informed by valuable feedback from partners, best practices in emergency management, and lessons learned from past emergencies. Over the summer, Emergency Management Ontario engaged with more than 480 partners, including municipalities, First Nations communities, and emergency management organizations during 45 engagements. Ninety written submissions were also received on a publicly posted discussion guide.
-

Additional Resources

- [Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan](#)
 - [Emergency Management Ontario](#)
 - [Emergency Preparedness](#)
-

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

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Ontario Restoring Safety to Parks and Public Spaces

Province taking action to end encampments and crack down on public use of illegal drugs while investing \$75.5 million in homelessness prevention

December 12, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government will introduce legislation today that will, if passed, better protect community safety by providing municipalities and police with new resources and enforcement tools to address the growing problem of homeless encampments and crack down on illegal drug use in parks and public spaces. Ontario is also investing \$75.5 million to further support homelessness prevention and provide people living in encampments with access to reasonable alternative accommodation. This is in addition to the province's ongoing \$700 million investment in homelessness prevention programs each year, as well as the \$378 million the province is investing in 19 Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs.

"Mayors and residents from communities across Ontario have been clear that enough is enough when it comes to encampments and illegal drug use in our parks and public spaces," said Premier Doug Ford. "Families deserve to enjoy their local parks and playgrounds without fearing for their kids. People facing homelessness or addiction and mental health challenges should be supported in the right settings. The federal government's approach of legalizing dangerous drugs for use in our communities has failed and it needs to end."

The province is dedicating \$75.5 million for programs that provide more long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments, including:

- \$5.5 million to top up the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) to immediately free-up emergency shelter spaces for people living in encampments by helping people living in shelters move into longer-term housing, building on the nearly \$400 million Ontario and the federal government invested in COHB between 2023 and 2024.

- \$20 million to expand shelter capacity and create additional temporary accommodation spaces, like tiny modular units and climate-controlled semi-permanent structures, to provide people living in encampments with accessible alternative living options.
- \$50 million in funding designated for ready-to-build affordable housing projects across the province. This funding will be allocated based on how close a project is to completion, as well as its value for money, to help projects near completion but in need of targeted additional funding to open their doors faster.

This investment includes \$44.5 million in new provincial funding and \$31 million from the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative.

Service managers who receive funding will be required to report back to the province on the number of individuals moved from encampments into new accommodations. They will also be required to submit spending plans to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for review and approval, to ensure the province's \$654 million yearly investment in the Homelessness Prevention Program is being used effectively and in line with the shared provincial and municipal goal of ending encampments by providing safe and stable housing for people at risk of homelessness.

To help clear parks and public spaces of encampments, the *Safer Municipalities Act, 2024* includes amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act*, which applies to private business, offices, stores, hotels, parks and vacant land. These amendments, if passed, will enhance penalties for people who deliberately and continually break the law by adding the new aggravating factors of continuous trespassing and the likelihood to reoffend. In cases where these factors are present, these new tools will be applied by the court during sentencing.

The government is further protecting communities by introducing the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2024* that will, if passed, allow police officers and other provincial offences officers to direct individuals to stop using illegal substances or to leave the public space. This will allow them to issue a ticket or arrest someone who does not comply, providing an important additional tool to stop the consumption of illegal drugs in public spaces. People found guilty of violating this legislation, including those doing so in encampments, could face fines of up to \$10,000 or up to six months in prison.

As part of the province's focus on long-term treatment and recovery, the government is exploring new judicial approaches that provide the option of rehabilitation as an alternative to incarceration in the event of minor or non-violent drug crimes.

Quick Facts

- The [Trespass to Property Act](#) provides property owners and occupiers with tools to deal with trespassing on their property.
 - As of October 2024, service managers report approximately 3,300 people in about 1,000 encampment locations across Ontario.
-

Quotes

"We have heard from the people of Ontario that they want their communities to be safe and clean. Encampments are a public safety concern and not a solution to homelessness. Mayors have asked us for help in managing this complex issue and we are ready to provide more funding for those municipalities that show results in winding down these sites so they can address the specific needs of people in encampments and quickly move them from crisis into safer accommodation and ultimately stable, long-term housing."

- Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"Using illegal drugs in public is unacceptable. Everyone should feel safe when going to a park, riding transit, or walking through their neighbourhoods. Public safety is our top priority and that is why we are providing police with the tools they need to confidently keep our communities safe, knowing we stand with them every day."

- Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General

"Encampments are a serious issue in communities across the province. Our government's proposed changes to the Trespass to Property Act will provide additional tools to support restoring public order. These amendments are one facet of a balanced broader strategy to address this difficult issue and support both communities and those currently living in encampments."

- Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario

"Illicit drugs and particularly opioids such as fentanyl used in public spaces in encampments are a serious community safety threat. There is a clear risk to families and children that live around the growing number of encampments in Ontario. I am very pleased Premier Ford is taking bold action to address this."

- Patrick Brown
Mayor of Brampton

"Today's announcement represents an important step in addressing the interconnected challenges of health, homelessness and public safety. By investing in pathways to stable housing and expanding the supports available to those in need, we can ensure people receive the care they require while respecting the use of public spaces for everyone, which includes new tools to restrict the prevalence of open drug use."

- Josh Morgan
Mayor of London

"I am encouraged once again by the provincial investments and commitment to address the most complex health care issue our nation has faced. Today's announcement will provide vulnerable individuals who are living in encampments with safe, stable accommodations as well as ensure that our public spaces are safe for everyone to enjoy. All levels of government need to continue to work together as partners to find innovative solutions to address this national humanitarian crisis."

- Dan Carter
Mayor, City of Oshawa

"Premier Ford has found a sensible balance to deal with a complex issue. Adding resources to support more housing solutions while providing municipalities tools to enhance public safety will help make a positive difference in communities across Ontario."

**- Drew Dilkens
Mayor of Windsor**

"The actions in this legislation are what we asked for. It feels great to work with a government that listens. We are united to support our most vulnerable and create safer environments for everyone."

**- Rob Burton
Mayor, Town of Oakville**

"Premier Ford's announcement of additional funding for more shelter spaces, temporary housing and affordable housing units is welcome news. This approach prioritizes the dignity and well-being of individuals in need, while balancing other residents' right to feel safe in public spaces."

**- Paul Lefebvre
Mayor of Greater Sudbury**

"The legislation being brought forward today by Premier Ford is going to help municipalities maintain safety for residents while providing supports for those who are seeking help. We can't thank the Ford government enough for supporting municipalities in these very difficult times."

**- Alex Nuttall
Mayor of Barrie**

"This much needed funding to help transition those in encampments to safer shelter or housing is key and I applaud the Premier for this focus. Guelph is ready to partner with our Social Services Manager and with the government to ensure we have positive outcomes for those struggling with addictions, mental health and housing needs in our community. A top complaint I receive as mayor from citizens and businesses alike is about the open illegal drug use in our parks, downtown cores and other public spaces. This legislation looks to tackle these challenges head on and are most welcome."

**- Cam Guthrie
Mayor, City of Guelph**

"This issue affects the families, community and professionals who have been struggling for a long time without enough financial resources and legislative tools. The proposed legislation will curb the loss of lives and destruction of families, keep the peace and provide supports to those in need. Almost two decades ago, the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions made recommendations, that all parties could get on board with, to solve our ever-escalating mental health and addictions crisis. After successive governments, I am pleased that the Premier is introducing legislation that will make a difference in the lives of many."

**- Jan Liggett
Mayor of Cambridge**

"I am happy that Premier Ford and the provincial government have taken action that prioritizes the health and well-being of the residents of St. Catharines. The additional funding and focus will help provide the services the most vulnerable members of our community desperately need and the new legislation around open drug use protects the members of our community who know this illegal activity can't continue in public. The issues our cities face are complicated and all levels of government must work together to build more supportive housing units, expand shelter capacity and clean up encampments."

**- Mat Siscoe
Mayor of St. Catharines**

"The health and safety of our residents is critical and its no secret municipalities across the province are grappling with large unsafe encampments and increasing drug use in public spaces. All levels of government need to continue to come together to help those suffering with mental health and addictions challenges, while also ensuring our parks and public spaces are safe for everyone to enjoy. Today's announcement is an important step in addressing a very complex and challenging issue for municipalities."

**- Bryan Paterson
Mayor of Kingston**

"I am glad to see the Premier responded to our group's plea for help by providing enhanced funding for shelter and housing diversion programs and strengthening trespass and open drug use laws. This is a good first step in helping municipalities deal with the issues of homelessness and public disorder on our streets and in our parks."

**- Kevin Davis
Mayor of Brantford**

"Vulnerable people need help to navigate drug addiction, mental health and social supports. It's time for tough love and definitive action to help them achieve that and to restore dignity and safety to public spaces."

**- Jim Diodati
Mayor of Niagara Falls**

"We thank the Government of Ontario for its decisive actions and meaningful investments in addressing the complex and pressing issue of homelessness and encampments. This significant funding will provide much-needed support for those experiencing hardship - enabling us to create safer and more vibrant communities for the benefit of all residents, visitors and businesses. We are committed to working with the province to ensure these vital resources are used effectively to help people transition into stable housing and access the essential support services they need."

- Kevin Ashe
Mayor, City of Pickering

"Orillia Council's top priorities are looking at ways to help support our most vulnerable and ensuring public safety. We would like to thank the province for listening to us and taking action to provide further support to service providers as we all work together to address homelessness in our communities. The initiatives announced today by Premier Ford go a long way to support us as we partner together to navigate these difficult issues."

- Don McIsaac
Mayor of Orillia

"As a growing small urban municipality with hundreds of people experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health issues, this new funding for shelters, supportive and transitional housing aligns with the housing first principles that will help us safely transition people out of encampments and connect them to the social and health services they need while also ensuring greater accountability. Today's announcement provides meaningful funding, actionable tools, compassion and a commitment to helping us keep our communities and public spaces safe for everyone."

- Bill Gordon
Mayor of Midland

"Emergency shelters are a critical part of the housing spectrum. Outreach and shelter are the first points of contact where we build trust and spark hope for individuals experiencing homelessness. Additional funding enhances The Salvation Army's capacity to connect with individuals and welcome them into a dignified spaces with comprehensive wrap around support services that meet their unique needs. Together, we can help more Ontarians start their journey towards home."

- Lt. Col. Brian Armstrong
Ontario Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army

"Drug paraphernalia and encampment health and fire issues are among the top community safety concerns for Ontario's small business owners. Many have told us about having to clean used needles and other garbage off their property, often on a daily basis. This is unsafe and unsustainable for small business owners, their employees and their customers. Our members across Ontario overwhelmingly agree that all levels of government should work together to address these multi-faceted challenges."

- Julie Kwiecinski
Director of Provincial Affairs for Ontario, Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)

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Ontario Introducing Legislation to Strengthen Local Governance

New measures would establish a standardized municipal code of conduct and advance Peel Region transition

December 12, 2024

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government [introduced legislation](#) that would, if passed, strengthen municipal governance and accountability as well as give Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon the tools they need to provide high-quality services to local taxpayers as these municipalities continue to grow.

Ontario is proposing changes through the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024* that, if passed, would enable the creation of a new, standardized municipal code of conduct, an integrity commissioner inquiry process that would be consistent throughout the province, and mandatory code of conduct training for members of council and certain local boards.

“We had to make sure we got this right, which is why we worked with Ontario’s Integrity Commissioner to find the best path forward to create a standardized code of conduct process across the province,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “This process will support consistent accountability across our municipalities.”

If passed, the changes would include a penalty of removing and disqualifying a member from office if they are in serious violation of the proposed code. Removal and disqualification could only occur upon the recommendation of the municipal integrity commissioner, a concurring report from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario and a unanimous vote of council, with the exception of the member who is the subject of the report, members whose absence is approved by council or members who have a financial conflict of interest under the [Municipal Conflict of Interest Act](#).

The government also introduced the *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024* which would, if passed, transfer the delivery of key public works services from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. The proposed changes, which

would provide these municipalities with greater independence to meet the needs of their growing communities, include transferring jurisdiction and responsibility for the following services, effective July 1, 2026:

- Regional roads and associated stormwater infrastructure, including ownership and maintenance responsibilities, from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon.
- Waste collection services and two community recycling centres located in Mississauga from the Region of Peel to the City of Mississauga.

These changes would build on the previously enacted transfer of land-use planning responsibilities to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon on July 1, 2024.

To support the Region of Peel and the municipalities through this important transition, Ontario's Provincial Land and Development Facilitator (PLDF) advisory agency will work with the municipalities to facilitate the process for service transfers. The costs of the PLDF's services will be covered by the province.

The proposed changes in the *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024* came through engagement with a wide range of stakeholders beginning in summer 2023, including the affected municipalities, provincial ministries, industry groups, community agencies and subject matter experts, led by the Peel Region Transition Board.

Quick Facts

- Transfer of waste collection services to Brampton and Caledon remains open for future consideration.
 - The government is continuing to explore potential options for the transfer of water/wastewater services from Peel Region with any future outcome maintaining public ownership.
 - The Peel Region Transition Board, which was appointed to make recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on the transfer of key public works services from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, will be dissolved effective December 31, 2024.
 - Ontario is also supporting local planning priorities by transferring land-use planning responsibilities from Durham and Waterloo regions and giving primary responsibility to the local municipalities within these regions, effective January 1, 2025. Niagara Region would have these responsibilities transferred as of March 31, 2025.
-

Quotes

"Municipal councils in Ontario have asked for legislation that holds elected officials to a higher standard of accountability. If passed, this bill would deliver on ensuring that as members of council, we are living up to the trust that residents put in us. We commend Minister Calandra for getting to this point."

- Robin Jones

AMO President and Mayor of Westport

Additional Resources

[Ontario Supporting Stronger Local Governance](#)

[Municipal Accountability Act, 2024 consultation on the Regulatory Registry.](#)

[Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024 consultation on the Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

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Ontario Supporting Stronger Local Governance

December 12, 2024

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

Ontario has introduced legislation that would, if passed, strengthen municipal governance and accountability as well as give Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon the tools they need to provide high-quality services to local taxpayers as these municipalities continue to grow.

The proposed *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024*, would establish a new, standardized municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework, while the proposed *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024*, would transfer the delivery of key public works services from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon to provide these municipalities with greater independence as they meet the needs of their growing communities.

Below is a list of proposed initiatives and changes:

Municipal Code of Conduct

The proposed changes in the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024* would amend the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, to strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework in order to:

- Allow for the creation of a standard code of conduct for all municipalities and require mandatory code of conduct training for members of council and certain local boards.
- Create a regulation-making authority to set out the municipal integrity commissioner investigation processes, including a complaints mechanism and reporting requirements.
- Provide a role for the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario to provide advice to municipalities and training to municipal integrity commissioners and review all reports from municipal integrity commissioners recommending that a member be considered for removal and disqualification, as well as conduct inquiries.
- Establish a stronger penalty by establishing a mechanism for members of council and certain local boards to be removed and disqualified for four years

for serious violations of the code of conduct.

The *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024*, if passed, would establish rules so that municipal integrity commissioners and the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario would only be able to consider and recommend removal and disqualification if they determine that all four criteria are met:

1. The member has contravened the code of conduct;
2. The contravention is of a serious nature;
3. The member's conduct that is the subject of the inquiry has resulted in harm to the health, safety or well-being of persons; and
4. The existing penalties are insufficient to address the contravention or ensure that the contravention is not repeated.

If passed, the legislation would also establish that the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, when in the process of conducting an inquiry, could also consider, among other matters, whether the contravention negatively impacts public confidence in the ability of the member to discharge their duties, and, of the council or local board to fulfill its role, including by meeting its statutory obligations.

The proposed changes would also create a process to remove and disqualify members of council and local boards that would include the following steps:

1. Upon receipt of a complaint, the municipal integrity commissioner conducts an inquiry. If they find that the criteria for removal and disqualification are met, they can make a recommendation for removal and disqualification to the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario.
2. If the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario receives a recommendation from the municipal integrity commissioner, they would be required to conduct an inquiry and determine whether the criteria for removal and disqualification have been met. If so, they can provide a recommendation to municipal council that the member be removed from their seat and disqualified for four years.
3. If the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario recommends that a member be removed and disqualified, council must vote on the recommendation:
 - All members of council who are not exempt would be required to vote in favour of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario's recommendation to remove and disqualify a member.
 - Only the member(s) who is/are the subject of the report, members with approved absences or members who have a conflict of interest under the [Municipal Conflict of Interest Act](#) would be exempt from the vote.

4. If council unanimously votes to approve the recommendation, the member is removed from their seat and is disqualified for four years.

The government intends to consult on these changes and work with the municipal sector to develop the necessary regulations to support the new framework coming into effect for the new term of councils in 2026.

Peel Region Service Transfers

Changes proposed in the *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024* follow through on the government's commitment to transfer the delivery of key public works services from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. The proposed changes include transferring jurisdiction and responsibility for the following services, effective July 1, 2026, or as determined by the Minister:

- Regional roads and associated stormwater infrastructure, including ownership and maintenance responsibilities, from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon and;
- Waste collection services and two community recycling centres located in Mississauga from the Region of Peel to the City of Mississauga.

The Region of Peel will continue to provide waste collection services for Brampton and Caledon and will continue transfer, processing, and disposal services for all three lower-tier municipalities. The government will continue to explore options for the potential transfer of water/wastewater services from Peel Region with any future outcome maintaining public ownership.

Looking ahead, to support the Region of Peel and the lower-tier municipalities through this important transition, Ontario's Provincial Land and Development Facilitator (PLDF) will work with the municipalities to facilitate the process for the service transfers, including the transfer of assets and liabilities, and other transitional matters. The province will cover the cost of the PLDF's services.

On December 31, 2024, the Peel Region Transition Board, which was appointed to make recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on the transfer of key public works services, will be dissolved.

If passed, the *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024* will provide the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with the authority through regulations, to take future actions to support the service transfers.

Remove Upper-Tier Planning Responsibilities

Ontario remains committed to reducing municipal duplication across the province to deliver on shared provincial-municipal priorities, all while supporting its municipal partners. Effective January 1, 2025, Durham and Waterloo Regions would have their land-use planning responsibilities removed so that local municipalities in these regions can better plan for growth. The same changes would be made for Niagara Region as of March 31, 2025. This builds on legislative changes made earlier to the *Planning Act* that, once in force, allow for the removal of statutory powers from seven upper-tier municipalities: Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel, Simcoe, Waterloo, and York. Planning changes for Peel, Halton and York Regions came into effect on July 1, 2024. Once in effect, the local municipalities within these regions have primary responsibility for all land use planning in their geographies, except for matters requiring provincial approval.

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Premier Doug Ford Launches Ontario Corps

Ontario makes history as one of first provinces in Canada to mobilize volunteer corps for emergencies

December 13, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — Today, Premier Doug Ford announced the creation of [Ontario Corps](#), a group of skilled professionals and volunteers that the province can deploy to help communities respond to natural disasters and other emergencies, while promoting civic engagement and community participation.

“I’ve seen firsthand the incredible community spirit and dedication to volunteerism that we share throughout Ontario,” said Premier Doug Ford. “With the launch of Ontario Corps, we’re harnessing the Ontario spirit to help communities and neighbours in need deal with natural disasters and other emergencies, while providing additional resources to keep our communities safe. I encourage everyone across Ontario who is interested and able to consider volunteering by signing up for Ontario Corps today!”

Inspired by successful models like AmeriCorps, Ontario Corps will work with non-governmental organizations and First Nations partners to help coordinate specialized personnel and volunteers to respond to emergencies. Ontario Corps can mobilize to provide on-the-ground assistance such as emergency shelter, debris management, food services and flood protection. Ontario Corps partner organizations include groups such as Feed Ontario, Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association, Salvation Army, GlobalMedic and Team Rubicon Canada.

To support Ontario Corps emergency response efforts, the province has procured flood mitigation barriers, drones, water pumps, chain saws, air purifiers and other supplies to support communities impacted by emergencies. All equipment and volunteers can be deployed anywhere across Ontario within 24 to 72 hours to help support community response efforts. Partner organizations could also help prepare the province by training volunteers and educating the public on how they can plan for and respond to emergencies.

“Being safe, practiced and prepared starts with having the resources, trained volunteers and specialized equipment ready when the next emergency impacts Ontario,” said Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. “Neighbours helping neighbours – that is the true essence of Ontario Corps, which will guide our efforts to ensure our province remains a leader in emergency management for decades to come.”

People of all skill levels and professional backgrounds are encouraged to [volunteer for Ontario Corps](#) to help their communities during emergencies. Volunteers from all backgrounds and experience levels are welcome to apply. They will be provided with initial training and matched with partner organizations based on their skill levels, interests and availability.

Earlier this month, after a significant amount of snow accumulated over a short period of time, the province piloted Ontario Corps in Gravenhurst. Ontario Corps partners the Salvation Army, GlobalMedic, Feed Ontario and the Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association were deployed to help Gravenhurst conduct wellness checks on residents, provide food hampers and serve meals to the community, and support a municipal warming centre for community members who lost power or were stranded on motorways. In April, Team Rubicon Canada, an Ontario Corps partner, was deployed to French River after they requested support for flood mitigation, assisting locals with sandbagging efforts to avoid a flood of the area.

As a part of the plan to modernize emergency management across Ontario, the province is also establishing an Ontario Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters that will support a quicker and more coordinated response. Located on surplus government property on Disco Road in Etobicoke near Toronto Pearson International Airport, this state-of-the-art complex would be a multifaceted centre for coordinated and enhanced responses to emergencies. A secure facility with dedicated training rooms, storage, warehousing and aviation infrastructure, the new headquarters would be built to withstand all types of disasters including earthquakes, tornadoes and floods, capable of serving Ontario 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The government is also partnering with Northern College on a regional emergency hub in Timmins to bolster local on-the-ground response and enhance emergency readiness in northern Ontario. The hub, located at the college, could be set up to serve as an emergency operations centre, a meeting point for emergency partners to coordinate responses or a training centre for partners and volunteers in the north. Four additional emergency hubs will be established at strategic locations in

northeast, northwest, southwest and southeast Ontario. These new hubs will store equipment to help support local efforts, providing timelier support to areas affected by emergencies.

Quick Facts

- Ontario Corps is part of the government's \$110 million investment over three years to strengthen emergency preparedness and response in Ontario.
 - Communities in need of provincial assistance during an emergency are encouraged to contact Emergency Management Ontario by way of the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre. Staff will assess the situation and determine the best support to provide to the community—Ontario Corps partners, equipment, regional field services staff and/or more.
 - Ontario Corps is a key accomplishment of the [Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan](#), which highlights actions the province is taking to ensure that every community in Ontario is safe, practiced and prepared before, during and after emergencies.
-

Quotes

"French River is extremely appreciative to Team Rubicon Canada through Ontario Corps who assisted us during our flooding situation last spring. Ontario Corps not only provided an excellent and efficient service during our time of need, but they brought comfort to our most vulnerable residents who are seniors. And for this, the municipality is eternally grateful."

- Gisèle Pageau
Mayor, Municipality of French River

"Emergency management has evolved significantly across Ontario over the years and Ontario Corps is an important part of the story. We're grateful to Premier Ford and the Government of Ontario for all their support through our emergency in Gravenhurst. We called and they answered. We are certain that Ontario Corps will be a useful resource to other communities experiencing emergencies in the future."

- Heidi Lorenz
Mayor of Gravenhurst

"Team Rubicon Canada appreciates its partnership with the Government of Ontario and Ontario Corps, which has brought over 100 new Greyshirt volunteers through the Ontario Corps portal. This collaboration enhances community resilience, equipping Team Rubicon Canada to be better trained and prepared for disaster response across the province and nationally."

- Bryan Riddell
CEO, Team Rubicon Canada

"The Ontario Corps partnership has significantly increased The Salvation Army's capacity to respond during emergencies. With funding for a new canteen truck and essential supplies, we have been able to pre-position resources for faster responses to communities in northern Ontario. We are deeply grateful for this partnership."

- Stephanie Couturier
Ontario Director, Emergency Disaster Services, The Salvation Army

"Feed Ontario is honoured to be part of the Ontario Corps program. This partnership means that Feed Ontario can pre-pack and store emergency food boxes to ship immediately in times of need and food banks across the province are receiving vital emergency management training to respond and support when acute emergencies affect their communities."

- Carolyn Stewart
CEO, Feed Ontario

"We are thankful to partner with the province. We have thousands of volunteers who daily help their neighbours and want to do more. With financial support from the province we have bought and trained on emergency gear including flood barriers, field tents, trailer mounted generators and a laundry trailer. We have provided drones and training to four remote First Nations communities. We will keep responding to help the people of Ontario."

- Rahul Singh
Executive Director, GlobalMedic

"The Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association is proud to be a partner of the Ontario Corps program. Together, we provide a framework of professional volunteers ready to assist Ontarians in times of need. Today's announcement will greatly increase our capabilities to respond rapidly to crises affecting communities in Ontario."

- Bruno Baker
President, Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Corps](#)
- [Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan](#)
- [Emergency Management Ontario](#)

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Ontario Protecting Firefighters from Cancer-Causing Chemicals

First-ever \$30 million fire grant will help support cancer prevention measures for municipal firefighters

December 19, 2024

[Solicitor General](#)

BOLTON — The Ontario government is investing \$30 million over three years to provide 374 municipal fire departments with funding to support cancer prevention initiatives. The funding through the Fire Protection Grant will be used to purchase equipment and make infrastructure upgrades to help reduce the long-term effects of exposure to fire-related contaminants and chemicals.

“Firefighters put service over self each and every day, facing dangerous situations to protect their communities,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “Our government has been a leader in protecting them, while they’re protecting us. Today’s announcement is another concrete step to make sure these heroes get the care, resources and support they deserve.”

These funds will see fire services across the province purchase specialized washing and drying equipment to decontaminate bunker gear and wildland firefighting coveralls. It will also allow for facility and infrastructure upgrades to allow for proper air purification and ventilation systems.

“Public safety is about more than just equipping our first responders with the tools they need on the job – it’s about ensuring they are looked after and supported both on and off the job,” said Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy. “That’s why this \$30 million grant is directly supporting the health of countless firefighters who put their safety on the line every day to protect our communities.”

Firefighters are more likely to experience health problems because of exposure to hazardous chemicals. In Canada, 50 to 60 firefighters die of cancer every year and half of those are from Ontario. This funding will ensure firefighters are kept safe, while they are keeping our communities safe.

The [2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#) supports the government's ongoing efforts to enhance public safety in Ontario by ensuring fire services have the resources and protections to respond to major incidents and urgent situations.

Quick Facts

- The \$30 million grant will be administered over three years, with \$10 million being reserved for each year.
 - There are approximately 33,000 municipal firefighters in Ontario, including over 12,500 full-time, nearly 20,000 volunteer and almost 400 part-time firefighters.
-

Quotes

"While others run from danger, firefighters run towards it. Our government is serving those who serve by ensuring Ontario's firefighting community has the resources they need to come home safely at the end of the day. That's why through our Working for Workers bills, we are expanding presumptive coverage for occupational cancers such as skin cancer. But we also must do more to prevent occupational cancers and injuries before they happen. Today's investment is part of our whole-of-government plan to safeguard our firefighting community by complementing our Skills Development Fund investments in fire safety training and new training facilities, as well as unlocking \$400 million through the WSIB for frontline worker mental health, injury and illness prevention, and recovery."

- David Piccini

Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

"Ontario is proud to be home to world-class first responders, including firefighters, who go above and beyond every day to support and protect people across the province. This investment will ensure municipal fire fighters, including those in Dufferin-Caledon, have the resources and protections they need as they work to keep people and families safe."

- Sylvia Jones

MPP Dufferin-Caledon

"This funding is a testament to our commitment to building a safer, healthier Caledon, not just for today but for the future. As our community continues to grow rapidly, it's critical that we invest in the well-being of our firefighters who play a vital role in protecting our residents. This grant is a significant step forward in ensuring Caledon remains a safe and thriving place to live, work, and grow."

**- Annette Groves
Mayor of the Town of Caledon**

"The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs is thankful for the strong partnership we have with this government and their support for the Ontario fire service. The Fire Protection Grant will assist Ontario's fire departments with ensuring public and firefighter safety during challenging economic times. The 437 fire departments in Ontario, be it career or volunteer, operate 24/7 to keep Ontarians safe; the commitment of this funding is instrumental to that success."

**- Deputy Fire Chief Rob Grimwood
President, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs**

"Too many firefighters are impacted by occupational cancer every year, even though they wear their supplied gear and follow strict health and safety protocols. I commend the Ontario government for its Fire Protection Grant initiative, which will allow local departments to purchase specialized washing and drying equipment to properly decontaminate their bunker gear. This is a timely and significant announcement to share with firefighters and their families during this season. "

**- Greg Horton
President, Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association**

"This funding provides fire departments with vital infrastructure and equipment that will enhance firefighter safety."

**- John McBeth
Acting Ontario Fire Marshal**

"On behalf of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Ontario government for their generous support through the Fire Protection Grant program. This funding represents a significant investment in the safety and well-being of our firefighters, enabling us to provide PFAS-free coveralls that protect against hazardous exposures during non-fire suppression activities. Thank you for your commitment to the brave men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting others."

- Dave Pelayo
Fire Chief, Town of Caledon

Additional Resources

- [Fire Protection Grant Recipients](#)
- [Learn about fire protection and prevention in Ontario](#)

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Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2025

December 31, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

The following legislation, regulation and fee changes will be in effect January 1, 2025. They are listed by responsible ministry.

Ministry of the Attorney General

To streamline government processes, Ontario is bringing amendments to the *Legislation Act, 2006* into force on January 1, 2025. The amendments mean that only an Order in Council (OIC) is needed to bring a statute into force on a later date (i.e., for statutes that do not come into force immediately upon being passed into law) and not a proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor. These commencement OICs will also be published on e-Laws, improving public accessibility and transparency.

Ontario is amending regulations under the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* to reduce costs and red tape for authorized cannabis retailers who plan to sell their business and transfer their retail store authorization to another authorized retailer. Changes will streamline current licensing processes by reducing the time it takes for retailers, many of which are small independent businesses, to purchase an existing store.

To better protect the safety of children, the Ontario government is amending the *Cannabis Control Act, 2017* that prohibits the cultivation of recreational cannabis in licensed and unlicensed home-based child care settings. Convicted offenders would be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 for a first conviction and up to \$5,000 for subsequent convictions. Corresponding amendments under the *Provincial Offences Act* will also allow police to issue tickets under these new rules.

Changes to the *Architects Act* will allow the Ontario Association of Architects to create a new limited license category called "Licensed Technologist". Corresponding regulatory amendments will establish the academic, experience and examination requirements needed to obtain the new limited license, as well as outlining a specific scope of practice.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Ontario is further improving the safety of children and youth in care by amending regulations under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*, the *Intercountry Adoption Act, 1998* and the *Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015*, to establish consistent police record check requirements. The amendments will establish when and for whom these checks are required, the practices that must be followed and what information is disclosed in the process.

To strengthen oversight and quality of care for children in licensed out-of-home care, such as foster homes or group homes, the Ontario government is amending regulations under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*. Changes include clarifying the rules around discipline, maintaining records of financial arrangements regarding the care of a child, mandating that children's aid societies provide information about child protection investigations to the ministry and expanding the definition of what constitutes an offence.

Further regulatory amendments under the Act will also improve oversight of children in care by requiring children's aid societies to visit children in out-of-home care placements every 30 days, as well as conduct safety assessments, create safety plans and develop plans of care for children in adoption placements. These plans will also ensure a child's specific needs and well-being are addressed when a society proposes to place or has placed a child outside its territorial jurisdiction.

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Through the *Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act, 2024*, Ontario is requiring every publicly assisted college and university in the province to establish clear policies to support student mental health, as well as address and prevent racism and hate on campus.

Ministry of Education

A new regulation under the *Education Act* strengthens school board accountability by establishing a transparent and consistent process on how all Ontario school boards address and resolve code of conduct complaints. Ontario also introduced mandatory provincial standards for local trustee codes of conduct. School boards are required to ensure their local codes of conduct are up-to-date and consistent with the new standards.

Ontario is building on its work to ensure all students have access to a supportive learning environment that fosters learning and success by updating the French-language terminology for special education in the *Better Schools and Student*

Outcomes Act, 2023, the Education Act and the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 and in 51 regulations under nine statutes.

As part of Ontario's ongoing efforts to introduce affordable, accessible child care, the government is capping child care fees at \$22 per day for families with children in programs enrolled in the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system. Once implemented, average child care fees in Ontario will be lowered to about \$19 per day, a 59 per cent reduction compared to 2020 rates.

As a part of amendments to Ontario's Building Code, the government is lowering the maximum temperature of hot water supplied to any sink, bathtub, or shower in child care facilities and provincial demonstration schools from 49° to 43° Celsius.

Ministry of Energy and Electrification

Ontario is helping reduce red tape and further modernize Ontario's Efficiency Regulation by fully harmonizing Ontario's requirements and efficiency metrics for an additional 42 products through rolling incorporation. This will ensure Ontario standards continue to be updated and remain aligned with Natural Resources Canada's standards.

Ontario is providing a standardized billing solution for Local Distribution Companies to offer net-metered customers with their choice of regulated price plans such as tiered, ultra-low overnight or time of use rates. This will also provide the Independent Electricity System Operator with an enhanced smart metering dataset that can help improve energy forecasting and assess system needs in anticipation of increased electrification.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ontario is removing a barrier so renewable natural gas (RNG) injected anywhere into Ontario's natural gas pipeline system can be used to lower compliance obligations in the Emissions Performance Standards (EPS) program. An amendment to the GHG Reporting Regulation under the *Environmental Protection Act* now allows a facility to claim the benefits of injected RNG. In the past, the RNG had to be purchased and then delivered directly to the facility to qualify as an emissions reduction. Compared to the federal Output-based Pricing System, Ontario's EPS program is estimated to save Ontario businesses about \$1 billion by 2030.

Ontario is changing several Producer Responsibilities regulations under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* to make it easier for producers of tires, batteries, electronics and hazardous products to meet their regulatory

requirements while ensuring residents still have access to recycling services. These changes will allow for more flexibility in how waste is collected, while at the same time reducing unnecessary paperwork and costs for producers.

Ministry of Finance

Ontario is modernizing the administration and regulation of Ontario pension plans by implementing a permanent target benefit framework, establishing a funding concerns test, which helps protect pensioners who are members of certain jointly sponsored pension plans (JSPPs) and also removing a redundant disclosure requirement for these JSPPs.

An amendment to the *Assessment Act* will provide consistent property tax treatment for university-operated student housing. Also under the *Assessment Act*, gravel pits and quarries are getting their own property tax class, as of 2025.

Ontario is making changes to the *Employer Health Tax Act* to reduce the burden on taxpayers. It is applying the same filing and instalment requirement for all employers and allowing for refunds to be paid at any time if a request is made within 90 days of the assessment that gave rise to the refund request. Changes will also clarify the rules on how associated employers can determine if they meet the exemption threshold for a year starting after December 31, 2024.

Amendments to the *Taxation Act, 2007* will extend eligibility of the Ontario Child Benefit for six months for families who have lost a child, matching the federal government's Canada Child Benefit extension of eligibility.

Amendments will also provide a temporary reduction of the transfer tax rate to zero per cent for electricity assets transferred by all municipal electricity utilities, regardless of their number of customers, between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2028.

Ministry of Francophone Affairs

Ontario is amending a regulation under the *French Language Services Act* to reflect changes to the designation of 73 public service agencies. These changes include agency consolidations, program transfers, organizational name changes, as well as service expansions, aimed at making it easier for Ontarians to understand where French language services are available.

Ministry of Health

Ontario is amending regulations under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* that will update and streamline Public Health reporting requirements to make it easier to report and address emerging public health issues, including communicable diseases. Requirements for public pools and spas are also being updated to clarify technical elements and to reduce burden for pool owners and address various other pool types, including cold plunge pools, floatation tanks, floatation pools and hot water pools.

Ontario is amending regulations under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* to enact the voluntary mergers of nine local public health agencies (LPHAs) into four new consolidated LPHAs:

- Brant County Health Unit and Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Peterborough County-City Health Unit
- Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit and the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
- Porcupine Health Unit and Timiskaming Health Unit.

Changes to regulations under the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004* will require accredited community pharmacies and Integrated Community Health Services Centres to submit additional data into the provincial Electronic Health Record, resulting in more complete and robust health data when people are connecting to various care providers.

Ontario is amending the *Respiratory Therapy Act, 1991* to grant greater flexibility in the registration process for respiratory therapists and to align College requirements with other Canadian jurisdictions.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Ontario is working for workers with an amendment under *the Ontario Immigration Act, 2015* that will crack down on fraudulent immigration representatives that exploit newcomers applying to the [Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program](#). These changes introduce new standards for immigration representatives and impose penalties on those who violate these standards in the form of fines, multi-year bans and lifetime bans.

To increase safety and privacy, changes to a regulation under the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* removes the ministry's requirement to publish the full business addresses of temporary help agency and recruiter applicants and licensees to

Ontario.ca as these sometimes may be home addresses.

An amendment to a regulation under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997* will level the playing field on how temporary employment agencies (TEAs) are assessed for premiums on clerical, administrative and other professional labour they supply to employers. TEAs will now be charged a premium for those workers according to the nature of their work, rather than the rate assigned to the client employer.

Ontario is encouraging inclusivity and supporting women in the skilled trades by amending a regulation under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to now require the construction sector to provide menstrual products for onsite crews of 20 or more workers and for construction projects expected to last three months or more.

A new regulatory amendment within the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* will protect workers and the public by strengthening and creating new requirements on design standards on how tower cranes are erected, dismantled and climbed, and for more comprehensive inspections of all tower cranes. This builds on [amendments that came into force on January 1, 2024](#), to ensure equipment is installed, used, inspected and maintained in a way that better protects site workers and the public.

To better identify trade-related health and safety concerns on construction sites, Ontario is amending the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to allow for greater oversight of Worker Trades Committees.

Ministry of Long-Term Care

To help ensure long-term residents are able to connect to the right care, in the right place, Ontario is amending O. Reg. 246/22 under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* to allow long-term care homes to arrange hybrid/virtual consultations with Registered Dietitians (RDs) when a dietitian cannot be found. Amendments also extend the staffing flexibility provision for personal support workers (PSWs) and staff providing personal support services in long-term care to January 1, 2026.

Ontario is also amending Ontario Regulation 246/22 under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act*, to implement the ministry's Cultural Pilot Project that will evaluate how changes to waitlist prioritization requirements can improve access to cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistically appropriate care.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

As part of Ontario's efforts to streamline planning approvals and get more homes built faster, changes to the *Planning Act* remove land use planning responsibilities from Durham and Waterloo regions, giving primary land use planning responsibility to local municipalities within these regions. A related regulation under the *Planning Act* exempts these local municipalities from requiring Minister's approval on most official plan amendments.

Ontario made a new regulation under the *Building Code Act, 1992* to streamline Ontario's Building Code and reduce barriers between provinces by increasing harmonization between Ontario's Building Code and the National Construction Codes. The government also amended that regulation to promote the use of more wood in construction, like mass timber, to help address affordability and support good-paying construction jobs.

To help ensure housing assistance is directed to those most in need of affordable housing, an amendment under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* updates the Household Income Limits and High Need Income Limits to reflect the most recent data provided by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Ministry of Natural Resources

A regulation under the *Conservation Authority Act* provides clarity and transparency on when the Minister of Natural Resources can take over or launch a review on certain permitting processes normally handled by a Conservation Authority.

Changes to the hunting regulation under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* revise the penalty framework for hunters who don't comply with mandatory reporting requirements to introduce a \$50 penalty for two or more consecutive failures to report for a given species after July 1, 2026.

Changes to the trapping regulation under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* update the design specifications of relaxing cable restraints used for trapping coyotes and wolves.

Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

As part of the Spring 2024 Red Tape and Burden Reduction package, Ontario is introducing a new regulation under the *At Your Service Act, 2022* to improve business service delivery. Ministries will develop and publicly report on clear service standards for permits and licenses ensuring faster, more predictable processes, reducing red tape and fostering trust by holding the government accountable to the businesses it serves. It is a key step in making Ontario the most business-friendly province in Canada, supporting growth, innovation and economic success.

To modernize the licence renewal process for master electricians, Ontario is removing the regulatory requirement under Part VIII of the *Electricity Act, 1998* that mandates a recent photograph of the licence holder. This change simplifies compliance, reduces administrative burden and supports a more efficient and streamlined licensing system, making it easier for skilled trades professionals to focus on growing their businesses and supporting Ontario's economy.

Ontario is simplifying motor vehicle sales contracts and disclosure statements with an amendment under the *Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, 2002* requiring all contracts to include one general Canadian Motor Vehicle Arbitration Plan statement. This change simplifies compliance, reduces administrative burden for dealers and ensures clarity and consistency for consumers.

Ontario is amending O. Reg. 98/09 under the *Payday Loans Act, 2008* to be consistent with the federal changes to the *Criminal Code* by reflecting a reduction in the criminal rate of interest, setting a maximum cost of borrowing for payday loans and limiting the maximum fee that payday lenders can charge for dishonoured payments.

Ministry of the Solicitor General

As set out in O. Reg. 213/07 under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, all long-term care (LTC) homes are required to have sprinklers by January 1, 2025. To account for additional infrastructure work, Ontario is extending the compliance deadline by 18 months to July 1, 2026 for designated LTC homes and will implement additional fire safety measures in the interim.

Ministry of Sport

To improve the safety of athletes and boost sport tourism, Ontario approved an OIC that brings the remaining sections of the *Combative Sports Act, 2019* (CSA) into effect to establish a modernized framework for professional and amateur combative sport contests and exhibitions in Ontario.

The new General regulation under the CSA sets out licensing, permitting and enforcement requirements for both professional and amateur combative sport events and includes what defines an amateur and professional combative sport.

Two additional regulations under the CSA also set out technical rules for professional and amateur combative sports and defines fees and eligible expenses to be paid to officials.

An amendment to the *Regulatory Modernization Act, 2007* was approved to replace reference to the *Athletics Control Act* with the CSA.

Ministry of Transportation

To help reduce the administrative burden on drivers, commercial vehicle operators and police services, Ontario is amending a regulation under the *Highway Traffic Act* to raise the total threshold to report a collision that involves property damage to police from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Ontario is amending regulations under the *Highway Traffic Act* to extend the deadline for Motor Vehicle Inspection Station owners to switch to the new DriveON program from December 31, 2024, to March 31, 2025. This will allow inspection stations that have yet to join DriveON to continue operating over the holidays, giving them more time to receive equipment, train staff and familiarize themselves with the new program.

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Ontario Approves Transition of Nine Drug Injection Sites into Treatment Hubs

Province supporting community safety while investing in lasting recovery from addiction

January 02, 2025

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is protecting the safety of children and families while improving access to recovery and treatment services by approving the transition of nine drug injection sites that are located within 200 metres of schools and licensed child-care centres into Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs. These HART Hubs, located in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kitchener, Guelph and Thunder Bay, are part of the province's \$378 million investment to support the creation of a total of 19 new HART Hubs across the province.

"We have heard loud and clear from families across Ontario that drug injection sites near schools and child-care centres are making our communities less safe," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Through these nine new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs, part of our government's \$378 million investment to create a total of 19 hubs across the province, we are taking the next step in our plan to keep communities safe while improving access to mental health and addictions services."

In response to serious safety concerns raised by communities, families and parents, Ontario is taking the next step to create a system of care that prioritizes community safety, treatment and recovery. To support these goals, the province passed the *Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act* and the *Community Care and Recovery Act* to prohibit the operation of drug injection sites within 200 metres of a school or child-care centre. Each provincially funded site was given the opportunity to submit a proposal to transition to a HART Hub and all nine applications have now been approved.

"We are investing more than any government in Ontario's history to create a nation-leading system of mental health and addictions care," said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. "The new HART Hubs will give

people struggling with addiction the support and treatment services they need to achieve lasting recovery.”

By March 31, 2025, the nine approved drug injection sites will be transitioned to HART Hubs. These hubs will be eligible, on average, to receive up to four times more funding to support treatment and recovery under the model than they receive from the province as a consumption site. To assist with transitioning, the sites will also receive one time funding for start up costs.

HART Hubs, similar to existing hub models in Ontario that have successfully provided people with care, will reflect regional priorities by connecting people with complex needs to comprehensive treatment and preventative services. These include a range of services to meet local needs such as primary care, mental health services including addiction care and support, social services and employment support. HART Hubs will also add an estimated 375 highly supportive housing units, in addition to addiction recovery and treatment beds, that will help thousands of people each year transition to more stable long-term housing.

Applications for the remaining HART Hubs are under review and will be announced in the coming weeks. All HART Hubs will have the goal of being operational by April 1, 2025.

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#) and building on the Roadmap to Wellness, the province is taking action to connect individuals to integrated mental health and addictions services, where and when it is needed.

Quick Facts

- The creation of HART Hubs is being done in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.
- With a focus on treatment and recovery, HART Hubs will not offer so-called safer supply, supervised drug consumption or needle exchange programs.
- As part of the *Community Care and Recovery Act, 2024* and the *Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act*, the province has prohibited municipalities and/or local boards from participating in any so-called safer supply program or applying for an exemption for the decriminalization of illegal drugs.
- Through the Roadmap to Wellness, Ontario is investing \$3.8 billion over 10 years to fill gaps in mental health and addictions care, create new services and expand programs.

- Through the Roadmap to Wellness, the Addictions Recovery Fund and other initiatives, the government recently made the following investments:
 - \$124 million over the next three years as part of Budget 2024 to sustain more than 380 addiction recovery beds and models of treatment like mobile mental health clinics.
 - \$152 million over three years for supportive housing to assist individuals facing unstable housing conditions and experiencing mental health and addictions challenges.
 - More than \$22 million over four years to create 10 new Youth Wellness Hubs that the government is adding to the network of 22 hubs already opened since 2020, bringing the total number of Youth Wellness Hubs to 32 across the province.
 - More than \$650 million in annual funding for the Homelessness Prevention Program and \$41.5 million for the Indigenous Supportive House Program, which the government increased by \$202 million annually in the 2023 provincial budget.
 - Up to \$16 million to support Police-Partnered Mobile Crisis Response Teams in over 50 communities across the province so that health care professionals can attend crisis situations.

Quotes

"These hubs are a vital part of our government's plan to ending encampments and providing wraparound services to help people rebuild their lives. A park or street corner is no place for someone struggling with mental health and addictions challenges. Through the new HART hubs, we're helping municipalities build safer, healthier communities where everyone can access the support they need."

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

"Our government takes the safety of the people of Ontario extremely seriously. By transitioning to the HART Hub model, we are taking concrete action to reduce crime in several communities across the province and providing those struggling with addiction with help they need."

**- Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General**

"Today's approval of the recovery focused HART Hub model for Guelph is exciting news for our community. It's exciting due to the supports that can now set individuals on a positive trajectory of lifelong success free from the addictions that are currently harming them, and in most cases impacting their family and friends as well. I thank the Ford government and Minister Jones for their continued support in these areas!"

**- Cam Guthrie
Mayor of Guelph**

"I am pleased to see the approval of the Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub in Hamilton, which will be led by Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre (HUCCHC), a cornerstone organization in our city. By tackling mental health, addiction, homelessness, and barriers to care, this Hub will provide meaningful support to Hamilton's most vulnerable residents. Built on strong local partnerships, it will open pathways to treatment and recovery, housing stability, and social inclusion for those facing the greatest challenges in our community. I want to thank the provincial government for partnering with municipalities and local providers on this critical initiative and look forward to continuing our work together to tackle the urgent addiction, mental health and homelessness crises impacting our city."

**- Andrea Horwath
Mayor of Hamilton**

"This provincial funding is a critical step towards supporting community needs for addiction treatment. Ottawa has a strong commitment to helping residents through the recovery journey. This funding will help to keep our communities safe and to provide wrap-around services to those who can benefit from addiction treatments."

**- Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor of Ottawa**

"Ontario's big cities need a range of tools available to them to tackle the challenges of mental health and addictions impacting both residents and our communities. Today, we are grateful for investments in evidence-based prevention, outreach, addiction treatment, and healthcare services through the Province's announcement to fully-fund one of those tools - the HART Hub proposal for Waterloo Region. Located in Downtown Kitchener, Community Health Caring Kitchener-Waterloo, has taken a leadership role and will be working to build on our collaborative network of partners to support vulnerable people in our community. With today's announcement of support from the Province, we can continue to build a community for everyone where, together, we take care of the world around us and each other."

**- Berry Vrbanovic
Mayor of Kitchener**

"We are encouraged that our community's application has been successful in securing a HART hub for Waterloo Region as we all work together to provide much-needed supports in our community. This funding will help increase access to primary care, mental health and addiction care, housing and social supports. The HART hub co-leads, the House of Friendship and Community Healthcaring Kitchener-Waterloo, will be working closely with community partners to implement and share further HART hub plans, ensuring access to support in Waterloo Region for those who need it most."

**- Karen Redman
Chair of Waterloo Region**

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Protecting Communities and Supporting Addiction Recovery with New Treatment Hubs | Ontario Newsroom](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#)
- [Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System](#)
- [Find out how you can access mental health support](#)

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Accessibility

Privacy

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Ontario Launches “Operation Deterrence” to Strengthen Security Along Ontario-U.S. Border

Provincial police resources will conduct highly visible activities to crack down on illegal cross-border activity

January 07, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government has launched “Operation Deterrence,” the province’s preparedness and planning framework for enhanced security at international borders and tackling criminal activity that is harming people on both sides of the border.

“Ontario has been calling on the federal government to step up and address safety and security concerns at the border. We need to see words turned into visible action,” said Premier Doug Ford. “In the meantime, Ontario is stepping up with Operation Deterrence to crack down on illegal border crossings and illegal guns and drugs. A more coordinated, Team Canada approach that includes more boots on the ground is the only way to detect, deter and disrupt illegal activity and ensure the safety and security of Canadian and American communities.”

As part of Operation Deterrence, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has an emergency response team of 200 officers that, along with frontline and speciality officers, have been and will continue to be engaged to enhance border security. Since December 6, 2024, the OPP has conducted more than 6,000 hours of focused patrols to deter, detect and disrupt illegal border activity using fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, remotely piloted aircraft, boats, off-road vehicles, patrol vehicles and foot patrol. In partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Operation Deterrence activity will be enhanced through the use of the emergency response team, frontline officer and additional speciality resources, including canine units, commercial motor vehicle inspections and criminal investigators.

“Our government has been crystal clear – securing our shared border is essential to keeping streets across Ontario, Canada and America safe,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “Operation Deterrence will put concrete actions in place that will

put a halt on the flow of illegal guns and drugs into our province and protect communities on both sides of the border.”

Operation Deterrence will target its activities outside of the 14 official border crossings staffed by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

Operation Deterrence is in addition to existing and ongoing efforts to better protect Ontario-U.S. borders and combat cross-border illegal activity. These include the OPP’s Joint Forces Border Drug Interdiction Task Force, with participants including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), RCMP, CBSA and a number of municipal police services, which was stood up as an expansion to a number of ongoing multi-jurisdictional drug investigations.

Quick Facts

- On Friday, January 3, Ontario officials took part in a joint planning and readiness exercise with federal authorities to promote enhanced coordination aimed at cracking down on illegal border crossings, smuggling and other illicit activity along the province’s border with the United States.
- Ontario has called on the federal government to address U.S. economic and security concerns, including by matching U.S. tariffs on China, banning Chinese software in cars on Canadian roads, delaying the implementation of the digital services tax and presenting a credible plan to meet and exceed Canada’s two per cent NATO defence spending commitments.
- Ontario is uniquely positioned to help America bring jobs back home as it decouples from China, including by building up Fortress Am-Can, growing Ontario-U.S. critical mineral supply chains and providing more clean, nuclear power to fuel America’s economic growth and promote shared security.
- If Ontario were a standalone country, it would be the U.S.’s third-largest trading partner with a near-perfect balance in two-way trade totalling CAD \$493 billion in 2023, employing millions of workers on both sides of the border.

Additional Resources

- [Premier Ford Urges Federal Government to Take More Proactive Approach at the Border](#)
 - [Premiers Discuss Important Issues for Canadians](#)
-

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Accessibility

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Construction Update – December 2024

Posted on Friday, December 06, 2024



County Road 37 (Murphy Road), Town of Petawawa

Construction Update – December 6, 2024

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

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

Completed Projects

The 2024 Construction Season has come to an end and all the planned construction projects have now been completed. A significant length of road works were completed, with more than 71 km being rehabilitated or reconstructed! Construction was completed to rehabilitate or replace 15 different County Structures as well. Not previously included in our construction updates, 16 km of Algonquin Trail is now

completed with an additional 36.5 km of trail being built-up to be opened in the future.

This is a substantial capital program which was completed on top of regular maintenance, a large number of permits and municipal consents, as well as immeasurable administrative support. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Public Works & Engineering staff for this busy but successful year.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation throughout this construction season!



County Road 73 (Deep River Road), Town of Deep River



County Road 70 (Ruby Road), Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Township

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Algonquin Trail extension through Garrison Petawawa complete

Posted on Monday, December 09, 2024

Algonquin Trail expansion through Garrison Petawawa



Before

During

After

RELEASE DATE:

December 9, 2024

The County of Renfrew is pleased to announce the completion of the section of the Algonquin Trail through Garrison Petawawa. This significant project creates a scenic, continuous recreational trail from Arnprior to Deep River, linking the overall Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT) from Smith Falls to Deep River.

In collaboration with several key community and industry partners, the project through Garrison Petawawa is a testament to cooperative efforts in regional development. The County of Renfrew led the initiative, managing the majority of the work and contracts necessary to bring this vision to fruition; however, cooperation and support and partnerships from Garrison Petawawa, Trans Canada Energy (TCE), the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), and Renfrew County ATV Club (RCATV) were integral to see this project to fruition.

The project was unique in nature as it was built 'from scratch' on a forested section of the TCE corridor through Garrison Petawawa. Due to the proximity to the Trans

Canada Pipeline, the area permitted for access was somewhat narrow, limited excavation was permitted, and no materials could be removed. A forestry tiller was used to prepare the area the trail could occupy in order to allow equipment access and granular placement. Culverts were installed in all areas requiring them while blast rock and Granular 'B' were used to fill in lower areas and soften hills. Granular 'A' was applied throughout the trail section to provide sufficient base strength for equipment and maintenance. This facilitated access to rehabilitate three bridges, originally donated by OFSC, to ensure continuous access. Finally, stone dust was applied to ensure an adequate surface for all users, be they cyclists, walkers, ATVs, or snowmobiles.

The completion of this trail section represents our commitment to developing sustainable recreational infrastructure," commented County of Renfrew Warden Peter Emon. "This milestone is a great example of community collaboration and partnership, providing significant leisure and adventure opportunities for all across the County."

This section of trail is now open to all users and a formal ribbon cutting is planned for spring of 2025 to celebrate this achievement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Tina Peplinskie 735-7288	Media Relations Coordinator	613-
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Renfrew Reeve Peter Emon re-elected to seventh term as Warden

Posted on Thursday, December 12, 2024



Renfrew Reeve Peter Emon was re-elected as Renfrew County Warden during the Inaugural Session of County Council on December 10. His nomination for Warden was seconded by Councillor Anne Giardini and moved by Councillor James Brose.

RELEASE DATE:

December 12, 2024

Renfrew Reeve Peter Emon was re-elected by his County Council peers during the December 10 Inaugural Session, defeating Councillor Rob Weir from the Township of Greater Madawaska.

Warden Emon was nominated by Councillor James Brose and Councillor Anne Giardini seconded the nomination. Councillor Weir was nominated by Councillor Gary Serviss and Councillor Mark Mackenzie seconded the nomination. The Office of the Warden of the County of Renfrew is for a one-year term, as provided for by the procedural by-law.

Following the official swearing-in ceremony, Warden Emon outlined his major themes and goals for the next year:

- Addressing the housing and homelessness crisis by further examining long-term needs across the County as a result of the Building Conditions Assessment findings;
- Fostering economic development and growth while continuing to enhance our cultural, economic, environmental and social health;
- Lobbying for increased child-care spaces;
- Continuing to provide wrap-around supports for individuals experiencing homelessness and/or individuals who are precariously housed or suffering from addictions through the Mesa initiative;
- Lobbying for the further expansion of Highway 417 through Renfrew County;
- Exploring shared services;
- Supporting the manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and forestry industries.

"I strongly believe we are on the right path to meet the challenges ahead and find opportunities for continued growth and advancement in the coming years," said Warden Emon. "I have every confidence in our Council and staff, that working together with our community, we can achieve our goals."

Continuing relationships with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Garrison Petawawa, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the City of Pembroke and maintaining a strong presence at the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Rural Ontario Municipal Association and Eastern Ontario Regional Network are also among Warden Emon's priorities.

As the nominator, Councillor Brose highlighted Warden Emon's commitment, dedication, perseverance, passion, patience and vision as qualities he admires in the leadership demonstrated during his two terms as head of council.

"These characteristics will be necessary as we move forward in the changing political environment that will require careful planning and navigation," Councillor Brose expressed. "Stability and experience in our local leadership will be instrumental in addressing these challenges."

In seconding the nomination, Councillor Giardini called Warden Emon an effective leader dedicated to the County of Renfrew, but also an effective team member.

"Peter has vowed to continue to work hard on advancing the business of the County of Renfrew and I wholeheartedly second his nomination as Warden for the County of Renfrew for 2025," she said.

Warden Emon spent 40 years as a public servant in community services and he has served on municipal council since 1988, including as Reeve of Renfrew since 2014. This will be Emon's seventh term serving as Warden.

County Council moves to Committee of the Whole in 2025, with the committees being represented by the following chairpersons: Corporate Services – Jennifer Murphy; Operations – Glenn Doncaster; Development and Property – James Brose; Health – Michael Donohue and Community Services – Anne Giardini.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley Chief Administrative Officer 613-735-7288

Tina Peplinskie Media Relations Coordinator 613-735-7288



At the Inaugural Session of County Council on December 10, newly re-elected Warden Peter Emon (centre) was joined by former wardens (from left) Paul Curtis, Debbie Robinson, Jennifer Murphy and Bob Sweet.

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Algonquin Trail joins Trans Canada Trail

Posted on Friday, December 20, 2024



The County of Renfrew's Algonquin Trail has officially become part of the Trans Canada Trail.

RELEASE DATE:

December 20, 2024

The County of Renfrew is thrilled to announce that the Algonquin Trail has officially become part of the renowned Trans Canada Trail, a significant milestone, recognizing the County's commitment to supporting outdoor recreation and connectivity.

The Trans Canada Trail network now extends on the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT) from Smith Falls in Lanark County, through Renfrew County. The incorporation of the Algonquin Trail adds 132 kilometres of recreational trail to the system and will add an additional 105 kilometres when the remainder Algonquin Trail is completed and opened.

Trans Canada Trail is an organization that advocates for, stewards, and champions Canada's nationwide trail system. It is a registered charity that receives funding from the Government of Canada (through Parks Canada), various provincial and municipal governments, and generous donors. The Trans Canada Trail is the longest

multi-use trail system in the world and is always growing. Covering more than 29,000 kilometers, it traverses urban, rural, remote, and wilderness landscapes, reaching every province and territory, and connecting all three of Canada's coastlines. Each section of the Trans Canada Trail is managed locally and supports different activities and community needs.

"The addition of the Algonquin Trail into the Trans Canada Trail network is a proud moment for the County of Renfrew," said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon. "This milestone exemplifies our dedication to creating a vibrant, connected community that celebrates the County's natural beauty through outdoor recreation."

The County invites all outdoor enthusiasts to experience the charm of Renfrew County through this dynamic addition to the Trans Canada Trail network.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

Local businesses donate to Mesa Warming Centre

Posted on Friday, December 20, 2024



The Home Depot donated \$2,000 in materials towards the building retrofit for the Mesa Warming Centre. Celebrating the donation before the Centre opened (from left) were County of Renfrew Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley, Director of Development and Property Jason Davis, Supervisor of Technical Services Dennis Lazary, from the Home Depot Ben Kelly, Tammie Tubman and Tom Randell, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service Commander Amber Hultinck, Mesa Coordinator Barb Tierney, Building Infrastructure Coordinator Garry Davis, and from the Ontario Addictions Treatment Centre – Pembroke clinic Tara Edeh and Jenni Pinkerton.

RELEASE DATE:

December 20, 2024

In the month since plans were announced for the Mesa Warming Centre to operate in the City of Pembroke during the 2024/25 winter season, the Centre has opened its doors and welcomed its first clients.

The Centre, located within the Ontario Addictions Treatment Centre (OATC) Pembroke clinic location at 156 John Street, opened on December 7 and is now operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It provides a safe space for individuals experiencing homelessness and/or individuals who are precariously housed.

This effort is a continuation of Mesa, the collaborative approach to compassionate care in the community, which was launched by the County of Renfrew and community partners in March 2024.

The Centre is staffed with front-line staff from MacKay Manor, trained in helping people access addictions and mental-health support. The Mesa team supports this work during the day with the goal of providing low barrier wrap-around supports to these individuals.

It is funded through a municipal partnership with contributions from the City of Pembroke, Town of Petawawa, Township of Laurentian Valley, and the County of Renfrew, which acts as the service system manager for provincial funding through the Homelessness Prevention Program.

Local businesses are also stepping forward to contribute financially to this initiative.

Demers Masonry Inc. and Ethier Electric have donated \$5,000 each to the Mesa Warming Centre and The Home Depot, through TS General Contracting, donated \$2,000 in materials used to retrofit the space.

Demers Masonry, Ethier Electrical and TS General Contracting worked on the Warming Centre and these local contractors were happy to give back to the community, especially around the holiday season.



Demers Masonry Inc. recently donated \$5,000 to the Mesa Warming Centre. Taking part in the cheque presentation (from left) were Petawawa Mayor Gary Serviss, County of Renfrew Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley, Director of Development and Property Jason Davis, Petawawa Councillor Karen Donovan, Emergency Services Director Michael Nolan, Community Services Director Andrea Patrick, Mark Demers, Lynn Demers, Jordan Demers, Dominic Demers, Paige Preyde, Carissa Demers, Nick Preyde, Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon, Pembroke Councillor Troy Purcell and Laurentian Valley Mayor Steve Bennett.

Slawek Tyloch, owner of TS General Contracting, was the general contractor on the Warming Centre build and he was instrumental in assisting with securing these donations.

"On behalf of Renfrew County, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to TS General Contracting, Demers Masonry, Ethier Electric, The Home Depot for their generous donations to the Mesa Warming Centre," said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon, who chairs the Warming Centre Committee. "Your support is invaluable in helping us provide a warm and safe environment for those in need during the cold winter months. Your commitment to our community is truly inspiring and greatly appreciated."

The Mesa program embodies bold and compassionate work necessary to address the root causes of homelessness, substance abuse and addictions and mental health while fostering a resilient and healthier community for all residents of the County of Renfrew.

Mesa teams across the County have been engaging and supporting people by providing outreach, counselling, and treatment services.

By connecting people to local programs and services, Mesa partners have created a renewed sense of hope and optimism.

Anyone wishing to donate to the efforts of the Mesa teams, Warming Centre and people in need of your generosity, cheques can be made payable to the County of Renfrew (in the Memo line please indicate the funds be directed to Mesa). They can be mailed to or dropped off at the County Administration Building, 9 International Drive, Pembroke, K8A 6W5. Receipts will be issued for donations greater than \$20. Please provide the name and address for the receipt.

Online donations are also being accepted through a [form](#) on the County of Renfrew website.

All donations received will go towards the County of Renfrew's Housing and Homelessness Fund, targeting efforts that include the Warming Centre in Pembroke.

Thank you for your continued support, kindness and empathy for our friends, family and neighbours in need of these wrap-around supports.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley 735-7288	Chief Administrative Officer	613-
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Tina Peplinskie 735-7288	Media Relations Coordinator	613-
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Ethier Electric recently donated \$5,000 to the Mesa Warming Centre. Taking part in the cheque presentation (from left) were Petawawa Mayor Gary Serviss, County of Renfrew Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley, Director of Development and Property Jason Davis, Petawawa Councillor Karen Donovan, Emergency Services Director Michael Nolan, Community Services Director Andrea Patrick, Ethier Electric Manager of Operations Chris Parr, Electrician Kyle Biggs, Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon, Pembroke Councillor Troy Purcell and Laurentian Valley Mayor Steve Bennett.

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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, January 06, 2025)

RCDHU Encourages Families to Update Immunization Records for School-aged Children

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has started its annual review of immunization records for all students that attend school in Renfrew County and District, as required under the [Immunization of School Pupils Act](#). Keeping routine immunizations up to date is an important safeguard to protect children and the community against serious illnesses.

The [Immunization of School Pupils Act](#) requires all students attending school in Ontario to be immunized or have a valid exemption for the following nine vaccine-preventable diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (also known as whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal disease, and varicella (for those born after January 1st, 2010).

As part of the review process, immunization notices are being distributed to students who are missing the required vaccines, or whose updated immunizations have not been reported to RCDHU. Second notices will be sent later this winter to the families of students whose immunizations remain out of date or who do not have a valid exemption in place. As a last resort, students whose immunization records remain out of date following a second notice may be suspended from school. However, RCDHU will work closely with families and strive to avoid this outcome.

"Routine immunizations are an important step in protecting children and youth from serious infectious diseases. Recent increases in measles and whooping cough activity across Ontario reinforce the importance of keeping immunizations up to date," states Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health for RCDHU.

If you are a parent/guardian and your child receives an immunization notice, RCDHU is asking you to follow up by:

- Contacting your health care provider to get updated on any missing immunizations, and submitting updated immunization records to RCDHU through one of the following methods:
 - The secure online tool ICON: [Immunization Connect Ontario Tool](#)
 - Email : immunization@rcdhu.com
 - Fax: 613-735-3067
 - Phone: 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004

- If you do not have a health care provider, contact RCDHU to book an appointment for an upcoming immunization clinic by calling 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004. RCDHU will also be offering in school clinics for all high school students.

For more information on immunization requirements for attending school, please visit the RCDHU's Immunizations for Children webpage or call the Immunization Information Line at 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004.

- 30 -

Renfrew County and District Health Unit
Fax: 613-735-3067
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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 6, 2024 11:43 AM
To: Group Annprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Gender-Based Violence Toolkit



AMO Policy Update – Gender-Based Violence Toolkit

AMO Releases Toolkit of Gender-Based Violence Resources for Municipal Elected Officials

Today is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. To mark this day, AMO is proud to launch a toolkit of [Gender-Based Violence Resources for Elected Officials](#). Municipalities play a multifaceted role in addressing gender-based violence through their roles in public safety, community outreach, resource planning, and service delivery.

In 2023, AMO joined over 90 of our members in recognizing that gender-based and intimate partner violence is an epidemic in Ontario that requires urgent and coordinated government action. We also recognize the disproportionate rates of intimate partner violence experienced by Indigenous women and the multiple barriers Indigenous women face when seeking help. By making this declaration, AMO recognizes that municipal governments are key partners in responding to issues of intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, and violence against Indigenous women and girls.

We have heard from many of our members that since making their declarations, they have grown, expanded, and initiated new responses to intimate partner violence and gender-based violence. This toolkit includes resources from organizations working in communities across the province and provides valuable resources to support elected officials in responding to gender-based violence in their communities.

In 2025, AMO will continue to provide members with opportunities to learn more about how their communities can address gender-based violence. Look out for more education opportunities coming soon in the new year.

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

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 5, 2024 4:57 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, Advocacy on Water, Recent Bills and Building Officials



AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, Advocacy on Water, Recent Bills and Building Officials

AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission Preview

AMO understands that the provincial-municipal fiscal framework is broken. Municipalities across Ontario are facing immense pressure this budget season, largely created by growing costs in areas of provincial jurisdiction. For almost a year, AMO has been calling for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. Unfortunately, the provincial government has not come to the table. However, we know the problem remains and we are evolving our strategy.

AMO sent a [letter](#) to all elected AMO members, CAOs, and Treasurers highlighting the key elements of our upcoming 2025 pre-budget submission. That submission will be released in mid-January and will call for provincial action in three key areas that would support municipal fiscal sustainability and improve quality of life for Ontarians:

- Long-term and predictable provincial investments in municipal infrastructure
- Reducing the province’s reliance on municipal property taxes to fund health and social services

- Addressing the root causes of homelessness, building off an ambitious research project on homelessness that AMO and key partners will release in January

We know our sector is strongest when speaking with one unified voice. AMO will be following up in the coming weeks with a variety of communications tools to support member's participation in ROMA delegations, and advance municipal fiscal sustainability and homelessness priorities.

\$1 Billion Loan Program for Water Systems

The province recently [announced](#) a new Infrastructure Ontario financing program for water infrastructure projects that enable the construction of more homes.

This program will complement the existing provincial infrastructure funding programs that AMO has advocated for to achieve the province's ambitious goal of 1.5 million new homes by 2031. This new financial tool for municipalities offers the following features:

- Flexible borrowing terms with deferred interest payments during construction
- Longer debenture repayment terms of up to 40 years
- More flexible repayment terms, and
- Lower administration costs

Applications will be open in early December and more details are available in a short [newsletter](#).

Omnibus Red Tape Reduction Bill

Bill 227, Cutting Red Tape, Building Ontario Act, 2024 was [introduced](#) on November 20 and includes a broad range of proposals from most ministries. Those impacting municipalities the most include:

- A new allowance for minor errors on forms and changes to prevent delays in decision-making could help reduce the Landlord and Tenant Board backlog
- Providing credit agencies access to Landlord and Tenant Board orders related to missed payments, which could help landlords make more informed decisions about prospective tenants
- Recent regulatory changes in support of Ontario One Call streamlined the dedicated locator model for broadband projects, potentially speeding up implementation and reducing costs. In response to feedback from our sector, some municipal underground infrastructure owners can now conduct their own locates instead of the broadband project owner. The province is seeking input on implementing these changes
- Proposals to streamline the release of Ontario Heritage Trust lands without heritage value and the approval process for brownfield development could help unlock more land for development. AMO has long advocated for the province to review its own processes and approvals to enable development and welcomes these efficiencies

Many other proposals are housekeeping amendments or have no direct impact on the municipal sector.

The bill was fast-tracked, bypassing public hearings. AMO will be commenting on some elements of the bill posted to the Environmental Registry.

Environmental Bill

Bill 228, Resource Management and Safety Act, 2024, was [introduced](#) on November 25 including a range of environmental proposals along with a proposal to help attract more surveyors to the profession in support of building safe and affordable housing options.

AMO will comment on elements of the Bill posted in various Environmental Registry proposals, focusing on:

- Changes that could impact municipalities' activities in wildland fire management and require new resources. AMO will advocate for the province to absorb any new costs
- Commending the province for taking action on climate change with its proposal for commercial carbon storage projects. AMO will support the proposed municipal role in decision-making for these projects
- Support for protecting communities from the hazards of deteriorating oil and gas wells

Support for Removing Barriers for Qualified Building Officials

AMO supported the government's proposal to streamline the process for qualified Manitoba building officials to work in Northern Ontario in its Environmental Registry [comments](#). AMO also continued to advocate for measures that will attract and retain building officials to address the shortage across the province.

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

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 12, 2024 12:23 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Homelessness Encampments Legislation



AMO Policy Update – Homelessness Encampments Legislation

Later today, the government will table bills to introduce the *Safer Municipalities Act* and the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act* that focus on increasing enforcement around encampments and public drug use. AMO will be closely reviewing the legislation when it is tabled.

The province also announced other measures intended to assist municipalities to address homelessness encampments:

- \$75.5 million in provincial and federal funding for housing and homelessness supports, including \$5.5 million to increase the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB), \$20 million for emergency shelters and temporary accommodation, and \$50 million for ready-to-build affordable housing projects.
- Additional requirements for municipal service managers to report back to the province on the number of individuals moved from encampments into new accommodations and to submit spending plans for Homelessness Prevention Program funding for MMAH approval.

AMO has called for provincial guidance that clarifies municipal enforcement powers around encampments. The lack of shared understanding of municipal authorities across municipal Councils, police services, and community

members has led to divisive local confrontations and undermined effective responses to encampments.

Enforcement alone will not effectively address encampments. Only serious investments and coordinated action on transitional, supportive and community housing, mental health, addictions and social services, and income supports can address the impacts of decades of provincial policy.

“AMO shares the province’s perspective that the 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario must be addressed. Municipalities appreciate every dollar that the province puts towards homelessness. But more is needed. Only provincial investments in housing, health and social services can truly address encampments.” Robin Jones, AMO President and Mayor of Westport

“Encampments are not a justice or policing issue, they are a social safety net issue. The 1400 homeless encampments in Ontario today are the result of decades of provincial under investments in income security, mental health and addictions services, and deeply affordable housing. Provincial leadership and resources are needed to solve this crisis that is undermining Ontario’s prosperity and quality of life.” Brian Rosborough, AMO Executive Director

More information about AMO’s position is found in [Homelessness Encampments in Ontario: A Municipal Perspective.](#)

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 12, 2024 4:38 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Municipal Codes of Conduct Legislation



AMO Policy Update – Municipal Codes of Conduct Legislation

As the most trusted and transparent level of government, accountability is a core value of the municipal sector. For years, municipalities have called on the province for better tools to codify and enforce higher standards of accountability for elected officials. These tools are needed to reinforce the accountability of the municipal sector and to support a safe and respectful work environment for members of council and for municipal staff.

Legislation was promised three years ago following an extensive public consultation process that concluded in fall 2021. If passed and once regulations are finalized, this legislation will largely deliver on that promise by:

- enabling standardization of municipal codes of conduct and integrity commissioner investigation processes;
- creating a role for the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario in municipal codes of conduct and integrity commissioner matters; and
- establishing a mechanism to remove and disqualify from office members of council and certain local boards for the most serious violations.

AMO welcomes this legislation that responds to what municipalities' have consistently requested. AMO will review the details in the bill and engage fully in the legislative process during the next legislative session. Members should

be aware that the bill will not become law if the Premier calls an election before the bill passes.

“Municipal councils in Ontario have asked for legislation that holds elected officials to a higher standard of accountability. If passed, this bill would deliver on ensuring that, as members of council, we are living up to the trust that residents put in us. We commend Minister Calandra for getting to this point.”

– Robin Jones, AMO President and Mayor of Westport

“Municipal government is the most trusted, open and transparent order of government. This bill, if passed, will help municipal councils fulfil their commitment a higher standard of accountability, and to address situations of serious misconduct when they arise.” – Brian Rosborough, AMO Executive Director

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 16, 2024 3:27 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update - Pre-Budget Key Messages for Use at ROMA Delegations, Conservation Authority Fees, Energy Supply and Distribution Plans, Environmental Bill



AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Key Messages for Use at ROMA Delegations, Conservation Authority Fees, Energy Supply and Distribution Plans, Environmental Bill

Pre-Budget Key Messages for Use at ROMA Delegations

Ontario’s municipalities are strongest when they speak with one voice, highlighting issues that are important to communities across the province and consistently asking for the same fix from the province.

The 2025 ROMA Conference provides an important opportunity to link local examples to what municipalities are saying province-wide on key priorities. AMO asks that you consider incorporating AMO’s [pre-budget key messages](#) into your conversations with Ministers at ROMA. Messages focus on the need for:

- new ways to fund housing-enabling infrastructure
- the province to reduce its reliance on municipal tax dollars, to help municipalities to focus on rising costs of core municipal responsibilities like policing

- the province to make significant and comprehensive investments in income support, mental health and addictions services as well as community and supportive housing to address homelessness

In addition to these key priorities, we know that many ROMA members plan to raise concerns with *Provincial Offences Act* administration. Recently, AMO wrote to Minister Downey calling for a third-party review of the system to address ongoing challenges. You may wish to consider key messages from the [letter](#) as part of a consistent, sector-wide ask.

Conservation Authority Fee Freeze

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry recently provided direction to Conservation Authorities that it will be freezing conservation authority fees for another year, until the end of 2025. The freeze was originally put in place on January 1, 2023 to help the province build 1.5 million homes by 2031. This will mark the third year that the freeze is being extended.

Conservation Authorities provide key services that benefit municipalities by protecting residents, safeguarding infrastructure, and enhancing the overall quality of life within the community. AMO will continue to advocate for:

- The ability of conservation authorities to set fees that accurately reflect the value of their services. These fees should be transparent, defensible, and publicly available.
- A fee structure that establishes a reliable, long-term funding model for conservation authorities. This would mitigate potential financial risks for municipalities while addressing concerns about strained staffing capacity within these crucial environmental organizations.

Province Expanding Energy Procurements

The Minister of Energy and Electrification [has announced](#) direction to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to increase energy procurements by:

- Expanding the amount of new electricity generation infrastructure being procured under the Second Long-Term Procurement (LT2) by 50%. IESO will award contracts annually between 2026 and 2029

- Developing options for additional procurements to:
 - Get “long-lead resources” such as hydroelectric and long-duration energy storage, and
 - Re-contract existing and get new small-scale electricity generation such as small solar installations

AMO anticipates that this expanded approach to energy procurement will lead to an increase in requests for municipal approvals on proposed energy projects within their communities. AMO continues to collaborate with the IESO and the province to ensure municipalities have the necessary support to make informed decisions on energy projects. This includes AMO’s development of a municipal toolkit, which will be launched in the New Year.

OEB New Connections for Housing Development

AMO [provided comments](#) to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on proposed changes to the Distribution System Code. These changes aim to lower the upfront costs for homebuyers in new developments by directing electricity companies to recover the costs of building new ‘last mile’ power lines over a longer period. This could spread costs across a larger pool of residents, making housing more affordable. AMO continues to advocate for a solution that ensures the cost and risk shift away from homebuyers without burdening municipalities or local distribution corporations.

Response to Environmental Bill

AMO [provided comments](#) on Environmental Registry postings related to Bill 228, Resource Management and Safety Act, 2024. Comments addressed a range of environmental proposals, including:

- Advocacy for the province to absorb any new costs associated with a new wildland fire modernization framework
- Support for the province’s plan to reduce oil and gas well hazards, and
- Support for the province’s efforts to mitigate climate change through the development of a commercial carbon storage framework.

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December 05, 2024

- AMO President Robin Jones provides highlights from Board meeting.
- ERO Posting on changes to electricity system connection infrastructure.
- Integrated Energy Resource Plan Consultation.
- Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) with new funding.
- Health Canada webinars on the overdose crisis.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- ROMA Program - Check out the *Rural Routes* programming.
- ROMA Pre-conference workshop January 18 - Two Keys to Municipal Success.
- AMO is here to support your leadership - 2025 Workshops.
- The NWMO announces future site for Canada's deep geological repository.
- Webinar on risk management for Battery Energy Storage Systems.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO President Robin Jones [provides highlights](#) from the November 29 Board meeting, including an update on AMO's provincial election strategy and continued advocacy for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is [seeking comments](#) on proposed regulatory changes that will shift the cost and risk burden of funding new distribution infrastructure from first-movers. Comments are due December 7.

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is [seeking comments](#) to inform the development of a provincial energy plan to guide the transition to a clean, reliable, affordable energy supply. Comments are due December 13.

Federal Matters

Municipalities with populations 30,000 and under can now access the CRIS expert-matching service to get funded expert advice on how to build climate-resilient infrastructure plans and projects. Apply [here](#).

Health Canada is holding a 1.5 hour webinar at 1pm on December 10 about community-level responses to the overdose crisis. Email opioidresponse-interventionopioides@hc-sc.gc.ca to reserve your spot.

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.

Education Opportunities

The 2025 ROMA Conference program is jammed full of top-notch sessions. Sessions are designed from the rural perspective, highlighting solutions and innovation for rural communities. Check out the program [here](#). [Register for the ROMA Conference today](#).

AMO's [Two Keys to Municipal Success: Sustainability & Engagement](#) workshop explores strategies for planning your organizations financial sustainability and how to successfully communicate to and engage your community on your plan and efforts. Register [here](#).

AMO continues to advance its education programming. [Here is a list](#) of what is on the calendar so far for 2025. Watch for new workshops including strategic asset management, equity, inclusion and innovation in municipalities. unlocking opportunity through human rights based planning and more.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

The [Nuclear Waste Management Organization](#) has selected Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and the Township of Ignace as the host communities for the future site for Canada's deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel.

Energy Storage Canada and Marsh are hosting [a webinar](#) on risk identification and management for battery energy storage system (BESS) projects on December 9, 10:00 am.

Careers

[Director, Laboratory Services Branch - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks](#). Closing Date: December 20, 2024.

[Municipal Planner - City of Temiskaming Shores](#). Closing Date: December 29, 2024.

[Administrator, Pioneer Ridge - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: December 27, 2024.

[Chief Administrative Officer - City of Greater Sudbury](#). Closing Date: December 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!

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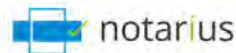
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AMO Watchfile



December 12, 2024

- Get access to MIDAS!
- Integrated Energy Resource Plan Consultation.
- Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) registration now open.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- ROMA Program - So many great concurrent sessions!
- ROMA Pre-conference workshop January 18 - Two Keys to Municipal Success.
- AMO is here to support your leadership - 2025 Workshops.
- Now available - On-demand municipal investment training.
- Blog: LAS' 2024 Year End Message.
- Plan your purchases with Canoe.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

MIDAS - the [Municipal Information & Data Analysis System](#) - provides access to the Financial Information Returns (FIRs) data to all Ontario municipalities. MIDAS converts FIR data into meaningful reports. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is [seeking comments](#) to inform the development of a provincial energy plan to guide the transition to a clean, reliable, affordable energy supply. Comments are due December 13.

Federal Matters

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AMO continues to advance its education programming. [Here is a list](#) of what is on the calendar so far for 2025. Watch for new workshops including strategic asset management, equity, inclusion and innovation in municipalities, unlocking opportunity through human rights based planning and more.

Do you want to enhance your understanding of municipal investments? [This new on-demand training](#) for municipal finance staff will review the *Municipal Act* investment rules/regulation, discuss current municipal finance challenges, and overview the available investment options for the municipal sector.

LAS

One of the broad themes for 2024 was learning how the municipal sector, and LAS specifically, can help solve big problems. [Read more about LAS activities and outcomes](#) for 2024 and our future areas of focus.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) makes it easy to get budget pricing for your future purchases. Let our procurement experts do the work for you. [Contact Sarah](#) to learn more.

Careers

[Regional Directors, \(Central Region and West Region\)](#) - Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. Closing Date: December 20, 2024.

[Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment - City of Hamilton](#). Closing Date: January 15, 2025

[Growth Management Services Coordinator - King Township](#). Closing Date: January 3, 2025.

[Manager, Cybersecurity and Risk - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: December 20, 2024.

[Fire Inspector - City of Kingston](#). Closing Date: January 2, 2025.

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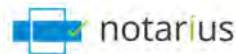
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AMO Watchfile



December 19, 2024

*Everyone at AMO wishes you, your friends and family,
and your community a happy and safe holiday season!*

- Toronto joining AMO in 2025.
- AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum report released.
- AMO Holiday office closure.
- Implementation date of excess soil landfill restriction changed.
- Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) registration now open.
- We are a month away from ROMA 2025 Conference!
- ROMA pre-conference workshop January 18 - *Two Keys to Municipal Success*.
- Asset Management workshop at ROMA Conference - Sunday January 19.
- Interested in hearing about the ROMA Board of Directors strategic work?
- Take advantage! AMO Education discount registration rates.
- Upgrades for a brighter 2025!
- Apply for the Invasive Species Action Fund.
- Municipal flood resilience in action training.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

On December 17th, Toronto City Council approved the renewal of the City's membership in AMO beginning in 2025. Toronto becomes a member of AMO on January 1st. The AMO Board welcomed the decision, which builds on a strong record of collaboration between AMO and Toronto and creates a stronger collective voice for municipal government to advance good public policy in Ontario.

AMO's inaugural Healthy Democracy Forum on October 19 and 20, 2024 welcomed 154 participants for three comprehensive conversations about diverse representation, youth engagement, and accelerating local democratic engagement in your communities. You can now access our [Forum Report Back](#) to go along with speeches and presentations from two remarkable days.

Please note the AMO office will be closed from December 25, 2024 through January 1, 2025. The office will reopen on January 2, 2025. The next issue of the Watchfile will be on January 9.

Provincial Matters

Ontario has made [amendments to Ontario Regulation 406/19](#) to change the in-effect date of a provision to restrict landfilling cleaner excess soil, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2027.

Federal Matters

Municipalities with populations 30,000 and under can now access the CRIS expert-matching service to get free expert advice on how to build climate-resilient infrastructure plans and projects. Apply [here](#).

Education Opportunities

The ROMA *Rural Routes* Conference will be a remarkable event. The 2025 Conference program is jammed full of top-notch sessions. Sessions are designed from the rural perspective, highlighting solutions and innovation for rural communities. Check out the program [here](#). [Register for the ROMA Conference today](#).

AMO's [Two Keys to Municipal Success: Sustainability & Engagement](#) workshop explores strategies for planning your organizations financial sustainability and how to successfully communicate to and engage your community on your plan and efforts. Register [here](#).

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workshop delivered by Christina Benty and focused on sharpening your strategic asset management decision making and planning skills. More [information on content available here](#).

Meet with your ROMA Board members Zone representative on [Sunday January 19](#) to engage in the key advocacy issues in focus for the Board over 2025. You can [find your zone here](#).

AMO continues to advance its education programming and for a limited time, we are offering [half price registration](#). Take advantage of this offer, in the meantime, [here is a list](#) of what is on the calendar so far for 2025. Watch for new workshops including strategic asset management, equity, inclusion and innovation in municipalities, unlocking opportunity through human rights based planning and more.

LAS

Thinking of LED upgrades in 2025? Check out our [LAS Facility Lighting Service](#) - Your complete turn-key solution for all your municipal lighting needs - both inside and out! [Contact us](#) today for your free proposal.

Municipal Wire*

The call for applications to the Invasive Species Action Fund is open. These funds support municipal action on critical invasive species. Visit our [website](#) to learn more and apply.

Enhance municipal flood preparedness and implementation with expert-led virtual training from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Intact Centre, focused on the [Municipal Flood Risk Check-Up](#). [Register here](#).

Careers

[Program Administrator \(Workforce Development\) - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). Closing Date: January 31, 2025.

[Director of Finance and Administration - Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board](#). Closing Date: January 10, 2025.

[Request for Proposals for the provision of Assertive Street Outreach Services - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: January 31, 2025.

[Director of Municipal Infrastructure - Municipality of Brighton](#). Closing Date: January 12, 2025.

[Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services - City of Kingston](#). Closing Date: January 19, 2025.

[Director, Legal Services & City Solicitor - City of Kingston](#). Closing Date: January 19, 2025.

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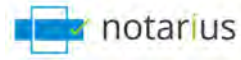
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Hello,

Enterprise Renfrew County is excited to announce a variety of upcoming free webinars happening in the new year. For more information on each webinar and to register, please visit: <https://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events>. Please share with your respective communities.

- January 16, 10:30am to 11:30 – Succession Planning with BizBridge
- January 21, 10am to 11am – Découvrez les services d'appui aux entrepreneur-e-s francophone de la FGA
- January 30, 10:30am to 12pm – Sole Proprietor Tax Essentials
- February 13, 10:30am to 12pm – HST Prep for Your Business

Kind regards,

Lindsay Debertain

Program Officer

Enterprise Renfrew County

Office: 613-735-8224 ext. 466

Cell: 613-312-9355

Note: My office hours are Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW

TAX ESSENTIALS WITH SEGUIN FINANCIAL

Free webinars



Sole Proprietor Tax Essentials

Jan. 30 10:30am to 12pm



HST Prep For Your Business

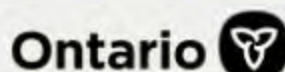
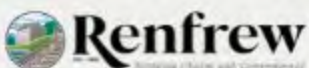
Feb. 19 10:30am to 12pm



*Andrew Seguin
Founder of
Seguin Financial*

Register:

www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com





SUCCESSION PLANNING

Free webinar with



BIZBRIDGE



JAN. 16

10:30 TO 11:30AM

Register:

www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com



Randall Baran-Chong
Founder & CEO of BizBridge





Fédération des gens
d'affaires francophones
de l'Ontario

Découvrez les services d'appui aux entrepreneur-e-s francophones de la FGA

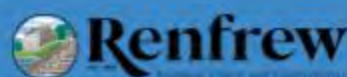


Webinaire gratuit

Jan. 21

10h à 11h

inscrivez-vous: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com



Hello,

Enterprise Renfrew County is excited to announce, in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development, the *Women's Circle Programme Series* facilitated by the PARO Centre. This webinar series is designed to support and empower women entrepreneurs. These interactive sessions are perfect for learning, networking, and building connections with like-minded women in your community.

Session 1: How to Access PARO's Grants

Date: January 15, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- Get an overview of PARO's funding opportunities.
- Participate in a valuable networking session.

Session 2: Forming a Circle

Date: January 22, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- Learn the step-by-step process of forming a Women's Circle.
- Enjoy a networking opportunity to connect with others.

Session 3: Networking for Circle Formation

Date: February 19, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- Participate in a Q&A session.
- Build connections through focused networking.

Whether you're new to the concept of Women's Circles or looking to enhance your current group, these sessions will provide valuable insights and opportunities to connect with others.

To register, visit: [Workshops & Events | Enterprise Renfrew County](#)

Kind regards,

Lindsay Debertin

Program Officer

Enterprise Renfrew County

Office: 613-735-8224 ext. 466

Cell: 613-312-9355

Note: My office hours are Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW



**Community Futures
Development Corporation**
Renfrew County

Women's Circle Programme Series



Accessing PARO Grants: Jan 15

Forming a Circle: Jan 22

Networking Circle Formation: Feb 19

Free Webinars: 11:00am to 11:30am

Register: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com



Oliver Jacob

From: Arnprior Library <library@arnpriorlibrary.ca>
Sent: December 14, 2024 6:29 PM
To: Oliver Jacob
Subject: Library Newsletter - Holiday edition



Hello Library Friends, Happy Winter!
Here's an update on programming time changes over the holidays.



It's been a busy few months as we continue to welcome new members as well as a signing out a record number of materials. Our programs have also been busy, but please note updates below as many of them will be taking a break until the new year.



Monday Morning Art, Whatknots Knitting Group as well as Spanish Conversation meet-ups will have their last get together on December 16 and then resume January 6.

Tuesday Chess will also resume the first week of January. You'll also want to save the date - **May 3, 4, 5** - as the library's Chess Club plays host to the Arnprior Open Chess Tournament attracting players from a vast area. Details coming soon.



The last installment of Busker's Cafe for 2024 will be held on December 17th rather than the usual last Tuesday of the month. Join Richard Fallows and his lazy Christmas Jazz in the beautiful Scharf Hall starting at 5:30pm. Treats are generously provided by Tim Horton's, Arnprior and donations are welcome in appreciation of the music.

We've already secured a lineup to kick off 2025: January 28th - David Chambers with 60's & 70's tunes on guitar; February 25 - Nathan Sloniowski & friends; March 25 - the gentle sounds of piano and Cello with Patrick Kline.

The last Tuesday of the month is also set aside for the Library's garden club. This is an extension of our Seed Library program which focuses on native plantings. A wide variety of seeds are currently available for you to take for free. Stop by the January 28th to meet some of our experts on native species and find out more about creating your own pollinator garden!



Wednesday **LEGO Lounge** resumes January 8th. This drop-in program for kids aged 5 and up gives participants the opportunity to get creative with the library's fantastic array of LEGO pieces with creations showcased in our display case for the entire week for all to see!. Snacks are provided too! Doors open at 3:45 and pickup time is 4:45.

Registration will open in early January for the next installment of **Baby Rhyme Time**. The next 6 week session will begin the first week of February. This program is open to babies 5 - 12 months. All you need is a currently library card to sign up for this free Wednesday program.

Our last Friday morning drop-in **Story Times for toddlers and preschoolers** will be held December 20 and then both programs will resume January 17th with a visit from BIAK which features Indigenous stories, drumming and a craft.



Our **Mah-jong** and **Scrabble Clubs** are taking a holiday break and will meet up again Thursday afternoons beginning January 9th. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Bridge players meet Friday afternoons in the main hall. All skill levels are welcome and this group will resume January 10th at noon.

Our final visit this year from **OnTrac** is set for Monday December 16. Stop by to visit with their friendly staff to see how they can help you! They'll be back the third Monday of each month for a 3 hour afternoon visit.

The library is also teaming up with the **Renfrew County District Health Unit**. Chat with a health nurse about the various programs offered by the health unit. You can also pick up a harm reduction kit free of charge.

This library is not hosting a New Year's Eve Gala this year, but we are setting our sights on a fantastic **Mardi Gras** celebration. So, save the date - March 1 for lots of New Orleans themed fun including a live dance band, fantastic charcuterie boards and appetizers all night long, bar and decor that will make you think you're in the heart of New Orleans while saving you the airfare and accommodations!



Please note: the library will be CLOSED December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1, 2025.
Have a safe and happy holiday season and we'll see you next year!



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21 Madawaska Street
Arnprior
Ontario
K7S 1R6
Canada

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Resolution from Northern Ontario Women's Caucus (NOW Caucus)

WHEREAS an arbitrator's investigation into claims of sexual harassment against MPP Michael Mantha concluded during the investigation that the claims were substantiated;

AND WHEREAS in August 2023, MPP Michael Mantha was removed from the NDP caucus after allegations of workplace misconduct were substantiated by multiple witness interviews and video evidence;

AND WHEREAS Ontario residents have requested that the NOW Caucus request that Michael Mantha resign from his position as M.P.P. as they believe that based on the investigation that substantiated the sexual harassment allegations that he does not have the integrity and trust required of the office to effectively represent the Algoma-Manitoulin, particularly the women living in the riding;

AND WHEREAS elected officials at all levels should be held to the same standards as every working Ontarian, operating under workplace violence and harassment policies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW Caucus call on Michael Mantha to resign from his position as M.P.P. of the Algoma-Manitoulin Riding immediately.

AND FURTHER that this Resolution be circulated to the 444 municipalities, the office of Michael Mantha, Premier Ford, Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario NDP, Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, Mike Shreiner, Ontario Green Party, AMO, ROMA, FONOM, and NOMA.

Moved – Melanie Baril, Regional Vice Chair (FONOM Region) ;

Seconded: Lindsay Koch, Regional Vice Chair (NOMA Region)

CARRIED

OACAO Applauds the Government of Ontario for Increasing Funding and Expanding Access to Seniors Active Living Centres Programs

NEWS RELEASE (Dec 6, 2024) - The Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO) welcomes the Ontario government's announcement of increased operating funds and the expansion of the Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs) Program.

"The OACAO is the reason we are able to expand the number of Seniors Active Living Centres and increase funding," said Hon. Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility.

"Thanks to Sue, her leadership and the entire OACAO team, the province is able to grow the number of Seniors Active Living Centres by 100 over the next year and add \$17 million dollars over the next three years to make sure our seniors stay fit, active, healthy, socially connected, close to their homes and in their communities. Thank you OACAO!"

Hon. Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

This increase, announced today by Minister Cho was highlighted in the Fall Economic Statement and described as a meaningful investment in the well-being of Ontario's aging population.

Beginning in 2025, base funding for SALCs will rise from approximately \$50,000 to \$55,000 per SALC program, following a recent increase from \$42,700 to \$50,000. These investments ensure continued support for existing programs while providing resources for new initiatives.

"This announcement demonstrates the government's commitment to seniors in Ontario," said Sue Hesjedahl, Executive Director of OACAO. "We've worked closely with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility to emphasize the critical need for increased funding for SALCs in Ontario. This investment will ensure that SALCs continue to enhance seniors' quality of life through social engagement, health promotion, and community connection."

Sue Hesjedahl, Executive Director of OACAO

Over the next three years, the government is committing nearly \$17 million to establish 100 new SALC programs across Ontario. These programs are designed to foster wellness, reduce ageism, and help seniors stay active, independent, and engaged in their communities. This funding builds on the government's annual \$15 million investment in the SALC program.

To further enhance access, legislative changes to the **Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017**, passed in June 2024, now allow a broader range of organizations—including Legions, cultural organizations, and Indigenous organizations—to apply for SALC program funding. Following a province-wide call for proposals this summer, the government is currently reviewing applications to launch new programs and expand services.

SALCs are instrumental in addressing the unique needs of Ontario's seniors, offering programs that reduce social isolation, promote active living, and support mental and physical health. This funding increase will help SALCs expand their reach, particularly in underserved rural and Indigenous communities where the need for these services is greatest.

"This funding is a step forward in addressing the growing demands placed on SALCs," added Hesjedahl. "We're excited to see the government's response to the needs of our members, empowering centres to expand their reach and strengthen their role as community hubs for seniors."

Sue Hesjedahl, Executive Director of OACAO

Looking ahead, the OACAO remains committed to working with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility to advocate for further operational and program funding to meet the growing needs of Ontario's aging population. With more seniors relying on these centres each year, sustained investment is essential to maintain and expand high-quality programs and services.

For further information or to get involved:

Sue Hesjedahl, Executive Director
Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario
Email: sue@oacao.org Website: www.oacao.org
Tel: 905-584-8125 Toll Free: 1-866-835-7693

About OACAO:

Established in 1973, the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO) represents over 240 member organizations and more than 200,000 seniors across the province. OACAO is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults through advocacy, support, and the development of quality and relevant resources and services for community-based older adult centres. It is a strong supporter of Seniors Active Living Centres as hubs of connection, health, and activity for seniors across Ontario.

For details on the funding announcement, visit Ontario Expanding SALCs.



Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior

File No. B10/24 & A13/24

Notice of Public Hearing
Applications for Minor Variance and Consent

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

Location of Property: 245 Daniel St. S., Arnprior

Purpose and Effect of Consent Application:

The purpose of the application is to allow a lease of a 229 sq. m. building for a period of 21 years or more directly or by entitlement to renewal.

Purpose and Effect of the Minor Variance Application:

Permission is requested for variance from Section 5.8.1 of the Town of Arnprior Zoning By-law No. 6875-18, to reduce the number of required egress spaces for a restaurant drive-through to 2 spaces, whereas the by-law requires 3 spaces.

Take notice that the consent and minor variance applications will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior on **Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2nd floor Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior.**

A key plan is attached. Additional information and materials regarding this application are available for inspection during regular office hours at Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior.

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

You are entitled to attend this Public Hearing in person to express your views about the application or you may be represented by Counsel for this purpose. If you wish to make written comments on this application, they may be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment at the address below. If you do not attend the hearing, it may proceed in your absence.

If a person or public body has the ability to appeal the decision of Corporation of the Town of Arnprior in respect of the proposed consent to the Ontario Land Tribunal but does not make written submissions to Corporation of the Town of Arnprior before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Corporation of the Town of Arnprior in respect of the proposed consent and/or minor variance, you must make a written request to the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior at Town of Arnprior 105 Elgin Street W., Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Dated this 24th day of December 2024.

Alix Jolicoeur

Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

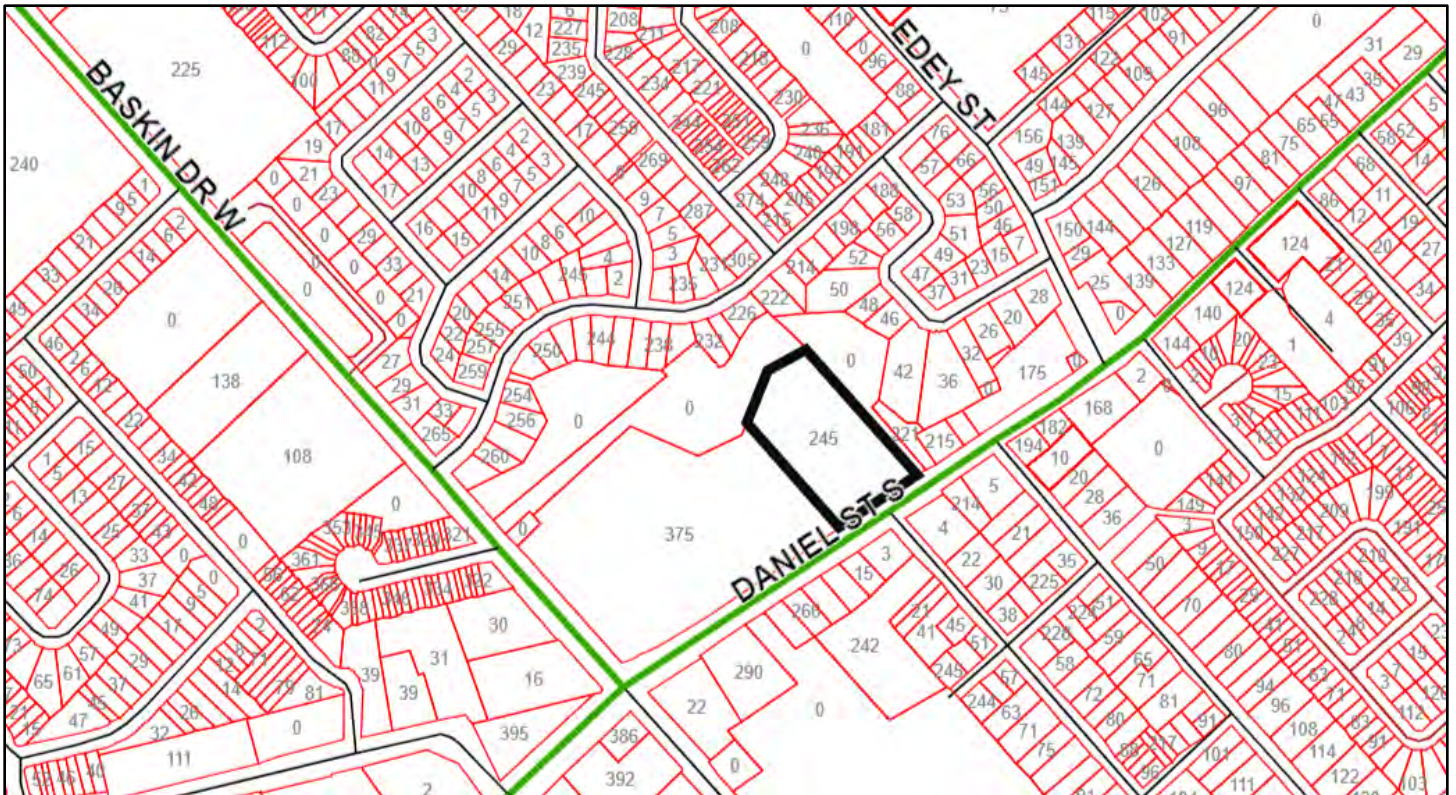
(613)-623-4231 or planning@arnprior.ca

Town of Arnprior

105 Elgin Street West

Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Key Plan:





Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior

File No. A14/24

Notice of Public Hearing
Application for Minor Variance

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

Take notice that the minor variance application will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers at Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON.

Location of Property: 30 Daniel St. N., Arnprior ON

Purpose and Effect of Minor Variance Application:

Permission is requested for variance from Section 7.4 of the Town of Arnprior Zoning By-law No. 6875-18, to allow a maximum building height of 14.6 m, whereas the by-law permits 12 m; and to allow a rear yard setback of 5.9 m, whereas the by-law requires 7.5 m to permit construction of a 4-storey, 46-unit apartment building with balconies.

Official Plan: Downtown Area

Zoning: Downtown Commercial/Residential Exception 25 (D-CR*25)

A key plan is attached. Application A14/24 as well as additional related information, are available for inspection during regular office hours. Please contact the Planning Department prior to attending the Town Hall to set up an appointment.

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

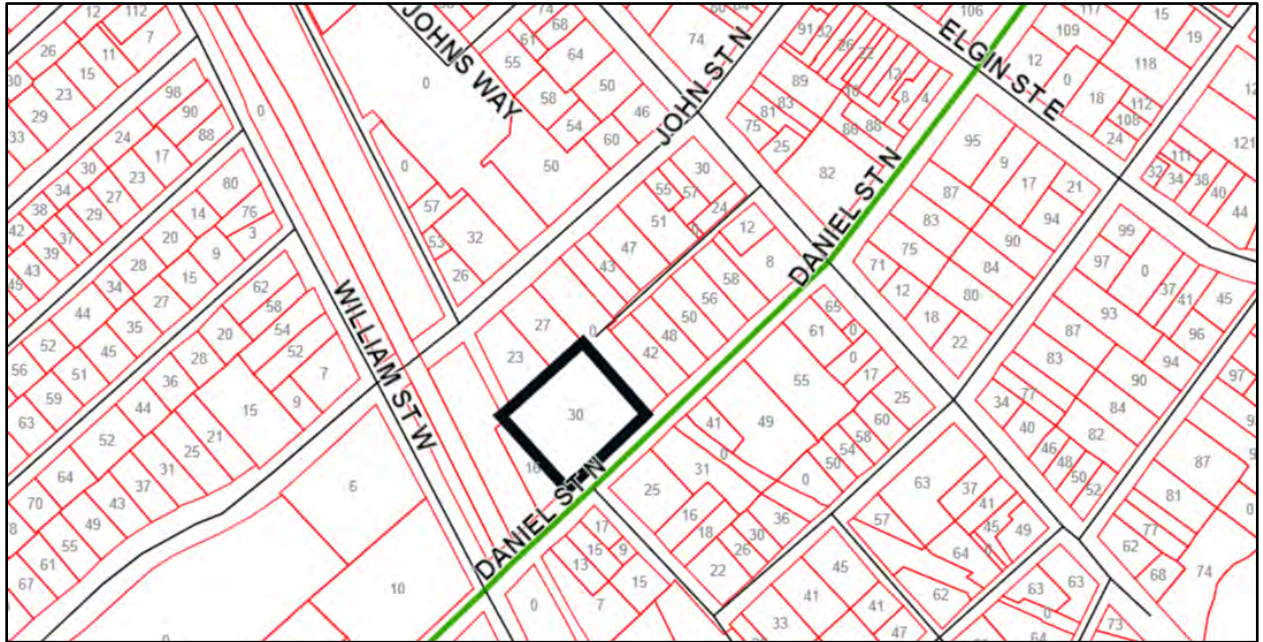
If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment in respect of the proposed consent does not make a written submission to the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Land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

Dated this 24th day of December 2024

Alix Jolicoeur

Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
(613)-623-4231 ext. 1816 or planning@arnprior.ca
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Key Plan:





Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior

File No. A4/21

Notice of Public Hearing
Application for Minor Variance

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

Take notice that the minor variance application will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior on **Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers at Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON.

Location of Property: 235 Arthur St., Arnprior ON

Purpose and Effect of Amended Minor Variance Application:

Permission is requested for variance from the Town of Arnprior Zoning By-law No. 6875-18

- Section 6.4.7 to allow an existing deck with access stairs to be setback 2.75 m from the rear lot line, whereas the by-law requires 3.0 m; and
- Section 4.15.2 to allow an existing deck with access stairs to be located 2.75 m from the Provincial Highway right-of-way, whereas the by-law requires 14.0 m

Official Plan: Established Residential Area

Zoning: Residential One (R1)

A key plan is attached. Application A4/21 as well as additional related information, are available for inspection during regular office hours. Please contact the Planning Department prior to attending the Town Hall to set up an appointment.

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

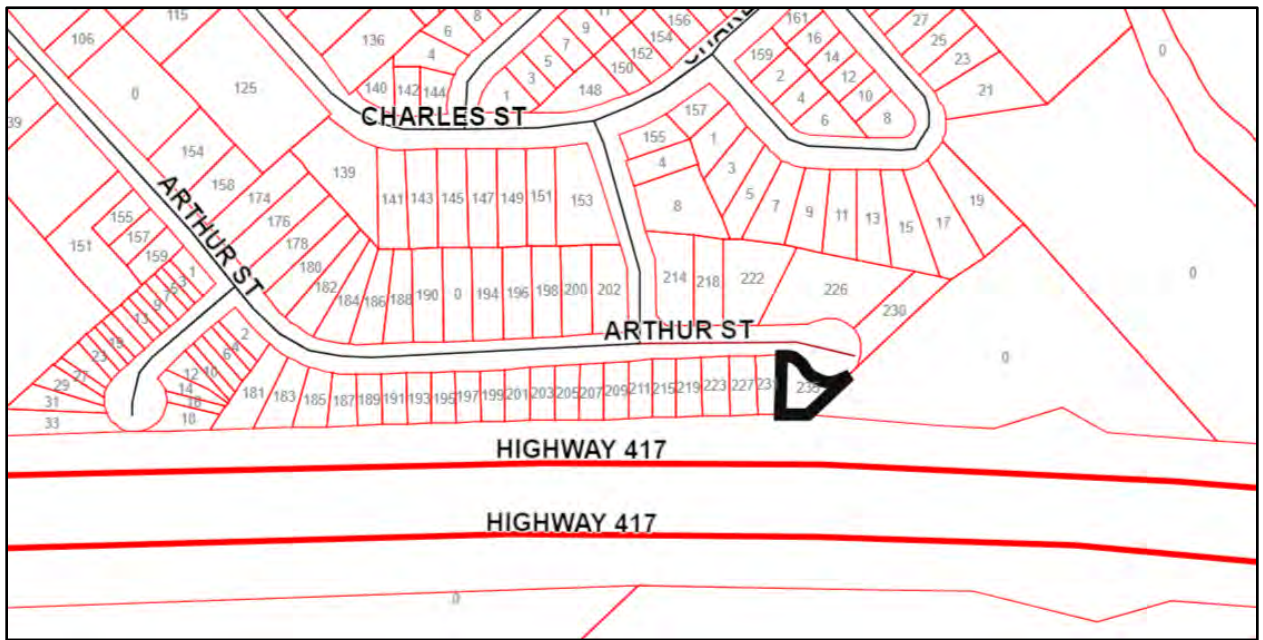
If you wish to make written comments on this application, they may be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment at the address below. If you do not attend the hearing, it may proceed in your absence. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee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

Dated this 30th day of December 2024

Alix Jolicoeur

Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
(613)-623-4231 ext. 1816 or planning@arnprior.ca
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Key Plan:





Finance Minister Chrystia
Freeland
VIA EMAIL:
chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Paul Calandra
VIA EMAIL:
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

December 13, 2024

Association of Municipalities
of Ontario (AMO)
VIA EMAIL:
amo@amo.on.ca

Top Aggregate Producing
Municipalities of Ontario
(TAPMO)
VIA EMAIL:
info@tapmo.ca

Rural Ontario Municipalities
Association (ROMA)
VIA EMAIL:
roma@roma.on.ca

Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP
VIA EMAIL:
ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org

RE: TAPMO Letter regarding Pre Budget Announcement

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 27, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-430:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda items listed with the exception of items 6.10, 6.11, and 6.12 for NOVEMBER 27, 2024 Council meeting be received for information; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch Council supports the information provided by TAPMO to member municipalities of TAPMO; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch Council sees the value and significance of circulating this information provided by TAPMO to all Ontario municipalities;



Therefore, that Council directs staff to forward items 6.10, 6.11, and 6.12 to all Ontario municipalities; and

That Council direct staff to forward the following resolution to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local school board trustees, AMO, ROMA, Local MPP, all Ontario Municipalities and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation:

Whereas the Ministry of Finance has introduced a one-time \$7 million reduction in education taxes in 2024, a subsidy that will be absorbed by the province through a 95% reduction in education taxes—marking the first such subsidy provided by the province to any industry;

Whereas the Ministry of Finance’s plans to introduce a new aggregate property sub-class in 2025, which is set to provide a \$6 million subsidy to the aggregate industry, with \$3 million of that subsidy being transferred back to the municipal (primarily residential) tax base, raises serious concerns about the fairness and equity of the system;

Whereas the claims that the new sub-class will provide tax stability and predictability seem hollow and do not address the systemic inequities in the taxation framework, which continues to shift an undue burden onto municipal taxpayers, particularly those in rural areas who host these aggregate operations;

Whereas there is significant concern that the government’s actions prioritize the interests of the aggregate industry over the financial realities faced by municipalities and their residents, and that this shift in burden undermines public trust in the fairness and integrity of Ontario’s legal and tax frameworks;

Whereas TAPMO has presented evidence demonstrating that the aggregate industry is financially capable of meeting its tax obligations, including substantial profits and royalty payments made by industry leaders, further undermining the need for these subsidies;

Whereas the municipal taxpayer should not bear the cost of correcting a past error in assessment methodology that unfairly benefited then aggregate industry, and the new



property tax class ratio risks further undermining the principle of revenue neutrality and eroding confidence in Ontario's legal and tax systems;

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Puslinch strongly objects to the undue burden being placed on municipal taxpayers to subsidize the aggregate industry, and calls on the provincial government to:

Reevaluate and correct the misguided subsidies being provided to the aggregate sector, and ensure that future tax policies are fair, equitable, and consistent for all taxpayers.

1. Uphold the principles of revenue neutrality in the aggregate tax framework and ensure that any new tax classifications or methodologies do not result in a net loss of revenue for municipalities, especially those that are already facing significant financial challenges.

2. Commit to meaningful reform that ensures fairness and consistency across all sectors of the economy, and actively engages municipalities and taxpayers in a transparent and inclusive process, rather than catering to the demands of the aggregate industry.

3. Take immediate action to correct the existing inequities in the tax framework, ensuring that the burden of this correction is not unjustly shifted to municipal taxpayers, particularly those in rural communities who host these operations.

4. Respect and uphold the integrity of the legal process by honouring the decisions of the Divisional Court and ensuring that all assessment methodologies are transparent, accountable, and based on a fair and balanced approach.

5. Further be it resolved that the Council Township of Puslinch supports TAPMO's call for the provincial government to adopt reforms that prioritize the needs and fairness of municipal taxpayers and to ensure that the aggregate sector contributes its fair share to the province's tax base; and

Further be it resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local school board trustees, AMO, ROMA,



Local MPP, all Ontario Municipalities and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), Local school board trustees



November 1, 2024

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Quenn's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy
Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Bethlenfalvy:

Re: Pre Budget Announcement

As you are aware there was a lengthy Assessment Review Board hearing as well as a divisional court ruling increasing the taxes paid by the aggregate sector due to an inappropriate tax relief mechanism implemented by MPAC.

TAPMO recognizes funding for rural, small and northern municipalities is proposed to see an increase in OMPF funding. This increase is very much appreciated. This increase will begin to address the farm tax rebate shortfalls that rural, small and northern municipalities have been experiencing under the former program. Increasing this funding ensures all Ontarians are supporting farmers and not just the residents that call home to small, rural and northern communities. The impact of Provincially significant programs needs to be absorbed by all Ontarians.

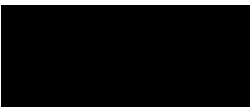
If it is the desire of the Government to provide special treatment to one sector and burdening this special treatment on small, rural and northern communities (where most aggregate operations exist), TAPMO is of the opinion that an aggregate subsidy is not appropriate and should be borne by all Ontarians.

The pre budget announcement provides \$200 to every Ontarian, adding approximately \$3 billion to the Ontario budget. If the Government is willing to add \$3 billion to the deficit. Carrying over the 95% reduction in education tax relief absorbed by all Ontarians for 2024, would have added \$7 million to the total deficit for 2025 or 0.11666667% additional deficit.

TAPMO request the following questioned to be answered:

Explain the justification of increasing taxes on small, rural and northern municipalities which are host to most aggregate operations, to provide a preferential tax relief to the aggregate sector, versus absorbing any relief through increased deficit for all Ontarians?

Yours truly,



James Seeley
Board Chair

Ministry of Finance

Provincial-Local
Finance Division

Frost Building North
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7

Ministère des Finances

Division des relations provinciales-
municipales en matière de finances

Édifice Frost nord
95 rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7



October 31, 2024

His Worship James Seeley
Chair, Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO)
jseeley@puslinch.ca

Don MacLeod
Executive Director, TAPMO
executivedirector@tapmo.ca

Dear Mayor Seeley and Mr. MacLeod:

Thank you for your letter about the new aggregate extraction property class.

As noted in my letter of October 3, the Province will be setting municipal tax ratios and education tax rates for the new aggregate extraction property class to provide tax mitigation for properties in the class. The plan is to provide an overall \$6M tax reduction to properties in the class relative to the original 2024 tax level, comprised of \$3M municipal tax and \$3M education tax. While the specific tax ratios and impacts will not be available until after the assessments for 2025 are finalized by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), the intention is that municipalities overall will still benefit from the majority of the incremental tax revenues that resulted from the assessment methodology changes implemented by MPAC for 2024.

More details will be shared when they become available. We appreciate the importance of providing municipalities with as much time as possible to support their budgetary planning. We have taken note of your request to receive this information by November 30th and will endeavour to provide the data as close to this date as possible.

Regarding your request that TAPMO be included in consultations during 2025, that is an important part of our plan. We will be reaching out to TAPMO as well as the aggregate sector, and working with MPAC and the Ministry of Natural Resources, to seek more detailed information regarding aggregate activities and discuss possible updates to the definition of the property class.

The government understands the challenges small and rural municipalities face. In this regard, in the 2024 Fall Economic Statement announced the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund will be increased by \$100 million (20% increase) annually. This will be phased in over two years with an immediate \$50 million increase in 2025.

TAPMO

November Newsletter



INTRODUCING TAPMO'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Don MacLeod held the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Zorra from 1996 to 2024. The Township of Zorra is in the top 10 aggregate producing municipalities in Ontario. Recently, Don transitioned into the role of Executive Director for TAPMO. With this wealth of experience, Don is particularly well-suited to continue the success of TAPMO in developing a sustainable plan for aggregate extraction across Ontario.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Introducing Don MacLeod, TAPMO Executive Director**
- **Aggregate Property Taxation Assessment Challenges: What to expect in 2025**
- **Meet the Board of Directors and membership!**

STAY CONNECTED

What to stay in the know?

Visit the TAPMO website to review agendas and minutes from previous meetings:

<https://www.tapmo.ca/resources#agenda>

Next TAPMO meeting: Monday November 18, 2024 @ 2:30pm



[tapmo.ca](https://www.tapmo.ca)
executivedirector@tapmo.ca

TAPMO

November Newsletter

Property Taxation Changes and Concerns for Municipalities

Following an appeal decision of the Divisional Court, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) revised the assessment methodology and property tax classification of aggregate sites to ensure sector-wide consistency, resulting in tax changes for pits and quarries across the province for 2024 (an increase of \$12M municipal and \$5M education). These properties continue to be assessed based on the province-wide valuation date of January 1, 2016, but the methodology used to derive those values has been modified in line with the court ruling. This legal process was spearheaded by Wellington County. In a troubling response to the Divisional Court decision, the Ministry of Finance has introduced a one-time (2024) \$7 million education tax reduction, to mitigate the impact of these changes on the aggregate industry. This reduction will be absorbed by the province through a 95% reduction in education taxes, which is the first time this kind of a subsidy is being provided by the province for any industry.

Looking ahead to the 2025 tax year, a new aggregate property sub-class is set to be introduced, but the intent to create improved tax stability and predictability feels hollow. The sub-class will result in a \$6 million subsidy for the aggregate industry, \$3 million of which is being transferred back to the municipal (primarily residential) tax base. The tax subsidy will be funneled through a temporary property tax sub-class within the industrial property category, with MPAC and local municipalities tasked with its implementation. However, the claim that this newly established sub-class will provide stability and predictability raises serious concerns. Instead of genuinely addressing the inequities in the system, it seems to merely provide an unwarranted tax break to the aggregate industry, while shifting the burden onto municipal taxpayers and perpetuating an unjust structure.

The government's approach appears to prioritize the interests of the aggregate sector over the financial realities faced by municipalities and their constituents. MPAC's collaboration with the aggregate sector and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to gather detailed information on aggregate sites may result in more of the same, rather than meaningful reform. While the government claims this refined data will support future discussions with the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) and municipalities, the focus seems skewed toward accommodating industry demands rather than ensuring fairness and accountability for all taxpayers. This direction threatens to undermine any hope of establishing a principled and sustainable approach to aggregate taxation, leaving communities to bear the consequences.

TAPMO

November Newsletter

Property Taxation Changes and Concerns for Municipalities

continued from page 2

In light of these changes, TAPMO wishes to voice serious concerns regarding the new tax class ratio established by the Ministry of Finance. Contrary to fostering a revenue-neutral outcome, this adjustment is expected to lead to \$3 million being refunded directly from local taxpayers to the aggregate industry starting in 2025 and beyond. Neither the Ministry nor representatives from the aggregate industry have provided sufficient justification for what seems to be a residential taxpayer-funded subsidy to benefit a for-profit industry. Concerns from both the Ministry of Finance and the aggregate sector highlight that potential cost increases for residential housing stemming from the Assessment Review Board (ARB) ruling have not been adequately assessed or documented. Claims suggesting a mere \$3-4 increase per Ontarian fail to capture the disproportionate impact this assessment framework will have on rural residents, who predominantly host these aggregate operations.

The OSSGA has yet to provide conclusive evidence of the industry's inability to contribute its fair share of taxes. In fact, TAPMO has presented evidence indicating that aggregate producers can meet their tax obligations. For example, Dufferin (CRH) paid \$2 million in royalties to the University of Guelph in 2023, while St. Mary's Cement (CBM Canada) reported total net revenues of \$109,785,000 USD for aggregate products in their 2022 financial statements.

While TAPMO recognizes that tax increases on any property class may be unpopular, we argue that the aggregate industry has long benefited from an inappropriate tax discount. The Divisional Court ruling clarified that MPAC lacked the authority to grant such tax relief. The municipal taxpayers should not have to provide tax relief to the industry as a result of correcting an inappropriate tax benefit that the industry has come to expect. The new property tax class ratio fails to maintain revenue neutrality and threatens to erode trust in Ontario's legal frameworks. Ontarians deserve confidence that these processes are respected and upheld.

TAPMO remains committed to advocating for fair and equitable taxation practices that support both municipal taxpayers and the sustainability of our communities. The future of Ontario's aggregate taxation framework must prioritize transparency, fairness, and the principles of revenue neutrality.

TAPMO

November Newsletter

Property Taxation Changes and Concerns for Municipalities - What's Next?

TAPMO is urging members to raise awareness of this issue by requesting your Municipal Council consider supporting the following motion:

Whereas the Ministry of Finance has introduced a one-time \$7 million reduction in education taxes in 2024, a subsidy that will be absorbed by the province through a 95% reduction in education taxes—marking the first such subsidy provided by the province to any industry;

Whereas the Ministry of Finance's plans to introduce a new aggregate property sub-class in 2025, which is set to provide a \$6 million subsidy to the aggregate industry, with \$3 million of that subsidy being transferred back to the municipal (primarily residential) tax base, raises serious concerns about the fairness and equity of the system;

Whereas the claims that the new sub-class will provide tax stability and predictability seem hollow and do not address the systemic inequities in the taxation framework, which continues to shift an undue burden onto municipal taxpayers, particularly those in rural areas who host these aggregate operations;

Whereas there is significant concern that the government's actions prioritize the interests of the aggregate industry over the financial realities faced by municipalities and their residents, and that this shift in burden undermines public trust in the fairness and integrity of Ontario's legal and tax frameworks;

Whereas TAPMO has presented evidence demonstrating that the aggregate industry is financially capable of meeting its tax obligations, including substantial profits and royalty payments made by industry leaders, further undermining the need for these subsidies;

Whereas the municipal taxpayer should not bear the cost of correcting a past error in assessment methodology that unfairly benefited the aggregate industry, and the new property tax class ratio risks further undermining the principle of revenue neutrality and eroding confidence in Ontario's legal and tax systems;

Therefore be it resolved that the Council [INSERT MUNICIPALITY] strongly objects to the undue burden being placed on municipal taxpayers to subsidize the aggregate industry, and calls on the provincial government to:

1. Reevaluate and correct the misguided subsidies being provided to the aggregate sector, and ensure that future tax policies are fair, equitable, and consistent for all taxpayers.
2. Uphold the principles of revenue neutrality in the aggregate tax framework and ensure that any new tax classifications or methodologies do not result in a net loss of revenue for municipalities, especially those that are already facing significant financial challenges.
3. Commit to meaningful reform that ensures fairness and consistency across all sectors of the economy, and actively engages municipalities and taxpayers in a transparent and inclusive process, rather than catering to the demands of the aggregate industry.
4. Take immediate action to correct the existing inequities in the tax framework, ensuring that the burden of this correction is not unjustly shifted to municipal taxpayers, particularly those in rural communities who host these operations.
5. Respect and uphold the integrity of the legal process by honouring the decisions of the Divisional Court and ensuring that all assessment methodologies are transparent, accountable, and based on a fair and balanced approach.

Further be it resolved that the Council [INSERT MUNICIPALITY] supports TAPMO's call for the provincial government to adopt reforms that prioritize the needs and fairness of municipal taxpayers and to ensure that the aggregate sector contributes its fair share to the province's tax base; and

Further be it resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local school boards, AMO, ROMA, Local MPP, all Ontario Municipalities and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

TAPMO



Chair
Mayor James Seeley
 Township of Puslinch



Vice-Chair
Mayor Jennifer Coughlin
 Township of Springwater

Board of Directors



Mayor Dave Barton
 Township of Uxbridge



Mayor Jim Hegadorn
 Loyalist Township



Councillor Tony Brunet
 Town of Lincoln



Mayor Kevin Eccles
 Municipality of West Grey



Deputy Mayor Peter Lavoie
 Township of Oro-Medonte



Councillor Matthew Bulmer
 County of Wellington



Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg
 Township of Zorra

TOWNSHIP OF
Southgate



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST GARAFRAXA



TOWN OF
MONO



Jump In

CITY OF
Burlington



WOOLWICH
 TOWNSHIP

TOWN OF
ERIN



Township of
Springwater



Town of
Lincoln





Top
Aggregate
Producing
Municipalities of
Ontario

October 24, 2024

Sent via email

Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy
Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy:

Re: Aggregate Assessment

I am writing to raise TAPMO's concerns with the new tax class ratio for aggregate operations that does not maintain a revenue neutral outcome. TAPMO has been informed that the new tax class ratio will result in \$3 million of assessment being refunded to the aggregate industry for 2025 and beyond.

To date, neither the Ministry nor the aggregate industry has provided any justification for this residential taxpayer funded subsidy. The concerns raised by the MOF and the aggregate industry indicate that the potential cost increase for residential housing resulting from the ARB ruling applied across the province has not been thoroughly assessed or documented. Impacts of \$3-4 dollars per Ontarian are not accurate. Most aggregate operations are located in rural municipalities, thus rural residents will be providing this relief on a disproportionate level.

I would draw your attention to the developments in the Town of Erin. Developers are largely paying nearly \$200 million in up-front cost to build a wastewater treatment facility. This cost will be a direct pass through to the cost of the homes serviced by the treatment plant. In comparison, a revenue neutral tax class would be adding less than a quarter dollar to the cost of per tonne of aggregate.

Generally speaking, in Ontario, the provincial framework we strive to achieve is known at the municipal level as "Growth pays for Growth". Taxing aggregate properly brings us as a society closer to achieving that result. The aggregate tax class ratio does not support the revenue neutral tax outcome, nor does it support the principle of "Growth pays for Growth".

The OSSGA has failed to bring definitive evidence of the industry's inability to pay their fair share of taxes. Quite contrary, TAPMO has provided evidence of the ability of producers to pay their fair share. We are referencing the royalties Dufferin paid the University of Guelph (\$2 million in 2023). Further to the point, St. Mary's Cement's (CBM Canada) audited 2022 Financial Statements indicate a total net revenue for aggregate products at a whopping \$109,785,000 USD.

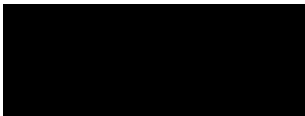
TAPMO recognizes that any increase of taxes on any property class would likely not be welcome. Unfortunately, as recorded in the Divisional Court decision, MPAC did not have the legislative authority to be providing tax relief (page 12 note 55 of the decision) that the industry experienced from 2016 onward. The aggregate industry is accustomed to an inappropriate tax discount. In TAPMO's view, residential taxpayers should not have to provide tax relief to the industry as a result of correcting an inappropriate tax benefit that the industry had come to expect. We respectfully reassert our position that OSSGA has not brought forward evidence to support their claim, other than highlighting the displeasure of paying more taxes. We have also not received evidence from the MOF supporting this relief for 2025 and beyond.

Lastly, we are deeply concerned that the lengthy and expensive legal process undertaken by Wellington County, and the decisions ordered by both the Assessment Review Board and Divisional Court is being undermined. This is particularly concerning given that the ARB decision was upheld. The new property tax class ratio fails to maintain a revenue-neutral tax assessment and undermines the legal process, which incurred significant costs for Wellington County taxpayers. This is extremely disturbing; Ontarians must have confidence in the legal processes in Ontario. Undermining the ARB assessment through a property tax class ratio that does not preserve revenue neutrality erodes that trust.

It is essential that discussions be inclusive and that any future assessment changes involve a fair and balanced approach in consultation with municipal partners, not just the aggregate sector.

TAPMO thanks the Ministry for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue and we look forward to strengthening this relationship.

Yours truly,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of James Seeley.

James Seeley
Board Chair

November 29, 2024

Sent via email to: premier@ontario.ca; minister.mah@ontario.ca;
MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

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

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Energy and Electrification
10th Floor, 77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

RE: Guelph City Council Resolution to Enable Municipalities to Charge Fees for use of Municipal Property by Gas Utilities

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Calandra and Minister Lecce,

Guelph City Council at its meeting held on November 26, 2024 passed a resolution regarding the ability of municipalities to charge gas utilities for **their** use of municipal property, which included the following motions:

1. That Council request the Province of Ontario to amend section 9 of Regulation 584/06 under the Municipal Act, 2001, to permit municipalities to charge fair fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property, as municipalities do in most other provinces.
2. That Council direct staff, to the satisfaction of the DCAO of IDE, to negotiate a Franchise Agreement with the gas distribution company that:
 - a. will allow the City of Guelph to charge fees for use of public property if and when Ontario Regulation 584/06 is amended to allow such charges,
 - b. will ensure that the City of Guelph is not liable to pay for any gas infrastructure relocations needed due to conflicts with municipal infrastructure, and
 - c. will ensure future charges for use of municipal property is not passed on to Guelph customers of the gas distribution company.
3. That the City of Guelph supports, in principle, the Bill 219, "No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024" tabled November 4, 2024 by Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner.

City Hall
1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
Canada
N1H 3A1

T 519-822-1260
TTY 519-826-9771

guelph.ca

Across most of Canada, municipalities charge for-profit gas utilities fees for the use of municipal property. This revenue supports municipalities in managing abandoned gas distribution infrastructure and any conflicts with municipal infrastructure without increasing the financial burden on property taxpayers. However, in Ontario, Section 9 of *O.Reg. 584/06* under the *Municipal Act, 2001* prohibits municipalities from charging for-profit gas utilities these fees. If the charging of these fees is permitted, revenues would provide much needed funding towards essential City services and programs, and support the City in funding any future work associated with gas distribution infrastructure.

As Guelph seeks to renew its Franchise Agreement, which sets out the conditions for the use of municipal property by the gas distribution company, there is an opportunity to review the compensation framework for municipalities across Ontario. Many sectors and individuals are increasingly transitioning away from natural gas in favour of cleaner and carbon-free technologies, and Guelph Council believes municipalities should not be locked in to long-term agreements which limit the ability of municipalities to receive fair compensation from for-profit gas distribution companies.

As such, Guelph City Council requests the Province of Ontario amend section 9 of *O.Reg. 584/06* under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to permit municipalities to charge fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property. Additionally, Guelph City Council would like to express its support, in principle, for Bill 219 – the *No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024*, which would enshrine the right of municipalities to charge fees under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*.

Sincerely,

Intergovernmental Services on behalf of Guelph City Council
Chief Administrative Office
Intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca
City Hall, 1 Carden Street, Guelph ON N1H 3A1
519-822-1260 x5602
TTY: 519-826-9771

CC: Mike Schreiner, Member of Provincial Parliament for Guelph;
Ontario's Big City Mayors
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



December 20, 2024

RE: MOTION OF SUPPORT OF SOLVETHECRISIS.CA CAMPAIGN

This will confirm that at a meeting held on December 18, 2024, the Council of the City of Markham adopted the following resolution:

Whereas the City of Markham supports the SolvethCrisis.ca Campaign and requests that the Provincial and Federal Governments take Action to Address the Growing Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis in Ontario; and,

Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on the streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. The time for words is over, we need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province of Ontario; and,

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023¹ and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023²; and,

Whereas the province has provided additional funding and supports, such as the recent investment of \$378 million for HART Hubs and approximately 375 beds with wraparound supports, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and,

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and,

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and,

Whereas there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

Therefore, be it resolved that the City of Markham supports the SolvethCrisis.ca Campaign; and,

That the City of Markham calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially; and,

That the Province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority; and,

That the Province appoint a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports; and,

That the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*. 1

That this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis; and,

That the federal government is included in these conversations; and,

¹ Office of the Chief Coroner, Ontario (2024). OCC *Opioid Mortality Summary Q4 2023*. [PDF] .
<https://odprn.ca/occ-opioid-and-suspect-drug-related-death-data/>

² [Homeless Encampments in Ontario. A Municipal Perspective. Association of Municipalities of Ontario. July 2024 -](#)



That both levels of government provide adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted; and,

That Markham City Council calls on the residents of Markham to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting [SolveTheCrisis.ca](https://www.solve-the-crisis.ca) and showing your support; and further,

That a copy of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Local MPs
- Local MPPs and
- Ontario's Big City Mayors

Should you have any questions, please contact Kimberley Kitteringham via email at Clerkspublic@markham.ca.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberley Kitteringham'.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

¹ Office of the Chief Coroner, Ontario (2024). OCC *Opioid Mortality Summary Q4 2023*. [PDF] .
<https://odprn.ca/occ-opioid-and-suspect-drug-related-death-data/>

² [Homeless Encampments in Ontario. A Municipal Perspective. Association of Municipalities of Ontario. July 2024 -](#)

Council Meeting

Motion # 12/11/24 - 02

Title: Property Taxation Implications Related to Non-Market Valuation of Electricity Industry Properties, CAO General-2024-33

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Moved by: Rory Cavanagh

Seconded by: Beth Blackwell

Whereas the Municipality of Kincardine is a proud host community of the Bruce Nuclear Generating Site where Bruce Power generates 30% of Ontario's electricity needs; and

Whereas two decades ago the Province of Ontario adopted a property tax assessment model that continues to apply to Ontario's nuclear generation facilities; and

Whereas the Province assessment model includes non-market property valuation for electricity generating properties; and

Whereas the Municipality of Kincardine undertook a study in 2024 which has shown that the Provincial assessment model is compromising fairness and shifting the tax burden away from the electricity industry properties and onto the broader property tax base within the host community; and

Whereas the study demonstrated that this is primarily attributable to the assessed value of the subject properties being held almost static over several reassessment cycles, resulting from the Provincially prescribed rules for electricity generating, transmission and distribution properties; and

Whereas the Provincial model results in a disparity between the continuously updated market values assigned to the majority of properties and the static, non-market-based formula applied to electricity industry properties means that the tax burden shifts onto non-industry taxpayers; and

Now Therefore be it Resolved That municipal staff be directed to send communication to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Energy and Electrification, the Minister of Finance, and the local MPP, to request that the Province undertake an immediate review and update the property tax assessment model for Ontario's nuclear generation facilities and other properties within the electricity industry, and copy the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried.

Jennifer Lawrie

Clerk