



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior  
Regular Meeting of Council: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Correspondence Package No. I-25-JAN-02**

**Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package No. I-25-JAN-02 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

**1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario**

- a) Ontario Launches New Energy Efficiency Programs to Save You Money
- b) Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Power Economic Prosperity in Canada and the United States
- c) Ontario Adds 23,000 Jobs in December
- d) Ontario Helping More Women Build Skills and Get Jobs
- e) Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can by Accelerating Strategic Resource Development
- f) Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Strengthen Security on Both Sides of the Border
- g) Ontario Launches New Tool to Better Monitor High-Risk Offenders on Bail
- h) Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Grow the Economy for Am-Can Workers
- i) Taxpayer Rebate Cheques Now Being Sent to Ontario Families
- j) Ontario Driving Rural and Northern Economic Growth through Skilled Immigration
- k) Ontario Making it More Convenient for Seniors to Renew Their Drivers' Licences
- l) Premier Doug Ford Ready to Protect Ontario Workers, Businesses and Communities

**2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**

- a) [County of Renfrew officials to attend delegation meetings at ROMA](#)

**3. Correspondence from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit**

- a) [Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy - Progress Update and Next Steps to Address Drug-related Harms](#)

**4. Correspondence from Enterprise Renfrew County**

- a) [Third Annual Francophone Networking Business Breakfast and Francophone Entrepreneur Award](#)

**5. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

- a) [FCM Calls on Federal Parties to Focus on Canadians' Priorities and to Come up with Lasting Solutions](#)

**6. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario**

- a) [AMO launches public awareness campaign in advance of potential provincial election](#)
- b) [AMO Policy Update – New Reports on Ontario's Homelessness Crisis, Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility](#)
- c) [AMO Policy Update – AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission](#)
- d) [AMO Policy Update – Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It](#)
- e) [Watch File – January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025](#)
- f) [Watch File – January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025](#)

**7. Correspondence from Local Authority Services (LAS)**

- a) [LAS to develop business case on water and wastewater joint municipal services corporation](#)

**8. Correspondence from Arnprior Public Library**

- a) [Winter 2025 Newsletter](#)

**9. Correspondence from Renfrew County 55+ Senior Games**

- a) [2025 Summer and Winter Senior Games Planning](#)

## **10. Town of Arnprior Correspondence**

- a) Public Notice – Consent Application No. B8/24 (398 John Street North)

## **11. Resolutions from Other Municipalities**

- a) Town of Kearney – Planning Act Changes
- b) City of Toronto – Opposition to Private For-Profit Blood Donation Collection

## Ontario Launches New Energy Efficiency Programs to Save You Money

Rebates for home renovations include new windows, doors, insulation, smart thermostats, heat pumps and rooftop solar panels to reduce energy bills

January 07, 2025

[Energy and Electrification](#)

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**TORONTO** – The Ontario government is launching new energy efficiency programs, including the new Home Renovation Savings Program, to help families and businesses save money. The programs are part of a new \$10.9 billion, 12-year investment in energy efficiency, the largest in Canadian history.

“As the demand for electricity continues to rise, we’re giving families and small businesses more ways to save money and energy as we launch the largest energy efficiency program in Canadian history,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification. “Ontario’s new Home Renovation Savings Program will put more money back in your pockets, covering up to 30 per cent of the costs of new windows, doors, insulation, heat pumps, rooftop solar panels, and battery storage.”

The new Home Renovation Savings Program will launch on January 28, 2025, and offer rebates of up to 30 per cent for home energy efficiency renovations and improvements, including new windows, doors, insulation, air sealing, smart thermostats, and heat pumps, as well as rooftop solar panels and battery storage systems for people who want to generate and store energy at home. Later in 2025, the program will expand to include rebates for energy efficient appliances, including refrigerators and freezers.

The government’s *Affordable Energy Act*, which came into force on December 4, 2024, ensures the new Home Renovation Savings Program, and other program offerings, will be expanded to homeowners who heat their homes by propane and oil, instead of being restricted to those who heat with electricity, as it was under previous governments.

“For 20 years I have spoken on my television shows about investing smartly in homes and businesses, with energy efficiency as a top priority for any renovation or retrofit,” said Mike Holmes, Founder and President of the Holmes Group. “Now,

the Ontario Home Renovation Savings Program will make those investments easier, more affordable, and support our province's future energy sustainability and planning efforts. I hope all Ontarians educate themselves more on the benefits of this program and use it to reduce their energy costs today and tomorrow.”

The province is also expanding the popular [Peak Perks](#) program with a new program specifically targeted to small businesses, including convenience stores and restaurants. Businesses will receive a financial incentive of \$75 upon initial enrollment in the program and \$20 per year for each eligible smart thermostat connected to a central air conditioning system or heat pump unit.

In addition to the two new energy efficiency programs, the province will continue to support 12 Save on Energy programs, including the highly popular [Retrofit Program](#) for business, as well as other programs geared to low-income households, businesses, municipalities, institutions, the agricultural sector, industry and on-reserve First Nations communities.

By 2036, it is forecasted that this expansion of energy efficiency programs will reduce the province’s peak demand by 3,000 MW – the equivalent of taking three million homes off the grid. The province’s \$10.9 billion investment is also estimated to result in \$23.1 billion in electricity system benefits, thereby saving ratepayers \$12.2 billion in electricity system costs by avoiding the build out of new generation.

“Our new 12-year energy efficiency framework puts families and businesses at the forefront of Ontario’s energy strategy,” said Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries. “By expanding access to cost-saving programs, we’re helping small businesses thrive, supporting families in lowering energy bills, and reducing demand on the grid to secure our energy future. This investment reflects our government’s determination to build a resilient energy system that powers economic growth and strengthens communities across the province.”

Expanding energy efficiency programs to save families money is just one way the government is meeting the province’s rapidly growing demand for electricity. [Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future: The Pressing Case for More Power](#) outlines the challenges facing the province as demand for electricity continues to rapidly grow, as well as the government’s all-of-the-above approach to meet this demand, including:

- **Energy Planning** – Developing the province’s first integrated energy plan, including all energy resources, including electricity, natural gas, and other fuels to ensure the province’s energy needs are met in a coordinated and long-term manner.

- **Nuclear Energy** – Advancing clean, reliable, and affordable nuclear power through [pre-development work at Bruce Power](#) on the province’s first large-scale nuclear build in 30 years, [four small modular reactors at Darlington](#) and supporting OPG’s plan for [refurbishing the Pickering Nuclear Generation Station](#).
  - **New Transmission Infrastructure** – Designating and prioritizing transmission lines in [Southwestern](#), [Northeastern and Eastern Ontario](#) that will power job creators, including EV and EV battery manufacturing and clean steel production.
  - **Additional Competitive Procurements** – Launching the largest competitive procurement of clean energy resources in the province’s history in addition to successfully re-contracting existing capacity resources at about a 30 per cent discount.
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### Quick Facts

- The Home Renovation Savings Program will launch on January 28, 2025, and interested homeowners can [sign up in advance today](#). All other programs are available now.
  - The new Home Renovation Savings Program will provide 'one-window' access for all home energy efficiency upgrades through Save on Energy and Enbridge Gas conservation programs.
  - The Independent Electricity System Operator has forecasted that electricity demand will increase by 75 per cent by 2050 – the equivalent of four and a half cities the size of Toronto.
  - The increased demand stems primarily from Ontario’s rapid increase in population, new manufacturing facilities, advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) data centres, the electrification of industry, and the charging energy required for electric vehicles.
  - Ontario’s new and enhanced energy efficiency programs for electricity customers will be an increase from the government’s previous [expansion of energy efficiency programs](#) to over \$1 billion over four years.
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## Quotes

"This bold new Energy Efficiency Framework builds on Ontario's leadership as an energy-efficiency provider in North America, solidifying our collective commitment to a reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy future. Energy efficiency is a proven low-cost and reliable resource that offers customer choice and delivers significant savings. The IESO, through its Save on Energy brand, looks forward to expanding opportunities to more residents and businesses with this framework."

**- Lesley Gallinger**  
**CEO and President, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)**

"Many small businesses have just been through a challenging year, so they will welcome today's announcement with new and continued financial incentives to help them save on energy costs and invest in their operations. Today's announcement will also provide job opportunities through the new Home Renovation Savings Program, delivering a boost to small contractors, electricians and HVAC installers offering energy efficiency renovations and improvements to homeowners."

**- Ryan Mallough**  
**VP, Legislative Affairs, Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)**

"Ontario's new \$10.9 billion energy efficiency investment represents a pivotal step forward for our region's productivity and climate economy. Reducing peak demand and cutting electricity system costs will help us maximize the efficient use of Ontario's power grid. It will have the added benefit of bolstering our burgeoning cleantech sector by creating the conditions for our innovative industries to scale and drive a more competitive, sustainable future. It's what we need."

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

"This investment of \$10.9 billion over 12 years in energy efficiency programs highlights the ongoing commitment of Ontario's Minister of Energy and Electrification, Stephen Lecce, to help Ontarians save on energy. OHBA welcomes this announcement, in particular, the new Home Renovation Savings Program, which will help homeowners save money on energy efficiency projects and boost activity in the professional renovation sector, which is responsible for over 350,000 jobs in Ontario."

**- Scott Andison**  
**CEO, Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA)**

"The Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA) applauds the Ontario government's forward-looking approach to meeting the province's growing energy needs. Supporting distributed energy resources (DERs) such as solar power and energy storage unlocks significant potential for homeowners, businesses, First Nations and communities across the province, while securing a resilient and affordable energy future for generations to come. By putting customers at the forefront, these new and enhanced programs create meaningful opportunities for Ontarians to take control of their energy use and reduce costs."

**- Vittoria Bellissimo**  
**President and CEO, Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA)**

"The Ontario Government's Home Renovation Savings Program announced today is now part of a broad suite of energy initiatives that will ultimately provide for continued affordable, sustainable and reliable energy for Ontario homes and businesses. Secure and predictable energy is the foundation upon which Ontario's economic prosperity is supported now, and in the years to come."

**- Richard Lyall**  
**President, Residential Construction Council of Ontario**



"At the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, we believe that good energy policy must focus on affordability, reliability, and sustainability. We welcome the Ontario government's expansion and creation of energy efficiency initiatives as a timely and critical step toward addressing our growing electricity demand. Investing in energy efficiency creates a win-win-win: it lowers consumer and business costs, reduces demand on our grid, and involves Ontarians in meeting our climate goals."

- Daniel Tisch  
President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

"Energy affordability and lowering emissions are among the most pressing issues Ontario faces today, and conservation and demand-side management programs are among the most cost-effective solutions to address both. We are pleased to collaborate with the IESO and the Government of Ontario to deliver the Home Renovation Savings Program – This program puts customers first, removes barriers to access, and makes it easier for Ontarians reduce their household energy use. Enbridge Gas knows that our customers want to take meaningful action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. This is evident in the tremendous success of the conservation programs we've proudly delivered over the years."

- Steven Greenley  
Senior Vice President, Commercial Services – Gas Distributions & Storage,  
Enbridge Inc

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#### **Additional Resources**

[Ontario Launches New Energy Efficiency Programs to Save You Money.](#)

[Save on Energy.](#)

[Save on Energy Home Renovation Savings Program Page](#)

[Enbridge Gas Home Renovation Savings Program Page](#)

[Manage energy costs for your home](#)

[Manage energy costs for your business](#)

[Ontario's Affordable Energy Future: The Pressing Case for More Power](#)

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## Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Power Economic Prosperity in Canada and the United States

Province uniquely positioned to meet growing energy demand and create jobs on both sides of the border

January 08, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Energy and Electrification](#)

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**TORONTO** — Today, Premier Doug Ford outlined Ontario's plan to achieve Am-Can energy security and power economic growth on both sides of the border as part of Fortress Am-Can, a renewed strategic alliance between Canada and America that is a beacon of stability, security and long-term prosperity.

The United States and Canada are each country's most significant trading partners, representing trillions of dollars in annual economic activity and millions of jobs on both sides of the border. Fortress Am-Can will leverage Ontario's unique advantages to help America bring jobs back home as it decouples from China, including by enhancing and building out the integrated Am-Can energy and electricity grid to encourage more exports of Canadian energy and electricity to the U.S.

"With a new administration set to take office in the White House, our government has an ambitious plan to build up Fortress Am-Can to usher in a new American and Canadian century defined by unprecedented growth, job creation and prosperity. We can only do so by working together and respecting each other," said Premier Doug Ford. "Fortress Am-Can should be powered by Am-Can energy of every type that's produced, consumed and creates jobs in every region of both countries. With our fleet of nuclear power plants and the first small modular nuclear reactors in the G7, Ontario is uniquely positioned to power the future of Fortress Am-Can."

With the province already delivering on its ambitious energy vision, [Ontario's Affordable Energy Future](#), the province is building out its safe and affordable nuclear fleet, including the first small modular nuclear reactors in the G7, competitively procuring new energy resources and building thousands of kilometers of new transmission lines. This diverse supply mix, including nuclear,

hydroelectricity, energy storage, hydrogen and renewables, natural gas and other fuels can power good jobs, economic prosperity and protect national security interests shared between Ontario, Canada and the United States.

As part of building Fortress Am-Can, Ontario is recommending the following additional measures:

- Enhance and build out the integrated Am-Can energy and electricity grid to encourage more exports of Canadian energy and electricity to the U.S., including Ontario's clean nuclear energy, to power economic growth on both sides of the border.
- Establish a cross-border working group with U.S. and Canadian lawmakers alongside energy and security experts to ensure both countries adhere to best practices for power system security against foreign interference, cyber attacks, terrorism and extreme weather, among other threats.
- Achieve Am-Can energy security sooner by streamlining the approval of new small modular and large nuclear reactors, while respecting duty to consult obligations and protecting safe operations.
- Develop new and reinforce existing electricity transmission interties and natural gas and oil pipelines between Canada and the U.S. to promote the flow of energy across borders.
- Establish a cross-border working group with U.S. and Canadian lawmakers and industry experts to align regulations and eliminate red-tape that slows building cross-border energy infrastructure, including for transmission lines, interties and pipelines.
- Promote Ontario and Canadian nuclear expertise by establishing a new small modular and large -scale nuclear reactor partnership with the U.S., including with key states and local or regional energy and electricity authorities.
- Expand the production of life-saving, cancer-fighting medical isotopes at Ontario's growing fleet of nuclear reactors to support improved cancer patient outcomes in Canada and the United States.
- Complement the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve and further enhance Am-Can energy by rebuilding and enhancing America's Strategic Oil Reserve to protect both countries, businesses and every-day families from the high-cost consequences of global oil price manipulation.

"The Am-Can Growth Plan harnesses our province's abundant energy resource so that we deliver energy security and economic prosperity for families on both sides of the borders," said Stephen Lecce, Ontario's Minister of Energy and Electrification. "By leveraging our nuclear energy advantage and proven technologies, we can

displace reliance on undemocratic regimes as we generate more clean power for our economy and the world. Our nations built the most enduring economic partnership on the planet, and now more than ever we must remain partners in the fight for Am-Can workers."

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### Quick Facts

- Ontario's electricity system is among the cleanest in the world, powered by a diverse supply mix including nuclear, hydroelectric, renewables, natural gas and biomass.
  - Ontario is a stable and secure source for the critical minerals and clean, affordable energy that will fuel North America's economic growth, while reducing dependence on countries that don't share our democratic values or national security objectives.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Ontario is the number one export destination for 17 U.S. states and number two to 11 others. Every day, more than nine million Americans wake up, go to work and earn a paycheque to make something that's sold to a customer in Ontario.
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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Ready to Meet the Challenge of Soaring Energy Demand](#)
  - [Ontario's Affordable Energy Future](#)
  - [Premier Ford Urges Federal Government to Take More Proactive Approach at the Border](#)
  - [Premiers Discuss Important Issues for Canadians](#)
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## Ontario Adds 23,000 Jobs in December

Province remains focused on keeping costs down and strengthening international partnerships

January 10, 2025

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

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TORONTO — Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued the following statement on today's monthly employment release by Statistics Canada, which showed Ontario added 23,000 jobs to the economy in December, bringing the total number of jobs created in 2024 to more than 200,000.

"Despite an uncertain global economy in 2024, Ontario remained the economic engine of Canada, adding more than 200,000 jobs across key industries, including the automotive, life sciences, tech and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Through targeted investments in skills training, critical infrastructure projects and measures to keep costs down for people and businesses, our government remained focused on supporting Ontario families and workers. Over the past year, these measures have helped attract billions of dollars in new investments and thousands of new jobs with investments from global companies, such as [Hitachi Rail](#), [Roche Canada](#), [Goodyear Canada](#) and [Asahi Kasei](#).

Through our [Regional Development Program](#), our government invested over \$85 million to support 60 local companies and organizations in eastern and southwestern Ontario, leveraging over \$815 million in total investments and creating more than 1,500 jobs.

Looking forward as we continue to face global uncertainty and a new administration in the White House, our government is going to continue to create the environment to attract more investments, better jobs and bigger paycheques. This includes working with our U.S. partners towards achieving free, fair and balanced trade, accelerating resource development and achieving energy security to drive long-term economic growth on both sides of the border."

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### Related Topics

[Jobs and Employment](#)

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers.

[Learn more](#)

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## Ontario Helping More Women Build Skills and Get Jobs

Province investing up to \$1.24 million in training program to help women become entrepreneurs

January 13, 2025

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

[Women's Social and Economic Opportunity](#)

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THUNDER BAY – The Ontario government is investing up to \$1.24 million over three years through the Women’s Economic Security Program to support the [PARO Centre for Women’s Enterprise – PAROBiz program](#), which helps low-income women start and grow their own businesses. The program is offered in Thunder Bay, as well as other communities across Northern, Eastern and Central Ontario, and in the Greater Toronto Area.

This funding is part of the government’s investment of up to \$26.7 million over three years in 25 local programs across the province that provide career training opportunities for women, helping them gain the skills, knowledge, and experience they need to find a job, start a business and achieve financial independence.

“The Women’s Economic Security Program empowers women to achieve financial independence by breaking down barriers to career training opportunities,” said Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women’s Social and Economic Opportunity. “I’m proud of our government’s continued support for local, community-based training programs that help women across the province reach their full potential and achieve the career success they deserve.”

The Women’s Economic Security Program offers training in four streams: skilled trades, entrepreneurship, information technology, and general employment. To help remove barriers to participating, the training programs also include additional supports such as providing meals throughout the training day, transportation to and from training, and support finding child care.

Through the training program, women who have experienced or are at risk of intimate partner violence can also access wraparound supports, including referrals to mental health and well-being supports, counselling, housing, and legal support.

Women interested in the program can visit [Ontario.ca/women](https://www.ontario.ca/women).

“Ontario is taking a government-wide approach to address and prevent gender-based violence and support women’s economic empowerment,” said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. “Through the Women’s Economic Security Program, we are helping women access in-demand careers, achieve financial independence and succeed in sectors that are vital to the economy.”

This investment is part of [Ontario’s four-year action plan to prevent and address gender-based violence](#). In addition to the province’s \$15 million investment over three years in the Women’s Economic Security Program, Ontario is providing up to another \$11.7 million through the bilateral agreement with the federal government on the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence.

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### Quick Facts

- Organizations funded under the Women’s Economic Security Program deliver employment, pre-employment, pre-apprenticeship, and entrepreneurship training to low-income women. [The 25 training programs](#) are delivered through partnerships between women-centred organizations, educational institutions, and businesses.
- Since its inception in 2018, the Women’s Economic Security Program has helped more than 2,600 women secure employment, become entrepreneurs, or pursue further training and education. This includes helping 1,298 women start small businesses and 237 get jobs in the skilled trades.

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### Quotes

"When women are given equal opportunities, everyone benefits—families, communities, and economies flourish. Through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence we can support initiatives like the Women’s Economic Security Program, which empowers women to achieve financial independence. Together, with all levels of government, we can create a more inclusive, equitable, and safer Canada where everyone can truly succeed."

**- The Honourable Marci Ien  
Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth**

"This investment in the PAROBiz program will equip women in Thunder Bay and across Ontario with the skills and resources needed to start and grow their businesses. By supporting initiatives that provide vital entrepreneurship training and ongoing support, we are empowering women to achieve financial independence. This will help strengthen local economies and create lasting opportunities for women to thrive, benefiting both individuals and communities across the region."

- Kevin Holland  
MPP, Thunder Bay—Atikokan

"PAROBiz is about empowering women and giving them the tools needed to build a sustainable livelihood. Research shows that the key to economic and social prosperity is empowering women-thriving societies where women are valued, prioritized and included in decision-making processes. PAROBiz strives to provide a place where women come to get what they need to thrive socially and economically. We use a business development framework but it is based on a unique concept of peer support and ongoing access to financing, a place for diverse women to come, get inspired, and be all they can as whole and participating women."

- Rosalind Lockyer  
CEO, PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise

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## Additional Resources

[Women's Economic Security Program](#)

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

[Ontario Helping More Women Build Skills and Get Jobs](#)

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

### Education and Training

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

#### **Jobs and Employment**

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers.

[Learn more](#)

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## Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can by Accelerating Strategic Resource Development

Province's critical minerals can power prosperity and security on both sides of the border

January 13, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Mines](#)

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

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**TORONTO** — Today, Premier Doug Ford outlined Ontario's plan to accelerate strategic resource development, including Ontario's critical minerals in the Ring of Fire region, to build Fortress Am-Can, a renewed strategic alliance between Canada and the United States that is a beacon of stability, security and long-term prosperity.

The United States and Canada are each country's most significant trading partners, representing trillions of dollars in annual economic activity and millions of jobs on both sides of the border. Fortress Am-Can will leverage Ontario's unique advantages to help America bring jobs back home as it decouples from China, including by establishing a new Am-Can Critical Mineral Security Alliance that invests in and builds out American and Canadian critical mineral supply chains, including by significantly expanding Am-Can processing capacity.

"The success of Fortress Am-Can depends on the critical minerals needed for new technologies, including advanced military technologies that will define geopolitical and economic security for the next century," said Premier Doug Ford. "Ontario and Canada have critical minerals in abundance and America needs them. At a time when China is winning the race to dominate these resources while also restricting the sale and shipment of critical minerals to the U.S., Canada and Ontario need to urgently get our critical minerals out of the ground, processed and shipped to the factory floors that are building for the future."

Through its [Critical Minerals Strategy](#), Ontario is already delivering on its ambitious vision for a made-in-Ontario supply chain to meet the increasing global demand for critical minerals necessary to manufacture technologies like batteries and electric vehicles. As Ontario continues to move this strategy forward, it will continue to

prioritize engagement with First Nation leaders and communities as the province meets its duty to consult obligations. As part of building Fortress Am-Can, Ontario is recommending the following additional measures:

- Establishing a new Am-Can Critical Mineral Security Alliance that invests in and builds out American and Canadian critical mineral supply chains, including by significantly expanding Am-Can processing capacity.
- Accelerate federal and provincial regulatory approval timelines for current and planned critical mineral projects with priority given to projects that displace Chinese supply, enshrining a one project-one process permitting approach to all resource development in Canada with service standards and timeline guarantees for regulatory approvals, while promoting First Nation equity and economic participation and respecting and meeting duty to consult obligations.
- Designating areas where multiple critical minerals are present or likely to be present, such as the Ring of Fire region in Ontario, as regions of strategic importance to the national security of Canada and the U.S. These regions should be supported with a special approvals process that significantly reduces the timelines to get minerals out of the ground.
- Ensuring federal foreign investment reviews capture emerging strategic sectors and supply chains like critical minerals and energy with the stated objective of protecting these emerging strategic sectors for Fortress Am-Can.
- Building the roads, highways and other infrastructure required to access, develop and operate new critical minerals mines and processing facilities.
- Working with the U.S. Department of Defense to prioritize shared Am-Can national security objectives for Canadian government investments in critical mineral supply chains, including strategic investments in critical mineral mining and processing projects.
- Establishing a cross-border working group on mineral price stability to identify Am-Can policy solutions that promote the long-term sustainability of critical mineral development projects.

“Ontario’s abundant resources and robust mining industry are essential to the success of Fortress Am-Can,” said George Pirie, Minister of Mines. “By continuing to develop our vast reserves of critical minerals and strengthening supply chains, we will create more jobs, unlock economic growth and build a stronger more prosperous future for the United States and Canada.”

“Building consensus around critical infrastructure and resource development is a central feature of our government’s commitment to economic reconciliation with First Nations,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations

Economic Reconciliation and Minister of Northern Development. “Together with First Nations partners, we are unlocking unprecedented economic growth and prosperity across the province.”

"In today's interconnected world, Fortress Am-Can underscores our commitment to strengthening American and Canadian economic resilience and security," said Stephen Crawford, Associate Minister of Mines. "By building integrated supply chains, enhancing infrastructure, and expediting project approvals, we are positioning Ontario as a stronger ally for the United States and as a global leader in critical minerals extraction and processing."

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### Quick Facts

- Ontario's mining and processing capacity is vital in contributing to much-needed global supply, as is the province's refining capacity to produce intermediate and pure products of nickel, cobalt, copper, platinum group elements and refined uranium.
  - Minerals mined in the province are part of a globally integrated supply chain and Ontario minerals are used in products worldwide, including electric vehicle batteries.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Ontario is the number one export destination for 17 U.S. states and number two to 11 others. Every day, more than nine million Americans wake up, go to work and earn a paycheque to make something that's sold to a customer in Ontario.
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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario's Critical Minerals Strategy](#)
- [Ontario Strengthening Critical Minerals Supply Chain](#)
- [Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Power Economic Prosperity in Canada and the United States](#)
- [Ontario Launches "Operation Deterrence" to Strengthen Security Along Ontario-U.S. Border](#)

- [Premiers Discuss Important Issues for Canadians](#)

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## Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Strengthen Security on Both Sides of the Border

Province's strategic capabilities can enhance protection of land, air, Arctic and water

January 14, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**TORONTO** — Today, Premier Doug Ford outlined Ontario's plan to strengthen security on land, water and in the air along the Canada-U.S. border, including protecting Arctic sovereignty, as a key component of Fortress Am-Can, a renewed strategic alliance between Canada and the United States. For the plan to succeed, the province is calling on the federal government to step up and take measurable and visible action to better secure our borders.

"Ontario continues to call on the federal government to do more to protect our borders and reaffirm our sovereignty," said Premier Doug Ford. "Building Fortress Am-Can is our government's plan for a renewed strategic alliance between America and Canada and demonstrates our responsibility as an essential ally dedicated to protecting our land, air and water. In an increasingly unstable world, Fortress Am-Can can protect integrated supply chains, ensure our economic stability and growth, and detect and prevent any threat to our two nations. Ontario is ready and has the strategic capabilities to do our part to get this done."

[Ontario recently 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. This includes an emergency response team of 200 officers who along with frontline and speciality officers, are enhancing border security in partnership with the RCMP and have already detected, disrupted and deterred illegal activity at the border.

The Operation is in addition to ongoing efforts to better protect Ontario-U.S. borders and combat cross-border illegal activity and ensure public safety, including the OPP's Joint Forces Border Drug Interdiction Task Force, which was stood up as an expansion to a number of ongoing multi-jurisdictional drug investigations, with participants including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency and a number of municipal and First Nations police services.

To build Fortress Am-Can and ensure Canada is seen as a reliable partner ready to protect Am-Can land, air and water, Ontario recommends the following:

- Present a credible and accelerated plan to meet and exceed Canada's two per cent NATO target for defence spending, including investing in the future success of NORAD operations and NORAD base restoration.
- Invest in Canada's unique strategic capabilities and competencies, including Ontario's critical mass of innovation in artificial intelligence to support the future of autonomous combat aerial and underwater vehicles for both military and border security and detection purposes.
- Expanding Canada's shipbuilding capacity to build new ice breakers and other equipment and assets, including increasing capacity at Ontario-based shipbuilding facilities, to protect Canada's Arctic and meet other security objectives.
- Work with the U.S. to capture new and catalyzing investments that support accelerated access to urgently needed strategic and critical minerals to qualify as part of Canada's NATO contributions.
- Secure Am-Can borders and key economic and trade corridors, including the St. Lawrence Seaway, Windsor-Detroit Gateway and the Gordie Howe International Bridge, which is scheduled to open at the end of 2025.
- Stem the cross-border flow of illegal guns, contraband tobacco and illegal drugs like fentanyl. This should include increased permanent funding for increased oversight and support at the border and enhanced tools for law enforcement, as well as investments to expand cross-border coordination and operations between American and Canadian security and policing agencies.
- Enhance tracking and tracing of illicit drugs by investing in new laboratory technology that will allow Canada to identify where fentanyl and other drugs seized by police services are manufactured for enhanced tracking and tracing.
- Allow for enhanced data and intelligence sharing between federal, provincial, territorial and local police forces to promote better coordination.
- Lower thresholds for Am-Can intelligence sharing on the cross-border movements of convicted sex offenders.
- Crack down on illegal immigration, which threatens shared Am-Can national security, and invest in enhanced biometrics capabilities at Canada's points of entry, including better tracking of entries and exits across Canada's borders.
- Further promote joint training, operations and scenario-planning between American and Canadian armed forces, particularly in the Arctic, including by expanding Canada's advanced fighter pilot training resources.

Ontario is uniquely positioned to leverage artificial intelligence and other computing advancements for the future security needs of Canada and the U.S. With more than 400 artificial intelligence firms and institutions, Canada and Ontario are at the centre of an AI-enabled future. Ontario is a world-leader in developing AI talent and Toronto has the highest concentration of AI startups in Canada. Ontario has generated close to \$14 billion in technology investments over the last three years including many in AI.

“Protecting the safety and security of our borders with reinforced tools and technology is essential to building Fortress Am-Can,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “Through Operation Deterrence, Ontario has stepped up at a critical time to support the federal government and international interests; but we need the federal government to also step up with stronger measures that will keep our borders and communities secure.”

“Our government is taking decisive steps to establish strong, fair and proactive security on both sides of the border,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “We need the federal government to act swiftly on the recommendations proposed today to ensure the safety of our workforce, the resilience of our businesses and the growth of our shared economy.”

To help America decouple from China, we recently announced enhancing and building out the integrated Am-Can energy and electricity grid, including nuclear energy, to encourage more exports of Canadian energy and electricity to the U.S. and by establishing a new Am-Can Critical Mineral Security Alliance that invests in and builds out American and Canadian critical mineral supply chains, including by significantly expanding Am-Can processing capacity.

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### Quick Facts

- 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.
- 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.
- Ontario is the number one export destination for 17 U.S. states and number two to 11 others. Every day, millions of Americans wake up, go to work and earn

a paycheque to make something that's sold to a customer in Ontario.

- Growing Ontario's shipbuilding and repair workforce is part of the province's strategy to strengthen the province's position as a leader in marine transportation, as outlined in [The Future of the Great Lakes Economy: Ontario's Marine Transportation Strategy](#).

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## Additional Resources

- [Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can by Accelerating Strategic Resource Development](#)
- [Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Power Economic Prosperity in Canada and the United States](#)
- [Ontario Launches "Operation Deterrence" to Strengthen Security Along Ontario-U.S. Border](#)
- [Premier Ford Urges Federal Government to Take More Proactive Approach at the Border](#)
- [Premiers Discuss Important Issues for Canadians](#)

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

### Government

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### Law and Safety

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 Launches New Tool to Better Monitor High-Risk Offenders on Bail

Bail Compliance Dashboard helping police share data on individuals on bail for firearms offences

January 15, 2025

[Solicitor General](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is cracking down on repeat and violent offenders by launching the Provincial Bail Compliance Dashboard. This new tool will allow police services to monitor, consolidate and share critical information related to individuals on bail for firearms-related offences.

“Complying with bail and court-ordered conditions is not optional – it is mandatory to keep our streets safe,” said Associate Minister of Auto Theft and Bail Reform Graham McGregor. “The hardworking people of Ontario deserve to live without fear of having a gun shoved in their face to rob them or steal their car, and our government is giving police the tools they need to monitor high-risk offenders for firearms offences and prevent further crime.”

The new bail compliance dashboard is a situational awareness and investigative tool that is managed by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). A phased operational release has already begun with the following police services onboard: OPP, Guelph Police Service, York Regional Police Service, Peel Regional Police Service and Toronto Police Service. The dashboard is available to all Ontario municipal and First Nation police services who want to participate.

“This tool marks a groundbreaking shift in public safety,” said OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique. “The Provincial Bail Compliance Dashboard will enhance public and officer safety by enabling Ontario police services to verify that high-risk and repeat violent offenders are complying with their bail conditions for firearms-related offences. This frontline tool elevates situational awareness for officers to help keep them and our communities safe as well as prevent further victimization.”

The dashboard is part of the government’s [\\$112 million investment to strengthen bail monitoring and enforcement](#) of high-risk and repeat violent offenders, ensuring they strictly comply with their bail conditions to protect our communities.

This investment also includes the new [Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Grant](#), the Bail Compliance Unit within the OPP-led Provincial Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement Squad and the Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams within the courts system.

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### Quick Facts

- Year One (2023-24) of the Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Grant, participating police services saw a 21 per cent increase in the number of high-risk individuals being monitored by bail compliance technology and networks in Ontario, totalling 2,978 individuals which resulted in 429 new charges being laid.
  - In October 2024, the Ontario government called on the federal government to implement comprehensive reforms to the Criminal Code, emphasizing the need for stricter bail conditions and measures to get repeat and violent offenders off our streets.
  - Over 90 per cent of firearms used in crimes are illegally smuggled into Ontario from across the border. Ontario is tackling the problem of rising gun violence by monitoring criminals more effectively, enforcing strict compliance with bail conditions for firearm-related offences, and cracking down on illegal firearm trafficking.
- 

### Quotes

"Collaboration is critical to effective policing, and the Provincial Bail Compliance Dashboard is a game-changer in enhancing our ability to monitor high-risk offenders and share vital information across the province," said Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw. "Addressing gun violence remains a top priority for the Toronto Police Service, and this tool allows us to consolidate and analyze data, making our cities and officers safer. We thank the Government of Ontario for investing in tools that empower police services to better serve and protect our communities. We also thank our talented members who collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries to support safer communities everywhere."

**- Myron Demkiw**  
**Chief, Toronto Police Service (TPS)**

"Peel Regional Police is proud to partner with police services across the province to enhance bail compliance oversight and enforcement. By providing increased access and availability to such vital information, our officers will be better equipped to monitor and conduct bail compliance checks and, ultimately, keep our communities safe."

**- Nishan Duraiappah  
Chief, Peel Regional Police**

"Everyone deserves to live in safe, vibrant communities. The Government of Ontario's investment in the Provincial Bail Compliance Dashboard will provide our police officers with critical information related to individuals on bail for firearms-related offences. Ensuring offender accountability and compliance with release conditions is paramount and the Dashboard will be a vital tool that will enhance public and officer safety in our province. Everyone can get behind that."

**- Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie  
President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police**

"The Police Association of Ontario commends the provincial government for introducing the new Bail Compliance Dashboard. This province-wide mapping database is a significant step forward in enhancing public safety by equipping our members with the tools needed to effectively track offenders released on bail for firearm-related offences. The dashboard will lead to increased collaboration between police services throughout the province and give more information to police service members to better protect our communities. Initiatives like this demonstrate a commitment to community safety and the importance of supporting front-line officers in their efforts to keep our communities safe."

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



"The launch of the Provincial Bail Compliance Dashboard is a vital step in holding repeat and violent offenders accountable. This tool will enable police services to track and share critical information about individuals on bail for firearms offences, ensuring stricter adherence to bail conditions. The OPP is proud to lead this initiative, with full support from the OPP Association, reinforcing our commitment to community safety and backing the government's efforts to build a safer Ontario."

- John Cerasuolo  
President, OPP Association

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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Calls for Immediate Federal Action on Bail Reform](#)
- [Ontario Takes Action on High-Risk and Repeat Violent Offenders](#)
- [Ontario Protecting Communities and Keeping People Safe](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Law and Safety

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 Building Fortress Am-Can to Grow the Economy for Am-Can Workers

Province can power shared economic growth and create jobs on both sides of the border

January 16, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

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

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**TORONTO** — Today, Premier Doug Ford outlined Ontario’s forthcoming Am-Can Growth Plan, which would build up advanced manufacturing supply chains in the United States and Canada as part of Fortress Am-Can to bring good jobs back home for workers on both sides of the border.

“The enduring economic partnership between Ontario, Canada and the United States is the envy of the world and now is the time to build and strengthen those close ties,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Working together, we can be the richest, most successful, safest, most secure countries on the planet. Fortress Am-Can will restore the pride of made in the U.S.A., made in Ontario and made in Canada by growing the economy for workers, fuelling North America’s economic growth and reducing dependence on countries like China and Russia that undermine our security and our democratic values.”

The Am-Can Growth Plan will leverage Ontario’s unique advantages to power economic growth, including the province’s historic investments in skills training, clean energy and resource development, along with a competitive business environment. The province has lowered the cost of doing business by \$8 billion every year by reducing premiums, cutting taxes and cutting government red tape.

In the face of global uncertainty, the province is working to strengthen trade and investment relationships worldwide. Ontario has been actively engaging with U.S. partners and encouraging them to reject protectionism and champion a “Buy Am-Can” approach to create jobs and opportunities for workers in both countries.

As part of building Fortress Am-Can, Ontario is recommending the following additional measures:

- Continue to attract global investments in the future of automotive and battery production by making Fortress Am-Can the most economically competitive market in the world. This should include aligning and streamlining relevant regulations to promote further integration and cross-border trade and eliminating unfair or anti-competitive taxes, including the digital services tax and the federal carbon tax.
- Agree to free and fair trade in the United States and Canada's integrated automotive manufacturing sector and set out an ambitious goal of producing one million more Am-Can vehicles each year by 2028.
- Increase steel trade between Canada and the U.S. by 25 per cent by 2028, in support of protecting critical steel jobs and halting the flow of unfairly traded Chinese steel into the Am-Can market.
- Continue to expand agri-food trade between Canada and the U.S. to improve Am-Can food security and reduce our reliance on imports from China and other countries that do not share our high labour and safety standards. This can build on the more than \$45 billion in two-way trade between Ontario and the U.S. that was carried out in 2023, including \$23.5 billion in U.S. agri-food exports to Ontario.
- Establish cross-border partnerships between post-secondary, industry and union training centres to promote skills development and ongoing expertise for current and emerging strategic sectors that match economic priorities, including building roads, highways and other critical infrastructure, manufacturing chips and vehicles and building the future of energy production and transmission infrastructure.
- Harmonize, recognize and support professional certifications across Am-Can borders to improve access to quality engineers, doctors and other professional services.
- Invest in and grow our integrated rail, road, marine and air networks to enhance the safe, secure and speedy transportation of people, goods and services across Canada and the United States.

"Ontario and the United States share one of the most important and abiding partnerships in the world, built on strong economic ties, highly integrated supply chains and shared values," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "The Am-Can Growth Plan will champion workers on both sides of the border by fostering the conditions for good-paying jobs to be created, while also advancing investment opportunities across key industries. By leveraging our

expertise in the manufacturing sector, Ontario remains uniquely positioned to support the re-shoring of America's supply chains and uphold their national security interests."

To help America decouple from China, Ontario recently announced proposed measures to enhance and build out the integrated Am-Can energy and electricity grid, including nuclear energy, to encourage more exports of Canadian energy and electricity to the U.S. and by establishing a new Am-Can Critical Mineral Security Alliance that invests in and builds out American and Canadian critical mineral supply chains, including by significantly expanding Am-Can processing capacity. In addition, the province outlined its plan to strengthen security on land, water and in the air along the Canada-U.S. border, including protecting Arctic sovereignty, as a key component of Fortress Am-Can.

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### Quick Facts

- Over the past four years, Ontario has attracted over \$45 billion in new investments in vehicle manufacturing and the EV battery supply chain. Ontario's auto manufacturing sector supports over 93,000 direct jobs and hundreds of thousands of indirect jobs across the province. It includes over 700 parts firms, over 500 tool, die and mold makers and over 400 connected and autonomous vehicles companies.
- Since (June) 2018, Ontario's [international network of Trade and Investment Offices](#) has attracted over \$25.7 billion in new investments and facilitated market access for over 1,800 Ontario companies from various industry sectors.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ontario is the number one export destination for 17 U.S. states and number two to 11 others. Every day, millions of Americans wake up, go to work and earn a paycheque to make something that's sold to a customer in Ontario.

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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Strengthen Security on Both Sides of the Border](#)

- [Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can by Accelerating Strategic Resource Development](#)
- [Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Power Economic Prosperity in Canada and the United States](#)
- [Ontario Launches “Operation Deterrence” to Strengthen Security Along Ontario-U.S. Border](#)
- [Premier Ford Urges Federal Government to Take More Proactive Approach at the Border](#)
- [Premiers Discuss Important Issues for Canadians](#)

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## Taxpayer Rebate Cheques Now Being Sent to Ontario Families

\$200 payment will be sent to every eligible taxpayer and child in Ontario

January 17, 2025

[Finance](#)

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**Toronto** — The Ontario government has begun issuing \$200 taxpayer rebates to provincial taxpayers, as well as each of their eligible children, to help address the high cost of the federal carbon tax and high interest rates, with cheques set to reach families over the coming weeks.

“With Ontario families struggling due to the federal carbon tax, high interest rates and global economic uncertainty, our government is stepping up as part of our ongoing work to keep costs down and help families make ends meet,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Our prudent fiscal management means our government is able to provide this critical support for families even as we continue to improve Ontario’s finances and invest in our world-class public services.”

The cheques are being mailed to all Ontario residents who are eligible for the taxpayer rebate. To qualify for the rebate, you must have been 18 years or older and a resident in Ontario on December 31, 2023, not be bankrupt or incarcerated in 2024, and have filed a 2023 Income Tax and Benefits Return by December 31, 2024.

Families who qualify for the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment will also receive a separate cheque totalling \$200 for each eligible child under age 18. For example, an eligible family of five with two adults and three children will receive \$1,000.

Ontarians can monitor the status of the [cheques they are eligible for online](#).

### Quick Facts

- The government has acted early to make life more affordable with actions totalling \$11.9 billion for families and individuals in 2024–25. From housing to postsecondary education to transportation, the government is helping keep

costs down for essentials for Ontario families while making the province an affordable and competitive place to live and work.

- The taxpayer rebate payment for children is being made to the person(s) who receives the CCB in respect of the child. In the case of shared custody of a child, payments would be split based on the most recent CCB available.
- For families with children who did not receive the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2024, the government will provide an opportunity for a taxpayer rebate payment of \$200 per child. Details to be shared in the coming weeks.
- In December 2024, S&P Global upgraded Ontario's credit rating, providing the government a second upgrade in half a year. An improvement of a government's credit rating is a positive reflection its fiscal management.

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### **Additional Resources**

[Learn about the Ontario Taxpayer Rebate and inquiring about cheque status](#)

[Ontario Providing Taxpayers with \\$200 Rebate](#)

[Learn about filing your personal income tax and benefit return](#)

[Find Ontario benefits and programs](#)

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## Ontario Driving Rural and Northern Economic Growth through Skilled Immigration

New program will train 800 skilled workers for in-demand careers

January 17, 2025

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

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**TORONTO** — The Ontario government has launched the Regional Economic Development through Immigration (REDI) pilot program to target highly-skilled immigration for four rural and northern regions with a high demand for skilled labour: Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Sarnia-Lambton, and Thunder Bay. REDI enables local employers in these communities to attract up to 800 additional workers for in-demand careers that drive local economic growth, such as health care, technology, and the skilled trades, which includes construction.

“Our government is growing rural and northern economies and giving them the tools they need to build for the future,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “With REDI, we’re enabling rural and northern businesses to attract the talent they need, by providing a blueprint for targeted economic immigration that strengthens communities and drives our economic prosperity.”

The new REDI pilot will be delivered through the [Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program \(OINP\)](#), which prioritizes and accelerates skilled immigration to fill in-demand labour needs that cannot currently be met. Through REDI, the four participating regions have 200 additional nominations each through the OINP’s [Employer Job Offer](#) streams to strengthen local economic growth.

Internationally trained workers interested in applying for permanent residence under the REDI pilot, who have a job offer from an Ontario employer for a position located in one of the pilot communities, are encouraged to [visit the OINP website](#).

“Our government is creating more opportunities for businesses in rural Ontario to attract more in-demand workers that are essential for driving local economic prosperity,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs. “It is because of

programs such as REDI, that help develop skills needed to meet the growing demand in small towns and communities across the province, that we continue to build a strong and prosperous rural Ontario.”

The province is also training over one million local workers for in-demand careers in every corner of the province by investing up to \$1.4 billion through the Skills Development Fund Capital and Training Streams in partnership with local employers, including over \$250 million to train rural and northern workers to date. The new REDI pilot and investments are part of how the government is building a brighter future for all Ontarians and ensuring our province remains the best place to live, work and raise a family.

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### Quick Facts

- The four regions selected for the REDI pilot were identified based on their high demand for skilled labour. The pilot is running for one year from January 2, 2025, until December 31, 2025.
- The REDI pilot builds on the success of the OINP’s 2020 Regional pilot, which allocated approximately 300 nominations through the OINP [Employer Job Offer](#) category. Participating communities for the 2020 Regional pilot were: Chatham-Kent, Cornwall, and Belleville/Quinte West.
- Enabling internationally trained newcomers to work in the professions they studied for could increase the province’s GDP by up to \$100 billion over five years.
- Ontario is investing \$100 million in 2024-25 in settlement and employment services that help newcomers learn English or French, access job-ready training and land careers.
- In 2023, Ontario nominated 2,045 health care workers, including physicians, nurses and personal support workers (PSWs), through the OINP.
- Ontario recently passed the [Working for Workers Six Act, 2024](#) which expanded immigration pathways for self-employed physicians using the OINP, and introduced standards and enforcement mechanisms for immigration representatives who consult on OINP applications.

## Quotes

"At the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, we know a skilled talent pipeline enables more competitive businesses and more prosperous communities. We welcome the launch of the Regional Economic Development through Immigration pilot program and will continue to work with the government to address the unique labour challenges of northern and rural communities."

- Daniel Tisch

**President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce**

"The expansion of the REDI pilot to Thunder Bay is a crucial step in boosting the economy and driving community growth by helping local businesses attract the skilled workers they need to thrive."

- Charla Robinson

**President, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce**

"I welcome our government's meaningful actions to address skilled labour shortages in Thunder Bay and across Ontario through the REDI pilot program. This initiative will enable local employers to fill critical roles in sectors like health care, technology, and skilled trades, fueling economic growth and providing our communities with the tools they need to succeed and thrive."

- Kevin Holland

**MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan**

"I'm pleased Leeds Grenville has been selected for the REDI pilot because workforce retention and a shortage of skilled labour are significant challenges for employers across a variety of sectors. REDI is a tremendous opportunity to continue growing our economy and also improve access to health care by targeting skilled workers such as doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners and personal support workers and bringing them to live in our community and provide care for our residents. I want to thank the Ministry and United Counties for working with me to ensure we were selected."

- Steve Clark

**MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes**

"The REDI pilot program is an important development for Sarnia-Lambton. By targeting immigration to address specific labour shortages, this initiative works in tandem with our government's ongoing investments in local training programs. Together, these efforts will ensure our businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need while supporting the continued growth and prosperity of our community."

**- Bob Bailey**  
**MPP for Sarnia-Lambton**

"We are excited to be selected for the REDI pilot, which will enable us to address critical labour shortages and support local economic growth and stability in Lambton County. We will align newcomer skilled talent with hard-to-fill, high demand job vacancies. This initiative will help local employers meet their demanding workforce needs and support pathways for newcomers to thrive in our community, fostering long-term economic benefit."

**- Matthew Slotwinski**  
**CEO Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership**

"We are truly honoured to have been chosen to administer the REDI pilot in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. This initiative brings significant value to Thunder Bay. By allocating nominations specifically for our community, we're not only helping local employers address their workforce needs but also contributing to the overall economic strength of the region. This program plays a key role in attracting and retaining the skilled professionals who are essential for fostering growth and ensuring Thunder Bay's long-term success."

**- Jamie Taylor**  
**CEO of the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission**

"Within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Economic Development strategic areas of focus, talent attraction and workforce are key to supporting our local needs. The REDI program will play an important role in bringing newcomers to support in-demand jobs that are not being filled in our region. "

- Ann Weir

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

"In working with local employers, we see this as a great opportunity to help alleviate some of the stresses in our local labour market, we are very excited to be a part of the REDI pilot."

- Jasmin Ralph

Clerk County of Lanark

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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Regional Economic Development through Immigration pilot](#)
- [Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Government

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

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## Ontario Making it More Convenient for Seniors to Renew Their Drivers' Licences

Streamlined process will allow seniors to renew their licences and complete testing in one visit to ServiceOntario

January 17, 2025

[Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement](#)

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Toronto — The Ontario government is making it simpler for seniors aged 80 and over to safely stay behind the wheel by introducing a more convenient process for renewing their drivers' licences. Starting February 3, 2025, drivers in this age group will be able to complete mandatory vision and cognitive screening assessments and renew their drivers' licences in a single visit at select ServiceOntario centres. By the end of Spring 2025, this service will be available at all ServiceOntario locations across the province.

"Ontario's seniors deserve a convenient and accessible way to renew their drivers' licences, ensuring they can stay connected to their communities," said Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement. "Reaffirming Ontario's commitment to enhancing customer service and supporting the needs of seniors, this new streamlined process eliminates the need for seniors to visit multiple locations, cutting wait times, expanding access to essential services, and creating a more inclusive and efficient system across the province."

Previously, drivers aged 80 and over had to visit a separate location to complete their vision and cognitive screening assessments and then proceed to ServiceOntario to renew their drivers' licences. With this new approach, seniors will now be sent a renewal notice by mail approximately 90 days before their licence expires, with instructions to book an appointment online or by phone. At their scheduled visit, they can complete the necessary assessments and, if eligible, renew their drivers' licences on the spot at their local ServiceOntario centre.

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### Quick Facts

- Approximately 200,000 senior drivers' licences are renewed each year in Ontario.

- As of 2022, there are nearly 400,000 drivers aged 80 and over in Ontario.
- By 2034, the number of licensed senior drivers in Ontario is expected to grow to approximately 700,000.
- Drivers aged 80 and over are required to renew their G or M class licences every two years.
- Approximately 90 days before a senior's licence expires, they will be sent a courtesy notice in the mail which provides instructions and resources on how to best prepare for a renewal.

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## Quotes

"From eliminating costs for licence plate renewals, freezing fees for testing, and banning road tolls, our government is helping Ontario drivers keep more of their hard-earned money. Today's change complements our historic investment in new roads, bridges and highways as another way we're working to make life more convenient for seniors and all drivers."

- Prabmeet Sarkaria  
Minister of Transportation

"Seniors will face one less barrier when renewing their drivers' licences. By making this service more convenient, our government is helping seniors across Ontario stay independent and connected to their communities."

- Raymond Cho  
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

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## Additional Resources

- Learn more at [ontario.ca/SeniorDriver](https://ontario.ca/SeniorDriver)

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## Related Topics

### Driving and Roads

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

### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

**Media Contacts**

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Minister's Office

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Communications Branch

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## Premier Doug Ford Ready to Protect Ontario Workers, Businesses and Communities

January 19, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**TORONTO** — Today, Premier Doug Ford issued the following statement ahead of the U.S. presidential inauguration ceremony on Monday, January 20:

“I want to offer congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump and Vice-President-elect JD Vance as they take office tomorrow in Washington, D.C.

Canada and the United States can be the richest, most successful, safest and most secure two countries on the planet. Working together, we can usher in a new American and Canadian century, a time of unprecedented growth, job creation and prosperity. We do so by building Fortress Am-Can, a renewed strategic alliance between the U.S. and Canada that is a beacon of stability, security and long-term economic growth on both sides of the border.

The only thing standing in our way is an unnecessary trade and tariff war started by the U.S. that will only benefit China and Chinese-backed companies by creating the kind of economic uncertainty and conditions for them to continue to rip off American and Canadian workers.

Make no mistake, I am ready to protect Ontario workers, businesses and families. As Premier of Ontario, if President Trump’s tariffs make retaliation necessary, I will stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of Team Canada to fight back using every tool in our toolkit. The province is ready to support federal tariffs as part of the country’s first line of retaliation. If necessary, we are ready with additional retaliatory measures within provincial jurisdiction that can support escalation over time. We will make decisions about when and how to implement provincial retaliatory measures in collaboration with the federal government as they lead Canada’s response.

It shouldn’t have to come to this. I hope it doesn’t. As Premier of Ontario, I will never stop fighting for our province and country. I look forward to working together with the incoming U.S. administration in a positive and constructive way that

benefits workers, families and communities on both sides of the border.”

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**Media Contacts**

**Grace Lee**

Premier's Office

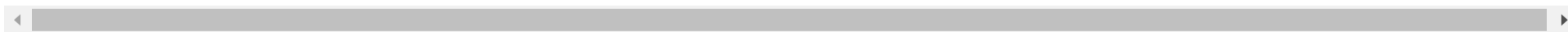
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# County of Renfrew officials to attend delegation meetings at ROMA

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Posted on Friday, January 10, 2025

**RELEASE DATE:**

January 10, 2025

The County of Renfrew is preparing for several delegation meetings and networking opportunities during the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference in Toronto later this month.

The theme for this year's annual conference, taking place from January 19-21, 2025, is Rural Routes, and offers educational programming, expert panels, keynotes and so much more, all from a rural perspective as it highlights the day-to-day realities of local municipal leaders.

The ROMA Conference will provide an opportunity for elected officials and senior staff from the County of Renfrew to meet on local matters through delegation meetings and to hear from the Premier of Ontario and provincial party leaders on their priorities and vision for Ontario. The conference offers municipal officials the chance to foster partnerships and relationships across the sector, and advocate for change.

The County has been successful in securing several delegation meetings:

- Ministry of Infrastructure – Reviewing OCIF Funding cuts: Reductions to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) directly affect the County of Renfrew's ability to manage repairs, upgrades, new infrastructure, and ensure resident safety and local economic activity. This meeting will review the impacts of these funding cuts and discuss future strategies.

- Ministry of Transportation – Seeking continued expansion of Highway 17: Ontario's commitment to expanding Highway 17 to Renfrew is a major infrastructure project aimed at improving transport, boosting regional economic development, reducing traffic congestion, and enhancing safety. This meeting will discuss the project's timeline, funding, expected impact on Renfrew County, and opportunities for collaboration to address potential construction challenges.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Enhancing Seniors Supportive Housing: Campus of Care builds are a proven, made in Ontario model of care, representing a cost-effective means for Ontario seniors to age at home where few affordable options exist. A targeted funding program would enable the expansion of this much needed and cost-effective component of the care continuum.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Joint delegation with the City of Pembroke) – Discussing the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Allocation: Demand for affordable housing in Renfrew County greatly exceeds supply, making new development crucial to tackling the region's housing crisis. Increasing affordable housing units can ease rental market pressure, reduce housing insecurity, and provide stable housing options for individuals and families, including those transitioning out of homelessness. To expand housing supply and support programs like the Homelessness Prevention Program, a larger allocation of resources is vital. There will also be a discussion on the rising costs to the municipality to support homelessness issues.
- Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and Ministry of Health (two separate meetings) – Discussing Mesa Program Funding: The Mesa initiative's need for funding support for Community Paramedics and Mental Health and Addictions Counsellors to aid vulnerable populations. This model promotes effective solutions to mental health, addiction, emergency services, and housing issues by coordinating multi-sector approaches through collaboration among the County of Renfrew's Administration, Community Services, Development and Property, and Emergency Services departments.
- Ministry of College and Universities – Expanding Learn and Stay Eligibility: Discussing the need to expand the Learn and Stay grant eligibility for Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedics to rural Eastern Ontario. Local data shows increasing demand for emergency services, risking system strain and staffing shortages. Renfrew County needs better incentives to attract paramedics in rural areas to enhance access, improve service flow, and maintain service delivery.

"Delegation meetings at the ROMA conference are vital for fostering collaboration and addressing the unique challenges faced by our communities," said Renfrew

County Warden Peter Emon. "These gatherings provide an invaluable platform for sharing insights, advocating for our needs, and building strong partnerships that drive positive change. By coming together, we can ensure that the voices of Renfrew County are heard and that we continue to work towards a prosperous and sustainable future for all our residents."

Warden Emon will be joined at the delegation meetings by committee Chairpersons James Brose, Glenn Doncaster, Michael Donohue, Anne Giardini, Jennifer Murphy and members of the County's Senior Leadership Team.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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

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



## Renfrew County & District Drug Strategy

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Pembroke, Ontario, January 13, 2025)

#### **Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy: Progress Update and Next Steps to Address Drug-related Harms**

A committee of over 30 people from the non-profit, private and public sectors have been actively working together to address substance use harms in Renfrew County and District. The team is embracing the call to action from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, who stated in his recent Annual Report *"substance use cannot be addressed by the health sector alone and I call for collaboration between communities, all levels of government, health and social services, the public health sector, the healthcare system and Ontario residents."*

The Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS) Steering Committee is pleased to highlight some of the achievements of our partners in 2024. This is thanks to the coordinated and collective action of everyone involved.

#### **Mobile Substance Use Services**

The County of Renfrew launched Mesa in 2024 to provide compassionate care in the community. It has continued to evolve to address the needs of community members experiencing homelessness, addictions and mental health issues.

A successful proposal to Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program will result in \$1.8M of funding to Mackay Manor for a *Renfrew County Mobile Substance Use Service* project. This service will expand access to Mesa services for harm reduction, substance use case management, system navigation, housing, opioid agonist therapy, wound care, drug testing and virtual consultations. The integrated mobile substance use service will be staffed by a paramedic, social worker, peer support worker and Elders/Traditional Knowledge Keepers.

#### **Homelessness and Addictions Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub Proposal**

Members of the treatment pillar of the RCDDS submitted a proposal to support the creation of a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub for Renfrew County and District. If successful, the HART hub will increase local treatment and

supportive housing resources while further integrating referral pathways for individuals with complex needs.

### **Naloxone Distribution**

Distribution of life-saving naloxone kits was significantly increased in 2024 through the Ontario Take-Home Naloxone Program, with the number of participating partners doubling since 2023. Training to administer naloxone was also increased significantly in 2024 through expanded outreach efforts to service more rural areas of the county. Increased availability of naloxone and training in its proper use are crucial to allow individuals to reverse opioid overdoses and save lives.

### **Social Media Campaigns**

Two campaigns were launched. One related to anti-stigma highlighted the importance of showing compassion to people who use drugs as well as the negative impact stigma has on people who use drugs, including their ability to access care and treatment. The second campaign promoted the Brave App that connects people, who would otherwise use drugs alone, with remote supervision and overdose support, while protecting their privacy, anonymity and independence.

### **Next Steps**

An initial report outlining strategic priorities for the drug strategy across the four pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and community safety will be released early this year. Community consultation is critical to inform the development of the strategy. All community members are invited to complete the [Community Engagement Survey](#).

Indicators of drug-related harms across the community are updated quarterly on the [Substance Use-Related Harms in Renfrew County and District Dashboard](#) maintained by the Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

More information about the RCDDS can be found at [www.rcdhu.com/rcdds](http://www.rcdhu.com/rcdds).

-30-

Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
media@rcdhu.com  
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Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team  
jamwatt@ovoht.ca  
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**From:** Lindsay Debertin <[LDebertin@countyofrenfrew.on.ca](mailto:LDebertin@countyofrenfrew.on.ca)>

**Sent:** January 8, 2025 9:52 AM

**Subject:** Third Annual Francophone Networking Business Breakfast and Francophone Entrepreneur Award

Hello,

Please share the following information with your respective communities.

Enterprise Renfrew County in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation and Centre culturel de francophone Pembroke is excited to announce the third annual Francophone Business Networking Breakfast on March 4th from 8:30am to 12pm, registration is free. Come celebrate and network with local francophone business owners, and gain valuable insight from the guest speaker Erin Norris of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (Collaborate to Elevate Workshop) to where entrepreneurs will learn how collaborating with fellow businesses can contribute to your businesses growth.

The event will include announcing this year's Francophone Entrepreneur Award. Do you know a Francophone entrepreneur who inspires others and gives back to their community? Nominate today! The deadline to register for the networking breakfast is February 25th, the deadline to nominate for the francophone entrepreneur award is February 16th. Gratefully sponsored by Federation des gens d'affaires francophones de l'Ontario, Town of Petawawa, City of Pembroke, and the Province of Ontario.

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

We look forward to seeing you there.

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.*

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Comté de Renfrew  
**SADC**

# DÉJEUNER DE RÉSEAUTAGE DES ENTREPRISES FRANCOPHONES



## FRANCOPHONE BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

**CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCOPHONE DE PEMBROKE  
303 RUE JAMES, PEMBROKE**

**Le 4 mars  
de 8 h 30 à 12 h**

**March 4  
8:30 am to 12 pm**

**Atelier : Collaborer pour  
s'élever**

avec Erin Norris  
Présenté par l'Association  
touristique de la Vallée de  
l'Outaouais

Apprenez-en plus sur les  
ressources d'affaires  
francophones de la FGA !



**Collaborate to Elevate  
Workshop**

with Erin Norris  
Presented by the  
Ottawa Valley Tourist  
Association

Learn more about  
francophone business  
resources from the FGA!

**Inscription / Registration:**

**[www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events](http://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events)**

**La date limite pour réserver votre place est /Deadline to reserve a seat:**

**25 février / February 25**





# APPEL À CANDIDATURES



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**Connaissez-vous un ou une entrepreneur(e) francophone qui inspire les autres et redonne à sa communauté? Proposez-le dès aujourd'hui!**

**Do you know a Francophone entrepreneur who inspires others and gives back to their community? Nominate them today!**

Le prix sera remis lors du Déjeuner de réseautage des entreprises francophones

The award will be presented at the Francophone Business Networking Breakfast

**Date limite pour proposer une candidature : 16 février à minuit**

**Deadline to nominate a candidate: February 16 at midnight**



pour obtenir de l'information, visitez/For more information, visit : [www.entrerisrenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events](http://www.entrerisrenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events)



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CANADIANS PRIORITIES AND COME LASTING SOLUTIONS](#)

# FCM Calls on Federal Parties to Focus on Canadians' Priorities and to Come up with Lasting Solutions



December 6, 2024

**Ottawa, ON** – In the run-up to the next election, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has drawn up a portrait of the mood of the state of the country that highlights Canadians' top priorities at the local level. The organization is calling on all federal political parties to commit to giving local governments the means to intervene in these areas to ensure quality of life in their communities.

According to an Abacus Data survey conducted on behalf of FCM\*, most of the population (76 percent) believes the country is not moving in the right direction.

"Life is too hard for too many Canadians in too many communities," said FCM's new president Rebecca Bligh, a Vancouver City Councillor.

"Whether you live in a rural or urban community, the reality is the same: bills are harder to pay, feeling of insecurity is growing, transportation is inadequate, and homelessness is commonplace. It's time to fix those issues for good."

Of those surveyed, housing affordability was the biggest concern at 44 percent, followed by the quality of roads and highways at 30 percent, and traffic congestion at 29 percent. Homelessness and crime in the community were tied at 27 percent.

During FCM's Advocacy Days, which ran from Dec. 3 to Dec. 5 in Ottawa, the survey was presented to all political parties to ensure Canadians' priorities were heard.

According to the survey, Canadians were also concerned with:

- Renewing aging municipal infrastructure
- Improving the quality of municipal services, like transit and recreation services, as communities grow
- Addressing crime by increasing municipal police services

## **Long-term solutions needed**

The survey highlighted the fact that municipalities are the order of government most trusted by Canadians to take action on their priority issues.

"There's no longer time for half measures. Municipalities are the order of government that can best intervene on local issues that Canadians care about. Unfortunately, our hands are tied by a fiscal regime that dates from another century," added President Bligh.

FCM is proposing a new Municipal Growth Framework that would see the three orders of government negotiate a more equitable sharing of existing taxes. Working Canadians shouldn't have to stretch their

dollars beyond their means and that same logic should apply to municipalities.

The new agreement would enable municipalities to make residents' lives more affordable, infrastructure more reliable and your community safer.

FCM is calling on the federal government to commit to negotiating a new Municipal Growth Framework within the 2024-25 budget cycle. Should Ottawa turn a deaf ear to this request, municipalities will be unable to fix today's problems with the current toolset. In the lead up to the next federal election, all political parties must remember that municipalities are fighting for Canadians and that it is only through collaboration amongst all orders of government that we can achieve lasting benefits.

*The [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) is the national voice of municipal governments, with over 2,100 members representing more than 92 percent of the Canadian population.*

**For more information please contact:**

FCM Media Relations, (613) 907-6395, [media@fcm.ca](mailto:media@fcm.ca)

*\*From Aug. 26 to Sept. 5, Abacus Data, on behalf of FCM, asked 9,870 Canadian adults about their sentiment on the current state of the country. The snapshot provided a window into the everyday lives of Canadians, and what they feel is most important to them. The margin of error is +/- 0.98%, 19 times out of 20.*

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# AMO launches public awareness campaign in advance of potential provincial election

January 19, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2025 (Toronto) - As elected officials from across Ontario gather at the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has launched a public campaign in advance of a potential provincial election calling for clear commitments from all provincial parties to enhance quality of life in our communities.

AMO's campaign, Vote like your quality of life depends on it, seeks to ensure that voters know what kind of provincial support their municipalities need to deliver the quality of life they expect. It also seeks to ensure that provincial parties know what commitments are needed to appeal to people who live, work and invest in Ontario's communities.

The non-partisan campaign focuses on three areas where provincial partnership can improve quality of life and community well-being:

- curbing reliance on municipal property taxes to fund provincial responsibilities;
- investing in local infrastructure to build housing; and,
- tackling homelessness.

AMO is using advertisements across various print and digital channels, such as newspapers, online media, and social media, to amplify the urgency of these issues to all provincial leaders, and the public.

“Municipalities are the foundation of Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life,” said AMO President Robin Jones. “But the funding arrangements that municipal governments rely on to deliver services and infrastructure are broken. Ontarians should demand that all provincial parties commit to the necessary actions to keep our communities safe, affordable, and prosperous.”

With strong provincial-municipal partnerships, Ontario can build opportunity and deliver the quality of life its residents deserve. Take action for your community and urge your provincial representatives and candidates to take action. Then, vote like your quality of life depends on it. Learn more at [VoteONqualityoflife.ca](http://VoteONqualityoflife.ca).

### **About AMO**

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario aims to make municipal governments stronger and more effective through advocacy, training and events, and business services. Through AMO, Ontario’s 444 municipalities work together to achieve shared goals and meet common challenges.

-30-

### **For more information:**

Brian Lambie, AMO Media Contact, 416-729-5425, [lambie@redbrick.ca](mailto:lambie@redbrick.ca)

### **Category**

Pre-Budget

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 9, 2025 11:03 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Reports on Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis, Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility



## **AMO Policy Update – New Reports on Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis, Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility**

### **AMO Launches Groundbreaking Homelessness Study**

#### [News Release](#)

Today the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) released a comprehensive report titled “[Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis](#)” that reveals the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments. It outlines the risk of inaction and shows there is a reasonable path forward.

The study was conducted by HelpSeeker Technologies, in partnership with AMO, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA).

The study’s findings indicate that Ontario is at a tipping point in its homelessness crisis. More than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25 per cent since 2022. Without significant intervention, homelessness in Ontario could double in the next decade, and reach nearly 300,000 people in an economic downturn. The crisis stems from decades of underinvestment in deeply

affordable housing, income support and mental health and addictions treatment, combined with escalating economic pressures on communities.

The report proposes a fundamentally new approach that focuses on long-term housing solutions over temporary emergency measures and enforcement. AMO urges provincial and federal governments to take significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services, and income supports to fix homelessness and improve communities' economic foundations and quality of life.

You can find a communications toolkit, including AMO's backgrounder, a customizable news release, and social media cards on the [AMO website](#).

## **Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility Study**

On January 8, AMO's business services arm (LAS) released a [feasibility study](#) that explores the opportunity and considerations for managing water and wastewater under a municipally-led Municipal Services Corporation. This work was supported by an expert panel and will be featured in the upcoming 2025 ROMA Conference programming in late January.

The study complements the AMO-MFOA water and wastewater [backgrounder](#), which provided a fact-base on the opportunities and challenges of this model. AMO believes that Municipal Service Corporations can be a valuable organizational and governance tool, particularly for small-to-medium-sized municipalities lacking the tax base to support costly infrastructure renewal and expansion. For these communities, Municipal Service Corporations offer a potentially helpful mechanism to increase administrative and technical capacity and financial sustainability for water and wastewater infrastructure. However, it's crucial that these corporations be planned openly, thoughtfully, and carefully under municipalities' leadership.

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

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\*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.

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 15, 2025 5:06 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission



## **AMO Policy Update – AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission**

AMO has released its 2025 [pre-budget submission](#) highlighting how municipalities are focused on providing the things that matter most to Ontarians, including:

- building more homes to support growth and make housing more affordable;
- dealing with homelessness and the drug crisis to improve quality of life for everyone; and,
- providing important core municipal services like policing and transit while keeping property tax growth to a minimum in the face of ongoing cost of living challenges.

But delivering on these priorities is impossible with the current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements. For over a year, AMO and more than 160 member councils have been calling on the province for [a joint Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#) with no engagement to date. The impact of a broken provincial-municipal fiscal framework is apparent in our communities, with implications for housing affordability, cost of living, and public safety.

Municipalities urgently need the province to reset fiscal fundamentals. To address the growing threats to quality of life across Ontario, AMO urges the provincial government to make concrete commitments in these key areas:

1. Infrastructure funding for housing and the economy

2. Reduced provincial reliance on municipal subsidies
3. Fixing broken provincial systems to address homelessness

AMO will provide a presentation outlining this year's pre-budget submission on the plenary stage at the 2025 ROMA Conference.

## **AMO Supports Changes to Brownfields Rules to Reduce Barriers to Development**

AMO submitted [comments](#) to a recent Environmental Registry posting regarding provincial rules for Brownfields development in support of changes to regulatory requirements for brownfields projects to reduce the need for Records of Site Condition (RSC) in certain cases.

The proposal will eliminate the need for RSCs where there are no legislative requirements and where proposals are low-risk, meaning they would have been filed with a Phase-One Environmental Phase Assessment (EPA). This means that no potentially contaminating activities or areas of potential environmental concern were identified for that property.

AMO supports a risk-based approach to environmental safety requirements. Ontario's ambitious target to build 1.5 million new homes over the next ten years to house a growing population requires close public and private sector cooperation. Brownfields offer valuable properties that can be repurposed in communities for new residential or other uses. Changes to reduce red tape and improve development timelines while ensuring strong environmental protections can help deliver needed development more quickly and affordably.

## **AMO's Response to the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021***

AMO recently sent a [letter](#) to Minister Kusendova-Bashta in response to consultations on the *Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2024*.

The proposed changes included improved access to dementia care, consistent with AMO's longstanding asks to expand emotion-focused care. However, the Bill's enforcement and liability provisions raise potential impacts of new individual liability provisions on long-term care staff recruitment, on liability for long-term care home Board members, and the removal of the reduction of penalties from municipal and other non-profit homes. AMO members are committed to their roles on the Boards of long-term care homes and to the safety of residents in municipal long-term care homes. We strongly encourage the provincial government to reconsider these changes.

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

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\*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.

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 19, 2025 10:23 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It



## **AMO Policy Update - Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It**

Today, as elected officials from across Ontario gather at the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario will be launching a public affairs campaign in advance of a potential provincial election.

AMO's campaign, [Vote like your quality of life depends on it](#), seeks to ensure that voters know what provincial support municipalities need to deliver the quality of life they expect. It also seeks to ensure that provincial parties know what commitments are needed to appeal to people who live, work, and invest in Ontario's communities.

The non-partisan campaign focuses on three areas where provincial partnership can improve quality of life and community well-being:

- curbing reliance on municipal property taxes to fund provincial responsibilities;
- investing in local infrastructure to build housing; and,
- tackling homelessness.

You can find the [news release](#) and a [full communications toolkit](#) on the AMO website, with a template news release, key messages on the three priority areas and template social media cards.



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

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January 09, 2025

- Get access to MIDAS!
- *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 Act* consultation.
- Implementation date of excess soil landfill restriction changed.
- Book your AMO 2025 Conference Hotel!
- See you next week at the ROMA 2025 Annual Conference.
- AMO Education - Workshops addressing and supporting your leadership.
- Blog: An Electric Road Trip.
- Municipal Series: Net Zero Planning and Low Carbon Initiatives.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- Save the date: Scotiabank 2025 Affordable Housing Summit.
- 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 and identify multiple year trends. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email [MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca](mailto:MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca).

### Provincial Matters

The province is currently consulting on regulations related to the sale and transfer of dogs in Ontario, record-keeping requirements and potential exceptions to puppy mill prohibitions (*PAWS Act*). [Comments due February 1](#).

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.

### Education Opportunities

Mark your calendar for **January 14 at 10:00am** to book your 2025 AMO Conference hotel room. [Here is where you will want to click](#) for all the information you need and links to conference hotels.

There is still time to register online for this years ROMA Annual Conference online. You have until January 13 one minute before midnight to take advantage of registration savings. After this, all registration will be onsite where higher rates apply. [Register here](#). Check out this years [amazing program here](#).

AMO has assembled an array of workshops focused on supporting and strengthening your role as a local leader. From asset management planning, land use planning, indigenous-municipal relations, navigating conflict, communications through local crisis, strategic thinking, planning and communication, understanding anti-semitism and islamophobia and so much more. AMO is also offering registration discounts. [Check it all out here](#).

### LAS

Our staff love to visit with municipalities to discuss their challenges and opportunities. [Read our latest blog](#) about the fall road trip experience of one of our Municipal Program Specialists.

Have you made a commitment to net zero and don't know where to start? Join the IESO's guest speaker, our very own Christian Tham, in the next Municipal Series webinar on January 31. Christian will lay out practical steps to take and provide real life examples to help you on your low carbon journey. [Click here for more information and to register](#).

### Municipal Wire\*

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Join industry experts in meaningful discussions on February 19th to tackle housing-related challenges at regional and national levels. Please reach out to [Scotiabank's events team](#) for additional information.

## Careers

[Program Administrator \(Workforce Development\) - AMO](#). Closing date: January 31.

[Assistant Deputy Minister, Commercial Transportation Safety and Enforcement - Ministry of Transportation](#). Closing date: January 17.

[Assistant Deputy Minister, Transit - Ministry of Transportation](#). Closing date: January 17.

[Senior Economic Development Officer - County of Simcoe](#). Closing date: January 9.

[Health Care Manager - Ministry of the Solicitor General](#). Closing date: January 20.

[General Manager, Human Resources - City of Guelph](#). Closing date: February 3.

[Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Norwich](#). Closing date: January 10.

[Hosting Project Lead - Township of Ignace](#). Closing date: January 31.

[Director, Life Stabilization - City of London](#). Closing date: January 28.

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## About AMO

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

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## AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

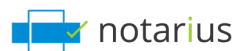
[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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



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January 16, 2025

- Municipal property taxes on The Agenda.
- New resources added to GBV Resources Toolkit.
- *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 Act* consultation.
- Implementation date of excess soil landfill restriction changed.
- Book your AMO 2025 Conference Hotel!
- AMO Education - Workshops addressing and supporting your leadership.
- Enhance your road data in 2025.
- Designing for Digital Inclusion: Creating Welcoming Online Spaces for All.
- Municipal Series: Net Zero Planning and Low Carbon Initiatives.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- Save the date: Scotiabank 2025 Affordable Housing Summit.
- Careers.

### AMO Matters

AMO Director of Policy and Government Relations, Lindsay Jones, spoke to [TVO's Steve Paikin](#) about pressures on municipal property taxes and the need for a new provincial-municipal fiscal framework.

Check out the new resources on privacy and information sharing from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario in AMO's toolkit of [Gender-Based Violence Resources for Municipal Elected Officials](#).

### Provincial Matters

The province is currently consulting on regulations related to the sale and transfer of dogs in Ontario, record-keeping requirements and potential exceptions to puppy mill prohibitions (*PAWS Act*). [Comments due February 1](#).

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

The Canada Water Agency is [accepting applications for initiatives](#) that improve Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative. Applications can be submitted for eligible projects until February 13, 2025. Municipalities are eligible.

### Education Opportunities

You can now book your accommodations for the 2025 AMO Conference in Ottawa August 17-20. [Here is where you will want to click](#) for all the information you need and links to conference hotels. Registration will open soon!

AMO has assembled an array of workshops focused on supporting and strengthening your role as a local leader. From asset management planning, land use planning, indigenous-municipal relations, navigating conflict, communications through local crisis, strategic thinking, planning and communication, understanding anti-semitism and islamophobia and so much more. AMO is also offering registration discounts. [Check it all out here](#).

### LAS

Make 2025 the year of data! Get a study done through the [LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service](#) so you can make repair decisions based on high-quality, objective data. [Contact Tanner](#) to learn more.

[Join our barrier-free website builder service partner GHD on January 30](#) for an enaaaina discussion on

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

community.

Have you made a commitment to net zero and don't know where to start? Join the IESO's guest speaker, our very own Christian Tham, in the next Municipal Series webinar on January 31. Christian will lay out practical steps to take and provide real life examples to help you on your low carbon journey. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

### **Municipal Wire\***

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada is hosting a [professional development event](#) for early-to-mid career public servants in Toronto on January 24.

Join industry experts in meaningful discussions on February 19th to tackle housing-related challenges at regional and national levels. Please reach out to [Scotiabank's events team](#) for additional information.

### **Careers**

[Program Administrator \(Workforce Development\) - AMO](#). Closing Date: January 31.

[Program Supervisor, Emergency Management - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: January 20.

[Chief Administrative Officer - United Counties of Leeds and Grenville](#). Closing Date: February 6, 2025.

[Senior Accounting Analyst/Executive Assistant - Town of Wasaga Beach](#). Closing Date: January 30, 2025.

[Executive Director of Pollution Control/ Deputy City Engineer - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: January 30, 2025.

[Manager, Property Tax Analysis - DMA Inc.](#) Closing Date: February 13, 2025.

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### **About AMO**

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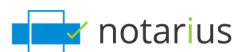
[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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

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NEWS RELEASE

January 7, 2025

**LAS to develop business case on water and wastewater joint municipal services corporation**

Based on expert panel recommendations, LAS will develop a business case to evaluate whether a joint municipal services corporation would be a financially sound and practical solution for some of Ontario's water and wastewater infrastructure challenges.

Ontario's municipalities own almost all of the water and wastewater systems in the province. Many systems, particularly in smaller communities, are grappling with how to operate, maintain or expand these systems while keeping water rates affordable.

In the face of these challenges, LAS struck an expert panel in early 2024 comprised of municipal finance, economics, policy, legal and operations experts to look at potential options. The [LAS Expert Panel: Report on the feasibility of water and wastewater utility model](#) was accepted by the LAS board and is now available on the LAS website.

The panel reviewed financial data and consulted extensively with the municipal sector and other key stakeholders. The panel concluded that a voluntary public utility option, such as a joint municipal services corporation, could offer some financial, administrative and operational savings and benefits. For example, a joint MSC has the potential to:

- Access more sophisticated capital financing tools and better borrowing rates.
- Enable better system wide planning to match system capacity with growth.
- Address staffing shortages by allowing for a critical mass of staffing expertise.
- Address soaring construction and operations costs through joint procurement.

"At the outset, we decided that any solution must be completely voluntary for municipal governments. That is how all of LAS programs work. We also committed to keeping water and wastewater infrastructure under public management," said Craig Dyer, Expert Panel Chair. "The public must have confidence in the safety and quality of our drinking water and wastewater systems. Private interests and profit motives would erode that trust."

The panel report acknowledges that creating one or more joint municipal services corporations will come with its own financial and policy challenges.

"We know there are pros and cons to changing the status quo. That is why a more detailed business case, with fulsome financial modeling, is so important," said LAS Chair Gary McNamara. "During the consultation,



we had massive interest in our work. We now need a municipal staff working group to take this to the next level.”

Municipal staff who are interested in the potential of joint municipal service corporation model are invited to join the working group, with a Council resolution.

“On behalf of the LAS Board, I want to thank the expert panel and staff for their tireless work to delve into this critical matter,” McNamara said. “LAS is committed, as always, to solutions that are created by municipalities for municipalities.”

-30-

**Oliver Jacob**

---

**From:** Arnprior Library <library@arnpriorlibrary.ca>  
**Sent:** January 13, 2025 4:53 PM  
**To:** Oliver Jacob  
**Subject:** Welcome 2025 Library Newsletter



## Welcome to 2025

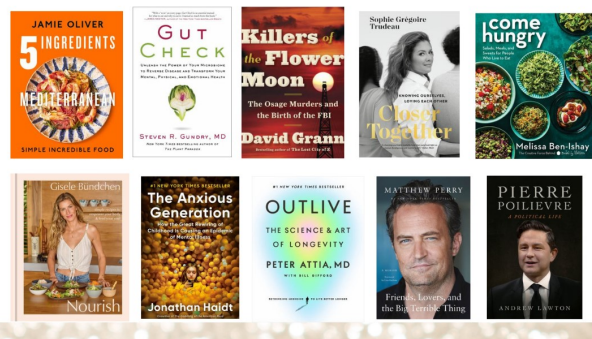


It's a new year and the time to rediscover your library! We can help you save money, meet new people, learn something new and escape into worlds of history, fantasy or just someone else's drama! We've got resources to help you in your home and others to help you explore the world both near and far. All you need is a library card to help you on your journey. Join the more than 2200 people who have become members in the last 2 years!

We experienced record circulation in 2024 with nearly 109,000 books signed out at the desk and more than 40,000 downloads of eBooks, digital resources and streaming files. Arnprior Library readers sure do appreciate a good thriller or two sprinkled into their top picks of 2024 with perennial favourite authors such as David Baldacci, John Grisham, Michael Connelly and Lee Child. Kristin Hannah's storytelling topped the list with *The Women*. Colleen Hoover's books are also in constant circulation.



**TOP FICTION READS of 2024**



**TOP NON-FICTION READS of 2024**



Top picks for non fiction readers continue to be biographies and cookbooks! From the juvenile collection anything by authors Jeff Kinney, Dav Pilkey or Raina Telgemeier are perennial favourites and top those lists.

**Fun Fact #1** Our museum passes to great destinations in the national capital region circulated 476 times in 2024!

**Fun fact #2** We're adding a Thermal Imaging Camera and a moisture detector to our collection that you'll be able to borrow along with Radon Detectors, portable WiFi and Watt Meters.

**Fun Fact #3** We've expanded some of our electronic resources in 2025. New in Mango Languages is American Sign Language. All you need is a library card to set up an account and start learning one of more than 90 languages.

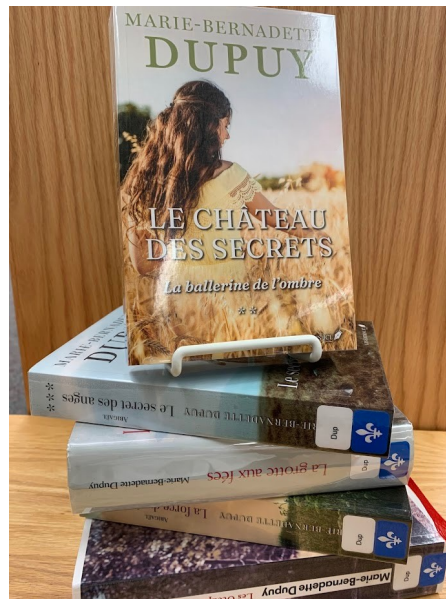


If in-person learning is more your style, our Spanish Conversation group offers an engaging Monday evening meet-up in our beautiful Scharf Hall. Everyone is welcome.

If you know a newcomer who would benefit from English as a Second Language learning, please let us know and we'll set up a meet-up with one of our trained ESL instructors.

We're still hopeful to launch our French Conversation group, but we're in need of volunteers to help lead these meet-ups. Let us know if you're able to assist.  
email: [library@arnpriorlibrary.ca](mailto:library@arnpriorlibrary.ca)

We have an extensive French collection in the children's department and have recently added a large collection of 2024 publications and best sellers to the French adult collection. Our virtual library also offers Cantook Station with more than 12,000 French digital resources (eBooks and eAudio books).  
Signup is free with your library card.



The library facilitates two book clubs meeting monthly on Tuesday mornings. These groups are in partnership with the Seniors Active Living Centre.

We've had some interest in starting a third club. If you're a Millennial and are interested in participating in a Saturday meet-up, let us know!  
Simply complete this [interest form](#)

This would be a great opportunity to meet new people in the community too.



Want to contribute to biodiversity? Come learn how to use our seasonal cycles to start native plant seedlings. Following a brief introduction on how to help local pollinators, participants will be provided with materials and instruction on starting native wildflowers. It is requested that participants contribute by bringing minimum 4" deep reused plastic containers such as clean 750g yogurt containers or pop bottles. Special thanks to Northern Wildflowers and the Arnprior Seed Library Volunteers for supplying the seeds. Join this free workshop January 25 from 1pm—3pm.



We've introduced a Puzzle Swap Station in our downstairs cafe. It works on the 'bring one, take one' model and is open to everyone.

With the help of volunteer Shona, we're also planning a Saturday morning **Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange on January 25 from 10am – noon**. And if all that isn't enough – we're looking for people interested in a weekly *Puzzle Social*, tentatively set for Wednesday mornings in the library's main hall. Bring your current project, collaborate with a fellow enthusiast, meet new people! If you'd like to let us know your interest for the Puzzle Social, please complete [this form](#)

- The library hosts a variety of events in partnership with agencies and services in the community. On the first Thursday of the month, Hospice Renfrew facilitates a Grief Support group. Participants meet at 4:30 in our lower level board room.
- OnTrac Arnprior has an onsite visit on the third Monday of each month. Stop by their table for information about their services between 1—4pm.
- The Renfrew County District Health Unit also makes a monthly visit to the library. A health nurse will be on site January 16th with distribution of harm reduction kits and lots of information about their services.

**Save this link to the library's events calendar**

The January edition of the Busker's Café will be January 28th from 5:30—6:50pm in the Scharf Hall. Browse the stacks while you enjoy the live music or find a seat and be part of an audience. Free refreshments courtesy of Tim Horton's Arnprior. Donations accepted in appreciation

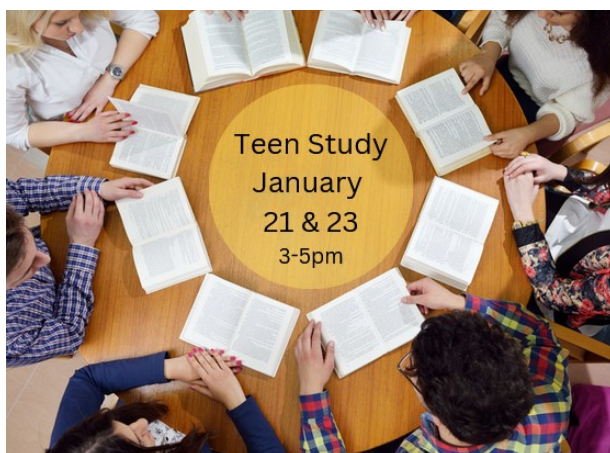
of the music. David Chambers will entertain with tunes of the 60's and 70's. The full lineup until our summer break is available on the library event calendar.



## News from Youth Services

We will once again be hosting Teen Exam Study Sessions at the library. Work collaboratively or hunker down to study independently. Either way, there will be lots of snacks and drinks to keep you going thanks to the generous support of the Scharf Family Charitable Trust.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday the 21st and Thursday the 23rd from 3-5pm. You've got this!!!



- The next installment of Baby Rhyme Time is ready to start in early February and we are taking a wait list if you missed registration.
- Our Friday morning drop-in story times resume on January 17th with a visit from our friends at BIAK featuring a morning of Indigenous teachings and drumming.
- LEGO Lounge is your destination for creativity on Wednesday afternoons. Drop in from 3:45—4:45 and build with our extensive collection of LEGO bricks and your creations will be on display for the week. All you need is a library membership.
- Our March Break Calendar is in the works. We're planning a full week of activities and registration will start by mid-February.

- Watch our website and social media channels for upcoming summer job postings as we gear up for another fantastic 7 weeks of summer programming for kids of all ages!



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## RENFREW COUNTY 55+ GAMES

January 15, 2025

Arnprior Municipal Office  
105 Elgin Street W.  
Arnprior, ON  
K7S 0A8

[Contact Us - The Town of Arnprior](#)

Dear Friends,

Re: Letter of Financial Assistance to the Renfrew County 55+ Games

This letter is in support of the Renfrew County 55+ Games. We are once again busy planning our summer and winter senior games for the upcoming year. The Committee is most appreciative of the municipalities that provided venues and volunteers. If your community is not involved this year and would like to participate, please contact Val Hinsperger at [valhinsperger@gmail.com](mailto:valhinsperger@gmail.com). The venues will be listed on the Registration Forms, which will be available at Municipal Offices, Senior Clubs/Centres, and Recreational Facilities. Registration forms will also be online at <http://www.osga55plus.ca>.

There are 37 Districts in Ontario, and we are in District #5. These Games provide an opportunity for everyone, 55 plus, to join in fun-filled activities of their choice. The benefits are invaluable, providing participants with stimulation, both mental and physical, and social interaction with people from all over Renfrew County. Always, new friendships and good memories are created, and we look forward to having many contenders at the 2025 Games.

The individual registration fees cover much of the Games' costs; however, outside financial assistance is always required. Your generosity in donating any amount will be greatly appreciated. All supporters will be officially recognized in the information packages each participant will receive and in the media at the completion of the Games.

Please submit your donation to:

Renfrew County 55+ Games  
c/o Fundraising Chair  
148 Fleming Drive  
Burnstown, ON K0J 1G0

Sincerely,

Denise Lavallée  
Fundraising Chair

**Note:** Letters are being sent via email to save on administrative costs. If you require further information, please call me at 613-433-9170 or email: [retdlavallee@outlook.com](mailto:retdlavallee@outlook.com)





Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior

File No. B8/24

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
Application for 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:** 398 John St. N., Arnprior, Concession C Part of Lot 5, Registered Plan 49R15419, parts 4 and 5, and part of part 2

**Purpose and Effect of Consent Application:**

The purpose of the application is to sever a parcel of land for the creation of a new lot (severed lands) for future development.

Take notice that the consent application will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior on **Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Nick Smith Centre Community Hall, 77 James St., 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.

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, 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.

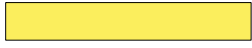
Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

**Alix Jolicoeur**

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

## Key Plan:

### Existing Lot – Galilee Center, 398 John St. N



Existing Lot



Proposed lands to be severed

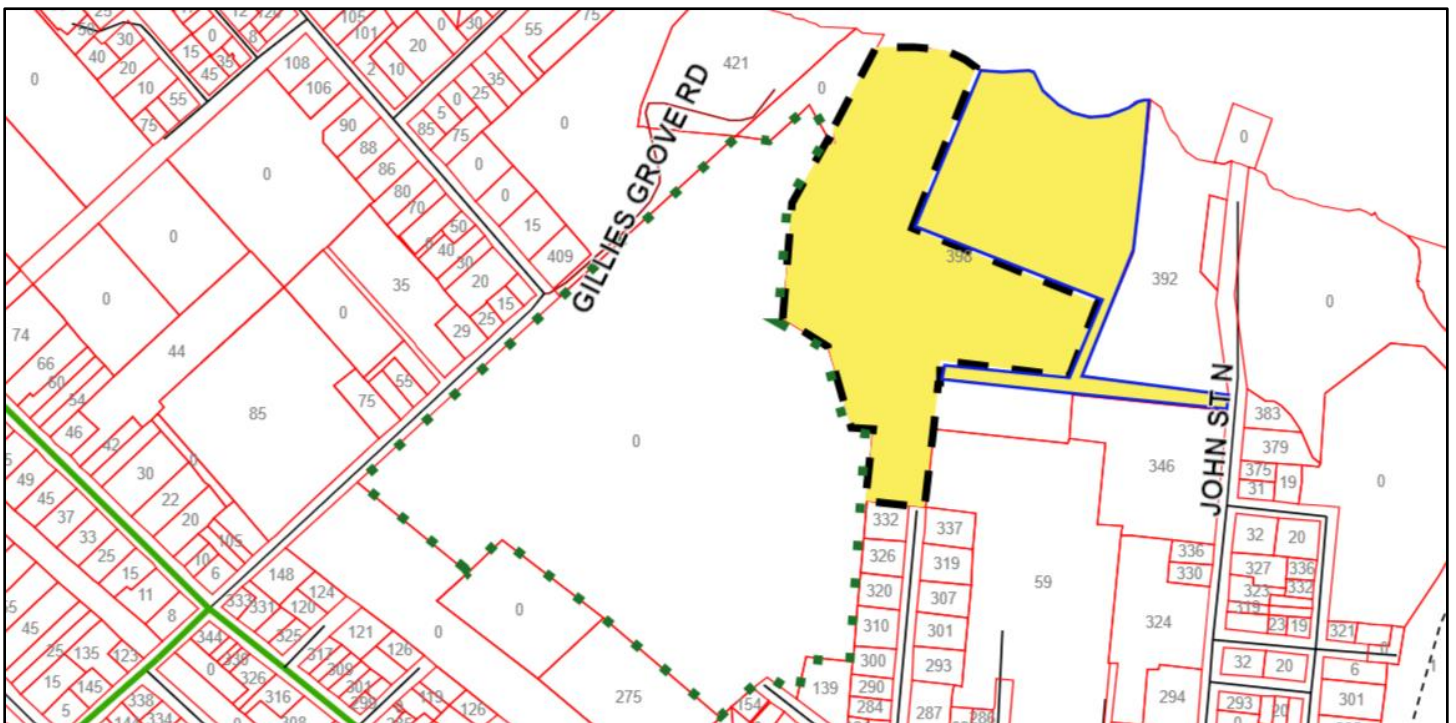


Proposed lands to be retained

### Gilles Grove



owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (not part of the subject application)





# Town of Kearney

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION # 2024 - 398

Date: December 19, 2024

**MOVED BY:**

**SECONDED BY:**

- Beaucage, Keven
- Pateman, Heather
- Rickward, Michael – Deputy Mayor
- Sharer, Jill

- Beaucage, Keven
- Pateman, Heather
- Rickward, Michael – Deputy Mayor
- Sharer, Jill

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney has received a communication from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, regarding changes to the Planning Act through the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, and the Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024;

**AND WHEREAS** this announcement from Minister Calandra does not fully address the needs of Rural or Northern municipalities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council confirms their desire for the attached letter to be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Paul Calandra; MPP Graydon Smith; MP Scott Aitchison; Premier Doug Ford; AMO; FONOM; ROMA and to affected municipalities in Rural/Northern Ontario for their support.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

\_\_\_\_\_

Recorded Vote Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded Vote:

For

Opposed

- |                                  |                          |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beaucage, Keven                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pateman, Heather                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Philip, Cheryl – Mayor           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rickward, Michael – Deputy Mayor | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sharer, Jill                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



8 Main Street, P.O. Box 38, Kearney, Ontario POA-1M0

Ph.# (705) 636-7752 Fax # (705) 636-0527

<https://townofkearney.ca> email [admin@townofkearney.ca](mailto:admin@townofkearney.ca)

December 19, 2024,

Dear Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,

Thank you for your recent communication regarding the changes to the Planning Act through the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, and the Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024.

While we appreciate the government's efforts to address the housing supply crisis by promoting the creation of additional residential units (ARUs), we must express our concerns about the applicability of these changes in rural municipalities.

The "as-of-right" permission to develop up to three units per lot is only permitted in urban areas where municipal servicing is provided. In these areas, the demand for housing is high, and land is scarce. However, in rural municipalities, where population density is lower and land availability is not typically a constraint, these changes do not apply.

Rural municipalities often struggle with infrastructure limitations, specifically with water supply, sewage systems, and transportation networks. While these changes the Province has made does cut red tape for urban areas of Ontario, they do not address constraints rural municipalities deal with when trying to increase density without municipal servicing. Additionally, the increased residential density permitted by the amendments may not be compatible with the rural character and lifestyle that residents value.

We believe that a one-size-fits-all approach to ARU development may inadvertently overlook the distinct needs of rural communities. As municipalities in rural, Northern Ontario have before, we urge the government to consider creating tailored policies that recognize the specific conditions and requirements of rural areas, ensuring that any regulatory changes support sustainable and contextually appropriate growth.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our feedback and look forward to working collaboratively with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to develop solutions that are beneficial to all Ontarians and where they choose to live.

Sincerely,

Mayor, Cheryl Philip

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney

City Clerk's Office

**Secretariat**  
Sylvia Przedziecki  
Council Secretariat Support  
City Hall, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, West  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2Tel: 416-392-7032  
Fax: 416-392-2980  
e-mail:  
Sylvia.Przedziecki@toronto.ca  
web: www.toronto.ca**In reply please quote:  
Ref.: 24-MM23.1**

(Sent by Email)

December 20, 2024

**ALL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES:****Subject: Member Motion Item 23.1  
Declaring Toronto a Paid-Plasma-Free Zone - by Councillor Chris Moise,  
seconded by Councillor Alejandra Bravo (Ward All)**

City Council on November 13 and 14, 2024, adopted [Item MM23.1](#) and in doing so, has forward this item to Canadian Blood Services, federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health, Grifols Pharmaceuticals, and all Ontario Municipalities and requested that they support only voluntary blood and plasma collection, where donors do not receive payment for their blood or plasma.

Yours sincerely,

*Niko Markakis*, for

for City Clerk

S. Przedziecki/mp

## Attachment

Sent to: All Ontario Municipalities  
Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Blood Services  
Chief Executive Officer, Grifols Canada

c. City Manager

## City Council

### Member Motions - Meeting 23

MM23.1	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: All
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### **Declaring Toronto a Paid-Plasma-Free Zone - by Councillor Chris Moise, seconded by Councillor Alejandra Bravo**

#### **City Council Decision**

City Council on November 13 and 14, 2024, adopted the following:

1. City Council express its opposition to the operation of private for-profit blood collection companies in the City.
2. City Council forward this item to Canadian Blood Services, federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health, Grifols Pharmaceuticals, and all Ontario Municipalities and request that they support only voluntary blood and plasma collection, where donors do not receive payment for their blood or plasma.

#### **Summary**

In the City of Toronto, we uphold the principle of voluntary blood and plasma donation, acknowledging its vital importance as a public good. Our commitment derives from the lessons of Canada’s tainted blood crisis, which tragically claimed approximately 8,000 lives. The subsequent Royal Krever Commission urged a fully voluntary, non-payment oriented blood and plasma donation system.

Within our Ontario healthcare system, we perceive blood donations as a priceless public resource, underscoring the need to safeguard the integrity of the public, voluntary donor system.

The Voluntary Blood Donations Act of Ontario strengthens this stance, legislating against the payment of donors and prohibiting donors from receiving financial compensation for their blood or plasma.

Canada Blood Services plans to open five paid plasma clinics, including one in Toronto, by 2025. This issue needs immediate attention and action. The public health community has raised concerns about Grifols Pharmaceuticals' plans to open a Toronto clinic. It's vital we protect vulnerable residents from exploitation by for-profit plasma collection companies offering cash for blood-plasma, a predatory practice.

In bringing this motion forward, we strive to reinforce the principles of voluntary, non-remunerated blood and plasma donation, protecting both the integrity of Canada’s public blood system and the dignity of blood donors.

## **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM23.1

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-249600.pdf>

Attachment 1 - Resolution to Declare the City of Hamilton a "No Paid Plasma Zone"

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-250144.pdf>