



ARNPRIOR

Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: February 10th, 2025
Correspondence Package No. I-25-FEB-03

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-25-FEB-03 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Ontario Investing in the Success of Rural Communities
- b) Ontario Continues Allocating International Student Applications to Support Labour Market Needs
- c) Ontario Connecting More People to Treatment for Rare Diseases
- d) Ontario Building Canada's First Dedicated Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Treatment Centres for First Responders
- e) Ontario Investing Nearly \$27 Million to Train Over 2,600 Carpenters
- f) Ontario Helping Colleges and Universities Build Better Facilities
- g) Ontario Investing \$75.5 Million to Restore Safety to Parks and Public Spaces
- h) Ontario Investing Over \$1.8 Billion to Connect Every Person in Ontario to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams
- i) Province Investing \$100 Million in Job Training to Protect Ontario Workers
- j) Ontario Building Safer Communities With 18 Additional Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs
- k) Ontario Investing \$325 Million to Help Build More Homes
- l) Ontario Making Historic \$1.3 Billion Investment to Build and Expand More Schools

m) Ontario Election to be Held on February 27

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

a) County Council Summary – January 2025

b) County of Renfrew officials attend 2025 ROMA conference in Toronto

c) County of Renfrew announces funding for roundabout at Doran Road in Petawawa

d) County of Renfrew selected to host Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub

3. Correspondence from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit

a) RCDHU Medical Officer of Health Report – January 2025

4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

a) Watch File – January 23rd, 2025

b) Watch File – January 30th, 2025

c) Policy Update – Statement on Trade and Update on Provincial Election Advocacy

5. Correspondence from Arnprior Special Olympics

a) Thank You Card

6. Resolutions from Other Municipalities

a) City of Peterborough – Comments on Bill 242 (Safer Municipalities Act, 2024)

b) Town of Halton Hills – Sovereignty of Canada

c) Town of Coburg – Municipal Restructuring Study

d) Town of Blue Mountains – Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST

7. Correspondence from Global Traffic Group

a) Information package on Automated Speed Enforcement

Ontario Investing in the Success of Rural Communities

Province announces new rural economic development program, investments in housing-enabling infrastructure at annual ROMA conference

January 21, 2025

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

[Infrastructure](#)

[Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness](#)

[Rural Affairs](#)

Toronto — The Ontario government has announced new measures that continue its historic support for rural communities and residents at the 2025 annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference. These measures include a new Rural Economic Development Strategy announced by Minister of Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson, with \$10 million in annual funding in a new Rural Ontario Development Program aimed at supporting economic growth, workforce capacity and business development in rural communities.

“Our government is continuing our historic investments in the success of rural Ontario because we understand how critical rural Ontario is to the success of the entire province,” said Premier Doug Ford. “After years of neglect from previous governments, we are making sure rural communities are seeing the new investments, infrastructure and homes they need to thrive and create new jobs and opportunities.”

Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, announced the government is opening applications for the \$175 million Health and Safety Water Stream of the province’s Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP) starting February 12, 2025, to ensure communities across the province have access to safe drinking water, reliable wastewater services, and are protected during extreme weather events. This funding is part of the government’s historic ongoing investments to help municipalities and First Nations preserve and increase housing supply across the province.

Minister Surma also announced the province has completed evaluating applications for funding from the \$400 million Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream of the MHIP and has approved 58 successful projects across 60 municipalities. These projects will help enable up to 160,000 new homes and ensure these growing communities are connected to reliable roadways. Successful recipients will be announced in the coming weeks.

“Our government is working with municipalities and First Nations to ensure they have the support they need to maintain crucial water infrastructure assets and promote housing growth in their communities,” said Minister Surma. “Proper maintenance of our water and wastewater infrastructure is critical for protecting our homes and businesses and ensuring communities have access to clean drinking water. We remain dedicated to supporting municipalities and First Nations by delivering the critical infrastructure their communities need today and for generations to come.”

Minister Thompson’s announcement of a new Rural Economic Development Strategy is a key pillar in the government’s plan to help rural communities address the challenges they are facing and take advantage of new opportunities. As part of this strategy, the government has replaced its previous Rural Economic Development Program with the new Rural Ontario Development Program and is doubling its funding to \$10 million annually over the next two years for a total of \$20 million.

“Our government believes in and is committed to enabling opportunity, which is the foundation from which we built Ontario’s rural economic development strategy,” said Minister Thompson. “Our plan to support rural Ontario reflects how our entire government is working together to ensure our programs and policies enable strong and dynamic rural communities.”

The [Enabling Opportunity: Ontario’s Rural Economic Development Strategy](#) focuses on three key areas:

- **Safe and Strong Rural Communities** – improving local economic development capacity and championing local leadership, supporting the rehabilitation of municipal and community infrastructure, optimizing rural connectivity, and supporting communities in developing plans for housing and transportation to ensure rural communities are places where people want to live, work and play.
- **Business Development and Attraction** – supporting rural communities and other economic development partners in strengthening and growing rural

business, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, attracting investment, revitalizing downtowns and diversifying regional economies.

- **Growing the Rural Workforce** – helping grow local talent, raising awareness of job opportunities available in rural Ontario, supporting workers in obtaining the skills needed to succeed, and attracting and retaining workers so rural communities and small towns thrive.

ROMA is the rural voice of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). The annual conference is an opportunity for the province and municipal leaders to make progress on rural priorities.

Quick Facts

- Municipalities and First Nations will be able to apply for funding through the Health and Safety Water Stream to address outdated water, wastewater and stormwater facilities, replace local pipes and watermains, and make enhancements to shoreline and flood mitigation infrastructure that will increase climate resilience. Eligible projects must be net new, rehabilitation or expansion projects. More information about the Health and Safety Water Stream is available at ontario.ca/housinginfrastructure.
- Ontario is providing nearly \$2 billion in total through the various streams and intakes of the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund and the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program to support housing- and community-enabling infrastructure and build more homes across the province. This is in addition to the province's \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund, which has awarded more than \$285 million to municipalities for their performance against their 2023 housing targets.
- With additional funding of \$18 million over three years to the Agriculture Drainage Infrastructure Program, more municipalities will be able to ensure adequate drainage, helping increase the productivity of Ontario's farmlands.
- Ontario is investing an additional \$52 million in 2025 to help municipalities address the increasing operational pressures of Ontario Works program delivery so that vulnerable Ontarians can continue to get the financial assistance they need.
- To help ensure northern and rural communities can build the housing they need, a [new building officials policy is now in place](#), making it easier for municipalities to recruit building officials to address labour shortages and get projects moving faster.
- Ministers, Associate Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants held over 500 meetings with municipalities and municipal organizations from across Ontario

at the 2025 ROMA conference. They discussed key priorities including housing, infrastructure, and public health, including mental health and addictions and emergency health services.

Quotes

"For generations, it has been our rural communities that have laid the very foundation on which the province stands. Under Premier Ford's leadership, our government has not only acknowledged the unique challenges of rural and northern Ontario, we have been actively unleashing the opportunity that exists there. From infrastructure investments to housing solutions, from cutting red tape to creating jobs, we are delivering real results — and we're just getting started."

- Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"Under Premier Ford's leadership, rural Ontario will never be left behind as it was under the previous government. Thirty thousand new jobs, \$3 billion in added GDP and a 65 per cent increase in exports are the Premier's track record for Ontario's agri-food sector, proof that our government's investments are reinvigorating the economic muscle of rural Ontario."

- Rob Flack
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

"This \$175 million investment is an important step toward empowering municipalities to build the infrastructure needed to support our growing communities and improve the quality of life for all Ontarians. By addressing aging infrastructure and adapting to climate change, we can ensure a sustainable future for generations to come."

- Robin Jones
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Mayor,
Westport

"The province's new Rural Economic Development Strategy recognizes the immense potential of our rural communities. The expanded scope and resources in the new Rural Ontario Development Program will help unlock this potential and drive local economic growth. Prosperity across the province relies on a thriving rural Ontario."

- Christa Lowry
Chair, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Mayor, Mississippi Mills

Additional Resources

- [Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program](#)
- [Building More Homes](#)
- [Rural Economic Development program](#)

Related Topics

Home and Community

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

Jobs and Employment

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

Rural and North

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

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Ontario Continues Allocating International Student Applications to Support Labour Market Needs

Province responds to federal reduction in student permits by focusing on key sectors

January 23, 2025

[Colleges and Universities](#)

TORONTO - In response to the federal government's decision to further reduce the number of international students permitted to study in Canada, Ontario is continuing to prioritize public postsecondary programs that will help prepare graduates for in-demand jobs that support Ontario's labour market needs.

"As we have been from the beginning, our government is laser focused on ensuring students in Ontario receive the skills they need to succeed in industries that address our province's labour market needs," said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges and Universities. "In response to this decision by the federal government, we remain steadfast in working with our colleges and universities to deliver an excellent education throughout Ontario."

For 2025, Ontario has received 181,590 applications, which is anticipated to result in 116,740 permits for students intending to study at Ontario's institutions. Of the 181,590 applications, 32,579 have been reserved for master's and doctoral degree programs.

Publicly assisted colleges and universities will receive 96 per cent of the allocations, with the remaining four per cent going to Ontario's language schools, private universities and other institutions. Career colleges will not receive any applications. All public institutions will receive at least the same number of applications as they used in 2024.

As announced by the federal government, the province must also include applications for master's and doctoral students and students extending their study visas by transitioning from an Ontario high school in its 2025 allocation, a change from the 2024 allocation requirements.

Ontario has updated its list of high-priority labour market areas to ensure enrolment is aligned with programs eligible for federal post-graduation work permits, such as the skilled trades, health human resources, [STEM \(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics\)](#), child-care and French-language programs. Ontario will continue to work with the federal government to better align eligibility for its post-graduation work permits with additional key in-demand industries including hospitality, manufacturing, automotive and dentistry.

The government continues to protect the integrity of the postsecondary education system by working alongside the sector to ensure the province is attracting the best and brightest international students to Ontario.

Quick Facts

- Effective January 22, 2025, the cap and provincial attestation letter (PAL) requirement now apply to individuals applying to master's and doctoral degree programs, as well as study permit extensions for students changing designated learning institutions, including in-Canada grade 12 international students entering into Ontario's postsecondary education system.
 - For 2025, Ontario has received 181,590 applications, which is anticipated to result in 116,740 permits for students intending to study at Ontario's institutions.
 - Of the 181,590 applications, 32,579 have been prescribed as reserved for master's and doctoral degree programs.
 - In comparison, in 2024, Ontario was allocated 235,000 applications, with a target of 141,000 approved study permits, with master's and doctoral students exempt.
 - Throughout 2024, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada announced changes to the [International Student Program](#) for 2024 and 2025, including a cap on the number of study permits issued to international students, and post-graduation work permit eligibility.
 - To acquire an attestation letter to study in Ontario, students should contact their admissions office at the Ontario postsecondary institution where they have accepted their offer of admission and intend to enrol. Students can also visit the [ministry website](#) for more information.
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Additional Resources

- [Information for international students interested in attending a publicly assisted college or university in Ontario](#)
- [Publicly assisted universities in Ontario](#)

- [Publicly assisted colleges in Ontario](#)
- [Private postsecondary institutions in Ontario](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

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

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Ontario Connecting More People to Treatment for Rare Diseases

\$178 million in annual funding supporting people living with rare diseases

January 24, 2025

[Health](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is connecting more people to the care they need by ensuring Ontarians, of all ages, living with rare diseases have faster and easier access to new and emerging life-changing treatment options when and where they need it.

Ontario and Canada have signed a new three-year bilateral agreement to improve health care for people living with rare diseases in the province. Through the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases, the Government of Canada will provide Ontario with \$178 million for three years to support improvements for early screening and diagnostic testing for rare diseases and to support the province's existing coverage for publicly funded, life-changing treatments.

“Our government is making it easier and faster for people of all ages, living with rare diseases to connect to the treatment they need, when and where they need it,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “As Ontario continues to lead the country in funding treatment and screening for rare diseases, this agreement will complement the bold, innovative action our government has taken to connect people with rare diseases and their families to even more innovative, life-changing treatment options, for generations to come.”

This agreement builds on the \$615 million the province has invested over the last year to provide access to 49 drugs for rare diseases through its publicly funded drug programs, including the Ontario Drug Benefit Program, Exceptional Access Program and the New Drug Funding Program.

The National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases will support improvements for early screening and diagnostic testing for rare diseases by building provincial screening and testing capacity. The following five drugs are now available to people in Ontario through this agreement:

- Poteligeo: Cancer medicine used to treat Mycosis fungoides or Sézary syndrome - two cancers of blood cells that affect mainly the skin.
- Oxlumo: Used to treat Primary hyperoxaluria type 1, an ultra-rare genetic disease affecting the liver.
- Epkinly: Used to treat large B-cell lymphoma for patients who relapsed or haven't responded to previous treatment.
- Welireg: Used to treat von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease, a rare genetic condition characterized by the formation of tumours and cysts in various parts of the body, including the kidneys, brain, spinal cord, and pancreas.
- Yescarta: Used to treat follicular lymphoma and second-line treatment of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma or high-grade large B-cell lymphoma. It is a type of CAR T-cell therapy, which involves reprogramming a patient's own T cells to attack cancer cells.

As part of [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government is providing public access to new medications and treatments to connect more people to world-class care, when and where they need it.

Quick Facts

- In March 2023, the Government of Canada announced an investment of up to \$1.5 billion over three years to support the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases, including up to \$1.4 billion for bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to help patients with rare diseases access treatments as early as possible for a better quality of life.
 - Innovative treatments for rare diseases can cost anywhere from \$100,000 to more than \$3 million per patient per year, and these therapies may be lifelong treatments.
-

Quotes

"Reaching these agreements is another step in our collaborative efforts to build a stronger public health system for Ontarians. By investing in drugs for rare diseases, this agreement will improve affordability and access to medications, early diagnosis, and screening, so that people in Ontario with rare diseases have the best health outcomes possible."

- The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health

"Innovative Medicines Canada welcomes the signing of this bilateral agreement, an important step toward improving access to life-saving medicines for patients living with rare diseases in Ontario. We are committed to working with both the provincial and federal governments to improve health outcomes for Ontarians. By working together, we can continue to accelerate access to diagnostics and medicines, foster innovation in the life sciences, and address unmet medical needs, ensuring that no patient is left behind."

**- Bettina Hamelin
President, Innovative Medicines Canada**

"Alexion Canada applauds Ontario for advancing rare disease care by signing the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases agreement. This important step reflects a clear focus on improving the lives of patients living with rare diseases and their caregivers, who face significant challenges in accessing timely and effective treatments, along with lengthy diagnostic times. Alexion looks forward to working with the government to deliver on this strategy and create lasting change for rare disease patients in Ontario."

**- Karen Heim
Vice President and General Manager, Alexion Canada**

"Today's announcement is a significant advancement for patients across Ontario, particularly those suffering from rare diseases. This investment ensures broader access to innovative therapies and demonstrates a commitment to helping improve the quality of life for individuals and families facing the challenges of rare diseases. We are proud to support the Ontario government in enhancing patient access and remain dedicated to initiatives that prioritize patient care and health care innovation."

**- Jennifer Chan
Vice President Policy and Government Relations, Merck Canada**

"We applaud the signing of a bilateral agreement between Ontario and Health Canada under the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases. We are pleased Ontario has taken this critical step forward to improve the lives of people suffering from devastating diseases, including coverage of EPKINLY for cancer patients with Relapsed or Refractory Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma."

- Rami Fayed

Vice President and General Manager, AbbVie Canada

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)

Related Topics

Government

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

[Learn more](#)

Health and Wellness

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

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Ontario Building Canada's First Dedicated Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Treatment Centres for First Responders

New facilities to be built in Caledon and Toronto

January 24, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Health](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

CALEDON — The Ontario government is expanding access to comprehensive mental health and rehabilitation treatment for first responders affected by work-related stress or trauma, including post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI), by investing in the construction of Runnymede Healthcare Centre's Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Centre of Excellence for First Responders. This new funding builds on the \$10.7 million the government previously invested to support early capital planning for Runnymede Healthcare Centre's two new facilities.

"We owe a huge debt to our first responders, who make incredible sacrifices every day to keep families and communities across Ontario safe," said Premier Doug Ford. "By investing in mental health and rehabilitation treatment for first responders provided by the dedicated team at Runnymede Healthcare Centre, we're helping give back to our brave women and men so they can access the critical supports they need."

The province's investment will support the construction of two new facilities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to deliver comprehensive PTSI rehabilitation-focused programs and services tailored to the needs of first responders and support them throughout their journey to recovery. Services include mental health assessments, rehabilitation and residential treatment, virtual care, 24/7 crisis support, peer support and navigation support.

In Toronto, the new facility will focus on providing rehabilitative services including assessment, intensive outpatient therapy, and aftercare, while housing recreation programs and facilities that encourage health and recovery. The new facility in Caledon will provide 40 residential beds to connect first responders to tailored and comprehensive treatment services.

As a next step, the ministry is working with Runnymede Healthcare Centre to complete planning and design for this project. A construction schedule will be confirmed once future planning is complete and the project is tendered and awarded.

“Ontario is proud to be home to world-class first responders who put their lives on the line every day to support and care for families across the province,” said Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By investing in Runnymede Healthcare Centre’s PTSI Centre of Excellence project, our government is building on our work through the Roadmap to Wellness to improve access to mental health services, ensuring our first responders can connect to targeted, comprehensive supports where and when they are needed most.”

It is estimated up to 23 per cent of first responders and public safety personnel suffer from PTSI, a higher rate than that of the general population. Once opened, the Runnymede Healthcare Centre will provide care to 1,500 workers each year, accommodating 41,700 visits. Over time, this program has the potential to expand to serve additional volumes and frontline professions, improving access to safe, tailored and effective supports when and where they are needed.

“Getting our first responders access to comprehensive mental health support they might need at any given time is another way our government is taking concrete action to support those who serve our communities every day,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “This first of its kind facility will allow them to receive dedicated treatment for post-traumatic stress injuries and ensure they receive the critical resources they deserve while they work to keep our communities safe.”

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government is making it easier and faster for people to connect to care. In 2020, the province introduced the [Roadmap to Wellness](#), a plan to build a modern, world-class mental health and addictions care system. The government continues to introduce and expand on innovative new programs to ensure access to connected and convenient care to support the health and well-being of all Ontarians.

Quick Facts

- First responders and public safety personnel are eligible for mental health and rehabilitative treatment services at Runnymede Healthcare Centre’s Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Centre of Excellence for First Responders and include police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, paramedics and frontline healthcare personnel.

- Through the new [Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel](#) program (MHS4PSP), the province is investing more than \$32 million to ensure first responders and public safety personnel have access to mental health supports.
- Over the next 10 years, Ontario's investments will lead to nearly \$50 billion in health infrastructure across the province, building 3,000 new beds in addition to over 3,500 critical care, acute and post-acute beds the government has added since 2020.
- Through Your Health, Ontario is getting shovels in the ground for over 50 hospital developments across the province.
- Ontario is investing \$3.8 billion over 10 years to fill gaps in mental health and addictions care, create new services and expand programs through [Roadmap to Wellness](#).
- As part of *Budget 2024, Building a Better Ontario*, the government is building on its work through the Roadmap by investing an additional \$396 million over three years to improve access and expand existing mental health and addictions services and programs.

Quotes

"First responders face unique and extraordinary challenges in their work, often putting their mental health and well-being at risk to protect and serve our communities. By investing in the Runnymede Healthcare Centre's Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Centre of Excellence, we are ensuring that those who dedicate their lives to keeping us safe have access to the specialized care and support they need to heal and thrive. This is a vital step in building a continuum of care that recognizes the sacrifices made by our frontline heroes and supports them throughout their recovery journey."

- Michael Tibollo
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

"Our system fails to adequately protect First Responders who are structurally exposed to traumatic events throughout their careers. We cannot have safe, healthy, and resilient communities without safe, healthy, and resilient First Responders. It is time to serve those that serve their communities everyday. The PTSI Centre of Excellence will help navigate all First Responders and their families to appropriate and timely access across the end-to-end continuum of care, from prevention, to treatment and return to wellness, throughout a person's professional career, and beyond."

- Connie Dejak

President and CEO, Runnymede Healthcare Centre

"Today's announcement marks a significant step forward in addressing the unique challenges faced by Ontario's sworn and civilian police personnel. Expanding access to comprehensive mental health and rehabilitation services, including the creation of Runnymede Healthcare Centre's Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Centre of Excellence, is an investment in the well-being of the brave men and women who ensure the safety and security of our communities every day. These facilities will provide the tailored care and support our members need and deserve as they navigate the impacts of their demanding and critical work. We applaud the government for prioritizing this essential initiative."

- Mark Baxter

President, Police Association of Ontario

"Thank you, Premier Ford, for your steadfast support of the Runnymede First Responders Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Rehabilitation Centre. Firefighters experience mental health challenges at a significantly higher rate than the general population due to their repeated exposure to traumatic events while serving their communities. The government's significant investment in this mental health initiative for first responders will enable the construction to begin on this one-of-a-kind center which will provide critical support to firefighters and other first responders in need."

- Greg Horton

President, Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association

"First responders work in challenging and demanding environments. This will be a great step forward in addressing the needs of those with post-traumatic stress injury. The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs applauds Premier Ford and the Ontario government, for this important investment which supports those who step up to serve Ontarians."

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

"Paramedics encounter situations that put them at a high risk for PTSD and other mental health challenges, as such they require access to specialized treatment options in a timely manner. These new mental health and rehabilitative treatment services that are tailored to first responders and frontline healthcare providers will ensure that those who serve the citizens of Ontario receive the care they require to remain healthy so they are able to continue to serve and care for our communities. On behalf of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs, we thank the government of Ontario for their ongoing commitment to supporting the physical and mental health of paramedics."

**- Chief Greg Sage
President, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs**

"With the prevalence of post traumatic stress injuries amongst paramedics and allied partners estimated to be at least twice that of the general population, the Ontario Paramedic Association supports efforts to provide access to rehabilitation focused care and recovery pathways to those who are there for Ontarians during their most vulnerable moments. This boost in funding from the provincial government will assist the Runnymede Healthcare Centre's PTSL Centre of Excellence in its efforts to provide this much needed access to specialized care to support, foster and maintain healthier first responder populations, translating into healthier and more resilient communities across Canada."

**- Katherine Hambleton
VP Operations, Ontario Paramedic Association**

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Improving Access to Best-in-Class Mental Health Supports for First Responders](#)
- [Ontario Expanding Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)

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Ontario Investing Nearly \$27 Million to Train Over 2,600 Carpenters

Investment will support Ontario workers with five new and expanded carpenter union-led training centres and programs

January 24, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

CONCORD — The Ontario government is investing nearly \$27 million through two funding streams to help train more skilled carpentry workers across the province. The funding will expand training programs and support the construction of a new carpenter training facility in Sudbury and expand four existing facilities in London, Windsor, Cambridge and Ottawa to train an additional 2,600 carpenters and construction workers across the province.

“In the face of tariff threats to Ontario workers and jobs, it’s more important than ever that we keep investing in our workers, so they have the skills and training they need to succeed,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Today’s investment will help more than 2,600 workers find rewarding careers in the skilled trades, so they can secure better jobs and bigger paycheques in communities across Ontario.”

The following five union locals of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBCJA) will receive up to \$13 million in funding to train an additional 1,175 carpenters through the [Skills Development Fund \(SDF\) Capital Stream](#):

- **UBCJA Local 2486** is receiving \$3,192,261 for the construction of a new training centre in Sudbury that will create training and career opportunities for people from Northern and Indigenous communities.
- **UBCJA Local 494** is receiving \$1,806,028 for a two-story addition to their existing training centre in Windsor that will create new shop and office spaces and approximately 5,612 sq. ft. of training space.
- **UBCJA Local 1946** is receiving \$1,181,608 for an expansion project in London that will include a 5,300 sq. ft. addition to their existing facility for carpentry and drywalling.
- **UBCJA Local 785** is receiving \$3,492,683 to expand their facility in Cambridge by approximately 60 per cent. The expansion would include more training

floorspace, add four larger classrooms, a full functioning shop, washrooms, an exercise room and a meeting hall.

- **UBCJA Training Centre Local 93** in Ottawa is receiving \$3,203,651 for the expansion of their existing facility.

Ontario is also investing up to \$14 million through the [SDF Training Stream](#) to support the expansion of UBCJA's Carpenters' Regional Council Workforce Development Program to include other industries, such as manufacturing and health care workers. The innovative training program will train up to 1,450 carpenters by bringing together UBCJA locals and training centres, employers and key community partners to develop a resilient workforce and empower workers with barriers to education and meaningful employment.

“By investing in carpenter training, we are helping to train the next generation of workers – including women and young people – to build Ontario’s bright future,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration Training and Skills Development. “Workers can benefit from the wisdom of experienced tradespeople, gain the necessary skills for lifelong careers in the construction trades and unlock their potential. Because a career in the skilled trades is for everyone.”

Over the next decade, Ontario is expected to need more than 500,000 workers to fill job openings in skilled trades-related occupations. The projects announced today are examples of how Ontario is partnering with labour organizations, employers and local organizations through the SDF to increase their capacity to train and upskill workers for in-demand careers in the trades across key industries.

Ontario’s total investment through the Skills Development Fund is up to \$1.4 billion. Since the province launched the program in 2021, Ontario has supported the building of training facilities and delivery of training programs that are projected to support over one million workers across the province.

As Ontario continues to grow, the SDF will help ensure skilled workers are trained and ready to enter rewarding careers in in-demand sectors in the province.

Quick Facts

- The Skills Development Fund is comprised of two funding streams: the [Training Stream](#), which supports hiring, training and upskilling programs for jobseekers, apprentices and workers; and the [Capital Stream](#), which supports upgrades or construction of training centres for the skilled trades.
- Ontario launched the second round of its SDF Capital Stream on November 29, 2024 to provide support for eligible organizations to build, expand and retrofit

training facilities for workers in the trades, including construction, manufacturing, technology and health care. Applications for round 2 are now open and interested organizations can apply year-round through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#). Inquiries can be sent to: SDFCapitalProgram@ontario.ca.

- The new SEED pathway of the Capital Stream will help fund the development of capital plans for training facilities and will complement the already established GROW pathway that will continue to support projects to build, upgrade and expand new training infrastructure.
- Organizations that are interested in submitting a proposal for either the SEED or GROW pathways can review the SDF Capital Stream application guidelines at <https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/on00540>.
- Since its launch in 2023, Ontario's SDF Capital Stream has been supporting renovation and construction projects that aim to help almost 225,000 workers train for in-demand sectors.
- The Capital Stream of the Skills Development Fund is exclusively funded by the Government of Ontario, while the SDF Training Stream is supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

Quotes

"This investment will provide the critical training and skills development needed to support Ontario's growing workforce. By expanding and upgrading training centres across the province, we are ensuring that skilled trades workers are ready to meet the demands of our economy and contribute to building a stronger Ontario for the future."

**- Laura Smith
MPP for Thornhill**

"This historic investment will expand on our existing programs to build on their success, further developing a productive and highly skilled workforce to meet the province's infrastructure and housing needs. Further, new specialized programs for health care and industrial workers will extend our commitment to training beyond construction into other high-demand sectors of Ontario's economy."

**- Jason Rowe
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Carpenters' Regional Council**

Additional Resources

- [Applications Now Open for Next Round of Skills Development Fund](#)
 - [Skills Development Fund Training Stream](#)
 - [Skills Development Fund Capital Stream](#)
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Ontario Helping Colleges and Universities Build Better Facilities

\$228 million investment ensuring Ontario postsecondary students have modern facilities and learning tools

January 24, 2025

[Colleges and Universities](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is continuing to deliver world-class education by investing \$228 million in postsecondary institutions to modernize their infrastructure. The funding will allow publicly assisted colleges and universities to upgrade buildings and acquire the latest learning tools, ensuring Ontario students receive a cutting-edge education that will allow them to flourish in their careers.

“Our government is building the workforce of tomorrow – one that is adaptable, cutting-edge and innovative,” said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges and Universities. “By investing in state-of-the-art buildings and learning equipment, we are ensuring Ontario’s students are equipped to thrive as leaders in the modern economy.”

This investment includes:

- \$196 million through the Facilities Renewal Program to help publicly assisted colleges and universities with the maintenance, repairs and renewal of existing facilities.
- \$21.5 million through the College Equipment and Renewal Fund to help colleges buy and renew instructional equipment and learning resources.
- \$10.5 million through the Training Equipment and Renewal Fund to help universities renew and buy modern, state-of-the-art equipment and learning resources.

This combined investment stream requires postsecondary institutions to contribute matching funds to help deliver the high-quality education and training to meet the needs of employers. Colleges and universities can use the funding for major building systems upgrades, heating and ventilating system upgrades, as well

as mechanical and electrical system upgrades. The funds can also be used to buy educational tools, such as new computers and software for teaching purposes, specialized equipment, or machinery for use in labs, shops and classrooms.

By investing in state-of-the-art facilities with high-quality learning tools for Ontario postsecondary students, the government is ensuring students are equipped to thrive in a modern, rapidly evolving workforce.

Quick Facts

- The Facilities Renewal Program provides annual funding to help colleges and universities renew and modernize their campuses by repairing and renovating existing facilities, including major building systems upgrades, roof repairs, heating and ventilating system upgrades, and mechanical and electrical system upgrades.
 - The College Equipment Renewal Fund provides annual funding to help colleges buy and renew instructional equipment and learning resources, such as specialized equipment, machinery or tools for use in labs, shops and classrooms.
 - The Training Equipment and Renewal Fund provides annual funding to help universities buy state-of-the-art equipment that supports in-person or virtual learning, helps to meet industry or business standards, or supports enrolment growth.
-

Quotes

"Colleges Ontario commends the Ontario government for this investment, which equips colleges with modern tools and facilities to provide students with hands-on, industry-standard training. This supports our mission to deliver the skills Ontario needs to succeed in a fast-changing global economy."

**- Maureen Adamson
Interim President and CEO, Colleges Ontario**

"This investment will help Ontario's universities provide students with modern learning spaces essential for future success. This funding will support universities in upgrading their facilities and acquiring cutting-edge equipment and learning resources, ensuring students have access to state-of-the-art educational environments."

- Steve Orsini

President and CEO, Council of Ontario Universities

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Universities](#)
- [Ontario Colleges](#)

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Education and Training

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

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Ontario Investing \$75.5 Million to Restore Safety to Parks and Public Spaces

Funding will help wind down encampments and move vulnerable people into safe accommodations

January 27, 2025

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Ontario has begun [flowing up to \\$75.5 million to municipalities](#) in order to help them wind down encampments in public spaces by creating more emergency shelter spaces and affordable housing units. These accommodations will provide vulnerable people with appropriate short- and long-term housing alternatives to encampments and help restore safety and order to Ontario's parks and other public spaces.

"Our government has delivered significant support to municipalities to address the challenges encampments can pose to public safety across Ontario," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Mayors have asked us for additional help and we have been clear that we will provide funding to municipalities that show results in winding down these sites. We can no longer accept encampments as a place to deal with mental health and addiction issues."

The funding that is being flowed to municipalities includes:

- \$50 million for ready-to-build affordable housing projects, allocated based on how close a project is to completion and its value for money, to help projects near completion but in need of additional targeted funding open their doors faster.
- \$20 million to expand shelter capacity and create additional temporary accommodation spaces.
- \$5.5 million to top up the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) to immediately free up emergency shelter spaces for people living in encampments by helping people living in shelters move into longer-term housing. This funding builds on the nearly \$400 million invested in COHB between 2023 and 2024.

As part of the government's commitment to ensuring Ontarians can safely use our shared public spaces, the province is working with local service managers to direct funding into communities where it is needed most. By helping municipalities and other project partners create more emergency shelter and affordable housing spaces, Ontario is helping vulnerable people move out of crisis situations and into stable accommodations.

Quick Facts

- The Ontario government is currently investing close to \$700 million annually in homelessness prevention programs – \$654 million through the Homelessness Prevention Program and \$41.5 through the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program.
 - Service managers and Indigenous program administrators have the flexibility to allocate provincial funding to programs and services that address and prevent homelessness in their communities, such as rent supplements, homeless shelters, and supportive housing including capital projects.
-

Additional Resources

[Bill 242, Safer Municipalities Act, 2024](#)

[Transition of nine safe injection sites into HART Hubs](#)

Related Topics

Home and Community

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

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Ontario Investing Over \$1.8 Billion to Connect Every Person in Ontario to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams

Historic investments to be delivered through Dr. Jane Philpott's Primary Care Action Plan

January 27, 2025

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$1.8 billion to connect two million more people to a publicly funded family doctor or primary care team within four years, which will achieve the government's goal of connecting everyone in the province to a family doctor or primary care team. This investment includes \$1.4 billion in new funding, alongside more than \$400 million in already-approved funding for primary care.

"Through our government's record investments in primary care, we have been able to achieve the highest rate of access to regular health care providers in the country," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "With this historic, transformative investment, we can now achieve our goal of connecting every person in the province who wants a primary care provider."

Ontario's Primary Care Action Team, led by Dr. Jane Philpott, will use the government's historic investment to implement its [action plan](#) to build a primary care system that draws on best-in-class models from across the province and connects everyone to a family doctor or primary care team. Interprofessional primary care teams are made up of a family physician or nurse practitioner and other health care professionals such as nurses, physician assistants, social workers, dietitians and more.

"Together we will build a primary care system that is comprehensive, convenient, and connected for every single person in Ontario," said Dr. Jane Philpott. "In every community, your primary care team will be your front door to care, where you have a team of clinicians providing care you can access in a timely way, close to home."

Since 2018, Ontario has added over 15,000 new physicians to its health-care workforce, including a 10 per cent increase in family doctors. Through the Your Health plan, Ontario invested [\\$110 million in primary care teams](#) across the province, helping to connect 328,000 more people to primary care close to home. Ontario has also opened two new medical schools and increased the number of medical school seats to add 260 undergraduate seats and 80 undergraduate seats at York University, as well as 449 postgraduate positions and 102 postgraduate positions at York University.

As a next step, Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan will implement a broad series of initiatives in collaboration with primary care leaders and health system partners that will close the gap for the remaining 10 per cent of people in the province in need of primary care by 2029. Key initiatives include:

Connecting You to a Primary Care Team

- Creating and expanding 305 additional teams to attach approximately two million people to primary care, including more than \$235 million in 2025-26 to establish and expand 80 additional primary care teams across the province, attaching 300,000 more people to primary care this year.
- To support this initiative, be the first jurisdiction to introduce legislation that, if passed, would establish best-in-class standards outlining what people in Ontario can expect when accessing primary care services across the province.
- To improve transparency, provide regular public updates on progress and performance tied to this initiative, with reporting on the following metrics:
 - Number of people who have ongoing attachment to primary care.
 - Percentage of primary care providers who work in interdisciplinary teams.
 - Percentage of people who can get an appointment on the same day or next day when needed.
 - Percentage of people who can access their health records online.

Making Primary Care More Connected and Convenient

- Modernize Health Care Connect to improve the user and provider experience with the goal of establishing a wait time target of no more than 12 months to be connected with a primary care team.
- Attach everyone currently on the Health Care Connect waitlist (as of January 1, 2025) to a primary care team by Spring 2026.
- Enhance digital tools for providers and patients, improving patient navigation, reducing administrative burden, modernizing information sharing and improving the referral process. Leverage Health811 to view online health

records, book an appointment with a primary care provider and discover care options.

- Set regular performance indicators of primary care teams, including the number of patients attached, to ensure teams reach their maximum impact in connecting people to care.

Supporting Primary Care Providers

- Introduce targeted strategies to recruit and retain the workforce needed to support primary care providers and teams, including family doctors, nurse practitioners and other allied health care professionals. This includes continuing to address administrative burden with digital tools, targeted recruitment and retention strategies for northern and rural communities, and ensuring all of Ontario’s highly qualified health care professionals can work to their full scope of practice.
- Add and expand the number of community-based primary care teaching clinics in collaboration academic institutions and other partners. These new and expanded teaching clinics would support new primary care learners (e.g., physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and registered nurses) in communities across the province, prioritizing underserved communities as new learners often choose to practice where they are.

Closing the Gap

Through the action plan, two million more people will be connected to primary care by 2029.

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total
New people attached	300,000	+500,000	+600,000	+600,000	2,000,000
New primary care teams added	76	+73	+78	+78	305

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

Quick Facts

- The government's plan is designed to attach approximately two million people to a primary care provider if they want one. The Ministry of Health continues to work with academic and health system partners to validate the number of Ontarians who are attached to a family doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Through Health811, Ontarians can chat online or call 811 to talk to a registered nurse day or night for free in multiple languages. You can also use the service to sign up for Health Care Connect if you are looking for a family doctor or nurse practitioner, and find services like community health centres, mental health support, or walk-in clinics close to where you live.
- Starting in 2025, up to 100 internationally trained physicians with training in family medicine who have completed their field assessment will begin practicing as a family doctor in northern and rural communities.
- Starting in 2026, the government is investing an estimated \$88 million over three years to expand Learn and Stay grants for 1,360 eligible undergraduate students that commit to practice family medicine with a full roster of patients once they graduate.
- Over the last two years, the government has added an additional 150 training positions for Nurse Practitioners, bringing the total number of government funded positions from 200 to up to 350.

Quotes

"RNAO welcomes today's announcement that every Ontarian will have access to primary care through a family physician or nurse practitioner (NP) working with a team of registered nurses, social workers, dietitians and more. "A robust primary care sector is the hallmark of a high functioning system."

- Dr. Doris Grinspun
CEO, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)

"As an NP myself, I know primary care holds the key to improving health outcomes for all. Monday's announcement answers RNAO's long-standing call for the full utilization of Ontario's 5,300 NPs to address the province's primary care access crisis."

- Lhamo Dolkar
President, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)

"NPAO welcomes the government's \$1.8 billion investment to strengthen primary care and expand access for millions of Ontarians. Nurse practitioners are well-positioned to play a key role in addressing gaps in primary care, and we look forward to partnering with the government on this initiative to advance high-quality, accessible care for all."

- Michelle Acorn
CEO, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO)

"Nurse practitioners (NPs) are pleased to see the Ontario government take meaningful action to address access to primary care in the province. We are particularly encouraged by the goal of attaching two million people to primary care, many directly with an NP. Nurse practitioners are eager to leverage the full extent of their training and expertise to deliver the primary care Ontarians deserve."

- Barbara Bailey
President, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO)

"This is great news for family physicians and Ontarians. The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) is encouraged by the quick progress made by the Ontario Primary Care Action Team, led by Dr. Jane Philpott, and today's commitment to expand access to integrated primary care teams and enhance digital tools for family physicians. This announcement recognizes the foundational role family physicians play in our health care system and reflects the OCFP's long-standing advocacy for team-based care and the use of new technology to better support family doctors. The implementation of this plan will be critical - we look forward to continuing our collaboration with the government and Dr. Philpott to ensuring every Ontarian has access to a family physician and receiving the primary health care they deserve."

- Dr. Jobin Varughese
Family Doctor, President, Ontario College of Family Physicians

"This investment acknowledges the critical need for accountability and the right support to drive meaningful progress. The Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO), representing 190 member organizations across the province, is encouraged by this commitment and remains ready to collaborate with the Government of Ontario. We are focused on ensuring that every Ontarian has access to high-quality, team-based primary care. As we move forward, we must recognize that the job ahead is complex and requires a co-design approach. True success will come from working together—government, health professionals, and communities—to ensure that investments are targeted in the right areas, and that primary care leadership plays a central role in the design, implementation, and integration of new initiatives. The work ahead is vital, and AFHTO is committed to being a key partner in shaping solutions that will benefit all Ontarians."

- Jess Rogers

CEO, Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO)

"Congratulations to Dr. Philpott and her team, Minister Sylvia Jones, and the government of Ontario. This is a significant investment in primary care and Ontario's doctors are encouraged with the goal to attach more patients to family medicine over the next four years." said Kimberly Moran, CEO, Ontario Medical Association. "There is a substantial amount to do to ensure every Ontarian has access to a family doctor and we look forward to partnering with Dr. Philpott and the government to co-design this plan. We urge the government to work with the OMA to retain the family doctors we have, encourage those who left to come back, and demonstrate a viable future for those considering this field. We share the government's desire to improve patient access to family medicine and we look forward to the results of this announcement."

- Kimberly Moran

CEO, Ontario Medical Association

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
 - [Province Appoints Dr. Jane Philpott as Chair of New Primary Care Action Team](#)
-

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Province Investing \$100 Million in Job Training to Protect Ontario Workers

Latest Skills Development Fund investment will support workers in the face of tariff threats

January 27, 2025

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

TORONTO — The Ontario government is stepping up to protect Ontario workers in the face of potential American tariffs on Canadian goods by investing an additional \$100 million in the province's Skills Development Fund (SDF) Training Stream, bringing the total provincial investment in SDF to \$1.5 billion. This investment will support workers in fields including manufacturing, construction, critical mineral extraction and other skilled trades, providing them with the skills and training they need to secure better jobs and bigger paycheques while protecting Ontario's economy.

"Under Premier Ford, we have made unprecedented investments in our incredible workers, and today's investment builds on that record," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "We will defend our achievements against economic threats and build up an even stronger and more resilient Ontario. By investing in training, we stand with Ontario businesses, workers, families, unions, and communities."

The Ontario and U.S. economies are highly integrated with nearly one in five Ontario jobs dependent on trade with our southern neighbour, and approximately \$400 billion in merchandise traveling between the two jurisdictions every year. The Ontario government's new investment in the Skills Development Fund will help Ontario businesses remain competitive, and ensure workers gain in-demand skills and practical, hands-on experience to adapt and succeed in a rapidly changing global labour market.

"The Ontario Forest Industries Association welcomes additional investment in the Skills Development Fund," said Ian Dunn, President & CEO, Ontario Forest Industries Association. "This commitment will help ensure workers in Ontario's forestry sector—and across the province—are equipped with the skills and training

needed to thrive in an increasingly competitive global market. By investing in our forestry workforce, Premier Ford's government is strengthening our economy and supporting industries that are vital to Ontario's growth and resilience."

Following [the up to \\$260 million call for proposals for the SDF Training Stream](#) announced in July 2024, the Ontario government received applications totalling over \$1.1 billion. The additional \$100 million investment announced today will fund more projects than originally planned to support major industries and sectors expected to grow or face pressures from potential U.S. tariffs.

Premier Ford's government is supporting the training of over one million local workers for in-demand careers in every corner of the province by investing up to \$1.5 billion through the Skills Development Fund Training and Capital Streams since 2021. As Ontario continues to grow, the Skills Development Fund will help ensure skilled workers are trained and ready to enter rewarding careers in priority sectors across the province.

Quick Facts

- More than 500,000 workers are expected to be needed to fill job openings in skilled trades-related occupations in Ontario over the next decade.
- The Training Stream of the SDF is supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.
- On January 16, the Ontario government outlined the forthcoming Am-Can Growth Plan, which 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.

Additional Resources

- [Skills Development Fund: Training Stream](#)
 - [Skills Development Fund: Capital Stream](#)
 - [Skilled Trades Ontario](#)
 - [Ontario Building Fortress Am-Can to Grow the Economy for Am-Can Workers | Ontario Newsroom](#)
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Ontario Building Safer Communities With 18 Additional Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs

\$529 million record investment will create a total of 27 new HART hubs across Ontario

January 27, 2025

[Health](#)

LONDON — The Ontario government is helping create safer communities and supporting people struggling with addiction and mental health issues by approving 18 new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs, in addition to the [9 HART Hubs that were approved earlier this year](#). These new Hubs are part of the province's plan to support safer communities by investing \$529 million to create a total of 27 HART Hubs across the province while also banning drug injection sites from operating within 200 metres of schools and licensed child-care centres.

"Our government is helping more people get the treatment and support they need, when and where they need it, by taking the next step to improve access to mental health and addictions services," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Our investment to create a total of 27 new HART Hubs will keep communities safe and ensure timely and comprehensive access to mental health support, addictions care, primary care, supportive housing, and employment services, no matter where you live."

The [18 new HART Hubs](#) locations were chosen as a result of a [provincewide call for proposals](#) last summer. All HART Hubs will have the goal of being operational by April 1, 2025. Earlier this year, the province announced that 9 drug injection sites in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kitchener, Guelph and Thunder Bay that are required to close due to being located within 200 metres of a school or licensed child-care centre have been approved for transition to a HART Hub. This brings the total number of HART Hubs across the province to 27, 8 more than initially planned.

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

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

HART Hubs, similar to existing hub models in Ontario, including two in London, that have successfully provided people with care, will reflect regional priorities by connecting people with complex needs to comprehensive treatment and preventative services. These include a range of services to meet local needs such as primary care, mental health services, addictions care, social services and employment support. HART Hubs will also add an estimated 540 highly supportive housing units across all 27 HART Hubs, in addition to addiction recovery and treatment beds, helping thousands of people each year transition to more stable long-term housing.

“I am incredibly grateful that the Ontario Government has selected London to host one of 18 new HART Hubs. These Hubs represent a significant step forward in providing wraparound supports for individuals facing homelessness and addiction, ensuring they have access to the comprehensive care they need to rebuild their lives” said Josh Morgan, Mayor of London. “I want to thank Premier Ford and the Minister of Health for recognizing the success of our existing hub system in London, seeing its potential, and committing to expand this model across Ontario. This investment will transform lives and strengthen communities throughout the province.”

The 18 new HART Hubs that have been approved by the province are:

- Fourcast – Four Counties Addictions Services Team (Peterborough)
- CMHA Peel Dufferin (Brampton)
- Health Sciences North/ Horizon Santé Nord (Greater Sudbury)
- The HART of Simcoe (Barrie)
- Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare (Windsor)
- CMHA Hastings and Prince Edward County (Belleville)
- Durham Community Health Centre (Oshawa)
- CMHA Thames Valley (London)
- CMHA Algoma (Sault Ste. Marie)
- Services and Housing in Province (Dufferin County)
- Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health (Lanark, Leeds and Grenville)
- Oxford Ontario Health Team (Oxford County)
- County of Renfrew (Renfrew County)
- Gateway of Niagara (Niagara)
- CMHA Lambton Kent Sarnia (Sarnia)

- Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre (Ottawa)
- Kenora Chiefs Advisory (Kenora)
- Maamwesying (Sault Ste. Marie)

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

Quick Facts

- The creation of HART Hubs is being done in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.
- With a focus on treatment and recovery, HART Hubs will not offer so-called safer supply, supervised drug consumption or needle exchange programs.
- Through the *Community Care and Recovery Act, 2024*, the province has prohibited municipalities and local boards from applying to Health Canada for an exemption for the decriminalization of drugs. The Act also prohibits municipalities and local boards from applying to Health Canada for funding or entering into an agreement with Health Canada in respect to safer supply services or applying for an exemption or renewal of an exemption to operate a supervised consumption site, without prior provincial approval.
- Through the Roadmap to Wellness, Ontario is investing \$3.8 billion over 10 years to fill gaps in mental health and addictions care, create new services and expand programs.
- Through the Roadmap to Wellness, the Addictions Recovery Fund and other initiatives, the government recently made the following investments:
 - \$124 million over the next three years as part of Budget 2024 to sustain more than 380 addiction recovery beds and models of treatment like mobile mental health clinics.
 - \$152 million over three years for supportive housing to assist individuals facing unstable housing conditions and experiencing mental health and addictions challenges.
 - More than \$22 million over four years to create 10 new Youth Wellness Hubs that the government is adding to the network of 22 Hubs already opened since 2020, bringing the total number of Youth Wellness Hubs to 32 across the province.
 - More than \$650 million in annual funding for the Homelessness Prevention Program and \$41.5 million for the Indigenous Supportive House Program,

which the government increased by \$202 million annually in the 2023 provincial budget.

- Up to \$16 million to support Police-Partnered Mobile Crisis Response Teams in over 50 communities across the province so that health care professionals can attend crisis situations.
- Over \$60 million in annual funding to support Indigenous-led mental health, addictions and well-being supports that will help individuals, families and communities heal from the impacts of intergenerational trauma and colonization through culturally safe and responsive programs and services that are designed and delivered by and for Indigenous people.

Quotes

"London will benefit tremendously from this new HART hub and the care it will provide to those in our community who need it most. Thank you, Minister Jones, for continuing to provide significant health care investment and supports to London, for a safer and healthier community."

- Rob Flack
MPP for Elgin—Middlesex—London

"We sincerely appreciate the support of Premier Ford, Minister Jones, and the provincial government in expanding critical health services in Ottawa. This funding for a second HART Hub is a vital step in ensuring more residents—urban, suburban, and rural—have access to life-saving care. With Ottawa's vast geography and growing needs, multiple HART Hubs will strengthen addiction treatment and recovery services. The new Ottawa West Hub, in partnership with four regional paramedic services, will focus on early interventions and housing stability, complementing the Somerset West Hub's intensive support model. By working together, we're building a more responsive, compassionate system that prioritizes people-centered care. We look forward to continued collaboration with our provincial and community partners to meet Ottawa's critical health needs."

- Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor of Ottawa

"We are very pleased to be receiving this crucial funding in Belleville. Having this service model here in our community will go a long way in addressing the ongoing mental health and addictions crisis we are facing. We will be able to provide real, life-changing support to those who need it most. While there is still much work to be done, today's announcement is a great step in the right direction, and we are grateful to our provincial government for their support."

**- Neil Ellis
Mayor of Belleville**

"By locating a HART Hub here in Brockville to serve Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, the Government of Ontario is demonstrating it recognizes that the challenges of mental health, addictions, and homelessness extend beyond large urban centres. Small-town and rural Ontario have also been deeply impacted. I am grateful to the Ford Government for directing these vital resources to our community, ensuring we are better equipped to support those in need and making our community safer for all who live here."

**- Matt Wren
Mayor of Brockville**

" We are thrilled to be selected as a HART Hub site and recognize how vital this initiative will be in providing support to our most vulnerable neighbors. At the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, we look forward to collaborating with Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health to ensure that the right services are in place, offering hope for a brighter future."

**- Corinna Smith-Gatcke
Warden of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville**

"As Mayor of the City of Woodstock, I am deeply grateful for the partnership and collaboration between the Provincial Government and our local community partners in securing funding approval for the HART Hub. The establishment of a Mental Health and Addictions facility is a strategic priority for City Council and is truly a game-changer for our community, providing the support we need to make a meaningful impact."

- Jerry Acchione
Mayor of Woodstock

"The only way through this crisis is by providing real long-term help for individuals suffering from addictions. This much needed addiction treatment and rehabilitation program will be a game changer for our city. On behalf of the City, thank you to the Provincial Government for this important investment in Barrie!"

- Alex Nuttall
Mayor of Barrie

"This HART Hub funding demonstrates the province's commitment to helping us tackle the serious mental health and addictions challenges facing municipalities like Greater Sudbury. This partnership bolsters my confidence in the success of transformative projects like the Lorraine Street Transitional Housing development. Together, we are not just addressing immediate needs—we are building sustainable solutions that will change lives and create a stronger, healthier Greater Sudbury. On behalf of the city, I want to thank Premier Ford and the Government of Ontario for this much-needed funding. I am optimistic about the positive outcomes this collaboration will bring for individuals and families across our community."

- Paul Lefebvre
Mayor of Greater Sudbury

"I have been committed to finding recovery-based solutions for those who are in need in our communities. Today's announcement of a HART Hub in Durham is another important step in that direction as it will provide wrap-around services and recovery-based care for individuals struggling with addiction and provide the foundation for their long-term recovery."

**- Dan Carter
Mayor of Oshawa**

"The City of Windsor thanks Premier Doug Ford, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra, MPP Andrew Dowie, and the province for their unwavering support, continuous investment, compassion, common sense, and steadfast commitment to our community. With a focus on community safety, crucial treatment, and stability, the HART Hubs will support vulnerable residents and help to meet their basic needs. Through this initiative, folks will have help finding shelter, and accessing transitional housing services and key supports around mental health, primary care, substance use, addiction, and more. We have always said that complex and overlapping challenges threatening growth and sustainability in our communities require bold, innovative, multi-partner solutions. I am grateful to see Windsor included to receive support through the \$529 million the province has earmarked to establish 27 HART Hubs across Ontario. With this program providing funding quickly and efficiently to activate existing shelter beds, Windsor could see an immediate impact through community partners like Brentwood Recovery Home. Combined with recent Council investments to enhance and expand Windsor's temporary Homelessness and Housing Help Hub (H4), the province is standing in lockstep with the City and community partners to provide investments in evidence-based prevention, outreach, addiction services; help end encampments; and provide wraparound services to help people rebuild their lives. With the support of the Premier and this provincial government, we are building a safer, healthier Windsor where no one is left behind."

**- Drew Dilkens
Mayor of Windsor**

"Thank you to Premier Ford, Deputy Premier Jones, Associate Minister Tibollo and the entire provincial government for supporting the new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs across Ontario including one for the CMHA Peel Dufferin in Brampton. This announcement reinforces our shared commitment to prioritizing addiction treatment, mental health services and combatting homelessness. The well-being of our residents is top of mind and having the community resources in place supports those in need in Brampton and beyond."

**- Patrick Brown
Mayor of Brampton**

"It's been a long journey to today's Hub announcement, which will provide comprehensive services that are desperately needed in Sarnia Lambton. These services will enhance what is already available to help our vulnerable population, including those facing homelessness, addictions, and mental health issues. A collaborative community came together to support the hub, and together we are building a stronger, more resilient community where mental health, addictions, and recovery treatment are priorities for all. To quote Helen Keller, 'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.'"

**- Mike Bradley
Mayor of Sarnia**

"The Town of Smiths Falls and our local mental health service providers have been advocating for mental health and addictions supports for some time. Substance use and mental health disorders are significant public health challenges that often co-occur and require comprehensive, integrated treatment approaches. Access to effective substance use treatment and mental health supports is essential for individuals seeking to recover and lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Today's funding announcement will provide much needed financial resources to enable people to get their lives back on track."

**- Peter McKenna
Deputy Mayor of Smiths Falls**

"A HART Hub location is a welcome addition to Lambton County. CMHA Lambton-Kent, together with Bluewater Health, the County of Lambton, and other community partners, are well equipped to provide a unique mix of supportive, wrap-around services that will meet the needs of our community. The Hub will provide fast access to these services and will add to those currently being provided by the County at the Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre. This safe and welcoming space will lead to positive, long-term results for both individuals seeking support and our community as a whole."

**- Kevin Marriott
Warden, County of Lambton**

"HART Hubs are an important investment in the continuum of mental health and addictions care and CMHA-led hubs in Belleville, Brampton, London, Sault Ste Marie and Lambton-Kent are committed, with their partners, to making the program a success."

**- Camille Quenneville
CEO, CMHA Ontario**

"The Sarnia Lambton Ontario Health Team partners, Canadian Mental Health Association Lambton Kent (CMHA Lambton Kent), the County of Lambton, Bluewater Health and the North Lambton Community Health Centre are extremely committed to working together, so that individuals will have access to safe and affordable supportive housing, and the necessary substance use treatment including additional transitional treatment beds and other necessary resources to care and connect with individuals at risk of, or who are homeless. This is an amazing investment, and one that will have an immediate impact on the mental health, addiction and housing crisis."

**- Rhonny Doxtator
CEO, CMHA Lambton Kent**

"Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO) members have been instrumental in supporting the rapid development of Ontario's HART Hubs, bringing their expertise and collaborative mindset to address the needs of their communities. The new HART Hubs will increase needed access to addictions and mental health treatment and supportive housing services throughout the province and enable the piloting of innovative approaches to service. AMHO will continue to work alongside our partners in government and community to ensure that every Ontarian is supported on their recovery journey, with access to the full continuum of mental health and addictions care they need, when and where they need it."

- Jennifer Holmes Weier
CEO, Addictions and Mental Health Ontario

Additional Resources

- [Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs \(HART Hubs\) locations](#)
- [Ontario Approves Transition of Nine Drug Injection Sites into Treatment Hubs](#)
- [Ontario Protecting Communities and Supporting Addiction Recovery with New Treatment Hubs](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#)
- [Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System](#)
- [Find out how you can access mental health support](#)

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Ontario Investing \$325 Million to Help Build More Homes

Funding will support critical water infrastructure projects across the province

January 27, 2025

[Infrastructure](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$325 million in critical water infrastructure projects to help build up to 107,000 new homes across the province. The funding is being delivered through the [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#) (HEWSF), which helps municipalities build, repair, rehabilitate and expand critical drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

“Our government is making historic investments to support housing-enabling infrastructure that will increase the housing supply and help make the dream of homeownership a reality,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “Thanks to the incredible interest for funding, we increased our investment for the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund to help our municipal partners deliver the foundational infrastructure needed to connect new homes to essential water services people depend on every day.”

Through the second intake of HEWSF, the government is supporting 23 water infrastructure projects across the province. In total, Ontario is investing nearly \$1.3 billion, through the first and second intakes of HEWSF, to support 77 water infrastructure projects that will help municipalities build approximately 600,000 new homes.

Investing in local infrastructure is part of the province’s \$191 billion capital plan to build and improve transit, highways, hospitals, schools and other critical public infrastructure, while strengthening the economy for the future.

Quick Facts

- The Ontario government is investing \$700 million through the first and second intakes of HEWSF to help build 160,000 new homes in 54 small, rural and Northern municipalities.
- Ontario is also [investing \\$175 million through the new Health and Safety Water Stream](#), under the [Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program](#), to help

municipalities and First Nations build, repair and expand the capacity of aging water, flood and erosion infrastructure. **Applications for funding will open on February 12, 2025.**

- Ontario is also [investing \\$400 million through the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream](#), under the [Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program](#), to fund 58 projects across 60 municipalities. These projects will help enable up to 160,000 new homes and ensure these growing communities are connected to reliable roadways.
- The new Housing-Enabling Water Infrastructure lending stream under [Infrastructure Ontario's Loan Program](#) is providing up to \$1 billion in loans to support municipalities with water infrastructure projects that will enable the construction of more homes.

Quotes

"Our government's increased investment in HEWSF will enable rural Ontario to continue to build the necessary infrastructure for new housing developments. This investment can also grow confidence that rural Ontario can support all aspects associated with leveraging the growth of manufacturing and industrial opportunities in our small, rural, and Northern municipalities."

- Lisa Thompson
Minister of Rural Affairs

Additional Resources

- [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund Projects](#)
- [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#)
- [Infrastructure Lending](#)
- [Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)

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Ontario Making Historic \$1.3 Billion Investment to Build and Expand More Schools

Province ensuring growing communities have school and child care spaces to support students and families

January 27, 2025

[Education](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$1.3 billion to build 30 new schools and 15 school expansions across Ontario, creating more than 25,000 new student spaces and more than 1,600 new licensed child care spaces. The investments address critical needs in growing areas of the province to provide students with modern learning spaces to help them achieve success.

“This is the second consecutive year that our government has made historic investments in new school construction and school expansion, as part of the government’s Build Ontario plan,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education. “Under our plan, schools are being built faster and more efficiently than ever before so more students have access to a place to learn and prepare for the jobs of tomorrow.”

The ministry is working closely with school boards to ensure infrastructure investments meet the needs of local communities and deliver good value for Ontario taxpayers. The increased Capital Priorities funding is intended to address growth related to demographic changes and housing development in local communities.

The 45 projects were selected after reviewing school boards’ project submissions through the 2024-25 Capital Priorities program, and address current and critical space needs in communities where alternative options are limited, as well as access to French-language education, to meet urgent needs across the province.

Prioritizing shovel-ready projects allows student space needs to be met as soon as possible and addresses increased construction costs over time. The ministry is continuing its efforts to support school boards in delivering projects on time and on budget by reducing red tape through streamlined approval and reporting requirements.

Quick Facts

- The Capital Priorities program supports the construction of new schools, permanent additions, renovations, and school purchases.
- For the 2024-25 school year, the Ministry of Education has allocated renewal funding of approximately \$1.4 billion to school boards to renew and improve schools.
- The investment is part of Ontario's commitment to provide about \$16 billion to support new school construction, renewal and improvement over 10 years.
- In 2023, school boards were encouraged to standardize the design of new school construction, identify opportunities to work together on joint-use school projects and bring forward shovel-ready proposals as part of the ministry's plan to help build schools faster.

Quotes

"Our government knows that families in communities across Ontario need schools built faster, so that students can learn close to home. That's exactly what we are delivering with this historic investment. Through our Plan to Build, we continue to deliver on the most ambitious infrastructure plan in Ontario's history, building the highways, transit, hospitals, high-speed internet, housing-enabling infrastructure and schools our growing province needs."

**- Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance**

"The additional investment of \$1.3 billion from the government for 30 new schools and 15 new school additions is fantastic news for students, staff and families across the province. Our directors and staff look forward to working collaboratively with the ministry to ensure that projects are ready for students as quickly as possible and within budget. These new learning spaces will enhance student learning and students' academic achievement while preparing them for jobs of the future."

**- Laura Elliott
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education**

"We welcome the government's commitment to building new schools in communities across our province. This investment will give many families greater access to modern learning environments that provide students with the best opportunity to thrive and succeed."

**- Kathleen Woodcock
President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association**

"The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association welcomes the government's investment of \$1.3 billion for the construction of new schools and additions to ensure students across this province have safe and healthy environments in which to learn and grow. We are especially pleased that the government has responded to our recommendations for a more streamlined capital funding process that can better control project costs and support timelier construction of schools to meet urgent needs."

**- Michael Bellmore
President of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association**

"We thank the government for selecting these investments in our French-language Catholic school boards. These projects will make it possible to offer more and better services to students and families in our communities."

**- Robert Demers
Chair, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques**

"As the association representing French-language public school boards—the education system with the fastest-growing enrolment and leading EQAO results in Ontario—ACÉPO is pleased to see the government investing in much-needed school infrastructure to address the critical needs of French-language public schools across the province. We are committed to working with the government to ensure these investments provide equitable access to high-quality education, meet the needs of our ever-growing communities and reflect the priorities of French-language education in Ontario."

**- Denis Labelle
Chair, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario**

Additional Resources

- [Support for School and Child Care Infrastructure Projects in Ontario](#)
 - [Ontario More Than Doubling Funding to Build New Schools](#)
 - [Ontario Unveils Plan to Build Modern Schools Faster](#)
 - [Building, expanding and renewing schools](#)
-

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Ontario Election to be Held on February 27

January 28, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — Premier Doug Ford today confirmed that the Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, has accepted the premier's advice to sign a proclamation dissolving the 43rd Parliament of the Province of Ontario, effective as of 4:00 p.m. today.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Election Act, the Lieutenant Governor also called for the issuance of writs for the general election to be issued January 29, 2025, and named February 27, 2025, as the date of Ontario's next general election.

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Council and Committee Monthly Summary

January 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held January 15 and January 29, 2025 under the new Committee of the Whole Structure.

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

The full [Council and Committee packages](#) can be found online.

The [January 15, 2025](#) and [January 29, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- To begin the year, Warden Peter Emon proposed an operating theme for 2025 as “Persistent Aggressiveness”, and set out his goals for the year:
 - Addressing the housing and homelessness crisis;
 - Fostering economic growth;
 - Focusing on community defining initiatives (finalizing made-in-Renfrew County Climate Action Plan, exploring rural transit, improving the "Aging in Place" services for seniors and their families and investigating shared service opportunities)
 - Lobbying for Highway 417 expansion;
 - Hosting an Economic Development summit
- Between January 15 and 29, the Warden attended 27 meetings on Council business and noted it was an incredibly busy and productive couple of weeks for both Council and staff. A major highlight was the participation in the Rural Ontario Municipal Association ([ROMA](#)) Conference, where elected officials and staff had several impactful delegations. The County of Renfrew was proud to attend 11 delegations, contributing to the largest number of delegations held at the conference to date. He commended the ROMA team for hosting such a valuable and well-attended event.
- He noted the advocacy efforts at the ROMA Conference have already started to pay off as the County of Renfrew has benefited from several funding announcements in recent days. This include funding for a [Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment \(HART\) Hub](#), a [roundabout](#) at the intersection of two County Roads in the Town of Petawawa, and additional funding to tackle homelessness.
- The Warden thanked the members of County Council who attended ROMA and supported the County in its advocacy. He added this will be an ongoing team effort as we look forward to seeing more additional results from these efforts.

Delegations

At the January 15 meeting, Council heard from the following interested parties:

- Jack Craig, President and CEO of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, provided an update on the operations at the Chalk River facility, which currently employs 3,505 staff members.
- Maggie Braun, founder of KICLEI Canada, made a presentation requesting the County of Renfrew reevaluate its Climate Action Plan and the Milestone Approach used by Ainsworth Consulting in developing the plan.

2025 Budget

- Each Committee had an opportunity to review departmental budgets, highlighted by business plans from the Directors, and financial implications moderated by Treasurer Daniel Burke. A Special Meeting of County Council will be held on February 6 to further discuss the 2025 County of Renfrew Budget.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council approved the County of Renfrew Long-Term Care Homes' Strategic Plan for 2025 to 2030. This plan represents an outline of the mission statements, strategic goals and objectives for Miramichi Lodge and Bonnechere Manor. The Strategic Planning process is an important mechanism for the County of Renfrew Homes to undertake to help guide the implementation of their objectives that is a collaboration of input from residents, families, staff, volunteers and the elected representatives.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Warden Peter Emon

- County Council adopted a By-law to enter into a Services Agreement between the County of Renfrew Community Services Department and MacKay Manor Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, for services in relation to the operations of a Mesa Warming Centre at 156 John Street, Pembroke, Ontario. MacKay Manor Inc. has one patient recovery home program and three outpatient community-based programs. The Warming Centre is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with front-line staff from MacKay Manor Inc. trained in helping people access addictions and mental health support.

Under the new Committee of the Whole Structure the following items were discussed at the Committee level, but not finalized. They will be before County Council at the February 12, 2025 meeting for consideration and resolution.

Development & Property Committee

- Development and Property Committee recommends to County Council that the Warden sign the joint letter of support advocating for sustainable funding for the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC), of which the County of Renfrew and Town of Deep River are members.
- Development and Property Committee recommends that County Council adopt a By-law implementing a Municipal Consultation Strategy under Section 17.18 of the Official Plan.
- Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) will be hosting two free webinars in February as follows:
 - HST Prep for Your Business, with Seguin Financial – February 13, 2025 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - T2 Tax Insights: A Guide for Corporations, with the Canadian Revenue Agency – February 27, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- On March 4, 2025, ERC will host the Francophone Entrepreneur Networking event in Pembroke. During the event, the winner of the Francophone Entrepreneur Award will also be announced. Nominations for this award will be accepted until February 16, 2025. For more information and to register for upcoming workshops and events, visit the Enterprise Renfrew County website.

Operations Committee

- The Operations Committee recommends that County Council adopt a resolution to direct staff to proceed with an application under the Community Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF), Stream 2, New Builds and Signature New Builds, for the reconstruction of the trail crossing AT032 (Bissett Creek and Highway 17) located on the Algonquin Trail, in the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria.
- The Operations Committee recommends that County Council adopt a resolution to direct staff to pursue and submit applications for funding under any eligible Provincial and/or Federal programs that are, or may become, available for which development or maintenance of County Recreational Trails and associated bridges, may be eligible.
- The Operations Committee recommends that staff be directed to seek feedback from the local municipalities regarding the proposed draft policy regarding Community Safety Zones.
- The Operations Committee directs staff to request that Egis proceed with a new Rationalization Study on all County of Renfrew roads and municipal roads as requested by the lower-tier municipalities, using the suggested updated criterion. A meeting was held with Public Works staff from the County and local municipalities on December 12, 2024, to discuss many items related to Public Works.
- The Operations Committee directs staff to proceed with assisting the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria with the Mackey Creek Culvert Replacement Project and that a Service Agreement be negotiated for the County's involvement in the project, whereby all services rendered, being staff time and equipment, for the project by the County will be recovered from the Township.

Additional Information

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County of Renfrew officials attend 2025 ROMA conference in Toronto

Posted on Thursday, January 23, 2025



County of Renfrew officials attended several delegation meetings during the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in Toronto last week, including a meeting with Honourable Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Housing to discuss the concept of a Campus of Care known as Generations. Taking part in the meeting (from left) were Gwen Dombroski, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk; Jason Davis, Director of Development and Property; Councillor Anne Giardini, Community Services Committee Chair; Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon; Parliamentary Assistant Rae; Councillor James Brose, Development and Property Committee Chair; Councillor Michael Donohue, Health Committee Chair; Mike Blackmore, Director of Long-Term Care; Andrea Patrick, Director of Community Services and Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley.

RELEASE DATE:

January 23, 2025

Representatives from the County of Renfrew met with several Members of Provincial Parliament during the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference to discuss and advocate for issues and challenges faced by rural municipalities in Ontario.

Held in Toronto from January 19-21, the theme of this year's conference was "Rural Routes". The gathering offered several opportunities for educational programming, expert panels, keynotes, and interaction with key municipal sector suppliers, all from a rural perspective and addressing the day-to-day realities of local municipal leaders.

Aside from taking in the keynote address by political columnist Chantal Hébert, remarks from Ontario Premier Doug Ford and a number of other provincial ministers and opposition party leaders, the ROMA Conference offered municipal officials from the County of Renfrew the chance to foster partnerships and relationships across the sector, and advocate for change.

The County of Renfrew was fortunate to take part in several delegation meetings:

- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services – Urging the government to reconsider further funding reductions to Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County.
- Ministry of Education – Requesting at least 250 additional child-care spaces in Renfrew County under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program.
- Ministry of Infrastructure – Addressing the reductions to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and the effect on the County of Renfrew's ability to manage repairs, upgrades, new infrastructure, and ensure resident safety and local economic activity.
- Ministry of Transportation – Seeking continued support on the expansion of Highway 17 to Renfrew, a major infrastructure project aimed at improving transport, boosting regional economic development, reducing traffic congestion, and enhancing safety. The Ministry was also asked to support additional lengths of the Algonquin Trail as it extends to link with northern Ontario.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – A very timely discussion on seeking support for the County's concept for a Campus of Care (known as Generations: a transformative project to create a seniors' campus of care integrated with child-care spaces). A targeted funding program would enable the expansion of this much needed and cost-effective component of the care continuum.
- Ministry of Health – Seeking to receive a long-term commitment to base funding for the Community Paramedics in Long-Term Care Program to ensure this continued lifeline for seniors and vulnerable residents.
- Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and Ministry of Health (two separate meetings) – Discussing Mesa Program funding to support 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 – Discussing the need to expand the Learn and Stay grant eligibility for Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedics to rural Eastern Ontario, as local data shows increasing demand for emergency services, risking system strain and staffing shortages. A request was made for better incentives to attract paramedics in rural areas to enhance access, improve service flow, and maintain service delivery.

"Attending the ROMA conference is crucial for Renfrew County as it provides a unique platform to directly communicate our community's needs and priorities to provincial leaders, as we reinforce the need for health and service equity," said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon. "The opportunity to engage in delegation meetings with provincial politicians and provincial staff allows us to advocate for strategic investments and collaborative solutions that will enhance the quality of life for our residents. These interactions are vital in ensuring that our voices are heard and that we can work together to address the challenges and opportunities facing our County. We look forward to the days and weeks ahead as we seek further meetings with the ministries to expand upon our made-in-Renfrew County solutions."

County officials had the opportunity to join several other municipal delegations to show support for their requests, including a meeting with the City of Pembroke to discuss the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Allocation provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and with the Township of Whitewater Region and the Ministry of Agri-Business to seek support for the expansion of a business in the Cobden area.

Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services and Chief of the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, presented the Mesa initiative during the Rural Responses to Mental Health and Addictions session which explored the unique considerations around mental health and addictions in rural communities, as well as featuring successful rural responses to this crisis. The packed room was extremely impressed with the approach taken by the County with many staying behind to ask additional questions.

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) is the rural voice of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). The Association is an integral part of AMO and a number of its Executive Members serve on the AMO Board of Directors. Policy, research and advocacy activities are undertaken by ROMA through AMO. ROMA represents rural communities through its policy and advocacy.

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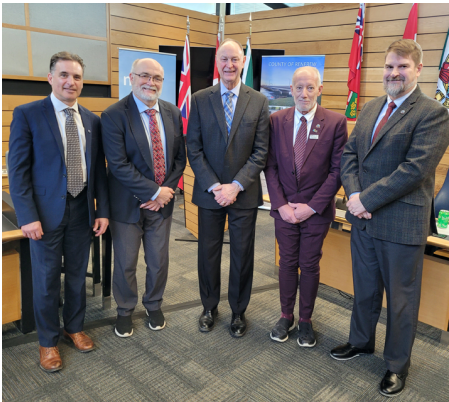
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County of Renfrew announces funding for roundabout at Doran Road in Petawawa

Posted on Tuesday, January 28, 2025



Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski (centre) made the official announcement about \$2.8 million in funding for the County of Renfrew towards a roundabout project in the Town of Petawawa during a stop at the County Administration Building on January 28. Following the announcement he was joined by (from left) Councillor Gary Serviss, Mayor of the Town of Petawawa; Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon; Councillor Glenn Doncaster, Chair of the County's Operations Committee and Lee Perkins, Director of Public Works and Engineering.

RELEASE DATE:

January 28, 2025

Petawawa, Ontario – The County of Renfrew is pleased to announce \$2.8 million in funding support for a significant infrastructure improvement at the intersection of County Road 26 (Doran Road) and County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard) in the Town of Petawawa. This project will see the construction of a roundabout designed

to enhance traffic flow, improve safety, and support the growing needs of the community.

The funding, made possible through the collaboration of municipal and provincial partners, represents a key investment in the County's commitment to infrastructure modernization and public safety. The total estimated project cost is \$5.5 million, with contributions from the County of Renfrew and the Province of Ontario's Housing-Enabling Core Servicing (HECS) stream of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP).

"I am pleased to see the County of Renfrew, specifically the Town of Petawawa, will benefit from this provincial grant. Ensuring ongoing development, especially relating to improving road safety and use will have a positive impact for the Town and its residents," said Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, who made the official announcement at the County Administration in Pembroke Building on January 28.

The Doran Road and Petawawa Boulevard intersection has long been identified as a high-traffic area, particularly during peak commuting hours. With traffic volumes increasing due to population growth and the area's economic expansion, the roundabout will provide a safer and more efficient solution to manage vehicle flow, reduce congestion, and decrease the likelihood of collisions.

"This investment reflects the County of Renfrew's ongoing commitment to building safer and more accessible roadways for residents and visitors alike," said Peter Emon, Warden of the County of Renfrew. "The Doran Road roundabout will not only address current traffic challenges but also accommodate future growth in the region."

Petawawa Mayor Gary Serviss emphasized the critical role the roundabout will play in supporting local development.

"This project will directly support the expansion of more than 1,400 homes in our community and significantly improve traffic flow on and off Garrison Petawawa," said Mayor Serviss. "We are excited to see this investment come to fruition, as it will greatly benefit our residents and enhance access to key areas within the town."

In addition to improving traffic flow, roundabouts offer several benefits, including reduced fuel consumption and emissions as vehicles spend less time idling. The project aligns with the County's strategic goals to support sustainable development and promote economic growth.

"Investing in infrastructure like this ensures that our roadways can support the economic vibrancy of the region while reducing our environmental impact," said Councillor Glenn Doncaster, Chair of the County of Renfrew's Operations Committee. "The roundabout at Doran Road is a smart solution for a growing community."

The design phase for the project has already been completed but will be refined further. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026 and will take approximately two

years to complete, with some minor works to be completed in 2025. Efforts will be made to minimize disruptions to traffic during the construction period, and residents will be kept informed through regular updates from the County of Renfrew. This is the first phase of several planned improvements along Petawawa Boulevard, as further funding opportunities are sought.

The County of Renfrew acknowledges the support and collaboration of its partners, including the Town of Petawawa, the Province of Ontario, and local stakeholders, whose contributions have made this project possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley 735-7288	Chief Administrative Officer	613-
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Tina Peplinskie 735-7288	Media Relations Coordinator	613-
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County of Renfrew selected to host Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub

Posted on Wednesday, January 29, 2025



MPP John Yakabuski (centre) was at the County of Renfrew Administration Building January 28 to announce the County's successful HART Hub application in partnership with the Pembroke Regional Hospital. Following the announcement he was joined by (from left) Councillor Michael Donohue, Chair of the County's Health Committee; Mesa Paramedic Joe Hamilton; Sabine Mersmann, President and CEO of Pembroke Regional Hospital; Commander Steph Rose, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service; Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon; Mesa Paramedic Basil Gardiner and Councillor Anne Giardini, Chair of the County's Community Services Committee.

RELEASE DATE:

January 29, 2025

The County of Renfrew is proud to announce its selection by the Province of Ontario as a host for a new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub.

This initiative underscores the County's dedication to enhancing community safety and providing comprehensive support services to residents in need.

HART Hubs are designed to offer integrated services tailored to local community needs, focusing on individuals with complex service requirements, including those experiencing homelessness, substance use, and mental health challenges. The announcement includes \$6.3 million in annual funding, with \$1.3 million earmarked specifically for Mental Health and Addictions Supportive Housing beginning in 2025-26 (to 2027-28).

"We are honoured that the Province has entrusted the collaborative network of partners in Renfrew County with establishing a HART Hub, complete with the all-important wrap-around services," said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon. "This initiative will significantly bolster the efforts of all of the agencies engaged on the Mesa initiative to provide essential services to our most vulnerable populations, fostering a safer and more supportive community environment. The Mesa HART Hub is not a shiny toy adding to services in our community; it is a necessary driver of compassionate and planned care for our residents."

The Warden added the community owes a great deal of gratitude to MPP John Yakabuski for his support for this application as he recognized the need and was relentless in his advocacy.

"I am pleased our government recognizes the need to establish HART Hubs in rural Ontario especially, in Renfrew County. Having access to these services will have a positive impact on the lives of many in our community," said MPP John Yakabuski, who made the official funding announcement at the County Administration Building in Pembroke on January 28. "Congratulations to the County of Renfrew and the PRH for pursuing funding for this much-needed Hub."

The County's successful proposal was a collaborative effort involving key partners such as the Pembroke Regional Hospital, Carefor, the City of Pembroke, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, MacKay Manor, Addictions Treatment Service, Phoenix Centre for Children and Families, Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre (OATC) – Pembroke, Pathways Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services, Renfrew County Youth Wellness Hub, The Grind Pembroke, Renfrew County and District Health Unit, Upper Ottawa Valley detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, local municipalities, first responders, and various community organizations.

"We are committed to co-lead this initiative with the County of Renfrew," stated Sabine Mersmann, President and CEO of Pembroke Regional Hospital. "The Mesa HART Hub will address housing stability and provide much needed increased capacity for mental health and substance use services. All key partners in this initiative have one focus – to increase community wellness by addressing both health and social determinants that affect our community members."

The Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub will provide a range of services, including:

- Primary Care

- Mental Health Services
- Addiction Care and Support
- Social Services and Employment Support

- Supportive and Bridge Housing Services

These services aim to meet immediate needs and support long-term recovery and stability for individuals facing overlapping challenges.

“This achievement is a testament to the strong partnerships within our community,” remarked Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley. “Together, we are poised to deliver comprehensive services that address the multifaceted needs of our residents.”

The establishment of the Mesa HART Hub aligns with Ontario's broader strategy to prioritize community safety and focus on treatment and recovery services. The County of Renfrew and other partners have been lobbying the Province for such a facility. Through the work with the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team and the Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy the community partners have proven the success of such a model with the ongoing efforts of Mesa, the region’s collaborative approach to compassionate care. Efforts already underway include bridge housing at the Carefor complex in Pembroke, the warming centre in Pembroke, and supportive living spaces in Renfrew. The steering committee is set to meet in the coming days to discuss the details of the funding and the phasing of the rollout of the Mesa HART hub.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

Tuesday, January 28th, 2025

HEALTH PROMOTION

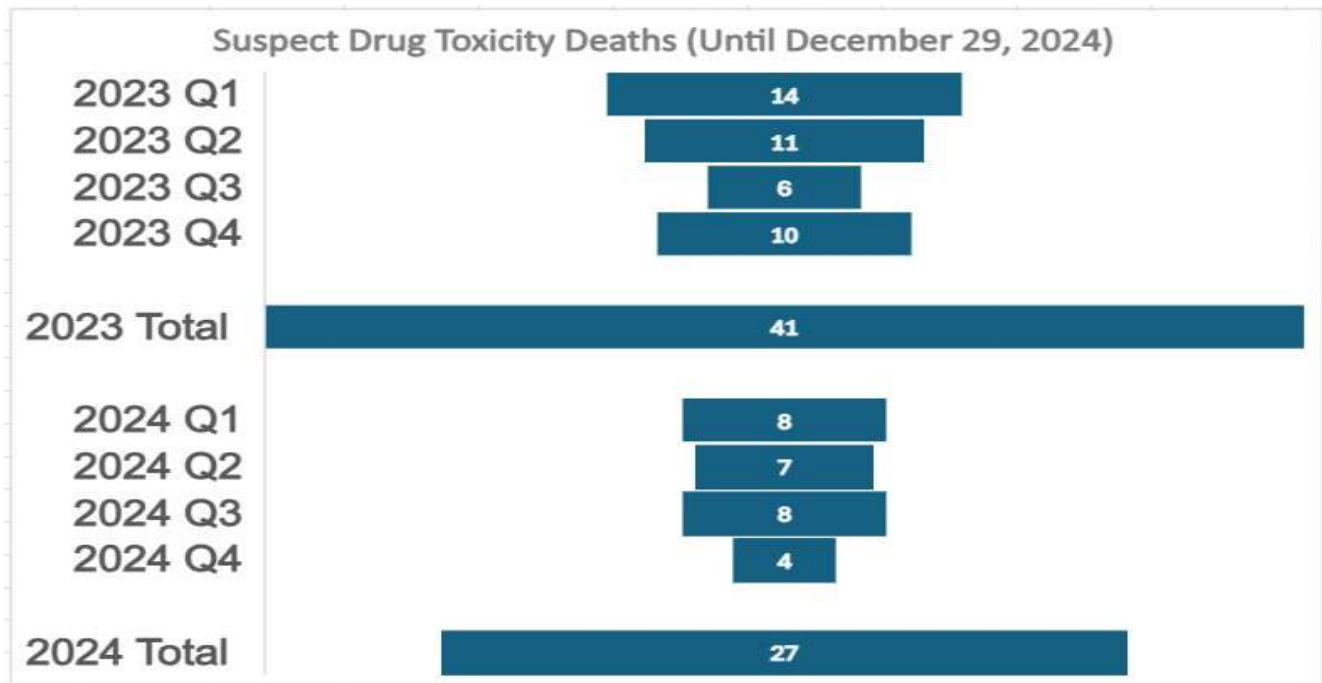
Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy

At the November Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS) steering committee meeting the harm reduction pillar report was presented and the priorities and structure were approved. The three other pillars are adapting the structure to provide their reports, with prevention and treatment pillar reports presented earlier this month.

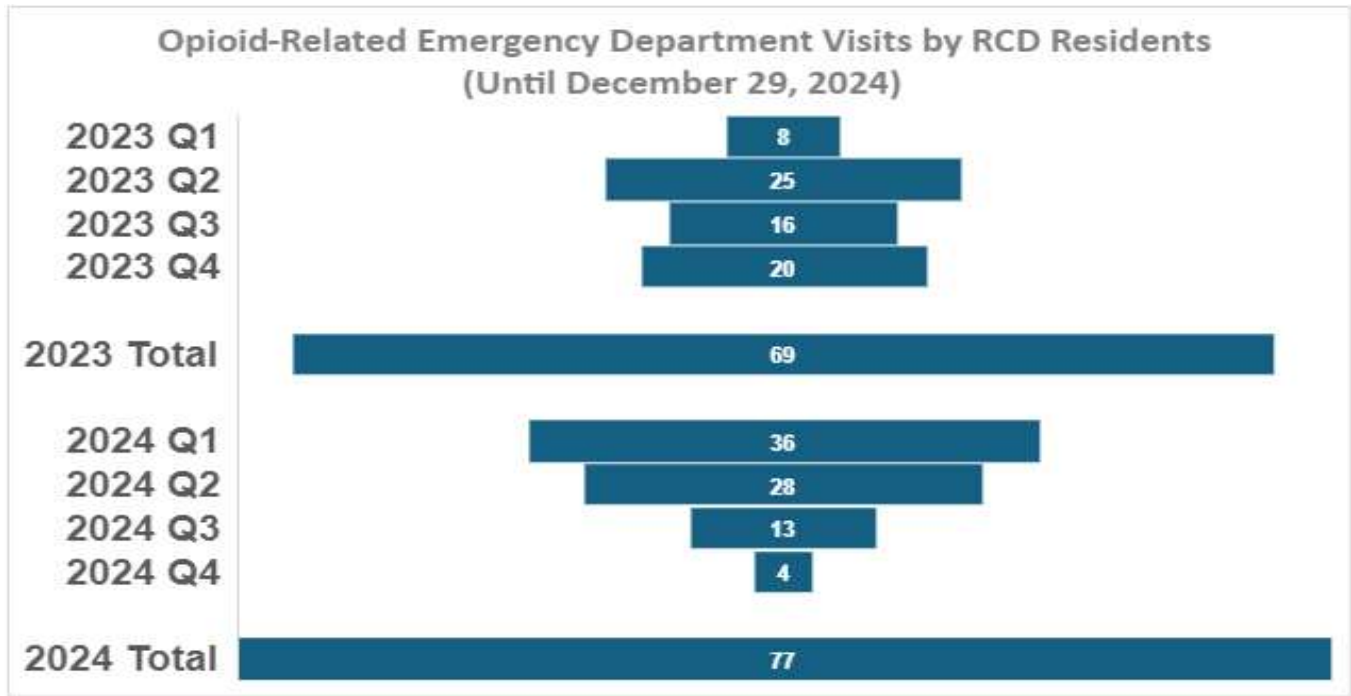
During December, a 2024 status update [media release](#) and [community engagement survey](#) were developed, and both were released earlier this month. The media release highlights some of the collaborative efforts and successes of the organizations participating in the strategy over the past year.

RCDDS Substance Use Harms Indicators:

As of December 29th, 2024, there were 27 suspect drug-related deaths across RCD for the year, which is fewer than the number at the same point in 2023.



As noted during the previous update, the rate of opioid-related ED visits has been decreasing as 2024 progressed, with only 4 ED visits in the 4th quarter of the year.



Drug Testing Kit Distribution

A pilot program through the Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program was launched in July of 2024 to distribute free drug testing kits, allowing individuals to test their substances for fentanyl, benzodiazepines, and xylazine. To date, 464 drug testing kits have been distributed across Renfrew County & District. These testing kits are helpful tools for harm reduction, as they help users quickly detect the presence of these dangerous substances in their drugs, allowing them to take actions to reduce the risk of overdose.

Alcohol

To coincide with holiday gatherings, RCDHU released a social media campaign in December to raise awareness of [Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health](#), which provides evidence-based guidance to support people in making informed decisions related to alcohol consumption. The guidance is based on the principle of autonomy in harm reduction and the fundamental idea that people living in Canada have the right to know that all alcohol consumption comes with risk. The campaign featured recipes for non-alcoholic "mocktails" such as winter sangria to provide festive alternatives to cocktails containing alcohol.



Tobacco and Vaping

RCDHU is partnering with the Renfrew County and District School Board and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology to deliver and evaluate a research project to investigate the effectiveness of the Catch My Breath vaping prevention curriculum. RCDHU health promotion staff will be delivering the program to grade 9 students in health education classes to ensure standardized program delivery. School recruitment and planning is underway, and program delivery will take place this spring and fall. Students will complete an online survey before exposure to the curriculum and one year later to assess changes in knowledge and intentions to vape.

Eating Disorders Ontario – Prevention Training

RCDHU joined several health units across Ontario in offering foundational training through Eating Disorders Ontario – Prevention. This Ontario Ministry of Health-funded program aims to build capacity for the local adoption of evidence-based prevention strategies for eating disorders across the province through training which focuses on food, weight, and body image.

Our region was the first in the province to collaborate on this training with Renfrew County Catholic District School Board and Renfrew County District School Board mental health staff. A total of 26 RCDHU staff members from the Healthy Communities, Healthy Families, and Infectious Diseases teams participated in this training.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program Training

The HBHC Home Visiting Program is an early intervention program for families confirmed through screening and assessment as being with risk of compromised child development. This voluntary program, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and delivered by staff from RCDHU, provides families in the prenatal period and families with children from birth until their transition to school with opportunities to achieve their full potential.

To support the implementation of the HBHC program, MCCSS also funds the Public Health Nursing Practice, Research, and Education Program (PHN-PREP). PHN-PREP develops, evaluates, and mobilizes evidence-informed resources to support public health nurses (PHNs), supervisors, and home visiting program teams to provide care and support individuals and families enrolled in home visitation programs.

To support the inclusion of psychotherapeutic strategies derived from Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), PHN-PREP has secured funding in this fiscal year (2024-25) for 120 PHNs from across the province to take part in a virtual 2-day CBT skills-based training. The training workshop, entitled, “A skills-based approach to your clients’ perinatal mental health training,” will be led by Dr. Ryan Van Lieshout, Canada Research Chair in Perinatal Mental Health and a Perinatal Psychiatrist.

RCDHU was successful in securing 5 training spots for our HBHC PHNs. These 5 PHNs will be attending the training on January 27 and 28, 2025, which includes additional materials after the training to support independent practice.

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)

The OSDCP provides services to seniors (65+) who have a net family income below \$25,000 for a single senior and \$41,500 for a couple. Seniors who are enrolled in the OSDCP access services through RCDHU's dental clinic locations in Pembroke and Barry's Bay, or through our service level agreement providers throughout Renfrew County and District. RCDHU dental clinics include regular hygiene visits, as well as dental services for routine checkups, emergencies, restorative care, or extractions.

In 2024, RCDHU was able to implement the use of two dental operatories in the Pembroke clinic, increasing clinic efficiency and allowing more clients to access services. RCDHU administered 567 dental services appointments and 493 hygiene services appointments between the Barry's Bay and Pembroke clinic locations. RCDHU also coordinated denturist services for 44 seniors to receive either complete or partial dentures, depending on their individual needs.

HEALTH PROTECTION

Infectious Diseases

Respiratory Activity:

Since the beginning of December, respiratory activity has been increasing. There has been an average of two new outbreaks per week. COVID-19 accounted for ~44 % of outbreaks and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) accounted for ~33 % of outbreaks. The first flu outbreak for the 2024/25 respiratory season was declared in week 1 (Dec. 29, 2024 – Jan. 4, 2025).

Hospital bed occupancy for respiratory illnesses continues to increase and is very high. Most hospital bed occupancy is related to COVID-19, but hospital bed occupancy due to RSV has been increasing in recent weeks. Emergency department visits related to respiratory illness have been increasing since the beginning of the 2024/2025 respiratory season. In December, the percentage of emergency department visits related to respiratory illness started at 19% and climbed to 22%.

RCDHU has added test percent positivity for RSV as another indicator in the [Respiratory Illness Data Summary](#) weekly reporting. This data provides more information to support informed decisions about the risk of respiratory illness transmission in the community.

Pertussis:

There have been 29 cases (14 confirmed + 15 probable) of Pertussis reported in RCD in 2024, all identified between June and December. The majority of cases (79%) were under the age of 20. The number of pertussis cases reported in 2024 is the highest on record in RCD, with the previous reported high in 2017 when there were 16 cases.

The 2024 rate of pertussis cases for RCD was 26 cases per 100,000 people, compared to Ontario's rate of 11 cases per 100,000. Last year was also the highest number of pertussis cases reported in Ontario since at least 2007.

Increases in vaccine preventable diseases like pertussis continue to reinforce the importance of getting immunized. Immunization rates in school-aged children have decreased since the COVID-19 pandemic, so families are strongly encouraged to review immunization records and stay up to date. Residents can inquire about their immunization record or book an immunization appointment through their primary care provider or by calling RCDHU. More information is available at <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/immunization/>.

COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine

RCDHU's large-scale community COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics ended in late December. RCDHU continues to offer appointments for people at higher risk of severe respiratory illness and for children 5 years of age and younger (whom pharmacies cannot always vaccinate). As of January 7th, RCDHU had administered 3749 doses of COVID-19 vaccine and 2461 doses of influenza vaccine through community-based clinics, in-home vaccination services, and mobile vaccination services to retirement homes and congregate care settings. RCDHU has also dispensed a total of 15,560 doses of Influenza vaccine to health care partners across RCD. Pharmacies continue to play a very active role in the administration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines for the public.

As of January 14th, approximately 12.2% of RCD residents had received a 2024 fall COVID-19 vaccine dose, compared to 10.8% across the province as a whole. RCD immunization rates are higher among adults aged 65 or older (37.1%), retirement home residents (63.7%), and long-term care home residents (65.4%). Among each of these groups, our local immunization rates are higher than provincial figures (which are 35.5%, 48.3%, and 50.3% respectively).

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination

Older Adult High-Risk Program:

As of January 13th, 515 doses of RSV vaccine were administered to eligible individuals through community clinics and 11 retirement homes throughout RCD. RSV vaccine continues to be available for eligible individuals by appointment in our clinic settings.

Infant and High-Risk Children Program:

RCDHU has hosted a total of 6 community-based immunization clinics to support the new infant and high-risk children RSV program this fall and will continue to offer it at all routine immunization clinics in RCD throughout the RSV season. As of January 13th, 51 doses of nirsevimab (Beyfortus) have been administered by RCDHU. Healthcare providers and Pembroke Regional Hospital have been key partners in the program's success. As of January 13th, 2025, 110 doses have been dispensed to Pembroke Regional Hospital and 376 doses to health care providers.

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)

In December and early January 2025, 3580 notices were sent to students who were not up to date with ISPA vaccines. In December, RCDHU hosted 4 out of 11 planned ISPA high school clinics, which will continue through January and February. RCDHU will also host additional community clinics to increase access. Finally, ISPA vaccines are available through health care providers. It is important that immunizations administered in the community are reported through

the online [Immunization Connect Ontario tool \(ICON\)](#) or via fax, mail, or email.

As a result of ISPA immunization efforts, as of January 13th, the number of students missing the required vaccines or whose updated Immunizations have not been reported to RCDHU decreased by 676 students (about 19%).

Healthy Environments

Emergency Response Program:

RCDHU undertook a self-initiated COVID-19 after-action review (AAR). The AAR included a qualitative survey of RCDHU staff (across diverse positions within the organization) and community partners. The survey data was analyzed, and a document review was completed to support identifying trends for debrief sessions. A third-party consulting firm was hired to conduct three debrief sessions and one focus group and to provide a preliminary report with recommendations. The draft report was received from the consulting company in December and will be finalized early this year.

Each year RCDHU is required to complete a Hazard identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) to maintain emergency readiness for the most likely and serious health hazards that may give rise to a public health emergency. The HIRA is informed by local historical health hazard data. The top ten hazards identified in 2024 are now posted on RCDHU's website at www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness.

Food Safety Program:

It is the time of year when community organizations and municipal partners celebrate winter through special winter festivals and events. Public health inspectors are actively working with community partners to ensure that the special winter events taking place are carried out with safe food handling in mind. For example, inspectors offer guidance to vendors on proper food storage, cooking and hot holding temperatures, proper food handler personal hygiene, and use of potable water in food preparation.

Safe Water Program:

On January 1st, RCDHU was notified of a watermain break in Beachburg that caused a complete loss of water pressure and resulted in a boil water order (BWO) for all water users. Public health inspection staff worked quickly with the Township of Whitewater Region to notify the water users and businesses, isolate and repair the break, and then test the water supply to ensure its potability. The BWO was lifted on January 4th.

Submitted by: Dr. Jason Morgenstern
Medical Officer of Health
Renfrew County and District Health Unit



January 23, 2025

- Municipal property taxes on *The Agenda*.
- NEW Health and Safety Water Stream fund - webinar.
- *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 Act* consultation.
- Call for applications - Great Lakes water quality initiatives.
- Book your AMO 2025 Conference Hotel!
- AMO Education - Workshops addressing and supporting your leadership.
- Stable and predictable natural gas pricing.
- Introducing the *All Risk Municipal Grant*.
- Blog: Risk Trends to Follow in 2025.
- LAS ASE Service Summer Intake now open!
- Municipal Series: Net Zero Planning and Low Carbon Initiatives.
- Are you ready to take the next step in your municipal career?
- New AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Program.
- 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.

Provincial Matters

Apply for Ontario's new Health and Safety Water Stream fund to help municipalities and First Nations build, repair and expand aging water infrastructure. [Register for the February 5](#) informational webinar.

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](#).

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

LAS offers a [Natural Gas Program](#) that provides stable and predictable annual commodity pricing for municipal accounts through professional management and competitive supply arrangements. Over the last five years, a typical LAS client has saved more than 10% on their commodity costs.

municipalities.

In 2024, we identified key risk trends. As we enter 2025, the [risk landscape continues to shift](#), driven by technological advancements, changing workforce dynamics, environmental challenges, and growing regulatory pressures.

LAS is looking for 2-3 municipalities to join our [Automated Speed Enforcement Service](#) by beginning of the summer. If you are interested or for more information, contact [Tanner Watt](#).

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 Ontario Municipal Administrators Association (OMAA) is here to support your journey to becoming a CAO. Join us for an [Aspiring CAO Event](#) or explore our [educational resources](#) including the CAO Profile and certificate program with York University to help you build confidence and competence. Leadership awaits-you bring the ambition, we'll provide the roadmap.

AMCTO is partnering with Mitacs to establish a [new municipal internship program](#). AMO is pleased to support the implementation of this program as part of our Municipal Workforce Development Project.

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

[Executive Director of Operations/ Deputy City Engineer - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: February 21, 2025.

[Executive Director, Transit Windsor - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: January 28, 2025.

[Manager of Planning Policy - Oxford County](#). Closing Date: February 3, 2025.

[Analyst, Corporate - Peel Regional Police](#). Closing Date: February 2, 2025.

[Engineering Technician II, Outside. County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: February 16, 2025.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

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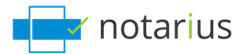
[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

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To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - January 30, 2025



January 30, 2025

- Get access to MIDAS!
- *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 Act* consultation.
- Call for applications - Great Lakes water quality initiatives.
- Book your AMO 2025 Conference Hotel!
- AMO Regional and Single-Tier caucus virtual meet-up - February 28.
- AMO Education - Workshops addressing and supporting your leadership.
- ROMA Conference evaluation - Share your experience.
- OSUM 2025 Annual Conference - Save the date.
- LAS ASE Service Summer Intake now open!
- Blog: Risk Trends to Follow in 2025.
- LAS IPE risk webinar - 10-day Notice Provision.
- Municipal Series: Net Zero Planning and Low Carbon Initiatives.
- Kraft Hockeyville nominations open - Your community could win!
- CCPPP new virtual P3 learning series for municipalities.
- 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.

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](#).

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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

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The Regional and Single-Tier Caucus of the AMO Board is hosting a virtual meet-up on February 28 from 9:30am-11:00am. The meet up is an opportunity for members to connect and be brought up to date on AMO activities. [Register today](#).

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](#).

Take a few minutes to share your experience at the 2025 ROMA Annual Conference. [Click here for the conference evaluation](#).

The [2025 OSUM Annual Conference](#) is being held April 30-May 2 in the Town of Collingwood. Save the date for now, registration and programming information coming soon.

LAS

LAS is looking for 2-3 municipalities to join our [Automated Speed Enforcement Service](#) by beginning of the summer. If you are interested or for more information, contact [Tanner Watt](#).

In 2024, we identified key risk trends, for example cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. [Learn how these challenges grew](#) and what to expect in 2025.

Join us for this one-hour [risk webinar](#) as Andy C. Jairam, Partner, Loopstra Nixon LLP discusses the 10-day notice provision and its role in claims management.

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 grand prize community winner of [Kraft Hockeyville](#) will have an opportunity to host an NHL preseason game and receive \$250,000 for arena upgrades. All three runners-up will receive \$25,000 for arena upgrades. The [Centennial Arena Elliot Lake, Ontario](#) was awarded in 2024! Nominations close March 2, 2025.

Eager to learn about the latest advances in infrastructure procurement to help drive growth in your community? Join [P3s for Municipalities](#), a FREE six-part webinar starting February 4. Explore hot topics with our experts.

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

[Director, Corporate Services/CFO - Township of Southgate](#). Closing Date: February 5, 2025.

[Director of Corporate Services - Greater Sudbury Police Service Board](#). Closing Date: February 14, 2025.

[Senior Policy and Program Advisor - Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#). Closing Date: February 24, 2025.

[Recruiter, Talent Acquisition - Peel Regional Police](#). Closing Date: February 9, 2025.

[Commissioner of Community Services - Town of Caledon](#). Closing Date: February 14, 2025.

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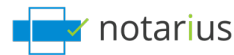
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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 1:26 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Statement on Trade and Update on Provincial Election Advocacy



AMO Policy Update - Statement on Trade and Update on Provincial Election Advocacy

Tariffs, Trade Disruptions and Migration

Ontario's local economies, our natural and human resources as well as the businesses and industries situated in Ontario municipalities are the foundation of Ontario's economy. These elements are fundamental to the national economy and Canada's prosperity.

On December 9, 2024, [AMO wrote to the Prime Minister, Ontario's Premier](#) and leaders of both the official federal and provincial opposition pledging the support of AMO and its members to assist Canada and Ontario in the face of challenge and uncertainty.

Tariffs and international trade disruptions have the potential to seriously harm Ontario's economy. Other changes in American policy and practices affecting immigration and social policy could create mass migration of American residents seeking the safety and protection afforded by Canada, with massive resource implications for municipalities in Ontario.

AMO and its members stand ready to play our part in protecting our shared social and economic prosperity in Ontario and Canada.

AMO's Provincial Election Campaign

While we collectively turn our eyes toward the real threats we face from outside our borders, AMO and its members must also consider the long-standing challenges we face closer to home.

With an early election in Ontario now underway, AMO's efforts to promote the interests of municipalities in the election will enter its second phase with additional print ads in the days ahead and continued social and digital media postings.

The campaign was launched at the ROMA conference and has garnered considerable notice. The ultimate purpose of the campaign is to ensure that all parties understand that the voice of Ontario's \$68 billion-a-year municipal sector will not be silent in an important debate on Ontario's future.

Since the launch of the campaign on January 19, AMO has received considerable positive feedback from members and some expressions of concern. The impartiality of the campaign has been questioned by some members. The media has asked if it is possible to have an impartial campaign when one party has been governing for more than 6 years.

Through months of planning, the commitment to a non-partisan campaign has been at the forefront of every discussion at the AMO Board. The campaign asks voters to consider the needs of their communities when voting. All parties have the opportunity to compete for their vote by making commitments that help municipalities succeed.

The challenges faced by communities that are caused by provincial policies are complex and caused by both long-standing, historical arrangements and by recent actions and inactions.

No party or individual government is to blame for decades of provincial policies that undermine the social and economic prosperity of Ontario's communities. However, provincial policies that result in declining infrastructure investment, higher property taxes and homelessness in your communities are both bad social policy and bad economic policy. These policies will need to be addressed by whoever forms the next government of Ontario.

AMO is steadfastly non-partisan and looks forward to working with whoever the people elect to form the next Government. These efforts are intended to ensure that whatever party is selected to govern, it will have made clear and measurable commitments to the success of municipalities in every part of Ontario.

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

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

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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January 21, 2025

Peterborough - Kawartha MPP Dave Smith;
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier;
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and
Councils of each of Ontario's municipalities.

Subject: Bill 242, Safer Municipalities Act, 2024

The following resolution, adopted by City Council at its meeting held on January 13, 2025, is forwarded for your consideration.

Whereas:

- 1. A municipality's parks and open spaces are critical infrastructure that support a strong community, and the public's shared and safe use of the municipality's parks and open spaces is integral to ensuring that support.**
- 2. Ontario's municipalities are struggling to maintain their parks and open spaces for their shared and safe use by the public as a result of the increasing proliferation of encampments and illicit activities related thereto.**
- 3. Municipalities that enforce their standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in their parks and open spaces must have regard to the availability of shelter space for those who need shelter.**
- 4. On January 27, 2023, Justice Valente of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice rendered his judgment in *Waterloo (Regional Municipality) v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained* (2023), [2023] O.J. No. 417 (Waterloo Decision) which declared that the municipality's by-law violated section 7 of the *Charter* and was therefore inoperative insofar as it applied to prevent encampment residents from erecting temporary shelters on a site when the number of homeless individuals in the region exceeded the number of accessible shelter beds.**
- 5. The Waterloo Decision's analysis of the adequacy of shelter beds suggests an unworkable and unclear standard that goes beyond the number of shelter**

spaces and that includes the requirement to provide shelter spaces that must accommodate illicit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk. The result is that municipalities are impaired in their enforcement of their standards and have lost or are losing control of their parks and open spaces.

6. On December 12, 2024, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, introduced Bill 242, Safer Municipalities Act, 2024. Among its various initiatives, Bill 242 proposes to amend section 2 of the Trespass to Property Act by adding aggravating factors that must be considered in the court's determination of a penalty under that section. However, the key challenge is that a municipality's exercise of its rights at common law and under section 9 of the Trespass to Property Act to remove encampments from the municipality's parks and open spaces remains potentially subject to the unworkable and unclear standard for the adequacy of shelter space suggested by the Waterloo Decision.
7. In these circumstances, municipalities need provincial legislation that clearly defines a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.

Now therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the provincial government be respectfully requested to amend Bill 242 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
2. That, without limitation, Bill 242 provides that a municipality will have met the standard for shelter space for the purposes of the municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces:
 - a) despite the establishment and enforcement of shelter rules including rules that prohibit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk; and
 - b) if an official designated by the municipality is satisfied that the number of available shelter spaces is at least equal to the aggregate of the number of individuals actually seeking shelter and the number of individuals against whom the municipality is planning to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- a) Peterborough - Kawartha MPP Dave Smith;
- b) Honourable Doug Ford, Premier;
- c) Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
- d) Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General;
- e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and to
- f) Councils of each of Ontario's municipalities.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy
City Clerk

cc:
City of Peterborough Council
City of Peterborough Staff



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
Working Together Working for You!

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905-873-2600 | 1-877-712-2205
haltonhills.ca

January 29, 2025

All Municipalities in Ontario
Via Email

Re: Sovereignty of Canada

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday, January 20, 2025, adopted Resolution No. 2025-0010 regarding Sovereignty of Canada.

Attached for your information is a copy of Resolution No. 2025-0010.

Respectfully,

Melissa Lawr, AMP
Deputy Clerk – Legislation



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2025-0010

Title: Sovereignty of Canada

Date: January 20, 2025

Moved by: Councillor D. Keene

Seconded by: Councillor J. Brass

Item No. 12.2

WHEREAS incoming President Trump has suggested that with the use of "economic force" such as tariffs, Canada should become the 51st state of the United States, and further he suggests that many Canadians would agree;

AND WHEREAS residents of our community, known as Canada's Most Patriotic Town, have demonstrated passion for and loyalty to our nation by opposing past "Buy America" trade measures; by celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary by simultaneously flying over 57,000 Canadian flags and along with other activities, by annually hosting popular Canada Day festivities throughout our municipality; and

AND WHEREAS Canada is a sovereign nation with a peaceful history of self-governance dating to its Confederation in 1867; and

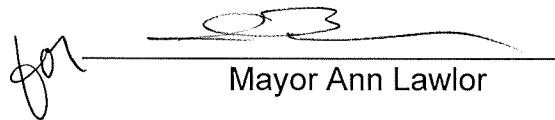
AND WHEREAS the Canadian identity is marked by a deep-rooted pride in its heritage and culture founded by French and British settlement, enriched by Indigenous culture and traditions and by more than a century and a half of multi-cultural immigration;

AND WHEREAS Canada has significant global standing, consistently supporting its allies, including the United States, in global conflicts such as two world wars, and wars in Korea and Afghanistan; and in international coalitions and in being consistently recognized as among the top countries in the world for quality of life;

AND WHEREAS the shared history of the United States and Canada has been one of friendship, respect and neighbourly relations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Halton Hills categorically rejects any efforts by incoming President Trump or any others to undermine the sovereignty of Canada. We stand united with our Ontario Premier Doug Ford and our Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for a Canada that remains strong, free, independent, and characterized by peace, order, and good government.

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor prepare correspondence containing this resolution for circulation to the office of the American president through our Canadian diplomatic channels with copies to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, MP Michael Chong, Premier Doug Ford, The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade of Ontario, MPP Ted Arnott, Leaders of the Opposition Parties, AMO, FCM, and all municipalities in Ontario.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Lawlor', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mayor Ann Lawlor



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

Delivered via email

Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

January 31, 2025

RE: Correspondence received from Northumberland County regarding the Municipal Restructuring Study

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on January 29, 2025, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Cobourg Council understands that the Northumberland tax base is having difficulties with the constant increase in municipal taxes from both the upper and lower tier municipalities; and

WHEREAS the Council acknowledges the need to explore service rationalization, restructuring, and potential amalgamation within Northumberland County to enhance efficiency and service delivery; and

WHEREAS any study undertaken must provide a comprehensive and balanced approach to ensure that all viable options are fairly considered in determining the best governance and financial structure for all of our communities; and

WHEREAS the town of Cobourg tax base makes up 23% of the Northumberland County tax levy and the town of Cramahe contributes just 6% while both having a single vote at the County of Northumberland Council table unless it is a recorded vote; and

WHEREAS in addition to the options of restructuring and amalgamation, a third alternative must be evaluated, namely the potential dilution of the upper-tier government that could allow for the direct allocation of provincial funding to lower-tier municipalities enhancing the local decision-making process and allowing for fiscal autonomy of the various communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Cobourg Council expresses its support and significant interest in the pursuing a study on service rationalization, restructuring, and amalgamation of Northumberland County; and that a third option, be included in the study and that the third option look at the possible dissolution of the



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

upper tier government; and

FURTHER THAT this letter be forwarded to Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honourable, David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and Northumberland - Peterborough South MPP, and Honourable, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Markham-Stouffville MPP along with all other lower tier municipalities asking for their support in ensuring this much needed study explores all potential options that may better serve the resident of Cobourg and Northumberland County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Lepik".

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

Enclosure.

cc. Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Northumberland – Peterborough South MPP;
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and
All lower tier Ontario Municipalities

January 22, 2025

Delivered via email

Dear Northumberland County Clerks,

Re: Municipal Restructuring Study

I am writing to share a report and accompanying Council Resolution approved by Northumberland County Council on December 18, 2024. The report entitled 'Budget 2025 – Municipal Restructuring Study', was requested by County Council on November 20, 2024 for the purposes of investigating the cost of a restructuring study as part of 2025 budget deliberations.

As per Council's request, this letter is being sent to Member Municipalities to determine interest in pursuing a study of service rationalization, restructuring and/or amalgamation. The support required would include staff time to gather and share information, as well as meetings with the consultant. The study would be informative, and participation would not be seen as an agreement to move forward with any recommendations resulting from the study. If a majority of Member Municipalities wish to participate in the study, we will take the results back to County Council for next steps on moving forward.

Please note the response deadline of March 3, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Moore
CAO, Northumberland County

c.c. Northumberland County CAOs
Maddison Mather, Clerk, Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By: J. Logel

Seconded By: R. Crate

Agenda
Item 17.c
(2.i)

Resolution Number
2024-12-18- 926

“That County Council direct staff to send a letter to each of Northumberland County’s 7 Member Municipalities to determine interest in pursuing a municipal restructuring study, with a response deadline of March 3, 2025.”

Recorded Vote
Requested by _____
Councillor’s Name

Deferred _____
Warden’s Signature

Carried  _____
Warden’s Signature

Defeated _____
Warden’s Signature

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Report 2024-167

Report Title: Budget 2025 – Municipal Restructuring Study

Prepared by: Jennifer Moore
Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the CAO

Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: December 18, 2024

Report Not Considered by

Standing Committee Because:

- Time-sensitive Issue (information received too late for Committee consideration)
- Urgent Matter (issue arose after this month’s Committee meeting)
- Other

Strategic Plan Priorities: Innovate for Service Excellence
 Ignite Economic Opportunity
 Foster a Thriving Community
 Propel Sustainable Growth
 Champion a Vibrant Future

Recommendation

“That County Council, having considered Report 2024-167 ‘Budget 2025 - Municipal Restructuring Study’, direct staff to request input from member municipalities to determine interest in pursuing a municipal restructuring study.”

Purpose

At their November 20, 2024 meeting, County Council discussed budget considerations for 2025. As a result of the discussions, staff were directed to report back on the cost of an amalgamation study in the draft budget.

Background

The idea of restructuring is not new to Northumberland County. Northumberland has been restructured several times in its 232-year history. Northumberland was initially formed in 1792. It joined with Durham County to form the Newcastle District in 1802, as part of Upper Canada. In 1850 it became the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham. It remained as the United Counties until 1973. On January 1, 1974, the majority of Durham County joined Ontario County to form Durham Region, except for the Town of Port Hope and Hope Township. Hope and Port Hope joined Northumberland County to form a standalone County named Northumberland. Over the years there have been various changes to the boundaries and names of lower tiers, as those organizations have been restructured, as well with population growth and Provincial direction.

In the late 1990's there was significant restructuring across the province and the number of municipalities was reduced by almost half. Northumberland's boundaries were changed once again when Murray Township left Northumberland and joined the newly formed City of Quinte West. Northumberland's boundaries have otherwise remained unchanged, but there were several amalgamations of lower-tiers. By 2001, Northumberland was comprised of seven lower-tiers and looks as it does today.

Current	Formerly
Town of Cobourg	Town of Cobourg
Municipality of Port Hope	Town of Port Hope Hope Township
Municipality of Trent Hills	Town of Campbellford Village of Hastings Seymour Township Percy Township
Municipality of Brighton	Town of Brighton Brighton Township
Hamilton Township	Hamilton Township
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand	Alnwick Township Haldimand Township
Township of Cramahe	Village of Colborne Cramahe Township

Around the time of the municipal restructuring in 2001, there were also significant changes in the responsibilities of each level of government. While services such as road and bridges had been the County's responsibility since the days of horse and buggy, the County assumed responsibility for many additional services from the province, including Housing and Paramedics.

The table below summarizes key municipal services, and which level of municipal government delivers the service within Northumberland County. It should be noted that the responsibilities of each level of government have changed over time. The manner in which services are delivered varies dramatically across the province. Every municipality has a unique combination of service responsibilities and service levels. The range of services seems to be most diverse in the two-tier municipal structures where a County is the upper tier. Regional governments tend to have more similarities in the distribution of services between the upper and lower tiers.

Service		Upper Tier	Lower Tier
Infrastructure			
	Roads	*	*
	Bridges	*	*
	Water		*
	Wastewater/Sewage		*
	Solid Waste	*	
Community Services			
	Social Services/Service Manager	*	
	Housing	*	
	Parks & Recreation		*
	Forest	*	
	Libraries		*
	Transit		*
	Cemeteries		*
Protection Services			
	Police		*
	Fire		*
	Fire – Communications tower/Dispatch shared service	*	
	Provincial Offences	*	
	Court Security		*
	By Law Enforcement	*	*
	Emergency Planning	*	*
Health Care			
	Paramedics	*	
	Community Paramedicine	*	
	Long Term Care	*	
	Health Unit (funding only)	*	
	Walk-in Clinic	*	

Service		Upper Tier	Lower Tier
Community Development			
	Economic Development	*	*
	Tourism	*	*
	Land Use Planning	*	*
	Conservation Authority (funding only)		*
	Inspections		*
	Inspections – Shared Service	*	
Legislative Services			
	Clerk/Governance	*	*
	Licensing		*
	Archives (existing shared service)	*	*
	MPAC (funding only)	*	
Corporate Services			
	HR/Payroll	*	*
	Finance/Treasury	*	*
	Legal	*	
	IT/GIS (existing shared service)	*	*
	Health & Safety	*	*
	Facilities/Property Management	*	*
	Communications	*	*

Notes

*Some services may be a lower tier responsibility, but are not necessarily delivered by every member municipality.

** Some services may be delivered by another entity, while remaining the responsibility of the municipality.

There are several services where there are existing formal, or informal, shared services arrangements. Selected services have been consolidated, or partially consolidated, at the upper tier to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale such as IT, road surface treatment, GIS, etc. There have been other shared services agreements on an ad hoc basis in recent years such as HR. In addition to the more formal arrangements, municipalities across the County frequently collaborate on service delivery and projects. For example, joint training exercises, road construction with underground works, and purchasing.

Consultations

The County and member municipalities have explored opportunities for shared services over the past couple of decades, with some new opportunities advancing and others being abandoned after hitting barriers. Staff have consistently approached this work with the intention of maintaining (or improving) service levels for the same or less cost. However, it is inherently difficult to voluntarily merge the work of eight separate legal entities with independent governance structures. Every organization has their own identified priorities, in addition to busy day-to-day operating demands.

Anecdotally, there are mixed opinions about the success of previous amalgamations. The key difference is that most previous amalgamations were initiated through a Provincial directive, or a very strong suggestion from the Province that municipalities look to merge with one or more neighbouring municipalities. Small municipalities speak to the potential benefits of economies of scale across their operations, although many municipal services cannot achieve significant savings even at their present size and scale due to labour intensive services, large geographic areas, and other limitations. Municipalities that underwent large amalgamations, such as moving to a single tier, often acknowledge long-term benefits but reference many challenges, including governance structure and service rationalization, that need to be overcome in the early days. In many cases, there were increased costs during the initial years of an amalgamation, as common service levels and expectations were settled. For many communities, particularly in rural Ontario, there are strong ties to existing features of the community; there is a reluctance to accept the changes that could lead to more significant savings.

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

The Municipal Act 2001 Part V, Municipal Reorganization specifically permits restructuring of municipalities. This section of the Act outlines the process and authorities for various aspects of restructuring the governance of a municipality or municipalities. The purpose of this section is as follows:

171 (1) The purposes of section 172 to 179 are,

- (a) To provide for a process which allows municipal Restructuring to proceed in a timely and efficient manner;*
- (b) To facilitate municipal restructuring over large geographic areas; and*
- (c) To facilitate municipal restructuring of a significant nature which may include elimination of a level of municipal government, transfer of municipal powers and responsibilities and responsibilities and changes to municipal representation systems. 2001, c.25 s. 171(a)*

Discussion / Options

Any study on municipal restructuring will require participation from all seven member municipalities, and most likely the County, depending on the services being considered. It is critical that there is an interest in the study, and a commitment of support from the participants. The support required would include staff time to gather and share information, as well as meetings with the consultant. The study would be informative, and participation would not be seen as an agreement to move forward with any recommendations resulting from the study.

Staff propose an initial step by County Council to request input from member municipalities to determine interest in pursuing a study of service rationalization, restructuring and/or amalgamation. Further, a resolution should be requested from each member municipality to express their level of interest in the information learned through such as study. This resolution would only be a commitment to participate and receive the final report, but would NOT obligate any municipality to proceed with implementation of the report recommendations.

Further, if a majority of member municipalities wish to participate in the study, then the County should proceed with the procurement of a consultant to conduct the necessary research and analysis, and make recommendations for consideration. Given the anticipated size and scope of the study, it would be a competitive RFP process.

Staff propose two options should there be sufficient interest from member municipalities:

- a) Study the benefits and challenges of a full amalgamation to a single government across Northumberland County for all services. This would include costs and resourcing required through a transition period, projected ongoing savings or increases, high level review of staffing implications, proposed governance model, etc.
- b) Select 1-2 services to evaluate and develop an assessment of options for restructuring. Restructuring could result in an upload to the County, or consolidation with one of the seven member municipalities for all or part of a service, based on the analysis. The review would include transitional and ongoing operational impacts to governance, staffing, service levels, and financial implications, as well as an initial plan for implementation.

Staff recommend option B, and recommend that it be referred to the CAOs' Committee to determine the services to be reviewed. The CAOs should provide input into developing common goals for a study, including financial objectives, service level equalization, staffing and asset impacts, as well as qualitative impacts of service restructuring.

Financial Impact

The cost would be dependent on the scope of the review. Given the complexity of the assessment and number of municipalities, consulting costs would likely be \$150,000 - \$250,000 for the initial reviews, depending on number and complexity of departments included in the study, and the number of municipalities currently offering the service. The work required would be unique to Northumberland County, and could require extensive planning if the direction is to conduct a review of a full amalgamation, with costs likely exceeding the top end of the estimate for a full implementation plan. Given the time required for member municipal consideration as well as the RFP process, it is expected that only a portion of costs would be incurred in 2025 with the balance incurred in 2026.

Member Municipality Impacts

Depending on the extent of the review, there could be a significant impact to member municipal operations and governance.

Conclusion / Outcomes

Staff recommend this report be received for information, and considered as part of the 2025 budget deliberations.

Attachments

N/A



The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title: Tom Mrakas, Mayor, Town of Aurora
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Ardiel
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Bordignon

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives and supports the correspondence of Tom Mrakas, Mayor, Town of Aurora Re: November 5, 2024 Resolution regarding request of the redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding as noted below:

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

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

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

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

Whereas redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

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

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and
5. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

AND THAT Council directs staff to circulate the resolution to the 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of

Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and local MP and MPP offices, for their endorsement and advocacy.

YES: 7

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 0

The motion is Carried

YES: 7

Mayor Matrosovs
Councillor Maxwell

Deputy Mayor Bordignon
Councillor McKinlay

Councillor Ardiel
Councillor Porter

Councillor Hope

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 0



Global TRAFFIC GROUP



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Company Profile

Global Traffic Group Ltd. (Global) is a Canadian owned and operated company passionate about innovation, technology, and road safety. We achieve our mission by developing cutting-edge systems and software that help reduce traffic violations, collisions, and provide extensive traffic data. Integrity is central to Global's culture.

Global has provided a variety of traffic safety programs, including contracted Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) technology services, to communities for over two decades. We are adaptable and innovate to design and build the most effective road safety systems and programs.

We offer enforcement technology and programs for: speed, fixed loopless red light/speed on green, portable red light, stop sign, distracted driving, failing to yield to a pedestrian, school bus crossing, and parking. Global also helps police services with amber alerts and tracking blacklisted vehicles.

Global innovates. We have designed the most advanced and efficient traffic analyzer that takes strategic traffic planning to the next level, combining traffic flow and safety data. We have developed a mobile and fixed automated licence plate reader (ALPR), which can be installed inside enforcement vehicles. Responding to our communities' needs we develop customized software for Administrative Penalty Systems (APS) and develop solutions from processing business licences to enforcing bylaws.

We've got traffic safety enforcement programs that are a perfect fit for your community. Whether you're looking for an all-inclusive turn-key package with data processing and ticketing, or if you prefer to pick and choose the services, apps and hardware you need, Global has you covered. We're here to make your community safer while being mindful of your budget.

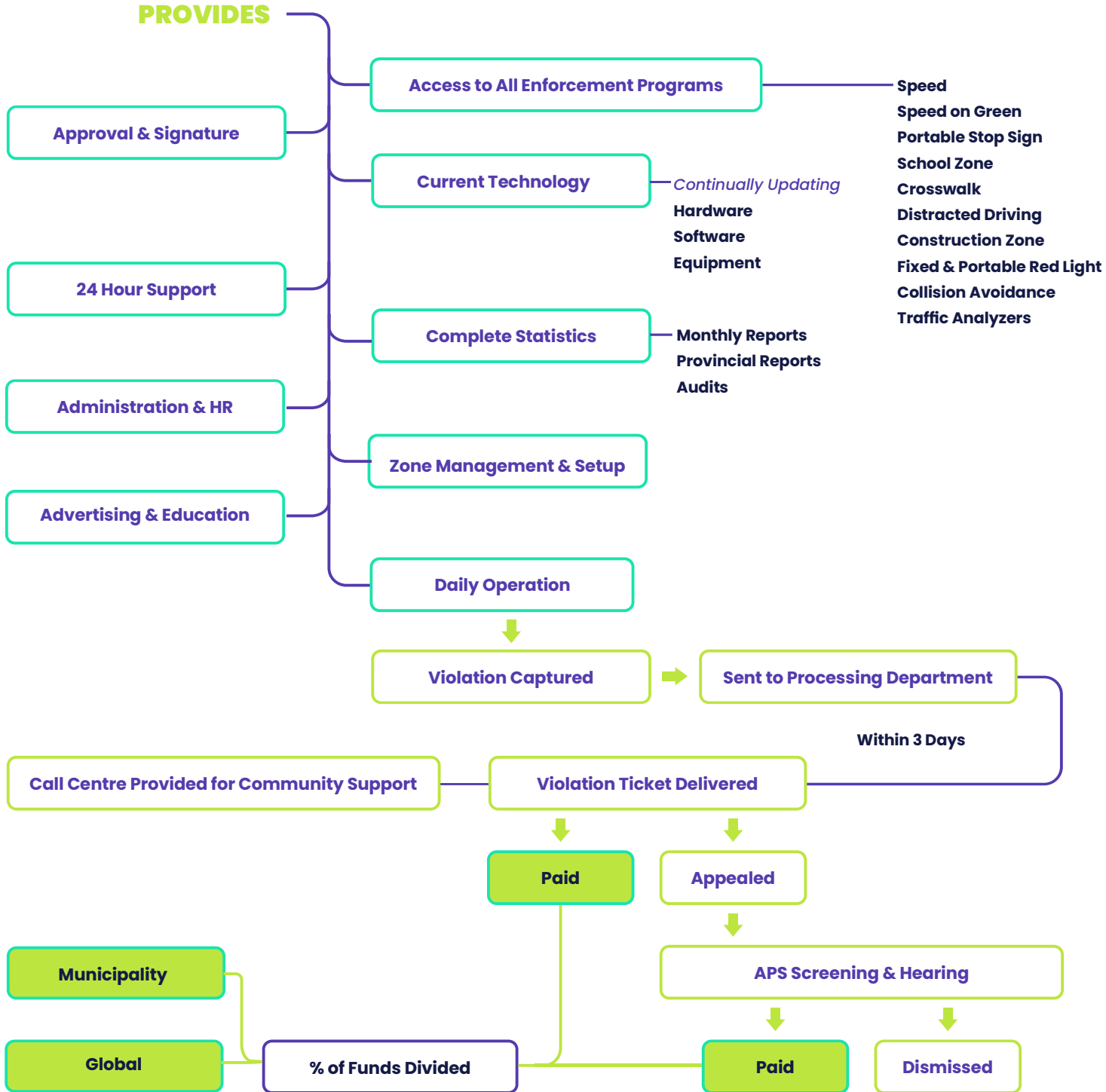
Saving Lives through innovative technology

Our core values are Mastery, Teamwork, Visionary and Get it Done

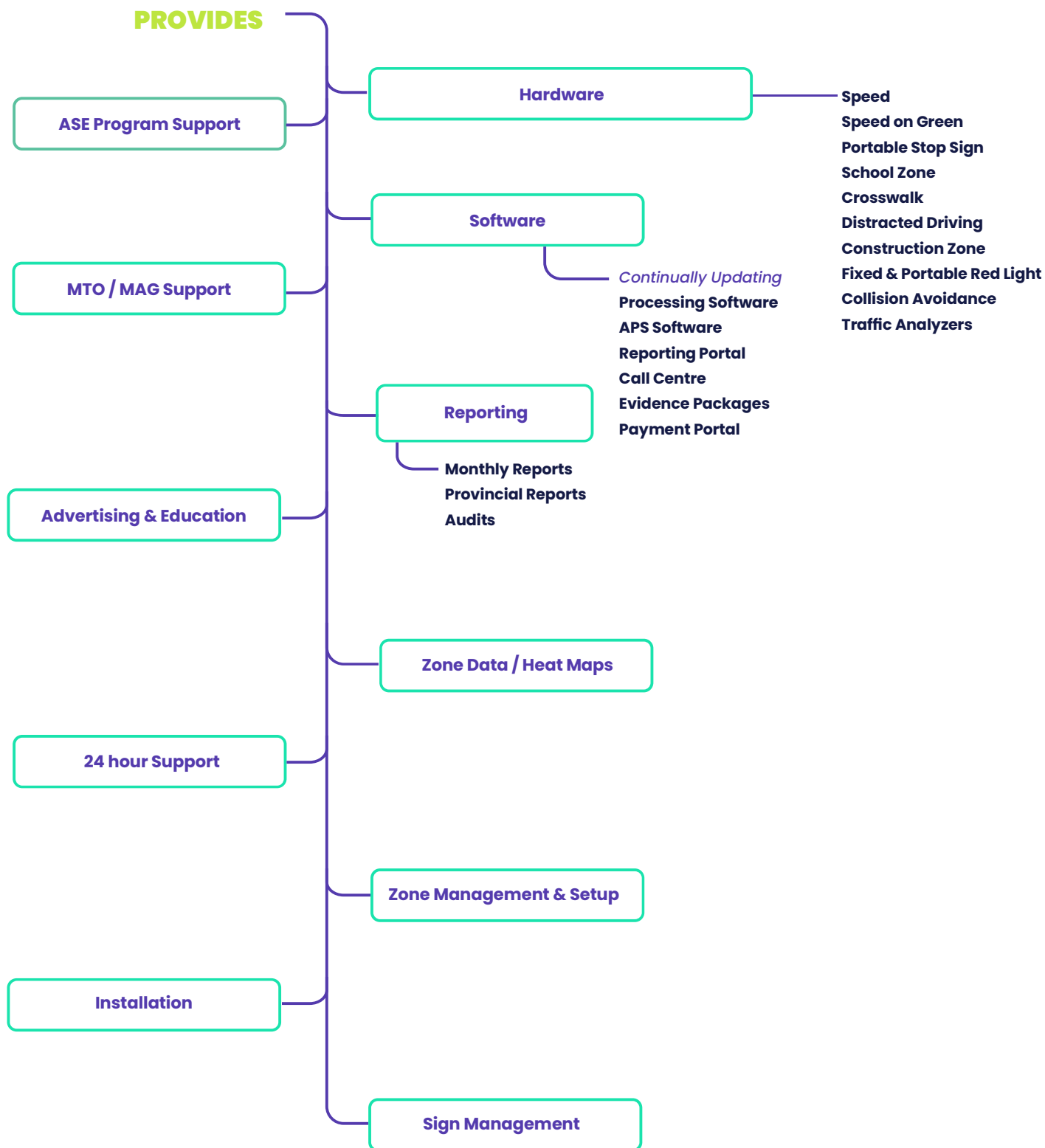


AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Full Turn-Key Solution



À La Carte



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Processing Software

Global has developed a proprietary processing solution tailored for Canadian communities, meeting and exceeding government ministry requirements. This solution, which stores data securely in Canada, monitors all aspects of enforcement programs. It manages workflows for processing notices efficiently. Its unique features include a tracking system for violations from mail receipt to resolution, encompassing ticket inquiries, payments, call history, and video views. Operational details are readily available for audits. Its penalty tracking system includes a calendar that provides information about appeals. Our software generates statistical and financial reports for communities and government authorities with daily database updates.

Global's software stands out for its adaptability; capable of being fine-tuned to meet the unique bylaw needs of each community. Whether issuing business licences and parking permits, addressing parking violations, noise ordinances, or other infractions, our solution can be customized to ensure optimal performance. It can integrate with existing processes, empowering communities to enforce regulations effectively and maintain public safety.



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Administrative Penalty System (APS) Software

An Administrative Penalty System (APS) provides a top-tier solution renowned for its enhanced efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and ease of use.

- **Customized Solutions:** Global provides a software solution tailored to meet the needs of our communities.
- **Designed for Government of Ontario reporting requirements:** Developed to adhere to the reporting standards set by the Government of Ontario
- **Independent or Integrated Offering:** Available as a standalone solution or integrated into our penalty processing software.
- **Intuitive Public Interface:** The software features an intuitive interface for the public to simplify the appeal process and enhance the user experience. This can include **flexible payment options**, including partial payments, to accommodate individuals' financial situation while ensuring compliance with penalties.
- **Comprehensive Functions:** Capabilities include tracking and scheduling screening & hearing appointments, various payment options, recording hearing minutes, and documenting final resolutions.
- **Supports Municipal Bylaws:** Global's software supports a wide range of municipal bylaws, from minor infractions like overgrown lawns, to more serious offences such as traffic violations.
- **Public-Facing Portal:** Allows for easy permit purchasing, including parking permits and business licences which are essential components of the underlying bylaws.
- **Flexible Workflows:** The software offers customizable workflows to accommodate diverse needs and processes.
- **Disclosure Packages:** It enables the creation and management of disclosure packages for legal proceedings.

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

G3sr – Speed Enforcement

Highlights

- Developed for Ontario, the G3sr is a versatile pole-mounted speed enforcement unit that serves as semi-fixed ASE system.
- It is compact, measuring about 1 cubic ft in size and weighs 6lbs.
- Designed in Canada for Canadian weather, it operates at temperature extremes (-40 to +40), and in rain, snow, darkness, shadows, and bright sunlight.
- Its tough housing and deployed at a minimum of 15 ft above ground makes it vandal proof.
- The G3sr offers flexibility on power supply: AC 110-120v.
- Built in-house, customizable to any needs.
- Its operating range is 15m - 180m.
- It offers cellular data transfer with wi-fi capability.
- It is a versatile solution designed to be installed on existing infrastructure, reducing the need for additional poles and minimizing visual congestion.
- Multi-Lane Monitoring: Our system, operating with minimal voltage requirements, can monitor up to four lanes of traffic simultaneously, offering unmatched efficiency and coverage.
- 24/7 Operation: Equipped with infrared lighting technology and illuminators, the system captures high-quality images even in low-light or nighttime conditions, ensuring consistent and reliable performance at all times.

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

G3stop – Portable Red Light/Stop Sign

Highlights

The G3stop portable red light and stop sign systems include a high-definition video camera. When registered owners receive a violation ticket, they can visit a secure website, which meets/exceeds local privacy requirements and view the infraction video. This program helps the justice system by significantly reducing appeals. It allows registered owners to see that their vehicles were actually in violation of the rules of the road.



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

G3red – Red Light Camera

Highlights

- Captures running red lights and unauthorized right turns on red violations
- Semi-fixed/video-based enforcement solution
- Unparalleled precision and accuracy
- Operates independently of traditional traffic controller connections
- Detects vehicles day or night
- Identifies multiple vehicles at the same time on multilane roadways
- Ready for future customization
- Continuous improvement and release of new functions
- Wi-Fi and wired connections
- Installed on existing infrastructure.
- Hi-Res image and video documentation
- Wide range of installation options, height, orientation, distance
- Ultra-compact housing for Cameras and Processing Unit
- No further road shelter nor signal cabling needed
- Available power sources are solar, battery, or direct connection and operates with minimal voltage requirements.
- Leverages Global's proprietary TOPS (Traffic Light Optical Phase Sensor) technology



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Distracted Driving

Global is utilizing our proprietary portable G2 technology to initiate this traffic safety program. Each ticket that is mailed out includes a video link where registered owners can view their violations. We worked with a provincial government to develop this innovative pilot project, which is complete and awaits final government approval.

Distracted driving takes many forms, including texting, eating, drinking and GPS programming.

The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) says, "The problem is getting bigger – distracted driving contributes to 21% of fatal collisions every year, up from 16% a decade ago."

According to CAA Statistics on Distracted Driving
(www.caa.ca/driving-safely/distracted-driving/statistics)

- Drivers who drive distracted are 8 times more likely to be in a crash or near crash event compared with non-distracted drivers.
- Drivers are up to 4 times more likely to get in an accident when talking on a phone while driving.
- 25% of Canadians say they saw an increase in drivers using their phones while driving in 2020.
- Canadians say that texting while driving is one of the biggest threats to their personal safety on the road.
- 47% of Canadians admit to typing out or using the voice-memo feature to send a message while driving.

Global is committed to finding new ways to solve old problems and emerging problems.

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Collision Avoidance: AI Supported Traffic Management

Global has developed several innovative technologies, including the CrashCam, G3ta traffic analyzer, and its advanced iteration, the G3ta/alpr.

- Leveraging artificial intelligence to analyze traffic patterns and identify the underlying causes of incidents.
- Serving as instrumental tools in traffic management, offering valuable insights for collision prevention.
- Streaming traffic flow and collision-avoidance data directly to planning and engineering departments.
- Leading-edge analytics facilitate informed decision-making in urban planning and traffic management.



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

CrashCam – Increases Intersection Safety

Highlights

- No cost to the community
- Semi-fixed/video-based solution
- Assists police to increase intersection safety
- Unparalleled precision and accuracy
- Collects data
- Assists with collision reconstruction
- Improves traffic management
- Provides a 360-degree view of intersections
- Artificial intelligence identifies a collision when it happens and captures the video
- Privacy is at the heart of this program, and a video is only captured if a collision occurs
- Meets the privacy requirements of FOIP, PIPA and MFIPPA
- Detects vehicles day or night
- Operational under any weather conditions
- Ready for future customization
- Hi-Res image and video documentation
- Wide range of installation options, height, orientation, distance
- Continuous improvement and release of new functions
- Ultra-compact housing for Cameras and Processing Unit
- No further road shelter nor signal cabling needed
- Available power sources are solar, battery, or direct connection.
- Identifies multiple vehicles at the same time on multilane roadways



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

G3alpr – Automated Licence Plate Reader

- Developed in Canada by Global Traffic Group, the G3alpr mobile automated licence plate reader can be installed inside police vehicles, used for parking enforcement, and provincial and federal park pass compliance, which makes capturing licence plates simple and effective.
- The G3alpr can be repositioned within the vehicle, allowing multiple view options to capture images of front-end or back-end plates of both moving and stationary vehicles. The solution offers a range of view up to 20 metres and a field of view of up to 160 degrees.
- Installation is quick and simple: the camera is mounted on a console attached to the enforcement vehicle's window. This gives the system placement flexibility.
- Officers on foot or on bicycle can also use this solution by moving around parked vehicles, including those front-parked, parked off-road, or haphazardly parked in lots.
- The pole-mounted version can be permanently stationed strategically, capturing vehicles' plates 24/7.
- Global innovates. We bring know-how, experience, and customized technology to the communities we serve, finding new ways to solve old problems and emerging problems.



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

G3ta – Global Traffic Analyzer

Our third generation of traffic monitoring innovation, the G3ta, takes strategic traffic planning to the next level.

Most Versatile

- Deploys on tripods, poles, in a utility box or construction cone, as handheld or in a vehicle.

Eight Lanes

- Monitors and analyzes traffic in up to eight lanes in different directions lane-by-lane.

Most Efficient

- Allows permanent positioning at many locations to stream year-round data.

Three-in-One

- Offers traffic counts, vehicle speeds and stop data, simultaneously and in real time.

Traffic Counts

- Tracks simultaneously up to 500 vehicles. Provides accurate data on road use in each lane with dates and times in real time.

Vehicle Speeds

- Gives detailed insight into driver behaviour – when, where, how many and how fast in real time.

Stop Analytics

- Shows stopping behaviour at schools, playgrounds, and intersections.

Remote Operation

- This connected device allows for remote calibration, programming, and system notifications via Wi-Fi or cellular.

Artificial Intelligence

- Gives analysts the data and analysis they ask for. For example, it can be trained to distinguish between different types of buses.

Data Analysis

- Gives clients the reports and data they need and the visual formats they want.

Quick Installation

- Takes between 15 minutes to one hour to install, depending on the location.

Power Solution

- Offers solar or grid-power options, cutting or eliminating battery maintenance.

All-Weather

- Operates at -40 C to +60 C in extreme conditions – a made in Canada solution for Canadian weather.

Operating Range

- 30-100 m (Long-range upgrade available).

Video Option

- Captures pre- and post collision evidence.

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

G3ta/alpr - Traffic Analyzer

G3ta/alpr offers the G3ta's traffic analyzer capabilities and distinguishes individual vehicles and their behaviour. It plays a vital role in creating safer, more efficient, and sustainable transportation systems that benefit individuals, communities, and economies.

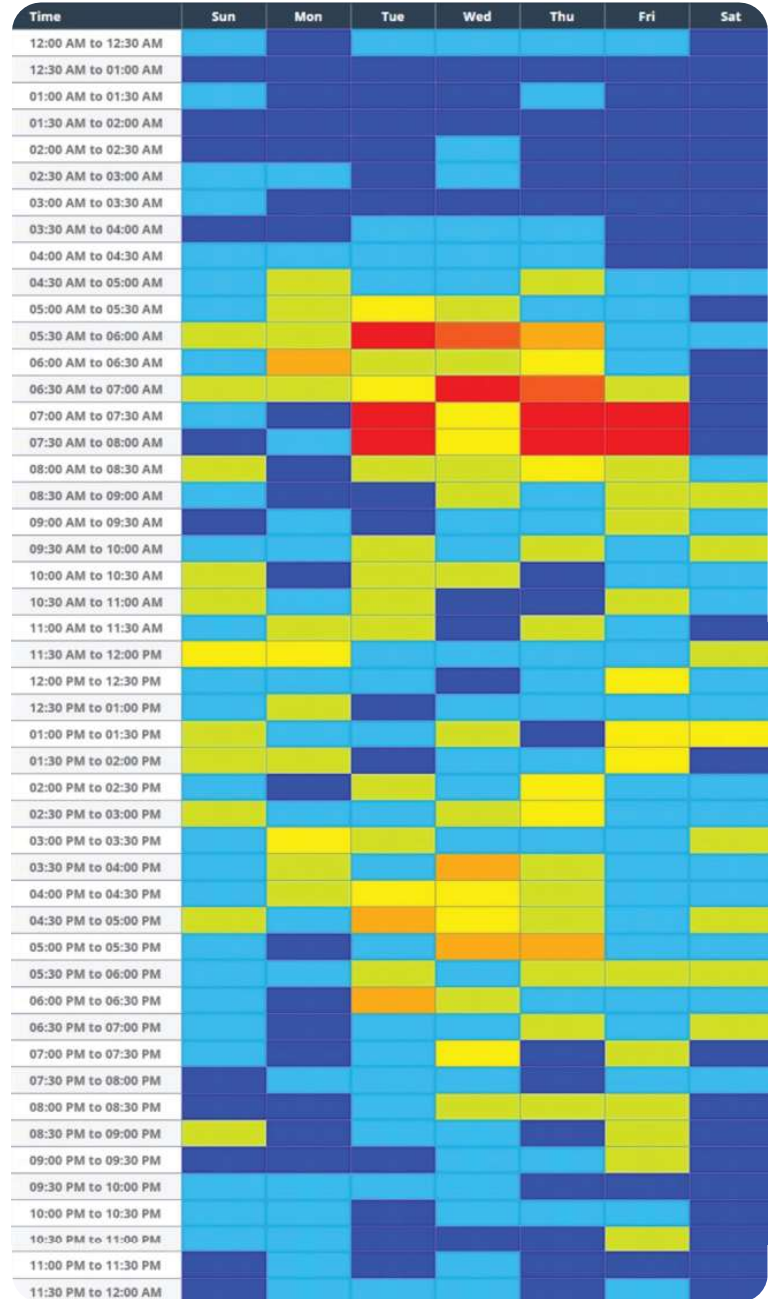
- alpr allows the G3ta to identify and analyze the repeated journeys of individual vehicles.
- Determines not just how many vehicle journeys are made at a location over time but how many individual vehicles - and their categories - pass through the location.
- Helps understand the effectiveness of ASE, analyzing repeat offenders' behaviour and how their speed and number of violations reduce during the program.
- Leading-edge analytics facilitate informed decision-making in urban planning and traffic management.



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

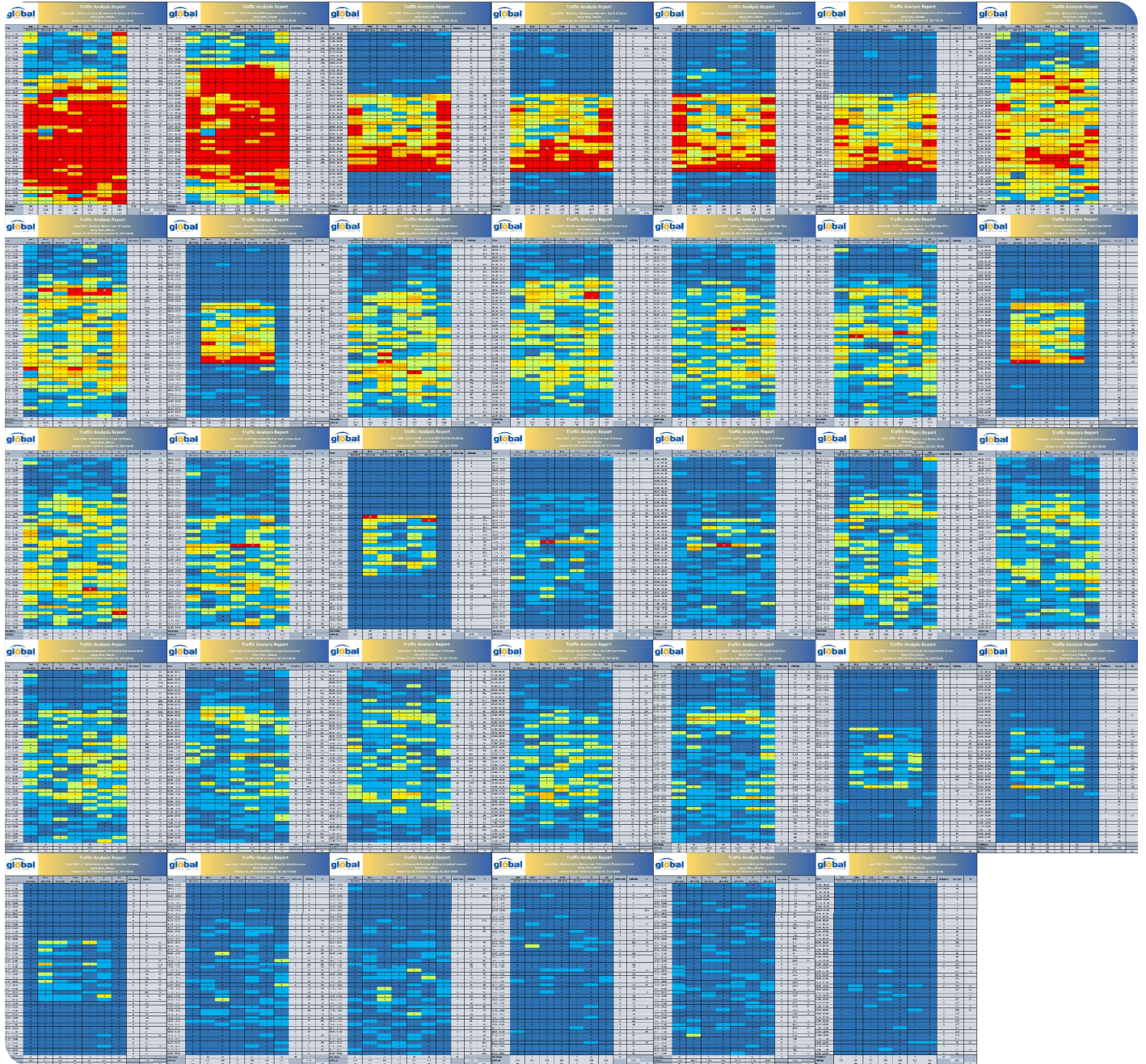
Global Traffic Counters

Global Traffic Counters are discrete, battery powered units, which can be mounted on existing poles throughout a community. These units are deployed for one (1) full week, 24-hours a day, and collect speed data on every vehicle that drives past the counter. Their data generates Risk Analysis Reports in easy-to-read formats, which can be customized for internal and public display. The reports showcase the number of vehicles driving at speeds that would result in a traffic violation ticket. They support data-driven enforcement by ASE and local jurisdiction police. Global Traffic Counters may also be deployed as a response to community concerns or to gather benchmark data before initiating a new community safety zone. These reports are compared year over year to measure program success.



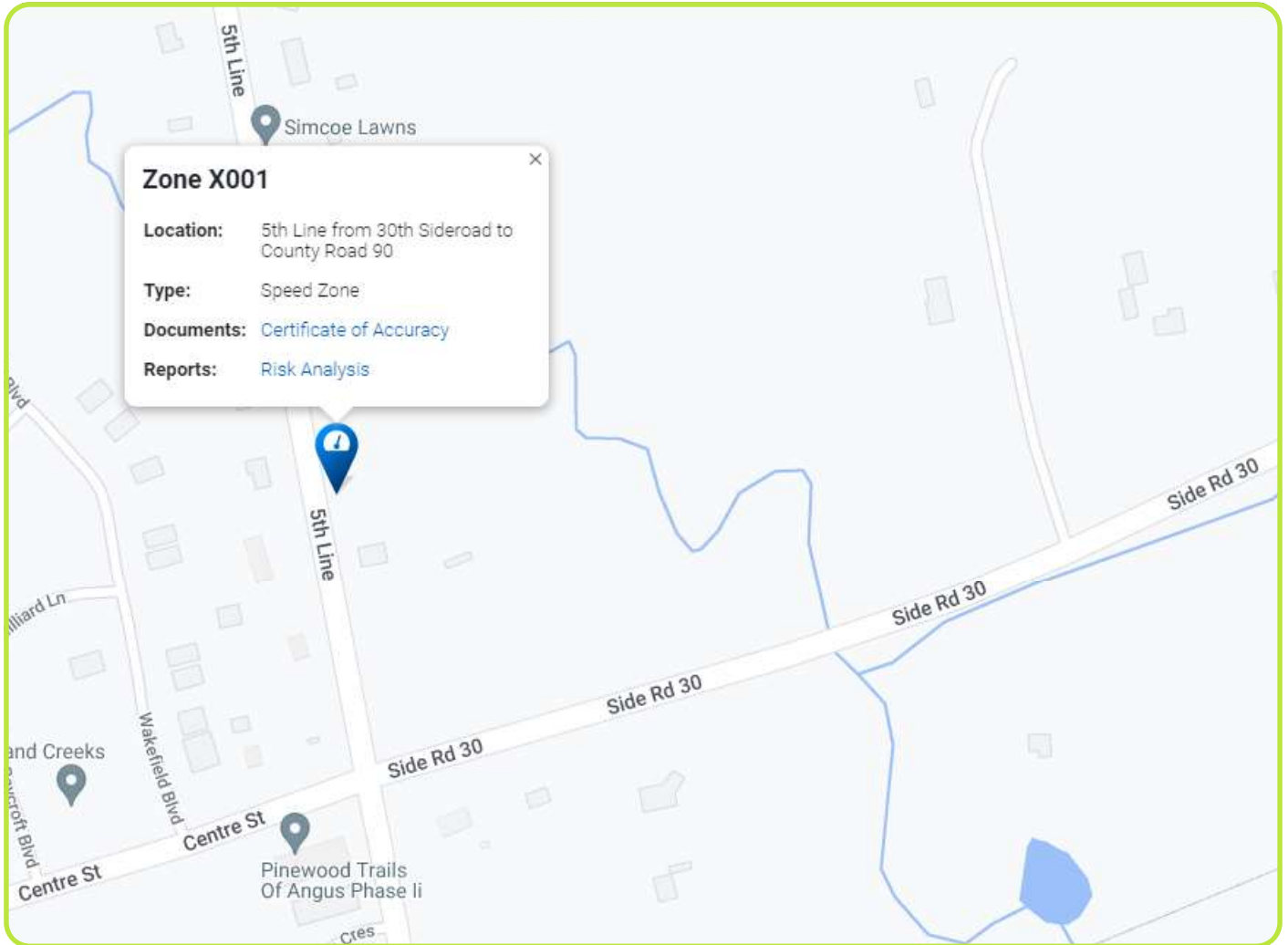
AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Sample Community Speed Mosaic



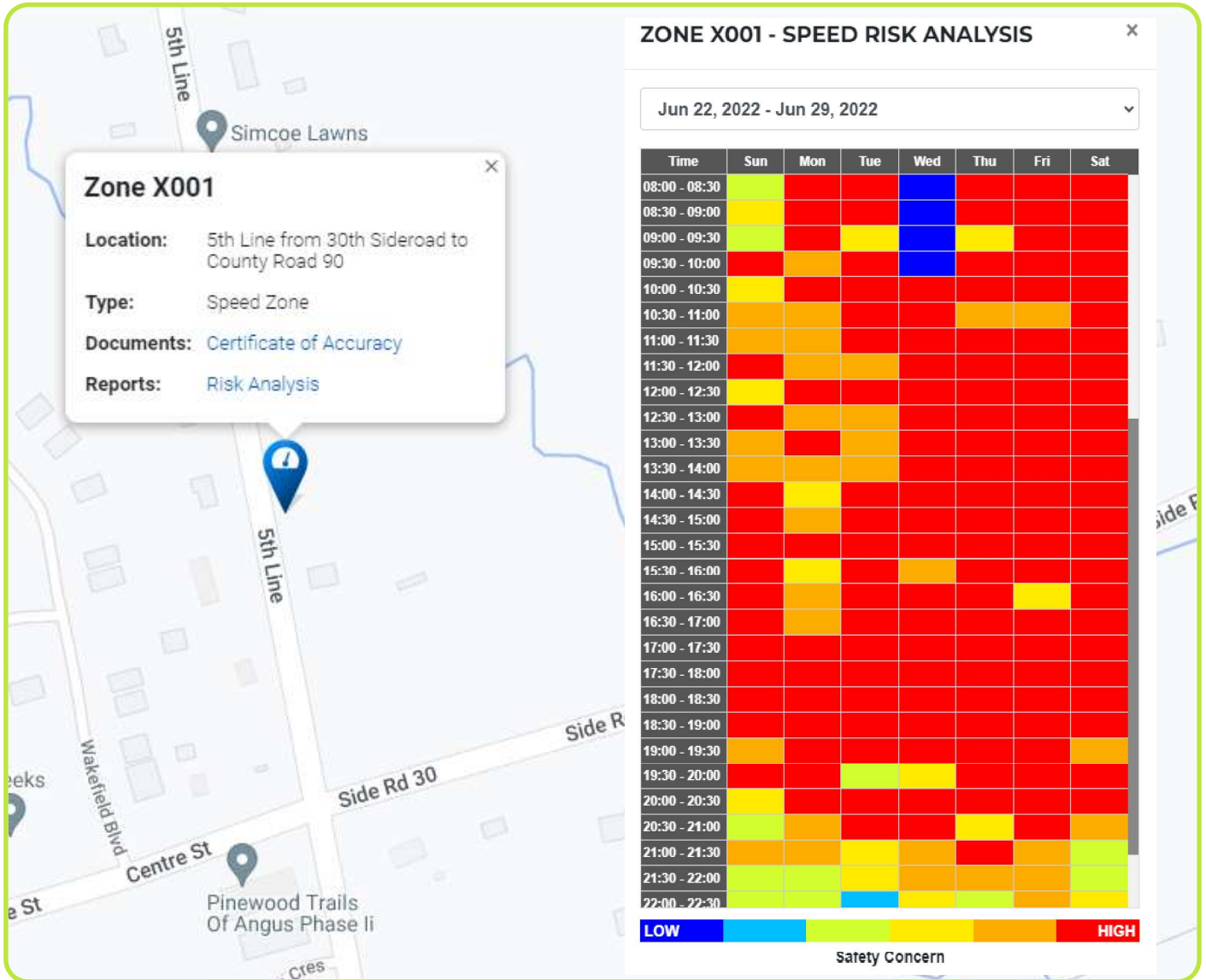
AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

“Sample Community” ASE Zone Map



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

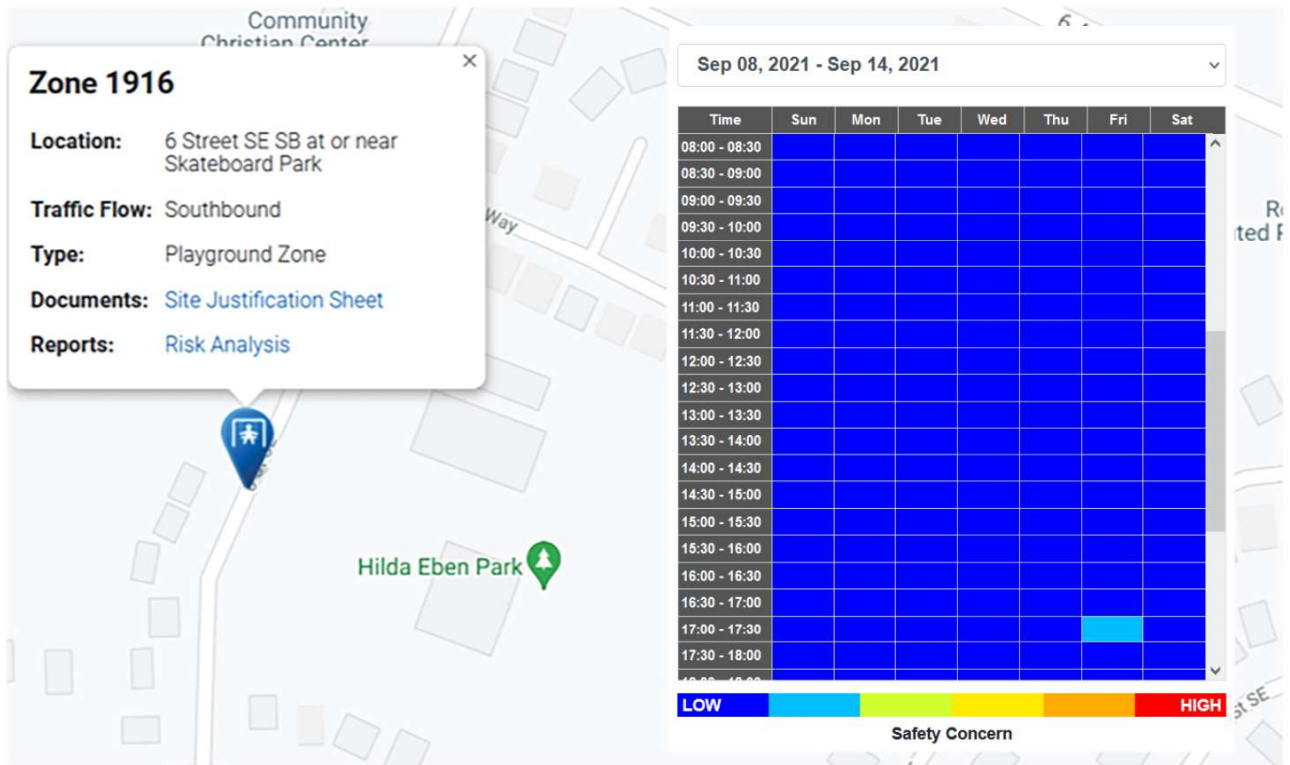
“Sample Community” Zone Map with Traffic Analysis Report – *Speed Issues*



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

“Sample Community” Zone Map with Traffic Analysis Report – *No-Speed Issues*

“Sample Community” Aerial Zone Map with Traffic Analysis Report - No Speed Issues



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Global **S.A.F.E.T.Y.** System



Our Goal is **Safer** Roads

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Key Features

- Global provides communities with full turn-key fixed and/or portable Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) and traffic monitoring solutions.
- Global has all the approvals needed to operate these programs and assists communities obtain their approvals.
- Global provides and supervises operational staff.
- Data is recorded at the time of capture, including time, zone, operator, speed, speed limit, distance, location, image number, and ticket ID number.
- We provide monthly stats to show the positive effects of our traffic safety programs.
- We work with communities preparing monthly and semi-annual Ministries of Transportation and Attorney General reports.
- Global has developed a proprietary processing solution that processes and tracks violations every step of the way. This system currently meets or exceeds all requirements of the communities we serve in Canada.
- Global has a proven track record of working with police of jurisdiction and community administration to fulfill all ASE requirements.
- Global operates with integrity and provides quality staff to administer the ASE program. In addition, Global's staffing plan offers a complete ASE technology team.
- Global provides provincial offences officer training for the ASE program.



AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Key Features

- Global supports enforcement programs with education, including safety tips, speed boards on request, traffic data on all enforcement locations, letting offenders view their infraction video, call centre questions/inquiries (traffic service requests, the Province's ASE guidelines, penalty payments, etc.).
- Global upgrades and/or replaces system components as necessary to maintain the quality and integrity of the operation.
- Should the equipment, or systems be unserviceable for any reason, we quickly provide a backup unit (of the same standard).
- Global is responsible for the acquisition, installation, testing, and maintenance of all units' components.
- Global's units are suitable for all typical weather and light conditions: temperature extremes (-40 to +40), rain, snow, darkness, shadows, and bright sunlight: Canadian solutions for Canadian weather.
- The fixed intersection safety devices and semi-fixed and mobile units are certified by a professional engineer. In addition, the engineer has certified that these units produce an accurate forensic record when used, subject to all the manufacturer's recommendations and Global's protocols.

Portable Systems:

- Laser is target specific, eliminating any dispute over which vehicle was speeding.
- Improves program integrity and resolves many issues before they go to an appeal.
- Ensures that systems operate very efficiently in multilane environments.
- Captures Speed, Stop Sign, Red Light, Pedestrian Crosswalk and Distracted Driving violations.
- High speed F2.8 lenses allow day and night operations without a flash.

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Key Features

- Operational within minutes of being mounted on a pole.
- Captures licence plates, meets the province's requirements and identifies the issuing province.
- Provides multiple speed calculations per vehicle, tracking and differentiating between individual vehicles in specific road lanes.
- Performs onsite self-testing as necessary to comply with all manufacturers'/judicial requirements.
- Location sites for ASE is data-driven and supported by Global's Three-in-One G3ta Traffic Analyzer that offers traffic counts, vehicle speeds and stop data, simultaneously and in real time. It gives detailed insight into driver behaviour – when, where, how many and how fast, and stopping behaviour at schools, playgrounds, and intersections.

