



**Town of Arnprior**  
**Regular Meeting of Council: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Correspondence Package No. I-25-APR-08**

**Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package No. I-25-APR-08 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

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

- a) Ontario Connecting 300,000 More People to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams This Year
- b) Ontario launches the 2025-2026 Francophone Community Grants Program
- c) Protect Ontario – Speech from the Throne
- d) Ontario Unlocking Free Trade Within Canada
- e) Ontario Unleashing Economic Potential of Critical Mineral and Resource Development
- f) Ontario Investing in More Accessible and Inclusive Communities
- g) Ontario Helping More Children Access Sport and Recreation
- h) Ontario Government and Ontario Medical Association Confirm Funding Increase That Will Protect Provincial Health Care
- i) OMAFA 2025 Letter to Municipalities Agricultural System

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

- a) Notice to residents and property owners regarding noxious weeds
- b) County of Renfrew Budget Overview

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

- a) Watch File – April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- b) Watch File – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- c) Policy Update – Response to the Speech from the Throne
- d) Policy Update – Expanding Strong Mayor Powers
- e) Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum

**4. Correspondence from the Town of Arnprior**

- a) Notice of Public Hearing: ZBA 4/25
- b) Notice of Public Hearing: ZBA 7/24

**5. Correspondence from other Municipalities**

- a) Howick Township – Accelerated High Speed Internet Project
- b) Township of McNab/Braeside – Bi-Centennial Event

**6. Correspondence from Gwen Lamont**

- a) Book Launch for Gwen Lamont's Memoir, *The View From Coffin Ridge*

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Connecting 300,000 More People to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams This Year

Dr. Philpott's Primary Care Action Team launches first call for proposals as part of plan to connect every person in the province to primary care by 2029

April 10, 2025

[Health](#)

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TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government launched the first [call for proposals to create and expand up to 80 primary care teams](#) that will connect 300,000 more people to a family doctor and primary care team this year, bringing the province one step closer to connecting everyone in Ontario to primary care by 2029.

“Through our government’s record investments in primary care, Ontario has achieved the highest rate of access to a regular health care provider in the country,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “To continue to build on this progress, we are taking the next step to connect 300,000 more people to primary care this year—bringing us one step closer to our goal of connecting every person in the province to primary care.”

The province is investing \$213 million to support the first call for proposals that will create or expand up to 80 primary care teams. This funding is part of the more than [\\$1.8 billion](#) the Ontario government is investing to add 305 new primary care teams across the province, connecting two million more people to publicly funded primary care within four years.

This first call is targeted to communities, by postal code, that have the highest number of people not connected to primary care, averaging 8,000 people unattached per postal code. This is an important step in the government’s [action plan](#) to build a primary care system that automatically offers every person in Ontario the opportunity to have a family doctor or primary care team based on [postal code](#) no matter where they live.

This approach will attach everyone currently on the [Health Care Connect](#) waitlist (as of January 1, 2025) to a primary care team over the next year. As part of their application, prospective teams will have to demonstrate how they will connect the maximum

number of people living within their identified postal codes to primary care. The government expects to select and announce successful teams in summer 2025, as well as launch a second call for proposals in September 2025.

To support targeted strategies to recruit and retain the workforce needed to deliver high-quality care, Ontario is also investing an additional \$22 million to support all existing primary care teams to help them meet increased operational costs for their facilities and supplies. The province will continue to look at additional ways teams can successfully support, and retain, their workforce.

“Together we are building a primary care system that is comprehensive, convenient, and connected for every single person in Ontario,” said Dr. Jane Philpott. “In communities across Ontario, your primary care team will be your entry to care, where you will have a team of health professionals led by a family doctor or nurse practitioner to provide the care and services you need, when you need it, in a timely way.”

Ontario’s Primary Care Action Team, led by Dr. Jane Philpott, will implement its action plan by building on the government’s historic investment of more than \$1.8 billion to expand access to primary care and draw on best-in-class models of care from across the province to close the gap for the remaining 10 per cent of people in the province in need of primary care by 2029. 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.

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.

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## Quick Facts

- The government’s plan will close the gap for the remaining 10 percent of people not connected to a primary care provider by attaching approximately two million people to primary care by 2029.
- The first call for proposals will open today, April 10, 2025, and close on May 2, 2025. Prospective primary care teams will be notified of funding decisions in summer 2025.
- Primary care practices and clinicians should work with their Ontario Health Team and their Primary Care Network to submit a proposal.
- Applications are focused on creating or expanding one of the [existing team based models](#): family health teams, community health centres, nurse practitioner-led clinics, and Indigenous primary health care organizations.

- To ensure Ontario Health Teams and their Primary Care Networks can support primary care teams and clinicians, like family doctors and nurse practitioners, to attach everyone within their identified postal codes over time, the government is investing an additional \$37 million in Ontario Health Teams.
- 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 at existing medical schools to add 340 undergraduate seats and 551 postgraduate seats.
- Since 2018, the province has added nearly 100,000 new nurses and over 15,000 new physicians to the healthcare system.

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## Additional Resources

- [Call for Proposals: Interprofessional Primary Care Teams](#)
- [Ontario Connecting Over 300,000 People to Primary Care Teams](#)
- [Ontario Investing Over \\$1.8 Billion to Connect Every Person in Ontario to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)

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## Related Topics

### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

### Health and Wellness

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario launches the 2025-2026 Francophone Community Grants Program

Investment will support projects that promote the development of Francophone communities

April 10, 2025

[Francophone Affairs](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is continuing to support its vibrant Francophone community with the launch of the 2025-2026 edition of the [Francophone Community Grants Program](#) (FCGP).

Since 2017, the FCGP has been enhancing the cultural and economic vitality of the Francophone community by funding initiatives that improve frontline services and promote the French language and culture.

Community organizations and businesses have until May 26 to submit their proposal under one of two streams: Community and Culture or Economic Development. These projects should aim to strengthen the capacity of organizations and businesses to provide products and services to Francophones in the province, promote the recruitment and training of bilingual Francophone staff, or offer opportunities to celebrate and foster understanding of Ontario's Francophonie.

“Ontario's Francophonie is at the heart of our provincial identity and prosperity,” said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs. “The FCGP offers Francophone community organizations and businesses the opportunity to continue developing promising projects in key sectors which will strengthen the economic vitality of our French-speaking communities for years to come.”

The Francophone Community Grants Program is part of the government's commitment to supporting Francophones communities across the province by strengthening their economic, social, and cultural vitality.

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## Quick Facts

- Applications must be submitted through the [Transfer Payment Ontario](#) portal. Applications must be submitted between Thursday, April 10 and Monday, May 26, 2025, before 5 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time).

- Organizations and companies interested in applying to the program:
  - must consult a [regional development advisor](#) before submitting their grant application;
  - are encouraged to participate in [virtual information sessions](#), one in French on April 22 and one in English on April 23, 2025. These sessions will be recorded and posted online.
- The call for projects is launched with a six-week submission period, followed by an announcement of successful projects in summer 2025. This approach allows organizations to submit projects with a 7 to 8 month implementation timeframe.
- Projects must be completed by March 31, 2026.
- In 2024-2025, the total number of projects funded by the program was 73.

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## Additional Resources

- Find out how to apply for funding under the [Francophone Community Grants Program](#)
- Ontario Francophone Community Grants Program [projects selected in 2024-2025](#)
- Other [funding opportunities offered by the Ontario government](#)
- Ontario's [Francophone Economic Development Strategy](#)

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## Related Topics

### Arts and Culture

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

### Business and Economy

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

### Education and Training

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

### 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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## SPEECH

# Protect Ontario

Speech from the Throne

April 15, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

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Speaker of the House, Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, people of Ontario.

As we meet here today, it is important to recognize that we are on the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples, whose enduring stewardship continues to shape Ontario. Toronto has historically been a significant gathering place for various Indigenous nations, including the Anishinabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat, and the Métis peoples. This area is covered by Treaty 13, also known as the Toronto Purchase, and I pay my respects to the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We deeply respect Indigenous knowledge and stewardship. As we move forward, we are committed to working together in partnership, fostering collaboration and mutual respect to build a better future for all.

As the representative of His Majesty, King Charles III, I have the honour and pleasure of opening this first session of the 44th Parliament of Ontario.

I would like to first congratulate all the newly elected and re-elected members of this provincial parliament. As the people of Ontario's representatives, you have been entrusted to give voice to the people's interests in this, their House.

Your role is rooted in a rich history of harnessing change and overcoming challenge.

In fact, the first legislative assembly of what is now the province of Ontario met more than two centuries ago, in a tiny village on the south shore of Lake Ontario.

The members of that first assembly were Loyalists, men who fled north from the turmoil of the American Revolution to build a new home here, in Canada.

These new Canadians confronted the question of how to protect their new homeland. They had come to a land of enormous potential but faced the immediate and urgent risk of invasion and annexation by their American neighbours.

In the years to come, Ontario and Canada's proximity to the United States would lead first to conflict, then to one of the most productive, prosperous and peaceful partnerships in the history of the world.

Today's legislature looks very different from that first assembly.

It better reflects the diversity of our province, including the Indigenous peoples who are the original inhabitants of these lands.

It reflects our linguistic diversity, including our province's rich Francophone heritage, a community that has for centuries helped define and strengthen Ontario's social, cultural and political institutions.

It reflects the incredible growth and change this province has experienced since that first assembly met, two hundred and thirty-three years ago.

Yet the challenges you face today as members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario are once again shaped by Ontario and Canada's partnership and proximity to the United States.

South of the border, President Donald Trump is openly taking aim at Ontario's economy and our national sovereignty. He has even threatened to use economic force to break our country.

This, of course, will never happen.

Because Canada is not for sale. Canada will never be the 51st state.

Your government is united in its determination to protect Ontario and to protect Canada, no matter what.

We must be prepared for the challenge ahead.

Over the last seven years, our province has come so far.

Ontario has welcomed nearly \$70 billion of investment in key sectors, helping to create more than one million new jobs since 2018.

These investments did not happen by chance. They are the result of your government's relentless focus on reducing costs for businesses and creating the conditions for them to grow, hire and thrive.

Now, as the rest of the world joins Ontario and Canada in confronting President Trump's tariffs, this progress is under urgent threat.

As President Trump's tariffs reach maximum impact, goods and services that once flowed freely across our border are grinding to a halt, causing chaos and uncertainty.

Business owners once planning to expand are now worried about making payroll.

Workers owed a hard-earned promotion are now worried about next week's paycheque.

Parents dreaming of the limitless potential of their children's future are now worried about what the future holds.

These are the concerns that are driving your government to act. These are the concerns that are driving your government to deliver on its promise to protect Ontario, for today and for generations to come.

### **Protect Ontario from Economic Uncertainty**

President Trump's approach to tariffs has been, in a word, chaotic.

He has at times pursued them with unrelenting determination, only to pull back, narrow the scope or offer full-scale exemptions. The president is taking uneven aim at specific sectors of our economy over others, often offering opposing or contradictory targets and timelines.

The consequence: widespread economic uncertainty.

Your government is taking action to help workers, businesses and communities weather the storm.

As a first step in helping Ontario's workers and businesses, the province is providing \$11 billion in urgent relief, helping to provide the fiscal flexibility necessary to adapt and confront the growing challenge of economic uncertainty.

With President Trump's tariffs taking aim at Ontario's auto sector, it has never been more important to provide the tens of thousands of autoworkers across the province an unyielding commitment.

Your government will continue to stand firmly behind and maintain its financial contributions to the electric vehicle and battery auto pact that attracted \$46 billion in new investments. Your government's expectation, and the expectation of every autoworker in Ontario, is that whichever party forms the next federal government will do the same.

Your government will continue to monitor the impact of President Trump's tariffs and stands ready to support the sectors most impacted.

The federal government needs to do the same. Every cent of revenues raised through Canada's reciprocal tariffs needs to be shared with workers and businesses as quickly as possible.

Paycheques and livelihoods are depending on it.

## **Plan to Protect Ontario**

While President Trump's tariffs represent the most immediate threat to Ontario's economy, they are a symptom of a much larger challenge.

For decades, Ontario and Canada have relied on free trade with the United States to deliver unprecedented economic growth and prosperity.

The last few months, however, have taught us that we can no longer assume the benefits of our economic partnership with the United States. The strength of Ontario's economy and the social programs it funds can no longer depend on a partner that has proven itself to be fundamentally unreliable.

Instead, your government will build an economy that is more competitive, more resilient and more self-reliant.

To be clear: your government will continue to engage with American lawmakers in good-faith discussions to make the case that we are stronger when we work together in common cause as allies and partners. Economic realities make doing so a necessity.

At the same time, your government will go to extraordinary lengths to make sure our province and country can stand on its own.

Doing so will require making tough decisions. We can no longer accept a status quo that stifles growth and slows down progress.

Instead, your government will take a radically different approach to the way things have been done as it moves forward with its ambitious plan to protect Ontario.

As it does, the people of this province can be proud that they are served by the most effective and efficient public service in Canada. Your government has driven excellence through the introduction of Lean methodologies as it has worked with Ontario Public Service leadership to streamline and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape.

Delivering on your government's plan will require further innovation. A relentless pursuit of excellence is and will remain at the heart of the work of Ontario's public service.

## **Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy**

Your government's plan to protect Ontario starts with unleashing the province's enormous economic potential. It starts with transforming Ontario's economy into the most competitive place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

First, we need to tear down internal trade barriers within Canada.

Internal trade barriers are no different than President Trump's tariffs: they increase costs, slow growth and hurt every-day, hard-working people. They stop Ontario's economy from reaching its full potential.

In fact, internal trade barriers cost Canada's economy \$200 billion every year and increase what families and businesses pay for goods and services by nearly 15 per cent.

They make life more expensive and restrict Canadians' ability to buy and sell from each other. They divide our country and hold us back.

That is why, as its first order of business, your government will introduce legislation to protect Ontario through free trade within Canada.

Goods produced and services provided in other provinces and territories will be treated the same in Ontario, provided other provinces and territories do the same.

Hard-earned credentials from other provinces and territories will be recognized automatically, ensuring highly skilled workers from elsewhere in Canada can get on the job faster, fill key gaps in Ontario's labour force and help grow our economy.

No restrictions, no red tape: just free trade within Canada.

The province will also be a leading voice in the federation for new railways, highways, airports and seaports. Your government will champion new pipelines eastward, westward, north and south, connecting Alberta oil to new refineries, new tidewater, and beyond it, new markets.

Much like the Canadian Pacific Railway tied our young country together 150 years ago, new nation-building infrastructure will reduce our reliance on the United States and help open up new markets for Canadian products overseas.

This includes Ontario's vast supply of critical minerals.

The frontline in Canada's battle against President Trump's economic threats rests in the Ring of Fire.

Covering approximately 5,000 square kilometers, the Ring of Fire contains the most promising mineral development opportunities in the world, representing billions in economic potential. The region includes reserves of chromite, copper, cobalt, nickel, platinum and every other mineral necessary for the growth of advanced economies.

As Ontario and Canada confront the challenge of President Trump's economic disruption, there's no better point of leverage on the world stage.

Simply put, Ontario has the minerals the world needs.

To effectively seize this opportunity, however, we need to get our critical minerals out of the ground, processed and shipped to the factory floors, building for the future.

For decades, Ontario's critical minerals have remained trapped, locked and held back by red tape and duplicative federal approval processes that together can take up to 15 years to complete.

At a time when Ontario is fighting for the future of its economy, uncertainty in timelines and approvals is no longer acceptable. What we used to do in decades we must now do in months.

As its second order of business, your government will introduce bold new legislation to unlock the Ring of Fire.

Once passed, this new legislation will provide the government the authority to designate regions where multiple critical mineral deposits are present or likely to be present, including the Ring of Fire, as regions of strategic importance to the province's economy and security interests.

Within the boundaries of these regions, proponents that meet high operating, safety and environmental standards will benefit from significantly streamlined permitting and approvals, alongside an uninterrupted commitment to meeting duty to consult requirements. Roads, highways and the infrastructure necessary to unlock Ontario's critical minerals will also benefit from these streamlined approvals.

Your government will ensure that northern communities reap the benefits of critical mineral development, including for First Nations communities through equity partnerships that offer generational economic opportunities.

Alongside bold action to unleash the economic potential of Ontario's abundant supply of critical minerals, your government will restore sense and sanity to a labyrinth of rules and regulations that bring development in the province to a standstill.

Over the course of its mandate, your government will further streamline the province's environmental assessment process and bring common-sense conservation principles to the role of Conservation Authorities and species-at-risk requirements.

As Ontario eliminates red tape, the federal government must do the same. Faced with an existential threat to Canada's economy, the federal government can no longer adhere to failed policies that do nothing more than delay and destroy new resource projects.

As your government helps get Ontario's critical minerals out of the ground, it is also preparing historic investments to support critical mineral processing capacity here at home. Instead of being ripped and shipped overseas, minerals mined in Ontario will be refined in Ontario, creating new opportunities for workers in northern hubs like Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Timmins.

This is an ambitious plan. It will require an extraordinary amount of energy to succeed: over the next 25 years, demand for electricity in Ontario is projected to grow by at least 75 per cent, the equivalent of adding four and a half cities the size of Toronto.

Ontario's energy policy will determine the success of our province's economy, today and for a generation to come.

It's why for the last seven years your government has been hard at work restoring the promise of Ontario's energy advantage. Now, today, the province boasts one of the cleanest grids in North America, with a steady and reliable supply of affordable electricity powering Ontario's growing economy.

Next, your government will invest unprecedented amounts in new energy production, transmission and storage to transform our province into a global clean energy superpower, able to export clean energy and technology across the continent and beyond.

This includes the first small modular nuclear reactors in the G7 at Darlington nuclear site, alongside upgrades to existing nuclear facilities at the Darlington, Pickering and Bruce nuclear generating stations to extend their lifespans and expand their generating capacity.

Your government is also working with interested municipalities and First Nations to dramatically expand Ontario's energy generating capacity, including exploring building the first new large-scale nuclear power plants in the province in more than 30 years in Bruce County and Port Hope.

Ontario's energy policy proves it's possible to grow the economy, create jobs, lower costs and provide a continental solution to reduce emissions, without ever punishing families and businesses with a costly carbon tax.

## Protect Ontario by Building

In the face of economic uncertainty, your government will double down on its plan to build.

With President Trump's tariffs taking direct aim at Ontario, this historic infrastructure plan will get shovels in the ground sooner and keep thousands of workers on the job.

The growing cost of gridlock to Ontario's economy makes doing so an economic imperative, as well.

Each year, gridlock costs the province more than \$56 billion. If we do not act, the cost is projected to grow to \$108 billion annually in less than 20 years.

Your government is acting.

Ontario will invest over \$200 billion in its plan to build, the largest investment of its kind in Canadian history, including new and upgraded roads and highways in every part of the province.

This includes building a new tunnel expressway and transitway under Highway 401 to get people, products and services moving along the busiest highway in all of North America.

At the same time, your government will bring common sense back to bike lanes, moving them off of our busiest streets and onto secondary roads.

Your government will also continue to invest in and build out the largest expansion of public transit in North America, including expanding subway service by more than 50 per cent.

This mandate, service will once again resume for the Northlander passenger train, connecting northern communities like Cochrane, Timmins, North Bay and the Muskoka region directly to Union Station in Toronto.

Your government will also continue to improve GO train passenger service across the Greater Golden Horseshoe, bringing more frequent GO train service to Kitchener and Niagara, while extending GO train service to Bowmanville. Your government will begin working with rail, municipal and federal partners to build GO 2.0, a transformational expansion of GO train service that will make Ontario the most connected and convenient place to travel by transit on the continent.

Your government will also continue to make historic investments to build the local infrastructure needed to unlock new homes.

Following the example of leaders like Mayor Steven Del Duca of Vaughan and Mayor Carolyn Parrish of Mississauga, the province will leverage these growing investments to work with municipalities to lower their costly local development fees that add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the cost of a new home for Ontario families.

At the same time, your government will standardize and bring more transparency to the cost and timelines of building homes, including for local development charges, study requirements and Building Code permit approvals.

As your government delivers on its ambitious \$200 billion plan to build, it will promote and prioritize made-in-Ontario and made-in-Canada products, including making Ontario and Canadian steel, cement, forestry and other construction materials mandatory for government-funded infrastructure projects.

## **Protect Ontario Workers**

Since 2018, your government has partnered with unions to train workers for rewarding and in-demand careers in the skilled trades.

The result: \$1.5 billion invested in skills development and a million more people working today at a better job taking home a bigger paycheque.

With economic uncertainty all around, Ontario will do whatever it takes to protect our province's greatest competitive advantage: our highly skilled, world-class workforce. Your government will expand its investments in training and skills development so more people can benefit from the dignity of a hard-earned paycheque.

Your government will also continue to ensure students today are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

It begins in the classroom, with a back-to-basics approach that's helping students gain the foundational skills they need in reading, writing and math.

Your government is also providing new opportunities for students to learn critical life skills like personal finance. It is increasing access to career coaching to connect the next generation with the jobs of the future.

As Ontario continues its record investments in public education, your government will ensure that these and all investments are directed to students in the classroom, instead of increasing the size of school board administration.

Your government will also continue to support Ontario's colleges and universities, including with increased funding for training capacity and programs designed to fill critical gaps in the province's workforce.

## **Protect Ontario by Keeping Costs Down**

Ontario families, like families across Canada, have faced a generational cost-of-living crisis, first because of inflation and then because of the punishing interest rate hikes that followed fast and frequent.

Now, families across Ontario face the threat of higher costs because of tariffs, raising the price of the everyday essentials that people rely on.

People need relief.

It's why Ontario led the fight against the federal carbon tax.

It's why your government has put thousands of dollars back into peoples' pockets.

And it's why this mandate, your government will do more to lower costs for hard-working families.

Taxpayer dollars belong to taxpayers, not government. Now more than ever, you deserve to keep more of what's yours.

## **Protect Ontario Borders and Communities**

Your government will deliver on its duty to protect Ontario communities, both from growing economic threats and the dangerous criminals and illegal drugs menacing our streets and crossing our borders.

Starting at our borders, Operation Deterrence is already producing results.

Launched in January this year, Operation Deterrence is enhancing security at Ontario's borders to crack down on the flow of illegal guns, drugs and border crossings.

Your government is determined to crack down on crime in our communities, too.

That's why Ontario has successfully transitioned nine drug injection sites near schools and daycares into recovery-oriented hubs, with another 19 expected to open in communities across the province in the coming weeks and months.

And it's why Ontario will re-introduce legislation to provide municipalities the enhanced tools they need to end encampments and clean up our parks and public spaces. Your government stands firm in its commitment to do whatever is necessary, and to use whatever legal tools might be required, to help municipalities get the job done.

As Ontario steps up, the federal government needs to do its part. Your government will continue to press Ottawa to finally fix its broken bail system, ending the catch-and-release policies that let violent, repeat offenders loose and make our communities less safe.

At the provincial level, your government will appoint tough-on-crime judges and justices of the peace that put the interests of victims ahead of criminals.

Your government will also continue to invest in and build new and expanded jails to make sure that these criminals stay behind bars.

## Protect Ontario Health Care

The foundation of every single social program this and any government funds is a strong economy. Our economy provides the necessary revenues to invest in education, supportive housing and health care.

In turn, President Trump's threats against our economy are also a threat against the world-class health care system Ontario families depend on. Your government's plan to protect Ontario's economy is a plan to protect health care.

Your government has never hesitated to reach across the political aisle for good ideas.

Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Jane Philpott's Primary Care Action Team and supported by a transformational investment of more than \$1.8 billion, your government is delivering on its promise to connect every person in the province to a family doctor and primary care within the next four years.

Ontario's plan to provide more connected and convenient care includes the largest expansion of medical education in more than a decade, new programs to pay for school and supplies for family doctors, and new community and diagnostic surgical centres.

Ontario's plan is leveraging the skills and expertise of pharmacists and other highly trained health care professionals and is making a historic 10-year, \$50 billion investment to build and upgrade more than 50 hospitals across the province. For the first time in generations, communities in every corner of Ontario are seeing shovels in the ground on new and expanded hospitals.

Your government is also investing \$6.4 billion to build and upgrade 58,000 long-term care beds, with tremendous progress being made.

As your government continues to make unprecedented investments into the health care system, it will continue to prioritize patients and their health above a dogmatic ideology that seeks to protect and preserve an outdated status quo. It will bring the principles of

Lean methodologies to deliver care in emergency departments and surgical centres more efficiently, saving you precious time and further shortening wait lists.

As it does, your government will ensure people in Ontario are always able to access health care services with their OHIP card, never their credit card.

## Ready to Protect Ontario

This is your government's vision. This is your government's mission and the mandate the people of this great province have endorsed.

The challenges Ontario faces today are profound. At their most extreme, these challenges pose existential risks to our province's economy and to Canada's national sovereignty.

Our province and country have faced down serious challenges before. Each time, we've emerged stronger and more united.

Just a few short years after our first legislative assembly met more than 230 years ago, Ontario faced invasion and annexation by the United States during the War of 1812.

As the war began, the former American president Thomas Jefferson predicted:

"The acquisition of Canada ... will be a mere matter of marching."

Much like the current occupant of the White House, President Jefferson greatly underestimated the strength and resilience of the Canadian people. Two years and eight months later, American soldiers marched home, defeated.

In the centuries since, the strength and resilience of the Ontario and Canadian people has shown itself time and time again.

During world wars and on the battlefields of Korea and Afghanistan, where our soldiers fought and died in defence of democracy and freedom.

More recently, during a global pandemic, when the people of this province came together and sacrificed so much to support those who were most vulnerable.

As we face this latest challenge, that same strength and resilience, that same sense of unity and purpose will guide us forward.

Peace and prosperity. Incredible diversity. Awe-inspiring natural beauty, stretching from the Great Lakes to Hudson Bay.

This is our land: the true north, strong and free.

Today, tomorrow and every day to come, your government will do whatever it takes to protect Ontario, the best province in the best country on Earth.

It cannot do so alone.

We can only succeed together, united with the support of workers, businesses, union leaders and municipalities, working side-by-side with First Nations and Indigenous partners.

So together, let’s be bold. Let’s be ambitious. Let’s be fearless.

Together, let’s protect Ontario.

Meegwetch. Thank you. Merci.

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Unlocking Free Trade Within Canada

Province unleashing billions in new economic opportunity by tearing down barriers to internal free trade and labour mobility

April 16, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**TORONTO** — As a next step in its plan to protect Ontario by unleashing the province's economy, the Ontario government is introducing the [Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act](#) to unlock free trade and labour mobility within Canada. This legislation will, if passed, create new opportunities for job creation and investment attraction, supporting economic integration across Canada and cutting costly and unnecessary red tape to help protect and grow Ontario and Canada's economies.

“For too long, we’ve let red tape and endless regulations hold back our economy, making us vulnerable to external threats, including from President Trump’s tariffs,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Not anymore. The legislation we’re introducing today will make Ontario a national leader when it comes to trade between provinces and territories, so we can strengthen and unify Canada and create new markets and opportunities for Ontario workers and goods.”

Trade barriers within Canada cost the economy up to \$200 billion each year and lower gross domestic product by nearly eight per cent. These barriers also increase the cost of goods and services Ontario families rely on by up to 14.5 per cent, at a time when families are already struggling from increased costs due to tariffs. Ontario is leading the charge to tear down these barriers to unlock Canada's full economic potential.

Ontario's plan, including the measures in the *Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act*, will support free trade and mobility across Canada by:

- Becoming the first province in Canada to remove all its party-specific exceptions (PSEs) under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) without exception and encouraging other provinces and territories and the federal government to follow suit.
- Allowing workers from other parts of the country to come and work in Ontario by enabling the government to remove labour mobility barriers, reduce administrative burdens and simplify the movement of certified workers across Canada. By

expanding labour mobility with new “As of Right” rules, Ontario will allow certified workers from other provinces and territories to begin working in Ontario immediately while they complete a streamlined registration process.

- Enabling mutual recognition with reciprocating provinces and territories, so that goods, services and registered workers that are good enough for other parts of Canada are recognized as good enough for sale, use or work in Ontario.
- Moving to allow more regulated health professionals in good standing to begin practising in Ontario while they wait for registration in an Ontario health regulatory college and removing restrictions on where they may work using “As of Right” rules. The government will also begin consultations to allow American health professionals, including doctors and nurses, to be included under these new “As of Right” rules.
- Enabling direct-to-consumer alcohol sales with reciprocating provinces and territories so that consumers will be able to purchase alcohol directly from producers across Canada for personal consumption.
- Establishing a “Buy Ontario, Buy Canadian” day held annually on the last Friday in June to help consumers support local businesses and workers through programs such as Ontario Made, Ontario Wood, VQA and Foodland Ontario.

Ontario is also launching the new \$50 million [Ontario Together Trade Fund](#) to help businesses make near-term investments so they can serve more interprovincial customers, develop new markets and re-shore critical supply chains, strengthening Ontario’s trade security and diversification.

As part of this effort, Ontario is signing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that will bolster interprovincial trade. These MOUs will support the reciprocal removal of barriers to trade between Ontario and Nova Scotia and Ontario and New Brunswick by advancing mutual recognition, such that a good, service or registered worker that is acceptable for sale, use or work in one province is acceptable in the other. Ontario will also work with Nova Scotia and with New Brunswick on a framework for direct-to-consumer alcohol (DTC) sales, so that producers have easier access to new market opportunities, and so that consumers have greater choice and access to a broader selection of alcoholic beverages. This collaboration will enhance economic resilience, create job opportunities and set a precedent for other provinces to follow.

“This is a significant moment for our country and Nova Scotia is proud to be leading the way with Ontario,” said Premier Tim Houston. “Last month, Nova Scotia passed the Free Trade and Mobility within Canada Act, a first in our country. It’s short and succinct.

This action says a lot about our commitment to make our economies stronger, and about fairness to workers, opportunities for businesses, and respect for Canadians' right to move, work and trade freely across their own country.”

“Ontario is New Brunswick’s second biggest trading partner, and we are excited to be building on the positive momentum to reduce internal trade barriers across Canada,” said Premier Susan Holt. “Today's signing of this MOU commits both our provinces to enhance direct-to-consumer alcohol sales and improve interprovincial labour mobility. It will also encourage the free flow of goods, services, and investment, all while maintaining and strengthening the safety of our communities. We encourage other Canadian jurisdictions that have not already done so to join us in driving progress on internal trade by tabling their own legislation to reciprocally remove barriers to trade across Canada, including through mutual recognition.”

“Ontario is leading the way when it comes to free trade within Canada, and we’re pleased to work with our partners across the country to get it done,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “The legislation being announced today and the historic funding we are providing through the Ontario Together Trade Fund will create new opportunities to grow our economy, secure our supply chains and unify our country.”

Ontario is Canada's largest interprovincial trader. With access to more than 41 million customers and purchasing power per capita among the highest in the world, the opportunity for Ontario businesses and workers through increased internal trade needs to be leveraged in an increasingly unstable global market. The government of Ontario is committed to supporting business and workers through these challenging economic times and will pursue additional measures and supports to ensure stability and resiliency.

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## Quick Facts

- In 2023, two-way trade in goods and services between Ontario and its provincial and territorial counterparts resulted in \$326.6 billion in economic activity.
- Thirty-five per cent of Canada’s trade takes place within its own borders.
- In a [recent survey](#), nine in 10 Canadians say they want stores to promote Canadian products.
- Party-specific exceptions allow CFTA Parties (i.e. all provinces, territories, and the federal government) to maintain or adopt measures (i.e. legislation, regulations, and policies) that may be inconsistent with certain rules of the Agreement. PSEs insulate those measures from a successful trade challenge under the Agreement's dispute resolution mechanism.

- Certified workers coming through the “As of Right” rule under the *Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009*, would be required to submit their certificate of registration from their “home” province or territory to the Ontario regulator. Upon confirmation, the worker would be able to work immediately in Ontario for up to six months while completing their labour mobility application for registration with the Ontario regulator.
- Approximately 3,000 labour mobility applications in total were processed in 2023 across 14 regulated professions and 23 compulsory trades governed under the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act, 2006*.
- Approximately 20 per cent of occupations are regulated in Canada.
- Ontario is actively working to advance the use of mutual recognition on various fronts, including as part of the Mutual Recognition Pilot Project in the trucking sector, as well as through the CFTA’s Regulatory Recognition and Cooperation Table negotiations to mutually recognize regulatory measures governing the sale and use of consumer goods, except food.

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## Quotes

"Ontario is unlocking Canada's economic potential by building our workforce and expanding labour mobility. This will reduce red tape, help more professionals get to work faster, support Ontario employers with addressing their labour needs and boost our economy."

- David Piccini

Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

"Our government is taking bold, decisive action to protect Ontario and support the needs and livelihood of all Ontarians during this uncertain time. By building on our success and further expanding our innovative “As of Right” rules, our government is recruiting even more health care professionals from other jurisdictions, bolstering our nation-leading health care workforce and making world-class health care more accessible for people and their families across the province, for years to come."

- Sylvia Jones

Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

"Unlocking Ontario's economic potential isn't just about growing our economy today: it's about building long-term economic prosperity that future generations can count on. By lifting interprovincial trade barriers, we're creating opportunities for people in Ontario and across Canada to thrive in their communities while benefiting our nation as a whole."

**- Peter Bethlenfalvy**  
**Minister of Finance**

"In this time of tariff threats and uncertainty, empowering consumers to support locally made goods and homegrown talent is more important than ever. That is why our government is proud to establish Buy Ontario, Buy Canadian Day: a call to arms and a new annual tradition that celebrates our incredible Ontario and Canadian businesses, producers and workers."

**- Stephen Crawford**  
**Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement**

"This landmark legislation demonstrates strong nation-building leadership. The Ontario government's bold action on internal trade barriers unlocks new heights for provincial and national prosperity."

**- Ryan Manucha**  
**Research Fellow, C.D. Howe Institute**

"Strengthening relationships at home first, while ensuring we maintain safety as a core value, is key to Ontario's and Canada's economic success. We commend Premier Ford for his commitment to addressing inter-provincial barriers to trade and labour. The legislation introduced today will reduce uncertainty faced by Ontario's mining sector, particularly amid the ongoing tariff disputes with the U.S. By broadening access to qualified professionals, we can alleviate the rising costs associated with third-party certification of closure plans and ensure that our industry remains competitive. This proactive approach not only strengthens our relationships with other provinces, but also reinforces our dedication to fostering a robust mining environment across Canada."

**- Priya Tandon**  
**President, Ontario Mining Association**

"This legislation is a historic step toward making the movement of goods and people freer across Canada. It is also a call to action for other governments across the country. As we face the threat of American tariffs across a range of sectors, enabling governments and individuals to help manufacturers by buying more goods made right here in Canada is timely and important. We encourage all provinces to follow Ontario's lead to build our country's strength, to completely remove all internal barriers, and support industry-led initiatives that support local jobs, such as CME's Ontario Made program."

**- Dennis Darby**  
**President and CEO, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters**

"We applaud the Ontario government for introducing bold legislation that responds to several CFIB asks and helps to build Canadian economic independence. The government has turned the U.S.-Canada trade war into positive action for Ontario and other provinces to unite in removing barriers to growth and opportunity within their own boundaries. We urge all provinces to rise up to the challenge."

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

"This legislation helps break down barriers to labour mobility which means more opportunities, fairer access to jobs, and stronger economic growth across Canada. The Carpenters' Regional Council is proud to stand behind it."

**- Jason Rowe**

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

"The Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario supports greater trade within Canada as being foundational to our nation's security and prosperity. As this Bill makes its way through the legislative process, we look forward to sharing our Council's expertise on interprovincial mobility in the construction industry. The Building Trades are committed towards training to the highest standard so that the health and safety of all construction workers is protected."

**- Marc Arsenault**

**Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer, Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario**

"On behalf of the United Association of Workers of HVAC&R Local 787, we commend Premier Ford's leadership as his government seeks to cut barriers to work across Canada. Now more than ever, our country needs to unite our economies into one strong Canadian powerhouse that supports workers from sea to sea. We know Premier Ford, Minister Vic Fedeli and Minister David Piccini all have our backs during this trying time against American protectionism. Together, we will all successfully protect Ontario."

**- Andrew Tarr**

**Business Manager, United Association of Workers of HVAC&R Local 787**

"The Health Profession Regulators of Ontario, which represents 26 regulatory bodies, is committed to patient safety, seamless registration processes, and enabling access to qualified health care professionals. The new Bill demonstrates the government's efforts to reduce barriers for professionals to come to Ontario, and it complements HPRO's efforts to speed up registration processes while still making sure health care professionals practice safely in the province."

**- Daniel Faulkner**  
**HPRO Board Chair**

"NPAO welcomes the Ontario government's introduction of "As of Right" rules to attract and expedite the integration of Nurse Practitioners into Ontario's healthcare system. NPs are well-positioned to play a key role in addressing gaps in primary and specialty care across the system, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the government to integrate and empower NPs to provide high-quality, compassionate, and accessible care for all Ontarians."

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

"Qualified doctors who wish to work in Ontario should face minimal barriers or delays to beginning practice. The Ontario Medical Association supports the government's move to continue to make it easier for these physicians to join our system in need. Ontario's doctors look forward to working with their new colleagues. We look forward to working with the government and partners on continuing to reduce unnecessary barriers to practice in Ontario."

**- Dr. Dominik Nowak**  
**President, Ontario Medical Association**

"The "buy Canadian/buy local" sentiment has grown exponentially during the past few months and there has never been a better time for provinces to work together to get more VQA wines into the hands of consumers. The threat of U.S. tariffs has shown the urgency for us to break down interprovincial trade barriers and that we can't accept the status quo any longer. Our message is simple. Anything that can be done to reduce barriers for VQA wines is long overdue. As a first step, we support consumers' ability to order Canadian VQA wine directly to their homes - wherever the winery is and wherever they live in Canada."

- Michelle Wasylyshen  
President & CEO - Ontario Craft Wineries

"RNAO welcomes changes that will help bring more health professionals into the system faster. Letting qualified professionals from other Canadian jurisdictions practise while awaiting registration in Ontario means people will experience improved access to care. Expanding the approach to include BScN-prepared Registered Nurses and master's-prepared Nurse Practitioners from the U.S. will further bolster our health workforce and strengthen service to the public. In addition, Ontario must retain the RNs and NPs already working and increase the number of educational seats for nursing applicants, as the interest in our profession is immense."

- Dr. Doris Grinspun, RN, BScN, MSN, PhD, LLD(hon), Dr(hc), DHC, DHC,  
FAAN, FCAN, O.ONT.  
Chief Executive Officer, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)

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## Additional Resources

- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Nova Scotia](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and New Brunswick](#)

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

### Government

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

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#### Health and Wellness

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

#### Jobs and Employment

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#### Taxes and Benefits

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Unleashing Economic Potential of Critical Mineral and Resource Development

New legislation cuts red tape and streamlines approvals to speed up critical mineral and resource development projects, including in the Ring of Fire

April 17, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

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

[Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

[Energy and Mines](#)

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TORONTO — Today, as the next step in the government’s plan to protect Ontario, the province is introducing the [Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025](#). If passed, this comprehensive legislation would cut the red tape and duplicative processes that have held back major infrastructure, mining and resource development projects, including in the Ring of Fire. By streamlining approval processes while maintaining robust environmental standards, Ontario will unleash the economic potential of its critical minerals to make the province’s economy the most competitive place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

“The maze of bureaucracy, red tape and duplicative processes holding back our economy means that a single mining project can take 15 years to be approved,” said Premier Doug Ford. “In the face of current Ontario-U.S. trade tensions, it can no longer be business as usual. We are cutting red tape to unlock our critical minerals and unleash our economy to create new jobs and opportunities in the north and across the province.”

The current permitting and authorization processes for mining and major infrastructure projects require proponents to navigate a complex process of overlapping and duplicative approvals from multiple ministries and levels of government. The *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025* would streamline this process to minimize delays, lower costs and set service standards for government review times, in order to simplify and speed up the approvals process. The province will maintain its robust environmental standards throughout, while also fulfilling its constitutional obligations to Indigenous communities, including the duty to consult.

“When it comes to protecting our province and country’s economic sovereignty from President Trump’s attacks, it cannot be business as usual,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. “We are unveiling a bold plan that ensures Canada is self-reliant, economically independent, and seizing every opportunity to grow our economy and stand on our own two feet. That is why we are taking decisive action to protect Canada’s natural resources from foreign adversaries, and our intent is to reduce government review time by 50 per cent to get shovels in the ground. Accelerating responsible resource development — from clean energy to critical minerals projects — creates a generational opportunity that will transform our country into a true energy superpower.”

Key measures in this legislation include:

- **Create authority to designate special economic zones** to help advance projects of provincial importance and security where proponents meet rigorous operating, safety and environmental standards. Projects that meet these standards will benefit from streamlined requirements, accelerated permitting and priority access to services such as the new One Project, One Process model.
- **Accelerating mining development in every part of the province** through a new One Project, One Process permitting model that streamlines approval processes across government to one process, with the intent of reducing government review time by 50 per cent. This will be accomplished by introducing binding service standards for government review time for any designated project to deliver predictability and accountability. The government would continue to fulfill its duty to consult Indigenous communities throughout this process.
- **Speeding up housing, transit, infrastructure and other projects impacting certain species** by adopting a “registration-first” approach to project approvals. Instead of waiting up to two years for species permits, proponents will be able to proceed as soon as they register and meet the requirements. This practical approach maintains strong environmental protections by establishing clear, enforceable rules for businesses to follow, with tough fines for non-compliance.
- **Establishing a new Species Conservation Program** to support the valuable work of species experts and community-based conservation initiatives across the province. Through this program, the government will make up to \$20 million available for species conservation efforts annually — more than four times the current amount.
- **Saving businesses money by eliminating registration fees** for the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry. The change is expected to save

regulated businesses about \$2.6 million annually.

- **Protecting critical mineral resources from bad actors** by proposing authorities to restrict the registration or transfer of mining claims, deny a lease, cancel a mining claim registration or terminate a lease, on the basis of protecting the strategic national mineral supply chain.
- **Building a secure energy grid** by restricting access of foreign state-owned or based companies while streamlining the permitting process to get projects built faster.

If passed, the province will work to establish clear criteria against which special economic zones will be evaluated, with the goal of designating the first zone by September 2025, while upholding duty to consult obligations. It is anticipated that priority will be given to critical mineral development opportunities, recognizing its vital role in supplying key minerals like nickel, copper and chromite that are essential to Ontario's economic growth and security.

The measures contained in this legislation will make Ontario's economy more self-reliant and able to withstand external threats and challenges by unlocking the economic opportunity associated with our abundant supply of critical minerals.

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### Quick Facts

- Ontario is one of the most mineral rich areas in the entire world. This includes minerals such as nickel, titanium, cobalt and lithium which cell phones, computers, medical devices, energy and electric vehicles rely on.
  - Ontario's abundant supply of critical minerals includes the vast reserves found in the Ring of Fire, an area almost 5,000 square kilometres in size located more than 500 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay.
  - Ontario is a world class mining destination and among the top 10 jurisdictions in the world for mineral exploration.
  - As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the province introduced the [Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025](#) on April 16, which would remove barriers to goods, services and workers between provinces and territories.
  - Ontario will continue to build on key partnerships with First Nations, including Marten Falls First Nation, Webequie First Nation and Aroland First Nation, to realize the potential of the Ring of Fire.
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## Quotes

"Our government is taking bold, decisive action to protect Ontario's economy by removing unnecessary barriers that increase cost and impede opportunities for economic growth and job creation. By fostering a more efficient, business-friendly landscape, we are ensuring projects of strategic and critical importance to our economy can rise to address the unique and pressing needs of our time, while continuing to set the stage for Ontario's global competitiveness for years to come."

- Vic Fedeli

**Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade**

"Ontario's current system for issuing permits is too expensive, slow and complicated, causing unnecessary delays for housing, transit and critical infrastructure. Our global competitors are rolling out the red carpet to attract new jobs and investments. The days of making proponents wait years for approvals and permits are over. We can and will build the Ontario of tomorrow in a way that protects the environment and protects jobs."

- Todd McCarthy

**Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**

"As part of our commitment to unlocking Ontario's true economic and critical mineral potential, we are ensuring First Nations communities are a central feature as full partners in achieving prosperity. Whether it's building legacy infrastructure or investing in energy transmission opportunities, our progress is driven by real partnerships with First Nations and focuses on putting communities in a stronger position, now and for the future."

- Greg Rickford

**Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation,  
Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community  
Partnerships**

"Our government is cutting red tape and making it easier for businesses to grow and succeed in Ontario. Through launching a new user-friendly one-window permitting program, we're helping job creators spend less time navigating government and more time doing what they do best — driving economic growth, creating good-paying jobs and strengthening communities across the province. We're also proud to support Ontario-and-Canadian-made goods and services, ensuring our procurement strategy reflects the strength and innovation of our local industries."

**- Stephen Crawford**

**Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement**

"We are at a crucial moment in time where we must streamline approvals to accelerate the development of critical minerals and resource projects across the province. As our government continues to move forward with its bold plan to grow Ontario's economy, we are focused on advancing provincial priorities while also safeguarding archaeological resources and heritage."

**- Graham McGregor**

**Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism**

"We commend the Ontario Government for introducing the One Project, One Process legislation to streamline mining approvals. The current geopolitical context requires Ontario to secure our supply chains with sustainably sourced minerals and metals. This is one step in the path to declaring mining a strategic priority where Ontario can internally address multi-ministry permitting issues, and position itself as a leader in this vital industry. Ensuring efficient access to resources that are the building blocks of modern life and innovation, while also strengthening partnerships with Indigenous communities is key to the success of the mining sector in Ontario. Now is the time for decisive action to secure our economic future and enhance our competitiveness in the global market."

**- Priya Tandon**

**President, Ontario Mining Association (OMA)**

"The Ontario Government's introduction of the Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act is a crucial step toward removing the barriers that have long hindered development in our province. By streamlining permitting and approval processes, this legislation directly addresses the red tape that has slowed down critical projects to extract, process and create higher value goods with our minerals. This legislation aligns with CME's recommendation to cut \$1 billion in regulatory costs for Ontario manufacturers and help Ontario to respond more swiftly to global challenges, attract investment and create jobs."

**- Vincent Caron**

**Vice President, Ontario Government Relations and Member Advocacy,  
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME)**

"The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce supports the Government of Ontario's efforts to reduce red tape and streamline approvals, including critical mineral and resource development projects. By removing barriers to incentivize investment and prioritizing regions like the Ring of Fire, we will unlock the full economic potential of the Sudbury region and northern Ontario, to the benefit of our entire province."

**- Trevor Lalonde**

**Chair, Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors  
(Controller, Fisher Wavy Inc.)**

"Frontier Lithium commends government's recognition of the importance of critical minerals in today's geo-political landscape and supports the actions they are taking to reduce permitting redundancies and timelines. Equally important is government's commitment to uphold the duty to consult and foster strong, respectful partnerships with Indigenous peoples as we move forward. Together, we can achieve a balanced approach that supports both economic growth and opportunity with environmental and social responsibility."

**- Trevor Walker**

**President and CEO, Frontier Lithium**

"Mining doesn't just impact Ontario's north. The critical minerals contained in the Ring of Fire are essential ingredients for a host of sectors and businesses located in the Toronto region, from auto and aerospace manufacturing, to pharmaceuticals and advanced manufacturing. By streamlining the approval process for new projects, the Ontario government has taken bold action to capitalize on our strength in critical minerals—an essential step toward ensuring economic and energy security and driving innovation and business growth across the province."

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

"Construction permitting for our critical metal project near Marathon, Ontario is nearly complete and we hope to be the next critical mineral mine built in Ontario. With today's announcement from Minister Lecce, the Government of Ontario is demonstrating its strong commitment to support new mine development in the province. Continued efforts to cut red tape and expedite permitting sends the right signals to investors and other stakeholders that the Province of Ontario is the best jurisdiction in North America to build and operate new mines."

**- Jamie Levy**  
**President and CEO, Generation Mining**

"The mining sector is global, and efficient and transparent regulatory processes are essential to attracting investment. Agnico Eagle welcomes the Ontario government's efforts to streamline permitting with a One Project, One Process permitting model and accelerate development with new service standards, while also safeguarding the public interest. We look forward to working with the government as we continue to invest in sustainable mineral development in Ontario."

**- Mohammed Ali**  
**Vice President, Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs, Agnico Eagle Mines**

"The moment is now, and we applaud the Ontario government for recognizing the urgency to unlock economic potential and strengthen security interests — starting in our own backyard. For too long, regulatory inefficiencies have stalled progress. The One Project, One Process permitting model marks a critical step forward, eliminating duplicative measures and paving the way for timely, inclusive development that benefits First Nations and all Ontarians. Together — with government, Indigenous communities and industry — we are creating a sustainable and responsible path forward, one grounded in meaningful dialogue and partnerships with First Nations at its core and guided by a deep respect for First Nations rights holders."

**- Kristan Straub**  
**CEO Canada, Wyloo**

"The government of Ontario's legislation is welcomed news to Ontario's 1,400 mining supply and services companies. The sophisticated cluster of mining suppliers in Ontario is ready and able to provide literally everything required to build and maintain mines. It's clear that Ontario needs a more efficient process for new mine approvals — one that supports responsible development while safeguarding our environment and communities. Protecting this sector isn't just about safeguarding businesses — it's about securing the future of communities, families and a globally competitive industry right here in Ontario."

**- Marla Tremblay**  
**Executive Director, MineConnect**

"The Ontario Government's recent initiative is a welcome step forward for the province's mining and critical minerals sector — and offers a strong blueprint for the rest of Canada. Businesses have called for urgent reform of Canada's permitting and regulatory systems for years. It's encouraging to see a government move to action to ensure Canada doesn't become a place where major projects stall or fail to advance. Reducing unnecessary red tape is essential to unlocking Canada's full potential as a global leader in critical minerals. These resources are not only foundational to Canada's economic prosperity — they are increasingly recognized as vital to national and energy security, as well as to the security of our global trade partners."

**- Candace Laing**  
**President and CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce**

"The Ontario Chamber of Commerce welcomes this bold step to speed up mining development, which can strengthen Ontario's economic competitiveness and help enable a clean-energy future. We welcome the ambition of the Government of Ontario's One Project, One Process model, subject to continued rigorous environmental standards and the duty to consult Indigenous partners. Through our Mining and Energy Policy Councils, we will keep working with federal, provincial and Indigenous partners to advance the sector's workforce needs, expedite opportunity in the North and support inclusive, sustainable prosperity."

**- Daniel Tisch**  
**President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce**

"As a modern mining company, IAMGOLD is supportive of the Ontario government's measures which we believe will foster and support a competitive and sustainable resource sector, which in turn, builds a stronger Ontario and Canada for today and tomorrow. The proposed regulatory efficiencies are welcome for this industry and will help advance new and existing projects, while upholding responsible mining principles, including environmental stewardship, safety and benefits to Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities."

**- Renaud Adams**  
**President and CEO, IAMGOLD**

"Ontario has an abundance of resources that Canada and our allies need, but many of those resources are currently stuck in the ground. There is an urgent need for government, the private sector and Indigenous communities to work together and speed up the approval and permitting process to unleash Ontario's full potential. This will be supported by the Government of Ontario's new legislation."

- Goldy Hyder

President and CEO of the Business Council of Canada

"Given the challenging economic environment, measures such as what the Ontario government is introducing today, designed to reduce regulatory burden for industries and allow industrial and energy projects to proceed more efficiently, are welcomed."

- Brad Duguid

President, Association of Major Power Consumers Ontario (AMPCO)

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#### Additional Resources

- [Speech from the Throne — Protect Ontario](#)

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Accessibility

Privacy

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Investing in More Accessible and Inclusive Communities

Province funding 37 innovative projects to make communities accessible to people of all ages and abilities

April 17, 2025

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

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**TORONTO** – The Ontario government is investing in 37 projects through the [EnAbling Change Program](#) and [Inclusive Community Grants Program](#) that will help make communities across the province accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

“Funding community initiatives that promote and increase accessibility and inclusivity is a vital step toward ensuring that every person, regardless of their abilities, can fully enjoy and participate in our communities,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “These projects will break down barriers, create more inclusive spaces and open up new opportunities for all.”

The government is investing \$1.5 million in the 2024-25 [EnAbling Change Program](#) to support 19 innovative initiatives by not-for-profits, municipalities and other organizations across the province that improve the lives of people with disabilities. The projects increase the accessibility of community programs and services, as well as online initiatives, educational tools and public outreach programs that help communities and businesses understand and incorporate the benefits of accessibility and inclusion into their practices. A full list of this year’s recipients can be found [here](#).

In addition, 18 new projects are being funded through the [Inclusive Community Grants Program](#), which invests up to \$60,000 for local and community based projects to help people of all ages and abilities. Since the Inclusive Community Grants Program was created in 2020, it has provided over \$5 million to support 125 projects promoting inclusivity and accessibility across the province. A full list of this year’s projects that received an Inclusive Community Grant can be found [here](#).

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility’s [Age-friendly and accessibility grants web page](#) has information on the [EnAbling Change Program](#), [Inclusive Community Grants Program](#) and other grant opportunities.

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## Quick Facts

- The EnAbling Change Program started in 1999 and has supported more than 265 projects across Ontario. It provides funding to municipalities, not-for-profit, industry and professional associations across a range of sectors.
- Projects funded through Inclusive Community Grants are led by municipalities, community organizations and Indigenous communities.
- The first 20 Inclusive Community Grants of the 2024-25 cycle were [announced](#) in September 2024.

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## Additional Resources

- [2024-25 Inclusive Community Grants Expansion Recipients](#)
- [2024-25 EnAbling Change Program Recipients](#)
- [Learn about ways that inclusion improves business.](#)
- [Find out how you can make your organization more accessible and inclusive.](#)
- [Inclusive Community Grants](#)
- [Creating a more inclusive Ontario: age-friendly community planning guide for municipalities and community organizations](#)
- [Accessibility in Ontario](#)
- [Programs and services to support Ontario's seniors](#)

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## Related Topics

### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

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## Media Contacts

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### Media Desk

Communications Branch

[MSAA.Media@ontario.ca](mailto:MSAA.Media@ontario.ca)

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## Accessibility

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Helping More Children Access Sport and Recreation

Increased investment of \$1.5 million in Jumpstart will help more kids stay active and healthy

April 22, 2025

[Sport](#)

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The Ontario government is investing more than \$1.5 million through Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities as part of the 2024-25 Inclusive Grassroots Recreation (IGR) program, to expand sport and recreation opportunities for children and youth across the province.

“Our government is proud to partner with Jumpstart and invest in community-based programs which promote physical activity, teach new skills and encourage children and youth to lead healthier lives,” said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Sport. “We believe all kids deserve access to fun, high-quality sport and recreation programs. At a time when families across Ontario are facing the threat of higher costs because of tariffs, this support will help Jumpstart continue to remove financial barriers to help more kids participate in programs in their community.”

This investment is an increase of more than \$500,000 from last year, ensuring Jumpstart can help more families overcome financial and accessibility barriers to sport and recreation so that children and youth continue to have the opportunity to participate in their favourite activities.

One of Jumpstart’s community partners this year is the Fit Active Beautiful (FAB) Foundation, which provides a free running and life skills program to help girls in Hamilton’s low-income communities train for and complete a 5K run.

“As one of Canada’s largest youth charities focused on making sport more affordable and accessible, Jumpstart is grateful for the ongoing financial support from Minister Lumsden and the Ontario government,” said Marco Di Buono, President of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. “As we mark a milestone 20 years of helping get kids off the sidelines and into the game, this investment will allow us to expand our reach and make a greater impact in the lives of Ontario’s kids through the power of sport and play.”

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## Quick Facts

- Ontario's investment of \$1 million through Jumpstart in 2023-24 enabled more than 1 million hours of play for 20,510 children and youth.
- Since its inception in 2021-22, the IGR program has provided more than 65,000 children and youth from under-represented and/or marginalized populations across Ontario with opportunities to participate in sport and recreation programming in their communities.

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## Quotes

"Every child deserves the chance to play. We know how important it is for young people to stay active, build connections and develop healthy habits that last a lifetime. This investment will make a meaningful difference for families across the province by expanding access to sport and recreation. I'm proud to see our government continuing to prioritize children and families with this investment."

**- Natalie Pierre**  
**Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Sport**

"Our government's investment in Jumpstart will directly benefit the children, youth and families in my riding and across the province by removing barriers to access for sport when people need it the most. This is just one more way our government, under the leadership of Premier Ford, is ensuring parents don't have to choose between putting food on the table and having their kids learn valuable life skills and experience all the amazing things sport has to offer."

**- Monica Ciriello**  
**MPP for Hamilton Mountain**

"Our program has always prioritized removing barriers to participation in sport for youth girls living in priority neighbourhoods. Thanks to funding from Jumpstart, we can provide each participant with high-quality running shoes and training shirts, allowing girls to engage fully with confidence and pride, both in our program and beyond."

**- Carol Edelkoort**  
**Executive Director, FAB Foundation, Hamilton, Ontario**

Additional Resources

[Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities](#)  
[Supporting children and youth | Annual progress report 2024: Ontario’s Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#)

Media Contacts

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Accessibility

Privacy

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Government and Ontario Medical Association Confirm Funding Increase That Will Protect Provincial Health Care

April 22, 2025

[Health](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) have received a mediated arbitration award that increases funding to expand access to physician services across the province, including expanded services in rural and northern Ontario and stable staffing for emergency departments across the province. This funding is a result of a [September 2024 arbitration award](#) that will increase funding for specific targeted health care investments.

“Today’s strategic investments build on our government’s progress to protect Ontario health care to ensure everyone has reliable access to care, no matter where they live,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By investing in emergency department staffing and strengthening rural and northern health care, we are making significant strides to conveniently connect Ontario families, especially those in rural and northern communities, to the care they need, where and when they need it.”

This award includes:

- Improvements to physician funding for emergency department agreements, including the introduction of the new Rural Emergency Medicine Coverage Investment Fund (REMCIF) to ensure people can connect to care at emergency departments with reliable and appropriate physician staffing levels year-round, especially during weekends, holidays and peak seasons in rural and northern communities, effective April 1, 2025.
- Significant investments in the Rural and Northern Physician Group Agreement (RNPGA) primary care model to help people in underserved communities connect to a physician. The agreement helps recruit physicians to rural and northern communities by standardizing compensation rates for physicians, providing essential funding for physician office overhead costs and ensures emergency departments have reliable, stable staffing.

- A new compensation model for physicians at the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team in the Kenora area that will help connect people to physician care services by recruiting and retaining physicians. The new model offers physicians simplified funding, consolidated and streamlined physician services contracts and a new hourly rate for emergency department coverage.
- Increased funding for an existing physician services agreement for the Sioux Lookout region that will increase physicians' compensation for travelling and working more days in the community. It also includes a new hourly rate for emergency department coverage, increased compensation for specialists and funding to recruit and retain physicians to the region.

Through the [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government will continue to make unprecedented investments into the health care system. Ontario's plan to provide more connected and convenient care includes historic investments to connect every person to primary care, the largest expansion of medical education in more than a decade, new programs to pay for school and supplies for family doctors, and new community surgical and diagnostic centres.

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### Quick Facts

- The OMA serves as the representative body for Ontario's physicians, advocating for their well-being, as well as the health of their patients.
  - The Ontario government is continuing to invest to ensure reliable access to health services and promote long-term stability in Ontario's emergency department system, especially in northern Ontario.
  - The Ministry worked closely with Indigenous leaders and stakeholders in Sioux Lookout and the Kenora area to develop agreements that provide increased supports for health care delivery in northern Ontario.
  - These investments are designed to improve health care delivery and support physicians across Ontario and the government continues to work with the OMA to negotiate the remaining years of the 2024 Physician Services Agreement.
-

Quotes

"This significant funding will ensure physician care is available for Ontarians in northern and rural communities and for those who require emergency care across the province. This arbitrated award offers greatly needed support to many of Ontario's doctors, who have been working tirelessly to keep emergency departments open and have ensured the health and well-being in northern and rural communities. The OMA would like to thank Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones, for her continued support, and we look forward to working with her to ensure Ontario has the best health care system in Canada."

- Kimberly Moran  
CEO, Ontario Medical Association

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Ontario Government and Ontario Medical Association Reach Agreement to Increase Access to Primary Care](#)

Related Topics

Government

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

Health and Wellness

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

Media Contacts

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Media Relations

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**Policy Division  
Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch**

April 15, 2025

**To:** All municipalities in Ontario (Planning Department and/or Clerk's Office)

**Re:** Agricultural System Implementation

Dear municipal partners,

The [Provincial Planning Statement](#) (PPS, 2024) came into effect on October 20, 2024. To help foster a thriving agri-food sector, the PPS (2024) requires an Agricultural System approach province-wide, which strives to protect the agricultural land base and strengthen the viability of the agri-food network. Implementing an Agricultural System approach can help support agri-food businesses, farm operations, related employment and economic opportunities, and protect Ontario's highest quality farmland.

The PPS, 2024 Agricultural System approach includes two components: 1. the identification of the agricultural land base; and 2. the consideration of the agri-food network – which may include infrastructure, services and assets that the agri-food sector relies on.

To support municipalities in their implementation of an Agricultural System approach, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) has the following resources:

**1: Agricultural Land Base Resources**

To implement the agricultural land base, municipalities are required to identify and designate prime agricultural areas and consider if there are rural lands that could also be identified as part of an agricultural land base. Inclusion of rural lands within the agricultural land base is left to municipal discretion.

To support this work, OMAFA has data and information available upon request that can help municipalities identify where prime agricultural areas and rural lands are present. While there is no requirement to utilize this data and information in identifying municipal designations, it can help to provide a basis that municipalities can then refine based on

local information, such as municipally-designated prime agricultural areas and settlement area boundaries.

The existing [OMAFA Implementation Procedures for the Agricultural System \(2020\)](#) continue to provide helpful guidance with respect to what/how municipalities can address Agricultural System policies in their respective official plans. It is important to note that given section 5.3 of the Greenbelt Plan, 2017 has not been modified, the 2018 provincial agricultural land base mapping and implementation procedures remains in effect for the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt. OMAFA staff are developing updated Implementation Procedures for the Agricultural System to align with the PPS (2024) and will provide notice once these updates have been finalized.

## 2: Agri-food Network Resources

The second component of the Agricultural System is the agri-food network. It complements and supports the agricultural land base. The agri-food network includes the regional infrastructure and transportation networks, agricultural operations, services, and other agri-food assets that are needed to sustain and enhance agriculture and the prosperity and viability of the broader agri-food sector.

The OMAFA [Agricultural System Portal](#) maps elements of the agri-food network, however, unlike prime agricultural areas, the agri-food network is not a land use designation within an official plan. Rather, awareness of, and support for the agri-food network is documented in an official plan for economic development purposes and can be achieved in several ways. This could include reference to local elements identified in asset mapping reports, or an inventory of components of the agri-food network in an official plan appendix. Other supportive approaches include policy cross-references to mapping and data tools, including OMAFA's Agricultural System Portal, the development of Agricultural Advisory Committees, supportive economic development policies for the agri-food network, and cross-references to Economic Development staff/programs.

## Moving Forward

OMAFA staff will continue to work with municipalities to support implementation of the PPS 2024 Agricultural System policies. As such, we are pleased to share that as part of broader modernization efforts, the Ministry is embracing an 'evergreen' approach for maintaining and enhancing Ontario's digital soil mapping data.

As an example, improved topography/slope information available through new technology will be incorporated in a forthcoming digital update of the existing Canada Land Inventory (CLI) mapping for agricultural soil. As it becomes available, this new information is being applied to CLI ratings across Ontario. OMAFA is committed to making ongoing improvements to ensure CLI data is as accurate as possible. The work currently underway is anticipated to be completed in 2026/27. Until any future release of updated data, municipalities can continue using existing agricultural capability mapping (i.e., CLI ratings).

When you embark on implementing an Agricultural System approach or updating/refining existing official plan mapping, please contact OMAFA staff to discuss the data that may be available to support your project. You can locate OMAFA land use planning staff on [OMAFA's website](#). Below you will find a summary list of the additional resources related to Agricultural System planning and implementation.

Please share this correspondence with the appropriate planning and economic development department staff in your municipality.

Sincerely,



Andrea Martin  
Director  
Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch

## **Resources**

[Provincial Planning Statement, 2024](#)

[Implementation Procedures of the Agricultural System](#)

[A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019](#)

[Agricultural Systems Portal](#)

[OMAFA Agricultural land use planning staff](#)

[Economic tools](#)

[Canada Land Inventory information for Agricultural Land Use Planning in Ontario](#)

[Soil Capability for Agriculture in Ontario](#)

[CONNECT ON](#)



# Notice to residents and property owners regarding noxious weeds

Posted on Friday, April 11, 2025



*Wild parsnip is on the list of noxious weeds that must be destroyed by Renfrew County residents prior to June 20, 2025.*

## ***PUBLIC NOTICE***

The main purpose of the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990 is to reduce the impact of noxious weeds on the industries of agriculture and horticulture. This Act excludes lawns, gardens and private areas for personal enjoyment and leisure.

Under the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter W.5, Sections 3, 13, 16, 18 and 23, you are requested to destroy all noxious weeds and weed seeds on your property by June 20, 2025 and throughout the season. Sections 3, 13, 16, 18 and 23 do not apply to noxious weeds that are far enough away from any land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes, as they do not interfere with that use.

After June 20, 2025, the County of Renfrew Weed Inspector may enter upon the said lands and may cause any noxious weeds discovered to be destroyed, charging the cost against the land, as set out in the Act.

**THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE NOXIOUS WEEDS:**

- |                                       |                               |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Common Barberry                    | 10. European Buckthorn        | 18. Colt's-foot |
| 2. Dodder spp.<br>Hogweed             | 11. Dog-Strangling Vine-Black | 19. Giant       |
| 3. Wild Parsnip<br>Ragwort            | 12. Poison-ivy                | 20. Tansy       |
| 4. Cypress Spurge<br>Serrated Tussock | 13. Bull Thistle              | 21.             |
| 5. Smooth Bedstraw<br>Crupina         | 14. Wild Chervil              | 22. Common      |
| 6. Dog-Strangling Vine<br>spp.        | 15. Jointed Goatgrass         | 23. Knapweed    |
| 7. Poison Hemlock<br>Thistle spp.     | 16. Ragweed spp.              | 24. Sow-        |
| 8. Leafy Spurge<br>Cupgrass           | 17. Canada Thistle            | 25. Woolly      |
| 9. Kudzu                              |                               |                 |

### For more information contact:

Bryton Weckworth, Area Weed Inspector

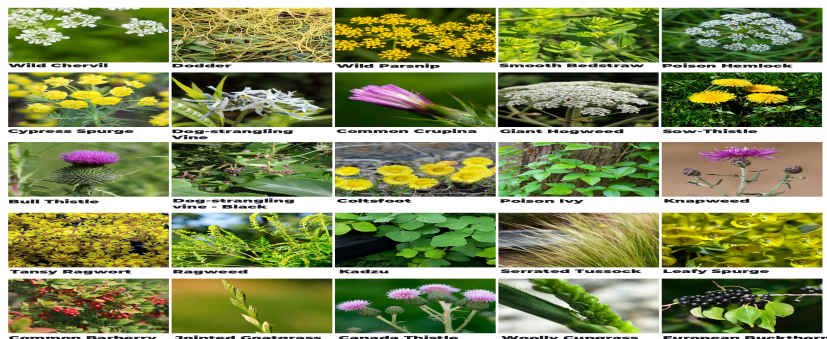
County of Renfrew

9 International Drive

Pembroke ON, K8A 6W5

Phone: 613-735-7288 ext.491

### Noxious Weeds





# 2025 County of Renfrew BUDGET OVERVIEW



## The Overview

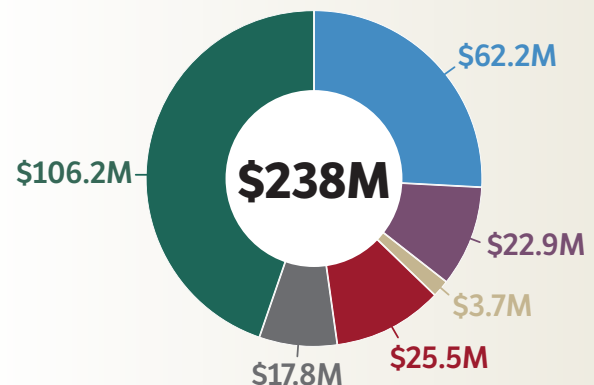
The County of Renfrew approved the 2025 budget, with a total of \$236 million in expenditures, during the annual budget workshop.

The County of Renfrew remains focused on today and the future. With the budget for 2025 approved, the County of Renfrew will continue to deliver existing programs and services and will also fund several key service enhancements:

- The establishment of the Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub & Warming Centre
- Launch of a Regional Incentive Program – Hype (Helping Your Place Excel) for affordable housing
- \$66.5 million in capital asset renewal
- Construction of new housing units
- Two new paramedic bases
- Continued expansion of the Algonquin Trail
- Expanded child care spaces

The approved County levy for 2025 will rise by 5.5%. This corresponds to a \$22.87 rise in residential property taxes for every \$100,000 in assessed value. Given that Renfrew County's median residential property value is currently \$216,000, the average homeowner would spend \$940 in 2025 for the County portion of their taxes.

## County of Renfrew Source of Revenue (in Millions)



- Property Tax
- Consumption of Reserves (Net)
- Pembroke Share
- Fees, Charges, Interest & Other
- Issuance of Debt (Net)
- Provincial / Federal Grants



# 2025 County of Renfrew BUDGET OVERVIEW

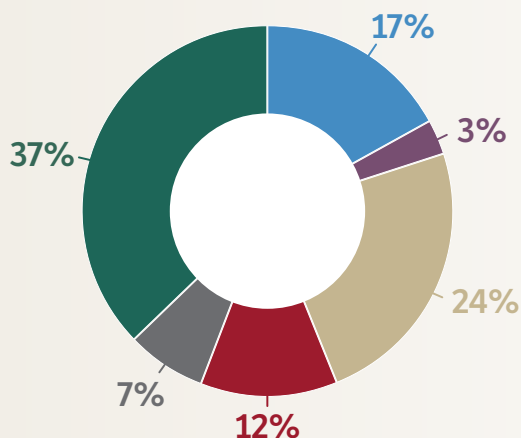
“This budget will allow us to remain both responsive and responsible as we balance fiscal prudence with the needs of our most vulnerable residents - because in tough times, some services become even more essential.”

— PETER EMON  
*Renfrew County Warden*

With these tax dollars, the County of Renfrew will be able to maintain its provision of high-quality services, including:

- **Long-term Care:** Operation of two facilities (346 beds total between Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew and Miramichi Lodge in Pembroke).
- **Paramedic Service:** Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centres; 911 response and patient transfers; Community Paramedic Program; Mesa paramedics – Mobile response teams.

## Where Your Tax Dollars Go



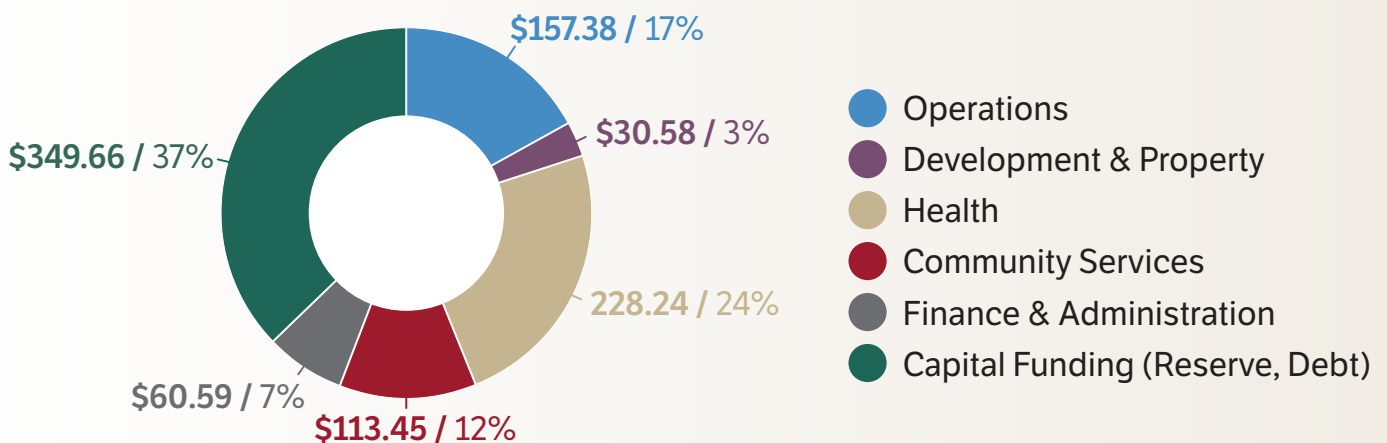
- Operations (Roads & Trails)
- Development & Property
- Health
- Community Services
- Finance & Administration
- Capital Reserve Contributions



# 2025 County of Renfrew BUDGET OVERVIEW

- **Community Services:** Children's Services; Ontario Works; Community Housing, which includes responsibility for 1,029 Renfrew County Housing Corporation (RCHC) rent-geared-to-income units at RCHC-owned properties and approximately 65 municipally funded rent supplement units with private landlords; Homelessness Prevention Programs.
- **Corporate Services:** Responsibility for Council, Finance, Administration, Human Resources, Information Technology (IT), POA, MPAC services, and Communications.
- **Public Works and Engineering:** Approximately 816 kilometres of road, 75 bridges and 179 culverts; Trails (nearly 300 kilometres of the Algonquin Trail and 21 kilometres of the K&P Trail).
- **Development and Property:** Management of the Renfrew County Forest (53 separate forested areas of land covering 6,500 hectares), Real Property, Economic Development and Tourism, Planning Services and GIS.

## Where Your Tax Dollars Go (Median annual County property tax \$940.11):





# County of Renfrew

## OBJECTIVES BY END OF 2026

### 1 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

1. Review and update Asset Management Plan (AMP) and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 3.0 version, using new assumptions and baselines
2. Develop a coordinated government relations / advocacy strategy

### 2 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1. Lobby the Ontario College of Trades / Skill Trades Ontario to enable the transfer of qualified people from other regions into vacant positions
2. Collaboration with High Schools, Colleges and Universities to have students with skills that are required to fill vacancies and keep them in the Community
3. Encourage continued support for business development through Starter Company, Summer Company, other entrepreneur programs

### 3 COMMUNITY WELLNESS & HEALTHCARE

1. Sustainable program and funding for Renfrew County Virtual Triage & Assessment Centre (RC VTAC), community paramedicine & mental health initiatives
2. Expand community based seniors health services
3. Ensure residents have access to primary care support

### 4 SHARED SERVICES & RESOURCES

1. Define the possible shared services with local municipalities and then complete an evaluation of the services that could benefit from a shared service agreement
2. Develop and deploy a plan that results in agreements that allow for sharing of resources and/or equipment and/or expertise that will lead to efficiencies

### 5 ATTAINABLE HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Develop a true community housing strategy that would identify a future state
2. Engage a consulting firm to complete inventory of lands and services across the County
3. Develop a program to attract first time buyers
4. Support reliable connectivity (Broadband or fixed wireless) to 99% of our residents

### 6 ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY

1. Implement a Climate Action Plan
2. Ensure joint emergency exercises across the County
3. Establish a County baseline and model template for local municipalities



**County of**  
**Renfrew**  
Ontario . Canada

*Experience Our History, Share Our Future!*

#### Contact Details

Craig Kelley, CAO/Deputy Clerk, 613-735-7288  
9 International Drive, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6W5

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

**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - April 10, 2025



April 10, 2025

- AMO's Guidance Resources on Electricity Procurements.
- Nominations open for Medal of Distinction in Public Administration.
- Limited space available for AMO's Rural Healthy Democracy Forum: June 11.
- AMO's Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum: June 6 in Toronto.
- Join your colleagues at the AMO 2025 Conference.
- AMO 2025 Conference trade show - selling out fast!!!
- Leveraging Resources for Results in Affordable Housing - OSUM Conference 2025.
- Human Rights-Based Approach to Municipal Planning: May 8 virtual workshop.
- Understanding Competing Human Rights: May 13 virtual workshop.
- Strategies for Elected Officials to Master Conflict Relationships virtual workshop.
- Teeny Tiny Summits 2025 line-up.
- Meet Canoe's newest Canadian supplier: Home Hardware.
- On April 15, unlock savings with our new partnership with HealthPRO Canada.
- April 28: Pioneering digital change in small communities: Insights & Experiences.
- BPS energy reporting season is underway.
- Group Benefits webinar recording.
- Boost resilience with the All-Risk Municipal Grant.
- Upcoming Net Zero Workshop register today.
- May 7 webinar: Investing in an uncertain market: The Prudent Investor's Playbook.
- Shaping your community's energy future workshop.
- Careers.

### **AMO Matters**

AMO has [developed resources](#) to help municipal decision makers considering electricity generation and storage projects protect residents, sensitive lands, and municipal finances while securing local benefits and supporting growth.

### **Provincial Matters**

Nominations are open for the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration, Ontario's highest honour for public service. [Nominate a colleague](#) from your municipality by June 27,

### **Education Opportunities**

Partnering with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), AMO's Rural Healthy Democracy Forum will bring together municipal and sector leaders, academics and experts for insightful discussions on the state of democracy in rural Ontario. [Register today](#) as there is **limited space available**.

In this unprecedented time, AMO is holding a forum on tariff and trade disruptions, their impact on

Ontario municipalities and business sector, and how municipalities and business can seize new opportunities to improve economic resiliency and mitigate the impact of tariffs. [Register today](#).

AMO's 2025 Annual Conference is back in Ottawa. In this unprecedented time, coming together with municipal and provincial and key sector partners is more important than ever. [Register for AMO 2025](#) and [book your accommodations today](#).

Connect with over 3,000 of Ontario's municipal leaders representing Ontario's 444 municipalities and a \$68 billion sector at the AMO 2025 Conference in Ottawa this August. Click [here](#) to download the Exhibitor Package and [here](#) for the Sponsorship Package. Limited space available.

Join your colleagues in hearing how the Town of Collingwood is turning challenges into bold actions to transform housing options in their community. [Register for OSUM 2025 Conference today](#).

Land use planning is a complicated matter. AMO's workshop provides an opportunity to consider planning decisions from a human centred approach and issues you may not be aware of. [Register for the May 8 Human Rights Based Approach to Municipal Planning workshop](#).

AMO and Hicks Morley have developed training to support municipal elected officials and council in understanding their obligations related to human rights and understanding how to manage seemingly competing human rights. [Register for this important Competing Rights May 13 workshop](#).

Advanced Strategies for Elected Officials to Master Conflict Relationships is the next step for elected official to master handling more complex situations. If you completed AMO Education's Navigating Conflict Relationships workshop, [register today](#) to explore how to prepare for difficult conversations with tools for positive results.

ROMA in partnership with the Minister of Rural Affairs, are happy to share the 2025 Teeny Tiny Summit line-up. These compelling events are designed with innovation in mind for Ontario's rural communities. Registration and information is available for the Summit in [Manitouwadge](#) and [Prince Edward County](#).

## **LAS**

Home Hardware stores are locally owned and genuinely Canadian. They are also [Canoe Procurement Group's](#) newest vendor for building supplies. For your hardware and lumber needs, shop local! [Contact Carol Crystal](#), VP Merchandise at Home Hardware to learn more.

You are invited to a free webinar on April 15: [Introduction to HealthPRO Canada: Partnering for Better Healthcare & Lower Costs](#), which will help you gain a deeper understanding on how you can enhance healthcare services in your municipality while driving substantial cost reductions.

Small and rural municipalities face unique challenges in digital transformation, from limited resources to the need for solutions tailored to their communities. [Join a fireside chat](#) with our Barrier-Free Website service partner and municipalities that will share their experiences leading their municipalities through the redesign and launch of new websites. Whether you're a municipal leader, IT professional, or policymaker, this discussion will provide actionable takeaways to help guide your own digital journey.

The BPS Reporting season is in full swing. Municipalities must report their 2024 energy consumption by July 1 under [O.Reg 25/23](#). Contact [bpssupport@ontario.ca](mailto:bpssupport@ontario.ca) for more information. If you are an [EPT subscriber](#), this information can be easily downloaded from our software and uploaded to the portal. If you also use our [natural gas](#) or [electricity programs](#), this data has been automatically imported into EPT - no data entry required.

Check out our recent [Group Benefits webinar](#) to learn about the advantages and cost savings opportunity with the LAS Group Benefits service, including updates about what is driving the cost of employee group benefit plans.

Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency - LAS and IPE are proud to promote the [All Risk Municipal Grant](#). This initiative recognizes and supports innovative risk management practices within Ontario municipalities.

Build a net zero energy facility that will impact the bottom line of your organization. Join us for a [1-day in person workshop](#) on May 14 in Middlesex Centre (includes a tour of Canada's [Coldstream Net Zero Fire Hall](#)). Space is limited, so [register early](#).

### **ONE Investment**

In a time of continuing market fluctuation and political change, investors should maintain a thoughtful long-term investment strategy. [Join us on May 7](#) for a timely update on current market challenges/opportunities, both nationally and internationally, with time for discussion with PH&N Institutional, investment manager for ONE's Prudent Investment offering.

### **Municipal Wire\***

Pollution Probe and QUEST Canada are hosting workshops on April 23 and 30 to develop a framework to ensure rural and remote communities can benefit from low-carbon energy innovation. [Register online!](#)

### **Careers**

[Director, Information Technology Services - The District Municipality of Muskoka](#). Closing Date: April 23, 2025.

[Manager, Financial Planning and Policy - The District Municipality of Muskoka](#). Closing Date: April 16, 2025.

[Executive Director of Pollution Control/ Deputy City Engineer - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: May 16, 2025.

[General Manager, Community Safety & Wellness - Haldimand County](#). Closing Date: April 25, 2025.

[Planning Program Supervisor, Growth Policy & Analysis - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: April 25, 2025.

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### **About AMO**

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

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### **AMO Contacts**

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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

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## Kaitlyn Wendland

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - April 17, 2025



April 17, 2025

- AMO's Guidance Resources on Electricity Procurements.
- NEW Health and Safety Water Stream fund - webinar.
- Understanding your WSIB reporting responsibilities - webinar.
- 2025 Senior of the Year nominations.
- Nominations open for Medal of Distinction in Public Administration.
- Join the timely conversation on democracy: AMO's Rural Healthy Democracy Forum.
- Join your colleagues at the AMO 2025 Conference.
- Submit your application for the PJ Marshall Awards.
- Before you know it, it's August! AMO 2025 Conference trade show selling out fast!
- Strategies for Elected Officials to Master Conflict Relationships virtual workshop.
- Teeny Tiny Summits 2025 line-up - Registration is open.
- AMO and OCC Trade and Tariff Forum - June 6.
- OSUM Conference 2025: Rebuilding our Political Culture.
- Human Rights Requirements in Municipal Planning: May 8 virtual workshop.
- Boost resilience with the All-Risk Municipal Grant.
- Net Zero Workshops: Spaces still available.
- Getting Across the Finish Line: Asset Management Compliance in 2025.
- Modernization of Rail Proximity Guidelines.
- Shaping your community's energy future workshop.
- Ontario Bike Summit.
- Careers.

### AMO Matters

AMO has [developed resources](#) to help municipal decision makers considering electricity generation and storage projects protect residents, sensitive lands, and municipal finances while securing local benefits and supporting growth.

### 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 April 29](#) informational webinar.

The Workplace Safety Insurance Board invites you to their free monthly webinar on April 29 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am to hear information on your reporting responsibilities and completing the Form 7 Employer's Report of Injury. To register, please click on the link [Understanding your WSIB reporting responsibilities](#).

The Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility invites municipalities to submit nominations for the [2025](#)

[Senior of the Year Award](#) which honours a local senior's contributions to the community. Submit nominations by April 30.

Nominations are open for the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration, Ontario's highest honour for public service. [Nominate a colleague](#) from your municipality by June 27,

### Education Opportunities

Partnering with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), AMO's Rural Healthy Democracy Forum will bring together municipal and sector leaders, academics and experts for insightful discussions on the state of democracy in rural Ontario. [Register today](#) as there is **limited space available**.

AMO's 2025 Annual Conference is back in Ottawa. In this unprecedented time, coming together with municipal and provincial and key sector partners is more important than ever. [Register for AMO 2025](#) and [book your accommodations today](#).

The Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award celebrates municipal governments in Ontario that implement new and innovative ways to make public services, facilities, and infrastructure better for Ontarians. View full details [here](#).

Connect with over 3,000 of Ontario's municipal leaders representing Ontario's 444 municipalities and a \$68 billion sector at the AMO 2025 Conference in Ottawa this August. Click [here](#) to download the Exhibitor Package and [here](#) for the Sponsorship Package. Limited space available.

Advanced Strategies for Elected Officials to Master Conflict Relationships is the next step for elected official to master handling more complex situations. If you completed AMO Education's Navigating Conflict Relationships workshop, [register today](#) to explore how to prepare for difficult conversations with tools for positive results.

ROMA in partnership with the Minister of Rural Affairs, are happy to share the 2025 Teeny Tiny Summit line-up. These compelling events are designed with innovation in mind for Ontario's rural communities. Registration and information is available for the Summit in [Manitouwadge](#) and [Prince Edward County](#).

In this unprecedented time, AMO is holding a forum on tariff and trade disruptions, their impact on Ontario municipalities and business sector, and how municipalities and business can seize new opportunities to improve economic resiliency and mitigate the impact of tariffs. [Register today](#).

Join the OSUM Executive and your municipal colleagues in a thought provoking and timely discussion on the current influences and dynamics of leadership. Hear from Jordan Simmons, Co-Founder and CEO of Nominee on *The Canada We Want: Reflections on the Path Forward*. [Register for OSUM 2025 Conference today](#).

Land use planning is a complicated matter. This workshop equips councillors with the skills and knowledge necessary to secure funding, build community trust, ensure legal compliance, drive local economic growth and more. [Register for the May 8 Unlocking Opportunity through Understanding Human Rights Based Approach to Municipal Planning workshop](#).

### LAS

Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency - LAS and IPE are proud to promote the [All Risk Municipal Grant](#). This initiative recognizes and supports innovative risk management practices within Ontario municipalities.

Discover how municipalities can cut energy costs and save money by transitioning to net zero buildings at the [Coldstream Net Zero Fire Hall](#) workshop on May 14 ([in-person](#)) and **June 18** ([virtual](#)). Don't miss a building walkthrough a net zero fire hall.

### Municipal Wire\*

With the 2025 asset management compliance deadline approaching, Asset Management Ontario invites municipal staff to a [half-day workshop on May 1](#), 1:00-4:00pm.

The Railway Association of Canada is updating the [2013 Proximity Guidelines](#) to enhance safety, sustainability, and community well-being in rail adjacent developments. [Provide your feedback](#) through their survey on the guidelines.

Pollution Probe and QUEST Canada are hosting workshops on [April 23](#) and [April 30](#) to develop a framework to ensure rural and remote communities can benefit from low-carbon energy innovation.

The [Ontario Bike Summit](#), Canada's largest cycling and active transportation conference, will be in Windsor from May 27-29. Be inspired by success stories including enhancing infrastructure and design, citizen safety and economic development.

### Careers

[General Manager of Emergency Services and Community Wellbeing - City of Greater Sudbury](#). Closing Date: May 5, 2025.

[Public Works Manager - Township Of Elizabethtown-Kitley](#). Closing Date: May 2, 2025.

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### About AMO

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

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### AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

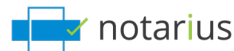
[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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

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\*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.

**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 16, 2025 7:45 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** Correction: AMO Policy Update – response to the Speech from the Throne and launch of health sector survey



## **AMO Policy Update - AMO responds to the Speech from the Throne and launches health sector survey**

*Correction: This Policy Update now contains the correct list of points under the Bill 2 section.*

### **AMO Responds to the Speech from the Throne**

Yesterday, the Lieutenant Governor delivered the Speech from the Throne, opening the first session of the 44th Parliament of Ontario.

Key commitments relevant to the municipal sector include:

- Removing inter-provincial trade barriers to recognize inter-provincial labour force credentials and improve free trade within Canada.
- Advancing mega-projects like pipelines, railways, highways, airports, seaports while at the same time committing to “historic” investments in housing-enabling municipal infrastructure
- Investing in other transportation infrastructure including a tunnel under Highway 401, expanding subway and GO train service, and resuming the Northlander passenger train.
- Introducing new legislation to expedite approvals processes for the Ring of Fire and other areas likely to have multiple critical deposits while building new processing capacity in Northern Ontario.
- Further streamlining environmental assessments and evolving Conservation Authorities’ role.

- Investing in energy production, transmission and storage, including new nuclear capacity.
- Working with municipalities to lower Development Charge fees. Also standardizing and increasing transparency in Development Charge fees, study requirements, and Building Code permit approvals.
- Re-introducing encampment legislation and using whatever legal tools might be needed to end encampments.
- Connecting all Ontarians to primary care within the next four years and invest billions in hospital and long-term care expansion.

AMO will continue to closely review all proposed legislation and new government announcements for municipal impacts. In particular, AMO will continue work with the provincial government on key municipal interests, including:

- New investments in municipal infrastructure and social housing as the best ways to stimulate the economy and save Ontario jobs.
- Predictable and sustainable long-term funding sources for municipal infrastructure, including development charges.
- Determining how requirements to use Ontario and Canadian construction materials will impact municipal infrastructure projects.

## **AMO Launches Municipal Health Survey**

Building on the successful release of our homelessness report earlier this year, AMO is continuing to expand our focus on evidence-based advocacy with the launch of a survey to understand the challenges municipalities face around access to health.

We know many municipalities are filling gaps in the health care system with significant investments from the property tax base. To better understand this evolving challenge, AMO is conducting a survey of Ontario municipalities about the specific contributions you are making to health services in your communities.

Heads of Council and municipal treasurers have received an email with more information shortly. The success of the project is dependent upon the gaining insights from all municipalities in Ontario. For more information about the project, please contact Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor at [dspagnuolo@amo.on.ca](mailto:dspagnuolo@amo.on.ca).

## **Intake Launch for \$175M Health and Safety Water Program**

The province is launching [Health and Safety Water Stream](#) applications on April 17. This infrastructure program aims to address aging water infrastructure and protect communities from extreme weather events. AMO and MOI will be hosting webinar for the municipal sector to support strong applications in the coming weeks. This is one of the few provincial infrastructure programs that focuses on asset renewal.

## Ontario Introduces Procurement Restriction Policy

The province has released a [Procurement Restriction Policy](#) which applies to provincial ministries, agencies, Ontario Power Generation, the IESO, and broader public sector organizations subject to the BPS Procurement Directive. This policy requires affected organizations to exclude US businesses from procurements unless the procurement cannot be delayed, and a US business is the only viable source for the good/service. Notably, subsidiaries of US businesses are captured by this policy if they have fewer than 250 full-time employees in Canada.

While this policy does not apply to municipalities, it is responsive to AMO's call for the province to provide clarity on the intent and scope of the province's approach to banning US suppliers from government procurement.

## Ontario Introduces Bill 2 – *Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act*

On April 16, Premier Ford was joined by Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston and New Brunswick Premier Susan Holt [to announce the introduction of a bill](#) intended to reduce inter-provincial trade barriers, and make it easier for skilled workers from other provinces to work in Ontario. The proposed legislation would:

- Remove Ontario's exceptions under the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)
- Enable mutual recognition of goods and services regulated by other provinces and territories as acceptable for sale and use within Ontario
- Remove labour mobility barriers to allow skilled workers – including health care workers - certified in other provinces and territories to begin work in Ontario “as of right” while completing a streamlined registration process

The province will also begin consultations to allow American health professionals such as doctors and nurses to work in Ontario under the same “as of right” rules. As part of the announcement, Minister Fedeli announced a new \$50 million [Ontario Together Trade Fund](#) to help Ontario's businesses re-shore critical supply chains, and develop new markets.

AMO will continue to work closely with the province to ensure that Ontario's residents, communities, and industry leave this time of uncertainty even stronger and more economically resilient.

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*This Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).*

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:03 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Expanding Strong Mayor Powers, Improving Ambulance Procurement



## **AMO Policy Update – Expanding Strong Mayor Powers, Improving Ambulance Procurement**

### **Province Expanding Strong Mayor Powers**

Yesterday, the province [announced the expansion of strong mayor powers](#) to another 169 municipalities as of May 1, 2025. The extension of the additional authority is intended to assist with delivering on provincial priorities, including building more homes, transit and infrastructure across Ontario.

Strong mayor powers were originally introduced in 2022 and then expanded in 2023. At the time, the AMO Board did not take a position on strong mayor powers but expressed openness to the idea. It did express concerns with some aspects of the legislation – particularly those affecting public administration – and recommended public consultation before continued expansion of the new powers to additional municipal councils. AMO also expressed concern with the provision eliminating the need for majority council support for certain decisions related to provincial priorities.

As the most trusted order of government, AMO knows municipalities can be counted on to exercise new powers accountably and in the best interests of the public and the communities they serve.

### **Improving Ambulance Procurement in Ontario**

AMO has been a vocal advocate that the cost and timelines to get ambulances on the road are putting Ontarians at a disadvantage. The province is taking action to address these concerns and has certified a Canadian manufacturer to produce ambulances for the Ontario market. Ontario's municipalities are proud to deliver paramedic services across the province. More competition in the market will help ensure communities can deliver high-quality emergency care on time and cost effectively for years to come.

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*This Policy Update is also on the [AMO Website](#).*

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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**Kaitlyn Wendland**

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**From:** AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 4:01 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO's Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum



## **AMO's Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum**

**June 6, 2025**  
**Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto**  
**123 Queen Street West**

In this unprecedented time, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is holding a forum on tariff and trade disruptions, their impact on Ontario municipalities and business sector, and how municipalities and business can seize new opportunities to improve economic resiliency and mitigate the impact of tariffs.

**AMO's Trade and Tariff Forum** will bring together key sectors including elected municipal leaders, municipal staff, business associations, as well as economic, construction and procurement experts.

Join the conversation and hear from experts on the following topics:

- What the trade war means for municipalities
- Building Ontario in uncertain times
- Changing approaches to procurement
- Seizing opportunities to strengthen Ontario

### **Who Should Attend:**

- Elected municipal officials
- Municipal staff (economic development, infrastructure, procurement)
- Business, construction, and infrastructure leaders
- Provincial and federal officials

### **Registration:**

- \$555 plus HST
- Registration deadline: **May 30, 2025.**

[Register here](#)

**Accommodations:**

AMO has secured preferred rates of \$299 per night until May 15, 2025. After that date, rooms may be available at the Sheraton at market rate.

[Click Here to book your accommodations](#)

If you have question reach out to [events@amo.on.ca](mailto:events@amo.on.ca)

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



**The Corporation of the Town of Arnprior  
Notice of Application for Zoning By-Law Amendment  
ZBL-4/25 and Notice of Public Meeting**

**Take Notice** that pursuant to the requirements of the Planning Act, the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior advises that an application for amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 6875-18, as amended, has been received and was deemed a complete application.

**And Further, Take Notice** that an in-person public meeting giving the public an opportunity to make representations in respect of the zoning amendment will be held on **Monday, May 12, 2025**, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior.

**Subject Lands:**

The land affected by the amendment is legally described as part of McNab Concession C, Part of Lot 3, Part 1 on Registered Plan 49R-19701, Arnprior Ontario (see key map).

**Purpose, Effect & Location of the Amendment:**

The purpose of the proposed amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-law 6875-18 is to amend the zoning of the subject property from "Residential Three (R3)" and "Residential Three exception 26 (R3\*26)" to Residential Three exception 41 (R3\*41) to reduce the minimum required lot frontage for a single-detached dwelling from 12.0 m to 10.0 m in order to allow development of single-detached dwellings on narrower lots.

**More Information:**

Copies of the proposed amendment, material provided under Section 34 of the Planning Act and any additional information relating to the proposal, are available for inspection at 105 Elgin St. W. by contacting the Planning office at 613-623-4231 ext. 1816 during regular office hours or by emailing [planning@arnprior.ca](mailto:planning@arnprior.ca).

Any person may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the amendment.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Town of Arnprior to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Arnprior before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Arnprior before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Town of Arnprior on the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must make a written request to Town of Arnprior c/o Planning, Town of Arnprior, 105 Elgin St. W., Arnprior ON K7S 0A8.

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

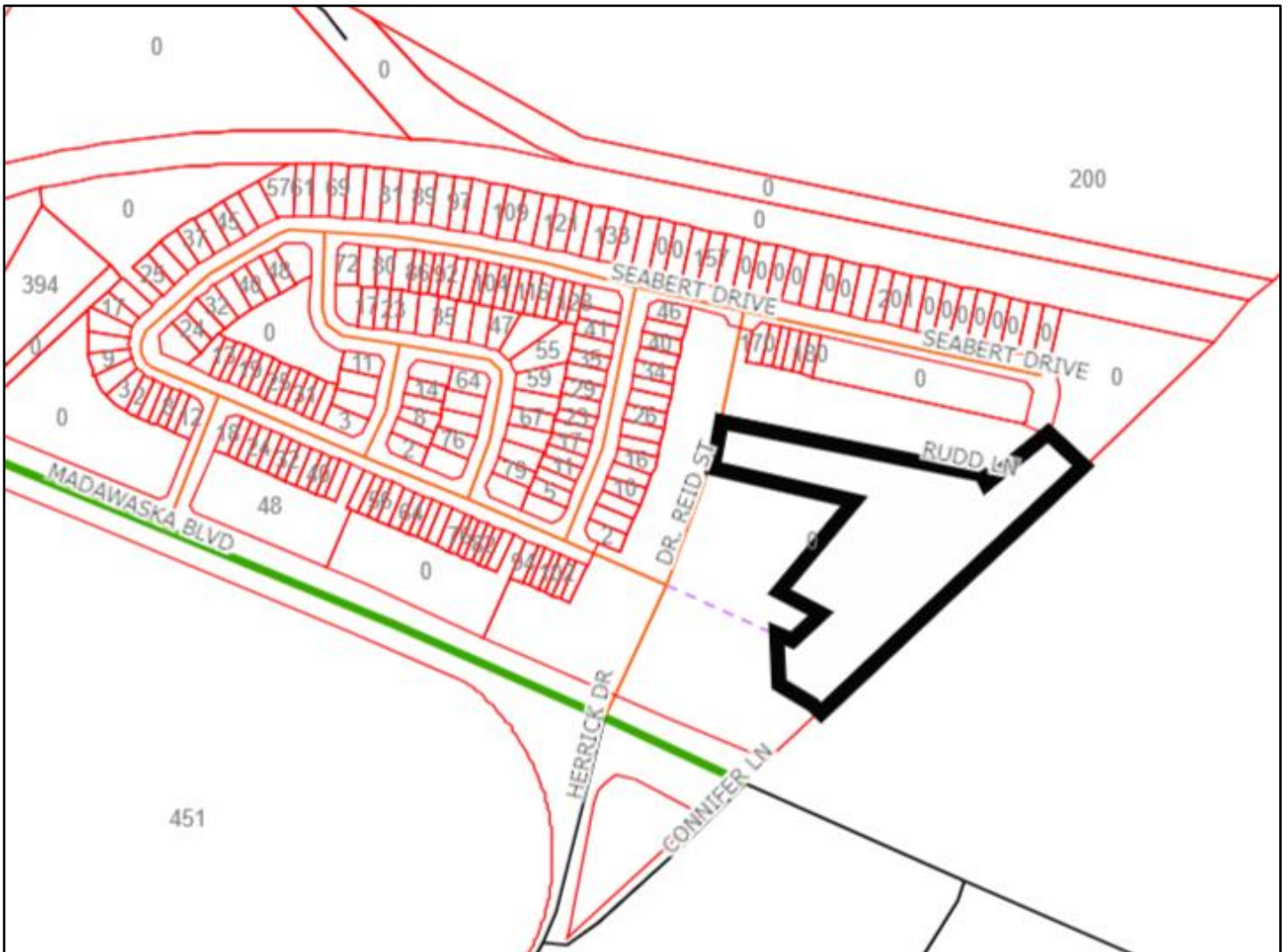
**Privacy Disclosure:** As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record. The Town to such persons, will disclosed/make this information available as the Town deems appropriate, including

anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Town with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Dated at the Town of Arnprior this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

Kaila Zamojski, Clerk  
Town of Arnprior  
105 Elgin Street West  
Arnprior, ON, K7S 0A8

### Key Map:





**The Corporation of the Town of Arnprior  
Notice of Application for Zoning By-Law Amendment  
ZBL-7/24 and Notice of Public Meeting**

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**Subject Lands:**

The land affected by the amendment is legally described as McNab Concession C, Part of Lot 3, Part 1 on Registered Plan 49R-19701, Arnprior Ontario (see key map).

**Purpose, Effect & Location of the Amendment:**

The purpose of the proposed amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-law 6875-18 is to:

- Reduce the setback to watercourse from 30 m to 4.86 m for a retaining wall and parking area;
  - Increase the maximum building height from 15 m to 16.8 m;
  - Reduce the minimum required parking from 71 spaces to 68 spaces; and
  - Permit the balconies to encroach into the minimum required front yard by 1.25 m
- to allow development of a 5-storey 57-unit apartment building with underground parking.

**More Information:**

Copies of the proposed amendment, material provided under Section 34 of the Planning Act and any additional information relating to the proposal, are available for inspection at 105 Elgin St. W. by contacting the Planning office at 613-623-4231 ext. 1816 during regular office hours or by emailing [planning@arnprior.ca](mailto:planning@arnprior.ca).

Any person may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the amendment.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Town of Arnprior to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Arnprior before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Arnprior before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

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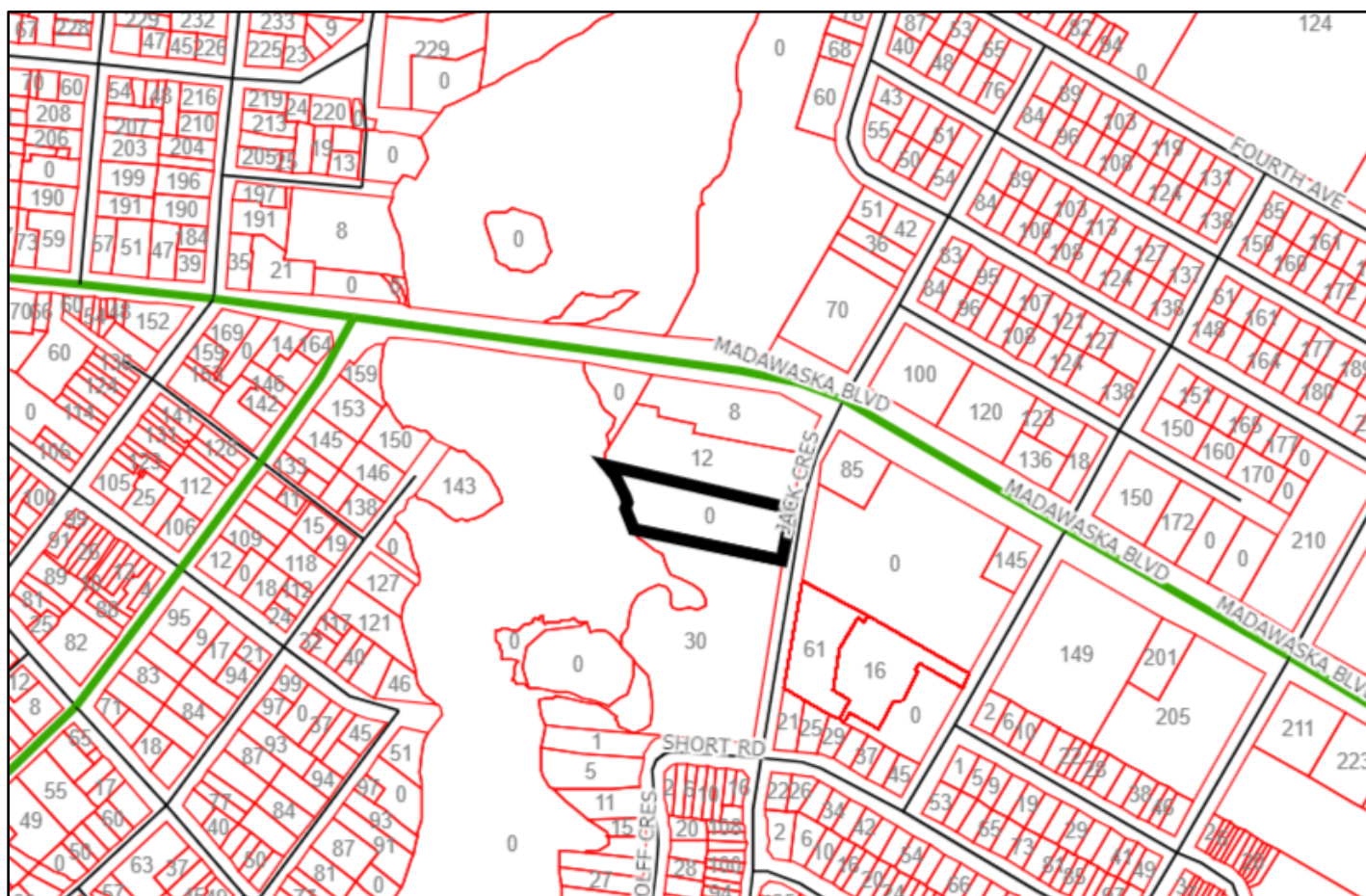
**Privacy Disclosure:** As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record. The Town to such

persons, will disclosed/make this information available as the Town deems appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Town with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Dated at the Town of Arnprior this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

Kaila Zamojski, Clerk  
Town of Arnprior  
105 Elgin Street West  
Arnprior, ON, K7S 0A8

## Key Map:



April 11, 2025

The Honourable Kinga Surma  
Minister of Infrastructure  
Room 5E200, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
Email: [kinga.surma@pc.ola.org](mailto:kinga.surma@pc.ola.org)

The Honourable Lisa M. Thompson  
Minister of Rural Affairs, Huron-Bruce MPP  
408 Queen Street  
P.O. Box 426  
Blyth, ON N0M 1H0  
Email: [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org)

The Honourable Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
Email: [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Sent Via Email

Dear Hon. Premier and Ministers:

Re. Installation of New Utility Poles in Howick Township through the Accelerated High Speed Internet Project (AHSIP)

It is with great concern that we provide a connectivity update from the perspective of the Township of Howick. The Township applauds the provincial government for its \$4 billion investment to provide high-speed internet access in every region of Ontario and is appreciative of the Ministry of Infrastructure's leadership with the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP).

Improved connectivity to Ontario's unserved and underserved areas creates immense economic development opportunities and begins to address some of the challenges experienced by rural and remote communities. These communities continue to experience profound inequities in the areas of education, business and interpersonal relationships due to the lack of adequate communications infrastructure. The buildout of new broadband infrastructure starts the work towards resolving this inequity.

The Township of Howick is a small, rural municipality with a rich and proud history in agriculture. Through AHSIP, Xplore Inc. has obtained \$1.6 billion of private investment and government funding for fibre network expansion in several underserved, rural Ontario communities, including Howick Township.

While Howick Township is supportive of all rural residents receiving access to reliable high-speed internet, there are ongoing concerns from Council and residents over the installation of dozens of new utility poles within the municipal right-of-way across Howick's countryside instead of utilizing Hydro One's existing utility poles or underground direct bury or drilling methods.

In response to our inquiries, representatives from Xplore Inc. have explained to township council and staff that these new utility poles have been installed by their subcontractor because of "significant delays in Hydro One's permitting process to add broadband infrastructure to their existing utility poles and because it is the most cost-effective installation method."

The Ministry of Infrastructure outlines very thorough processes, procedures and timelines for Attaching to LDC-Owned Poles in the *Building Broadband Faster in Ontario* guidelines released November 30, 2021. Section 2.2 of the guideline outlines the Broadband One Window (BOW) authorization process for LDC owned pole attachments, including the engineering design requirements as well as the applicable standards to which stakeholders are expected to adhere to. This process includes field inspection/survey of the poles, pole loading structural analysis and determination of what telecom and power make-ready work, if any, needs to be completed for safe attachment. Nowhere in the guidelines does the Ministry of Infrastructure outline a process for installing new utility poles instead of attaching to existing LDC owned poles.

This leave us in Howick Township with several questions:

**What guidelines are being followed if this ISP is completely bypassing the LDC in favor of erecting new utility poles? Is the Ministry of Infrastructure responsible for making sure these guidelines and processes are being followed? If Xplore Inc. has admitted to avoiding the permitting process of using the LDC's (Hydro One) existing utility poles, who owns these new utility poles that have been installed? Who is responsible for their maintenance and eventual replacement? Who is going to maintain the brush and shrubbery that surround many of these new poles in the municipal right-of-way?**

It is Howick Township's opinion that the AHSIP program lacks oversight and compliance measures over the work being completed by the Internet Service Providers and their sub-contractors. Along with this, the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021, S.O. 2021, c.2*,

Cc: (via email)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario municipalities  
Huron County Federation of Agriculture

*Sched. 1* has stripped Howick Township's right to question the installation of dozens of new utility poles without incurring financial penalties for causing delays to the project.

We have included photos (see [Appendix A](#)) of the substandard installation of new utility poles across Howick Township under AHSIP that occurred throughout this past winter. As you can see, many poles were installed incorrectly, quickly and during all weather conditions. This required the sub-contractors to return several times to fix deficiencies. This doesn't seem like the most cost-effective installation method. Other photos show examples of the number of new poles installed in areas of Howick Township. With our primarily agriculture-based background and economy, many Howick Township landowners are quite upset with the amount of new utility poles that have been installed. Farm equipment continues to get larger in size as farming techniques modernize, and these new 30ft utility poles limit access to fields with overhead infrastructure installed along the municipal right-of-way.

Through our research into this matter, we have not found examples of so many new utility poles being installed elsewhere across the province to facilitate the installation of fibre optic high-speed internet infrastructure. New pole installations are only referenced in the program guidelines regarding LDC-owned poles requiring replacement prior to installing the broadband infrastructure.


Can you explain why so many new utility poles are being installed in Howick Township directly by the ISP instead of utilizing existing utility poles owned by Hydro One as outlined in your program guidelines? Municipalities were not informed that dozens of new utility poles would be installed through AHSIP. Howick Township is requesting to have these new utility poles removed in favour of utilizing existing LDC owned poles or direct bury or plowing methods of installation.

We encourage any other Ontario municipalities who are experiencing similar new utility pole installations through the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program to reach out to Howick Township directly, and to join Howick Township by reaching out to the above listed ministries with your concerns.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Caitlin Gillis  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Township of Howick  
[clerk@howick.ca](mailto:clerk@howick.ca)



Doug Harding  
Reeve  
Township of Howick  
[dharding@howick.ca](mailto:dharding@howick.ca)

Cc: (via email)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario municipalities  
Huron County Federation of Agriculture

# Appendix A - New Utility Poles in Howick Township

















April 16, 2025

Request to Share Information: Township of McNab/Braeside Bi-Centennial Event, June 28, 2025

On behalf of the Bi-Centennial Committee for the Township of McNab/Braeside, we kindly request your assistance in sharing the following information item on your community's upcoming Council Agenda or community bulletin:

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 **Township of McNab/Braeside – Bi-Centennial Anniversary Event** 

**Date:** Saturday, June 28, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Location:** McNab/Braeside Township (details at [www.mcnabbraeside.com](http://www.mcnabbraeside.com))

Come celebrate **200 years of history, heritage, and community spirit** at this free, family-friendly event! Enjoy a day full of activities including:

-  Live music by **Renfrew Highland Pipes & Drums, The Dennis Harrington & Heritage Country Band**, and the **SALC Brass Ensemble and Band**
-  A classic **Strawberry Social**
-  Photo opportunities
-  A special area for children's games and activities
-  Delicious food and beverages

We warmly invite residents and neighbours from all surrounding communities to join us for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

**For full event details and updates, please visit:**

 [www.mcnabbraeside.com](http://www.mcnabbraeside.com)

Thank you for helping us spread the word and making this milestone a truly memorable occasion!

Sincerely,

Andrea Lamontagne

Recreation Director, Township of McNab/Braeside

200 YEARS



TOWNSHIP OF  
**McNab/Braeside**

 **1825-2025** 

**Bi-Centennial Event**

*Saturday, June 28th*  
Municipal Office, 2473 Russett Dr.  
10 am - 4 pm

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**From:** Mary Anne Alton  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 10:25 AM  
**To:** Group - Clerks  
**Subject:** An Invitation for Mayor & Council  
**Attachments:** Arnprior Poster ONLINE.png

On Friday May 9th the Arnprior launch of Gwen Lamont's memoir *The View From Coffin Ridge*, is taking place at the Curling Club in Arnprior at 7 p.m. Some of the themes in Gwen's book have generated important community conversations in all 13 communities where we've been since the release in spring 2024. Gwen wants her book to inspire others to tell their stories, remind people of the power of a caring adult to change the trajectory of a child's life and to amplify the growing conversation about intimate partner violence. To date over 800 people have attended launches across Ontario.

We were anxious to come to the Ottawa region as part of our spring 2025 launch schedule as Maude Barlow blurbed this book and will be attending the Ottawa launch on May 7th. Her endorsement said "A harrowing tale of abuse, recovery and reconciliation. One courageous woman's memoir of overcoming violence and trauma that looks straight into the heart of darkness to find the light. I loved this book" Maude believes that with the right promotion, this book will become a gem in the Canadian literary scene.

In each community we invite representatives of council, women's shelters, youth support organizations, police and independent bookstores as our guests. To date we've welcomed 12 municipal council members, 12 representatives of women's shelters, 11 youth support organization personnel and 4 police officers.

This invitation is for anyone on council including the mayor. One complimentary ticket is provided for the representative from council or city staff; in other communities additional council members have purchased tickets and attended. No greetings are required; we acknowledge all the guests in attendance and make sure their presence is also noted in the post event media releases.

The following testimonial from Rod Anderson, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula provides relevant context for this invitation.

*Intimate Partner Violence has been declared an epidemic in over 100 municipalities in Ontario. To date, the Provincial government seems reluctant to officially do so.*

*I had the privilege to attend the Lion's Head book launch of "The View From Coffin Ridge: A Childhood Exhumed". It was an honour to meet and talk with the author Gwen Lamont. The evening was well attended by our community, the conversations following her presentation were insightful and meaningful and the feedback about the launch was positive and encouraging.*

*Joining the other community guests, including representatives from the local women's shelter and Big Brothers Big Sisters in the region, was an important signal to the community that our municipal council wants to be part of the conversation addressing intimate partner violence. I urge other community leaders to accept the invitation, listen and engage in the conversation when Gwen Lamont launches her book in your community.*

I have attached the details about the Ottawa launch and additional background information as required below. I appreciate hearing back from you.

Mary Anne Alton  
Publicist for Gwen Lamont

**Additional information as required:**

On Friday May 9th the Arnprior release of Gwen Lamaont's memoir will take place at the Curling Club starting at 7 p.m. The evening will include two readings, a prepared Question and Answer segment and a social hour. Gwen always finds a way to connect with everyone following the program. The ticket price of \$50 includes a signed book, a bottle of "Into the Light" white wine from Coffin Ridge Winery (that Gwen and her husband Neil own), hors d'oeuvres and a drink.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.coffinridge.ca/collections/featured-events/products/book-launch-the-view-from-coffin-ridge-a-childhood-exhumed?variant=43868691398838> If people aren't comfortable with purchasing online, contact publicist Mary Anne Alton at [altonmaryanne@gmail.com](mailto:altonmaryanne@gmail.com) or call 519 373 2020 and she will purchase the tickets and you can bring cash to the event.

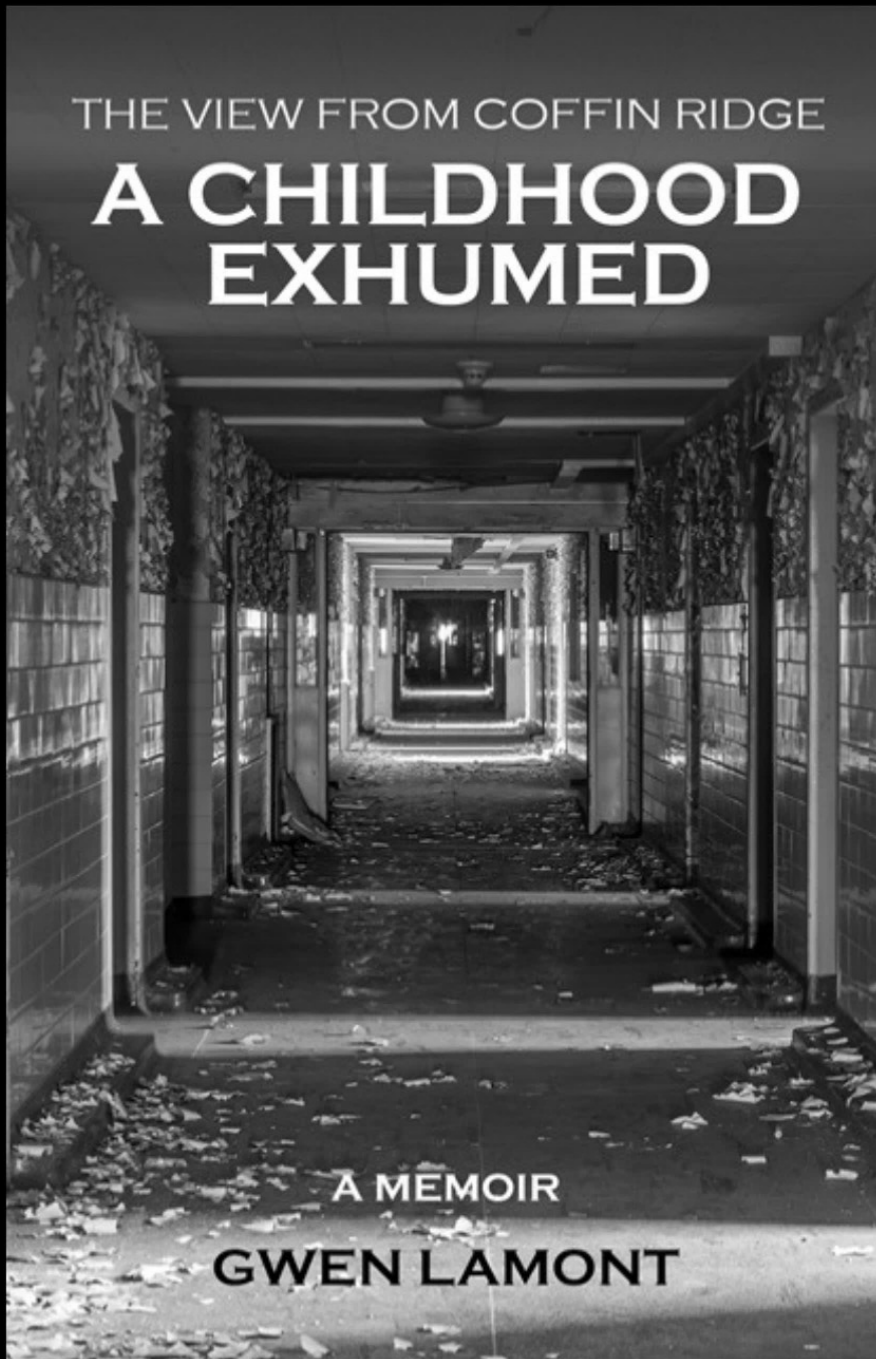
Gwen's book *The View From Coffin Ridge: A Childhood Exhumed* tells quite a story. For over thirty years, the memories of her childhood were buried. Once those years were over, she never spoke of them. No one knew of her chaotic, poor family. No one knew she had been a child bride, or of her close brush with death at the hands of a man who claimed to love her.

Gwen didn't finish grade 9 but today she holds 4 degrees. The research for her Master of Social Work thesis, took her into prisons where she interviewed men who had killed their intimate partner. Her research is on her website [gwenlamontauthor.ca](http://gwenlamontauthor.ca)

There have been 14 launches so far; and the feedback from those attending has been incredible. And the praise for the book continues to be inspiring. This review from Michael Den Tandt, former Senior Communication Advisor to the Prime Minister, is an example of the rave reviews received. [https://open.substack.com/pub/michaeldentandt/p/gwen-lamont-offers-unflinching-diamond?r=o6vfb&utm\\_medium=ios](https://open.substack.com/pub/michaeldentandt/p/gwen-lamont-offers-unflinching-diamond?r=o6vfb&utm_medium=ios)

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# BOOK LAUNCH



Author Gwen Lamont

*"One courageous woman's memoir of overcoming violence and trauma that looks straight into the heart of darkness to find the light. I loved this book."*

Maude Barlow  
Author and Activist

*"Gwen's story will shock and astound you. Immediately engaging, heartbreaking but hopeful. An absolute must read memoir."*

Cea Sunrise Person  
Bestselling Author of North of Normal  
and Nearly Normal

## **\$50 TICKET INCLUDES:**

- Signed Book
- Author Reading + Q&A
- Bottle of "Into the Light White" Wine
- One drink of your choice + nibbles

Published by:



THE GINGER PRESS

- **FRIDAY, MAY 9**
- **7 P.M.**
- **ARNPRIOR CURLING CLUB**

For tickets and more information:  
**CoffinRidge.ca**

**GwenLamontAuthor.ca**