



**Town of Arnprior**  
**Regular Meeting of Council: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Correspondence Package No. I-25-MAY-09**

**Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package No. I-25-MAY-09 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

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

- a) Ontario Breaks Ground on New Children's Treatment Centre in Ottawa
- b) Building a Stronger, Self-Reliant Ontario
- c) Ontario Moving Ahead on New Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters
- d) Ontario Expanding Opportunities for Girls in Sport
- e) Ontario Driving Homegrown Innovation in Key Sectors
- f) 2024-2025 Gas Tax Funding by Municipality
- g) Ontario Taking Tough-on-Crime Approach to Protect Communities from Criminals
- h) Ontario Fighting Auto Theft by Cracking Down on Car Thieves
- i) Ontario Strengthening Bail to Protect Communities from Criminals
- j) Ontario Taking Action to Protect Parks and Public Spaces
- k) Ontario Protecting Communities and Victims of Crime
- l) Ontario Supporting Stronger Local Governance
- m) Ontario Breaks Ground on Expanded Emergency Department in Renfrew County
- n) Ontario Investing \$1.3 Bill to Protect Manufacturing Workers and Jobs

- o) Ontario Building a More Connected and Convenient Health Care System
- p) Ontario Investing \$1 Billion in Skills Development Fund to Protect Workers
- q) Letter from Minister Flack regarding Strong Mayor Powers

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

- a) Trail Permits Required for ATC and Off-Road Motorcycle Riders on Renfrew County Recreational Trails
- b) Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards Celebrate Industry Excellence
- c) Construction Update – May 2025

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

- a) Yellow is the Colour of Caution

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

- a) Watch File – April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- b) Watch File – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- c) Policy Update – Spring Policy Priorities
- d) Policy Update – Ontario Introduces Bill 5 and Re-Introduces Homelessness Encampments Bill, New Report of Tariffs Impacting Municipal Construction Costs
- e) Policy Update – Municipal Governance Changes

**5. Correspondence from other Municipalities**

- a) Champlain Township – Surveillance Monitoring of Heavy Vehicles in Ontario
- b) Township of West Lincoln – Support of Canadian Economy

**6. Correspondence from The Grind Pembroke**

- a) Double Bogey Bunker Blaster Gold Classic

## NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Breaks Ground on New Children's Treatment Centre in Ottawa

New CHEO Integrated Treatment Centre will protect provincial health care by connecting more children and youth to specialized care

April 24, 2025

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

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OTTAWA — The Ontario government is celebrating the groundbreaking of the new CHEO Integrated Treatment Centre. This new, fully accessible and state-of-the-art children's treatment centre will provide integrated and coordinated care under one roof to better serve children and youth living with complex medical, developmental and behavioural needs, connecting them to the care they need, closer to home.

"Today's groundbreaking is another step in our commitment to protecting Ontario's provincial health care by improving services for children and youth with developmental needs," said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "We are deeply grateful for the work of CHEO, the CHEO Foundation's Board of Directors and all the community advocates, organizations and local MPPs who have helped make this new facility a reality."

The new CHEO Integrated Treatment Centre will consolidate services and programs across eight locations under one roof. Once completed, the state-of-the-art centre will better serve approximately 13,700 children and youth with special needs, along with their families, in eastern Ontario. The centre will be connected to the CHEO hospital, allowing for more convenient and connected care for children and their families.

The new centre will house a team of professionals who will provide a range of programs and services conveniently under one roof, including:

- On-site rehabilitation services, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech-language pathology, recreation therapy, and support therapies.
- Coordinating care for children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs.
- Rehabilitation services at schools.

- Services for children and youth with neurodevelopmental disorders, including, for example, services offered under the [Ontario Autism Program](#) and the [Extensive Needs Service](#), which connects families to a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, including physicians, social workers and behavioural consultants to provide tailored supports based on the individual needs of the child or youth and their families.

"CHEO's Integrated Treatment Centre is a key piece in our transformation to better meet the needs of children and youth," said Dr. Vera Etches, President and CEO, CHEO. "This initiative will lead to better care integration and enhance the experience for children and youth dealing with complex medical, developmental, behavioural and mental health needs."

The construction of the new, approximately 200,000 square foot site is a multi-year project funded by the Ontario government and CHEO and will be built by EllisDon Infrastructure OCH Inc – with completion expected in 2028.

Construction of this new facility is part of nearly \$600 million in recent investments to build modernized facilities at children's treatment centres across Ontario, including construction on the new Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent, planning for the new Lansdowne Children's Centre in Brantford, successful completion of Grandview Kids in Ajax, and the successful relocation of Health Sciences North Children's Treatment Centre in Sudbury.

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### Quick Facts

- There are 22 children's treatment centres across the province that provide services to children with developmental needs.
  - Special needs can include, but are not limited to, communication disorders, physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, acquired brain injuries and chronic and/or long-term medical conditions. They can include specific diagnoses such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, spina bifida, autism spectrum disorder and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.
  - Families with questions about their child's development and support needs can contact their local [children's treatment centre](#).
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## Quotes

"As a parent, I understand firsthand the importance of ensuring our children have access to the care they need to thrive. CHEO's new Integrated Children's Treatment Centre will enable families in Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry and across Eastern Ontario to receive enhanced, accessible, and efficient health care. As we always have, our government is proud to give children the strong start they need to live healthy, happy lives and I thank CHEO for their dedication to the wellbeing of our community."

**- Nolan Quinn**  
**MPP for Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry**

"There is not a family in Carleton, or across Ottawa, that hasn't benefitted from the specialized services and compassionate staff at CHEO. The new Integrated Treatment Centre, supported by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, will enhance care for children and youth. Thanks to Premier Doug Ford's leadership and our government's investment in health care, this transformative project will also boost our local economy and create jobs not only for Carleton residents, but throughout Ottawa and Eastern Ontario."

**- George Darouze**  
**MPP for Carleton**

"While the new CHEO Integrated Treatment Centre is being built in Ottawa, its impact will be felt well beyond the city—including by many families in Glengarry–Prescott–Russell who rely on CHEO for specialized care. This groundbreaking ceremony marks an important step toward providing more coordinated, accessible, and high-quality services for children and youth across Eastern Ontario. I'm proud to see this project moving forward to better support families throughout our region."

**- Stéphane Sarrazin**  
**MPP for Glengarry–Prescott–Russell**

"I'm proud of our government's investment in CHEO's new Integrated Children's Treatment Centre because the world-class care this hospital and its amazing staff provides is invaluable to children and families in my riding. Every year, thousands of families from across Eastern Ontario travel to Ottawa to access programs and treatment at CHEO. Consolidating them into this modern, innovative facility makes care more convenient for families and can also only lead to better outcomes for kids."

**- Steve Clark**

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

"This groundbreaking marks the beginning of hope and healing for every child and family that walks through the doors at CHEO, including families from Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston. Together, we're building a future where care is connected, compassionate and life changing, with a wide range of programs and services in pediatric care."

**- John Jordan**

**MPP for Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston**

"As the MPP for Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke, I'm proud to be a part of the groundbreaking ceremony on the new CHEO Integrated Children's Treatment Centre. This investment is a vital step in improving access to care for children and youth with physical, communication, and developmental needs across Eastern Ontario. Families in our region will benefit greatly from the support and connection this centre will provide."

**- Billy Denault**

**MPP for Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke**

"Once complete, the new CHEO Integrated Treatment Centre will provide state-of-the-art health services for children and youth in a purpose-built facility, reducing wait times and combining visits to make it easier for families to access critical care. This landmark investment is part of our government's nearly \$200 billion capital plan to build Ontario, which will get more shovels in the ground on critical infrastructure projects while protecting thousands of workers in the face of economic uncertainty."

**- Kinga Surma**  
**Minister of Infrastructure**

"Breaking ground on CHEO's new Integrated Treatment Centre marks a significant milestone for children's healthcare in Ottawa. I'd like to extend my thanks to Minister Michael Parsa and the Ontario government for their support in improving services for children and youth with special needs in the Ottawa area through their investment in this new centre. This new facility will bring vital services together under one roof, making it more convenient for families to access the care their children need."

**- Mark Sutcliffe**  
**Mayor of Ottawa**

"In 2023, CHEO Foundation launched its most ambitious undertaking ever – a \$220 million fundraising campaign – now commonly known as the Kids These Days campaign. Today marks a very significant milestone in the goal to transform pediatric care and our donor community is excited to be a part of this initiative."

**- Steve Read**  
**President and CEO, CHEO Foundation**

"Parents and families have helped shape the CHEO Integrated Treatment Centre into a place that will make a significant difference for children and youth in the coming years. From the building design to working on the integrated model of care, collaboration has been at the heart of each and every conversation and decision. I'm excited for this important milestone at CHEO and I can't wait to see the vision become reality."

- Steve Herzog

Family Advisor, CHEO Integrated Treatment Centre

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## Additional Resources

[Learn about the services and supports available at your local children's treatment centre.](#)

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## Media Assets



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## Related Topics

### Health and Wellness

Get help navigating Ontario's health care system and connecting with the programs or services you're looking for. [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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## NEWS RELEASE

## Building a Stronger, Self-Reliant Ontario

Province's new framework will accelerate critical mineral development

April 24, 2025

[Energy and Mines](#)

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SUDBURY — As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the government is cutting red tape and streamlining approvals to build mines faster, making Ontario and Canada's economy more resilient and self-reliant. Today, Minister of Energy and Mines Stephen Lecce was in Sudbury to highlight the benefits of the *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act* for northern communities. This legislation would create a new "One Project, One Process" framework for advanced exploration and mine development projects, reducing government review times by at least 50 per cent and getting shovels in the ground in the Ring of Fire and in mining projects across Ontario.

"Protecting Ontario's economic sovereignty starts today, as we rapidly accelerate responsible critical mineral development and move toward a new reality of self-reliance," said Minister Lecce. "This plan will end the overly bureaucratic and duplicative approval process, where it can take upwards of 15 years to open a mine in Ontario. By moving away from a piecemeal system to a new and integrated approach that gets shovels in the ground, we are fully realizing our economic potential. Our government's plan will position Ontario as the most attractive justification to invest, create jobs, and expand responsible resource development."

Current permitting and authorization processes for mining and major infrastructure projects require navigating a maze of multi-ministry, overlapping approvals. The new "One Project, One Process" approval model will streamline all approvals into one process, coordinated by a dedicated Mine Authorization and Permitting Delivery Team, led by a team lead within the Ministry of Energy and Mines. This approach will balance speed, while maintaining robust environmental standards and the province's obligations to Indigenous communities.

"Our government was given a strong mandate to protect Ontario and build a stronger, more competitive and self-reliant economy," said George Pirie, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth. "This legislation will deliver a clear

and predictable environment for businesses and communities that want to build and unleash the economic might of Ontario and all that the north has to offer.”

The government also unveiled the Integrated Permitting Plan to significantly reduce the number of permits and introduce first-of-its-kind performance metrics and binding service standards to reduce overall project timelines. If the proposed legislation is passed, 12 critical mineral and gold projects will be able to immediately take advantage of these bold measures to get their product out of the ground and into market faster.

“The province’s commitment to accelerating responsible development through the One Project, One Process approach is good news for Greater Sudbury, where mining is not just an industry—it’s a cornerstone of our economy,” said Mayor of Sudbury Paul Lefebvre. “Certainty and speed in permitting are essential to unlocking our full critical minerals potential. Greater Sudbury is ready to work alongside the Province to build a complete, made-in-Ontario critical minerals supply chain—from exploration to processing—creating jobs, attracting investment, and strengthening Canada’s economic sovereignty.”

By simplifying the permitting process, Ontario is strengthening its position as a top destination for mining investment. This will make it easier for companies to plan, hire, and execute projects in northern communities like Sudbury. This means more good-paying jobs across Northern Ontario, stronger local supply chains and increased economic activity in the region.

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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.
  - Mining in Ontario supports 31,000 jobs directly and 46,000 jobs associated with mineral processing and mining supply and services.
  - Around 25 per cent of direct mining jobs in Canada are in Ontario and around two-thirds of Ontario’s direct mining jobs are in Northern Ontario.
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## Quotes

"This legislation, if passed, is a game-changer for Northern Ontario. By eliminating red tape and moving at the speed of business, our government is putting the North at the heart of Ontario's economic future. Streamlining mine approvals will mean more jobs, more investment, and greater economic sovereignty — exactly what's needed to protect Ontario and unleash our full potential. I'm proud to stand with Minister Lecce and support a plan that puts Northern communities first."

**- Chris Scott**

**Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Mines, MPP Sault Ste. Marie**

"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 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 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**

"Ontario ranks as a top jurisdiction for mining and responsible resource development, and it is a key reason why Alamos has invested in this province with two long-life mining operations. It matters significantly that the Ontario Government is prioritizing the acceleration of mineral development with this new legislation, to continue attracting investment and creating long-lasting jobs."

**- John McCluskey**  
**CEO, Alamos Gold**

"Kinross Gold welcomes the Ontario government's decisive action to streamline permitting and unlock the province's critical mineral potential. We are supportive of initiatives that enable responsible development and provide further clarity and predictability for new project timelines. The One Project, One Process legislation should help Ontario's position as a global mining jurisdiction and create new opportunities for investment and growth across the sector."

- Ben Little

Senior Vice President, External Affairs, Kinross Gold

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### Additional Resources

[Ontario Unleashing Economic Potential of Critical Mineral and Resource Development](#)

[Speech from the Throne – Protect Ontario](#)

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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](#)

#### Jobs and Employment

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

#### Rural and North

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Moving Ahead on New Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters

Facility will support public safety and disaster response measures, including Ontario Corps

April 24, 2025

[Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government has launched a Request for Proposals (RFP) as part of the process to build a new Ontario Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters. This new headquarters will be the largest update to Ontario's emergency command centre in more than 15 years and will support the province's work to prepare for and respond to all types of disasters, including through the deployment of [Ontario Corps](#).

"This new headquarters is a pivotal part of our plan to modernize emergency management, ensuring a better co-ordinated and enhanced response to emergencies across Ontario," said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. "In the coming weeks, our government is looking forward to working closely with stakeholders and experts to ensure this facility has the capabilities required to support a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario and a resilient and strong emergency response system."

The new state-of-the-art complex will be a multifaceted, secure centre that will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. It will include dedicated training rooms and warehousing and aviation infrastructure and will be built to withstand all types of disasters including earthquakes, tornadoes and floods.

It will also be used to oversee and coordinate Ontario Corps, a group of skilled professionals and volunteers that was announced last December and which the province can deploy to assist communities dealing with natural disasters and other emergencies. Ontario Corps has already been successfully deployed on several occasions, including during the recent ice storm in Central Ontario.

Infrastructure Ontario has launched its RFP for Functional Programming Services, which will determine the exact systems and capabilities the new headquarters will require in order to fulfill its functions. This is the first step in the planning process for the new Ontario Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters/Complex. The RFP is available on [www.merx.com](http://www.merx.com).

The headquarters will be located on surplus government property on Disco Road in Etobicoke near Toronto Pearson International Airport and provincial highways.

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### Quick Facts

- The Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response was established in March 2025, with Minister Dunlop appointed as its dedicated minister.
  - So far this year, 26 local emergencies have been declared. Last year, 33 were declared.
  - More than 6,000 Ontario Corps volunteer hours have been performed as part of seven deployments to date. The supports delivered during these emergencies included providing generators and flood barriers to protect critical infrastructure, performing more than 4,240 wellness checks for vulnerable populations, and providing more than 4,280 meals and food hampers.
  - Ontario Corps partners also provided critical communication linkages to communities via deployable/mobile internet connection, and provided digital mapping of communities via Remote Piloted Drone operators that gave real time critical infrastructure damage assessment resulting in quicker repair and remediation.
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### Additional Resources

- [Emergency Management in Ontario](#)
  - [Emergency Preparedness](#)
  - [Ontario Corps](#)
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### Related Topics

#### Education and Training

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

**Jobs and Employment**

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

[Learn more](#)

**Law and Safety**

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Expanding Opportunities for Girls in Sport

\$480,000 investment in Canadian Women & Sports will help more girls stay active and healthy

April 25, 2025

[Sport](#)

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OTTAWA — The Ontario government is investing \$480,000 in Canadian Women & Sport's The Next Play through the Inclusive Grassroots Recreation (IGR) program, to expand affordable and inclusive sport and recreation opportunities for girls across the province.

"Our government is proud to support Canadian Women & Sport and invest in community-based programs which encourage girls to participate in sport and 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 Canadian Women & Sport continue to remove financial barriers to help more girls participate in programs in their community."

"Thanks to generous support from the Government of Ontario, we have already worked with over 100 diverse sport and recreation organizations in the province to improve opportunities for girls and women in sport," said Allison Sandmeyer-Graves, CEO of Canadian Women & Sport. "With this new investment, we will be able to reach an additional 65 organizations and 195 leaders, helping them develop the skills and knowledge needed to both recruit and retain more girls in sport. Together with the Government of Ontario, we are creating sport and active recreation environments that welcome more girls and women and help ensure they can access the benefits of sport."

Canadian Women & Sport is dedicated to creating an equitable and inclusive sport system in Canada that empowers girls and women to be active participants and leaders. The Next Play program equips participating organizations with specialized training to counter gender bias when designing their sports program and provides start-up grants for community initiatives that recruit and retain girls in sport. Since



the program’s launch in 2022-23, 288 sport leaders from 140 organizations have participated in The Next Play and engaged more than 6,100 youth across Ontario in community-based programming.

**Quick Facts**

- In 2023-24, Canadian Women & Sport received \$380,000 from the Inclusive Grassroots Recreation program to support The Next Play Program.
- 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.
- The Ontario government invests over \$23 million annually to support local, inclusive physical activity programming, including: Ontario’s After School Program, the Inclusive Grassroots Recreation (IGR) program, the Community Aboriginal Recreation Activator Program (CARA), the Sport Pathway for Ontario Native Wellness, and Variety Village.

**Quotes**

"At the PWHL’s Ottawa Charge, we are able to see firsthand the growing number of young girls and women who now have something to aspire to since the creation of our league. By being accessible through games, broadcast, and community events, we help build new dreams for young hockey players that didn't exist just two years ago. We appreciate the Ontario government's efforts in supporting the growth of women and girls in sport. Now that they can see it, they can be it, whether you are a player, a coach or a leader."

- Erin Thompson  
Director of Business Operations, Ottawa Charge

"As a previous recipient of funding from The Next Play program, we were able to observe a great number of women who wished to bring their daughters along with them next time and we even had quite a few younger girls who wanted to learn mountain biking to be able to go with their families in the future. Overall, we were successful in creating a supportive environment for individuals to learn how to mountain bike and were successful in giving them the confidence to continue to explore the sport outside of organized women specific rides."

**- Osmond Bakker  
Bakkers Trailblazers**

"It has been exciting to watch the women and girls see what's possible in coaching. Thanks to the funding from The Next Play program, these women and girls have been actively engaged in discussions of what supports they need to move forward into more serious coaching roles, and as they start to impact other young athletes, you can see the sense of accomplishment and the pride in helping others increase their confidence and their sense of belonging in our sport. Great things are coming!"

**- Janet Lawless  
6Tigers Academy Inc.**

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## **Additional Resources**

[Supporting children and youth | Annual progress report 2024: Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#)

[Canadian Women & Sport](#)

[Ontario Helping More Children Access Sport and Recreation](#)

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## NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Driving Homegrown Innovation in Key Sectors

\$75 million investment in research and innovation will protect Ontario jobs and workers

April 25, 2025

[Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security](#).

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$75 million in 162 research and innovation projects across the province through its competitive research programs, [the Early Researcher Awards](#) and the [Ontario Research Fund](#). This investment will protect Ontario's long-term economic growth, fostering a skilled labour force and enabling discoveries that save and improve residents' lives.

"Our government is investing in made-in-Ontario research that will protect our economy, jobs and workers," said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security. "By driving cutting-edge research at our world class postsecondary institutions, hospitals, and research institutions, people in Ontario, Canada and around the world will benefit from discoveries made in our own backyard."

Today's investment will help Ontario's institutions to attract and hire top talent, purchase the latest equipment and technologies and support key industries, such as agriculture, auto manufacturing, information technology and the life sciences.

The Canadian Biomanufacturing Cooperative, an Ontario-led initiative that will significantly enhance biomanufacturing capacity across Canada, received \$45 million through this investment. Coordinated through the Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Hub, this investment in the Canadian Biomanufacturing Cooperative is led by the University of Ottawa and will support expansion of facilities affiliated with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and McMaster University. The work done through the cooperative will help the province protect itself from future pandemics, build a highly skilled biomanufacturing workforce, and expand access to clinical trials for new lifesaving treatments.

"Researchers across Ontario have launched dozens of innovative life sciences companies, but we haven't had enough local biomanufacturing capacity to support them," said Dr. Duncan Stewart, senior scientist at The Ottawa Hospital, professor

at the University of Ottawa and lead for the Canadian Biomanufacturing Cooperative. “This investment from the Government of Ontario will help to address this critical need, so that our researchers and companies can get to the next level and bring their lifesaving products to people in Ontario and around the world.”

Ontario’s research sector plays a vital role in cementing the province as a global leader and innovator in critical sectors. By investing in Ontario-made research, the government is protecting the province’s workers, innovation, and wellbeing.

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### Quick Facts

- Since 2018, Ontario has invested \$907 million in 1,665 research projects, leveraging nearly \$1.5 billion in funding from federal and other third-party contributions. Ontario’s research investments have:
    - Supported the creation of more than 120,000 training opportunities for researchers and students across the province.
    - Contributed to 406 patents being granted, 76 spin-off companies being created and 594 new jobs at those spin-offs.
  - The Ontario government is supporting the province’s innovators in developing, managing and commercializing their intellectual property through [Intellectual Property Ontario \(IPON\)](#), a government agency that was created in 2022.
  - The \$45 million dollar investment for the Canadian Biomanufacturing Cooperative will provide:
    - \$27 million for the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute to expand its Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre
    - \$18 million for McMaster University to expand its Fitzhenry Vector Laboratory
-

## Quotes

"The University of Ottawa applauds the Government of Ontario for this vital investment in research and innovation through its Life Sciences Strategy. As a key partner in Ottawa's thriving life sciences ecosystem, we're committed to supporting collaborative initiatives like the Canadian Biomanufacturing Cooperative, in partnership with our colleagues at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and McMaster University. Together, we are building the capacity, talent, and infrastructure needed to ensure Ontario remains at the forefront of health research and biomanufacturing."

- Dr. Julie St-Pierre

Vice President Research and Innovation, University of Ottawa

"This provincial investment in The Canadian Biomanufacturing Cooperative will allow McMaster and its partners in Ottawa to strengthen Ontario's biomanufacturing capacity and better stock Canada's health innovation pipeline. Already, our researchers are working together to turn their bold ideas into impactful commercial ventures that catalyze both economic growth and better health outcomes for Canadians."

- Andy Knights

Vice-President, Research, McMaster University

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## Additional Resources

- [Ontario Driving Homegrown Innovation through the Ontario Research Fund and the Early Researcher Awards](#)
- [View a list of funded projects](#)
- [About research funding in Ontario](#)
- [Read about phase 2 of Ontario's Life Sciences Strategy](#)
- [Learn about Intellectual Property Ontario](#)

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## Related Topics

### Education and Training

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

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BACKGROUNDER

# 2024-25 Gas Tax Funding by Municipality

April 25, 2025

[Transportation](#)

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The Ontario government is investing over \$380 million to help 106 municipalities improve local transit through the 2024-25 Gas Tax program. For 2024-25, municipal allocations have been maintained at 2023-24 levels. The funding can be used to expand service hours, increase routes, purchase new vehicles and improve accessibility to increase transit ridership.

The following municipalities will receive the amounts listed below:



Municipality (plus contributors)	2024-25 Allocation
1. Amherstburg	\$113,680
2. Arnprior (NEW)	\$27,713
3. Atikokan	\$24,184
4. Bancroft (Faraday, Hastings Highlands, Wollaston)	\$83,303
5. Barrie	\$2,508,622
6. Belleville	\$1,077,543
7. Blind River	\$30,039
8. Bracebridge	\$158,272
9. Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$406,842
10. Brampton	\$21,064,218
11. Brant County	\$280,774
12. Brantford	\$1,432,632
13. Brockville	\$216,098
14. Burlington	\$2,674,780
15. Caledon	\$568,726
16. Chapleau	\$19,208
17. Chatham-Kent	\$977,409
18. Clearview	\$131,352
19. Cobourg	\$194,006
20. Cochrane	\$40,630
21. Collingwood (The Blue Mountains)	\$343,932
22. Cornwall	\$710,246
23. Cramahe (Alnwick/Haldimand,Hamilton Township)	\$98,746
24. Deseronto (Greater Napanee, Hastings County, Tyendinaga)	\$193,792
25. Dryden	\$65,787

25. Dryden	\$65,702
26. Durham Region	\$9,633,396
27. Dysart et Al	\$23,618
28. Elliot Lake	\$149,939
29. Espanola	\$44,290
30. Fort Frances	\$69,403
31. Greater Sudbury	\$3,091,759
32. Greenstone	\$35,859
33. Guelph	\$3,013,445
34. Halton Hills	\$561,671
35. Hamilton	\$12,389,845
36. Hanover (Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Chatsworth, Grey Highlands, Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Southgate, West Grey)	\$740,828
37. Hearst	\$45,604
38. Huntsville	\$176,865
39. Ingersoll	\$55,595
40. Innisfil	\$396,654
41. Kapuskasing	\$73,196
42. Kawartha Lakes	\$708,684
43. Kenora	\$139,771
44. Kingston	\$3,218,066
45. Lambton Shores (NEW)	\$124,640
46. Lanark County (Smiths Falls)	\$520,558
47. LaSalle	\$285,098
48. Leamington (Kingsville)	\$299,128
49. London	\$10,158,287

50. Loyalist Township	\$198,449
51. Machin	\$9,570
52. Marmora and Lake (Centre Hastings, Madoc, Stirling-Rawdon, Tweed)	\$201,793
53. Meaford	\$65,797
54. Midland	\$185,647
55. Milton	\$1,326,756
56. Mississauga	\$23,363,091
57. Muskoka	\$90,659
58. New Tecumseth	\$125,815
59. Niagara Region	\$6,845,789
60. Norfolk County	\$172,472
61. North Bay	\$784,736
62. North Grenville	\$60,071
63. North Perth	\$80,090
64. Oakville	\$2,892,944
65. Orangeville	\$294,473
66. Orillia	\$596,647
67. Ottawa	\$33,061,834
68. Owen Sound	\$245,919
69. Parry Sound	\$56,778
70. Peel Region	\$318,268
71. Pembroke (Laurentian Valley)	\$118,783
72. Penetanguishene	\$93,413
73. Perth East	\$73,121
74. Petawawa (NEW)	\$74,546

75. Peterborough	\$1,732,762
76. Peterborough County	\$41,007
77. Point Edward	\$19,917
78. Port Hope	\$164,576
79. Prescott (Augusta, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal)	\$122,974
80. Prince Edward County	\$225,658
81. Quinte West (Brighton)	\$528,936
82. Renfrew (Admaston/Bromley, Bonnechere Valley, Greater Madawaska, Horton, Whitewater Region)	\$245,313
83. Sarnia	\$1,232,951
84. Sault Ste. Marie	\$1,247,549
85. Schreiber (Terrace Bay)	\$21,861
86. Simcoe County	\$1,476,985
87. Sioux Lookout	\$51,107
88. St. Marys (Perth South, Thames Centre, Zorra)	\$163,485
89. St. Thomas	\$418,003
90. Stratford	\$513,030
91. Tecumseh	\$176,470
92. Temiskaming Shores	\$153,617
93. Thunder Bay	\$2,181,141
94. Tillsonburg	\$133,589
95. Timmins	\$585,411
96. Toronto	\$178,222,229
97. Trent Hills	\$113,254
98. Wasaga Beach	\$239,168
99. Waterloo Region	\$13,772,622
100. Wawa	\$25,482

101. Wellington County (NEW)	\$397,205
102. West Elgin (Newbury, Southwest Middlesex)	\$31,172
103. West Perth	\$53,140
104. Windsor	\$4,462,356
105. Woodstock	\$609,654
106 . York Region	\$17,776,683

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Taking Tough-on-Crime Approach to Protect Communities from Criminals

Proposed changes would strengthen courts and increase resources for prosecution

April 28, 2025

[Attorney General](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is proposing changes to improve public safety by getting tough on crime and putting violent, repeat offenders behind bars. The proposed changes, including new legislation to be introduced later this week, would strengthen the courts' ability to deal with serious crimes by streamlining the judicial selection process and allocating additional judges to the Ontario Court of Justice, as well as creating dedicated prosecution teams for serious crimes.

"Our government is protecting Ontario communities by cracking down on criminals in our communities," said Attorney General Doug Downey. "Specialized prosecution teams will be laser focused on holding offenders accountable, while stronger and more efficient courts will support victims of crime and keep our communities safe."

To support the government's goal of getting tough on crime and ensuring violent, repeat offenders remain behind bars, Ontario will introduce proposed changes that would streamline the judicial appointments process. These changes include a new pool-based recommendation process for judicial positions that would allow the government to speed up appointments to the Ontario Court of Justice. These changes would also require the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee to consider criteria set out by the Attorney General when reviewing and evaluating judicial candidates.

Ontario will also allocate 17 additional judges to the Ontario Court of Justice to help the court keep pace with a growing number of complex cases and address the existing backlog of criminal cases.

Ontario will also strengthen its ability to prosecute serious crimes, including through the introduction of a new cybercrime and cryptocurrency prosecution team that will support police investigations and prosecute major cybercrime cases. In addition, the province is expanding its dedicated guns and gangs units in

targeted regions of the province to bolster border security by addressing the impact of illegal firearms coming into Canada. The Provincial Gun and Gang Support Unit that provides early advice to police investigations has also been made permanent.

“We know that crime no longer happens just on the streets, but in the digital world as well, that’s why our government is taking decisive action to bolster prosecution of these criminals,” said Associate Attorney General Michael Tibollo. “Human traffickers, drug dealers and illegal firearm sellers who operate on the dark web will have nowhere to hide as the cybercrime and cryptocurrency prosecution team build cases against them.”

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### Quick Facts

- The [RCMP](#) has three cybercrime divisions operating in Ontario, and the [OPP](#), which takes on an estimated 300 cybercrime-related investigations each year, has a dedicated 12-member cybercrime unit plus a related “cyber-enabled fraud” unit.
- As part of Ontario’s [Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy](#), the Provincial Gun and Gang Support Unit has led the investigation of 34 major projects and over 400 project related arrests with over 275 firearms seized.
- In May 2024, [Ontario announced](#) its commitment to allocate at least 25 new judges to the Ontario Court of Justice.

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### Additional Resources

- [Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024](#)
- [The Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Law and Safety

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Fighting Auto Theft by Cracking Down on Car Thieves

New legislation would allow police to search and seize keyless entry devices

April 29, 2025

[Transportation](#)

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BRAMPTON — As part of a [series of proposed changes](#) to protect Ontario communities by cracking down on crime, the province is proposing new legislation that would amend the Highway Traffic Act to give police the authority to search for and seize electronic devices that are intended to be used for vehicle theft. The change would provide law enforcement with stronger tools to keep keyless devices off the streets and out of the hands of would-be criminals.

“No matter where you live, every family deserves peace of mind knowing their homes – and their vehicles – are safe,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “By cracking down on these illegal devices, we’re disrupting criminal activity and giving police the tools they need to stop thefts before they happen, helping keep our communities safe for everyone.”

While the combined efforts of law enforcement and government saw vehicle theft in Ontario decrease by 16 per cent in 2024, criminals are increasingly using keyless entry technology to steal cars from unsuspecting victims. If passed, the new legislation would allow police to search for and seize items that are suspected of being used to access and steal a vehicle, such as key fob programming devices, fob scanners and some smartphone applications.

“A major part of protecting Ontario is keeping our families and communities safe from the threat of crime,” said Zee Hamid, Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform. “Passing this measure will support law enforcement in safeguarding our streets, and make it easier to stop car thieves in their tracks.”

In addition, the province is permanently establishing a dedicated Major Auto Theft Prosecution Response Team to focus on crime hotspots across Ontario, such as Ottawa, Toronto, Brampton, Newmarket, Durham, London and Windsor. The team

provides legal advice and prosecutorial support to police services and helps dismantle organized crime networks, holding offenders accountable and cracking down on carjackings and home invasions.

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### Quick Facts

- Devices captured by the legislation could include key fob programming devices, fob scanners and some smartphone applications. The legislation will exclude lawful use of these devices by auto dealers, repair services and roadside assistance personnel.
  - Since April 2024, the Major Auto Theft Prosecution Response Team has taken on over 80 prosecutions and provided legal advice on over 20 major investigations across Ontario. Those matters related to more than 1700 stolen or targeted vehicles.
  - The [Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act](#), 2024, created a provincial offence for providing a false vehicle identification number when applying for a vehicle permit with penalties of up to \$100,000 and possible jail time.
- 

### Quotes

"Peel Regional Police welcomes the Ontario government's proposed legislation to help keep keyless entry devices out of the hands of criminals and further our fight against organized auto theft. Through targeted enforcement and strong partnerships, we've made significant progress in Peel — recovering nearly half of all stolen vehicles in 2025 alone, laying hundreds of charges, and seeing a 45 per cent reduction in auto theft compared to the same time last year. However, our work is not done. We are committed to continuing this momentum through collaboration with all levels of government, the industry, our board, and communities."

- Nishan Duraiappah  
Chief of Police, Peel Regional Police

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Strengthening Bail to Protect Communities from Criminals

Province working to keep violent repeat offenders behind bars and protect victims of crime

April 30, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Attorney General](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

**TORONTO** — The Ontario government is proposing changes to strengthen the bail system and protect communities by keeping violent repeat offenders off the streets and behind bars. These proposed reforms would strengthen the collection process for forfeited bail, introduce permanent Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams, support a comprehensive review of the bail system and move towards the establishment of user fees for people convicted or accused of a crime who use provincially administered ankle monitors.

“The current bail system is letting violent, repeat offenders back into our communities and onto our streets, at times just days after they have been arrested and accused of serious crimes,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Enough is enough. We’re cracking down with tougher rules, stronger enforcement and faster action to keep repeat offenders behind bars, where they belong. We’re also calling on the newly elected federal government to join us by strengthening bail to protect victims of crime.”

Ontario is taking action to strengthen the bail system while continuing to advocate forcefully for the federal government to do the same, given its jurisdiction over criminal law. The actions Ontario is proposing, which will be introduced later this week, include:

- Legislative changes that would improve and increase the collection of forfeited bail monies by requiring sureties to provide up-to-date information in accordance with future regulations
- Introducing permanent Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams (ISVCBTs), made up of dedicated prosecutors who work with provincial and local police

services to present the most persuasive case possible at a bail hearing in the case of serious and violent crimes, with a priority on repeat and prolific accused persons, including those charged with firearm offences. ISVCBTs also follow up with police service's bail compliance units, checking to ensure there have been no unreported breaches and that dangerous criminals are complying with their bail conditions

- Working towards the establishment of a new user fee system for those subject to GPS ankle monitoring as determined by the courts as a condition of bail or release, with the funds potentially used to offset program costs or support victim services. The proposed changes would also help police access GPS information from this program for the purpose of monitoring people accused of or convicted of a crime
- A comprehensive review of the bail system to make it more consequential and effective, including reviewing how to support better tracking of repeat offenders and improved administration.

"Our government is cracking down on crime by strengthening our bail system," said Attorney General Doug Downey. "We are giving prosecutors the tools they need to hold violent and repeat offenders accountable — with stronger bail teams, tighter monitoring and faster action in the courts, we are ensuring the justice system works to protect Ontario and keep communities safe."

Ontario continues to [call on the federal government](#) to urgently amend the Criminal Code by introducing concrete changes that will tighten bail legislation to protect public safety and keep repeat and violent offenders off the streets.

"Our government is taking decisive action to Protect Ontario and improve public safety on our streets and in our communities," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. "Our government has been a leader in advocating for meaningful reform of Canada's bail system. Until reform becomes reality, we will continue to support the efforts of law enforcement so they have the tools and resources needed to get violent offenders behind bars where they belong."

"Everybody in Ontario deserves to live in communities that are free from the scourge of violence," said Associate Solicitor General, Zee Hamid. "By strengthening enforcement, improving tracking and introducing specialized teams, our government is ensuring violent, repeat offenders face tougher consequences. These changes empower law enforcement and protect Ontario's communities, reflecting our government's unwavering commitment to keep criminals behind bars and Protect Ontario."



Quick Facts

- In 2024, Ontario announced an [investment of \\$24 million](#) over three years to help prevent repeat and violent offenders from committing serious crimes while out on bail through the Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension (BCWA) Grant. The BCWA Grant program is part of a [\\$112 million investment](#) to strengthen the province’s bail system and ensure high-risk and repeat violent offenders comply with their bail conditions.
- Ontario is getting tough on crime by [streamlining the judicial appointment](#) process, appointing new teams dedicated to stopping violent crimes and cybercrimes and working to give police the authority to [search for and seize](#) electronic devices intended for vehicle theft.

Quotes

"Violent, repeat offenders continue to pose a serious threat to the safety of our communities. The Government of Ontario’s proposed reforms are an important step forward in strengthening our bail system and supporting the tireless work of officers in stopping the revolving door of crime. Our communities deserve a system that puts public safety first and keeps dangerous offenders behind bars — where they belong."

- Chief Nishan Duraipppah  
Peel Regional Police

"These proposed changes are essential for supporting our frontline members. The securities and resources provided through this reform will not only enhance their ability to effectively do their jobs but also ensure that they have the necessary tools to keep our communities safe. We look forward to the comprehensive review of the Bail Act, which is a crucial step towards a stronger and more effective justice system that prioritizes public safety."

- Mark Baxter  
President, Police Association of Ontario

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Launches New Tool to Better Monitor High-Risk Offenders on Bail](#)
- [Ontario Takes Action on High-Risk and Repeat Violent Offenders](#)
- [Ontario Calls for Immediate Federal Action on Bail Reform](#)

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Taking Action to Protect Parks and Public Spaces

Province re-introducing legislation to help municipalities end encampments while continuing to invest in safe and supportive housing

April 30, 2025

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

[Attorney General](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

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**TORONTO** — The Ontario government is protecting communities by [re-introducing legislation](#) that will provide municipalities and police with the enhanced tools they need to end encampments and clean up our parks and public spaces. The *Safer Municipalities Act* will, if passed, put protecting the safety of all residents first by helping clear public spaces and end the public use of illegal drugs.

"We have heard loud and clear from the people of Ontario: They want their parks and public spaces to be protected and safe for everyone to enjoy," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Municipal leaders have asked for more tools and support to end encampments and public illegal drug use, and we will do whatever is necessary to help municipalities get the job done and help those facing addiction and mental health challenges."

Ontario is [investing \\$75.5 million](#) to further support homelessness prevention and provide people living in encampments with access to reasonable alternative accommodation. This includes:

- \$50 million to help create 1,239 additional housing units, including 815 long-term affordable and supportive housing units across the province.
- \$20 million to create 971 additional shelter and temporary accommodation spaces, including modular units, which provide people living in encampments with accessible alternative options.
- \$5.5 million to top up the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) to immediately free-up emergency shelter spaces for people living in encampments by helping approximately 1,000 people living in shelters move into longer-term housing. These funds build on the nearly \$400 million Ontario and the federal government invested in COHB between 2023 and 2024.

These investments are in addition to the province's annual investment of nearly \$700 million in homelessness prevention programs, as well as investing nearly [\\$550 million](#) to create 28 Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs, nine of which have already opened as of April 1, 2025.

To protect community safety in parks and public spaces, the legislation introduced today includes amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act*, which, if passed, would help clear encampments by enhancing penalties for people who deliberately and continually break the law by adding the new aggravating factors of continuous trespassing and the likelihood to reoffend.

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

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

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### Quick Facts

- As of March 2025, service managers reported approximately 1,826 people in about 703 encampment locations across Ontario.
  - Service managers who received funding are required to report back to the province on the number of people moved from encampments into new accommodations to ensure the province's investments are being used effectively.
  - The [Trespass to Property Act](#), which applies to private business, offices, stores, hotels, parks and vacant land, provides property owners and occupiers with tools to deal with trespassing on their property.
-

## Quotes

"We have clearly heard the calls from our municipal partners about the need to help make our communities safer by ending encampments and illegal drug use in parks and public spaces. These amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act* will provide additional tools to support restoring public order, and are part of a balanced broader strategy to address public safety and the safety and well-being of people currently living in encampments."

**- Doug Downey**  
**Attorney General of Ontario**

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

**- Michael Kerzner**  
**Solicitor General of Ontario**

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

**- Patrick Brown**  
**Mayor of Brampton**

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

**- Josh Morgan**  
**Mayor of London**

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

**- Dan Carter**  
**Mayor, City of Oshawa**

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

**- Drew Dilkins**  
**Mayor of Windsor**

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

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

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

**- Paul Lefebvre**  
**Mayor of Greater Sudbury**

"As Mayor of Barrie, I look forward to working with Premier Ford to ensure that people in Barrie encampments get the help that they need, while ensuring that our communities and families feel safe."

**- Alex Nuttall**  
**Mayor of Barrie**

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

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

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

**- Jan Liggett**  
**Mayor of Cambridge**

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

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

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

**- Bryan Paterson**  
**Mayor of Kingston**



"I'm encouraged to see the Premier and Minister Flack respond to our group's call for support by increasing funding for shelter and housing diversion programs, while also taking steps to strengthen laws around trespassing and open drug use. This is a meaningful first step in supporting municipalities as we work to address homelessness and restore public safety in our streets and parks."

**- Kevin Davis**  
**Mayor of Brantford**

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

**- Jim Diodati**  
**Mayor of Niagara Falls**

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

**- Kevin Ashe**  
**Mayor, City of Pickering**



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

**- Don McIsaac**  
**Mayor of Orillia**

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

**- Bill Gordon**  
**Mayor of Midland**

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

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

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

- Julie Kwiecinski

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

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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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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Protecting Communities and Victims of Crime

New measures will address intimate partner violence, protect children and support victims of human trafficking

May 01, 2025

[Attorney General](#)

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TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is introducing the [Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act](#). The broad legislation, if passed, would include measures to protect families and support victims of human trafficking.

“Our government is taking action to deliver justice for those who have been victimized by heinous crimes,” said Attorney General Doug Downey. “We’re proposing stronger measures to protect families, especially children and youth, by strengthening *Christopher’s Law*, amending the *Family Law Act and Children’s Law Reform Act* and supporting victims of human trafficking.”

To support the legislative bundle, the government is making regulatory changes to protect children against sex trafficking by strengthening [Christopher’s Law](#) to include child sex traffickers on the Ontario Sex Offender Registry. The proposed legislation would also increase tools to address intimate partner violence by amending the [Family Law Act](#) and [Children’s Law Reform Act](#) to make restraining orders against abusers more accessible. Additional persons would be able to apply for family restraining orders on behalf of individuals in need of protection, including designated representatives or other persons with permission of the court.

“Our government is determined to protect Ontario, keep Ontarians safe and support women and children’s well-being,” said Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women’s Social and Economic Opportunity. “The measures we are introducing today build on our four-year action plan to end gender-based violence and our Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy. This is another step toward building a province free of violence and full of opportunity for all.”

To help combat human trafficking in the hotels and short-term rentals sector, Ontario will bring into force the [Accommodation Sector Registration of Guests Act, 2021](#) on January 1, 2026. This will provide police with tools needed to help

investigate human trafficking, as they could more easily obtain related information from hotels and other prescribed businesses. In addition, the province will also be proceeding with consultations to support implementation of Bill 41, the [Protection from Coerced Debts Incurred in relation to Human Trafficking Act, 2023](#). This Act, when implemented, would reduce the financial hardship survivors face because of human trafficking, helping them to make progress on their path to recovery.

Alongside today's legislation, Ontario is renewing its [Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy](#) from 2025-2030 with an investment of more than \$345 million over the same period. The investment will help support survivors, raise awareness, protect victims and hold offenders accountable.

Today's announcement follows other tough on crime measures announced by the government earlier this week, including creating [new prosecution teams](#) to crack down on crime, empowering law enforcement to [prevent auto theft](#) and [strengthening Ontario's bail system](#).

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#### Quick Facts

- In the first three years of the Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, service providers helped more than 20,000 people affected by human trafficking.
  - Measures to support victims and survivors of gender-based violence, intimate partner violence and human trafficking build on Ontario's [action plan to end gender-based violence](#) and Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy.
  - If passed, the *Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act* will streamline the judicial appointment process, appoint new prosecution teams dedicated to stopping violent crimes and cybercrimes, give police the authority to search for and seize electronic devices that are intended to be used for vehicle theft and strengthen the bail system to keep violent and repeat offenders behind bars.
-

## Quotes

"Sexual Violence Prevention Month serves as a powerful reminder of our responsibility to protect those at risk and ensure everyone can live in safety, free from intimidation and the threat of violence. Our proposed legislative changes, together with a renewed Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, will strengthen protections for Ontarians and advance our ongoing fight against human trafficking and gender-based violence."

- Michael Parsa  
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

"Ontario is delivering significant new measures to protect our communities and support victims and survivors of crime by enhancing protections for children and youth - coupled with new efforts to get tougher on offenders and keep repeat and violent offenders off our streets. Proposed changes in this legislation will reinforce our commitment to building a province where everyone can live in safety."

- Michael Tibollo  
Associate Attorney General

"Our government is focused on protecting Ontario. That means protecting all Ontarians and holding criminals accountable. These proposed legislative and program changes further build on the actions our government has taken to support victims and survivors and keep repeat and violent offenders off our streets."

- Michael Kerzner  
Solicitor General

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## Additional Resources

- [The Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act](#)
- [Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024](#)
- [Strengthening Access to Justice Act, 2023](#)
- [Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2024](#)
- [Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy](#)
- [Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy 2025-30](#)

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Taking Action to Strengthen Local Governance

Province re-introducing legislation to create a standardized municipal code of conduct

May 01, 2025

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

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TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is protecting communities by [re-introducing legislation](#) that would, if passed, strengthen municipal governance and accountability.

Ontario is [proposing changes](#) through the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025* that would enable the creation of a new, standardized municipal code of conduct, an integrity commissioner inquiry process that would be consistent throughout the province and mandatory code of conduct training for members of council and certain local boards.

“Strong local governance begins with accountability,” said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “People across Ontario trust their members of council to uphold high standards for how they conduct themselves and address the decisions before them. We have worked closely with Ontario’s Integrity Commissioner to provide municipal leaders with new tools and resources to deliver good government.”

If passed, the changes would include a penalty of removing and disqualifying a member from office if they are in serious violation of the code. Removal and disqualification could only occur upon the recommendation of the municipal integrity commissioner, a concurring report from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario and a unanimous vote of council.

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

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## Quick Facts

- The proposed changes in the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025* would amend the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, to strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework.
- Decisions about what is included in the standardized code of conduct will be made after consultations with the municipal sector. It could include rules for ethical behaviour with respect to, for example, harassment and discrimination and training requirements for members of council and certain local boards.
- Working with the municipal sector, Ontario plans to develop the necessary regulations to support the new framework to come into effect for the new term of councils in 2026.

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## Additional Resources

- [Ontario Supporting Stronger Local Governance](#)

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## Related Topics

### Government

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

[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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## Accessibility

## NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Breaks Ground on Expanded Emergency Department in Renfrew County

Largest redevelopment in St. Francis Memorial Hospital's history will protect provincial health care and connect more people to quality emergency care close to home

May 02, 2025

[Health](#)

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BARRY'S BAY — Construction is underway to expand St. Francis Memorial Hospital's (SFMH) emergency department and renovate the ambulatory care clinic, making it faster and easier for more people in Renfrew County and surrounding areas to connect to emergency and ambulatory care closer to home.

"Our government is protecting Ontario's health care system and ensuring that more people in Renfrew County can connect to convenient emergency care, where and when they need it most," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By investing in a new and expanded St. Francis Memorial Hospital emergency department, we are making it faster and easier for more people and their families to access high-quality emergency and ambulatory care in their community, for years to come."

The province is investing over \$18.6 million to support the largest redevelopment in St. Francis Memorial Hospital's history, which includes renovating the hospital's ambulatory care clinic and expanding its emergency department by adding approximately 6,000 square feet to the hospital. The expanded emergency department will be connected to the existing hospital and offer a dedicated, convenient entrance with a separate waiting room. This redevelopment will allow more patients and their families to connect to timely and high-quality emergency and ambulatory care in a modernized and more comfortable setting.

Once opened, the new state-of-the-art emergency department will accommodate an estimated 11,900 visits each year and will include:

- A dedicated isolation room equipped with negative air pressure to keep patients safe by preventing the spread of airborne infectious diseases
- A new entrance for ambulances to use, improving patient flow
- Quiet room space for mental health patients and families

- An upgraded trauma area to ensure timely responses to emergencies
- Improved infection prevention and control measures

“We are delighted to see the Province of Ontario’s investment in a key community asset in the St. Francis Memorial Hospital Emergency Department and renovation of the Ambulatory Care Clinic,” said Billy Denault, MPP for Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke. “This is another example of our government’s commitment to protecting Ontario’s health care and connecting people where it matters most.”

People will continue to have 24/7 access to the emergency department while construction is underway, with construction expected to be completed in March 2027.

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government is expanding and modernizing Ontario’s hospitals, making it faster and easier for people of all ages to connect to the high-quality care they need, where and when they need it.

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#### Quick Facts

- St. Francis Memorial Hospital is a 20-bed community hospital located in the village of Barry’s Bay, serving approximately 10,000 people living in Renfrew County, and South Algonquin Township in the District of Nipissing and Algonquin Park. As the only emergency department between Pembroke and Huntsville, SFMH sees more than 11,000 ED visits and over 6,000 ambulatory care visits a year.
  - Over the next 10 years, Ontario’s investments will lead to nearly \$50 billion in health infrastructure across the province, building 3,000 new beds in addition to over 3,500 critical care, acute and post-acute beds our government has added since 2020.
  - Through Your Health, Ontario is getting shovels in the ground for over 50 hospital developments across the province.
  - The Ontario government invested more than \$228 million in 2024-25 to support critical infrastructure upgrades and repairs at 129 hospitals and 58 community health care facilities across the province, a 10 per cent increase from the previous year. In 2024-25, SFMH received an allocation of \$1,313,547 through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund, including \$1,135,930 in one-time funding as an Exceptional Circumstance Project Grant, used towards strengthening the foundation of the hospital.
-

Quotes

"The SFMH ED redevelopment project will ensure that high quality, emergency services are provided for decades to come. Our rural community is grateful for the support it has received from the Province, our generous donors, volunteers, patient and family advisors, hospital staff, physicians, and all those who have worked diligently for this day to come. This project supports the hospital vision to be a leader in health services that are patient centred, integrated and responsive to rural community health needs."

- Suzanne Madore  
President and CEO, St. Francis Memorial Hospital

Additional Resources

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

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Investing \$1.3 Billion to Protect Manufacturing Workers and Jobs

Province enhancing and expanding tax credit to attract manufacturing investments to Ontario

May 05, 2025

[Finance](#)

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**Oakville** — As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the government is enhancing and expanding the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, providing an additional \$1.3 billion over three years to help lower costs for businesses that invest in buildings, machinery and equipment that are used for manufacturing or processing in Ontario.

“Manufacturing workers here in Ontario are already feeling the impact of President Trump’s tariffs, including job losses that are the direct result of the economic uncertainty he has caused,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “In response, our plan to protect Ontario will bring in new investments to create new jobs and opportunities for our world-class manufacturing workers, so we can build a stronger economy capable of withstanding whatever comes our way.”

The proposed changes, part of the upcoming 2025 Ontario budget, would take the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit rate for Canadian-controlled private corporations from 10 per cent to 15 per cent as well as expanding eligibility to non-Canadian-controlled private corporations as a non-refundable tax credit, to support their investments here in Ontario. With these changes a qualifying corporation could receive a tax credit of up to \$3 million per year.

“Today’s announcement will provide important support to the more than 830,000 men and women who work in the manufacturing sector, and who are worried about the impact of tariffs on their jobs,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “In the face of heightened global economic uncertainty, we are doubling down on our plan to protect Ontario by bringing in new investments and good-paying manufacturing jobs.”

Announced as part of the *2023 Budget*, the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit was created to help Ontario manufacturers lower their costs, innovate and become more competitive. Implementing this tax credit is one of the many steps the government has taken since 2018 to improve Ontario's competitiveness by lowering costs for businesses.

More information about the government's plan to protect Ontario, grow our economy, and make Ontario the most competitive jurisdiction in the G7 to invest will be included in the *2025 Budget*, to be released on May 15, 2025.

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### Quick Facts

- Ontario's manufacturing sector is a key contributor to the economic success of the province and currently employs 830,000 people.
  - Since its introduction in 2023 through 2027-28, the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit will provide an estimated \$1.4 billion in income tax support to Ontario manufactures and processors.
  - By enhancing and expanding the credit, the government would be providing an additional \$1.3 billion over three years in estimated support to help lower costs of businesses that invest in buildings, machinery and equipment that are used for manufacturing and processing in Ontario.
  - Canadian-controlled private corporations would be able to claim a 15 per cent enhanced tax credit on investments that are currently eligible for the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, provided these eligible investments are made on or after May 15, 2025, and before 2030.
  - Non-Canadian-controlled private corporations, including publicly traded companies making eligible investments in Ontario would be able to access the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit as a 15 per cent non-refundable corporate income tax credit provided these eligible investments are made on or after May 15, 2025 and before 2030.
  - Eligible investments are expenditures for certain capital property included in Class 1 or Class 53 for capital cost allowance purposes.
  - In fall 2024, Ontario announced the Advancing Ontario Made Manufacturing Plan, a 10-year roadmap for growing the sector's workforce and production capacity, by securing next-generation production facilities, strengthening, and securing domestic supply chains, leveraging growth-driving technology, and building a workforce for the future.
-



## Quotes

"CME has called for enhanced tax incentives to protect investment and unleash the productive power of Ontario manufacturers, in the face of unjustified U.S. tariffs. Premier Ford and Minister Bethlenfalvy were quick to respond, and today are keeping an important commitment to Ontario's prosperity. We applaud their leadership and call on the federal government to match this needed incentive."

**- Vincent Caron**

**Vice President, Canadian Manufactures & Exporters Ontario Government  
Relations and Member Advocacy**

"The global investment climate is experiencing an unprecedented shift in dynamics. The increased eligibility for this manufacturing tax credit announced today helps position Ontario jobs and investments on a stronger footing against new headwinds relative to competing jurisdictions in the game."

**- Flavio Volpe**

**C.M. President, Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association**

"Ontario's unwavering support for the auto industry is critical during this challenging time. Increasing and expanding the Ontario Made Tax Credit will help companies navigate trade and economic turbulence while boosting the province's competitiveness."

**- Brian Kingston**

**President & CEO, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (CVMA)**



"In our first recommendations after the recent provincial election, the Ontario Chamber specifically urged the government to expand the Ontario-Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit – to enable businesses to invest in themselves. By doing just that, the government shows it's listening to the business community and delivering strategic, targeted support to protect trade-exposed jobs. This type of policy is a double win: It makes our businesses more competitive, and Ontario more attractive as an investment destination."

- Daniel Tisch

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

"Toronto Region Board of Trade has been a strong proponent of the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit from the start. Now more than ever, Ontario's economy needs a surge in manufacturing investment to modernize and grow our productive capacity. Expanding and broadening OMMITCs rate and reach will play a significant role to bolster one of the most important contributors to Ontario's economy and future prosperity."

- Giles Gherson

**President & CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade**

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### **Additional Resources**

[2023 Ontario Budget | Building a Strong Ontario](#)

[Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit](#)

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### **Accessibility**

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Building a More Connected and Convenient Health Care System

New legislation will protect Ontario health care by strengthening governance and transparency, enhancing patient care and improving service delivery

May 05, 2025

[Health](#)

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TORONTO —The Ontario government has re-introduced the *More Convenient Care Act* to continue to deliver on the province's plan to protect health care and provide more people with the right publicly funded care, in the right place by building healthier communities and bolstering the province's health care workforce for years to come.

"With the *More Convenient Care Act*, our government is continuing to build on our progress as we connect people to the right care, in the right place, no matter where they live," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By taking bold and innovative action with this legislation, we are saving patients time and shortening wait lists, while protecting our healthcare system for the future."

Legislative and regulatory changes to help connect more people to convenient care, closer to home, include:

## Strengthening Governance and Transparency

- Creating a transparency framework for staffing agencies in the hospital, long-term care, and community health sectors to disclose administrative mark-up rates through the *Health Care Staffing Agency Reporting Act, 2025*.
- Enhancing hospital governance by defining best practices and ensuring providers have access to the necessary tools and resources they need to deliver high-quality care.

## Enhancing Patient Care

- Modernizing the provincial electronic health record (EHR) to provide eligible Ontarians with safe, secure and direct access to their personal health information online through Health811.

- Allowing nurse practitioners to complete and sign mandatory blood testing forms to expand access to care for people submitting applications including, victims of crimes, correctional officers, members of the College of Nurses of Ontario, medical or nursing students, and paramedics.
- Exploring options that would support consistent and quality mental health and addiction services.
- Reviewing the ambulance vehicle and equipment standards to enhance patient safety and make it faster for paramedics to access the tools they need to deliver emergency care.

## Improving Service Delivery

- Strengthening the authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for greater alignment and consistency when certain orders are issued by local Chief Medical Officers of Health across public health unit regions.

The More Convenient Care Act, 2025 builds on the [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), to connect Ontarians to the right care, where and when they need it.

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### Quick Facts

- Since [expanding the role of registered nurses to prescribe medications](#), 671 registered nurses have completed the required training and are authorized to prescribe.
  - The province expanded the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, [by announcing new changes](#) to make it faster and more convenient to connect people to the care they need, when they need it.
  - Ontario has invested \$743 million over three years to continue to address immediate health care staffing needs, as well as to grow the workforce for years to come.
  - Across government and in collaboration with the Ontario Medical Association, the government is reviewing key forms to streamline and simplify them, minimize any duplication, and identify opportunities for digital solutions, while helping doctors put [patients before paperwork](#).
-

## Quotes

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford, we are taking action to update service delivery and enhance systems that Ontarians rely on daily. With the Strengthening Cybersecurity and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act alongside the More Convenient Care Act, we're protecting personal information and making health care more connected, transparent, and accessible. This means better care, stronger privacy, and greater trust in public services for all Ontarians."

**- Stephen Crawford**

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

"Our government is tackling the challenges facing the health care sector head-on and taking concrete steps to ensure every dollar invested delivers the highest quality of care for long-term care residents across Ontario. This includes ensuring a more connected health care system to protect Ontario's seniors and enhance their quality of life."

**- Paul Calandra**

**Acting Minister of Long-Term Care**

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

**- Greg Sage**

**President, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC)**

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

- Mark Baxter

President, Police Association of Ontario (PAO)

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

- Doug Brewer

Executive Director, Canadian Addiction Counsellors Certification Federation

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## Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Ontario Continuing to Build a More Connected and Convenient Health Care System](#)

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Investing \$1 Billion in Skills Development Fund to Protect Workers

New funding will support workers in the face of U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty

May 06, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Finance](#)

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

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As the next step in its plan to protect Ontario workers in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty, the provincial government is expanding its Skills Development Fund (SDF) by nearly \$1 billion over the next three years, for a total of \$2.5 billion. This funding will help train and reskill Ontario workers, including those directly impacted by layoffs resulting from tariffs and ensure they have the necessary support to find good-paying jobs and help strengthen Ontario's economy.

"We're already seeing the impact of President Trump's tariffs and the economic uncertainty he has created on Ontario workers," said Premier Doug Ford. "My message to these workers and their families is clear: We'll always have your backs. Today's announcement of a further \$1 billion in SDF funding is just the latest step in our plan to protect Ontario by investing in workers and making sure they have the support they need to succeed, no matter what comes our way."

To help Ontario workers gain in-demand skills and practical hands-on experience, the government is expanding the Skills Development Fund by \$955 million over three years starting in 2025–26.

This includes \$705 million in new funding through the upcoming *2025 Ontario Budget* to train more workers through the SDF Training Stream, building on [the additional \\$100 million announced](#) in January 2025. These funds will support more projects that will help build Ontario and protect workers and jobs in industries expected to face pressures from U.S. tariffs, including manufacturing and health care.



Through the upcoming *2025 Ontario Budget*, the government is also providing \$150 million over three years starting in 2025–26 to support increased demand in the SDF Capital Stream. This investment will help more organizations build, expand and retrofit their training facilities to deliver better training programs and help more workers get better jobs and bigger paycheques.

“Ontario’s prosperity is built with the hands of skilled workers,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “Through the Skills Development Fund, our government is making historic investments in the training, tools and supports that workers need to succeed. Ontario’s greatest competitive advantage is our highly skilled, world-class workers and today’s investment strengthens their paycheques and ensures Ontario remains strong in the face of global uncertainty.”

The province is protecting Ontario’s workers against U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty. These new investments through the Skills Development Fund brings the total SDF funding commitment to \$2.5 billion, continuing to demonstrate the government’s support for major industries and sectors while training the workers needed to build and strengthen Ontario’s economy.

“Our government has a plan to protect and support the training of the province’s highly skilled and world class workforce against U.S.-imposed tariffs and for generations to come,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Our government continues to demonstrate our commitment to invest in our greatest resource, our workers. With these investments through the Skills Development Fund streams, we are taking bold actions to support our workers and businesses, while ensuring the economic prosperity of the province.”

More information about the government’s plan to protect Ontario, grow our economy and make Ontario the most competitive jurisdiction in the G7 to invest, will be included in the *2025 Ontario Budget*, to be released on May 15, 2025.

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### Quick Facts

- More than 500,000 workers are expected to be needed to fill job openings in skilled trades-related occupations in Ontario over the next decade.
- Since the Skills Development Fund launched in 2021, the Ontario government has invested \$2.5 billion through both SDF streams, supporting the training of over one million workers for in-demand careers across the province.
- The Skills Development Fund is comprised of two funding streams: the Training Stream, which supports hiring, training and upskilling programs for jobseekers, apprentices and workers; and the Capital Stream, which supports upgrades or

construction of training centres for high-demand jobs in key sectors of Ontario's economy such as skilled trades.

- The SDF Capital Stream of the Skills Development Fund is exclusively funded by the Government of Ontario. The SDF Training Stream is supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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## Quotes

"On behalf of all building trades workers, we welcome today's announcement to invest \$955 million over three years towards added funding for the SDF capital and training streams. The government is demonstrating its firm commitment to support Ontario during an uncertain time. These considerable investments will increase construction training capacity to meet the needs of projects, securing continued employment for the workforce. We look forward to continued collaboration as we build infrastructure to propel our economy forward."

**- Marc Arsenault**

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

"On behalf of LiUNA, we welcome the expansion of the Skills Development Fund with an additional \$955 million over three years that will deliver a worker first focus as we invest in and protect Ontario's skilled workforce. The Skills Development Fund Capital Stream extends beyond brick and mortar. It is a direct investment in people and potential. It is a direct investment in workers. By equipping workers with the right skills, it strengthens our workforce, improves productivity and keeps Ontario competitive in the global economy. Through our continued collaboration with the provincial government, industry and non-profit partners, we are breaking down barriers, advancing innovative training and apprenticeship programs and strengthening access to good jobs and meaningful careers. Together we are building, connecting and strengthening an Ontario for all."

**- Joseph Mancinelli**

**International Vice President and Canadian Director, LiUNA**

"As Ontario continues to invest in infrastructure to increase our self-reliance in the face of US tariffs, our province needs a skilled, mobile and productive workforce to build it. That is why the Carpenters' Regional Council is thrilled to support additional funding for the highly successful SDF Capital and Training Streams. This investment will build on the incredible results to date, ensuring more young people have access to the rewarding careers in the trades."

**- Tom Cardinal**  
**President and Chief of Staff, Carpenters' Regional Council**

"The Ontario Home Builders' Association applauds the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development for its transformative increase in Skills Development Funding — a crucial investment in Ontario's workforce. This funding has empowered OHBA and our members to deliver valuable initiatives that connect skilled trades talent to meaningful careers in residential construction and support long-term workforce retention. These investments are critical to preventing labour shortages, keeping pace with housing demand and protecting Ontario's economic stability in the face of challenges like American tariffs. This renewed commitment will help ensure our province continues to grow with strength and resilience."

**- Scott Andinson**  
**CEO, Ontario Home Builders' Association**

"As vehicles become more advanced, so must the skills of those who service them. Ensuring technicians have access to the latest training is essential to keeping vehicles on the road and Canadians safe. This investment in the Skills Development Fund will help address the growing demand for qualified auto care professionals — especially in underserved rural Ontario communities — strengthening the sector and the people who rely on it every day."

**- Jean-François Champagne**  
**President and CEO, AIA Canada**

"On behalf of Local 787, I am proud to commend the leadership of Premier Doug Ford and the Hon. David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, as they announce robust investments to better support the delivery of training initiatives. This funding will strengthen Ontario's workforce against the threat of U.S. protectionism and tariffs. In partnership with Ontario's government, the enhanced Skills Development Fund will help keep workers working who build our economy, strengthen our country and most importantly, protect their families. Together, we will protect Ontario."

**- Andrew Tarr**  
**Business Manager, UA Local 787**

"We are truly grateful to Premier Ford and the Government of Ontario for this significant \$955 million investment in the Skills Development Fund. It's a powerful statement of support for the people of Ontario — and for the future of our workforce. At Skills Council of Canada, SDF funding has allowed us to create meaningful programs that connect thousands of youth, newcomers and vulnerable communities with hands-on skilled trades training and real career opportunities. These investments are changing lives and we're proud to be part of that journey."

**- Brad Loiselle**  
**CEO, Skills Council of Canada**

"This Skills Development Fund funding top-up comes at a crucial time. As detailed in our latest workforce report, as many as 22,000 manufacturing workers retire each year from our Ontario workforce. We need predictable resources to train the workers we need — the millwright, machinists, electricians and technology specialists to implement robotics or predictive maintenance solutions. Today's announcement will help secure our future. Keep calm and keep training."

**- Vincent Caron**  
**Vice President, Ontario Government Relations and Member Advocacy,**  
**Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters**

"We are entering another period of uncertainty with the impact of new U.S. tariffs and Ontario's hospitality industry is feeling it. This means fewer events, fewer bookings and fewer hours for hospitality workers. Our members at Unite Here Local 75 are already seeing the signs: shifts are being cut and the future is unclear once again. That's why we welcome Premier Doug Ford's commitment to increase funding for the Skills Development Fund. During the pandemic, this funding was a critical support for our members, helping them get the skills they needed to stay connected to work. With this renewed investment, Local 75 members and other hospitality workers will be equipped to meet the challenges ahead and are not left behind."

**- Guled Warsame**  
**President, UNITE HERE! Local 75**

"Skills Ontario applauds the investment the Ontario government is making into skilled trades to build the province's future workforce. The Skills Development Fund has proven to be an excellent vehicle to develop and deliver skills solutions to address the challenges we face. The Ford government must be commended for its leadership and commitment to growing the economy and improving our quality of life."

**- Ian Howcroft**  
**CEO, Skills Ontario**

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## Additional Resources

[Skills Development Fund: Capital Stream](#)  
[Skills Development Fund Training Stream](#)

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## Related Topics

### Jobs and Employment

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

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## Media Contacts

### Grace Lee

Premier's Office

[Grace.Lee5@ontario.ca](mailto:Grace.Lee5@ontario.ca)

**Colin Blachar**  
Minister Bethlenfalvy’s Office  
[Colin.Blachar@ontario.ca](mailto:Colin.Blachar@ontario.ca)

**Ministry of Finance**  
Communications Branch  
[media.mof@ontario.ca](mailto:media.mof@ontario.ca)

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Privacy

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**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3  
Tél. : 416 585-7000



Please find attached a letter from Minister Flack.

Veuillez trouver en pièce jointe une lettre du ministre Flack.

Your Worship

Mayor Lisa McGee

Town of Arnprior

[lmcgee@arnprior.ca](mailto:lmcgee@arnprior.ca)

May 1, 2025

234-2025-1992

Dear Mayor Lisa McGee,

To follow up on [our government's announcement from April 9, 2025](#), I am pleased to inform you that as of May 1, 2025, we have expanded strong mayor powers to heads of council of an additional 170 municipalities. This includes your municipality.

Heads of council in strong mayor municipalities are able to:

- Choose to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer.
- Hire certain municipal division heads, and establish and re-organize divisions.
- Create committees of council, assign their functions and appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees of council.
- Veto certain by-laws if they are of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a prescribed provincial priority, such as housing, transit and infrastructure.
- Bring forward matters for council consideration if they are of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a prescribed provincial priority.
- Propose certain municipal by-laws if they are of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a prescribed provincial priority. Council can



pass these by-laws if more than one-third of all council members vote in favour.

- Propose the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate mayoral veto and council override process.

Some strong mayor powers are related to prescribed provincial priorities that are identified in [O. Reg 580/22](#).

Heads of council in strong mayor municipalities are subject to existing accountability and transparency rules, as well as certain additional rules. For example, when the head of council exercises many of the strong mayor powers and performs many of the strong mayor duties, they are required to provide written documentation to the municipal clerk and members of council by the next business day. They must also make this written documentation available to the public.

For more information on strong mayor powers and duties please see:

- The Strong Mayor chapter of the [Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide](#)
- Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 – [Special Powers and Duties of the Head of Council](#)
- Regulations made under the Municipal Act, 2001 that relate to strong mayor powers and duties: [O. Reg 580/22](#); [O. Reg. 530/22](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, Tanner Zelenko, at 437-996-2487 or [tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca](mailto:tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca).

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by*

Hon. Rob Flack

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff

Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister

Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division

Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal & Housing Operations Division

Robin Paquette, CAO

1er mai 2025

234-2025-1992

Monsieur le président du conseil / Madame la présidente du conseil

Pour donner suite à l'annonce faite par notre gouvernement le 9 avril 2025, j'ai le plaisir de vous informer qu'en date du 1er mai 2025, nous avons accordé des pouvoirs de maires forts aux présidents des conseils municipaux de 170 municipalités supplémentaires. Cela comprend votre municipalité.

Les présidents de conseil des municipalités dotées de pouvoirs de maires forts peuvent :

- choisir de nommer la directrice générale ou le directeur général de l'administration de la municipalité;
- engager certains responsables des services municipaux et établir ou réorganiser des services;
- créer des comités du conseil, leur attribuer des fonctions et nommer leurs présidentes ou présidents et vice-présidentes ou vice-présidents;
- s'opposer à certains règlements s'ils estiment que l'ensemble ou une partie d'un règlement risque de faire obstacle à une priorité provinciale, comme le logement, le transport en commun et l'infrastructure;
- présenter au conseil des questions qui leur semblent susceptibles de contribuer à faire progresser une priorité provinciale si elles sont examinées par celui-ci;
- proposer certains règlements municipaux qui leur semblent susceptibles de faire progresser une priorité provinciale. Le conseil peut adopter ces règlements municipaux si les deux tiers de ses membres votent en leur faveur;
- préparer un projet de budget municipal, qui serait assujéti aux modifications du conseil, au veto du maire et au processus dérogatoire du conseil.

Certains pouvoirs des maires forts sont liés aux priorités provinciales prescrites dans le Règl. de l'Ont. 580/22.

Les présidents de conseil des municipalités de maires forts sont assujettis aux règles existantes en matière de reddition de comptes et de transparence, ainsi qu'à certaines règles supplémentaires. Par exemple, lorsque le président du conseil exerce bon nombre des pouvoirs de maires forts et qu'il s'acquitte d'un grand nombre des fonctions de maires forts, il doit fournir des documents écrits au greffier

municipal et aux membres du conseil au plus tard le jour ouvrable suivant. Ils doivent également mettre ces documents écrits à la disposition du public.

Pour de plus amples renseignements sur les pouvoirs et fonctions des maires forts, veuillez consulter :

- La section « Pouvoir et fonctions de maires forts » du Guide de la conseillère ou du conseiller municipal.
- Partie VI.1 de la Loi de 2001 sur les municipalités – Pouvoirs et fonctions spéciaux du président du conseil
- Règlements pris en vertu de la Loi de 2001 sur les municipalités qui ont trait aux pouvoirs et fonctions de maires forts : Règl. de l'Ont. 580/22; Règl. de l'Ont. 530/22 :

Si vous avez des questions, veuillez communiquer avec Tanner Zelenko, directeur des relations avec les intervenants et relations avec le groupe parlementaire, au 437-996-2487 ou à [tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca](mailto:tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca).

Je vous prie d'agréer mes salutations distinguées.

Cordialement,

*Original signé par*

L'hon. Rob Flack

Ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement

c : Robert Dodd, chef de cabinet

Martha Greenberg, sous-ministre

Caspar Hall, sous-ministre adjoint, Division des administrations locales

Sean Fraser, sous-ministre adjoint, Division des activités relatives aux municipalités et au logement

Robin Paquette, CAO

Kaila Zamojski, Clerk



# Trail permits required for ATV and off-road motorcycle riders on Renfrew County Recreational Trails

Posted on Wednesday, April 30, 2025



*The Algonquin Trail and K&P Trail open to motorize users on May 1. Please note permits are required through provincial federations for riders of all-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles.*

## **RELEASE DATE:**

April 30, 2025

The County of Renfrew has signed an agreement with a provincial federation which will allow off-road motorcycle riders to access Recreational Trails in Renfrew County.

The County has executed a License Agreement with the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR), the provincial body representing off-road motorcycle riders, to allow permit holding members of their organization to use of the Algonquin Trail and the K&P Recreational Trail.

The License Agreement with OFTR is similar to an existing agreement in place with the Renfrew County ATV Club (RCATV), requiring that riders have a licence and

insurance, and hold a valid permit from the Licensing Agency (OFTR or RCATV).

Permits can be purchased from either organization at the links below:

OFTR: <https://rideoftr.vercel.app/join/choosePlan>

RCATV: <https://permits2.ofatv.org/register/step-1>

A permit from either organization provides riders with full access to their respective trail networks across the province.

Off-road motorcycles and ATVs are permitted on the trails as of May 1.

We do ask that all trail users respect the multi-use nature of the trails and show courtesy to one another while enjoying the natural beauty of the County Recreational Trails.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Taylor Hanrath 735-7288	Manager of Capital Works	613-
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Tina Peplinskie 735-7288	Media Relations Coordinator	613-
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By [GHD Digital](https://www.govstack.com) (<https://www.govstack.com>).



# Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards Celebrate Industry Excellence

Posted on Friday, May 02, 2025



*Winners Photo: (backrow, L to R) Elijah McEown on behalf of the City of Pembroke for the Tourism Marketing Award, Jill McLellan on behalf of Hell or High Water for the Event of the Year Award, Jason O'Brien with Lioutsia O'Brien in front of him from Whitewater O'Brien Winery for the New Tourism Product Award, Richard McNish from Dog House Brewing Company for the Sustainability Champion Award, (front row, L to R) Lana Cole and Scott Fawcett from Ottawa Valley Air Paddle for Business of the Year Award, Lioutsia O'Brien and finally, Meghan James of Somewhere Inn Calabogie for Tourism Champion Award.*

**Pembroke, ON** – The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) is proud to announce the winners of the 2025 Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards. This year's celebration followed the OVTA's Annual General Meeting, held on April 29 at the Neat Coffee Shop in Burnstown, where local community partners and industry champions gathered in support of the region's growing visitor economy.

The Awards honour the individuals, businesses, and events that are helping to shape the region into a must-visit destination through creativity, leadership, and a deep commitment to the community. The 2025 award recipients represent the very best of what the Valley has to offer:

### **Tourism Champion Award**

Presented in honour of Marilyn Alexander, a passionate advocate for collaboration in tourism, this award recognizes an OVTA member who leads by example and continually champions the Ottawa Valley. This year's recipient, Meghan James, General Manager of Somewhere Inn Calabogie, exemplifies that spirit. A dedicated OVTA board member and Vice Chair, Meghan plays an instrumental role in key initiatives, including the Tourism Awards and Ontario's Highlands Travel Trade Program. Her leadership, energy, and passion for the region have made a lasting impact.

### **Business / Organization of the Year Award**

This award recognizes a tourism business or organization that demonstrates exceptional innovation, service, and contribution to the local tourism sector. Ottawa Valley Air Paddle (OVAP) is the 2025 recipient for its approach to outdoor adventure tourism. Based in Arnprior, OVAP offers guided tours, rentals, and events like PaddleFest and Light at Night Kayaking, drawing hundreds of visitors. Their Demo Centre offers a unique entry point for new paddlers and contributes to a thriving year-round tourism economy.

### **Event of the Year Award**

Awarded to a festival or event that demonstrates best practices and serves as a model of excellence, this year's honour goes to Hell or High Water in Petawawa. This volunteer-driven whitewater festival celebrates river culture by bringing paddlers of all kinds together. Beyond competitions, the event has raised nearly \$50,000 for local causes while nurturing a strong sense of community and environmental stewardship.

### **Sustainability Champion Award**

This award honours a member that demonstrates leadership in responsible tourism and sustainability. Dog House Brewing stood out in 2025 for its thoughtful approach to environmental responsibility—from sourcing local ingredients to implementing innovative water recycling systems. The brewery's commitment extends beyond its product, serving as a welcoming space for both visitors and locals.

### **New Tourism Product Award**

Awarded to a new business or organization offering an innovative tourism experience, this year's recipient is Whitewater O'Brien Winery. Fusing a passion for winemaking with strong community connections, the winery has grown into a destination in its own right. With eleven unique wines, tasting experiences, and a focus on local partnerships, it offers guests an authentic taste of the Valley's emerging wine culture.

### **Tourism Marketing Award**

Recognizing excellence in promotional strategy and execution, the City of Pembroke earned this year's award for its refreshed Visit Pembroke brand. In 2024, the launch of a new tourism website, [visitpembroke.ca](https://visitpembroke.ca), helped drive page views from 2,500 to over 37,000. Combined with targeted digital campaigns and updated print materials, the city significantly elevated its profile as a tourism destination.



"It's always amazing to see the passion and hard work that goes into making the Ottawa Valley a great place to visit," said Joel Kowalski, Chair of the Tourism Awards Committee. "This year's winners truly go above and beyond, and we're proud to celebrate everything they bring to our communities." The OVTA extends sincere thanks to everyone who submitted nominations and helped shine a light on the individuals and organizations shaping the future of tourism in the Ottawa Valley. Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

The OVTA is the destination marketing organization for the Upper Ottawa Valley and proudly represents over 250 tourism businesses, comprised of attractions and outfitters, accommodation, food, beverage and retail establishments, artists and galleries, municipalities and community organizations, as well as media and industry suppliers. The OVTA is supported by the County of Renfrew, Renfrew County municipalities and the City of Pembroke.

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**For more information, contact:**

Erin Norris

Tourism Industry Relations & Digital Marketing Coordinator

613.732.4364 ext. 416

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# Construction Update - May 2025

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Posted on Monday, May 05, 2025



*County Structure B145 (Combermere Bridge), Township of Madawaska Valley*

## **Construction Update – May 5, 2025**

The County of Renfrew Department of Public Works and Engineering will provide monthly updates on construction projects within the County. To sign up for notifications for our monthly construction updates, please visit the link below:

<https://renfrew-county.civilspace.io/en/projects/2025-county-transportation-infrastructure-projects>

Please share this notice publicly to keep residents, businesses, and stakeholders informed of any potential upcoming traffic interruptions due to construction projects. For up-to-date information on active projects and their traffic impacts, please visit Municipal511 at <https://www.municipal511.ca/>.

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

## **Upcoming Projects**

**County Road 2 (Daniel Street North) – Town of Arnprior**

The rehabilitation of County Road 2 (Daniel Street North), from County Road 1 (Madawaska Street) to Staye Court Drive, is anticipated to commence May 26, 2025 and be completed early-August. During construction, areas of Daniel Street North will be limited to a single, alternating, lane of traffic.

**County Roads 36 (TV Tower Rd.) and 51 (Pembroke St. West) – Township of Laurentian Valley**

The rehabilitation of County Road 36 (TV Tower Road), from County Road 35 (Jean Avenue) to County Road 42 (Forest Lea Road), and County Road 51 (Pembroke Street West), from Pembroke City limits to County Road 42 (Forest Lea Road), is anticipated to commence May 26, 2025 and be completed late-July. During construction, areas of Pembroke Street West and TV Tower Road will be limited to a single, alternating, lane of traffic.

**County Road 52 (Burnstown Rd.) – Township of McNab/Braeside**

The rehabilitation of County Road 52 (Burnstown Road), from Waba Creek Bridge (near White Lake) to Burnstown Bridge (near Burnstown), is anticipated to commence May 26, 2025 and be completed early-July. During construction, areas of Burnstown Road will be limited to a single, alternating, lane of traffic.

**County Road 69 (Siberia Rd.) – Township of Madawaska Valley**

The rehabilitation of County Road 69 (Siberia Road), from River Road to Sunny Hill Road, is anticipated to commence June 2, 2025 and be completed early-August. During construction, areas of Siberia Road will be limited to a single, alternating, lane of traffic.

**Ongoing Projects**

**County Road 71 (Matawatchan Rd.) – Township of Greater Madawaska**

Rock removal and widening of the causeway is ongoing in support of the rehabilitation of County Road 71 (Matawatchan Road). Rock removal and placement is occurring approximately 8.2km south of Highway 41. Rock removal and placement is anticipated to be completed early-May, during this time the road at this location will be reduced to a single lane with temporary, short-term closures occurring during off-peak hours. The overall rehabilitation of Matawatchan Road from Civic Address 4882 to County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road) is anticipated to commence June 2, 2025 and be completed late-June.

**County Structure B145 (Combermere Bridge) – Township of Madawaska Valley**

The rehabilitation of County Structure B145 (Combermere Bridge), located on County Road 62 (Combermere Road), approximately 0.5km south of County Road 515 (Palmer Road), commenced April 2, 2025 and is anticipated to be completed mid-November. During construction, the bridge will be limited to a single lane of traffic with temporary signals in place, and Mill Street will be closed at Combermere

Road with detour in place. Pedestrian access across the bridge will be maintained during the project.

### **County Structure C201 (Broomes Creek Culvert & Dam) – Township of Whitewater Region**

The rehabilitation of County Structure C201 (Broomes Creek Culvert & Dam), located on County Road 7 (Foresters Falls Road), approximately 0.1km east of Foresters Falls, commenced May 1, 2025 and is anticipated to be completed early-December. During construction, the road at this location will be closed to all traffic, with a signed detour using Kohlsmith Road and Queens Line in place. There will be no pedestrian access during the project. For further information specific to this project, please visit: <https://renfrew-county.civilspace.io/en/projects/c201-broomes-creek-culvert-dam-reconstruction>

**For the safety of all, please use extra caution when travelling through construction zones.**

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

## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, May 5, 2025)

### **Yellow is the Colour of Caution in RCDHU's Animal Bite Awareness Campaign**

Yellow is the colour of caution on traffic lights, and it is also a warning sign to give space to dogs and other animals that need it.

For the third year in a row, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is encouraging the use of a yellow ribbon (or bandana, bow, or similar marker) tied to a dog's leash or collar to remind people to give the animal space. This is part of RCDHU's awareness campaign to reduce the number of animal bites in the region. In addition to the potential for injury, animal bites carry a risk of exposure to rabies, often requiring rabies vaccinations for the person who is bitten or a confinement period for the animal involved.

People exposed to animal bites and scratches have been steadily on the rise. "While the risk of acquiring rabies from a domestic animal is low, such events can be traumatic and can create a lot of inconvenience for the owner and the person bitten, and these situations can be avoided," states David Tantalo, Manager of Healthy Environments at RCDHU. He continues, "This campaign aims to reduce unnecessary bites or scratches by identifying animals who need space. Remember, if you see yellow on someone's pet, give the animal space!"

By tying a yellow marker to a dog's leash or collar, pet owners are stating that the animal needs space for various reasons. This could include age, health issues (including recovering from surgery), nervousness, aggression, or training.

RCDHU encourages social media users to get involved in the campaign by sharing photos of their pets wearing a yellow ribbon or marker. Tag RCDHU (@RCDHealthUnit) and use the hashtags #YellowRibbonDog or #GiveMeSpace. Yellow ribbons are available for pick up at the RCDHU Pembroke office and participating pet stores, veterinary clinics and municipal offices across Renfrew County. Click the weblink below for a list.

Tantalo encourages families, especially children, to understand what the yellow ribbon or marker means. "In general, it's best to get the animal owner's full attention and permission before approaching and petting the animal. The yellow ribbon can serve as an important reminder of this."

RCDHU must be notified any time an animal bites or scratches a person. If someone is bitten by an animal, RCDHU recommends recording the pet owner's contact information. If possible, take a picture of the animal or remember specific features, like markings or a distinctive collar. This assists public health inspectors in identifying the correct animal.

To learn more, contact RCDHU at 1-800-267-1097, or visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/infection-prevention-and-control/yellow-ribbon-campaign-rabies-awareness/>.

- 30 -

Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
Fax: 613-735-3067  
media@rcdhu.com  
www.rcdhu.com

**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 24, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - April 24, 2025



April 24, 2025

- AMO's Guidance Resources on Electricity Procurements.
- NEW Health and Safety Water Stream fund - 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!
- Teeny Tiny Summits 2025 line-up - Registration is open.
- AMO Trade and Tariff Forum - June 6.
- OSUM Conference 2025: Rebuilding our Political Culture.
- Planning for people in your community: May 8 virtual workshop.
- Net Zero Workshops: Spaces still available.
- Homelessness Encampments and Human Rights Webinar.
- Modernization of Rail Proximity Guidelines.
- Workshop: Shaping your community's energy future.
- 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 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.

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**

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\***

AMO is supporting a webinar hosted by the Canadian Urban Institute and The Shift about applying a human rights lens to homeless encampments. To participate on April 30th at 12 noon, please [register](#) in advance.

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](#) though their survey on the guidelines.

Pollution Probe and QUEST Canada are hosting workshops on [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**

[Project Coordinator, Zero Emission Mobility - City of Brampton](#). Closing Date: May 12, 2025.

[Manager of Development Services - King Township](#). Closing Date: May 20, 2025.

[Economic Development Officer - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: May 9, 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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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - May 1, 2025



May 01, 2025

- AMO releases *Engaging Youth in Local Democracy* report.
- AMO's Guidance Resources on Electricity Procurements.
- Emergency Preparedness Week: May 4 - 11, 2025.
- New Health and Safety Water Stream fund.
- 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!
- Teeny Tiny Summits 2025 line-up - Registration is open.
- AMO Trade and Tariff Forum - June 6.
- Planning for people in your community: May 8 virtual workshop.
- All Risk Municipal Grant applications due today.
- Virtual Net-Zero Workshop registration now open.
- AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program.
- Ontario Bike Summit.
- Net-Zero Communities Accelerator Program coming to Ontario.
- Careers.

### **AMO Matters**

Improving the health of local democracies requires a renewed focus on engaging the young people in our communities. Through AMO's Healthy Democracy Project and in partnership with Apathy is Boring, we've developed a new [Engaging Youth in Local Democracy](#) resource that will help you learn how to better engage youth in your communities with actionable strategies and tactics for elected officials, municipalities, and public sector organizations.

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**

Ontario's theme for Emergency Preparedness Week, "Plan for Every Season", encourages residents to stay safe, practiced, and prepared. Access digital resources through [Publications Ontario](#) or [order your print materials today](#).

Intake is open for Ontario's new Health and Safety Water Stream fund to help municipalities and First Nations build, repair and expand aging water infrastructure. [Apply now!](#)

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.

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](#).

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**

Applications for the [All Risk Municipal Grant](#) are due today by 4 pm EST. Three municipalities will receive \$10,000 towards their risk management initiative. Enter your risk project today!

Have you registered for LAS' virtual net zero workshop yet? Join us online on June 18 to learn how you can cut energy costs, boost savings and incorporate low carbon initiatives in your municipal buildings. [Register today](#).

### **Municipal Wire\***

The AMCTO-Mitacs [Municipal Innovation Internship Program](#) is an application-based program that matches Ontario municipal governments with post-secondary students studying in Ontario. Ontario municipalities can now [submit their project proposal\(s\)](#) for consideration by May 9. The internship program will take place from January-August 2026.

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.

Small and mid-sized Ontario municipalities are invited to [submit an expression of interest](#) to participate in Quest Canada's Net-Zero Communities Accelerator program by June 13.

### **Careers**

[Zoning Officer - Town of Halton Hills](#). Closing Date: May 21, 2025

[Manager of Operations - County of Renfrew](#). Closing Date: May 14, 2025

[Chief Executive Officer - Grand Erie Public Health](#). Closing Date: May 28, 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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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2025 6:40 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Spring Policy Priorities



## **AMO Policy Update – Spring Policy Priorities**

### **AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Update: New Economic Reality Demands Partnership and Strategic Investment**

The global landscape and our economic conditions have fundamentally changed since AMO launched its [2025 Pre-Budget Submission](#) in January. We now face an unprecedented threat to our economy and sovereignty, and overcoming it requires a strong and united front. Today, AMO is pleased to announce its [2025 Pre-Budget Update](#) which calls for a stimulus investment in municipal infrastructure of \$3.45 billion annually over the next five years to:

- keep in-flight municipal capital projects on track,
- accelerate planned municipal infrastructure projects, and
- develop and repair up to 20,000 new social housing units in communities across Ontario.

This work is supported by a [new macroeconomic analysis report](#) that AMO commissioned from Oxford Economics. The report provides insights into the impacts of tariffs on Ontario, its industries, and its municipalities' finances, helping municipalities navigate uncertain times. The report also models the positive impacts of stimulus, providing a basis for AMO's updated pre-budget submission.

Ontario's municipalities are strongest when they speak with one voice. AMO has provided [key messages and social media cards](#) to help interested members amplify its stimulus request in the face of economic downturn.

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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, May 1, 2025 1:50 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Ontario Introduces Bill 5 and Re-Introduces Homelessness Encampments Bill, New Report on Tariffs Impacting Municipal Construction Costs



## **AMO Policy Update - Ontario Introduces Bill 5 and Re-Introduces Homelessness Encampments Bill, New Report on Tariffs Impacting Municipal Construction Costs**

### **Ontario Introduces Bill 5 – *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act***

On April 17, the province [introduced an omnibus bill](#) which proposes changes related to development approvals including:

- Allowing the province to designate “special economic zones” including geographic areas, “trusted proponents” or projects that would be exempt from provincial legislation and regulations, and from municipal by-laws
- Replace species-at-risk permitting requirements with a registration-first approach that would allow work to begin immediately upon registration
- Allow the province to direct energy agencies to prohibit companies from procurements based on country-of-origin requirements
- Streamline the archaeological assessment and artifact protection process for developments where archaeological sites are present
- Streamline the province’s mine permitting process

AMO is reviewing Bill 5 and consulting with our members as we prepare to bring the discussion to the Standing Committee process. AMO is encouraged that Minister Lecce committed to adhering to robust environmental protections and to fulfilling the province's obligations to Indigenous communities.

For special economic zones to be successful, it's vital that they are developed in partnership with local communities. Ontario's municipalities are committed to supporting proactive steps that strengthen our economy. AMO understands that economic prosperity is tied to social, cultural, and environmental prosperity, and AMO is confident that provincial officials and legislators understand that too.

### **Trade and Tariffs – New Report on the Impacts of Tariffs on Municipal Construction Costs**

AMO is pleased to share a [final report](#) from Oxford Economics analyzing the projected impact of tariffs on municipal construction costs in Ontario. This report sets out in detail which kinds of municipal capital projects are most likely to be exposed to direct impacts from tariffs based on the materials they use and how heavily Ontario relies on US imports.

With this report, municipalities can better inform Councils' decisions on capital projects, understand and explain price fluctuations, and support procurement negotiations with vendors.

The report estimates that:

- Tariff impacts will raise capital expenditures for Ontario municipalities by an estimated \$1.04 billion, or 2.0% in the next two years.
- Given their majority share of total capital expenditure, impacts on roads and non-residential buildings account for half of the overall impact.
- Expenditure on constructing building and infrastructure assets will increase by between 1.4% and 2.3% for each asset type. Expenditure on non-residential buildings is estimated to experience the largest relative impact, at 2.3%.

Soon, AMO will provide a tool that we developed with Oxford Economics. This tool goes along with the report and will help municipalities estimate how much more new construction projects might cost because of tariffs.

## Homelessness Encampments Bill Re-Introduced in the Legislature

Yesterday, the government [re-introduced](#) the same encampments legislation that was previously tabled prior to the provincial election in December 2024. This is in keeping with campaign commitments and the Speech from the Throne. [Bill 6, the Safer Municipalities Act, 2025](#) focuses on increasing enforcement around encampments and public drug use.

Bill 6, if passed by the legislature, would:

- Enact the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025*.
- Subject to specified exemptions, the Act would prohibit the consumption of an illegal substance in a public place. A police officer or a prescribed provincial offences officer may issue directions, ticket and arrest if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the person is consuming an illegal substance in a public place. It also establishes fines of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment of up to six months.
- Make amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act* that would enhance penalties for people and establishing upon conviction a fine of up to \$10,000. It would also add new aggravating factors of continuous trespassing and the likelihood of reoffending.

The province also highlighted their previous funding commitments and other measures announced in 2024 assisting municipalities to address homelessness encampments.

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

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

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

Enforcement alone will not effectively address encampments. While the investments are a good start, serious investments and coordinated action on transitional, supportive and community housing, mental health, addictions and social services, and income support are needed to make real progress. For more information, see AMO's January 2025 Report: [Municipalities Under Pressure: The Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis](#).

## **Reminder – Health Survey Responses Due May 2!**

Responses to AMO's Health Survey that was sent to Heads of Council and Treasurers on April 15th are due on May 2nd at 5pm. Through this survey, AMO is collecting data on the specific contributions municipalities are making to health services in your communities. Survey data will be complemented by a series of voluntary interviews with key municipalities interested in sharing more details about their responses. Survey results and related advocacy materials will be made available to all AMO members upon completion.

The success of the project is dependent upon the gaining insights from all municipalities in Ontario. The participation of your municipality is crucial and appreciated. If you or your staff have any questions about the survey or the timeline for completion, please contact Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor at [dspagnuolo@amo.on.ca](mailto:dspagnuolo@amo.on.ca).

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

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 10:12 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Municipal Governance Changes



## **AMO Policy Update - Municipal Governance Changes**

### **Municipal Codes of Conduct Legislation**

AMO welcomes the reintroduction of legislation that responds to the sector's calls for codifying and enforcing higher standards of accountability for elected officials.

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

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

AMO [wrote to Minister Flack](#) in early April recommending some amendments to the proposed legislation, specifically noting that the consensus threshold for the proposed removal from office is too high and progressive penalties are still needed.

## Strong Mayor Powers

The province has proposed [additional strong mayor powers](#) for an additional 169 municipalities. These would come into effect on 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.

We have heard from members across the province with questions about these new powers and how municipalities can use them responsibly.

Given these powers are new and that the Ministry is best placed to speak to the intention behind these powers, [AMO also wrote to Minister Flack](#) in response to member feedback encouraging the province to provide resources and training for the municipal sector, including elected officials, to help ensure effective implementation of the provincial strong mayor power framework.

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.

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

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Township of Champlain

Resolution  
Regular Council Meeting

**Agenda Number:** 11.1.  
**Resolution Number** 2025-120  
**Title:** Councillor Gerry Miner - Surveillance and Monitoring of Heavy Vehicles in Ontario  
**Date:** April 24, 2025

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**Moved By:** Gérard Miner  
**Seconded By:** Paul Burroughs

**Whereas** the Council of the Township of Champlain is of the opinion that additional surveillance and monitoring of heavy vehicles in Ontario is required to ensure the safety of other motorists, property owners, and pedestrians.

**Be it resolved that** the Township of Champlain calls upon the Government of Ontario to: increase surveillance and spot checks of all heavy vehicles travelling on Ontario roads; as well as monitoring the testing standards maintained by privately-owned heavy licensing facilities.

**Be it further resolved that** this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the MPP Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, the Ontario Provincial Police, AMO and all municipalities in Ontario.

**Carried**

Certified True Copy of Resolution

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Alison Collard, Clerk      Date:



April 29, 2025

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington St  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney:

Re: Support of Canadian Economy

This is to confirm that at the April 28, 2025 Council Meeting the following resolution was adopted with respect to the above noted matter:

WHEREAS The Township of West Lincoln recognizes the economic challenges posed by the proposed U.S. tariffs on local and domestic businesses, workers and economic stability on both sides of the border; and

WHEREAS at the Niagara borders, 9.1 million people crossed into the US from Canada, and 9.3 million people crossed from the US into Canada; and

WHEREAS a total of \$119.5 billion in goods transited the borders in Niagara: \$57.8 billion were exports to the US, and \$61.6 billion were imports to Canada; and

WHEREAS Niagara borders with the US accounted for 11.4% of total goods traded between Canada and the US; and

WHEREAS Premier Doug Ford has stated the proposed tariffs could cost Ontario 500,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS in 2023, 532 businesses in Niagara exported \$5.9 billion in goods to the US, and the US market accounts for 72% of total exports from Niagara; and

WHEREAS the implementation of a 25% tariff on Canadian goods threatens not only local businesses but also the broader supply chain that fuels economic activity across Ontario and the rest of Canada; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that all levels of government work together to address these challenges, ensuring that our procurement policies support domestic industries while maintaining competitive and sustainable growth; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of trade and infrastructure investments in shaping the future of our communities, West Lincoln stands ready to take decisive action in collaboration with provincial and federal stakeholders; and

WHEREAS municipalities have traditionally been restricted by Federal and Provincial trade agreements from giving preference to “Buy Canadian” initiatives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of West Lincoln Council calls on provincial and federal governments to remove any impediments to municipalities preferentially procuring from Canadian companies for capital projects and supplies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Township Council calls on the provincial and federal governments to continue to work together on a response that protects the Canadian economy through measures such as expanding export opportunities outside of the US market, removing inter-provincial trade barriers, continuing to push for exemptions and tariff reductions via diplomatic channels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Township of West Lincoln Council formally acknowledges the economic challenges posed by the proposed U.S. tariffs and commits to adopting strategies that will protect our local and domestic economy; and that subject to provincial and federal changes to legislation, adjustments will be made to our procurement policies that prioritize Canadian businesses, strengthen trade advocacy efforts, and promote interprovincial collaboration to mitigate the impact of tariffs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this motion be sent to.

The Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

The Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)

Niagara Region Municipalities

Niagara Region MPPs  
Niagara Region MPs

If any further information is required, please contact the undersigned at 905-957-3346, Ext 5129.

Yours Truly,



Justin J. Paylove  
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk  
[ipaylove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:ipaylove@westlincoln.ca)

JJP/jmt

cc. Premier Doug Ford  
Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities  
Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Dean Allison, MP  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP  
Chris Bittle, MP  
Tony Baldinelli, MP  
Fred Davies, MP  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP  
Wayne Gates, MPP  
Jeff Burch, MPP  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Niagara Region Municipalities



# THE GRIND PEMBROKE PRESENT



## DOUBLE BOGEY BUNKER BLASTER GOLF CLASSIC

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Charity Tournament

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Oaks of Cobden



June 13, 2025

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12:00 NOON SHOTGUN START  
1725 KOHLSMITH ROAD, COBDEN, ON

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For Registration Forms or more Information,  
Contact us at: [the grindpembroke@gmail.com](mailto:the grindpembroke@gmail.com)

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