

# Town of Arnprior Regular Meeting of Council: September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 Correspondence Package No. I-25-SEP-16

#### **Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package No. I-25-SEP-16 be received as information and filed accordingly.

#### **General Information Items:**

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

- **a)** Canada and Ontario Investing \$14.6 Million to Help Farmers Make Improvements to Farmlands
- **b)** Ontario Expanding Access to Community Long-Term Care Services
- c) Ontario Announces New Chair of the Ontario Energy Board
- d) Canada and Ontario Investing \$4.77 Million in Agri-Food Research
- e) Ontario Launching New Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Program
- f) Ontario Boosting Training for Entrepreneurs
- g) Ontario Investing \$3 Million to Support Francophone Communities
- h) Ontario Helping More Students Learn About Rewarding Careers in the Skilled Trades
- i) Ontario Investing in Mobile Crisis Response Teams to Better Protect Communities
- j) Ontario Investing More Than \$746,000 to Train and Protect Firefighters
- **k)** Ontario Investing in Local Infrastructure to Support Small, Rural and Northern Communities
- I) Ontario Taking Next Steps to Improve Health-Care Access

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

a) Construction Update - September 2025

- **b)** Seven young entrepreneurs celebrated at Summer Company wrap-up event
- c) Taste of the Valley event in Calabogie September 20

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

- a) Yellow Ribbon Campaign Participant Survey
- **b)** Horse in Renfrew County and District Tests Positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV)

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

- a) Watch File September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- **b)** Watch File September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- c) Find certainty among tariff and trade disruptions
- d) Join AMO's 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum
- e) Indigenous Community Awareness Training
- f) AMO Policy Update Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes
- g) AMO Policy Update AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement, Federal Development Charges Advocacy, Federal Government Pre-Budget Announcements, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Forum Commitments, and Blue Box Amendments

#### 5. Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Newsletter

- a) September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Newsletter
- **b)** September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Newsletter

#### 6. Correspondence from Enterprise Renfrew County

a) Summer Newsletter 2025

#### 7. Correspondence from MPP Billy Denault

- a) Apply Now! Fire Protection Grant Open for Applications
- 8. Correspondence from Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund

a) Ontario Cultural Attractions, Ontario Arts Council & ON Culture Days

#### 9. Correspondence from National Defence

 a) Public Service Announcement – Royal Canadian Dragoons Road Moves in Ottawa Valley

#### 10. Correspondence from the Arnprior Fire Department

a) Community Safety Net Thank You

#### 11. Correspondence from Other Municipalities

- a) Township of Larder Lake Moratorium on Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate in the Timiskaming Forest
- **b)** Township of Larder Lake Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22
- c) Township of Perry Support for Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

#### 12. Correspondence from the Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley

a) Presentation to County Council – September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## 13. Correspondence from the Renfrew County Regional Science & Technology Fair

a) Request for donation to support 2026 fair

# Canada and Ontario Investing \$14.6 Million to Help Farmers Make Improvements to Farmlands

Federal and provincial investment will protect Ontario's farmers in the face of U.S. tariffs and policies

September 03, 2025

<u>Agriculture</u>, Food and <u>Agribusiness</u>

TORONTO – The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$14.6 million through the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) to help farmers make improvements to their farmland.

As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario, this investment supports the province's <u>Grow Ontario Strategy</u> to give farmers the tools they need to build long-term resiliency and stay competitive in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty.

"We're working with farmers in Ontario to help them take care of their soil, keep their water clean, and make their farms stronger in the face of environmental challenges," said the Honourable Heath MacDonald, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "By supporting natural infrastructure and sustainable practices, we're helping to protect our farmlands and strengthen Canada's food system."

"Ontario farmers are incredible, caring stewards of their lands, who work hard to make them more productive and resilient – even as they face challenges out of their control," said Trevor Jones, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. "Our government is proud to support them with investments that protect farmland, build a resilient agricultural sector and help grow Ontario's economy."

The RALP Marginal Lands Initiative, delivered by Conservation Ontario, is receiving an additional \$9.6 million to help farmers create or enhance natural features such as wetlands or pollinator habitats on marginal agricultural lands. The program connects farmers to technical support and organizations that can make it easier for farmers who carry out large-scale environmental projects on their land, including carbon sequestering and reducing emissions.

An additional investment of up to \$5 million is being invested in the RALP Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Initiative, delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), to help farmers access funding to plant grasslands and trees, reduce tillage and build water retention features. These improvements help farmers better withstand extreme weather, improve soil and water health and boost biodiversity.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a 5-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial, and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment for programs designed and delivered by the provinces and territories, cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially.

#### **Quick Facts**

- The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program is providing up to \$56.7 million through the five-year Sustainable CAP to support Ontario farmers in sequestering carbon and making their agriculture lands more productive and resilient.
- Information and guidelines about the Marginal Lands Initiative are available on the <u>Conservation Ontario</u> website. A request for proposals submissions process to apply for funding support through this initiative will open on September 22, 2025.
- Funding amounts for the OSCIA-delivered initiative vary according to the type and scope of the project. For more details, contact the OSCIA.
- The Ontario Forage Council delivers another RALP Initiative in Ontario. The Community Pastures Initiative helps make the province's community pastures more productive by enhancing the quality of these lands to ensure farmers have access to the best grazing fields for their livestock.
- For more information about OMAFA programs and services, contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre (AICC) at 1-877-424-1300 or at <a href="mailto:ag.info.omafa@ontario.ca">ag.info.omafa@ontario.ca</a>.

#### Quotes

"Conservation Ontario is proud to work with the Province of Ontario and local partners on this project. Together, we're helping farmers across the province take on environmental projects that support their farms and protect the land—both important for Ontario's future and economy."

- Dave Barton Chair Conservation Ontario and Mayor of Uxbridge

"RALP is an opportunity for Ontario farmers to support their continuous investment in the long-term health of their land. Our mission is to facilitate responsible economic management of soil, water, air and crops. This aligns with the delivery of RALP funding as another way we help farmers make their agricultural lands more productive and resilient."

- Kerry Wright

Executive Director, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

#### **Additional Resources**

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

**Grow Ontario** 

**Conservation Ontario** 

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Ontario Forage Council

#### **Related Topics**

#### **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. <u>Learn more</u>

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## Ontario Expanding Access to Community Long-Term Care Services

Province launches program for people to access services offered in long-term care homes so they can age safely at home

September 05, 2025

**Long-Term Care** 

BRAMPTON — The Ontario government is investing \$15 million over two years in the Community Access to Long-Term Care (CALTC) program that will enable people to receive long-term care services while still living in their own homes. The program is part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by investing in public services, including by ensuring more seniors can age safely in their own homes.

"Our government is protecting our long-term care system with targeted investments that ensure people get the right care in the right place," said Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care. "By giving seniors access to more services while living safely at home, the Community Access to Long-Term Care program will improve seniors' quality of life, support caregivers, reduce avoidable hospital visits and delay the need for live-in long-term care."

The CALTC program, which was announced today at the Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor in Brampton, will allow people still living in their own homes to access long-term care services, including clinical and personal care, nursing support, dementia resources and wound care, so they can age safely at home for longer. The program is open to seniors and others living in their homes who are on the long-term care waitlist, eligible for long-term care, or soon to be eligible for long-term care. CALTC is being launched in partnership with three long-term care homes in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, including Peel Manor's Seniors Health and Wellness Village, before expanding to additional sites in 2026, with a focus on rural and northern communities.

The government is fixing long-term care to ensure Ontario's long-term care residents get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve, and a key part of our plan is to improve care for seniors living in the community. The plan to

improve care for residents is built on four pillars: staffing and care; quality and enforcement; building modern, safe, and comfortable homes; and connecting seniors with faster, more convenient access to the services they need.

### **Quick Facts**

- The other homes in this program include Partners Community Health's
  Integrated Seniors' Hub at Wellbrook Place in Mississauga and St. Joseph's Villa
  Dundas. Those interested in accessing the program should contact the
  participating homes directly.
- In August, the government <u>announced an \$89 million investment</u> to protect seniors by making the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care (CPLTC) program permanent and expanding services offered in First Nations communities.
- Seniors people age 65 and older make up the fastest growing age group in the province.
- As part of its plan to fix long-term care and address waitlists, the government is building 58,000 new and upgraded long-term care beds across the province.
- Ontario is offering <u>incentives of up to \$35,400</u> to PSW students and eligible PSWs to launch careers in long-term care homes and in the home and community care sector.
- The Ontario government invested up to \$4.9 billion between 2021 and 2025 to create thousands of new positions for personal support workers, nurses, and allied health professionals in long-term care.

#### **Quotes**

"This investment in the Community Access to Long-Term Care program will make a real difference for seniors and families in our community. With Peel Manor's Seniors Health and Wellness Village serving as one of the first sites, seniors in Brampton will have better access to the supports they need from clinical and nursing services to personal care while continuing to live safely at home. This is another important step in improving the care and quality of life for our growing senior population."

- Amarjot Sandhu MPP for Brampton West "By 2041, one in five Peel residents will be over the age of 65, which will mean that more people in our community will be living with dementia. The Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor will support the diverse needs of this population with emotion-based care in long term care, as well as seniors and caregivers living in their own homes. By working in partnership with the Ministry of Long-Term Care, as we are with this pilot program, we can improve the quality of life for seniors in Peel, while helping the health care system operate more effectively."

- Nando Iannicca Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Peel Region

"At Partners Community Health, we are committed to helping seniors live healthy, fulfilling lives in the place they call home. As a trusted partner in building a connected system of care, we are proud to be included in the Community Access to Long-Term Care program, which reflects our vision of delivering high-quality, integrated, and personalized care to seniors in the community. Through this program, we can empower seniors to stay active, independent and engaged, while receiving the care they need to live at home longer with the best quality of life possible."

- Tess Romain President & CEO, Partners Community Health

"At St. Joseph's Villa Dundas, we have a long tradition serving our community with high-quality, compassionate care. Through the Community Access to Long-Term Care program, we are supporting healthy aging in place for seniors and their families and creating new health and social care options for seniors that are tailored to where they are in their care journey."

- John Woods

Integrated President of St. Joseph's Villa Dundas, St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, and St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Brantford

#### **Additional Resources**

- 2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario
- Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care

## **Related Topics**

#### Government

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

## Learn more

#### **Health and Wellness**

Get help navigating Ontario's health care system and connecting with the programs or services you're looking for. <u>Learn more</u>

## **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. <u>Learn</u> more

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## Ontario Announces New Chair of the Ontario Energy Board

Geoff Owen appointed to help deliver a self-reliant, affordable and secure energy system

September 05, 2025

**Energy and Mines** 

**TORONTO** – As part of Ontario's commitment to build a self-reliant, future-ready and affordable energy system, the Government of Ontario is strengthening the leadership of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) with the appointment of Geoff Owen as Chair of the Board.

"Ontario is forging ahead with an ambitious long-term energy plan that keeps costs down as we build the future," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. "Geoff has the experience and leadership at the OEB to help protect Ontario's future by ensuring families and businesses can count on reliable, affordable, and clean energy."

With deep regulatory expertise, business strategy and public affairs experience, Mr. Owen is well-positioned to lead the OEB as it supports the province's growing energy needs through the delivery of *Energy for Generations*, the province's first ever integrated energy plan to power the strongest economy in the G7. Having served on the Board since 2021, including as Vice Chair since 2024 and Acting Chair since April 2025, his leadership will help protect Ontario by ensuring the energy system remains reliable, affordable and secure.

With clear direction and strong leadership in place, Ontario is not only meeting the energy demands of today: It is building the framework necessary to protect jobs, drive economic growth in communities and deliver energy security for generations to come. Under the government's <u>implementation directive</u>, the OEB will continue to play a central role in implementing the plan's direction, through efficient regulation of and guidance to Ontario's energy sector.

Biography of Mr. Geoff Owen

Mr. Owen is currently the Principal of Foresight Strategic Advisors. Previously, he served in senior leadership positions at the Royal Bank of Canada in regulatory affairs, business strategy and public affairs and in senior roles across government.

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## Canada and Ontario Investing \$4.77 Million in Agri-Food Research

Provincial and federal investments will protect Ontario farmers in the face of U.S. tariffs

September 08, 2025

<u>Agriculture</u>, Food and <u>Agribusiness</u>

TORONTO – The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$4.77 million in 48 research and innovation projects and supporting 20 companies through the Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative (OAFRI). This funding through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) will protect Ontario by helping farmers and agribusinesses grow their businesses by adopting new technologies and advancing commercialization to remain competitive in the face of economic uncertainty from U.S. tariffs.

"It takes innovation to build a successful agri-food sector in Ontario and across the country," said the Honourable Heath MacDonald, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "By investing in companies that bring forward bold ideas and practical solutions, we're helping the sector seize new opportunities and stay competitive and resilient."

"We want to ensure Ontario's farmers and agribusinesses have access to the latest technology and innovative solutions to grow and strengthen their businesses," said Trevor Jones, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. "Through OAFRI, we are helping them prepare for the future, take advantage of new opportunities and stay competitive and resilient in the face of economic uncertainty."

OAFRI provides funding for five research, innovation and commercialization streams. Examples of research projects funded include:

- Piloting new growing strategies to boost grape quality, yields and food safety for Ontario-grown table grapes.
- Using natural compounds from probiotics to reduce harmful bacteria like Salmonella developing in raw poultry.

- Enhancing a robotic platform to apply key crop nutrients more precisely in fields.
- Developing a non-invasive tool using imaging and Artificial Intelligence to detect mastitis early in dairy cattle, improving milk quality and animal welfare.

In addition, 20 new companies have joined the Grow Ontario Accelerator Hub, helping Ontario-based agri-food and agri-tech companies grow and bring their innovations to market through business and investment strategies.

"It is exciting to see such compelling and impactful innovations being developed right here in Ontario. The size of our agri-food production in Ontario is second only to California in North America," said Dave Smardon, President & CEO, Bioenterprise Canada Corporation. "Maintaining a leading position in agri-food innovation is critical to the health and growth of our industry. The support that the Ontario government has provided is helping to ensure that we do so and paves the way for even more innovation as the program continues."

These investments build on the <u>Grow Ontario Strategy</u> to strengthen the agri-food sector by increasing agri-food innovation and adoption through close collaboration with agri-businesses, research organizations, and industry partners.

The Sustainable CAP is a 5-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs designed and delivered by the provinces and territories.

### **Quick Facts**

- This investment is being made through the <u>Sustainable CAP</u> to support a productive, resilient and strong agri-food sector.
- The Grow Ontario Accelerator Hub, delivered by <u>Bioenterprise Canada</u>
   <u>Corporation (Bioenterprise)</u>, is fully subscribed for 2025-26 but an additional intake is anticipated for the following year.
- The next commercialization stream intake opened on September 4, 2025; more information is <u>available online</u>.
- The <u>Grow Ontario Strategy</u> is the government's plan to enhance Ontario's food supply chain and address vulnerabilities through research and the adoption of innovative technologies and practices that enhance competitiveness.

#### **Additional Resources**

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

**Grow Ontario** 

**Bioenterprise Canada Corporation** 

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# Ontario Launching New Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Program

First program of its kind in Canada will promote life-saving early detection and prevention of potentially deadly ruptures

September 09, 2025

**Health** 

TORONTO — The Ontario government is taking action to protect more people against life-threatening abdominal aortic aneurysms, which often have no symptoms and may go undetected until rupture, by launching a new screening program. The Ontario Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Program (OAAASP) is the first of its kind in Canada and will help save lives by promoting early detection and prevention of ruptures.

"Abdominal aortic aneurysms affect 20,000 people across the country each year, and we know early detection and prevention of aortic ruptures will save lives," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Our government is proud to take this historic step by launching the first Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Program in Canada, connecting more Ontarians to the care they need, where and when they need it."

The government's new screening program will help more people with early diagnosis and timely treatment for abdominal aortic aneurysms, reducing the risk of sudden death and the need for emergency surgeries. An abdominal ultrasound is safe, free, only takes a few minutes and requires no preparation in advance. All people aged 65 and older are encouraged to get checked for abdominal aortic aneurysm, as they are at the greatest risk of experiencing one.

Starting today, Ontarians turning 65 will start receiving a screening letter in the mail from Ontario Health, encouraging them to discuss obtaining a requisition for an abdominal ultrasound screening test from their primary care provider. By the spring of 2026, the Ontario Aortic Abdominal Aneurysm Screening Program eligibility criteria will be expanded to include seniors aged 65 to 80, with plans also underway for eligible patients to have the option to self-refer directly to ultrasound labs for their abdominal screening.

As part of <u>Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care</u>, the Ontario government is connecting more people to the services they need, when they need them. This includes ensuring communities have the tools they need to diagnose and treat illnesses earlier and keep people healthier.

### **Quick Facts**

- An abdominal aortic aneurysm is a bulge in the wall of the aorta in the abdomen. Over time, the aneurysm can grow and could eventually burst. A burst in an aneurysm is a medical emergency because it causes serious internal bleeding and can be life-threatening.
- People aged 65 or older who have not been offered an abdominal ultrasound can ask their physician or nurse practitioner for one. If you do not have a physician or nurse practitioner, you can find one through Health Care Connect by calling 1-888-579-6707 or by visiting the <a href="Health Care Connect">Health Care Connect</a> website.
- As part of <u>2025 Ontario Budget</u>: A <u>Plan to Protect Ontario</u>, the province is investing up to \$280 million over two years to support the expansion of <u>Integrated Community Health Service Centres</u>. This funding is in addition to the \$275 million over the last three years, including \$50 million in 2025–26, which was provided to hospitals to address surgical waitlists.
- The province is continuing to grow the health-care workforce, adding a historic number of new nurses and laboratory technologists through the <a href="Ontario Learn">Ontario Learn</a> and <a href="Stay Grant">Stay Grant</a>, <a href="As of Right rules">As of Right rules</a> and the 700 additional education seats for medical radiation and imaging technologists, medical laboratory technologists, medical lab technicians and medical radiation extenders.

### Quotes

"I know from experience how important this program is going to be for Ontarians. I cannot overstate the importance of having everyone know that this quick and painless ultrasound can detect a possible silent, life-threatening aneurysm and help people get timely, effective and proactive care."

- Vinicio Miccoli Aortic aneurysm rupture survivor "This is a truly important milestone. Screening will allow for early detection, potentially preventing rupture, enabling repair and avoiding other complications. This translates to improved health outcomes for patients and a reduction in the emergency surgeries that are required when an aneurysm ruptures."

- Matthew Anderson President and CEO, Ontario Health

"With this launch, Ontario will lead the country as the first provincial health system to implement a systematic population-based abdominal aortic aneurysm screening program. I have seen firsthand how a simple, 10-minute ultrasound can save lives."

- Dr. Varun Kapila Ontario Health Provincial Clinical Lead, Vascular

## **Additional Resources**

- Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Resources

### **Related Topics**

#### Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. <u>Learn more</u>

#### **Health and Wellness**

Get help navigating Ontario's health care system and connecting with the programs or services you're looking for. <u>Learn more</u>

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## **Ontario Boosting Training for Entrepreneurs**

Applications are now open for the \$5-million 2025-26 RAISE grant program

September 10, 2025

Citizenship and Multiculturalism

KITCHENER — The Ontario government is protecting workers and small businesses by investing \$5 million to provide free business development training, coaching, networking support and a \$10,000 grant to racialized and Indigenous entrepreneurs. The 2025-26 Racialized and Indigenous Supports for Entrepreneurs (RAISE) program will help more than 400 entrepreneurs get the resources they need to transform innovative ideas into successful businesses, creating local jobs and long-term economic growth.

"At a time of economic uncertainty, our government is protecting the next generation of entrepreneurs, ensuring they get the financial and technical support they need to bring made-in-Ontario businesses to life," said Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "Since launching in 2022, the RAISE program is part of our plan to empower racialized and Indigenous leaders to reach their potential, make a difference in their community and fuel our economy in the process."

Applications are now open for the 2025-26 RAISE program, where participants will receive free online business development training from <a href="DMZ at Toronto">DMZ at Toronto</a>
<a href="Metropolitan University">Metropolitan University</a> — one of Canada's leading business incubators — and a one-time grant of \$10,000 upon successful completion. Funding is part of the government's \$15 million investment over three years to ensure entrepreneurs and small business owners have the necessary training and support needed to launch and grow their businesses across the province.

"With the support of the RAISE program, we were able to strengthen our business foundations and expand our reach across Kitchener and Guelph," said Miki Ferrall, Co-founder of Crafty Ramen. "This grant has given us the resources we need to grow sustainably and create jobs in our community, while continuing to share our passion for ramen and Japanese-inspired food culture."

Interested entrepreneurs can learn more at <a href="Ontario.ca/RAISE">Ontario.ca/RAISE</a> and submit applications until October 1, 2025.

#### **Quick Facts**

- Ontario launched the RAISE program in 2022 with an initial investment of \$5 million to support over 400 entrepreneurs.
- To be eligible for the RAISE program, businesses must be registered/incorporated, based in Ontario and owned by an Indigenous, Black or other racialized individual.
- Black youth and professionals can receive further support through <u>the Black</u>

  <u>Youth Action Plan (BYAP)</u>'s Economic Empowerment stream, which focuses on career development, entrepreneurship and employment support.

#### **Quotes**

"Our government is proud to invest in Indigenous-led economies by providing the tools and resources needed for Indigenous entrepreneurs. These investments are about more than just launching businesses — they're about building strong, resilient communities and advancing economic reconciliation."

- Greg Rickford

Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation

"Ontario's small business community continues to grow, with nearly 500,000 vibrant businesses employing roughly 2.5 million people. Programs like RAISE help to ensure entrepreneurs can continue to contribute to our economy by creating strong, vibrant communities and good jobs."

- Nina Tangri Associate Minister, Small Business – Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade "The RAISE programs opens doors for Indigenous, Black and racialized women entrepreneurs by connecting them with expert guidance, hands-on training, and access to funding — helping them grow successful businesses that leave a lasting mark on their communities and our province. Our government is committed to giving women the tools and support they need to succeed because when women succeed, Ontario succeeds."

- Charmaine Williams Associate Minister, Women's Social and Economic Opportunity

"We've seen firsthand how the RAISE program opens doors for entrepreneurs who might otherwise be overlooked. At DMZ, ensuring every founder has a fair shot at success is at the core of how we operate. We're thrilled to once again partner with the Ontario government to ensure racialized and Indigenous founders have the support, resources and confidence they need to scale their businesses and succeed."

- Abdullah Snobar Executive Director of DMZ and CEO of DMZ Ventures

#### **Additional Resources**

- Ontario Investing \$16.5 Million to Support Black Youth and Young Professionals
- <u>Building a Stronger and More Inclusive Ontario: Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic</u>
   <u>Plan</u>

## **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. <u>Learn more</u>

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## Ontario Investing \$3 Million to Support Francophone Communities

The Francophone Community Grants Program is helping 71 organizations and companies bolster Francophone culture and the economy

September 10, 2025

**Francophone Affairs** 

TORONTO – The Ontario government is investing \$3 million to protect the province's Francophone community by creating jobs and driving economic growth through the 2025-26 <u>Francophone Community Grants Program (FCGP)</u>. Funding will help 71 organizations and businesses around the province strengthen the cultural and economic impact of Franco-Ontarians by expanding service offerings, improving employee training, increasing community outreach and expanding hiring.

"Our government has a plan to make Ontario the most resilient and competitive economy in the G7, and we need a strong and vibrant Francophone community to achieve that," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs. "Under the leadership of Premier Ford, we will continue to invest in the Francophone Community Grants Program so we can celebrate Francophone culture and grow the economy for everyone."

Each year, FCGP projects are selected to improve access to French-language services in the province, support the recruitment and training of bilingual staff, and promote impactful cultural and economic initiatives.

Some of this year's recipients include:

- The Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton/Niagara will receive \$50,000 to support the integration of French-speaking newcomers in southwestern Ontario by promoting skilled trades and other careers as future pathways through French-language career fairs and professional events.
- Société d'appui direct au développement économique et communautaire
   (SADDEC) will receive \$49,000 to offer practical training in artificial intelligence
   (Al) for professionals, organizations, and Francophone communities in Ontario,

including entrepreneurs, newcomers, the general public and residents of rural areas.

 Triangle Magique will receive \$49,000 to address the shortage of qualified early childhood educators in Northern Ontario by developing bilingual support programs, recruitment and retention strategies, and a sustainable economic model for the sector.

The Francophone Community Grants Program is part of the government's plan to protect Ontario, which includes supporting the economic, social and cultural development of Francophone communities across the province.

#### **Quick Facts**

- The call for proposals in 2025–2026, launched last April, attracted a record-breaking 179 project submissions, demonstrating that this program meets real needs on the ground by supporting Franco-Ontarians' contributions to the province's economic and cultural development.
- The FCGP includes two funding streams. This year, 62 projects are supported under the Community and Culture stream, and 9 projects under the Economic Development stream.
- The federal government is providing a \$1 contribution million to FCGP under the Canada–Ontario Agreement on Minority-Language Services.
- The launch date for 2026–2027 applications for FCGP will be announced in early 2026.

## Quotes

"Francophone communities across the country must be strong for Canada to be strong. Through the Canada–Ontario Agreement, we are working with our provincial partners to build a future where French thrives—in Ontario and across Canada—and where the Francophonie is a driver of growth and a source of opportunity."

- The Honourable Steven Guilbeaul Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages

#### **Additional Resources**

<u>Projects selected under the 2025–2026 Francophone Community Grant</u>
 <u>Program</u>

- Francophone Community Grants Program (FCGP)
- Funding opportunities offered by the Government of Ontario
- Ontario's Francophone Economic Development Strategy

## **Related Topics**

#### **Arts and Culture**

Learn more about the live performances, cultural institutions and creative grants the province has to offer. <u>Learn more</u>

## **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. <u>Learn more</u>

#### **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. <u>Learn more</u>

## **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. <u>Learn</u> more

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## Ontario Helping More Students Learn About Rewarding Careers in the Skilled Trades

Level Up! Career fairs will help over 50,000 students and jobseekers learn about good-paying, in-demand jobs

September 11, 2025

<u>Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development</u> <u>Education</u>

**TORONTO** — The Ontario government is launching its annual <u>Level Up!</u> career fairs to introduce a record number of students, educators and jobseekers to in-demand careers in the skilled trades. Through multi-day events, open house sessions and over 200 interactive exhibitors, the 2025 fairs will inspire the next generation of workers to build the homes, highways, hospitals, schools and critical infrastructure that the province needs.

Building on last year's success, the fairs have expanded from 21 to 29 days in 12 communities, with over 50,000 people expected to attend as the government works to protect and grow a strong, resilient workforce in the face of U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty.

"Ontario's greatest strength is our skilled, world-class workforce," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "That's why our government is investing in training and career opportunities like the Level Up! career fairs that are helping thousands of young people discover good-paying careers in the trades."

The <u>Level Up!</u> career fairs will showcase dozens of Ontario's 144 skilled trades – from electricians and boilermakers to heavy equipment operators and automotive service technicians. Students in grades 7 to 12, their parents and jobseekers will be able to explore these careers through dynamic exhibits, hands-on demonstrations and direct conversations with tradespeople and employers.

Career fairs are taking place across 12 communities for a total of 29 days between September 17 and December 12, 2025:

• Grafton: September 17–18

• Barrie: October 1–2

• Sudbury: October 8–9

• Timmins: October 15–16

• Thunder Bay: October 22–23

• Windsor: October 29–30

• Hamilton: November 5–6

• London: November 11–13

• Oshawa: November 18–20

Mississauga: November 25–28

• Kingston: December 2–3

• Ottawa: December 10–12

Grade 7 to 12 students interested in attending the career fairs are encouraged to contact their school board's Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) recruiter, a teacher or school guidance counsellor to register.

"Level Up! career fairs give students an exciting chance to step into the skilled trades, try them first-hand and connect directly with employers," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. "These events help students see a clear pathway from the classroom to rewarding careers in the skilled trades that will set them up for success tomorrow. By investing in students today, we are helping them build the skills and confidence they need to succeed and contribute to Ontario's future."

With roughly one in three tradespeople nearing retirement and a growing demand for nation-building projects, these career fairs will help raise awareness and spark interest in good-paying, in-demand careers. The government's record investments in skilled trades training are helping more youth access the trades with 16,412 youth aged 15 to 24 registered for apprenticeships this year, the highest in the last 10 years.

These fairs build on broader efforts to strengthen Ontario's workforce, including targeted investments in training and employment pathways. Since 2021, the Ontario government has invested \$1.5 billion through the Skills Development Fund to help train more than one million workers for in-demand jobs. As announced in the 2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario, the government is investing nearly \$1 billion more through the Skills Development Fund over the next three years, bringing the total to \$2.5 billion, to support key industrial sectors and expand access to good-paying careers.

#### **Quick Facts**

- The <u>Level Up! skilled trades career fairs</u> are open to all students, parents and job seekers. Last year, nearly 45,000 students, parents, friends, and teachers visited the fairs.
- Organizations can support the Level Up! career fairs as potential exhibitors or sponsors. Interested organizations can email <a href="Levelup@ontario.ca">Levelup@ontario.ca</a> for more details or visit levelupontario.ca.
- One in five new job openings in Ontario will be in the skilled trades-related occupations by 2028.

#### **Quotes**

"Building a strong and resilient workforce starts with giving young people real exposure to the skilled trades. The Level Up! career fairs make that possible by connecting students and job seekers directly with tradespeople and employers. We're proud to work alongside the Ontario government to deliver these fairs, which are opening doors for thousands of young people to discover rewarding careers in the skilled trades — and building the workforce Ontario needs for the future."

- Candice White CEO, Skilled Trades Ontario

#### **Additional Resources**

- Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fairs
- Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fairs Exhibitor Page
- Trades information Skilled Trades Ontario
- <u>Employment Ontario: Free Employment Services and Training Programs for Job Seekers, Workers and Employers</u>

## **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. <u>Learn more</u>

## **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. <u>Learn more</u>

#### Government

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## Learn more

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

## Learn more

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## Ontario Investing in Mobile Crisis Response Teams to Better Protect Communities

September 12, 2025

**Solicitor General** 

As part of its plan to protect Ontario and keep communities safe, the Ontario government is investing approximately \$9 million over two years to help police services provide specialized support to people who are experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis. The <a href="Mobile Crisis Response Team">Mobile Crisis Response Team</a> (MCRT) Enhancement Grant enables police to work with trained crisis workers when responding to those in need.

The following police services and Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachments are receiving MCRT Enhancement Grant program funding for 2025-2026 and 2026-27:

Almaguin Highlands OPP - \$231,460

Barrie Police Service - \$240,000

Bracebridge OPP - \$240,000

Caledon OPP - \$240,000

Collingwood and the Blue Mountains OPP - \$240,000

Cornwall Community Police Service - \$240,000

Dryden OPP - \$240,000

Dufferin OPP - \$453,621

East Algoma OPP - \$213,330

Elgin County OPP- \$240,000

Essex County OPP - \$240,000

Frontenac OPP - \$214,112

Halton Regional Police Service - \$263,413

Kenora OPP - \$236,500

Kingston Police Service - \$239,049

Kirkland Lake OPP - \$275,738

Lanark County OPP - \$240,000

Leeds County OPP - \$240,150

Lennox and Addington OPP - \$226,250

London Police Service & Oneida Nation Police - \$240,000

Northumberland OPP - \$239,933

Ottawa Police Service - \$240,000

Oxford OPP - \$239,909

Peel Regional Police - \$240,000

Peterborough County OPP - \$186,860

Peterborough Police Service - \$240,000

Rainy River OPP - \$240,000

Renfrew OPP - \$236,000

Russell County OPP - \$240,000

South Bruce OPP - \$242,796

Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry OPP - \$296,400

Temiskaming OPP - \$275,738

Thunder Bay Police Service - \$240,000

West Nipissing OPP - \$273,957

West Parry Sound OPP - \$239,999

Woodstock Police Service - \$246,435

## **Related Topics**

**Law and Safety** 

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. <u>Learn more</u>

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# Ontario Investing More Than \$746,000 to Train and Protect Firefighters

Skills Development Fund investment will provide life-saving survival training to firefighters

**September 15, 2025** 

<u>Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development</u>

**AURORA** — The Ontario government is investing over \$746,000 through the <u>Skills</u> <u>Development Fund (SDF)</u> Training Stream to help the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA) deliver critical survival training to firefighters across the province. This investment will help ensure Ontario's frontline heroes are equipped with the skills and tools they need to keep communities, and themselves, safe.

"Our government will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the brave men and women who have our backs when we need it the most," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "By investing in advanced survival training, we're protecting our firefighting heroes by providing them the skills they need to stay safe in the most dangerous scenarios."

The Fire Ground Survival Train-the-Trainer program, developed by the International Association of Fire Fighters, is the most comprehensive survival and MAYDAY prevention training available in the fire service. Training, supported by this SDF investment, will take place in Toronto in October 2025 and in North Bay in Winter 2026. Leveraging a "train the trainer" model, participants will be certified to take the knowledge back to their colleagues, maximizing the training impact Ontario-wide.

The SDF funding will also be used to purchase a tow vehicle and a second training trailer dedicated to northern fire services, ensuring firefighters in remote and rural communities can access training.

Since its launch in 2021, Ontario has invested \$1.5 billion through the SDF Training Stream and Capital Stream to help train more than one million workers for indemand careers and good-paying jobs. As announced in the 2025 Budget: A Plan to

<u>Protect Ontario</u>, the government is investing \$1 billion more through the Skills Development Fund over the next three years, bringing the total to \$2.5 billion, to support key industrial sectors and help train even more workers.

# **Quick Facts**

- Firefighters are more likely than average to experience health problems because of hazardous occupational exposures. In Canada, there are 50 to 60 firefighter fatalities of cancer every year and half of those are from Ontario.
- Ontario's Working for Workers acts have improved cancer coverage for firefighters, investigators and volunteers by removing the age limit for <u>colorectal cancer</u> claims and reducing the required service time for <u>kidney</u> <u>cancer coverage</u> from 20 to 10 years — the shortest in Canada.
- There are over 33,000 firefighters in Ontario, including over 12,500 full-time firefighters, about 20,000 volunteer firefighters and almost 400 part-time firefighters.
- On July 29, the Ontario government launched a <u>new call for project proposals</u> for the SDF Training Stream totaling \$260 million. Interested organizations can visit the <u>SDF Training Stream website</u> and have until October 1<sup>st</sup> to apply.
- The SDF Training Stream rounds 1 to 5 are supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. SDF Training Round 6 is supported exclusively by the Government of Ontario.

### **Quotes**

"The Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association is proud to stand with Minister Piccini and the Ontario government in delivering this vital Skills Development Fund project. The Fire Ground Survival program equips the men and women who protect our province with the lifesaving training they need to keep communities safe. It is critical that firefighters across our province have continued access to the tools, training and equipment necessary to protect our communities."

- Greg Horton,

President of the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA)

"Every day, Ontario's firefighters put their lives on the line to protect our people, homes and communities. Our government is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with them, ensuring they have the training, resources and support they need to make it home safely while continuing their life-saving work of protecting Ontario."

- Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario

"Protecting Ontario means ensuring our emergency responders have the training and equipment they need to keep our province safe, practiced and prepared. Our government's investment in firefighting heroes will not only strengthen Ontario's emergency response capabilities, but it will also ensure communities are better prepared to respond to local emergencies."

- Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response

"Our firefighters put their lives on the line every day to protect families across Ontario. By investing in advanced survival training through the Skills Development Fund, our government is equipping these brave men and women with the tools they need to stay safe while safeguarding our communities."

- Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Member of Provincial Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora

"Our government is proud to invest in Ontario's firefighters through the Skills Development Fund to ensure they have access to the crucial training they need. This \$746,000 investment will equip firefighters with the skills and tools to stay safe in the line of duty, while continuing to protect the communities they serve across Ontario."

- Michael Parsa, Member of Provincial Parliament for Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill "Firefighters put their lives on the line every single day to protect our families and communities. This investment is about making sure they return home safely to their own loved ones. By expanding access to advanced survival training, we are equipping firefighters across Ontario, including those in smaller and northern communities, with the tools they need to face the toughest situations. Our government is proud to stand with Ontario's firefighting heroes and invest in their safety and well-being."

- Mohamed Firin,
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training
and Skills Development

"I want to thank the Ontario Government for investing in Aurora through the Skills Development Fund. This support helps firefighters here in Aurora and across Ontario build the advanced skills they need to stay safe and protect our communities. It's an investment in their careers, in our community's safety and in a stronger, more competitive Ontario."

Tom Mrakas,
 Mayor of Aurora

"This investment is critical to our firefighters so they can protect themselves and our loved ones in the most challenging situations. As a former volunteer firefighter of 21 years, I know firsthand the importance of ensuring our brave men and women have the tools and training they need to return home safely to their families. Having witnessed the training at FireCon last week, I'm encouraged to see this investment not only enhancing firefighter training, but also expanding the facilities and resources needed to better support our rural fire services and train the next generation of firefighters."

- Kevin Holland, Member of Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay–Atikokan "Firefighters are more than heroes that save us on the worst days, they are often some of the most dedicated supporters and volunteers within our communities. I am grateful that this government has so strongly expressed our support for them. From expanding advanced training to increasing our supports for firefighter health, we will always stand up for, stand with and express our immense appreciation for our local heroes."

- Ric Bresee,

Member of Provincial Parliament for Hastings-Lennox & Addington

### **Additional Resources**

- Skills Development Fund Training Stream
- 2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario

# **Related Topics**

### Government

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

<u>Learn more</u>

### **Health and Wellness**

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### **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. <u>Learn more</u>

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# Ontario Investing in Local Infrastructure to Support Small, Rural and Northern Communities

Province's \$400 million investment will keep workers on the job and promote economic growth

September 16, 2025

<u>Infrastructure</u>

GRASSIE — The Ontario government is investing \$400 million to help renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure in small, rural and Northern communities. The funding is being delivered through the 2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) as part of the government's more than \$200 billion capital plan to protect Ontario by investing in key public infrastructure that will keep workers on the job and strengthen the economy in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty.

In 2026, 423 small, rural and Northern communities will receive funding for critical infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems. The minimum grant for municipalities has been raised to \$125,000, an increase of \$25,000 over last year. Funding allocations are based on a <u>formula</u> that accounts for the different needs and economic conditions of each community.

"Small, rural and Northern communities are essential to the growth and prosperity of Ontario," said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. "That is why we're increasing the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund's minimum grant amount to provide predictability and stability for these communities and ensure they have the resources they need to thrive. With our record investments across all infrastructure programs, we're driving an unprecedented wave of construction—highways, transit, hospitals, schools, and more—to make communities stronger, keep workers on the job, and drive economic growth for generations to come."

The OCIF supports the renewal and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems. Eligible communities include municipalities with populations under 100,000, rural and northern municipalities, and Local Services Boards that own water or wastewater systems.

### **Quick Facts**

- Since 2018, the government has provided \$2.8 billion through OCIF to support small, rural and northern municipalities.
- Additionally, the province is investing \$4 billion in the <u>Municipal Housing</u> <u>Infrastructure Program (MHIP)</u> for core infrastructure projects in growing and developing communities. This investment will help unlock even more homes in addition to the approximately 800,000 that have been unlocked with the previously announced pipeline of projects.

### **Quotes**

"Critical infrastructure is essential for safe and strong rural communities across Ontario. With this investment, our government is ensuring hundreds of small, rural and northern communities have the funds to build and maintain the local infrastructure they rely on to protect and support vibrant rural communities and well-paying jobs."

- Lisa Thompson Minister of Rural Affairs

"This critical provincial investment will help strengthen local municipalities in my riding of Niagara West. Through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, our government is delivering on its promise to protect small towns and rural Ontario by accelerating infrastructure renewal, driving local economic growth and creating good-paying jobs where they are needed most. With these investments, Ontario is doubling down on its support for local communities - this includes a record \$20 million through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and \$94 million through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program for Niagara."

- Sam Oosterhoff MPP for Niagara West "These 423 small, rural and northern communities count on OCIF as a predictable and reliable source of funding for their critical infrastructure. We welcome the province's announcement to flow the 2026 funding, as prosperity across Ontario relies on a thriving rural Ontario."

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

# **Additional Resources**

- Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan
- Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

# **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. <u>Learn more</u>

### **Rural and North**

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# Ontario Taking Next Steps to Improve Health-Care Access

Proposed changes would expand scopes of practice for a range of health-care professionals

September 17, 2025

<u>Health</u>

TORONTO – To protect Ontario's health-care system by providing more connected and convenient care to people around the province, the government is consulting to expand the scopes of practice for a wide range of regulated health professionals, including optometrists, psychologists and physiotherapists. This expansion would improve access to timely care, reduce pressure on the health-care system and allow more providers to work to the full extent of their training and expertise.

"Across our province, qualified health-care professionals are ready to contribute more to their communities, ensuring doctors' offices and emergency departments are available for those who truly need them," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By working to expand scopes of practice for additional professions, we are building on our progress to make it faster and easier for families to access the care they need, when and where they need it."

The government is currently consulting with partners on proposed changes that could:

- Grant optometrists authority to perform minor surgical procedures in the office under local anesthesia, use laser therapy to manage cataracts and glaucoma, order diagnostic tests and independently treat open-angle glaucoma without having to refer patients to a physician
- Grant psychologists with specialized training and education in psychopharmacology authority to prescribe certain medications, such as antidepressants, for the management and treatment of mental health conditions and addictions, as well as order and interpret select diagnostic tests such as urinalysis and blood work
- Grant several regulated health professionals the authority to order and perform certain diagnostic imaging procedures, such as x-rays, MRIs and CTs, including

dental hygienists, denturists, speech-language pathologists, physiotherapists, chiropractors and chiropodists, which would further improve access to care

In addition, the government provided direction to the Ontario College of Pharmacists to develop regulatory changes that would further expand pharmacists' scope of practice, enabling pharmacists to assess and prescribe for an additional <a href="https://example.com/14.ailments">14 ailments</a>:

- Acute pharyngitis (sore throat)
- Calluses and corns
- Headache (mild)
- Herpes zoster (shingles)
- Minor sleep disorders
- Onychomycosis (fungal nail infections)
- Otitis externa (swimmers' ear)
- Pediculosis (head lice)
- Rhinitis viral (nasal congestion)
- Seborrheic dermatitis (dandruff)
- Tinea corporis (ringworm)
- Tinea cruris (jock itch)
- Verrucae (vulgaris, plantar) (warts)
- Xerophthalmia (dry eye)

If approved, pharmacists would also be able to administer additional publicly funded vaccines (including RSV, Pertussis, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pneumococcal, and Shingles), and administer Sublocade® (buprenorphine) for opioid use disorder. Additionally, the Ontario College of Pharmacists will be consulted on the administration of point-of-care tests by pharmacists to support implementation of common ailment prescribing, like strep throat testing. These changes would help alleviate pressures on primary care providers, walk-in clinics and hospital emergency departments, giving them more time to help people with more complex needs.

As part of <u>Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care</u>, the government is protecting the health-care system, including making it easier for highly skilled, regulated health-care professionals to work to the full extent of their training and expertise to provide people with more connected and convenient care.

### **Quick Facts**

• Pharmacist assessment of common ailments began in <u>January 2023</u>, with an initial 13 ailments, and was <u>expanded in October 2023</u> to include six additional

ailments.

- Since the program launched, pharmacists have provided over 1.8 million assessments with nearly 100 per cent of community pharmacies participating in this program.
- Under the proposed changes, pharmacy technicians would also be able to contribute to preventative care in an expanded capacity for vaccines as they have been doing for COVID-19 and influenza.
- Anyone with symptoms should contact their local pharmacy to confirm whether they provide assessment services for certain common ailments before visiting the pharmacy.

### **Quotes**

"The Ontario Pharmacists Association is excited to see the Ontario government's continued efforts to expand pharmacy professionals' scope of practice. Building on the success of the minor ailments program—which has already connected more than one million Ontarians to timely care—the addition of services like strep throat testing will make care even more convenient. Equally important, expanding access to publicly funded vaccines in community pharmacies will reduce barriers and increase vaccination uptake by allowing Ontarians to get the care they need closer to home. Together, these advancements mark a significant step forward in improving access to care and ensuring Ontarians can connect with the care they need, when and where they need it."

- Justin Bates

Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Pharmacists Association

"Today's announcement is an important step toward fully integrating pharmacy into Ontario's health system as a trusted destination for public health and primary care. Expanding pharmacists' ability to prescribe for more minor ailments, order lab and point-of-care tests, and administer additional vaccines will give Ontarians faster, more convenient access to care. As the most accessible health care destination in every community, pharmacies are key to delivering care that strengthens the health system for everyone."

- Sandra Hanna, RPh., LLM, ICD.D Chief Executive Officer, Neighbourhood Pharmacies "The College supports the government's ongoing focus on improving access to health care for Ontarians. We are pleased to work with the Ministry of Health on drafting regulations that expand the ability of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, as trusted healthcare professionals, to deliver safe, ethical and quality care that helps people get care closer to home."

- Doug Brown Chair, Ontario College of Pharmacists Board of Directors

"The decision to grant prescribing privileges to psychologists is a milestone in Ontario's ongoing commitment to improving mental health care. By integrating therapy and medication management within the scope of psychological practice, this advancement will expand access, reduce delays, and foster deeper collaboration with family physicians and nurse practitioners. Equally important, it ensures that patients receive comprehensive care, including safe medication adjustments and de-prescribing when clinically appropriate."

- Richard Morrison Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Psychological Association

"Expanding the scope of practice of psychologists with specialized training to include the prescription of specific medications could improve access to much-needed mental health and addictions care for Ontarians. The College welcomes the opportunity and is prepared to support the development of the regulatory infrastructure necessary for safe practice."

- Tony DeBono Registrar and Executive Director, College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario "Today's announcement marks a significant step forward in modernizing oral health care in Ontario by increasing access to Denturism care, reducing costs to patients, and promoting professional collaboration. We commend the Ontario government for adapting to the evolving needs of patients and maximizing the capabilities of highly trained oral health-care professionals."

- Roderick Tom-Ying Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, College of Denturists of Ontario

"As denturists, we welcome the government's commitment to expanding our scope of practice so patients can access care more quickly and efficiently. By allowing regulated health professionals like denturists to perform diagnostic imaging, Ontarians will benefit from faster treatment, reduced wait times, and more comprehensive oral health care close to home. We greatly appreciate the government's leadership in advancing this important initiative, which puts patients first and strengthens the entire health-care network. This is more than a policy shift: it is a forward-thinking investment in a stronger, more responsive health-care system."

- Anas Al Halabi DD President, Denturists Association of Ontario

"The College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario heartily supports this initiative that will see Ontario's Registered Dental Hygienists practising more fully within their scope of practice and expertise. This addition increases access for the people of Ontario to a more comprehensive oral health care and supports an increase in the efficiency of the delivery of that essential care."

- Dr. Glenn Pettifer Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario "On behalf of the Ontario Physiotherapy Association, we acknowledge and appreciate the leadership of Minister Jones in bringing forward the necessary regulation changes to enable physiotherapists to practice at their full scope. Physiotherapists have an important role in supporting patients in timely access to care and in the health and wellness for all people living in Ontario—we are delighted to see this progress."

- Sarah Hutchison and Courtney Bean Chief Executive Officer and President, Ontario Physiotherapy Association

"The College of Physiotherapists of Ontario fully supports giving physiotherapists the authority to order diagnostic imaging procedures. These changes will improve access to care, reduce the burden on the health-care system and allow physiotherapists to work to the full extent of their knowledge, skills and training. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the Ministry during this process."

- Craig Roxborough Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, College of Physiotherapists of Ontario

"The College of Chiropodists of Ontario applauds this government's continuing initiatives to improve access to quality care in the province. As the regulator of footcare professionals in Ontario, the College recognizes the critical importance of access to highly trained chiropodists and podiatrists in ensuring the health and wellness of Ontarians."

- Nicole Zwiers Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, College of Chiropodists of Ontario "The Ontario Society of Chiropodists welcomes the Ministry of Health's initiative to provide Ontario patients with faster, more responsive access to care by further empowering regulated health professionals. As primary care providers, Ontario's Chiropodists are committed to working with the Ministry of Health and interdisciplinary partners to support better primary care delivery, reduce wait times and help achieve better outcomes for patients."

- Sasha Kozera-Faye Interim President, Ontario Society of Chiropodists

"The College of Optometrists of Ontario is excited to work with the government in the implementation of the proposed changes to Optometry's scope of practice. We are confident that this will benefit the people of Ontario with new accessibilities to eye care in the province."

- Dr. Mark Eltis OD, FAAO, Dipl. ABO President, College of Optometrists of Ontario

"College of Chiropractors of Ontario's (CCO) statutory mandate is to protect the public through the registration of chiropractors and the development of standards of practice to which the profession must conform. CCO has draft standards of practice ready for approval, pending the appropriate regulatory changes. These tools will provide chiropractors with the tools they need to practice safely and effectively within the chiropractic scope of practice, for the benefit of Ontarians. We look forward to working with the Ministry and other system partners on this important consultation."

- Dr. Kyle Grice President, College of Chiropractors of Ontario "We welcome the Ontario government's move towards expanding access to advanced diagnostic imaging such as MRIs and CT scans as part of the plan for more connected, convenient care. Chiropractors are regulated, highly trained and educated health-care professionals, working in communities across the province, helping people to find relief from spine, muscle and joint pain so they can regain mobility, and return to the lives they love. Authority to order advanced imaging would enable chiropractors to connect patients with the tests they need more quickly providing a faster path to diagnosis, treatment and recovery."

- Caroline Brereton Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Chiropractic Association

"The College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario welcomes the Ministry of Health's commitment to innovation, reducing pressures on physicians and expanding the scope of practice for regulated health professionals, including speech-language pathologists. These practitioners are highly trained and capable, and these changes will allow them to more fully apply their expertise and training. We are encouraged by this announcement, which recognizes their vital role in improving timely access to high-quality care for Ontarians."

- Margaret Drent Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario

"Speech-Language & Audiology Canada welcomes the Ontario government's decision to expand the authority of regulated health professionals, including speech-language pathologists, to order and perform specific diagnostic imaging procedures within their scope of practice. This important step will help improve access to timely care and enhance collaboration across the health-care system. We look forward to continued progress on scope expansion for regulated health professionals, including those we represent, to better serve Ontarians and ensure patients receive convenient and connected care."

- Luciana Nechita Chief Executive Officer, Speech-Language and Audiology Canada

# **Additional Resources**

- Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care
- More information about the types of health-care services you can get through your local pharmacy can be found <a href="here">here</a>

# **Media Contacts**

**Ema Popovic** 

Minister Jones' Office

ema.popovic@ontario.ca

# **Media Relations**

**Communications Branch** 

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# Construction Update - September 2025

Posted on Monday, September 08, 2025



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

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

The County of Renfrew's Public Works and Engineering Department provides monthly updates on construction in the area. Please visit the link below to sign up to get these updates by email: <a href="https://renfrew-county.civilspace.io/en/projects/2025-county-transportation-infrastructure-projects">https://renfrew-county.civilspace.io/en/projects/2025-county-transportation-infrastructure-projects</a>

Please share this notice so that residents, businesses, and others know about traffic delays from construction projects. For the latest details on current projects, and their traffic effect, please check Municipal511 at <a href="https://www.municipal511.ca/">https://www.municipal511.ca/</a>.

# **Upcoming Projects**

# County Road 512 (Foymount Road) - Township of Bonnechere Valley

Construction on Foymount Road, from Silver Lake Road to Highway 17, is expected to start September 8, 2025 and finish late-October. During construction, parts of Foymount Road will only have one lane open, with lights or workers directing traffic;

additionally, Silver Lake Road will be closed at the intersection of Foymount Road for one day.

### Algonquin Trail - Township of Head, Clara and Maria

Construction on Algonquin Trail, from Yates Road to Crossing Road, is expected to start September 15, 2025 and finish late-October. This section of Algonquin Trail will remain closed until late 2025 once construction, including signage installation, is completed.

### **County Road 4 (Storyland Road) – Township of Horton**

Construction on Storyland Road, from Alex Lane to Highway 17, is expected to start September 22, 2025 and finish late-October. During construction, parts of Storyland Road will only have one lane open, with lights or workers directing traffic.

# **Ongoing Projects**

# County Road 20 (Castleford Road) - Township of Horton

Construction on Castleford Road, from Highway 17 to Humphries Road, started August 25, 2025 and is expected to finish mid-October. During construction, parts of Castleford Road will only have one lane open, with lights or workers directing traffic.

### County Road 26 (Doran Road) - Town of Petawawa

Construction on Doran Road, from Black Bay Road to Petawawa Boulevard, started July 22, 2025 and is expected to finish mid-September. During construction, parts of Doran Road will only have one lane open, with lights or workers directing traffic.

# County Roads 52 (Burnstown Road) and 508 (Calabogie Road) - Township of McNab/Braeside

Construction on Burnstown Road, from the Burnstown Bridge to Picket Hill Lane, and on Calabogie Road from Stacey Drive to 1803 Calabogie Road, started August 11, 2025 and is expected to finish early-October. During construction, parts of both Burnstown Road and Calabogie Road will only have one lane open, with lights or workers directing traffic.

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

Rock removal and widening of the causeway is complete on Matawatchan Road, about 8.2km south of Highway 41. Utility relocations have also been completed, and road construction on Matawatchan Road, from Civic Address 4882 to Centennial Lake Road, is expected to continue mid-September and to finish mid-October. During construction, areas of Matawatchan Road will only have one lane open, with lights or workers directing traffic.

# **County Road 512 (Foymount Road) – Township of Bonnechere Valley**

Construction on Foymount Road, from Quadeville Road to McCauley Mount Road, started August 11, 2025 and finishes late-September. During construction, parts of Foymount Road will only have one lane open, with lights or workers directing traffic.

### County Structure B122 (Waba Creek Bridge) – Township of McNab/Braeside

Construction on Waba Creek Bridge, which is on Burnstown Road, about 0.7 km north of White Lake Road, started July 14, 2025 and is expected to finish early-November. During construction, only one lane will be open to cross the bridge, with signals directing traffic. Pedestrians can cross the bridge during construction.

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

Construction on Combermere Bridge, which is on Combermere Road, about 0.5km south of Palmer Road, started April 2, 2025 and is expected to end mid-November. During construction, only one lane will be open to cross the bridge, with signals directing traffic. Mill Street will be closed at Combermere Road during construction, with signs showing the detour route. Pedestrians can cross the bridge during construction.

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

Construction on Broomes Creek Culvert and Dam, which is on Foresters Falls Road, about 0.1km east of Foresters Falls, started May 1, 2025 and is expected to finish in 2026, with a stoppage over winter. During construction, the road in this area will be closed to all traffic, including pedestrians, with signs showing the detour route. The detour will follow Kohlsmith Road and Queens Line. For more details on this project, please visit: <a href="https://renfrew-county.civilspace.io/en/projects/c201-broomes-creek-culvert-dam-reconstruction">https://renfrew-county.civilspace.io/en/projects/c201-broomes-creek-culvert-dam-reconstruction</a>

# Algonquin Trail - Township of Head, Clara and Maria

Construction on Algonquin Trail, from Wylie Road to Yates Road, started July 21, 2025 and is expected to finish early-September. This section of Algonquin Trail will remain closed until late 2025 once construction, including gate and signage installation, is completed.

# **Completed Projects**

# County Road 2 (Daniel Street) - Town of Arnprior

Construction on Daniel Street, from Madawaska Street to Staye Court Drive, started May 26, 2025 and finished August 22, 2025.

# County Road 3 (Usborne Street) – Township of McNab/Braeside

Construction on Usborne Street, from River Road to the Braeside urban limit, started July 21, 2025 and finished August 18, 2025.

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

Construction on TV Tower Road, from Jean Avenue to Forest Lea Road, and on Pembroke Street West, from Pembroke City limits to Forest Lea Road, started June 9, 2025 and finished August 13, 2025.

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

Construction on Burnstown Road, from Waba Creek Bridge (near White Lake) to Burnstown Bridge (near Burnstown), started May 26, 2025 and finished August 15, 2025. However, there are some guiderail and shoulder repairs still to be completed, but the impact on traffic is expected to be minimal.

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

Construction on Siberia Road, from River Road to Sunny Hill Road, started start June 5, 2025 and finished August 15, 2025.

# **County Road 70 (Ruby Road) – Township of Bonnechere Valley**

Construction on Ruby Road, from Gorman Road to Wolfe Road, started June 24, 2025 and finished August 22, 2025.

# County Structure C014 (Labombard Culvert) – Township of Admaston/Bromley

Construction on Labombard Culvert, which is on Chris Ruddy Road, about 0.5 km east of Stone Road, started August 25, 2025 and finished September 5, 2025.

# County Structure C136 (Robertson Twin Pipes) – Township of McNab/Braeside

Construction on Robertson Twin Pipes, which is on Robertson Line, about 1.5km east of White Lake Road, started July 21, 2025 and finished August 22, 2025.

PLEASE DRIVE WITH CARE THROUGH CONSTRUCTION SITES. THANK YOU FOR PATIENCE

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



# Seven young entrepreneurs celebrated at Summer Company wrap-up event

Posted on Monday, September 08, 2025



Hillary Panke (left), Acting Small Business Advisor with Enterprise Renfrew County, addresses those gathered for the Summer Company wrap-up event held at the County Administration Building on August 27. Also speaking at the celebration were Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon and Development and Property Committee Chair James Brose. Looking on were the Summer Company participants (from left) Paige Hodgson, Jazmin Clark, Noah Obrien, Emmanuel Young, Nella Rosendic, Hunter Prince and Minnah Rehan.

### **RELEASE DATE:**

September 8, 2025

The County of Renfrew has celebrated the success and completion of the 2025 Summer Company Program, which saw seven youth launch and grow their businesses with the support of Enterprise Renfrew County.

On August 27, the Summer Company program participants showcased their businesses, sold their products and highlighted their services at the County

Administration Building as part of Renfrew County Council, which allowed elected officials and County staff to check out their booths featuring unique business ideas ranging from lawn care and landscaping services to skilled artisans offering distinct, handcrafted products.

County of Renfrew Warden Peter Emon introduced the program participants and their businesses which grew from their own plans and transformed into thriving operations that contribute to the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Renfrew County. He noted this initiative not only empowers youth to explore entrepreneurship but also strengthens our local economy by fostering innovation and leadership.

"Congratulations to all of you on your success," the Warden said. "We look forward to following your entrepreneurship journey and know that you all have bright futures ahead. We commend our young entrepreneurs for their creativity, drive, and commitment to building a brighter future for Renfrew County."

Elected officials from the students' home municipalities presented certificates of completion to the young entrepreneurs along with Development and Property Committee Chair James Brose.

"The enthusiasm and dedication shown by these participants are a testament to the potential of our youth," Chair Brose said. "Through their businesses, they are not only contributing to our local economy but also inspiring others to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams. Let's continue to support and encourage these young visionaries as they continue on their entrepreneurial journeys."

Chair Brose, Warden Emon and Acting Small Business Advisor Hillary Panke extended heartfelt thanks to the Township of McNab/Braeside for their generous sponsorship of the 2025 Summer Company program, an initiative that supports the next generation of young entrepreneurs.

Chair Brose acknowledged the Township's ongoing commitment to youth entrepreneurship and expressed gratitude for their invitation to include this year's Summer Company participants in the Township's annual HerbFest vendor market this past July in White Lake, under the Junior Entrepreneur category.

"The vendor market at Herbfest provided and excellent platform for these youth to showcase their products and connect with the local community, helping to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship," he said.

Congratulations to all participants for successful completion of the program – Noah Obrien – Wisdom By Words (clothing apparel brand); Minnah Rehan – NoorHenna (Henna tattoo service); Paige Hodgson – Paiges Projex (handmade custom crochet products); Emmanuel Young – Manny's Mowing (lawn care and landscaping services); Nella Rosandic – Nellart Commissions (customized buttons and stickers with her artwork); Hunter Prince – Moose 3D Designs (3D printed products); Jazmin Clark – Sprout Wings (handmade pottery products).

The Summer Company program, delivered by Enterprise Renfrew County on behalf of the Ontario Government, is a youth entrepreneurship program for students aged 15-29 years which provides start-up funding, training and mentorship while cultivating essential entrepreneurial skills. The next intake deadline will be May 2026 for the next summer season. Visit <a href="https://www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com">www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com</a> for more information.

Enterprise Renfrew County is a non-profit government organization funded by the Government of Ontario, County of Renfrew, Town of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke. Its mandate is to encourage and contribute to the enterprising spirit and economic development of Renfrew County by assisting entrepreneurs with the development of new or existing companies.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Hillary Panke	Acting Small Business Advisor, ERC	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288

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



# Taste of the Valley event in Calabogie September 20

Posted on Tuesday, September 09, 2025



The Township of Greater Madawaska is once again thrilled to partner with the County of Renfrew to host a Taste of the Valley event at the Calabogie Rink and Community Hall (574 Mill Street) on September 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Taste of the Valley was last held at this location in 2023 (as seen here).

### **RELEASE DATE:**

September 9, 2025

The County of Renfrew's Economic Development Division is proud to present the Taste of the Valley event series – an annual celebration of all things grown, made, and created right here in Renfrew County.

Originally launched more than a decade ago to spotlight local food producers in the Ottawa Valley, Taste of the Valley has grown into a vibrant showcase of the region's diverse offerings. Today, the event embraces a broader interpretation of "taste," celebrating not only local food, but also handcrafted products, visual arts, and cultural experiences that reflect the unique spirit of our communities.

The third event of the 2025 Taste of the Valley season is in Calabogie on Saturday, September 20, being held at the Calabogie Rink and Community Hall (574 Mill Street) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Calabogie event will feature 70 vendors outdoors on the floor of the covered rink. This all-outside event runs rain or shine and offers ample parking for visitors. The offerings will include fresh local produce alongside unique handcrafted products from talented artists and artisans, as well as baked goods, prepared hot food, jams and preserves from bakers and food producers across Renfrew County.

"You'll not find a more fun-filled event in all the land than the Calabogie Taste of the Valley," said Greater Madawaska Mayor Taylor Popkie. "Come on out and interact with your favourite vendors. Fill your bellies and stock up on goods old and new. It's going to be amazing to see everyone there, and to welcome vendors and visitors alike, that will be coming from well beyond our own communities. Greater Madawaska is thrilled to be hosting such an event!"

Upcoming Taste of the Valley events in 2025 are being held in partnership with the host municipalities:

- Greater Madawaska (September 20 Calabogie Rink and Community Hall)
- Whitewater Region (October 18 Cobden Fairgrounds and Ag Hall)
- Pembroke (December 13 Holiday Edition Knights of Columbus Hall)

"Taste of the Valley is a dynamic celebration of Renfrew County's local culture and community," says Scott Hamilton, Economic Development Coordinator with the County of Renfrew. "These events offer a unique opportunity to connect with the farmers, artisans, and creators who shape our region, while enjoying the flavours and craftsmanship that make Renfrew County truly exceptional."

For more information about Taste of the Valley, visit <u>www.TOTV.ca</u> or follow on social media at @TasteoftheValleyRC.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Hamilton 7288	Economic Development Coordinator	613-735-
Tina Peplinskie 735-7288	Media Relations Coordinator	613-

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### **Kaitlyn Wendland**

From: Candace RoseSmith <crosesmith@rcdhu.com>

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 3:26 PM

**To:** Environmental Health RCDHU

**Subject:** Yellow Ribbon Campaign Participant Survey

### Good afternoon!

Renfrew County and District Health Unit values your feedback. You are invited to share your thoughts about the RCDHU Yellow Ribbon Campaign, focused on animal bites in our region.

Please click and use survey link here or QR code prior to September 29<sup>th</sup>.



Thank you for your participation!





Renfrew County and District Health Unit 141 Lake Street Pembroke, ON K8A 5L8

Telephone: 613-732-3629 ext. 320

Fax: 613-735-3067 www.rcdhu.com

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"



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# Renfrew County and District Health Unit

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

# For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, September 10, 2025)

### Horse in Renfrew County and District Tests Positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV)

A confirmed case of EEEV has been detected in a horse in Renfrew County and District. The animal had no history of travel and was not up to date on equine EEE vaccination. While this finding indicates local virus activity, EEEV infection in humans is rare and the risk to the public remains low.

EEEV is a mosquito-borne virus normally found in wild birds that can occasionally spread to horses and, rarely, humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. EEEV does not spread from horses to people or between people.

The mosquitoes that carry EEEV are typically found near wetland habitats, including swampy or flooded hardwood forests. Although human cases are rare, EEEV can cause severe neurological illness in people of any age and can be fatal.

There is a vaccine against EEE for horses, but there is currently no vaccine for humans. To reduce the risk of EEEV and other mosquito-borne infections, RCDHU reminds residents to take steps to prevent mosquito bites:

- Apply a <u>Health Canada-approved</u> mosquito repellent containing DEET or icaridin and follow the label directions.
- When outside, wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing made of tightly woven materials, including long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes, and socks to protect exposed skin.
- Avoid being outside at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Remove standing water around your home (mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water, even small amounts). Ensure that all containers in or around the yard such as tires, pool covers, saucers for flowerpots, wading pools, and children's toys are regularly emptied of standing water.
- Ensure that screens, windows, and doors are fully sealed to prevent mosquitoes from entering the house.

Mosquito risk generally persists until the first hard frost. For more information on EEEV and how to protect yourself, visit <a href="https://www.rcdhu.com">www.rcdhu.com</a> or call 613-732-3629 ext. 505.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit <a href="media@rcdhu.com">media@rcdhu.com</a>

Fax: 613-735-3067

### **Kaitlyn Wendland**

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>

Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 10:00 AM

**To:** Group Arnprior

**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - September 4, 2025

### **Reminder:**

# Complete Our Member Survey

Help shape the work we do in 10 minutes.

**Click Here** 







September 04, 2025

#### In This Issue:

- AMO is accepting applications for Director of Policy and Government Relations.
- Ontario Community Environment Fund: Apply by September 24.
- Trade-Impacted Communities Program.
- Rural Ontario Development Program opens for applications.
- Applications open for 2025 Cyber Security Cooperation program.
- AMO Trade and Tariff Forum October 24: Building Ontario's Economic Resilience.
- Registration for AMO's Second Annual Healthy Democracy Forum is open.
- Upgrade your lights before they become obsolete.
- Blog: Reflecting on my Time at AMO/LAS.
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute launches Employer Readiness Course.
- Limited time Offer: Free RETScreen® Expert Trial and Support.
- AdvantAge Municipal Councillors webinar: The Current LTC Environment.

#### **AMO Matters**

AMO is now accepting applications for the <u>Director of Policy and Government Relations</u> role at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Closing Date: September 12, 2025.

#### **Provincial Matters**

The Ontario government is providing almost \$3 million through the <u>Ontario Community Environment</u> Fund to support community-based projects that support and restore the environment.

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade is <u>accepting applications for project funding</u> that responds to US trade disruption.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is accepting applications to the modernized <u>Rural Ontario</u> <u>Development (ROD)</u> Program. Applications are being accepted through four intakes with the first open from June 24 – September 24, 2025.

#### **Federal Matters**

The Government of Canada is offering up to \$10.3 million to support initiatives enhancing cyber resilience including innovation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. <u>Applications are open</u> until September 25.

### **Education Opportunities**

AMO is holding a forum for its members, key stakeholders and partners to provide a reliable assessment of tariff and trade disruptions and their impact on Ontario municipalities and business sector. Forum discussion and content will include identifying measures to address and mitigate these impacts. This future facing event is an opportunity to build new alliances and relationships across impacted sectors in support of strong and effective economic advocacy. Register here.

We are pleased to be hosting the second annual AMO Healthy Democracy Forum October 18-19 at the <u>Westin Harbour Castle Hotel</u> in Toronto. This year's discussions will focus on strategies to encourage and increase voter turn out, candidate attraction and retention as well as promoting civility and confronting harassment in Ontario's municipalities. For more information and to register <u>click here</u>.

### LAS

Starting January 1, 2026 mercury containing lights will be prohibited. Be sure to include a <u>Facility Lighting upgrade</u> in your 2026 budget so you can keep your spaces lit. <u>Contact Christian</u> to learn how LAS can help.

Our Business Development Intern, Carter Gillies, summarized in a blog his experience working at AMO/LAS from May to August. Read the article here.

### **Municipal Wire\***

Looking for tools to support and invest in new hires? Register for OPPI's <u>Employer Readiness course</u>. It includes an AMO supported employer handbook exploring HR best practices for retention and long-term success.

NRCan's RETScreen Division is offering a <u>free one-year trial licence</u> to new users who would like to download &/or link to EnergyStar Portfolio Manager (ESPM) data. Email <u>retscreen@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca</u> to subscribe. PLUS, for a limited time, free technical support for connecting RETScreen to ESPM is available by emailing Stephen Dixon at <u>sdixon@knowenergy.com</u>.

This <u>free AdvantAge webinar</u> on October 14 from 1-2pm will share insights related to long-term care governance and compliance for municipal councillors and their staff.

### **About AMO**

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

#### **AMO Contacts**

AMO Watchfile Tel: 416.971.9856

Conferences/Events

Policy and Funding Programs

LAS Local Authority Services

MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario

**ONE Investment** 

**Media Inquiries** 

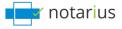
Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions



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### **Kaitlyn Wendland**

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:00 AM

**To:** Group Arnprior

**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - September 11, 2025

# **Last Call:**

# Member Survey is Closing!

losing! Click Here

Have your say and help shape the work we do.







September 11, 2025

#### In This Issue:

- AMO Work-Learn Institute Municipal Talent Project
- Ontario Community Environment Fund: Apply by September 24.
- Trade-Impacted Communities Program.
- Rural Ontario Development Program opens for applications.
- Applications open for 2025 Cyber Security Cooperation program.
- Growing Wisely: Asset Management & Capital Planning.
- Healthy Democracy Forum Important conversations for October 2026 election.
- AMO Trade and Tariff Forum Understanding and planning for Ontario's future.
- AMO's fall education workshop lineup supports your local leadership!
- Canoe newsletter New supplier updates.
- Upgrade your lights before they become obsolete.
- Blog: 10 Ways Mayors and Councils can Support their CAOs & Senior Staff.
- New release: second edition of the CAO Employment Guide.
- Are your sewers safe? Next week is Sewer Safety Week.
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute launches Employer Readiness Course.
- AdvantAge Municipal Councillors webinar: The Current LTC Environment.
- Careers.

#### **AMO Matters**

AMO is partnering with the University of Waterloo's Work-Learn Institute to explore how work-integrated learning (WIL) can support long-term municipal workforce development. If you are a municipal CAO or HR manager, please share your experience working with student co-ops and interns.

#### **Provincial Matters**

The Ontario government is providing almost \$3 million through the <u>Ontario Community Environment</u> Fund to support community-based projects that support and restore the environment.

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade is <u>accepting applications for project funding</u> that responds to US trade disruption.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is accepting applications to the modernized <u>Rural Ontario Development</u> (ROD) Program. Applications are being accepted through to September 24, 2025.

#### **Federal Matters**

The Government of Canada is offering up to \$10.3 million to support initiatives enhancing cyber resilience including innovation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. <u>Applications are open</u> until September 25.

### **Education Opportunities**

Municipal staff members will form an asset management and capital planning panel to discuss how they are addressing growth through asset management and capital planning strategies. Register for the webinar on October 7th at 1 PM.

Register today for AMO's 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum where you will engage in important matters on local leadership. Join us October 18-19. With a mix of keynotes, panels, and interactive workshops, attendees will engage in thought-provoking conversations and explore ways to strengthen civic participation and governance in your communities. For more information click <a href="here">here</a> and to register click <a href="here">here</a>.

Join your colleagues and experts in discussion on building Ontario's economic future October 24 at Toronto's Sheraton Centre. Understanding that the economic and diplomatic consequences will continue for many years, AMO is assembling members and subject matter experts to plan today for a stronger and more stable Ontario. Program information is now available. Register here.

AMO's fall education workshop line up is an opportunity for AMO members to strengthen understanding and leadership skills related to Indigenous community building, cyber security and communication strategies during emergencies. Check out the line up <a href="here">here</a>.

### LAS

Keep up with the <u>Canoe Procurement Group</u> as it expands to meet even more of your needs. <u>Subscribe</u> to the <u>Trader Newsletter</u> for supplier updates, education opportunities, and special promotions.

Starting January 1, 2026 mercury containing lights will be prohibited. Be sure to include a <u>Facility Lighting upgrade</u> in your 2026 budget so you can keep your spaces lit. <u>Contact Christian</u> to learn how LAS can help.

### **Municipal Wire\***

Strong municipalities are built on partnerships between elected officials and administrative staff. The <u>Top 10 Ways Mayors and Councils can support their CAOs and Senior Staff</u> highlights practical ways mayors and councils can provide support, build trust, and create the conditions for effective leadership and administration.

OMAA and the Ontario Municipal Human Resources Association (OMHRA) are pleased to release the <u>second edition of the CAO Employment Guide</u>. This guidebook provides Mayors, Councillors, Human Resource Directors, and CAOs with practical tools for recruiting, employing, and evaluating a CAO.

Sewer Safety Week will take place September 15-19. A reminder to always call Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 for a free sewer safety inspection. To learn more, visit <u>Blocked Sewer and Cross Bore Safety</u> | Enbridge Gas.

Looking for tools to support and invest in new hires? Register for OPPI's <u>Employer Readiness course</u>. It includes an AMO supported employer handbook exploring HR best practices for retention and long-term success.

This <u>free AdvantAge webinar</u> on October 14 from 1-2pm will share insights related to long-term care governance and compliance for municipal councillors and their staff.

#### **Careers**

Assistant Clerk - Town of Innisfil. Closing Date: September 25, 2025.

<u>Senior Director, Strategies and Initiatives</u> - The Regional Municipality of York. Closing Date: September 30, 2025.

Manager, Waste Disposal - County of Essex. Closing Date: September 21, 2025.

#### **About AMO**

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

#### **AMO Contacts**

AMO Watchfile Tel: 416.971.9856

Conferences/Events

Policy and Funding Programs

LAS Local Authority Services

MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario

**ONE Investment** 

**Media Inquiries** 

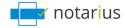
Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions



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### **Kaitlyn Wendland**

From: AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 1:01 PM

**To:** Group Arnprior

**Subject:** Find certainty among tariff and trade disruptions



# Municipalities are on the Front Lines of the Tariff and Trade Disruptions

## Join AMO's Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum

October 24, 2025 Sheraton Centre Hotel Toronto – 123 Queen St West

Dear AMO Member,

We're already seeing the local economic impacts of tariff and trade disruptions across our communities. The uncertainty around what's coming next is creating a lot of fear around resources and it's seizing up our decision making and future planning.

We might not know what the future holds, but we do know that bringing together experts, partners and key stakeholders at AMO's upcoming Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum is the critical next step.

**Join us on October 24th at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto.** Together we'll generate ideas, forge new allies and partnerships, and identify opportunities that will bring both clarity and support in how to more confidently move forward.

Register Now

## AMO has invited experts to engage in discussion on:

- What the trade war means for municipalities
- Building Ontario in uncertain times

- Changing approach to procurement
- · Seizing opportunities to strengthen Ontario

#### Who Should Attend:

- Elected municipal officials
- Municipal staff (economic development, infrastructure, procurement)
- Construction sector/associations
- Business associations
- Provincial staff

## Registration:

\$375.00 +HST

### **Accommodations**

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen Street West

AMO has secured preferred rates of \$349 per night until October 2, 2025. After that date, rooms may be available at the Sheraton at market rate.

Click here to book your accommodations

Please email events@amo.on.ca with any questions.

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- increase diverse representation across municipal governments
- encourage more people to run or seek re-election for local government
- increase declining voter turnout

Explore a new voter turnout guide developed by AMO in partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University's Democratic Engagement Exchange.

# Sunday, October 19, 2025: Promoting civility and confronting harassment in Ontario municipalities

AMO's *Municipal Civility and Anti-Harassment Strategy* is focused on supporting members in addressing the growing incivility, harassment, and threatening behaviour directed at municipal elected officials and staff. Conversations will range through:

- trends in trust, polarization, and civic expectations
- lived experience of incivility in public service
- role clarity, neutrality, and navigating political/administrative tensions
- municipal systems and oversight
- · journalism, social media, and the public sphere
- practical solutions across a range of shared challenges

Mounting incivility and harassment are impacting staff recruitment, elected official retention, and voter turnout. Join this important discussion to support real action as we work towards the 2026 municipal elections.

# Feedback from how the 1st Annual Healthy Democracy Forum went, <u>take a look</u> <u>here</u>, and hear what your colleagues thought:

- "These two days were exceptional. Exactly what we need to get started in our community work."
- "The AMO Healthy Democracy Forum was engaging and inspiring. I felt validated in my experiences as a candidate and an elected official, and excited by the collaboration and ideas I heard from others across the province. Spending time with positive people who care about local democracy was very energizing for me."
- "I'm so glad that I made the trip to Toronto for this forum. The timing is right for us to be strategizing for the next province-wide municipal elections, and the forum **lit a fire** for so many of us who carry a passion and commitment for stronger and healthier local democracies towards 2026 and beyond."

### Registration

Full Event: \$150.00 +HST Single Day: \$75.00 +HST

Register Here

### **Accommodations**

Westin Harbour Castle, 1 Harbour Square, Toronto, M5J 1A6

AMO has secured preferred rates of \$314 per night until **September 25, 2025**. After that date, rooms may be available at the Westin Harbour Castle at market rate.

## Click here to book your accommodations

# Together, let's draft a blueprint to a more engaged, informed, and vibrant local democracy.

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## **Kaitlyn Wendland**

From: AMO Education <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:00 PM

**To:** Group Arnprior

**Subject:** Indigenous Community Awareness Training







# Municipalities have an obligation to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples

Municipalities have an obligation to uphold Treaty agreements and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Building positive, meaningful municipal-Indigenous relationships and making decisions that include Indigenous voices is mutually beneficial and fosters thriving communities.

The AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Cultural Competency Training will provide knowledge and tools to improve and strengthen Indigenous relations and is recommended as a foundation of strong local leadership. This training is limited to 20 participants, and is almost sold out, so register today.

Register Here

#### **About the Session**

This session includes self-paced learning modules completed in advance of a live virtual component.

Topics that will be explored include *Early Relationship and Treaties*, *colonial logics*, *Residential schools*, and the *Indian Act*.

Read the full workshop description <u>here</u>.

Live Virtual Session Training Date: September 24, 2025, 12:30 - 4:30pm

For questions, contact <a href="mailto:events@amo.on.ca">events@amo.on.ca</a>.

## **Kaitlyn Wendland**

From: AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 1:01 PM

**To:** Group Arnprior

**Subject:** Join AMO's 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum – Oct 18-19, Toronto



# **AMO's 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum**

## October 18 – 19, 2025 Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

You are invited to join an important two-day event that may have impact on how you consider your next steps in municipal leadership in lead up to the October 2026 election.

**AMO's second annual Healthy Democracy Forum** will focus on a number of key elements in local leadership coming out of AMO's commitment to and work on healthy democracy.

Focused on two key strategies underway by AMO: civility and anti-harassment as well as our public affairs campaign supporting voter turn out and running for council, you have the opportunity to learn, shape, and inspire our work in these areas.

Our goal is to bring together municipal leaders, sector leaders, academics, and others to create lasting, positive momentum and change.

With a mix of keynotes, panels, and interactive workshops, attendees will engage in thought-provoking conversations and explore ways to strengthen civic participation and governance in your communities.

We anticipate this event to sell out. Register and book hotel accommodations today.

## **Program highlights:**

Saturday, October 18, 2025: Strategies to encourage and increase voter turnout, candidate attraction and retention

An impactful day learning about AMO's public affairs campaign that includes approaches, resources, and tools to help:

Inquires: events@amo.on.ca

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### **Kaitlyn Wendland**

**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca> **Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2025 12:09 PM

**To:** Group Arnprior

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes



# AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes

## **Top Insights**

• Yesterday, AMO's President and Executive Director were invited to Ottawa for the launch of **Build Canada Homes**. Ontario municipalities are ready to work with the province and federal government to transform the housing landscape and increase affordable, supportive and transitional housing in Ontario.

### Federal Government Launch of Build Canada Homes

AMO welcomes the Government of Canada's <u>announcement</u> launching <u>Build Canada Homes</u>, a new Special Operating Agency within Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). AMO's President Robin Jones and Executive Director Lindsay Jones attended the announcement with Prime Minister Carney and Minister Robertson (Housing and Infrastructure of Canada).

Responsive to AMO's market sounding guide <u>submission</u>, Build Canada Homes (BCH) will focus primarily on non-market housing, supporting a mix of income needs as part of a national effort to double housing construction, restore affordability, and reduce homelessness. BCH aligns with AMO's recommendations about Ontario's municipal priorities:

- The agency will work with municipalities, provinces, territories and Indigenous Communities to fight homelessness by building supportive and transitional housing with an investment of \$1 billion and will seek to pair these federal investments with employment and health care supports in provinces and territories.
- A new acquisition program to protect existing affordable rental housing, the \$1.5 billion Canada Rental Protection Fund, will help the community housing sector in acquiring at-risk apartment buildings to ensure their affordability over the long term.
- BCH will also work with the private sector to deploy modern methods of construction to create a new Canadian housing industry using Canadian materials. Prioritization initially will be placed on creating 4000 factory-built units in six select Canadian cities, including Toronto and Ottawa, with additional capacity of up to 45,000 units across the portfolio.

BCH will be headed by Ana Bailão as the agency's Chief Executive Officer. As a former Toronto City Councillor and chair of Toronto Community Housing, Ana will bring her knowledge of housing in Ontario to the leadership position.

AMO will work with both the federal and provincial governments to ensure the conditions for BCH's success in Ontario given our unique municipal responsibility for community housing and homelessness prevention services. This will include working with the Ontario government to match federal capital dollars with provincial operating funding for the necessary wrap around supports for supportive housing. AMO looks forward to working with the federal government on the potential expansion of the initiative to create new factory-built units on federal lands in more Ontario communities – large urban, small urban, rural, northern and southern.

The federal government will announce additional measures in Budget 2025 to lower costs for builders and to catalyze private capital in homebuilding. AMO asks the federal government to avoid imposing new development charge (DC) exemptions or discounts. DCs have been a key funding source for municipal capital investments for decades. Reductions will be counterproductive unless DCs are fully replaced with another equally predictable and stable revenue source.

An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the <u>AMO Website</u>.

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## **Kaitlyn Wendland**

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:21 PM

**To:** Group Arnprior

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement, Federal

Development Charges Advocacy, Federal Government Pre-Budget Announcements, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Forum Commitments, and Blue Box Amendments



AMO Policy Update – AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement, Federal Development Charges Advocacy, Federal Government Pre-Budget Announcements, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Forum Commitments, and Blue Box Amendments

## Top Insights

- In response to recent comments by Premier Ford about municipal use of **automated speed enforcement**, AMO wrote a letter to the Premier and Minister of Transportation. ASEs are evidence-based and cost-effective tools to support road safety that have broad public support.
- AMO is advocating to the federal government that any **federally mandated reductions to development charges** will need to be replaced with a new, equally predictable, and sufficient revenue source that make Ontario municipalities whole.
- The federal government announced a new **federal industrial strategy** which will include a new "Buy Canadian" procurement policy, including a roadmap for provinces and municipalities to adopt.

- AMO stands ready to work with the provincial government to support conversations with the federal government about commitments agreed to by the **Federal-Provincial-Territorial Forum on Housing**.
- The province finalized amendments to the **Blue Box Regulation**, addressing some municipal concerns.

## **AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement**

Earlier today, <u>AMO sent a letter</u> to the Premier and Minister of Transportation highlighting the important evidence-based role that automated speed enforcement (ASE) plays in improving road safety:

- Automated speed enforcement is making roads safer. Automated speed enforcement cameras in Toronto reduced speeding vehicles by 45 per cent.
- ASE is cost effective. ASE allows police officers to focus on other highimpact activities and net ASE revenues are reinvested in community safety improvements.
- ASE is supported by most Ontarians. Nearly three-quarters of Ontario drivers support the use of ASE in targeted areas like school zones or community centres.

Municipalities understand the need to use these tools thoughtfully and can be counted on to do so. AMO has sought to collaborate with the province to ensure that ASE is used effectively and to improve public understanding of their importance.

## **Federal Development Charges Advocacy**

The federal government's election platform pledged \$6 billion federal funding over four years for Development Charge (DC) discounts of 50% for multi-unit residential housing projects. The platform also committed to working with provinces and territories to make municipalities whole.

AMO <u>has advocated to Minister Robertson</u> and his ministry that DCs are a long-term and relatively stable revenue source, and any federally mandated reductions to DCs will need to be replaced with a new, equally predictable, and sufficient revenue source.

The foregone revenue loss for Ontario municipalities would be significant. Federal funding must fully compensate Ontario municipalities with an increase in direct, stable and multi-year funding to match the full municipal revenue loss from any reduction in DCs. Additional financing tools or short-term funding commitments will not be enough to support Ontario's long-term infrastructure needs.

AMO has also highlighted the broader issue of chronic underinvestment in Ontario's municipal infrastructure and called on the federal government to work with the province and municipalities to establish new and innovative mechanisms that will provide sustainable, predictable and enhanced funding for local infrastructure.

# Federal Government announces new industrial strategy to combat US tariffs

Last week, Prime Minister Carney said to expect a fall budget with austerity and investment measures.

Providing more insight into the planned investments, the Prime Minister <u>announced</u> six new strategic measures. These measures are designed to support workers and businesses most impacted by US tariffs and trade disruptions. They focus on helping workers acquire new skills and businesses retool their production and diversify their products, finding ways to increase their sales nationally through new and existing programs.

One key initiative is the introduction of a new "Buy Canadian Policy" to boost domestic demand for Canadian businesses. As part of this new procurement policy, the federal government will provide a roadmap that provinces and municipalities can adopt for their own procurement practices. AMO will continue to work closely with the province to ensure new procurement measures – including this roadmap - reflect the needs of Ontario municipalities. AMO Policy will review and share insights on the "Buy Canadian Policy" and roadmap for municipalities once its released.

AMO will also monitor its <u>Major Projects Office</u>, which is charged with fast-tracking nation building projects, for announcements that impact Ontario municipalities.

# Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Forum on Housing and Homelessness

The forum of federal, provincial and territorial ministers (FPT) across Canada met to discuss solutions to key housing and homelessness issues facing people in Canada. As detailed in a <a href="news-release">news-release</a>, the forum focused on a coordinated approach to advancing housing and homeless priorities and resulted in commitments to working together including to renew intergovernmental partnerships on affordable housing beyond the expiry of the National Housing Strategy (NHS) in 2028.

AMO is pleased to see this commitment for continued FPT collaboration. Continued NHS funding is crucial because of the role it plays in providing access to safe, affordable, and inclusive housing by increasing housing supply, improving housing quality, and supporting vulnerable populations. These contributions are essential to helping to strengthen the social and economic prosperity of communities. AMO stands ready to support the Ontario government in conversations with their federal counterparts through a Team Ontario approach.

## **Blue Box Regulation Amendments**

On September 4th, the province <u>released</u> finalized Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg 391/21) amendments. The regulation shifts the financial and operational responsibility of the blue box program from municipalities to industry.

In July, <u>AMO sent a letter to Minister McCarthy</u> outlining municipal concerns about proposed Blue Box Regulation amendments. AMO is pleased to see that the government listened and adjusted some amendments in response. In particular, we are pleased that the province has:

- · Delayed enforceable recycling targets by two years instead of five, and
- Delayed, instead of canceling, the expansion of service to multi-residential buildings.

AMO will continue to advocate for a strong recycling system where manufacturers are responsible for their packaging and incentivized to reduce waste.

An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the AMO Website.

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# Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin

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Council update

News & Events

· Treaty Negotiations Newsletter

Sweats

Youth softball

Youth Basketball

· Culture Camp

Health Updates

· Womans Heart Health Lunch

• Eye Exams

Aging in place

· Resources & Phone numbers

· Welcoming New Employees

Job Readiness Program

· Employment Opportunities

· Culture and Home Equity Lead

Harvest Monitors

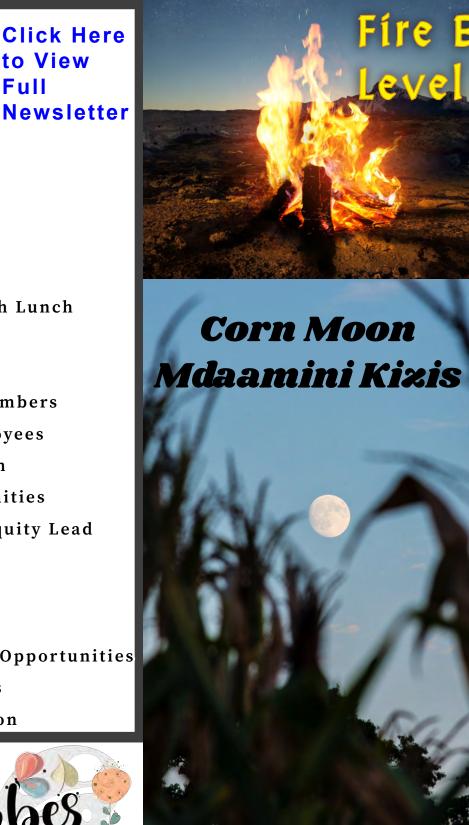
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• PSW

External Employment Opportunities

Membership Additions

Community Information







# Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin

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Harvest Monitors

Project Coordinator

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• PSW

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Roofing Laborer

Membership Additions

Community Information

Omàmiwininì Pimàdjwowin We now have our Pik Wear back in stock!

Zip-Up hoodies
Pullover crew neck sweaters
T-shirts and Polo T's
Size Small- 2xl
Navy Blue, Red, Black, Purple



I would like to sincerely thank
Chief and Council and the
Administration staff for putting
together a wonderful retirement
party. I truly appreciate all the
time, effort, and thoughtfulness
that went into making the day so
special. It means a lot to be
celebrated and supported by such
an amazing team and community.
I would also like to than Nigig for
the beautiful gift.



## **Kaitlyn Wendland**

Subject:

FW: Reminder: Summer Newsletter 2025

From: Enterprise Renfrew County < <a href="mailto:economicdevelopment@countyofrenfrew.ccsend.com">economicdevelopment@countyofrenfrew.ccsend.com</a>>

Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Kaila Zamojski < <a href="mailto:kzamojski@arnprior.ca">kzamojski@arnprior.ca</a>
Subject: Reminder: Summer Newsletter 2025

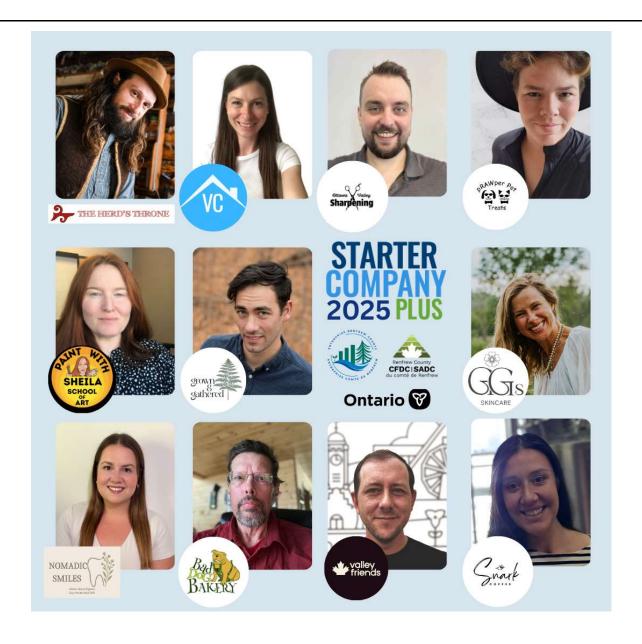


# Summer Newsletter 2025

# **Empowering Local Businesses**

At Enterprise Renfrew County, we are dedicated to fostering growth and innovation within our community. Through tailored resources, expert guidance, and ongoing support, we empower local businesses to thrive and succeed. Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming workshops, events, and success stories as we continue to drive entrepreneurial development in Renfrew County.

Celebrating Success: Introducing the Spring Session Grant Recipients



With 20 dedicated entrepreneurs fast-tracking development of their business, marketing, and financial plans during the training, the following individuals earned grant awards totaling \$42,000:

- Daniel Stermac-Stein of <u>The Herd's Throne</u> (Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan)
- Elizabeth Lepine of Valley Cap (Township of Madawaska Valley)
- Davis Scheel of Ottawa Valley Sharpening (Town of Arnprior)
- Kayla Glenn of pRAWper Pet Treats (Town of Renfrew)
- Sheila O'Brien of The Paint With Sheila School of Art (City of Pembroke)
- Aaron DiLella of Grown and Gathered (Township of McNab/Braeside)
- Sigrid Geddes of **GGs Skincare** (Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards)
- Kathryn Weatherbed of Nomadic Smiles (Town of Laurentian Hills)
- James Smith of <u>Bad Dog Bakery</u> (Town of Deep River)

- Jay Renaud of Valley Friends (Township of Whitewater Region)
- Emily Prospero of **Snark Coffee** (Township of Mcnab/Braeside)

"The Starter Company Plus program is an invaluable resource for small businesses in Renfrew County. Even though my business has been operational for several years, as an alumnus of the program I can confidently say that Starter Company Plus is not only useful for start-ups, but also small business veterans to help them fill gaps in business knowledge and refine business development and growth strategies. The coaching exceeded expectations, and the program content not only provided expert guidance on critical business functions, but also opened up valuable networking opportunities."

Hani Morsi. Founder of Montu Canada.

Entrepreneurs interested in taking their business to the next level can now register for the Fall Starter Company Plus Information Sessions. One information session must be attended to receive an application form:

September 9th from 11am to 12pm or September 11th from 1pm to 2pm.

For more information and to register, visit: Starter Company Plus | Enterprise Renfrew County

# Starter Company Plus Information Session Fall Intake

Information sessions will be held September 9th in the morning and 11th in the afternoon. Interested entrepreneurs must attend one information session to receive an application form. Click <a href="here">here</a> to register for an information session. Generously sponsored by <a href="Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation">Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation</a>.



**Summer Company 2025** 

We are excited to introduce the talented young entrepreneurs participating in this year's Summer Company program. These seven ambitious individuals have embarked on diverse business ventures, showcasing their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

- Paige Hodgson of <u>Paiges Projex</u> (Town of Arnprior)
- Noah Obrien of Wisdom By Words (Township of Madawaska Valley)
- Minnah Rehan of NoorHenna (Town of Arnprior)
- Hunter Prince of Moose 3D Designs (Township of Horton)
- Jazmin Clark of **Sprout Wings** (City of Pembroke)
- Emmanuel Young of Manny's Mowing (Town of Arnprior)
- Nella Rosendic of <u>Nellart Commissions</u> (Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards)

For more information about the program, visit: Summer Company | Enterprise Renfrew County



## Youth Entrepreneurship Takes the Spotlight at HerbFest

On Saturday, July 27, the beautiful Waba Cottage Museum & Gardens in White Lake (McNab/Braeside) was buzzing with energy as community members gathered for a special mid-season highlight at this year's HerbFest.

In partnership with the Township of McNab/Braeside, the event proudly showcased Summer Company students—a group of talented young entrepreneurs from across Renfrew County. Attendees had the chance to meet these inspiring youth, explore their innovative business ideas, and support their ventures.

It was a vibrant day filled with creativity, community spirit, and local flavour, all set against the picturesque backdrop of the Waba Gardens. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate and support the next generation of local business leaders! Be sure to keep an eye out for these thriving entrepreneurs at local markets across the County.

# **Upcoming Webinars**







# **Small Business Month**

An inspiring four-part event series is on the way — designed exclusively for local entrepreneurs and small business owners across the County. Get the latest information and stay up to date with registration information by visiting our <u>website</u>.



LINKING PASSION, PURPOSE & PROFIT

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

Join us for this dynamic four-part event series held across Renfrew County in celebration of Small Business Month!

Designed for entrepreneurs at every stage, to gain practical learning, meaningful connections, and actionable insights to help grow your small business with confidence.

















Presented in Partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)

From Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC):



New Loan Program: CANtrade™ Now Available in Renfrew County

Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation is excited to announce the launch of **CANtrade™**, a new repayable loan program designed to help local businesses adapt to today's evolving trade landscape.

Whether you're shifting supply chains, growing inter-provincial trade, or expanding exports of locally made products, CANtrade™ offers flexible financing to support your next move.

**Loan highlights:** ✓ \$5,000 to \$150,000 ✓ Interest rates from prime to prime +2% ✓ Interest-only payments for the first 6 months ✓ No prepayment penalties

Click the link to **Learn More & Apply** 

For more information, please contact Cyndy Phillips, Executive Director for RCCFDC.



# **Available Funding Opportunities from the Ontario Government**



#### **Rural Ontario Development Program**

The Rural Ontario Development (ROD) program replaces the

Rural Economic Development (RED) program. The ROD program supports the objectives of Enabling Opportunity: Ontario's Rural Economic Development Strategy.

Deadline to Apply: Sept. 24, 2025, at 5 p.m

For more information, click here.

#### Ontario Investing \$7.5 Million to Help Businesses Go Digital

The Ontario government is investing \$7.5 million to protect small and medium-sized businesses across the province, helping them modernize and grow by adopting digital technologies. The <a href="Digitalization">Digitalization</a>
<a href="Competence Centre">Competence Centre</a>
(DCC) helps companies to transition and find made-in-Ontario digital solutions with expert guidance, training and up to \$115,000 in targeted grants. Funds are limited and will be applied on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more and apply, click <a href="here">here</a>.

Stay up-to-date on what funding is currently available from the Government of Ontario, if you're eligible, and how to apply. For more information, click <a href="here">here</a>.

# County of Renfrew Launches Regional Incentive Program- HYPE



The County of Renfrew is now accepting applications from local municipalities for its regional incentive program – HYPE (Helping

Your Place Excel) – which provides matching grant funding – up to 50% – to stimulate private sector investment, attract and retain businesses, and improve business and community appeal.

Aligned with the County's strategic priorities, the HYPE Program drives economic development by offering financial incentives that support local municipal Community Improvement Plans (CIPs). The HYPE Program promotes and supports a wide range of economic goals, including affordable housing, tourism, business retention and expansion, and investment readiness. Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to, private sector investment, enhancing tourist accommodations, growing attainable and affordable housing, fostering agriculture development, revitalizing downtowns, expanding trail networks, improving accessibility and energy efficiency, and advancing projects with positive environmental impacts.

For more information visit: www.investrenfrewcounty.ca/HYPE



# From the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce:





#### **Business Excellence Awards**

Presented annually by the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce, the <u>Business Excellence Awards</u> recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements and contributions in the region's business community, across a wide range of categories. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honour, reserved for individuals whose work has left a lasting mark on the economic and civic life of the Ottawa Valley.

For more information on these events and to reserve your tickets, visit: <a href="https://upperottawavalleychamber.com/2025-business-excellence-awards/">https://upperottawavalleychamber.com/2025-business-excellence-awards/</a> or contact the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce at 613-732-1492

# From the Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce:



New to the Frew - Save the Date! New to the Frew Community Showcase is coming soon! Join us as we welcome new residents, businesses, and community members to Renfrew & the area in a fun and engaging way. If you would like to showcase your business or organization, contact the Chamber office and reserve your spot.

Join us on Wednesday September 17, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm., at The myFM Centre. Come out to connect, learn more about what makes Renfrew and area special, and discover all the amazing local organizations, services, and businesses in our community.



# NEW TO FREW

COMMUNITY SHOWCASE EVENING

6-8 pm

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

# myFM Centre

1 Ma-te-Way Dr. Renfrew, ON

This event is open to everyone, whether you're new to the area or have been a long-time resident. It's a perfect opportunity to connect with local organizations, discover new services, and celebrate the unique spirit of our community!

## Presented by:









# PINNACLE OF BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Business of the Year Award
Breakout Business of the Year
Lifetime Achievement Award
Employee of the Year Award
Youth Employee of the Year Award
Young Entrepreneur of the Year
Hospitality Award

Pinnacle of Business Excellence Awards - We are excited to announce that nominations are now open for all businesses in the <u>Township of Admaston/Bromley</u>, <u>Township of Greater Madawaska</u>, <u>Township of Horton</u> and the <u>Town of Renfrew</u>. This is your chance to nominate a Business, Young Entrepreneur, Youth Employee, Breakout Business, Employee of the Year, Hospitality Award, and Lifetime Achievement of the Year. Submit your nominations here. <a href="https://renfrewareachamber.ca/pinnacle-of-business.../">https://renfrewareachamber.ca/pinnacle-of-business.../</a>

Questions? Contact Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce, info@renfrewareachamber.ca or call 613-432-4848 ext 181.





Promote your upcoming events at no cost on the OVTA Events & Festivals calendar. They're actively driving traffic to their website through social media — so take advantage of the exposure and let them help spread the word about your event!



# Stay in Touch

Starting or Growing a Business in Renfrew County?

Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) is here to support you! Whether you're a new or existing entrepreneur, we offer free, confidential business coaching, monthly webinars, and training programs to help you succeed. Network, learn, and grow with us!

### Melissa Marquardt

Manager of Enterprise Renfrew County

MMarquardt@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

### **Hillary Panke**

Acting Small Business Advisor/ Program Coordinator

HPanke@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

#### **Heather Inwood-Montrose**

Small Business Advisor

HInwoodMontrose@countyofrenfrew.on.ca



Enterprise Renfrew County acknowledges that the land of which we are situated is the traditional, unceded, and unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin and Anishnabek people covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples on the land on which we gather. We are grateful to be present in this territory today, and we honour the reconciliation process by bringing the 7 grandfather teachings of love, respect, bravery, truth, honesty, humility, and wisdom into our offerings and daily lives. Meegwetch.

Enterprise Renfrew County | 9 International Drive | Pembroke, ON K8A6W5 CA

<u>Unsubscribe</u> | <u>Update Profile</u> | <u>Constant Contact Data Notice</u>



Try email marketing for free today!



# From the Desk of **Billy Denault, MPP**Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

August 22, 2025

**Ontario Doubling Fire Protection Grant to Protect More Firefighters** 

Subject: APPLY NOW! Fire Protection Grant Open for Applications

Dear Mayors of Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke,

I'm pleased to share that our government is increasing this year's Fire Protection Grant funding from \$10 million to \$20 million. This investment will help municipal fire departments expand cancer prevention initiatives and improve emergency response to lithium-ion battery related incidents.

The Fire Protection Grant is available to municipal fire departments for both new and existing initiatives.

Eligible projects include:

- Equipment, supplies and personal protective equipment that enhance municipal cancer prevention initiatives
- Equipment and supplies for lithium-ion battery incident response
- Minor infrastructure upgrades and modernization, including enhanced broadband and internet connectivity

Municipal fire departments can apply for this funding until September 30, 2025.

More information on eligibility and how to apply is available online through <u>Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON)</u>.

Our firefighters risk their lives every day to protect our communities, and I strongly encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Warm regards,

**Billy Denault** 

**Member of Provincial Parliament** 

Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

613-735-6627 | billy.denault@pc.ola.org | www.billydenaultmpp.ca











# Ontario Cultural Attractions, Ontario Arts Council & ON Culture Days

# **Info Session and Reception**

Learn about funding opportunities to bring your next event to life!



**Thursday, October 30, 2025** 10:30am - 1:00pm Arts Court Theatre, Ottawa







The Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF) wants to fund **your** project! OCAF is looking to connect with new organizations in Eastern Ontario, and to learn more about the exciting cultural and heritage activities happening in your community.

OCAF is an investment program of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming with a mandate to help cultural organizations boost event visibility through:

- Funding to support the marketing and promotion of cultural and heritage events
- Professional capacity-building opportunities
- Forming new partnerships across the cultural and tourism sectors

OCAF, together with the Ontario Arts Council and Ontario Culture Days, is hosting an information session and reception in Ottawa on October 30. This is your chance to meet OCAF representatives, learn how the program works, and discover how to apply. Take your event visibility to the next level and reach the audiences you deserve! Event details below — we look forward to seeing you there.

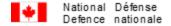
What: OCAF, OAC & OCD Info Session & Reception

When: October 30th, 10:30am to 1pm

Where: Arts Court Theatre, Ottawa, 2 Daly Ave suite 240 in Ottawa



**RSVP** Required



#### **Public Service Announcement**

#### Royal Canadian Dragoons Road Moves in Ottawa Valley

September 15th, 2025 – Petawawa, Ont. – Department of National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces.

The public is advised that the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) will conduct convoy operations between Petawawa and Renfrew, On., from October 15<sup>th</sup> to October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, during Exercise CHARGING DRAGOON.

Up to 50 vehicles will be involved in this exercise, including armored, patrol, and transport vehicles. The convoy will depart Garrison Petawawa on October 15th, travelling via Highway 41 to the City of Renfrew. Over the following days, it will leave Renfrew, stop in Cobden and Pembroke, and return to Garrison Petawawa on October 17th. Soldiers will be carrying weapons and will be conducting tactical tasks however no ammunition or pyrotechnics will be used.

This exercise will validate the RCD's ability to conduct vital tasks before they deploy to Operation REASSURANCE in Latvia in the coming year.

-30-

#### Social Media

<u>2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group – Facebook</u> 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group – Instagram

#### **Contacts**

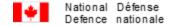
Lt H. Hawes

2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Public Affairs Officer

Phone: 613-794-4753

Email: Helen.Hawes@forces.gc.ca





#### Message d'intérêt public

# Déplacements routiers des Royal Canadian Dragoons dans la vallée de l'Outaouais

Septembre 9, 2025 – Petawawa, Ont. – ministère de la Défense nationale / Forces armées canadiennes

Le public est avisé que les Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) effectueront des opérations de convoi entre Petawawa et Renfrew, On., du 15 au 17 octobre 2025 dans le cadre de l'exercice CHARGING DRAGOON.

Jusqu'à 50 véhicules participerons à cet exercice, incluant des véhicules blindés, de patrouille et de transport. Le convoi quittera la Garnison de Petawawa le 15 octobre, empruntera la route 41 jusqu'à la ville de Renfrew. Au cours des jours suivants, le convoi quittera Renfrew, s'arrêtera à Cobden et à Pembroke, puis retournera à la garnison de Petawawa le 17 octobre. Les militaires porteront des armes et effectueront des tâches tactiques, mais aucune munition ni aucun effet pyrotechnique ne sera utilisé.

Cet exercice vise à valider la capacité des RCD à exécuter des tâches essentielles avant leur déploiement dans le cadre de l'Opération REASSURANCE en Lettonie au cours de la prochaine année.

-30-

#### Social Media

<u>2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group – Facebook</u> <u>2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group – Instagram</u>

#### Contacts

Lt H. Hawes

2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Public Affairs Officer

Phone: 613-794-4753

Email: Helen.Hawes@forces.gc.ca





# ARNPRIOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Rick Desarmia, Fire Chief

# We Care... We Help!

We wish to extend a sincere **Thank You!** to everyone who has helped make this important safety initiative possible. Many local **Partners in Safety** have provided generous support, and we're pleased to recognize their commitment to the safety of our community on the following pages.

We encourage you to use this award-winning safety resource as a reference tool to help keep yourself and your whole family safe.

For more safety information visit **communitysafetynet.com** or scan here and search for our community...



Your Community Code: **ON1789** 

# Thank You!



# **Partners in Safety**



——School Partners

Mark's No Frills

——Class Partners

Arnprior Lions Club Education Foundation

——2/3 Class Partners

Arnprior Rona

Knights Inn Arnprior

-1/2 Class Partners

**Ramada Inn Arnprior** 

Arnprior Home Hardware Clancy's Drug Store

R&M Truck & Trailer Repairs (Arnprior) Inc.

Community Code: ON1789

# -1/3 Class Partners-

Anderson Automotive
Arnprior Metro
Valley Vision

## Supporting Partners-

Arnprior Legion Branch 174

Competition Composites Inc.

Scotiabank Arnprior



#### THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON POK 1L0
PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311
LARDERLAKE.CA

September 10, 2025

To whom it May Concern:

RE: Resolution #18, September 9, 2025 - Resolution Requesting a Moratorium on Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate in the Timiskaming Forest

Please be advised that at the Township of Larder Lake's Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

Moved by: Councillor Armstrong Seconded by: Councillor Kelly

**CARRIED** 

**WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, plans to begin aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides starting on or before August 10th, 2025, in the Timiskaming Forest; and

WHEREAS the Timiskaming Forest covers a significant portion of the Municipality of Larder Lake, and this activity may impact residents and ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS** new scientific evidence published since Health Canada's last assessment of glyphosate in 2017 has linked glyphosate-based end-use products to cancer, metabolic and neurological diseases, reproductive toxicity, and ecosystem harm; and

WHEREAS the Province of Quebec banned the use of glyphosate for forestry purposes in 2001 and replaced aerial herbicide spraying with manual forest thinning as a safer alternative forest management method; and

WHEREAS many residents have expressed concern regarding the potential environmental and public health risks associated with aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of Larder Lake formally requests that the Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, reconsider the planned use of glyphosate-based herbicides in the Timiskaming Forest and suspend the aerial spraying initiative until further independent research and updated risk assessments are completed and reviewed; and

#### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be forwarded to:

The Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

MPP John Vanthof, Timiskaming-Cochrane

AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)

FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities)

All municipalities within Northeastern Ontario

Sincerely,

Crystal Labbe

**CAO/** Clerk Treasurer



#### THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON POK 1L0
PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311
LARDERLAKE.CA

September 10, 2025

Jon Pegg Ontario Fire Marshal Ministry of the Solicitor General 25 Morton Shulman Avenue Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Subject: Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg,

On behalf of The Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake we are writing to express our support for the firefighter certification requirements outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22. We recognize the importance of standardized training and certification in enhancing firefighter safety, service quality, and public confidence across the province.

When firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, many rural municipalities voiced concern, noting that they do not offer the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province graciously responded by introducing legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is greatly appreciated and reflects a thoughtful understanding of the diverse realities across Ontario.

However, despite this accommodation, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available or are only in "pilot" while there remains a large demand for these programs. The Province cannot reasonably expect volunteer firefighters—many of whom work full-time jobs—to independently develop training programs that meet the standards required to pass certification exams. This places an undue burden on small municipalities and risks compromising the intent of the regulation.

We have enclosed a formal resolution passed by our Council, which outlines our concerns and respectfully requests that the province extend the certification deadline to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation to allow time for volunteer fire departments to access these training programs and achieve certification.

We also urge the Province to consider a phased adaptive approach to implementation, ensuring that all communities have equitable access to the necessary training resources.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to fire service excellence and look forward to your support in helping Ontario municipalities meet these important standards in a realistic and sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

Crystal Labbe

**CAO/Clerk-Treasurer** 

**Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake** 



#### THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON POK 1L0
PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311
LARDERLAKE.CA

September 10, 2025

To whom it May Concern:

RE: Resolution #17, September 9, 2025 – Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22

Please be advised that at the Township of Larder Lake's Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

Moved by: Councillor Kelly

Seconded by: Councillor Armstrong

**CARRIED** 

WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 343/22 mandates that firefighters performing specific fire protection services be certified to a prescribed standard by July 1, 2026, with certain technical rescue disciplines requiring certification by July 1, 2028;

**AND WHEREAS** the Township recognizes and supports the value of the certification requirements mandated by the Province of Ontario, acknowledging that standardized training enhances firefighter safety, service quality, and public trust;

**AND WHEREAS** the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and Ontario Fire College (OFC) are actively working to provide training and certification programs, including offering over 600 courses annually, yet some certification programs and testing resources remain under development or are not yet widely accessible, particularly in the Ontario Seal Programs;

**AND WHEREAS** many fire departments in Ontario are staffed predominantly by volunteer firefighters who balance full-time employment with their emergency service commitments;

AND WHEREAS the certification programs are still in development and the current availability does not adequately reflect the operational realities of volunteer fire departments, especially in rural communities, where training opportunities are limited and certification demands place undue pressure on personnel and municipal resources;

AND WHEREAS when firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, smaller/rural Municipalities raised concerns that they do not provide the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province responded thoughtfully by introducing new legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is appreciated and reflects a fair and practical approach; however, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available.

**AND WHEREAS** it is unreasonable to expect volunteer firefighters—who already balance full-time employment and community service—to independently develop curriculums and training programs inhouse that meet provincial standards and adequately prepare them for certification exams;

AND WHEREAS smaller rural volunteer fire departments often lack the necessary resources, certified personnel, and specialized expertise to independently develop training curriculums or qualify for learning contracts with the Ontario Fire College; and

**AND WHEREAS** these departments have long relied on the Ontario Fire College's course offerings and have been patiently awaiting the release of the Ontario Seal Programs, having noted preliminary pilot initiatives in Northern Ontario and anticipating a broader rollout of these programs in the near future;

**AND WHEREAS** rural municipalities would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Office of the Fire Marshal to address current barriers and explore collaborative solutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Larder Lake respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Office of the Fire Marshal, extend the compliance deadlines outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22 to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation for all affected certification categories;

**AND THAT** the Province consider implementing a phased or regionally adaptive approach to certification deadlines, taking into account the availability of training programs and the unique challenges faced by volunteer fire services in Rural Ontario;

**AND THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Ontario Fire Marshal, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC), **John Vanthof** and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

**Crystal Labbe** 

**CAO/ Clerk Treasurer** 



## The Corporation of the Township of Perry

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: September 3, 2025

Resolution No.: **2025-** 310

Moved By: Joe Lumley Seconded By: Paul Sowrey

**Whereas** the Township of Perry recognizes the selfless service and enduring sacrifices made by Canadian Armed Forces veterans in the defence of our country and values;

**Whereas** the 2021 Census, conducted by Statistics Canada, identified more than 460,000 veterans residing across Canada, a significant population segment deserving of comprehensive, accessible, and modernized federal support;

**Whereas** Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) currently administers income support programs to assist veterans in need, including the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program;

**Whereas** the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program which was created in 2019 – set at \$20,000 annually for a single-person household – fails to reflect today's economic reality, particularly in light of inflation, soaring housing costs, and the general increase in cost of living;

**Whereas** such low eligibility thresholds may disincentivize employment and community participation by penalizing veterans for earning beyond an outdated benchmark, thereby discouraging reintegration and contribution to civic life;

**Whereas** it is the duty of all levels of government to stand in unified support of our veterans and to advocate for policy changes that enable them to live with dignity and financial stability;

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry formally calls on the Government of Canada and all federal parties to increase the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program from \$20,000 to no less than \$40,000 annually for a single-person household; and

**That** Council urges Veterans Affairs Canada to review all income support programs with the intent to modernize eligibility criteria in line with the current cost of living across Canada;

That this motion be formally endorsed and sent to:

- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
- The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs;
- The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition;
- Scott Aitchison, Member of Parliament for Parry Sound-Muskoka;
- All 444 municipalities across the Province of Ontario;
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for broader distribution and endorsement;

Carried:	Defeated:	J. tras
		Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

RECORDED VOTE					
	Council	For	Against		
Councillors	Jim Cushman				
	Joe Lumley				
	Margaret Ann MacPhail				
	Paul Sowrey				
Mayor	Norm Hofstetter				



Anya Gansterer
Ottawa Valley Community Arts
Artistic Director
anya@ov-caos.org
613-633-1236

#### <u>Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley Presentation to County Council -</u> September 10th, 2025

#### What is the Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley (AGOV)?

The AGOV is a system of interconnected galleries and programming spaces across the watershed of what is now known as the Ottawa Valley in the unceded, unsurrendered Ancestral territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg peoples. The AGOV will nurture artists, creative people and communities by providing accessible, welcoming and inclusive spaces for artistic growth, economic growth and collective community well-being. We envision a future where all rural residents of the Ottawa Valley can access art within a 30-minute drive from their home. Including outdoor, indoor and digital spaces.

The gallery spaces are both indoor and outdoor, and can range in scale to accommodate the host facility. The AGOV will also include a catalogue of programming spaces: existing public spaces that can be adapted for workshops and programming. The outdoor spaces may include: Art Installations in public areas like parks and trails and can be permanent or temporary. The AGOV will of course be accessible via a website (including a virtual gallery) and social media platforms.

#### How can the Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley Support your community?

#### **Resilient and Connected Communities**

- local pride and civic engagement
- spaces for connection, reduced isolation
- learning, volunteer opportunities
- participation of equity deserving communities

#### Tourism

- creates cultural touchstones that elevate our destination appeal
- encourages regional tourism
- extends visits (culture tourists stay longer and spend more than other types of tourist)

#### Art Powered Economic Growth

Supports small businesses and local hospitality

- drives economic growth and tourism
- job creation, GDP growth and increased tax revenues

#### **Leveraging Creative Talent**

- professional opportunities for rural artists
- retain creative talent and build career pathways
- position the Ottawa Valley as a hub for creative industries

#### Low Investment - High Impact

- a cost-effective way to invest in cultural infrastructure without large capital projects
- \$1 investment in public art = \$25 revenue generated\*
- differentiate our regional economic development efforts
- build capacity for larger future cultural investment

#### How does Renfrew County currently fit into the cultural economy? Where do we want to be?

	Culture Jobs*	Culture GDP*
Canada	669,600	\$63.2 Billion
Ontario	270,529	\$26 Billion
Eastern Ontario	26,826	\$2.7 Billion
Renfrew County	?	?

<sup>\*</sup>Arts Across Ontario Report

#### **How Can Municipal Government Move the AGOV Forward?**

- You know your communities best! Meet with us to talk about your vision for the arts in your communities and how the AGOV can support your vision.
- Contribute to the dedicated AGOV fund supporting the developmental and operational costs of growing the AGOV.

- Integrate the AGOV into your community planning. This could mean providing free
  exhibit space in municipally-owned infrastructure, creating a policy that integrates arts
  into community development, integrating art into existing community events, and
  working with local artists on community improvement/beautification, etc.
- Contact us to discuss the specifics of bringing the AGOV to your community. We have a roster of local artists that we can connect you with for specific projects.



Anya Gansterer
Ottawa Valley Community Arts Artistic Director
<a href="mailto:anya@ov-caos.org">anya@ov-caos.org</a>
613-633-1236

#### **Relevant Links**

- 1. Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley Scope Vision and Business Plan
- 2. Labour Market Arts in Renfrew County Report
- 3. <u>Culture Track Canada National Report</u>
- 4. Arts Across Ontario Report
- 5. Ottawa Valley Artists and Creative People Survey
- 6. Algonquin Artists and Creative Gathering Summary



36 Edith Street
Petawawa, ON K8H 0B5
Tel: (613) 602 3789
renfrew.county@youthscience.ca
www.youthscience.ca/renfrew-county/

August 25, 2025

Town of Arnprior 105 Elgin Street, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

I am writing on behalf of the Renfrew County Regional Science and Technology Fair (RCRSTF) to request a donation to support the 2026 fair so that we can continue to bring this wonderful opportunity to students across Renfrew County.

Each year we host the Renfrew County Regional Science and Technology Fair where students present science and technology-based projects. Those projects are judged, and prizes are awarded for innovation, experiment, and demonstration-based projects. Students with the most innovative, creative, scientifically rigorous and well-presented projects are then selected by a judging panel of community members to represent Renfrew County at the Canada Wide Science Fair. We are grateful to have sponsors that reward scientific thought in our students throughout the science fair journey, which starts every year with the school fairs that we support, to the regional fair we organize and to the Canada Wide Science Fair that we prepare and take winning students to. Thank you for the role you play in that support.

In addition to exhibiting the great science projects of the youth of Renfrew County, the fair also has interactive, educational exhibits for the students, including interactive science, engineering and technology activities.

2025 was another great year for the Renfrew County Regional Science and Technology Fair with very high attendance. In fact, the attendance is so high, that we're moving! We're partnering with the Pembroke Campus of Algonquin College to allow for more space and an even better student experience.

In addition, Renfrew County sent 4 student finalists to the Canada Wide Science Fair in Fredericton, NB this past June, with one student, Jiya Savsani, winning the *Hydrogen Optimized Green Energy Award* for her project "Watt's the Wind? Optimizing Lakeside Hybrid VAWTs [Vertical-Axis Wind Turbines]".

The 2026 fair is planned to be held Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Pembroke Campus of Algonquin College (a new location this year!) and is open to Grades 5 to 12 for projects. Anyone with an interest in seeing the future scientists of Renfrew County is welcome to



36 Edith Street
Petawawa, ON K8H 0B5
Tel: (613) 602 3789
renfrew.county@youthscience.ca
www.youthscience.ca/renfrew-county/

attend!

We would like to invite you to become a sponsor of the 2026 RCRSTF and have enclosed a funding schedule of sponsorship levels to assist you in your consideration.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with you at any time. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like more information on the Renfrew County Regional Science and Technology Fair and the ways in which you can help make it a success in 2026. You can also view our website at <a href="www.youthscience.ca/Renfrew-county/">www.youthscience.ca/Renfrew-county/</a>, contact the fair organizers directly at <a href="mailto:renfrew-county@youthscience.ca">renfrew-county@youthscience.ca</a> or call me at 613-602-3789.

Respectfully,

Aidan Leach

ardam Leach

Chair, Renfrew County Science & Technology Fair Committee

renfrew.county@youthscience.ca

613-602-3789

Mailing Address: 36 Edith Street Petawawa, ON K8H 0B5

36 Edith Street Petawawa, ON K8H 0B5 Tel: (613) 602 3789 renfrew.county@youthscience.ca www.youthscience.ca/renfrew-county/

#### 2026 SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

All sponsors will be listed in the fair day program, in a media release released after the awards ceremony, and on www.youthscience.ca/renfrew-county/. All sponsors are welcome to inquire about setting up a booth at the fair if they wish, or to provide us with promotional material to distribute to the students.

#### Primary Sponsor (\$8,000) \*

Sponsorships Available: 1

The primary sponsor covers the cost of sending four local students to participate in the Canada Wide Science Fair (at a cost of \$1990 for each student).

- Sponsors will be invited to present the grand award on fair day,
- The sponsor's logo or promotional material will be present on the stage for the awards ceremony and throughout the fair. Displays will need to be provided.

#### Grand Prize Sponsor (\$2,000) \*

Sponsorships Available: 2

Four sponsorships are available each year to provide awards to the best Grade 5 and 6 projects, which cannot go to the Canada Wide Science Fair and receive cash prizes instead.

- Sponsors will be invited to present the grand award on fair day,
- The sponsor's logo or promotional material will be displayed throughout the fair. Displays will need to be provided.
- The sponsor will be mentioned on social media prior to the regional fair.

#### Divisional Sponsor (\$1000) \*

Sponsorships Available: 5

The Regional Fair has five divisions in which projects may be entered: Earth & Environmental Science, Engineering & Computer Science, Health Sciences, Physical & Mathematical Science and Life Sciences.

- Sponsors will be invited to present an award on fair day,
- The sponsor's logo is displayed on signage to mark their sponsored division on the fair floor,
- The sponsor will be mentioned on social media prior to the regional fair,

#### Special Award Sponsor (\$500)

Sponsorships Available: 6

Special Awards will be presented to students for a specific category – for example, best Nuclear Project presented by the Canadian Nuclear Society or Best Energy Project from Ontario Power Generation. The sponsorship amount will be divided equally between outreach expenses for the fair and the special award. Please contact renfrew.county@youthscience.ca to determine a suitable special award category.

Sponsors will be invited to present an award on fair day.

#### **Individual Sponsorship (Any Amount)**

Unlimited

The Fair actively seeks donations in any amount to contribute to the costs throughout the year in preparation for the day of the fair.

\*Sponsors supporting the fair at the Primary Sponsor, Grand Prize Sponsor or Divisional Sponsor levels can also present a special award, for an additional sponsorship. For example, a divisional sponsor can give \$1000 to present both a division and a \$500 special award.

#### Receipts Issued

The Renfrew County Regional Science and Technology Fair is a registered non-profit but not a charity, and as such is not able to issue charitable receipts. A receipt will still be issued for record purposes.

#### Inquiries

Aidan Leach

Chair, Renfrew County Science Fair Committee renfrew.county@youthscience.ca (613) 602-3789

#### Mailing Address

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