



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior  
Regular Meeting of Council: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Correspondence Package No. I-25-OCT-17**

**Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package No. I-25-OCT-17 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

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

- a) Province Building and Upgrading More Than 1,000 Ontario Parks Campsites
- b) Ontario Government and Ontario Medical Association Reach Agreement to Protect Provincial Health Care
- c) Ontario Protecting Communities from Respiratory Illnesses
- d) Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program's Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream Projects
- e) Ontario Champions Nuclear Expansion and Federal Reform at Provincial-Territorial Summit
- f) Ontario Connecting 500,000 More People to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Team
- g) Ontario Investing Over \$8.7 Million to Protect Workers in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario
- h) Ontario and United Kingdom Sign Groundbreaking Clean Energy Partnership
- i) Ontario Protecting Taxpayers by Banning Municipal Speed Cameras
- j) Ontario Investing \$9 Million to Increase Access to Dementia Care
- k) Ontario Releases 2024-25 Public Accounts
- l) Province Expanding Basic Constable Teaching Program to Protect Ontario

- m) Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to Protect Workers
- n) National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to be observed in all Ontario Public Schools
- o) Ontario Commemorates National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day
- p) Ontario Releases Draft Criteria for Special Economic Zones
- q) Ontario Connecting Patients to Life-Saving Cancer Drugs

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

- a) Renfrew County invites nominations for 2025 Warden's Community Service Awards
- b) County Council Summary – September 2025
- c) Canada Post Alert
- d) Taste of the Valley event in Cobden October 18

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

- a) RCDHU Launches Fall Vaccine Clinics for COVID-19, Flu and RSV
- b) Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

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

- a) Watch File – September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- b) Watch File – September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- c) Watch File – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025
- d) Economic Resiliency for Health Communities
- e) Cyberattacks on municipalities are on the rise
- f) What's Your Role in Building Ontario's Economic Future
- g) AMO Policy Update – Response to OPP Cost Recovery Model, Continued Automated Speed Enforcement Advocacy, and Consultation on Aggregate Resources Act Program
- h) AMO's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Healthy Democracy Forum
- i) Support Economic Development Amidst Tariff and Trade Disruptions

- j) [AMO Policy Update – AMO’s Response to the Planned Automated Speed Enforcement Ban](#)
- k) [AMO Policy Update – Call to Amplify Automated Speed Enforcement Advocacy, 2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund Allocation](#)

## **5. Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Newsletter**

- a) [September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Newsletter](#)
- b) [September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Newsletter](#)
- c) [October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 Newsletter](#)

## **6. Correspondence from Other Municipalities**

- a) [Municipality of Brighton – Electoral Reform](#)
- b) [Town of Newmarket – Automated Speed Enforcement](#)
- c) [City of Pickering – Elect Respect](#)
- d) [Niagara Region – Motion Respecting State of Emergency on Mental Health, Homelessness and Addictions](#)
- e) [Township of West Lincoln – Support Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion](#)
- f) [City of Kitchener – Postage Costs](#)
- g) [Bonfield Township – Urgent Appeal Regarding Canada Post Labour Dispute and Impact on Municipal Communications](#)
- h) [City of Dryden – Swim-to-Survive Training](#)
- i) [Municipality of South Huron – Proposed Amendments to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act](#)

## **7. Correspondence from Rural Ontario Municipal Association**

- a) [Register Now for ROMA 2026 – Ontario’s Rural Leaders Conference](#)

## **8. Correspondence from MP Cheryl Gallant**

- a) [AI with Cybersecurity and Funding Opportunities](#)

## **9. Correspondence from the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce**

- a) [2025 Business Excellence Awards Gala Highlights](#)

## Province Building and Upgrading More Than 1,000 Ontario Parks Campsites

Largest expansion of Ontario Parks in 50 years will protect and expand province's tourism sector

September 17, 2025

[Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

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PICTON — The Ontario government is investing nearly \$60 million to create more camping opportunities for families and outdoor enthusiasts at some of the province's most popular provincial parks, adding up to 300 new campsites and upgrading 800 campsites with electrical service. As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario, this historic investment will make it easier for more people to camp at world-class Ontario Parks destinations while boosting domestic and international tourism that supports local businesses and jobs.

"This upgrade marks a major milestone for Ontario Parks — the most significant expansion of camping opportunities in 50 years," said Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "More people than ever before are looking to vacation in Ontario and across Canada to support their local communities. With hundreds of new and upgraded campsites, we're giving more people the opportunity to support local businesses and jobs while camping at Ontario Parks and making memories to last a lifetime."

Through this investment, Ontario Parks will create 300 new campsites and upgrade approximately 800 existing sites with electrical service over the next three years. The addition of new campsites will help meet rising demand for high-quality outdoor experiences in some of Ontario's most scenic and sought-after destinations. As part of this expansion, new campsites will be added at Driftwood, MacGregor Point, Bon Echo and Killarney provincial parks, with more parks to follow.

At the same time, existing campsites at Sandbanks, Arrowhead and Bon Echo provincial parks will be upgraded with electrical service, with additional parks receiving electrified campsites in the future. Sandbanks — one of Ontario's most



popular parks with approximately 750,000 visitors each year — will see up to 73 campsites electrified by summer 2026, enhancing comfort and improving accessibility for a wider range of visitors.

Ontario Parks' phased expansion is prioritizing parks based on project readiness, cost-effectiveness and the ability to deliver high value to park users. A full list of additional parks receiving new or upgraded campsites will be released at a later date. Additional projects will be considered as part of the ministry's long-term strategy to expand access to Ontario Parks.

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### Quick Facts

- Demand for camping opportunities at Ontario Parks has surged over the past decade, with many parks reaching capacity during peak seasons.
  - As part of the *2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario*, the government committed \$59 million over three years to expand camping opportunities and bring electricity to more campsites.
  - This investment represents the largest addition of new campsites at Ontario Parks in 50 years.
  - Established in 1970, Sandbanks Provincial Park is one of the province's most popular natural attractions. It is home to the world's largest baymouth barrier dune formation.
  - Procurement for electrical upgrades at Sandbanks began this summer, with construction scheduled to start later this month. Some of the upgraded sites are expected to be available for booking in summer 2026.
  - Sandbanks Provincial Park offers three expansive sandy beaches, over 12 km of hiking trails and discovery programming to an average of 750,000 visits annually.
  - Since 2018, the province has invested \$76.1 million to make important infrastructure improvements at Ontario Parks.
  - With 12.4 million visits in 2024, Ontario Parks is the largest provider of outdoor recreational opportunities in the province.
  - Park visitors play a key role in Ontario's tourism economy, generating spin-off benefits for nearby communities through local dining, shopping and attractions.
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## Quotes

"With its beautiful beaches and wooded campgrounds, Sandbanks Provincial Park attracts visitors who contribute to our local Bay of Quinte economy and help sustain good jobs in Prince Edward County. By investing in the upgrade and electrification of its inventory of campsites, our government is ensuring it will remain a popular and competitive destination for years to come."

- Tyler Allsopp  
MPP for Bay of Quinte

"With its expansive sandy beaches, unique sand dune formations, and extensive hiking trails, it's easy to see why Sandbanks Provincial Park is one of the most popular natural destinations in Ontario. Sandbanks is a true gem in our community, helping make Prince Edward County a top tourist destination. We are pleased to see the province investing in Sandbanks to ensure the many visitors have an experience that they will want to relive year after year."

- Steve Ferguson  
Mayor of Prince Edward County

"At Earth Rangers, our mission is to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards — and there's no better place for kids to build a lifelong love for nature than in Ontario Parks. We're thrilled to see the province making it easier for families to enjoy the outdoors, while also ensuring our parks remain resilient and accessible for future generations."

- Tovah Barocas  
President of Earth Rangers

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## Additional Resources

[Find a provincial park or conservation reserve near you](#)

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## Related Topics

### Environment and Energy

Learn more about how Ontario protects and restores wildlife and the environment. Includes information on conservation and the electricity system. [Learn more](#)

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## Media Contacts

### Alexandru Cioban

Minister's Office

[Alexandru.Cioban@ontario.ca](mailto:Alexandru.Cioban@ontario.ca)

### Gary Wheeler

Communications Branch

[gary.s.wheeler@ontario.ca](mailto:gary.s.wheeler@ontario.ca)

[416-314-6666](tel:416-314-6666)

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# Ontario Government and Ontario Medical Association Reach Agreement To Protect Provincial Health Care

September 18, 2025

[Health](#)

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TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) received an arbitration award for the remaining three years of the 2024-28 Physician Services Agreement (PSA). The agreement increases access to primary care and provides stable funding for staffing across the province, ensuring families can access the care they need, when and where they need it.

Ontario is proud to lead the country with the highest rate of people attached to a primary care provider, the largest health-care workforce and the highest compensation rates for primary care physicians across Canada. To build on this progress, the award includes significant investments to modernize the Family Health Organization (FHO) model to attract and retain more physicians. These investments will also connect more Ontarians to care by incentivizing doctors to take on new patients, supporting the shift of procedures from emergency departments to clinics and strengthening incentives for after-hours care.

In addition to these historic investments in primary care, the OMA and the Ministry of Health have agreed to new funding measures to support in-hospital anesthesia services, support hospital on-call coverage and other initiatives that ensure patients continue to have timely access to hospital and specialist care.

To deliver on its plan to protect the provincial health-care system, the government will continue to work with the OMA to implement the next phase of this agreement which builds on Ontario's historic investments to connect every person to primary care, the largest expansion of medical education in more than a decade, new programs that pay for school and supplies for family doctors and new community surgical and diagnostic centres.

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## Quick Facts

- The OMA serves as the representative body for Ontario's physicians, advocating for their well-being, as well as the health of their patients.

- In September 2024, the Arbitration Board, issued the Year 1 award which saw investments in physician compensation increase by \$1.7 billion dollars.
- In April 2025, the Arbitration Board issued a mediated arbitration award that increases funding to expand access to physician services across the province, including expanded services in rural and northern Ontario and stable staffing for emergency departments across the province.

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#### **Additional Resources**

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

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#### **Media Contacts**

**Ema Popovic**

Minister Jones' Office

[ema.popovic@ontario.ca](mailto:ema.popovic@ontario.ca)

#### **Media Relations**

Communications Branch

[media.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:media.moh@ontario.ca)

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# Ontario Protecting Communities From Respiratory Illnesses

Province launching Flu, COVID-19 and RSV immunizations for high-risk groups and on October 27 for the public

September 18, 2025

[Health](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is protecting families and vulnerable people from respiratory illnesses by preparing to launch its fall immunization programs. To help prevent serious illness, everyone is encouraged to get their flu and COVID-19 vaccines as soon as they become available as well as RSV immunization for those eligible.

“As we head into respiratory illness season, our government is using every tool in our toolbox to protect our communities, families and our most vulnerable,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Working with our health-care partners, we are making sure flu, COVID-19 and RSV immunizations are available close to home, where and when they are needed.”

Immunizations for high-risk and priority groups will begin in phases:

- COVID-19 vaccines will be available starting the week of September 22
- Flu vaccines will be available starting the week of September 29

The initial supply of flu and COVID-19 vaccines in September and October will be available for high-risk and priority groups who live, work or study in Ontario, including:

- Hospitalized patients
- Hospital staff
- Residents and staff in long-term care homes, retirement homes and other congregate settings
- Individuals aged 65 and older

Starting the week of September 22, Ontario residents aged 60 to 74 who meet certain high-risk criteria or live in specific higher-risk settings, as well as those aged 75 and older, are eligible to receive RSV vaccines, Abrysvo<sup>®</sup> or Arexvy, as part of the

province's [recent expansion](#) to the adult RSV prevention program.

Starting October 1, eligible newborns and infants up to eight months of age in their first RSV season and high-risk children up to 24 months of age in their second RSV season can receive the Beyfortus<sup>®</sup> immunization. Pregnant women also have the option to receive the RSV vaccine Abrysvo<sup>®</sup> which can help protect infants at birth.

Starting October 27, free flu and COVID-19 shots will be available to the general public at participating pharmacies, some public health units and participating doctor and nurse practitioner offices.

“As we head into the fall, it’s important that we take simple, effective steps to stay healthy,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “Staying up-to-date on seasonal vaccines is significant to protect yourself, your family and loved ones and is a cornerstone of our preparedness this respiratory season.”

Vaccines in [Ontario’s routine immunization schedule](#) are provided free of charge if you meet the eligibility criteria. If you are unsure about which immunizations you or your family have received or are eligible for, talk to a health-care provider or your local [public health unit](#).

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government is providing people with the tools they need early to connect to the care they need to keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy.

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### Quick Facts

- Talk to a health-care provider about co-administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccines, and for RSV if you are eligible. Availability of immunizations may vary across providers. Call ahead to ensure your provider has supply before going.
- As recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), individuals should receive the most recent formulation of the COVID-19 vaccine in the fall as it is expected to provide a better immune response against currently circulating COVID-19 strains.
- Full details on COVID-19 vaccination this fall will be available by visiting [ontario.ca/covidvaccines](https://ontario.ca/covidvaccines).
- The risk of severe outcomes from RSV infection is highest among premature infants, infants under six months of age, as well as children under 24 months of age with health conditions such as chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, weakened immune systems, or neuromuscular disorders.
- Older adults also are at increased risk of severe outcomes from RSV, especially those with certain chronic health conditions.



- Everyone should stay up to date on their immunizations, especially children. Talk to a health-care provider or your public health unit if you are unsure if your child has missed routine immunizations or if you are unsure about which immunizations they have received.
- Visit [Health811 online](#) or call 811 (TTY: [1-866-797-0007](#) toll free) for health advice and information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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## Quotes

"The vaccination programs offered through our government are helping seniors to stay active, healthy and socially connected in our communities. I encourage all seniors to protect themselves by utilizing the available programs: stay safe and stay vaccinated!"

**- Raymond Cho**  
**Minister of Seniors and Accessibility**

"Our fall immunization programs are critical to our government's ongoing efforts to ensure Ontarians living in long-term care get the quality of care they deserve. Along with effective infection and prevention control practices in long-term care homes, these immunization programs will help protect Ontario by prioritizing the health and safety of residents, staff and caregivers."

**- Natalia Kusendova-Bashta**  
**Minister of Long-Term Care**

"The Ontario Pharmacists Association is pleased to see the province's continued commitment to supporting local communities through pharmacy. Pharmacy professionals across Ontario are proud to support another respiratory illness season—delivering flu and COVID-19 vaccines to ensure all Ontarians have timely access to care that keeps them healthy and safe."

**- Justin Bates**  
**CEO, Ontario Pharmacists Association**



"As respiratory viruses circulate this fall, vaccination is our strongest defense. We encourage all Ontarians, especially seniors and others at higher risk of complications from infection, to get their seasonal vaccines as soon as they're available. If you're unsure about timing or eligibility, your family physician can help you make a plan and find convenient options close to home. Getting protected now lowers the risk of severe illness and helps keep people healthier in their communities and out of hospitals."

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

"At GSK, we believe that expanding access to RSV immunization is essential to protecting seniors and supporting our health-care system, especially during the winter respiratory season. That's why we're proud to once again partner with Ontario to offer Arexvy—our innovative adjuvanted RSV vaccine—to adults aged 75 and over. This partnership reflects GSK's deep commitment to improving public health and ensuring timely access to innovative medicines and vaccines to patients across Ontario and Canada."

**- Sridhar Venkatesh**  
**President and General Manager, GSK Canada**

"CSL Seqirus commends the efforts of the Ontario government in promoting vaccination and prioritizing the health and well-being of Ontarians. Influenza remains among the 10 leading causes of death in Canada. This respiratory illness season, we are again proud to provide the Ontario government with Flucelvax®, a cell-based influenza vaccine for the general population, as well as Fluad® for Ontarians aged 65 and older, to help protect themselves from flu, while reducing the burden on the health-care system. We are committed to continuing to work closely with the government as well as our partners to ensure that vaccines are available and accessible to Ontarians."

**- Gillian Stafford**  
**CSL Seqirus Country Head Commercial Operations, Canada**

"As we enter respiratory illness season, it's more important than ever to take proactive steps to protect our health. By expanding access to flu, COVID-19, and RSV immunizations, Ontario is helping more people stay healthy and active. At Pfizer Canada, we're committed to supporting healthier communities, because when people thrive, so does our society."

**- An Van Gerven**  
**President, Pfizer Canada**

"Sanofi applauds the Ontario Government for its leadership in immunization programs and commitment to best protecting Ontarians of all ages from respiratory illness this fall and winter. We are proud of Sanofi's continued partnership supporting these important programs for Ontarians and that once again Beyfortus® will be offering RSV protection to all eligible newborns and infants; that Fluzone® will continue to provide flu protection to those six months of age and older; and that Fluzone® High-Dose will continue to offer flu protection specifically formulated for adults 65 years of age and older."

**- Delphine Lansac**  
**General Manager, Vaccines, Sanofi Canada**

"We are proud that Ontario's fall vaccination campaign includes Moderna's first made-in-Canada COVID-19 vaccines, fill-and-finished here in Ontario in pre-filled syringes. This milestone reflects not only Canada's growing biomanufacturing capacity, but also our shared commitment to ensuring Ontarians have timely access to next-generation mRNA vaccines to help protect communities this fall."

**- Stefan Raos**  
**General Manager, Moderna Canada**

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#### **Additional Resources**

- To learn more about the flu shot, visit [Ontario.ca/flu](https://ontario.ca/flu)
- To learn more about Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), visit [Ontario.ca/rsv](https://ontario.ca/rsv)
- To learn more about COVID-19, visit [Ontario.ca/covidvaccines](https://ontario.ca/covidvaccines)
- Learn about eligibility for [COVID-19 antiviral treatment](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)

- [Vaccines for Children at School](#)

#### Media Contacts

**Ema Popovic**

Minister Jones' Office

[ema.popovic@ontario.ca](mailto:ema.popovic@ontario.ca)

#### Media Relations

Communications Branch

[media.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:media.moh@ontario.ca)

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# Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program's Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream Projects

September 19, 2025

[Infrastructure](#)

The Ontario government is investing \$400 million in core infrastructure projects to enable approximately 160,000 new homes across the province. The funding is being delivered through the [Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program's Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream \(MHIP-HECS\)](#), which helps municipalities build, maintain and repair municipal roads, bridges and culverts.

Through MHIP-HECS, the government is supporting the following 58 infrastructure projects:

Municipality Name	Project*	Provincial Funding
City of Barrie	Expansion of Maplevue Drive East and Yonge Street	\$18,563,312
City of Belleville	New Road Construction to Enable Redevelopment of the "Old Fairgrounds" Site	\$1,250,000
City of Brampton	Bridge Replacements and Roadworks in Downtown Brampton	\$19,986,774
City of Cambridge	Black Bridge Construction and Black Bridge Road Reconstruction Improvements	\$11,561,250
City of Clarence-Rockland	Construction of Saint-Jean Major Collector Road	\$14,279,883

City of Dryden	Van Horne Landing Subdivision Site Servicing and Road Construction	\$2,147,487
City of Kenora	Highway 17 and Keewatin Channel Bridge Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project	\$5,961,588
City of London	Sunningdale Road West Improvements	\$18,325,000
City of Mississauga	Ninth Line Road Widening - Eglinton Avenue West to Derry Road West	\$19,999,999
City of Niagara Falls	Reconstruction and Widening of McLeod Road from Kalar Road to Beechwood Road	\$4,781,250
City of North Bay	Metcalf Street Reconstruction and Connection	\$1,632,500
City of Owen Sound	9th Avenue East Corridor Traffic Upgrades	\$4,559,025
City of Peterborough	Towerhill Road/Fairbairn Street Intersection Improvements	\$3,750,000
City of Quinte West	Urbanization of Highway 2 and 2nd Dug Hill Road	\$11,072,214
City of Sault Ste. Marie	Extension of Sackville Road from Mary Avenue to Third Line East	\$5,253,000
City of Temiskaming Shores	Rehabilitation of Dawson Point Road and Peter's Road	\$2,187,500
City of Thunder Bay	Central Avenue Corridor Road Improvements and Expansion	\$8,640,625

City of Vaughan	Portage Parkway Road Widening Project	\$20,000,000
City of Waterloo	Reconstruction and Urbanization of Conservation Drive and Beaver Creek Road	\$5,100,000
City of Woodstock	Pittock Park Road Urbanization	\$2,562,500
Corporation of City of Windsor	Banwell Road and Wyandotte Street East Road Widening, Extension and Transportation Improvements	\$18,865,625
Corporation of Norfolk County	Crosier Street and Main Street Construction	\$1,668,750
Corporation of Township of Laurentian Valley	Robinson Lane Reconstruction	\$579,687
County of Brant	Grand River Street North Road and Corridor Intersection Improvements	\$9,355,509
County of Elgin	Village of Fingal Road Reconstruction	\$3,697,500
County of Oxford	Reconstruction of Oxford Road 35 (Devonshire Ave) from Oxford Road 59 to Oxford Road 54	\$4,361,875
County of Prince Edward	Rehabilitation of County Road 49	\$19,993,424
County of Renfrew	Reconstruction to Roundabout at Intersection of Petawawa Blvd., Doran St., Mohns Ave. and Hilda St.	\$2,801,875
County of Wellington	Reconstruction of Main Street West	\$6,945,468

Haldimand County	Jim Gregory Drive Construction	\$718,750
Municipality of Bluewater	Reconstruction of Lorne Avenue	\$349,375
Municipality of Leamington	Construction of Residential Collector Road and Roundabout	\$4,500,000
Municipality of Mcdougall	Replacement of Seguin River Bridge	\$2,498,125
Municipality of Mississippi Mills	Upgrades to Old Almonte Road	\$953,499
Municipality of North Perth	Wallace Avenue North Reconstruction	\$2,133,250
Municipality of Port Hope	Reconstruction of Victoria Street South	\$872,179
Municipality of Temagami	Rehabilitation of Fox Run Road	\$422,812
Regional Municipality of Durham	Bowmanville Avenue Expansion	\$20,000,000
Regional Municipality of Niagara	Reconstruction of Regional Road 49 (McLeod Rd.)	\$11,000,000
Regional Municipality of Peel	Reconstruction of Mayfield Road	\$16,122,398
Town of Arnprior	Upgrades to Madawaska Boulevard	\$750,000
Town of Caledon	Hurontario Street/Tim Manley Avenue Intersection and Arterial Road Development	\$15,142,584

Town of Carleton Place	Construction of Captain A. Roy Brown Boulevard	\$7,359,375
Town of Hearst	Halle Street Construction	\$950,000
Town of Kingsville	Heritage Road Extension	\$7,437,500
Town of Milton	Reconstruction and Urbanization of Nipissing Road	\$10,524,522
Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	Cockburn Street and Walcot Street Expansion	\$907,887
Town of Saugeen Shores	Ridge Street Construction	\$1,928,125
Town of The Blue Mountains	Bridges, Culverts and Guiderails Capital Works	\$1,337,250
Town of Wasaga Beach	Reconstruction of Wasaga Beach Area Roadways	\$10,950,158
Town of Whitby	Columbus Road Reconstruction	\$19,918,750
Township of Cavan Monaghan	Extension and Improvements to Fallis Line Road	\$1,271,875
Township of Mapleton	Sideroad 15 Road Reconstruction	\$914,312
Township of McMurrich-Monteith	Replacement of Axe Lake Road Bridge	\$380,312
Township of North Dundas	Improvements to Wincrest Avenue	\$99,719



Township of Perth South	Station Road Reconstruction	\$1,191,533
Township of Russell	Route 300 Intersection Improvements	\$6,343,750
Township of Southgate	Rehabilitation of Bradley, Grey and Osprey Street	\$2,093,750

\*Project details are subject to change.

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**Media Contacts**

**Ash Milton**

Minister's Office

[Ash.Milton@ontario.ca](mailto:Ash.Milton@ontario.ca)

**Ministry of Infrastructure**

Communications Branch

[MOI.media@ontario.ca](mailto:MOI.media@ontario.ca)

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## Ontario Champions Nuclear Expansion and Federal Reform at Provincial-Territorial Summit

Provinces and territories working together to build electricity infrastructure that will create jobs and power Canada's economy

September 19, 2025

[Energy and Mines](#)

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**TORONTO** – Today, at the *Connecting Canada – Building an Energy Superpower* Summit hosted by Ontario, Energy and Mines Minister Stephen Lecce was joined by energy ministers across the country to discuss important issues to advance Canadian energy priorities.

The ministers attending the summit agreed to continue working together on new opportunities to advance nation-building energy projects between provinces and territories, strengthening Canada's position as a global energy superpower.

Collaborative efforts discussed at the summit included:

- **Advancing new interprovincial and territorial transmission infrastructure**, including key intertie projects
- **Supporting trade within Canada**, helping regions meet growing demand and optimize the use of clean energy
- **Progressing nation-building energy projects**, such as nuclear builds, renewable, and hydroelectricity builds, pipeline and energy corridor development
- **Engaging Indigenous communities as full partners in energy development**, including shared benefits and ownership opportunities
- **Advocating for federal action**, including investment, greater speed, and regulatory clarity to accelerate national transmission corridors

"We face a common threat, which is why we came together as a country to build a clean energy future, using Canadian technology, resources, and workers," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. "This first-of-its-kind partnership agreement lays the groundwork for nation-building energy infrastructure that will deliver clean, reliable, and affordable electricity across Canada. We are committed

to building more Made-in-Canada solutions to meet rising energy demand, so that we can create jobs, keep energy rates affordable, all while powering the most competitive economy in the G7.”

This collective commitment reflects a shared vision for a modern, integrated Canadian energy system – one that supports regional development and national prosperity. It also lays the groundwork for attracting new investment, creating jobs and ensuring every region, from coast-to-coast-to-coast will benefit from Canada’s abundant and diverse energy resources.

Ontario also hosted the ministers for a tour of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station, showcasing Ontario’s nuclear advantage to our provincial neighbours. Ministers were also presented with public opinion data that profiles growing and widespread support for nuclear energy including that 72 per cent of individuals believe across the country their province will need more power in the next 20 years.

Strong interprovincial partnership in energy supports the government’s plan to protect Ontario and is a key part of [Energy for Generations](#), the government’s long-term approach to ensuring the province has the reliable, affordable power it needs to be energy secure and drive economic growth. The government’s integrated approach and record investments in energy infrastructure are also providing the certainty needed for Indigenous communities, municipalities, businesses and industry partners to invest confidently in Ontario’s future.

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### Quick Facts

- Two-way trade in goods and services between Ontario and other provinces and territories was valued at more than \$326 billion in 2023.
  - According to Ontario’s Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), the province’s demand for electricity is forecast to significantly increase by 2050.
  - As Ontario brings new nuclear, storage, and other clean energy projects online in the years ahead, the province will be positioned to expand – becoming a long-term, reliable supplier of clean electricity to other jurisdictions across Canada.
  - Ontario currently operates 14 interties with two neighbouring provinces, three with Manitoba and eleven with Québec, representing a total export transfer capability of about 2,385 megawatts (MW) and a total import transfer capability of about 2,580 MW.
  - In 2024, Ontario and Québec [signed a new 600 MW seasonal capacity swap agreement](#) between the IESO and Hydro-Québec.
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## Quotes

"Industries and workers in Canada are relying on their leaders to step up and deliver major projects that will secure our energy and economic future – today and for generations to come. That is why it was so important to host Energy and Mines Ministers from across the country with a unified focus: cut red tape, get projects moving, and build out a strong energy and resource economy for the people of our provinces. This conference was an opportunity to create tangible partnership and cooperation between provinces, aligned in our mission to build ports, mines, railways, transmission lines, pipelines, and major infrastructure projects to grow our economy."

- Sam Oosterhoff

Ontario, Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries

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## Additional Resources

### [Energy for Generations](#)

Learn about Ontario's integrated plan to power the strongest economy in the G7.

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## Media Contacts

### Chelsea McGee

Minister Lecce's Office

[Chelsea.McGee@ontario.ca](mailto:Chelsea.McGee@ontario.ca)

### Robert Quartarone

Communications Branch

[robert.quartarone@ontario.ca](mailto:robert.quartarone@ontario.ca)

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## Ontario Connecting 500,000 More People to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Team

Next call for proposals open as part of plan to connect every person in the province to convenient primary care by 2029

September 22, 2025

[Health](#)

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BRAMPTON — Today, the Ontario government launched the next [call for proposals](#) to create and expand approximately 75 primary care teams that will connect 500,000 more people to a primary care clinician. This over \$250 million investment is part of the government's \$2.1 billion Primary Care Action Plan and brings the province one step closer to connecting everyone in Ontario to convenient primary care by 2029.

"Our government is delivering on our plan to connect everyone in Ontario to primary care, when and where they need it, for years to come," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "These new and expanded primary care teams bring us one step closer to fulfilling that promise as we continue to make record investments in primary care to protect Ontario's health-care system."

Ontario continues to lead the country with unprecedented investments and rapid action to strengthen the health-care system through its plan to add over 300 new primary care teams across the province, connecting two million more people to publicly funded primary care by 2029. In June, the government announced a [\\$235 million investment](#), which funded over 130 new and expanded [primary care teams to connect more than 300,000 to primary care](#), some of which have already begun accepting new patients.

Communities across Ontario are eligible to apply for funding for this next call for proposals. All Ontario Health Teams have been provided guidance on the appropriate number of proposals to submit based on the number of people not connected to primary care in their communities.

The new and expanded teams will prioritize attaching individuals in their communities to care, including those on the [Health Care Connect](#) waitlist. The Health Care Connect waitlist (as of January 1, 2025) has already decreased by more

than 98,000 people or over 42 per cent. The government expects to announce the successful teams in spring 2026 and there will be additional opportunities to apply through subsequent rounds of funding.

“Together we are building a primary care system that is truly comprehensive, convenient and connected – one that serves every person in Ontario,” said Dr. Jane Philpott, Chair of Ontario’s Primary Care Action Team. “Thanks to historic investments from the government, we’re making tangible progress in improving access to primary care and attaching every person to a family doctor, nurse practitioner or primary care team.”

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

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#### Quick Facts

- Interprofessional primary care teams connect people to a range of health professionals that work together under one roof, including family physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, registered practical nurses, physician assistants, physiotherapists, social workers, dietitians, and pharmacists, helping patients to receive more connected and convenient care.
- Ontario’s [Primary Care Action Team](#) is drawing on best-in-class models of care to implement its action plan, supported by the government’s investment of more than \$2.1 billion to connect approximately two million more people to primary care by 2029, which will achieve the government’s goal of connecting everyone in the province to primary care.
- In 2024, Ontario invested [\\$110 million in primary care teams](#) across the province, helping to connect almost 370,000 more people to primary care close to home.
- Ontario recently passed the [Primary Care Act](#), which establishes primary care as the foundation of Ontario’s health-care system and sets out six clear objectives for Ontario’s publicly funded primary care system to ensure people know what they can expect when connecting to primary care.
- Since 2018, Ontario has added nearly 20,000 additional physicians to its health-care workforce, including an over 14 per cent increase in family doctors.
- Ontario is taking significant steps to strengthen its health-care workforce by making it easier for [U.S.-licensed nurses and board-certified physicians](#) to move to and practise in Ontario. So far this year, nearly 1,400 nurses and more than 260 doctors have already chosen Ontario.



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## Quotes

"We welcome the province's continued investment in interprofessional primary care teams. Connecting 500,000 more Ontarians to primary care isn't just a number, it's about better health, stronger communities, and more equitable access to the care people deserve. These investments give our over 200 primary care teams, already serving 3.6 million Ontarians, the chance to scale what works, fill longstanding gaps, and reach the people who've been waiting far too long. We're ready to work with our partners, to put forward innovative, evidence-based proposals that reflect the real needs of communities across Ontario."

**- Jess Rogers**

**CEO, Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario**

"We are pleased to see the Ontario government's investment to expand comprehensive team-based care and connect more Ontarians to primary care. Family physicians are the foundation of our health system and the communities they serve. When family physicians work alongside a team, patients are able to get the right care, from the right provider, at the right time. We look forward to working with the government on effective implementation, and to make sure all family physicians have the most appropriate resources and tools they need to continue to deliver excellent patient care."

**- Dr. Jobin Varughese**

**President, Ontario College of Family Physicians**

"RNAO welcomes today's announcement as another important step toward ensuring every Ontarian is attached to a primary care provider – nurse practitioner or family doctor – and an interprofessional team. We commend the government for continuing to expand team-based care – a model that delivers better health outcomes and greater equity. Nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and our interprofessional colleagues are eager to contribute their expertise to these new and expanded teams so that more people across Ontario receive the high-quality, timely and person-centred care they need and deserve. This investment moves us closer to a future where no one is left without primary care – a pillar of any high-functioning health system."

**- Dr. Doris Grinspun**  
**CEO, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario**

"The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) welcomes the government's next round of proposals to expand Interprofessional Primary Care Teams (IPCTs) as part of its bold plan to connect more Ontarians to high-quality, team-based care. Nurse Practitioners are a largely untapped resource, and by working to their full scope they are uniquely positioned to lead the next phase of accessible, timely, and comprehensive care. NPAO is encouraged by the continued recognition of Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics (NPLCs) as eligible models and urges all stakeholders to fully integrate and leverage NP leadership and clinical expertise within Ontario Health Teams and Primary Care Networks."

**- Dr. NP Michelle Acorn**  
**CEO, The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario**

"This investment represents meaningful progress in building a more equitable health system. For Indigenous communities and others who have long faced barriers to care, connecting more people with primary care teams is a vital step toward better health and well-being for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous generations to come."

**- Caroline Lidstone-Jones**  
**CEO, Indigenous Primary Health Care Council**



"As the voice of Ontario's community-governed primary health care organizations, we welcome this investment as an important step toward ensuring that everyone in our province has timely access to comprehensive, team-based care. We are grateful to the government for recognizing and positioning primary health care as the foundation of Ontario's health system. Strong, equitable primary health care is the basis of a healthier Ontario, and we look forward to working with government, partners and members to make this vision a reality by 2029."

- Sarah Hobbs  
CEO, Alliance for Healthier Communities

"We remain highly focused on connecting Ontarians to comprehensive primary health care, especially in the highest needs communities. Since 2024, our efforts have done just that for more than 370,000 people. Ontario Health looks forward to continuing to work with our partners to ensure this investment delivers real impact for people around the province."

- Matthew Anderson  
President and CEO, Ontario Health

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### Additional Resources

- [New and Expanded Interprofessional Primary Care Teams Funding by Region](#)
- [Ontario Connecting Over 300,000 People to Primary Care Teams](#)
- [Ontario Taking Next Steps to Protect Primary Care](#)
- [Ontario Investing Over \\$1.8 Billion to Connect Every Person in Ontario to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Government

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

#### Health and Wellness

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

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**Media Contacts**

**Ema Popovic**

Minister Jones’ Office

[ema.popovic@ontario.ca](mailto:ema.popovic@ontario.ca)

**Media Relations**

Communications Branch

[media.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:media.moh@ontario.ca)

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## Ontario Investing Over \$8.7 Million to Protect Workers in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario

Skills Development Fund will train more than 1,500 people for in-demand jobs in the face of U.S. tariffs

September 22, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

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

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**OTTAWA** — Today, Premier Doug Ford announced that the Ontario government is investing over \$8.7 million through the [Skills Development Fund \(SDF\)](#) Training Stream to help more than 1,500 people in the Ottawa region prepare for good-paying jobs in high-demand sectors, including construction, manufacturing, skilled trades and automotive.

“In the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty, we’re making sure workers in Ottawa and eastern Ontario have the support they need to find good-paying, rewarding jobs,” said Premier Doug Ford. “The projects we’re launching will help jobseekers train for in-demand careers so they can find meaningful work, close to home and ensure the region is prepared for whatever challenges come our way.”

This funding is part of the government’s \$2.5 billion investment through the SDF to protect Ontario workers by giving them the tools they need to land rewarding, good-paying jobs while keeping Ontario competitive in the face of U.S. tariffs. Premier Ford made the announcement at **UA Local 71** in Ottawa, which is receiving **\$773,900** to strengthen mental health supports in the skilled trades. Through training, the program equips workers with tools to recognize and respond to mental health challenges in workplaces.

“We are facing unprecedented economic uncertainty and Ontario needs highly skilled workers that can deliver our ambitious infrastructure commitment,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “By investing in the skilled workers of tomorrow, we are supporting businesses in the Ottawa region for years to come and ensuring more jobseekers land good, well-paying jobs in the face of U.S. tariffs.”

Through the SDF, the Ontario government is also providing funding to several other organizations in Ottawa and surrounding areas to deliver training programs in sectors affected by U.S. tariffs and policies. People interested in participating in the programs announced today are encouraged to contact the organizations directly:

- **All Pro Electrical Inc.** is receiving **\$2,975,200** to support electrical trade training using modern tools, active projects and safe hands-on learning environments.
- **Canada Safety Council** is receiving **\$1 million** to deliver interactive, scenario-based training for drivers of four types of specialty vehicles, critical to sectors like health care and construction to support faster onboarding and increased safety.
- **Canadian Marine Careers Foundation** is receiving **\$672,735** to prepare Ontarians for high-demand seafarer careers aboard Great Lakes–St. Lawrence vessels, while also upskilling current workers for more advanced roles.
- **John Howard Society of Ottawa** is receiving **\$157,252** to connect underrepresented jobseekers with training, certifications and employment opportunities in the skilled trades. The program provides wraparound supports to close Ottawa’s labour gap and foster inclusive, long-term success in the construction sector.
- **Mining Industry Human Resources Council** is receiving **\$1,533,200** to deliver a two-phase training program combining online modules, immersive VR simulations and paid work placements. Targeting underrepresented groups, the program develops safety and operational skills while connecting learners directly to employers through a custom-built job-matching platform.
- **YMCA of the National Capital Region** is receiving **\$984,796** to equip unemployed and underemployed jobseekers with training in green construction and home renovation. Participants will gain hands-on experience, followed by paid placements, while incumbent workers receive skills upgrades. Wraparound supports ensure graduates are prepared for long-term careers in the construction sector.
- **Project Learning Tree Canada** is receiving **\$556,000** to help youth from underrepresented communities pursue careers in Ontario’s forest-products sector. The program combines mentorship, career readiness training and employer engagement to promote inclusive workplaces and prepare participants for in-demand roles in forestry and manufacturing.

Since its launch in 2021, Ontario has invested \$1.5 billion through the SDF Training Stream and Capital Stream aimed to help train more than one million workers for in-demand careers. As announced in the [2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), 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.

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#### Quick Facts

- On July 29, the Ontario government launched a [new call for project proposals](#) for the Skills Development Fund Training Stream totaling \$260 million. Interested organizations can visit the [SDF Training Stream website](#) and have until October 1 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.
  - On August 20, the Ontario government [announced a \\$70 million investment](#) to support the Protect Ontario Workers Employment Response (POWER) Centres and enhance Better Jobs Ontario (BJO). These changes will help train and upskill jobseekers and workers affected by U.S. tariffs so that they can secure better jobs with bigger paycheques.
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#### Quotes

"This investment is about giving people in Ottawa the tools to succeed. Whether it's preparing for careers in construction, manufacturing or the skilled trades, we're making sure jobseekers and workers have access to training that leads to better jobs with bigger paycheques. By supporting organizations right here in the nation's capital, we're strengthening local families, building a stronger workforce and ensuring that workers are prepared to meet the challenges of today."

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

"Investments through the Skills Development Fund are a welcome boost for Carleton and Ottawa, enabling local companies to equip workers with the training and skills they need to succeed. At a time of economic uncertainty across our region and the province, there is no better investment than in the people who will drive Ontario's future."

**- George Darouze**  
**Member of Provincial Parliament, Carleton**

"I want to thank Premier Ford and Minister Piccini for this important investment to help more than 1,500 workers in our region prepare for good-paying jobs in high-demand sectors like construction, manufacturing, skilled trades and automotive. It's essential that we keep our talent here in Ottawa trained and ready. We are fortunate to have exceptionally skilled workers in our community and this support will help us continue to build on that reputation."

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

"To me, having a Mental Health First Aid Course designed specifically for the skilled trades is a pivotal step in breaking the stigma around mental health in the construction industry. I've experienced firsthand how stigma — and even self-stigma — can prevent someone from reaching out for the help they need. Construction workers are tough, but real strength is shown when we speak up and support one another. As union labour, we already work together as a team, and that same teamwork should apply when it comes to mental health."

**- Alanna Marklund**  
**RSE, Special Representative for Youth, Diversity and Indigenous Relations,**  
**UA Canada**



"As a first-generation small business, we feel the daily challenges of hiring and retaining skilled workers. Collaborating with valued community partners, the All Pro Electrical Hub is connecting an untapped labour pool with unique hands-on learning and mentorship experiences to train people and create jobs in the electrical trade."

**- Eric Drouin**  
**Partner, All Pro Electrical Inc.**

"By investing in skills and safety, Ontario is investing in people. We are proud to partner in expanding and advancing safety education, working together to strengthen a culture of protection, build confidence and create lasting impact through safety training."

**- Gareth Jones**  
**President and CEO, Canada Safety Council**

"Ontario's marine sector is facing serious labour and skills shortages, with 90 per cent of vessel operators experiencing recruitment challenges. We are grateful that the Ontario government, through the Skills Development Fund, has recognized the urgency of this crisis and is stepping up to invest in meaningful solutions. By supporting targeted marine training and upskilling, Ontario is taking real action to help jobseekers launch rewarding marine careers as seafarers while strengthening the supply chain that delivers cargo and passengers for the province's tourism, steel, manufacturing, construction, energy and agricultural sectors."

**- Julia Fields**  
**Executive Director, Canadian Marine Careers Foundation**

"With the help of the Skills Development Fund, JHS Ottawa has been able to equip jobseekers with the tools and support needed to get into apprenticeship programs and pursue careers in trades."

**- Jan Goatcher**  
**Manager, Employment and Training Services, John Howard Society of  
Ottawa**

"The Government of Ontario's funding of Mining Fundamentals: Interactive Training for Careers in Mining through the Skills Development Fund demonstrates the importance of mining to the province and recognition that the sector is facing a talent crisis. In order for Ontario's mining industry to support the transition to a clean economy, the sector needs a robust pipeline of qualified and skilled workers to support expansion and avoid ongoing labour shortages. In partnership with Confederation College, Mining Fundamentals will create an asynchronous, online course combined with VR simulations — aligned with Ontario's mandatory mining Common Core and mining-specific skills. Mining employers will have access to a job matching platform to facilitate training participant work placements, providing real workplace experience and the potential for permanent employment."

**- Ryan Montpellier**

**Executive Director, Mining Industry Human Resources Council**

"Investing in skilled trades training is not only an investment in our economy — it's an investment in people. At the YMCA of the National Capital Region, we see firsthand how access to trades programming can transform lives, especially for equity-priority groups who have historically faced barriers to meaningful employment. We are deeply grateful for the support of the Skills Development Fund. This investment allows us to run innovative programs like our Home Builders initiative, helping to strengthen Ontario's workforce while ensuring that equity-deserving groups are prioritized in building a brighter future."

**- Katie Sexton**

**Vice President, Employment, Newcomer Services and Camp, YMCA of the  
National Capital Region**



"PLT Canada is thankful for this opportunity to grow Ontario's workforce in the forest sector! Thanks to funding from the Skills Development Fund, we are well equipped to support more than 200 young adults with the skills, training or employment opportunities to thrive in an increasingly competitive global sector. PLT Canada has placed more than 2,800 young adults under 30 in the forest sector in Ontario since 2018 and we are proud to collaborate with our partners in government and industry to further our work in Ontario."

- Kathy Abusow

President and CEO, Project Learning Tree Canada

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#### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Protecting Workers in Critical Sectors in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario](#)
- [Skills Development Fund: Training Stream](#)
- [Employment Ontario: Free Programs and Services for Jobseekers, Workers and Employers](#)
- [Skilled Trades Ontario](#)
- [2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)

---

#### Media Contacts

Hannah Jensen

Premier's Office

[Hannah.Jensen2@ontario.ca](mailto:Hannah.Jensen2@ontario.ca)

Michel Figueredo

Minister's Piccini's Office

[Michel.Figueredo@ontario.ca](mailto:Michel.Figueredo@ontario.ca)

#### Media Relations

Communications Branch

[mlitsdmedialine@ontario.ca](mailto:mlitsdmedialine@ontario.ca)

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## Ontario and United Kingdom Sign Groundbreaking Clean Energy Partnership

Agreement will leverage the province's nuclear advantage to support fusion energy innovation

September 22, 2025

[Energy and Mines](#)

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**OTTAWA** — Today, at the International Tritium Conference, Minister Lecce announced that Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) Group have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Ontario to work toward supplying tritium – a critical fuel for nuclear fusion – to support the UKAEA's world-leading fusion research and energy development projects. The agreement delivers on the government's plan to protect Ontario by leveraging the province's nuclear advantage to create more export opportunities that support good-paying jobs and build a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy in the face of U.S. tariffs.

Under the agreement, OPG will work toward providing a secure and reliable supply of tritium to fuel the UKAEA's cutting-edge fusion research and facilities, solidifying Ontario's position as an international leader in the nuclear energy sector. Additionally, the MOU will also support local fusion energy development projects in Ontario and Canada, creating valuable opportunities for local industries and supply chain partners to participate and benefit from new fusion energy projects.

"This historic agreement cements Ontario's long-standing role at the forefront of next generation nuclear energy," said Minister Lecce. "From building the G7's first Small Modular Reactor (SMR) to powering breakthroughs in fusion and medical isotopes, Ontario is leading the world's clean energy future. We're exporting our expertise, creating jobs at home and showing the world what energy security looks like."

Sourced from Ontario's CANDU reactors, tritium is extracted from heavy water during routine CANDU operations. As tritium decays, it produces Helium-3 (He-3), an extremely rare and valuable isotope that's powering breakthroughs in quantum computing and holds promise as a future fuel for fusion reactors.

The UKAEA leads the world's largest publicly funded research and development program, dedicated to making fusion energy a scalable, commercial reality. Tritium supplied by OPG could play a major role in advancing major UKAEA research projects and the UKIFS, including the [Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production](#) programme, a prototype fusion energy powerplant using advanced technology to prove the commercial viability of fusion technology by the early 2040s.

"Ontario Power Generation is proud to build on our world-class leadership in producing life-saving medical isotopes and our 50-plus year history of operating safe, clean and reliable nuclear power generation," said Kim Lauritsen, OPG Senior Vice President, Enterprise Strategy and Growth. "This agreement demonstrates how OPG is leveraging Ontario's isotope and nuclear expertise to support and power the promise of nuclear fusion."

"OPG has played a critical part in enabling the fundamental fusion research that has become a foundation for the international fusion community," said Steve Wheeler, Executive Director of Fusion Technology, UKAEA. "This MOU strengthens UKAEA's strategic relationship with the Government of Ontario and OPG to drive progress toward delivering future fusion powerplants."

This initiative is a key pillar of [Energy for Generations](#), Ontario's long-term roadmap to deliver reliable, affordable and secure energy to power the most competitive economy in the G7. With a clear path forward, the plan is not only meeting the demands of today, but it is protecting jobs, supporting workers and powering economic growth for generations to come.

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#### Quick Facts

- Ontario's nuclear reactors produce isotopes that are used globally in health care, energy, and advanced industrial applications.
  - Ontario's world-class nuclear sector is at the forefront of innovation, uniquely positioning the province to benefit from the projected growth as a supplier and key global player in new nuclear opportunities and beneficial partnerships.
  - OPG has previously supplied tritium for the [Joint European Torus](#) fusion experiment at UKAEA.
-

## Quotes

"Ontario's world-class researchers are driving our economy and cementing the province as an epicentre of clean energy and nuclear innovation. This monumental agreement will accelerate cutting-edge energy developments, advance the production and commercialization of crucial clean energy and expand Ontario's role in the global energy market."

**- The Hon. Nolan Quinn**  
**Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security**

"Innovative energy solutions and partnerships are integral to the future of our energy supply chain in Ontario. Strengthening our nuclear advantage in Ontario and Canada is smart energy planning and will ensure Ontario has secure and reliable energy for our future."

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

"Ontario has long been a world leader in medical isotopes, and our tritium supply extends that leadership into the future of clean energy. This new agreement shows how Ontario's isotope strengths are powering breakthroughs not only in health care and industry, but in the global pursuit of fusion energy."

**- Melody Greaves**  
**Executive Director & VP, Government Relations, Canadian Nuclear Isotope Council**

"Ontario's energy sector has long been at the forefront of innovation, and this partnership marks another important step in building a clean, reliable and sustainable future. Fusion energy represents a transformative opportunity, and Ontario's leadership in nuclear expertise and supply chain capacity positions us to play a critical role. The Ontario Energy Association recognizes this agreement as a signal of Ontario's leadership in advancing next-generation energy solutions."

**- Vince Brescia**  
**President & CEO, Ontario Energy Association**

"OCNI congratulates OPG and the UK Atomic Energy Authority on this important collaboration to advance fusion energy. This agreement is an exciting boost for Ontario and Canada's nuclear supply chain, opening new opportunities at home and globally. Our members bring skills and expertise in fusion – from tritium supply and handling to hot cells and robotics – and we look forward to supporting Canadian suppliers as they engage in the growing global fusion market. Together, partnerships like this will help deliver the next generation of clean, reliable, and secure energy."

**- Ivette Vera-Perez**  
**President and CEO, OCNI**

"The Canadian Nuclear Association congratulates OPG and the UKAEA on this important collaboration. Fusion energy holds tremendous potential as part of a clean, secure energy future, and partnerships like this ensure Canada's industry and supply chain are well positioned to play a leading role in developing the next generation of technologies."

**- George Christidis**  
**President & CEO of Canadian Nuclear Association**

"This MOU highlights Ontario's strength as a hub for clean energy innovation. Advancing fusion research and building these foundations for a fusion energy ecosystem can create new opportunities for Canadian industry and supply chain partners to help shape the future of energy. At NII, we see this as an important step in positioning Ontario's nuclear industry as a global leader in delivering the clean energy solutions of tomorrow."

- Jessica Linthorne  
President & CEO, Nuclear Innovation Institute

"This Ontario-U.K. collaboration can advance fusion research, strengthen our domestic ecosystem, and help shape the next generation of clean energy technology. The Ontario Chamber has long advocated for a diversified, sustainable and reliable energy mix, and partnerships such as this both advance that vision and create opportunities for Ontario businesses."

- Daniel Tisch  
President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

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## Additional Resources

### [Energy for Generations](#)

Learn about Ontario's integrated plan to power the strongest economy in the G7.

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## Media Contacts

### Chelsea McGee

Minister Lecce's Office

[Chelsea.McGee@ontario.ca](mailto:Chelsea.McGee@ontario.ca)

### Robert Quartarone

Communications Branch

[robert.quartarone@ontario.ca](mailto:robert.quartarone@ontario.ca)

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## Ontario Protecting Taxpayers by Banning Municipal Speed Cameras

Province also introducing new fund to proactively support road and school zone safety without raising costs for drivers

September 25, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Transportation](#)

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**VAUGHAN** — The Ontario government intends to introduce legislation next month that will ban the use of municipal automated speed enforcement cameras across the province, ensuring they are no longer used as a form of revenue. To improve road safety, the province will instead establish a new provincial fund to help affected municipalities implement alternative safety measures, including proactive traffic-calming initiatives like speed bumps, roundabouts, raised crosswalks and curb extensions, as well as public education and improved signage, to slow down drivers.

“At a time when governments at all levels should be doing everything they can to lower costs and make life more affordable, too many municipalities are using speed cameras as a cash grab,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Enough is enough. Instead of making life more expensive by sending speeding tickets to drivers weeks after the fact, we’re supporting road-safety measures that will prevent speeding in the first place, keep costs down and keep our streets safe.”

Since 2019, over 700 municipal speed cameras have been installed in 40 municipalities across Ontario, with more currently planned for installation in the coming months.

“Municipal speed cameras have become nothing more than a tool for raising revenue,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “Our government is focused on measures that truly protect the safety of all Ontarians and we will continue working with municipalities to ensure Ontario maintains its position as one of the safest jurisdictions in North America.”

If passed, this legislation will prevent the use of municipal speed cameras in Ontario immediately upon Royal Assent. The province will also introduce requirements for municipalities with existing speed cameras in school zones to install large new signs to slow down drivers by mid-November 2025, with permanent, large signs with flashing lights to be in place by September 2026. Municipalities will also be encouraged to implement alternative traffic-calming measures such as speed bumps, speed cushions, raised crosswalks, curb extensions and roundabouts, as well as enhanced signage and education and awareness campaigns.

“I thank Premier Doug Ford for providing clarity on the speed camera program and for his commitment to provide financial support for municipal traffic-calming measures,” said Steven Del Duca, Mayor of Vaughan. “Road safety will always be a priority and, in Vaughan, we will do everything possible to protect vulnerable road users. But we will also focus our attention on fighting real crime and going after real criminals.”

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#### **Quick Facts**

- For 25 years, Ontario has ranked among the top five jurisdictions in North America for road safety, with one of the lowest fatality rates per 10,000 licensed drivers.
  - Under the existing municipal automated speed enforcement camera program, municipalities are permitted to use municipal speed cameras to ticket drivers who exceed the posted speed limit by as little as one kilometre per hour.
  - After a three-week period in which the City of Vaughan issued more than 30,000 tickets, city council suspended and ultimately scrapped its municipal automated speed enforcement camera program.
  - Prior to 2025, a single municipal speed camera in the City of Toronto issued more than 65,000 tickets and took in nearly \$7 million in revenue.
  - In the Region of Waterloo, close to 55,000 tickets were issued during the first six months of their municipal automated speed enforcement camera program.
-

## Quotes

"We are committed to keeping families safe while on the road, including investing in community-based traffic calming solutions that work. Local governments should be focused on making life affordable, not imposing new revenue tools that set back families and seniors across Ontario."

**- Stephen Lecce**  
**MPP, King—Vaughan**

"Today's provincial investments announced for road safety will help cities like ours continue to make streets safer for everyone. Kitchener's Vision Zero strategy, focused on traffic calming through smarter road design and education, is seeing real results and can go even further thanks to investments like these. Together, with our provincial partners, we're making streets safer and putting people first."

**- Berry Vrbanovic**  
**Mayor of Kitchener**

"The City of Barrie supports the Province of Ontario, and we are excited to see the new funding opportunities for municipalities. Thank you, Premier Ford, for your leadership and commitment to enhance traffic calming measures across our cities. We look forward to continuing to work with the province to create community-safety measures that reduce speeding, improve safety and respect taxpayers."

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

"The Police Association of Ontario has consistently called for a comprehensive reassessment of automated speed enforcement cameras. We are encouraged by the Ontario government's commitment to the increased funding for alternative traffic calming measures, as well as the ongoing public education regarding the dangers of speeding. Together with proactive policing, these initiatives are fundamental to maintaining the safety of the communities we serve."

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

"The Council of Ontario Construction Associations supports safe streets, and we welcome Premier Ford's commitment to invest in measures proven to reduce speed and improve safety. As a secondary benefit, the removal of automated speed enforcement cameras avoids tickets being sent to plate owners instead of the driver; those tickets can be recorded on a company's Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registrations (CVOR) and may threaten its ability to operate. For these reasons, we applaud Premier Ford and his government for today's announcement."

**- Ian Cunningham**  
**President, Council of Ontario Construction Associations**

"Speed cameras can be deployed by municipalities as an easy method to squeeze extra revenue from struggling taxpayers, all under the pretext of safety. Getting rid of automatic speed cameras is a common sense way to save taxpayers' money from municipalities looking to use them as a cash grab."

**- Noah Jarvis**  
**Ontario Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation**

#### **Media Contacts**

**Hannah Jensen**

Premier's Office

[Hannah.Jensen2@ontario.ca](mailto:Hannah.Jensen2@ontario.ca)

**Dakota Brasier**  
Minister Sarkaria's Office  
[Dakota.Brasier@ontario.ca](mailto:Dakota.Brasier@ontario.ca)

**Tanya Blazina**  
Communications Branch  
[MTO.media@ontario.ca](mailto:MTO.media@ontario.ca)

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## Ontario Investing \$9 Million to Increase Access to Dementia Care

Province launches new dementia care program that will connect long-term care residents and their families to innovative care and supports

September 25, 2025

[Long-Term Care](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$9 million over three years to launch a new program that will improve care for residents with dementia in long-term care homes. The Improving Dementia Care Program (IDCP) uses emotion-based models of care for residents with dementia and is part of the government's plan to protect Ontario's long-term care system by making targeted investments that ensure residents get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve.

"Our government is proud to invest in innovative dementia care and supports to improve the well-being of long-term care residents, their caregivers and families," said Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care. "Through initiatives like the Improving Dementia Care Program, we can improve the quality of care for residents while improving the work experience of staff."

Emotion-based models of care are designed to improve the well-being of long-term care home residents with dementia through care that prioritizes resident needs and fosters close relationships between staff, residents and families. The IDCP will support staff training and new programs for residents and is expected to serve 1,800 people in its first year. Long-term care homes can apply to participate in the IDCP through their [Ontario Health regional office](#).

Advancing dementia care is one more way the government is ensuring Ontarians get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve. The plan to improve long-term care 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.

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## Quick Facts

- Seniors — people aged 65 and older — make up the fastest growing age group in the province.
- More than 60 per cent of residents in Ontario's long-term care homes have a dementia diagnosis, and the number of Ontarians with dementia is [expected to triple by 2050](#).
- In December 2024, the government [announced](#) a proposed suite of legislative and programmatic initiatives to enhance dementia care supports for seniors and long-term care residents in Ontario.
- 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 [incentives of up to \\$35,400](#) to PSW students and eligible PSWs to launch careers in long-term care homes and in the home and community care sector.

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## Quotes

"These investments are one more way our government, under the leadership of Premier Ford, is helping to protect Ontario's seniors. The new dementia care pilot will help our seniors live with the dignity and respect they deserve."

- Raymond Cho  
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

"The Alzheimer Society of Ontario supports the government's three-year investment to improve the care for residents in long-term care homes living with dementia. Emotion-based models of care are crucial for enhancing the quality of life for residents living with dementia by improving the quality of care that staff in long-term care provide every day. The Improving Dementia Care Program recognizes the integral role that emotion-based care programs — such as the Alzheimer Society of Ontario's U-First! training — play in delivering the person-centred care that people living with dementia require."

- Cathy Barrick  
CEO, Alzheimer Society of Ontario

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## Additional Resources

- [2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)

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

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## Related Topics

### Government

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

[Learn more](#)

### Health and Wellness

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

### Home and Community

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

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## Media Contacts

### Stuart Osborne

Office of the Minister of Long-Term Care

[Stuart.Osborne@ontario.ca](mailto:Stuart.Osborne@ontario.ca)

### Ministry of Long-Term Care Media Line

Communications Branch

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

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## Ontario Releases 2024-25 Public Accounts

Province making historic investments to protect Ontario workers and communities

September 26, 2025

[Treasury Board Secretariat](#)  
[Finance](#)

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TORONTO — Today, Ontario released the 2024-25 Public Accounts, which provide the final audited financial results of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. The report highlights the government's record investments to protect Ontario and transform it into the most competitive place to invest, create jobs and do business in the G7.

The government recorded a \$1.1 billion deficit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, compared to a forecasted deficit of \$9.8 billion in the *2024 Budget*. This is a result of stronger-than-anticipated tax revenues resulting from higher-than-forecasted economic growth as well as increased revenues from the broader public sector. The government will continue to guard against economic uncertainty caused by U.S. tariffs, maintaining flexibility to take targeted measures to lower costs for families and businesses.

In 2024-25, the government invested \$212.1 billion across all programs, which represents an 8.7 per cent (or \$16.9 billion) increase in program spending over the previous fiscal year. Infrastructure expenditures also increased nearly 24 per cent, continuing the trend of over 20 per cent increases year-over-year in the past two fiscal years. These investments are delivering on the province's plan to build for future growth and keep workers on the job in the face of U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty.

"Our government's historic investments are helping protect Ontario's economy and workers even as we continue to maintain a strong financial position in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty," said Caroline Mulroney, President of the Treasury Board. "These investments, including highways, public transit, schools and homes, will build the infrastructure our province needs to support strong and safe communities, keep workers on the job and drive economic growth."

The government recorded total revenues of \$226.2 billion, which is \$17.2 billion or 8.2 per cent higher than the previous fiscal year. The interest and other debt servicing charges are \$1.3 billion lower than the 2024 Budget forecast due to lower overall borrowing costs. The government is continuing its fiscally responsible approach, prudently managing provincial finances while maintaining its commitment and ability to provide critical financial supports that are required to protect Ontario's economy and support jobs.

Some notable highlights from the 2024-25 Public Accounts include:

- Health-care sector investments increased by 7.2 per cent compared to 2023-24, to a total of \$91.6 billion, to give people the right care in the right place, provide faster access to services and grow the province's health care workforce.
- Postsecondary education sector investments increased by 6.9 per cent, to a total of \$14.1 billion, to help train students for successful careers and good-paying, in-demand jobs.
- Education sector investments increased by 3.3 per cent, to a total of \$38.4 billion, including more funding to renew and improve schools and to support new schools and expansions.

"The 2024-25 Public Accounts show the government's continued commitment to protecting Ontario while taking a responsible and targeted approach to the province's fiscal plan," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "By making strategic investments we are transforming Ontario into the most competitive place to invest in the G7, while building a more self-reliant and resilient economy in this time of economic uncertainty."

As part of its continued commitment to regular and transparent financial updates, the government will release the 2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, also referred to as the Fall Economic Statement, on or before November 15, 2025.

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### Quick Facts

- This is the eighth year in a row that the government has received a clean audit opinion from Ontario's Auditor General.
- In 2024, Ontario's credit rating was upgraded to AA- by S&P and to AA by Morningstar DBRS.

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### Additional Resources

[2024-25 Public Accounts](#)

[Public Accounts 101 Video](#)

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

### Government

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

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## Media Contacts

### Liz Tuomi

Minister's Office

[Liz.Tuomi@ontario.ca](mailto:Liz.Tuomi@ontario.ca)

TBS Communications Branch

[TBS.media@ontario.ca](mailto:TBS.media@ontario.ca)

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## Province Expanding Basic Constable Training Program to Protect Ontario

121 additional recruits will help keep Ontario streets and communities safe

September 26, 2025

[Solicitor General](#)

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CORNWALL — As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the government is expanding the Basic Constable Training (BCT) program to help police services recruit, train and deploy more officers. For the first time, training will be held simultaneously at two locations – the Ontario Police College in Aylmer and a temporary site in Cornwall, which will allow for an additional 121 recruits to be trained for a combined intake of up to 641 recruits.

“Ontario’s Basic Constable Training program is the critical first step to becoming a police officer in this province,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “When Ontarians are in need, it is our police officers who answer the call to protect us and keep our communities safe. By expanding training this fall in Cornwall, our government is supporting police services and their recruitment efforts, ensuring they have the additional constables needed to protect our communities.”

Training in Cornwall will be delivered at the DEV Hotel and Conference Centre. The program begins on October 6 and will conclude with the March Past and Review Ceremony on December 17.

“The safety and well-being of Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry relies on a strong police force to protect our community,” said Nolan Quinn, MPP for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry. “By expanding basic constable training, our government is adding more officers to police forces across the province to help keep our streets and loved ones safe today, and into the future.”

In 2023, the Ontario government eliminated the tuition fee for the BCT program, which includes courses in federal law, provincial law, traffic law, human rights, diversity and professional practice, leadership, ethics, mental health for first responders and for people in crisis, de-escalation tactics, firearms, officer safety and fitness for duty.

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## Quotes

"We are very pleased that the Ontario Police College has chosen our city to host an additional Basic Constable Training class for the fall intake. Expanding BCT capacity is a clear benefit for police services across the province. With our outstanding DEV Centre facility, recruits in this class will receive high-quality training that equips them for a successful career in policing. This initiative directly supports Cornwall Police Service's vision of "a safe Cornwall where everyone can thrive and belong". We extend a warm welcome to the college and the incoming recruits to our city and are confident they will find both our community and our facilities supportive and inspiring."

**- Shawna Spowart**  
**Chief of Police, Cornwall Police Service**

"This announcement reflects the partnership between government, police services, and police governance boards in meeting Ontario's public safety needs. By expanding training capacity, we are preparing new officers for service while strengthening the governance systems that ensure policing remains effective, accountable, and trusted."

**- Al Boughton**  
**Chair, Ontario Association of Police Service Boards**

"The Police Association of Ontario is proud to support this one-time expansion of the Ontario Police College Basic Constable Training program being held in Cornwall, Ontario. By opening more seats, we are enabling police services across the province to attract, train and deploy more officers in the communities we serve. We wish the combined 641 recruits the best of luck and look forward to celebrating them at the March Past and Review Ceremony in December."

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



"The Ontario government's decision to expand basic constable training is a significant and welcome step toward addressing the urgent need for more frontline officers. By establishing a temporary second training location in Cornwall, this initiative will accelerate the recruitment and deployment of officers across the province. Our members are dedicated to protecting their communities, and this investment will strengthen their ability to do so. It demonstrates a clear and meaningful commitment to public safety in Ontario."

- David Sabatini  
Acting President, OPP Association

"Police services across Ontario are recruiting and hiring police cadets at record levels, especially in Toronto where the Multi-Year Hiring Plan has committed to adding hundreds of officers over the coming years. Thanks to the investment by Premier Ford and his government, the expansion of Basic Constable Training allows for more officers to be hired, trained, and deployed back into communities where they are needed most."

- Clayton Campbell  
President, Toronto Police Association

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## Additional Resources

[Ontario Police College](#)

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## Related Topics

### Law and Safety

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

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## Media Contacts

### Dakota Moniz

Solicitor General's Office

[Dakota.Moniz@ontario.ca](mailto:Dakota.Moniz@ontario.ca)

### Brent Ross

Communications Branch

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

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# Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to Protect Workers

Increase to \$17.60 an hour will take effect October 1

September 29, 2025

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

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**TORONTO** —The Ontario government is raising the minimum wage from \$17.20 to \$17.60 an hour, effective October 1, which will support over 800,000 workers. This annualized wage increase of 2.4 per cent is based on the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) and delivers on the government's plan to protect and support workers while keeping Ontario competitive in the face of U.S. tariffs.

"At a time when many families are feeling the pressure of global economic uncertainty, our government will protect Ontario workers with a minimum wage increase that supports our world-class workforce," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "We will continue to take action to build a strong, resilient workforce ready to face whatever comes our way."

As a result of the changes, a worker making the general minimum wage and working 40 hours per week will get an annual pay increase of more than \$800. Under the [Employment Standards Act](#), Ontario's minimum wage increases annually based on the Ontario CPI, a measure of inflation that represents changes in prices experienced by Ontario consumers.

This increase is just one of the ways the government is delivering on its plan to protect Ontario workers. 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 in-demand careers. As announced in the [2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), 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.

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## Quick Facts

- Under the [Employment Standards Act, 2000](#) Ontario's minimum wage increases annually based on the Ontario CPI, a measure of inflation that represents changes in prices experienced by Ontario consumers.

- The specialized minimum wages for students, homeworkers and hunting and fishing guides are also increasing.
- About 36 per cent of workers at or below the wage of \$17.60 per hour are in retail trade and 23 per cent are in accommodation and food services.
- Over the past seven years, Ontario's minimum wage has increased from \$14 per hour in 2018 to \$17.60 as of today.
- This latest increase brings Ontario's minimum wage to the second highest provincial rate in Canada.

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## Additional Resources

- New [minimum wage rates](#).
- Learn about rights and responsibilities under the [ESA](#).
- [Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#).

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

### Jobs and Employment

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

### Law and Safety

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

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## Media Contacts

### Michel Figueredo

Minister's Office

[michel.figueredo@ontario.ca](mailto:michel.figueredo@ontario.ca)

### Media Relations

Communications Branch

[mlitsdmedialine@ontario.ca](mailto:mlitsdmedialine@ontario.ca)

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## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to be observed in all Ontario public schools

September 29, 2025

[Education](#)

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

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Today, Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, and Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, issued the following statement on the development of new resources for teachers and students on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:

“Tomorrow, schools across the province will reflect and honour Survivors, their families and the many communities affected by the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools by observing Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action, Ontario continues to fulfill its commitment to advancing education for reconciliation.

To further deepen our shared understanding of the enduring intergenerational impact and ensure every student across the province receives a consistent education on our history, we are taking further steps. The Ministry of Education will engage with Indigenous partners over the next year to develop new comprehensive curriculum resources to be taught annually on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

By developing these materials for use in all classrooms by September 30, 2026, teachers and students will be able to engage further, learn about the impact of residential schools and commemorate those who have been affected. These resources will ensure students and teachers are well supported and are learning consistently across the province.”

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### Related Topics

Education and Training

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

#### **Media Contacts**

##### **Emma Testani**

Minister Calandra's Office

[Emma.Testani@ontario.ca](mailto:Emma.Testani@ontario.ca)

##### **Ingrid Anderson**

Ministry of Education

[Ingrid.e.Anderson@ontario.ca](mailto:Ingrid.e.Anderson@ontario.ca)

[437-225-0321](tel:437-225-0321)

##### **Jenna DePaiva**

Minister Rickford's Office

[Jenna.DePaiva@ontario.ca](mailto:Jenna.DePaiva@ontario.ca)

[416-371-9812](tel:416-371-9812)

##### **Ciprian Nastase**

Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation

Communications Branch

[Ciprian.Nastase@ontario.ca](mailto:Ciprian.Nastase@ontario.ca)

[416-573-4759](tel:416-573-4759)

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STATEMENT

## Ontario Commemorates National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

September 30, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

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

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**TORONTO** — Premier Doug Ford and Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, released the following statement in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day:

“Today, we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to honour the survivors of the Indian Residential School system and remember the children who did not return home. We honour the families and communities who continue to bear the weight of this legacy.

Today, we also recognize Orange Shirt Day, inspired by the story of Phyllis Webstad, whose orange shirt was taken from her on her first day at a residential school.

Phyllis’ story reminds us of the deeply personal and painful experiences of survivors and the need to commemorate the history of these schools.

Across the province, government buildings will be lit in orange, and many will wear orange shirts as we honour survivors, families and communities.

We encourage everyone to take part by listening and learning. These stories are difficult to hear, but essential to acknowledge, as we come together on the journey of reconciliation.”

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**Media Contacts**

**Hannah Jensen**

Premier’s Office

[Hannah.Jensen2@ontario.ca](mailto:Hannah.Jensen2@ontario.ca)

**Jenna DePaiva**

Minister Rickford’s Office

[Jenna.DePaiva@ontario.ca](mailto:Jenna.DePaiva@ontario.ca)



## Ontario Releases Draft Criteria for Special Economic Zones

Part of government's plan to build a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy, Special Economic Zones will significantly speed up approvals for major projects

October 02, 2025

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

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TORONTO — As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario and unleash its economic potential, the province has proposed a [new regulation](#) setting out draft criteria for designating Special Economic Zones to build a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy. This draft regulation has been informed by consultations with Indigenous communities across Ontario. It is being released today to support ongoing consultations and will continue to evolve based on feedback from Indigenous communities and stakeholders.

"In the face of global economic uncertainty, our government has a mandate from the people to build the most competitive economy in the G7," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Special Economic Zones are a critical tool to expedite approvals and move projects of strategic importance forward faster, boosting our economic resilience and delivering lasting prosperity for Ontario workers and businesses."

First introduced under the [Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act](#) in response to U.S. tariffs, the [Special Economic Zones Act](#) supports the advancement of job-creating investments and projects that hold critical and strategic importance to Ontario's economic security. Special Economic Zones provide a predictable and stable environment for investment and growth, allowing projects to start and move forward faster while maintaining the province's stringent standards and safeguards for environmental protection, as well as the duty to consult with Indigenous communities.

"We look forward to continuing consultations with Indigenous communities and organizations on proposed changes to the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)," said Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "Feedback on the OHA archaeology exemption criteria will help protect important archaeological sites

while providing the clarity needed to attract investment, protect good-paying jobs, and strengthen Ontario's economy by making Ontario the fastest permitting jurisdiction in North America."

As part of its consultations, Ontario has engaged with over 130 Indigenous communities regarding the proposed draft regulation and the development of a new regulatory framework, including:

- Five regional sessions, with virtual participation options, carried out across the province, including two sessions in Toronto, and one each in Thunder Bay, Sudbury and London.
- One-on-one consultation sessions with communities, as requested, which remain ongoing.
- Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants from across the provincial government travelled north to engage with Indigenous communities since the passage of the [Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act](#). These engagements focused on local community needs and nation-building projects, including the development of regulations for Special Economic Zones.

"Our government continues to facilitate hearty political participation and engagement with Indigenous communities across the province, with increasingly positive feedback, as we build out the regulations for Special Economic Zones," said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation and Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community Partnerships. "We are steadfast in our commitment to the duty to consult on the implementation of future use of Special Economic Zones, and in working in partnerships with communities and leadership to ensure that new projects support First Nations-led economic development and prosperity."

The province will continue to consult with Indigenous communities in Ontario to support and advance economic reconciliation through development and ensure the draft proposed regulation incorporates ongoing feedback.

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#### Quick Facts

- The proposed [new regulation](#) has been posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.
- The government is also [investing \\$3.1 billion in loans, grants and scholarships](#) that would support Indigenous participation, partnership and ownership in Ontario's critical mineral supply chain.
- The *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* is meant to quickly advance strategically important economic activity and priority projects within designated zones. By

building faster and more strategically, Ontario can protect its industries, mitigate the impact of trade disruptions, and ensure the long-term prosperity and security of the economy.

- The *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act* also established a new tool to enable archaeology exemptions under the Ontario Heritage Act to expedite economically significant projects. The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is currently [consulting on proposed](#) criteria to implement these exemptions.
- The Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation supports consultation, engagement and support offered through the New Relationship Fund.

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## Additional Resources

[2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)

[Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy](#)

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

### Environment and Energy

Learn more about how Ontario protects and restores wildlife and the environment. Includes information on conservation and the electricity system. [Learn more](#)

### Rural and North

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

---

## Media Contacts

### Jennifer Cunliffe

Minister's Office

[Jennifer.Cunliffe@ontario.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Cunliffe@ontario.ca)

### Media Relations

Communications Branch

[economy.media@ontario.ca](mailto:economy.media@ontario.ca)

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## Ontario Connecting Patients to Life-Saving Cancer Drugs Faster

New program will help patients access cutting-edge cancer care up to a year sooner, saving lives and protecting Ontario's health-care system

October 07, 2025

[Health](#)

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TORONTO – The Ontario government is leading the world in cancer care by launching the Funding Accelerated for Specific Treatments (FAST) program, making Ontario the first jurisdiction in Canada to fast-track access to breakthrough cancer drugs. This bold initiative will connect patients to life-saving cancer treatments almost a full year sooner, reducing delays and improving access to cutting-edge cancer care for years to come.

“For thousands of Ontarians facing a cancer diagnosis, fast access to treatment is critical, which is why our government is transforming cancer care and speeding up access to new and life-changing treatment options,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “The launch of this historic program is another way we are continuing to lead not only the country, but the world, by putting Ontario patients first, opening the door for faster public access to innovative medicines.”

On average, Canadian patients wait nearly two years to access new publicly funded medicines – a full year longer than patients in other developed countries. This three-year pilot program will expedite access to seven to ten high-priority cancer drugs every year that are approved by Health Canada through the Project Orbis pathway, an international initiative that fast-tracks regulatory approval for promising cancer therapies.

While traditional models wait for lengthy pan-Canadian pricing negotiations and approvals prior to public funding, the FAST program puts patients first by initiating public drug program funding while negotiations proceed. This innovative approach ensures Ontario patients can receive timely access to the life-changing treatments they need. By removing unnecessary delays, Ontario is leading the way in rethinking how cancer care can be delivered, here in Ontario and across the world.



As part of [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government continues to expand access to critical services and innovative treatments ensuring more people receive the right care, including faster access to life-saving cancer therapies, where and when they need it, closer to home.

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#### Quick Facts

- The Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program is one of the most generous drug benefit programs in Canada, providing coverage for approximately 5,900 drug products and therapeutic treatments on the ODB Formulary for approximately 9 million Ontarians.
  - Drugs that are not listed in the ODB Formulary may be considered for coverage on a case-by-case basis through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP), which includes over 1,300 drugs, upon meeting specified criteria.
  - The FAST pilot project will be evaluated to identify opportunities to improve patient experience, assess its scope and ensure long-term sustainability.
  - Last year, Ontario invested \$9.5 billion to support the Ontario Drug Benefit program, including approximately \$2.75 billion for cancer drugs and supportive therapies in the community.
  - In January 2025, Ontario and the Government of Canada signed a three-year agreement to improve care for people with rare diseases. Ontario is receiving [\\$178 million through the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases](#) to enhance early screening, diagnostics, and access to treatments—building on the province’s \$489 million investment over the past year to fund 55 rare disease drugs through its public drug programs.
  - Over the next 10 years, Ontario’s investments will lead to nearly \$60 billion in health infrastructure across the province, building 3,000 new beds in addition to over 3,500 critical care, acute and post-acute beds our government has added since 2020.
-

## Quotes

"The Funding Accelerated for Specific Treatments program marks an unprecedented milestone in Ontario's commitment to unlocking new opportunities in the life sciences and accelerating the development of life-saving treatments. Ontario is proud to be the first jurisdiction in Canada to address these long-standing barriers to innovation, and we look forward to seeing this program drive further discovery, attract investment, and set a new benchmark for patient-centered care for our nation."

**- The Honourable Vic Fedeli**  
**Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade**

"The FAST program exemplifies the power of translational medicine — moving discoveries from the research bench to the patient's bedside with remarkable speed. At UHN's Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, we see every day how early access to breakthrough therapies transforms hope, survival, and quality of life. Early access to cancer drugs is fundamental to comprehensive care alongside prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. We applaud the Government of Ontario for its bold leadership in removing barriers and accelerating innovation, raising the bar for equitable, evidence-based cancer care across Canada."

**- Dr. Kevin Smith**  
**President and CEO, University Health Network**

"This is a welcome and much-needed initiative at a crucial time for people living with cancer. Faster access to new and potentially life-saving treatments can make an enormous difference. We are grateful for the Government's commitment to speeding up the approval process, giving patients and their families the precious gift of time and hope."

**- Dr. Keith Stewart**  
**Director, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Vice-President Cancer and Laboratory Medicine, University Health Network**

"With the launch of the FAST program, Ontario becomes the first province to accelerate patient access to select high-priority cancer medicines for those with the greatest unmet medical need. This initiative highlights Ontario's leadership and aligns with best practices seen in other countries around the world. Faster access to life-changing treatments leads to better outcomes and improved quality of life for patients with cancer and their families."

**- Gaby Bourbara**  
**President, AstraZeneca Canada**

"For people facing a breast cancer diagnosis, every day is crucial. The Ontario government's FAST program marks a significant step forward by reducing wait times for access to breakthrough treatments that can change and save lives. By prioritizing timely access, Ontario is setting a strong example for how cancer care can be delivered across the entire country. Breast Cancer Canada applauds Ontario for their bold steps to fast-track innovative cancer treatments and driving the systemic change we need. We will continue to advocate for a health system that prioritizes patients and ensures everyone can benefit from advancements as quickly as possible."

**- Kimberly Carson**  
**CEO, Breast Cancer Canada**

"Sanofi commends the introduction of the Government of Ontario's FAST program, which represents a critical step forward in accelerating access to breakthrough therapies for people living with cancer. We look forward to supporting the expansion of this initiative to additional therapeutic areas and its replication across Canada, for the benefit of more patients."

**- James Guy**  
**General Manager, Specialty Care and Country Lead, Sanofi Canada**

"The Ontario government's FAST program is an important first step in ensuring that patients receive timely access to potentially life-saving cancer treatments. Initiatives like this are crucial in bridging the gap between scientific advancements and patient care and we commend Ontario's leadership in prioritizing the needs of cancer patients. At GSK, we are committed to working to accelerate access to innovative medicines and believe that collaborative initiatives and further expansion are essential to improve outcomes for more patients."

**- Sridhar Venkatesh**  
**President and General Manager, GSK Canada**

"We applaud Ontario's leadership in launching the FAST program, a bold initiative that will accelerate access to life-saving cancer treatments for patients across the province. The launch of this pathway represents a truly innovative step forward in patient care that sets a new benchmark for access to cancer treatments and improving outcomes for people who need it most. Congratulations on this significant achievement!"

**- Alaine Grand**  
**Vice President, Market Access and Strategic Customers, Johnson & Johnson**  
**Innovative Medicine, Canada**

"The FAST program shows what's possible when government and industry work together towards a shared goal: getting life-saving cancer medicines to people sooner. By removing unnecessary delays, Ontario is setting a new Canadian standard proving that better access for patients and economic growth can advance together."

**- David Jones**  
**President and Managing Director, Merck Canada**

"Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) congratulates the Government of Ontario on the launch of the Funding Accelerated for Specific Treatments (FAST) program – a bold step toward faster access to life-saving treatments. By reducing wait times for high-priority therapies by up to a full year, starting with cancer treatments, the government is setting a new national benchmark for patient-centred care. This program demonstrates strong leadership and a commitment to improving health outcomes while strengthening Ontario's position as a global hub for life sciences innovation. We're proud to have contributed to its development and look forward to working together to expand its scope, as well as supporting similar efforts across the country."

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

"Novo Nordisk Canada applauds the Ontario government's commitment to fast-tracking access to life-saving medicines. This innovative approach will directly support patient care while setting a powerful precedent to improve health outcomes across Canada."

**- Vince Lamanna**  
**President, Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.**

"At Novartis, we push the boundaries of science every day to bring transformative therapies to patients faster. The FAST program is an important and necessary step forward that does just that: it accelerates access to cancer therapies and puts patients at the heart of the system. We're proud to support Ontario's leadership in reimagining cancer care and remain deeply committed to working with government and health partners to ensure breakthrough therapies reach patients sooner, where and when they need them."

**- Erin Keith**  
**Vice President of Oncology, Novartis Canada**

"AbbVie congratulates Ontario on the launch of its FAST pathway for coverage of new cancer medicines. The FAST pilot is a meaningful policy advancement that will help speed life-saving medicines to Ontario cancer patients. We thank Ontario for its leadership and look forward to further collaboration with the government as it works to accelerate access to new medicines for devastating diseases."

- Arima Ventin

Head, Market Access and Government Affairs, AbbVie

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## Additional Resources

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

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## Related Topics

### Health and Wellness

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

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## Media Contacts

### Ema Popovic

Minister Jones' Office

[ema.popovic@ontario.ca](mailto:ema.popovic@ontario.ca)

### Media Relations

Communications Branch

[media.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:media.moh@ontario.ca)

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## MEDIA RELATIONS

9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE  
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA  
K8A 6W5  
(613) 735-7288  
[www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca](http://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca)



**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

### RELEASE DATE:

October 3, 2025

### **Renfrew County invites nominations for 2025 Warden's Community Service Awards**

The County of Renfrew is proud to announce that nominations are now open for the annual Warden's Community Service Awards, which recognize outstanding contributions made by individuals, not-for-profit organizations, and for-profit businesses across the region.

These awards celebrate the spirit of community service and acknowledge those who go above and beyond to make Renfrew County a better place to live, work, and play. Whether through volunteerism, leadership, or generous support, nominees exemplify the values of compassion, dedication, and civic pride.

"Every year, we see incredible acts of service and generosity from people and organizations throughout Renfrew County," said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon. "These awards are an opportunity to shine a light on those who make a real difference in our communities. Let's come together to recognize and celebrate the people and organizations that help make Renfrew County thrive."

#### Who Can Be Nominated?

- Individuals who contribute to community life through volunteer work, event organization, political engagement, sports leadership, or cultural preservation.
- Not-for-profit organizations that provide essential services and support to residents, especially those facing challenges.
- For-profit businesses that demonstrate corporate citizenship by sponsoring local initiatives, supporting youth programs, or investing in arts and culture.

Residents are encouraged to nominate friends, colleagues, organizations, or businesses that have made a positive impact in their community.

Once the nominations are received, they will be reviewed by a committee comprised of the Warden Emon, the Director of Development and Property and one member of County Council. All nominees are considered based on the criteria as to how they contribute to the County of Renfrew's quality of life.



For the criteria or to nominate an individual, not-for-profit organization or for-profit business for a Warden's Community Service Award, complete the [fillable PDF](#) or [online form](#) on the County of Renfrew website. For other inquiries or to submit the fillable PDF, email [wardensawards@countyofrenfrew.on.ca](mailto:wardensawards@countyofrenfrew.on.ca). To request a faxed or mailed copy of the nomination documents call 613-735-7288.

The nomination deadline is October 31, 2025 and the awards will be presented at the November 26, 2025 session of Renfrew County Council.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jason Davis	Director, Development and Property	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288

# Council and Committee Monthly Summary

## September 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held September 10 and September 24, 2025.

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

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

The [September 10, 2025](#) and [September 24, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

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## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

- At the September 24 meeting, Warden Peter Emon recognized the passing of John Hildebrandt, former Mayor of the Township of Madawaska Valley and former County Councillor. He noted Mr. Hildebrandt was a larger-than-life presence whose deep love for family, community, and service shaped everything he did. Whether through his leadership in municipal government, his contributions to local healthcare and heritage, or his role as a business owner and mentor, his impact on Barry's Bay and the broader Valley was profound. He extended condolences to his beloved wife Beth, their children and grandchildren, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.
- The Warden expressed his pride and thanks to the team which participated in a [cleanup](#) along the Algonquin Trail and Ottawa River on September 16. This included County staff from Public Works and Trails, Community Services, Paramedic Service, HART Hub as well as City of Pembroke staff, Community Mental Health workers and staff from the Renfrew County District Health Unit along with Councillor Michael Donohue and Mesa clients. Together the group gathered a truckload of debris and brushing was later conducted along the trail to open up views of the Ottawa River.
- He highlighted the fifth Recovery Day held in Renfrew on September 19, which was a powerful celebration of hope, healing, and resilience. This year's event shone a spotlight on youth, with a focus on prevention and awareness. Recovery Day honours those we have lost, supports individuals on their recovery journey, and works to break down stigma surrounding addiction and mental health. Renfrew County is proud of the compassionate, community-driven efforts underway to help individuals recover and thrive.
- On September 20 the Warden attended the Global Day of Action in Eganville, where diverse groups from all across the world marched to ask governments to increase their efforts for a healthier world, free from war, with a just transition away from fossil fuels and the need for migrant dignity in troubled times, which was named Draw the Line March.

- The Warden highlighted the recent Strategic Alignment Workshop for council and staff. He said the conversations throughout the day were both meaningful and thought-provoking and it was clear that everyone came well-prepared, having done their homework as requested. He appreciated the level of engagement and thoughtful contributions from both staff and Council.
- Warden Emon also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the triple femicide of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam, three women whose lives were taken in an act of intimate partner violence that devastated Renfrew County and reverberated across Ontario. Their deaths led to a coroner's inquest that produced 86 recommendations aimed at addressing systemic failures in how we respond to gender-based violence. He noted while some progress has been made, including widespread recognition of intimate partner violence as an epidemic, much more work remains. As we mark this solemn anniversary, he said we must recommit to the work ahead not only with remembrance, but with meaningful change that protects others from the same fate.

## Delegation

- At the September 10 session of County Council Anya Gansterer, Artistic Director with Ottawa Valley Community Arts and Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture and Curator of Arnprior District Museum, made a presentation about the Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley (AGOV) Project. The presentation highlighted the transformative impact of Ottawa Valley Community Arts, which has delivered over 30 projects, raised more than \$1 million, and engaged 50,000+ people across more than 20 communities. AGOV fosters resilient, connected communities and drives economic growth through public art, tourism, and creative industry development. With a vision for accessible public art within a 30-minute drive for all Renfrew County residents, AGOV seeks municipal support to establish a dedicated fund, integrate arts into planning, and partner with local artists.

## Announcements

- Members of County Council and staff gathered at the Noojimokamig Garden for a ceremony in recognition of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation with representatives from the Circle of Turtle Lodge. The vigil led by Aimee Bailey honoured survivors and victims of Residential Schools and supported the ongoing journey of truth, healing and reconciliation. It included a smudge and tobacco ceremony. During his remarks, Warden Emon offered an apology on behalf of the County of Renfrew and the municipalities across our region. In part the apology read, "We acknowledge the deep and lasting harm caused by past policies and systems, including the residential school system, the Sixties Scoop, and other government actions that sought to erase Indigenous cultures and disrupt families and communities. He also acknowledged that an apology alone is not enough, as he noted reconciliation is a journey and is one that requires meaningful action, consistent effort, and honest reflection.

## Development & Property Committee

### Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council directed the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Renfrew regarding the development project at Bonnechere Manor.

- The Economic Development Division and Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC) are co-hosting an Economic Development Summit on November 25, 2025, at the Best Western Pembroke Inn. Under the theme – *Rooted in Resilience* – the goal of the summit is to bring the business and municipal community together for a day of learning and networking. Session topics include human resources, succession planning and youth perspective in community development. Program details and registration will launch after Thanksgiving.
- County Council directed the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Arnprior Regional Health regarding the utilization of a portion of the surplus building (Old Grove) located at 275 Ida Street North, Arnprior, for seniors' transitional housing initiatives, campus of care, and/or other related collaborative projects. As part of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding, the County of Renfrew will undertake the retrofitting of the agreed-upon portion of the Old Grove building to create self-contained housing units with the intent to operate and manage the transitional housing units upon completion.
- On September 12, local elected officials and staff participated in an agricultural tour organized with the Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Committee. The tour featured diverse sectors, including dairy, beef, sheep, cash crops, beekeeping, maple syrup, and agricultural organizations. Key issues raised included the urgent need for large-animal veterinarians, regulatory barriers around livestock protection and interprovincial transport, improvements to the Deadstock Capacity Initiative, and the importance of consulting farmers when developing policies and by-laws.
- The Helping Your Place Excel (HYPE) Review Panel, comprised of Planning and Economic Development staff and the Director of Development and Property, has reviewed and approved the first round of applications received for the 2025 HYPE program, including nine received from the Town of Petawawa and one from the Township of Laurentian Valley.
- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association's (OVTA) annual tourism conference will be held on November 3, 2025, at the Ottawa River Barn in Foresters Falls. Programming and registration will be announced in October.
- As part of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association's pilot project with OHTO and regional partners, new tourism data reveals that 73.9% of visitors to Renfrew County were Canadian, with a strong sentiment score of 79/100. International visitors made up 26.1%, with Germany leading in satisfaction (81.3/100), followed by the UK, France, and the U.S. Overall, visitor sentiment remains positive across all markets, with international travellers expressing slightly higher satisfaction. The data highlights the continued strength of domestic tourism and the growing appeal of Renfrew County to global audiences.
- The Bridges to Business Growth Small Business Month series is a dynamic four-part event series happening in-person across Renfrew County in celebration of Small Business Month. Designed for entrepreneurs and small business owners, this series offers practical learning, meaningful connections, and actionable insights to help entrepreneurs grow with confidence in the topics of financial and tech management, marketing, building strategic partnerships, homesteading and food safety. For more information or to register, visit Enterprise Renfrew County's [workshops and event page](#). The Bridges to Business Growth Small Business Month series is hosted in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC) and sponsored by the Townships of Whitewater Region, McNab/Braeside, Madawaska Valley and Laurentian Valley, Town of Petawawa and City of Pembroke.

## Operations Committee

**Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair**

- County Council has formally endorsed a phased 2+1 highway program for Highways 17 and 11 — a safer, more cost-effective alternative to full four-laning. The Warden has sent a [letter](#) to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Ontario Premier Doug Ford outlining the resolution.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the approval of a Community Safety Zone along County Road 52 (Raglan Street South) between Civic Address 577 and Civic Address 3847, a total distance of 1.0 kilometre. Due to expressed concerns and complaints from residents and the proximity of St. Joseph's Catholic High School and St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, County of Renfrew staff have reviewed this area and recommend the implementation of a Community Safety Zone (CSZ).
- County Council adopted a by-law to acquire Part 6 on Plan 49R-20192, located in the geographic Township of Sebastopol, Township of Bonnechere Valley, from Ray and Luella Heideman for the sum of \$2,500. The property will be dedicated as part of the public highway upon registration of the transfer documents.
- County Council adopted a by-law to amend Schedule 'A' of By-law to Consolidate all By-laws with Respect to Roads and Bridges included in the County Road System, to add Banting Drive, from Highway 17 to Hillcrest Avenue, into the County Road system, subject to the adequate rehabilitation of the roadway.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
  - For Engineering Services for the Rehabilitation/Replacement Study on Algonquin Trail Structure AT032 (Bissett Creek and Highway 17) as submitted by Dillon Consulting, Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$108,848, plus applicable taxes.
  - For the purchase of Concrete Gutters and Grates at the White Water Road Patrol to G.P. Splinter Forest Products Ltd., Pembroke, in the amount of \$47,914.77.
  - For the purchase of Overhead Doors at the Cobden Patrol to Draper Doors Inc., Harrowsmith, Ontario in the amount of \$59,900.
  - For Winter Sand in Calabogie to Town and Country Forming Ltd., Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$30,585.
  - For Loader Rentals for the Winter 2025/2026 at the Calabogie Garage to Paul Neill of Arnprior, Ontario, in the amount of \$17,500 and for the Cobden and Goshen Patrols to Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$21,350.

## Corporate Services Committee

**Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair**

- County Council approved the following 2026 Budget Guidelines – Increase the capital levy contributions by \$3,000,000 over the 2025 budget; all revenue associated with weighted CVA growth for the 2026 year be contributed to the Growth Reserve; and departmental net operating budgets increase by no more than 3% over the 2025 budget.
- Committee discussed a proposal brought forward by Warden Emon to have the Warden for the County of Renfrew elected at-large. Direction was given to staff to explore this option and bring a report back to the committee in the second quarter of 2026.

# Community Services Committee

**Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair**

- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has confirmed a 2025-2026 investment of \$3,569,200 under the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), consistent with the allocation provided for the previous fiscal year. However, ongoing pressures, including increasing rates of homelessness, escalating rental costs, a critical shortage of affordable housing, and social assistance rates that have remained unchanged since 2018, continue to place significant demands on this limited budget. The attached recommendations for the 2025-2026 fiscal year reflect a review of expenditures during the first five months and propose a strategic reduction in the number of programs supported. This approach aims to concentrate available resources on the areas of greatest need, while acknowledging that the current funding is insufficient to meet the full scope of local demand. The Community Services Committee approved the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Investment Plan for 2025-2026 to be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

# Health Committee

**Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair**

- The Ministry of Health has formally approved the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service to proceed with the implementation of the Low Acuity Disposition Patient Care Model, also known as SMART Transportation. Over the past year, paramedic services across the region have been actively training their staff in preparation for this important initiative. This model represents a significant cultural shift and marks the future of paramedicine delivering the right care, at the right time, in the right place. SMART Transportation is a province-wide initiative that enables paramedics to utilize clinical care pathways to treat and refer patients directly to local services such as Mesa, RC VTAC, and Clinical Assessment Centres. This approach helps ensure individualized care, reduces avoidable emergency department visits, and improves overall patient outcomes. From October to December 2024, the County of Renfrew delivered training to all paramedics, with costs reimbursed by the City of Ottawa through Ontario Health. The Paramedic Service is enthusiastic about advancing clinical knowledge and skills, and we remain optimistic about the evolving role of paramedics within these new care pathways; working to better serve the residents of Renfrew County.
- County Council approved an additional 1,824 hours per year of part-time Food Service Worker hours for Bonnechere Manor effective October 1, 2025.
- County Council approved an additional 3,368 hours per year of part-time Personal Support Worker hours for Miramichi Lodge effective October 1, 2025.
- County Council approve a business case to add one Nurse Practitioner in community programs to the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.
- County Council approved a business case to add Casual Administrative Commanders to the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.

## Additional Information

**Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk**  
613-735-7288

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# Canada Post Alert

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Posted on Wednesday, October 01, 2025

🚫 **Public Service Announcement – Canada Post Labour Disruption** Please be advised that due to a labour disruption at Canada Post, there may be delays in: ♦ Receiving notices ♦ Sending payments ♦ Exercising options related to matters handled by the **Provincial Offences Court**, administered by the **County of Renfrew**. ✅ **Electronic and in-person options remain available** for payments and correspondence. If you need assistance, please contact Court's Administration directly: 📞 613-735-3482 Thank you for your understanding.

Announce de Service Public – Grève du travail a Poste Canada

Veuillez noter qu'en raison d'une perturbation du travail à Postes Canada, il peut y avoir des retards dans :

Recevoir des avis

Envoyer des paiements

Exercer des option liées aux affaires traitées par le bureau des Infraction Provinciale du Compte de Renfrew.

Service électronique ou en person est disponible pour paiement et la correspondance.

Si vous avez besoin d'aide, veuillez contacter directement le bureau des infractions provinciale au 613-735-3482.



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# Taste of the Valley event in Cobden

## October 18

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Posted on Monday, October 06, 2025



*The fourth and largest Taste of the Valley of the season takes place October 18 at the Cobden Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature more than 130 vendors in the parking lot and inside the Agricultural Hall.*

### **RELEASE DATE:**

October 6, 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.

The fourth and largest event of the 2025 Taste of the Valley season is in Cobden on Saturday, October 18, being held at the Cobden Fairgrounds (43 Astrolabe Rd. Cobden) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 Cobden event, featuring more than 130 vendors set up in the parking lot and inside the Agricultural Hall, 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.

"Whitewater is so excited to host The Taste of the Valley! It is a true celebration of local entrepreneurship, where every exhibitor tells a story of our greater community and its people," said Whitewater Region Mayor Neil Nicholson. "The passion for quality really shines, making this an event that attracts so many people who want to get a taste of what rural Ontario offers."

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

- Whitewater Region (October 18 – Cobden Fairgrounds and Ag Hall)
- Pembroke (December 13 Holiday Edition – Knights of Columbus Hall)

"As one of the original and largest Taste of the Valley events of the season, this celebration in Cobden truly captures the spirit of Renfrew County," says Scott Hamilton, Economic Development Coordinator with the County of Renfrew. "It's a vibrant showcase of our local culture and community, offering an unmatched opportunity to meet the farmers, artisans, and creators who define our region and to savour the flavours and craftsmanship that make Renfrew County exceptional."

For more information about Taste of the Valley, visit [www.TOTV.ca](http://www.TOTV.ca) or follow on social media at @TasteoftheValleyRC.

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

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

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



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

## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, October 03, 2025)

### **RCDHU Launches Fall Vaccine Clinics for COVID-19, Flu, and RSV**

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is launching its Fall Vaccine Program, offering COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunization clinics. RCDHU clinics for higher-risk and priority groups begin on October 7<sup>th</sup>, and COVID-19 and flu vaccinations become available for everyone on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

"I strongly encourage everyone to get their COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccines as soon as they're eligible," says Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU. "It's the best way to protect yourself and others from respiratory illness, while also reducing strain on our healthcare system throughout the fall and winter."

### **COVID-19, Flu, and Adult RSV Immunization**

RCDHU will be providing COVID-19, flu, and adult RSV immunizations through mass immunization clinics. A significant change this year is that publicly funded **adult RSV vaccination is now available to everyone age 75 and older**.

Eligible **high-risk individuals and priority groups can now book an appointment**. Limited walk-in availability may be offered. To book an appointment for COVID-19, Flu, and/or Adult RSV vaccination, **please use our new [online appointment booking system](#)**, or call 613-732-9436.

COVID-19 and flu vaccines are also available through participating pharmacies and healthcare providers, while adult RSV vaccines are also available through participating healthcare providers.

### **Who's Eligible Now?**

#### **COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Eligibility**

- Adults 65+
- Residents of long-term care and other congregate living settings
- Pregnant individuals
- Children aged 6 months to 4 years

- People with underlying medical conditions that increase their risk of severe illness (see [The flu | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca) for more information)
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit community members
- Healthcare workers and first responders
- Members of underserved communities
- Staff and care providers in congregate living settings
- Individuals with high-risk occupational exposure to birds or mammals (e.g., poultry, livestock, wildlife workers)
- For COVID-19 vaccination, please ensure it has been **at least 3 months since your last COVID-19 vaccine**.

Starting **October 27<sup>th</sup>**, COVID-19 and flu vaccines will be available to **everyone aged 6 months and older** through RCDHU clinics, pharmacies, and healthcare providers.

### **Adult RSV Vaccine Eligibility**

- Adults 75+
- Adults 60+ at higher risk of severe illness (e.g., long-term care residents, dialysis patients, transplant recipients, people experiencing homelessness, Indigenous community members)

The RSV vaccine provides multiple seasons of protection, so only those who have not previously been vaccinated against RSV are eligible.

For all RCDHU COVID-19, flu, and adult RSV vaccination clinic dates and locations, visit [COVID-19, Flu, and RSV - Renfrew County and District Health Unit](#).

### **Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Immunization**

RSV can cause severe illness and complications in infants, including hospitalization and intensive care unit admission. Immunization with RSV antibody is once again available and recommended to protect infants and high-risk children against RSV infection this fall.

### **Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Immunization Eligibility**

- Infants born after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and under 8 months
- Children up to 24 months of age with qualifying medical conditions (visit [Respiratory Syncytial Virus | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca) for more information).

To book an **RSV immunization appointment for infants and high-risk children through RCDHU**, call **613-732-9436**. RSV immunization is also available through our local birthing hospital at time of delivery.

Pregnant individuals interested in RSV vaccination should consult their healthcare provider.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
[media@rcdhu.com](mailto:media@rcdhu.com)  
Fax: 613-735-3067



## Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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### Health Protection

#### ***Infectious Diseases***

##### *Measles in Renfrew County and District (RCD):*

In July, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) confirmed an additional measles case associated with the Ontario-wide outbreak. Once again, RCDHU took a proactive approach with case and contact management. Targeted post-exposure vaccination clinics were quickly stepped up to prevent further cases. Overall, RCDHU identified, followed up with, and communicated with approximately 120 contacts.

Ongoing efforts focus on engaging at-risk populations to promote immunization and ensure completion of the measles immunization series.

##### *Measles Outbreak in Ontario:*

RCDHU continues to monitor provincial measles epidemiology closely. There have been significantly fewer cases across the province since mid-June, and fewer than 10 weekly cases since the beginning of August.

Over the course of the outbreak, the majority (73%) of cases were among infants, children, and adolescents, 96% of whom were unvaccinated.

##### *Respiratory Indicators:*

Since the beginning of July, respiratory illness indicators have been low with some variability in outbreaks and COVID-19 test percent positivity. RCD is experiencing less than 1 outbreak per week. Local influenza and RSV test percent positivity is low. COVID-19 percent positivity is beginning to trend upward into the high range; however, overall COVID-19 indicators are lower than they were at this time last year. Hospital bed occupancy due to respiratory illness is low. Emergency department visits related to respiratory illness remain low.

#### ***Immunization***

##### *Grade 7 School Based Immunization Program:*

RCDHU staff have initiated the first round of school-based Grade 7 immunization clinics for the 2025-2026 school year. Approximately 1100 Grade 7 students across the region are eligible to receive Hepatitis B, Meningococcal, and Human Papillomavirus vaccines through these clinics. Up to 42 school-based clinics have been scheduled throughout

the fall, with plans for round two clinics in the spring of 2026. As of September 10, 2025, 3 school clinics had been successfully completed.

#### *Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV):*

Starting this fall, Ontario is expanding the publicly funded RSV prevention program to include all individuals aged 75 years and older. This is in addition to adults aged 60 to 74 who meet high-risk criteria or live in higher risk settings. Only individuals who have not received a previous dose are eligible, as the vaccine provides multiple years of protection. RSV vaccination will be available through residents' healthcare provider or through RCDHU community immunization clinics. RSV vaccinations will not be available through pharmacies.

Ontario has also announced that the infant RSV prevention program will resume this fall. This program includes all infants born after March 31, 2025 and children under 2 years of age with high-risk medical conditions. Together with healthcare partners, RCDHU will ensure access to RSV immunization for this high-risk population.

#### *Influenza and COVID-19 Annual Fall Campaign:*

This year's updated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are expected by the end of September. RCDHU will offer mobile clinics to retirement homes and congregate care settings, along with community immunization clinics in October for high-risk individuals. Starting in November, the general population will be eligible, and RCDHU will continue community immunization clinics for both the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. Furthermore, the pharmacy channel will continue to serve as an access point to receive both vaccines.

### **Healthy Environments**

#### *Rabies Control Program:*

RCDHU public health inspector staff continue to investigate potential human rabies exposures as part of the health protection mandate. RCDHU has seen an unprecedented increase in bat exposures this year, particularly over the warm summer months. These exposures resulted in a greatly increased need for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) vaccination and immunoglobulin for those exposed, with PEP administered to 65 people in July and August. Furthermore, there have been 64 bat-related exposure investigations completed so far in 2025. Overall, in 2025, 36 animals have been submitted for rabies testing. Of these, 27 were bat submissions and one of those was positive for rabies in July. As a result, RCDHU issued a [media release](#) to notify the public and reinforce public health and safety messaging.

#### *Safe Water Program:*

Public Beach Sampling occurs during the busy summer season when recreational swimming is most popular. The sampling program started at the end of June and ended in the last week of August. No beaches needed to be posted as unsafe to swim due to bacteria levels this summer. However, there was one beach posting due to the presence of a blue-green algae bloom.

#### *Vector borne Disease Control Program:*

RCDHU completed the mosquito testing program once again this past summer (over a



10-week period). A total of 119 mosquito pools were tested for West Nile virus from 48 trapping locations across RCD. All mosquito pools tested negative for West Nile virus this year.

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

RCDHU responded to four multi-day heat events and two multi-day air quality events from June to the end of August. In each instance, RCDHU issued timely notifications to both community partners and the public, accompanied by health and safety messaging to mitigate risks associated with extreme environmental conditions.

To further support vulnerable populations, RCDHU invited municipal partners to share information about any cooling centres or clean air shelters they were operating. This information was used to enhance public awareness and ensure targeted outreach to priority populations. RCDHU also provided recommendations to agencies and organizations serving these groups.

Following the confirmed measles cases in April, RCDHU facilitated structured debrief sessions with staff and management. These sessions focused on identifying lessons learned and opportunities for quality improvement to strengthen future emergency outbreak response and coordination.

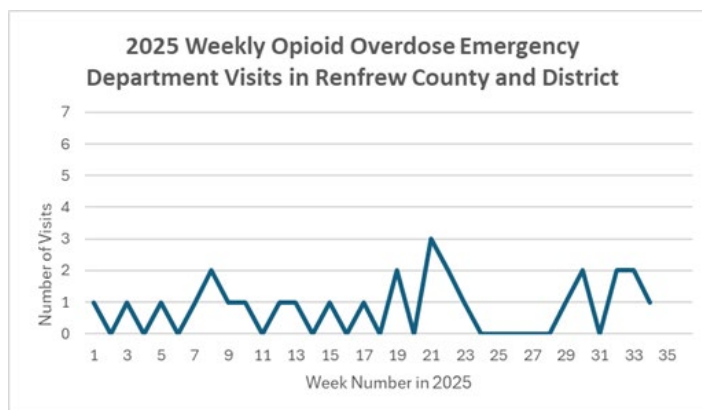
## **Health Promotion**

### **Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS)**

Implementation of the priorities of the RCDDS is underway and a mid-year [progress report](#) and [media release](#) were published in July to update the public and partner organizations on some of the early successes across the four pillars of the RCDDS.

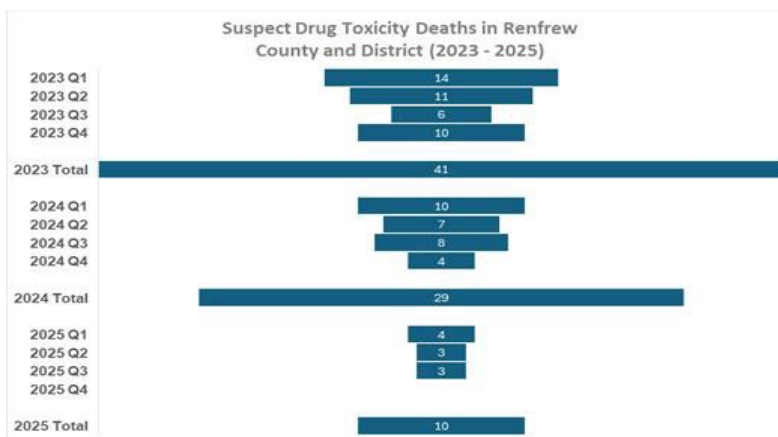
#### *RCDDS Substance Use Harm Indicators:*

As of August 24<sup>th</sup>, there were 28 emergency department visits related to opioid overdoses, which is an increase of 8 since the June update. This represents a 59% decrease, when compared to the 69 visits that occurred during the same period in 2024.



As of August 28<sup>th</sup>, there had been 3 additional suspect drug toxicity deaths since our

previous update and 10 since the beginning of the year. This represents a 60% decrease, when compared to the 25 deaths that occurred during the same period in 2024 and a 68% decrease in contrast to 2023.



### **Outreach Team and SPRITE Testing**

The Outreach Team continues to bring RCDHU services to clients across RCD and forge new partnerships with community agencies. In 2025, as of the end of August, the Outreach Team had completed 76 visits to 19 different sites across RCD. During those visits, 384 naloxone kits were distributed and 241 new people were trained in their use. The Team had over 1700 interactions with clients throughout these visits. The Team continues to provide harm reduction and sexual health supplies, offer sexual health testing, and connect clients to other RCDHU services or community partners where needed.

SPRITE testing continues to be offered at Outreach Team events and at RCDHU's Pembroke office. As of Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 188 tests for syphilis, HIV, and hepatitis C have been completed under this program. Individuals that test positive have been successfully referred for follow-up and treatment. Most of the clients tested are at high risk for acquiring sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections and do not have a family doctor or the means to seek out testing on their own.

### **Measles Redeployment**

In response to a reported case of measles in the community in July, Health Promotion nurses and support staff were redeployed to assist with measles contact management and testing. In-home testing for measles was completed by the Outreach Team. Staff from the Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Sexual Health, and Outreach programs supported the response with measles vaccinations, contact management, and workload coverage for other infectious diseases.

### **Oral Health**

#### *Summer Community Dental Screening Clinics:*

Over the summer months, RCDHU's school oral health Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) hosted 8 community dental screening clinics across RCD, in partnership with

local public libraries. Alongside RCDHU staff, Service Canada staff attended to promote and enroll clients in the federally funded oral health program, the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). RCDHU staff integrated the feedback from last year's screening clinics, making this year even more successful. RCDHU staff screened and assisted a total of 113 RCD residents, including 13 infants, 42 children, 41 adults, and 17 seniors.

In addition to dental screenings, RCDHU staff provided 22 fluoride applications and directly enrolled 12 individuals into provincially funded oral health programs. They also addressed a wide range of oral health questions and helped connect families with appropriate dental coverage to ensure they can access the care they need. Clinics were hosted in Petawawa, Whitney, Arnprior, Killaloe, Deep River, Pembroke, Renfrew, and Calabogie.



Samantha Zadow, RDH (left) and Michala Vanderploeg, RDH (right) at the Petawawa Public Library.

Submitted by:

Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health  
Renfrew County and District Health Unit

**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - September 18, 2025



September 18, 2025

**In This Issue:**

- AMO Work-Learn Institute Municipal Talent Project.
- Funding readiness, protecting communities: Apply for CEPG!
- Rural Ontario Development Program opens for applications.
- Ontario Community Environment Fund: apply by Sept 24.
- Household Food Waste Prevention Webinar.
- Applications open for 2025 Cyber Security Cooperation program.
- Indigenous Community Awareness Training - September 24.
- Mastering Crisis Communications Training - October 8-9.
- Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors Training - October 21.
- Healthy Democracy Forum - Important conversations for October 2026 election.
- AMO Trade and Tariff Forum - Understanding and planning for Ontario's future.
- Canoe newsletter - new supplier updates.
- Upgrade your lights before they become obsolete.
- Pembina Institute Guide on Granting Municipal Support Confirmations.
- Register Today for OMSSA's 2025 Virtual Forum!
- IESO LT2 RFP Q&A Webinar Session.
- CAO Employment Guide.
- 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**

Ontario has announced \$5 million through an application-based program to help increase emergency preparedness. Municipalities under 100,000 residents, that have not received the grant in prior years, are eligible to apply. [Applications are due October 28, 2025.](#)

The Ontario government is providing almost \$3 million through the [Ontario Community Environment Fund](#) to support community-based projects that support and restore the environment.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is accepting applications to the modernized [Rural Ontario Development \(ROD\)](#) Program. Applications are being accepted through to September 24, 2025.

### **Federal Matters**

[Register now](#) for Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) webinar series showcasing Waste Reduction and Management Division's Grant and Contribution funding recipients and their food waste prevention projects.

The Government of Canada is offering up to \$10.3 million to support initiatives enhancing cyber resilience including innovation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. [Applications are open](#) until September 25.

### **Education Opportunities**

Grow your understanding and capacity in the municipal role of protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. This training is recommended for those seeking knowledge and tools to improve and strengthen Indigenous relations and to develop their own local leadership. View full Indigenous Community Awareness training details and register [here](#).

Crises aren't planned – but communication is. As a local leader, knowing how and when to respond is critical for stability in your community during a crisis. Join this training to develop, master and deliver your own messages with confidence. View full Managing Communications through Crisis training details and register [here](#).

Instances and success of cyberattacks on municipalities are increasing – are you prepared? To effectively protect your municipality, elected officials must understand how to best prepare for a cyber incident. This training focuses on understanding potential risk, identify preventative actions, and define your role during an incident. View full Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors training details and register [here](#).

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 [here](#) and to register click [here](#).

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](#).

### **LAS**

Keep up with the [Canoe Procurement Group](#) as it expands to meet even more of your needs. [Subscribe to the Trader Newsletter](#) for supplier updates, education opportunities, and special promotions.

Starting January 1, 2026 mercury containing lights will be prohibited. Be sure to include a [Facility Lighting upgrade](#) in your 2026 budget so you can keep your spaces lit. [Contact Christian](#) to learn how LAS can help.

### **Municipal Wire\***

The Pembina Institute has released [Power Playbook Part 2](#), a step-by-step infographic guiding Ontario municipalities through the process of granting MSCs to energy development proposals and maximizing community benefits.

Join us virtually on September 23-24 & October 7-8 to learn about the specific needs and interests across the core social services sectors. Hear from national and international experts over four mornings. [Register today](#).

The IESO is [hosting a one-hour webinar on September 25 at 3pm](#) exclusively for municipalities. This Q&A session is aimed at supporting communities by providing a forum to answer any questions you may have about the process.

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

Looking for tools to support and invest in new hires? Register for OPPI's [Employer Readiness course](#). It includes an AMO supported employer handbook exploring HR best practices for retention and long-term success.

This [free AdvantAge webinar](#) on October 14 from 1-2pm will share insights related to long-term care governance and compliance for municipal councillors and their staff.

## Careers

[Director of Finance/ Treasurer](#) - Town of Petawawa. Closing Date: September 26, 2025.

[Director, Transportation and Fleet Management Services](#) - City of Vaughan. Closing Date: October 17, 2025

[General Manager, Development Services - Town of East Gwillimbury](#). Closing Date: October 13, 2025.

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## About AMO

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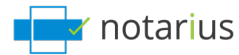
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**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - September 25, 2025



September 25, 2025

**In This Issue:**

- Get access to MIDAS!
- MECP best practices for Source Water Protection Program.
- Funding readiness, protecting communities: Apply for CEPG!
- Household Food Waste Prevention webinar.
- Applications open for 2025 Cyber Security Cooperation Program.
- Mastering Crisis Communications for Elected Officials - October 8-9.
- 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum - Program details.
- AMO Trade & Tariff Forum: Understanding and planning for Ontario's economic future.
- Understanding your Cybersecurity Risks and How to Respond - October 21.
- Show me the money webinar.
- Stay up to date with free webinars from LAS.
- IESO LT2 RFP Q&A webinar session.
- Pembina Institute Guide on Granting Municipal Support Confirmations.
- AdvantAge municipal councillors webinar: The Current LTC Environment.
- Careers.

**AMO Matters**

MIDAS - the [Municipal Information & Data Analysis System](#) - provides access to Financial Information Returns (FIRs) data to all Ontario municipalities. MIDAS converts FIR data into meaningful reports and identifies multiple year trends. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email [MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca](mailto:MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca).

**Provincial Matters**

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is accepting applications to assist municipalities and First Nations communities to develop source water protection action plans. Applications can be submitted until October 31, 2025. Contact [SourceProtectionFunding@ontario.ca](mailto:SourceProtectionFunding@ontario.ca) for more information.

Ontario has announced \$5 million through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant, an application-based program, to help increase emergency preparedness. Municipalities under 100,000 residents, that have not received the grant in prior years, are eligible to apply. [Applications are due October 28, 2025](#).

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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](#).

## LAS

Municipal buildings account for a significant portion of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. [Show me the money webinar](#) on October 24 will explain the benefits of an energy focus while exploring and providing links to many sources of funding available to move your municipal projects forward.

LAS offers various free webinars to help keep you up to date with issues and solutions for your municipality. Stay tuned for future webinars by [visiting our website](#).

## Municipal Wire\*

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## Careers

[Occupational Health & Safety Inspector, Construction - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development](#). October 15, 2025.

[Licensed Mechanic A - Town of Oakville](#). Closing Date: September 30, 2025

[Chief Congestion Officer & Executive Director, Strategic Capital Coordination - City of Toronto](#). Closing Date: October 18, 2025.

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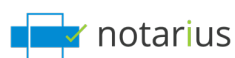
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## Kaitlyn Wendland

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - October 2, 2025



October 02, 2025

### In This Issue:

- AMO's Work-Learn Institute Municipal Talent Project.
- MECP best practices for Source Water Protection Program.
- Household Food Waste Prevention webinar.
- Mastering Crisis Communications for Elected Officials - October 8-9.
- 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum - Program details.
- AMO Trade & Tariff Forum: Understanding and planning for Ontario's economic future.
- Understanding your Cybersecurity Risks and How to Respond - October 21.
- Addressing growth through asset management.
- Blog - Solutions for Failing Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.
- Show me the money webinar.
- Fluorescent lamps phase-out - Is your municipality ready?
- MADD Canada releases recommendations for municipalities.
- Pembina Institute Guide on Granting Municipal Support Confirmations.
- OPPI's Fall Employer Readiness course.
- AdvantAge municipal councillors webinar: The Current LTC Environment.
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Join us next week on October 7th at 1 PM for a panel on [growth and asset management](#) and capital planning. Pose questions to municipal staff from Muskoka, Thunder Bay, Centre Wellington, and Minto. [Register here](#).

### **LAS**

Much of the essential Ontario municipal water and wastewater infrastructure is in need of repair, and the costs are substantial, especially for the portions of the system that are the responsibility of private homeowners. [Read about an available solution](#) in our latest blog.

Municipal buildings account for a significant portion of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. [Show me the money webinar](#) on October 24 will explain the benefits of an energy focus while exploring and providing links to many sources of funding available to move your municipal projects forward.

Starting 1 January 2026, federal regulations will begin phasing out mercury-containing lamps, including fluorescent and HID lighting. How ready is your municipality? Join us for a free webinar on October 29 to learn more. [Register here to attend](#).

### **Municipal Wire\***

MADD Canada has released their [Top 10 Report](#) outlining what municipalities can do to minimize impaired driving and support those impacted.

The Pembina Institute has released [Power Playbook Part 2](#), a step-by-step infographic guiding Ontario municipalities through the process of granting MSCs to energy development proposals and maximizing community benefits.

Looking for tools to support and invest in new hires? Register for OPPI's [Employer Readiness course](#). It includes an AMO supported employer handbook exploring HR best practices for retention and long-term success.

This [free AdvantAge webinar](#) on October 14 from 1-2pm will share insights related to long-term care governance and compliance for municipal councillors and their staff.

## Careers

[Specialist, Labour Relations - City of London](#). Closing date: September 30, 2025

[Chief Administrative Officer - Toronto Police Service Board](#). Closing Date: October 29, 2025.

[Physician Recruitment and Engagement Specialist - City of Quinte West](#). Closing Date: October 17, 2025

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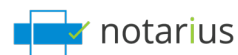
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**Kaitlyn Wendland**

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**From:** AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 3, 2025 12:01 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** Can tariffs improve economic resiliency?



## **Economic Resiliency for Healthy Communities**

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

**October 24, 2025**

**Sheraton Centre Hotel Toronto – 123 Queen St West**

Hello AMO Member,

Municipalities own and operate ~65% of local infrastructure but only maintain 9 cents of every tax dollar.

You know better than anyone that municipalities are the ones doing the heavy lifting and the impacts of tariff disruptions are very real for our communities. They're also bringing to the forefront issues that we've been speaking to for years. Perhaps this can be a time for change.

**Join us on October 24th at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto.** Together, we'll discuss how we can use these situations to address the deep-rooted issues municipalities are facing. We'll also generate ideas to strengthen our communities and share some best practises to promote tourism, support local businesses and more.

[\*\*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

For more program information click [here](#).

**Registration:**

\$375.00 +HST

**Accommodations**

[Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen Street West](#)

AMO has secured preferred rates of \$349 per night until **October 9, 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](mailto:events@amo.on.ca) with any questions.

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**From:** AMO Education <events@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 3, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** Cyberattacks on Municipalities Are Rising – Learn How to Respond



## **Cyberattacks on municipalities are on the rise**

### **Cybersecurity for Municipal Councilors Workshop**

**October 21, 2025 - Virtual**

Dear AMO Member,

Last year, 55% of municipalities and other public organizations experienced a cyberattack. That's up from 38% in 2023. The number of successful attacks also rose, from 22% to 29%, according to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario's annual report.

AMO has partnered with the Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst to create a [workshop](#) that will help municipal leaders understand how to best protect their municipalities, and how to lead them through a cyber incident.

[Register Now](#)

This half-day session is comprised of short lectures, guided discussions, and activities focused on understanding the cyber threats and risks posted to municipalities, identify preventative actions and best practices, and define the role of the elected official in cyber security and during incidents.

**Date: October 21, 2025**

**Timing: 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**Location: Virtual Event**

**Fee: \$300 +HST (Individual registration)**  
**Cancellation fee: \$75.00 (up to 1 week prior to event)**

**Register today.**

Questions? Reach out to [events@amo.on.ca](mailto:events@amo.on.ca).

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Inquires: [events@amo.on.ca](mailto:events@amo.on.ca)

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**From:** AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 7, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** What's your role in our economic future?



## **What's Your Role in Building Ontario's Economic Future**

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

**October 24, 2025**

**Sheraton Centre Hotel Toronto-123 Queen Street West**

Dear AMO Member,

The economic and diplomatic consequences of trade and tariff disruptions will continue for many years. Join us on October 24th, where fellow AMO members and subject matter experts will gather to plan today for a stronger and more stable Ontario.

#### **Registration Information**

\$375.00 plus HST

[\*\*Register Now\*\*](#)

#### **Who Should Attend?**

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

## Meet the Speakers for the Opening Panel Remarks



**The Hon. Victor Fedeli**

Minister of Economic Development,  
Job Creation & Trade

**Tabatha Bull**

President & CEO,  
Canadian Council for Indigenous  
Business



**Robin Jones**

Mayor, Village of Westport  
President, Association of Municipalities  
of Ontario





## Riley Brockington

Councilor, City of Ottawa  
Board Member, Association of Municipalities  
of Ontario



[Read More](#)

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### Registration Information

\$375.00 plus HST. [Click here to register.](#)

### Accommodations

[Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen Street West](#)

[Click Here to book your accommodations](#)

For any questions, feel free to contact us at [events@amo.on.ca](mailto:events@amo.on.ca).

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

**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 3, 2025 1:05 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Response to OPP Cost Recovery Model, Continued Automated Speed Enforcement Advocacy, and Consultation on Aggregate Resources Act Program



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## **AMO Policy Update – Response to OPP Cost Recovery Model, Continued Automated Speed Enforcement Advocacy, and Consultation on *Aggregate Resources Act* Program**

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### **Top Insights**

- The province's review of the OPP cost recovery model has resulted in new regulatory amendments to municipal payments for OPP policing, but no long-term solutions to growing cost pressures.
- AMO releases updated resources to support member advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement.
- AMO supports efforts to modernize the aggregate management framework with the condition that the province strengthen inspection and enforcement.

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### **Regulatory Amendments Made to Amount Payable by Municipalities for OPP Policing**

Earlier this spring, the Ministry of the Solicitor General conducted a review of the OPP cost recovery model. AMO provided feedback in a [letter](#) to Minister

Kerzner as part of this review. Recently, the Ministry announced regulatory amendments to [Ontario Regulation 413/23: Amount Payable by Municipalities for Policing from Ontario Provincial Police under the \*Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019\*](#). The amendments are now in effect and will inform the 2026 annual billing statements, which are expected in November.

In a letter to impacted Heads of Council, the Ministry has committed to:

- An 11% cap on the increase in policing costs owed by municipalities for the 2026 calendar year, and
- Lowering the threshold for qualifying for calls for service and overtime discounts to lower costs for municipalities three or more standard deviations above the average. This new threshold will apply to the 2026 billing year and future years.

Unfortunately, these changes do not provide a long-term solution to the growing policing cost pressures municipalities across Ontario are facing. In addition, preliminary analysis suggests that very few municipalities will benefit from the lower threshold levels. AMO is reviewing the amendments closely to determine their impact on municipalities and will continue to update our members as we prepare a response to the government.

### **AMO Continues to Advocate for Speed Cameras as an Evidence-Based Road Safety Tool**

Last week, the Premier announced that he intends to introduce legislation to prohibit the use of municipal automated speed enforcement. AMO will continue advocating on behalf of the municipal sector that these tools work to reduce speeds and their use should be a local decision.

AMO has updated our communications tool kit to support municipalities in continued advocacy, including a social media toolkit ([Images](#) and [Canva Templates](#)) a template [council resolution](#), [MPP letter](#), and [key messages](#).

We will also be sharing a survey with municipalities that have ASE programs to ensure we have the best data available to support evidence-based advocacy.

### **AMO Responds to Provincial Consultation on Modernizing the Aggregate Management Program**

AMO has [submitted comments](#) in response to the Ministry of Natural Resources [proposing to modernize](#) the delivery of the *Aggregate Resources Act* (ARA) program. The proposal is intended to streamline and provide clarity on requirements of the aggregate management program by updating, combining, and removing outdated and inaccurate policies.

AMO supports, in principle, efforts to modernize Ontario's aggregate management framework with the condition that efforts are also taken to modernize and strengthen inspection and enforcement in parallel.

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*An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).*

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**From:** AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:01 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** Building Stronger Local Democracy Together – AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum



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

**October 18 – 19, 2025**

**Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Ontario**

As local leaders and community look ahead to October 2026, AMO's 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum will be examining a number of key issues to understand and support your leadership and your community's engagement.

Join AMO, municipal leaders, sector leaders, academics, and others as we look into encouraging voter turn out and civility and anti-harassment strategies.

Day one of **AMO's 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum** focuses on actionable steps toward improving voter turnout in the 2026 elections, while day 2 will examine trends in poor behaviour and what we can do for Ontario's communities and municipal leaders.

For the full program click [here](#).

### **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:

- 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

### **Registration**

Full 2 days: \$150.00 +HST

Single day: \$75.00 +HST

[Register Here](#)

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

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**Kaitlyn Wendland**

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**From:** AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 8:01 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** You're invited: Solutions to trade and tariff impacts



## **Support Economic Development Amidst 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,

Municipal infrastructure development is key for economic growth across Ontario.

The pandemic brought higher construction costs. Now, tariff and trade disruptions are adding another layer of real complexities to development conversations that are impacting the overall quality of life in our communities. And it's the smaller municipalities that rely on manufacturing industries that are impacted the most.

**Join us on October 24th at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto.** You'll hear from experts on the vital role municipalities play in finding solutions and driving continued development in the face of uncertainty.

Now is the time to be making smart decisions and prioritizing key projects. Our expert panel discussions can help.

[\*\*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

For more program information click [here](#).

### **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](mailto:events@amo.on.ca) with any questions.

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 9:48 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - AMO's Response to the Planned Automated Speed Enforcement Ban



---

## **AMO Policy Update – AMO's Response to the Planned Automated Speed Enforcement Ban**

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### **Top Insights**

- Premier Ford announced a province-wide ban on municipal automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras, which will be included in a fall Bill and, if passed, would take effect upon Royal Assent.
- AMO is disappointed with the decision, highlighting that ASE cameras have a proven record of increasing road safety, free up police to focus on other crimes, and are paid for by speeders, not taxpayers. A ban is provincial over-reach.
- AMO will advocate against the ban. It will also gather data from municipalities to quantify the ban's financial impact. This data will be used to request that the province fund the costs.

---

### **AMO's Response to the Planned Automated Speed Enforcement Ban**

Yesterday, Premier Ford [announced](#) a province-wide ban on municipal ASE cameras. The ban, to be introduced in a fall Bill, would take effect upon Royal Assent if passed. Other elements of the plan include:

- Requirements for signs. Municipalities with existing ASE cameras in school zones must install large new signs to slow down drivers by mid-November 2025, with permanent, large signs with flashing lights to be in place by September 2026.
- A new provincial fund. A fund will be created for impacted municipalities to implement traffic calming road improvements, such as speed bumps, roundabouts, and signage, as well as public education initiatives.

AMO is disappointed the Premier is taking steps to ban municipal ASE. There is strong evidence showing that ASE cameras work. People slow down, making our roads safer and protecting all of us – especially kids. We all care about road safety, but we also care about community safety. ASE also frees up police to focus on high priority crime, which is what Ontarians want. Speeders – not taxpayers – pay the cost. If there's an issue of fairness or how the cameras are used, municipalities with AMO can work together with the province to address it. We can have safer streets, efficient enforcement, and fair enforcement. Further, municipalities need a broad range of tools to improve road safety. We are also concerned about continued provincial over-reach. This should be a local decision. Municipalities are an accountable, elected order of government.

AMO will continue to engage with the Ministry of Transportation, sharing our sector's concerns about a province-wide municipal ban and offering advice on potential program improvements. We will also provide comments to the Bill's Standing Committee. Our goal is to advocate for working with the province to improve – not ban – the ASE program.

As a next step, we will ask municipalities with ASE programs for data to quantify the financial impact of a ban, which will support our request for the province to fund the costs of their imposed ban if it proceeds.

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*An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).*

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:46 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Call to Amplify Automated Speed Enforcement Advocacy, 2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund Allocation



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## AMO Policy Update – Call to Amplify Automated Speed Enforcement Advocacy, 2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund Allocation

### Top Insights

- AMO continues to advocate to the province to work with municipalities on the effective use of **Automated Speed Enforcement** as a proven tool for improving road safety. AMO is sharing tools to help municipalities across the province amplify this advocacy.
- The province has announced allocation of its 2026 \$400 million **Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund**, with an increase to the minimum grant threshold.

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### Call to Amplify Automated Speed Enforcement Advocacy

Following the province's decision to enable Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) in 2019, there is real evidence that it is an effective and evidence-based tool for improving road safety in our communities.

AMO has been engaging with municipalities and stakeholders to understand the impact of the program across the province. The Ontario Association of

Chiefs of Police [released a statement](#) earlier today supporting the use of ASE tools as an important element in enhancing traffic safety.

AMO calls on Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria to work with municipalities and AMO to ensure the effective use of ASE and to improve public understanding of its importance to road safety.

For municipalities, AMO has developed a social media toolkit ([Images](#) and [Canva Templates](#)), [MPP letter template](#), and [resolution template](#) to support this advocacy with the province.

## **2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund Allocation**

2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund allocation notices were sent to eligible municipalities on Tuesday, September 16th. The province's [announcement](#) confirmed it is allocating the previously announced \$400 million provincial investment.

Under [the program](#), the province is providing \$400 million to 423 small, rural and northern communities for core municipal systems such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater. The province has also increased the minimum grant amount for municipalities to \$125,000 from \$100,000, which reflects the higher cost of building and the need for more infrastructure investment.

AMO welcomes the province's infrastructure investment and an increase to the minimum grant. As a predictable and reliable source of infrastructure investment, this fund is critical to enabling municipalities across the province to deliver the services Ontarians depend on.

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*An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).*

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# Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin

Chìbayatigo-kìjigad Kakone Kizis 19th, 2025  
Friday September 19th, 2025

[www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com](http://www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com) 613-625-2800

## Content:

- Council update
- News & Events
  - Youth Basketball
  - Culture Camp
- Health Updates
  - Lunch & Learn
  - Eye Exams
  - Aging in place
- Resources & Phone numbers
- Job Readiness Program
- Employment Opportunities
  - Project Coordinator
  - Bus Monitor
  - Bus Monitor
  - ECE
  - PSW
- External Employment Opportunities
  - Roofing Laborer
  - Outreach and communications lead
  - Outreach and communications assistant
- Membership Additions
- Community Information

**Read the full  
newsletter**

## NOTICE

In honour of Truth and  
Reconciliation Day, the Regular  
Council meeting has been  
rescheduled to

**Tuesday,  
September 23, 2025**



**The Admin Office  
will be closed**

**Tuesday Sept  
30th**

**The office will  
re-open  
Wednesday Oct  
1st**







# Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin

Chìbayatigo-kìjigad Kakone Kizis 26th, 2025

Friday September 26th, 2025

[www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com](http://www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com) 613-625-2800

## Content:

- Council update
- News & Events
  - Culture Camp
  - Algonquin Park Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems
  - Harvest Information
- Health Updates
  - Active Living Fair
  - Aging in place
  - Lunch and Learn
  - Heart Diseases Screening Day
  - Carrot and Ginger Soup
- Resources & Phone numbers
- Job Readiness Program
- Employment Opportunities
  - Project Coordinator
  - Bus Monitor
  - Bus Monitor
  - ECE
  - PSW
  - Admin Assistant
  - Employment Development Coordinator
- External Employment Opportunities
  - Roofing Laborer
- Membership Additions
- Community Information

[Read the full newsletter](#)

## Membership Notice

Please update your mailing address with Lands, Estate and Membership to ensure you get the latest news, Christmas card and upcoming election

➤ Contact - Curtis Jahn at 613.625.2800 ext 231  
Email - [coordinator.lem@pikwakanagan.ca](mailto:coordinator.lem@pikwakanagan.ca)

**The Admin Office  
will be closed**

**Tuesday Sept  
30th**

**The office will  
re-open  
Wednesday Oct  
1st**



# Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin

Chìbayatigo-kìjigad Namegosi Kizis 26th, 2025

Friday October 3rd , 2025

[www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com](http://www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com) 613-625-2800

## Content:

- Council update **Read the full**
- News & Events **newsletter**
  - Culture Camp
  - Algonquin Park Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems
  - Harvest Information
- Health Updates
  - Active Living Fair
  - Lunch and Learn
  - Heart Diseases Screening Day
  - Carrot and Ginger Soup
- Resources & Phone numbers
- Job Readiness Program
- Employment Opportunities
  - Employment Development Coordinator
  - Administrative Assistant
  - ECE
  - PSW
- External Employment Opportunities
  - Roofing Laborer
  - Outreach and communications lead
  - Outreach and communications assistant
- Membership Additions
- Community Information

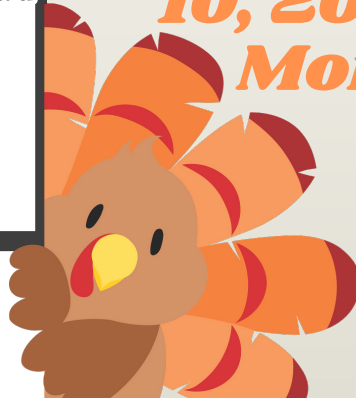
## Membership Notice

Please update your mailing address with Lands, Estate and Membership to ensure you get the latest news, Christmas card and upcoming election

➤ Contact - Curtis Jahn at 613.625.2800 ext 231  
Email - [coordinator.lem@pikwakanagan.ca](mailto:coordinator.lem@pikwakanagan.ca)



***The  
ADMINISTRATION  
office will be closed  
at 12:00 Friday Oct  
10, 2025 and all day  
Monday Oct 13,  
2025***





**Date:** September 15, 2025

**Resolution No.** COU-2025-30

**Moved By:** Councillor Wheeldon

**Seconded By:** Councillor Rowley

Whereas Canadian governments at all levels are structured by and derive their legitimacy from democratic principles, practices, and norms;

And Whereas many countries around the world are experiencing increased political polarization and hostility, shifts toward authoritarianism, and the undermining of democratic norms;

And Whereas incivility and hostility increasingly define the political sphere in Canada at every level of government, but particularly in systems with political parties;

And Whereas this hostile political climate drives lower democratic participation, including low voter turnout and fewer and less diverse political candidates, resulting in a lopsided and unhealthy democracy;

And Whereas poor political health undermines the ability of democratic institutions to exercise effective leadership and overcome the unprecedented challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;

And Whereas elections are one of the most central and participatory parts of Canadian democratic systems;

And Whereas numerous studies, including those by Parliamentary committees, have identified our First Past the Post electoral system as driving increasing polarization and declines in voter participation, and have recommended some form of proportional representation;

And Whereas electoral reform enjoys broad public support, with a majority of polling respondents who identify with every major party supporting change in the way that they vote;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Municipality of Brighton call upon the provincial and federal governments to enact electoral reform, adopting proportional systems in which every vote counts and polarization is diminished, in order to safeguard and empower Canadian democracy;

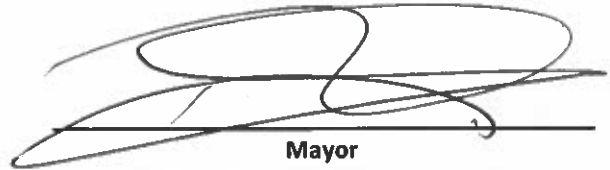
And Be It Further Resolved that this motion be circulated to Prime Minister Mark Carney, Premier Doug Ford, and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

☒

OR Defeated

☐

  
Mayor

Recorded Vote		For Clerks Use Only			
Recorded vote called by: _____					
	For	Against	Abstain	Absent	COI
Mayor Brian Ostrander					
Deputy Mayor Ron Anderson					
Councillor Anne Butwell					
Councillor Hannah MacAusland					
Councillor Emily Rowley					
Councillor Jeff Wheeldon					
Councillor Bobbi Wright					
<b>Total</b>					
<b>Carried</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Defeated</b> <input type="checkbox"/>					<b>Clerk's Initials</b> <input type="text"/>



October 7, 2025

Sent via email

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

The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, M.P.P., Minister of Transportation, 5<sup>th</sup> Flr, 777 Bay St. Toronto, ON, M7A 1Z8, [minister.mto@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mto@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General, M.P.P., Solicitor General, George Drew Bldg., 25 Grosvenor St. Toronto, ON, M7A 1Y6, [Minister.SOLGEN@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.SOLGEN@ontario.ca)

Ms. Dawn Gallagher Murphy, M.P.P., Unit 22, 16635 Yonge St., Newmarket, ON, L3X 1V6, [dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org](mailto:dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org)

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), 155 University Ave., Suite 800, Toronto, ON, M5H 3B7, [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

All Ontario Municipalities

**RE: Automated Speed Enforcement Resolution – Town of Newmarket**

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I am writing to advise you that at the Council meeting held on October 6, 2025, the Town of Newmarket Council adopted the following recommendations regarding the above referenced matter:

Whereas Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) is by far the most effective speed mitigation and safety tool that municipalities have had access to; and,

Whereas The Ontario Safety League has expressed that ASE is effective and that it supports the use of ASE; and,

Whereas The Ontario Association Chiefs of Police has expressed that ASE is effective and that it supports the use of ASE; and,

Whereas The Hospital for Sick Children and Toronto Metropolitan University have studied ASE and found that speed is the single most important factor in pedestrian injury risk and ASE can be an effective way to reduce that risk, especially in areas where children are most vulnerable; and,

Whereas The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) found that 73 percent of Ontario drivers slow down when nearing an ASE camera and 52 percent shared that they are unlikely to speed up after they pass through an ASE zone; and,

Whereas ASE frees up more time for police officers to attend to serious crimes, such as home invasions and auto theft; and,

Whereas One of the top complaints that Council has received from residents for decades is speeding on residential streets; and,

Whereas Since implementing ASE, Newmarket has observed between 58 percent and 90 percent reductions in the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit in the community safety zones with automated speed enforcement; and,

Whereas the Town's ASE program has recorded speeds of 125 km/hr, 113 km/h, and 96 km/h in school zones with speed limits of 40 km/h.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket opposes the Ontario Government's proposal to cancel municipal ASE programs; and,
2. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket requests the Premier of Ontario or Minister of Transportation meet with municipal leaders to develop provincial legislation, regulations and standards to ensure municipal ASE programs are fair, transparent and consistent throughout Ontario as opposed to eliminating the programs; and,
3. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket requests that the Ontario Government consider the following amendments to address Provincial concerns:
  - Only implement ASE in school zones; and,
  - Establish a province-wide minimum threshold over the speed limit at which tickets are issued; and,
  - Require extensive communication campaigns warning drivers that ASE cameras will be implemented, including warning tickets, well ahead of activating the cameras, and install permanent flashing signs at the camera locations; and,
  - Establish a maximum fine amount for ASE, and,
  - Establish a maximum number of cameras per municipality, and,
4. That copies of this motion be distributed to the following:
  - Premier Doug Ford; and,
  - Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; and,
  - Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General; and,
  - Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP, Newmarket -- Aurora; and,
  - All Ontario Municipalities; and,
  - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario.



**Legislative Services**  
Town of Newmarket  
395 Mulock Drive  
P.O. Box 328 Station Main  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

clerks@newmarket.ca  
tel.: 905-953-5300  
fax: 905-953-5100

Yours sincerely,

Simon Granat  
Legislative Coordinator



Sent by Email

October 3, 2025

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
24 Clarence Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3  
[resolutions@fcm.ca](mailto:resolutions@fcm.ca)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
155 University Ave, Suite 800  
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7  
[resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

Subject: Elect Respect

---

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on September 29, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, democracy is strengthened when all individuals can participate fully, safely, and without discrimination, contributing to the well-being of their communities;

And Whereas, democratic discourse and respectful debate are under pressure across all levels of government, including municipal councils in Ontario;

And Whereas, elected officials are increasingly facing harassment, threats, intimidation, and unsafe work environments, which undermine personal safety, deter civic participation, and erode public confidence in democratic institutions;

And Whereas, social media platforms, while enabling legitimate discourse, have also amplified abusive, discriminatory, or threatening behaviour, disproportionately affecting women, racialized persons, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities, discouraging many from seeking or remaining in public office;

And Whereas, freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracy and must be safeguarded, even as we combat unlawful harassment, violence, and hate;

And Whereas, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified troubling trends in declining voter turnout and a reduction in candidate participation at the municipal level;

And Whereas, grassroots and national initiatives such as Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.) campaign and the Parliamentary Civility Pledge led by the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians, demonstrate a growing commitment to fostering respectful, safe, and inclusive environments in political life;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation for the City of Pickering:

1. Supports the principles of the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:
  - Treat all persons with dignity and respect in public, private, and online spaces;
  - Reject and call out harassment, threats, unlawful discrimination, and personal abuse;
  - Focus public debate on policies and ideas, rather than personal attacks or identity-based commentary;
  - Build a culture of safety and inclusion, ensuring that individuals of all genders, identities, backgrounds, races, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities feel empowered to run for and serve in public office;
  - Call on relevant authorities to investigate and respond to threats or harassment directed at elected officials, in accordance with applicable laws;
  - Model accountability and integrity by holding ourselves and one another to clear, transparent, and legally grounded standards of conduct;
  - Defend freedom of expression while actively opposing abuse and intimidation in all forms;
2. Encourages elected officials, political organizations, municipalities, and members of the public to sign and support the Elect Respect pledge by visiting: [electrespect.ca](http://electrespect.ca); and,
3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament (MPPs and MPs), Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS), the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), all municipalities in Ontario, Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.), and Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel  
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy:      Ontario's Big City Mayors  
             Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament (MPPs and MPs)  
             Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS)  
             Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)  
             Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)  
             All Municipalities in Ontario  
             Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.)  
             Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians  
  
             Chief Administrative Officer

September 30, 2025

**CL 14-2025, September 25, 2025**

***DISTRIBUTION LIST***

***SENT ELECTRONICALLY***

**Motion Respecting State of Emergency on Mental Health, Homelessness and Addictions**

Regional Council, at its meeting held on September 25, 2025, passed the following motion:

WHEREAS Niagara Region issued three separate declarations of emergency in the areas of homelessness, mental health and opioid addiction on February 23, 2023, recognizing that the scope and scale of the crisis surpasses the Region's capacity to respond effectively; and

WHEREAS following the submission of the three declarations of emergency, the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) has engaged with the Region's Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC); and

WHEREAS these issues have continued to intensify and add further strain to the social support system in Niagara over the past two years; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are continuing to experience similar challenges; and

WHEREAS a coordinated, province-wide approach and associated funding support is required to address the growing emergency of mental health, homelessness and opioid addiction, the scale of which falls well beyond the scope of what a municipality can address.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That Niagara Region **ADVOCATES** that the Province support a coordinated approach between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to address ongoing challenges related to mental health, homelessness and opioid addiction;
2. That Niagara Region **FORMALLY ADVOCATES** for Provincial funding to address identified gaps in programs and services contributing to the state of emergency including affordable housing, supportive housing, addictions treatment, and mental health supports for vulnerable populations; and

3. That this motion **BE SENT** to the Provincial and Federal Governments, FCM, AMO and all municipalities in Ontario.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk

:kl

CLK-C 2025-109

Distribution List

Premier of Ontario  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities

September 26, 2025

Ministry of Energy and Mines  
77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2C1

Re: Support Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion

This is to confirm that at the September 15, 2025, Corporate Services Committee Meeting the following resolution was adopted with respect to the above noted matter:

Supports the Ministry's consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion (NGEP Phase 3) and endorses access to natural gas as an option to other energy solutions to advance the Township of West Lincoln's housing, employment lands, and economic development objectives.

Directs staff to submit comments to ERO 0250923 reflecting Township of West Lincoln's priorities, including: priority application types, alignment with Official Plan/Secondary Plans, sites and corridors where gas access would enable development (housing/employment lands), any Phase 1 and 2 learnings (if applicable) and practical barriers (e.g., timing, permitting, costs, land access).

Forwards this resolution to MPP Sam Oosterhoff, the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Ontario Energy Board, AMO, and neighbouring municipalities.

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

Yours Truly,



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

JJP/jmt

cc. Sam Oosterhoff, MPP  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Niagara Region Municipalities  
Ontario Board of Energy



**AMANDA FUSCO**

Director of Legislated Services & City Clerk  
Corporate Services Department  
Kitchener City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
200 King Street West, P.O. Box 1118  
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7  
Phone: 519.904.1402 Fax: 519.741.2705  
[amanda.fusco@kitchener.ca](mailto:amanda.fusco@kitchener.ca)  
TTY: 519-741-2385

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

September 26, 2025

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

Dear Premier Ford:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on August 25, 2025, passed the following resolution regarding postage:

"WHEREAS Postage costs have seen significant increases, including 25% in 2025 alone;

WHEREAS paper billing has a further environmental cost in both materials (trees) and transportation;

WHEREAS paper billing is increasingly being displaced by environmentally friendly and cost-efficient e-billing;

WHEREAS the Municipal Act indicates the right to a paper bill, and cost-recovery fees for paper billing for tax, and utility bills are unclear;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Kitchener City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend the Municipal Act to permit municipalities the ability to grandfather-out paper billing as the default option, and to permit municipalities to establish fees for paper billing for new accounts that opt for this method of delivery;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that a copy of this motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and housing, all other municipalities within Ontario for their consideration and possible endorsement."



Yours truly,



---

A. Fusco  
Director of Legislated Services & City Clerk

Cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)  
Sloane Sweazey, Senior Policy Advisor, City of Kitchener  
Ontario Municipalities

September 24, 2025

**To:** The Right Honourable Mark Carney

**Subject:** Urgent Appeal Regarding Canada Post Labour Dispute and Impact on Municipal Communications

Dear Mr. Carney

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Bonfield, I am writing to express our concern regarding the ongoing labour dispute between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), which remains unresolved despite months of negotiations.

As you are aware, CUPW has suspended the delivery of flyers nationwide in an effort to encourage Canada Post to return to the bargaining table. While we respect the rights of workers to collectively bargain, this suspension has had a significant impact on businesses, non-profit organizations, and municipal governments, limiting our ability to communicate essential information to our residents.

The Township of Bonfield, like many rural municipalities, has limited internet connectivity and relies heavily on Canada Post for the distribution of newsletters and other important communications. The interruption in mail services directly affects our capacity to keep residents informed on municipal matters, emergency notifications, and other critical community information.

**Therefore, be advised that the Council of the Township of Bonfield:**

1. Urges the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Federal Government to promptly return to the negotiating table; and
2. Calls upon CUPW to reconsider the suspension of flyer deliveries, including municipal communications, to ensure the continued dissemination of critical community information.

A copy of this resolution has been sent to the Nipissing–Timiskaming MP, Pauline Rochefort, Nipissing MPP, Vic Fedeli, Canada Post, the CUPW President, FONOM, and AMO.

*Small Community. Big Heart*



We respectfully request your attention to this matter to help facilitate a timely resolution, ensuring that municipalities like Bonfield can continue to effectively communicate with their residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrée Gagné". The script is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Andrée Gagné  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer  
Township of Bonfield





# BONFIELD TOWNSHIP

## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK

365 HIGHWAY 531

BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: [deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com](mailto:deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com)

### RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

September 23rd, 2025

#### Motion 5

Moved by Councillor MacInnis

Seconded by Councillor Corbett

WHEREAS the labour dispute between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) remains unresolved despite months of negotiations; AND WHEREAS CUPW has suspended the delivery of flyers nationwide in an effort to bring Canada Post back to the bargaining table; AND WHEREAS this suspension significantly impacts businesses, non-profit organizations, and municipal governments, limiting their ability to communicate essential information; AND WHEREAS many rural municipalities, including the Township of Bonfield, have limited internet connectivity and rely heavily on Canada Post for the distribution of newsletters and other important communications to residents; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Bonfield:

1. Urges the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Federal Government to promptly return to the negotiating table; and
2. Calls upon CUPW to reconsider the suspension of flyer deliveries, which includes municipal communications, to ensure the continued dissemination of critical community information

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Nipissing Timiskaming MP, Pauline Rochefort, Nipissing MPP, Vic Fedeli, Canada Post, CUPW President, FONOM, and AMO.

Carried

#### DIVISION VOTE

FOR

Donna Clark

Jason Corbett

Steve Featherstone

Dan MacInnis

Narry Paquette

AGAINST

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest/Conflict of Interest

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of Resolution No.5 of the Township of Bonfield's Regular Council Meeting of September 23rd, 2025, and which Resolution is in full force and effect.

  
Andrée Gagné

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF DRYDEN

**MOVED BY:** Price

**DATE:** 22-Sep-25

**SECONDED BY:** Klewning

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 14

Whereas drowning is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths among children in Ontario and research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario shows that most children who drown never intended to be in the water; and

Whereas evidence demonstrates that even basic swimming and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning; and

Whereas many children in Ontario do not have equitable access to swimming lessons outside of school due to financial, cultural or geographic barriers; and

Whereas several municipalities across Ontario have expressed strong interest in improving water safety education for children; and

Whereas the Ministry of Education has the authority to incorporate water safety and survival training into the regular elementary school curriculum as a universal, life-saving skill comparable to fire safety and road safety instruction;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of The City of Dryden respectfully urges the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Minister of Education of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities, with a request for their endorsement.

RECORDED VOTE			DECLARATION UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT	
			Councillors who have declared an interest, abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.	
Council	Yes	No		
Councillor C. Klewning				
Councillor B. Latham				
Councillor M. MacKinnon				
Councillor R. Noel				
Councillor M. Price			<b>Disposition of Resolution</b> (Check One)	
Councillor B. Tardiff				
Mayor J. Harrison				
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>Carried X</b>	<b>Defeated</b>

**MAYOR:** Harrison



**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON**

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

[www.southhuron.ca](http://www.southhuron.ca)

---

September 17, 2025

Via email: [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Hon. Doug Ford,

**Re: Proposed Amendments to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act**

---

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their September 15, 2025 Regular Council Meeting:

343-2025  
Moved By: Ted Oke  
Seconded by: Marissa Vaughan

**That South Huron Council supports the BRA September 2, 2025 correspondence regarding proposed amendments to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act; and**

**That this supporting resolution and originating documentation be circulated to the Premier, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, MPP Thompson, AMO, BRA and all Ontario Municipalities.**

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator  
Municipality of South Huron  
[kwebster@southhuron.ca](mailto:kwebster@southhuron.ca)  
519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Hon. Todd McCarthy, [todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org](mailto:todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org); MPP Lisa Thompson, [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org); AMO, [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca); Bluewater Recycling Association, [michelle@bra.org](mailto:michelle@bra.org); and all Ontario Municipalities.



September 2, 2025



Dear Local Member of Provincial Parliament

**Subject: Feedback on Proposed Amendments to the Resource Recovery & Circular Economy Act**

On behalf of the Bluewater Recycling Association and our member municipalities, I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed amendments to the *Resource Recovery & Circular Economy Act* (RRCEA), particularly regarding maintaining collection services for small businesses and other non-eligible sources.

We recognize that with these proposed amendments, the government is seeking to address the cost pressures producers have raised, as well as some concerns small businesses have expressed towards the continuation of recycling services. While we appreciate these efforts, we feel the current proposal does not fully reflect the realities faced by municipalities, service providers, and the small businesses and residents who rely on these programs.

Our mission remains to deliver cost-effective and sustainable waste management solutions that support the public good. We remain committed to helping build a competitive, efficient, and innovative recycling system that benefits all Ontarians. To that end, we respectfully urge the government to consider the following points:

**Maintaining Service for Small Businesses and Community Facilities**

We strongly believe it is essential to maintain collection for small businesses and community facilities to ensure continuity of service without undue cost increases. There must be a balance between fair market procurement practices and minimizing disruption for service contracts already in place. The grandfathering of existing services—particularly in rural areas—should be considered.

Municipalities like ours have already expanded recycling service beyond traditional “main street” business areas. Excluding these customers now risks fragmenting the system, creating confusion, increasing municipal costs, and potentially sending more recyclable material to landfill. We recommend that all currently serviced, non-eligible properties remain in the system until an integrated alternative is available.

**Specific Concerns with the Current Circular Material Proposal**

In addition to the general issues above, I want to share candid feedback on several aspects of the draft proposal provided by Circular Materials:

- **2% ICI Limit:** The proposed cap of 2% ICI stops per route does not align with what we see in practice. Most municipalities currently serve between 3–8% ICI stops. A 2% cap appears arbitrary and would cut out the majority of existing stops. This restriction risks destabilizing service in many communities.
- **Downtown Core Apartments:** Clarification is needed on how recycling will be managed for apartments located above commercial units. Today, these residents often share a front-end bin with the business below. Under the new rules, co-collection requires a 95-gallon cart, which presents challenges:
  - These bins are located on commercial property, and if businesses are excluded, they may request removal.

- Apartments generally cannot use wheelie bins due to lack of storage and lack of space for placement on collection day.  
This gap in the proposal will leave many downtown residents without a viable recycling option.
- **Quantity of Material:** Restricting ICI generators to a single 95-gallon cart is too limiting, particularly given the expanded Blue Box program starting in 2026. At a minimum, increasing the limit to two carts would provide small businesses with a reasonable solution to manage their recyclables.

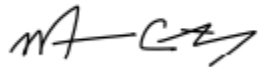
### Closing Comments

While we recognize and value the work that has gone into these proposals, the framework as presented feels incomplete and impractical in several respects. The issues raised by municipalities and service providers during consultations highlight the need for a more balanced approach—one that safeguards service for small businesses, community facilities, and rural Ontarians, while ensuring the long-term success of Ontario's EPR system.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss these issues and to work together on solutions that meet the needs of both producers and communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support of the waste diversion and recycling goals that benefit all Ontarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Courtney'.

Michelle Courtney  
President & CEO  
Bluewater Recycling Association

**Kaitlyn Wendland**

---

**From:** ROMA Events <events@roma.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 4, 2025 8:01 AM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** Register Now for ROMA 2026 – Ontario's Rural Leaders Conference



## **ROMA 2026 Annual Conference**

***Ontario's Rural Leaders Conference***

***Register Today***

**Sunday January 18 – Tuesday January 20, 2026**

**Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto**

As the first gathering for municipal leaders of the year, the ROMA Conference offers a powerful opportunity to come together with others who understand the unique challenges and opportunities facing rural communities in Ontario. The ROMA 2026 Conference is a vital hub for sharing innovative solutions, gaining insight into best practices and tools that can drive the sustainability of your community.

ROMA 2026 – ***Ontario's Rural Leaders Conference***, will enable you to amplify the rural voice, advocate for your community, and shape policies that reflect the realities of rural Ontario.

Conference programming, including the opportunity to connect with your ROMA Board Zone Representatives and Zone colleagues and exclusive workshops, will start the morning of Sunday, January 18. Plan to arrive Saturday so you can participate in the full conference.

**Back by popular demand**

Back by popular demand, journalist [Chantal Hébert](#) returns to ROMA 2026 to provide insight, humour, and critical contemplations on the state of public policy and national politics.



## Registration

Registration is open now. Save on registration fees by registering as an Early Bird. The deadline to take advantage these rates is **4:00 P.M. EST October 31, 2025**.

[Click here to register today.](#)

## Accommodations

You can now also book your hotel rooms for the Conference. Here are a few important pieces of information to remember when booking your hotel:

- Make sure you provide a credit card when you book your room, if a room reservation does not have a credit card associated with it, the room will be released by the room rate deadline. In this case you will not be guaranteed a hotel room.
- All the conference contracted hotels have deadlines by which the preferred hotel rates are no longer offered. Familiarize yourself with these deadlines for cost savings.
- If you receive a message that the “rooms are sold out” when booking, this most likely refers to the rooms available at the preferred conference rate. There may still be rooms available at the hotel, just at a higher cost.

**Remember:** conference programming starts the morning of Sunday, January 18. Plan to arrive on Saturday.

[Click here for full hotel information.](#)

## Attention Sponsors and Exhibitors!

The ROMA Annual Conference is an opportunity to connect with close to 2,000 delegates, most of whom are elected municipal officials and decision makers. If you offer services or products that are a benefit to communities across the province, you will not want to miss this event.

**Information on both exhibit hall and sponsorship opportunities will be available soon.**

## CONTACT

[events@roma.on.ca](mailto:events@roma.on.ca)

T 416.971.9856

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

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**From:** Gallant, Cheryl - M.P. <cheryl.gallant@parl.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 2, 2025 3:53 PM  
**To:** Group Arnprior  
**Subject:** AI with Cybersecurity and Funding Opportunities



**CHERYL GALLANT**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**ALGONQUIN-RENFREW-PEMBROKE**



Dear Nick Smith Center,

As you know, running a profitable business has become increasingly complex, highly regulated, and carries far more risk as we adopt modern technologies.

The public attention devoted to Artificial Intelligence (AI) has more of our entrepreneurs and managers wondering whether AI can improve productivity, find solutions to complicated problems more quickly, and guide predictions.

For these reasons I am hosting a seminar to demonstrate how AI can assist local entrepreneurs, manufacturers and farmers, municipalities and hospitals adapt to the challenges of today, take businesses to higher profitability, while protecting your Intellectual Property (IP) and data.

Information on funding programs, and access to capital will be presented.

You are invited to the:

**myFM Centre**  
**OPG Multi Purpose Room**  
**1 Ma Te Way Park Dr.**  
**Renfrew, Ontario**

**Friday, October 17, 2025**  
**1PM - 3PM**

Kindly, confirm your attendance by calling 613-732-4404 or [by email](#).

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gallant, M.P.  
Algonquin-Renfrew-Pembroke

**PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE**

Room 604, Justice Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6  
Tel: (613) 992-7712  
Fax: (613) 995-2561  
[www.cherylgaillant.com](http://www.cherylgaillant.com)

**CONSTITUENCY OFFICE**

84 Isabella St.  
Pembroke ON K8A 5S5  
Tel: (613) 732-4404  
Fax: (613) 732-4697  
Toll Free: 1-866-295-7165  
[cheryl.gallant@parl.gc.ca](mailto:cheryl.gallant@parl.gc.ca)

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**Kaitlyn Wendland**

---

**Subject:** 2025 Business Excellence Awards Gala Highlights

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**From:** Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce <[manager@uovchamber.com](mailto:manager@uovchamber.com)>

**Sent:** October 2, 2025 12:06 PM

**To:** Robin Paquette <[rpaquette@arnprior.ca](mailto:rpaquette@arnprior.ca)>

**Subject:** 2025 Business Excellence Awards Gala Highlights



**The Chamber is thrilled to announce the recipients of the  
2025 Business Excellence Awards:**

- Excellence in Retail Sales – Ottawa Valley Air Paddle

- **Excellence in Consumer Services – Malcolm, Deavitt & Binhammer Funeral Home**
- **Excellence in Restaurant, Nightlife, Hospitality & Lodging – Antrim Truck Stop**
- **Excellence in Agri-Business, Farming & Rural Achievement – Bromley Acres Wagyu**
- **Excellence in Tourism & Recreation – Visit Pembroke**
- **Excellence in Communications – Hustle and Heart 104.9 myFM Pembroke**
- **Excellence in Personal Care, Health & Wellness – Chartwell Pinewood Retirement Residence**
- **Excellence in Professional Services – Jennifer Charlebois Robillard Insurance & Financial Services**
- **Excellence in Creative Arts & Culture – YourTV Ottawa Valley**
- **Start-Up Superstar – Chuck’s Roadhouse Pembroke**
- **Solopreneur Award – Arborvida Conscious Leadership**
- **Heart of the Valley Award (Community Impact) – Forging Forward Counselling Services**

Relive the highlights, share your favourite moments, and help us celebrate the remarkable businesses that power the Upper Ottawa Valley.

A heartfelt thank you to our Title Sponsor, Northern Credit Union, for championing local excellence, and to all of our generous sponsors and partners whose support made this unforgettable night possible.

**Business Excellence Awards - Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce**

**See the Highlights**



**UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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