



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: November 10th, 2025
Correspondence Package No. I-25-NOV-19**

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-25-NOV-19 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Letter from Minister Flack re: amendments to the *Development Charges Act, 1997*
- b) Ontario and Nova Scotia Working Together to Advance Small Modular Reactor Development
- c) Province Introducing Legislation to Build Homes and Infrastructure Faster
- d) Ontario Investing More Than \$43 million in After School Programs
- e) Ontario Investing \$1.1 billion to Protect and Expand Home Care
- f) Ontario Strengthening Provincial Electoral Processes
- g) Province Building Critical Infrastructure to Protect Ontario
- h) Ontario and New Brunswick Sign Historic Nuclear Support Agreement
- i) Ontario Launches Expert Panel to Strengthen Local Electricity Distribution
- j) Ontario Lowering Costs for First-Time Home Buyers
- k) Ontario Supporting Flood Recovery in Township of Madawaska Valley
- l) Ontario Providing Free Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines Across the Province
- m) Ontario Investing \$7 million to Support Literary Arts and Publishers

- n) Ontario Creating New Conservation Authority Agency to Improve Service Delivery and Protect Communities
- o) Ontario Increasing Support to Municipalities through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund
- p) Ontario Investing More Than \$26.7 million to Protect Survivors of Gender-Based Violence

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) County Council Summary October 2025
- b) The EOWC Strengthens Ties with Federal Leaders During Parliament Hill Advocacy Day

3. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) Watch File – October 23rd, 2025
- b) Policy Update – Bill 60, *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act*, 2025
- c) Policy Update – Speed Camera Legislation, First-Time Homebuyer HST Relief, AMO's Homelessness Research Update & Energy Advocacy
- d) Watch File – October 30th, 2025

4. Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Newsletter

- a) October 24th, 2025 Newsletter
- b) October 31st, 2025 Newsletter

5. Correspondence from Other Municipalities

- a) Town of Ajax – Provincial Decision on Automated Speed Enforcement
- b) Municipality of Bluewater – Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Keep Climate Changes as a Foremost National Priority
- c) Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury – Removing HST/GST from New Homes to Support Housing Affordability
- d) Halton Region – Public Safety Requirements to Protect Our Communities
- e) Niagara Region – Motion Respecting State of Emergency on Mental Health, Homelessness and Addictions

- f) Municipality of Wawa – Accessible empty alcohol container returns
- g) Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Conservation Authorities
- h) City of Cambridge – Rent Protection for Tenants
- i) City of Brantford – Provincial Support of the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program

6. Correspondence from H&G Control

- a) Introductory letter

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and Housing**

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Ontario

234-2025-4923

October 30, 2025

Dear Head of Council:

I am writing to update you on amendments to the *Development Charges Act, 1997* (DCA) that were made by Bill 17, the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*, and corresponding changes to Ontario's Building Code.

As you recall, our government introduced Bill 17 to help speed up the construction of new homes and infrastructure by streamlining development processes and reducing costs, in partnership with municipalities. Among the changes, the Bill:

- Amended the DCA to provide for payment of development charges (DCs) for non-rental residential developments to be made in full at the earlier of the date an occupancy permit is issued and the date a development is first occupied. This deferral would encourage residential construction activity by enhancing a developer's cashflow flexibility.
- Removed authority for municipalities to charge interest on any legislated DC deferral amounts, except to the extent such interest has accrued prior to these changes coming into force.

The amendments noted above require a commencement order to come into force. Following consultations with municipal and industry experts, the government has issued a commencement order to bring these changes into force on November 3, 2025.

To support the implementation of deferred development charges, I will be amending the Building Code to require that all non-rental residential buildings subject to a deferred development charge will now require an occupancy permit, which can only be issued once these deferred development charges have been paid. These targeted changes will establish a clear, enforceable payment trigger for municipalities while leaving all life-safety requirements for occupancy unchanged. These Building Code amendments will take effect alongside the DCA amendments on November 3, 2025. Municipalities without development charges, and requirements for other buildings, are unaffected.

... /2

I look forward to continuing to work together to get shovels in the ground to build more homes that Ontarians can afford. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c. Municipal Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Policy and Planning Division

Ontario and Nova Scotia Working Together to Advance Small Modular Reactor Development

Partnership agreement will help the provinces unlock the potential of clean, reliable nuclear energy needed to power economic growth

October 23, 2025

[Energy and Mines](#)

HALIFAX – In a major step towards Canada’s clean energy future, Ontario’s Minister of Energy and Mines Stephen Lecce joined Nova Scotia’s Premier and Minister of Energy Tim Houston in Halifax to sign a landmark agreement to collaborate on the development of small modular reactors (SMRs). This new partnership taps into Ontario’s global leadership and expertise in SMR technology to help drive Nova Scotia’s clean energy transition, while reinforcing Canada’s position as a world leader in cutting-edge nuclear innovation.

Together, the two provinces will:

- **Share knowledge and expertise** on SMR development, including new technologies, regulatory frameworks, supply chain capacity, economic and financial modelling, nuclear waste management, and public and Indigenous engagement
- **Raise public awareness** about the powerful economic and environmental benefits of nuclear energy from SMRs
- **Collaborate with other provinces and territories** to accelerate SMR adoption nationwide
- **Advocate to the federal government** for stronger support and streamlined regulatory processes to enable the fast, cost-effective deployment of SMRs across the country

“The world is watching Ontario as we lead the largest expansion of nuclear energy on the continent and build the G7’s first small modular reactor,” said Minister Lecce. “Through this important clean energy partnership with Nova Scotia, we are helping to advance small modular reactor technology to create good-paying jobs across the country. Small modular reactor deployment is an anchor of our nation-building plan that will create 18,000 construction jobs and add \$500 million

annually into Ontario's economy. As we face instability in the global economy, Ontario is partnering with provinces East and West to deliver self-reliance, more jobs, and a stronger economy."

Nova Scotia's involvement marks a pivotal moment for Atlantic Canada's energy strategy – positioning the province to benefit from Ontario's early leadership, while exploring a powerful tool to reduce emissions, stabilize energy prices and drive growth. Each SMR has the potential to produce 300 megawatts (MW) of clean electricity, enough to power 300,000 homes. Ontario's head start in SMR development has opened doors for more than 200 Canadian companies to support future domestic deployments and compete in a growing global market. The construction of Ontario's four SMRs will create up to 18,000 Canadian jobs, along with the construction, operation and maintenance adding more than \$38 billion to Canada's GDP and sustaining 3,700 highly skilled good-paying jobs over the next 65 years.

"Nova Scotia is open to exploring the full range of clean energy options that can help meet our province's future energy needs, build grid resilience and protect ratepayers," said Premier Houston. "We have an opportunity to learn from Ontario's experience deploying nuclear technology and I see great value in this partnership to inform system planning and best practices for Nova Scotia."

SMRs play a central role in [Energy for Generations](#), the government's integrated energy plan to ensure Ontario has the reliable, affordable power it needs to power new homes 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. 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.

Quick Facts

- Ontario has been actively collaborating with New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and Alberta on SMR development.
- In December 2019, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), agreeing to work collaboratively in support of the development and deployment of SMRs. Alberta joined the MOU in April 2021.
- In March 2022, the four provinces released a joint [Strategic Plan for the Deployment of SMRs](#) that highlighted how SMRs can provide safe, reliable, and

zero-emissions energy to power Canada's economy, while creating opportunities to export Canadian nuclear expertise and products globally.

- In May 2025, the Ontario government approved Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) plan to [begin construction](#) on the first of four SMRs at the Darlington nuclear site.
- Once completed, this SMR will be the first of its kind in the G7, producing enough reliable, affordable and clean electricity to power the equivalent of 300,000 homes, supporting thousands of good-paying jobs across the province and helping secure Ontario's energy supply for decades to come

Additional Resources

- [Energy for Generations](#)
- [Ontario Leads the G7 by Building First Small Modular Reactor](#)
- [Ontario Welcomes GE Vernova Hitachi's \\$70 Million Investment to Build World's First Small Modular Reactor Engineering & Service Centre](#)

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Province Introducing Legislation to Build Homes and Infrastructure Faster

Proposed measures would also continue reducing delays at the Landlord and Tenant Board

October 23, 2025

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the [Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025](#) that would, if passed, protect Ontario's economy and keep workers on the job by cutting red tape, getting shovels in the ground faster and supporting the construction of homes, roads and infrastructure. The proposed legislation also includes measures that would reduce gridlock, relieve backlog at the Landlord and Tenant Board and promote increased supply of rental housing.

"Our government is building a more prosperous, resilient and competitive economy by fighting costly delays and regulatory burdens that slow the delivery of homes, roads and infrastructure that communities need," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "With tariffs and economic uncertainty taking aim at our economy, we're working with municipal leaders and homebuilders to get shovels in the ground faster so we can build more homes and keep workers on the job."

The *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025*, if passed, and related actions would:

- Reduce barriers to building homes and infrastructure by streamlining approvals and site plan control in time for the spring building season. Site plan control is a planning tool that municipalities use to evaluate certain site elements such as parking areas and landscaping, which the province is streamlining to create consistent standards and lower costs for building.
- Undertake a section-by-section review of the Ontario Building Code to reduce regulatory burdens and costs while maintaining safety.
- Address delays and support backlog reduction efforts at the Landlord and Tenant Board by improving the speed and fairness of processes, limiting bad actors from abusing the system and including new measures to help balance

the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants to encourage landlords to bring more rental housing online.

- Help cut red tape that is slowing down road construction by moving forward with a common set of road construction standards across all municipalities.
- Speed up decision-making and get shovels in the ground faster for water and wastewater in Peel Region by enabling a new public corporation model for Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon to deliver these services.
- Keep people and goods moving by prohibiting the reduction of vehicle lanes when municipalities install new bicycle lanes.
- Crack down on fraud in Ontario's licensing system by strengthening eligibility requirements to get an Ontario driver's licence.
- Help build housing for seasonal farm workers faster by making it easier to put septic systems in place on farm properties.

The *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025* builds on the government's ongoing work with municipal partners to cut red tape and accelerate housing and transportation infrastructure for the province's long-term stability, resiliency and prosperity.

Quick Facts

- The [Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025](#) builds on the actions in the [Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025](#).
 - A report from the [Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis](#) found that gridlock in Ontario is significantly impacting commuters' quality of life and costing the province \$56 billion a year.
 - Ontario [invested \\$6.5 million](#) in 2023-24 to appoint an additional 40 adjudicators and hire five additional staff – more than doubling the number of full-time adjudicators at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) – to help address the backlog, improve timeliness and strengthen client services at the Landlord and Tenant Board. The [LTB \(Landlord and Tenant Board\)](#) has since reduced its caseload by 33 per cent since its peak in December 2023.
 - Consistent with the rules in place across the rest of the province, Ontario is also removing the City of Toronto's ability to require so-called green roofs to help lower the cost of construction.
 - Ontario farms employ 30,000 agricultural workers who help grow and harvest the food that supports the province's agricultural sector and food-supply chain.
 - Peel Region's water and wastewater infrastructure is the second largest in Ontario, with assets over \$40 billion and serving 1.6 million residents.
-

Quotes

"Our government is cutting through red tape to support standardizing the construction of municipal roads so we can keep traffic flowing across the province and drive economic growth as we continue our work to protect Ontario. The legislation we're tabling today will also enhance road safety by introducing more stringent requirements for driver licensing to crack down on fraud, increase public confidence in our licensing system and ensure Ontario's roads remain among the safest in North America."

**- Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation**

"Our government is taking action to strengthen Ontario's rental housing system by delivering faster, fairer and more accessible services. As part of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025, we're proposing new measures to boost ongoing efforts to address delays and reduce backlogs at the Landlord and Tenant Board — it's just the latest step in our plan to protect Ontario and help balance the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants."

**- Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario**

"In the face of economic uncertainties, we are speeding up approvals for housing and infrastructure projects, ensuring construction moves forward quickly while safeguarding public health and the environment. These changes will enable the creation of thousands of new homes and jobs near transit through transit-oriented communities. The measures also support Ontario's farmers by speeding up the development of housing for seasonal workers, protecting our food supply chain and strengthening our economy."

**- Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks & Acting Minister of
Infrastructure**

"The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) appreciates the continued action the Ontario government is taking to reduce delays, modernize approvals, and align housing delivery with critical infrastructure. This legislation reflects a growing partnership between government and industry — one rooted in the shared goal of building more homes, faster. Builders, municipalities, and government are most effective when we move in the same direction, and OHBA (Ontario Home Builders' Association) looks forward to working with Minister Flack and his colleagues to ensure these measures deliver real, on-the-ground results for Ontario's builders and homebuyers alike."

- Scott Andison

CEO (Chief Executive Officer), Ontario Home Builders' Association

"FRPO (Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario) applauds the Ontario government for introducing measures that support timely and effective outcomes at the Landlord & Tenant Board and reduce barriers to purpose-built rental development. Together, these actions will help strengthen Ontario's housing sector, support fairness for rental-housing providers and residents, and make it easier to bring much-needed rental homes to market. FRPO (Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario) looks forward to working with the government to advance the successful implementation of these important initiatives."

- Tony Irwin

President & CEO (Chief Executive Officer), Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO) and President & CEO (Chief Executive Officer), Rental Housing Canada

"The Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) welcomes this legislation as yet another step by the Ontario government to speed up the provision of new housing, accelerate housing-supportive infrastructure, lower costs and enable more efficient approvals. This bill acknowledges and addresses the importance of producing housing supply faster, at a scale and cost to meet the needs of Ontario families. BILD (Building Industry and Land Development Association) and the industry look forward to working collaboratively with the province, municipalities and other stakeholders on the implementation of these measures to the benefit of housing supply and affordability."

- Dave Wilkes

President and CEO (Chief Executive Officer), Building Industry and Land Development Association

"As builders, we see firsthand how different road specifications from one municipality to the next can slow down critical infrastructure projects and drive-up costs. Standardizing roadbuilding specs is another example of the Ontario government cutting red tape, supporting local jobs and businesses, enhancing infrastructure quality, and ensuring better value for taxpayers."

- Raly Chakarova

Executive Director, Toronto and Area Road Builders Association

"This legislation represents a transformative step forward for Ontario's infrastructure delivery. By enabling the harmonization of road construction materials and design standards, the government is addressing long-standing inefficiencies that have driven up costs and slowed project delivery. Greater consistency across jurisdictions will give contractors the certainty they need to plan and invest with confidence — ultimately allowing Ontario to build more, for less."

- Steven Crombie

Senior Director of Public Affairs, Ontario Road Builders Association

Additional Resources

- [Fighting Delays, Building Faster Technical Briefing](#)

- [Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)
- [Transit-Oriented Communities](#)

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](#)

Driving and road safety

Information about road conditions and safety, driver's licences, vehicle registration, commercial vehicles, transit and transportation infrastructure. [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](#)

Home and housing

Information about housing in Ontario and planning resources for municipalities. [Learn more](#)

Jobs and employment

Find resources and supports for job seekers and employers. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Investing More Than \$43 million in After School Programs

Province's funding will continue to help over 13,000 children be active and healthy after school

October 23, 2025

[Sport](#)

HAMILTON — The Ontario government is investing \$43.9 million over three years to continue the province's After School Program (ASP), keeping more than 13,000 children and youth in underserved communities active and healthy each year. As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario, this funding will ensure the ASP can continue to provide safe, supervised activities and tutoring for students, along with nutritious snacks, at low or no cost, setting them up for success, inside and outside the classroom.

"Our government is proud to invest in programs that give hard-working parents access to fun, safe and supervised activities for their children," said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Sport. "By establishing three-year agreements, we are cutting red tape for our partners and creating more stability for providers and participants – helping ensure families continue to have access to the high-quality, active recreation programs they rely on."

Ontario's After School Program supports children from kindergarten to Grade 12 in over 80 communities across the province. Participating students are exposed to a range of activities and resources, including sports, local arts and cultural programs and additional academic assistance.

"Our government is supporting student success both inside and outside the classroom," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. "By investing in programs that encourage students to stay active, build confidence and develop new skills, we're helping them reach their full potential and achieve success in all areas of life."

The government works with 110 organizations across the province, including municipalities, First Nations and community-based non-profits such as YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs to administer the ASP. Families interested in the program can

contact [a participating organization](#) for more information about eligibility requirements and services offered by their program.

"We are thrilled and grateful that the Government of Ontario is continuing their investment in the Ontario After School Program. This funding allows us to provide high quality programs for children during the critical after school hours when parents are often still at work or school," said Milja Minic, Chief Operating Office, BGC Hamilton-Halton. "With our focus on helping young people to be active and well, these programs promote physical literacy and activity, nutrition and wellness education, and positive social development — all key factors in enabling healthy, confident, and resilient young people and ultimately helping to create healthy and vibrant communities. This is a critical investment by the Ministry of Sport to create brighter futures and stronger communities now, and for the next generation."

Quick Facts

- Ontario's After School Program was launched in 2009.
 - All organizations are required to deliver mandatory programming that focuses on sport and physical activity and includes a healthy snack.
 - Organizations may also provide additional activities that meet the needs of the local community (e.g., cultural activities, homework help).
-

Quotes

"The support from Ontario's After School Program has allowed us to expand our reach and deepen our connection with school-aged children and their families, offering new opportunities for engagement, learning, and active play within our community, especially for those who might not otherwise have access to organized after school care. By emphasizing physical literacy and getting children active, we're helping to build confidence, coordination, and a lifelong love of movement. We've also grown from offering simple snacks to providing full, nutritious meals; a change that has made a real difference for many families. The impact has been remarkable, creating a safe, welcoming space where children can build friendships, confidence, and a sense of belonging."

- France Gauthier
Executive Director, Our Children, Our Future

"At BGC Peel—Boys and Girls Club, our parents and children have expressed that our after-school programs provide them with a healthy environment, social and mental wellness they need, especially since coming out of Covid. Thanks to funding from the Government of Ontario, BGC Peel staff have found that our kids are improving in their academic performance, fostering leadership skills, increasing participation in physical activity, and allowing BGC Peel to provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities. Our program has contributed to all children and youth discovering and achieving their dreams and goals by developing self-esteem, encouraging healthy habits, and creating a sense of community and responsibility, becoming more successful and active participants in society."

- Michael Gyovai

Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, BGC Peel

Additional Resources

- [Ontario's After School Program](#)

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Ontario Investing \$1.1 Billion to Protect and Expand Home Care

Government helping more people age safely with historic investments in innovative home care services

October 27, 2025

[Finance](#)

[Health](#)

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

TORONTO — As part of its plan to protect Ontario and strengthen public services through the upcoming Fall Economic Statement, the Ontario government is investing \$1.1 billion over three years to extend home care services and the Hospital to Home (H2H) program to thousands more patients every year. By expanding access to convenient care at home for patients who no longer need to stay in the hospital, these investments will ease pressures on the health-care system and free up beds for those who need them most.

“As part of our plan to protect Ontario, our government is making responsible, forward-looking investments that strengthen Ontario’s health-care system and our economy,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “By funding critical home care services and Hospital to Home programs, we are building a more self-reliant and resilient province and ensuring patients and families get the right care in the right place, at home.”

As Ontario’s population ages and to ensure the health-care system can continue to support more patients with increasingly complex needs, today’s 8 per cent increase in funding includes \$982 million over three years to strengthen critical home care services. The funding will connect more patients with services from nurses, physiotherapists and social workers, so they can avoid lengthy hospital stays and live in the comfort of their own home independently.

“Our government has heard loud and clear that families across Ontario want faster and more flexible access to care that supports their recovery and independence,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Through our investment

to strengthen and expand home care services, we are enabling more people to live, heal and thrive in their own homes, surrounded by the people that matter most.”

Ontario is also investing more than \$170 million over three years to enhance and expand the Hospital to Home program to reduce pressures on hospitals and long-term care homes and help more patients safely transition back home sooner, following a hospital stay. Funding will also support the development of 18 new Hospital to Home sites and expansion of 23 existing sites, allowing even more people to receive convenient care in the comfort of their own home and freeing up vital hospital capacity across the province.

“As Ontario’s population ages, seniors are increasingly relying on programs and services to keep them healthy and independent,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “Today’s historic investment will help seniors across our province access the services they need to stay connected to their family, friends and communities.”

Today’s announcement builds on the government’s 2024 investment of an additional \$2 billion over three years, which has already improved access to home care by:

- Increasing the number of patients accessing home care by 18 per cent in the past two years, to now serve more than 650,000 patients across the province
- Reducing the wait list for personal support services from 7,371 down to 426 – a 94 per cent decrease from 2022-23 to 2024-25
- Lowering unplanned hospital readmission rates for Hospital to Home patients by nearly a quarter and admissions to LTC to just 1 per cent.

More information about the government’s plan to protect Ontario, grow our economy and make Ontario the most competitive jurisdiction of the G7 to invest will be included in the 2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, to be released on November 6, 2025.

Quick Facts

- The Hospital to Home program supported approximately 8,100 patients across 47 sites in the province in 2024-25.
- Nearly 150,000 home care patients have high needs, an increase of approximately 34 per cent from 2014-15 to 2023-24.
- Nearly 75 per cent of people waiting for long-term care beds are receiving home care support, helping them remain at home longer while reducing unnecessary hospital stays.

- Home and community care services supports people of all ages who require care in their home, at school or in the community.

Quotes

“Ontario’s home care system delivers vital health services that help people stay healthy and independent in their own homes. By delivering care in the home, the sector provides the fastest, most cost-effective relief for the broader health system — easing pressure on hospitals, shortening wait times for long-term care, and improving outcomes across the board. Today’s investment will allow more Ontarians to receive more care at home, and as the province’s population ages, continued government support for home care is essential to ensure every Ontarian can access high-quality, patient-centered care in the community.”

- Cameron MacKay
CEO, Home Care Ontario

“The Ontario Community Support Association welcomes this significant investment in home care. Previous funding commitments have helped stabilize the sector, supporting a measurable reduction in staff turnover and fewer missed care visits. These improvements mean more Ontarians are receiving the care they need, when and where they need it. We encourage the government to continue to invest in programs like Hospital to Home and organizations that bring together home care, community support, and independent living services, which are essential to building a system that keeps people healthy, connected, and cared for at home.”

- Lori Holloway
Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Community Support Association

""Investing in timely home care helps ensure patients leave hospital safely and with confidence. It's a critical step toward easing system pressures, reducing wait times, and improving care across Ontario. This significant investment in home care will mean more patients in hospitals like those within Unity Health Toronto have seamless transitions from hospital to home and better connected care experiences throughout their healthcare journey.""

**- Altaf Stationwala
President and CEO, Unity Health Toronto**

""VHA Home HealthCare welcomes this investment in home care services. This funding will allow us to provide more high-quality and specialized care to Ontarians at home, where they most want to be. The expansion of hospital to home programs will contribute to more smooth and timely transitions in care, ensuring people receive the right care in the right place at the right time.""

**- Dr. Kathryn Nichol
President and CEO, VHA Home HealthCare**

""VON welcomes this strategic investment in home care, and important focus on strengthening home and community care services for clients with increasingly complex needs. Programs like Hospital to Home support the critical relationships between health sectors, and recognizes the role home and community care plays in the broader system.""

**- Jo-Anne Poirier
President and CEO, VON Canada**

""At SE Health, we know home care is a proven catalyst for system efficiency. By expanding services and strengthening programs like Hospital to Home, we reduce hospital pressures, shorten lengths of stay, and improve patient flow. Every dollar invested in home care multiplies its impact—delivering high-quality care where people want it most, while optimizing resources across the health system.""

**- John Yip
CEO, SE Health**

" "We're grateful for the Government of Ontario's continued investments to expand home care capacity and strengthen hospital-to-home programs. At Spectrum Health Care, we see every day how home care helps ease pressures across the health system and supports Ontarians to recover and stay healthy at home. Today's announcement will help us continue delivering the care people need, where they want to receive it."

- Sandra Ketchen
President and CEO, Spectrum Health Care

"The new funding for homecare is another in a long line of commitments by the Government of Ontario to build a stronger home care sector. These strategic investments will increase the availability of homecare services to reduce strain on hospitals and ensure Ontarians can access the care they need in their own homes."

- Dr. Michael Guerriere
CEO, Extendicare

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan to Connect and Convenient Care](#)
- [2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)
- [Home and Community Care](#)

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Ontario Strengthening Provincial Electoral Processes

Proposed reforms would support public confidence and input in provincial elections

October 27, 2025

[Attorney General](#)

TORONTO — Ontario is proposing a series of reforms to strengthen and increase public trust in the province's electoral system, including by removing American-style fixed election dates in favour of the province's traditional electoral process and strengthening regulation and oversight of election financing and campaign spending.

"The proposed reforms will return Ontario to an electoral process that served our province well for nearly a century and a half, prior to the imposition of American-style fixed election dates," said Attorney General Doug Downey. "With these reforms, governments will be better positioned to respond to changing circumstances and external threats, including by seeking a fresh mandate from the people of Ontario when it's needed."

Proposed reforms to the *Election Act* would see provincial elections take place on a date determined by the Lieutenant Governor on the advice of the Premier, as has traditionally been the case in Ontario. Ontario will continue to observe and be subject to the five-year maximum legal limit between elections that is mandated by the Constitution.

Ontario is proposing additional reforms to the *Election Finances Act* that would strengthen the rules around campaign finances and electoral spending, as well as reflect the removal of fixed election dates. These reforms would:

- Discourage bad actors by establishing new financial penalties for those who do not comply with the *Election Finances Act*, including by failing to provide information to the Chief Electoral Officer and not complying with political advertising rules. Proposed changes would also increase the maximum existing penalties around failure to register, third parties exceeding political advertising spending limits and political parties, candidates and constituency associations exceeding campaign expense limits.

- In response to recommendations from Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer, provide new tools to the Chief Electoral Officer to ensure third parties follow political advertising rules. This includes investigative powers to allow them to request information from third parties, whether they have registered or not.
- Require third parties to provide proof of registration status to broadcasters and publishers before placing political advertisements during an election period. This would ensure third parties that advertise during this period are following election laws.
- Make the quarterly per-vote subsidy that is received by all parties a permanent measure, rather than allowing it to expire at the end of 2026. This measure implements a recommendation from the Chief Electoral Officer following the 2022 provincial election, to ensure a balance of public and private spending in elections.
- Eliminate pre-writ spending limits for third parties and political parties, which were introduced to prevent the ramping up of political spending in the lead up to a fixed election.
- Increasing the annual amount a person can contribute to a political party from \$3,400 to \$5,000 beginning in 2026, which is consistent with or less than the maximum allowable amount in other provinces such as Manitoba, Alberta and Nova Scotia. Future increases would be indexed to the rate of inflation.

Ontario is also considering measures to ban political advertising on government property, whether it be on buildings, billboards or transit stations. If implemented, a coordinated approach across government and its agencies would ensure flexible, appropriate measures are implemented across different properties.

Quick Facts

- In 2024, the last extension of [quarterly per-vote subsidies for registered political parties](#) received all-party support.
 - Any third party spending \$500 or more on political advertising during an election period must register with the Chief Electoral Officer. A third party is a person or organization that is not a registered candidate, political party or constituency association.
-

Additional Resources

- [Political contribution tax credit for individuals](#)
-

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Province Building Critical Infrastructure to Protect Ontario

New transit, roads, hospitals and long-term care homes will keep workers on the job and strengthen the economy

October 27, 2025

[Infrastructure](#)

TORONTO — Infrastructure Ontario has released its latest [Market Update](#), listing 25 major projects in pre- and active procurement, totalling more than \$30 billion in estimated design and construction costs. The update includes 20 publicly announced projects in the initial planning stages. These projects bolster the government's more than \$200 billion capital plan to build and protect Ontario by delivering new transit, roads, hospitals, schools, long-term care homes and housing-enabling infrastructure that will create jobs and strengthen the economy.

"Building and renewing Ontario's infrastructure is a key part of our government's plan to protect the economy and keep workers on the job in the face of significant economic uncertainties," said Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure.

"Our latest Market Update demonstrates continued progress on our plan to build with 45 major projects in the planning, pre- and active procurement stages. Our government's infrastructure investments are strengthening the economy and supporting thousands of skilled-trades jobs. With approximately 440,000 Ontarians employed in the construction sector, our plan is providing job certainty and protecting workers across Ontario."

Highlights from the Fall Market Update include:

- The addition of new projects, such as the [McMichael Canadian Art Collection Capital Redevelopment](#), the [Ontario Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters](#) and next steps in the [Ontario Place redevelopment](#) project with a Request for Proposals issued for the new publicly owned parking structure.
- Since the [June 2025 Market Update](#), three projects have reached substantial completion: the [West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Redevelopment Project](#), the [Eglinton Crosstown West Extension – Advance Tunnel 1 Project](#) and the [QEW/Credit River Improvement Project](#).

In addition, four projects have reached either a development phase agreement or contract execution:

- [QEW Garden City Skyway – Bridge Twinning Project](#) – a more than two-kilometre twin bridge connecting St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake that will support the movement of more than \$1.1 trillion in goods throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe every year.
- [Yonge North Subway Extension – Advance Tunnel](#) – extending the TTC’s Line 1 subway service by approximately eight kilometres, adding five new stations from the existing terminus at Finch Station into the City of Richmond Hill, making it faster and easier for more people to travel between York Region and downtown Toronto with expected daily rides of more than 94,100 on weekdays.
- [Eglinton Crosstown West Extension – Stations, Rail and Systems](#) – this project will extend the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project another 9.2 kilometres further west to Etobicoke and Mississauga with seven stops from the future Mount Dennis Station to Renforth Drive and is anticipated to accommodate up to 69,700 daily rides and put 37,500 more people within walking distance to transit.
- [William Osler Health System’s Peel Memorial Hospital Phase 2 Redevelopment](#) – the project will include a new multi-story patient tower, with plans for up to 250 inpatient beds and space to build more in the future, as well as a new purpose-built 24/7 emergency care centre and new and enhanced ambulatory clinics, which will improve community access to health care.

“Infrastructure Ontario’s October 2025 Market Update underscores our continued commitment to building a connected, modern, and competitive province,” said Angela Clayton, President and CEO of Infrastructure Ontario. “We are deeply grateful for the valuable feedback from our industry partners and stakeholders, which helps us better understand their priorities, strengthen market confidence, and encourage broader participation in our capital program.”

Quick Facts

- [Ontario is investing \\$4 billion through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program \(MHIP\)](#) to get housing and critical infrastructure, such as roads and water systems, built more quickly. The program is enabling the construction of 800,000 homes since its launch in 2024.
- As part of the [Transit-Oriented Communities \(TOC\) Program](#), the province is working to create vibrant, mixed-use communities near 12 future subway stations, in addition to new and existing GO and LRT stations. Together, these TOCs have the potential to create approximately 340,000 new residential units –

including affordable housing options – and create space to accommodate about 75,000 new jobs near subways.

- Ontario passed the [Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025](#), to help speed up the construction of new homes and infrastructure projects, while helping to support more jobs and build stronger, more vibrant communities.
- Ontario has introduced the [Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025](#) that would, if passed, protect Ontario's economy and keep workers on the job by cutting red tape, getting shovels in the ground faster and supporting the construction of homes, roads and infrastructure.
- As Ontario delivers on its ambitious capital plan, the government is continuing to promote made-in-Ontario and made-in-Canada products wherever possible, including exploring more domestic steel, cement, forestry and other construction materials required for provincially funded infrastructure projects.

Additional Resources

- [Infrastructure Ontario's Fall 2025 Market Update](#)
- [2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Builds map](#)

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](#)

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Ontario and New Brunswick Sign Historic Nuclear Support Agreement

Ontario will provide its nuclear expertise to the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station

October 27, 2025

[Energy and Mines](#)

FREDERICTON – Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines Stephen Lecce joined New Brunswick Minister of Energy René Legacy to announce a landmark Support Services Agreement (SSA) to strengthen Canada’s nuclear leadership. Under this new three-year agreement, New Brunswick Power (NB Power) is providing \$60 million to Laurentis Energy Partners (LEP), a subsidiary of Ontario Power Generation (OPG), for its targeted expertise and operational support to drive performance at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station (PLNGS) in New Brunswick.

Ontario is a global leader in nuclear power – with the proven safe and successful operation of our three nuclear generating stations and delivering large-scale refurbishments on-time and on-budget. The agreement leverages this expertise to strengthen Canada’s energy security and long-term sustainability for New Brunswickers, while showcasing Ontario’s role as a reliable partner and exporter of clean nuclear energy expertise.

“While Ontario is leading the world in nuclear excellence, here at home we are exporting our expertise to strengthen Canada’s economy and energy security, from coast to coast to coast,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. “This historic partnership reinforces Ontario’s position as Canada’s nuclear leader, focused on delivering affordable, reliable and clean power for future generations. By working together, we are squarely delivering a more self-reliant economy fueled by Canadian resources, built by Canadian workers, and leveraging Canadian technology.”

Under this new agreement, Ontario will provide New Brunswick with:

- **Performance benchmarking and excellence planning:** LEP will assess PLNGS against the high-performance standards of Ontario’s nuclear fleet, supporting

NB Power on its path to excellence

- **Structured performance oversight:** implementation of LEP's industry-leading '*Governance, Oversight, Support and Perform*' model that enhances accountability and continuous improvement
- **On-site support and collaboration:** including quarterly visits to PLNGS by LEP to support their programs and drive improvement initiatives
- **Flexible support services:** access to specialized support in engineering and project management
- **Personnel development:** LEP will provide training and development resources for NB Power employees

"New Brunswick and Ontario are known across Canada and around the world for their accomplishments in nuclear power generation," said René Legacy, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy, Finance and Treasury Board. "This partnership will bolster that reputation and, more importantly, allow our two provinces to strengthen a promising working relationship for years to come."

Through this partnership, LEP will help NB Power strengthen its operations at PLNGS and sustain the long-term success of the station. Enhancing the station's reliability will help ensure energy security for NB Power customers, as well as work towards ensuring energy security and financial and environmental sustainability for the next generation of Canadians.

This agreement builds on Ontario's ongoing leadership to transform Canada into an energy superpower, following an agreement to deploy Ontario's small modular reactor [technology in Nova Scotia](#).

Ontario's nuclear leadership to help secure new commercial opportunities and provide support for other provinces' nuclear sectors and 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.

Quick Facts

- NB Power owns and operates PLNGS, which is located on the shores of the Bay of Fundy, approximately 40 kilometers southwest of Saint John, New Brunswick.
- Ontario and New Brunswick are the only Canadian provinces currently generating electricity from nuclear energy, with nuclear being a trusted clean source of power in Ontario for over 60 years and over 40 years in New Brunswick.

- Ontario relies on nuclear for about 50 per cent of its energy supply, while New Brunswick generates about 40 per cent of its power from nuclear.
- Ontario has been actively collaborating with New Brunswick on the future of nuclear generation, with a focus on small modular reactors (SMR).
- The provinces signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in December 2019 along with Saskatchewan, with Alberta joining in April 2021, to support the development and deployment of SMRs. In March 2022, the four provinces also released a joint [Strategic Plan for the Deployment of SMRs](#) that highlights the benefits of SMRs and sets a path forward for the advancement of SMRs in Canada.

Quotes

"This agreement builds on our long-standing relationship with NB Power and represents another step forward in strengthening Canada's nuclear sector through collaboration. Laurentis is proud to share Ontario's expertise - developed through decades of safe, reliable operation and world-class performance - to help enhance Point Lepreau's success. Together, we're demonstrating how provinces can work in partnership to advance clean energy, drive operational excellence, and deliver lasting benefits for customers and communities across Canada."

- Leslie McWilliams
President and CEO, Laurentis

"Point Lepreau has powered New Brunswickers with safe, low-carbon electricity for decades. This new agreement ensures that legacy continues, all while providing stronger, cleaner, and more reliable energy. This partnership reflects what's possible when provinces and utilities work together — sharing expertise, building capacity, and ensuring a safe, reliable, and sustainable energy future for New Brunswick and beyond."

- Darren Murphy
Senior Vice President, Major Projects, New Brunswick Power

Additional Resources

[Energy for Generations](#)

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

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Ontario Launches Expert Panel to Strengthen Local Electricity Distribution

New panel will help build a stronger, more resilient electricity network to deliver reliable, safe power for families and businesses

October 27, 2025

[Energy and Mines](#)

TORONTO – Today, Minister Stephen Lecce announced the launch of the Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE), a strategic advisory group that will ensure the province’s electricity distribution system can power the most competitive economy in the G7. This panel of industry experts and municipal representatives will support [Energy for Generations](#), the government’s long-term plan to deliver reliable energy that is affordable for families, supports job creating investment and power Ontario’s future.

Ontario's aging and capacity-constrained distribution system requires a significant infusion of capital, with the Electricity Distributors Association (EDA) estimating \$103–\$120 billion over the next two decades to maintain existing assets. This level of investment for stronger and smarter power lines, digital grid management tools and new substations, dwarfs the current spending trajectory of most Local Distribution Companies (LDCs).

“If the backbone of Ontario’s electricity grid — Ontario’s utilities that bring power to homes, businesses and factories — cannot keep up, Ontario risks falling behind. Our path to self reliance rests on our ability to challenge the status quo and demand better for every ratepayer in Ontario,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. “The world has changed, which is why we need to future-proof Ontario’s grid as we invest in the next generation of electricity infrastructure. Through this review, we will transform all utilities into more reliable, resilient and future-ready systems that are focused on keeping energy rates affordable for families.”

The province’s economy is facing unprecedented realignment and external risks, and yet the local distribution sector has not undertaken a review since 2012. Since then, the world has changed as Ontario transitioned from an era of surplus power

to unparalleled power demand and electrification, rising geopolitical threats and advanced technology. Many of Ontario's nearly 60 utilities are at risk for future credit downgrades, which can lead to higher borrowing costs absorbed by ratepayers.

The government is also seeking recommendations to end the vast disparity of service standards and connection timelines, including response times following extreme weather events. This expert panel will advise Ontario's government on pathways to mandate and strengthen customer service improvements, in addition to efforts to reduce costs on ratepayers by enhancing shared services and procurement across utilities. The PULSE will provide recommendations on investment frameworks, operational best practices, and regulatory reform planning needed to deliver a reliable, resilient and future-ready electricity distribution system across Ontario. Their work will include:

- Recommending operational and customer service improvements across the system
- Identifying strategies to address rising financing gaps to fund electricity infrastructure
- Addressing barriers to attracting investments into municipally owned LDCs
- Reviewing ownership, governance and investment models that balance municipal interests, financial stability and system efficiency

In 2018, the Ontario Energy Board issued a report calling for reform, stating that "utilities will need to modernize their systems, adopt innovative technologies, and explore new business and partnership models to meet evolving customer expectations and ensure long term system reliability and value for money." This recommendation echoed the 2012 Ontario Distribution Sector Review panel report, which said that maintaining the status quo would not serve the interests of customers and Ontario needs distributors that are efficient, innovative, and financially strong.

"Ontario's communities are growing, and we need to ensure we have the energy infrastructure in place to power that growth," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Through PULSE's recommendations, we will ensure that every community has access to power that is safe, affordable, and resilient—both today and for generations to come.

Minister Lecce has appointed Anthony Haines, Paula Conboy, Alexander Nuttall and David MacNaughton, who collectively bring a wealth of leadership and expertise in the energy sector. The work of the panel will be supported by Stephen Poloz in the

role of expert advisor, who brings his experience from his time serving as the Governor of the Bank of Canada. By advising on investment frameworks, operational best practices and regulatory reform, PULSE will help ensure the sector can finance and deliver the electricity system expansion needed to power new homes and a strong economy—without compromising service quality or affordability. PULSE is expected to deliver its final recommendations to the Minister of Energy and Mines in early 2026, shaping the future direction of Ontario's local electricity distribution system.

Quick Facts

- Ontario has one of the cleanest electricity grids in the world with over 80 per cent of power coming from non-emitting resources.
 - Ontario has nearly 60 LDCs.
-

Quotes

"We are focused on providing affordable energy rates for the people and businesses of Ontario. Alongside our generational integrated energy plan, this review will help drive affordability by securing improvements in grid reliability, customer service standards for families, and economic development opportunities for communities – ensuring that our province is prepared to meet the energy demand of today and tomorrow."

- Hon. Sam Oosterhoff
Associate Minister of Energy Intensive Industries

"Local leaders know better than anyone the strain on services when infrastructure doesn't keep pace with growth. Keeping the lights on isn't just about energy. It's about supporting jobs, housing, and everyday life. PULSE is an important step to make sure utilities are equipped to deliver dependable service, so communities can plan with confidence and residents aren't left in the dark."

- Hon. Graydon Smith
Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"Ontario's local hydro utilities are central to enabling the energy transition. With up to \$120 billion in total capital investment needed in distribution grids to meet growing electricity demand over the next 25 years, investing in utilities is essential to power communities and drive economic opportunity and growth across the province. We look forward to proposing our solutions to the government's panel, which will focus on ensuring all electric utilities have the financial, regulatory and policy tools needed to be grid-ready for all customers."

**- Teresa Sarkesian
President & CEO, Electricity Distributors Association**

"Making sure that LDCs can fund and deliver infrastructure when and where it is needed is critical to supporting local housing and economic growth. AMO is pleased that the panel will be responding to our call for new funding and financing mechanisms to renew and expand LDC infrastructure."

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

"Powering communities in Western Ontario – as Ontario's economic engine – requires a reliable, resilient, and future-ready energy system. For our small and rural communities, access to dependable power is essential to attract new housing, support industry, and sustain economic growth. The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus commends the Province for recognizing the need for long-term, forward-looking energy solutions and for including municipal perspectives in this vital work. The decisions made today will shape Ontario's success and ensure that regions like ours are equipped for the future."

**- Amy Martin
Chair, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus, Mayor of Norfolk County
(WOWC)**

"The creation of the Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE) is an important step toward ensuring stability and reliability across our electricity network. Mayors know our communities best, and we appreciate the Minister including municipal representation on this panel. Across the province, we work diligently to manage electricity needs while planning and advancing critical projects such as housing, infrastructure, and hospitals. Our on-the-ground experience offers valuable insight and we look forward to contributing."

- Marianne Meed Ward
Mayor of Burlington, Chair of Ontario's Big City Mayors

"The creation of the PULSE panel reflects a strong commitment to collective action and long-term planning. Municipalities are key partners in shaping Ontario's energy future, and it's encouraging to see local insight included in this initiative. By uniting industry leaders and municipal voices, the Ontario government is taking important steps to strengthen our electricity system and prepare for a growing, electrified economy."

- Bonnie Clark
Chair, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

"As Ontario prepares for an electrified future, Northern communities must be at the table to help design a system that's reliable, resilient, and fair for all. NOMA applauds the Province's leadership in launching the PULSE panel and looks forward to working with industry partners to ensure Northern Ontario's unique challenges and opportunities are part of Ontario's energy planning conversation."

- Rick Dumas
President, Northern Ontario Municipalities Association

Additional Resources

- [Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence \(PULSE\)](#)
-

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Ontario Lowering Costs for First-Time Home Buyers

Province rebating the provincial portion of the HST for first-time home buyers of most new homes

October 28, 2025

[Finance](#)

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — As part of its plan to protect Ontario, lower costs and help more families realize the dream of homeownership, the provincial government is proposing to rebate the full 8 per cent provincial portion of the HST for first-time home buyers on new homes valued up to \$1 million. The province's proposal, which will be included in the 2025 Fall Economic Statement, would save first-time home buyers up to \$80,000 off the cost of a new home when combined with existing provincial relief, helping lower costs for first-time home buyers and spurring the construction of more homes. When combined with the federal government's proposed removal of its 5 per cent portion of the HST, which would save up to \$50,000 off the cost of a new home, total savings for first-time home buyers would equal up to \$130,000.

"In the face of tariffs and global economic uncertainty, it's never been more important to make life more affordable for the hardworking people of Ontario. Through our proposed HST rebate on new homes for qualifying first-time home buyers, we are leading by example – saving families money on one of the biggest financial transactions of their lives," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "Ontario families deserve more money back in their pockets and we are continuing to build on our track record of doing just that."

Earlier in 2025, the Ontario government called on the federal government to introduce further measures in collaboration with the province to address housing affordability, including removing the HST for first-time homebuyers. Subject to passage of federal legislation, Ontario's new rebate would mirror the federal government's First-Time Home Buyers' GST/HST Rebate to temporarily remove the full 8 per cent provincial portion of the HST for first-time home buyers on qualifying newly built and substantially renovated homes.

“Our government is working every day to bring the dream of homeownership within reach for more people. Today’s announcement is good news not only for first-time homebuyers, but for workers and tradespeople who can keep doing what they love – building their communities,” said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “The actions we’re taking today complement our legislation and is just one more way we are protecting Ontario by creating the conditions to build.”

The new Ontario rebate would be available in addition to the existing Ontario HST New Housing Rebate, which already provides relief of up to \$24,000 to eligible purchasers, including but not limited to first-time home buyers. Together with Ontario’s existing HST New Housing Rebate, the new Ontario rebate would provide relief of the full 8 per cent provincial portion of the HST on qualifying new homes valued up to \$1 million for first-time home buyers. For homes valued between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, the new rebate would follow the phased reduction under the proposed federal rebate. That means the rebate would be gradually reduced as the price of a new home increases from \$1 million to \$1.5 million, to a minimum of \$24,000 for homes valued between \$1.35 million and \$1.5 million. This ensures that the combined amount of relief available under both Ontario rebates would not be less than the amount that is currently provided through the existing Ontario HST New Housing Rebate.

The province is also making record investments to support new home construction and keep the dream of homeownership alive, including through its [recent increase of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program](#) to \$4 billion and the \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund.

More information about the government’s plan to protect Ontario, grow our economy and make Ontario the most competitive jurisdiction of the G7 to invest will be included in the *2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review*, to be released on Thursday, November 6, 2025.

Quick Facts

- On May 27, 2025, the federal government proposed eliminating the full federal portion of the HST on qualifying newly built and substantially renovated homes valued up to \$1 million for first-time home buyers.
- Details of Ontario’s proposed new rebate are based on the federal government’s proposal as announced on May 27, 2025. Implementation of the new Ontario rebate is subject to passage of federal legislation and requires federal regulatory changes. Ontario will continue to monitor the status of the federal proposal as it progresses through the federal legislative process.

- Ontario will work with the federal government to propose that the new Ontario rebate be available if the agreement of purchase and sale for the home is entered into with the builder on or after May 27, 2025, and before 2031. Construction of the home must begin before 2031, and the home must be substantially completed before 2036.
- Other eligibility criteria for the new Ontario rebate would follow those set by the federal government, including that the individual must be acquiring the new home for use as their primary place of residence.
- The [*Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*](#), helps speed up the construction of new homes and infrastructure by streamlining development processes and reducing costs, in partnership with municipalities.

Quotes

"RESCON has been advocating for an aligned GST/HST rebate for first-time homebuyers. We are grateful to the provincial government for their announcement today which implements this full GST/HST rebate of 13 per cent for first-time homebuyers in Ontario. This is good news for the thousands of young people and families who have been struggling to realize the dream of new home ownership. Premier Ford, Minister Bethlenfalvy and Minister Flack are demonstrating decisive leadership as we work collaboratively to address the housing challenges facing our province."

- Richard Lyall

President, Residential Construction Council of Ontario

"The Ontario government's extension of the GST/HST exemption to the first \$1 million on the purchase of a new home, or substantially renovated home, for first time home buyers is a step in the right direction in addressing the worst housing downturn on record. Addressing this challenge requires the concerted effort of all levels of government and the industry to lower new housing costs, increase housing starts and protect jobs and the economy. The Building Industry and Land Development Association appreciates the efforts of the provincial government and will continue to work with the government to advise on additional measures required to address the structural challenges facing the industry. With GTA new housing prices down 20 per cent from the peak and these new measures, now is a great time for first buyers to step off the sidelines and get into the market."

- Dave Wilkes

**President and CEO, Building Industry and Land Development Association
(BILD)**

"AMO commends the province on taking steps to reduce the cost of new homes for first-time home buyers. This tax relief could boost buyer demand and help increase new home construction -- an important priority for municipalities and the province."

- Robin Jones

**President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Mayor of
Westport**

"The recognition by all levels of government that taxation is a barrier to homeownership and substantial home renovation marks an important step forward in addressing Ontario's housing challenges. OHBA and our partners have long called for targeted tax relief to improve affordability and spur construction of new homes and today's announcement by the province is important progress on this front. As pressures on the home building industry persist, we remain committed to working with government to support policies that will help get more homes built across Ontario."

- Scott Andison

Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Home Builders' Association

Additional Resources

[Ontario Launches Building Faster Fund and Expands Strong Mayor Powers](#)
[Federal Backgrounder: GST relief for first-time home buyers on new homes](#)

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Ontario Supporting Flood Recovery in Township of Madawaska Valley

Province helping to protect communities and repair local infrastructure

October 28, 2025

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

The Ontario government is providing the Township of Madawaska Valley with up to \$159,000 in provincial disaster recovery funding to help cover emergency response costs and critical infrastructure repairs due to flooding that occurred in August 2024.

This financial support is being provided through the [Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance](#) (MDRA) program and is part of the province's plan to protect Ontario with record investments in infrastructure that will help keep workers on the job and keep communities safe.

"We're proud to stand with our municipal partners as they recover and rebuild. This funding will help ease the burden on the Township of Madawaska and ensure the safety and well-being of local residents," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "The Municipal Disaster Recovery Program protects municipalities by helping to pay for extraordinary emergency response costs and damage to essential property or infrastructure that is due to a natural disaster."

On August 18, 2024, the Township of Madawaska Valley experienced heavy rainfall, causing flooding across the municipality. The funding will help the Township to cover the costs of repairing roads, culverts and other essential infrastructure damaged by the flooding.

"Our government continues to stand with municipalities — partnering with them to share costs and provide support during times of emergency," said Billy Denault, Member of Provincial Parliament for Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke. "The relief provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing supports the Township of Madawaska Valley in their ongoing commitment to rebuilding for the long-term."

Quick Facts

- Eligible expenses under the program may include operating and capital costs that are over and above regular municipal budgets and are directly linked to the disaster.
- A municipality may be eligible for the program if its disaster-related costs reach a threshold of three per cent of its own-purpose taxation levy.

Quotes

"The Madawaska Valley Council and staff take great pride in being fiscally responsible, but even one natural disaster can stretch municipal resources to their limit. Last year's flooding caused significant damage, and would have resulted in a 3.8% increase in the municipal levy without external assistance. This support not only helps to cover repair costs but also gives the council and residents peace of mind, knowing they are not facing these challenges alone. The Township extends its sincere thanks to Minister Flack for his support, and to MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) Denault for recognizing the vital importance of such assistance and advocating for the unique challenges rural municipalities face. This highlights how collaboration at all levels is essential to overcoming difficulties and maintaining community well-being."

- Suzanne Klatt

CAO/Clerk, Township of Madawaska Valley

Related Topics

Courts, justice and law

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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Home and housing

Information about housing in Ontario and planning resources for municipalities. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Providing Free Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines Across the Province

Up-to-date immunizations will help protect against respiratory illnesses

October 29, 2025

[Health](#)

TORONTO — To protect Ontario families and communities during respiratory illness season, everyone six months and older can now receive their flu and COVID-19 vaccines at participating pharmacies, public health units and doctor and nurse practitioner offices across Ontario.

“Getting immunized is one of the most effective ways to protect yourself, your loved ones and our communities,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “As we head into respiratory illness season, I encourage everyone to stay up to date with their flu and COVID-19 vaccines, which are free, safe, effective and available across the province.”

Staying up-to-date with your routine and recommended immunizations is the best way to protect yourself and your community this fall and winter. Getting both the [COVID-19](#) and the [flu](#) vaccines at the same time is safe and recommended to avoid multiple trips to a health-care provider.

The free adult RSV immunizations, Abrysvo® or Arexvy, are also available and recommended to [everyone 75 years of age and older](#), building on [last year’s expansion](#) of the RSV prevention programs that also include:

- Certain high-risk adults aged 60+ such as residents of long-term care homes or retirement homes
- Infants less than eight months of age born April 1 or after
- High-risk children less than 24 months of age

Pregnant women have the option to receive the RSV vaccine Abrysvo®, which can help provide protection to infants at birth. Alternatively, eligible newborns, infants and high-risk children can receive the Beyfortus® immunization.

“Immunization remains one of the most powerful tools in our toolbox to prevent serious illness and hospitalizations,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “Getting your flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines, if eligible, this fall is safe, convenient, and helps protect our most vulnerable populations. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the free vaccines available across the province.”

Immunizations 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 to keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy.

Quick Facts

- To receive protection from currently circulating strains of respiratory illness, it is recommended you get the COVID-19 and flu vaccines annually each fall.
- Immunizations help prevent infection and can help reduce the severity of illness if you do become sick.
- While immunization is the best way to protect yourself and others from respiratory illness, there are additional steps you can take to help keep yourself, your friends, family and your community healthy, including washing your hands often, covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze, cleaning surfaces and shared items regularly, and staying at home when sick.
- Children under 2 years old cannot get a flu shot at a pharmacy and not all pharmacies choose to administer COVID-19 vaccines to younger age groups such as those less than 5 years old. Public health units and primary care providers may offer additional options for vaccination for children 6 months to under 5 years old.
- The province [recently expanded](#) free RSV immunization to everyone 75 years of age and older, in addition to [eligible high-risk groups](#) aged 60+. Free RSV immunization is available to protect eligible infants less than 8 months of age at the time of immunization and high-risk children less than 24 months of age. There is also the option to receive immunization during pregnancy to protect infants at birth.
- Talk to a health-care provider about co-administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccines, and for RSV if you are eligible. [Currently, pharmacies do not administer free RSV immunizations](#) as part of Ontario’s publicly funded immunization program.

- Availability of immunizations may vary across providers. Call ahead to ensure your provider has supply before going.
- Visit [Health811 online](#) or call 811 (TTY: [1-866-797-0007](#) toll free) for free health advice and information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Quotes

"Staying up-to-date with routine and recommended immunizations helps protect the health and safety of our long-term care staff, residents and their caregivers. Our government's free immunization programs, combined with effective infection and prevention control practices in our long-term care homes, help protect residents so they can get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve."

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

"I encourage all seniors to get their COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Programs like this help seniors to live happy, healthy and independent lives in our communities."

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

"As another respiratory illness season begins, Ontario pharmacists are proud to help make it simple and convenient for people across the province to get their flu and COVID-19 vaccines. As trusted and accessible health-care providers, pharmacists are proud to continue to support Ontario's vaccination efforts by making it easy for people to get protected close to home."

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

"Ontario's doctors strongly encourage everyone to get their flu and COVID-19 vaccines this season. These vaccines are safe, effective, and one of the best ways to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities. Getting vaccinated now helps prevent serious disease later and eases pressure on our health-care system during respiratory illness season."

- Dr. Zainab Abdurrahman
President, Ontario Medical Association

"Ontario's family physicians are here not just to treat illness, but to prevent it. Staying up to date on your flu and COVID-19 vaccines helps protect everyone. If you have questions about seasonal or routine vaccinations, family physicians are here to help guide your choices. Together, we can keep our families and communities healthy and out of hospitals."

- Deepy Sur
CEO, Ontario College of Family Physicians

Additional Resources

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

Related Topics

Government

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

Health and wellness

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

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Ontario Investing \$7 Million to Support Literary Arts and Publishers

Funding will strengthen Ontario's publishing sector, support local authors and grow province's creative economy

October 30, 2025

[Tourism, Culture and Gaming](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$7 million to protect and promote the province's literary arts and publishing sector. This funding will strengthen Ontario's creative industries, while supporting local authors and cultural producers to deliver community-driven events and programming that showcase Ontario's stories to the world.

"Ontario's literary and publishing sector is a cornerstone of our cultural identity," said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "By protecting and promoting Ontario's authors, publishers and storytellers, we're preserving our shared heritage while driving economic growth and creative opportunity in communities across the province. When Ontario's artists thrive, our whole province thrives."

Recognizing the dynamic nature of the literary and publishing sector, the government is providing support through key agencies and grant programs in 2025-26, including:

- Ontario Creates, which is investing \$5.1 million in the publishing industry to support Canadian authors and fund the creation, marketing and development of literary projects.
- Ontario Arts Council, which is investing \$1.9 million across 75 artists and arts organizations to foster the creation, publication and presentation of new and diverse written and spoken works in Ontario.
- Experience Ontario 2025, a competitive festivals and events grant program, which is investing more than \$100,000 to support literary festivals that promote Canadian heritage and culture, create jobs and attract visitors.

As part of this year's investment, Canada's largest and longest-running literary festival, the Toronto International Festival of Authors, is receiving over \$200,000 as it welcomes writers, thinkers and visitors from around the world this week.

"The ongoing support from Minister Cho and the Ontario government through the Ontario Arts Council and initiatives such as Experience Ontario has been integral to TIFA's success. And never more so than now in 2025 when TIFA became a fully independent Festival organisation for the first time in its 50-year history," said Roland Gulliver, Artistic Director & CEO, Toronto International Festival of Authors. "This funding will help bring authors to audiences all year round, to better support the province's publishing industry, and to celebrate the best books and stories from Ontario on a national and international stage. It has never been more important to champion and celebrate Ontario and Canada's rich and diverse literary community."

Arts and culture tourism has significant economic impacts in Ontario, benefitting communities by attracting visitors—many from overseas—who stay longer in local accommodations, dine at restaurants, shop at local retailers and support main street businesses.

Investments in the literary sector encourage cultural engagement, support opportunities for creative entrepreneurship and help lifelong learning among diverse audiences.

Quick Facts

- Ontario is home to the largest number of cultural producers in Canada. In 2023, Ontario's culture sector contributed over \$27 billion to the province's GDP and supported nearly 270,000 jobs.
 - Tourism plays a critical role in the Ontario economy: in 2024, visitors to Ontario spent \$33 billion and supported more than 300,000 jobs.
 - Taking place from October 29 to November 2 across the Greater Toronto Area, TIFA brings together acclaimed authors, passionate readers and book lovers from around the globe to share stories, exchange ideas and celebrate their love of literature.
 - In 2024-25, the government invested over \$192 million in the tourism sector through funding programs, Regional Tourism Organization grants, Destination Ontario, ministry attractions and tourism agencies.
-

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Ontario Creating New Conservation Authority Agency to Improve Service Delivery and Protect Communities

Agency will oversee key improvement projects, including a proposed regional consolidation

October 31, 2025

[Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

Toronto — The Ontario government will soon introduce legislation to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) with the aim of improving the province's conservation authority system to help get shovels in the ground faster on homes and other local infrastructure projects, while strengthening the vital role conservation authorities play in managing watersheds and protecting communities from floods and natural hazards. This action will help the province deliver on its plan to protect Ontario by cutting red tape and building an economy that is more competitive, resilient and self-reliant, to help keep workers on the job in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty.

“Conservation authorities play a vital role in protecting our communities and managing our watersheds, but the system has become too fragmented, inconsistent and outdated,” said Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. “The new, dedicated agency would work with conservation leaders to ensure faster, more transparent permitting and more front-line services so we can reduce delays to get shovels in the ground sooner, support economic growth and keep our communities safe from floods and other natural hazards.”

Ontario currently has a fragmented system of 36 conservation authorities, each of which have different policies, standards, fees and levels of staffing and technical capabilities. This has led to unpredictable and inconsistent turnaround times for approvals across all conservation authorities, creating uncertainty and delays for builders, landowners and farmers seeking permits and undermining conservation authorities' ability to protect communities from floods and natural hazards.

To address these issues, the OPCA will provide centralized leadership, efficient governance, strategic direction and oversight of all conservation authorities. The agency will free-up resources for front-line conservation and ensure faster, more

consistent and transparent permitting, while supporting conservation authorities in their core mandate of managing watersheds and protecting people and property from natural hazards in an efficient and consistent manner.

The agency will be tasked with leading key modernization projects, including:

- developing a single digital permitting platform to provide a faster, more predictable approvals process and improved customer service
- streamlining and standardizing service delivery by setting clear, provincewide performance standards and support their consistent application by conservation authorities with centralized data and updated floodplain mapping
- overseeing the implementation of a regional, watershed-based consolidation of conservation authorities

Under the leadership of the new agency, conservation authorities will continue to deliver existing programs such as protecting people and property from natural hazards, drinking water source protection and the management of lands and recreational trails, including public access to local natural areas, as well as other recreational and educational activities.

“The Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency will work with conservation authorities to reduce duplication, implement consistent processes and standards, and leverage shared technology and other resources,” said Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive.

“With better tools and more resources for front-line staff, local conservation authorities will have a greater ability to use technical data, research and analysis to make decisions, operate with greater consistency and transparency, and deliver faster services to municipalities, residents and permit applicants.”

In the coming weeks the government plans to introduce legislation to establish the proposed agency. As part of that work, the government will soon begin consultations with the public, municipalities, stakeholders, Indigenous communities and other partners on a watershed-based consolidation of conservation authorities, including the proposed regional boundaries of each conservation authority based on the following criteria:

- maintaining watershed-based jurisdictions for effective flood and water management
- reducing administrative overlap and duplication for municipalities and conservation authorities

- balancing expertise and capacity across conservation authorities to improve service and program delivery
- ensuring uninterrupted delivery of local conservation authority programs

Under the current system, more than half of all municipalities in areas served by conservation authorities fall within the jurisdiction of two or more conservation authorities, resulting in unnecessary duplication that diverts resources from front-line conservation work and service delivery. If the consolidation is implemented as proposed, this would be reduced by 63 per cent.

Individual conservation authorities have significant disparities in size and resources, with some lacking access to the latest tools and technology that support flood risk management and evidence-based decision making. Consolidation would enable more consistent service delivery and more efficient resource and information sharing, making conservation authorities more responsive to the needs of the communities they serve.

Quick Facts

- Unique to Ontario, conservation authorities develop and deliver local, watershed-based resource management programs on behalf of the province and municipalities, including programs aimed at preventing natural hazards, drinking water source protection and surface water and groundwater monitoring programs.
- As part of their responsibilities, conservation authorities issue permits for development activities such as housing, installation of sewage systems in areas affected by risks of natural hazards such as floodplains, shorelines and wetlands.

Additional Resources

[Learn more about Ontario's conservation authorities.](#)

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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Ontario Increasing Support to Municipalities through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund

\$50 million boost will support 388 municipalities across the province in providing critical services

October 31, 2025

[Finance](#)

[Rural Affairs](#)

GODERICH — As part of the provincial government’s plan to protect Ontario and provide historic financial support for municipalities, the province is increasing the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) by \$50 million, bringing the total funding to \$600 million for 2026. The funding will support 388 small, northern and rural municipalities and those with a limited property tax base, by providing critical services from public transit and libraries to emergency services and road maintenance.

“Today’s announcement shows our government’s continued commitment to protecting and supporting rural and northern municipalities in Ontario. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund plays an essential role in creating safe and strong rural communities across the province,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs. “Through the OMPF, our government is helping to ensure that rural and remote northern communities will receive the funds necessary to address local priorities that will allow them to thrive and grow.”

The OMPF is the province’s main general assistance grant to municipalities. After consultation earlier this year, the additional \$50 million enhancement builds on the significant increases in support that the government is providing and represents a combined 20 per cent increase over the last two years.

“As we continue to navigate tariffs and global economic uncertainty, our government is stepping up to support Ontario’s communities – including small, Northern, and rural municipalities,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “As we continue to protect Ontario and build our province, we will ensure municipalities have the tools they need to continue delivering critical local services to people and families in every corner of the province.”

From 2019 to 2024, key provincial support to municipalities grew by over 45 per cent. In 2024 alone, the government provided over \$10 billion to Ontario municipalities through key transfers. This includes:

- An additional \$1 billion through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) over five years starting in 2022.
- Nearly \$654 million annually through the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP).
- Almost \$380 million to help 102 municipalities improve local transit through the 2024-25 Gas Tax program.

The government's \$50 million increase to the OMPF in 2026 will be spread across all four core grant components to support small, northern and rural municipalities, as well as those with a limited property tax base.

Quick Facts

- The OMPF is a formula-based program that incorporates annual data updates to ensure the program is responsive to changing municipal circumstances.
 - The province is working with municipalities to support building more homes for people and families. Ontario is investing an additional \$1.6 billion through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP) nearly doubling the total investment to \$4 billion.
-

Additional Resources

[2026 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund](#)

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

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Ontario Investing More than \$26.7 Million to Protect Survivors of Gender-Based Violence

Funding will boost shelter spaces and wrap-around services

November 03, 2025

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

[Women's Social and Economic Opportunity](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is investing an additional \$26.7 million over two years in shelter spaces to protect survivors of gender-based violence and to strengthen the Family Court Support Worker program. As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by improving access to services and supports, the funding will help increase accessibility at emergency shelters across the province and help victims navigate the family court system.

“Our government is taking action to end gender-based violence in Ontario by investing in community partners and strengthening local services,” said Michael Parsa, Ontario's Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. “This investment will help frontline agencies across the province provide survivors with a safe place to heal and rebuild their lives.”

Ontario shelters serve over 12,000 women and dependents each year. The government's investment will support capacity at over 65 emergency shelters across the province, including those serving rural, remote and northern communities and Indigenous-led shelters, to ensure space is available where and when it's needed.

“Women need to feel safe and supported in their communities in order to reach their full potential,” said Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity. “By strengthening community-based services, our government is helping to prevent violence and support women to succeed everywhere—at home, at work, and in their communities.”

The funding will also help increase access to Family Court Support Workers across the province. Court Support Workers help survivors of gender-based violence understand the court process, prepare for proceedings, access referrals to

specialized services and supports in the community, and accompany victims to court proceedings.

This investment builds on Ontario's efforts to better respond to violence, build safer and healthier communities, and support women's well-being and economic security through [Ontario's action plan to end gender-based violence](#). The government is also protecting young people and vulnerable communities by investing \$345 million to renew Ontario's five-year [Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy](#) from 2025-2030, the largest investment of its kind in the country.

"Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses applauds this government for heeding our call to invest in more shelter spaces across Ontario," said Marlene Ham, Executive Director of OAITH. "It is investments like this one that will open doors to safety, wellbeing and futures free from violence. When services like shelter spaces and wraparound support services are offered, better outcomes are realized bringing hope and possibility to those who need it most."

Quick Facts

- New funding includes \$8.25 million in 2025-26 and increases to \$15.7 million in 2026-27 to provide annualized support for more than 300 shelter spaces across Ontario.
 - The government is also investing an additional \$2.7 million annually beginning this year in the Family Court Support Worker program.
 - Over the past five years, emergency women's shelters in Ontario served an average of 12,000 women and dependents each year.
 - In 2024-25, the Family Court Support Worker program helped more than 10,500 survivors of domestic violence navigate the legal system at 43 locations across the province.
 - In December 2023, Ontario announced its four-year action plan to prevent and address gender-based violence. The action plan is supported by more than \$1.4 billion in total investments in gender-based violence services and supports over the duration of the plan.
-

Additional Resources

[Ontario's action plan to prevent and address gender-based violence](#)

[Get help if you are experiencing violence](#)

Related Topics

Family and social services

Services for children, youth, families and individuals who need support, and advancing the interests of women across Ontario. Includes information on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. [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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Council and Committee Monthly Summary

October 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held October 8 and October 22, 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 [October 8, 2025](#) and [October 22, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- Warden Peter Emon celebrated the success of the Renfrew County Municipal Day Event on September 24. He noted it was wonderful to see so many residents, staff, and service partners come together. He thanked everyone who attended, and also staff, who organized a fun and educational experience for children and adults alike.
- The Warden congratulated the recipients of the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards, including former member of provincial parliament, John Yakabuski, for receiving the lifetime achievement award.
- He highlighted a visit from Klaus Meyer, a paramedic from Germany who spent several days with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service. He noted Klaus joined the team for ride-alongs, toured our paramedic bases, and had the opportunity to witness the Sierra Team in action. The visit was not only a chance to display the unique challenges and innovative approaches we employ in delivering paramedic care across our county, it was also a meaningful opportunity for research collaboration and partnership building, Warden Emon added.
- Warden Emon celebrated recent graduates of the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) 2025 Rural Change Makers - a group of 22 young leaders from across rural and northern Ontario. Among them are several from Renfrew County, including Abbie Lakhan (Petawawa), Christina Raddatz (Douglas), Rachel Richer (Laurentian Hills), and Sarah Richer (Eganville). These individuals are making meaningful contributions to their communities, and their involvement in this program speaks volumes about the future of rural leadership.
- He highlighted the ongoing advocacy efforts through the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) as [Parliament Hill Advocacy Day](#) was held on October 21 with meetings with federal officials and Members of Parliament to discuss urgent priorities impacting the 103 small urban and rural eastern Ontario communities that make up the EOWC.

Delegations

- At the October 8 session of County Council Nick Gooderham, General Manager at Ottawa Valley Forest, provided an [update](#) on Ottawa Valley Forest Inc. (OVFI). Established in 1998, OVFI is a forest management company owned by a consortium of local wood processors and logging contractors. It holds the Sustainable Forest Licence for the Ottawa Valley Forest, which spans approximately 322,000 hectares—40% of Renfrew County—with 234,000 hectares actively managed. Key responsibilities include the development and implementation of Forest Management Plans, annual scheduling and reporting of forestry operations, forest renewal activities including tree planting and tending, and compliance inspections and data collection. In terms of the local economic impact, OVFI and its shareholders employ over 500 people directly, 75 jobs with seasonal renewal contracts and a 2025 Deloitte survey estimates 800 forest sector jobs in Renfrew County.
- Dean Felhaber, President, Ben Hokum and Son Limited, accompanied by John Yakabuski, presented the company's proposal for a biomass cogeneration facility in North Algona Wilberforce Township. The plant will generate carbon-neutral electricity using 150,000 green metric tonnes per year of mill residues and low-grade pulpwood, with 12.5 megawatts of electrical energy exported to Ontario's grid and 1 megawatt of electrical energy used on-site. Key highlights of the proposed project include a \$65 million investment with a projected \$53 million/year economic impact, 30 to 40 full-time rural jobs, offsets of 32,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually, utilization of underused biomass, enhanced forest health and reducing fire risk and alignment with Ontario's goals for clean energy, rural development, and sustainable forestry.

Announcements

- There is still time to submit nominations for the 2025 Warden's Community Service Awards. These awards recognize individuals, non-profit organizations, and for-profit businesses that demonstrate exceptional dedication to our community through volunteerism, leadership, and support. The deadline to [submit nominations](#) is October 31 and residents are encouraged to consider nominating someone who makes a difference in Renfrew County. Let's celebrate those who go above and beyond to make our communities stronger.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council approved that the General Repairs budget under the 2025 Capital Program be used to increase the budget for Campbell Drive Culvert (County Structure C134) and award contracts as follows:
 - Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) wall as a Change Order to the existing Contract for the same materials at Robertson Line Twin Pipes (County Structure C136), to Maccaferri Canada Limited, Cambridge, Ontario, in the amount of \$58,504.76, plus applicable taxes;
 - Aggregate Supply and/or Supply and Delivery to Miller Aggregates Limited, McNab/Braeside, Ontario, at an upset contract limit cost of \$82,212.50, plus applicable taxes;
 - Hot Mix Asphalt Supply and Placement to McCrea Excavating Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$22,400, plus applicable taxes;

- Supply, Delivery and Installation of Steel Beam Guiderail and End Treatments to Peninsula Construction Inc., Fonthill, Ontario, in the amount of \$86,020, plus applicable taxes.
- Committee received information about Winter Maintenance Agreements for 2025-2026 as follows:
 - Township of Carlow/Mayo – for services of 1.2 km on County Road 517 (Dafoe Road) - complete.
 - Pat Stewart Trucking Inc. for services of 2.49 km on County Road 635 (Swisha Road) - in progress.
 - Algonquin of Pikwakanagan First Nation for services of County Road 70 (Kokomis Inamo) - complete.
 - Town of Arnprior for services for services of County Road 1 (Madawaska Boulevard/Elgin Street) and County Road 2 (Daniel Street North and South/ White Lake Road) - in progress.
 - Town of Deep River for services on County Road 72 (Ridge Road) and County Road 73 (Deep River Road) - complete.
 - Town of Renfrew for services on County Road 20 (Bruce Street) and County Road 52 (Raglan Street South) - complete.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For paving the salt dome entrance as submitted by McCrea Excavating Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$105,055.00,
 - For roof repairs at the Calabogie Patrol Yard as submitted by Blackladder Construction, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$2,890.00, excluding taxes.
 - For the repair of overhead doors at the White Water Road Patrol as submitted by Draper Doors, Harrowsmith, Ontario, in the amount of \$17,888.50.
- Staff is preparing for the upcoming winter season, with the Public Works and Engineering Department targeting 50% operational capacity by November 1, 2025, and full readiness by November 15. Mechanics are ahead of schedule with truck preparations. Night patrols are set to begin November 16, 2025, and continue through April 2, 2026.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association prepared a [discussion paper](#) regarding EarlyON Child and Family Centres, which provide free, high-quality programs for families with children aged six and under across Ontario. It highlights the importance of EarlyON as a low-barrier, provincially funded program that supports child development, parenting, and community connections. The paper outlines survey findings from municipal service system managers and offers recommendations to the Ministry of Education to address funding gaps, workforce support, curriculum updates, equitable access in rural areas, and IT system standardization. The document emphasizes the critical role EarlyON plays in family well-being and community support while advocating for sustainable investments to meet growing demand.
- As information, the Committee received the [Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy Progress Report](#), outlining progress made during the first three quarters of 2025. The report highlights significant reductions in the number of suspected drug toxicity deaths and opioid-related emergency department visits compared to the same period in the previous two years.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: Rob Weir, Vice-Chair

- County Council approved a resolution to establish a HYPE Reserve Account to support its regional incentive program – Helping Your Place Excel (HYPE); with funds budgeted for the 2025 HYPE Program being transferred to the HYPE Reserve. Due to the nature of some approved applications under the HYPE Program extending from one fiscal year to the next, staff recommended the creation of a HYPE Reserve to allow for better management of the funds for approved projects.
- County Council endorsed the Township of Whitewater Region's efforts to assess and unlock the economic potential of the former Timminco Mine Site, including evaluating mineral viability, as well as the feasibility of severing uncommitted lands for industrial development. The Township of Whitewater Region has identified the former Timminco Mine Site, located near Haley Station, as a strategic opportunity for future industrial and mineral development. The site contains a high-purity dolomitic marble (magnesium) deposit and is adjacent to existing industrial infrastructure, including Magellan Aerospace, natural gas, high-voltage electricity, and the planned Highway 17 twinning.
- Women in Wood, co-founded by County Forester Lacey Rose, was the recipient of the 2025 Forest Products Association of Canada [Partnership Award](#). Women in Wood is celebrating its 10th year as a network for women who work in, with, and for the woods, with a current membership of more than 3,700 all over the world.
- [Registration is now open](#) for the annual Ottawa Valley tourism conference taking place on November 3, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Ottawa River Barn, Foresters Falls, Township of Whitewater Region. Under the theme – *Valley Voices: Shaping Tourism Together* – presenters will include the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO), Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO) and Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) staff, who will share information about the recently launched provincial tourism strategy, as well as local and regional tourism marketing opportunities.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- The County of Renfrew has been selected to host a youth intern through Environmental Leadership Canada's Municipal Climate Internship (MCI) program for the 2025–2026 cohort. This nationally recognized initiative supports municipalities in advancing climate action while providing youth (ages 18–30) with professional experience in environmental leadership and local governance. The internship will run full-time from January to July 2026, offering a six-month placement.
Participation in the MCI program will enhance staff capacity to advance climate and environmental initiatives. It also provides an opportunity to support and mentor a future environmental leader, contributing to workforce development and youth engagement in the region. Furthermore, the County's involvement in this nationally recognized program reinforces its commitment to climate action and sustainability, increasing its visibility as a proactive and environmentally conscious municipality. The [application deadline](#) is November 3, 2025.

- County Council approved the updated Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan. With this resolution, pre-budget approval was granted to proceed with the 2026 projects and purchases contained within the updated Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan, totalling \$61,923,112. Similar to 2025, this pre-budget approval allows for early tendering for projects for potential better pricing; earlier start for those projects that have long order times; clarity for staff to allow for workload planning; multi-year carryover projects to proceed uninterrupted by the budget cycle; and for the project list to be circulated to the local municipalities for consideration under the Infrastructure Expansion Policy.
- County Council approved an amended Staff Training and Development Policy. This policy update is part of the Senior Leadership Team's ongoing review of policies, with the goal of making meaningful, positive changes for staff. Aligned with our Why Statement, each policy reflects our commitment to cultivating a compassionate, collaborative, creative, and inclusive environment. The policy is available from Human Resources.
- County Council approved changes to the Non-Union Staff Salary Grid within Employment By-law #1 to increase the student (under 18) wage from \$16.20 to \$16.60 per hour; and increase the student (18 and over) wage from \$17.20 to \$17.60 per hour.
- County Council approved a resolution in support of the [Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)'s advocacy](#) around automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras within Community Safety Zones. The County of Renfrew has paused its plan to bring Automated Speed Enforcement to school zones in Petawawa, Renfrew and Laurentian Valley.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Steve Osipenko, Commander with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, was awarded the Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal in recognition of outstanding career accomplishments in the field of emergency medical services. This prestigious national honour is awarded to only 180 recipients across Ontario each year. This recognition reflects Steve's long-standing dedication and professionalism and serves as a testament to the high standard of service provided by our paramedic team.
- County Council directed the Warden to send a detailed letter advocating to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and copied to Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke regarding predictable and sustained funding for paramedic services and related programs, including the Dedicated Offload Nurses Program; advance notification of funding changes, including reductions or terminations, to allow for responsible planning and service continuity and transparent communication mechanisms between the Province and municipalities regarding health-related funding decisions.
The Warden will also request a formal meeting with the Ministry of Health during the County's Queen's Park Day in November to discuss long-term funding strategies for paramedic services, share local impacts and challenges related to offload delays and staffing pressures and reinforce the County's commitment to collaborative solutions that align with provincial health priorities.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

613-735-7288

The EOWC Strengthens Ties with Federal Leaders During Parliament Hill Advocacy Day

Posted on Thursday, October 23, 2025



The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) hosted a breakfast reception on Parliament Hill October 21. Taking part (from left) were Jessica Uitvlugt, Administrative and Communications Coordinator, EOWC; Marc-Andre Periard, Paramedic Chief and Emergency Services Department Director, United Counties of Prescott and Russell; Kurt Greaves, CAO, County of Lanark; Martin Lang, Warden, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry; Bob Mullin, Warden, County of Hastings; Eric Duncan, Member of Parliament, Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry; Yves Laviolette, Warden, United Counties of Prescott and Russell; Chris Malette, Member of Parliament, Bay of Quinte; Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Toby Randell, Warden, County of Lanark; Sheridan Graham, Secretary-Treasurer, EOWC; Jason St. Pierre, CEO, EORN; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington; Maureen Adams, CAO, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry; Connor Dorey, CAO, County of Hastings; Travis Mellema, Paramedic Chief, County of Lanark; Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; Glenn Dees, CAO, Northumberland County; Adam Goheen, CAO, County of Prince Edward; Peter Emon, Warden, County of Renfrew; Brian Ostrander, Warden, Northumberland County; Craig Kelley, CAO, County of Renfrew;

*Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC;
Gary Dyke, CAO, Haliburton County.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 23, 2025

Ottawa, ON – On October 21, the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus (EOWC) met in Ottawa for its Parliament Hill Advocacy Day, meeting with federal officials and Members of Parliament to discuss urgent priorities impacting our 103 small urban and rural eastern Ontario communities.

Representing 1.1 million residents, or 1 in 40 Canadians, the EOWC used the opportunity to build relationships with Prime Minister Carney’s new government, regional Members of Parliament, and the official opposition, to progress priorities, including that the Federal Government:

- Unlock trade and housing-enabling infrastructure to build Canada’s economic resilience
- Invest in eastern Ontario ports to expand national and global trade
- Ensure the new Build Canada Homes program includes rural and small urban municipalities at the forefront in its design and implementation
- Modernize federal coordination and remove barriers to support the advancement of paramedic services

“Eastern Ontario is facing real challenges, but also tremendous opportunities,” stated Bonnie Clark, Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus and Warden of Peterborough County. “Our meetings on Parliament Hill were about making sure the government knows that the EOWC and our municipalities are partners they can count on to deliver on national goals in our local communities. Our communities are ready to work, ready to grow, and ready to partner with the federal government to deliver results for the people we serve.”

The advocacy day started with a breakfast reception featuring remarks from Chris Malette, Member of Parliament for the Bay of Quinte, and Eric Duncan, Member of Parliament for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (and former Chair of the EOWC). Their insights highlighted the importance of continued federal support for rural priorities.

Building on that message, EOWC leaders participated in 15 meetings, presenting data and recommendations to strengthen eastern Ontario’s economy, enhance service delivery, and support Canada’s efforts to remain competitive on the global stage.

The EOWC was honoured to meet with Zachary Nixon from the Ontario Desk in the Prime Minister’s Office, as well as the following federal representatives:

- Pauline Rochefort, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State (Rural Development)

- Jennifer McKelvie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure
- Mike Kelloway, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Internal Trade
- Chris Malette, Member of Parliament for Bay of Quinte
- Staff from the offices of Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State (Rural Development), and Karina Gould, Chair of the Standing Committee of Finance.

The EOWC also engaged with members of the official opposition, including staff from Pierre Poilievre's office, and:

- Richard Bragdon, Shadow Minister for Rural Development
- Larry Brock, Shadow Minister for Justice and Attorney General of Canada
- Scott Aitchison, Shadow Minister for Housing and Infrastructure
- Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament for Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes
- Shelby Kramp-Neuman, Member of Parliament for Hastings—Lennox and Addington—Tyendinaga

The EOWC remains committed to working collaboratively with all levels of government to ensure the long-term prosperity, sustainability, and well-being of eastern Ontario's small urban and rural communities.

About the EOWC

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus is a non-profit organization representing 103 small urban and rural municipalities across eastern Ontario. Spanning 50,000 square kilometres and serving over 1.1 million residents, the EOWC has been a united regional voice for more than 20 years. It advocates for municipal priorities and collaborates with all orders of government, businesses, non-profits, Indigenous leaders, the media, and the public to drive positive change for eastern Ontario.

For more information, please contact the EOWC:

info@eowc.org

Bonnie Clark, Chair (Warden of Peterborough County) | 705-927-4207

Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair (Mayor of Prince Edward County)

Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy | 647-545-8324

Kaitlyn Wendland

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - October 23, 2025



October 23, 2025

In This Issue:

- Last Call for AMO's 2026 Youth Fellowship Program applications!
- AMO's Work-Learn Institute Municipal Talent Project.
- Funding Readiness, Protecting Communities: Apply for CEPG!
- Webinar: Permission changes for storm water management works.
- MECP best practices for Source Water Protection Program.
- Seeking re-election or first-time candidate? AMO's new, free workshop series is for you.
- Request your delegations at the ROMA Conference.
- ROMA Trade show - 50% sold out!
- Show me the Money: Unlocking Energy Funding.
- Mercury-containing lamps are Going! Going!! Gone!!!
- Register now for Magnetic North Conference 2025 at Science North.
- Call for proposals inviting Canadian municipalities to apply for infrastructure projects funding.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

Applications for AMO's 2026 Youth Fellowship Program are closing next Thursday, October 30th. Share this opportunity with students and youth interested in local government, governance, and the health of our democracy. Participants learn about municipal governance and policy while gaining exposure to real-time issues facing Ontario's municipalities. [Applications information linked here.](#)

AMO is partnering with the University of Waterloo's Work-Learn Institute to explore how work-integrated learning can better support long-term municipal workforce development. If you have experience overseeing a student placement in a municipal setting, [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 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is holding a webinar about changes to environmental permissions for storm water management from 1:30-3.00pm November 4, 2025. Contact enviopermissions@ontario.ca for the link and further details.

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 for more information.

Education Opportunities

Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities is designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet the challenges of the political landscape head-on. This workshop series is being offered at no charge in two streams: those considering re-election in 2026 and a second for first-time candidates who want to explore whether elected office is right for them. [Full details and registration information here.](#)

ROMA is pleased to share that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) has launched its [delegation request process](#) for the 2026 ROMA Annual Conference. Only registered ROMA Conference delegates are eligible to participate in delegation meetings with the provincial government. [Register today.](#)

ROMA members represent over 2.8 million residents living in about 1,000,000 households. Connect with rural municipal leaders at the ROMA Conference trade show. [Complete your application today](#) before it is sold out.

LAS

Is the lack of funding keeping your energy projects from moving forward? Check out this free webinar on October 24 that will unpack available incentives and rebates for your municipality. Don't wait - [register today.](#)

Products Containing Mercury Regulations prohibits the import and manufacture of mercury-containing lights. Starting 1 January 2026, a gradual phase-out will begin. How will this impact your facilities' lighting? Join us for a free webinar on October 29 to learn more. [Register here to attend.](#)

Municipal Wire*

Registration is now open for Magnetic North 2025 at Science North. Join the Northern Policy Institute in Sudbury to explore population growth and immigration in Northern Ontario. For more details about the conference and to register, [click here.](#)

Co-operators [Resilience Acceleration Lab](#) is inviting municipalities to apply for funding to develop infrastructure projects that reduce physical climate risks, including flooding, wildfires, storms, and heat. Selected proposals may receive up to \$250,000 and expert guidance to prepare for private capital financing. Projects will be reviewed on a rolling basis until January 30, 2026. Contact [Don Iveson](#) or resilience@cooperators.ca if you have any questions.

Careers

[Executive Director – Brant Municipal Enterprises Inc.](#) Closing Date: November 3, 2025.

[Administrator - The John Noble Home.](#) Closing Date: November 3, 2025

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal

government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

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[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

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



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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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Kaitlyn Wendland

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update - Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025



AMO Policy Update – Bill 60, *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025*

Top Insights

The omnibus Bill 60 contains several significant municipal proposals, most notably:

- Draft regulations for development charge modernization, aligning with joint advice from AMO and the Ontario Home Builders' Association.
- Creation of a public corporation for water and wastewater services, beginning with Peel Region.
- Prohibitions on municipalities reducing motor vehicle lanes, including for new bike lane installation.
- Measures to shorten Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) processes and eviction timelines.

Bill 60 *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act 2025*

Last Thursday, the government tabled its latest [omnibus bill](#). The bill and [additional communications](#) include a large number of initiatives impacting the municipal sector.

Top items of interest

- **Development charges (DCs):** Responding to joint AMO-Ontario Home Builders' Association advocacy for DC modernization over cuts and discounts, the province introduced draft regulation based on Bill 17's framework changes. AMO is pleased the province adopted our joint technical advice developed over the summer, which standardizes calculation of DCs, including land and local service costs, and introduces new transparency measures, such as annual DC statement tabling to council. These changes will improve local municipal-developer relations by reducing questions and friction on DC fee calculation, reducing the incidence of lengthy appeals.
- **Peel Region water and wastewater services:** The bill introduced a pilot public corporation model for water and wastewater services, specifically targeting Peel Region. This legislation will transfer jurisdiction over these services from the Peel Region to the three lower-tier municipalities – Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon – and establish this new public corporation to manage infrastructure funding. While governance shifts to a professional board of directors, the structure ensures that assets remain publicly owned, a key outcome advocated by AMO. The intent of this model is to create new revenue streams by allowing the constituent municipalities to borrow capital for water/wastewater investments from the public corporation. AMO is pleased that the province is committed to maintaining public asset ownership while exploring innovative utility models and ways to fund growth infrastructure. However, AMO's prior analysis indicated these models are best suited for small and medium-sized municipalities, not large, complex regions like Peel. AMO continues to advocate that the use of public corporations for water and wastewater services must remain voluntary, not mandatory.
- **Vehicle lanes:** Bill 60 proposes to prohibit municipalities from reducing motor vehicle lanes for new bike lanes or other purposes (to be defined by regulation). This follows 2024's Bill 212 changes to constrain local bike lane decisions, which AMO opposed and continues to oppose now. Municipalities, relying on local knowledge and community input, are best positioned to balance traffic flow with active transportation, road safety, and community needs. Biking is a key tool for combating congestion; bike lanes are an essential element of multi-modal planning that removes cars from the road for short trips and transit connections, thus alleviating congestion, not causing it.

Other Bill proposals

- Changes to the LTB with a focus on strengthening landlord rights, providing shorter timelines for tenant evictions, and improving the speed and effectiveness of the LTB to address the active case backlog. While AMO recognizes that landlords need adequate rights to provide rental opportunities and increase housing supply, Ontario needs a balanced approach that provides tenants with strong protection from unlawful and illegal evictions such as bad faith renovations.
- Streamlining approvals for developments near transit and through Community Improvement Plans, expanding use of minor variances as-of-right, and prohibiting municipal green building standards.
- Creating a new legislative authority to create harmonized road construction standards for municipalities.
- Streamlining environmental approvals and making it easier to use excess soils where there is a low risk of contamination.

Items announced for future consultation

In addition to these legislative and regulatory changes, the government announced a commitment to consult on a review of the Ontario Building Code, streamlined official plans and digital approvals, expanding the use of communal and small-scale water and wastewater systems, and implementing harmonized road construction standards. The government has already walked back plans to consult on potential changes to end-of-lease provisions.

AMO will continue collaborating with the province to advise on and advocate for municipal interests in housing and economic growth and will formally comment on the bill during the standing committee process.

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

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Kaitlyn Wendland

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Speed Camera Legislation, First-Time Homebuyer HST Relief, AMO’s Homelessness Research Update & Energy Advocacy



AMO Policy Update – Speed Camera Legislation, First-Time Homebuyer HST Relief, AMO’s Homelessness Research Update & Energy Advocacy

Top Insights

- The province is fast-tracking its Bill banning municipal speed cameras, limiting MPP debate and bypassing public consultation.
- AMO commends the province for providing tax relief to first-time homebuyers.
- AMO is working with OMSSA, NOSDA and municipal partners to update data from our groundbreaking January 2025 homelessness report.
- AMO provided the province with advice on how to best implement a data centre strategy that protects utility capacity needed to deliver housing and economic priorities.
- The province announced a new advisory panel to recommend ways to strengthen local electricity distribution, responding to AMO’s call for new Local Distribution Company (LDC) funding approaches.

Province to Fast-Track *Bill 56, Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025*

The provincial government will fast-track their red tape reduction Bill tabled earlier this month, which included amendments to the Highway Traffic Act to remove municipal authority to operate Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE). The government's proposal would halt debate in the legislature at the second reading stage and bypass the legislative committee stage that typically follows.

By eliminating this essential component of the democratic process, the government removes the public's ability to comment and provide feedback on the Bill's numerous proposals, many of which will directly impact municipalities. See [AMO's previous post](#) for a summary of these proposals. AMO is disappointed in the government's decision as we had planned to use the legislative committee process to provide comments and detail the impacts of the Bill for the municipal sector. However, we look forward to providing feedback on the Bill through any future Regulatory/Environmental Registry postings.

AMO has written to Minister Sarkaria advocating for early collaboration with municipalities on the design of the new road safety funding program to ensure investments translate to improved road safety and highlighting the significant sunk costs municipalities have invested into ASE in accordance with provincial regulation.

Tax Break for New Homebuyers

Yesterday, the province [announced](#) a new rebate for the provincial portion of the HST for first-time home buyers of most new and substantially renovated homes. This mirrors proposed federal policy, combining to give first-time buyers a full HST break on qualifying homes under \$1 million. Provincial and federal plans allow for a phased HST reduction for first-time buyers for qualifying homes between \$1-1.5 million. AMO commends the province on taking steps to reduce the cost of new homes for first-time home buyers. This tax relief could boost buyer demand and help increase new home construction – an important priority for municipalities and the province.

Homelessness Research

AMO has partnered with OMSSA, NOSDA and HelpSeeker Technologies to update some of the data included in [Municipalities Under Pressure: The](#)

[Human and Financial Cost of Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis](#). The original report was successful, in large part, because we had full participation from all 47 municipal service managers. AMO is encouraging all impacted municipalities and District Social Services Administration Boards to participate and support AMO’s continued advocacy on the homelessness crisis.

AMO’s Advocacy on Ontario’s Data Centre Plan

AMO [submitted comments](#) to the province with advice on how to best implement its [plan](#) to prioritize the connection of large-load facilities, including data centres, to Ontario’s electricity grid. Given escalating electricity capacity constraints, AMO supports the province’s prioritization framework for data centres to avoid them impeding housing and economic growth. We recommended criteria for data centre prioritization and asked that the final process involve collaboration with municipalities and retain local planning approval authority.

New Local Electricity Distribution Panel

On Monday, the province [announced a new advisory table](#) named the “Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence” (PULSE). PULSE’s industry and municipal members will make recommendations to the province on local distribution company (LDC) funding and service delivery. Ontario’s LDCs will need upwards of \$120 billion to meet growing electricity demands over the next 25 years. Making sure that LDCs can fund and deliver infrastructure when and where it is needed is critical to supporting local housing and economic growth. AMO is pleased that the panel will be responding to our call for new funding and financing mechanisms to renew and expand LDC infrastructure.

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

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Kaitlyn Wendland

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - October 31, 2025



October 30, 2025

In This Issue:

- Deadline Extended: Nov 3rd! 2026 Youth Fellowship Program applications.
- Excess Soil and Records of Site Condition Regulatory Amendment.
- Webinar: Permission changes for storm water management works.
- MECP best practices for Source Water Protection Program.
- Request for Proposals for AMO AGM and Annual Conference.
- Seeking re-election or first-time candidate? AMO's new, free workshop series is for you.
- Request your delegations at the ROMA Conference.
- ROMA Trade show - over 50% sold out!
- How Municipalities Can Spot – and Stop – Professional Identity Fraud.
- Provide sewer and water line protection for homeowners.
- Partnering for Impact: Collaborating on Municipal Solutions.
- Register now for Magnetic North Conference 2025 at Science North.
- Call for proposals inviting municipalities to apply for infrastructure projects funding.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

Application deadline for AMO's 2026 Youth Fellowship Program are now closing next Monday, November 3rd. Share this opportunity with students and youth interested in local government, governance, and the health of our democracy. Participants learn about municipal governance and policy while gaining exposure to real-time issues facing Ontario's municipalities. [Applications information linked here.](#)

Provincial Matters

Ontario has made amendments to [Ontario Regulation 406/19](#) and [Ontario Regulation 153/04](#) to enable greater beneficial reuse of excess soil and remove barriers to redeveloping brownfield properties.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is holding a webinar about changes to environmental permissions for storm water management from 1:30-3.00pm November 4, 2025. Contact enviopermissions@ontario.ca for the link and further details.

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 for more information.

Education Opportunities

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is now accepting bids for our 2028, 2029, 2030 and 2031 AMO Annual Conference. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is open to all AMO members in good standing able to best fulfill/meet the criteria as laid out in the RFP. [Click here for the RFP.](#)

Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities is designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet the challenges of the political landscape head-on. This workshop series is being offered at no charge in two streams: those considering re-election in 2026 and a second for first-time candidates who want to explore whether elected office is right for them. [Full details and registration information here.](#)

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ROMA members represent over 2.8 million residents living in about 1,000,000 households. Connect with rural municipal leaders at the ROMA Conference trade show. [Complete your application today](#) before it is sold out.

LAS

LAS' Electronic Signature Program partner contributes an article about identifying fraudulent identity credentials. Read about various cases and [learn how to identify and stop these occurrences](#) in your municipality.

Through the [LAS Sewer and Water Line Warranty program](#), municipalities can provide a cost-saving option for homeowners who find themselves with damaged sewer and water lines. Learn more about this guaranteed warranty program provided by Service Line Warranties of Canada (SLWC).

Municipal Wire*

Join us on November 19th at 12:00pm for an interactive session exploring how municipal and post-secondary partnerships can tackle today's most complex local challenges. Learn practical ways municipal leaders, planners, and researchers can collaborate with academic institutions to drive innovation and change. [Register here.](#)

Registration is now open for Magnetic North 2025 at Science North. Join the Northern Policy Institute in Sudbury to explore population growth and immigration in Northern Ontario. For more details about the conference and to register, [click here.](#)

Co-operators [Resilience Acceleration Lab](#) is inviting municipalities to apply for funding to develop infrastructure projects that reduce physical climate risks, including flooding, wildfires, storms, and heat. Selected proposals may receive up to \$250,000 and expert guidance to prepare for private capital financing. Projects will be reviewed on a rolling basis until January 30, 2026. Contact [Don Iveson](#) or resilience@cooperators.ca if you have any questions.

Careers

[Strategic Initiatives & Engagement Manager - Bruce County.](#) Closing Date: November 7, 2025

[Associate Director, Fleet Services - Niagara Region](#). Closing Date: Nov 13, 2025

[Legal and Real Estate Coordinator - King Township](#). Closing Date: November 6, 2025

[Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer - King Township](#). Closing Date: November 17, 2025

[Zoning Examiner and Planning Coordinator - King Township](#). Closing Date: October 31, 2025

About AMO

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Chìbayatigo-kìjigad Namegosi Kizis 24th, 2025
Friday October 24th , 2025

www.algonquinsopikwakanagan.com 613-625-2800

Content:

- Council update
- Community update
- News & Events
 - Culture Camp
 - Harvest Information
- Health Updates
 - Active Living Fair
 - Lunch and Learn
 - Resources & Phone numbers
 - Call To Tender
- Job Readiness Program
- Employment Opportunities
 - PSW
- External Employment Opportunities
 - Roofing Laborer
 - Outreach and communications lead
 - Outreach and communications assistant
 - Financial Advisor/ Coach
- Membership Additions
- Community Information

Read the complete newsletter here



Notice

STAFF MAY BE LIMITED DUE
TO HARVEST
*miigwetch for your
understanding*

THANK
YOU
😊

GONE
HUNTING



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



Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin

Chìbayatigo-kìjigad Namegosi Kizis 31th, 2025
Friday October 31th , 2025

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Content:

- Council update
- News & Events
 - Career Fair
 - Harvest Information
 - Aminimal Control Info
- Health Updates
 - Winter Walking Program
 - Chair Exercises
- Resources & Phone numbers
- Employment Opportunities
 - Reception
 - PSW
- External Employment Opportunities
- Membership Additions
- Community Information

Read the complete newsletter here

Daylight Saving!

DON'T FORGET

Clocks go back 1 hour November 2nd!!!



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





TOWN OF AJAX
65 Harwood Avenue South
Ajax ON L1S 3S9
www.ajax.ca

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Sent by E-Mail

October 22, 2025

Re: Provincial Decision on Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)

The following resolution was passed by Ajax Town Council at its meeting held on October 20, 2025:

Whereas, the Province of Ontario filed enabling regulations in December 2019, to prescribe the locations, fines, and signage for municipalities to utilize Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras (ASE) as a tool to address speeding and improve public safety; and

Whereas, the Province's ASE legislative framework, together with provincial encouragement in 2019, has led municipalities such as Ajax to implement ASE technology to improve safety, reduce speeding, and prevent serious collisions and fatalities; and

Whereas, the Provincial government, through the Ministry of Transportation, is responsible for the legislation, regulations and program standards governing municipal ASE programs; and

Whereas, some cities have implemented ASE programs without appropriate restraint, Ajax is part of the vast majority of municipalities who have implemented best practices endorsed by the Ministry of Transportation and the Ontario Traffic Council - including speed thresholds, advanced signage and public notification of ASE camera locations - that prioritize public safety while also ensuring transparency in the program, resulting in safer roads; and

Whereas, consistent with local, regional, national and international research, the Town of Ajax's ASE program has resulted in significant reductions in speed, increased speed compliance in Community Safety and School Zones, and

changes in driver behaviour as outlined in the October 23, 2023, Council report titled “Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Program Update”; and

Whereas, the Town of Ajax has not generated any net revenue from the Automated Speed Enforcement program. However, the Town has made considerable investments into resources and infrastructure to support this program, and entered into service agreements that cannot easily be cancelled; and

Whereas, despite clear evidence and proven results from municipalities like Ajax, municipalities were caught off guard by the Premier’s sudden announcement to cancel ASE programs across the province, made without adequate notice and consultation; and

Whereas, the Premier’s concerns regarding ASE can be addressed through amendments to provincial legislation, regulations and program standards that enable municipalities to utilize ASE within prescribed guidelines, without an outright ban on the technology; and

Whereas, on September 10, 2025, Mayor Collier wrote a letter to Premier Doug Ford calling on the continuation of ASE and offered to meet to highlight how these programs can be implemented with appropriate restraint and serve as valuable tools for improving safety that are supported by local residents.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That Ajax Council formally opposes the Province’s decision to abruptly cancel ASE, a public safety tool enabled through provincial regulations in December 2019; and
2. That Ajax Council requests the Provincial government to amend their legislation, regulations, and program standards governing ASE as follows:
 - a) Restrict the use of ASE to School locations
 - b) Use of ASE in areas that do not contain schools must be approved by the Minister of Transportation, supported by data clearly Internal demonstrating the need and a description of why alternative traffic calming measures are not suitable for the location.
 - c) Develop a revised fee schedule for ASE tickets that reduces the cost for lower speed infractions while maintaining higher penalties for excessive speeding and stunt driving
 - d) Develop new signage to include language indicating that the location is speed camera enforced

- e) Develop more visible ASE signage that includes the speed limit
 - f) That the Ministry of Transportation provide greater oversight and enforcement of Municipal ASE programs through regular audits; and
3. That should the provincial government proceed with banning the use of ASE despite Ajax and other municipalities immediate actions to address concerns and requests to work collaboratively with the Province and other municipalities to continue these programs, the Province be requested to reimburse municipalities for all costs incurred to implement ASE program; and
 4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Rob Cerjanec, MPP for Ajax, local MPPs across the Region of Durham, John Henry, Chair of the Regional Municipality of Durham, the Regional Municipality of Durham, all Ontario Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), and the Ontario Traffic Council.

CARRIED

If you require further information please contact me at 365-885-6983 or Thomas.street@ajax.ca

Sincerely,



Thomas Street
Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: Regional Councillor S. Lee
Councillor R. Tyler Morin
Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
Rob Cerjanec, Ajax MPP
Durham Region Local MPPs
Durham Regional Chair John Henry
The Regional Municipality of Durham
All Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
Ontario Traffic Council

October 16, 2025

Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Keep Climate Change as a Foremost National Priority

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change—such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events, flooding, droughts, wildfires, and sea-level rise—are already affecting communities across Canada;

WHEREAS, climate change poses a serious threat to public health, infrastructure, local economies, biodiversity, and future generations;

WHEREAS, municipalities are on the front lines of climate change, often bearing the burden of disaster response, infrastructure adaptation, and long-term community resilience;

WHEREAS, despite local action, meaningful progress on climate change requires bold and coordinated leadership at the federal level, including policies, legislation, funding, and international cooperation;

WHEREAS, Canada has made national and international climate commitments, including under the Paris Agreement, and must continue to strengthen its role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and supporting adaptation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Bluewater Council urges the Government of Canada to:

1. **Maintain climate change as a top national priority**, reflected in legislation, national planning, funding, and public policy;
2. **Prioritize investments in the clean energy transition in the upcoming Federal budget**;
3. **Continue to support municipalities** in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including through sustainable infrastructure funding, disaster preparedness support, and clean energy investments since municipalities have the ability to influence change in ~50% of emissions within Canada;
4. **Accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy**, ensuring that it is just, inclusive, and economically beneficial for all regions and communities;
5. **Engage in transparent, science-based policymaking** that reflects the urgency of the climate crisis and the lived experiences of Canadians;
6. **Collaborate with Indigenous communities** and respect Indigenous knowledge and leadership in addressing climate change including obtaining free, prior and informed consent; and
7. **Continue to report annually** on national progress in reducing emissions and implementing adaptation strategies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, local Members of Parliament, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Premier of Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as well as local MPPs and all municipalities for their consideration.

Sincerely,



Chandra Alexander
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc: The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP
Ben Lobb, Huron-Bruce MP
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

October 27, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney P.C., O.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

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

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Premier Ford:

Re: Removing HST/GST from New Homes to Support Housing Affordability

At its meeting of October 21, 2025, the Council of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury adopted the enclosed motion calling on the Governments of Canada and Ontario to remove the federal and provincial portions of the HST from new homes purchased as primary residences.

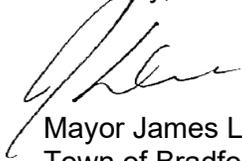
This measure would extend the relief already provided for purpose-built rental housing to families seeking to buy their first home. It represents a practical, immediate step toward improving affordability and supporting new housing supply.

For an average new home in our community, the 13 percent HST adds tens of thousands of dollars to the purchase price, a burden that directly undermines our shared goal of making homeownership affordable for working families and seniors. Removing that tax would provide meaningful relief.

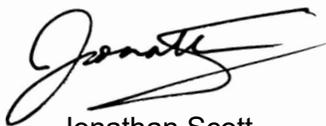
Bradford West Gwillimbury is one of Ontario's fastest-growing municipalities, investing heavily in growth-related infrastructure while working to keep housing within reach. We urge both levels of government to work together on this change as part of a broader strategy to make homeownership attainable again for young Canadians. Simply put, cutting taxes in this way will help make life more affordable.

We would welcome the opportunity to contribute to any federal-provincial review of housing-related taxation and policy tools that can help deliver more affordable homes.

Sincerely,



Mayor James Leduc
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury



Jonathan Scott
Councillor, Ward 2

encl.

cc:

Hon. François-Phillipe Champagne PC MP
Hon Peter Bethlenfavy MPP
Hon. Caroline Mulroney MPP
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
All Ontario Municipalities

Hon. Gregor Robertson PC MP
Hon. Rob Flack MPP
Scot Davidson MP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

October 27, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Re: Removing HST/GST from New Homes to Support Housing Affordability

At its Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council approved the following resolution:

Resolution 2025-343

Moved by: Councillor Scott

Seconded by: Councillor Duhaney

WHEREAS housing affordability is one of the most pressing issues facing Ontario families;

WHEREAS the federal government recently announced GST relief for first-time homebuyers on new homes, and the Province of Ontario removed the provincial share of HST on new purpose-built rental housing; and

WHEREAS the current HST rate on new homes in Ontario is 13%, which adds tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical home, e.g. about \$117,000 on a \$900,000 home in Bradford before any existing rebates;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury calls on the Government of Canada to remove the GST/HST from all new homes purchased as primary residences, and to work in partnership with the Government of Ontario to ensure full elimination of the provincial portion as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; and to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, our local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and to all municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Please find enclosed a letter from Mayor James Leduc and Ward 2 Councillor Jonathan Scott.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards,



Tara Reynolds
Clerk, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
(905) 775-5366 Ext 1104
treynolds@townofbwg.com

CC: Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance
Hon. Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Peter Bethenfalvy, Minister of Finance, Ontario
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ontario
Scot Davidson, MP New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP York-Simcoe
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Municipalities in Ontario



VIA EMAIL

Friday, October 3, 2025

Corporate Services Department
Legal Services
Office of the Regional Clerk
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety
The Honourable Ruby Sahota, Secretary of State
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General
The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General

Please be advised that at its meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, the Council of The Regional Municipality of Halton unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Public Safety Requirements to Protect Our Communities

WHEREAS community safety is the foremost responsibility of all levels of government, including federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal authorities;
AND WHEREAS recent violent home invasions in Halton Region and across Canada highlight the ongoing need to evaluate and strengthen bail laws and the administration of justice to better protect communities;

AND WHEREAS repeat violent offenders continue to be granted bail in some instances, placing victims, families, and first responders at risk, and public confidence in the justice system is undermined when such offenders are quickly returned to the community;

AND WHEREAS the federal government passed Bill C-48, which came into force in January 2024, introducing key reforms to the Criminal Code, including:

- A new reverse onus provision targeting repeat violent offending involving weapons,
- An expanded list of firearms offences triggering reverse onus,

- Requirements for courts to consider an accused's violent history and state on the record their consideration of community safety;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has committed to tabling additional legislation during the Fall 2025 session of Parliament to further strengthen community safety, including reforms related to bail and sentencing;

AND WHEREAS the provinces and territories are responsible for the administration of justice, including:

- Appointing justices of the peace and judges,
- Managing court operations and bail monitoring,
- Hiring and managing Crown Attorneys,
- Funding and overseeing provincial police services and detention centres;

AND WHEREAS on November 13, 2024, the Police Association of Ontario (PAO), the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA), and the Toronto Police Association (TPA), representing 35,000 police members in Ontario, called for urgent action to ensure violent and repeat offenders are not released pending trial, and similar calls have been echoed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and Canada's Premiers;

AND WHEREAS strengthening bail provisions and the broader justice system requires ongoing collaboration across all levels of government, and doing so would reduce pressures on local police services, the courts, and municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council:

1. Recognizes the steps already taken by the federal government through Bill C-48 and acknowledges the commitment to introduce further legislation in Fall 2025;
2. Calls on the Government of Canada to prioritize and expedite the introduction of its promised bail and sentencing reforms in the upcoming session of Parliament;
3. Calls on the Province of Ontario to invest in and strengthen the administration of justice, including:
 - Enhancing bail enforcement and monitoring,

- Increasing resources for Crown prosecutors and court operations, including the previously announced courthouse for Halton
- Expanding judicial capacity and detention infrastructure;
- 4. Encourages a national, coordinated approach involving all levels of government to ensure community safety is not compromised by gaps in bail or sentencing systems.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

- THAT Halton Regional Council calls for the following policy considerations in future reforms:
 - Expanding reverse onus provisions for repeat violent offenders,
 - Establishing stronger mandatory bail conditions, including firearm prohibitions, curfews, electronic monitoring, and no-contact orders,
 - Limiting multiple bail releases for individuals with histories of serious violent offences,
 - Improving inter-agency information sharing among police, Crown prosecutors, and corrections,
 - Prioritizing victim and community impact in bail decisions;
- THAT Halton Regional Council calls on the federal and provincial governments to review Criminal Code time limits and rules for stay of proceedings in cases involving serious and violent offences;
- THAT this motion be forwarded to:
 - The Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Minister of Public Safety, the Secretary of State (Combatting Crime),
 - The Premier of Ontario, Attorney General of Ontario, the Solicitor General of Ontario,
 - All federal and provincial parties in the House of Commons and Ontario Legislature;
 - Halton's Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament,
 - The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Association of Ontario, and the Ontario Provincial Police Association;
 - Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) and Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG);

- Halton's Local Municipalities;
- THAT this motion be shared with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and all municipalities across Ontario and Canada, encouraging them to pass similar motions in a spirit of collaborative, cross-jurisdictional reform.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the email address below.

Sincerely,



Graham Milne
Regional Clerk
Graham.Milne@halton.ca

c.
The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Leader of Official Opposition
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of Bloc Québécois
Don Davies, Interim Leader of NDP
Elizabeth May, Leader of Green Party
Halton MPs
Halton MPPs
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
Police Association of Ontario
Ontario Provincial Police Association
Ontario Association of Police Boards
Canadian Association of Police Governance
City Clerk's Office, City of Burlington
Valerie Petryniak, Town Clerk & Director, Legislative Services, Town of Halton Hills
Meaghan Reid, Director, Legislative & Legal Services/Town Clerk, Town of Milton
William Short, Town Clerk, Town of Oakville
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
all municipalities across Ontario and Canada

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



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Resolution # RC25170	Meeting Order: 8
Moved by: <i>S. K. Spots</i>	Seconded by: <i>M. Hatfield</i>

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced new regulations, effective January 1, 2025, requiring grocery stores with over 4,000 square feet of retail space to accept empty alcohol containers and return deposits as a condition of maintaining their liquor licenses; and

WHEREAS many large retailers have raised concerns about this obligation due to logistical challenges, including costs, space limitations, and insufficient infrastructure to manage high volumes of returned containers and local residents in Wawa are very upset that there will be no location in the community or area accepting empty alcohol containers; and

WHEREAS this change may negatively impact vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals who depend on bottle returns as a modest yet vital source of income and will increase the amount of waste being dumped at the municipal landfill; and

WHEREAS the ongoing privatization and deregulation of Ontario's previously effective bottle return program threaten to undermine decades of progress in sustainable waste management, environmental stewardship, and circular economy practices; and

WHEREAS the lack of a clear, accessible, and equitable alternative for recycling alcohol containers may place additional strain on municipal waste systems and contribute to increased environmental degradation;



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa supports the development of an accessible, province-wide, and publicly accountable alcohol container return system that:

- 1. Protects low-income earners and vulnerable residents who rely on bottle returns;
2. Closes gaps in the deposit-return cycle to reduce landfill waste and environmental harm;
3. Provides adequate infrastructure, training, and support to retailers participating in the return system;
4. Ensures strong, consistent enforcement and oversight of return program compliance;
5. Safeguards the public interest in recycling and waste diversion amid increasing privatization pressures;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges the Government of Ontario to collaborate meaningfully with municipalities, retailers, environmental organizations, and experts to implement a fair, effective, and inclusive solution that ensures the long-term success of Ontario's deposit-return and recycling systems;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all Ontario municipalities for their support and consideration.

Table with 4 columns: RESOLUTION RESULT, RECORDED VOTE, YES, NO. Rows include CARRIED (checked), DEFEATED, TABLED, RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT), PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED, and WITHDRAWN.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

Table with 2 columns: MAYOR - MELANIE PILON, CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL. Contains handwritten signatures of the Mayor and Clerk.



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Resolution # RC25121	Meeting Order: 8
Moved by: <i>Cathy Cannon</i>	Seconded by: <i>Joseph Opat</i>

WHEREAS The Beer Store has closed more than 70 of its store locations across the Province since the Ford Government made the decision to end its exclusivity agreement with The Beer Store and allowed other locations like convenience and grocery stores to sell beer, wine and mixed alcoholic drinks; and

WHEREAS many of the retail stores being closed are in small, northern communities such as Chapleau, Atikokan, Powassan and Blind River where The Beer Store is very important to the local community; and

WHEREAS the presence of The Beer Store in Northern Ontario communities and in Wawa, provides good paying jobs, convenient access to beer sales for tourists looking to purchase a variety of Canadian made beer products not carried in other locations and contributes to the local and provincial economy; and

WHEREAS The Beer Store closure in Wawa would lead to job losses in the community and negatively impact the local economy;

NOWHEREFORE Council of the Municipality of Wawa request that the Provincial Government take the steps necessary to preserve the presence of The Beer Store in small, rural and northern communities and that it request that The Beer Store reconsider its decision to close additional Beer Stores in Ontario, especially in small, northern communities.

AND FURTHER that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy the Minister of Finance, Honourable Victor Fedeli the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Bill Rosenberg the M.P.P. Algoma-Manitoulin, FONOM, NOMA, and AMO.

RESOLUTION RESULT	RECORDED VOTE	YES	NO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL		
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/> TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/> PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opat		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR - MELANIE PILON	CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL
<i>M. Pilon</i>	<i>Maury O'Neill</i>

October 17, 2025

The Beer Store
Corporate Office | 2258 Coleraine Drive
Bolton, ON L7E 3A9

Attention: Roy Benin

Dear Mr. Benin.

The closing of The Beer Store is the final nail in the coffin for those of us in the town of Wawa who are interested in our environment and recycling. I am not a consumer of alcohol, but since 1992, I have picked up the sad, abandoned packaging others have thrown out on the sides of our roads.

As a volunteer, I have cleaned our outdoors of trash by the truckloads and most of it was made up of beer and wine containers. Having a European background and knowing that even pop cans have a deposit of 10 cents on them there, it is with tears in my eyes that I see the loss of a place to turn in recyclables.

I fought the bureaucracy, wrote to companies and ministers about the abuse of our environment and the renewable resources until finally a deposit was established here in Ontario. The program encourages people to turn in their recyclables rather than putting them in the landfill and the pennies add up.

Here in the north, we live in an "untouched" wilderness and try to promote this for tourism, hunting, and fishing. Often, one of the first stops in town is The Beer Store. Why is this now closed when the nearest store is over 200 km away and there is now no place to accept the empties? Our grocery store had beer and wine when that program was first introduced, but has now cut back as they don't want to accept the recyclables. The one convenience store is also not set up for recyclables and doesn't carry the selection of products The Beer Store did.

So, while it is still possible to purchase a limited selection in our town, the loss of the recycling program affects us deeply. Many organizations, such as skating clubs, hockey teams, Boy Scouts/Girl Guides and even retirees profit from the deposit through bottle drives. These assist the community and keep our outdoors clean to benefit the environment as well. Cans and bottles do not disintegrate in the outdoors. To the contrary, broken glass hurts people and wildlife both. Why are we going backwards on this important recycling project? Why are we in the North forgotten.

We will be drowning in beer cans without a recycling program. What is the solution? Please find one as it is you and this government that have made these changes.

Sincerely,



Karin Grundt
Garbologist
P.O. Box 1430
Wawa, ON P0S 1K0

October 30, 2025

Re: Rent Protection for Tenants

At its Council Meeting of October 28, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

WHEREAS this council understands that the need for affordable rental housing not only applies to new builds but also to the protection of existing affordable units.

WHEREAS the removal of rent control in 2018 on any new residential rental unit opened the door to excessive year over year rent increases and the resulting anxiety and mental anguish that come with unpredictable rental costs and loss of housing security.

WHEREAS the loss of rent control has caused a high number of people across Ontario to be forced out of their homes due to their inability to afford their rent increases.

AND WHEREAS without protection from excessive and malicious rent increases, many Cambridge renters will also be at risk of being priced out of their own homes.

WHEREAS unlimited rent increases can be used as a tool by landlords acting in bad faith to remove existing tenants in order to replace them with new tenants at increased rates.

WHEREAS providing housing stability, maintaining affordable housing stock, and protecting renters from unfair rent increases is of utmost importance to this council.

AND WHEREAS This council recognizes that landlords are essential to a flourishing and affordable housing system,

AND WHEREAS maintaining Ontario as a location that is attractive to landlords is of utmost importance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Cambridge City Council request the Province of Ontario provide adequate protection against excessive and malicious rent increases for all rental units occupied for residential purposes while maintaining the ability for landlords to operate a viable and sustainable business, and that the City Clerk for the City of Cambridge send a letter to Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, MPP Jess Dixon, MPP Brian Riddell, and other municipalities throughout Ontario for their endorsement consideration.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Shaw
City Clerk

CC: (via email)
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
MPP Jess Dixon
MPP Brian Riddell
Ontario Municipalities



October 31, 2025

Premier Doug Ford

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Doug Ford:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its meeting held October 28, 2025 adopted the following:

12.1.1 Provincial Support of the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program

WHEREAS small and regional airports in Ontario serve as critical infrastructure—facilitating essential public services including air ambulance operations, forest firefighting, search & rescue, and law enforcement activities, while also driving local and regional economic development; and

WHEREAS many of these airports are ineligible for the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) due to eligibility constraints such as lacking year round scheduled service, yet still require capital funding for safety-related infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Airport Management Council of Ontario (AMCO) has identified a persistent funding gap for non ACAP eligible community airports, estimating that approximately 85 such airports need \$5.5 million annually to address critical airside infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS provinces including British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have successfully managed permanent provincial capital-assistance programs—offering clear models for cost-sharing frameworks, eligible project criteria, and annual funding envelopes; and

WHEREAS AMCO's proposed Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) envisions an annual operational budget of \$8.5–10 million, with a 75% provincial / 25% owner cost-share, a \$2 million per applicant cap, and bonuses for key community-benefiting projects; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Ontario Budget has already acknowledged "airports as cross country infrastructure" and signaled intent to include them in upcoming capital investments; and

WHEREAS the City of Brantford and the County of Brant benefit directly from airport-enabled services, and ensuring its continued operation is in the public interest of resident safety, economic resilience, and efficient connectivity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Corporation of the City of Brantford formally urges the Government of Ontario to:

- i. Implement the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) managed by the Ministry of Transportation.
- ii. Adopt the recommended cost-sharing structure (75% provincial / 25% municipal or operator), and cap funds at \$2 million per project per applicant.
- iii. Expand eligibility to include public-use registered aerodromes and certified airports not currently eligible for ACAP.
- iv. Reinstate the Ontario Air Advisory Panel to advise on airport infrastructure and policy priorities.
- v. Designate community and regional airports as critical infrastructure under provincial policy.
- vi. Investigate stable funding mechanisms—such as a dedicated stream from the aviation fuel tax—to support OACAP sustainably.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Transportation, local MPPs, Brant County, AMCO, and all Ontario municipalities operating public airports calling for provincial commitment to OACAP.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier City Clerk,
cgauthier@brantford.ca

CC Minister Of Transportation minister.mto@ontario.ca
 Member of Parliament Larry Brock larry.brock@parl.gc.ca
 Member of Provincial Parliament Will Bouma will.bouma@pc.ola.org
 Brant County clerks@brant.ca
 AMCO amco@amco.on.ca
 All Ontario municipalities operating public airports



H & G CONTROL

a division of Andark Control Systems Inc.

October 2025

Good day,

As the President of H&G Control, I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce our organization, as well as a technology we are helping bring to Canada, that can revolutionize the fields of energy and waste management in our communities.

Since 1965, H&G Control has been an Ontario-based, well-reputed manufacturer of electrical control panels, providing our customers with automation and control solutions. Our products and services have been used in such industries as refrigeration, cooling towers and industrial heating, water treatment, dust collection, diesel generators, emergency power switching, industrial process machinery, and a host of other applications. Our commitment to total quality has led to most customers providing repeat business for more than fifteen years and treating H&G Control as an imbedded extension of their own business.

Our company recognizes that the planet is facing a growing crisis, as landfills are rapidly running out of capacity, and developed nations are simply carting their waste off to other countries for disposal. Ontario alone sends more than twelve million tonnes of waste to landfills every single year. Our organization has teamed with engineering experts in the fields of machine and plant design, as well as pyrolysis – a method of non-combustion decomposition – to bring the DPRE system to Canada.

This process sorts and breaks down commercial, industrial and residential waste into its base components, with recyclable materials being sold, organic materials being sold for biogas or fertilizers, and the waste derived fuels being converted into energy that can be used to power the facility. As much as 80% of the energy and excess heat generated by this process can be sold back into the local grid, further reducing the facility's impact and reliance on the municipal grid. The process is totally sustainable, and facilities such as these will create dozens of jobs to support local economies and generate further revenue through waste management agreements with nearby municipalities. It is our belief that your region will gain tremendously from the implementation of this process.

We would like the opportunity to speak with you directly, to discuss how this technology can be used to benefit your municipality. We can be reached through our consultant, Jeremy Beamer of GTA Strategies, at 888-241-9948 ext. 2, or at jeremy@gtastrategies.com.

Thank you very much for your time – we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Zulfiqar Mooraj

Zulfiqar Mooraj | President

H&G Control

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