



**Town of Arnprior**  
**Regular Meeting of Council: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Correspondence Package No. I-25-DEC-21**

**Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package No. I-25-DEC-21 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

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

- a) Letter from Minister Flack re: *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*
- b) Province Protecting Ontario with the Buy Ontario Act
- c) Ontario Launches Consultations on 2026 Ontario Budget
- d) Ontario Tightening Bail Requirements to Protect Communities
- e) Province Cracking Down on Dangerous Driving to Protect People on Ontario Roadways
- f) Protecting Ontario by Keeping Criminals Behind Bars
- g) Ontario Investing \$2.6 Million to Help More Youth Gain Experiences in the Skilled Trades
- h) Ontario Investing \$17.5 Million in Innovative Community Programs and Services

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

- a) Temporary water supply connected at Miramichi Lodge long-term care home
- b) County of Renfrew leads powerful day of action at Queen's Park
- c) 2025 Warden's Community Service Awards presented
- d) Taste of the Valley Holiday Edition in Pembroke December 13

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

- a) Health Protection Report to the Board of Health
- b) Health Promotion and Infectious Diseases Report to the Board of Health

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

- a) Watchfile – November 20, 2025
- b) Policy Update – New Procurement Requirements, Bill 30 Advocacy, 2025 Federal Budget Infrastructure Investments
- c) Free Workshop: Insights & Strategies for 2026 Municipal Candidates from Underrepresented Communities
- d) New Dates Added: AMO's Healthy Democracy Leadership Series
- e) Watchfile – November 27, 2025
- f) Navigate Conflict with Confidence: Workshop for Elected Officials
- g) Policy Update – Advocacy on Bill 60, Data Standards, Blue Box and Conservation Authority Consolidation

**5. Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Newsletter**

- a) November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Newsletter
- b) November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Newsletter

**6. Correspondence from Other Municipalities**

- a) Town of Fort Erie – Provincial Decision on Automated Speed Enforcement
- b) Township of Madawaska Valley – Survive-to-Swim
- c) City of Hamilton – Impacts of Provincial Bill 60 on Tenants in Hamilton
- d) Municipality of Wawa - Upholding Women's Rights, Leadership, and Environmental Health in the Implementation of Ontario Bill 5
- e) Town of Goderich – Proposed Amendments to Conservation Authorities Act
- f) County of Northumberland – Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

- g) City of Brantford – Professional Activity Day on Municipal Election Day
- h) Township of Puslinch – Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund
- i) Township of Southwold – Conversation Authority Consolidation

**7. Correspondence from Ottawa West Four Rivers Ontario Health Team**

- a) Summary of 2026-27 IPCT Proposals – Fall 2025

**8. Correspondence from Rural Ontario Municipal Association**

- a) Ontario's Rural Leaders Conference Lunch Time Meet Ups
- b) Ontario's Rural Leaders Conference Program Highlights

**9. Correspondence from Watson and Associates**

- a) ERO 025-1099: Consultation on Simplifying and Standardizing Official Plans

**10. Correspondence Enbridge Gas Inc.**

- a) Notice of Hearing

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des  
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et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

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Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3  
Tél.: 416 585-7000



Ontario

234-2025-4982

November 25, 2025

Dear Head of Council:

Through the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* ([Bill 17](#)), which received Royal Assent on June 5, 2025, changes were made to the *Planning Act* that will help streamline and standardize municipal development processes.

This includes changes that enable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, by regulation, to permit variation from a zoning by-law “as of right” if a proposal is within a prescribed percentage of the required setback (the minimum distance a building or structure must be from a property line) on specified lands. This new authority was intended to reduce planning applications for minor variances.

Today, our government announced further action to streamline planning approvals by exercising my authority established under Bill 17 to amend Ontario Regulation 545/06 ([Zoning By-laws, Holding By-laws and Interim Control By-laws](#)) to allow variations to be permitted “as-of-right” if a proposal is within 10% of setback requirements applicable to specified lands. Specified lands include any parcel of urban residential lands outside of the Greenbelt Area, and exclude areas such as hazardous lands, and lands near shorelines and railways. These changes in [Ontario Regulation 257/25](#) were filed on November 21, 2025 and took effect upon filing.

Any variances sought beyond the prescribed percentage of the setback requirement would be subject to the usual minor variance or rezoning approval process and other zoning standards (e.g., height limits, etc.) would continue to apply, helping to mitigate potential land use compatibility issues.

This “as-of-right” permission is intended to remove the need for certain variances that are the most minor in nature, resulting in fewer applications submitted and fewer hearings for minor variances before a municipal committee of adjustment for these proposals.

The proposed regulation works with the [Additional Residential Units regulation](#) (Ontario Regulation 299/19) to help create additional residential units, such as basement suites, by eliminating additional barriers related to setbacks.

We look forward to continued collaboration with our municipal partners as we work together to achieve our goal of building the homes that Ontarians need.

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. Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)  
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, MMAH  
David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Planning and Policy Division,  
MMAH  
Municipal Chief Administrative Officer







## Quotes

"We are proud of our partnership with the Ontario government in the delivery of Ontario's \$220-billion infrastructure plan and to strengthen the provincial economy through the prioritization of domestic goods and services in our projects."

**- Angela Clayton**  
**President and CEO, Infrastructure Ontario**

"We are proud to get hundreds of thousands of workers to their jobs every day – and equally proud to directly create local jobs and a more resilient economy through the construction of our major transit projects. We are always looking for ways to support Ontario suppliers – whether they provide steel, systems, or services. This legislation is critical in enabling us to do precisely this."

**- Michael Lindsay**  
**CEO, Metrolinx**

"In the face of shifting trade dynamics, the advancements in the Buy Ontario/Buy Canada policy directly supports Supply Ontario's efforts to modernize procurement, support local businesses, and protect Ontario jobs. By strengthening our supply chain and investing in homegrown industries, we're helping ensure the reliable delivery of critical public services, while driving economic growth across the province."

**- James Wallace**  
**CEO, Supply Ontario**

"CME welcomes the government's introduction of the Buy Ontario Act. Through CME's Ontario Made program, we have long championed the critical importance of local procurement, and this forward-thinking legislation demonstrates the government's commitment to turning this principle into action. By prioritizing Ontario-made goods and services in public procurement, this legislation strengthens local supply chains and safeguards manufacturing jobs. Ensuring Ontario tax dollars support Ontario workers and businesses will help manufacturers remain competitive, invest in innovation, and drive growth across the province."

- Dennis Darby  
President and CEO, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters

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## Additional Resources

[Current bills - Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#)

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## Related Topics

### Business and economy

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

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## Media Contacts

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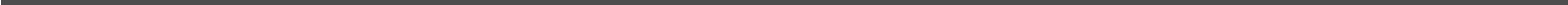
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For more information about Taste of the Valley, visit [www.TOTV.ca](http://www.TOTV.ca) or follow on social media at @TasteoftheValleyRC.

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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