



ARNPRIOR

Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: January 12th, 2026
Correspondence Package No. I-26-JAN-01

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) Ontario Launching Liam Riazati Memorial Fund to Protect Children in Child Care
- b) Ontario Building New Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters, Future Home of Ontario Corps
- c) Statement from the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- d) Government Continuing to Deliver on Mandate to Protect Ontario
- e) Ontario Taking Next Steps to Unlock Free Trade Within Canada
- f) Ontario Protecting Workers Through Special Economic Zones
- g) Ontario Prioritizing Labour Market Needs Through 2026 International Student Application Allocation
- h) Ontario Investing in Firefighter Protection
- i) Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2026
- j) Ontario Continuing to Protect Workers and Unlock Free Trade Within Canada in 2026

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) Calendar of County Council Meetings and Committee Meetings
- b) Exploring Entrepreneurship: From Idea Overload to Business Clarity
- c) Mindset Matters: Getting Out of Your Own Way in Business

- d) Appel à candidatures: prix de l'entrepreneur francophone/Call for Nominations : Francophone Entrepreneur Award
- e) Sole Proprietor Tax Essentials
- f) Starter Company Plus Fall 2025 Grant Recipients
- g) Three Eastern Ontario Counties taking over ownership of K&P Trail
- h) Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy elected as Warden for 2026
- i) Construction Update – December 2025

3. Correspondence from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit

- a) Stay Protected Over the Holiday Season as Flu Activity Rises

4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) Policy Update – Build Canada Homes Project Call, Poverty Reduction Strategy & New Development Charge Guidance
- b) Strengthen Your Conflict Resolution Skills
- c) Watchfile – December 4, 2025
- d) Learn to Lead the Message in Crisis
- e) Free Workshop: Insights & Strategies for 2026 Municipal Candidates from Underrepresented Communities
- f) Watchfile – December 11, 2025
- g) Book Your AMO 2026 Conference
- h) Leadership Series: Winter 2026
- i) Policy Update – Advocacy on Archaeological Heritage Protection, Long Lead Time Electricity Procurement, *Buy Ontario Act*, and AMPs for Wildland Fire Safety
- j) Watchfile – December 18, 2025
- k) Policy Update – Advocacy on Local Electricity Distribution
- l) Tell the province that OMERS governance matters to municipalities

m) Policy Update – Submission on Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

5. Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Newsletter

- a) December 5th, 2025 Newsletter**
- b) December 12th, 2025 Newsletter**
- c) December 19th, 2025 Newsletter**

6. Correspondence from Other Municipalities

- a) Town of Petrolia – Rent Protection for Tenants**
- b) Town of The Blue Mountains – TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project**
- c) Township of Minden Hills – Strong Mayor Powers**
- d) Town of Ingersoll – Conservation Authority Consolidation**
- e) Town of Petrolia – Holiday Greetings**
- f) Municipality of Magnetawan – Invest Ready-Certified Site Designation**
- g) County of Brant – Provincial Decision on Automated Speed Enforcement**
- h) City of Peterborough – Elect Respect**
- i) Township of Perry – Removal of GST from New Homes**
- j) Municipality of Huron Shores – Rent Protection for Tenants**
- k) Kawartha Conservation – Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities**
- l) Municipality of Huron Shores – Improvements to Highways 11/17**

7. Correspondence from Environment and Climate Change Canada

- a) Final progress report for the asphalt Code of Practice**

8. Correspondence from Rural Ontario Municipal Association

- a) Ontario's Rural Leaders Conference Two Ministers' Forums**
- b) Packed agenda for ROMA Board pre-holiday Board Meeting**

9. Correspondence from MP Jenny Kwan

- a) Bill C-233 No More Loopholes Act**

10. Correspondence from Arnprior Regional Health Foundation

- a) Invitation: Open House & Ribbon Cutting – New Endoscopy Equipment at Arnprior Regional Health**

11. Correspondence from Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

- a) Newsletter: December 2025**

12. Correspondence from Municipal Engineers Association

- a) MEA Appoints New Board of Directors at 2025 AGM**

Ontario Launching Liam Riazati Memorial Fund to Protect Children in Child Care

\$20 million fund will help child care centres install concrete barriers to enhance safety

December 08, 2025

[Education](#)

TORONTO — Ontario is investing \$20 million to launch the Liam Riazati Memorial Fund, a new initiative to help protect children in child care by helping community-based licensed facilities install concrete barriers. The new fund honours the life of Liam Riazati, a child who tragically passed away following a motor vehicle collision with a child care centre in September 2025.

“The fatal accident at a child care centre in Richmond Hill was a heartbreakening tragedy for the entire community,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. “In Liam’s honour, we are taking steps to support child care operators and families with measures that offer greater peace of mind and added protection for children.”

The Liam Riazati Memorial Fund will support community-based child care programs, many of which operate in unique spaces such as retail settings, places of worship, residential dwellings and other standalone public buildings, where concrete barriers can provide an extra layer of protection.

Starting in early 2026, existing community-based child care operators will be able to access a simple application process that will make it easy for operators to arrange the delivery and installation of the barriers, which will be supplied free of charge. Further details on how to apply will be provided to child care operators in early 2026.

This investment will provide safety support in the short-term while Ontario examines longer-term safety requirements for the child care sector. The province will consult with the sector and technical experts on recommendations to update design guidelines and regulations for licensed child care programs, including best practices to better safeguard indoor and outdoor play spaces and reduce risks to children.

These actions build on Ontario's immediate response following the tragic incident. As a precaution, the province directed all licensed child care centres to close parking spaces near child care areas, with the exception of accessible spaces, as short-term measures to protect children while longer-term solutions are developed.

Quick Facts

- The ministry has asked school boards to assess safety of elementary schools with and without child care and consider any required next steps to support safe learning environments for children.
- Schools are generally designed with safety in mind, so needs and types of safety enhancements for child care programs in school building structures are different.

Quotes

"As a member of the Richmond Hill community, I share the shock and grief that all Ontarians felt on that tragic day in September. Today, we are honouring Liam's life and memory through measures that enhance the safety of children and staff in their programs across the province. The Liam Riazati Memorial Fund will help protect thousands of children and offer greater peace of mind for their families and caregivers."

- Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Related Topics

Education and apprenticeship

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

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Ontario Building New Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters, Future Home of Ontario Corps

This new headquarters will support province's work to protect Ontario communities

December 09, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)

TORONTO —The Ontario government has awarded the contract for the functional programming of a new, state-of-the-art Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters, which will also serve as the future home of [Ontario Corps](#). At the functional programming stage of planning, prior to the actual design of the facility, its specific functions, activities and operational requirements are determined. Strategically located on 17 acres near Toronto Pearson Airport and major 400 series highways, this facility will be equipped with cutting-edge technology needed to protect Ontario as the 24/7, year-round emergency command centre.

“This new command centre will help us protect communities across Ontario with faster, more coordinated responses whenever emergencies happen, ensuring help gets to the people who need it most,” said Premier Doug Ford. “With a modern home for Ontario Corps, we’re making sure these volunteers and everyday heroes have the tools they need to carry out their critical operations and keep people safe.”

In 2025, Ontario Corps volunteers contributed more than 6,000 hours delivering emergency relief, including supporting wildfire evacuations, erecting flood barriers, delivering wellness checks and providing meals in communities across the province. Likewise, Ontario’s Emergency Preparedness and Response teams led through one of the busiest and most demanding emergency flood and wildfire seasons on record in 2025.

To support this build, the government has been consulting with stakeholders and industry experts to inform the design and construction of the new headquarters. This new headquarters and emergency command centre will be purpose-built to withstand all hazards, with state-of-the-art facilities to bring faster, smarter and more coordinated support to communities across the province.

"We're taking bold steps to build and renew our infrastructure and grow our economy, and that's why Ontario needs a strong emergency management system to stay protected, resilient and ready," said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. "That means investing in a modern headquarters designed for future challenges and enabling more effective, coordinated and enhanced emergency response."

The new headquarters are part of the government's more than \$220 billion plan to build, repair and expand critical infrastructure across the province. By investing in the largest infrastructure expansion in Canadian history, the government is protecting Ontario workers and jobs by creating the most resilient, self-reliant and competitive economy in the G7.

Quick Facts

- WZMH Architects is being awarded the systems and capabilities functional programming contract, with work to be completed in 2026.
- The site is located at 111 Disco Road in Etobicoke.
- So far this year, 42 local emergencies have been declared. Last year at this time, 29 were declared.
- Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response Field Officers were deployed for a combined 1,068 days so far in 2025, supporting and coordinating on-the-ground response for emergency events such as the 2025 wildland fire evacuations.
- The province co-ordinated the evacuation of 6,080 people from First Nation communities in Ontario under threat of wildland fires and hosted 2,307 evacuees from Manitoba.
- Ontario Corps has been successfully deployed on several occasions this year, including during the 2025 wildland fire response and the 2025 spring ice storm.

Quotes

"Ontario's new Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters will be a state-of-the-art complex designed to keep our communities supported and protected during natural disasters and other emergencies. Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is delivering on our more than \$220 billion capital plan to build the critical infrastructure our province needs to keep workers on the job, drive economic growth and protect Ontario."

- Todd McCarthy
Acting Minister of Infrastructure

"The Salvation Army is proud to be an Ontario Corps member and grateful for our partnership with our colleagues and the Ontario government. With the province's new state-of-the-art Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters underway, Ontario Corps will be even better equipped to protect communities 24/7. Together, we're stronger in supporting Ontarians in times of need."

- Dan Millar
Assistant Territorial Director of Emergency Disaster Services, The Salvation Army

"Ontario's investment in a modern, purpose-built Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters is an important step toward strengthening the province's overall emergency management system. As a disaster response organization operating across Ontario, Team Rubicon Canada sees firsthand how modern infrastructure, unified coordination and rapid information flow translate into faster, safer and more effective support for communities."

- Mischa Kaplan
CEO, Team Rubicon Canada

"As part of Ontario Corps, we see firsthand the importance of collaboration, information and resource sharing when responding to emergencies here in Ontario. Steps like the creation of this new facility will only help increase the speed and efficiency of future responses. We are proud to be a part of this innovation and look forward to seeing the impacts it will create."

- Rahul Singh
Executive Director, GlobalMedic

"Kenora Chiefs Advisory is encouraged by the province's investment in a modern emergency response headquarters. Strong, coordinated systems are essential to supporting First Nation communities, and ensuring we have these systems in place allows the opportunity to try and navigate these emergencies before they grow. We are committed and excited to continue our partnership and working alongside Ontario as these plans move forward."

- Chief Chris Skead
Acting Board President, Kenora Chiefs Advisory

"The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres welcomes and fully supports the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response's plans to establish a new Provincial Emergency Operations Centre. This facility will strengthen coordinated emergency responses across the province and improve the capacity of Friendship Centres to deliver immediate relief, essential items and culturally grounded supports to displaced Indigenous people and communities. We look forward to working together to improve emergency response for Indigenous people in urban spaces."

- Sean Longboat
Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

"As a proud Ontario Corps partner, Ontario 211 is excited to see meaningful progress on the new Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters in Toronto. The new state-of-the-art facility will enhance the system capacity and coordination needed to support vulnerable communities and residents across Ontario who are impacted by emergencies."

- Karen Milligan
Executive Director, Ontario 211 Services

"Radio Amateurs of/du Canada congratulates the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response on the development of its new headquarters. This investment strengthens Canada's national readiness and reinforces the importance of resilient, diversified communication capabilities. We look forward to continued collaboration with the ministry as we work together to enhance public safety, improve interoperability and ensure that Canadians are supported when they need it most."

- Allan Boyd
President, Radio Amateurs of/du Canada

"As a trauma-specialized mental health organization, ATTCH Niagara is honoured to support Ontario's vision for an emergency system that protects both physical safety and psychological well-being. By embedding trauma-responsive care and psychosocial supports into emergency preparedness, response and recovery, the province is helping communities recover more quickly, reduce long-term mental health impacts and build lasting resilience across Ontario."

- Lori Gill
Clinical Director, Attachment and Trauma Treatment Centre for Healing (ATTCH) Niagara

"St. John Ambulance Ontario warmly congratulates the Ontario Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response on the building of their new headquarters, which will serve as a cornerstone for emergency services in the province. This modern facility will stand as a significant achievement in enhancing community safety and reflects an ongoing dedication to the well-being of all residents, as well as reaffirming support for organizations like St. John that play key roles in emergency response. We look forward to witnessing the positive influence this centre will have on emergency preparedness and response throughout Ontario."

- Brian Cole
CEO, St. John Ambulance Ontario

"OSARVA welcomes Ontario's investment in a modern Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters. This facility will strengthen coordination, enhance training and improve readiness for all hazards. We look forward to working with Ontario Corps and partners to ensure communities across the province remain safe and resilient."

- Emilie Kissler
Vice President and Northeast Director, Ontario Search and Rescue
Volunteer Association (OSARVA)

"Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex is proud to contribute to Ontario's growing emergency preparedness capabilities. As we pilot Habitat's first provincial emergency response program from Windsor-Essex, our focus remains on supporting families and communities. Our team of leaders and volunteers are trained, equipped and ready to respond. The new Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters is a vital investment in keeping Ontarians safe and we are honoured to stand with the province as a partner in building a stronger, more resilient Ontario."

- Fiona Coughlin
CEO, Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex

"IFNA welcomes Ontario's investment in a modern Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters. Strengthening provincial coordination and readiness is important for the safety of all communities in Ontario, including the First Nations who are most frequently affected by northern evacuations. Ensuring Indigenous leadership is integrated into this system is essential to making it work on the ground. IFNA, together with our First Nations partners, stands ready to help align federal planning, provincial infrastructure and Indigenous-led operational capabilities so that all parties are working toward a coordinated, culturally grounded and effective evacuation system for northern First Nations."

- Jonathan Gregg
Chief Executive Officer, Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA)

Additional Resources

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

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STATEMENT

Statement from the Chief Medical Officer of Health

December 09, 2025

[Health](#)

TORONTO — Today, Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued the following update on respiratory virus season in Ontario:

"With the holiday season fast approaching, it's important to take all necessary precautions to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy, including by ensuring your vaccines are up to date. Respiratory illness season typically begins in the fall and lasts through the winter months, when colder weather and indoor gatherings make it easier for viruses to spread. This includes several common viruses such as influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19.

Currently, COVID-19 and RSV activity remain low in Ontario, but flu season is officially here, and cases are steadily increasing. The flu shot remains one of the most effective ways to protect ourselves from influenza. Each year, the vaccine is designed to cover multiple strains. Getting vaccinated reduces your risk of catching the flu and, most importantly, lowers the chance of severe illness, hospitalization and serious complications.

[Flu and COVID-19 shots are already available across Ontario](#) for people 6 months and older at participating pharmacies, doctor and nurse practitioner offices or public health units. RSV immunization is also available for eligible groups, including adults aged 75 and older, infants and pregnant women. Those at higher risk of severe illness are especially encouraged to get vaccinated early.

Influenza activity is expected to peak as early as mid-December in some regions. As the vaccine takes about two weeks to reach full effectiveness, getting vaccinated now will help ensure you are protected when virus circulation is at its highest, while also reducing the spread of illness and protecting those most at risk. If you or a loved one are at higher risk for severe illness, you should talk to your health-care provider now to plan for testing and treatment.

As the holidays approach, let's all remember the simple steps that make a big difference: wash your hands, cover coughs and sneezes, clean shared surfaces regularly, and stay home if you are sick."

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Province of Ontario

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 and flu vaccine pharmacy locations](#)
- [Learn about Ontario's flu vaccination program](#)

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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Government Continuing to Deliver on Mandate to Protect Ontario

Fall legislature concludes with the passage of 12 bills that will protect Ontario workers, businesses and communities

December 11, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — The Legislative Assembly of Ontario's fall sitting has concluded following the passage of 12 government bills that deliver on the government's plan to protect Ontario by building the most competitive, self-reliant and resilient economy in the G7. This legislation includes important measures aimed at cutting red tape, unleashing Ontario's economy, investing in infrastructure, supporting workers, improving services and making life more affordable. The government also made progress on a number of other important initiatives in support of its plan to protect Ontario, including making Ontario an energy superpower and unlocking critical minerals in the Ring of Fire and across Northern Ontario.

"As Ontario workers and businesses continue to face down the uncertainty and upheaval caused by President Trump's tariffs, our government is focused on protecting our province by creating a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy," said Premier Doug Ford. "Over the last few months, we have continued to deliver on our plan to support workers and families by investing in infrastructure, keeping costs down, creating new opportunities for trade, cutting red tape to attract investment, building critical energy infrastructure and unlocking our vast reserves of critical minerals in the Ring of Fire in partnership with First Nations. These measures are helping keep workers on the job today and they're creating the opportunity for long-term growth and economic prosperity for decades to come."

During the fall sitting, the government took historic steps to unlock the Ring of Fire by signing community partnership agreements with [Marten Falls First Nation](#) and [Webequie First Nation](#), which will see shovels in the ground on multiple segments of the road to the Ring of Fire by next year. These agreements provide historic support for infrastructure and community benefits for First Nations, while

delivering on the government's promise to build all-season roads to the Ring of Fire, which has the potential to add \$22 billion and 70,000 jobs to Ontario's economy.

Ontario also made progress on its plan to ensure the province has the affordable, reliable and clean energy it needs to build new homes, create jobs and power a resilient and self-reliant economy by partnering with the federal government in October to [build the first Small Modular Reactors](#) (SMRs) in the G7. Ontario's SMRs will power 1.2 million homes, create 18,000 construction jobs and support thousands of long-term careers while contributing \$38.5 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product over 65 years. The government also announced its support for the refurbishment of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, supporting its plan to secure Ontario's place as an energy superpower as well as supporting nearly 37,000 jobs during the refurbishment and operation of the plant.

The government also saw major progress on important infrastructure projects, including the substantial completion of the Finch West LRT and Eglinton Crosstown LRT, early works on Highway 413, continued progress on the Bradford Bypass, the opening of the Confederation GO Station in Hamilton, expanded GO service across the network (including the first-ever weekend GO service to Kitchener) and continued historic investments in housing-enabling infrastructure through Ontario's \$4 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program.

The province is also continuing to deliver on its \$2.1 billion Primary Care Action Plan under the leadership of Dr. Jane Philpott, with the goal of connecting everyone in Ontario to a primary care provider or family doctor by 2029. Through this plan, the government has created and expanded more than 130 primary care teams to connect more than 300,000 people to care and is investing up to \$300 million in primary care teaching clinics to train the next generation of family doctors. Since the launch of the plan in January 2025, the Health Care Connect waitlist to connect to a primary care provider has already been reduced by more than 70 per cent. In November, the province also celebrated the opening of the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital, part of its nearly \$60 billion plan to build and upgrade more than 50 hospitals across Ontario.

Over the coming months, the government will continue delivering on its mandate to protect Ontario by working with the federal government to advance other nation-building infrastructure projects, creating opportunities for workers and businesses, meeting with community members, municipal partners and other stakeholders and implementing the legislation that has been passed during the recent sitting.

Since the second session of the 44th Parliament began on October 20, the government has introduced and passed legislation, including the [2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), that will:

- Prioritize Ontario-made goods and services in public procurement to make sure Ontario tax dollars support Ontario workers through the [Buy Ontario Act, 2025](#)
- Cut red tape and support trade, investment and economic growth to strengthen Ontario's competitiveness through the [Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025](#)
- Get shovels in the ground faster by cutting red tape and streamlining approvals through the [Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025](#)
- Reduce regulatory burdens to save people and businesses \$5.8 million and more than 256,000 hours every year through the [Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025](#)
- Enable growth and resilience in the province's energy system to meet rising demand, while keeping energy affordable, secure, reliable and clean for Ontarians through the [Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act, 2025](#)
- Strengthen government oversight, accountability and transparency in public school boards, postsecondary education and children's aid societies through the [Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025](#)
- Implement measures to help more workers train for in-demand jobs, strengthen worker health and safety and protect workers affected by U.S. tariffs through the [Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025](#)
- Help communities reduce risks of wildland fires and hazardous oil and gas wells and enable safe use of carbon storage technology through the [Resource Management and Safety Act, 2025](#)
- Enhance public safety and disaster response measures and make Ontario Corps a key function of emergency responses in the province through the [Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025](#)
- Strengthen local governance in Peel Region by transferring delivery of two public works services from Peel Region to local municipalities through the [Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2025](#)
- Support growth in Simcoe County by unlocking up to 8,000 new homes and enabling major economic investments, including the Barrie GO Line expansion and the Bradford Bypass, by transferring nearly 1,700 hectares of land to the City of Barrie through the [Barrie-Oro-Medonte-Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025](#).

Quick Facts

- The second session of the 44th Parliament in the Ontario legislature began on October 20, 2025.
- In total, this recently passed legislation amended 107 existing acts, created six new acts and repealed one existing act.
- So far this year, Ontario has signed Memorandums of Understanding with 10 provinces and territories on expanding interprovincial trade as well as a memorandum to boost trade with the State of Maryland.
- Ontario has attracted nearly \$113 billion in foreign direct investments since 2019 and created more than one million new jobs since 2018.

Additional Resources

- [2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)

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Ontario Taking Next Steps to Unlock Free Trade Within Canada

Mutual recognition of goods and services will reduce costly trade barriers and build a more competitive and self-reliant economy

December 15, 2025

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

TORONTO — As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario and unleash its full economic potential, the province is taking the next steps to implement mutual recognition of goods and services from other reciprocating Canadian jurisdictions by publishing a draft regulation under the *Ontario Free Trade and Mobility Act, 2025* (OFTMA). Building on Ontario's national leadership in supporting free trade and labour mobility across Canada, the mutual recognition of goods and services will play a substantial role in supporting economic integration across Canada and removing internal trade barriers that cost the economy up to \$200 billion every year.

"For decades, red tape and burdensome regulations have held Ontario's economy back, increasing the cost of goods and services for manufacturers and families alike and limiting the ease with which Ontario-made products could be traded with our provincial and territorial partners," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Mutual recognition will play a pivotal role in unlocking new market opportunities for Ontario goods and services, and further advance Ontario's leadership in strengthening trade security and diversification."

A key component of the government's [Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025](#), which was passed in June 2025, Ontario's approach to mutual recognition ensures that if a good or service meets the regulatory requirements in other parts of Canada, it will be recognized here in Ontario. To activate its mutual recognition framework, Ontario has introduced a new draft regulation that will allow the province to recognize goods and services from other Canadian jurisdictions, provided those jurisdictions are taking similar actions at home. Ontario's approach to mutual recognition is designed to be both ambitious and reciprocal:

- Goods approved for sale or use in a reciprocating jurisdiction will be treated as if they have met Ontario's standards and will not require additional testing, approvals or fees.
- Businesses that are authorized to provide a service in a reciprocating jurisdiction will be entitled to the equivalent authorization in Ontario.
- The regulation will clarify that OFTMA's mutual recognition rules will prevail when there is a conflict with other Ontario laws.
- The regulation will set out parameters to guide implementation of mutual recognition and clarify that Ontario laws on how goods are sold or used will continue to apply.

The draft regulation is posted on the [Ontario Regulatory Registry](#) and is open to feedback from the public, regulators and industry stakeholders through a 45-day consultation period.

"By implementing mutual recognition under the Ontario Free Trade and Mobility Act, we're moving at speed and encouraging a pan-Canadian pivot to mutual recognition which will unlock new domestic markets for Ontario businesses," said Stephen Crawford, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement. "This means less paperwork and lower costs, faster approvals and market entry, and more customers across Canada for Ontario-made products and services. Our Team Canada approach accelerates growth and jobs while keeping clear rules in place for safety and for how goods are sold and used."

While Ontario's new mutual recognition rules will focus on goods and services, the province is also making significant progress as a national leader when it comes to streamlining labour mobility to help workers from other parts of Canada work and live in Ontario. Opening up opportunities for in-demand professions will create a more unified and competitive Ontario and Canadian workforce. This means that qualified doctors, architects, engineers, land surveyors, electricians and more can practice their profession in Ontario for up to six months while completing registration with their respective regulatory body.

These expanded "As of Right" rules also help strengthen Ontario's health-care workforce by making it easier for skilled health professionals to work in the province while also supporting patients who will benefit from faster access to care and a more robust health-care team across settings such as hospitals, long-term care homes and community settings.

Starting January 1, 2026, Canadians in certified professions will be able to begin working in Ontario within 10 business days, once a regulator confirms credentials and requirements. “As of Right” rules will apply across professions covered by more than 50 regulatory authorities and 300 certifications, including 16 additional health regulated professionals.

The proposed regulation on mutual recognition builds on the momentum of November’s [Committee on Internal Trade meeting](#), at which federal, provincial, and territorial partners signed the [Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods](#) under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and Ontario affirmed its commitment to make free trade a reality across the country. Ontario will continue working with other provinces and territories and the federal government to fully implement this agreement, and in the meantime will continue moving forward to implement mutual recognition with reciprocating jurisdictions.

As Canada's largest interprovincial trader, Ontario is unlocking access to new internal markets and customers in the face global market instability and volatility. By eliminating the need for businesses to meet multiple sets of regulatory requirements, Ontario is reducing red tape and accelerating market access for Ontario businesses. Mutual recognition slashes compliance costs, speeds up approvals, drives efficiency and increases competitiveness for businesses. The province encourages all Canadian jurisdictions to follow with the same degree of speed and ambition as Ontario.

Quick Facts

- The [Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025](#) gives Ontario businesses and workers a stronger competitive edge by encouraging the broad deployment of mutual recognition across the country which will lower regulatory compliance costs while unlocking new economic opportunities.
- Since April 2025, Ontario has signed economic cooperation MOUs with 10 provinces and territories to strengthen interprovincial trade, enhance economic resilience and reduce costly regulatory barriers.
- Ontario's leadership on internal trade has been recognized by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), which awarded the province an overall grade of A in their 2025 Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card.
- Trade barriers within Canada cost the national economy up to \$200 billion per year and raise prices for families and businesses by up to 14.5 per cent. In Ontario, the removal of trade barriers could see GDP growth of up to \$23 billion annually.

Quotes

"Our government is removing unnecessary barriers so physicians, nurses and other regulated health professionals from other provinces can start working in Ontario faster. By modernizing and accelerating labour mobility, we're making it easier for qualified professionals to practise here and help ensure Ontarians receive timely, high-quality care, when and where they need it."

- **Sylvia Jones**
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

"We're making it easier for Canadians to move, work and earn a paycheque anywhere in this country, while strengthening Ontario's economy and competitiveness. This is about unlocking opportunity and building a more resilient, unified Canada that can deliver the nation-building projects we need to protect against U.S. tariffs and global economic uncertainty."

- **David Piccini**
Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Additional Resources

- [2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review](#)
- [2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Unlocking Free Trade Within Canada](#)
- [Ontario Protecting Workers by Introducing First-in-Canada Labour Mobility Changes](#)

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 Protecting Workers Through Special Economic Zones

New regulation follows broad consultation, including with Indigenous communities, and will significantly speed up approvals for major projects that will protect Ontario's economy

December 17, 2025

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

TORONTO — As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by building a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy, the province's [new regulation](#) for criteria to designate Special Economic Zones, trusted proponents and projects will come into effect on January 1, 2026. Informed by consultations with Indigenous communities and stakeholders across Ontario, the regulation supports the advancement of job-creating investments and projects that are of strategic and critical importance to Ontario's economic security and delivers on the government's mandate to protect Ontario.

"Special Economic Zones will bolster Ontario's economic advantage by cutting red tape, accelerating approvals and protecting the jobs and industries that keep our province resilient and competitive," said Vic Fedeli, Minister for Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "At a time of economic uncertainty, this new regulation will serve as a critical tool to accelerate major nation-building projects and secure job creating investments that deliver lasting prosperity for our workers."

First introduced under the [Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act](#) in response to U.S. tariffs, the [Special Economic Zones Act, 2025](#) (SEZA) will provide a predictable and stable environment for investment and growth, allowing designated projects within zones to launch and progress significantly faster while maintaining the province's rigorous standards and safeguards for environmental protection and fulfilling the Crown's duty to consult. As the province works with interested partners to designate the first SEZs, it will also continue to engage in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and Indigenous communities.

"Informed by participation and consultation with Indigenous communities, the regulation for Special Economic Zones is providing clarity for communities and industry alike," said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations

Economic Reconciliation and Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community Partnerships. “As an important tool for communities to unlock First Nations-led economic prosperity, we look forward to continued partnership through the designations of future SEZs.”

Over the course of the comprehensive consultations Ontario engaged more than 130 Indigenous communities to provide feedback regarding the criteria and new regulatory framework. Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants also travelled extensively across the province to engage with communities since the passage of the *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*. These engagements focused on local community needs, enabling infrastructure, and nation-building projects, including the development of criteria regulation for Special Economic Zones.

All feedback received during consultations was taken into consideration when developing the criteria regulation. In addition, the ministry posted the draft criteria regulation to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) and the Ontario Regulatory Registry (ORR) on October 2, 2025 for a 45-day public comment period ending November 16.

With U.S. tariffs impacting workers and businesses across key sectors, the Ontario government continues to take decisive action to protect Ontario by lowering taxes, cutting red tape and duplicative processes, and making strategic investments. By streamlining approval processes while maintaining robust environmental standards, Ontario will unleash the economic potential of its leading industries and make the province’s economy the most competitive place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

Quick Facts

- The *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* is designed to expedite strategically important economic activity and priority projects within designated zones. By building faster and more strategically, Ontario can protect key industries, mitigate the impact of trade disruptions, and ensure the long-term prosperity and security of the economy.
- Ontario’s critical minerals advantage will play a key role in growing the province’s strategic sectors, including defence, electric vehicle (EV) and battery manufacturing, technology, aerospace and advanced manufacturing.
- Permitting and authorization processes for mining projects typically consist of overlapping approvals from multiple ministries and levels of government. This means it can take up to 15 years to open a mine in Ontario. The *SEZA* is designed to streamline these processes and expedite critical and strategically

important projects necessary to protect the province's economic and security interests.

Additional Resources

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

[Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy](#)

[Criteria for Designations, *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025*](#)

Related Topics

Business and economy

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

Jobs and employment

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

Rural, agriculture and north

Information about Northern Ontario, agriculture and local food. Learn about funding programs that support rural, northern and Indigenous communities. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Prioritizing Labour Market Needs Through 2026 International Student Application Allocation

Province responds to federal reduction in student permits by strengthening key sectors

December 17, 2025

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

TORONTO — In response to the federal government's decision to further reduce the number of international students permitted to study in Canada in 2026, the Ontario government is continuing to allocate Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs) to programs that prepare graduates for in-demand jobs and strengthen Ontario's workforce.

"Now more than ever, our government is focused on building a dynamic, highly skilled workforce that will protect and drive our economy," said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security. "As we have been since the beginning, we will continue to work alongside our colleges and universities to ensure they can keep delivering the world-class education that Ontario is proudly known for, enabling students to launch good-paying, rewarding careers that our province needs to remain the most competitive jurisdiction in the G7."

For 2026, Ontario has been allocated 104,780 PALs, which is capped at 70,074 permits for students intending to study at Ontario's postsecondary institutions. This marks a 42 per cent reduction from 2025, and the third straight year that Ontario's allocation has been reduced. Starting this year, graduate students at publicly assisted colleges and universities will not require a PAL but will be counted under Ontario's total cap for international study permits.

In determining its 2026 allocations, Ontario continues to prioritize programs that produce the graduates Ontario's key industries need to thrive. As in previous years, publicly assisted colleges and universities will receive 96 per cent of the allocations, with the remaining 4 per cent going to Ontario's language schools, private universities and other institutions. Following the success of the midyear voluntary return of unused PALs this year, Ontario will continue this practice in 2026, ensuring maximum usage of the province's allocation.

Amid federal policy changes that continue to destabilize Canada's postsecondary sector, the Ontario government is making record setting investments into the province's colleges, universities, and Indigenous Institutes, including nearly \$1 billion through Budget 2025 to fund over 100,000 more seats in programs such as construction, teaching, nursing, and STEM. The government is also currently working alongside Ontario's postsecondary partners to modernize the funding model into a more responsive, sustainable, and future-ready framework.

Building on its [2025 allocation methodology](#), Ontario is protecting the integrity of the postsecondary education system by ensuring the province is attracting the best and brightest students who will make a positive impact in Ontario's critical, economy driving sectors during their careers.

Quick Facts

- For 2026, Ontario has been allocated 104,780 PALs, a 42 per cent reduction from 2025, with a cap of 70,074 permits for international students.
- In 2025, Ontario was allocated 181,590 PALs, with a target of 116,740 permits.
- In 2024, Ontario was allocated 235,000 PALs, with a target of 141,000 permits.
- As of 2026, master's and doctoral students applying to public colleges and universities are exempt from the PAL requirement but will be included in overall cap allocation. Graduate students applying to private institutions will continue to be subject to PAL requirements.
- To acquire an attestation letter to study in Ontario, students should contact the admissions office at the Ontario postsecondary institution where they have accepted their offer of admission and intend to enrol. Students can also visit the [ministry website](#) for more information.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Continues Allocating International Student Applications to Support Labour Market Needs](#)
- [Information for international students interested in attending a publicly assisted college or university in Ontario](#)
- [Publicly assisted universities in Ontario](#)
- [Publicly assisted colleges in Ontario](#)
- [Private postsecondary institutions in Ontario](#)

Related Topics

[Education and apprenticeship](#)

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

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Ontario Investing in Firefighter Protection

December 19, 2025

[Solicitor General](#)

As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the government is [investing \\$20 million](#) to support firefighter health and safety, expand cancer prevention initiatives and improve emergency response to lithium-ion battery related incidents.

Through the [Fire Protection Grant](#), the following 380 municipal fire departments will receive funding for 2025-26:

Recipient:	Amount:
Addington Highlands	\$51,800
Adelaide Metcalfe	\$19,626
Adjala-Tosorontio	\$36,000
Admaston Bromley	\$18,863
Ajax	\$52,821
Alberton	\$19,626
Alfred and Plantagenet	\$31,421
Algonquin Highlands	\$48,724
Alnwick-Haldimand	\$50,000
Amherstburg	\$52,821

Armstrong	\$19,626
Arnprior	\$16,023
Arran-Elderslie	\$52,646
Asphodel-Norwood	\$36,223
Assiginack	\$15,941
Athens	\$16,000
Atikokan	\$19,626
Augusta	\$33,080
Aylmer	\$19,176
Baldwin	\$16,961
Bancroft	\$52,821
Barrie	\$86,016
Bayham	\$35,144
Beckwith	\$16,596
Belleville	\$80,811
Billings	\$15,572
Black River-Matheson	\$49,271
Blandford-Blenheim	\$69,418
Blind River	\$16,476

Blue Mountains, The	\$34,729
Bluewater	\$69,418
Bonfield	\$25,458
Bonnechere Valley	\$29,785
Bracebridge	\$32,890
Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$19,626
Brampton	\$230,230
Brant	\$128,000
Brantford	\$69,418
Brighton	\$34,921
Brock	\$41,247
Brockton	\$36,223
Brockville	\$36,223
Brooke-Alvinston	\$13,882
Bruce Mines	\$18,275
Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan	\$64,557
Burk's Falls	\$16,010
Burlington	\$135,808
Burpee and Mills	\$19,626

Caledon	\$152,406
Callander	\$36,223
Calvin	\$19,626
Cambridge	\$96,000
Carleton Place	\$16,445
Carling	\$16,000
Casey	\$19,626
Casselman	\$15,977
Cavan-Monaghan	\$32,000
Central Elgin	\$64,000
Central Frontenac	\$86,016
Central Huron	\$19,626
Central Manitoulin	\$63,943
Centre Hastings	\$31,208
Centre Wellington	\$31,811
Champlain	\$36,223
Chapleau	\$19,626
Chapple	\$32,000
Chatham-Kent	\$318,381

Chatsworth	\$17,650
Chisholm	\$16,707
Clarence-Rockland	\$47,946
Clarington	\$86,016
Clearview	\$83,331
Cobalt	\$19,626
Cobourg	\$19,626
Cochrane	\$33,563
Coleman	\$19,626
Collingwood	\$19,626
Conmee	\$19,626
Cornwall	\$36,223
Cramahe	\$32,500
Dawn-Euphemia	\$19,626
Deep River	\$16,000
Deseronto	\$18,730
Dorion	\$16,188
Douro-Dummer	\$68,141
Drummond/North Elmsley	\$33,000

Dryden	\$34,517
Dubreuilville	\$16,610
Dutton Dunwich	\$16,445
Dysart et al	\$19,626
Ear Falls	\$19,626
East Ferris	\$36,223
East Gwillimbury	\$50,000
East Hawkesbury	\$48,000
East Zorra-Tavistock	\$48,000
Edwardsburgh/Cardinal	\$36,223
Elizabethtown-Kitley	\$52,821
Elliot Lake	\$19,626
Emo	\$19,626
Englehart	\$32,000
Erin	\$36,223
Espanola	\$16,000
Essa	\$36,223
Essex	\$48,444
Faraday	\$33,359

Fauquier-Strickland	\$16,500
Fort Erie	\$64,000
Fort Frances	\$19,626
French River	\$35,327
Front of Yonge	\$14,527
Frontenac Islands	\$36,223
Gananoque	\$18,175
Gauthier	\$33,624
Georgian Bay	\$52,821
Georgian Bluffs	\$19,626
Georgina	\$52,821
Gillies	\$16,000
Goderich	\$15,980
Gore Bay	\$17,310
Grand Valley	\$19,626
Gravenhurst	\$51,528
Greater Madawaska	\$28,770
Greater Napanee	\$52,821
Greater Sudbury	\$301,783

Greenstone	\$69,418
Grey Highlands	\$33,720
Grimsby	\$36,223
Guelph	\$102,613
Guelph/Eramosa	\$17,970
Haldimand County	\$171,454
Halton Hills	\$51,334
Hamilton (City)	\$416,000
Hamilton (Township)	\$52,821
Hanover	\$18,000
Harley	\$19,626
Hastings Highlands	\$52,821
Havelock Belmont Methuen	\$31,882
Hawkesbury	\$19,626
Hearst	\$15,300
Highlands East	\$79,497
Hilton	\$16,000
Hornepayne	\$19,626
Horton	\$17,002

Howick	\$16,800
Hudson	\$19,626
Huntsville	\$30,320
Huron East	\$52,821
Huron Shores	\$14,545
Huron-Kinloss	\$36,223
Ignace	\$17,372
Ingersoll	\$16,108
Innisfil	\$85,751
Iroquois Falls	\$69,418
James	\$19,589
Jocelyn	\$33,400
Johnson	\$19,626
Kapuskasing	\$17,000
Kawartha Lakes	\$303,460
Kearney	\$17,118
Kenora	\$52,821
Kerns	\$19,626
Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards	\$33,000

Killarney	\$14,429
Kincardine	\$36,223
King	\$49,045
Kingston	\$167,900
Kingsville	\$36,223
Kirkland Lake	\$18,525
Kitchener	\$59,000
La Vallee	\$16,000
Lake of Bays	\$52,821
Lakeshore	\$82,000
Lambton Shores	\$84,230
Lanark Highlands	\$68,400
Larder Lake	\$19,626
LaSalle	\$36,223
Latchford	\$15,500
Laurentian Hills	\$33,479
Laurentian Valley	\$19,626
Leamington	\$18,900
Leeds and the Thousand Islands	\$64,840

Limerick	\$15,871
Lincoln	\$64,000
London	\$235,393
Loyalist	\$69,418
Lucan Biddulph	\$33,360
Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional	\$17,909
Machin	\$13,300
Madawaska Valley	\$34,334
Madoc	\$15,921
Magnetawan	\$33,683
Malahide	\$52,821
Manitouwadge	\$19,626
Mapleton	\$32,000
Marathon	\$19,626
Markham	\$152,406
Markstay-Warren	\$50,935
Marmora and Lake	\$16,445
Matachewan	\$13,601
Mattawa	\$19,626

Mattice-Val Côté	\$34,552
McDougall	\$33,604
McGarry	\$10,000
McKellar	\$32,049
McMurrich/Monteith	\$15,800
McNab/Braeside	\$50,057
Meaford	\$16,500
Merrickville-Wolford	\$19,626
Middlesex Centre	\$79,541
Midland	\$19,626
Milton	\$80,677
Minden Hills	\$19,000
Minto	\$52,821
Mississauga	\$368,173
Mississippi Mills	\$36,223
Mono	\$16,000
Montague	\$18,900
Moonbeam	\$16,597
Moosonee	\$19,626

Morley	\$30,000
Mulmur	\$18,686
Muskoka Lakes	\$164,400
Nairn and Hyman	\$32,063
Nation, The	\$63,938
Needing	\$79,719
New Tecumseth	\$48,000
Newbury	\$19,090
Newmarket	\$77,904
Niagara Falls	\$119,211
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$80,000
Nipigon	\$19,626
Nipissing	\$32,890
Norfolk County	\$176,000
North Algona Wilberforce	\$52,821
North Bay	\$69,418
North Dumfries	\$17,800
North Dundas	\$81,993
North Frontenac	\$52,821

North Glengarry	\$52,821
North Grenville	\$32,000
North Huron	\$36,223
North Kawartha	\$18,536
North Middlesex	\$35,950
North Perth	\$50,238
North Shore	\$35,000
North Stormont	\$69,314
Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	\$16,000
Northern Bruce Peninsula	\$36,223
Norwich	\$69,418
O'Connor	\$19,626
Oakville	\$140,038
Oil Springs	\$16,000
Oliver Paipoonge	\$102,613
Opasatika	\$16,000
Orangeville	\$19,626
Orillia	\$36,223
Oro-Medonte	\$80,000

Oshawa	\$102,613
Otonabee-South Monaghan	\$66,531
Ottawa	\$740,025
Owen Sound	\$16,906
Papineau-Cameron	\$18,901
Parry Sound	\$16,445
Pelee	\$17,400
Pelham	\$52,821
Pembroke	\$16,445
Penetanguishene	\$19,626
Perry	\$15,826
Perth East	\$50,688
Perth	\$19,200
Petawawa	\$36,223
Peterborough	\$50,000
Petrolia	\$19,626
Pickering	\$60,000
Pickle Lake	\$19,626
Plympton-Wyoming	\$36,223

Point Edward	\$18,699
Port Colborne	\$19,626
Port Hope	\$52,821
Powassan	\$36,223
Prescott (Separated)	\$15,883
Prince	\$19,380
Prince Edward	\$164,450
Puslinch	\$16,000
Quinte West	\$103,957
Rainy River	\$48,000
Ramara	\$52,821
Red Lake	\$69,418
Red Rock	\$19,626
Renfrew	\$19,626
Richmond Hill	\$102,613
Rideau Lakes	\$62,004
Russell	\$36,223
Sables-Spanish Rivers	\$16,000
Sarnia	\$83,000

Saugeen Shores	\$36,223
Sault Ste. Marie	\$61,435
Schreiber	\$48,395
Scugog	\$32,000
Seguin	\$50,132
Selwyn	\$82,225
Severn	\$48,000
Shelburne	\$19,626
Shuniah	\$52,821
Sioux Lookout	\$16,000
Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls	\$33,114
Smith Falls (Separated)	\$19,626
Smooth Rock Falls	\$19,626
South-West Oxford	\$52,821
South Algonquin	\$36,223
South Bruce	\$35,725
South Bruce Peninsula	\$32,000
South Dundas	\$50,000
South Frontenac	\$135,808

South Glengarry	\$83,000
South Huron	\$32,000
South River	\$17,500
South Stormont	\$65,180
Southgate	\$16,472
Southwest Middlesex	\$36,223
Southwold	\$32,890
Spanish	\$17,475
Springwater	\$59,365
St. Catherines	\$91,184
St. Charles	\$16,500
St. Clair	\$98,400
St. Joseph	\$16,000
St. Marys	\$18,352
St. Thomas	\$35,674
Stirling-Rawdon	\$36,223
Stone Mills	\$69,418
Stratford	\$34,618
Strathroy-Caradoc	\$50,000

Sundridge	\$16,000
Tarbutt	\$16,500
Tay	\$69,418
Tecumseh	\$34,893
Tehkummah	\$18,968
Temagami	\$36,223
Temiskaming Shores	\$52,316
Terrace Bay	\$19,626
Thames Centre	\$32,000
Thessalon	\$19,626
Thorold	\$43,206
Thunder Bay	\$135,808
Tillsonburg	\$19,626
Timmins	\$102,613
Tiny	\$83,303
Toronto	\$1,397,219
Trent Hills	\$49,000
Trent Lakes	\$65,780
Tweed	\$19,626

Tyendinaga	\$19,626
Uxbridge	\$18,000
Val Rita-Harty	\$32,000
Vaughan	\$169,003
Wainfleet	\$52,821
Warwick	\$36,223
Wasaga Beach	\$32,315
Waterloo	\$64,000
Wawa	\$19,626
Welland	\$29,490
Wellesley	\$48,000
Wellington North	\$32,000
West Elgin	\$32,890
West Grey	\$50,490
West Lincoln	\$32,000
West Nipissing	\$135,808
West Perth	\$18,303
Whitby	\$86,016
Whitchurch-Stouffville	\$36,223

White River	\$19,626
Whitestone	\$23,332
Whitewater Region	\$86,016
Wilmot	\$49,560
Windsor	\$119,211
Wollaston	\$16,445
Woodstock	\$36,223
Woolwich	\$102,613
Zorra	\$51,000

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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Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2026

December 31, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

The following legislation, regulation and fee changes listed by responsible ministry will take effect January 1, 2026.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

A first-in-Canada approach, Ontario's new "As of Right" framework under the *Ontario Labour Mobility Act (OLMA)* allows certified professionals from other Canadian jurisdictions to start working within 10 business days for up to six months by having their certification recognized faster with the Ontario regulatory authority while completing their full registration. This reduces barriers to help unify Canada's economy and contributes to national labour mobility efforts to strengthen workforces across the country. These "As of Right" rules apply across professions regulated by more than 50 non-health regulatory authorities and 300 certifications.

To ensure certified professionals from other Canadian jurisdictions have access to labour mobility requirements and timelines for certification recognition in Ontario, new regulation under the *OLMA* will require Ontario regulatory authorities to publish these requirements on their public-facing website. These measures will help increase transparency and prevent missed employment opportunities. In addition, regulatory authorities will be required to report to government on the success of labour mobility applicants and on registration service standards to provide a clearer picture of the regulatory landscape in Ontario.

To encourage compliance, a new regulation will enable monitor ministries to issue administrative penalties on regulatory authorities for failing to comply with the *OLMA*. In addition, it will be an offence for an individual to knowingly provide false information for the purpose of meeting requirements for deemed certification, "As of Right", under the *OLMA*.

To protect the health and safety of workers on job sites, and as part of our commitment under the recently passed *Working for Workers Seven Act*, a regulatory amendment has been made under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* requiring defibrillators on construction sites with 20 or more regularly employed workers on a project that will be at least three months long. A worker trained in CPR and defibrillator operation must also be present when work is in progress. To help businesses with these costs, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board will be offering reimbursement to eligible employers of up to \$2,500 per device (average cost is approximately \$2,300 per device) per eligible construction project.

To help workers and job seekers make more informed decisions with their careers, new *Employment Standards Act* (ESA) rules under the *Working for Workers Four Act* related to job postings requires certain employers to include expected compensation and disclose the use of artificial intelligence in the hiring process. The new rules will also address barriers for immigrants seeking jobs that correspond to their skills, education and experience.

To further help workers and job seekers, the *Working for Workers Five Act* establishes rules under the *ESA* where certain employers are required to disclose in job postings whether a vacancy currently exists and requires them to respond to interviewees within 45 days after their interview.

To streamline and expedite registration processes for internationally trained professionals, a regulation amendment under the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* introduces new requirements for regulated professions and third-party assessment organizations to ensure they assess an applicant's qualifications in a fair, transparent, objective and impartial manner.

To protect workers and job seekers using public job posting platforms, Ontario is adding a new provision under the *ESA* that requires those platforms to have a procedure for users to report fraudulent publicly advertised job postings and to have a written policy with respect to fraudulent ads.

Ontario is working to attract and retain foreign national physicians by amending O. Reg. 422/17 under the *Ontario Immigration Act*. The amendment will broaden eligibility for physicians who can practise in Ontario by updating the list of eligible licence classes for self-employed physicians applying to the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program.

Ontario is protecting the health and safety of workers with a new regulation under the *OHSA* that requires constructors at construction projects or employers at all other workplaces to post cleaning records of their washroom facilities that are

provided for workers — the first province in Canada to require these records.

Ontario is reducing barriers for construction businesses with a new regulation under the *OHSA* that ensures Chief Prevention Officer-accredited Health and Safety Management Systems are treated as equivalent in government and public sector organization procurements and promoting compliance with this regulation through the establishment of administrative monetary penalties.

To help reduce administrative burdens on temporary help agencies and recruiters, an amendment under the *ESA* requires agencies and recruiters to renew their licences every two years rather than every year.

Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

To speed up approvals for projects of critical importance to Ontario's economy, Ontario is enacting the *Special Economic Zones Act*. Following comprehensive consultation with Indigenous communities and other parties, the *Act* can introduce [Special Economic Zones](#) to prioritize certain areas, projects or proponents of strategic provincial significance that would serve to drive economic activity, create jobs and attract investment.

Ministry of Health

In support of [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), an amendment to O. Reg 865/93 under the *Medicine Act* will create a new Provisional Class to reduce registration barriers, streamline credentialing and allow qualified physicians to practise in Ontario.

Expansion of "As of Right" rules allows more health professionals moving to Ontario from another province to practise right away while they await registration in Ontario. Schedules 3, 4, 8 and 10 of the *Building a More Competitive Economy Act* were passed and 32 new or amended regulations were made to:

- Expand "As of Right" rules to [16 additional out-of-province health professions](#)
- Set the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the College of Nurses of Ontario as the regulators whose labour mobility applicants will have their home jurisdictions' licences automatically recognized. Automatic registration for applicants in good standing must be registered within two business days.

Board-certified physicians and nurses licensed in a U.S. state and the District of Columbia may practise in Ontario using "As of Right" rules with amendments to O. Reg. 197/23 under the *Medicine Act* and O. Reg. 196/23 under the *Nursing Act*. Also,

changes to those two regulations and to O. Reg. 199/23 under the *Respiratory Therapy Act* and to O. Reg. 198/23 under the *Medical Laboratory Technology Act* removed work-setting restrictions for those practising under “As of Right” rules.

To help the people of Ontario access their provincial health records, an amendment to the *Personal Health Information Protection Act* will allow people with a Digital Health Identifier to securely access certain records of their personal health information in the provincial Electronic Health Record. This change also strengthens Ontario Health’s role in managing the Electronic Health Record in a secure and privacy-protected way.

An amendment O. Reg. 552 under the *Health Insurance Act* supports the implementation of changes to two schedules: The Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services (SOB-LS) and The Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services (SOB-PS), where:

- Changes to SOB-LS allows the insurability of lab test orders placed electronically (eRequisitions) and that make use of electronic signatures
- Changes to SOB-PS increases the fee for 20 emergency medicine fee codes by 4.33 per cent, to meet the ministry’s contractual obligations under the Arbitration Award for physician payments.

Ontario is strengthening health services for expectant families by expanding the scope of practice of midwives and Indigenous midwives and making changes to the provincial newborn and prenatal screening programs. An amendment to O. Reg 45/22 under the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act* will:

- Add 29 tests to the list of tests that midwives and Indigenous midwives may order
- Allow midwives and Indigenous midwives to perform five Point of Care Tests
- Add a new test (X-ALD) to the newborn screening program
- Add three new tests (Fetal Blood Group Genotyping, Fetal RHD and first trimester preeclampsia biomarker) under the prenatal screening program
- Update provisions to allow Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario to contract with labs for newborn screening.

To ensure dentists obtain and maintain professional liability coverage and authorization to work in Canada, Ontario is amending O. Reg 205/94 under the *Dentistry Act*.

To keep Ontario's streets safer, amendments have been made to the *Highway Traffic Act* and relevant regulations that address reckless and dangerous driving behaviours including:

- Lifetime driver's licence suspension upon conviction for impaired drivers causing death
- Mandatory remedial education for first-time alcohol and/or drug-related administrative occurrences
- Longer roadside licence suspensions for first- and second-time alcohol/drug-related occurrences
- Mandatory minimum licence suspensions on conviction of stunt driving are automatically applied rather than being court-ordered
- Escalating driver's licence suspensions for motor vehicle theft under the *Criminal Code*, including a lifetime suspension for a third conviction.

To crack down on motor vehicle theft, a new provincial offence has been created under the *Highway Traffic Act* for knowingly providing a false vehicle identification number for a vehicle transaction. Penalties include fines of up to \$100,000 for convictions, the possibility of up to six months in jail and an up to one-year driver's licence or vehicle permit suspension.

In addition, *Highway Traffic Act* amendments provide police with the authority to search and seize electronic devices that are intended to be used for vehicle theft — providing law enforcement stronger tools to keep keyless devices off the streets and out of the hands of criminals.

Ministry of Energy and Mines

To support the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), an amendment to regulations under the *Ontario Energy Board Act* allows Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to enter into equity partnerships with Indigenous communities and other investors for SMRs built at [Darlington New Nuclear Project](#). The amendment also allows OPG to recover debt interest costs during construction of certain nuclear projects.

Ontario is making life more affordable by amending the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act* to increase the energy rebate for customers of several Remote Unlicensed Distributors, also known as Independent Power Authorities, from eight per cent to 23.5 per cent.

A change to O. Reg 324/16 “Registration” under the *Professional Geoscientists Act* will help geoscientists to work in the province by allowing them to register as temporary members with Professional Geoscientists Ontario.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

To help connect communities and protect nature, Ontario is amending the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act* to change the boundaries of select provincial parks to support the widening of Highway 69 and to expand and reclassify Devil’s Glen Provincial Park.

To speed up building the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Project in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Ontario has granted the project a special designation for exemption from a full environmental assessment through a new regulation under the *Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act*.

To help stabilize costs and reduce administrative burden for businesses while still maintaining overall recycling goals, Ontario is changing the upcoming Blue Box recycling requirements and timelines under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act*. Some of these amendments include deferrals and changes to recycling targets, giving businesses more time to meet collection requirements and removing the requirement to collect beverage containers in commercial locations.

Ministry of Finance

To further modernize the province’s alcohol marketplace, Ontario is amending a regulation under the *Liquor Licence and Control Act*, to set a minimum retail price for five-litre containers of wine sold in grocery and convenience stores, to remove the restrictions on displaying energy drinks next to alcohol products, and to remove requirements for grocery and convenience stores to maintain a dedicated alcohol sales section on their websites.

To provide more clarity and transparency to consumers, Ontario is bringing into force amendments and amending regulations under the *Insurance Act* so that Ontario’s financial regulator can require insurers to provide clearer annual cost and performance information for segregated funds.

Ontario is altering the *Legislative Assembly Act*, *MPPs Pension Act* through the *MPP Pension and Compensation Act* so that MPPs now enrolled in the current retirement savings account will be switched over to the Public Service Pension Plan (PSPP), and that MPPs not eligible for the PSPP (i.e., aged 71 and above) will be entitled to

receive an allowance instead. The decision deadline for MPPs exploring options regarding the balance of their current registered pension plan will be extended to June 5, 2026.

To support transparency and accountability of public funds, Ontario is making a new regulation under the *Insurance Act* to designate the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange as a public sector reciprocal insurance exchange and make it subject to certain reporting and governance requirements, accountable to the Minister of Education.

Ontario is changing the *Assessment Act*, the *City of Toronto Act*, and the *Municipal Act*, to enhance access to property assessment information for the public by enabling the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to deliver assessment notices to property owners electronically starting in 2026.

To clarify and simplify how payments-in-lieu of taxes are distributed between municipalities and school boards, the government is amending a regulation under the *Municipal Act* and the *City of Toronto Act*.

Ontario is amending a regulation under the *Investment Management Corporation of Ontario Act* so the Niagara Health System can have its capital investment funds managed by the Investment Management Corporation of Ontario.

To improve transparency and accountability around the province's finances, Ontario is making a change to the *Fiscal Sustainability, Transparency and Accountability Act*, so that references to "provincial net debt" in both *Acts* will now read "provincial net financial liabilities".

Ministry of Long-Term Care

To provide residents of long-term care (LTC) homes with the care they need, staff hired to provide personal support services through an exemption under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act*, who did not meet the standard qualification requirements, will be given an extension to December 1, 2027 to transition into new roles within the home or complete personal support worker training programs. After January 1, 2026, LTC homes will no longer be able to hire under this exemption.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

To help ensure housing assistance is directed to those most in need, Ontario is making its annual adjustment to Household Income Limits and High Needs Income Limits under the *Housing Services Act*. This adjustment reflects the latest data from

the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and is used by local Service Managers to assess eligibility for housing supports like rent-geared-to-income assistance.

To empower the municipalities of Carling and McDougall to make efficient local planning decisions and increase their housing supply, amendments to the *Planning Act* will shift responsibility for approving the creation of new lots from the Parry Sound Area Planning Board to these two municipalities.

Under the *Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act*, Ontario is modernizing and streamlining the posting requirements for municipal financial statements by requiring them to be posted on the municipality's website rather than in print media. These changes and requirements are also being made to the *City of Toronto Act*.

Through the *Barrie-Oro-Medonte-Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act*, Ontario is supporting growth in Simcoe County by transferring approximately 1,673 hectares of land located in the Townships of Oro-Medonte and Springwater to the City of Barrie. This boundary change will benefit the entire region by protecting jobs and accelerating economic growth in Simcoe County while unlocking up to 8,000 new homes.

Ministry of Natural Resources

The government is updating and strengthening forest fire prevention measures through the *Wildland Fire Management Act* to help protect communities, forests and industries from the escalating threat of wildland fires. The *Act* will strengthen shared responsibility for wildland fire management, improve awareness of wildland fire risks, enforce stricter rules and consequences for non-compliance and enhance overall preparedness and response.

The new *Geologic Carbon Storage Act* enables the development of carbon storage projects, which could cut greenhouse gas emissions by five to seven million tonnes per year, create over 4,000 short-term jobs and make Ontario's economy more competitive by reducing carbon costs for industries by nearly \$1 billion a year. Carbon storage has proven to be safe and effective around the world, including in Canada, with projects already underway in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Ontario is helping build housing and infrastructure by modernizing the *Surveyors Act* and its regulations to make it easier for surveyors to do business, simplify the process for internationally trained surveyors to work in Ontario and allow Ontario

to be supported by out-of-province surveyors during emergencies like floods or wildland fires.

Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

Ontario is protecting consumers by amending regulations under the *Motor Vehicle Dealers Act* to help ensure that motor vehicle sales professionals are kept up-to-date and aware of their responsibilities under the *Act* by completing continuing education, as required by the registrar, prior to renewing their registration.

Ministry of the Solicitor General

To support human trafficking investigations by police services within Ontario's accommodation sector, the *Accommodation Sector Registration of Guests Act* and its regulation establish requirements for hotels and online accommodation providers to keep a register of guests and standardize how police can access the register during investigations.

To strengthen fire safety compliance, a new regulation introduces administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) as an additional enforcement tool under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*. The new regulation allows municipalities to levy an AMP on anyone (including tenants, owners and corporations) who are in violation of certain provisions of the Ontario Fire Code.

Amendments to O. Reg. 213/07 creates the first French edition of the Ontario Fire Code.

An amendment to O. Reg. 347/18 under the *Police Record Checks Reform Act* clarifies what information police services can disclose through a police record check that is exempted from the *Act*.

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

To reduce red tape, the new *Protecting Farmers from Non-Payment Act (Regulating Agricultural Product Dealers and Storage Operators)* replaces three former *Acts* and protects grain and livestock farmers when dealers licenced to sell or store their products default on payments or do not return grain to the farmer. The new *Act* also makes it easier for farmers of other commodities to receive financial protection.

Ministry of the Attorney General

Amendments to the *Construction Act* and its regulations will support more timely payments to contractors, reduce cash flow issues and payment-related disputes on multi-year construction projects and provide greater clarity and certainty for the construction industry.

Amendments to a regulation under the *Special Investigations Unit Act* will mean the use of certain Anti-Riot Weaponry and similar devices will not automatically require an investigation by the Special Investigations Unit, except in instances where death or serious injury has occurred.

Ontario is amending four regulations under the *Administration of Justice Act* to defer automatic increases to court fees and fee waiver eligibility thresholds from January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2027.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

To encourage licenced out-of-home care providers to comply with requirements, an amendment to O. Reg. 155/18 under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* will establish rules for the amount of administrative penalties that could be issued to a provider for violating licensing requirements.

Ministry of Education

In order to better support families, Ontario is amending a regulation under the *Child Care and Early Years Act* so that Canadian Disability Benefit payments will not be considered income when determining eligibility for child care fee subsidies.

Ministry of Francophone Affairs

The Ontario government is moving the *French Language Services Act*'s Schedule listing designated areas into a [new regulation under the Act](#). This regulation also includes updates to several designated areas to reflect their current official municipal names, expanding six designated areas to align with municipal boundaries. The offer of provincial French-language services will expand following a three-year implementation period, as of January 1, 2029. The six impacted designated areas are:

- United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
- County of Essex
- City of Hamilton
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- County of Renfrew
- District of Thunder Bay.

A further amendment to O. Reg. 398/93 under the *Act*, designates two new agencies — Centre d'Accueil Champlain and Pembroke Regional Hospital — and updates the current designation of 11 agencies to reflect changes to their names, designated program names or names of funding ministries.

Related Topics

Government

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Ontario Continuing to Protect Workers and Unlock Free Trade Within Canada in 2026

First-in-Canada labour mobility and mutual recognition regulations will break down interprovincial barriers for workers and strengthen Ontario's economy

December 31, 2025

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

TORONTO – As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario and strengthen its economic resilience, on January 1, the province is bringing into force historic labour mobility and free-trade regulations that break down interprovincial barriers for workers and businesses and help employers access the skilled Canadian workers they need sooner. These historic changes are part of the government's plan to support Ontario and Canadian workers and build a unified Canadian workforce that can stand up to U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty.

Starting January 1, 2026, new "As of Right" labour mobility regulations will allow in-demand certified professionals such as architects, engineers, geoscientists, land surveyors and electricians to begin working in Ontario within 10 business days, once credentials and requirements are confirmed by the applicable Ontario regulator. The historic implementation of this "As of Right" rule will apply across professions covered by more than 50 regulatory authorities and 300 certifications, helping employers fill critical roles faster, support workers moving between provinces and strengthen Ontario's economic competitiveness.

"By streamlining the process for certified professionals from other Canadian jurisdictions to work in Ontario, we're opening doors for talent and driving economic growth," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "These changes create new opportunities for workers and businesses, strengthen our province's competitiveness and use a Canada-first approach to take on global economic uncertainty."

These changes are part of the suite of [regulatory changes](#) across government that are coming into effect January 1, 2026.

Ontario is also strengthening access to health care talent by expanding labour mobility for regulated health professionals. As part of this approach, the government is extending “As of Right” rules to 16 additional regulated health professions, further strengthening Ontario’s health-care workforce while maintaining regulatory oversight. These expanded reforms also include taking the next step toward automatic recognition of physicians and nurses who are registered and in good standing in other provinces and territories, making it faster and easier for them to continue their practice in Ontario.

“Our government is cutting red tape so physicians, nurses, and other regulated health professionals from across Canada can start working in Ontario sooner,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By strengthening labour mobility, we’re making it easier for qualified professionals to practise here and helping people get the right care, in the right place, where and when they need it.”

Ontario’s leadership on labour mobility is part of a broader plan to unlock free trade within Canada. Since April 2025, Ontario has signed economic cooperation memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with 10 provinces and territories to strengthen interprovincial trade, enhance economic resilience and reduce costly regulatory barriers.

Building on Ontario’s national leadership in supporting free trade and labour mobility across Canada, the government recently took the next steps to unlock free trade within Canada by publishing a draft regulation under the *Ontario Free Trade and Mobility Act, 2025* (OFTMA). The [mutual recognition of goods and services](#) from other reciprocating Canadian jurisdictions will reduce red tape and accelerate market access by eliminating the need for businesses to meet multiple sets of regulatory requirements. Mutual recognition of goods and services will play a substantial role in supporting economic integration across Canada and removing internal trade barriers that cost the economy up to \$200 billion every year.

“In the face of uncertainty, our government has taken unprecedented action to break down internal trade barriers and address the burdensome regulations that have restricted our domestic and national economies,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “By advancing the mutual recognition of goods and services and making it easier for workers to expand their trades into other provinces and territories, we are laying the foundation for a secure, competitive and prosperous future.”

As Canada's largest interprovincial trader, Ontario's initiatives are creating pan-Canadian momentum to tear down barriers and unlock access to new internal markets and customers in the face of global market instability and volatility. By reducing barriers and streamlining labour mobility, Ontario is enabling workers and businesses to seize opportunities across provinces and drive economic growth.

Quick Facts

- The [Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025](#) gives Ontario businesses and workers a stronger competitive edge by encouraging the broad deployment of mutual recognition across the country, which will lower regulatory compliance costs while unlocking new economic opportunities.
- Ontario's leadership on internal trade has been recognized by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), which awarded the province an overall grade of A in their 2025 Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card.
- Approximately 3,000 labour mobility applications were processed in 2023 across 14 regulated professions and 23 compulsory trades governed under Ontario's [Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act, 2006](#).
- Approximately 20 per cent of occupations are regulated in Canada. These "As of Right" rules are applicable to more than 50 Ontario regulatory authorities under the [Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009](#).
- Since 2018, Ontario has supported a record-breaking number of new health-care professionals, including adding over 100,000 new nurses and nearly 20,000 additional physicians to its health-care workforce, including an over 14 per cent increase in family doctors.
- The government is working with other provinces and territories to harmonize occupational health and safety training standards to help streamline pathways to work interprovincially.
- Trade barriers within Canada cost the national economy up to \$200 billion per year and raise prices for families and businesses by up to 14.5 per cent. In Ontario, the removal of trade barriers could see GDP growth of up to \$23 billion annually.

Additional Resources

- [Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2026](#)
- [Ontario Taking Next Steps to Unlock Free Trade Within Canada](#)
- [Ontario Supporting Worker Mobility Across Canada](#)
- [Ontario Protecting Workers by Introducing First-in-Canada Labour Mobility Changes](#)

- [Ontario Unlocking Free Trade Within Canada](#)

Related Topics

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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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CALENDAR OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS and COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings will be held in the **Council Chambers** of the County Administration Building, 9 International Drive, Pembroke, unless otherwise indicated. Conferences are in **bold**, and holidays are in **blue**.

DATE	TIME	
January 8-9, 2026		EOWC Inaugural Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
January 18-20, 2026		ROMA Annual Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Toronto
Wednesday, January 28, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
February 2-4, 2026		EDCO, Toronto
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
Monday, February 16, 2026		Family Day
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
March 15-21, 2026		March Break
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
March 29-April 1, 2026		Good Roads Annual Conference, Toronto
Friday, April 3, 2026		Easter Friday
Monday April 6, 2026		Easter Monday
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
Wednesday, April 22, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
Monday, May 18, 2026		Victoria Day
May 25-27, 2026		CAMA Annual Conference, Whistler, BC
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
June 4-7, 2026		Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference, Edmonton, AB
June 7-9, 2026		AMCTO, Huntsville
Wednesday, June 10, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
Wednesday, June 24, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
Wednesday, July 1, 2026		Canada Day
Monday, August 3, 2026		Civic Holiday
Wednesday, August 12, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
August 16-19, 2026		Assoc. of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference, Ottawa
Wednesday, August 26, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
Monday, September 7, 2026		Labour Day
Wednesday, September 9, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
September 9-11, 2026		Ontario East Municipal Conference, Ottawa
Wednesday, September 23, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
Wednesday, September 30, 2026		National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Monday, October 12, 2026		Thanksgiving Day
Wednesday, October 14, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Joint Services Health, Community Services, Corporate Services
Monday, October 26, 2026		Municipal Election Day
Wednesday, October 28, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council, Development and Property, Operations
Wednesday, November 11, 2026		Remembrance Day
Thursday, November 12, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Council
Saturday, November 14, 2026		The 2022-2026 Term of Office Ends (s.6(1))
Sunday, November 15, 2025		The 2026-2030 Term of Office Commences (s.6(1))
Wednesday, December 9, 2026	9:30 a.m.	County Council Inaugural Meeting



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW

EXPLORING ENTREPRENEURSHIP: FROM IDEA OVERLOAD TO BUSINESS CLARITY

January 27th

10 am to 11 am

*Designed for aspiring
entrepreneurs who feel
excited
~ but overwhelmed ~
by the possibilities!*



Heather
Inwood-Montrose



Hillary
Panke

To register for this free webinar visit:
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Ontario



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW



Renfrew County
Community Futures
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Société d'aide au développement
des collectivités
du comté de Renfrew

MINDSET MATTERS

GETTING OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY IN BUSINESS



JEANETTE JOHNSTON
Business and Mindset Coaching

Practical tools for
small business
owners to avoid
burnout and stay
energized for
success in 2026!



Wednesday
21 JANUARY, 2026



FREE Webinar
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Register: www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events



Renfrew
making change and connections



APPEL À CANDIDATURES



Connaissez-vous un ou une entrepreneur(e) francophone qui inspire les autres et redonne à sa communauté?

Proposez-le dès aujourd'hui !

Date limite pour proposer une candidature :
23 février à minuit

Le prix sera remis lors du Déjeuner de réseautage des entreprises francophones
le mardi 10 mars- Réservez la date !

En 2025, le Prix de l'entrepreneur francophone a célébré Ottawa Valley Taekwon-Do, une entreprise codirigée par Lucas Fleurant et Bernadette Demong.

Proposez une personne inspirante pour 2026 !

Canada

Renfrew County
CFDC | SADC
du comté de Renfrew

Centre culturel francophone
de Pembroke

FGA

Fédération des groupes d'affaires francophones de l'Ontario



Ontario

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



Do you know a Francophone entrepreneur who inspires others and gives back to their community?

Nominate them today!

Deadline to nominate a candidate:
February 23 at midnight

The award will be presented at the Francophone Business Networking Breakfast on **Tuesday, March 10- Save the date!**

In 2025, the Francophone Entrepreneur Award celebrated Ottawa Valley Taekwon-Do, a business co-led by Lucas Fleurant and Bernadette Demong.

Nominate an inspiring person for 2026!

Canada



Centre culturel francophone de Pembroke



Fédération des groupes d'affaires francophones de l'Ontario



Ontario



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW



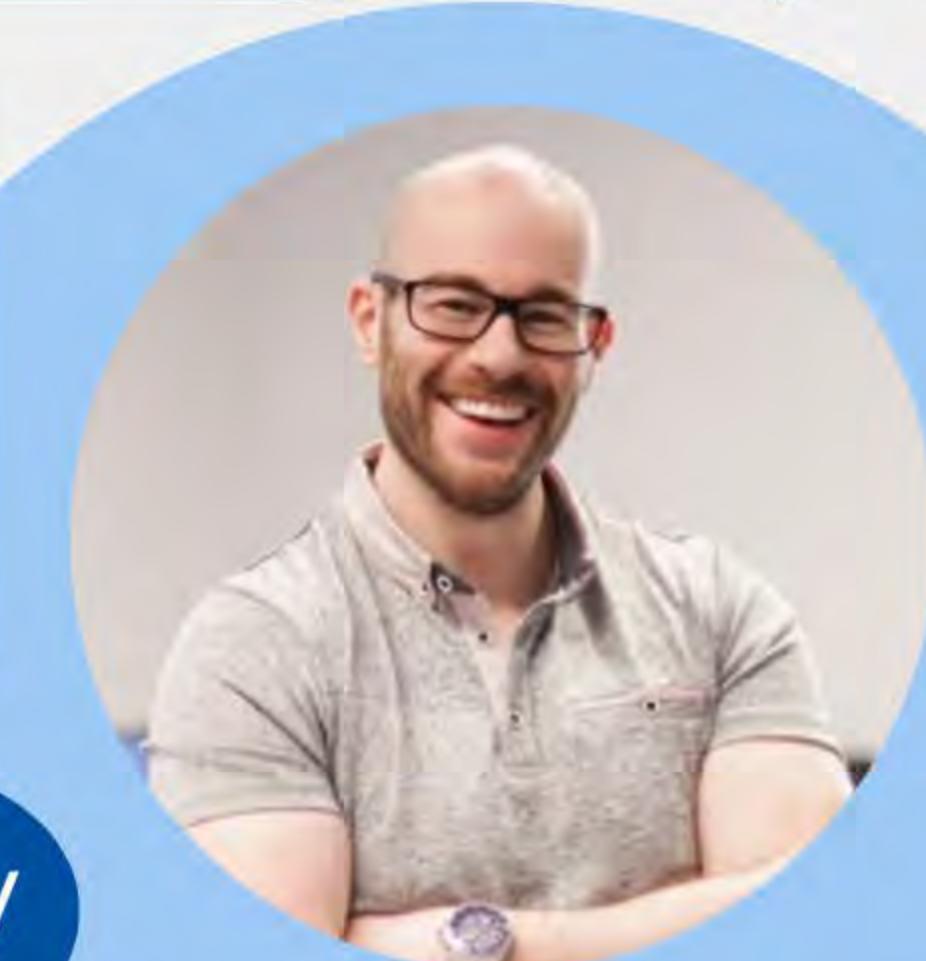
Renfrew County
Community Futures
Development Corporation
Société d'aide au développement
des collectivités
du comté de Renfrew

SOLE PROPRIETOR TAX ESSENTIALS



Free webinar

January 14
10:00am to 11:30am



Register:
[www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/
workshops-events](http://www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events)

*Andrew Seguin
Founder of Seguin Financial*



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FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: December 15, 2025

Starter Company Plus Fall 2025 Grant Recipients

Pembroke, (ON): The Starter Company Plus fall business training program recently concluded with six unique small businesses earning grant awards. This fast-track, intensive training program has proven to be transformational for entrepreneurs with new business ideas preparing to launch and owners of businesses that have been operating for five years or less.

Enterprise Renfrew County and program sponsor Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation are excited to welcome these businesses to the Starter Company Plus alumni! The following dedicated entrepreneurs received grant awards totaling \$30,000:

- Steve Benoit, Benoit Anishinaabe Ventures (Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation)
- Laura Galenkamp, Lulo Gardens Inc. (Township of Bonnechere Valley)
- Tania Leclerc, Lost Loon Groundskeeping (Township of Admaston Bromley)
- Sydney Montgomery, Flock'n Fleet Repair Inc. (Township of Whitewater Region)
- Matthew O'Leary, Remind Media Inc. (Township of Laurentian Valley)
- Kelsea Shore, Wool Witch Tattoo (Township of Horton)

"The program allowed me to take an optimistic idea and build it into a plan to make the business grow" says Sydney Montgomery, Military Veteran and Co-Owner of Flock'n Fleet Repair. "My key takeaway is that pricing must be intentional and through the cash flow forecasting process calculated true costs of operating a business. I also learned, by meeting with the expert trainers and mentor that it takes a village for a small business to succeed!"

Starter Company Plus provides three months of business coaching, business plan and cash flow projection development, mentoring and instruction from staff and professional trainers. At the end of the program there is an opportunity for participants to compete, by pitching their business plan, for a non-repayable grant of up to \$5,000 to be applied to their business operations. Entrepreneurs interested in applying to the program are encouraged to contact Heather Inwood-Montrose, Small Business Advisor, at Hinwoodmontrose@countyofrenfrew.on.ca, or sign-up by visiting www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/starter-company-plus.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heather Inwood-Montrose Small Business Advisor 613-735-8224

Tina Peplinskie Media Relations Coordinator 613-735-7288



STARTER COMPANY 2025 PLUS



Ontario



Three Eastern Ontario Counties taking over ownership of K&P Trail

Posted on Thursday, December 11, 2025



Taking part in the signing ceremony (from left) were Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board Chair Roy Huetl, Frontenac County Warden Bill Saunders, Lanark County Warden Richard Kidd, Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon.

For immediate release

December 11, 2025

Perth, ON – The Counties of Frontenac, Renfrew, and Lanark have officially signed documents marking the beginning of the process to transfer ownership of sections of the historic K&P Trail from the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA). The signing ceremony was attended by Warden Richard Kidd of Lanark, Warden Peter Emon of Renfrew, and Warden Bill Saunders of Frontenac, alongside MVCA General Manager Sally McIntyre and Board Chair Roy Huetl, underscoring the spirit of partnership and shared commitment to preserving and enhancing this treasured regional asset.

The K&P Trail, a former railway line turned multi-use recreational corridor, is a vital link across Eastern Ontario. With this transfer, the Counties will assume stewardship of the trail sections, ensuring continued investment in maintenance, accessibility, and promotion for residents and visitors alike. The Counties and Conservation Authority will be working to establish clear title of all the property holdings and transferring title once this is done. In the meantime Lanark and Renfrew will be leasing their respective sections of the trail from the MVCA.

"Trails like the K&P are more than pathways through our communities – they are economic drivers, tourism magnets, and places where residents connect with nature," said Warden Kidd. "By working together, we are safeguarding this legacy for future generations while strengthening the recreational opportunities that make our region such a vibrant place to live and visit."

The MVCA expressed its support for the transition, noting that the counties are well-positioned to manage the trail's long-term sustainability and growth.

The K&P Trail continues to attract hikers, cyclists, and outdoor enthusiasts from across Ontario and beyond. Its scenic landscapes, historic roots, and accessibility make it a cornerstone of local tourism, while also offering residents a healthy and affordable way to enjoy the outdoors.

– 30 –

For more information/media interviews, contact: Kurt Greaves
CAO

Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy elected as Warden for 2026

Posted on Friday, December 12, 2025



At the Inaugural Session of County Council on December 10, Renfrew County Warden Jennifer Murphy (centre) is joined by Councillor Anne Giardini, nominated her for the position and Councillor Neil Nicholson, who seconded the nomination.

RELEASE DATE:

December 12, 2025

Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy will lead Renfrew County Council in 2026 after being elected by her peers during the December 10 Inaugural Session, defeating Councillor Michael Donohue from the Township of Admaston/Bromley.

Warden Murphy was nominated by Councillor Anne Giardini and Councillor Neil Nicholson seconded the nomination. Councillor Donohue was nominated by Councillor Glenn Doncaster and Councillor Debbi Grills seconded the nomination. The Office of the Warden of the County of Renfrew is for a one-year term, as provided for by the procedural by-law.

Following the official swearing-in ceremony, Warden Murphy highlighted areas of focus for the upcoming year:

- Strengthening and expanding mental health, substance use, and crisis support directly in communities through Mesa;
- Integrating healthcare, mental health, social services, and outreach under one roof through the HART Hub (Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub);
- Addressing financial pressures and regulatory demands while maintaining high-quality rural services;
- Advancing affordable housing, rural services, digital connectivity, and family supports;
- Leveraging innovation to improve service delivery, decision-making, and efficiency while ensuring transparency and privacy;
- Building a compassionate, connected, and prosperous County defined by problem-solving and resilience.

"Renfrew County has never been defined by its obstacles; we are defined by our ability to solve them," said Warden Murphy. "Having honest conversations about how we strengthen collaboration, protect local services, and build the partnerships we need to keep serving our communities effectively, that's exactly what we will be doing this year."



At the Inaugural Session of County Council on December 10, Renfrew County Warden Jennifer Murphy signed her declaration of office after taking the oath while Gwen Dombroski, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk looked on.

Continuing relationships with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Garrison Petawawa, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the City of Pembroke; continuing to advocate the Provincial Government for housing, infrastructure, long-term care, paramedic services, and sustainable funding models are among her priorities for the coming year.

As the nominator Councillor Giardini highlighted Warden Murphy's passion, advocacy work, relationships, financial leadership and community focus as qualities she admires.

"Jennifer Murphy is the right choice to lead Renfrew County as Warden. Her passion for her community, her deep knowledge of rural advocacy through ROMA and AMO, and her proven ability to build strong relationships with provincial leaders make her an invaluable voice for rural Ontario," she said. "Jennifer's experience, financial expertise, and unwavering commitment to collaboration will guide us through the challenges ahead and ensure a strong, prosperous future for all residents of Renfrew County."

In seconding the nomination, Councillor Nicholson called Warden Murphy a seasoned leader with deep experience in the role of Warden, having previously served in the position from 2017 to 2019.

"Jen has already demonstrated that she can lead in tough times, and I know she'll do it again. As Warden, Jen will lead the fight for our future, so that 10, 20, or even 50 years from now, our communities remain strong and vibrant," he said.

Warden Murphy has been a member of County Council since 2011. This will be her fourth term serving as Warden.

The Striking Committee also met the day of the Inaugural Session to determine committee chairpersons for 2026, which are as follows: Corporate Services – Peter Emon; Operations – Glenn Doncaster; Development and Property – James Brose; Health – Michael Donohue and Community Services – Anne Giardini.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley Chief Administrative Officer 613-735-7288

Tina Peplinskie Media Relations Coordinator 613-735-7288



At the Inaugural Session of County Council on December 10, newly elected Warden Jennifer Murphy (second from right) was joined by Colonel Sean Trenholm, Commander 4th Canadian Support Division Group at Garrison Petawawa; Chief Greg Sarazin, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Acting Mayor Peter Emon, Town of Renfrew, who brought greetings from their respective groups.

© 2020 County of Renfrew, 9 International Drive, Pembroke ON K8A 6W5, Phone: [1-800-273-0183](tel:1-800-273-0183), Fax: [613-735-2081](tel:613-735-2081) | [Staff Login](#) | [Staff Email](#)

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

Construction Update - December 2025

Posted on Monday, December 15, 2025



Algonquin Trail in Laurentian Hills

Construction Update – December 10, 2025

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

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

Completed Projects

2025 was overall a successful year for the Capital Works Division of the Public Works & Engineering Department, with many projects completed as highlighted below:

- 60.58 km of roads rehabilitated;
- 8 bridges rehabilitated or replaced; and
- 52.4 km of Algonquin Trail completed and opened.

Other works to highlight in support of completing the above, and the County's overall transportation network, include the below:

- Processing of more than 333 different permits;
- Preparing 72 different procurement packages; and
- Preparing several designs for 2026.

Ongoing Projects

County Road 4 (Storyland Road) – Township of Horton

Construction on Storyland Road, from Alex Lane to Highway 17, started September 22, 2025. Construction has been paused for the winter and will resume after the spring thaw in 2026.

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

Rock removal and widening of the causeway is complete on Matawatchan Road, about 8.2km south of Highway 41. Utility relocations have also been completed, and road construction on Matawatchan Road, from Civic Address 4882 to Centennial Lake Road, continued in mid-October. Construction has been paused for the winter and will resume after the spring thaw in 2026.

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

Construction on Foymount Road, from Silver Lake Road to Highway 41, started September 8, 2025. Construction has been paused for the winter and will resume after the spring thaw in 2026.

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

Construction on Combermere Bridge, which is on Combermere Road, about 0.5km south of Palmer Road, started April 2, 2025, and is nearing completion with only minor works remaining. During construction, only one lane may be open to cross the bridge, with traffic control personnel directing traffic. Mill Street will be closed at Combermere Road during construction, with signs showing the detour route. Pedestrians can cross the bridge during construction. Once completed for the 2025 construction season, Mill Street will be opened, with only minor works expected in 2026 on the bridge.

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

Construction on Broomes Creek Culvert and Dam, which is on Foresters Falls Road, about 0.1km east of Foresters Falls, started May 1, 2025 and is expected to finish in 2026. Construction has been paused for the winter and will resume after the spring thaw in 2026. The road in this area will remain closed to all traffic, including pedestrians, with signs showing the detour route, until construction is completed in 2026. The detour will follow Kohlsmith Road and Queens Line.

THANK YOU FOR PATIENCE AND CARE THROUGHOUT 2025 WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2026!



County Structure C201 (Broomes Creek Culvert and Dam), Township of Whitewater Region

© 2020 County of Renfrew, 9 International Drive, Pembroke ON K8A 6W5, Phone: [1-800-273-0183](tel:1-800-273-0183), Fax: [613-735-2081](tel:613-735-2081) | [Staff Login](#) | [Staff Email](#)

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



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, December 12, 2025)

Stay Protected Over the Holiday Season as Flu Activity Rises

This year's flu season has started early across Ontario, and influenza activity is high in many parts of the province. The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) is seeing a concerning rise in flu cases and hospitalizations among children. In Renfrew County and District (RCD), flu activity is rising, and current trends suggest we are likely to see our local peak over the next two to four weeks.

A new version of the H3N2 influenza A virus is the main flu strain circulating this year. International experience, along with early provincial and regional data, suggests this strain can lead to more infections and more pressure on hospitals than in a typical year. Even though this strain is somewhat different from the one in the flu vaccine, getting vaccinated still helps prevent severe illness and hospital stays.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. RSV immunization is available for eligible newborns, infants, and adults 75 and older.

Where to Get Vaccinated

To book an appointment for Flu, COVID-19, and/or RSV vaccination, please use RCDHU's [online booking system](#), or call 613-732-9436.

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

"With flu activity rising quickly and a new H3N2 strain leading to higher levels of flu illness and hospitalizations, it is especially important to get your flu vaccine as soon as possible," says Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health at RCDHU. "The flu vaccine takes about two weeks to provide full protection, so now is the time to act before holiday gatherings."

Other tips to decrease your chances of getting sick and spreading illness

In addition to vaccination, RCDHU encourages residents to:

- Stay home when sick and keep sick children home from school or daycare.
- Wear a mask in crowded indoor settings, especially if you or someone close to you is at higher risk of severe illness.

- Wash hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and clean frequently touched surfaces.

Treatment Options

Antiviral medications for flu and COVID-19 are available for people who are at higher risk of severe illness. Talk with your healthcare provider now about whether you are eligible, so treatment can be started as early as possible if you become sick.

-30-

Renfrew County and District Health Unit

media@rcdhu.com

Fax: 613-735-3067

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 10:47 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Build Canada Homes Project Call, Poverty Reduction Strategy & New Development Charge Guidance



AMO Policy Update - Build Canada Homes Project Call, Poverty Reduction Strategy & New Development Charge Guidance

Top Insights

- New details released on opportunities for municipalities and District Social Service Administration Boards to work with Build Canada Homes to unlock new affordable housing for their communities.
- AMO provided input into the province on its next 5-year Poverty Reduction Strategy, advocating for a comprehensive human services approach to reducing poverty.
- New development charges payment deferral guidance from the province.

Build Canada Homes: Call for Project Proposals Open

The federal government's [Build Canada Homes \(BCH\)](#) is set-up to focus primarily on developing non-market housing, supporting a mix of income needs as part of a national effort to double housing construction, restore affordability, and reduce homelessness.

BCH [released](#) an [Investment Policy Framework \(IPF\)](#) to guide investment decisions and development activities. Calls for project proposals can be submitted on the BCH portal on a continuous intake basis. BCH is prioritizing proposals with these considerations in mind:

- Ready to build
- Affordability
- Innovation and speed
- Strong partnership
- Made in Canada

AMO is continuing to engage with BCH on [program design advice](#) to ensure it works well in the Ontario context and provides opportunities for all areas of the province to leverage opportunities to unlock affordable housing.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Submission

AMO and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) have jointly submitted a proposal to the province seeking support to increase municipal capacity to address the impacts of poverty on people and communities. It is outlined in the submission [Partnering for Impact: Human Services as Essential Social Infrastructure for Poverty Reduction](#).

AMO and OMSSA outlined how a comprehensive human services response for those living in poverty makes both good social and economic sense for the government, workers, and employers. The government is urged to address the root causes of poverty with measurable outcomes, and undertake targeted actions on an urgent basis to alleviate poverty in Ontario including:

1. Expand the supply of deeply affordable non-market housing
2. Improve social assistance and employment programs
3. Continue investments in child care
4. Invest in transportation

AMO has also signed an [open letter](#) with Maytree and broad range of sector partners to encourage the province to take significant action to reduce poverty.

Development Charge (DC) Deferral to Occupancy: Guidelines for Implementation

Bill 17 introduced new amendments to the Development Charges Act (DCA) this year. AMO developed new [key messages](#) for members on these changes and the value of DCs more broadly.

One significant change defers the municipal collection of DCs at the building permit stage of development to the issuance of an occupancy permit, effective November 3, 2025.

AMO previously explained the DC payment deferral in a [Policy Update](#) and has since received additional implementation guidance [from the province in a letter from Minister Flack](#). New guidance on the interaction between the payment deferral with freeze provisions and interest charges states, in summary that:

- No changes have been made to the DC freeze provisions in the DCA.
- Municipalities cannot charge interest on deferred DCs to occupancy.
- For any DCs deferred prior to November 3, 2025, interest accrued before this date will continue to be payable to the municipality, but municipalities are not able to charge additional interest on the deferral on or after November 3, 2025.
- Developers do not need to enter into [section 27](#) agreements with municipalities for early payment of DCs. Developers have the discretion to pay DCs any time before occupancy permit issuance without a formal agreement.
- Section 27 agreements for alternative deferral arrangements, continue to not be subject to the rules regarding the legislative deferral (including the prohibition on new interest).

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

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

From: AMO Education <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 12:01 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Strengthen Your Conflict Resolution Skills—Join Our March 4 & 5 Workshop



2-part Workshop: Navigating Conflict as an Elected Official

Dear AMO Member,

With the MANY relationships involved with municipal work, conflict is unavoidable and being able to navigate it successfully is critical.

With the upcoming municipal elections, now is a great time to brush up on these skills and put your best foot forward.

Join us for a 2-part, virtual, interactive workshop on March 4th & 5th from 10:00 am-12:30 pm to learn why relationships may go wrong and how to navigate relationships successfully using practical tips, tools and real-world examples.

[Register Here](#)

Together, we'll explore:

1. The typical patterns of behaviour that give rise to creating “conflict traps” and how to escape from them.
2. The secrets of neuroscience and how this knowledge can give us a heads-up on what we should do in the moment.
3. Understanding conflict styles and how these can create obstacles or pave the way toward collaboration.
4. The importance of moving from a position-based to an interest-based approach to create a win-win, value-add relationship.
5. The roles of empathy and assertiveness in relationship formation.
6. Learning effective and practical communication tools, which include:

- a. Avoiding communication blockers
- b. First words to use
- c. The difference between Acknowledging vs. Agreeing

7. A simple, yet powerful 4-step technique to assist in having better and more collaborative conversations

[Register Here](#)

Dates:

This is a two-day workshop running from 10:00am-12:30pm each day.

March 4 & 5, 2026

- \$330 +HST per session (Individual registration only. For group rates, contact events@amo.on.ca)
- \$75 +HST cancellation fee

Questions? Contact events@amo.on.ca.

Inquires: events@amo.on.ca

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From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - December 4, 2025



December 04, 2025

In This Issue:

- Now available: Lead Where You Live - A Guide to Running for Municipal Council.
- We need your local municipal staff career spotlights!
- Municipal Energy Plan Program provincial funding.
- Sport Hosting Program applications intake.
- Build Canada Homes: Call for project proposals.
- Last week to apply: Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official, March and May 2026 workshops.
- Rural Ontario's Leaders conference update.
- New Dates! Seeking re-election or first-time candidate? AMO's free workshop series is for you.
- Mastering Crisis Communications for Elected Officials - March 11 and 12.
- Mercury containing lamps are going...going...gone!
- Hunting for energy treasure in 2026.
- AODA Accessibility Solutions RFP now open.
- Blog: Smarter Procurement, Stronger Communities.
- Webinar: Navigate Healthcare-Related Procurement and Supply Chain Challenges.
- Online information session on the World Urban Forum 13.
- OPSBA Campaign: Help keep education close to home.
- Next week: AMO/OMAA Webinar - Impact of the Mayor-CAO relationship on workplace culture.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

The [Lead Where You Live Resource](#) provides key information for anyone running in the 2026 municipal election. This guide will introduce you to some of the key steps in that process. It will also give you a sense of what life is like as an elected member of a municipal council.

We need your help! AMO is building a public affairs campaign to highlight the impact and the people behind municipal work - and we want to feature real stories from Ontario's municipalities. Submissions will be featured on the campaign website and newsletters as *Impact Stories* to highlight the everyday work that keeps communities safe, clean, connected and welcoming. [Please contact us](#) at workforce@amo.on.ca to learn how to share stories from your community.

Provincial Matters

The Municipal Energy Plan Program, a voluntary, application-based program of the Ministry of Energy and Mines helps develop and enhance energy plans. [Learn more here](#).

The province is accepting applications for next round of [Sport Hosting Program](#) to support sport tourism and local economies. Municipalities are eligible to [apply](#). The deadline to submit for 2026/27 applications is until January 12, 2026.

Federal Matters

Build Canada Homes [released](#) an [Investment Policy Framework \(IPF\)](#) to guide investment decisions and housing development activities. Calls for project proposals can be submitted to the BCH [portal](#) on a continuous intake basis.

Municipalities with 50 or fewer full-time employees are eligible to apply for wage subsidies for summer work experiences targeting youth aged 15- 30 years old. Application window closes next Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 11:59 pm (PST). [Click here for more info](#).

Education Opportunities

Municipal life is a people-oriented business and not all relationships are smooth sailing. Learn how to transform conflict into collaboration. The [Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official](#) workshop teaches skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult ones in your role as an elected municipal official.

Start your final year on council with educational, advocacy, and networking opportunities that will set you up for success. Also, hear from keynote speakers about why your leadership is more important than ever, as well as national issues from prolific journalist Chantal Hébert. [Register today](#) for the ROMA 2026 conference and plan to arrive Saturday to take part in discussion on ROMA strategic priorities.

If you missed AMO's *Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities* workshop registration, we are offering new dates to register. It's designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet the challenges of the political landscape head-on. It's offered at no charge in two streams: first time candidates, and those considering re-election in 2026. [Full details and registration information here](#).

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

LAS

The [phase-out of mercury containing lamps](#) (fluorescent, metal halide, sodium, etc.) begins on January 1, 2026. Check out our [archived webinar](#) to learn more. Don't want to be left in the dark? Contact Christian to use our simple, turn-key [Facility Lighting Service](#).

Energy treasure hunts help staff identify all sorts of energy savings opportunities. Empower your team to meet your energy targets and reduce costs by booking your 2026 [Energy Workshop & Treasure Hunt](#) today. Contact [Christian Tham](#) for more information.

LAS invites qualified vendors to propose scalable accessibility solutions for Ontario municipalities, including digital accessibility, accessible public infrastructure, training, and communication supports, to support province-wide AODA compliance and promote inclusive, accessible communities. [Download the RFP from here.](#)

Ontario municipalities are under mounting pressure to do more with less. Rising healthcare-related expenses, aging populations, and tighter budgets mean every dollar must be stretched further.

[Read more here.](#)

[Join a free webinar](#) on December 9 to find valuable insights from municipal and healthcare supply chain leaders who are working to strengthen procurement practices, control costs, and build more resilient systems across Ontario.

Municipal Wire*

The UN-Habitat Canada Office would like to invite you to an information session on the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) on December 9, 12:00-1:00 p.m. EST. This session will gather a diverse community of urban thinkers and practitioners to address the growing global housing crisis and to highlight housing as the cornerstone of safe, resilient, and inclusive cities.

[Register here.](#)

The provincial government has recently suggested changes that could undermine the role of elected Ontario Public School Board trustees and centralize decision making at Queen's Park. OPSBA has responded with a [province-wide digital campaign](#) to remind Ontarians why local democracy matters in education. Visit [DemocracyIsNotOutdated.ca](#) to view the campaign and sign the petition.

Back by popular demand, AMO and OMAA are pleased to present the next topic in our Mayor-CAO Relationship Series. This conversation turns the spotlight on how the Mayor-CAO partnership shapes municipal workplace culture and why strong, trust-based leadership matters now more than ever. [Register here](#) for the free December 8th Session.

Careers

[Ombudsman - Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#). Closing Date: December 18, 2025.

[IT Systems Administrator - Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#). Closing Date: December 19, 2025.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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



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From: AMO Education <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 1:01 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Learn to Lead the Message in a Crisis – Register Now (Only 20 Spots!)



Crises aren't planned. Communication is.

**Master the message at the
Managing Communications through Crisis Workshop**

March 11-12, 2026

Dear AMO Member,

Municipally elected officials are always at the front lines of their community. Especially during times of crisis.

Crisis can come in many shapes and sizes: fire, extreme weather, the unforeseen, and they can happen at any time. **Knowing how and when to respond is critical to prevent panic, misinformation, and confusion.**

AMO has partnered with [The Loomex Group](#) on an [interactive two-day course](#), that teaches participants how to manage all aspects of crisis communications during an emergency. **This program is limited to 20 participants**, so register now.

[**Register Here**](#)

During this workshop you'll analyze current events to learn how to develop, master and deliver your own messages with confidence across all forms of media including press conferences, local, national and social media.

For a full description of this workshop, click [here](#).

Limited to 20 participants

Date: March 11-12, 2026 (This is a two day workshop running from 11:00am - 3:00pm)

- \$500 +HST(Individual registration only. For group rates, contact events@amo.on.ca)
- \$75 +HST cancellation fee

Questions? Reach out to events@amo.on.ca.

Inquires: events@amo.on.ca

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From: AMO Education <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 12:01 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Free Workshop: Insights & Strategies for 2026 Municipal Candidates from Underrepresented Communities



Are You Considering Running in the 2026 Municipal Election?

Join this Workshop to Gain Useful Insights and Strategies Focused on Underrepresented Communities

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is offering a series of workshops for people thinking about running for municipal office in the October 2026 elections.

Focused specifically on diverse candidates, this **free** 90-minute workshop provides useful insights and strategies to support you in getting your name on the ballot. While these workshops do offer a focus on individuals from underrepresented communities, **all are welcome**.

Facilitated by former municipal Councillors Steve Anderson and Jasvinder Sandhu, you will be taken through:

- what to expect running as a diverse candidate
- critical strategies for successfully campaigning for municipal office
- understand what it takes to become a candidate
- identifying your target audience
- developing effective messaging and branding
- utilizing community engagement practices to enhance visibility and support
- And more!

[More Event Info](#)

Registration is free.

Dates:

- February 4, 2026 - 10:30am - 12:00pm
- April 8, 2026 - 10:00am - 11:30am

Location: Virtual

[Register Here](#)

Steve Anderson

Former Deputy Mayor for the Town of Shelburne and Councillor for the County of Dufferin.

AMO Municipal Trailblazer



Steve is the former Deputy Mayor for the Town of Shelburne and Councillor for the County of Dufferin. During his time in politics, Steve was identified by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) as a “Municipal Trailblazer.”

In addition, Steve is a Senior practicing litigation lawyer with over 20 years of experience with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) where he has received several awards for his distinguished service. Steve was recently appointed by the Federal government to serve in the role of Deputy Administrator for Ship and Rail Compensation Canada.



Jasvinder Sandhu

Former Councillor for the Town of Oakville and member of the AMO Youth Advisory Board.

Chair of Healthy Democracy project at AMO.

Jasvinder is a former Councillor for the Town of Oakville, having served from 2018-2022. During her time in politics, she was a member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) youth engagement advisory board, and she currently serves as the Chair of the Healthy Democracy Project at AMO.

In her professional life, she is an Expert Rising Star Top 40 under 40 Finalist and a seasoned employment lawyer with 15 years of practice experience, licensed in both the United States and Canada.

AMO is offering this workshop at **no charge** and encourages you to promote it widely across your networks.

Questions? Contact events@amo.on.ca.

Inquires: events@amo.on.ca

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From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - December 11, 2025



December 11, 2025

In This Issue:

- New resource added to AMO's Gender Based Violence Toolkit.
- We want to feature your municipality! Share a career spotlight.
- Now available: Lead Where You Live - A Guide to Running for Municipal Council.
- Municipal Energy Plan Program provincial funding.
- Sport Hosting Program applications intake.
- Build Canada Homes: Call for project proposals.
- AMO Conference 2026 - hotel booking information.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official, March and May 2026 workshops.
- Rural Ontario's Leaders conference update.
- More Dates! Seeking re-election or first-time candidate? AMO's free workshop series is for you.
- Free Workshop: Everything You Need to Know as an Underrepresented Candidate.
- Mastering Crisis Communications for Elected Officials - March 11 and 12.
- LAS 2025 Year End Message.
- Quarterly Risk Management Webinars for 2026.
- Hedge Prices Set for LAS' Commodity Programs.
- Mercury containing lamps are going...going...gone!
- Hunting for energy treasure in 2026.
- OPSBA Campaign: Help keep education close to home.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO's [Gender-Based Violence Resources for Municipal Elected Officials](#) has now been updated with a new [GBV Prevention Framework](#). Visit the Toolkit to learn more and access other helpful resources.

We want to feature your municipality! AMO is building a public affairs campaign to highlight the impact and the people behind municipal work - and we want to feature real stories from Ontario's municipalities. Your submission will be featured on the campaign website and in newsletters as *Impact Stories* to highlight the everyday work that keeps communities safe, clean, connected and welcoming. Please contact us at workforce@amo.on.ca to learn how you can get involved.

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Provincial Matters

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The province is accepting applications for next round of [Sport Hosting Program](#) to support sport tourism and local economies. Municipalities are eligible to [apply](#). The deadline to submit for 2026/27 applications is until January 12, 2026.

Federal Matters

Build Canada Homes [released](#) an [Investment Policy Framework \(IPF\)](#) to guide investment decisions and housing development activities. Calls for project proposals can be submitted to the BCH [portal](#) on a continuous intake basis.

Education Opportunities

The annual AMO 2026 conference will be in Ottawa, August 16 – 19, 2026. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 10:00am EST as hotel bookings for the conference open. [Review the booking policies](#) and hotel information in advance.

Municipal life is a people-oriented business and not all relationships are smooth sailing. Learn how to transform conflict into collaboration. The [Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official](#) workshop teaches skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult ones in your role as an elected municipal official.

The ROMA 2026 conference features a new and dynamic approach to the Ministers' Forum. This year, there will be two forums, structured to focus dialogue on *Building Ontario* and *Investing in People*. [Learn more about the approach and register today!](#)

If you missed AMO's *Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities* workshop registration, we are offering more dates to register. It's designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet the challenges of the political landscape head-on. It's offered at no charge in two streams: first time candidates, and those considering re-election in 2026. [Full details and registration information here](#).

AMO's [Running for Municipal Office - Everything You Need to Know as an Underrepresented Candidate](#) 90 minute free workshop provides useful insights and strategies to support you in getting your name on the ballot. While this workshop focuses on individuals from underrepresented communities, all are welcome to participate.

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

LAS

Judy Dezell's year end message reflects on 2025. From celebrating our victories to learning from our challenges, the LAS team made progress towards their goals. [Read more here](#).

LAS, in partnership with Intact Public Entities, has set the 2026 Risk Management webinar dates. [Register today](#) for the free sessions and attend live to ask questions.

The participants in our [Electricity and Natural Gas Procurement Programs](#) can budget their energy costs for 2026 with the new LAS hedge prices. If you're interested in learning if the program is right for your municipality, please reach out.

The [phase-out of mercury containing lamps](#) (fluorescent, metal halide, sodium, etc.) begins on January 1, 2026. Check out our [archived webinar](#) to learn more. Don't want to be left in the dark? Contact Christian to use our simple, turn-key [Facility Lighting Service](#).

Energy treasure hunts help staff identify all sorts of energy savings opportunities. Empower your team to meet your energy targets and reduce costs by booking your 2026 [Energy Workshop & Treasure Hunt](#) today. Contact [Christian Tham](#) for more information.

Municipal Wire*

The provincial government has recently suggested changes that could undermine the role of elected Ontario Public School Board trustees and centralize decision making at Queen's Park. OPSBA has responded with a [province-wide digital campaign](#) to remind Ontarians why local democracy matters in education. Visit [DemocracyIsNotOutdated.ca](#) to view the campaign and sign the petition.

Careers

[Waste Auditor/ Municipal By-Law Enforcement - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: December 30, 2025.

[Manager, Housing Corporation Operations, Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation - City of Kawartha Lakes](#). Closing Date: January 4, 2026.

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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[ONE Investment](#)

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



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Kaitlyn Wendland

From: AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2025 1:01 PM
To: Group Arnrior
Subject: Book Your AMO 2026 Conference Hotel Rooms Beginning January 6, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.



Book Your AMO 2026 Conference Hotel Rooms Beginning January 6, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

The 2026 Annual Conference will be in Ottawa from August 16 – 19, 2026. As you are busy preparing for the holidays make sure you mark your calendars for **January 6, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. EST, as hotel bookings for the conference open.**

All the information you need to know in advance of January 6 will be available soon [here](#). This link will include hotel information and most importantly, what you need to know about booking procedures.

Don't miss this important date, and in the meantime Happy Holidays and all the Best for the Season from AMO.

Conference registration will open in February 2026.

Contact: events@amo.on.ca

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From: AMO Education <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Leadership Series: Winter 2026 Dates Available



AMO's Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities

If you missed registration for **AMO's Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities**, we are pleased to offer new dates. This online program is designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet today's political challenges head-on. The series is offered at no charge in two dedicated streams: one for first-time candidates and one for those considering re-election in 2026.

As Ontario moves toward the 2026 municipal elections, both current elected officials and aspiring candidates are navigating increasing levels of community expectation, online toxicity, and pressures on personal wellbeing. This series provides a supportive, skills-focused environment to strengthen your leadership foundation and reconnect with the values that guide public service.

Developed in partnership with [**Nominee**](#), **Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities** combines expert facilitation, peer-to-peer dialogue, and practical tools you can apply immediately.

This workshop series is part of [AMO's Healthy Democracy Project](#). To explore more research and resources, visit the Project's website.

Two Streams — Offered at No Charge

Stream 1: Considering Re-Election in 2026

For municipal elected officials preparing their path forward and seeking renewed clarity, confidence, and resilience.

Stream 2: First-Time Candidates for 2026

For community members exploring a run for municipal office and looking to build confidence, understanding, and support before launching a campaign.

Each stream includes four inspiring sessions (you can register for the full series or individual sessions):

- **Session 1—February/March 2026:** Finding Your Why – Leading with Purpose and Authenticity
- **Session 2—March/April 2026:** Praise Your Rivals – Managing Conflict and Building Effective Relationships
- **Session 3—April 2026:** What Matters Most – Prioritizing Mental Health and Wellbeing
- **Session 4—May 2026:** Building Your Movement – Turning Values into Action

[Register here for STREAM 1](#)

[Register here for STREAM 2](#)

What you'll gain by attending these sessions:

- **Clarity of Purpose:** reconnect with your values and what drives you to serve
- **Resilience in Conflict:** handle tough situations with skill and confidence
- **Personal Wellbeing:** prevent burnout and create sustainable leadership practices
- **Stronger Communication:** inspire trust and mobilize authentic community support
- **Practical Tools & Resources:** customized workbooks, scripts, and templates you can use immediately
- **Peer Connection:** build relationships with others also preparing to run in 2026

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

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

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 4:32 PM
To: Group Arnrior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Advocacy on Archaeological Heritage Protection, Long Lead Time Electricity Procurement, *Buy Ontario Act*, AMPs for Wildland Fire Safety



AMO Policy Update - Advocacy on Archaeological Heritage Protection, Long Lead Time Electricity Procurement, *Buy Ontario Act*, and AMPs for Wildland Fire Safety

Top Insights

- AMO supports advocacy on archaeological assessments that upholds treaty rights, advances reconciliation, and promotes strong municipal-Indigenous relationships.
- The IESO is consulting on the design of its upcoming "long-lead time electricity procurement" for hydro-electric projects. AMO supports the proposed continued role for municipal approvals.
- Bill 72, the *Buy Ontario Act* will require municipalities to prioritize Ontario and Canadian companies during procurement. AMO calls for flexibility to keep municipal services on-time and on-budget.
- AMO submission supports the use of administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) in wildland fire safety and calls for additional opportunities to move charges to an AMP system.

Supporting Indigenous Advocacy on Archaeological Heritage Protection

AMO's letter to [the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism](#) supports Indigenous communities who are asking the province to protect treaty rights, archaeological heritage, and burial sites. The province is making changes to the archaeological heritage rules to exempt more projects from archaeological assessment. This could undermine the collaborative, meaningful relationships that municipalities and Indigenous communities are working hard to build. AMO calls on the province to balance heritage protection and reconciliation with faster development.

Preparing for Long Lead Time Electricity Procurements

The Independent Electricity System Operation (IESO) is consulting on the design of their upcoming long [lead time electricity procurement](#) (LLT) which will focus on hydroelectric generation projects. [AMO's feedback](#) on program design:

- Supports a requirement for projects to get a municipal support resolution;
- Encourages the IESO to work with the province and municipalities to manage source water protection;
- Recommends developers not seek municipal support resolutions during the “lame duck” period of the 2026 municipal elections.

Buy Ontario Act and Municipal Auto Procurement

The *Buy Ontario Act* (Bill 72) allows the province to require municipalities to prioritize procurement from Ontario and Canadian businesses. AMO has asked the province to make sure municipalities have the flexibility to buy from other vendors when needed to avoid significant construction delays and price increases. AMO facilitated municipal input on a new provincial fleet vehicle procurement policy setting new requirements for our sector. This involved hosting a joint webinar with the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement and circulating a survey to secure municipal staff expert input.

Submission on Administrative Monetary Penalties for Wildland Fire Safety

On December 10, AMO sent a [letter](#) to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of the Attorney General in support of the [proposal](#) to establish a framework for issuing administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) to encourage

compliance with wildland fire safety requirements. Overall, AMO supports moving more charges to AMPs to help alleviate the already overburdened provincial offences court system. We encourage the Ministry of the Attorney General to work with AMO and our members to identify other charges that would be more appropriate in the AMP system to address backlogs in the system.

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

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From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2025 10:04 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - December 18, 2025



December 18, 2025

Everyone at AMO wishes you, your friends and family, and your community a happy and safe holiday season!

In This Issue:

- We want to feature your job as an *Impact Story*!
- AMO Holiday office closure.
- Build Canada Homes: Call for project proposals.
- AMO Conference 2026 - hotel booking information.
- ROMA Conference - Rural Ontario's Leaders conference update.
- More Dates! Seeking re-election or first-time candidate? AMO's free workshop series is for you.
- Free Workshop: Everything You Need to Know as an Underrepresented Candidate.
- LAS 2025 Year End Message.
- Quarterly Risk Management Webinars for 2026.
- Hedge Prices Set for LAS' Commodity Programs.
- OPSBA Campaign: Help keep education close to home.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

We want to hear your story. AMO is developing a public affairs campaign to showcase the people and impact behind municipal work across Ontario – and we want to feature your job as an *Impact Story*. From frontline roles to leadership, we want to show Ontario what it takes, and who it is, that keeps communities safe, clean, connected and welcoming. If you're interested in getting involved, [contact us at workforce@amo.on.ca](mailto:workforce@amo.on.ca).

Please note that the AMO office will be closed from December 25, 2025 through January 1, 2026. The office will reopen on January 2, 2026. The next issue of the Watchfile will be sent on January 8, 2026.

Federal Matters

Build Canada Homes [released](#) an [Investment Policy Framework \(IPF\)](#) to guide investment decisions and housing development activities. Calls for project proposals can be submitted to the BCH [portal](#) on a continuous intake basis.

Education Opportunities

The annual AMO 2026 conference will be in Ottawa, August 16 – 19, 2026. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 10:00am EST as hotel bookings for the conference open. [Review the booking policies](#) and hotel information in advance.

The ROMA 2026 conference includes Sunday morning workshops designed with rural Ontario municipal leaders in mind, including generating revenues through sponsorship naming, NWMO's next site selection, asset management and how rural data can support your decision making process. [View the full program and register today!](#)

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Careers

[Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives - Town of Milton](#). Closing Date: January 3, 2026.

[Chief Information Officer - City of Welland](#). Closing Date: January 9th, 2026.

[Occupational Health and Safety Inspector - Construction – Unilingual \(English\) and Bilingual \(English/French\)/INSPECTRICE OU INSPECTEUR DE LA SANTÉ ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ DANS](#)

LA CONSTRUCTION - Unilingue (Anglais) et Bilingue (Anglais/Français) - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development/Ministère du Travail, de l'Immigration, de la Formation et du Développement des compétences.

[Occupational Health and Safety Inspector - Industrial - Unilingual \(English\) and Bilingual \(English/French\)](#)/INSPECTRICE OU INSPECTEUR DE LA SANTÉ ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ DANS L'INDUSTRIE - Unilingue (Anglais) et Bilingue (Anglais/Français) - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development/Ministère du Travail, de l'Immigration, de la Formation et du Développement des compétences.

[Occupational Health and Safety Inspector - Health Care - Unilingual \(English\) and Bilingual \(English/French\)](#)/ INSPECTRICE OU INSPECTEUR DE LA SANTÉ ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ AU TRAVAIL DANS LES SOINS DE SANTÉ - Unilingue (Anglais) et Bilingue (Anglais/Français) - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development/Ministère du Travail, de l'Immigration, de la Formation et du Développement des compétences.

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 2:59 PM
To: Group Arnsprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Advocacy on Local Electricity Distribution



AMO Policy Update - Advocacy on Local Electricity Distribution

Top Insights

- The province's Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE) and AMO held townhall meetings with municipal elected officials and CAOs. The panel shared details about their mandate and scope, including that it is not considering mandatory consolidation and is instead focusing on making sure LDCs have the right tools to meet local needs.
- AMO's LDC review submission urged the province to prioritize local growth planning needs and accountability with broader provincial energy planning goals. We specifically asked the province to maintain majority public ownership of LDCs; provide flexibility on board composition and governance, financial models, and performance reporting; and take the timing of the 2026 municipal election into account in implementation plans.
- The province has released the final regulation outlining criteria for the designation of Special Economic Zones which can be used to exempt projects from legislation, regulations or by-laws. The province now has the authority to exempt designated projects from municipal by-laws while simultaneously offering municipalities "trusted proponent" status to bypass laws for high-priority local developments benefiting the economy.

AMO Townhalls on the Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE)

AMO recently hosted two townhall webinars led by PULSE Chair Anthony Haines, and members of the panel including Alex Nuttall, Paula Conboy, and David MacNaughton. These townhalls provided an opportunity for discussion and feedback on the PULSE mandate, and potential recommendations on how local distribution corporations (LDCs) can finance and deliver infrastructure. PULSE is expected to deliver its final recommendations to the Minister of Energy and Mines in early 2026.

Following the townhalls, PULSE Chair, Anthony Haines reached out to AMO expressing gratitude for AMO's stakeholder engagement support. He also took the opportunity to note that the panel is not recommending further LDC consolidation, in addition to summarizing key themes that emerged in stakeholder consultations. The full letter to Karen Nesbitt, Director of Policy and Government Relations at AMO, is reproduced in full, below.

Hello Karen,

We appreciate your continued engagement on the Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE) and thank AMO for its efficient coordination with municipalities across the province. The focus on municipal shareholder perspectives has been particularly helpful.

The Panel remains committed to developing solutions as stakeholders navigate the pressures of growth and change in the electricity distribution sector. Since amalgamation and corporatization began in 1998, the number of electricity utilities in Ontario has decreased from 307 to 58. While the Panel is not recommending further consolidation, our goal is to create an environment where municipal shareholders of electricity utilities can have informed conversations about the next steps in the evolution of electricity distribution in Ontario. We are not seeking to limit options, but rather to expand them.

Key themes emerging from our engagement include:

- **Local employment needs:** Many electricity utilities will require a significant increase in resources—potentially doubling—to meet growth demands and this will require more skilled workers in communities across the province.
- **Long-term planning:** As asset-intensive businesses, electricity utilities need funding strategies aligned with long-term planning horizons.
- **Regulatory challenges:** Stakeholders have expressed concern that the current regulatory system is overly burdensome, leading to under-earning for many utilities. While customer protection remains essential, regulatory requirements should be re-evaluated to ensure they are balanced, incremental, and supportive of investor confidence.
- **Investment barriers:** The existing tax system presents obstacles to investment, and solutions must be identified to encourage capital inflows where necessary.

- **Mergers and acquisitions:** Where a merger or acquisition makes sense, the regulatory process is seen as cumbersome and slow, requiring retooling to better support timely decisions.
- **Governance models:** To attract external partners, governance structures must evolve to reflect collaboration with the financial community.
- **Funding diversity:** Funding sources will vary depending on utility size, and tailored solutions will be necessary for both the largest and smallest entities.

We recognize that further workshops are needed to refine options for smaller utilities. However, there is broad agreement on the principles guiding this work, which provides a strong foundation for moving forward.

Thank you again for your engagement and support. We look forward to continuing these discussions and working together on sustainable solutions for the sector.

Sincerely,

Anthony Haines, PULSE Panel Chair

AMO's Submission on the PULSE Review

AMO provided advice to PULSE and the Ministry of Energy and Mines as they finalize recommendations on how to deliver the next generation of distribution infrastructure. AMO advanced recommendations centred on ensuring local growth planning and provincial energy planning are undertaken in coordination while mutually supporting shared objectives. Specifically,

1. Majority municipal ownership of LDCs with expanded private financing tools.
2. Transparent and accountable performance reporting and board composition.
3. Flexibility for shareholders to decide what governance and financial models best meet local needs.
4. Implementation timelines that account for the 2026 municipal elections.

AMO looks forward to continuing to support PULSE and the province in modernizing LDC governance while making sure municipalities remain active participants in energy planning.

Province Announces Final Regulation for Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) [has announced](#) the release of the final SEZ regulation. This new regulation sets criteria for the Minister to designate projects, trusted proponents, and

geographic boundaries as SEZs. The province can now exempt designated projects from provincial laws and regulations, and municipal by-laws. The regulation does not outline a process for the province to determine what laws, regulations or by-laws would be exempt – the province has previously indicated an intent to make these decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Municipalities are named as a “trusted proponent” under the regulation, allowing them to bypass traditional regulatory hurdles to accelerate high-priority projects. This status is not universal and is tied to designated projects.

AMO continues to [encourage the province](#) to use this new authority in collaboration with host municipalities on proposed SEZ projects.

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

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 4:30 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Tell the province that OMERS governance matters to municipalities



We Need Your Voice on OMERS Governance Changes & Bill 68

Updated tools to help you spread the word that OMERS is important to municipalities and that pension governance matters.

The OMERS pension plan is important to municipalities and their employees, but the governance changes in Bill 68 mean that municipalities will have less of a voice in the pension plan that we pay for.

Below are updated resources to make it easy for you to support AMO's advocacy on OMERS governance changes and Bill 68.

How you can help:

- **Stay informed** - Use [this deck](#) and [this toolkit](#) to educate yourself and your colleagues about what's happening, including key messages, and Q&As.
- **Pass a [Council resolution](#) and [send a letter](#) to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs & Housing and Finance**
- **Raise this issue with your local MPP and in delegations at ROMA.** Let your representatives know that:
 - The OMERS pension plan is important to municipalities and our employees.

- Municipalities are concerned about the OMERS governance changes because these changes could lead to higher costs for taxpayers.
- The current OMERS structure with two corporate boards is working; it provides predictability and stability.
- Pensions need to stay independent and accountable. They cannot be politicized.
- You want the province to work with AMO and the other plan sponsors to chart a path forward that limits major changes and protects the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.

[Get the Council Resolution](#)

Together, we can help protect the integrity, independence, and long-term stability of OMERS.

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

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 2:15 PM
To: Group Arnsprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update - Submission on Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities



AMO Policy Update - Submission on Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Top Insights

- AMO submitted four recommendations to the province on its proposal to consolidate the existing 36 conservation authorities (CAs) into seven regional CAs and the creation of a provincial oversight agency – the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
- We urged the province to maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise and decision making in CA consolidation, fund transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts, restore a 50-50 municipal funding partnership that reflects increased provincial authority over CA operations, and potentially its fees and establish an implementation working to develop options that would deliver on the province's consolidation objectives while protecting local decision making and municipal fiscal sustainability.

AMO's Submission on Proposed Conservation Authority Consolidation and Creation of Provincial Oversight Body

In late October, the province announced plans of two transformative changes to Ontario's CA system. These changes are part of a suite of broader

[legislative and regulatory changes](#) intended to facilitate getting more homes built, through reduced regulatory burden and speedier regulatory approvals.

The first change would see the creation of a provincial oversight body, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The agency's mandate includes powers to issue binding guidelines on CA performance, standards, and asset management. The OPCA's funding will be a mix of provincial funding, service fees, and cost recovery from CAs.

The second change, if adopted, would create seven regional CAs by merging the existing 36 CAs. The proposed regional boundaries of the new mega CAs are based on natural watershed systems, keeping existing CA boundaries intact where possible, and aligning source protection regions.

AMO supports the province's goal to streamline and improve the land development services provided by CAs as it takes concrete action to build more homes and growth enabling infrastructure. AMO is concerned that the scale and pace of the proposed changes, when undertaken without prior consultation with affected stakeholders including the municipal sector and CAs, risks increasing regulatory burden and costs. The changes also erode responsive local decision making, including permitting time.

Given these concerns, AMO's recommendations to the province are centered on greater and collaborative stakeholder engagement that's foundational to addressing the governance and funding challenges in the current proposal. Specifically, we urge the province to:

1. Maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise and decision making in CA consolidation
2. Fund transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts
3. Restore a 50-50 municipal funding partnership that reflects increased provincial authority over CA operations, and potentially its fees, and
4. Collaborate on creating an implementation working group that would develop options, and group membership would include AMO, Conservation Ontario, select CAs and municipalities, developers, and Indigenous communities.

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

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH, 2025

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Content

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- LEM Community Update
- News & Events
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 - Hide Camp: Deer and Moose
 - Birch Bark Ornament Workshop
 - Seniors Christmas Party (50+)
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 - Round Dance Planning Committee
 - New Year's Eve Sobriety Pow Wow
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 - Essential Work Skills
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- Health Updates
 - December Calendar
 - Food Recalls
 - Tick Surveillance Program
 - Flu Shot Clinics
- Employment Opportunities
 - Project Coordinator (Consultation)
 - Training Opportunity (Bus Driver)
 - Bus Driver
 - PSW & Homemakers
 - Water Treatment Plant Operator
- Community Information
 - Hours of Operation
 - Public Works Christmas Schedule
 - Membership Additions

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

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Christmas Holidays are approaching fast and the administration building will be closing!

Effective: **December 19, 2025 - 4:30PM**

Returning: **January 5, 2025 - 8:30AM**

Attention Members

Please note that the administration is upgrading the phone system within the organization.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out via email. We appreciate your patience.

Click here to read full newsletter

Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin

CHÌBAYATIGO-KÌJIGAD PIDJI-PIBON KIZIS 12TH, 2025

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH, 2025

WWW.ALGONQUINSOPIKWAKANAGAN.COM | 613-625-2800

Content

- Updates & Notices
 - Chief & Council Update
 - Community Update #2
 - 50 Years of Mindiwin Manido Daycare
 - Christmas Card Notice
- News & Events
 - Seniors Christmas Party (50+)
 - Pikwakanagan Santa Claus Parade
 - Winter Solstice Feast
 - Sweat Lodge Teachings & Ceremony
- Volunteers Needed
 - Round Dance Planning Committee
 - New Year's Eve Sobriety Pow Wow
- Resources and Contacts
 - Renfrew County Legal Clinic
 - Free Books (Admin. Building)
 - Essential Work Skills
 - Community Health Nurse
- Health Updates
 - December Calendar
 - Food Recalls
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 - Flu Shot Clinics
- Employment Opportunities
 - Training Opportunity (Bus Driver)
 - Bus Driver
 - PSW & Homemakers
- Community Information
 - Hours of Operation
 - Public Works Christmas Schedule
 - Membership Additions

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Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin

CHÌBAYATIGO-KÌJIGAD PIDJI-PIBON KIZIS 19TH, 2025

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19TH, 2025

WWW.ALGONQUINSOPIKWAKANAGAN.COM | 613-625-2800

Content

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 - Chief & Council Update
 - Membership Meeting (2026)
 - 50 Years of Mindiwin Manido Daycare
- News & Events
 - Sweat Lodge Teachings & Ceremony
 - New Year's Eve Sobriety Pow Wow
 - Annual Trapper's Convention (2026)
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 - Training Opportunity (Bus Driver)
 - Bus Driver
 - PSW & Homemakers
 - Training Opportunities
 - Employment Opportunity
 - Facilitator Call Out
 - Caterer Call Out
- Community Information
 - Hours of Operation
 - Public Works Christmas Schedule
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Attention Members

Please note that this newsletter will be the last one released this year.

The next edition will be available on Friday, January 9, 2026!

Click here to read full newsletter

November 24, 2025

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Corporate Services Department, Clerk's Division
50 Dickson Street,
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W8

Via email: shawj@camrbidge.ca

RE: RENT PROTECTION FOR TENANTS

On November 10 2025 at a regular meeting of council, a resolution letter from The Corporation of the City of Cambridge was brought forth and discussed regarding Rent Protection for Tenants and the following resolution was passed:

Moved: Liz Welsh Seconded: Joel Field

Seconded: Joel Field

THAT the Council of the Town of Petrolia for all the reasons stated, support the motion from City of Cambridge for the Province of Ontario to provide adequate protection against malicious and excessive rent increases for all units occupies for residential purposes while maintaining the ability for landlords a viable and sustainable business.

Further, that this motion be forwarded to the Premier, local MPP Bob Bailey and all other Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Kind regards,

Originally signed

Mandi Pearson
Director of Legislative Services, Clerk | Deputy Operations

CC:

Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
MPP Bob Bailey, Sarnia-Lambton bobbailey@pc.ola.org
All Ontario Municipalities

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.town.petrolia.on.ca





The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title: Tina Arbuckle, Deputy Clerk, Township of Tiny
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025
Time: 7:19 PM

Moved by: Councillor Hope
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the November 3, 2025, correspondence from Tina Arbuckle, Deputy Clerk, Township of Tiny, regarding TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project;

AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains supports the October 29, 2025 resolution of the Township of Tiny, and reaffirms its commitment to representing the interests of our residents and protecting the natural heritage of Georgian Bay and stands ready to engage constructively with TC Energy, regarding TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project

AND THAT Council direct staff to provide this resolution to all municipalities in Ontario

YES: 5

NO: 0

ABSENT: 2

The motion is Carried

YES: 5

Deputy Mayor Bordignon Councillor Ardiel Councillor Hope Councillor Maxwell
Councillor Porter

NO: 0

ABSENT: 2

Mayor Matrosovs Councillor McKinlay



The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills
Resolutions
Regular Council - 29 May 2025

Page 1 of 2
 Item

Date: May 29, 2025

#: 2025-213

Moved by: Bob Lissner

Seconded by: Jimmy McKeay

That Council receives correspondence item 11.2 from the Town of Mattawa regarding Strong Mayor Powers as information; and

That Council supports the Town of Mattawa resolution 25-95 and also states the following:

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario announced an expansion of strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities that took effect May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills was included in the additional 169 municipalities that gained such powers;

AND WHEREAS these powers allow mayors to unilaterally override council decisions, appoint senior municipal staff, and set budgets without majority council approval, undermining the principles of democratic governance;

AND WHEREAS municipal governance functions best through a collaborative decision-making process where elected councils, representing the collective voice of their communities, work alongside experienced municipal staff and the proposed powers has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence to suggest that strong mayor powers have increased housing starts, contrary to the provincial government's stated justification for their implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has raised concerns that strong mayor powers blur the lines between political leadership and administration expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has a long history of collaborative, transparent and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council debated and shared decision-making;

AND WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the strong mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or appeal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills opposes the expansion of strong mayor powers and formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Township of Minden Hills from the list of municipalities that was granted strong mayor powers under the designated legislation.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

Defeated

Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	For	Against	Absent
Mayor Bob Carter		✓	
Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell	✓		
Councillor Tammy McKelvey	✓		
Councillor Ivan Ingram	✓		
Councillor Shirley Johannessen	✓		
Councillor Pam Sayne	✓		
Councillor Bob Sisson	✓		



Mayor Bob Carter

December 9, 2025

The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
CollegePark, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Honourable Minister McCarthy,

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed by the Council of the Town of Ingersoll at its meeting held on December 8, 2025:

Moved by Councillor Bowman
Seconded by Councillor Hutson

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll receives the correspondence from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority regarding Bill 68 as information;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Ingersoll established the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority with other consenting municipalities within the watershed. (initially formed in 1947)

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide approximately 35% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 2% (2026 budget);

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed and invested local rate payer funds in their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land. Many of these properties were entrusted to the

UTRCA for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Town of Ingersoll calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the Town of Ingersoll supports provincial goals towards consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization. It does not support it through imposing a new top-down agency structure creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Ingersoll supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province respect the roles that Municipalities and Conservation Authorities play in conservation and governance;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks;
- local MPPs;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- area Indigenous communities;
- all municipalities;

- Conservation Authorities; and
- Conservation Ontario.

Kind regards,



Julie Clayton

Julie Clayton, Deputy Clerk
julie.clayton@ingersoll.ca

cc: Ernie Hardeman, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oxford
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Area Indigenous Communities
All municipalities
Conservation Authorities
Conservation Ontario



On behalf of Council, we wish you a joyous
Christmas season, and a safe, happy and healthy
2026!



RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 333

DECEMBER 10, 2025

Moved by: Brad Kneller

Seconded by: Bill Bishop

WHEREAS staff submitted an application for Invest Ready-Certified Site Designation, which was denied due to the absence of water, wastewater, and natural gas infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS staff subsequently met with representatives of the associated grant funding program, who advised that additional funding opportunities for rural communities would be forthcoming;

AND WHEREAS the Site Readiness Program for Industrial Properties has since been launched, with eligibility requirements stipulating that any missing infrastructure must be in place and serviceable within two years of acceptance into the grant funding program;

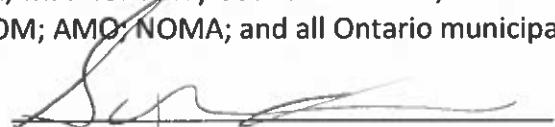
AND WHEREAS it is not financially feasible nor in the best interest of our ratepayers to install full municipal water, wastewater, and natural gas services, as the associated capital and operating costs would impose an undue financial burden on the Municipality's ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS alternative servicing solutions commonly used in rural and northern Ontario—such as properly designed and maintained septic systems for wastewater, drilled wells for drinking water, and propane or hydro for heat—are proven, reliable, and effective forms of infrastructure that can safely and efficiently support industrial and commercial development;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan urges the Province of Ontario to revise its grant funding criteria to recognize and accept these alternative servicing methods as eligible infrastructure, and to ensure that rural and northern municipalities lacking municipal gas, water, and wastewater systems are not excluded from support;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; the Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; FONOM; AMO; NOMA; and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried 1 Defeated _____ Deferred _____


Sam Dunnett, Mayor

Recorded Vote Called by: _____

Recorded Vote

Member of Council	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bishop, Bill			
Hetherington, John			
Hind, Jon			
Kneller, Brad			
Mayor: Dunnett, Sam			



December 5, 2025

[Send via email](#)

See Distribution List on Page 4

Re: Provincial Decision on Automated Speed Enforcement

On November 25, 2025, the County of Brant Council directed staff to prepare a letter in alignment with the City of Brampton's Council Resolution C230-2025 outlining the County's concerns with the provincial decision to ban ASE. The original text was amended to align with the County of Brant's program and experiences and to reflect that the ban has been approved.

Whereas on May 30, 2017, the Province of Ontario passed the *Safer School Zones Act, 2017* (Bill 65), amending the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) to permit municipalities to adopt Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) technology on roads with speed limits under 80 km/h in school and community safety zones; and

Whereas enabling regulations came into effect on December 1, 2019, granting municipalities the authority to implement ASE and other tools to enhance safety in these areas and since this time municipalities across Ontario have adopted these programs; and

Whereas the Province's ASE legislative framework, together with provincial encouragement in 2019, has led municipalities such as the County of Brant 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 municipalities have implemented ASE inconsistently and in contrast to recommended guidelines, the County of Brant 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 - that prioritize public safety, resulting in safer roads; and

Whereas the County of Brant proactively developed a Road Safety Reserve Fund to ensure any revenue collected from the program is reinvested into traffic calming and safety initiatives; and

Whereas consistent with local, regional, national and international research by third parties including [Sick Kids & Toronto Metropolitan University](#), the [Canadian Automobile Association](#), the [Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police](#), the [Traffic Injury Research Foundation](#), and the [Ontario Traffic Council](#); and



Whereas the County of Brant's ASE program has resulted in significant reductions in speed, increased speed compliance in community safety zones, and changes in driver behaviour as outlined in the September 29, 2025, [RPT-0365-25 - Concern with Proposed Ban of Automated Speed Enforcement and associated presentation](#); and

Whereas between February and August 2025, only three percent of vehicles passing the device received a ticket, demonstrating how the program prioritizes enforcing significant offences and illustrates that County of Brant's existing threshold is both reasonable and aligned with best practices; and

Whereas, in the first eight months of implementation, the County observed significant positive impacts associated with ASE, including measurable speed reductions, with the prevalence of speeding dropping from 45% to 35% from February to August; and

Whereas between 20% and 30% of ASE ticket revenue is collected by the Province of Ontario; and

Whereas the County of Brant engaged with the community and introduced the Brant Safe Streets Strategy in 2019, focusing on improving road safety through enforcement, education, engineering, and other innovative solutions; and

Whereas the County of Brant is working to improve road safety and uphold its commitment to the [Brant Safe Streets Strategy](#) through the ASE program and complementary traffic-calming measures such as speedbumps/humps, roundabouts, and improved signage, in order to reduce speeds, prevent collisions, and promote lawful driving behaviour; and

Whereas despite clear evidence and proven results from municipalities, such as the County of Brant, the County was caught off guard by the Premier's sudden announcement to cancel ASE programs across the province, made without adequate notice and consultation; and

Whereas a preliminary estimate of private sector investment by companies delivering ASE solutions indicates the creation of 62 jobs and \$14 million of investment in the province; and

Whereas the Premier believes some municipalities have misused ASE; but that is no reason to shut down municipal ASE programs that have proven successful at changing driver behaviour and improving public safety; and

Whereas the Premier's concerns regarding ASE can be addressed through amendments to provincial legislation, regulations and program standards that enable municipalities to consistently use ASE, without an outright ban on the technology; and

Whereas the County of Brant's ASE program was considered best-practice and that the Premier should consider reversing the ban and meeting with Mayor David Bailey and other municipal leaders to develop improved provincial legislation, regulations and program standards related to the ASE program; and



Whereas it is reckless to abandon what works, and essential to maintain a program that preserves public safety, and, especially, at a very minimum, safety in school locations; and

Whereas, with the implementation of the ban, municipalities should receive funding from the province to reimburse the costs of the program and employ alternate traffic calming measures through the Road Safety Initiatives Fund.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

That the County of Brant Council formally opposes the Province's decision to abruptly cancel ASE, a public safety tool enabled through provincial regulations in December 2019; and,

That this resolution be sent as a letter from Council to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, local MPPs, all Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), and the Ontario Traffic Council, to convey the County's concerns with the ban and encourage the Province to reconsider the direction; and

That the County of Brant encourages that the Premier meet with municipal leaders and industry experts to determine a consistent and effective approach to ASE across municipalities that utilizes best practices to uphold the public safety benefits; and,

That the County of Brant encourages the province to use the Road Safety Initiatives Fund to reimburse municipalities for all costs incurred to implement the ASE program and implement additional traffic calming measures; and,

That staff be directed to continue monitoring speeding and traffic data in zones where ASE was previously employed to evaluate the impacts of the ASE program; and,

That staff be directed to prepare a report to Council in the future outlining the impacts of the ASE program and how the ban of these devices has influenced the prevalence of speeding in the zones; and

That staff be directed to continue monitoring developments and announcements surrounding ASE and advance advocacy efforts consistent with this letter.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Bailey on behalf of County of Brant Council



Distribution List

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
minister.mto@ontario.ca

The Honourable Will Bouma, MPP (Brantford-Brant)
will.bouma@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Brian Riddell, MPP (Cambridge)
brian.riddell@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, MPP (Oxford)
ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)
contact@oacp.ca

Ontario Traffic Council
traffic@otc.org

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
amo@amo.on.ca

All Ontario Municipalities



City of Peterborough

Office of the City Clerk, City Hall
500 George Street North
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 3R9

December 11, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
MP Emma Harrison;
MPP Dave Smith;
Dr. Piggott, Medical Officer of Health;
Stuart Betts, Peterborough Police Chief;
Chris Snetsinger, Peterborough Fire Chief;
Patricia Bromfield, Peterborough EMS Chief;
All Local School Board Chairs;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Elect Respect

The following resolution, adopted by City Council at their meeting on November 3, 2025, is forwarded for your information:

Whereas democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community; and

Whereas we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions; and

Whereas Ontario's municipally elected officials and municipal staff are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment; and

Whereas social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office; and

Whereas better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office; and

Whereas in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against



harassment and negativity in politics and called on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct; and

Whereas H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials and municipal staff that encourages individuals to participate in the political process.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Peterborough supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

- Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online
- Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,
- Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,
- Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,
- Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and
- Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct; and

Be It Further Resolved That the City of Peterborough calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the:

Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, MP Emma Harrison, MPP Dave Smith, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario Rob Flack, the Peterborough Police Chief, Peterborough Fire Chief, Peterborough EMS Chief, Medical Officer of Health, all local school board chairs and all Ontario Municipalities.

AND Be It Further Resolved That the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor be engaged in the implementation and communication of this initiative, and that staff explore opportunities to better integrate their expertise into Council's ongoing efforts to promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful civic environment

Sincerely,


John Kennedy,
City Clerk



*The Corporation of the
Township of Perry*

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: December 17, 2025

Resolution No.: 2025- 448

Moved By: Joe Lumley

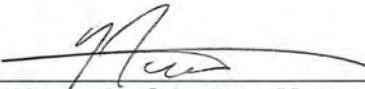
Seconded By: Paul Sowrey

Be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Perry hereby support the October 21, 2025 resolution of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury regarding the removal of the HST/GST from new homes purchased as primary residences to support housing affordability;

And that Council endorse the related November 3, 2025 supporting resolution of the Municipality of South Huron;

And that Council's supporting resolution be circulated to the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Municipality of South Huron, the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MP Scott Aitchison and MPP Graydon Smith, AMO, and to all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried: **Defeated:** _____


Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

RECORDED VOTE

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



Municipality of Huron Shores
7 Bridge Street, PO Box 460
Iron Bridge, ON P0R 1H0
Tel: (705) 843-2033 Fax: (705) 843-2035

December 16, 2025

Subject: Rent Protection for Tenants

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores passed Resolution #25-29-18 at the Regular Meeting held Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Huron Shores supports, in principle, the Municipality of Wawa's resolution requesting that the Province of Ontario provide adequate protection against excessive and malicious rent increases for tenants while maintaining the ability for landlords to operate a viable and sustainable business;

AND THAT Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MP Terry Sheehan, MPP Bill Rosenberg, the Municipality of Wawa, and to all other Ontario Municipalities."

Should you require anything further in order to address the above-noted resolution, please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

Natashia Roberts

CAO/Clerk
NR/KN

Cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MP Terry Sheehan, MPP Bill Rosenberg, the Municipality of Wawa, and to all other Ontario Municipalities

December 19, 2025

By E-mail

Hon. Todd McCarthy MPP
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park, 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

RE: Kawartha Conservation Board Submission on the Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities, ERO Notice #025-1257

Dear Minister McCarthy,

On behalf of the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors, we are writing to share the Board's perspective on Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting #025-1257, informed by discussions at its meetings on November 27 and December 18, 2025. The Board recognizes the Province's objectives under Bill 68, to strengthen oversight, consistency, and modernization across conservation authorities through the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and the proposed transition toward a regional watershed-based framework.

The proposed consolidation model includes the creation of an Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority, which would result in the consolidation of Kawartha Conservation with several neighbouring conservation authorities and would represent a significant change to governance structures, service delivery models, financial frameworks, land management responsibilities, and municipal oversight.

We support the Province's generally stated objectives, including the use of digital permitting systems, consistent policies and standards, and enhanced use of technology. Kawartha Conservation already demonstrates strong performance in these areas, including meeting or exceeding provincial service standards, participating in staff-sharing initiatives, operating within a fully digital permitting environment, and advancing digital transformation—reflecting many of the efficiencies sought through the provincial initiative.

Substantial concerns and risks have been identified with the proposed consolidation or amalgamation, particularly with respect to the loss of local decision-making authority, reduced municipal representation, uncertainty around transition funding, asset ownership considerations, potential service disruption, and impacts on locally delivered programs. The scale of the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario region raises additional challenges related to maintaining effective community relationships and ensuring services remain responsive to local watershed conditions.

The importance of meaningful consultation and engagement with municipalities, conservation authorities, and stakeholders prior to any decisions being finalized cannot be understated. In particular, the Board notes that many of the Province's desired outcomes—such as improved consistency, efficiency, and modernization—can be advanced through the existing watershed-based governance framework, supported by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), without the disruption and destabilization inherent in large-scale structural consolidation, and counter to the Province's goals of advancing the housing priority, streamlining service, and reducing red tape.

Similarly, the importance of effective, ongoing two-way communication between conservation authorities and the OPCA is critical as the Agency initiates and fulfills its evolving mandate. Regular dialogue, shared implementation guidance, and collaborative problem-solving would support consistent interpretation of provincial direction, reduce implementation risks, and ensure that operational experience and local watershed knowledge inform policy development and modernization efforts.

A transparent, comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of alternative approaches should be undertaken as a first step to inform decision-making in any transition model that may be contemplated in the future. Where any transition is determined to be beneficial, it should be supported by a clearly defined and phased transition plan. Full provincial financial support is critical for any mandatory transition efforts to ensure continuity of programs and services and to avoid disruption to municipalities and communities.

Accordingly, we urge the Province to consider the benefits of a measured “pause” of the consolidation proposal put forward to allow the OPCA to complete its initial three-year term, undertake meaningful engagement with conservation authorities, and assess the urgency and necessity of consolidation or amalgamation of conservation authorities through an evidence-based approach. This would include clearly identifying issues, providing effective communication and feedback to conservation authorities to address any issues and if necessary, consider alternative models that would more effectively advance provincial priorities related to efficiency, red-tape reduction, and timely housing delivery.

Attached is a resolution passed by the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors at their meeting held on December 18, 2025, and our detailed comments regarding ERO Notice #025-1257. For further information, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Pat Warren
Chair



Mark Majchrowski
Chief Administrative Officer

Enclosures: *Kawartha Conservation Board Resolution #157/25, December 18, 2025*
Kawartha Conservation ERO #025-1257 Submission Comments

cc. *The Conservation Authorities Office, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks*

Hassaan Basit, Ontario's Chief Conservation Executive

Peter Tabuns, MPP, Critic, Environment, Conservation and Parks

Local Members of Provincial Parliament:

Laurie Scott, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

Dave Smith, Peterborough-Kawartha

Local Watershed Municipalities

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association

Conservation Ontario and all Conservation Authorities in Ontario

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING #10/25 (DECEMBER 18, 2025)

RESOLUTION #157/25

MOVED BY: MARK DOBLE

SECONDED BY: TRACY RICHARDSON

RECOGNIZING THAT, the Province of Ontario has posted Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting #025-1257 proposing the consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into 7 Regional Conservation Authorities; AND,

RECOGNIZING THAT, the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority would consolidate Kawartha Conservation with Central Lake Ontario, Otonabee, Ganaraska, Lower Trent, Crowe Valley, and Quinte Region Conservation Authorities, resulting in significant changes to governance, service delivery, financial structures, land management, and municipal oversight; AND,

RECOGNIZING THAT, the Kawartha Conservation Board acknowledges and supports the Province's goals of improved efficiency of watershed management, through the implementation of digital applications and permitting system, consistent policies, flood standards, fees, and technology; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, Kawartha Conservation consistently meets or exceeds provincial service standards, participates in staff-sharing initiatives with neighbouring conservation authorities, regularly reports on performance, are engaged in a fully digital permit application framework, and are engaged in digital transformation activities, mirroring many of the efficiencies the Province seeks; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, the proposed consolidation raises substantial concerns and risks related to local decision-making authority, municipal representation, transition funding, asset ownership, service disruption and the protection of local programs; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, there is a need for meaningful consultation and engagement with stakeholders to address identified concerns and risks of the proposed consolidation or amalgamation; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, there is a need to undertake a full cost-benefit analysis of any consolidation or amalgamation models or alternatives; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, the objects of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) can accomplish the same goals and objectives without consolidation of conservation authorities and without the service disruption and interference that would come with amalgamation; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, meaningful modernization can occur within the current watershed-based governance framework;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Kawartha Conservation Board does not support the proposed "Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; AND

THAT, the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors requests the Province of Ontario to pause any decision to consolidate or amalgamate conservation authorities to allow:

- the OPCA to complete its first 3-year term and a subsequent assessment of the need for consolidation
- for meaningful engagement needed to address the concerns and risks of the proposed consolidation
- for the review of alternative models and processes that would result in better outcomes that advances the government's priorities of efficiency, red-tape reduction and timely home construction, AND;

THAT, the commentary provided for in the staff report be endorsed and submitted to the Province of Ontario as Kawartha Conservation's comments regarding Environmental Registry Posting 025-1257, AND;

THAT, the resolution be forwarded to:

- Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office);
- Ontario's Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit;
- Local Members of Provincial Parliament
- Conservation Ontario
- all municipalities within Kawartha Conservation's watershed and conservation authority municipalities.

Recorded Vote:

Municipality	Name	Governance Role	Vote Decision
Township of Cavan-Monaghan	Byrne, Gerry	Director	Yes
City of Kawartha Lakes	Doble, Mark	Director	Yes
Municipality of Trent Lakes	Franzen, Peter	Director	Yes
Region of Durham, Township of Brock	Pettingill, Cria	Director	Yes
Region of Durham, Municipality of Clarington	Rang, Lloyd	Director	Absent
City of Kawartha Lakes	Richardson, Tracy	Director	Yes
Region of Durham, Township of Scugog	Rock, Robert	Director	Absent
Region of Durham, Township of Scugog	Wright, Harold	Vice-Chair	Yes
City of Kawartha Lakes	Warren, Pat	Chair	Yes

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED *(of members present)*

Kawartha Conservation ERO #025-1257 Submission Comments

(December 19, 2025):

The following submission outlines Kawartha Conservation's comments in response to Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting #025-1257, which seeks input on the proposed regional consolidation of conservation authorities. These comments are informed by discussions of the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors and reflect both governance oversight and operational experience delivering conservation authority programs and services at the watershed scale.

Kawartha Conservation recognizes the Province's objectives of improving consistency, efficiency, and modernization across the conservation authorities. The comments below are intended to be constructive and informed by local accountability and operational experience, to assist the Province in evaluating transition models that achieve these objectives while maintaining effective governance, accountable service delivery, fiscal prudence, and strong municipal partnerships.

The responses that follow are structured to directly address the questions posed in the ERO posting and focus on practical considerations related to the proposed transition of the conservation authority framework.

What do you see as key factors to support a successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authority consolidation?

Evidence-based decision-making before implementation

- The Province's objectives related to consistency, efficiency, and speed of service can be advanced immediately within the existing 36 conservation authority framework through provincially led standards, shared tools, staff collaboration, and digital permitting systems. These measures should be implemented and evaluated first, allowing for work processes to be aligned, performance to be determined and testing of the assumption that efficiencies are to be gained through consolidation.
- Decisions regarding any potential structural change must be informed by a rigorous cost-benefit analysis (transition and steady-state), consistent with standard public-sector business practice. This analysis must meaningfully involve municipalities and conservation authorities, who understand both the operational realities and local service impacts. Structural change should not proceed where substantive, demonstrable gains cannot be clearly established.
- Where challenges or inefficiencies are identified, alternative approaches—such as shared services, regional collaboration agreements, or targeted functional integration—should be explored and exhausted before any consideration of consolidation.

Stable provincial transition funding and clear “who pays” rules

- Any provincially directed modernization initiatives must be accompanied by stable, multi-year provincial funding to avoid cost pressures being downloaded onto municipalities and ratepayers.
- Clear and transparent rules regarding “who pays” are essential. New provincial initiatives, including those associated with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), should not introduce additional financial burdens during periods of transition or change.

Service-continuity

- Protecting uninterrupted delivery of natural hazard management, permitting, planning, and environmental services must be a foundational consideration. Demonstrated service improvements through the implementation of standards and standardization objects of the OPCA should precede any structural change.
- The uncertainty associated with major structural reform presents a significant risk to workforce stability, recruitment, and retention. Disruption to experienced staff undermines the Province’s objectives related to efficiency, timeliness, and service quality.
- Any change initiative must explicitly prioritize continuity of service, institutional knowledge, and organizational capacity.

A “local by design” operating model

- Municipal support and confidence are critical to success in the conservation authority model. Without strong municipal buy-in, risks include fiscal uncertainty, reduced effectiveness, and erosion of accountability. Maintaining strong local governance relationships is critical to the success of conservation authorities.
- Ontario’s watersheds and conservation authority jurisdictions are geographically large and diverse. Effective service delivery requires local offices, local staff, and locally informed decision-making. Centralized models are not well-suited to regions that require extensive travel and have variable watershed conditions.
- It is imperative to have local offices and local people to facilitate effective programs and services. This is key for the delivery of natural hazard programming, permitting and planning for the community as well as other services provided, where people can physically interact with local staff who know the area and can provide informed answers.
- Preserving place-based knowledge through local watershed teams and advisory structures with real influence is essential to maintaining service quality and public trust.
- Meaningful engagement with communities, municipalities and conservation authorities should occur at the watershed scale to ensure local conditions, risks, and priorities are understood and reflected in any provincial initiatives.

Standards first, consolidation second

- If consistency and performance improvement are the primary objectives, the Province should first finalize, fund, and implement provincial service standards, consistent policies, shared digital platforms, and performance metrics.
- The direction-making authorities outlined in Bill 68—covering standards, IT, procurement, training, asset management, and strategic planning—provide ample tools to achieve consistency without requiring consolidation.
- Only after these measures are fully implemented and evaluated should any further structural changes be contemplated, and only where clear, incremental value can be demonstrated.

What opportunities or benefits may come from a regional conservation authority framework?

Potential benefits of partnering and sharing staff between conservation authorities include:

- Improved access to specialized expertise (e.g., hydrogeology, geomorphology, legal and complex planning files) through shared service arrangements and voluntary staff mobilization during peak demand periods such as floods, major development cycles or significant weather events impacting properties.
- Efficiencies through shared corporate services (IT licensing, fleet, insurance, purchasing).
- Enhanced regional-scale scientific collaboration for broader watershed analysis, climate resilience planning, and cumulative effects assessment—while recognizing the importance of strong local-scale science and community-specific knowledge.

It is important to note that many of these benefits already occur today through voluntary inter-authority collaboration. We have shared staff historically with other authorities related to specialized IT, engineering and ecology on a long-term basis, and partner with other conservation authorities on a variety of geographically scalable projects (regional to local community) where it makes demonstrable sense to do so (e.g. planning, engineering, hydrogeological, IT and Risk Management Official expertise). The sharing of staff would be made easier through templated agreements. Any proposed changes must therefore demonstrate clear net new benefits beyond what can already be achieved through shared services and supported standards.

Do you have suggestions for how governance could be structured at the regional conservation authority level, including suggestions around board size, make-up and the municipal representative appointment process?

Any governance framework must:

- preserve strong local representation for municipalities and taxpayers,
- remain strategically effective, and
- maintain equitable representation

Models that significantly dilute local voice or create excessively large, symbolic boards risk being cumbersome and ineffective. Governance approaches should prioritize clarity of roles, accountability, and meaningful municipal participation.

Where broader coordination is required, networked governance models—retaining strong local boards with defined roles while enabling strategic coordination—may offer a more balanced and effective approach than full consolidation.

Consideration should be given to Indigenous participation in governance structures.

Do you have suggestions on how to maintain a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority?

Clear, standardized budget reporting

- Annual budget documents should continue to clearly identify program and service costs, capital needs, asset management requirements, and service outcomes in a consistent and comparable format.

Separation of funding streams

- The budget presentation should clearly distinguish:
 - provincially-directed costs (Agency directions)
 - provincial supports for programs and services
 - municipal supports for programs and services
 - locally delivered programs and capital works.

Guardrails to protect local priorities

- Policies must ensure that locally funded priorities and assets cannot be reallocated without municipal agreement, protecting investments made by municipalities in their own communities.

Predictable and local consultation

- Budget consultation processes must be structured, timely, and aligned with municipal budget cycles, including multi-year forecasts (e.g. 3 or 5 year) to support municipal financial planning and stability.

How can regional conservation authorities maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and stakeholders?

Keep local presence real

- Maintain local offices, local staff, and local contact points for programs and services. These points of contact are essential to effective service delivery and community trust.

Protect watershed identity and place-based knowledge

- Through consistency measures, a “one system, many watersheds” model will emerge with the OPCA efforts for standardization. A tangible sense of place must be identifiable to a community or municipality, with actions or plans tied to that same space.
- While standardization allows for greater consistency, flexibility must remain to address local conditions and support positive innovations for specific contexts. It is this creativity and customer service-oriented outlook that conservation authorities are known and appreciated for.

Strengthen transparency and accountability locally

- Communications, reporting, and performance measures should be clearly tied to local communities and watersheds, enabling municipalities and residents to understand outcomes that affect them directly

Additional Comments:

Support tied to Guidance

At this time, the principal gap in direction relates to the timely identification, interpretation, and resourcing of common provincial standards. Many of the Province’s stated objectives—such as uniformity, improved service delivery, and consistent application of standards—can be meaningfully advanced within the existing conservation authority framework, provided that these standards are finalized, clearly articulated, and adequately supported for administration by the Agency.

While significant legislative changes have been introduced in recent years, provincial guidance and implementation support would assist conservation authorities in achieving consistent interpretation and application across jurisdictions. Strengthened communication, transitional guidance, and shared tools would reduce variability in processes and outcomes, addressing many of the challenges put forward.

Focusing the OPCA's first term on common tools, standards, and guidelines would deliver the greatest gains toward the Province's objectives of consistency and housing delivery. Allowing conservation authorities time to implement these measures and meet defined targets is more effective than undertaking structural change simultaneously. A 3-year focus on these efforts, aligned with the OPCA's first term, would support effective implementation and evidence-based assessment.

Development of Guidelines, Policies and other Resource materials

To ensure that provincially developed policies, guidelines, and implementation tools remain scientifically sound and locally relevant, their development would benefit from structured consultation with conservation authorities, municipalities and other stakeholders that possess detailed, place-based knowledge of these systems. Early and ongoing engagement in the determination of such materials would help ensure that provincial direction is practical, evidence-based, and responsive to local hydrologic, geomorphic, and land-use conditions, thereby supporting consistent application while avoiding unintended regional or community-level impacts.

Boundary Alignment Considerations

It is recommended that conservation authority boundaries be aligned, to the greatest extent possible, with the best science available for delineating watershed boundaries to avoid duplicative administrative layers. Advancements in technology have enabled more defensible watershed-based frameworks and would help reduce administrative duplication, support coherent watershed management, and enhance consistency in planning, implementation, and oversight.

Governmental Transparency

The OPCA should be accountable to the public as well as to stakeholders that are responsible for funding their operation. Transparency measures identified in the Conservation Authorities Act for current conservation authority governance should be mirrored by the OPCA (public meetings, agendas, minutes, membership, etc.). Similarly, financial transparency to conservation authorities as a financial stakeholder in the OPCA is needed, tied to annual reporting on outcomes of the levy support. Representation on the OPCA board, particularly if apportionment provisions are enacted would represent an open, transparent and accountable governance model.



Municipality of Huron Shores
7 Bridge Street, PO Box 460
Iron Bridge, ON P0R 1H0
Tel: (705) 843-2033 Fax: (705) 843-2035

December 16, 2025

Subject: Improvements to Highways 11/17

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores passed Resolution #25-29-20 at the Regular Meeting held Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, as follows:

"WHEREAS Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors;

AND WHEREAS four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor;

AND WHEREAS the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway;

AND WHEREAS modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity;

AND WHEREAS a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay --+ Cochrane, then Cochrane --+ Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew-+ Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie--+ Sudbury; Thunder Bay--+ Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria,

supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

AND WHEREAS analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Huron Shores formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project;

AND THAT the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction;

AND THAT the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit):

- That the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and
- That both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and
- That the program incorporate corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials);

AND THAT this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for support, and the County of Renfrew for information."

Should you require anything further in order to address the above-noted resolution, please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,



Natasha Roberts

CAO/Clerk
NR/KN

Cc: the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), County of Renfrew

From: Produits / Products (ECCC) <Produits-Products@ec.gc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 1:50 PM
To: Group Arnrior
Subject: Rapport d'étape final pour le Code de pratique sur l'asphalte / Final progress report for the asphalt Code of Practice

Click [here](#) for the English version

Rapport d'étape final pour le Code de pratique sur l'asphalte

Bonjour,

Par la présente, je désire vous informer que le [*Rapport d'étape final sur le code de pratique pour la réduction des émissions de composés organiques volatils \(COV\) provenant de bitume fluidifié et d'émulsion de bitume*](#) a été publié dans le site web du Registre de la Loi canadienne sur la protection de l'environnement.

Ce code de pratique a pour objectif de protéger l'environnement en réduisant les émissions de COV du secteur du bitume liquéfié d'au moins 40 % sur une période de six ans débutant en 2017. Le rapport d'étape final présente un résumé des données soumises par l'industrie pour l'année civile 2023. Il s'agit du quatrième et dernier rapport publié depuis l'entrée en vigueur du Code, marquant ainsi la fin de la période de mise en œuvre de six ans.

Les conclusions indiquent que le Code n'a pas permis d'atteindre les réductions d'émissions COV ciblées. Pour combler cet écart, Environnement et Changement climatique Canada (ECCC) collaborera avec l'industrie du pavage afin d'identifier les utilisations actuelles du bitume fluidifié et d'évaluer les obstacles à la transition vers de l'émulsion de bitume à faible teneur en COV pour ces usages. ECCC consultera également les principales parties prenantes, notamment les organismes d'approvisionnement et les entreprises de pavage, afin d'explorer des stratégies pour accélérer les progrès vers la réduction des émissions de COV.

Des renseignements supplémentaires sur les COV et sur le Code de pratique sont disponibles sur la page web [*COV dans les produits de consommation et commerciaux*](#) d'ECCC.

Pour toute question concernant ce Code de pratique, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter à l'adresse suivante : produits-products@ec.gc.ca.

Cordialement,

Martin Lacroix, Directeur par intérim

Division de la production des produits chimique
Environnement et Changement climatique Canada
351 Boul. Saint-Joseph
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Final progress report for the asphalt Code of Practice

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that the final *Progress report on the Code of Practice for the reduction of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from cutback and emulsified asphalt* has been published on the Canadian Environmental Protection Act Registry web site.

The objective of the Code is to protect the environment by reducing VOC emissions from the liquefied asphalt sector by at least 40% over a six-year period, beginning in 2017. This latest report summarizes data submitted by industry for the 2023 calendar year and marks the fourth and final report following the Code's publication, thereby concluding the six-year implementation period.

The findings indicate that the Code has not met its targeted VOC emission reduction. To address this gap, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) will engage with the paving industry to identify ongoing uses of cutback asphalt and assess barriers to transitioning to lower VOC emulsified products for these uses. ECCC will also consult with key stakeholders, including procurement agencies and paving companies, to explore strategies for accelerating progress toward reducing VOC emissions.

Additional background information on VOCs and the Code of Practice is available on ECCC's [*VOCs in Consumer and Commercial Products*](#) webpage.

Should you have any questions regarding this Code of Practice, please do not hesitate to contact us at produits-products@ec.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Lacroix, Acting Director
Chemical Production Division
Environment and Climate Change Canada
351 Saint-Joseph Boulevard
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

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From: ROMA Events <events@roma.on.ca>
Sent: Saturday, December 6, 2025 8:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: New Ministers' Forum Approach at the ROMA Conference



NEW at ROMA 2026 Conference!

Two Ministers' Forums

Ontario's Rural Leaders Conference

Sunday January 18 – Tuesday January 20, 2026
Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

The ROMA Board of Directors is pleased to share that the 2026 Annual Conference features a new and dynamic approach to the much-loved Ministers' Forum.

On offer in the program for 2026, will be two ministers' forums, structured to focus on specific ministries and issues.

Forum #1 SUNDAY January 18: 4:25 P.M. – 5:10 P.M. (PLENARY HALL)

Building Ontario: Finance, Infrastructure, and Economic Growth

Forum 1 brings together the ministries responsible for the province's economic framework, physical infrastructure, and the core legislative environment necessary for municipal growth. Delegates can address questions focusing on funding and financing municipal services and infrastructure, grid modernization, streamlining development approvals, and economic competitiveness.

Forum #2 MONDAY January 19: 4:20 P.M. – 5:05 P.M. (PLENARY HALL)

Investing in People: Health, Social Housing and Social Services

Forum 2 is an opportunity for delegates to dig into matters focused on addressing homelessness and affordable housing, improve health access, improve public health outcomes, meet social services needs, and strengthen local resilience and safety through policing, justice, and emergency response.

How the Forums will Work

Questions from delegates will continue to be moderated, as they always have been, and must have province-wide relevance. Local issues should continue to be raised during your delegation meetings.

What's different this year is that your questions must align with the specific theme of the forum you are attending. Please come prepared and ensure you direct your questions to the appropriate forum.

ROMA is piloting the two-forum approach in an attempt to provide more opportunities for delegates to ask questions and engage with an array of provincial ministers on critical matters.

2026 Forum Moderator

ROMA is pleased to share that Norm Gale, former City Manager of Thunder Bay and Chair of the Ontario Big City Mayors' Emergency Services Steering Committee, will serve as this year's forums moderator. Many of you will have seen Norm in action as the moderator for the AMO Conference "Have Your Say" sessions.

Participating Ministries

All provincial ministers will be involved and engaged across the two forums.

For more information including the ministries participating in each forum, click [here](#).

Check out [program information](#) and [register today](#).

Online registration for the conference closes **January 12, 2026**. After that, registration will be onsite only.

Questions? Contact events@roma.on.ca.

Keep up to date with the rural municipal voice
of the province, on social media.



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Subject: FW: Packed agenda for ROMA Board pre-holiday Board Meeting

From: ROMA Communications <roma@roma.on.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 12:45 PM

To: Kaila Zamojski <kzamojski@arnprior.ca>

Subject: Packed agenda for ROMA Board pre-holiday Board Meeting



Packed agenda for ROMA Board pre-holiday Board Meeting

In this update:

- Good news: Rural schools get provincial reassurance
- Ministers meeting: ROMA Board gets jump on advocacy
- Take action: OMERS' governance changes
- What does it mean: Consolidation of Conservation Authorities
- Rural innovation: Renfrew County applies community paramedicine model to addictions and mental health
- 2026 Conference: Double the Ministers' Forums

Good news: Rural schools get provincial reassurance

Rural schools will stay open, even as the government considers lifting the moratorium on school closures for boards supervised by the province, according to media reports quoting Education Minister Paul Calandra.

“This is a huge relief for many rural communities and we appreciate the Minister’s clarity,” said ROMA Chair Christa Lowry. “Rural schools are more than places to learn, they are important community hubs that support students, families and the broader community.”

Just last month, ROMA wrote the Education Minister urging protections for rural schools. The Board reinforced this message to Municipal Affairs Minister Rob Flack and Rural Affairs Minister Lisa Thompson at their December meeting. Rural school closures force children to be bused much further, detrimental to student learning and a deterrent to new residents and businesses that drive growth.

“Sustaining rural schools is necessary given their critical role in the local economy and the social fabric in our communities,” wrote Chair Lowry in the letter to the Minister.

The ROMA Board is pleased that the Ontario Government agrees.

Ministers meeting: ROMA Board gets jump on advocacy

The ROMA Board's December agenda included a focused meeting with Municipal Affairs Minister Rob Flack and Rural Affairs Minister Lisa Thompson. With record numbers of delegation meeting requests, the ROMA Board decided to meet with the two Ministers in December instead, to get their undivided attention on top shared rural priorities:

Rural municipalities have 17% of the province's population, but manage 31% of Ontario's roads and bridges. ROMA is seeking a dedicated carve out of the provincial Building Faster Fund for small, rural and northern communities.

In light of the province's Primary Care Action Plan, ROMA will re-engage with partners in the health sector in 2026 to refresh the 2024 rural health paper, titled *Fill the Gaps*. The update will look at if and how the provincial plan is playing out in rural communities, which continue to struggle with access to primary care doctors and nurses.

Take action: OMERS' governance changes

The ROMA Board was briefed on provincial changes to how the OMERS pension plan is governed. Recommended by a special advisor and moved quickly into legislation without consultation, the approach will give municipalities less voice in the pension plan.

AMO believes the existing two-board structure is working, keeping the pension plan accountable and independent from politics. AMO has developed tools and resources to help municipal leaders spread the word and advocate on this important, though complex subject.

Use [this deck](#) and [this toolkit](#) to educate yourself and your colleagues about what's happening, including key messages, and Q&As.

Pass a [Council resolution](#) and [send a letter](#) to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs & Housing and Finance.

What does it mean: Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

The ROMA Board supports efforts to expedite planning approvals but speed must not introduce new risks around environmental protection, water quality, and protection of people and property.

ROMA is seeking to work with the province on its plans to consolidate 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with oversight by a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The new agency will have powers to issue binding guidelines to CAs on matters such as performance, service level standards, and asset management.

The scale of the proposed seven regional CAs could negatively impact real-time emergency response, erode local decision making and accountability, and undermine CAs ability to effectively balance watershed management and community growth plans.

ROMA is asking the province to increase funding to align with a new provincial agency directing Conservation Authority work, and to establish an implementation working group, including rural municipal representatives, to finalize the design and manage the rollout.

Rural innovation: Renfrew County applies community paramedicine model to addictions and mental health

Renfrew County is using a community paramedicine approach to meet the needs of those experiencing mental health and addictions challenges.

Community paramedicine has been used effectively to address elderly residents with complex medical needs. Renfrew County Paramedic Chief Mike Nolan said that as homelessness, opioid addiction and

mental health challenges have increased, Renfrew County has launched “mesa,” a collaborative approach to providing compassionate care in the community. Learn more on the mesa [webpage](#).

2026 Conference: Double the Ministers’ Forums

Mark your calendars because the 2026 ROMA Conference will feature two opportunities to ask questions of provincial cabinet members – each forum will have separate panels of Ministers and focused on specific topics. Municipal veteran Norm Gale will moderate. The sessions are to be held on Sunday and Monday afternoon. [Plan ahead](#) and be ready to queue up with your Qs!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the ROMA Board. See you at [ROMA 2026: Rural Ontario’s Leaders Conference](#).

***DISCLAIMER:** Any documents attached are final versions. ROMA assumes no responsibility for any discrepancies that may have been transmitted with this electronic version. The printed versions of the documents stand as the official record.

Rural Ontario Association (ROMA)

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

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Kaitlyn Wendland

From: Kwan, Jenny - M.P. <Jenny.Kwan@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 4:44 PM
To: Kwan, Jenny - M.P.
Subject: Bill C-233, the No More Loopholes Act / le projet de loi C-233, la loi visant à éliminer les échappatoires
Attachments: Q and A Bill C-233 No More Loopholes Act E.pdf; Questions et réponses Projet de Loi C-233 loi visant à éliminer les échappatoires - F.pdf; Myths and Facts BillC233-E.pdf; Mythes et Faits Projet de loi C233-FR.pdf; Template letter of support-Bill C-233-E.docx; modèle de lettre de soutien-projet de loi c-233-F.docx

Dear elected officials,

I'm writing to share important information about Bill C-233 — the No More Loopholes Act — a Private Member's Bill that I introduced in the House of Commons in September, and to urge broad support for this legislation at Second Reading in late February 2026.

This bill takes a straightforward but essential step: it closes the longstanding loophole that allows Canadian-made arms, components, and military technologies to be exported to the United States without permits, risk assessments, or transparency. This bill is essential to stop Canadian arms from being used to violate human rights abroad. Having your municipality's endorsement would be important to me.

Bill C-233 brings Canada's export-control system in line with the rules we already apply to the rest of the world. It strengthens our compliance with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which Canada adopted in 2019, and ensures we meet our legal and moral obligations to prevent Canadian goods from contributing to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Today, most military goods sent from Canada to the U.S. require no permits and are not publicly reported. This is not a small technical gap — it represents the majority of Canada's arms-export volume. As a result, parts and components produced in Canada can be incorporated into larger weapons systems in the U.S. and then transferred to high-risk destinations, including places where civilians are already suffering devastating harm.

Bill C-233 addresses this by:

- Ending the blanket U.S. exemption so that **all** military exports, regardless of destination, undergo the same permit, risk-assessment, and accountability process.
- Clarifying that export controls apply to all military parts, components, and related technology.
- Preventing the use of broad "general export permits" for military items, ensuring proper case-by-case assessment.
- Requiring end-use certificates only when they meaningfully reduce the risk of violations such as war crimes.
- Mandating annual public reports on Canada's compliance with the ATT and the Export and Import Permits Act.
- Helping ensure Canada does not contribute — directly or indirectly — to human-rights abuses abroad.

These measures do **not** restrict production, innovation, or legitimate defence cooperation.

They do **not** interfere with military aid to Ukraine, which flows through a separate, streamlined Department of National Defence process.

They do **not** affect how the Canadian Armed Forces acquire equipment. And they do **not** undermine NATO cooperation — in fact, nearly all NATO members already apply the ATT uniformly.

Civil society organizations across the country support closing this loophole. Groups such as Oxfam, Project Ploughshares, Independent Jewish Voices, Arms Embargo Now, Canadians for a Just Peace in the Middle East, LeadNow, and the Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council have all emphasized that Canada cannot claim to uphold human rights while allowing most of its military exports to remain unreviewed and unreported.

This bill is fundamentally about transparency, accountability, and ensuring Canada's export-control system reflects our values, our treaty obligations, and our commitment to civilian protection. It is not a partisan issue — it is a matter of international law, human dignity, and responsible governance.

I am including a sample letter of support, and a fact sheet, for your reference.

I hope you will join in supporting Bill C-233 and helping to ensure that Canada's role in global arms transfers is consistent, principled, and accountable.

Sincerely,

Jenny Kwan
MP for Vancouver East

Chers collègues élus,

Je vous écris pour vous communiquer des informations importantes concernant le projet de loi C-233, qui vise à éliminer les lacunes de la Loi sur les licences d'exportation et d'importation; et, pour vous demander de soutenir largement ce projet de loi d'initiative parlementaire que j'ai présenté à la Chambre des communes en septembre lorsqu'il passera à l'étape de la deuxième lecture à la fin du mois de Février, 2026.

Ce projet de loi propose une mesure simple, mais essentielle: il vise à corriger une lacune de longue date qui permet l'exportation vers les États-Unis d'armes, de composants et de technologies militaires fabriqués au Canada sans permis, sans évaluation des risques et sans transparence. Cette loi est essentielle pour empêcher que les armes canadiennes ne soient utilisées pour violer les droits de la personne à l'étranger. L'appui de votre municipalité serait important pour moi.

Le projet de loi C-233 a pour effet d'harmoniser le système canadien de contrôle des exportations avec des règles que nous appliquons déjà au reste du monde. Il nous permet de mieux respecter le Traité sur le commerce des armes (TCA), que le Canada a signé en 2019, et de nous acquitter de nos obligations légales et morales d'empêcher que des biens canadiens ne contribuent à des violations des droits de la personne et du droit international humanitaire.

À l'heure actuelle, il n'est pas nécessaire d'obtenir un permis pour exporter la majeure partie des biens militaires du Canada vers les États-Unis, et cette information n'est pas rendue publique. On parle ici de la majeure partie du volume des exportations d'armes du Canada. En raison de cette grave lacune technique, les pièces et composants fabriqués au Canada peuvent être utilisés dans des systèmes d'armement plus importants aux États-Unis, puis acheminés vers des destinations à haut risque, notamment des régions où les civils sont déjà victimes de violences dévastatrices.

Pour corriger la situation, le projet de loi C-233 propose :

- de mettre fin à l'exemption générale accordée aux États-Unis, de manière à ce que **toutes** les exportations militaires, quelle que soit leur destination, soient soumises au même processus d'autorisation, d'évaluation des risques et de reddition de comptes;
- de préciser que les contrôles à l'exportation s'appliquent à toutes les pièces, composants et technologies connexes à usage militaire;
- d'empêcher l'utilisation de « permis d'exportation généraux » pour les marchandises militaires, garantissant ainsi une évaluation appropriée au cas par cas;
- d'exiger des certificats d'utilisation finale uniquement lorsqu'ils réduisent de manière significative le risque de violations telles que les crimes de guerre;
- de rendre obligatoire la publication de rapports annuels sur le respect par le Canada du TCA et de la Loi sur les licences d'exportation et d'importation;
- de garantir que le Canada ne contribue pas, directement ou indirectement, à des violations des droits de la personne à l'étranger.

Ces mesures **ne limitent pas** la production, l'innovation ou la coopération légitime en matière de défense.

Elles **ne gênent pas l'aide militaire à l'Ukraine**, qui passe par un processus distinct et simplifié établi par le ministère de la Défense nationale.

Elles **n'ont aucune incidence** sur la façon dont les Forces armées canadiennes acquièrent leur équipement. De plus, elles ne nuisent pas à la coopération avec l'OTAN — en fait, presque tous les membres de l'OTAN observent déjà le TCA de manière uniforme.

Les organisations de la société civile à l'échelle du pays sont favorables à l'élimination de cette lacune. De nombreux groupes, tels qu'OXFAM, Project Ploughshares, Voix juives indépendantes, Arms Embargo Now, Canadiens pour la justice et la paix au Moyen-Orient, LeadNow et le Conseil canadien des affaires publiques musulmanes ont tous fait valoir que le Canada ne peut pas prétendre défendre les droits de la personne alors que la plupart de ses exportations militaires ne font l'objet d'aucun examen ni rapport.

Ce projet de loi vise essentiellement à assurer la transparence et la reddition de comptes et à garantir que le système canadien de contrôle des exportations soit à la hauteur de nos valeurs, de nos obligations issues des traités et de notre engagement envers la protection des civils. Il ne s'agit pas d'une question partisane, mais bien d'une question de droit international, de dignité humaine et de gouvernance responsable.

Je joins à ce message une lettre modèle de soutien et une fiche d'information pour votre information.

J'espère que vous vous joindrez à nous et que vous mobiliserez vos alliés syndicaux et communautaires pour appuyer le projet de loi C-233 et contribuer à ce que le Canada joue un rôle cohérent, fondé sur des principes et responsable dans le cadre des transferts d'armes à l'échelle mondiale.

Je vous prie d'agréer mes salutations distinguées,

Jenny Kwan
Députée, Vancouver-Est

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Questions and Answers - A Fact Sheet on Private Member's Bill C-233

An Act to Amend the Import and Export Permits Act

Closing Canada's U.S. Arms-Export Loophole: The "No More Loopholes Act"

Q. What is Canada's current export control regime for arms?

A. Currently, Canadian exports of military goods and technologies are subject to the Export and Imports Permits Act (EIPA) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The EIPA requires Canadian individuals and organizations wishing to export controlled items, including military goods and technologies, to obtain a permit issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Section 7.3(1) of the EIPA requires the Minister to deny export permit applications for controlled items if there is a "substantial risk" that the export or brokering of the items would undermine peace and security or could be used either to commit or to facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws.

The ATT prohibits signatories from exporting military goods and technologies where at least one of the following situations would exist:

- the exportation would violate United Nations Security Council measures, particularly arms embargoes;
- the exportation would violate the exporting country's obligations under international agreements; or
- the exporting country has knowledge that the controlled items being exported would be used to commit genocide, crimes against humanity or other specified attacks against civilians.

Q: What is the issue regarding Canadian arms-export laws currently?

They contain giant loopholes:

- Arms, components and technology can be shipped to the United States without permits, risk assessments, or public reporting.
- Once in the U.S., these Canadian-made parts are built into weapons systems – such as F-35 fighter jets and Apache attack helicopters – which are then sent to Israel, Saudi Arabia and other conflict zones.

Q: How did this happen?

In 2019, even though Canada amended its Export and Import Permits Act to align with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), however, the U.S. remains exempted.¹ As such, the export or brokering of most military goods and technologies to the US do not need an export permit, allowing this trade to continue unregulated and unreported. For the past two years, arms manufacturers in Canada have profited from this loophole as civilians in Gaza face bombing, starvation, and destruction.

Q: If Canada signed onto the Arms Trade Treaty, isn't Canada committed to preventing human rights abuses?

Yes – on paper. Canada's ATT commitments forbid exporting weapons likely to be used to bomb civilians, starve communities, or commit other human rights violations. In practice, the U.S. loophole undermines those commitments and lets Canadian-made bullets, components, and technology flow into conflicts abroad.

Q: What's the impact?

Project Ploughshares reported that the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) signed a contract worth nearly \$80 million for artillery propellants destined for the U.S.; some were later used in weapons transferred to Israel. Canadian-made parts have been integrated into larger weapons systems now used in Gaza, despite government claims to have blocked similar sales. Each shipment erodes Canada's credibility and risks complicity in alleged breaches of international humanitarian law.

Q. What steps have other countries taken to ensure they are not complicit?

A. Switzerland and Germany implemented end-use control measures that include on-site inspections of exported military goods. Netherlands has language in their laws that would require further assessment if goods are re-exported to other countries.

¹ 1. [section 2\(a\)](#) of the ECL, which states that Canada's export controls do not apply to U.S. destined exports of most controlled items, including military goods and technologies;

2. GAC's [A Guide to Canada's Export Control List](#), which indicates that, "[u]nless otherwise specified, the export controls for military, dual-use and strategic items contained in this Guide apply to all destinations except the United States"; and

3. Canada–U.S. [reciprocal arrangements](#) that enable trade between Canada and the United States in most military goods and technologies without the need for an export permit. "

Q: What is MP Jenny Kwan's Private Member's Bill C-233 proposing?

MP Jenny Kwan has introduced the No More Loopholes Act, a Private Member's Bill that would:

- End the U.S. exemption. That means no countries will be exempted from permits, risk assessments and accountability. All exports to the United States will be required to undergo the same permit, risk-assessment, and transparency rules as any other country.
- Clarify that export controls includes all parts, components and technology or is necessary for the use of arms, ammunition, implements or munitions of war.
- Prevent the issuance of general export or brokering permits for military goods and technology.
- Require end use certificates only if it would sufficiently mitigate substantial risk of war crimes.
- Require annual reports to Parliament on Canada's compliance with the EIPA and ATT.
- Help end Canada's complicity in human rights violations linked to weapons transfers.

Q: Who supports closing the loophole?

- The UN Human Rights Council and independent UN experts have called for halting arms transfers that fuel violations of humanitarian law.
- Civil-society groups in Canada, including Arms Embargo Now, Lead Now, Canadians for a Just Peace in the Middle East, Oxfam, Project Ploughshares, Independent Jewish Voices and the Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Committee advocate for stronger export controls.
- Canadians across the country who do not want their taxes or industries tied to atrocities.

Q: What's the call to action?

Parliament must act now to:

1. Close the U.S. loophole once and for all.
2. Ensure Canada's export-control laws live up to our international treaty obligations and human rights standards.
3. Prioritize peace and civilian protection over arms-trade profits.

All MPs – regardless of party – are urged to support the No More Loopholes Act and help end Canada's complicity in war crimes and human rights abuses.

Bill C-233: Myths vs. Facts

Myth 1: Bill C-233 would decimate Canada's defence industry.

Fact: The bill *only* standardizes export controls. It does **not** restrict production, sales, or innovation. It simply applies the same rules to all Group 2 exports.

Myth 2: This would weaken Canada's role in NATO.

Fact: Almost every NATO member is part of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Aligning our controls strengthens cooperation with our allies—not the opposite.

Myth 3: This would delay critical Canadian support to Ukraine.

Fact: Military aid to Ukraine is sent through the Department of National Defence using a **streamlined process** unaffected by the bill. Bill C-233 focuses on exports to the **United States**, not Europe or Ukraine.

Myth 4: This harms the Canadian Armed Forces' access to equipment.

Fact: The bill concerns **exports**, not imports. It does **not** affect how the CAF buys or receives equipment.

Myth 5: Canada's export system already covers everything.

Fact: Most Canadian arms exports—those going to the US—are **not** subject to permits, oversight, or transparency. A system cannot be “world-leading” when most exports are exempt from it.

Myth 6: The bill adds burdens without improving assessments.

Fact: Canada is required under international law (the ATT) to assess **all** arms exports equally. Current exemptions for US-bound exports leave Canada in violation of these obligations.

Myth 7: Canada already applies exemptions more narrowly than other ATT countries.

Fact: Other ATT States Parties, like the UK, still apply oversight and report publicly even when using general licences. Canada does **neither** for most exports to the US.

Myth 8: Canada already controls a wider range of items than the ATT requires.

Fact: Controls on dual-use, nuclear, chemical, biological and missile technologies are unrelated to ATT obligations. They are separate systems and not relevant to Bill C-233.

Myth 9: Canada has been reporting on ATT items for decades.

Fact: The annual report excludes most US-bound exports because they require **no permits**. Canada's report provides only a partial picture of actual arms transfers.

Myth 10: The US may retaliate with new permit requirements.

Fact: The US already applies its own strict licensing rules (ITAR) to exports to Canada. Bill C-233 does not change this reality.

Myth 11: Canada has no "loophole."

Fact: Most conventional weapons exported to the US require **no permit at all**. That *is* the loophole.

Myth 12: Permit-free exports to the US are low-risk because our systems are similar.

Fact: Canada and the US do **not** have similar risk thresholds. Canada restricts transfers that the US routinely allows—including to end-users Canada has barred. Requiring permits prevents Canadian goods from reaching high-risk users via the US.

Myth 13: The ATT allows Canada to exempt the United States.

Fact: The ATT permits flexibility in structure—not in deciding which obligations to follow. Canada must regulate **all** exports consistently.

Why Bill C-233 Matters

- Brings Canada in line with NATO allies
- Closes a major transparency and oversight gap
- Ensures Canadian parts and components cannot be routed to high-risk destinations
- Strengthens Canada's compliance with international law
- Supports long-term efforts to diversify Canada's defence supply chain

Close the U.S. Arms Export Loophole

In 2019, Canada signed the Arms Trade Treaty and pledged that our weapons would never be used to fuel war crimes or human rights abuses. Today, that promise is being broken.

Because of a loophole, Canadian-made weapons and components can be sent to the United States without permits or oversight. From there, they are integrated into larger weapons systems and exported to conflict zones — including Israel, where they are being used in the devastating bombardment and genocide in Gaza.

This loophole makes Canada complicit in atrocities. It allows weapons made here at home to kill civilians and destroy communities abroad, while undermining international law and Canada's own commitments to peace and human rights.

That's why we, the undersigned organizations, strongly support a new Private Member's Bill that will be introduced in Parliament this September to:

- Close the loophole that exempts exports to the United States from oversight;
- Require permits, risk assessments, and transparency for all U.S.-bound arms exports;
- Bring Canada into compliance with its obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty.

The Private Members Bill brought forward by MP Jenny Kwan is about protecting human rights and ensuring accountability. Canadians will not tolerate complicity in war crimes.

We call on all Members of Parliament to support this Bill and on the Canadian public to stand with us in demanding action.

Endorsed by:

Kaitlyn Wendland

From: Amber Campbell <ACampbell@arnpriorhealth.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 12:44 PM
To: Kaitlyn Wendland; Kaila Zamojski
Subject: Invitation: Open House & Ribbon Cutting – New Endoscopy Equipment at Arnprior Regional Health

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

We are pleased to invite you to join us in celebrating an important milestone for patient care at Arnprior Regional Health.

With the support of our community, new endoscopy equipment has been secured, strengthening diagnostic services and supporting high-quality care close to home. While the *Scope for Hope Campaign* continues toward its full fundraising goal, this milestone represents meaningful progress and reflects the community's shared commitment to advancing local healthcare.

To recognize this achievement, you are invited to attend an **Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** celebrating the new endoscopy equipment upgrades. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the Endoscopy Suite and meet members of the Endoscopy Team.

Event Details

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Location: OR Department, Arnprior Regional Health
(Located within Entrance B)

We would be honoured to have you join us as we celebrate this progress and acknowledge the collective support that is helping move the Scope for Hope Campaign forward, while also sharing what remains to achieve its full vision.

Please RSVP by **January 6, 2026**, to **acampbell@arnpriorhealth.ca**.

Thank you for your continued interest in the health and well-being of our community.

The Arnprior Regional Health Foundation

You're invited

To the official Ribbon Cutting of the
New Endoscopy equipment upgrades

Tour the Endoscopy suite and meet the
Endoscopy Team

Open House & Ribbon Cutting

 JANUARY 20, 2026

 3:30 - 5:00

 OR Department ARH
Located within
Entrance B

R.S.V.P by January 6th, 2026

Email acampbell@arnpriorhealth.ca



With gratitude,

Amber



Amber Campbell
Annual Giving Officer
350 John Street North
Arnprior, ON. K7S 2P6
acampbell@arnpriorhealth.ca
www.arnpriorregionalhealth.ca
613-623-3166 ext. 362

Make a difference, [DONATE TODAY!](#)

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Kaitlyn Wendland

Subject: FW: EOWC Newsletter: December 2025

From: Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus <eowc@eowc.ccsend.com>

Sent: December 12, 2025 9:19 AM

To: Robin Paquette <rpaquette@arnprior.ca>

Subject: EOWC Newsletter: December 2025



Newsletter

December 2025

EOWC Advocacy Update

**The EOWC Visits Queen's Park to Further
Regional Priorities**



Left-to-right: Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC; Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister, Ministry of Finance; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.



Left-to-right: Rob Flack, Minister, Ministry Municipal Affairs and Housing; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Graydon Smith, Associate Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



Left-to-right: Sheridan Graham, Secretary-Treasurer, EOWC; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Lisa Thompson, Minister, Ministry of Rural Affairs; Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC; Gary Dyke, CAO, County of Haliburton.

On November 27, the EOWC went to Queen's Park to advance discussions with our Ontario Government partners on regional priorities — strengthening economic resilience, supporting municipal infrastructure including water and wastewater systems, and keeping costs affordable for our residents across eastern Ontario.

The EOWC had a successful day meeting with leaders including:

- Minister **Peter Bethlenfalvy** and Parliamentary Assistant **Michelle Cooper**, Ministry of Finance
- Minister **Rob Flack**, Associate Minister **Graydon Smith**, and Parliamentary Assistant **Matthew Rae**, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Minister **Lisa Thompson**, Ministry of Rural Affairs

- **Rowan Rasalingam**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Media Relations & Stakeholder Relations, and **Giancarlo Da-Re**, Director of Policy, Justice & Public Safety, Premier's Office

The EOWC highlighted key issues and opportunities affecting the region's municipalities, businesses, and residents:

- Eastern Ontario is projected to be **Ontario's fastest-growing region**, with a population increase of 36.8% by 2051
- **More than half** of our 103 municipalities have **waived development charges**
- The region's municipal **infrastructure deficit now exceeds \$6 billion**, up 58% from 2011 to 2021
- In many rural communities, the **cost of 1 km of municipal road is carried by only 10 households** (compared to 28 households in separated towns and cities)
- **Investing in Municipal Asset Management Plans** will help maintain existing infrastructure and support new projects needed for growth and business investment

The EOWC's Parliament Hill Advocacy Day



Left-to-right: Martin Lang, Warden, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Yves Laviotte, Warden, United Counties of Prescott and Russell; Eric Duncan, Member of Parliament, Stormont - Dundas - Glengarry; Bob Mullin, Warden, County of Hastings; Chris Malette, Member of Parliament, Bay of Quinte; Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC, Toby Randell, Warden, County of Lanark; Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; Scott Reid, Member of Parliament, Lanark-Frontenac; Nathan Townend, Warden, County

of Lennox and Addington; Peter Emon, Warden, County of Renfrew; Brian Ostrander, Warden, County of Northumberland.

On October 21, the EOWC led its Parliament Hill Advocacy Day in Ottawa, 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
- Modernize federal coordination and remove barriers to support the advancement of paramedic services

The advocacy day started with a breakfast reception featuring remarks from **Chris Mallette**, 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 met with 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 K ramp-Neuman**, Member of Parliament for Hastings—Lennox and Addington—Tyendinaga

[**Read the EOWC's 2025 Parliament Hill Advocacy Package**](#)

The EOWC's Recommendations for Build Canada Homes

The EOWC has **submitted formal recommendations** to the federal government regarding the design and implementation of the Build Canada Homes (BCH) program.

The EOWC supports the federal goal of accelerating housing supply and believes **rural and small urban municipalities are uniquely positioned to help deliver results quickly**.

To meet the needs of all communities, the EOWC recommends:

- Prioritizing deeply affordable and supportive housing
- Providing direct capital and operating funding alongside financing
- Streamlining project approvals with a portfolio-based approach
- Aligning program delivery with municipal planning roles
- Investing in critical housing-enabling infrastructure
- Designing flexible programs that reflect local and regional realities

The EOWC also **welcomed proposed legislation to eliminate or reduce the GST on new homes for first-time buyers** and urged its swift passage.

The EOWC remains ready to work with all levels of government to ensure Build Canada Homes delivers real results across eastern Ontario's rural and small urban communities.

Read the EOWC's Build Canada Homes recommendations

**The EOWC Joins Ontario Big City Mayors'
Solve the Crisis Campaign Relaunch**



Left-to-right: Cam Guthrie, Mayor, City of Guelph; Kevin David, Mayor, City of Brantford; Amy Martin, Chair, EOWC; Paul Ainslie, Deputy Mayor, Scarborough; Marianne Meed Ward, Chair, OBCM; Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy; Alex Nuttall, Mayor, City of Barrie; Camille Quenneville, CMHC

EOWC Director of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson, joined Ontario's Big City Mayors in **renewing the call for urgent government action to address the homelessness, mental health, and addictions crisis.**

While the province has funded initiatives like HART Hubs and the Homelessness Prevention Program, support remains far below what's needed. Chronic underfunding of homelessness, mental health, and addictions is driving this crisis. AMO estimates it will take \$11 billion over 10 years to end chronic homelessness through prevention, supportive housing, and sustainable exits.

Municipalities in Ontario are already covering 51.5% of the \$4.1 billion spent on housing and homelessness programs in 2024. This level of municipal funding is not sustainable for services that fall under provincial responsibility.

The EOWC supports the request for the Government of Ontario to declare a state of emergency and commit to long-term solutions, including:

- ◆ Increased funding for mental health and addictions
- ◆ Expanded HART Hubs in more communities
- ◆ A comprehensive winter response plan and sustainable housing strategy

Learn More About 'Solve The Crisis'

EOWC Chair Attends Announcement: Ontario's Pothole Prevention and Repair Program



Left-to-right: Claire Kennelly, Mayor, Township of Tyendinaga; Ric Bresee, Member of Provincial Parliament, Hastings-Lennox and Addington; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.

Chair Bonnie Clark, joined **Ric Bresee**, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Sarkaria, and Mayor **Claire Kennelly** in the Township of Tyendinaga to announce **Ontario's**

Pothole Prevention and Repair Program, an important investment in the local infrastructure that keeps our communities moving.

Chair Clark stated, "As a proud partner of the Ontario government, the EOWC commends the Ontario Government for its investment in municipal roads. Programs like the Pothole Prevention and Repair Program are vital for protecting municipal assets and ensuring municipal roads continue to serve communities across eastern Ontario."

The EOWC Attends GLSLCI 2025 Water Leaders Summit



Left-to-right: Johnathan Altenberg; CEO and President, GLSLCI; Mat Siscoe, Mayor, St. Catherines; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Ken Boshcoff, Mayor, Thunder Bay

EOWC Chair, Bonnie Clark, and Director of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson, were proud to participate in the **Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) 2025** Ontario Water Leaders Summit, held in Oakville. The summit brought together municipal leaders and water advocates to reaffirm a shared commitment to clean, safe, and resilient communities and water systems across Ontario and the Great Lakes region.

The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with key leaders, including **Mat Siscoe**, Mayor of St. Catharines and GLSLCI Co-Chair; **Jonathan Altenberg**, GLSLCI President and CEO; and **Ken Boshcoff**, Mayor of Thunder Bay.

EOWC Joins Ontario Auto Mayors Roundtable



The EOWC, represented by Chair Bonnie Clark and staff, participated in its first **Ontario Auto Mayors'** Meeting, held in the City of Cambridge. This milestone follows the Memorandum of Understanding signed in July of 2025, which aims to strengthen collaboration and align shared priorities between the EOWC and the Auto Mayors group.

The Ontario Auto Mayors represent nearly 50 municipal members working across provincial and federal levels to advance policy and investment in the automotive sector, a key driver of Ontario's economy.

Manufacturing is the leading sector across the EOWC region, and every one of our communities feels the impact of trade uncertainty.

Strengthening partnerships in this sector is vital to supporting growth and resilience.

EOWC Letter to Prime Minister Carney on Trade Enabling Infrastructure and Ports in Eastern Ontario

The EOWC applauds the federal government's commitment to strengthening Canada's supply chains and global trade leadership. To achieve this vision, we urge targeted federal investment in eastern Ontario's ports and infrastructure.

Eastern Ontario is uniquely positioned along the St. Lawrence River and Highway 401 corridor, with two strategic ports, **Picton Terminals** and the **Port of Johnstown**, and growing access through the **Port of Oshawa**. Expanding these assets will diversify trade, relieve pressure on major ports, and unlock the full potential of "Highway H₂O."

Why invest in eastern Ontario ports?

- Population growth: 25% increase by 2051
- High-impact returns: Modest investments deliver outsized benefits
- Risk mitigation: Relieve bottlenecks at Montréal and Hamilton
- Agricultural productivity: 46% of Ontario's agri-jobs are here

The EOWC calls on the federal government to:

1. Eliminate interprovincial trade barriers
2. Invest in trade-enabling infrastructure
3. Enhance port infrastructure funding
4. Expand customs clearance capacity
5. Remove inequitable regulatory requirements
6. Support workforce development

Eastern Ontario is ready to partner with all levels of government to strengthen trade corridors, grow the economy, and deliver results for communities across Canada.

Read the EOWC's letter

The Eastern Ontario Housing Summit



Left-to-right: Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Jessica Uitvlugt, Administration and Communications Coordinator, EOWC.

The EOWC's Chair, Bonnie Clark, and staff, Jessica Uitvlugt, were pleased to attend the **Eastern Ontario Housing Summit** in Ottawa hosted by the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association.

With eastern Ontario projected to grow by over 35% by 2051, the region will need approximately 670,000 new housing units. The summit stressed that meeting this demand requires strong collaboration across all levels of government, as well as partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors.

The event included insightful speakers who shared valuable insights, including:

- MPP **Stephane Sarrazin**

- **MP Scott Aitchison**
- **Kevin Lee, CEO, Canadian Home Builders' Association**
- **Scott Andison, CEO, Ontario Home Builders' Association**
- **Robert Kavcic, Senior Economist, BMO Capital Markets**
- **Dr. Mike Moffatt, PhD, Missing Middle Initiative**
- **Ursla Melinz and Philip Osterhout, Soloway Wright LLP**
- **Justin Bromberg, CEO, Frontenac Municipal Services**

[Read the EOWC's Letter](#)

The EOWC Sends Letter to Minister Surma: Concerns around OCIF Allocation in Eastern Ontario

The EOWC is **calling attention to reductions in Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) allocations.**

Our analysis shows a 4.5% decrease in OCIF funding to member municipalities over the past year, more than \$1 million lost, despite rising construction costs, aging infrastructure, and growing service demands. This decline threatens essential infrastructure maintenance and limits long-term planning and economic development in rural and small-urban communities.

The EOWC urges the Ministry of Infrastructure to ensure fair, predictable, and sustainable funding for rural and small-urban municipalities. Reliable OCIF support is essential to maintain vital infrastructure and build resilient communities.

[Read the EOWC's letter](#)

The EOWC Sends Letter to Minister Lecce:

Natural Gas Consultation

The EOWC is pleased to **contribute to the Ministry of Energy and Mines' consultation** on the future of community natural gas expansion. As Ontario grows, **reliable and diversified energy solutions are essential for prosperity.**

We commend the province's leadership in pursuing an integrated energy planning approach that balances reliability, sustainability, and affordability. Natural gas remains a critical component of Ontario's energy system.

Investing in Phase 3 of the Natural Gas Expansion Program offers an opportunity to align infrastructure planning with local development goals. We encourage the Ministry to address implementation barriers, such as timelines, approvals, and coordination, to ensure efficient delivery.

[Read the EOWC's 2025 letter](#)

The EOWC Attends the WOWC Municipal Conference



Left-to-right: Amy Martin, Chair, WOWC; Meighan Wark, CAO, County of Huron; Diane Ballantyne, Councillor, County of Wellington; Aina DeViet, Councillor, Middlesex County; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Barbara Dobreen, Councillor, County of Grey.

EOWC Chair Bonnie Clark attended the 2025 **Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Municipal Conference**, chaired by **Amy Martin**, in London, Ontario.

The day was full of plenaries, information sharing and knowledgeable speakers, such as Minister **Rob Flack**, Minister **Lisa Thompson** and Parliamentary Assistant, **Matthew Rae**.

The Empire Club of Canada Lunch With Premier Ford



Left-to-right: Earl Provost, Ontario Agent General, Chicago; Bonnie Clark, Chair; MP Charles Sousa



Left-to-Right: Ben Mulroney; Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario.

EOWC Chair, Bonnie Clark, and Director of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson, attended lunch with Premier Ford at the Empire Club of Canada, joining Enbridge Gas.

The event focused on leadership during times of economic uncertainty and global change. The discussion centered around Ontario's plan to protect its future and the Premier's role in defending Canada's national interests on the world stage.

In The Media

Ontario Expands Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services in Belleville

The [Ontario government has opened a new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment \(HART\) Hub in Belleville, serving Hastings and Prince Edward Counties](#).

This marks part of a \$550 million provincial investment

to establish 28 HART Hubs across Ontario, strengthening community safety while expanding access to recovery and treatment services for people facing housing instability, mental health, and substance use challenges.



Ontario Breaks Ground on Canada's Largest Battery Storage Project in Edwardsburg/Cardinal



[Construction has officially begun on Skyview 2 in the Township of Edwardsburgh and Cardinal, the largest battery storage facility ever procured in Canadian history](#). Once complete in 2027, the lithium-ion storage system will have enough capacity to power nearly 400,000 homes, strengthening Ontario's electricity grid and supporting the province's clean energy transition.

Highlights of the project include:

- Capacity to power nearly 400,000 homes
- Up to 300 jobs created during construction, plus ongoing operational roles
- Developed in partnership with Potentia Renewables Inc. and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation
- Builds on projects like Oneida Energy Storage, bringing Ontario's total storage capacity to nearly 3,000 MW

Ontario Opens New HART Hub in Lanark County



The Ontario government has opened [a new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment \(HART\) Hub in Smiths Falls](#), expanding access to mental health, addictions, and supportive services across Lanark County.

Operated in partnership with Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health, the Smiths Falls location begins offering services this month, with a second site in Brockville set to open in spring 2026.

The HART Hub model brings together clinical, social service, and community partners to provide integrated supports including counselling, primary care, withdrawal management, addictions treatment beds, supportive housing, and employment services.

Partner Updates

Rogers 5G Expands Across Eastern Ontario



EORN
EASTERN ONTARIO
REGIONAL NETWORK

EORN and Rogers Communications have **activated Rogers 5G service in 34 more eastern Ontario communities**, supported by the completion of **34 new cell towers since April 2025**. This expansion brings faster, more reliable connectivity to municipalities across the region, including Kawartha Lakes, Hastings, Lanark, Northumberland, Peterborough, Renfrew, Prescott and Russell, Prince Edward, Quinte West, and several First Nations communities.

The upgrades are part of the \$300-million EORN Cell Gap Project, which is building 332 new towers and enhancing 311 existing sites to improve public safety, support economic growth, and close long-standing coverage gaps in rural and Indigenous communities. To date, 222 new towers are live.

Federal, provincial, and municipal leaders praised the milestone, highlighting the importance of strong digital infrastructure for families, businesses, and first responders. Rogers emphasized its commitment to expanding Canada's largest and most reliable 5G network across the region.

[Read more](#)

Regional Updates and News

New Federal Budget

Government
of Canada Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada 

Prime Minister Mark Carney's minority Liberal government narrowly secured approval of the federal budget, surviving its third confidence vote in three weeks with a close 170–168 result and avoiding a holiday election.

Read the 2025 federal budget Canada Strong here

Ontario

Ontario Boosts Municipal Support with \$50M Increase

The [Ontario government is increasing the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund \(OMPF\)](#) by \$50 million, bringing total funding to \$600 million for 2026. This investment will support 388 small, northern, and rural municipalities, helping them deliver essential services like transit, libraries, emergency response, and road maintenance.

Ontario Launches \$10M Pothole Prevention and Repair Program

The [Ontario government is investing \\$10 million to help small municipalities keep roads safe](#) and reliable through the new Pothole Prevention and Repair Program. Communities with populations under 10,000 can apply for funding to support critical road maintenance and pothole repairs, protecting drivers, families, and local businesses.

Municipalities can receive up to \$38,000 per project. Applications are open until December 12, 2025.

Ontario Investing \$180M to Strengthen Nursing in Long-Term Care

The [Ontario government is investing \\$180 million to attract and retain nearly 8,000 nurses in long-term care homes](#), ensuring residents receive the quality of care and quality of life they deserve.

Key initiatives of this investment include:

- Nursing PLEDGE Program - \$110M over three years to establish mentorship programs, supporting 4,000 mentors and mentees by 2027-2028.
- JOIN LTC Program - \$70M over three years, offering incentives up to \$45,000 for nurses committing to long-term care, with additional support for rural, remote, and northern homes.
- Externship Pilot - \$665K in 2026-2027 to provide hands-on experience for 40 nursing students in long-term care homes

Ontario Launches \$210M Road Safety Initiatives Fund

The [Ontario government is investing \\$210 million through the new Road Safety Initiatives Fund \(RSIF\) to improve safety in school zones and community safety zones](#), without relying on municipal speed cameras that raise costs for drivers. Instead, the fund will support proven traffic-calming measures such as speed bumps, raised crosswalks, roundabouts, high-visibility signage, and increased police enforcement.

Ontario Expands Skin and Wound Care Training in Long-Term Care

The [Ontario government is investing \\$3.74 million to expand specialized skin and wound care training for 1,100 long-term care staff](#)

[across the province](#). This initiative will help residents receive faster, more convenient care in their homes, while reducing avoidable hospital visits and emergency department trips.

Training programs launching this winter include:

- Skin Wellness Associate Nurse (SWAN) program for 150 nurses
- PSW & Caregiver Skin Health course for 600 personal support workers
- Accredited Wound Care Champion program for 150 regulated health professionals
- Skin Health Program for Personal Care Providers for 200 personal support workers

Ontario and Maryland Strengthen Economic Ties

[Ontario has signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) with the State of Maryland](#) to expand cooperation in life sciences, information technology, and clean energy—sectors vital to both regions' economies. Building on an agreement first signed in 2020, this expanded partnership reinforces Ontario's plan to be the most resilient, self-reliant, and competitive economy in the G7.

Ontario continues to deepen ties across the U.S., having signed five new economic cooperation agreements since 2023 with Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, Illinois, and New Jersey.

Ontario Launches Consultations for 2026 Budget

The Ontario government is inviting workers, families, businesses, and community organizations to share their ideas for the upcoming 2026 Ontario Budget. Building on the 2025 Fall Economic Statement, these consultations aim to strengthen Ontario's competitiveness, resilience,

and self-reliance while keeping costs down, creating jobs, and investing in critical infrastructure.

For more details or to share your input, visit the [Ontario Budget consultation portal](#).

Ontario Passes Bill 60, *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025*

The Ontario Legislature has passed [Bill 60, the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025](#), a housing and infrastructure bill aimed at accelerating development and reducing approval timelines. The legislation introduces measures to streamline planning processes and address delays.

Upcoming Events



EOWC 2026 Inaugural Meeting

The EOWC will welcome federal, provincial and local government leaders to its 2026 inaugural meeting held on January 9, 2026 in the City of Kingston.



2026 ROMA Conference

The 2026 ROMA conference will be taking place from January 18-20, at the Sheraton hotel in Toronto, ON.

Connect With Us on LinkedIn, Facebook and X



About the EOWC

The EOWC is a regional non-profit organization representing 13 upper and single-tier municipalities across eastern Ontario. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of 103 municipalities and serves 1.1 million residents. The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers from Northumberland County to the Québec border.

The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with government, business leaders, the media, and the public.

Visit the EOWC's website at eowc.org.

Connect with the EOWC

2025 Chair, Warden of Peterborough County, Bonnie Clark

2025 Vice-Chair, Mayor of Prince Edward County, Steve Ferguson

Director of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson

info@eowc.org



Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy | 235 Pinnacle Street | Belleville, ON K8N 3A9 CA

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MEA APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT 2025 AGM

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) is a non-profit association representing the interests of over 1,270 professional engineers in Ontario who are employed in the municipal engineering and public works sectors at Ontario municipalities and provincial agencies, as well as consulting engineering firms acting as the engineer-of-record for Ontario municipalities.

MEA's many pursuits include being the co-proponent for the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process and, together with the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, MEA administers Ontario Provincial Standards for Municipalities (OPS MUNI) where many of our members participate in committees that establish standards and specifications used province wide. MEA also provides training courses for both MCEA and OPS as well as hosting an annual conference providing technical training sessions.

The MEA is the preferred venue for Ontario municipalities to recruit professional municipal engineers and technologists/technicians through our online employment advertising platform.

MEA provides an annual bursary program to students entering the first year of an accredited university engineering program. Since 2008, the MEA has awarded \$219,000 in bursaries.

The MEA held its 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at RBC Place Conference Centre in London on November 13, 2025. At the AGM, a new Board was elected. We are pleased to present the new Board for the 2025/2026 term as well as MEA staff (see attachment).

Please share this with members of your organization. Should you have any questions about the MEA or the new Board, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Cozzi'.

D.M. (Dan) Cozzi, P. Eng.
Executive Director
Municipal Engineers Association

Attachment:
MEA Board of Directors and Staff 2025-2026

2025-2026 MEA Board of Directors & Staff



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**Scott Hamilton, P. Eng.
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Commissioner of Public Works
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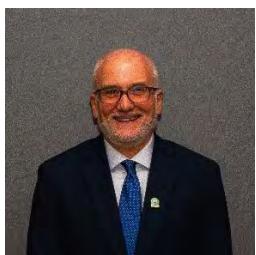
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