



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: April 13th, 2026
Correspondence Package No. I-26-APR-07**

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-26-APR-07 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year
- b) Letter to Municipalities – 2026 Budget Announcement
- c) Ontario Building More Accessible Communities
- d) New Regulations under the *Wildland Fire Management Act*
- e) Pembroke District, Algonquin Park Forest MNR Digital Mail List
- f) Ontario Creating New Provincewide Primary Care Medical Record System
- g) Ontario Investing \$5 million to Increase Local Emergency Preparedness and Response
- h) Ontario Protecting Drivers on Highway 11/17 Corridor
- i) Ontario Expanding HST Rebate to Lower the Cost of New Homes in Partnership with the Federal Government
- j) A Plan to Protect Ontario
- k) Ontario Introducing Legislation to Improve Transit and Build More Homes
- l) Ontario and Canada Sign Historic Partnership to Build Homes, Transit and Communities
- m) Ontario Ready for 2026 Wildland Fire Season
- n) Ontario Investing \$300 Million to Build and Upgrade Local Sport and Recreation Facilities
- o) Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to Protect Workers and Support a Competitive Economy
- p) Be Bear Wise and Prevent Bear Encounters

- q) Ontario Doubling Funding to Help Smaller Communities Build Safe and Reliable Transit
- r) Ontario Increasing Access to Primary Care Across the Province
- s) Ontario Cutting Small Business Tax by \$1.1 Billion
- t) Ontario Introducing Legislation to Strengthen Regional Governance

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) Council and Committee Monthly Summary – March 2026
- b) Closure of White Lake Road for Waba Creek Bridge Rehabilitation

3. Correspondence from the Town of Arnprior

- a) Arnprior Quarterly Development Update
- b) By-Law Enforcement Monthly Statistics

4. Correspondence from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit

- a) Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board
- b) Yellow Ribbon Campaign

5. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) AMO Launches Campaign to Encourage Participation in Municipal Elections
- b) Provincial Budget Spending Priorities and Build Canada Homes Operational Funding
- c) Regional Governance Changes, Finalized Buy Ontario Directive, AMO Briefing on Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build, OEB Consultations on Natural Gas Franchise Agreements, Northlander Rideshare Pilot, Wildland Fire Management
- d) Funding Development Charge Reductions under the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build & Bill 98 *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act*
- e) Preventing Escalated Behaviours: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces
- f) Watchfile – March 26, 2026
- g) Get Ready for the 2026 Municipal Elections
- h) Watchfile – March 19, 2026

i) [Watchfile – April 2, 2026](#)

6. Correspondence from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

a) [Newsletter – March 20, 2026](#)

b) [Newsletter – March 27, 2026](#)

c) [Newsletter – April 3, 2026](#)

7. Correspondence from Other Municipalities

a) [Municipality of South Huron – Ontario Veterinary College Enrollment Capacity](#)

b) [Town of Saugeen Shores – Architectural Conservancy of Ontario](#)

c) [Municipality of Bluewater – Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box](#)

d) [City of Sarnia – Mayoral Authority and Municipal Police Budget Sustainability](#)

e) [Township of Black River – Matheson – Prioritization of Safety on Highways 11 and 17](#)

f) [Township of Perry – Canada Post Rates for Libraries](#)

g) [Municipality of Chatham-Kent – Food Insecurity Emergency Declaration](#)

h) [Township of North Glengarry – Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund](#)

i) [City of Peterborough – Provincial Support of the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program](#)

j) [Town of Mattawa – Ontario Veterinary College's Enrollment Capacity](#)

k) [County of Northumberland – Elbows Up for Climate Action](#)

l) [Township of Oro Medonte – Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments, Health and Safety Concerns](#)

m) [Municipality of Trent Hills – Proposed Alto High-Speed Rail Corridor](#)

n) [Township of McNab/Braeside – Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy](#)

o) [Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands – Tar and Chip](#)

p) [Town of Lincoln – Request to the Province to Extend the Deadline for Notices of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties](#)

q) [Municipality of Bluewater – Request for Provincial Consultation and Transparency Regarding Potential Changes to English Public School Board Governance](#)

- r) [City of Pickering – Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada’s Children](#)

8. Correspondence from Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus

- a) [The EOWC Opposes ALTO High-Speed Rail Project in its Current Form](#)

9. Correspondence from Ottawa West Four Rivers Ontario Health Team

- a) [The Currents – March 2026](#)

10. Correspondence from Arnprior Public Library

- a) [Newsletter – Spring 2026](#)

11. Correspondence from Prior Chest Nuts

- a) [Thank You Note](#)

12. Correspondence from Ontario’s Small Urban Municipalities

- a) [Call for 2026-2028 OSUM Executive Committee Election](#)

Kaitlyn Wendland

From: Ontario Honours And Awards (MCM) <OntarioHonoursAndAwards@ontario.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 5:28 PM
Subject: 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year / Prix ontarien de la personne âgée de l'année

(Un message en français suivra)

**Ministry for Seniors
and Accessibility**

Minister

College Park
777 Bay Street
5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

**Ministère des Services aux
aînés et de l'Accessibilité**

Ministre

College Park
777, rue Bay
5e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1S5



March 2026,

Dear Mayor, Reeve and Members of Council:

I am writing to invite you to [nominate](#) an exceptional local senior for the 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year Award.

This award provides each municipality the opportunity to honour one outstanding senior for their contributions to enriching the social, cultural, and civic life of their community.

The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2026.

For more information on how to submit a nomination online, please visit the [Ontario Senior of the Year](#) webpage. Once your nomination is submitted, a personalized certificate with your nominee's name will be sent to you. I encourage you to present this certificate to your nominee in June during Seniors Month.

The Ontario government is proud to celebrate Seniors Month with municipalities across the province. Seniors generously give their time, knowledge and expertise making Ontario the best place in this country to live and work. It is important to take the time to celebrate our older population and acknowledge their invaluable contributions.

If you have any questions regarding the 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year Award, please contact Ontario Honours and Awards at OntarioHonoursAndAwards@ontario.ca.

Thank you for supporting the civic engagement of your local seniors.

Sincerely,

Raymond Cho
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Cho".

Ministry of Finance

Provincial-Local Finance Division

Frost Building North
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7

Ministère des Finances

Division des relations provinciales
municipales en matière de finances

Édifice Frost nord
95 rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7



March 27, 2026

Dear Municipal Treasurer / Clerk-Treasurer:

I am writing to advise you of a change to be introduced that will streamline municipal Education Property Tax (EPT) remittance processes. The change was announced in the recently released [2026 Ontario Budget | A Plan to Protect Ontario](#).

As you know, EPT helps fund the elementary and secondary education system in Ontario. However, the current EPT remittance system, which involves municipalities collecting EPT on behalf of Ontario and distributing the funds across 72 school boards, creates a cumbersome process for municipalities and school boards.

The government plans to modernize the administration of EPT through legislative changes to streamline municipal EPT remittance processes. Beginning in 2028, municipalities would remit EPT directly to Ontario. Building on legislative changes announced in the *2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review* to simplify EPT administration, this measure would significantly reduce the number of transactions between municipalities and school boards and thereby reduce both the administrative burden and costs for municipalities.

The Ministry of Finance understands that the modernization of the EPT remittance system would require process changes for municipalities, school boards and Ontario. As such, we plan to engage with municipalities and school boards prior to implementation in order to ensure a smooth implementation.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Broughton, Director of the Property Tax Services Partnerships Branch at Chris.Broughton@ontario.ca or 416-455-6307.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Freeman".

Ian Freeman, CPA, CMA
Assistant Deputy Minister
Provincial Local Finance Division
Ministry of Finance

Ontario Building More Accessible Communities

Applications now open for \$2.25 million in community accessibility grants

March 25, 2026

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$2.25 million to protect, strengthen and expand access to inclusive, barrier free community spaces across the province. Ontario has opened applications for the second round of the [Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone \(EASE\) Grant](#), which awards up to \$60,000 for small capital projects that improve accessibility and support active, healthy lifestyles for people with disabilities and older adults.

“Our government is continuing to make critical investments to ensure people of all ages and abilities stay active, engaged and connected to their communities,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “As we open applications for the EASE Grant, I encourage organizations across Ontario to come forward with projects that create accessible, welcoming and inclusive spaces.”

The EASE Grant provides funding to municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and Indigenous governing bodies to support small capital improvements, including retrofits that make community spaces safer, more accessible and more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and older adults. Examples of potential projects include installing charging stations for mobility devices, installing mobility mats at beaches and building accessible washrooms at parks.

Earlier this year, the Ontario government [announced the first round of EASE Grant recipients](#), whose projects are now underway across the province.

Examples of current projects include:

- **The Township of Central Frontenac** is receiving up to \$58,000 to retrofit Olden Community Hall by installing a ramp, railings, and a new door with a power operator.
- **Environment Network** is receiving up to \$42,000 to retrofit Collingwood Community Garden with accessible pathways, raised beds, seating, and wayfinding systems.

- **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority** is receiving up to \$58,000 to enhance its age-friendly outdoor spaces by installing an inclusive playground, accessible kayak launch, and upgraded picnic tables.
- **Brock Township Public Library Board** is receiving up to \$27,000 to renovate Beaverton Library's service counter and computer area with height-adjustable desks, ergonomic shelving, and visual enhancements.

The EASE Grant is part of the government's ongoing work to help communities remove physical barriers, modernize public spaces and ensure that more Ontarians can participate fully in community life.

Applications for the EASE Grant are now open at Ontario.ca/EaseGrant. Eligible organizations have until May 7, 2026 to submit their applications.

Quick Facts

- To support interested applicants for the EASE Grant, the ministry will be hosting webinars during the application window to provide program information and guidance on completing and submitting the application form. To register for a webinar, please click one of the links below:

[English webinar: April 8, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.](#)

[French webinar: April 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[English webinar: April 23, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.](#)

[French webinar: April 23, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.](#)

- Eligible organizations must apply for an Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#).
 - The EASE Grant replaces the EnAbling Change Program and the Inclusive Community Grants Program to maximize impact for older adults and people living with disabilities.
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Additional Resources

- [Creating a more inclusive Ontario: age-friendly community planning guide for municipalities and community organizations](#)
 - [Accessibility in Ontario](#)
 - [Programs and services to support Ontario's seniors.](#)
-

Media Contacts

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Accessibility

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**Ministry of Natural
Resources**

Assistant Deputy Minister's
Office
Provincial Services Division

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2nd Floor, North Tower
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles**

Bureau du sous-ministre
adjoint
Division des services
provinciaux

300, rue Water, 2 Nord
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7



Date: March 31, 2026

From: Amanda Holmes, Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Services Division,
Ministry of Natural Resources

Subject: **New regulations under the *Wildland Fire Management Act (WFMA)***

We are writing to let you know that the Ministry of Natural Resources posted a regulation decision notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) today (see notice number [025-1041](#)) to support the modernization of wildland fire management.

Ontario is building stronger and more resilient communities by addressing the growing risks of wildland fires through regulatory changes that will enhance prevention, mitigation and response efforts across the province.

A decision was made to implement the following regulatory proposals:

- to establish a framework for issuing administrative monetary penalties (AMPs), and
- to make updates to the Outdoor Fires regulation.

On March 13, 2026, O. Reg. 44/26 ([Administrative Penalties](#)) was filed and takes effect April 1, 2026. This new regulation sets out the framework for issuing AMPs under section 35.2 of the *Wildland Fire Management Act (WFMA)*. Under this regulation, an AMP may be issued for contraventions of the WFMA and its regulations.

On March 13, 2026, O. Reg. 43/26 ([Wildland Fire Management](#)) was filed and takes effect April 1, 2026. The changes to O. Reg. 207/96 (Outdoor Fires) were made by revoking the regulation and replacing it with the Wildland Fire Management regulation. The changes were made to help the ministry continue to safeguard public safety and the sustainable management of natural resources.

The ERO notice also included a proposal to prescribe the rates, terms and conditions for when equipment and operators are summoned to support wildland fire emergencies. The ministry is continuing to consider feedback received on this proposal. The ERO notice will be updated when a decision has been made.

If you have any questions about the Administrative Penalties regulation or the Wildland Fire Management regulation, you can reach out directly to the team at the Ministry of Natural Resources at wildlandfire@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Amanda' written in a cursive style.

Amanda Holmes
Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Services Division
Ministry of Natural Resources

Ministry of Natural
Resources

Ministère des Richesses naturelles

Pembroke District Office
31 Riverside Dr.

Bureau de district de Pembroke

Pembroke, ON K8A 8R6

Pembroke, ON K8A 8R6

Telephone: 613-732-5505

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MAR 1 9 2026

SUBJECT: Pembroke District, Algonquin Park Forest MNRF Digital Mail List

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is transitioning to digital distribution of District mail-outs for all Forest Management Planning (FMP) notifications (e.g. Annual Work Schedule notifications) as per provincial direction outlined in the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPPM) 2020.

To receive future Pembroke District FMP notifications regarding the Algonquin Park Forest (like the one on the opposite page) via email, please send an email request to Kaitlyn.Koopman@ontario.ca using the subject line OVF Mail List. All future notifications will be sent to you digitally at the e-mail address provided. We strongly encourage switching to email notices for efficiency and cost savings. Paper mailings may discontinue in the future. However, if you do not have email you can disregard this notice and continue receiving hard-copy mailings through Canada Post.

If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding the transition to digital notifications, please contact Kaitlyn Koopman, Resources Clerk, via e-mail at Kaitlyn.Koopman@ontario.ca.

Inspection

Inspection of 2026 – 2027 Annual Work Schedule for Algonquin Park Forest

The **April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027** Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Algonquin Park Forest** is available for public viewing by contacting the **Algonquin Forestry Authority**, during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at ontario.ca/ForestPlans beginning **March 15, 2026** and for the one-year duration of the AWS.

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

More Information

To learn more about the AWS, you can arrange a virtual or in-person meeting, or request AWS summary information by contacting the MNR staff listed below:

For information on the rules for obtaining wood for personal use, please visit: ontario.ca/CrownLandWood. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company listed below.

Meena Gurung, R.P.F.
Management Forester
Ministry Of Natural Resources
31 Riverside Drive
Pembroke, ON K8A 8R6
tel: 705-465-6193
e-mail: meena.gurung@ontario.ca

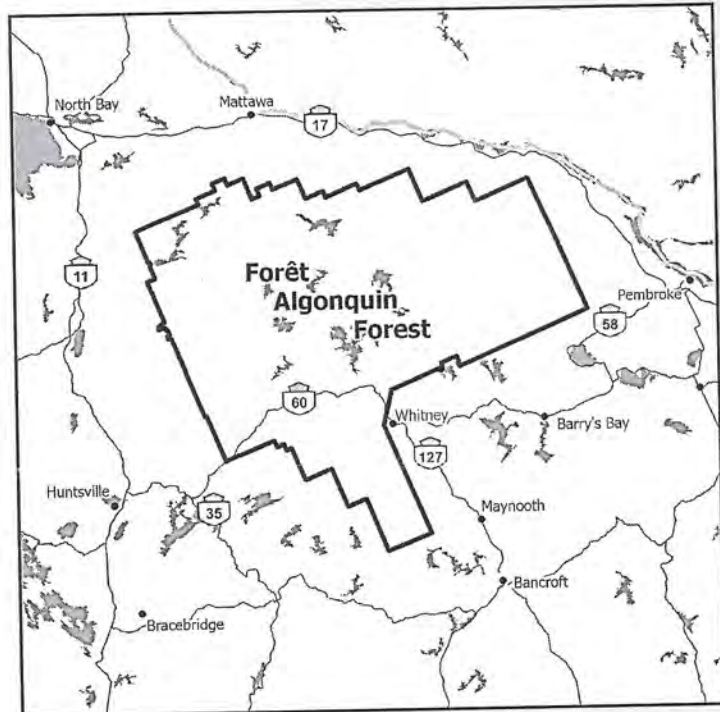
Andrew Schafer, R.P.F.
A/Chief Forester
Algonquin Forestry Authority
Huntsville Office
8 Crescent Road
Unit B3-1
Huntsville, ON P1H 0B3
tel: 705-690-8732
e-mail: andrew.schafer@algonquinforestry.on.ca

Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

ontario.ca/ForestManagement

Renseignements en français : Normand Genier, 613 219-7508, normand.genier@ontario.ca.



Tom Dolan, R.P.F.
Area Forester
Algonquin Forestry Authority
Pembroke Office
84 Isabella Street
Pembroke, ON K8A 5S5
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e-mail: tom.dolan@algonquinforestry.on.ca

Ontario Creating New Provincewide Primary Care Medical Record System

Province increasing Primary Care Action Plan funding to \$3.4 billion, on track to exceed 2025-26 attachment target

March 19, 2026

[Health](#)

[Finance](#)

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

TORONTO — The Ontario government is [taking the next steps](#) to deliver its Primary Care Action Plan, which is on track to connect everyone in the province to a family doctor or primary care provider by 2029. As part of its plan, Ontario is advancing a new provincewide Primary Care Medical Record system that will integrate patient records, reduce paperwork for doctors and improve the quality of care received by patients. Through the 2026 Budget, the province is also increasing overall funding for the plan to a total of \$3.4 billion between 2025 and 2029.

“Through our Primary Care Action Plan, we are connecting more people to care and have already exceeded our 2025-26 attachment target,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By launching a provincewide Primary Care Medical Record system, we are making care more connected and convenient so patients don’t have to repeat their medical history and clinicians can focus on providing excellent patient care, instead of unnecessary paperwork.”

The province also announced today that it has exceeded its 2025-2026 attachment goal under the Primary Care Action Plan, which was to connect 300,000 patients to a primary care provider by March 31, 2026. As of January 1, 2026, the province has already attached 330,000 people to care in 2025-2026, surpassing its goal by more than 30,000 with three months still to go.

Finally, the province announced that 124 successful applicants have been selected to launch a new or expanded primary care team as part of the latest [call for proposals](#) under the Primary Care Action Plan. These teams are expected to connect another 500,000 patients to primary care across Ontario, with successful

applicants to be announced in the coming weeks. Each team established a plan to attach a high proportion of unattached people in their community, including those on the Health Care Connect waitlist.

“Building a modern, connected primary care system is essential to improving the health of Ontarians,” said Dr. Jane Philpott, Chair of the Primary Care Action Team. “We are adding clinical capacity with more funding for team-based care. Now we are adding the Primary Care Medical Record system which will give clinicians the tools they need to deliver more coordinated, patient centred care, while reducing administrative burden and improving outcomes.”

Electronic medical records are secure digital versions of patients’ medical charts that allow primary care clinicians to capture and access medical histories, diagnoses, medications, test results and more. While approximately 90 per cent of Ontario family physicians use electronic medical records, the current system is fragmented, disconnected and unable to support effective information sharing. This means that when patients move between health-care providers, they are often forced to repeat their health history to different clinicians and pay fees that can range into the hundreds of dollars to transfer their files or undergo costly and unnecessary repeat medical testing.

The proposed provincewide Primary Care Medical Record system will be an interoperable, secure system, accessible from across Ontario that will provide clinicians with a more complete view of a patient’s health history, improving coordination across the health system while reducing delays caused by missing records. For patients, this means more seamless care and hundreds of dollars in savings on fees required to transfer medical records between doctors, as well as improved medical record security. The new system will allow clinicians to quickly and securely access patients’ medical history (with patient consent), so they can have rapid access to the information they need to provide the best possible care. Family physicians will be able to choose to transition to the new system and the government is exploring options to support related costs of family physicians who choose to take part.

To support the rollout of this system, the province will begin an open competitive procurement process to establish a Vendor of Record arrangement. The market sounding announcement is available today via the Ontario Tenders Portal. The Ministry of Health is partnering with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board on this initiative, recognizing that access to a regular primary care provider plays a crucial role in keeping workers healthy and helping injured workers get back on the job faster.

“When injured workers cannot access care quickly, it can delay recovery, create stress for families and keep people out of the workforce longer than necessary,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “That is why our government is supporting smarter, more connected care and helping workers access timely care, reducing delays, and supporting a safe return to work.”

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

“Our government will continue to support a health-care system that is comprehensive, convenient and connected for every single person in Ontario to close the gap for people in need of primary care,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “This is how we protect Ontario today, while building the province efficiently and sustainably for future generations.”

More information about how the government continues to make progress on its plan to protect Ontario, by making Ontario one of the most competitive places to invest and do business in the G7 by building a more competitive, more resilient and more self-reliant economy, will be included in the *2026 Budget*, to be released on March 26, 2026.

Quick Facts

- Interested parties can participate in the market sounding exercise being conducted by [Supply Ontario](#).
- Ontario’s [Primary Care Action Team](#) is drawing on best-in-class models of care to implement its action plan, supported by the government’s investment of more than \$3.4 billion to connect approximately two million more people to primary care by 2029, which will achieve the government’s goal of connecting everyone in the province to primary care.
- The government is making significant progress on its goal of clearing the Health Care Connect waitlist as of January 1, 2025. As of this week, that waitlist has been reduced by more than 87 per cent as the plan continues to hit its targets and deliver faster access to high-quality care.
- Ontarians looking to find a family doctor or nurse practitioner can register with [Health Care Connect](#) or call 811.
- Interprofessional primary care teams connect people to a range of health professionals that work together under one roof, including family physicians,

nurse practitioners, registered nurses, registered practical nurses, physician assistants, physiotherapists, social workers, dieticians and pharmacists, helping patients to receive more connected and convenient care.

- Since 2018, Ontario has added nearly 20,000 additional physicians to its health-care workforce, including an over 14 per cent increase in family doctors.

Quotes

"This investment will enable the Schulich FMTU at Humber River Health, in partnership with Unison Health and Community Services, to expand and continue to deliver high-quality care for the communities of northwest Toronto. We are grateful to the Government of Ontario for its continued support of our hospital and for recognizing the importance of strengthening care for one of the fastest-growing and most diverse communities in the province."

- Barb Collins

President and CEO of Humber River Health

"We know that access to health care can lead to a faster recovery and safe return to work. This is an important step to improve access to care and give everyone the information they need to focus on providing care as early as possible."

- Jeffery Lang

President and CEO of the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

"Today's announcement is a meaningful step forward for primary care in Ontario. Family physicians have long called for more connected and user-friendly digital systems that reduce unnecessary administrative work and help them focus on patient care. A more integrated approach to patient records can help simplify day-to-day practice and improve how care is coordinated. We look forward to working with the government as this moves forward to ensure the solution is practical, supports real-world practice and sets family physicians and their patients up for success."

- Dr. Jobin Varughese

Ontario College of Family Physicians

"This is an incredible step forward for primary care in Ontario. Expanding access to team-based care and committing to make a provincewide medical record a reality will go a long way in reducing fragmentation and helping clinicians and primary care organizations focus on care, not paperwork. As we move ahead, it will be important to stay anchored in what makes primary care work: relationships, continuity and care that's rooted in people and communities. AFHTO is committed to working alongside government in a solutions focused way to achieve a connected primary care system for Ontarians."

- Jess Rogers

CEO, Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario

"We welcome today's announcement and congratulate the government, the Primary Care Action Team and the entire primary care sector on exceeding the goal of attaching more than 300,000 people to primary care—an important milestone that reflects real progress in improving access for Ontarians. We also commend the province's continued investment in primary care, including investment in 124 successful applicants to launch a new or expanded primary care team as part of the latest round of applications. Alliance members are proud to be working alongside government and system partners to build on this momentum. Together, we remain focused on achieving the shared goal of 100 per cent attachment by 2029, ensuring that everyone in Ontario has access to comprehensive, team-based primary health care, with a strong and ongoing commitment to advancing health equity and improving access for underserved communities."

- Sarah Hobbs

CEO, Alliance for Healthier Communities

"Ontario's investment in a provincewide Primary Care Medical Record Program and expansion of team-based care is a meaningful step toward reducing administrative burden and improving access for patients. Nurse practitioners play a critical role in connecting patients to primary care, and modernizing systems to cut paperwork will help ensure more time is spent where it matters most — delivering high-quality, timely care in communities across the province."

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

"Today's announcement marks another important step in powering Ontario's primary care system. Investments in integrated medical records and team-based care are making it easier for people to access timely care. Attaching more Ontarians to a family doctor or a nurse practitioner (NP) is central to our success. To build momentum, we must fasten the growth of NPs and RNs working in primary care and enable them to practise to full scope. A stronger nursing workforce means improved access, enhanced outcomes, more effective, efficient and people-centred care for all Ontarians."

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

"IPHCC and Indigenous Primary Health Care Organizations welcome Ontario's efforts to expand access to primary care and modernize health system tools, including medical record integration. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure these advancements support culturally appropriate, wholistic care for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities."

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

"The Ontario Medical Association is pleased to see the province's investment in an integrated primary care medical record system, which we have long supported. We appreciate the collaboration with government on this initiative and the opportunity for physicians to help inform building the integrated record system to align with clinical workflow. We look forward to continuing this work together."

- Dr. Zainab Abdurrahman
President, Ontario Medical Association

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Investing an Additional \\$30 Million to Expand Primary Care Workforce](#)
- [Ontario Building and Expanding 16 Teaching Clinics to Connect 300,000 More People to Primary Care](#)
- [Ontario Marks One Year Milestone in Primary Care Action Plan](#)
- [Ontario Connecting 500,000 More People to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Team](#)
- [New and Expanded Interprofessional Primary Care Teams Funding by Region](#)
- [Ontario Connecting Over 300,000 People to Primary Care Teams](#)
- [Ontario Taking Next Steps to Protect Primary Care](#)
- [Ontario Investing Over \\$1.8 Billion to Connect Every Person in Ontario to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)

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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Accessibility

Privacy

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Ontario Investing \$5 Million to Increase Local Emergency Preparedness and Response

Province investing in emergency equipment and training to protect communities

March 20, 2026

[Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)

HALTON HILLS—The Ontario government is investing \$5 million through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) to empower local communities to build their emergency response capabilities. The province is awarding up to \$50,000 to 115 recipients to purchase emergency preparedness supplies, equipment and services, delivering on its plan to protect Ontario communities and improve resiliency in the face of emergencies and natural disasters.

“Our government is strengthening the readiness of local communities and organizations to better prepare for any type of emergency,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. “Whether it’s modernizing an emergency operations centre, like here in the Town of Halton Hills, or investing in a generator to power a warming centre during a winter storm, these investments help to protect communities across Ontario.”

Minister Dunlop made the announcement alongside representatives from the Town of Halton Hills which is receiving \$30,428 to modernize its Emergency Operations Centre with an audio-visual conferencing solution, portable tables and chairs and equipment that can be used to establish it in temporary or alternate locations if needed. The funding will also be used to deliver annual Incident Management System (IMS) training and exercises and purchase vests.

The CEPG supports small- to medium-sized municipalities, local services boards, First Nations communities, Tribal Councils and Indigenous service organizations. Since the program launched in 2023, the province has invested \$15 million to provide 342 recipients with grants.

Other supplies being purchased by recipients of round three of the CEPG include satellite communications equipment, water purification systems, chainsaws, emergency shelters and more. Funding will also be used to deliver exercises and

training and develop public education resources.

Quick Facts

- Recipients were selected through a rigorous and competitive review process. To ensure more communities could benefit from the CEPG, past recipients were not eligible to apply.
 - This is part of the government's \$110 million investment in emergency preparedness in Ontario.
-

Quotes

"Our government was elected to protect Ontario and that's exactly what this investment is about. These grants will make a tremendous difference for smaller communities like the ones I represent."

- Joseph Racinsky
MPP Wellington-Halton Hills

"The province's investment in our municipality recognizes the importance of emergency preparedness at the local level. We are very pleased that the Town's application for funding to support our emergency preparedness program was successful. This investment will strengthen our ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies—whether that's severe weather, flooding, extended power outages or other events that can impact our residents and our community."

- Ann Lawlor
Mayor, Town of Halton Hills

Additional Resources

- [Community Emergency Preparedness Grant](#)
 - [Emergency preparedness](#)
-

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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Ontario Protecting Drivers on Highway 11/17 Corridor

Province investing in increased enforcement to enhance safety across northern highways to keep goods and people moving safely

March 20, 2026

[Northern Economic Development and Growth](#)

NORTHERN ONTARIO — The Ontario government is taking action to improve safety on the Highway 11/17 corridor by advancing road enhancement projects and cracking down on dangerous driving. Highways 11 and 17 form a key part of the Trans-Canada network, supporting supply chains, economic growth and access to jobs and services across the North. As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the government is continuing to invest in critical highway infrastructure to ensure people can safely and efficiently access essential goods and services, while building stronger, more resilient and self-reliant communities across the North.

“Our government is keenly aware how important safe roads, bridges and highways are to the residents, visitors and businesses in the North who rely on them daily,” said George Pirie, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth. “That is why we are taking action to improve safety, increase enforcement and make targeted investments that will keep people safe and goods moving, while strengthening connections between northern and remote communities.”

The province is making the Highway 11/17 corridor safer by:

- Increasing the number of Transportation Enforcement Officers in Northern Ontario.
- Expanding enforcement blitzes along the Highway 11/17 corridor between truck inspection stations to ensure trucks are safe and drivers follow the rules of the road.
- Deploying two mobile inspection support units in spring 2026 to increase truck enforcement along the Highway 11/17 corridor.
- Launching procurement in spring 2026 to rebuild the Hearst truck inspection station and replace the weigh scale.
- Improving and upgrading highway signage for better visibility.

- Installing new portable variable messaging signs to provide better safety information to drivers about weather conditions and closures.
- Advancing preliminary design work to expand Highway 11/17 between Thunder Bay and Shabaqua, including scheduling a public meeting in spring 2026.
- Upgrading the provincial rest area network in Northern Ontario to provide more year-round truck parking and working with municipal and business partners to expand capacity, including a new service hub facility in Matheson that will allow more trucks to pull off safely during winter storms.
- Continuing to work with stakeholder groups, including the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and the Ontario Road Builders' Association on further improvements.

“Highways 11 and 17 are lifelines for Northern Ontario, and we’re making them safer and more reliable by cracking down on dangerous driving, strengthening enforcement and investing in new safety measures that keep people and goods moving,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is working to protect Ontario drivers, fuel our economy and ensure northern communities stay connected year-round.”

The Ontario government is delivering increased enforcement, education and safety upgrades along critical northern links like Highways 11 and 17 and will continue to move forward with the investments needed to enhance northern communities. In 2025-26, Ontario is investing nearly \$583 million through the Northern Highways Program, including \$481 million for rehabilitation projects and almost \$102 million for expansion projects, to improve road safety, reduce congestion and support economic growth across Northern Ontario.

Ontario will continue to work with its partners and local communities to determine areas where rehabilitation or upgrades are required to deliver highway infrastructure improvements that are needed to support growing communities and a stronger, more resilient economy.

Quick Facts

- The Northern Ontario highway system includes 10,775 kilometres, roughly 60 per cent of the provincial highway network.
- As part of the “ON Trans-Canada” standard, the Ministry of Transportation is clearing Highways 11 and 17 in Northern Ontario faster after a winter storm with a standard that requires contractors to clear highways to bare pavement

within 12 hours of the end of a winter storm, four hours faster than the previous standard.

- The Ontario government has recently marked several milestones to support the return of the Northlander, including [acquiring more railway between North Bay and Washago](#), celebrating [the arrival of the first Northlander trainset](#), completing more than [\\$100 million in Northlander rail infrastructure upgrades](#) and finishing construction of the [North Bay Rail Bypass](#). Once complete, the Northlander will travel 740 kilometres between Timmins and Toronto, with a rail connection to Cochrane, for a total of 16 stops.

Quotes

"Safety and reliability along Highway 11, Highway 17 and the Highway 11/17 corridor have been long-standing priorities for the municipalities of Northwestern Ontario. NOMA has consistently advocated for stronger investments, better enforcement and modern highway design standards that reflect the importance of this corridor as Canada's primary east-west route through the North. We appreciate the continued engagement and leadership of Minister George Pirie, Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria and Minister Kevin Holland for listening to municipalities, meeting with us and working together to advance practical steps that improve safety. These actions demonstrate that when governments collaborate with northern communities, we can make meaningful progress toward building a safer, more modern Trans-Canada highway system that supports our people, our industries and Canada's supply chains."

- Rick Dumas

President, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)

"FONOM is pleased to see continued investments aimed at improving safety and reliability on Highways 11 and 17. These are important steps for northern communities. As conversations continue, we will remain focused on supporting long-term enhancements that reflect the significance of these highways to Northern Ontario and to Canada as a whole."

- Dave Plourde

President, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)

Additional Resources

- [Connecting the North: A Draft Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario](#)
-

Related Topics

Driving and road safety

Information about road conditions and safety, driver's licences, vehicle registration, commercial vehicles, transit and transportation infrastructure. [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 Expanding HST Rebate to Lower the Cost of New Homes in Partnership with the Federal Government

Proposal would save homebuyers up to \$130,000, spurring new home construction and keeping costs down for families

March 25, 2026

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Finance](#)

MISSISSAUGA — The Ontario government is continuing to lower costs and help families realize the dream of homeownership by removing the full 13 per cent of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) for eligible buyers of new homes valued up to \$1 million, for a maximum rebate of \$130,000, as part of the upcoming *2026 Budget*. [This maximum rebate](#) of \$130,000 would be maintained for new homes valued up to \$1.5 million, and would decrease proportionally from \$130,000 at \$1.5 million to a maximum of \$24,000 for homes valued at \$1.85 million and above, building on the province and federal government's previous move to [rebate the HST for all first-time buyers of new homes](#) up to \$1 million.

The federal government has agreed to cost-share with Ontario in support of provincial housing initiatives, subject to passage of federal legislation, which would approximately cover the federal five per cent portion of the HST that is being removed from new homes in Ontario. This partnership would provide almost \$2.2 billion in total joint tax relief for housing in Ontario.

"In the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty, our government is working closely with the federal government to do everything we can to lower costs for families, keep workers on the job and build the most competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy in the G7," said Premier Doug Ford. "Today's announcement will provide meaningful and significant relief to the people of Ontario, helping thousands more families realize the dream of homeownership and boosting Ontario's economy by \$2.7 billion."

Ontario's proposal would strengthen the existing provincial HST New Housing Rebate and New Residential Rental Property Rebate for one year, from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, temporarily removing the HST for eligible buyers of

qualifying new homes. For new homes valued at or above \$1.5 million, a reduced rebate will be available. Higher-valued new homes that would have qualified for the maximum rebate of \$24,000 under the current rules will qualify for at least that amount under the expansion. The expanded 13 per cent HST rebate could stimulate an additional 8,000 housing starts in Ontario next year, supporting up to 21,000 jobs and boosting Ontario's GDP growth by \$2.7 billion.

"Ontarians have seen costs increase as a result of ongoing economic uncertainty, so it is more important than ever that we continue to keep costs down to make life more affordable for families and individuals," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "With this enhancement and expansion of the HST rebates, we are supporting home affordability while providing relief to hardworking Ontario families on one of the biggest financial transactions of their lives."

In addition to these measures, Ontario is expanding the HST relief for first-time home buyers on new homes [announced last fall](#), taking steps to align the effective date of the provincial HST rebate for first-time home buyers with the federal government's newly proposed earlier effective date of March 20, 2025.

"Homeownership is a cornerstone of Ontario's economic success," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Ontario thrives only when its people thrive. That is why our government is taking this massive step forward to protect Ontario by creating conditions to get more shovels in the ground, build more homes faster and help make the dream of homeownership a reality for more people."

The government is taking action with a suite of measures to help increase the supply of affordable homes, support housing development and foster a robust housing industry across Ontario. This includes removing the full eight per cent provincial portion of the HST on qualifying [purpose-built rental housing](#). The province is also providing historic housing-enabling infrastructure funding through the \$4 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program and the \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund, which rewards eligible municipalities that make real progress in getting shovels in the ground to build new homes.

More information about how the government continues to make progress on its plan to protect Ontario, by making Ontario one of the most competitive places to invest and do business in the G7 by building a more competitive, more resilient and more self-reliant economy, will be included in the *2026 Budget*, to be released on March 26, 2026.

Quick Facts

- Other eligibility requirements for the New Housing Rebate and New Residential Rental Property Rebate would remain the same as under the current rules, including that the purchaser must be acquiring the new home for use as their primary place of residence or as a residential rental property.
- Further details on the expanded HST rebates for all eligible buyers will be made available following the release of the *2026 Budget*.
- Last October, Ontario announced a proposal to remove the full eight per cent provincial portion of the HST for first-time home buyers of new homes valued up to \$1 million, mirroring the proposed federal GST/HST First-Time Home Buyers Rebate which the federal government adopted following months of advocacy from Ontario.
- Ontario's proposed changes for first-time home buyers mean both the province and federal government's rebates would be available if the agreement of purchase and sale for a new home is entered into with the builder on or after March 20, 2025 and on or before December 31, 2030. Ontario will continue working with the federal government on the implementation of the provincial rebate.
- Ontario is taking action to help speed up the construction of new homes by bringing [consistency and transparency](#) to development charges and municipal land use planning and [expanding strong mayor powers](#) to more municipalities.

Quotes

"Today's announcement reflects what we can accomplish when all levels of government come together with a shared commitment to getting more homes built, faster. Mississauga is growing and projects like this show the real progress happening on the ground. Our government remains focused on making life more affordable, strengthening our economy and ensuring families can build their future in communities they love. I want to thank our partners for helping keep Ontario's momentum moving in the right direction."

- Nina Tangri
Associate Minister of Small Business

"As a city, we welcome this important step to make homes more affordable. The provincial government's HST cut will help turn Mississaugans' homeownership dreams into reality. We have been doing all we can — through reductions and elimination of development charges — to get more homes built and make them more affordable. We aim to continue setting an example across Ontario. Today's announcement furthers the necessary, coordinated effort across Canada to address affordability."

- Carolyn Parrish
Mayor of Mississauga

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Lowering Costs for First-Time Home Buyers](#)
- [Federal Bulletin: First-time home buyers' \(FTHB\) GST/HST rebate](#)

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A Plan to Protect Ontario

2026 Ontario Budget delivering on plan to protect Ontario workers and families by building a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy

March 26, 2026

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — Today, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy released the [2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#). In the midst of tariffs and economic uncertainty, the government continues to deliver on its plan to protect Ontario by building the most competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy in the G7, including through significant tax relief contained in the next phase of Ontario's Tax Action Plan. The *2026 Budget* furthers the government's plan to attract jobs and investment, lower costs for workers and businesses, keep life affordable for families and individuals and make targeted investments in key public services that support the province's long-term prosperity.

"Ontario is navigating economic challenges with a pragmatic and prudent fiscal plan," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "To help the province navigate these times and come out stronger, we are investing in strategic priorities such as energy, critical minerals, key infrastructure and critical technologies that will make our economy stronger, while cutting red tape and creating the conditions for businesses to grow, supporting workers and strengthening Ontario's economy."

Despite challenging global economic circumstances, Ontario's *2026 Budget* reflects the benefits of the province's resilience and prudent fiscal management to date. While other provinces and the federal government have made significant funding cuts, reductions in the size of the civil service or increased taxes, Ontario's *2026 Budget* continues to increase funding for key priorities like infrastructure, health care and education, while providing substantial tax relief to make life more affordable for Ontario families, increase competitiveness and spur investment and job creation in the province.

The government's approach maintains a path to balance as part of its fiscal plan. The *2026 Budget* continues to take a prudent and financially responsible approach through sustained investments in key public services, while maintaining the fiscal

flexibility needed to respond to changing conditions and support for the people of Ontario.

Highlights include:

- Delivering on the province's Tax Action Plan to make Ontario the most competitive jurisdiction in the G7 and lower costs by:
 - Providing further relief for home buyers by removing the full 13 per cent of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) for all eligible buyers of new homes valued up to \$1 million for a maximum rebate of \$130,000 in relief to an eligible buyer and the amount would be maintained for new homes valued up to \$1.5 million. The federal government has agreed to cost-share with Ontario in support of provincial housing initiatives, subject to passage of federal legislation, which would approximately cover the federal five per cent portion for the HST that is being removed from new homes in Ontario. This partnership would provide almost \$2.2 billion in total joint tax relief for housing in Ontario.
 - Ensuring Ontario's small businesses continue to stay competitive and resilient by proposing to cut the small business corporate income tax (CIT) rate from 3.2 per cent to 2.2 per cent effective July 1, 2026. By cutting the rate by more than 30 per cent, over 375,000 Ontario small businesses would benefit from an additional \$1.1 billion in CIT relief over the next three years.
 - Intending to lower the cost of capital investments by allowing businesses to accelerate the income tax deduction for the cost of depreciable assets, in parallel with changes announced by the federal government. These changes would lower the cost for investment in a broad range of assets and would take effect following the passage of federal legislation.
- Establishing the Protect Ontario Account Investment Fund, in which the province will invest up to \$4 billion to attract investment from pension funds and other private capital to advance Ontario's long-term economic and strategic priorities.
- Increasing funding for the Ontario Autism Program to nearly \$1 billion annually, which will enable more children and youth to access core clinical services while further strengthening sector capacity across the province.
- Expanding Ontario's four-year investment in the Primary Care Action Plan to \$3.4 billion from 2025 to 2029, furthering the province's plan to connect everyone in Ontario to a family doctor or primary care provider. Initiatives through the Primary Care Action Plan will close the gap for the remaining people of Ontario who want to connect to primary care, achieving the goal of connecting every person in Ontario to primary care.

- Investing in the most ambitious provincial capital plan in Canadian history, with planned investments over 10 years totalling more than \$210 billion, including \$37 billion in 2026–27. This includes building highways, hospitals, transit and community infrastructure to keep workers on the job, strengthen Ontario’s economy and ensure communities thrive for generations to come.
 - Providing an additional \$300 million over six years through the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund, to help meet the needs of growing communities by supporting the repair, upgrade or construction of new sport and recreation facilities across the province. Ontario’s investments through the program now total \$500 million.
 - Improving student achievement and preparing students for the future by investing \$66 million per school year to create the Classroom Supplies Fund for elementary school homeroom teachers to receive a Classroom Supplies Card that provides access to \$750 annually to reduce out-of-pocket expenses.
 - Saving daily transit users in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) up to \$1,600 per year, by extending the Ontario One Fare Program for an additional two years to continue keeping costs down for commuters.
-

Quick Facts

- Ontario’s 2025–26 deficit is projected to be \$12.3 billion — an improvement of \$2.3 billion compared to the outlook published in the *2025 Budget*.
 - Ontario’s prudent plan does not raise taxes or cut services, and Ontario is one of the only provinces that retains a path to balance.
 - Over the medium term, the government is projecting deficits of \$13.8 billion in 2026–27 and \$6.1 billion in 2027–28, before planning for a surplus of \$0.6 billion in 2028–29.
 - Ontario’s real GDP rose by an estimated 1.2 per cent in 2025 and is projected to rise by 1.0 per cent in 2026, 1.7 per cent in 2027, 1.8 per cent in 2028 and 2.0 per cent in 2029.
 - Ontario’s 2025–26 net debt-to-GDP ratio is now forecast to be 36.8 per cent, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the 37.9 per cent forecasted in the *2025 Budget*, which is primarily due to a lower-than-projected deficit. Over the medium-term outlook, the net debt-to-GDP ratio is forecast to stay below the target of 40.0 per cent, demonstrating that Ontario continues to make positive progress towards reducing the debt burden.
-

Additional Resources

[Read the 2026 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)

[Read the highlights of 2026 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)

[Read the Backgrounder: Economic and Fiscal Overview](#)

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Ontario Introducing Legislation to Improve Transit and Build More Homes

Proposed measures will help fight gridlock and reduce barriers to home building

March 30, 2026

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the [Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act](#) that would, if passed, protect Ontario's economy and keep workers on the job by improving the way people and goods move across the province and speeding up the construction of new homes.

"The *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act* is the latest step our government is taking to tackle red tape, reduce unnecessary costs, and streamline approvals," said Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Along with our recent announcements to expand HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) relief to all new-home buyers and recognize municipalities that cut their development charges, we're making it easier for more people in Ontario to afford a home."

The proposed legislation and accompanying measures would reduce gridlock and make public transit more convenient by simplifying fares, opening High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to more drivers and permitting rideshare services in communities along the Northlander corridor. The legislation would also help get more shovels in the ground on new housing projects by reducing barriers to homebuilding and clarifying and streamlining site plan rules.

"Our government is taking action to reduce gridlock and keep drivers moving across the province as we continue our work to protect Ontario," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "The legislation we're tabling today would improve transportation options in northern communities, support the future expansion of the One Fare program and make better use of existing highway capacity so people can spend less time in traffic."

Building on the government's work in the [Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025](#) and [the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025](#), the *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act* and related actions would:

- Support the expansion of rideshare services in communities along the Northlander corridor so northern communities have improved access to first- and last-mile or end-to-end connection transportation options.
- Allow single-occupant vehicles to use high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes during off-peak hours, giving drivers more choice.
- Require on-road driving experience before prospective commercial drivers can obtain their Class A licence enhancing road safety.
- Support efforts to eliminate red tape in the homebuilding process by simplifying planning and approval tools, including through municipal official plans, Ontario's Building Code and site plan control:
 - Municipal Official Plans, which set out long-term land-use rules to guide future community growth, have become lengthy, complicated and highly restrictive, with varying formats, rules and content. Proposed changes include establishing a standardized table of contents and limiting land use designations so they are easier to navigate.
 - Over the years the Building Code has become overly complex and duplicative, with provisions that do not reflect the reality of building in Ontario. In response to this, the government is establishing an expert third-party advisory body consisting of engineering, construction, and code specialists to undertake a section-by-section review of the Code, which sets out the minimum standards that new construction must meet.
 - Some municipalities leverage site plan control to impose costly enhanced development standards that go beyond what is required for health and safety reasons. The proposed legislation would remove municipal authority to require enhanced development standards. The government will also consult on major structural reforms to site plan control more broadly to deliver faster, more predictable approvals.
- Increase public transparency by consulting on the disclosure of municipal development charges and other hidden fees in agreements of purchase and sale for new homes.
- Remove development charges from non-profit retirement homes to expand affordable housing options for seniors.
- Expand housing opportunities in hard-to-service remote and/or rural areas by creating a framework to support the adoption of communal water and wastewater systems.

- Reinforce that the new public corporation for water and wastewater in Peel Region (enabled through the *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act*) will remain in public sector ownership and promote continuity of service by clarifying rules and rights for agreements and employees that are transferred.

Collectively, the *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act* builds on the government's ongoing work to accelerate housing and transportation infrastructure for the province's long-term stability, resiliency and prosperity. The proposed legislation would get shovels in the ground faster and help get people where they need to go, enhancing affordability and quality of life for Ontario residents and families.

Quick Facts

- In 2025, [the Ontario government extended the One Fare program](#) for an additional two years to continue saving transit users in the [GTHA \(Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area\)](#) up to \$1,600 per year.
 - Work is underway to bring back Northlander passenger rail service this year, [with more than \\$100 million worth of rail infrastructure investments nearly complete](#).
 - The Ontario government recently announced that it would expand [HST \(Harmonized Sales Tax\)](#) relief for eligible buyers of new homes valued up to \$1 million, for a maximum rebate of \$130,000, as part of the recently released *2026 Budget*.
 - The Ontario Association of Architects estimate that Ontario's site plan approval process costs approximately \$3.5 billion annually in lost opportunities and inefficiencies, with reviews taking far longer than the provincially mandated 60-day timeline.
-

Quotes

"Dependable water and wastewater infrastructure underpins thriving, expanding communities. By introducing a modern framework for communal systems, we're accelerating project starts, sustaining jobs, and fueling economic growth in Ontario's fastest-growing regions. Enhanced financial oversight ensures development is both responsible and sustainable—delivering long-term benefits for municipalities, families, and future generations."

- Todd McCarthy

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Acting Minister of Infrastructure

"Housing costs don't start at the front door, they're built in long before a family buys a home. By shining a light on development charges and other hidden fees, we're giving homebuyers real clarity while holding the system accountable. Greater transparency, streamlined rules and faster approvals mean homes can get built sooner and more predictably."

- Graydon Smith

Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"Last session, I brought forward a Private Member's Motion calling on the government to modernize Ontario's approach to wastewater systems. The motion received unanimous support from all parliamentarians at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, in recognition of the tremendous potential it holds for small and rural communities. I am proud that our government is acting on this momentum. By providing flexible, safe, and financially sustainable options, we can help unlock new housing opportunities in communities that otherwise face barriers to growth—all the while maintaining the highest public health and environmental standards."

- Dawn Gallagher Murphy

MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) for Newmarket-Aurora

"Purchasing a new home is one of the biggest decisions an individual or family can make. Breaking out municipal development charges as a separate line item on agreements of purchase and sale for new homes is a straightforward way to strengthen consumer transparency, which is why I introduced a Private Member's Motion on this matter last session. I am happy to see that our government continuing to act on this issue. New homebuyers deserve to know what they are paying for so they can make informed decisions and proceed with confidence, fully understanding the costs involved."

- Natalie Pierre

MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) for Burlington

"OPTA (Online Property Tax Analysis) would like to thank the Government of Ontario for continuing to support One Fare, helping to make transit more affordable for commuters during a time of economic uncertainty. We are encouraged by their recognition of the importance of affordable, reliable, and frequent transit to millions of commuters."

- Karen Cameron

CEO (Chief Executive Officer), Ontario Public Transit Association

"This Bill represents plain common sense. Less gridlock and more efficient roadways mean less accidents and safer highways. The HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes specifically will save Ontario drivers a significant amount of time. PTAO (Professional Towing Association of Ontario) is pleased to see this government take significant steps to meaningfully save time for and improve the safety of Ontario drivers. Whether you're commuting, visiting family, or rely on our roadways for your livelihood, it's clear that this government is moving in the right direction."

- Gary Vandenheuvel

President, Professional Towing Association of Ontario

"Our industry has been clear about the need to reduce red tape and improve predictability in the planning process. Ontario's continued action to streamline approvals and remove barriers is welcome and necessary. Measures like parkland dedication reform, further limiting mandatory imposition of enhanced development standards, and site plan process improvements, together with the recently announced HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) relief off of all new homes, demonstrate a clear commitment to getting housing moving again and supporting both new home construction and the renovation sector."

- **Scott Andison**

CEO (Chief Executive Officer), Ontario Home Builders Association

"The Building Industry and Land Development Association welcomes the introduction of the *Building Homes and Transportation Infrastructure Act*. The Ontario Government's continued focus on addressing systemic barriers to housing affordability, supply and jobs comes at a critical juncture for the province and the industry. Measures in the Act will continue the government's efforts to bring back the dream of home ownership for Ontario families, support jobs and economic growth, and protect Ontario."

- **Dave Wilkes**

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

"The *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act* is another strong signal that Ontario is taking action to make it easier to build housing. Measures that streamline processes, modernize planning frameworks, and reduce unnecessary costs and delays are critical to getting new homes, including rental homes, to market. This kind of progress is essential to improving affordability and giving Ontarians more options. FRPO (Federation of Rental-Housing Providers of Ontario) supports these efforts and looks forward to continued collaboration to increase supply across the province."

- **Tony Irwin**

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

"The *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act* is another bold step in addressing many well-entrenched barriers to attainable housing supply and correcting a stubborn, complex crisis. Housing is a vital need central to economic development and well-being. This Bill, under Minister Flack's determined leadership, nails it again."

- Richard Lyall

**President & CEO (Chief Executive Officer), Residential Construction Council
of Ontario**

"We're at a critical time for housing in Ontario. Economic uncertainties and rising cost of living are impacting the province's housing market, from new construction to buyers and sellers on the sidelines. We need our leaders to take charge and steer us in the right direction to get housing starts and sales back on track. Today's announcement features a wide suite of REALTOR®-led solutions, and the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) and our nearly 100,000 Members commend the Ford Government for listening and standing up for the next generation of homeowners. This is the kind of bold action we need to drive economic growth, support jobs, and keep the dream of homeownership alive. We look forward to continued collaboration to create a strong and resilient housing market in Ontario."

- Kim Fairley

2026 Ontario Real Estate Association President

"As part of our mandate to protect the public interest, the Ontario Association of Architects has long called for a review of the site plan approval process. We know there have been lengthy delays, lost opportunities, and needless inefficiencies when it comes to new housing, ultimately impacting the affordability of homes for Ontarians. A 2024 Altus Group report commissioned by the OAA (Ontario Association of Architects), "[Cost of Site Plan Delays](#)," shows exponentially growing financial repercussions—as much as \$3.5 billion annually. Changes to streamline site plan approvals and offer more consistency, without impacting quality or safety or lessening environmental protections, will help designers, builders, developers, and homeowners alike."

- Lara McKendrick

Ontario Association of Architects Council President

"OPPI and its members are essential housing enablers, working with government and homebuilders to create vibrant, healthy communities. We are pleased to see the introduction of simplified and consistent Official Plans leading to streamlined approval times for municipalities and home builders. We commend the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Rob Flack, and the Ontario government for working with OPPI (Ontario Professional Planners Institute) to introduce these critical reforms."

- Susan Wiggins

Executive Director, Ontario Professional Planners Institute

"RCCAO (Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario) commends the Government of Ontario for tabling the *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act*, which continues the province's focus on improving transportation options, supporting the efficient use of existing highway capacity, and accelerating and streamlining the construction of housing across Ontario. This legislation builds on the government's ongoing commitment to strengthening infrastructure, reducing congestion, and supporting the timely delivery of much-needed housing for communities across the province."

- Nadia Todorova

Executive Director, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario

"Ontario's aggregate industry supports efforts to reduce red tape and bring greater clarity and consistency to the planning process, as well as measures that help ease gridlock and keep people and goods moving. Standardizing and simplifying municipal official plans will help make approvals more predictable, reduce unnecessary delays, and ensure that essential resources like stone, sand and gravel can continue to be available close to where they are needed. These changes are an important step toward building the infrastructure and housing Ontario requires."

**- Sharon Armstrong
Executive Director, Ontario Stone Sand & Gravel Association**

"For the construction industry, success is measured by how quickly we can move from planning to building. Cutting red tape and improving approval timelines means we can get more projects out the door, keep crews working, and deliver the transportation infrastructure that supports housing, mobility and economic growth."

**- Raly Chakarova
Executive Director, Toronto and Area Road Builders Association**

"AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) supports the province's commitment to measures that streamline and responsibly foster growth. We are encouraged that the province's robust consultation process to inform the Bill reflects our feedback – from keeping municipal services corporation water systems under public ownership, to introducing targeted measures that reduce the cost of building supportive housing for low-income seniors, to implementing high drinking water quality standards. Successfully improving housing construction affordability while expanding community infrastructure requires this kind of coordination between the province and municipalities."

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

"The [OSWCA \(Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association\)](#) welcomes Minister Flack's legislation as a positive step forward in accelerating the construction of critical water and wastewater infrastructure through a public utility model. Innovative and sustainable financing tools to help fund this infrastructure will be essential, with more than \$250 billion in investments needed over the next decade to accommodate Ontario's growth. Our members - who build and maintain this infrastructure every day - stand ready to help deliver on this plan and get projects built. We look forward to continuing to work with the province and our municipal partners to advance this important initiative."

- Stephanie, Bellotto

Manager of Government Relations and Communications, Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association (OSWCA)

Additional Resources

- [Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act](#)
- [Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)
- [Transit-Oriented Communities](#)

Related Topics

Business and economy

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

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Ontario and Canada Sign Historic Partnership to Build Homes, Transit and Communities

Agreement includes \$8.8 billion to support housing by lowering development charges and support for major transit projects, including Waterfront East Transit and GO 2.0

March 30, 2026

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — Today, Premier Doug Ford and Prime Minister Mark Carney signed the [Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build](#) in support of shared goals, including building more homes faster to make housing more affordable, getting shovels in the ground on key transit projects and supporting economic development that will protect jobs and help communities grow, despite the impact of tariffs and economic uncertainty. The agreement includes \$8.8 billion in federal and provincial funding over 10 years to support housing-enabling infrastructure investments for Ontario municipalities that reduce and maintain low development charges (DCs), as well as a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) rebate to incentivize new home construction, and co-operation and financial support for a number of major transit projects.

“Today’s agreement will be transformational for Ontario and Canada, delivering new homes, transit and infrastructure and supporting hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs for Ontario workers,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Our government will continue to deliver on our plan to protect Ontario in partnership with the federal government and municipalities by lowering the cost of building, getting shovels in the ground faster, cutting red tape and investing in workers.”

A key pillar of the agreement is a shared commitment to boosting housing supply. Ontario and the federal government will cost-match a total of \$8.8 billion over 10 years, focused on housing-enabling infrastructure projects. The majority of funding will be used to support the reduction by up to 50 per cent of municipal DCs, which can add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the cost of new homes in Ontario municipalities. This new infrastructure funding will offset much of the financial impact of DC reductions on municipalities. However, municipalities will also be expected to support DC reductions, so that all three levels of government are supporting increased housing supply and affordability. The province will work with municipalities and partners to put forward a list of infrastructure projects for

approval with a focus on speed and efficiency. These strategic investments will encourage new home construction and reduce barriers and costs to housing development to help more people realize the dream of homeownership.

“Our new partnership with Ontario is about building more affordable homes, more transit and more careers in the skilled trades,” said Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada. “We’re tackling the housing crisis from every angle — so we can build up housing supply and bring down costs for Canadians. We’re building Ontario strong and Canada strong.”

The Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build commits to the following:

- **Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) Rebate on New Homes:** Ontario and Canada will work together to remove the full 13 per cent HST for eligible buyers of new homes in Ontario valued up to \$1 million and extend the maximum rebate amount of \$130,000 to new homes valued between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. The federal government will provide Ontario a payment in the amount of \$875 million, subject to passage of federal legislation, that may be applied against the federal five per cent portion of the HST that is being removed from new homes in Ontario. This partnership would provide an estimated \$2.2 billion in total tax relief for housing in Ontario and provide homebuyers up to \$130,000 in tax relief.
- **Waterfront East Transit:** three-way cost share between the Ontario government, the federal government and the City of Toronto to construct the Waterfront East Transit line serving Toronto’s eastern waterfront, including the East Bayfront and Port Lands.
- **GO 2.0:** commit to working collaboratively to increase passenger service along freight-owned corridors across the Greater Golden Horseshoe region, to support improved service along existing GO lines and the potential creation of new GO lines in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- **Alto High-Speed Rail (HSR):** commit to working collaboratively to support the planning and advancement of the Alto HSR initiative that will connect millions of people living along the Toronto–Quebec City corridor.
- **Priority transit projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA):** execute federal contribution agreements on announced transit projects, including the Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West Extension, Scarborough Subway Extension, Yonge North Subway Extension and Hamilton LRT.

“I’m pleased to join with the federal and provincial governments in this partnership to build more housing, transit and support good jobs,” said Olivia Chow, Mayor of Toronto. “The City of Toronto has taken bold steps to cut development charges on

new homes, speeding up our development timeline and investing in affordable housing. Further, we have invested in the design of the Waterfront East Transit line. Today's historic announcement takes our work further and will deliver thousands more affordable homes and better transit, benefiting our city for generations."

This is a transformational opportunity between the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada in partnership with municipalities. The Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build offers a clear path forward to keep projects moving and Ontario and Canada's economy growing, even in the face of U.S. tariffs and global uncertainty. By partnering with the federal government, Ontario is ensuring critical infrastructure projects get built, new housing is constructed and more good-paying jobs are made available to Ontario workers, making this province more competitive now and for future generations.

Quick Facts

- Projects covered by the agreement will be subject to the government's Buy Ontario policy, prioritizing domestic suppliers, services and materials, so Ontario tax dollars support Ontario workers.
 - The government is taking action with a suite of measures to help increase the supply of affordable homes, support housing development and foster a robust housing industry across Ontario. This includes removing the full eight per cent provincial portion of the HST on qualifying [purpose-built rental housing](#). The province is also providing historic housing-enabling infrastructure funding through the \$4 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program and the \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund, which rewards eligible municipalities that make real progress in getting shovels in the ground to build new homes.
 - Ontario is investing \$70 billion in the largest transit expansion in North America, including the largest subway expansion in Canadian history. This includes a provincial investment of \$14.8 billion to date in GO Expansion projects.
-

Additional Resources

- [Details of the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build](#)
 - [2026 Ontario Budget](#)
 - [Ontario Expanding HST Rebate to Lower the Cost of New Homes in Partnership with the Federal Government](#)
-

Related Topics

Benefits and taxes

Learn about taxes in Ontario and what they support, including tax credits you can get to help you with living and business costs. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Ready for 2026 Wildland Fire Season

Province supports frontline staff by adding additional permanent positions and increasing compensation to protect people and communities

March 31, 2026

[Natural Resources](#)

TORONTO — Ontario is ready to protect people and communities this wildland fire season, which lasts from April 1 until October 31. To prepare for the 2026 fire season, the province has added an additional 68 permanent staff and increased compensation for critical staff including wildland firefighters, pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers.

“We are ready to protect communities from wildland fires, with all the necessary resources in place,” said Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources. “Our government stands behind the wildland firefighters, pilots and support staff that make up our frontline response and we will ensure they have everything they need for the upcoming fire season.”

In addition to the new staffing measures, Ontario and Canada are investing in projects through the Wildfire Resilient Futures Initiative that will help enhance local training, education and outreach programs. These measures will ensure communities across the province are equipped with the tools and resources to prevent and mitigate wildland fire risks, while advancing science and research projects to reduce wildland fire risk.

Other investments and actions the province has taken to strengthen Ontario’s world class wildland fire program include:

- Over \$500 million to purchase six new Canadian-made De Havilland DHC-515 waterbombers.
- New and amended regulations under the *Wildland Fire Management Act* taking effect April 1, 2026 to modernize wildland fire management, strengthen compliance measures and protect against the growing threat of wildland fires.
- 100 permanent staff positions filled throughout 2024 and 2025.
- \$64 million invested in 2024 in partnership with the federal government to purchase upgraded equipment and modern wildland fire suppression tools, as

well as continued training.

Approximately 50 per cent of all wildland fires are caused by humans. There are actions the public can take to reduce the risks of forest fires:

- Before starting an outdoor fire, check the interactive map at ontario.ca/ForestFires and ensure you are aware of the fire hazard and restrictions in place in your area.
- Ensure campfires do not get too big and are fully extinguished at the end of the evening or prior to leaving the site. Have tools and water on hand to control outdoor fires.
- To learn more about how to prepare your community or property to reduce the risk or impact of a wildland fire, please visit [how to prevent forest fires](#) and ontario.ca/FireSmart.

Ontario is an international leader in wildland fire management and proudly participates in agreements with provincial, territorial, federal and international partners that allow for the sharing of personnel, equipment and aircraft during periods of escalated wildland fire activity.

Quick Facts

- Since 2018, Ontario has increased the annual base funding allocation for emergency firefighting by 93 per cent, for a total of more than \$65 million. This funding is used to get resources in place so that crews and aircraft are available to respond immediately. Total actual spending for fire season is reported annually in Public Accounts.
- Wildland firefighter positions have been reclassified to better reflect the work these essential frontline responders do to protect Ontario within the classification structure.
- Ontario has a fleet of 28 specialized aircraft used to fight wildland fires and support other natural resource and emergency responses. The province employs hundreds of highly trained staff across 14 fire management headquarters, three attack bases, 11 forward attack bases, two regional fire centres, one provincial fire centre, one emergency operations centre, three logistics centres, seven aircraft hangars and one flight training centre. Together, these resources support the coordinated protection of 90 million hectares of public land in Ontario.
- The [Wildfire Resilient Futures Initiative](#) launched by the Government of Canada focuses on preventing and mitigating wildland fire risks through capacity building, research and knowledge development.

- In 2025, Ontario saw 643 wildland fires and 597,654 hectares burned – equivalent to an area larger than the size of Prince Edward Island. Over the past ten years, Ontario has averaged approximately 712 fires per year with 210, 232.6 hectares burned annually.
-

Quotes

"Our government is equipping communities with the resources and tools they need to prepare for and respond decisively to natural disasters and emergencies, including wildland fires. We will continue to work closely with municipalities, First Nation communities, and emergency management partners to ensure people across Ontario are safe, practiced and prepared this wildland fire season."

- Jill Dunlop

Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response

"Keeping Ontarians safe is a shared responsibility, and by working together, the Governments of Canada and Ontario can reduce the risks and impacts of wildfires for families and communities. Through the Wildfire Resilient Futures Initiative, the federal government is proud to support projects that strengthen local capacity, advance research, and help communities take action to prevent wildfires before they start."

- Corey Hogan

**Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
Canada**

Additional Resources

- [Wildfire Resilient Futures Initiative](#)
 - [Ontario's response to wildland fires](#)
 - [How to prevent forest fires](#)
 - [Be FireSmart around your property](#)
 - [Learn about the science behind fire](#)
 - [Become a FireRanger](#)
 - [Real time updates on fire activity across Ontario](#)
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Related Topics

Environment and energy

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

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 Investing \$300 Million to Build and Upgrade Local Sport and Recreation Facilities

New funding will revitalize local sports centres, create new jobs and support the next generation of Ontario athletes

March 31, 2026

[Sport](#)

KITCHENER — The Ontario government is investing an additional \$300 million in the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) to build and upgrade sport and recreation facilities across the province. Announced as part of the [2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), this brings total government funding for the program to \$500 million, and will support local community projects, create good-paying jobs, promote active, healthy living and give the next generation of Ontario athletes a place to train and grow their skills.

“Our government is delivering on our plan to protect Ontario by making historic local investments that strengthen our communities today and for the future,” said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Sport. “The additional \$300 million in the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund will support the construction of new facilities, allowing more families across Ontario to enjoy fun, healthy activities and ensure our local athletes have a place to compete close to home.”

Building on the success of the [initial \\$200 million funding](#), the new \$300 million top-up makes CSRIF the largest investment in the sport and recreation sector in the province’s history. The first round of funding has already supported nearly 100 projects, including the construction of 17 new facilities and the revitalization of 77 more.

Ontario’s investments in new and upgraded sport and recreation infrastructure makes it easier for people to create healthier, more active lifestyles, makes sports more accessible and helps more communities across the province host local, national and international events and competitions.

More information about eligibility and application guidelines will be released later this year.

“The investments announced today are about creating jobs and building stronger, healthier communities across Ontario,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “By enhancing and expanding sport and recreation facilities, we are increasing access, encouraging participation and unlocking new economic opportunities for communities across the province.”

The *2026 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario* outlines how the government is advancing its plan to protect Ontario by making the province one of the most competitive places to invest and do business in the G7, while building a more resilient and self-reliant economy.

Quick Facts

- First launched in 2024 with an initial investment of \$200 million, the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) is a competitive, application-based program that supports municipalities, Indigenous communities, organizations and non-profit organizations.
 - To date, this fund has supported 94 projects across Ontario through two streams:
 - **Stream 1:** Repairs and rehabilitates existing sport and recreation facilities.
 - **Stream 2:** Builds new and transformative facilities, including replacements for aging infrastructure.
 - In 2023, the sport and recreation sector provided an estimated \$3.25 billion to our economy and accounted for approximately 42,000 jobs.
-

Quotes

"Investing in modern, accessible sport and recreation spaces helps communities thrive today and sets the foundation for a stronger future. By supporting the renewal of existing facilities and the construction of new ones, our expanded investments will contribute to healthier, more connected neighbourhoods and ensure people of all ages have opportunities to stay active for years to come."

- Natalie Pierre

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Sport and MPP for Burlington

"This investment is about more than building arenas and recreation spaces, it's about strengthening our communities, supporting local sports, and creating good jobs across Ontario. By upgrading and expanding these facilities, we're giving Ontario families more opportunities to stay active while putting more shovels in the ground to help our communities grow."

- Rob Flack

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"Community and recreational facilities are places where families can play, athletes can train, and people can connect. Through this enhancement to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund, our government is protecting these community hubs through strategic investments in new and renewed facilities. This additional \$300 million investment through our Plan to Protect Ontario will mean more shovels across the province, creating good paying jobs that benefit families and workers and building a stronger more resilient economy."

- Mike Harris

Member of Provincial Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga

"Here in Kitchener and across Ontario, we're seeing growing demand for safe, inclusive spaces where people can come together, stay active, and build strong community connections. This investment is about meeting that moment and supporting projects that reflect the unique needs of local communities while ensuring families, youth, and athletes have access to modern facilities close to home."

- Jess Dixon

Member of Provincial Parliament for Kitchener South-Hespeler

"Our government remains committed to building healthier, more active communities across the province. With a \$19.5 million investment in the New Cambridge Recreation Complex last year, we're already seeing that commitment in action. I'm proud that the 2026 provincial budget continues to support sport and recreation in Cambridge and across Ontario."

- Brian Riddell

Member of Provincial Parliament for Cambridge

"Sport has the power to inspire and unite Canadians like nothing else. Investing in sport infrastructure goes beyond building facilities — it ensures athletes at all levels have access to modern, local spaces where they can participate, hone their skills, and reach their full potential. Through Team Canada 2035, the Canadian Olympic Committee is committed to getting 1 million more young people involved in organized sport across the country and elevating Team Canada's high-performance success, and that starts with critical investments in community spaces like these. We applaud the Ontario government for today's announcement and for expanding opportunities for athletes across the province."

- David Shoemaker

CEO and Secretary General, Canadian Olympic Committee

"This significant investment in infrastructure will go a long way towards supporting a vibrant, thriving sport system across the province. Having access to quality, accessible, and nearby facilities is a critical factor in athletes being able to participate in sport and ultimately reach their goals. Thank you to the Ontario government for this important investment in sport and supporting more access for all to experience the power of sport."

- Karen O'Neill

CEO, Canadian Paralympic Committee

"The impact of this provincial CSRIF funding will go far beyond building high quality recreation spaces in cities like ours. It's a significant investment in Kitchener and Ontario's up-and-coming athletes who will play, train and compete in cutting-edge facilities like Cowan, while empowering communities to showcase what they have to offer, attract major sporting events and tournaments, and generate meaningful economic activity that strengthens local businesses and supports long term economic resilience."

**- Berry Vrbanovic
Mayor of Kitchener**

"AMO welcomes this much-needed new provincial investment in municipal infrastructure. These funds help address pent-up demand for infrastructure funding and contribute to municipalities' ambitious plans to invest more than \$250 billion in the next 10 years on local infrastructure, including sports and recreation facilities."

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

"For rural and northern communities, recreation centres are more than just buildings, they are the heart of our communities. ROMA is encouraged to see over forty rural and northern Ontario municipalities already receiving funding through this program. Expanding this funding will help more families access modern, safe, and reliable recreation facilities across the province."

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

"PRO welcomes this additional investment in the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund. This is a significant step forward for sport and recreation in Ontario, as communities face increasing pressure from aging facilities and rising participation demands. Sustained infrastructure funding ensures our sector can continue to provide safe, modern spaces that foster physical activity, social connection, and overall well-being for Ontarians."

- Sarah Ane
Acting CEO, Parks and Recreation Ontario

"This renewed \$300 million funding opportunity to support the revitalization of sport and recreation facilities across the province shows a great commitment by the Ministry of Sport to remove physical barriers to participation. Across Ontario, we have seen the positive impact that the previous funds have provided, ensuring older or newly built facilities are accessible and up to current AODA standards. This continued investment will ensure more facilities remove physical barriers to inclusion for people with disabilities and is an important first step to offer adapted sport programming that is available and welcoming to all!"

- James Murphy
Executive Director, ParaSport Ontario

"When children and youth have access to recreation spaces, it fosters lifelong participation in sport. Through investments like the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund, Ontario is leading the way in expanding access to recreation and building facilities for the next generation — ensuring more communities can unlock the benefits of sport."

- Marco Di Buono
President, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities

"We commend the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Sport for their leadership and commitment demonstrated through the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF). This vital investment — supporting repairs, upgrades, and the construction of new sport and recreation facilities across Ontario — helps ensure that people of all abilities have access to safe, modern, and inclusive places to be active. By extending the lifespan of existing facilities, enhancing accessibility, and fostering healthier, more active communities, the ministry is strengthening sport and recreation at every level. Through CSRIF's support, local programming grows, participation becomes more affordable and inclusive, and communities gain the capacity to host meaningful sporting events that bring people together. This investment is building a better, more active Ontario for all."

- Debbie Low
CEO, Canadian Sport Institute Ontario

Additional Resources

- [Learn more about sport and recreation infrastructure projects previously announced under CSRIF](#)
- [Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund](#)
- [Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)
- [2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)

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Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to Protect Workers and Support a Competitive Economy

Minimum wage increasing to \$17.95 an hour effective October 1, 2026, marking the second highest rate among provinces

April 01, 2026

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

TORONTO — The Ontario government is increasing the general minimum wage from \$17.60 to \$17.95 an hour on October 1, 2026, benefiting more than 700,000 workers across the province. This annual increase, tied to Ontario's Consumer Price Index at 1.9 per cent, helps ensure wages continue to reflect economic conditions while protecting workers and providing businesses with greater stability. This is a balanced approach that supports workers' earning power and helps keep Ontario competitive in a time of global economic uncertainty.

"Ontario workers are the engine of this province," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "By raising the minimum wage to one of the highest in Canada, our government is putting more money in the pockets of Ontario workers, supporting families through economic uncertainty and giving businesses the stability and predictability they need to plan and grow."

Increasing the minimum wage delivers on our government's ongoing plan to protect workers, help families get ahead and support a strong, stable economy during international trade uncertainty and changing labour market needs.

A worker earning the general minimum wage and working 40 hours per week will see an annual pay increase of approximately \$728. The increase builds on the government's broader economic and workforce initiatives, including Ontario's multi-year plan to invest in training, protect critical industries and safeguard workplaces across the province.

Our government continues to take decisive action to protect workers, businesses and communities in the face of global economic uncertainty. By ensuring fair wages, investing in skills training and helping employers retain experienced staff, the province is building a more competitive self-resilient and self-sufficient economy that can create good-paying jobs for generations to come.

Quick Facts

- Ontario's minimum wage increases every October 1 based on the Ontario CPI, as required by the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* (ESA).
 - Roughly 35 per cent of minimum-wage workers are employed in retail trade and 24 per cent in accommodation and food services.
 - Ontario maintains one of the highest minimum wages in Canada.
-

Additional Resources

- New [minimum wage rates](#).
 - Learn about rights and responsibilities under the [ESA](#).
 - [Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#).
 - [2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)
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Be Bear Wise and Prevent Bear Encounters

Stay safe and follow these tips as bears emerge from hibernation

April 01, 2026

[Natural Resources](#)

The Ontario government and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are reminding the public to stay safe and prevent attracting black bears as they come out of hibernation.

During this time of year, there is little natural food for bears, causing them to search for other food sources, including garbage and bird feed. To help protect our communities and keep residents safe, follow these simple and effective precautions:

- Never feed or approach bears
- Store garbage in waste containers with tight-fitting lids, preferably indoors
- Wait until pickup day to put out garbage for collection
- Remove bird feeders for the spring and summer (instead you can offer birds natural alternatives such as flowers, nesting boxes or fresh water)
- Clean food residue from outdoor barbecue grills and grease traps after each use
- Keep dogs on leash and store pet food indoors
- Alert your neighbours about bear activity and share these Bear Wise tips to reduce attractants in your community

It is important to know how to handle a bear encounter, and who to call if you encounter one. The province operates a non-emergency, toll-free Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327. The line operates from April 1 to November 30 and is available 24/7.

If a bear is posing an immediate threat by showing threatening or aggressive behaviour, remain calm and call 911 or your local police department.

Quick Facts

- Visit ontario.ca/BearWise to learn more about how to avoid attracting bears and what to do if you encounter one.
 - Bears have excellent memories and will return to where they have found food in the past, sometimes travelling over 100 kilometres.
-

Additional Resources

- [Be Bear Wise — Know Who to Call](#)
-

Related Topics

Recreation and tourism

Learn about hunting and fishing, provincial parks, festivals and events, and visiting Ontario. [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 Doubling Funding to Help Smaller Communities Build Safe and Reliable Transit

\$30-million investment through 2026 provincial budget will expand transit services, connecting more people to jobs and supporting economic growth

April 01, 2026

[Transportation](#)

LONDON — The Ontario government is doubling its support for the [Ontario Transit Investment Fund \(OTIF\)](#) through the 2026 provincial budget, increasing it from \$5 million to \$10 million annually over the next three years. The \$30 million investment will help rural and underserved communities build safe and reliable transit services, protecting Ontario's economy and connecting more people to jobs and opportunity across the province.

"Our government is making historic investments to expand public transit and improve access to essential services like health care for people in rural and underserved communities," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "This investment will ensure that Ontarians, no matter where they live, have access to reliable transportation options for years to come."

The OTIF supports the start-up and expansion of transit projects like new bus services, on-demand rideshare services and door-to-door transportation. The program is helping municipalities, Indigenous communities and non-profit organizations deliver reliable transportation services across the province, particularly in rural communities.

"Our plan to protect Ontario includes the most ambitious provincial capital plan in Canadian history to make Ontario the most competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy in the G7," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "Doubling the Ontario Transit Investment Fund will help pave the way for long-term economic growth in rural and underserved communities, connecting more people to jobs and housing."

Eligible applicants can apply on an ongoing basis for time-limited funding of up to five years to support transit projects that address transportation gaps in unserved or underserved communities across Ontario.

Quick Facts

- When [OTIF launched in 2024](#), it included up to \$5 million in annual funding. The province has now increased funding up to \$10 million annually over the next three years.
- Municipalities, Indigenous communities and non-profit organizations [can apply for OTIF funding online](#). Applicants are encouraged to form project teams to deliver coordinated, integrated and sustainable transit services for their communities.
- Ontario also provides funding to municipalities for transit and municipal roads through the [Gas Tax program](#) and the [Connecting Links program](#).
- The [Indigenous Transportation Initiatives Fund \(ITIF\)](#) provides funding for community-driven transportation related projects for Indigenous peoples in urban, rural and reserve settings across Ontario.
- The *2026 Budget* furthers the Ontario government's plan to attract jobs and investment, lower costs for workers and businesses, keep life affordable for families and individuals and make targeted investments in key public services that support the province's long-term prosperity.

Quotes

"Safe and reliable transportation options are critical for Indigenous communities throughout the province. Our investments in Indigenous-led transportation initiatives are improving safety, accessibility, and economic opportunities while supporting community driven long-term, sustainable growth."

- Greg Rickford

Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation

"By doubling our investment in the Ontario Transit Investment Fund for the next three years, we're helping communities across the province, including our northern communities, build safe, reliable transportation – transportation that people depend on every day to connect them to jobs, services and opportunity. This investment supports transit solutions that strengthen local economies and improve quality of life in Ontario."

- George Pirie

Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth

"Small towns and rural communities throughout Ontario depend on consistent and reliable transit for people to get to work, make it to a doctor's appointment or to visit family. As more people choose to call rural Ontario home, this targeted investment is important so people in need of transit options can have confidence in their mobility choices."

**- Lisa Thompson
Minister of Rural Affairs**

"I've seen firsthand how investments through the Ontario Transit Investment Fund are making a meaningful difference for people in our rural communities. Expanding access to reliable transportation helps residents get to work, attend appointments, and stay connected to the services they depend on. I'm pleased to see our government doubling this funding, building on that success and ensuring even more communities can benefit from safe, dependable transit options."

**- Steve Pinsonneault
MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex**

"We see the importance of these commitments first-hand. This funding is essential to sustaining and expanding Middlesex County Connect, our inter-community transit service. I'm happy to share that last year, the service provided more than 14,000 trips, up from 11,000 in 2024. Building on this success, we introduced another route at the start of this year. For our residents, this means greater access. For our employers, it means better labour mobility. And for our communities, it means growth that is connected, coordinated, and sustainable."

**- Susan Clarke
Mayor of Adelaide Metcalfe and Warden of Middlesex County**

"Doubling the Ontario Transit Investment Fund is a smart investment in Ontario's workforce and economy. For many businesses in rural and underserved communities, reliable transit is the difference between unfilled jobs and growth. This funding reduces congestion, strengthens labour force participation, and supports economic growth across the province."

- Daniel Tisch

President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

"When Ontario succeeds, the Toronto region succeeds. Ensuring that communities across the province, including those in the areas surrounding the Toronto region, are connected to more seamless, integrated and multimodal journeys is a critical way to support commuters, boost productivity, alleviate congestion and grow the province's economy."

- Giles Gherson

President & CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade

"OPTA congratulates the Government of Ontario's continued investment through the Ontario Transit Investment Fund, which reflects an understanding of the role that transit plays in connecting communities and supporting riders across Ontario."

- Karen Cameron

CEO, Ontario Public Transit Association

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Transit Investment Fund](#)
- [2024-25 Gas Tax Funding by Municipality](#)

Related Topics

Driving and road safety

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

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Ontario Increasing Access to Primary Care Across the Province

Province's historic agreement will attract and retain more family doctors across the province

April 01, 2026

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is taking the next step in its plan to protect the health-care system and connect everyone in the province to a family doctor or primary care provider by 2029. As part of its plan, the province signed a historic [2024–28 Physician Services Agreement](#) that will increase compensation, add incentives for family doctors to take on new patients, expand after-hours care and help recruit and retain more family doctors to Ontario.

“Ontario continues to lead the country with the highest rate of attachment to primary care, supported by the largest health-care workforce in Canada,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “With this historic agreement coming into effect today, Ontario will be able to attract and retain more physicians, incentivize doctors to take on new patients and make primary care more connected, convenient and sustainable for years to come.”

Effective today, under the new agreement, families across Ontario will see more convenient access to primary care, including:

- Changes that help retain current physicians, including improved compensation, an increased number of entry positions for new doctors and incentives that support physicians to take on new patients.
- More convenient appointment options, including evenings and weekends, by enhancing compensation for doctors for offering after-hours care.
- Stronger support for people with complex health needs, as doctors will receive bonuses for enrolling patients, including those with serious or complex health conditions, helping ensure those who need care the most are not left behind.
- Fewer visits to emergency departments, as physicians are supported to perform more minor procedures directly in their offices.

- More doctors in rural and northern communities, as new and modified programs will help recruit and retain doctors in areas that need them most.

These changes build on the government's previous investments that have already added 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.

Since the launch of the government's \$3.4 billion [Primary Care Action Plan](#), Ontario has already attached over [330,000 people to ongoing primary care](#), surpassing the province's 2025-26 attachment goal of 300,000. This puts the province firmly on track to connect every Ontarian to a primary care provider by 2029.

Through [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#), the Ontario government continues to take action to strengthen and protect the province's highly skilled health-care workforce, ensuring that people and families have access to high quality, comprehensive primary care when and where they need it, for generations to come.

Quick Facts

- According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information, [Ontario leads the country](#) with access to a regular health-care provider.
- FHO+, is part of the 2024–28 Physician Services Agreement negotiated in partnership with the Ontario Medical Association, and will modernize the Family Health Organization model.
- Under the current Physician Services Agreement, Ontario currently spends over \$20 billion to connect people to doctors, including primary care, specialists, and other services across the province.
- The Ontario Medical Association serves as the representative body for Ontario's physicians, advocating for their well-being, as well as the health of their patients.
- In September 2025, the Arbitration Board issued an award for the remaining three years of the 2024-28 Physician Services Agreement that increases access to primary care and provides stable funding for physicians across the province.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Government and Ontario Medical Association Confirm Funding Increase That Will Protect Provincial Health Care](#)
- [Ontario Government and Ontario Medical Association Reach Agreement To Protect Provincial Health Care](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)

Related Topics

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Health and wellness

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

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Ontario Cutting Small Business Tax by \$1.1 Billion

Provincial tax rate cut of 31.25 per cent would save more than 375,000 small businesses up to \$5,000 per year

April 02, 2026

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

UXBRIDGE — The Ontario government is delivering on its plan to protect Ontario by building a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy with a \$1.1 billion cut to the small business corporate income tax (CIT), from 3.2 per cent to 2.2 per cent, over the next three years. This tax cut, which is a 31.25 per cent cut to the existing rate, would provide more than 375,000 Ontario small businesses with up to \$5,000 in tax relief every year. This tax relief, which is being delivered through the province's *2026 Budget*, if passed, will help small business owners manage rising costs and economic uncertainty in the midst of U.S. tariffs and allow them to reinvest the savings back into their business.

"Ontario's small businesses are the driving force behind our economy, employing more than 2.5 million people," said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business. "We continue to support small businesses in these times of economic turbulence by providing additional tax relief that will allow them to reinvest in their companies and workers so they can scale-up, reach new customers and grow."

The cut is a cornerstone of the government's multi-year Tax Action Plan and builds on actions already taken to lower the rate from 3.5 per cent to 3.2 per cent in 2020 and expand eligibility to more businesses in 2023. To further support businesses, Ontario would also provide corporate income tax relief through paralleling federal measures that allow businesses to accelerate the write-off for a broad range of capital investments, including equipment and other assets. These measures would provide more than \$3.5 billion in additional Ontario income tax relief over four years, helping businesses invest, grow and remain competitive.

"Small businesses are the backbone of Ontario's economy, and our government is taking action to help them grow, invest and create good-paying jobs," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "Today's tax cut will put more money back into

the hands of local entrepreneurs in communities right here in Pickering-Uxbridge and across Ontario, giving them the flexibility to expand, hire and compete in an increasingly uncertain global environment.”

These measures build on Ontario’s broader plan to protect workers and businesses from the impacts of U.S. tariffs and global economic uncertainty, including providing nearly \$30 billion in relief and support since 2025. Through key actions taken since 2018, businesses would benefit from nearly \$10 billion in estimated cost savings and support this year.

The [2026 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#) outlines how the government is advancing its plan to protect Ontario by making the province one of the most competitive places to invest and do business in the G7, while building a more resilient and self-reliant economy.

Quick Facts

- Ninety-eight per cent of businesses with employees in Ontario are small businesses.
 - Ontario’s Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBECs) provide advisory services, training and programs to help entrepreneurs launch and grow businesses. In 2024-25, Ontario’s network of more than 50 SBECs helped start over 8,000 new businesses, expand 2,700 existing ones and create more than 15,800 jobs.
 - The government implemented and temporarily enhanced and expanded the [Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit](#) (OMMITC) which offers a 15 per cent tax credit of up to \$3 million per year to qualifying corporations to help lower costs, expand production and create jobs.
 - The [Gasoline Tax](#) has been cut by 5.7 cents per litre and the [Fuel Tax](#) by 5.3 cents per litre to help reduce the cost of gas and fuel for Ontario businesses.
 - The [Employer Health Tax](#) (EHT) exemption has been increased from \$490,000 to \$1 million helping businesses by reducing the tax for eligible private-sector employers.
-

Quotes

"Kudos to the Ontario government for responding to CFIB members' top priority to lower the Small Business Tax Rate. Our 40,000 members across all sectors and regions of the province have told us they would invest any tax savings in measures like increasing employee compensation, expanding their operations, and hiring new employees – so it's a win for businesses, people, and the economy."

- Dan Kelly

President and CEO, Canadian Federation of Independent Business

"The small business tax relief in the 2026 Ontario Budget is a timely and welcome investment in our local economy. By easing the tax burden, it gives Uxbridge's small businesses the breathing room they need to manage rising operational costs and reinvest in our community. A vibrant local business community is the heartbeat of our township, and we fully support these measures to help our entrepreneurs grow and succeed."

- Dana Middleton

Chair, Uxbridge Business Improvement Area

Additional Resources

- [2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)
- [Support for Small Businesses](#)
- [Small Business Enterprise Centres](#)

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](#)

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Ontario Introducing Legislation to Strengthen Regional Governance

Proposed changes would help local leaders speed up decision-making, reduce costs and expedite housing and infrastructure

April 02, 2026

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the [Better Regional Governance Act, 2026](#) that would, if passed, make a number of changes to the way regional governments function in some of Ontario's fastest growing regions. These changes would support lower costs for municipal taxpayers and better alignment between regional decision-making and shared provincial-regional priorities. The proposed changes include giving the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the power to appoint upper-tier council chairs in eight fast-growing regions and granting these council chairs "strong chair" powers to help them deliver on government priorities, such as housing and infrastructure. The proposed legislation would also reduce the cost of government and support efficient decision-making in Niagara Region and Simcoe County by reducing the size of Simcoe County Council and Niagara Regional Council.

"We will always support our municipal partners, both lower- and upper-tier, in delivering locally led solutions that offer better value for taxpayers and speed up decision-making," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "These changes provide the necessary tools for local leadership to advance our shared priorities and better serve our communities, including by expediting housing and infrastructure development."

The proposed *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026* and related regulatory changes would enable the following:

- Allow the Minister to appoint regional chairs in Durham, Halton, Muskoka, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York, as well as the warden of Simcoe County. Under previous legislation, the Minister had the authority to appoint chairs in Niagara, Peel and York regions for the 2022-2026 council term only.

- Regional chairs in the eight municipalities listed above would receive “strong chair” powers which mirror “[strong mayor](#)” powers, providing more efficient, streamlined local decision-making, enabling them to deliver faster results for residents and support efforts to advance shared provincial-municipal priorities.
- The number of municipal elected officials in Simcoe (population 351,927) and Niagara (population 477,941) is significantly higher than many other comparable municipalities in the province. For instance, Niagara region has 126 local elected officials across its upper and lower-tier councils. By comparison, Toronto City Council has 26 members for a population of over three million and Queen’s Park has 124 MPPs (Members of Provincial Parliament) representing over 16 million people across the province. This increases the cost of government for local taxpayers and creates dysfunction at council. To address these concerns, the government is proposing the following changes:
 - In response to a request from the county warden, Simcoe County Council would be reduced from 32 members to 17. The new council would be made up of mayors of the 16 lower-tier municipalities, plus the warden.
 - Niagara Regional Council would be reduced from 32 members to 13 members. The new council would include the mayors of each of Niagara’s 12 lower-tier municipalities plus the regional chair.

To facilitate the transition to the new council structure and ensure appropriate and effective representation, the government would also work with local municipal leadership to develop a weighted voting framework, which is already in force in Simcoe County and would be applied in Niagara Region.

All regions must review their council composition following the 2026 municipal election. Niagara Region would be exempt in 2026 and would return to regular reviews after the 2034 municipal election. The government will continue working with municipalities to identify ways to strengthen local governance in Niagara, Simcoe and beyond. Working together to advance shared provincial-municipal priorities helps advance housing and economic development, preparing both individual municipalities and the province as a whole for growth.

Quick Facts

- Currently, the heads of council of upper-tier municipalities have been selected using different methods – in Durham, Halton and Waterloo they were elected by the voters; in Peel, Muskoka and Simcoe County, they were appointed by the upper-tier council; and in Niagara and York they were appointed by the Minister.

- When Simcoe County tried to reduce its own council size, it received support from both county council and lower tier municipalities representing a majority of Simcoe County's eligible voters. However, it lost on a tie – eight lower-tier municipalities supported reducing the size of county council, while eight lower-tiers were opposed.
 - Weighted voting is a system where each member of council may be assigned a different number of votes. The number can be determined by many factors, including population or the number of electors in the ward represented. Since different individual members of council may have a different number of votes, in a weighted vote, a simple “majority of members” may be different from the “majority of weighted votes.”
 - The proposed amendments would also provide the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with regulation-making authority to set out weighted voting rules for upper-tier municipal councils starting with the term following the 2026 regular election.
 - The government is announcing these changes in advance of the May 1, 2026, opening of nominations to give municipalities and candidates time to prepare for the fall municipal election.
-

Quotes

"Strong regional leadership is essential to get more homes built and reduce costs in communities like Muskoka and across Ontario. Our government is taking steps to ensure regional governments, like the District of Muskoka, can move forward with a clear vision and streamlined processes that better serve residents and taxpayers. Managing growth while protecting the unique character of our area will always remain paramount."

- Graydon Smith
Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Parry
Sound-Muskoka

"Simcoe County is the largest and one of the fastest growing counties in Ontario and an important municipal partner for our government. At the County's request and after years of internal discussion, our government is taking action to modernize Council composition, to make the County more responsive, and more efficient. We look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen the County and serve the residents of Simcoe."

- Brian Saunderson

**Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
and MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) for Simcoe-Grey**

"Regional leadership is vital to building strong, resilient communities. This legislation is a meaningful step forward in our government's plan to ensure municipalities have the tools they need to navigate economic uncertainty, remove barriers to building homes faster, and support long-term growth across Ontario. We will continue working with local leaders across Simcoe County to deliver results for families, unlock new opportunities, and build a stronger, more resilient region."

- Doug Downey

**MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) for Barrie-Springwater-Oro-
Medonte**

"Local governments are essential partners in delivering on the priorities that matter most to Ontarians and in ensuring our province remains strong in the face of economic uncertainty. This act would help strengthen alignment between municipal and provincial priorities and will support more coordinated decision-making, clearer accountability and the ability to advance key initiatives that benefit our communities."

- Jill Dunlop

MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) for Simcoe North

"The county asked for these changes, and our government is acting. Our community cannot afford any more delays or red tape when it comes to building housing, delivering infrastructure and supporting economic growth. This legislation would help communities move forward with housing and infrastructure projects that support long term prosperity."

- Andrea Khanjin

MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) for Barrie-Innisfil

"Municipalities are key partners in our plan to protect Ontario. By strengthening our regional governance, we are empowering municipalities with stronger tools to respond more effectively and efficiently to the challenges they face in their communities."

- Caroline Mulroney

MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) for York-Simcoe

"The population of Niagara is projected to increase to over 700,000 residents by 2051, a significant transformation which will require new and innovative approaches to municipal governance and long-term planning. In a growing region like ours, it's important to plan for the well-being and success of future generations who will call Niagara home. With the changes proposed for our region through the *Better Regional Governance Act*, Niagara will be ready to lead the province as a preferred place to live, work and visit."

- Sam Oosterhoff

MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) for Niagara West

"We thank Premier Ford and Minister Flack for their decision and direction. While our governance model has served the County effectively for many decades, there is recognition that further streamlining decision-making will better support the needs of our communities. This reduction in the size of Council, which was previously recommended by County Council, advances our ongoing efforts to be responsive and cost-efficient for residents, while continuing to ensure strong local decision-making at County Council through the leadership of our 16 lower-tier mayors. With growth in our services, there is also a strong need for a full-time Head of Council to focus on the interests of our residents and communities. These changes will help strengthen our ability to serve our growing region effectively."

- Basil Clarke
Warden, Simcoe County

"Change is long overdue in Niagara and the status quo is not an option. Taxes are too high because of duplication and inefficiencies and we need to streamline. No elected official will vote him or herself out of a job. We need this bold move from the Ontario government."

- Jim Diodati
Mayor, City of Niagara Falls

"I would like to personally thank the Ford government for making governance changes in Niagara. I believe this will lead to a more effective and efficient system that will benefit communities, residents and businesses within the Niagara Region."

- Frank Campion
Mayor, City of Welland

"Regional governance reform is a critical step toward ensuring fair, efficient, and accountable decision making across our communities. We look forward to working with the province to find the right balance of weighted voting representation that reflects both population and local voice."

**- Sandra Easton
Mayor, Town of Lincoln**

"Streamlining decision-making across Niagara is essential to delivering the Destination Niagara Strategy and supporting the region's long-term growth. Premier Ford's recent \$300 million investment underscores the importance of this work, and Niagara Parks, as a self-funded agency that receives no tax dollars, looks forward to continuing to work with our partners to enhance the visitor experience and keep Niagara among the best places in the world to visit."

**- Graham Coveney
Chair, Niagara Parks Commission**

"Regional governance reform is a vital opportunity to strengthen collaboration and strategic decision making that supports the entire visitor economy. As a current Board Member, the Tourism Partnership of Niagara looks forward to working with all partners to move Destination Niagara forward and ensure our region remains one of the most inspiring and sought after places to visit in the world."

**- Mory Di Maurizio
Board Member, Tourism Partnership of Niagara**

"The Niagara Home Builders' Association supports regional governance reform as an important step toward building a more efficient and responsive system that helps get homes and infrastructure built faster. We look forward to working collaboratively with the province and local municipalities to create the conditions needed to meet Niagara's growing housing and community needs."

**- Kelly Anderson
Chair of the Niagara Home Builders Association**

Additional Resources

- [Simcoe County Requests Province Implement Council Changes](#)
-

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Council and Committee Monthly Summary

March 2026

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held March 12 and March 25, 2026.

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

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

The [March 12, 2026](#) and [March 25, 2026](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- The March 12 meeting was rescheduled from March 11 due to the weather.
- Warden Jennifer Murphy acknowledged March 8 as International Women's Day, an important opportunity to celebrate the women whose generosity, leadership, and resilience strengthens our communities every day. She said this year's theme, Give to Gain, reflects a truth seen across Renfrew County: when women share their time, knowledge, and compassion, everyone benefits. Whether through mentorship, public service, community building, or quiet acts of support, women create opportunities that ripple far beyond themselves.
- The Warden thanked the many volunteers who worked throughout the winter to keep our trail systems open, particularly our local snowmobile clubs. She noted despite challenging weather conditions, their commitment and countless volunteer hours ensured that residents and visitors could safely enjoy our trails. She added that their efforts support recreation, tourism, and local businesses, and they play a vital role in our winter economy.
- Warden Murphy recently attended Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Board of Directors meeting, with a focus on redefining strategic strengths and opportunities on a regional basis. She noted a highlight of the meeting was a presentation from the Municipal Climate Internship Program, which showcased the meaningful work being undertaken by climate interns across eastern Ontario. She recognized Larissa Coulas, Municipal Climate Action Intern at the County of Renfrew, for her outstanding contributions, adding that her work is a great example of how investing in young professionals brings fresh perspectives, energy, and real progress to municipal initiatives.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council authorized the submission of the Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs) for Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge to Health Quality Ontario prior to the March 31, 2026 deadline. A QIP is a formal, documented set of commitments that a health care organization makes to its residents, staff and community to improve quality through focused targets and actions.

- The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service is advancing its leadership in wilderness and remote-access paramedicine through the development of the 2026 Wilderness Response Symposium (WRS), an evolution of the Sierra Team's annual wilderness-response training delivered over the past five years. The symposium, scheduled for June 10-12, 2026 at Camp Arowhon in Algonquin Park, is intended to strengthen inter-agency collaboration, enhance responder readiness in austere environments, and support system-level learning across the province.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council approved entering into a partnership agreement with Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation LP for the purpose of supporting an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Growing Canada's Community Canopies Fund. County Council also authorized a formal Letter of Support confirming the County of Renfrew's participation as a municipal partner in the application.
- County Council adopted Enterprise Renfrew County's proposed Fee for Service model, with a three-year phased-in implementation schedule, for inclusion in the User Fee By-law. As a result of limited funding by the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) to the County of Renfrew, a Fee for Service model was proposed in an effort to generate more revenues to offset budget shortfalls. Funding to the County and all 53 other Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBEC) across Ontario has not increased in decades, while inflation, operational costs, salaries and benefits have continued to climb.
- County Council approved the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Draft 2026 budget as presented. The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA), the City of Pembroke and the County of Renfrew are partners in the delivery of tourism marketing and destination management for the City of Pembroke, Renfrew County and the Ottawa Valley.
- County Council supported the Township of Whitewater Region's request that the County of Renfrew assume a lead role in advancing the Crown land submission and acquisition process of approximately 90 acres, the former Timminco Mine Site, to enable industrial growth. County Council also directed staff to lead the regional promotion and marketing of the subject lands, including the associated critical mineral deposit, in support of long-term economic development across the County.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Peter Emon, Chair

- Council approved a by-law that, if Council is limited under the *Municipal Act* "lame duck" rules after Nomination Day for the 2026 municipal election, allows the Chief Administrative Officer to make certain decisions until the new Council is sworn in. This includes hiring or dismissing staff, appointing or removing officers, selling municipal property valued over \$50,000, and approving expenditures or commitments over \$50,000.
- County Council approved several amended and one new Corporate Policy, including: Misconduct in the Workplace, Workplace Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention, Occupational Health and Safety and Electric Vehicles EV Charging Stations. The policies are available from Human Resources.

- County Council adopted the revised By-law to Establish and Require Payment of User Fees and Charges. As part of the annual budget process, a review is made of the County of Renfrew User Fee By-law and Schedule with the following changes being implemented: hourly rates, Development and Property Enterprise Renfrew County fee table, Paramedic Service, Public Works tourism signs and County Recreational Trail Signage.
- Council was informed that artificial intelligence is an emerging technology that may significantly affect how the County works and delivers services; to begin understanding its potential impacts, County leadership held an introductory workshop on March 4, 2026 to start the discussion and outline an initial approach to this evolving technology.
- The County's Health & Safety Coordinator and Wellness Coordinator has successfully completed a Train-the-Trainer course in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, delivered in partnership with Deep River Hospital. This training strengthens the County's proactive approach to risk management by building internal capacity to prevent, de-escalate, and safely manage potential workplace incidents.
- The 2026 Annual Warden's Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2026 at the Whitetail Golf Club, near Eganville in North Algona Wilberforce. Details are currently being finalized but online registration will be available in the upcoming month.
- In response to rising fuel prices, County staff have launched a fuel conservation initiative focused on reducing unnecessary fuel use across County operations while maintaining all service levels. Measures include promoting fuel-efficient driving, reducing idling and travel where possible, reviewing fleet use, and closely monitoring fuel consumption to help manage costs and support responsible use of public resources.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The Renfrew County and District Early Years Table was formed to strengthen system coordination and outcomes for children aged 0–6 and their families, with the inaugural meeting held on February 2, 2026. The Table will be co-chaired by the County of Renfrew's Manager of Children's Services and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit's Manager of Health Promotions, with a mandate to identify and advance actionable improvements across the systems serving young children and families. Members identified several shared priorities:
 - Identifying and addressing service gaps
 - Strengthening coordination, partnerships, and system navigation
 - Reducing barriers and improving access for families
 - Enhancing wraparound care and warm handoffs
 - Increasing awareness of available services
 - Improving data sharing and developing a service directoryThe Renfrew County and District Health Unit provided an overview of relevant local data to help support the identification of priority actions and guide the group's ongoing planning and decision-making efforts.
- The [2026 Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy update](#) was provided as information.
- Council requested additional information on the number of Emergency Assistance clients (408) and Homelessness Prevention Program applications (1,604) in 2025. The data shows that most applications come from larger communities such as Renfrew, Pembroke, and Arnprior, which is expected given their higher populations and greater housing and cost-of-living pressures. When the numbers are compared to population size, some smaller municipalities, including

Bonnechere Valley, Laurentian Hills, and Madawaska Valley, show higher application rates per person, suggesting greater financial pressure in those communities as well. Overall, the information confirms that housing instability and financial hardship are affecting residents across the entire County, with the highest demand in urban centres and notable pressure in some rural areas. The data is based on postal codes, which can cross municipal boundaries, and reflects only certain financial assistance programs, not the full range of supports offered by the County or community partners.

- County Council adopted a by-law to authorize entering into a third-party agreement with the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Pembroke Regional Hospital for the purpose of co-chairing the Renfrew County Situation Table and facilitating the entry of case-related information into the Ministry's Risk-Driven Tracking Database. The Situation Table initiative is a collaborative, multi-sectoral risk intervention model initiated by police services and supported provincially through the Ministry of the Solicitor General. It brings together representatives from police, health care, mental health and addictions services, social services, education, housing, and other community agencies to identify and respond to situations of acutely elevated risk.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council supported sending a letter, signed by the Warden, to the Prime Minister of Canada to strongly support the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities' request for federal involvement in upgrading Highways 11 and 17 under the Building Canada Act. The letter will stress the urgent need to modernize Highway 17 within the County of Renfrew, an important section of the Trans-Canada Highway. It will note FONOM's confirmation that if Ontario formally puts this project forward as a priority, the federal government is prepared to fund up to 50 per cent of the cost. The letter will also emphasize that improving Highways 11 and 17, particularly Highway 17 in Renfrew County, clearly meets nation-building goals, including improving safety, supporting economic growth, strengthening national security, encouraging Indigenous participation, increasing climate resilience, and being ready to build, given Ontario's planned 2+1 pilot project. The letter will call for a clear and public federal commitment to help secure full provincial participation.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving the Trail Wayfinding and Commercial Signage policy. A draft version of the policy was first shared with Council in August 2025 for review and feedback. Since then, minor updates were made in consultation with the Economic Development Division and trail partners, including OVCATA, the Renfrew County ATV Club, OFSC District 6 (Snow Country), and the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders. The policy outlines how businesses can apply for commercial signage along County trails and also supports the installation of additional wayfinding and trail-related infrastructure to enhance the trail experience.
- The Operations Committee approved the 2026 Recreational Trail Works Plans and Budgets as presented for the Algonquin Trail, the K & P Recreational Trail, and the currently unnamed trail over the former CN Line. The approved 2026 Budget includes maintenance funds in the amount of \$200,000 for Algonquin Trail, \$25,000 for K & P Recreational Trail, and \$40,000 for CN Rail Line. The Work Plan for the trail on the former CN Line is contingent on the finalization of the transfer from the Townships of Laurentian Valley and Whitewater Region; which is nearing completion.

- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For supply and delivery of light towers, as submitted by Eastrock Equipment, Vars, Ontario, in the amount of \$34,802.50, plus applicable taxes.
 - For the manufacture, supply and delivery of a culvert, as submitted by Armtec Incorporated, Cambridge, Ontario, culvert in the amount of \$82,795.80, plus applicable taxes.
 - For the replacement of County Structure C308 (Tomasinis Culvert), located in the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, as submitted by Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited, Pembroke, Ontario, for aggregate supply and/or supply and delivery rates in the upset amount of \$58,960.00, plus applicable taxes.
 - For the purchase of one 3-ton truck and plow unit, as submitted by Everest Equipment, Ayer's Cliff, Québec in the amount of \$250,000.00, plus applicable taxes.
 - For rehabilitation of County Roads 1 (River Road) and 20 (Castleford Road), in the Township of Horton, as submitted by McCrea Excavating Limited, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$1,128,019.20, plus applicable taxes.
 - For Street Sweeping Urban Areas (County Portions only) as submitted by Kerry Mullen, (16000053 Canada Inc.), L'Isle Aux Allumettes, Quebec in the amount of \$40,080.00 plus applicable taxes.
 - The Weed Control tender has been extended through the 2026 fiscal year with the service being provided by Wagar & Corput Weed Control, Bainsville, Ontario at a cost of \$6,542.15.
 - For two tandem truck and plow units as submitted by Freightliner North Bay, North Bay, Ontario for a net cost of \$917,966.78.
 - For supply and delivery of high-density Polyethylene (HDPE) Culverts. The culverts included intended for replenishing inventory for future culvert replacement needs (Part A); replacement of culverts on County Road 69 (Siberia Road) (Part B); replacement of culverts on County Roads 508 (Calabogie Road) and 653 (Chenau Road) (Part C); and supply to the Township of Greater Madawaska (Part D). The tender was awarded to Ontario Agra Piping and Supplies Incorporated with the County of Renfrew's portions (Parts A, B and C) totalling \$194,072.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 653 (Chenau Road), from 0.18km to 1.06km north of Highway 17, a distance of approximately 0.88km in the Township of Whitewater Region, as B.R. Fulton Construction Ltd., Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$571,965.00, plus applicable taxes.
 - For a Hydrovac Trailer, as submitted by Amaco Construction Equipment, Mississauga, Ontario, for a net cost of \$92,856.00.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 66 (Wilno South Road), from Highway 60 to Inukshuk Road, a distance of approximately 2.93km in the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, awarded to Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated, Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,127,929.48, plus applicable taxes.
- County Council adopted a by-law to appoint By-law Enforcement Officers for the Corporation of the County of Renfrew: Kevin Raddatz, Manager of Real Estate; and Pro-Tec 5 Incorporated, Pembroke, Ontario.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving the alterations to County Roads and Structures for the 2026 construction season. Approval of the alterations to a highway is intended to be the final step in the design process, where Council authorizes the work to proceed, subject to the budget and tender process. The approval is intended to apply only to those Capital Projects, which would result in alterations to the highway that could affect a person's access to and from

their land, or that could significantly restrict or alter the use of the highway for a period of time. Only those projects that involve significant alterations are presented for approval. The By-law sets out 16 rehabilitation projects on County Roads, five bridge rehabilitation projects and the rehabilitation/reconstruction of five culverts.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

613-735-7288

Closure of White Lake Road for Waba Creek Bridge Rehabilitation

Posted on Thursday, March 26, 2026



RELEASE DATE:

March 26, 2026

The County of Renfrew has planned for the rehabilitation of the Waba Creek Bridge (County Structure B121) as part of the 2026 construction season. The bridge is located on County Road 2 (White Lake Road), approximately 0.8 kilometres west of County Road 23 (Highland Road), just outside of White Lake, in the Township of McNab/Braeside.

The County continues to work diligently to reduce the negative impacts of construction for all projects. In this case, the bridge deck needs major repairs and to complete a long-lasting repair, the road at this location must be closed.

The County understands that this closure is a concern for the community and explored options to keep traffic moving over the bridge. However, the existing bridge width does not allow for safe alternating traffic while completing deck repairs. The top of the bridge deck must be fully chipped away, with some full depth repairs, and new concrete applied, which requires more space than is available with a lane open.

To avoid disrupting school travel, the closure will take place only during the summer months. Clear signage will be in place to show the detour route for travellers to White Lake and to support access to local businesses. The detour will follow Highland Road, Waba Road, Campbell Side Road, Concession Road 4, and Bellamy Road. The detour is approximately 13 kilometres and adds about 12 minutes of travel time, when travelling from one end of the bridge to the other.

Once a Contractor has been awarded the contract and the construction schedule is confirmed, notices will be delivered to area residents and businesses with a project description, general timeline, expected traffic impacts, and contact information for the County, the Contractor, and the Consultant. The project will also be posted to Municipal511 so that emergency services remain aware.

We understand the inconvenience this may cause to some, but there is no other reasonable solution at this time. Your patience and consideration are appreciated during this construction season.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Taylor Hanrath 735-7288	Manager of Capital Works	613-
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Tina Peplinskie 735-7288	Media Relations Coordinator	613-
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By GHD Digital (<https://www.govstack.com>).



Arnprior Quarterly Development Update

Given the volume of new development applications and planning inquiries the Town of Arnprior is seeing staff want to bring Council more regular updates on open applications.

Attached you will find quarterly planning application and inquiry statistics for January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026. Going forward, staff will continue to provide quarterly statistics in the Correspondence Information Package for Council's information. Any questions can be directed to the Manager of Community Services/Planner for further clarification or information.

With Appreciation

Alix Jolicoeur
Manager of Community Services/Planner

Planning Applications Statistics – First Quarter 2026

Table 1 below breaks down the types of planning application received by type for 2023, to 2026 (to date).

Table 1: 2023 - 2026 Planning Applications (by type)

Type of Application	2023	2024	2025	2026 (to March 31, 2026)
Official Plan Amendments	3	1	2	0
Zoning By-law Amendments	7	6	10 (including 2 that were incomplete applications in 2024)	0
Minor Variances	1	14	8	0
Site Plan Control Application	2	10	3	2
Consent Applications	1	6	9 (including 3 that were incomplete applications in 2024)	0
Part Lot Control Applications	7	13	1	0
Zoning compliance requests	9	9	22	2
Total	30	59	55	4 (to date)

Open Applications

There are currently thirteen (13) open site plan applications. One of the site plan applications submitted in 2025 is still open, while 5 of the 10 site plan applications submitted in 2024 are ongoing with anticipated construction starts in 2026 and beyond. Seven site plan applications (total) from 2022 and 2023 remain open.

The attachments 1 through 8 describe the types of applications in more detail and provide more information regarding current and recent applications for Official Plan amendments (attachment 1), Zoning By-law amendments (attachment 2), minor

variances applications (attachment 3), site plan control applications (attachment 4), and consent applications (attachment 5).

Table 1 does not include subdivision applications as these applications are submitted to the County of Renfrew with the County as the approval authority. They also often span multiple years. The current active subdivision applications are summarized in attachment 6.

Notable Statistics This Period

Staff are seeing a significant year over year increase in planning inquiries. In 2025, staff responded to 51 planning inquiries between January 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026. Over the same time period in 2026, staff responded to 95 planning inquiries. This represents an 86% increase in the number of planning responses provided. With staff responding to an average of 32 inquiries per month compared to an average of 23 per month in 2025. These do not include responses to applicants regarding active applications. Inquiries can take staff anywhere between 10 minutes to several hours depending on the number and complexity of questions and whether information or coordination of a response with another department is required. See Attachment 7 for a breakdown of inquiries by month compared to 2025.

Documents:

Attachment 1 – Official Plan amendment applications

Attachment 2 – Zoning By-law amendment applications

Attachment 3 – Minor Variance applications

Attachment 4 – Site Plan Control applications

Attachment 5 – Consent applications

Attachment 6 – Subdivision applications

Attachment 7 – Inquiries

Attachment 8 – Description of Zoning Compliance and Part Lot Control applications

Attachment 1 – Official Plan amendment applications

Official Plan amendment (OPA) applications are required when a proposed development or redevelopment does not meet applicable policies of the Town's Official Plan. When a complete application for an Official Plan Amendment is received staff circulate notice of the application and public meeting as required under the Planning Act. A public meeting is held to hear comments from the public and other agencies. Staff review the application, considering the Planning Act, Provincial Planning Statement, County Official Plan and Town of Arnprior Official Plan, as well as any comments received, before making a recommendation to Council on the application. The review may include supporting studies or plans. If an OPA is approved by Town Council, it is sent to the County for approval. Review of technical/engineering plans and studies may be conducted externally.

Table 2: Status of active or recently closed official plan amendments

Project Name or address	File number	Summary of development proposed	Status
Campbellbrook Phase 4 Subdivision, 400 Division St.	OPA 10	Reduce setback from a watercourse for development from 30 m to 25 m to support a proposed subdivision development	Application deemed complete. Public meeting held February 23, 2026. Decision by Council on March 23, 2026. Package sent to the County of Renfrew for a decision
Lepine Subdivision, Baskin Drive E	OPA 11	Relocate the Environmental Protection Designation and watercourse to support a proposed subdivision development	Application deemed incomplete

Attachment 2 – Zoning By-law amendment applications

Zoning By-law amendment (ZBLA) applications are required when a proposed development or redevelopment does not meet applicable provisions of the zoning by-law but does meet the policies of the Town's Official Plan. When a complete application for a ZBLA is received staff circulate notice of the application and public meeting as required under the Planning Act. A public meeting is held to hear comments from the public and other agencies. Staff review the application, considering the Planning Act, Provincial Planning Statement, and Town of Arnprior Official Plan, as well as any comments received, before making a recommendation to Council on the application. The review may include supporting studies or plans. Review of technical/engineering plans and studies may be conducted externally.

Table 3: Status of active or recently closed zoning by-law amendment applications

Project Name or address	File number	Summary of development proposed	Status
Lepine Subdivision, Baskin Drive E.	ZBA 8-28	Relocate the Environmental Protection zone and watercourse	Application deemed incomplete

Attachment 3 – Minor Variance applications

Minor Variance applications are required when a proposed development or redevelopment does not meet applicable provisions of the zoning by-law but does meet the policies of the Town's Official Plan and where the variance required from the by-law meets the four tests for a minor variance. The four tests for a minor variance are:

- Does the application conform to the general intent and purpose of the Official Plan?
- Does the application conform to the general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law?
- Is the application desirable for the appropriate development of the lands in question?
- Is the application minor?

When a complete application for a minor variance is received staff circulate notice of the application and public meeting as required under the Planning Act. A public meeting is held to hear comments from the public and other agencies. Staff review the application, considering the Planning Act, Provincial Planning Statement, and Town of Arnprior Official Plan and Zoning By-law, as well as any comments received, before making a recommendation to the Committee of Adjustment on the application. The review may include supporting studies or plans. Review of technical/engineering plans and studies may be conducted externally.

Table 4: Status of active or recently closed minor variance applications

Project Name or address	File number	Summary of development proposed	Status
20 Thomas St. N.	A08-25	To reduce the minimum setback from the interior side lot line for a deck from 1.2 m to 0.5 m for construction of a deck in the interior side yard facing the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail.	Complete - Approved January 7, 2026

Attachment 4 – Site Plan Control applications

Site plan control approval applies to development or redevelopment that includes multi-unit residential buildings such as apartment buildings and non-residential development such as retail buildings. Once a complete application is received the application is circulated for review. The review will include a review of the stormwater management, water and wastewater servicing, erosion, and sediment control, geotechnical, traffic impacts and environmental impacts, and compliance with applicable zoning by-law and official plan provisions. Once the review is complete comments will be provided to the applicant. The applicant will resubmit revised plans and studies addressing comments. Rounds of revision and review will continue until all comment are addressed. Review of technical/engineering plans and studies may be conducted externally. Once finalized, the applicant enters into a Site Plan Agreement, approved by the CAO under delegated authority, posts securities and registers the Agreement on title.

Table 5: Status of active or recent closed site plan applications

Project Name or address	File number	Summary of development proposed	Status
375 Daniel St. S.	SPC 2-22	New non-residential building with drive-through on the existing mall property (2038 sq. ft.)	Site plan agreement drafted - waiting on applicant to sign since December 4, 2023
Antrim Truck Stop building addition, 580 White Lake Road	SPC 4-22	Additions to existing buildings including 600 sq. ft. cooler addition and a 2,100 sq. ft. shop addition	Waiting on resubmission - comments sent June 14, 2023
Antrim self-storage, 580 White Lake Road	SPC 5-22	6 self-storage buildings totaling 1816 sq. m. of self-storage space	Fourth submission received January 29, 2026 – currently under review
Antrim car wash, 580 White Lake Road	SPC 6-22	Drive-through car wash	Waiting on resubmission - comments sent June 14, 2023
Marshall's Bay Block 46, Madawaska Blvd.	SPC 7-22	2 1-storey non-residential buildings with a total of 20,000 sq. ft. of floor area	Site plan reviews completed - applicant submitted a revised site plan. File on hold based on information from the applicant
24 Sheffield St	SPC 10-22	37-unit multi-unit residential building	Site plan agreement drafted - waiting on applicant to sign it since May 2024

30 Daniel St. N.	SPC 2-23	4-storey apartment building with 46 units	Site plan agreement drafted - waiting on applicant to sign since March 7, 2025
Block 139 – Pegasus, Desmond Trudeau Dr.	SPC 1-24	45 single detached dwellings, 8 semi-detached dwellings, 10 townhouses (63 units total) on private roads and infrastructure	Waiting for resubmission - comments sent September 23, 2024
62 McLachlin St	SPC 4-24	3-storey – 14-unit apartment building addition	Waiting on resubmission - Comments on the third submission sent March 13, 2026
449 Hartney St	SPC 5-24	Two 595 sq. m. (6,400 sq. ft.) mixed non-residential uses buildings (total 12,800 sq. ft.)	Site Plan agreement signed April 22, 2025 – Partial occupancy granted
150 Staye Court Drive	SPC 6-24	Self-storage shipping containers	Waiting on a resubmission – Second submission deemed incomplete December 2, 2024
Sawmill Flats Phase 3, Jack Crescent	SPC 7-24	5-storey – 57-unit apartment building	Site Plan agreement signed September 24, 2025 – building permit issued, under construction
151 McNab Street	SPC 8-24	4-storey apartment buildings with 203 dwelling units in 2 phases	Site Plan agreement signed October 10, 2025 - building permit issued, under construction
134 McDonald St	SPC 9-24	4-storey 57-unit apartment building with underground parking	Waiting on a resubmission - comments on the second submission sent October 14, 2025
Lepine Apt, Madawaska Blvd.	SPC 10-24	4 storey 185-unit apartment development with 268 sq. m. (2,884 sq. ft.) of first-floor commercial space.	Waiting on resubmission - Second submission comments sent December 16, 2025

130 Staye Court	SPC 1-25	7,032 sq. ft - 4-unit warehouse with supplemental offices	Waiting on resubmission - Comments on first submission sent July 9, 2025
245 Daniel St. N. - site plan amendment 2	SPC 2-25	Amendment to reflect changes in building and drive-through for the Starbucks building	Site Plan agreement signed April 4, 2025 - building permit issued, occupancy granted
7 Vanjumar - site plan amendment	SPC 3-25	Change to drive-through alignment	Site Plan agreement signed August 19, 2025 - building permit issued
449 Hartney St – site plan amendment	SPC 1-26	Site plan amended for additional gravel yard at the rear of the property	Complete – site plan amendment agreement signed February 27, 2026
12 Thomas St. S. – Phase 2	SPC 2-26	4-storey 47-unit apartment building	Site Plan application received, deemed complete March 13, 2026 and circulated for review.

Attachment 5 – Consent applications

Consent applications are used when creating 5 or fewer lots on an existing street, for lot line adjustments or to create an easement or lease lasting more than 21 years. When a complete application for a consent is received staff circulate notice of the application and public meeting as required under the Planning Act. A public meeting is held to hear comments from the public and other agencies. Staff review the application, considering the Planning Act, Provincial Planning Statement, and Town of Arnprior Official Plan and Zoning By-law, as well as any comments received, before making a recommendation to the Committee of Adjustment on the application. The review may include supporting studies or plans. Review of technical/engineering plans and studies may be conducted externally. Once conditionally approved by the Committee, the applicant has two years to fulfill any conditions and finalize the consent.

Table 6: Status of active or recently closed consent applications

Project Name or address	File number	Summary of development proposed	Status
258 Albert St.	B5-24	Sever a parcel of land for the creation of a new lot containing the existing single-detached dwelling at 258 Albert Street.	Conditionally approved May 21, 2025
Albert St. lots	B6-24	Sever two parcels of land for the creation of two new vacant lots with frontage on Albert Street.	Conditionally approved May 21, 2025
43 Leo Moskos St.	B2-25	Lot line adjustment for new unit type	Conditionally approved August 12, 2025
51 Leo Moskos St.	B3-25	Lot line adjustment for new unit type	Conditionally approved August 12, 2025
55 Leo Moskos St.	B4-25	Lot line adjustment for new unit type	Conditionally approved August 12, 2025
51 Leo Moskos St.	B5-25	Lot line adjustment for new unit type	Conditionally approved August 12, 2025
82 and 84 Seventh Ave.	B6-25	To sever two existing single detached dwellings where the properties merged on title.	Approved January 7, 2026

Attachment 6 – Subdivision applications

Subdivision approval applies to development or redevelopment where 5 or more lots are being created or where the development includes creation of a new street or extension of municipal water and/or sewer services. Subdivision applications are submitted to the County of Renfrew as the approval authority. County staff circulate complete applications for draft plan approval to commenting agencies including the Town of Arnprior. Review of the application for draft plan approval includes the stormwater management, water, and wastewater servicing, geotechnical, traffic impacts and environmental impacts, and compliance with applicable Zoning By-law and Official Plan provisions. This review is high level and focuses on establishing whether the development can meet applicable standards and what conditions must be fulfilled for the Town to be satisfied that the development will meet applicable standards. If staff have comments, questions or concerns that need to be addressed these are provided the County and the applicant can provide a revised submission. Rounds of review continue until staff are satisfied that the development is feasible. Town staff bring recommended draft plan conditions to Council for approval, which are then provided to the County for approval. Once the County has granted draft plan approval the applicant proceeds with submitting plans and studies as per the draft plan conditions for detailed design. Rounds of resubmission and review continue until comments and concerns have been addressed. Review of technical/engineering plans and studies may be conducted externally. Staff bring a subdivision agreement to Council for consideration. The applicant enters into the subdivision agreement with the Town, which is a condition of the draft approval. Staff provide a clearance letter to the County indicating how the applicant has met draft conditions and the County can then issue final approval of the subdivision plan for registration.

Table 7: Status of active or recent closed subdivision applications

Project Name or address	File number	Status
Marshall's Bay Meadows	47T14002	Phases 1 through 3 have been built out with the exception of non-residential/medium density residential blocks along Madawaska Blvd. Phase 4A has been approved and is currently under construction. Phase 4B has a signed subdivision agreement for the re-lotting. Fourth submission for Phase 5B detailed design received, currently under review.
Mackie Homes, Ida St	47T22002	Draft plan approval granted. Third submission for detailed design received March 3, 2026 – currently under review.
Van Dussen Dr	47T22003	Application for draft plan approval under review
White Lake Rd	47T21001	Application for draft plan approval under review
Campbellbrook, 400 Division St	47T240005	Application for draft plan approval reviewed and comments provided. OPA is required and is pending County approval. Second submission for draft plan approval was received and is currently under review.

Westhaven Gate, Fourth Ave	47T21004	Application for draft plan approval received. Fourth submission for draft plan approval reviewed and comments sent. Waiting on resubmission
Lepine, Baskin Drive, E.	47T25002	Application for draft plan approval received. First submission under review.

Attachment 7 – Inquiries

Inquiries are planning related questions received which are not applications. These can vary from simple requests for property dimensions to complex requests about how many units a multi-unit residential property may be able to accommodate, the potential for re-zoning or re-designating a property to allow a different type of development and the process for multiple planning approvals. Inquiries can take anywhere from 10 minutes to several hours depending on the number and complexity of questions and whether information or coordination of a response with another department is required.

Table 8: Planning inquiries by month

Month	2025 Number of inquiries responded to	2026 Number of inquiries responded to
January	12	22
February	22	30
March	17	43
April	15	
May	39	
June	20	
July	25	
August	35	
September	20	
October	37	
November	24	
December	9	
Total	275	95 (to date)
Average per month	23	32 (to date)

Attachment 8 – Description of Zoning Compliance and Part Lot Control applications

Zoning Compliance Request

Zoning compliance requests are requests for confirmation of information on a specific property. These requests are usually used when a property is being purchased to confirm the zoning, official plan designation, whether there are any local improvements fees applicable, and whether there are any building or planning violations or inspections outstanding.

Part Lot Control Application

Part lot control regulates further division of lots within a subdivision, requiring approval for transfers or sales. Approval of a part lot control exemption can be used to divide semi-detached dwellings and townhouse dwellings within an approved subdivision following construction.



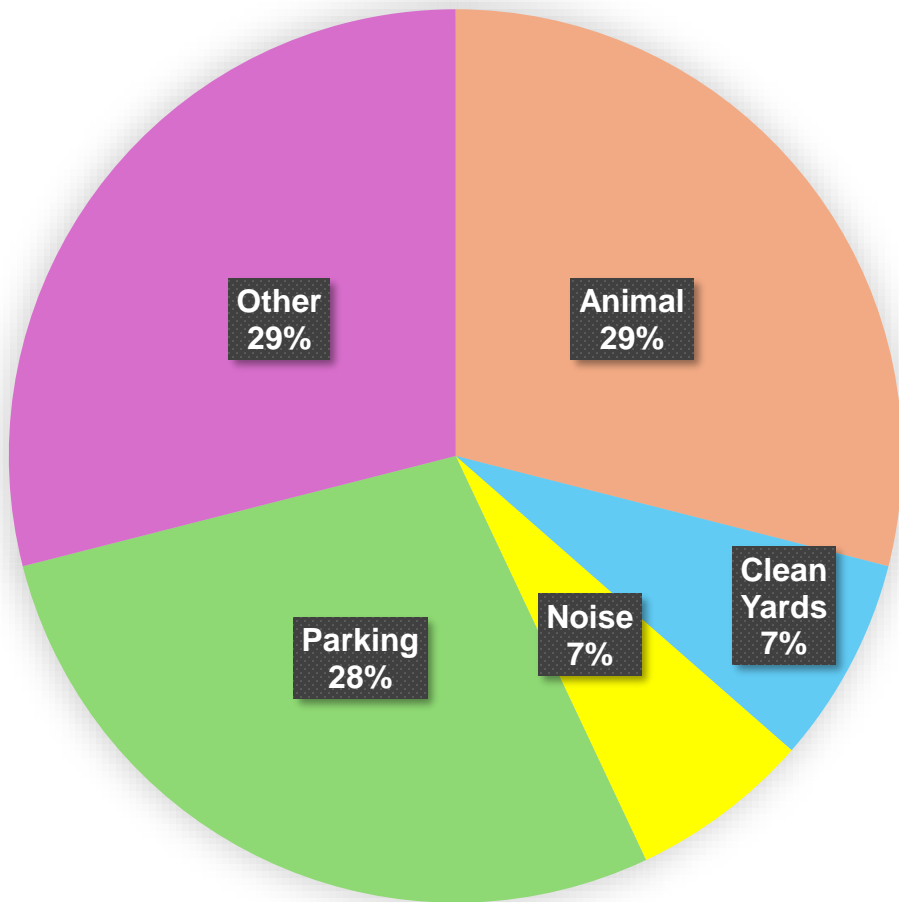
By-law Enforcement Monthly Statistics February 2026

This is an information item being provided to Council, which details complaint types, volumes and response times for monthly By-law Enforcement operations. The chart and graphs below show the general types of complaints received for By-law Enforcement issues in the Town of Arnprior, as well as the number of both administrative and enforcement hours allotted to these areas.

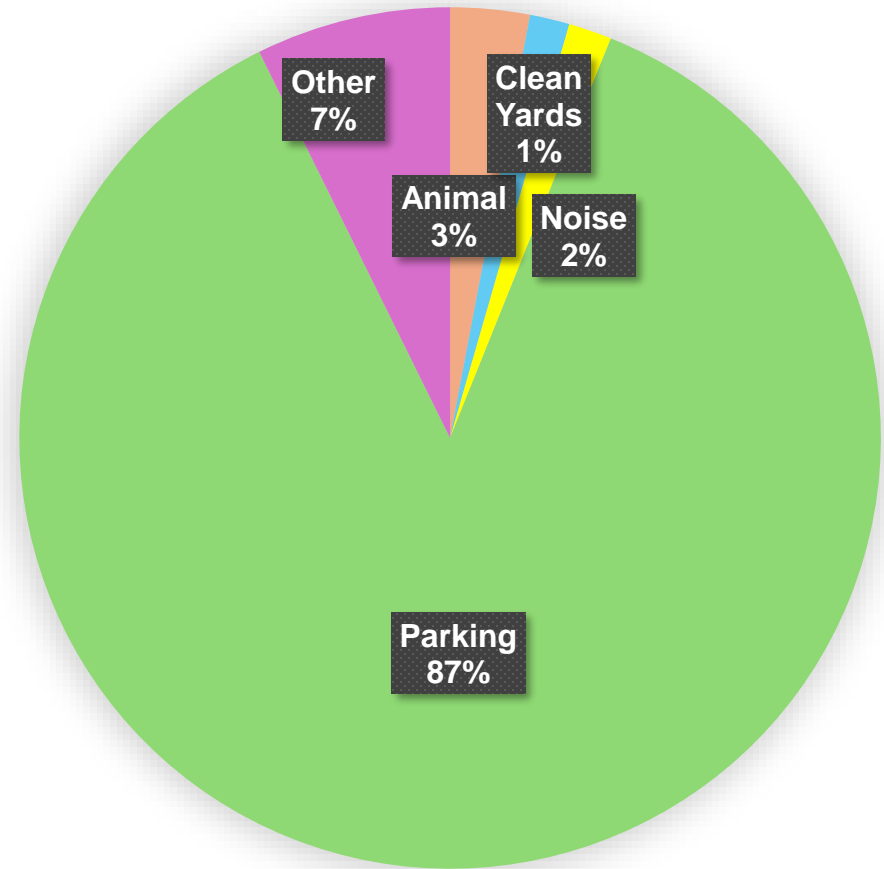
Complaint Type:	Administrative Hours	Enforcement Hours	Total Hours
Animal	7.75	5.50	13.25
Clean Yards	2	2.75	4.75
Noise	1.75	3	4.75
Parking	7.50	160	167.5
Other	7.75	13.5	21.25
Totals	26.75	184.75	211.50

By-law Enforcement Monthly Statistics February 2026

February 2026 Administrative Hours



February 2026 Enforcement Hours



Animal Clean Yards Noise Parking Other

Animal Clean Yards Noise Parking Other



Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

March 31st, 2026

HEALTH PROTECTION

Immunization

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA):

Between February 19th and March 6th, 2026, a total of 1675 second notices and suspension orders were issued to students aged 4-17 years (born in 2008-2021) who have not met ISPA requirements. As of March 12th, 2026, the number of students not meeting ISPA requirements had decreased to 1561, representing an approximate 6.8% reduction in students remaining on the suspension list.

Orders for suspension will only become effective if immunizations or a valid exemption are not reported to the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) before April 15th, 2026.

As of March 12th, 2026, 23 community catch-up clinics have been offered at multiple locations across Renfrew County and District. An additional 15 clinics will be offered prior to the suspension date.

Immunizations remain available through health care providers or RCDHU catch-up clinics, with appointments booked online or by calling the Immunization Intake Line. Immunizations administered by health care providers must be reported to RCDHU through [Immunization Connect Ontario \(ICON\)](#), or by fax, mail, or email.

RCDHU continues to work closely with schools, families, and health care providers to support students in meeting ISPA requirements.

Grade 7 Program:

The second round of Grade 7 school-based immunization clinics for Hepatitis B (HB), Meningococcal, and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) started on March 5th, 2026, and will continue until early June. Approximately 39 school-based clinics will be hosted across Renfrew County and District (RCD). Students may also choose to be vaccinated through their health care provider, or by booking an appointment at an RCDHU routine immunization clinic. As of March 12th, 2026, two school-based clinics have been completed.

Infectious Diseases

Respiratory Illness Activity:

Seasonal respiratory illness activity has declined overall since its peak in December. Lower respiratory outbreak rates in the first half of February were followed by a small increase in activity

in the second half of February and first week of March 2026. As March progresses, respiratory outbreak rates remain high at an average of three per week. COVID-19 remains the primary pathogen identified in confirmed outbreaks.

Hospital bed occupancy rates have followed a similar trend to respiratory outbreak rates with low to moderate rates in weeks three and four, increasing to high in weeks seven and eight. Respiratory-related emergency visits remained stable in the vicinity of 10% since week three of 2026. Community test positivity rates of COVID-19 are currently moderate, and Influenza rates are low with Influenza B becoming the dominant strain. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) rates have slowed to low to moderate.

Healthy Environments

Food Safety Program:

RCDHU continues to see strong demand for safe food handler certification. To enhance client-centered service, Healthy Environments has introduced an online booking system, allowing participants to register, cancel, or reschedule their own course appointments and receive automatic reminders. This streamlined, self-service approach makes the process more convenient and accessible for the public. In 2026, RCDHU has offered three courses and certified approximately 100 participants. This course is offered free of charge to reduce financial barriers, as some food premises must have a certified food handler on site during operations.

Recreational Water Program:

Public health inspectors are completing public pool and spa inspections to meet Ministry of Health quarterly targets. During these inspections, inspectors verify water chemistry, safety signage, emergency equipment, recordkeeping, and overall sanitation and facility operation to ensure regulatory standards are met. There are currently 20 pools and spas in RCD, each of which is routinely inspected at least four times per year.

Emergency Management Program:

RCDHU attended the first meeting for the 2026 Spring Freshet (snow and ice melt), which brings together municipal partners, Ontario government ministries, water power agencies, and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan. The Freshet response is a coordinated effort to monitor water levels and support interagency communication on public health and safety matters, with the goal of preparing for and managing potential emergency situations, should they arise. In advance of the Freshet, RCDHU also reviewed and updated the flooding resources on its website and social media content to be shared with the public.

HEALTH PROMOTION

Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy

As part of the priorities of the Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS), RCDHU is continuing to integrate additional methods of monitoring the local drug supply into its surveillance efforts and as an evidence-based risk reduction strategy.

RCDHU will continue to provide fentanyl, xylazine, and benzodiazepine test strips for drug checking to Harm Reduction Program clients in 2026. Furthermore, RCDHU has added

medetomidine to its available test strips, a veterinary sedative that is being found with increased frequency in drug samples across the province. Collaboration is also underway for real-time sample collection, submission, and analysis with the Mesa Mobile Outreach Drug Testing Program (described further in the Outreach Team section below), in addition to partnering with the Toronto Drug Checking Service for laboratory analysis of samples and used supplies.

RCDHU has been consulting with the City of Pembroke regarding the possibility of their Wastewater Department participating in Health Canada's National Wastewater Drug Surveillance Program. This initiative will contribute to a better understanding of the local drug supply and provide insights into emerging drug trends.

In partnership with school boards, Health Promotion staff are delivering and evaluating prevention programs related to vaping prevention and cessation to grade nine students. Later this spring, staff will collaborate with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to provide safe graduation and impaired driving education to secondary students.

Outreach Team and SPRITE Testing

The RCDHU Outreach Team has partnered with the Mesa Mobile Outreach Drug Testing Program to offer mobile, real-time drug checking, which will allow individuals in the community to check their substances from the unregulated supply for their contents. This service supports informed decision-making and will provide valuable local data on the unregulated drug supply in RCD.

Syphilis Point-of-Care Rapid Testing and Immediate Treatment Evaluation (SPRITE) testing for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs) continues at Outreach Team events and RCDHU's Pembroke office. The SPRITE Project Leads recently confirmed that a new grant was received, which will provide five years of stable funding to continue implementing and evaluating the SPRITE study. Additionally, a shortened version of the Locally Driven Collaborative Projects (LDCP) report was recently submitted to the journal "Learning Health Systems". More information can be found on the SPRITE Study website at www.spritestudy.ca.

Nutrition – You're the Chef

Implementation of the You're the Chef (YTC) program continues to advance through collaboration with local education partners. Later this month, RCDHU will work with Inspired Learning Coaches from the Renfrew County District School Board to deliver a centralized YTC training session at the Pembroke office. Eight teachers from various schools throughout RCD will attend the full-day session, which includes both virtual and hands-on components to support effective program delivery in the classroom. Participating teachers have been granted release time by their schools to complete the training, reflecting strong collaboration and continued interest in the program.

By equipping educators with the knowledge and tools to deliver the program, these training opportunities help expand student access to practical food literacy learning, including basic cooking skills, food confidence, and an increased understanding of healthy eating.

Safe Sleep Social Media Campaign

March 9th to 15th was Safe Sleep Week. This year's theme was "Safe Sleep – Everywhere Baby Sleeps." RCDHU promoted safe infant sleep awareness through a social media campaign targeted to parents, grandparents, and community partners who support parents of young children.

Key messages for this campaign included:

- Place your baby alone, on their back for every sleep
- Provide a firm, flat surface with only a fitted sheet
- Avoid all soft items like blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and nests
- Have your baby sleep in a crib, cradle, or bassinet

Links to additional information were also provided from the Government of Canada, including [Safe Sleep Tips](#), [Infant Safe Sleep Tips for Grandparents](#), and the [Safe Sleep for your Baby](#) booklet for more safe sleep tips.

PRIVACY

RCDHU has undertaken a comprehensive review and update of its privacy and information security framework. This work has included updates to key policies governing the use and protection of health information, new protocols for privacy breach response and incident management, and updated mandatory *Personal Health Information Protection Act* (PHIPA) training requirements for all staff.

Enhanced security standards are also being applied to third-party information system providers, and a review of all systems housing personal health information is underway to strengthen ongoing oversight and governance.

Submitted by:

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

Kaitlyn Wendland

From: Environmental Health <EnvironmentalHealth@rcdhu.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 1:12 PM
To: Environmental Health RCDHU
Subject: You're Invited

Dear Community Partner:

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is pleased to invite you to join us as a community partner in our Yellow Ribbon Campaign, a campaign designed to help prevent animal bites. Our aim is to lower the incidence of animal bites, hospital ER visits, and any unnecessary use of costly medical treatment for rabies.

Animal bites are a preventable public health concern, impacting families, pets, and the organizations that serve them. Many bites occur in familiar settings and involve pets known to the person. By working together with trusted partners like pet stores, groomers, walkers, trainers, kennels, animal hospitals, municipalities, and community agencies, we can share practical tips to reduce bite-related injuries, improve animal welfare, and strengthen public safety across our region.

Your expertise and connection with pet owners make you an invaluable partner in this campaign.

About the Campaign

The Yellow Ribbon Campaign begins in May. It focuses on simple messages for pet owners and community members — wear a yellow marker such as a ribbon or bandana on pets if they need space, and learn to give an animal space when they see yellow on someone's pet.

How You Can Participate

Your organization can participate at any level that works for you. Options include:

1. Sharing campaign content from RCDHU's Facebook page or from the options provided to you upon request.
2. Displaying campaign materials
3. Supporting staff awareness

What We Provide

To make partnership easy and turnkey, the health unit will supply:

- Distributed media release with partner acknowledgement
- Printable poster, ribbons and postcards for counter service
- Social media content to post on your pages
- Access to our support throughout the campaign

Why Partner?

By joining this initiative, your organization will:

- Demonstrate leadership in community safety and responsible pet ownership
- Strengthen relationships with customers, clients, or residents
- Promote safer interactions with animals in your facility or community
- Contribute to preventing injuries and supporting animal wellbeing

Next Steps

Please let RCDHU Healthy Environments know before **April 24th** whether you will be participating. Call 613-732-3629, ext 505 or email us at environmentalhealth@rcdhu.com

Please indicate in your response any of the materials you would like to receive below. We will then make arrangements with you to obtain so you have them in May.

1. **ribbons/bandanas with postcards**
2. **poster**
3. **shareable social media content**

Thank you for your commitment to the health and safety of our community. We look forward to working together, seeing more yellow, while supporting pets and the people who love them.

Tha



Candace Rose-Smith
Health Promoter
Health Protection Division

Renfrew County and District Health Unit
141 Lake Street
Suite 100
Pembroke, ON
K8A 5L8

Telephone : 613-732-3629 ext. 320
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www.rcdhu.com

“Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District”



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Subject: FW: Just launched: When You Believe, They Believe

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

Sent: March 25, 2026 3:01 PM

To: Robin Paquette <rpaquette@arnprior.ca>

Subject: Just launched: When You Believe, They Believe



AMO Launches Campaign to Encourage Participation in Municipal Elections

Hello Robin,

We are very excited to announce the launch of AMO's new Healthy Democracy campaign, [When You Believe, They Believe](#).

The campaign has two objectives:

- 1. to encourage more people to run for municipal office or seek re-election and**
- 2. to drive an increase in voter turnout.**

With these objectives in mind, the campaign shines a light on the leadership Ontarians already demonstrate every day and how that leadership can turn into municipal leadership. The [Healthy Democracy Project](#) has committed to building greater understanding and engagement with municipal government and leadership that includes highlighting the vital role voting plays in shaping local communities through our campaign.

AMO's voter turnout campaign will be coming later this year.

[Learn More](#)

Get involved

The success of the campaign relies on the support of partners, like you, across Ontario. Our resources and toolkit are designed to help you share and amplify campaign content in an easy and flexible way.

You can help in a variety of ways:

1. Check out and share the campaign website at whenyoubelieve.ca, which is full of information, resources, and events for anyone thinking about running for municipal office or considering seeking re-election.
2. Share the campaign story posted on AMO's [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) profiles and add a short personal note about why it's important to participate in local democracy and elections.

3. Visit [AMO's campaign page](#) and download the toolkit to help amplify the reach and impact of this important campaign.
4. Watch and share the [campaign video](#) encouraging people to run for council in 2026.

Together we can equip candidates and voters with the motivation and tools to lower barriers. By sparking participation now, we can build healthier local democracies for the future.

When people believe they can shape their community, others begin to believe in them too. Participation grows, confidence spreads, and local democracy becomes stronger, more representative, and more trusted.

Thank you for supporting our commitment to Ontario's communities.

For more information visit whentheyoubelieve.ca.

If you have questions contact us at healthydemocracy@amo.on.ca.



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Provincial Budget Spending Priorities and Build Canada Homes Operational Funding

Policy Update • March 26, 2026

Top Insights

- Provincial budget provides new funding for supportive housing, core and recreational infrastructure, and extends HST exemption for all new homes.
- AMO is calling on the provincial government to work with the federal government to commit operating funding to fully leverage federal Build Capital Homes capital investments in supportive and transitional housing.

Provincial Budget Stays The Course And Includes Millions In Municipal Infrastructure Funding

Ontario's Fiscal and Economic Outlook

Ontario's Minister of Finance introduced the 2026 Ontario Budget, *A Plan to Protect Ontario*. The economic backdrop of this year's budget is largely unchanged from last year. Heightened trade and geopolitical tension, along with slower economic and population growth will contribute to a softer labour market in 2026. Economic growth is projected to be on par with last year, with real GDP forecasted to reach 1.1%. Inflation continues to trend down from its COVID peak and is now within the Bank of Canada's target of 2%. The deficit is projected to increase by \$1.5 billion to \$13.8 billion as part of the province's plan to create a fiscal buffer to absorb potential softening of the economy. As a result of these spending decisions, a balanced budget isn't anticipated until 2028.

\$244 Billion in Program Spending and Tax Holiday for New Housing

Against this economic backdrop, the province is staying the course in its spending priorities, which totals \$244 billion (an increase of \$10 billion from last year). Many

spending priorities are a continuation of commitments made in the [Fall Economic Statement](#). The focus now is on getting funding out the door and into the hands of families, businesses, and municipalities. To address cost-of-living and housing affordability concerns, which continues to be top of mind for Ontarians, the province is holding the line on taxes and program spending cuts. The province's proposal to exempt all new housing from the HST, for a one-year period, is action on its commitment to make housing more affordable.

The proposal comes into effect on April 1st and will remain in place for one year. The 8% tax vacation builds upon the [government's October 2025 proposal](#) to exempt or reduce the provincial portion of the HST for first time homebuyers that are purchasing homes valued at \$1.5 million or less. Wednesday's proposal extends to all new homes valued up to \$1.85 million and now includes existing homeowners.

The federal government is also proposing to cost-share in this tax holiday by covering the federal 5% portion of the HST. The province estimates this \$2.2 billion in tax relief could create an additional 8,000 housing units, support up to 21,000 jobs and grow Ontario's GDP by \$2.7 billion.

Budget Supports Some of AMO's Priorities

In our pre-budget submission, [Partnering to Protect Ontario's Communities](#), AMO called on the province to continue prioritizing housing-enabling infrastructure spending, paying its share of health and social services that are provincial responsibilities, and taking concrete actions to end chronic homelessness.

Today's budget includes some important funding for our sector. This is a step in the right direction for improving municipal fiscal health. Supportive housing is getting a \$53 million injection over 3 years. Funding for existing programs for core, recreation, and transit infrastructure is increasing by \$360 million. While \$2.3 billion in net new spending is going towards hospitals, home and community care, and long-term care, there are no corresponding changes to local share requirements for hospital development.

New Spending Breakdowns By Areas

Infrastructure:

- \$15 million in annual funding for the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund, to enable investments in core assets such as roads and bridges.
- A \$15 million top-up over three years for the Ontario Transit Investment Fund.
- A \$300 million top-up over six years for the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund to repair, upgrade or build new sports and recreation facilities.

Health and Social Services:

- Spending growth on hospitals (\$1.1 billion), home and community care (\$1.1 billion over three years), and long-term care (\$139.4 million) but no changes to local share requirements for hospital development.
- \$53 million over 3 years for supportive housing. While this is a good start, AMO has advocated for the province to provide matching operational investments to fully leverage federal capital funding for supportive and transitional housing through Build Canada Homes.

Emergency and Protection Services:

While the budget did not include any significant announcements that would help municipalities manage the rapidly growing costs of emergency services, it did include some targeted investments:

- Fire Protection Grant – Maintaining the \$20 million in enhanced funding for the 2026-27 grant cycle. The funding is aimed at supporting municipal fire departments to access the infrastructure and protective equipment they need to respond to local needs.
- Basic Constable Training – Extending the removal of tuition fees for the program at the Ontario Police College for an additional three years to support police services in their efforts to recruit and train more police officers.

Unlocking Build Canada Homes Funding for Transitional and Supportive Housing

AMO and municipal partners have called on the province to provide the operational funding needed to unlock federal capital from Build Canada Homes.

The federal government has earmarked \$1 billion nation-wide to create new supportive and transitional housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. If Ontario received its per capita share, this could result in more than 1,200 new units in Ontario. Realizing this opportunity requires a provincial commitment of \$62 million in annual operating investment. Because Build Canada Homes requires operating funding guarantees at the application stage, a firm provincial commitment is the essential 'key' to unlocking this federal capital.

Contact:

AMO Policy

policy@amo.on.ca

T 416.971.9856

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 5:41 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Regional Governance Changes, Finalized Buy Ontario Directive, AMO Briefing on Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build, OEB Consultations on Natural Gas Franchise Agreements, Northlander Rideshare Pilot, Wildland Fire Management



AMO Policy Update – Regional Governance Changes, Finalized Buy Ontario Directive, AMO Briefing on Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build, OEB Consultations on Natural Gas Franchise Agreements, Northlander Rideshare Pilot, Wildland Fire Management

Top Insights

- The province introduces legislation to appoint chairs for 5 regional governments and the Warden of Simcoe County along with strong chair powers, reduce the size of Simcoe and Niagara councils, and require other regions to review their council composition following the 2026 election
- The province releases final Buy Ontario procurement rules for municipalities that reflect AMO’s recommendations to provide clear guidance and flexibility to meet local priorities. Supply Ontario is providing guidance and training to support local rollout
- AMO is hosting a CAO townhall on April 9th to provide insights on the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build’s development charge deferral initiative
- The Ontario Energy Board has launched a review of the Model Natural Gas Franchise Agreement and is inviting municipalities to participate with a deadline to register as an intervenor by April 20th
- The province is consulting on a pilot that would upload rideshare regulation and oversight to the province along the Northlander Passenger Train corridor
- The province announces enhancements to wildland fire management and safety introduces a new regulatory framework for administrative monetary penalties

Province Introduces *Better Regional Governance Act*

Today, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing [introduced the *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026*](#) which proposes to changes to the governance structure of Durham, Halton, Muskoka, Niagara, Peel, Simcoe, Waterloo, and York including:

- Allowing the Minister to appoint upper-tier council and heads of council with strong chair powers that mirror strong mayor powers
- Reduce Simcoe County Council from 32 to 17 members, and Niagara Regional Council from 32 to 13 members with both councils composed of the mayors of each lower-tier municipality plus the appointed head of council
- Require all regional governments except Niagara to review their council composition following the 2026 municipal election
- Develop a weighted voting framework for Niagara Regional Council

AMO will review the legislation and continues to encourage the province to ensure that clarity on governance structures is in place before the opening of nominations for the 2026 municipal elections.

Province Issues Municipal *Buy Ontario Act* Directives and Guidance

The Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement has released its finalized Buy Ontario directive for the municipal sector [on a new Buy Ontario website](#). The directive applies to light duty fleet vehicles, and capital infrastructure procurement. It addresses many of the issues raised by [AMO during consultations](#) including:

- Clear definitions of what is included under the directive and how municipalities can apply preferential scoring when evaluating bids
- Flexibility to meet *Buy Ontario Act* requirements including:
 - Exemptions for time sensitive, emergency purchasing
 - A value-for-money exclusion when buying domestic goods or services increases costs by 25% or more
 - Flexibility to meet procurement rules tied to federal or provincial funding programs
- Flexible options for smaller vendors to show how they meet the directive's goals

To support local rollout, Supply Ontario has posted Guidance Materials and is accepting registration for training through the [Buy Ontario website](#).

CAO Briefing on Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build Initiative

The province's announcement earlier this week of the [Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build](#) initiative has generated many questions and concerns from the sector, especially on development charge (DC) reductions. AMO is hosting a [virtual briefing](#) on this initiative on April 9th, 2026 from 2 pm to 3 pm for CAOs. At the meeting AMO will provide an update on what we know to date about the DC reductions initiative and hear from sector officials your top questions and concerns, with a focus on what's important for technical program design.

Ontario Energy Board Launching Review of Model Natural Gas Franchise Agreement

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has launched a [review of the Model Franchise Agreement](#) which sets standard terms between municipalities and natural gas utilities for gas service. This review responds to recent municipal concerns and will look at whether updates are needed including:

- Rules for easements including notice, access, and cost-sharing when a road is being sold or closed
- How costs are shared when pipelines are relocated
- Requirements for removing decommissioned pipelines
- How any changes should be applied to existing agreements

To support municipal involvement in the review, the OEB has adopted AMO's recommendation and made a one-time exception to allow municipalities to apply for cost awards to help cover participation costs. The OEB will hold a virtual [information session](#) on April 15th, and municipalities wanting to participate in the review must [apply for intervenor status](#) by April 20th.

Provincial Rideshare Pilot Consultation

The Ministry of Transportation [is consulting](#) on a rideshare pilot along the Northlander Passenger Train corridor that would upload regulation of rideshare services to the province. The pilot would set rules for rideshare companies, drivers and vehicles for all municipalities within 30 kilometers of Northlander train stations between Gravenhurst and Cochrane for one year. Comments on the proposal are [due to the province by April 10, 2026](#).

Lessons learned from this pilot may be used to expand rideshare regulation to all communities. AMO is working with the province to understand how any potential regulations may impact municipalities.

Ministry of Natural Resources Increases Staffing Levels for Wildland Fire and Establishes Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMP) Framework

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) [announced](#) it will add an additional 68 permanent staff and increase compensation for critical staff, including wildland firefighters, pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers. AMO welcomes this announcement as it responds directly to [recommendations](#) we made to the province that encouraged MNR to provide additional resources to address challenges with recruitment and retention of its firefighters.

In addition to the new staffing measures, the province also [introduced](#) new and amended regulations under the *Wildland Fire Management Act* to establish a framework for issuing administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) to encourage compliance with wildland fire safety requirements, effective April 1, 2026. AMO previously expressed support for this measure in a [letter](#) to the Ministers of Natural Resources and Attorney General, as the greater use of AMPs can help alleviate the already overburdened provincial offences court system.

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

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 12:23 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Funding Development Charge Reductions under the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build & Bill 98 Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act



AMO Policy Update – Funding Development Charge Reductions under the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build & Bill 98 Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act

Top Insights

- Federal and Ontario governments announce Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build initiative to lower development charges with an \$8.8 billion investment.
- Provincial omnibus bill focuses on increasing housing supply and moving goods and people across the province faster. Key areas of change **directly** impacting the municipal sector are land-use planning, development charges, municipal services corporations, communal systems, Building Code, and transit system integration and innovation.

Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build

Yesterday, Premier Ford and Prime Minister Carney signed the “Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build” in support of shared goals to strengthen national and provincial economies by:

- Building more homes faster to make housing more affordable. Initiatives included joint funding to reduce Ontario municipal development charges (DCs) and the HST tax vacation for new homes announced last week.
- Getting shovels in the ground on select transit projects including ALTO and various projects across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

The provincial and federal governments made coordinated announcements.

AMO members share the provincial and federal governments’ commitment to accelerating housing and infrastructure development to support housing

affordability and economic growth, and we are pleased to see new initiatives come with funding.

Reducing Development Charges

The Building Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) provincial-territorial stream will provide \$8.8 billion in cost-matched federal and provincial investment over ten years. This funding is focused on temporarily reducing or maintaining low DCs.

Although announced yesterday, we understand the program design is in the early stages and the full program parameters will be developed next. While AMO has yet to see the details of the agreement, it's positive that there appears to be recognition that reduced municipal DCs need an offset from other levels of government. Further, the province has indicated infrastructure funding may be available for municipalities without DCs, which supports equitable access.

The province has committed to working with AMO to design the program. As part of this process, AMO will identify key questions requiring clarity such as:

- What is the extent of the DC reductions? What are the mechanisms for determining and applying them?
- What is the timing for both the DC reductions and the delivery of offsetting funding?
- How will municipalities without DCs access this funding?

We look forward to working with the province to develop an equitable, efficient, and flexible program design that accounts for the diverse ways municipalities fund growth and use DCs.

Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act

The province introduced its intention to move forward with [14 pieces of legislative and regulatory amendments](#) first introduced last year under [Bill 17 Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act](#), and [Bill 60 Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act](#). It's also proposing to consult on an additional 16 policy ideas. AMO continues to support the province's goals of achieving more consistent and timely approvals that deliver the housing and economic projects Ontarians need while improving how people move across the province.

A summary of province-wide and regional changes are provided below, organized by housing and transit themes. Many of the adopted changes address recommendations AMO raised in our [Bill 17](#) and [Bill 60](#) ERO submissions. Examples include:

- Ensuring municipal service corporation water systems remain under public ownership.
- Applying the same rigorous drinking water standards to private communal systems as those required for municipal systems; this ensures uniform standards and avoids costly upgrades should a municipality ever assume responsibility for a private system.
- Relieving pressure on municipalities by having the province backstop failed systems.

AMO will participate in the Bill's public consultation process. AMO will also work with the province to ensure municipalities have other opportunities to provide expert insights for pending regulations.

Land-Use Planning Changes

- i. **Standardized official plans.** A new simplified official plan format that includes: a mandatory and standardized set of land-use designations, and a common structure for table of contents and schedules. The Bill requires the new Official Plan format to be used following the 2028 and 2029 implementation dates, ensuring no impact on plans currently under development or approval.
- ii. **Site plan reforms.** Prohibiting enhanced development standards. Municipal standards beyond mandatory health and safety requirements, such as soil composition and landscaping are prohibited. The province will consult on the feedback process governing site plan controls.
- ii. **Minimum lot sizes.** Introduce new legislative authority to set provincial rules for minimum lot sizes for urban residential land through regulation. Concurrently, the province is consulting on a regulation that would set an approximately 175 square metre (1,884 square foot) minimum lot size standard.
- v. **Encumbered parkland.** Introduce a new framework that would allow high-quality encumbered land to count towards parkland dedication requirement. The framework would include publicly available spaces such as courtyards.
- v. **Minister zoning orders (MZOs).** Remove the legislative requirement to post MZO amendments and revocations for public comment. Substantive amendments that impact the functioning of MZOs will continue to be posted for comment.

Development Charges (DC)

- New DC exemption for not-for-profit retirement homes, which provide supportive housing for low-income seniors.
- New requirement to disclose DCs, taxes, and fees on home purchases and sales agreements.

Municipal Services Corporations (MSC)

- Changes to the *Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025* that would enshrine, into law, public ownership of municipal water and wastewater assets.
- Create a framework for wider MSC adoption.

Communal Water and Wastewater Systems

- Introduce a new regulatory framework for communal water and wastewater systems. The framework encompasses standards for municipal approval while addressing system operations, maintenance, financial sustainability and water safety considerations including instances where the province would act as a backstop when systems fail, both operationally and financially.

Building Code Review

- A section-by-section review of the Building Code.
- Establishing an expert third-party advisory body — consisting of engineering, construction and Code specialists — to identify where rules can be modernized or streamlined.

Transit System Integration and Innovation

- Extend the One Fare program into Hamilton and Halton Region. Introduce legislation to enable regulations that would allow for a unified fare structure with common fares, discounts and free transfers across transit systems in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.
- Northlander Rideshare program. Develop a framework to permit rideshare services in communities along the Northlander corridor.

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

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From: AMO Education <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 2:01 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Strengthen Workplace Safety: Join Our Preventing Escalated Behaviours Workshop



Preventing Escalated Behaviours: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces

Hello AMO Member,

Municipal leaders and staff are increasingly navigating complex and, at times, challenging interactions. Having the tools to respond effectively—and prevent situations from escalating—is more important than ever.

Supporting the work through our [Healthy Democracy Project](#), AMO has partnered with Public Services Health & Safety Association (PSHSA) to offer education and skills development to support understanding and addressing incivility.

The ***Preventing Escalated Behaviours: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces*** workshop is a **two-part, interactive series** that introduces practical, person-centered strategies to help you recognize early signs of escalation, strengthen communication, and respond to difficult situations with confidence and professionalism.

In this session, you will:

- Identify common triggers and early warning signs of escalated behaviours
- Explore how communication styles, bias, and behaviour influence interactions
- Learn practical de-escalation techniques you can apply right away
- Build confidence in managing challenging conversations with empathy and clarity

Through real-world scenarios and guided discussion, you'll gain tools to foster a more respectful, psychologically safe, and resilient workplace.

Dates:

- 1st session: May 7, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 2nd session: May 28, 2026, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Format: Virtual session

Registration Fees:

- \$375 + HST (one registration fee covers both Part 1 and Part 2 sessions)
- \$75+ HST cancellation fee

[Register Here](#)

Feel free to share this opportunity with your colleagues and networks.

We look forward to seeing you at this important workshop.

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

Inquires: events@amo.on.ca

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From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - March 26, 2026



March 26, 2026

In This Issue:

- AMO Launches Campaign to encourage participation in municipal elections.
- Annual Report - Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
- Take a look at AMO's Fostering Civility at the Council Table Handguide.
- Proposed Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards
- Ontario Heritage Framework Transformation: Archaeology Program changes
- Proposed Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards
- Applications Open for EASE Grant
- Feedback Requested: Expanding the Canadian Navigable Waters Act.
- Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026: Resources and Workshops
- Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office
- Better Rural Data for Better Municipal Decisions - join ROMA April 2.
- OSUM 2026: The Small Urban Approach to Municipal Challenges
- Preventing Escalated Behaviours Workshop: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces
- AMO Conference 2026: Registration is open!
- On the Road Again: LAS staff visit Ontario.
- Risk Management Grant - Apply by May 1.
- Apply now: AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO has launched its province-wide campaign, [When You Believe, They Believe](#), to showcase the everyday leadership of Ontarians and how it can translate into municipal office. Visit [whenyoubelieve.ca](#) to learn more.

AMO released its [CCBF Annual Report](#) summarizing results from investment of the Fund. Further detail on CCBF activities including progress on Asset Management can be found in the [Outcomes Report](#).

AMO's [Fostering Civility at the Council Table Handguide](#) provides principles, tips, and tools for managing conflict, being an active bystander, adopting civility pledges, and how to build effective working relationships with your council colleagues. This is one of seven guides found within AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides, which all provide practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Transportation is seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would set mandatory road construction standards for municipalities. [Provide feedback by March 30](#). The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is proposing changes to Ontario's Heritage.

Framework to streamline archaeological assessments and set criteria for evaluating Licensed Consultant Archaeologists' compliance records. [Provide feedback by April 5](#).

The Ministry of Transportation is seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would set mandatory road construction standards for municipalities. [Provide feedback by March 30](#).

The Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant awards up to \$60,000 for small capital projects for people with disabilities and older adults. Applications are open until May 7 at [Ontario.ca/EaseGrant](#).

Federal Matters

Transport Canada needs feedback from the public on their discussion paper on the proposed expansion of the Minor Works Order under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act. [Submit your comments by April 3rd.](#)

Education Opportunities

AMO is offering programs designed to support aspiring candidates and returning elected officials. Whether you are considering your first run for office, seeking re-election, representing an underrepresented community, or a youth, we have a program tailored for you. Resources range from helping you make the decision to run or run again, to building your team, crafting your message, and getting out the vote, and includes the Lead Where You Live guide for key steps in the process. [Register for workshops and access resources here.](#)

AMO has expanded their Healthy Democracy Leadership Series. AMO is offering a series of workshops for urban Indigenous peoples thinking about running for municipal office in the October 2026 elections. These sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and run a campaign. [Register here.](#)

HEAR Initiative (Health, Economics, Adaptation in Rural Communities Initiative) is developing a new province-wide rural data platform designed to support more informed decision-making in rural communities. Join ROMA for an interactive information session on Thursday, April 2 at 12:00 p.m. to learn how household-level rural data can help strengthen municipal planning, funding applications, council decisions, advocacy efforts, and long-term community resilience across rural Ontario. [Register for the free session here.](#)

The OSUM conference, April 29 – May 1 in Parry Sound is the only place where issues such as housing and homelessness, infrastructure challenges, incivility, weakened journalism, and strong mayor powers are addressed and discussed from the unique small urban municipal perspective. [View program outline and register now.](#)

Delivered by the Public Services Health & Safety Association, Preventing Escalated Behaviours is an interactive workshop that introduces practical, person-centered strategies to help recognize early signs of escalation, strengthen communication, and confidently and professionally respond to difficult situations. [Register for the two-part May 7 and May 28 workshop now.](#)

Municipalities carry significant responsibilities. The AMO Conference is your opportunity to gain a clear understanding of key issues and develop a support network for shared solutions to help you effectively lead in your community. [Don't miss it, register today.](#)

LAS

LAS staff are on their spring roadtrips, learning how we can better help municipal staff and talking about our programs. Want to meet? [Contact us](#) to set up an in-person or virtual meeting.

The All Risk Municipal Grant recognizes and supports innovative risk management practices within municipalities. [Learn more and submit your proposal by May 1](#) for a chance to receive \$10,000 towards your project.

Municipal Wire*

Don't miss your chance to apply for the next intake of the AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program. This program offers municipalities a cost-effective way to identify, advance, and address innovation or research challenges by partnering with a post-secondary student interested in a career in local government. To learn more or to submit an application, [Click Here.](#)

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada is hosting a professional development event focused on service delivery excellence on April 21. [Register for virtual or in-person attendance.](#)

Careers

[Program Advisor, Infrastructure Asset Management - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\).](#)
Closing Tomorrow: March 27, 2026.

[Manager, Information, Privacy and Elections/Deputy City Clerk - City of Guelph.](#) Closing Date: April 9, 2026.

[Director, External Relations - City of Thunder Bay.](#) Closing Date: April 14, 2026.

[Intergovernmental Advisor - City of Guelph.](#) Closing Date: April 12, 2026.

About AMO

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AMO Contacts

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[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: Friday, March 20, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Thinking of Running for Municipal Office in 2026? Start Here



Get Ready for the 2026 Municipal Elections

Free Workshop Series & Leadership Programs from AMO

As Ontario approaches the October 2026 municipal elections, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is offering a number of information sessions and workshops designed to support aspiring candidates and current elected officials.

Whether you're planning your first campaign, preparing to seek re-election, representing an underrepresented community, or stepping forward as a young candidate, we offer programming designed to meet your specific needs and support your journey.

[Find the right workshop for you](#)

Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities

In four inspiring sessions, this online program will equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet today's political challenges head-on. The series is offered in two dedicated streams: **Considering Re-Election in 2026 and First-Time Candidates for 2026**.

Sessions lead participants through *Finding Your Why; Managing Conflict and Building Effective Relationships; Prioritizing Mental Health and Wellbeing; and Building Your Movement: Turning Values into Action*

For full details, click [here](#).

Workshops for Underrepresented Candidates

Facilitated by former municipally elected officials, this workshop offers useful insights and strategies especially for underrepresented communities. While these workshops do offer a focus on individuals from underrepresented communities, all are welcome. Participants will learn what it takes to become a candidate, critical strategies for a successful campaign, developing effective messaging, and how to utilize community engagement practices to enhance visibility and support.

For full details, click [here](#).

Youth Information Sessions

Facilitated by currently elected officials, these sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and run a campaign.

Gain insight into what it's like to run for office as a young person, explore key strategies for building a successful campaign, understand the requirements to become a candidate, and learn effective approaches to voter engagement.

For full details, click [here](#).

Urban Indigenous Peoples' Information Sessions

Facilitated by Indigenous leaders with firsthand electoral experience, these sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and run a campaign.

Gain insight into what it's like to run for municipal office as an urban Indigenous leader, explore key strategies for building a strong campaign, understand the requirements to become a candidate, and learn approaches to lead with cultural integrity and community connection.

For full details, click [here](#).

How to Register

All programs are offered at no charge. Registration is required for each workshop or session.

We encourage you to share this opportunity with your networks and with anyone who may benefit from learning more about running for municipal office.

For more information or to register, please visit the [AMO Education](#) website or contact: events@amo.on.ca.

Invest in Your Leadership Journey: Register Today!
This workshop series is part of AMO's Healthy Democracy Project

Inquires: events@amo.on.ca

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

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - March 19, 2026



March 19, 2026

In This Issue:

- Take a look at AMO's Holding Public Meetings Handguide.
- Make Your Municipal Move campaign update.
- Proposed Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards.
- Ontario Heritage Framework Transformation: Archaeology Program changes.
- July 1 Deadline for BPS energy reporting.
- Consultation on 2026-2029 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy.
- Webinar on Build Canada Homes.
- Celebrating 70 years of Ontario's Small Urban Municipalities: keynote speaker announcement.
- Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026: Resources and Workshops.
- Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office.
- Better Rural Data for Better Municipal Decisions - join us April 2.
- Blog: Public-Sector Identification in the Age of AI.
- Canoe Webinar: Procurement Confessions.
- OPPI is seeking a Public Interest Representative.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- FCM's Board nominations are now open.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO's [Holding Public Meetings Handguide](#) addresses challenges that may arise in public meetings and engagements. This handguide offers practical tools and resources to ensure decorum, structure, and clear communication so that residents can contribute to meaningful discussions. This is one of seven guides found within [AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides](#), which all provide practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility.

AMO's Municipal Move Campaign has generated nearly 18 million impressions, helping to raise awareness of municipal careers in Ontario and the vital role of local government. Don't miss out -- [use our Campaign Toolkit](#) to make the most of this momentum.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Transportation is seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would set mandatory road construction standards for municipalities. [Provide feedback](#) by March 30.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is proposing changes to Ontario's Heritage Framework to streamline archaeological assessments and set criteria for evaluating Licensed Consultant Archaeologists' compliance records. [Provide feedback](#) by April 5.

Municipalities must [report annual energy use](#) and greenhouse gas emissions to the province by July 1. This helps manage costs, identify energy-saving opportunities, and reduce emissions.

Federal Matters

Environment and Climate Change Canada is seeking feedback on their Sustainable Development Strategy by May 12. Provide feedback through [online questionnaire](#), by [e-mail](#), or through participating in an upcoming [webinar](#).

On April 24th, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada will host a webinar explaining Build Canada Homes' portal and investment policy framework in Ontario. Register now on [Microsoft Teams](#).

Education Opportunities

In this milestone year, the 2026 Conference program content is a reminder of why OSUM matters to your leadership. Join Opening Keynote, Althia Raj, who will set the stage on the state of provincial and federal politics. [View program outline and register now.](#)

AMO is offering programs designed to support aspiring candidates and returning elected officials. Whether you are considering your first run for office, seeking re-election, representing an underrepresented community, or a youth, we have a program tailored for you. Resources range from helping you make the decision to run or run again, to building your team, crafting your message, and getting out the vote, and includes the *Lead Where You Live* guide for key steps in the process. Register for workshops and access resources [here](#).

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HEAR Initiative (Health, Economics, Adaptation in Rural Communities Initiative) is developing a new province-wide rural data platform designed to support more informed decision-making in rural communities. Join us for an interactive information session on Thursday, April 2 at 12:00 p.m. to learn how household-level rural data can help strengthen municipal planning, funding applications, council decisions, advocacy efforts, and long-term community resilience across rural Ontario. [Register for the free session here.](#)

LAS

As identity fraud becomes more sophisticated with the use of AI tools, our FOI and Privacy Program Management program partner, Vayle, explains why public-sector verification practices must evolve. [Read the blog.](#)

Join Stéphanie and Tony from [Canoe](#) as they share some of the strangest stories they've encountered in the world of procurement. [Register here](#) for 'Procurement Confessions: The Good, The Bad, and the "Did That Really Just Happen?"' on March 25th at 10:00 AM.

Municipal Wire*

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is seeking a Public Interest Representative (PIR) to fill a [volunteer OPPI Council position](#) the governance term of June 2026 to June 2028. Experience in a field other than planning is required. The deadline to apply is April 10, 2026.

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada is hosting a professional development event focused on service delivery excellence on April 21. [Register for](#) virtual or in-person attendance.

Are you motivated by influencing and driving change on a national scale? Are you interested in defining municipal priorities? If so, submit your nomination to join FCM's Board of Directors today! The [nomination process is now open](#) for those who wish to run for FCM Board of Directors.

Careers

[Associate Director, Communications - Association of Municipalities of Ontario.](#) Closing Date: April 3, 2026.

[Policy Advisor - Regional Municipality of Durham.](#) Closing Date: March 29, 2026.

[Asset Management Analyst - City of Belleville.](#) Closing Date: April 6, 2026.

About AMO

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From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - April 2, 2026



April 02, 2026

In This Issue:

- Annual Report - Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
- Call for Nominations for the 2026 - 2028 OSUM Executive Committee Election.
- AMO Launches Campaign to encourage participation in municipal elections.
- Help amplify AMO's candidate attraction and voter turnout campaign!
- Check out AMO's Using Social Media and Online Platforms Handguide.
- Ontario Heritage Framework Transformation: Archaeology Program changes.
- Applications Open for EASE Grant.
- Feedback Requested: Expanding the Canadian Navigable Waters Act.
- Ontario Webinar on Build Canada Homes.
- Introducing AMO Conference 2026 Keynote: Curse of Politics.
- New webinar: Mayor-CAO Relationship Series.
- Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026: Resources and Workshops.
- Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office.
- Better Rural Data for Better Municipal Decisions - join ROMA TODAY at noon.
- OSUM 2026: The Small Urban Approach to Municipal Challenges.
- Preventing Escalated Behaviours Workshop: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces.
- Canoe JOC Event in Brantford.
- Stable natural gas rates all year long.
- Streamline Your Document Signing Process.
- Building Officials Training for Housing Permit Approvals.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO released its [CCBF Annual Report](#) summarizing results from the investment of the Fund. Further details on CCBF activities, including progress on Asset Management, can be found in the [Outcomes Report](#).

[The Call for OSUM Executive Nominations](#) election is open. Those interested in running for the 2026-2028 OSUM Executive Committee term are required to fill out the attached [nomination form](#). Nomination form deadline for return is **4:00 p.m. on April 10, 2026**.

AMO has launched its province-wide campaign, When You Believe, They Believe, to showcase the everyday leadership of Ontarians and how it can translate into municipal office. Visit whenyoubelieve.ca to learn more.

Together, we can equip candidates and voters with the motivation and tools in preparation for the 2026 municipal election. By sparking participation now, we can build healthier local democracies for the future. Visit [AMO's Healthy Democracy Project public affairs campaign page](#) and download the toolkit to help amplify the reach and impact of this important campaign.

AMO's [Using Social Media and Online Platforms Handguide](#) includes practical tools and guidance related to moderating online platforms, navigating personal and official accounts and social media policies for consideration. This is one of seven guides included in AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides, which all provide practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility. These Handguides are the result of a joint initiative of AMO's Healthy Democracy and Workforce Development Projects.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is proposing changes to Ontario's Heritage Framework to streamline archaeological assessments and set criteria for evaluating Licensed Consultant Archaeologists' compliance records. [Provide feedback by April 5.](#)

The Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant awards up to \$60,000 for small capital projects for people with disabilities and older adults. Applications are open until May 7 at Ontario.ca/EaseGrant.

Federal Matters

Transport Canada needs feedback from the public on their discussion paper on the proposed expansion of the Minor Works Order under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act. [Comments are due tomorrow, April 3rd.](#)

On April 24th, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada will host a webinar explaining Build Canada Homes' portal and investment policy framework in Ontario. [Register now over Microsoft Teams.](#)

Education Opportunities

AMO is pleased to announce the Curse of Politics podcast as the 2026 AMO Conference keynote speaker. Get ready for a commotion of insights, arguments, opinions and an impossibly loud laugh or two. If you haven't already, [register today for the AMO Conference.](#)

AMO and OMAA present the next Mayor-CAO Webinar Series session on upper-tier governance, featuring experienced CAO-Warden teams sharing practical leadership insights. [Register here.](#)

Through our Healthy Democracy Project, we have designed a number of workshops and information sessions to support those considering a run for municipal office and those running again in the 2026 election. We are also offering a range of resources in addition to the workshops. [Register for workshops and access resources here.](#)

AMO has expanded their Healthy Democracy campaign information workshops. We are now offering a series of workshops for urban Indigenous peoples interested in municipal office and running in the October 2026 elections. These sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and run a campaign. [Register here.](#)

HEAR Initiative (Health, Economics, Adaptation in Rural Communities Initiative) is developing a new province-wide rural data platform designed to support more informed decision-making in rural communities. Join ROMA for an interactive information session **TODAY** at 12:00 p.m. to learn how household-level rural data can help strengthen municipal planning, funding applications, council decisions, advocacy efforts, and long-term community resilience across rural Ontario. [Register for the free session here.](#)

Join your colleagues in the Town of Parry Sound, April 29-May 1, for the 70th Ontario Small Urban Conference. In celebration of small urban leadership, we have built a program featuring key issues from housing and homelessness, infrastructure challenges, incivility, weakened journalism, and strong mayor powers from the unique small urban municipal perspective. [View program outline and register now.](#)

In partnership with the Public Services Health & Safety Association, AMO is pleased to offer its members an interactive workshop focused on Preventing Escalated Behaviours. This session introduces practical, person-centred strategies to help recognize early signs of escalation, strengthen communication, and confidently and professionally respond to difficult situations. [Register for the two-part May 7 and May 28 workshop now.](#)

LAS

Join [Canoe](#) on April 8th in Brantford to learn more about Job Order Contracting (JOC), a new tool to modernize construction procurement. [Register Here.](#)

LAS offers a [Natural Gas Program](#) that provides stable and predictable annual commodity pricing for municipal accounts through professional management and competitive supply arrangements. Over the last 5 years, a typical LAS client has saved more than 7% on their commodity costs.

Streamline your document signing process with secure and authentic online digital signatures through the Electronic Signature service offered by program partner, Notarius by Portage Cybertech. [Learn more.](#)

Municipal Wire*

Help your building officials approve high-performance housing faster. Passivehouse Canada is coordinating a [12-hour online course](#) to provide the technical tools to review complex projects in-house, reducing delays and permit backlogs.

Careers

[Senior Advisor - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). Closing Date: April 14, 2026.

[Team Lead - Ministry of Finance](#). Closing Date: April 16, 2026.

[Senior Data and Quality Analyst - Ministry of Finance](#). Closing Date: April 16, 2026.

[Data and Quality Analyst - Ministry of Finance](#). Closing Date: April 16, 2026.

[Manager of Capital Engineering - Town of Innisfil](#). Closing Date: April 19, 2026.

[Chief Financial Officer - City of Kawartha Lakes](#). Closing Date: April 12, 2026.

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Pikwakanagan Tibadjumowin



CHÌBAYATIGO-KÌJIGAD NIKI KIZIS 20TH, 2026
FRIDAY MARCH 20TH, 2026

WWW.ALGONQUINSOFPIKWAKANAGAN.COM | 613-625-2800

CONTENT

- Updates & Notices
 - Public Works Recognition
 - National Indigenous Water Operators Day
 - Election campaigns
- News & Events
 - Community Survey
 - Nigig Community Engagement
 - Legal Clinics
- Health Updates
 - Stomach Flu
 - Safe Sleep
 - Fatty Liver
- Resources and Contacts
 - Renfrew County Legal Clinic
 - Wellness Hub
 - Children's Oral Health Initiative
- Employment Opportunities
 - Specialized Driver
 - Nigig Non-Pikwakanagan Board of Director
 - Tenders
- Community Information
 - Snow Removal for Home Care Clients
 - Hours of Operation
 - Membership Additions

Membership Notice

Please be advised that our Administration Office phone system is currently having technical issues. Thank you for your patience while we work to resolve the issue.

Website Information

Don't forget that you can access the members only section at algonquinsofpikwakanagan.ca by clicking on the "Membership Section" under the Pikwakanagan tab.

IMPORTANT!

Deadline for newsletter submission is Thursday at Noon
9x5 \$2.00/week
9x7 \$3.00/week
½ column/page \$5.00/week
Full page \$10.00/week

Read the full newsletter by
clicking here



PIKWAKANAGAN TIBADJUMOWIN

CHÌBAYATIGO-KÌJIGAD NIKI KIZIS 27, 2026
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026
www.algonquinsopikwakanagan.com

Content

- **Updates & Notices**
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 - Swearing In Ceremony
 - Indigenous Theatre at the NAC
- **News & Events**
 - Community Survey
 - Nigig Engagement
 - Information Session
- **Health Updates**
 - Thoughts of the Month
 - Calendar of Events
 - Breakfast Club
- **Employment Opportunities**
 - Senior EA
 - Operator in Charge
 - Land & Environment Officer
 - Community Garden
- **Community info & Resource #'s**
 - Hours of Operation
 - HBHC Library
 - Membership Additions
- **Personal Ads**
 - Andre Carle

Membership Notice

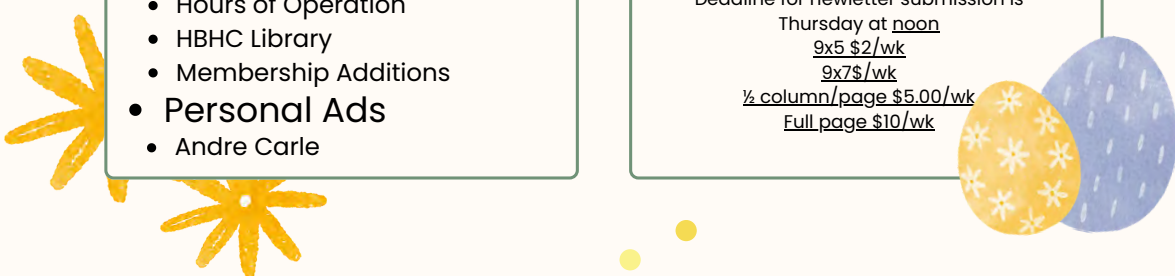
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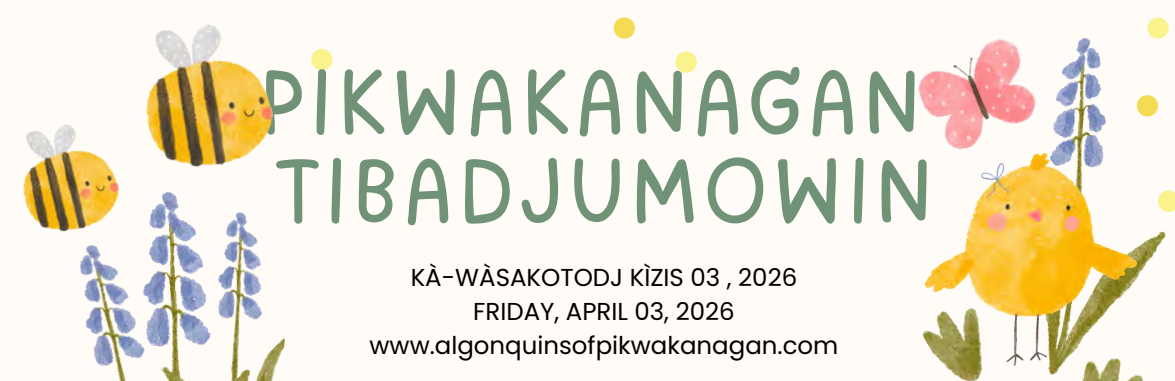
Don't forget that you can access the newsletter under the "Our Community" tab, select "Newsletter"

IMPORTANT!

Deadline for newsletter submission is
Thursday at noon
9x5 \$2/wk
9x7\$ /wk
½ column/page \$5.00/wk
Full page \$10/wk



Read the full newsletter by
clicking here



KÀ-WÀSAKOTODJ KÌZIS 03 , 2026
FRIDAY, APRIL 03, 2026
www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com

Content

- Updates & Notices
 - Statement of Elected Officials
 - Kichi Meegwetch statement
 - Public Works message
- News & Events
 - Rattray Survey
 - Information Sessions
 - Dual Exhibit
- Health Updates
 - Thoughts of the Month
 - Strong & Steady
 - Breakfast Club
- Employment Opportunities
 - Project Coordinator
 - Assistant Maintenance Worker
 - Executive Assistant - Amended
- Community info & Resource #'s
 - Resource Numbers
 - Volunteer & Facilitator Event
 - Legal Clinic

Membership Notice

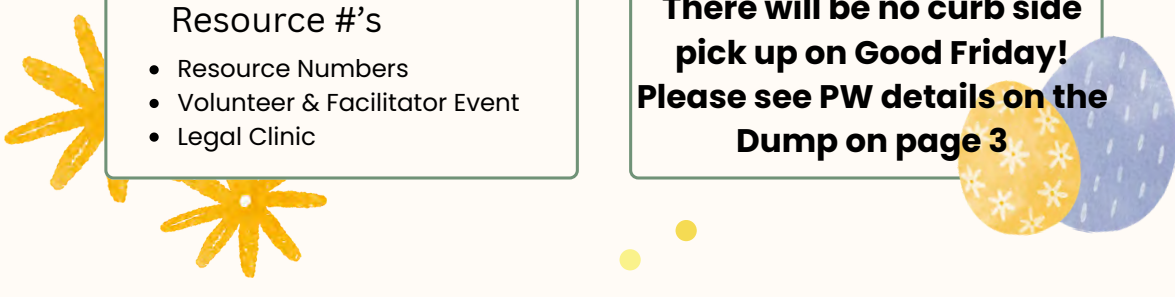
A reminder! We have switched to voIP phone system so if your call is disconnected please call back or email us.

Newsletter Ads:

Deadline for Newsletter:
Thursday at noon or if its a short week the **day before** close at noon.

IMPORTANT!

There will be no curb side pick up on Good Friday!
Please see PW details on the Dump on page 3





CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

NOM 1S6

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

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

March 24, 2026

Via email: trevor.jones@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
11th Floor
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1B3

Dear Hon. Trevor Jones,

Re: Ontario Veterinary College Enrollment Capacity

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their March 16, 2026, Regular Council Meeting:

126-2026

Moved By: Jim Dietrich

Seconded by: Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

That South Huron Council supports the February 26, 2026 correspondence of the Township of Papineau-Cameron regarding Ontario Veterinary College Enrollment Capacity; and

That this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Trevor Jones, the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli, the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Nolan Quinn, Lisa Thompson, MPP, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, AMO, and all municipalities in Ontario.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator
Municipality of South Huron
kwebster@southhuron.ca

519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli, vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org; the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Nolan Quinn, nolan.quinn@pc.ola.org; MPP Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, admin@cvma-acmv.org; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca; and all municipalities in Ontario.



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

March 23, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
minister.fin@ontario.ca

The Honourable Graham McGregor, MPP
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
graham.mcgregor@pc.ola.org

RE: Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding

At the March 23, 2026, Regular Council meeting for the Town of Saugeen Shores, the attached motion was passed endorsing the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding.

Sincerely,

Hailey Leigh-Mossley
Deputy Clerk
Encl.

cc. MPP Lisa Thompson
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SAUGEEN SHORES

MOVED BY: C. Grace

RESOLUTION NO: 096-2026

SECONDED BY: M. Myatt

DATE: March 23, 2026

Whereas older buildings have inherent sustainability and provide economic, environmental and social benefits for Ontario communities; and,

Whereas re-use of existing buildings reduces the need for increased infrastructure that accompanies new builds such as sewer and water services, new roads and sidewalks; and,

Whereas re-use of existing building can reduce construction waste and extend the life expectancy of landfills; and,

Whereas keeping older buildings helps a community remain visually richer and enhances identity while building its tourism brand and appeal; and,

Whereas creating a new, application-based, matching grant program of \$10M/year, modelled on an existing Alberta program would incentivize owners and smaller developers to keep, fix and reuse heritage buildings to create new housing; and,

Whereas such a grant program would provide an alternative to the Ontario heritage property tax relief program, which has limited impact on developers and reduces municipal revenues; and,

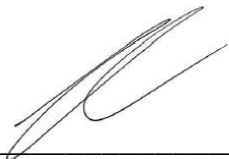
Whereas such a grant program would provide a simpler and more direct way for heritage building owners to fund renovations or conservation; and,

Whereas Ontario developers surveyed by the National Trust for Canada in 2014 ranked a heritage-revolving fund as their top incentive to encourage heritage development if:

- the grants are simple to apply for and to administer; and,
- the fund is large enough to meet at least 33% of the demand so that applicants have a reasonable chance of recovering the cost and effort of applying.

Therefore, be it Resolved That the Council of the Town of Saugeen Shores endorse the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding, and that this resolution be sent to the Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and MPP Lisa Thompson, and be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario.

- Carried
- Carried, as amended
- Defeated
- Deferred
- Referred
- Tabled
- Withdrawn



Mayor



March 17, 2026

RE: Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box

The Council of the Municipality of Bluewater passed the following resolution at their March 16, 2026 regular meeting:

MOVED: Councillor Harris **SECONDED:** Councillor Hessel

WHEREAS under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only; and

WHEREAS 'ineligible' sources, which producers are not responsible for, include industrial, commercial, and institutional locations (IC & I) such as businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks; and

WHEREAS failure to include 'ineligible sources under the Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box program is in essence a provincial tax on ineligible sources; and

WHEREAS should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, processing of the recycling; and

WHEREAS changes may result in many small businesses and not-for-profit organizations losing access to comparable recycling services and force them to seek providers at a much higher cost than the previous services rendered through the Blue Box collection system; and

WHEREAS the rising costs of collection of recycling for industrial, commercial and institutional recycling may lead to the abandonment of recycling entirely, increasing environmental damage; and

WHEREAS landfilling needs throughout the Province of Ontario are already at capacity in many communities; and

WHEREAS The Municipality of Bluewater has approximately 150 or more "non-eligible" sources that will not be provided service from the Producer Responsibility Organization;

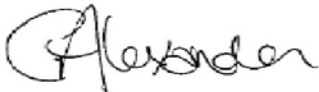
NOW THEREFORE the Municipality of Bluewater Council hereby request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from small businesses and not-for-profit organizations within the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors; and

FURTHER THAT Council hereby request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks; the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs and the local MPP for Huron-Bruce.

CARRIED.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chandra Alexander
Acting CAO
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk



Sent Via Email

March 27, 2026

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

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 1
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102

durham.ca

**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: Correspondence from Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia to The Premier of Ontario regarding Requesting the Province to consider giving municipal councils more authority to adjust Police Service Budget Proposals to reduce Municipal Financial Vulnerability, Our File: A00

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on March 25, 2026, adopted the following resolution:

That Council Correspondence CC 08 from Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia to The Premier of Ontario regarding requesting the province to consider giving municipal councils more authority to adjust police service budget proposals to reduce municipal financial vulnerability be received for information and endorsed.


Please find enclosed a copy of the Correspondence for your information.

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/nb

c: Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
Hon. R. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. P. Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Heads of Council for Municipalities across Ontario
B. Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
N. Pincombe, Commissioner of Finance
A. Burgess, Director, Communication and Engagement

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact Legislative Services at clerks@durham.ca or at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	February 26, 2026 9:29 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

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

February 19, 2026

Re: Mayoral Authority and Municipal Police Budget Sustainability

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing to express concern regarding the province's current position that limits a mayor and council's ability to meaningfully reduce or amend police service budget proposals once they have advanced through local police governance structures.

Municipal leaders across Ontario are operating within an increasingly constrained fiscal environment. Escalating administrative costs, combined with sustained growth in police budgets, are placing significant pressure on municipal finances. Without the tools to influence or moderate these expenditures, municipalities are left financially vulnerable, undermining long-term stability and responsible budget planning.

Mayors and members of council are accountable to residents for overall municipal fiscal health. However, under the province's current interpretation, they lack sufficient authority to address one of the fastest-growing areas of local spending. This creates a clear imbalance in accountability, where elected leadership bears responsibility for budget outcomes without the ability to manage risk, respond to local conditions, or ensure alignment with broader municipal priorities.

You have recently noted that education costs have become unsustainable, and the Minister of Finance has expressed similar concerns regarding health care expenditures. Policing costs present the same challenge, with the added constraint that mayors are now unable to intervene. This limits a municipality's capacity to balance competing service demands, invest in preventative and social supports, and respond flexibly to emerging community priorities, including housing. Over time, this approach risks crowding out essential services and capital projects while placing increased pressure on taxpayers.

In Sarnia, veto authority was used for the first time, and only with respect to capital funding. The operational police budget, which has increased by 40% over the past four years, was left untouched. The mayoral veto removed a proposed \$5 million capital item that would have committed the municipality to a long-term financial obligation estimated to reach \$120 million. Allowing such exposure without intervention would have been fiscally irresponsible and inconsistent with the principles of responsible municipal governance. The existing building was reported to be suitable for upgrades and maintenance at a cost of approximately \$5 million; however, the Sarnia Police Board and Chief have insisted that the Cadillac of all buildings is required. Proceeding with this option would saddle the taxpayers with substantial long-term debt and sustained tax increases for decades to come.


After 21 years of carrying municipal debt, the City of Sarnia has just recently achieved the distinction of being one of the few debt-free cities in Ontario. Under the current framework, renewed debt will become unavoidable, with financial impacts extending to future generations.

While this issue may not yet have arisen in every municipality responsible for funding and overseeing its own police service, the experience in Sarnia illustrates a challenge that other mayors may reasonably face in future budget years. As policing and capital costs continue to escalate, circumstances will emerge where elected municipal leaders are required to intervene to protect long-term fiscal sustainability. This is a critical issue that warrants careful reconsideration. I have therefore copied Heads of Council for municipalities across Ontario to unite in encouraging an approach that better aligns accountability with decision-making and supports more sustainable municipal governance across Ontario.

Given the practical implications for municipal budget deliberations and fiscal planning, I believe this matter should be addressed in advance of the next municipal council taking office. I respectfully urge the province to engage with municipalities on this issue and to explore legislative or policy adjustments that would provide local elected leaders with the tools necessary to manage fiscal pressures responsibly, transparently, and in the best interests of their communities.

I appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to the province's consideration of next steps.

Sincerely,



/ Mike Bradley
Mayor, City of Sarnia

Cc: The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Heads of council for municipalities across Ontario
Bob Bailey, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton
Sarnia City Council

Encl.: [CBC News February 18, 2026 - Province tells Ontario mayors they can't use 'strong powers' on police budgets | CBC News](#)

[CTV News February 18, 2026 - Sarnia Police Board weighing options in efforts to build new headquarters](#)


London

Province tells Ontario mayors they can't use 'strong powers' on police budgets

Finance expert says province needs to review fiscal relationship with municipalities to keep up with costs

Isha Bhargava | CBC News | Posted: Feb 18, 2026 5:00 AM EST | Last Updated: February 18



Listen to this article 

Estimated 5 minutes



A file photo of a police officer walking in downtown Hamilton, Ont. (Bobby Hristova/CBC)

The Ontario government is reminding municipal leaders that they cannot use their provincially granted "strong mayor powers" to challenge or limit police budgets.

This comes two months after Sarnia's mayor vetoed his city's police budget request of \$5 million for a new police headquarters, in what's led to an ongoing battle over the city's police funding.

In a letter sent to mayors and police board chairs in January, the province reiterated that municipalities are required to provide police boards with "sufficient funding" to comply with the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA).

"The Head of Council's strong mayor budget powers do not include the power to limit police service board budget increases or veto estimates submitted by police service boards," Solicitor General Michael Kerzner and Municipal Affairs Minister Rob Flack wrote in their Jan. 12 letter.

"Although municipalities are not required to adopt the board's estimates as submitted, they cannot approve or reject specific line items within the estimates."

- **Less than half of 'strong mayors' were using powers before Ontario expanded system: reports**

Municipal budgets include estimates of amounts required during the year and includes various boards, the letter explains. A police service board must submit their operating and capital costs to municipalities, which then establish the service's overall budget.

Premier Doug Ford's government created the strong mayor system in 2022 and it now applies to 216 mayors. The powers give the leaders control over appointments, the ability to hire and fire most city staff, vetoes over some council votes and the ability to pass some bylaws with support of only a third of council support.

'We can't chop public safety' says Premier

When asked by CBC about the issue of strong mayor powers relating to police budgets on Tuesday, Ford said investments in public safety need to be a top priority.

"We can't chop safety and protecting communities," Ford told reporters. "We need to make sure our priority is keeping our community safe because right now people don't feel safe. So we have to continue investing in our police, give them the tools they need to keep our community safe."

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley disagrees arguing the legislation prevents municipalities from balancing the needs of police and taxpayers. He said Sarnia police has received a 45 per cent operational increase over the last four years, and he only vetoed one capital spending item which the city cannot afford this year.



Sarnia's Mayor Mike Bradley says police budget increases in recent years have led to spending cuts in other city projects. (Facebook)

"The province has just wiped out our ability to control spending in our own communities. In most cases [police budgets] run from 30 to 40 per cent of the

municipal budget, so what the Ford government is saying is that councils and mayors cannot touch it," he said.

"So the message is, police boards who are unaccountable, can now just set the budget and the taxpayers have to pay. That's a pretty shocking statement from Queens Park."

Bradley argues he has supported increasing police budgets for frontline services, which have been substantial over the years and have led the city to cut back on spending for other projects.

In its letter, the province clarifies that there are dispute resolution mechanisms under the CPSA, namely arbitration, when a council disagrees with a police board's budget request.

Municipalities limited in challenging police budgets

However, proving a case against the police can be difficult for municipal councils who don't often have the capacity or technical knowledge to offer a challenge, said Nigel Bellchamber, a London, Ont., consultant specializing in municipal finances.

"It's a high bar that the municipality has to meet in order to succeed in an arbitration," he said, noting that municipalities are tasked with funding a variety of services whose costs outpace inflation.

"As a result, there are some significant challenges and tough decisions being made as to prioritizing capital expenditures in municipal budgets. So councils and municipal staff, whether you're in a strong mayor situation or not, they're all caught in a very difficult situation."



Nigel Bellchamber is a consultant in London, Ont., who specializes in municipal finances (Nigel Bellchamber/LinkedIn)

Bellchamber said the provincial and municipal fiscal relationship hasn't been properly reviewed in about 25 years and it needs to be revisited to respond to changing economic demands.

London's Mayor Josh Morgan agrees. His council approved a historic \$672-million investment in police spending during the last four-year budget, and while he's satisfied with the results of crime trending lower in the city, ballooning police budgets are a concern for municipalities, he said.

"Obviously when the largest portion of your budget is increasing by a fair amount, that's concerning in multiple ways," said Morgan.

"It's difficult for a municipality to shoulder all of the necessary investments in public safety that we need to make with all of the other things that we're obligated to do, and with the revenue streams we have available to us."

Morgan said it's important for municipalities to partner with provincial and federal governments to seek "broad-based, stable multi-year support for public safety funding."

In London's case, Morgan notes the police returned more than \$2.3 million to city coffers in the budget's first two years.

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Questions of 'strong mayor' veto powers remain after province attempts to clarify police budgets

By [Bryan Bicknell](#)

Published: February 18, 2026 at 5:14PM EST



The provincial government says municipalities can't use strong mayor powers to limit police budgets. CTV's Bryan Bicknell visits local reaction.

The chair of the Sarnia Police Service Board says the board is still weighing options in its bid to build a new police headquarters.

The comments follow a letter from Ontario's Solicitor General to municipalities that mayors cannot use so-called strong mayor powers to challenge police budgets.

"We sent the letter to council requesting that the veto to be vetoed, basically, and that the five million [dollars] be added back into the budget," explained Board Chair Kelly Ash. "We are re-evaluating, looking to see what we can get accomplished with the funds that we do have, while still hoping that council does deliberate over the \$5 million so that we can get started."



Sarnia Police Chief Kelly Kelly speaks to CTV News via Zoom on Friday, Feb. 26, 2022. (City of Sarnia/CTV News Canada)

Late last year Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley vetoed the city's police budget request of \$5 million to begin work on a new police headquarters. Bradley insists he's not about to re-open the city budget

"This idea that police boards now, without any accountability, they're not elected and they don't report to the public and you can't remove them, will now be able to say to any town, This is how much money we want each year, and govern yourself accordingly. You're going to have to find money or kill other projects that are really important to your community because we're number one," he said.

In London, the police budget has also been a sensitive item.



London Mayor Josh Morgan speaks to CTV News on Friday, Feb. 26, 2022. (City of London/CTV News Canada)

The most recent police budget passed two years ago in the city's four-year budget cycle increased police spending by \$672 million.

The London Police Service has since returned \$2.3 million in a bid to keep municipal property taxes at bay, explains London Mayor Josh Morgan.

"It's a pretty high bar to set for a municipality to not supply the budget, which is why my approach has been to work closely with the police board as a member of the board. And this board has returned dollars for the past two years," Morgan said.

Introduced in 2022 for Ontario's largest urban centres, strong mayor powers were expanded last year to include all 216 Ontario mayors. At least one legal opinion suggests this was when questions of interpretation began to arise.



London (MI) (Globe) Sam Trosow speaks to CTV News on Feb. 18, 2024. (Photo by Ben Hines/CTV News London)

London Coun. Sam Trosow is a retired Western University law professor. He believes the strong mayor legislation was rushed.

"I think if it was the intention of the legislature to categorically exempt police services matters from the act they would have or they should have said so. And they probably rushed this through so quickly, maybe they didn't even bother to think about it," he explained.

"But I think that the mayor of Sarnia is within his rights to challenge this part of the budget," Trosow said.



Suzanne Hryciuk, Sarnia Mayor, speaks to CTV News via Zoom on Feb. 18, 2024. (Photo by Ben Hines/CTV News London)

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Corporation of the Township of Black River - Matheson

421 Fifth Avenue
P.O. Box 601
Matheson, Ontario
P0K 1N0

**ITEM # 2026-10.d)
RESOLUTION**

DATE: March 10, 2026

2026-81

Moved by Councillor Bree Allen
Seconded by Councillor Scott McCutcheon

WHEREAS safe, reliable transportation corridors are essential to the economic prosperity, public safety, and supply chain resilience of Northern Ontario communities;

AND WHEREAS Highways 11 and 17 form the primary east–west transportation corridor across Northern Ontario and serve as a critical link for trade, resource development, emergency services, and community connectivity;

AND WHEREAS the expansion and modernization of these highways would strengthen national supply chains, support mining and resource development projects including those associated with the Ring of Fire, and improve safety for residents, commercial transport, and travelers;

AND WHEREAS Member of Provincial Parliament John Vanthof has introduced a motion in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario calling upon the Government of Ontario to work with the Government of Canada to declare the expansion and modernization of Highways 11 and 17 a project of national significance;

AND WHEREAS Member of Parliament Gaétan Malette has introduced a motion in the House of Commons advocating for federal recognition and support of strategic national infrastructure priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson formally express its support for the motion introduced by MPP John Vanthof requesting that the Government of Ontario work with the Government of Canada to declare the expansion and modernization of Highways 11 and 17 a project of national significance;

AND FURTHER THAT Council express its support for the motion introduced by MP Gaétan Malette currently before the House of Commons;

AND FURTHER THAT Council call upon both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to prioritize investments that strengthen transportation infrastructure, supply chain reliability, and economic development opportunities across Northern Ontario;

AND FINALLY THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Gaétan Malette, Member of Parliament
- John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming–Cochrane
- All Members of Parliament
- All Members of Provincial Parliament

- The Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Northern Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

CARRIED DEFEATED

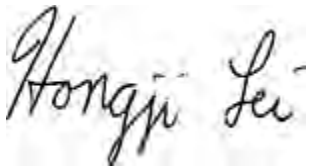


CHAIR SIGNATURE

Original Amendment Refer Defer Reconsider Withdrawn

Recorded Vote-TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERK ONLY

	YEAS	NAYS
Mayor Dave Dymant		
Councillor Allen		
Councillor Morrish		
Councillor Campsall		
Councillor McCutcheon		
Councillor Gadoury		
Councillor Bouchard		



Hong Ji Lei
Clerk



**The Corporation of the
Township of Perry**

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: February 18, 2026

Resolution No.: 2026- 078

Moved By: Joe Lumley **Seconded By:** Paul Sowrey

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in ensuring equitable access to information, literacy, education, and culture for all residents;

And whereas interlibrary loan services are an essential component of public library operations, particularly for small and rural communities with limited local collections;

And whereas reduced postal rates for library materials have historically enabled libraries to share resources efficiently and affordably across Canada;

And whereas recent amendments to the Canada Post Corporation Act have removed the legislative requirement to provide reduced postal rates for library materials, creating uncertainty for the continued delivery of this essential service;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry calls upon the Government of Canada to maintain and protect reduced-rate postal distribution for library materials through legislation;

And that Council requests that the Minister responsible for Canada Post ensure continued, affordable postal access for libraries and interlibrary loan services;

And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Joel Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, Scott Aitchison, MP Parry Sound-Muskoka, Hon. Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka, and all Ontario municipalities for support.

Carried: Defeated:


Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

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

March 20, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
Via email: Pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health
Via email: Marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via email: Premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
Via email: Sylvia.Jones@ontario.ca

Dear Prime Minister Carney, Minister Michel, Premier Ford and Minister Jones:

Re: Food Insecurity Emergency Declaration

The following motion was passed by Council declaring food insecurity an emergency in our community. This declaration reflects our growing concern about the impact of food insecurity on the health and well-being of residents across Chatham-Kent.

In passing this motion, we have joined other cities in Ontario who have declared food insecurity an emergency and hope it will initiate collaborative action and policy development at the provincial and federal levels of government.

“Whereas food insecurity is defined as, the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints, a marker of material deprivation (poverty), and a serious public health problem because it increases the risk of non-communicable and infectious diseases, and premature death.

Whereas chronic stressors like disability, precarious work, and acute shocks like COVID-19, illness or eviction, make it more difficult to afford life’s basic needs and live free from poverty. Whereas income-based policies are necessary to effectively reduce household food insecurity, which Chatham-Kent Public Health reports is experienced by at least 1 in 5 households in Chatham-Kent. Whereas the income provided through provincial and federal programs has not kept up with rising costs of food, housing and other basic needs.

Cont’d...

Whereas Ontario Works rates have been frozen since 2018: the maximum single person monthly benefit for basic needs is \$343 and \$390 for shelter, totalling \$733 per month.

Whereas Chatham-Kent Public Health reports a single person on Ontario Works spends ~134% of their income on food and rent. Whereas the Municipality of Chatham-Kent provides programs and services that decrease the impacts of poverty and income inequality and provides participants with a better quality of life which can positively improve health and well-being.

Whereas the number of individuals using Chatham-Kent Outreach for Hunger has increased by ~38% from 2022 to 2024, from 2781 unique individuals in 2022, to 3752 unique individuals in 2024, with a ~51% increase in families with children.

Whereas the number of households using the food assistance program within the Village Pantry has increased by ~124%, from 76 unique households in 2022, to 170 unique households in 2024.

Whereas the number of meals served to under-housed people by Reach Out Chatham-Kent has increased by ~17% from 2022 to 2024, from 43,594 meals in 2022, to 51,313 meals 2024.

Whereas Hope Haven has already had 4000 more visits in 2025 compared to 2024.

Whereas poverty costs Ontario around \$27.1 – 33 billion dollars per year: justice system \$1.1 billion; health care \$3.9 billion; lost income \$19.4 – 25 billion; lost tax revenue \$2.7 – 3 billion.

Whereas the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy's (Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario (2020-2025)) primary measure of success is that more social assistance recipients move into employment, despite people with employment income being one of the fastest growing groups at food banks.

Whereas the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council's mission is to lead in the development of relevant policies and to advocate for our local food system, and values that all people should have physical and economic access to healthy, culturally diverse, local food.

Whereas the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council's Strategic Plan for 2025-2027 highlights the need to advocate for government-level policies that impact food systems, and specifically, to advocate for income-based solutions to food insecurity to provide families with more agency in food choices.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Mayor and Council support the advocacy of the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council by declaring food insecurity an emergency in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Cont'd...

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial Government focus its upcoming 2026-2030 Poverty Reduction Strategy around reducing measures of material deprivation, such as food insecurity.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial Government immediately raise social assistance rates to meet life's basic needs.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income for those living in poverty.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase the rates of income support programs to ensure they are adequate to address the basic needs of individuals and families.

And that Mayor and Council request that the Provincial and Federal Governments include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies. And that a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Municipalities of Canada (FCM), Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), all Ontario Municipalities, all Members of Provincial Parliament and Parliament, The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, all federal party leaders, the Honourable M.P.P. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, and the Federal Minister of Health Marjorie Michel.”

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

C: All Members of Provincial Parliament and Parliament
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
Federation of Municipalities of Canada (FCM) Association of
Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)
Ontario Municipalities

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting**

Resolution # 7

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

Moved by: Michael Madden

Seconded by: Carma Williams

WHEREAS the Township of North Glengarry acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in Ontario’s rural and small urban communities; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities; and

WHEREAS in 2022, the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026; and

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials, and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities’ ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt; and

WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance, and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs, and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing; and

WHEREAS the Township of North Glengarry requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability, and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Township of North Glengarry calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.
4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics, and rural equity considerations.

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting**

Resolution #

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

-
5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs, or project overruns without reallocating core funding.
 6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments, and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.

FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Glengarry supports the September 29, 2025 resolution of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, the October 20, 2025 resolution of the Municipality of South Huron, and the November 19, 2025 resolution of the Township of Pulsinch regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

FURTHER THAT this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR

Deputy Mayor: Carma Williams

Councillor: Jacques Massie

Councillor: Brian Caddell

Councillor: Jeff Manley

Councillor: Michael Madden

Councillor: Gary Martin

Mayor: Jamie MacDonald

YEA

NEA

**Resolution of Council
City Council Meeting**

Title: Provincial Support of the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program
Date: February 2, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario,

Minister of Transportation, local MPPs, AMCO, and all Ontario municipalities operating public airports calling for provincial commitment to OACAP.

The above resolution, adopted by City Council is forwarded for your information and action, as required. Thank you.



John Kennedy, City Clerk

DATE: MONDAY MARCH 23, 2026

RESOLUTION NO: 26-66

THE CORPORATION TOWN OF MATTAWA

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LAURA ROSS

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MATHEW GARDINER

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Mattawa supports the Township of Papineau-Cameron regarding the Ontario Veterinary College's Enrollment Capacity.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College; the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association; the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded Vote – Yes No

Recorded Vote Requested by:

	Yea	Nay
Mayor Bélanger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Gardiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Levesque	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Mick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Thibert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Bigelow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RA Bélanger

Mayor Raymond A. Bélanger

Deferred Tabled Lost Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072
E-mail: admin@papineaucameron.ca Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

February 26, 2026

The Ontario Veterinary College
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

RE: Ontario Veterinary College expansion of enrollment capacity

The Council of The Corporation of The Township of Papineau-Cameron met at their Regular Council Meeting on February 24, 2026 and passed the attached resolution 2026-50 that relates to the Ontario Veterinary College's enrollment capacity.

Yours truly,

Venessa Wilson
Administrative Assistant

Encl: Resolution 2026-50, Township of Papineau-Cameron

Cc: The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
The Honorable Victor Fedeli, MPP, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
The Honorable Trevor Jones, MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Honorable Nolan Quinn, MPP, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

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E-mail: admin@papineaucameron.ca Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

February 26, 2026

The Ontario Veterinary College
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

RE: Ontario Veterinary College expansion of enrollment capacity

The Council of The Corporation of The Township of Papineau-Cameron met at their Regular Council Meeting on February 24, 2026 and passed the attached resolution 2026-50 that relates to the Ontario Veterinary College's enrollment capacity.

Yours truly,

Venessa Wilson
Administrative Assistant

Encl: Resolution 2026-50, Township of Papineau-Cameron

Cc: The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
The Honorable Victor Fedeli, MPP, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
The Honorable Trevor Jones, MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Honorable Nolan Quinn, MPP, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072
Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

DATE: February 24, 2026

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2026-50

MOVED BY:

Shelley Belanger

SECONDED BY:

M Chenier

WHEREAS large animal livestock owners in Northern Ontario have extremely limited access to large animal veterinary services;

AND WHEREAS the cost of large animal veterinary services in Northern Ontario is significantly higher due to long travel distances and the limited number of large animal veterinarians available to service the region;

AND WHEREAS it has come to the attention of the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township that three qualified individuals within our community have applied to the Ontario Veterinary College for large animal veterinary, but were denied admission due to limited enrollment capacity;

THAT the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township formally requests that the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association consider expanding enrollment capacity at the Ontario Veterinary College to allow more qualified applicants to pursue certification as large animal veterinarians.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Hon. Victor Fedeli MPP Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Hon. Trevor Jones MPP Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Hon. Nolan Quinn MPP Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Ontario Municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED:

Robert Corriveau
(Mayor)

NOT CARRIED:

(Mayor)

Recorded Vote (Upon Request of Councillor _____) Section 246 (1) Municipal Act

RECORDED DIVISION VOTE	YES Signature	NO Signature	ABSTAIN Signature
Mayor Robert Corriveau			
Deputy Mayor Shelley Belanger			
Councillor Keith Dillabough			
Councillor Jason Bélanger			
Councillor Mélanie Chenier			

COPY



Northumberland County Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 19, 2026

All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Correspondence, Town of Cobourg 'Elbows Up for Climate Action'

At a meeting held on March 18, 2026 Northumberland County Council approved the following Resolution # 2026-03-18-212 adopting the below recommendation from the March 2, 2026 Public Works Committee meeting

Moved by Councillor Mandy Martin

Seconded by Councillor John Logel

"**That** the Public Works Committee having considered correspondence from the Town of Cobourg regarding 'Elbows Up for Climate Action', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and send a copy of this resolution to all Ontario Municipalities."

Council Resolution # 2026-03-18-212

Carried

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at bennett@northumberland.ca or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonia Bennett".

Tonia Bennett
Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By M. Martin

Agenda
Item 10

Resolution Number
2026-03-18- 212

Seconded By J. Logel

Council Date: March 18, 2026

"That Council adopt all recommendations from the six Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held March 2, 3 and 4, 2026), with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:

- Public Works Committee, Item 7.a, Correspondence, Brenda Quin 'Proposed Charge for all Yard Waste Delivered to Transfer Stations' – **Held by Deputy Warden Martin**
- Public Works Committee, Item 8.c, Report 2026-036 'RFQ 25-40 Demolition of 9 Second St., 109 Saskatoon Ave. and 120 Grand Rd. Campbellford Contract Award' – **Held for Administrative Reasons**
- Public Works Committee, Item 8.e, Engineering Department Quarter 4, 2025 Update – **Held by Deputy Warden Martin**
- Economic Development, Tourism, and Land Use Planning Committee, Item 7.c Correspondence, Alto 'Alto Corridor Map and Virtual Engagement'- **Held by Councillor Logel**
- Corporate Support Committee, Item 8.a, Corporate Services Report 2026-042, '2025 Council Remuneration Review- **Update- Held by Councillor Hankivsky**

And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."

Recorded Vote
Requested by _____
Councillor's Name

Carried  _____
Warden's Signature

Deferred _____
Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
Warden's Signature

Public Works Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: March 2, 2026

Agenda Item: 7.c

Resolution Number: 2026-03-02- 164

Moved by: B Crate

Seconded by: J Logel

Council Meeting Date: March 18, 2026

"That the Public Works Committee having considered correspondence from the Town of Cobourg regarding 'Elbows Up for Climate Action', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and send a copy of this resolution to all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried 
Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated _____
Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred _____
Committee Chair's Signature



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

City of Brantford
58 Dalhousie St.,
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J2

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

Sent via email
clerks@brantford.ca

December 24, 2025

RE: Correspondence from David Miller regarding Elbows Up for Climate Action Letter

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on November 26, 2025, passed the following resolution:

THAT Council support the correspondence from C40 Centre for City Climate Policy and Economy regarding Elbows Up for Climate Action; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to send a copy of this resolution to all Ontario municipalities.

Sincerely,

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

CC:

City of Greater Sudbury <clerks@greatersudbury.ca>; City of Hamilton <clerk@hamilton.ca>; City of Kawartha Lakes <clerks@kawarthalakes.ca>; City of Ottawa <Caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca>; City of Toronto <clerk@toronto.ca>; County of Brant <alysha.dyjach@brant.ca>; County of Haldimand <clerk@haldimandcounty.on.ca>; County of Norfolk <clerks@norfolkcounty.ca>; County of Prince Edward <clerks@pecounty.on.ca>; Municipality of Chatham-Kent <ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca>; County of Bruce <cmacdonald@brucecounty.on.ca>; Municipality of Arran-Elderslie <clerk@arran-elderslie.ca>; Municipality of Brockton <fhamilton@brockton.ca>; Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula <clerk@northernbruce.ca>; Municipality of South Bruce <clerk@southbruce.ca>; Town of Saugeen Shores <clerk@saugeenshores.ca>; Town of South Bruce Peninsula <angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com>; Township of Huron-Kinloss <edance@huronkinloss.com>; County of Dufferin <clerk@dufferincounty.ca>; Town of Grand Valley <mtownsend@townofgrandvalley.ca>; Town of Mono <clerksoffice@townofmono.com>; Town of Orangeville <clerksdivision@orangeville.ca>; Town of Shelburne <townclerk@townofshelburnema.gov>; Township of Amaranth <nmartin@amaranth.ca>; Township of East Garafraxa <clerks@eastgarafraxa.ca>; Township of Melancthon <dholmes@melancthontownship.ca>; Township of Mulmur <tatkinson@mulmur.ca>; City of St. Thomas <mkonefal@stthomas.ca>; County of Elgin <kthompson@elgin.ca>; Municipality of Bayham <melliott@bayham.on.ca>; Municipality of Central Elgin <pshipway@centralelgin.org>; Municipality of West Elgin <clerk@westelgin.net>; Town of Aylmer <clerks@town.aylmer.on.ca>; Township of Malahide <aadams@malahide.ca>; Township of Southwold <cao@southwold.ca>; City of Windsor <clerks@citywindsor.ca>; County of Essex <clerks@countyofessex.ca>; Town of Amherstburg <clerk@amherstburg.ca>; Town of Essex <clerks@essex.ca>; Town of Kingsville <pparker@kingsville.ca>; Town of Lakeshore <clerk@lakeshore.ca>; Town of LaSalle <clerk@lasalle.ca>; Town of Tecumseh <jalexander@tecumseh.ca>; Township of Pelee <info@pelee.ca>; City of Kingston <cityclerk@cityofkingston.ca>; County of Frontenac <jamini@frontenaccounty.ca>; Township of Central Frontenac <cmacmunn@centralfrontenac.com>; Township of Frontenac Islands <dplumley@frontenacislands.ca>; Township of North Frontenac <clerkplanning@northfrontenac.ca>; Township of South Frontenac <lfragnito@southfrontenac.net>; City of Owen Sound <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>; Municipality of Grey Highlands <clerks@greyhighlands.ca>; Municipality of Meaford <clerk@meaford.ca>; Municipality of West Grey <info@westgrey.com>; Town of Hanover <tpatterson@hanover.ca>; Town of The Blue Mountains <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>; Township of Chatsworth <patty.sinnamon@chatsworth.ca>; Township of Georgian Bluffs



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

<clerks@georgianbluffs.ca>; Township of Southgate <clerks@southgate.ca>; County of Haliburton <mutter@haliburtoncounty.ca>; Municipality of Dysart et al <mbishop@dysartet.ca>; Municipality of Highlands East <rrogers@highlandseast.ca>; Township of Algonquin Highlands <dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca>; Township of Minden Hills <admin@mindenhills.ca>; City of Belleville <mtmacdonald@belleville.ca>; City of Quinte West <clerk@quintewest.ca>; Hastings County <bradleyc@hastingscounty.com>; Municipality of Centre Hastings <tchoinard@centrehastings.com>; Municipality of Hastings Highlands <clerk@hastingshighlands.ca>; Municipality of Tweed <clerk@tweed.ca>; Town of Bancroft <amckenzie@bancroft.ca>; Town of Deseronto <cmartin@deseronto.ca>; Township of Carlow Mayo <clerk@carlowmayo.ca>; Township of Limerick <clerk@township.limerick.on.ca>; Township of Madoc <clerk@madoc.ca>; Township of Stirling Rawdon <clerk@stirling-rawdon.com>; Township of Tudor and Cashel <clerk@tudorandcashel.com>; Township of Tyendinaga <clerk@tyendinagatownship.com>; Township of Wollaston <clerk@wollaston.ca>; Huron County <huronadmin@huroncounty.ca>; Municipality of Bluewater <clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca>; Municipality of Central Huron <clerk@centralhuron.com>; Municipality of Huron East <clerk@huroneast.com>; Municipality of Morris-Turnberry <thallam@morristorynberry.ca>; Municipality of South Huron <clerk@southhuron.ca>; Town of Goderich <afisher@goderich.ca>; Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh <clerk@acwtownship.ca>; Township of Howick <clerk@howick.ca>; Township of North Huron <clamb@northhuron.ca>; City of Sarnia <clerks@sarnia.ca>; County of Lambton <clerk@county-lambton.on.ca>; Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston <jdenkers@brookealvinston.com>; Municipality of Lambton Shores <info@lambtonshores.ca>; Town of Petrolia <petrolia@petrolia.ca>; Town of Plympton-Wyoming <ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca>; Township of Dawn-Euphemia <clerk@dawneuphemia.on.ca>; Township of Enniskillen <dmctavish@enniskillen.ca>; Township of St. Clair <jbaranek@stclairtownship.ca>; Township of Warwick <info@warwicktownship.ca>; Village of Oil Springs <clerk@oilsprings.ca>; Village of Point Edward <jburns@villageofpointedward.com>; County of Lanark <jralph@lanarkcounty.ca>; Municipality of Mississippi Mills <jharfield@mississippimills.ca>; Town of Carleton Place <sblair@carletonplace.ca>; Town of Perth <anoel@perth.ca>; Town of Smiths Falls <nbennett@smithsfalls.ca>; Township of Beckwith <cmcgregor@twp.beckwith.on.ca>; Township of Drummond-North Elmsley <cryder@dnetownship.ca>; Township of Lanark Highlands <lhclerk@lanarkhighlands.ca>; Township of Montague <clerkadministrator@township.montague.on.ca>; Township of Tay Valley <clerk@tayvalleytwp.ca>; City of Brockville <clerk@brockville.com>; Municipality of North Grenville <clerk@northgrenville.on.ca>; Town of Gananoque



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

<clerk@gananoque.ca>; Town of Prescott <marmstrong@prescott.ca>; Township of Augusta <officeclerk@augusta.ca>; Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal <rwilliams@twpec.ca>; Township of Elizabethtown - Kitley <yrobert@ektwp.ca>; Township of Front of Yonge <jault@frontofyonge.com>; Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands <clerk@townshipleeds.on.ca>; Township of Rideau Lakes <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; United Counties of Leeds and Grenville <clerk@uclg.on.ca>; Village of Merrickville-Wolford <cao@merrickville-wolford.ca>; Village of Westport <cao@villageofwestport.ca>; County of Lennox & Addington <tmckenzie@lennox-addington.on.ca>; Town of Greater Napanee <jwalters@greaternapanee.com>; Township of Addington Highlands <clerk@addingtonhighlands.ca>; Township of Loyalist <clerk@loyalist.ca>; Township of Stone Mills <bteepie@stonemills.com>; City of London <mschulth@london.ca>; Middlesex County <mivanic@middlesex.ca>; Municipality of North Middlesex <clerk@northmiddlesex.on.ca>; Municipality of Southwest Middlesex <clerk@southwestmiddlesex.ca>; Municipality of Thames Centre <clerk@thamescentre.on.ca>; Township of Adelaide Metcalfe <mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca>; Township of Lucan Biddulph <rreymer@lucanbiddulph.on.ca>; Township of Middlesex Centre <clerk@middlesexcentre.ca>; Township of Strathroy-Caradoc <clerk@strathroy-caradoc.ca>; Village of Newbury <case@newbury.ca>; County of Northumberland <matherm@northumberland.ca>; Municipality of Brighton <cdoiron@brighton.ca>; Municipality of Port Hope <sdave@porthope.ca>; Municipality of Trent Hills <clerksoffice@trenthills.ca>; Township of Alnwick/Haldimand <asmith@ahtwp.ca>; Township of Cramahe <clerk@cramahe.ca>; Township of Hamilton <dlivingstone@hamiltontownship.ca>; City of Woodstock <clerksinfo@cityofwoodstock.ca>; Oxford County <clerksoffice@oxfordcounty.ca>; Town of Ingersoll <danielle.richard@ingersoll.ca>; Town of Tillsonburg <clerks@tillsonburg.ca>; Township of East Zorra-Tavistock <mvader@ezt.ca >; Township of Norwich <admin@norwich.ca>; Township of South-West Oxford <clerk@swox.org>; Township of Zorra <clerk@zorra.ca>; City of Stratford <clerks@stratford.ca>; Municipality of North Perth <clerks@northperth.ca>; Municipality of West Perth <dhobson@westperth.com>; Perth County <clerk@perthcounty.ca>; Town of St. Marys <clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca>; Township of Perth East <mgivens@pertheast.ca>; Township of Perth South <lscott@perthsouth.ca>; City of Peterborough <clerk@peterborough.ca>; County of Peterborough <info@ptbocounty.ca>; Township of Cavan Monaghan <cpage@cavanmonaghan.net>; Township of Douro-Dummer <martinac@dourodummer.on.ca>; Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen <bangione@hbmtwp.ca>; Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan <hscott@osmtownship.ca>; Township of Selwyn <achittick@selwyntownship.ca>; City



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

of Clarence-Rockland <mouellet@clarence-rockland.com>; Municipality of Casselman <sdion@casselman.ca>; Town of Hawkesbury <Infoclerk@hawkesbury.ca>; Township of Alfred & Plantagenet <arochefort@alfred-plantagenet.com>; Township of Champlain <alison.collard@champlain.ca>; Township of East Hawkesbury <hvilleeneuve@easthawkesbury.ca>; Township of Russell <clerk.grefe@russell.ca>; United Counties of Prescott and Russell <mcadie@prescott-russell.on.ca>; City of Pembroke <pembroke@pembroke.ca>; County of Renfrew <ckelley@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>; Town of Arnprior <ojacob@arnprior.ca>; Town of Deep River <jmellon@deeperiver.ca>; Town of Laurentian Hills <cao@laurentianhills.ca>; Town of Petawawa <choward@petawawa.ca>; Township of Admaston-Bromley <info@admastonbromley.com>; Township of Bonnechere Valley <annetteg@eganville.com>; Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan <clerk-treasurer@blrtownship.ca>; Township of Greater Madawaska <clerk@greatermadawaska.com>; Township of Horton <nmoore@hortontownship.ca>; Township of Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards <tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca>; Township of Laurentian Valley <dsauriol@lvtownship.ca>; Township of Madawaska Valley <info@madawaskavalley.ca>; Township of McNab-Braeside <llee@mcnabbraeside.com>; Township of North Algona-Wilberforce <cao@nalgonawil.com>; Township of Whitewater Region <cmiller@whitewaterregion.ca>; United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria <clerk@headclaramaria.ca>; City of Barrie <wendy.cooke@barrie.ca>; City of Orillia <councilservices@orillia.ca>; County of Simcoe <clerks@simcoe.ca>; Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury <clerk@townofbwg.com>; Town of Collingwood <salmas@collingwood.ca>; Town of Innisfil <clerksoffice@innisfil.ca>; Town of Midland <sedgar@midland.ca>; Town of New Tecumseth <clerk@newtecumseth.ca>; Town of Penetanguishene <jlees@penetanguishene.ca>; Town of Wasaga Beach <clerk@wasagabeach.com>; Township of Clearview <shelmkay@clearview.ca>; Township of Essa <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>; Township of Ramara <jconnor@ramara.ca>; Township of Severn <agray@severn.ca>; Township of Springwater <renee.chaperon@springwater.ca>; Township of Tiny <swalton@tiny.ca>; City of Cornwall <clerk@cornwall.ca>; Township of North Dundas <njohnston@northdundas.com>; Township of North Glengarry <deputyclerk@northglengarry.ca>; Township of North Stormont <ccalder@northstormont.ca>; Township of South Glengarry <kcampeau@southglengarry.com>; Township of South Stormont <loriann@southstormont.ca>; United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry <kcasselman@sdgcounties.ca>; City of Guelph <clerks@guelph.ca>; County of Wellington <jennifer@wellington.ca>; Town of Erin <clerks@erin.ca>; Town of Minto <annilene@town.minto.on.ca>; Township of Centre Wellington



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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Elbows Up For Climate Action

An open letter from Canada's local leaders

Messrs. Blanchet, Carney, Pedneault, Poilievre, Singh, and Ms. May:

We are mayors and councillors from across Canada, where we represent and serve millions of residents of all political backgrounds. Like so many of you, we are already feeling the effects of U.S. trade attacks in our communities through lost jobs, uncertainty for businesses, and increased costs of daily living.

Increasingly, we are also guiding our communities through another kind of crisis: recurring wildfires, floods, storms and deadly climate events. **We believe this is the moment for Canada to fight back, by investing in national projects that will connect and protect our country from the dual threats of tariffs and climate change.**

Leading through a climate emergency changes you. You can't witness elderly neighbours overheating in low-income apartments during a heat wave, and not recognize the critical role of well-insulated, affordable housing. You can't comfort people who have lost everything in floods and fires, and not wonder how we will afford to rebuild. You can't watch your kids and loved ones choke on toxic wildfire smoke without **knowing the time to act boldly on climate change is right now – because later is too late.**

Over the past decade, we've watched wildfires rip through nearly every part of our country. Just like you, we were stunned when Lytton disappeared off the map. Then parts of Halifax went up in flames. Last year, wildfires engulfed the iconic and beloved Jasper. What's next? Who's next?

We can't keep watching our homes, towns and forests burn to a crisp, and pretend the status quo is working or safe. We can't adapt our way out of this problem.

It is time for us to get to work. We are proposing five bold and achievable ideas the next federal government can implement as soon as it is elected, to tariff-proof our economy and create a jobs boom in every community:

- **create a national East-West-North clean electric grid**, delivering affordable energy to urban, rural and Indigenous communities across the country;
- **build a national high-speed rail network**, and extend it with locally-made electric buses to reach every community in this country;
- **build at least two million non-market, energy-efficient homes**, creating more affordable, transit-linked communities;
- **make our homes and buildings warmer in winter, cooler in summer** with retrofits and heat pump installations across the country, that will cut energy bills and pollution;
- **.... and fund a national resilience, response and recovery strategy** so our communities can prepare for the climate disasters we know are coming, respond when they hit, and rebuild afterwards.

These projects would create hundreds of thousands of good local jobs in cities, rural and Indigenous communities, using Canadian steel, aluminum and lumber. They would bolster our economy and make daily life safer and more affordable for all of us. We *can* afford to pay for them now: by redirecting billions of dollars in fossil fuel subsidies, and strengthening the polluter pays principle, for example.

This is the kind of action that this moment calls for. That is why it has been so disappointing to hear voices following Donald Trump's lead and using this crisis to revive long-dead and unpopular pipeline projects. Let's be honest: new pipelines require massive public handouts, trample on Indigenous sovereignty, and mean more climate disasters hitting our cities and towns in years to come.

As local leaders, we know that whatever their political backgrounds, our constituents are worried about the same things: good jobs; a safe and affordable place to live; and confidence that their leaders have a plan for the next crisis we face, whether a climate disaster – or an economic sucker punch from our closest ally.

We are facing a growing climate threat, and an attack on our economic sovereignty. We can and must take them both on at once. This federal election, let's put our elbows up for climate action, and commit to truly national projects to protect and connect our country.

Signed

Councillor Neville Abbott, **Lions Bay**
Councillor Samantha Agtarap, **Port Moody**
Conseiller Francis Allaire, **Blainville**
Councillor Phil Allt, **Guelph**
Conseiller Pierre-Luc Arseneault, **Chandler**
Councillor Jordan Back, **North Vancouver**
Councillor Adam Baden-Clay, **Antigonish County**
Councillor Lori Baldwin-Sands, **St. Thomas**
Conseillère Anne Barabé, **Boucherville**
Former Mayor Lisa Barrett, **Bowen Island**
Councillor Dale Bass, **Kamloops**
Councillor Haley Bateman, **Niagara**
Councillor Jeff Bateman, **Sooke**
Mairesse Évelyne Beaudin, **Sherbrooke**
Councillor Scott Beaver, **St. Mary's**
Councillor Donna Bell, **Sechelt**
Councillor Nancy Bepple, **Kamloops**
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Mayor Merlin Blackwell, **Clearwater**
Conseiller Loïc Blancquaert, **Saint-Lambert**
Councillor Gabrielle Blatz, **Wetaskiwin**
Conseiller Jacques Bouchard, **Saint-Jérôme**
Councillor Phil Brennan, **Severn**
Conseillère Gabrielle Brisebois, **Montmagny**
Councillor Riley Brockington, **Ottawa**
Mayor Alan Brown, **Butternut Valley**
Councillor Don Brown, **View Royal**
Councillor Matthew Brown, **Kaslo**
Mayor Vickey Brown, **Cumberland**
Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, **Stratford**
Councillor Guy Burry, **Muskoka Lakes**
Councillor Sue Cairns, **Kimberley**
Councillor Ruby Campbell, **New Westminster**
Councillor Leanne Caron, **Guelph**
Deputy Mayor Marty Carr, **Ottawa**
Councillor Erin Caton, **Guelph**
Deputy Mayor Godwin Chan, **Richmond Hill**
Councillor Debbie Chapman, **Kitchener**
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Councillor Karen Cilevitz, **Richmond Hill**

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Councillor David Croal, **Gibsons**

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Conseillère Alicia Despins, **Québec**

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Councillor Nadia Dubyk, **Grey Highlands**

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Councillor Jon Farmer, **Owen Sound**

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Councillor Jane Fogal, **Halton Hills**

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Councillor Chantal Garneau, **Halton Hills**

Councillor Amit Gaur, **Parksville**

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Maire Paul Germain, **Prévost**

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Councillor Derek Giberson, **Oshawa**

Councillor Cindy Gilroy, **Winnipeg**

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Councillor Rodrigo Goller, **Guelph**

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Councillor Steve Gray, **Metchosin**

Councillor Lauren Greenlaw, **Squamish**

Councillor Alison Gu, **Burnaby**

Maire Pierre Guénard, **Chelsea**

Maire Marc-André Guertin, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

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Councillor Jimmy Hassan, **Kingston**

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Mayor Michael Hurley, **Burnaby**

Mayor Richard Ireland, **Jasper**

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Councillor Christopher Justice, **North Cowichan**

Mayor Todd Kasenberg, **North Perth**

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Councillor Jonathan Kerr, **Comox**

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Mayor Sean Krausert, **Canmore**

Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, **Hamilton**

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Councillor Johanna Kwakernaak, **Berwick**

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Councillor Joy Lachica, **Peterborough**

Councillor Michel Lalonde, **Champlain**

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Conseiller Jérémy Laplante, **Paspébiac**

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Mayor Andrew LeBlanc, **Riverview**

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Conseillère Line Légaré, **Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard**
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Conseillère Laure Letarte-Lavoie, **Sherbrooke**
Councillor Rik Logtenberg, **Nelson**
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Councillor Gord Lovegrove, **Kelowna**
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Councillor Wendy Morin, **Courtenay**
Councillor Lenore Morris, **Whitehorse**
Trustee Deb Morrison, **Islands Trust**
Councillor Joy-Anne Murphy, **Camrose**
Area Director Alison Nicholson, **Cowichan Valley Regional District**
Councillor Katrina Nightingale, **Pemberton**
Councillor Troy Nixon, **Fernie**
Councillor Vincent Noël, **La Prairie**
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Councillor Sean Orr, **Vancouver**

Councillor Lisa Osanic, **Kingston**

Conseiller Keith Page, **Nelson**

Councillor Aaron Paquette, **Edmonton**

Councillor Jasmin Parker, **Saskatoon**

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Councillor Elizabeth Peloza, **London**

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Councillor Gord Perks, **Toronto**

Councillor Liz Petrie, **Goderich**

Councillor Chris Pettingill, **Squamish**

Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff, **Saanich**

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Councillor Erin Rutherford, **Edmonton**

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Councillor Alison Smith, **Lunenburg**

Councillor Evan Spencer, **Calgary**

Councillor Tony St-Pierre, **Sooke**

Mayor Michelle Staples, **Duncan**

Councillor Wendy Stephen, **Kingston**

Councillor Dan Stevens, **Chase**

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Councillor Stephanie Stretch, **Kitchener**

Councillor Jenny Tan, **Maple Ridge**

Councillor Keren Tang, **Edmonton**

Councillor Kyle Tapper, **Mackenzie**

Councillor Alvin Tedjo, **Mississauga**

Councillor Daniel Tetrault, **Burnaby**

Conseiller Jonathan Théorêt, **Chertsey**

Councillor Troy Therrien, **Cumberland**

Conseillère Natacha Thibault, **Otterburn Park**

Conseillère Isabelle Thibeault, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

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Councillor Jeremy Thorne, **Riverview**,
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Deputy Mayor Nathan Townend, **Loyalist Township**
Councillor Brandon Tozzo, **Kingston**
Maire Mathieu Traversy, **Terrebonne**
Councillor Sam Trosow, **London**
Conseiller Alexandre Turcotte, **Otterburn Park**
Conseiller Benjamin Turcotte, **Val-d'Or**
Conseillère Elizabeth Ulin, **Montreal West**
Councillor Tony Valente, **North Vancouver**
Conseillère Stephanie Valenzuela, **Montreal**
Councillor Penny Varney, **Gravenhurst**
Mairesse Mélanie Villeneuve, **Otterburn Park**
Conseiller Christopher von Roretz, **Dorval**
Councillor Mary Wagner, **Langford**
Councillor Tim Wake, **Bowen Island**
Councillor Courtney Walcott, **Calgary**
Councillor Nick Ward, **Cumberland**
Conseiller Alexandre Warnet, **Laval**
Councillor Pat Warren, **Kawartha Lakes**
Mayor Bob Wells, **Courtenay**
Councillor Courtney Wentzell, **Region of Queens**
Mayor David West, **Richmond Hill**
Deputy Mayor Ghislaine Wheaton, **St. Stephens**
Councillor Laura White, **Halifax**
Councillor Howard Williams, **Wolfville**
Councillor Pam Wolf, **Region of Waterloo**
Councillor Michael Wolfe, **Richmond**
Councillor Sean Wood, **Parksville**
Councillor Theresa Wood, **District of Invermere**
Councillor Jesse Wright, **District of Mackenzie**
Councillor Julie Wright, **Waterloo**
Councillor Keith Yacucha, **Langford**
Councillor Shanon Zachidniak, **Regina**
Councillor Margaret Zwart, **Clarington**

Join Us



April 2, 2026

Re: Township of Oro-Medonte – Association of Ontario Road Supervisors Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments

Please be advised that at their regular meeting on April 1, 2026, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock carried the following resolution:

Moved by Councillor Scott Zehr
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Gillespie

THAT Council supports the resolution from Township of Oro-Medonte regarding the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors request for Provincial Legislation Amendments to strengthen protections for municipal workers and contractors.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Premier of Ontario
- Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
- Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Prabmeet Sakaria, Minister of Transportation
- MPP Ernie Hardeman
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors (AORS)
- Ontario municipalities

CARRIED

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

Meaghan Vader

Meaghan Vader
Corporate Initiatives Manager/Clerk
mvader@ezt.ca

March 13, 2026

Hon. David Piccini
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
14th Floor, 400 University Ave
Toronto ON M7A 1T7

Re: Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments, Health and Safety Concerns

Dear Minister Piccini,

At its meeting of Council on March 11, 2026, the Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte received correspondence from Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) regarding the above-mentioned request for support.

The Township of Oro-Medonte fully supports AORS in their request, as our staff have, on numerous occasions, been subjected to abusive and aggressive behaviour from members of the public. We respectfully request your support in advancing measures that will strengthen protections for municipal workers and contractors. With provincial partnership, municipalities can better safeguard the individuals who work tirelessly to maintain critical services and keep our communities functioning safely.

Sincerely,



Mayor Randy Greenlaw

Cc: Premier Doug Ford
Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Hon. Prabmeet Sakaria, Minister of Transportation
Hon. Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure
Doug Downey, MPP Barrie – Springwater - Oro-Medonte
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors (AORS)
Ontario Municipalities
Members of Oro-Medonte Council



Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development David Piccini
14th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

February 5, 2026

Dear Minister Piccini,

On behalf of Ontario's municipal public works professionals, we are writing to raise an urgent health and safety concern that is increasingly placing municipal workers and subcontractors at risk while they maintain the critical infrastructure our communities rely on every day.

While the Occupational Health and Safety Act establishes important protections against workplace hazards, it does not adequately address a growing and very real threat: unsafe working conditions created by interference, harassment, and dangerous actions from members of the public.

Through consultations with AORS members across the province, we are hearing consistent and deeply troubling examples of escalating behaviour directed at municipal workers - particularly winter maintenance operators. These are not isolated incidents, but a pattern that is becoming increasingly normalized during significant weather events. Examples reported to AORS include:

- An individual throwing a large chunk of ice at an active piece of municipal equipment while it was operating.
- A resident threatening to kill a sidewalk plow operator.
- A man climbing onto a snow plow and refusing to get off until the operator agreed to plow his road next.
- Two municipal staff members being confronted, accosted, and aggressively yelled at in public - one at a gas station and another while simply standing in line for coffee - by individuals angry about road conditions that were not even under that municipality's jurisdiction, as well as a mailbox that had been struck.
- A voicemail left by a resident threatening to shoot a municipal plow driver with a shotgun the next time the street was plowed.
- A resident angry about snow at the end of their driveway jumping in front of an active plow and refusing to move. The plow was delayed for over an hour during a major snow event, placing service levels and the municipality's overall emergency response at risk. The situation was only resolved once supervisors and by-law officers arrived on scene.

These incidents represent only a small sample of what municipal plow drivers and winter maintenance crews are experiencing across Ontario. What was once limited to disgruntled complaints has escalated into direct threats, physical interference, and dangerous confrontations that place workers, subcontractors, and the public at risk. This issue is becoming a systematic threat to municipal service delivery and is only amplified during significant weather events.

Municipal workers and their contracted partners are responsible for maintaining roads, bridges, sidewalks, and other essential services - often in extreme weather and high-risk environments. When these workers are threatened or obstructed, it becomes not only a workplace safety issue, but a broader public safety concern. In some cases, conditions have become so unsafe that

municipal staff and subcontractors have walked off job sites, jeopardizing timely service delivery during critical events.

We respectfully ask the Province to consider the following changes:

- Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, when a municipality declares a Significant Weather Event, municipal winter maintenance vehicles and operators - including subcontractors working on behalf of municipalities - should be afforded enhanced protection, with interference or obstruction treated with the same severity as interference with police, fire, or paramedic services.
- Establish clear public-safety interference provisions, similar in intent to Ontario's Slow Down, Move Over legislation, that recognize the essential role of municipal roadside workers.
- Consider adopting provisions similar to Manitoba's recently passed Bill 38, an amendment to their Highway Traffic Act effective January 1, 2026, which requires motorists to maintain a minimum distance of 30 metres behind snowplows where speed limits are 80 km/h or lower, and 100 metres where speed limits exceed 80 km/h.

These changes would provide clarity, deterrence, and enforceability—sending a strong message that interference with municipal workers performing essential services will not be tolerated. Just as Ontario protects first responders from obstruction during emergencies, we must extend similar protections to the public works professionals who keep our communities safe, connected, and functioning.

AORS would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss these concerns further and to collaborate on legislative solutions that better protect municipal workers and subcontractors while strengthening public safety across the province.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Karla Musso-Garcia, CRS-I
President, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
Operations Manager, Township of Oro-Medonte



Kelly Elliott
Interim Executive Director
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors

Cc (via e-mail)

Premier Doug Ford

Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response Jill Dunlop

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack

Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Sarkaria

Acting Minister of Infrastructure Todd McCarthy

Scott Butler, Good Roads Executive Director

Walid Abou-Hamde, Ontario Road Builders' Association Chief Executive Officer



Solicitor General of Ontario Michael Kerzner
George Drew Building, 25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

February 5, 2026

Dear Solicitor General Kerzner,

On behalf of Ontario's municipal public works professionals, we are writing to raise serious concerns regarding the safety of municipal workers and subcontractors who are increasingly facing harassment, threats, and dangerous interference from members of the public while delivering essential municipal services - particularly during winter maintenance and emergency operations.

Across Ontario, municipal public works teams are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure that residents depend on every day, including roads, sidewalks, bridges, and drainage systems. During significant weather events, these workers are frontline responders, ensuring emergency vehicles can travel safely and that communities remain connected and accessible. However, the behaviour directed at them has escalated well beyond routine complaints and has become a direct threat to both worker safety and public safety.

Through consultations with AORS members province-wide, we continue to receive troubling reports that illustrate the seriousness of this issue. These include:

- An individual throwing a large chunk of ice at an active piece of municipal equipment while it was operating.
- A resident threatening to kill a sidewalk plow operator.
- A man climbing onto a snowplow and refusing to get off until the driver agreed to plow his road next.
- Two staff members confronted and aggressively accosted in public - one at a gas station and another while simply waiting in line for coffee - by individuals angry about road conditions and a mailbox strike that were not even related to that municipality.
- A voicemail threatening to shoot a plow driver with a shotgun the next time the street was plowed.
- A resident jumping in front of an active plow during a major snow event and refusing to move, delaying operations for over an hour and jeopardizing service levels and overall emergency response.

These examples represent only a small sample of the experiences municipal plow drivers and winter maintenance crews are facing across the province. What was once occasional frustration has escalated into intimidation, threats of violence, and direct interference with equipment and operations.

Equally concerning is that municipalities do not always receive consistent enforcement support when these incidents occur. We have heard directly from members who contacted the Ontario Provincial Police for assistance and were advised that, unless a physical assault had already taken place, the situation was "not a police matter." Waiting until a worker has been physically harmed before intervention is neither preventative nor acceptable.

This gap leaves municipalities and workers vulnerable and sends an unintended message that threatening or obstructive behaviour toward municipal staff carries little consequence. It also places supervisors and by-law officers in situations that may exceed their authority or capacity to manage safely.

We believe a proactive and coordinated response is needed. Municipal workers and their subcontractors should not have to choose between their personal safety and providing critical services during storms and emergencies.

We respectfully ask that the Province of Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police take a clear and strong stance that interference, threats, and harassment directed at municipal public works staff will not be tolerated. Specifically, we would welcome:

- Clear direction and guidance to police services, including the OPP, that threats, intimidation, and obstruction of municipal workers performing essential duties warrant timely enforcement and support.
- Recognition that interference with winter maintenance and emergency public works operations presents a broader public safety risk, not merely a municipal operational issue.
- Enhanced coordination between municipalities and local police services during significant weather events and emergency responses to ensure worker safety and continuity of service.
- Consideration of legislative or policy tools that provide stronger deterrence and consequences for those who threaten or obstruct municipal staff and contractors.

Municipal public works professionals are essential workers. They keep roads open for ambulances, fire trucks, school buses, and the travelling public. Their safety should be treated with the same seriousness as that of other frontline responders.

AORS would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss these concerns and explore practical steps to ensure consistent enforcement support and stronger protections for municipal workers across Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership in public safety.

Sincerely,



Karla Musso-Garcia, CRS-I
President, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
Operations Manager, Township of Oro-Medonte



Kelly Elliott
Interim Executive Director
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors

Cc (via e-mail)
Premier Doug Ford

March 31, 2026

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



Come for a visit. Stay for a lifestyle.

Via Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

Re: Mayor Crate/Deputy Mayor Metcalf - Proposed Alto High-Speed Rail Corridor – Municipal Position

At its meeting of March 24, 2026, Council considered the Proposed Alto High-Speed Rail Corridor – Municipal Position brought forward by Mayor Crate/Deputy Mayor Metcalf and passed the following motion:

Motion No. THC-260324-30

Moved by Councillor Rob Pope
Seconded by Councillor Daniel Giddings

Whereas the Government of Canada has initiated planning and consultation for the proposed Alto high-speed rail corridor between Toronto and Québec City;

And Whereas preliminary study corridor mapping released by the Alto project indicates that potential route options could pass through the Municipality of Trent Hills;

And Whereas the currently identified study corridor would have significant potential impacts within Trent Hills, including passing through two of the Municipality's three primary urban settlement areas, Campbellford and Hastings, as well as extensive agricultural lands that are central to the local economy;

And Whereas the proposed corridor raises serious concerns regarding impacts to agricultural operations, municipal roads, infrastructure, private property, and established rural and urban communities;

And Whereas there are significant unknown costs to municipalities associated with the proposed corridor, including impacts to municipal infrastructure, service delivery, transportation networks, and emergency response;

And Whereas Trent Hills and residents have not received sufficient detailed information regarding potential local impacts, including land use, environmental effects, municipal infrastructure interfaces, and long-term financial or operational implications;

And Whereas the Municipality of Trent Hills supports responsible transportation infrastructure that strengthens regional connectivity while respecting the needs of local communities;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Municipality of Trent Hills formally opposes the currently identified Alto high-speed rail study corridor routes that would pass through the Municipality;

And Further That Council requests that the Government of Canada and the Alto project team remove Trent Hills from the study corridor and pursue alternative routing that avoids impacts to the Municipality's agricultural lands, infrastructure, and settlement areas;

And Further That this resolution be circulated to the Government of Canada, the Alto project team, Philip Lawrence, MP for Northumberland–Peterborough South, Northumberland County, other affected municipalities, and AlderVille First Nation.

Carried.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipality.

Sincerely,



Robert Crate
Mayor



Mike Metcalf
Deputy Mayor

CC: Alto Project Team
Philip Lawrence, MP for Northumberland-Peterborough South
Northumberland County
AlderVille First Nation



TOWNSHIP OF
McNab/Braeside

Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: February 17, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 56-2026
 Moved by Councillor Kevin Rosien Disposition: CARRIED
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Item No: 14.2

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by: _____	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: _____
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
 abstained from discussion and did not vote



Box 608, Little Current, POP 1K0
705-368-3500

Please see below a Resolution passed by the Council of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands.

If your Council supports this motion please share with the appropriate Ministries and Organizations.

Thank You

Resolution No. 75-03-2026

Moved by: B. Wood

Seconded by: P. Aelick

Whereas the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, like many municipalities, utilizes chip-and-tar surface treatment on a significant portion of its road network; and

Whereas the Town has observed a substantial decrease in the length of time these treated roads remain in acceptable condition; and

Whereas the quality and durability of the oil used in the surface treatment appears to be a contributing factor; and

Whereas the Ministry of the Environment amended its regulations several years ago, permitting only lighter-grade oils for environmental considerations; and

Whereas the reduced durability of the lighter-grade product has resulted in more frequent resurfacing cycles and has consequently led to increasing maintenance costs;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands respectfully requests that the Ministry of the Environment reconsider its decision regarding the lighter grade of oil, taking into account the increased number of applications required, as well as the associated additional time, energy, and financial burden placed on municipalities or develops a better alternative oil.

And Further that this motion be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, AMO, Good Roads, FONOM, MPP Bill Rosenberg, and all other municipalities.

Carried



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD.,
BEAMSVILLE, ON L3J 1L3
905-563-2799

March 25, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL: graham.mcgregor@pc.ola.org

Hon. Graham McGregor
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
10215 Kennedy Rd. N
Brampton, ON L6Z 0C5

RE: Town of Lincoln Resolution – Request to the Province of Ontario to Extend the Deadline for Notices of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Committee of the Whole Meeting held on March 23, 2026, passed the following resolution:

Resolution Number: PED-2026-22
Moved by: Councillor Lynn Timmers

WHEREAS amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act under the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 introduced timelines requiring municipalities to issue Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022, originally requiring action by January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Province subsequently amended the legislation through the Homeowner Protection Act, 2024 to extend the deadline to January 1, 2027 in response to concerns raised by municipalities and heritage stakeholders; and

WHEREAS municipalities require sufficient time and resources to undertake research, documentation, consultation, and evaluation to determine whether listed properties warrant designation under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

WHEREAS the removal of listed properties from municipal heritage registers if the prescribed timelines are not met may place cultural heritage resources at increased risk of demolition or irreversible alteration before municipalities have the opportunity to properly evaluate their cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS many municipalities, including the Town of Lincoln, do not have dedicated heritage planning staff and must rely on volunteer Heritage Advisory Committee members or external heritage consultants to undertake property evaluations, which can result in additional financial and administrative pressures; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are facing significant workloads associated with evaluating listed properties; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Heritage Advisory Committee, at its meeting of March 12, 2026, recommended that Council advocate to the Province of Ontario for a further extension to the current deadline;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Council of the Town of Lincoln endorse the recommendation of its Heritage Advisory Committee and respectfully request that the Province of Ontario further amend the Ontario Heritage Act to extend the January 1, 2027 deadline for issuing Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022; and
2. The Province consider extending the deadline to January 1, 2030, or another reasonable timeframe that would provide municipalities with adequate time to complete heritage evaluations and make informed designation decisions; and
3. This resolution be circulated to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Heritage Committee Association, and all Ontario municipalities for their information and consideration.

CARRIED

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

- c.c. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Niagara West Member of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Community Heritage Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities
Manager of Planning and Development
Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee

March 17, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education
5th Floor
438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

via email: premier@ontario.ca
minister.edu@ontario.ca

RE: Request for Provincial Consultation and Transparency Regarding Potential Changes to English Public School Board Governance

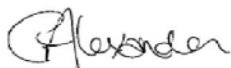
Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

At their regular scheduled meeting of March 16, 2026, Council of the Municipality of Bluewater received correspondence from Michael Bannerman, Board of Trustees Chair for the Avon Maitland District School Board regarding the potential changes to the English Public School Board Governance and passed the following resolution:

MOVED: Councillor Harris **SECONDED:** Councillor Walden
THAT Council of the Municipality of Bluewater supports the Avon Maitland District School Board in their request to the Government of Ontario to undertake a comprehensive, province-wide consultation process before moving forward with any changes to the governance structure of English public school boards; and

THAT this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, MPP Lisa Thompson all Ontario municipalities. **CARRIED.**

Sincerely,



Chandra Alexander
Acting CAO/Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

Encl: Letter from Avon Maitland District School Board Trustee Chair

cc: Michael Bannerman, Chair, Board of Trustees
MPP Lisa Thompson
All Ontario Municipalities



March 2, 2026

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

And

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education, Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

Re: Request for Provincial Consultation and Transparency Regarding Potential Changes to English Public School Board Governance

Dear Premier Doug Ford and Minister Paul Calandra,

On behalf of the Trustees of the Avon Maitland District School Board, I am writing to respectfully request that the Government of Ontario undertake a comprehensive, province-wide consultation process before moving forward with any changes to the governance structure of English public school boards.

Recent public statements indicating that the Ministry is considering eliminating the role of democratically elected English public school trustees have generated significant concern among school boards, families, and communities across the province. Trustees serve as an essential democratic link between local communities and the public education system. Any proposal to fundamentally alter or remove this role would represent a major shift in the governance of education in Ontario and warrants careful study, thoughtful analysis, and open dialogue.

Given the magnitude of this potential change, we respectfully ask the government to clearly demonstrate how it has arrived at its current thinking. Specifically, we request that the Ministry make public the research, evidence, data analysis, policy reviews, stakeholder input, and performance evaluations that have informed its consideration of altering or eliminating the role of elected trustees. Transparency regarding the rationale, objectives, and anticipated outcomes of this proposal is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring informed dialogue.

The Trustees of the Avon Maitland District School Board believe that decisions of this significance must be supported by transparent research and meaningful engagement with stakeholders. We respectfully request that the government initiate a formal consultation process that includes school boards, parents, educators, students, First Nations representatives, and the broader public. Such a process would help ensure that any future governance model is grounded in evidence and reflects the needs and priorities of Ontario's diverse communities.

As a board serving a large and predominantly rural geographic area, we also wish to emphasize the critical importance of the democratically elected trustee role in ensuring that rural perspectives are represented in education decision-making. Trustees provide an essential local voice for communities whose priorities and challenges may differ significantly from those experienced in larger urban centres. Issues such as student transportation, long travel distances, rural school viability, access to programming, and community connectivity are often best understood by locally elected representatives who live and work in those communities. Preserving avenues for rural representation helps ensure that provincial education policies reflect the realities of students and families across all regions of Ontario.

We are also concerned that removing English public school trustees could have unintended consequences for representation and accountability within the system. In many boards, legislated First Nations representation and student trustees play an important role in ensuring diverse voices are heard in decision-making. The loss of elected trustees could impact these mechanisms that currently provide important perspectives at the governance table.

We are aware that the Waterloo District School Board has written to the Ombudsman's Office to request an investigation into the fairness, transparency, and accountability of the process used to implement changes to the school board governance model, and we are in full support of this request.

The Trustees of the Avon Maitland District School Board remain committed to working collaboratively with the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Government of Ontario to support a strong, transparent, and responsive public education system. We believe that transparency, evidence-based decision-making, and meaningful consultation will best serve students, families, and communities across the province.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to participate in any consultation process or discussion regarding the future governance of Ontario's public education system.

Sincerely,



Michael Bannerman
Chair, Board of Trustees
Avon Maitland District School Board

cc: AMDSB Trustees
MPP Lisa Thompson
MPP Matthew Rae
Local Municipalities
Local Media Outlets
Ontario Public School Boards' Association and Member Boards
AMDSB Parent Involvement Committee
AMDSB Special Education Advisory Committee
AMDSB Parent Councils Chairs

Sent by Email

April 8, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park Room 281
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Subject: Corr. 01-26
Megha Trivedi, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Prince
Re: Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on March 23, 2026 and adopted the following resolution:

1. That Corr. 01-26, from Megha Trivedi, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Prince, dated February 10, 2026, regarding a Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children, be received and endorsed; and,
2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General, The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and all municipalities in Ontario.

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

A copy of the original correspondence is attached for your information.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel

City Clerk

SC:am

Encl.

Copy: The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General
The Honourable Doug Downey, Solicitor General
All Ontario Municipalities
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Chief Administrative Officer



The Corporation of the Township Of Prince
3042 Second Line West, Prince Township, Ontario P6A 6K4
Office 705-779-2992 Fax:705-779-2725

February 10th ,2026

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

RE: Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

Dear Prime Minister,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on February 10th , 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Prince passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan.

Resolution Number: 2026 - 33

Moved by: Councillor M. Christenson

Seconded by: Councillor J. Weir

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Township of Prince support the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan's resolution regarding a call to action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General of Ontario, Solicitor General of Ontario, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried.

Sincerely,

Megha Trivedi
Clerk-Treasurer
Township of Prince



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

February 4, 2026

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

RE: Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

Dear Prime Minister,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on February 4th, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Town of Aylmer.

Resolution No: 2026-02-04-05
Moved by: Councillor Quade
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

“Be it resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Town of Aylmer’s resolution regarding a Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada’s Children.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General of Ontario, Solicitor General of Ontario, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke MPP and MP, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all municipalities in Ontario.”

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

January 15, 2026

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

Dear Prime Minister

Re: Support for the City of Welland's Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

At their Regular Meeting of Council on January 15, 2026, the Council of the Town of Aylmer endorsed the following resolution:

Whereas the Town of Aylmer supports the City of Welland's call to action for justice and protection of Canada's children; and,

Whereas the safety and well-being of children is a fundamental responsibility shared by all levels of government; and,

Whereas recent incidents involving sexual offences against children have deeply affected communities across Ontario and Canada, raising serious concerns about public safety and the adequacy of existing legislative protections; and,

Whereas violent sexual crimes against children represent some of the most serious offences under the Criminal Code of Canada and have lifelong impacts on victims, families, and communities; and,

Whereas municipalities play a critical role in advocating for policies that protect residents and promote safe communities; and,

Whereas there is a growing concern that gaps in bail, sentencing, parole eligibility, and offender monitoring allow high-risk individuals to re-enter communities pre-maturely, placing children at continued risk;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Aylmer formally urges all levels of government to review and strengthen legislation and policies related to violent and sexual offences against children, including but not limited to:

- 1. Bail and Sentencing Provisions - ensuring that individuals charged with or convicted of violent sexual offences against children are subject to the strictest possible bail conditions and sentencing outcomes that reflect the severity of these crimes;**
- 2. Parole and Early Release - limiting parole eligibility, statutory release, or other forms of early release for offenders convicted of sexual offences against children who pose ongoing risks to public safety;**
- 3. Sex Offender Monitoring - strengthening the National Sex Offender Registry and related provincial tools to improve accuracy, enforcement, and timely access to information for law enforcement; and**
- 4. Victim and Community Safety - prioritizing the protection of children and community safety within the justice system above administrative or procedural efficiencies;**

And be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to:

The Premier of Ontario
The Attorney General of Ontario
The Solicitor General of Ontario
The Prime Minister of Canada
The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Member of Provincial Parliament, Rob Flack
Member of Parliament, Andrew Lawton
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and;
All 444 Ontario Municipalities

And be it further resolved that Council encourages municipalities to adopt similar resolutions to work collaboratively to present a unified municipal voice advocating for stronger protections for children across Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Jaggard
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk | Town of Aylmer
46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, ON N5H 1J7
519-773-3164 Ext. 4913 | Fax 519-765-1446
ojaggard@town.aylmer.on.ca | www.aylmer.ca

CC:

Hon. Doug Ford doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Doug Downey doug.downey@pc.ola.org
Hon. Michael S. Kerzner michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org
Hon. Sean Fraser sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca



The Corporation of the Town of Aylmer
46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 1J7
Office: 519-773-3164 Fax: 519-765-1446
www.aylmer.ca

Hon. Rob Flack rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Mr. Andrew Lawton andrew.lawton@parl.gc.ca

Mayor Frank Campion c/o Theresa Ettore Theresa.ettore@welland.ca

Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolutions@fcm.ca

All municipalities



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
FRANK CAMPION
60 East Main Street
Welland, Ontario
L3B 3X4
Phone: 905-735-1700
Fax: 905-735-1543**

December 2, 2025

Subject: A Call to Action: Standing Together for Justice and the Protection of Canada's Children

Dear Fellow Mayors,

I write to you today not only as the Mayor of Welland, but as a member of a community that has been deeply shaken by an unthinkable act in August 2025: the brutal sexual assault of a three-year-old child. This tragedy has horrified our residents, leaving families in grief and disbelief, and compelling us as leaders to confront the uncomfortable truth that our justice system is failing to adequately protect our most vulnerable.

While no policy can erase the trauma this child and their family will endure, we have a moral obligation to act. This moment demands leadership from all of us, to raise our collective voices and ensure that meaningful reform takes place.

I urge you to join me in calling on provincial and federal governments to take immediate and decisive action by advancing the following measures:

- The full and expedited implementation of recent federal bail and sentencing reforms, so that new provisions designed to protect the public—particularly victims of violent sexual crimes—are applied swiftly and consistently across all jurisdictions.
- Strengthening bail and sentencing provisions so that individuals charged with, or convicted of, violent sexual crimes face the strictest possible conditions, including limits on early release in cases of extreme brutality.
- That parole eligibility for sexual offences against children reflects the full gravity of these crimes, limiting conditional or early release for offenders who pose ongoing risks to community safety.
- Strengthening the National Sex Offender Registry, providing communities and police with timely, accurate information and effective tools to safeguard residents.

Canadians must be able to trust that our justice system prioritizes public safety—especially the safety of children—above all else. Communities like ours cannot bear the weight of knowing that legislative gaps may allow dangerous offenders to harm again.

I am calling on you, my colleagues in municipalities across Canada, to:

1. Pass council resolutions urging your respective provincial governments to review and strengthen laws protecting children from violent offenders.
2. Collaborate through FCM and provincial municipal associations to bring a united municipal voice to Ottawa and all legislatures across the country, advocating for the timely implementation and continued enhancement of justice reforms.
3. Engage your local MPs, MPPs/MLAs, and their governments to advocate for continued legislative and judicial reform.

4. Support awareness and prevention efforts within your communities to reinforce the safety and well-being of every child.

Together, we can create a wave of leadership that demands justice and refuses complacency. The protection of children transcends politics and geography; it is a shared duty that defines who we are as a nation.

Thank you for standing with us in this urgent cause. I would welcome the opportunity to coordinate efforts with you and your councils to move this national call forward.

With respect and solidarity,



Frank Campion
Mayor of Welland

Resolution: The EOWC Opposes ALTO High-Speed Rail Project in its Current Form

Date: March 19, 2026

Moved by: Warden Richard Kidd, Lanark County

Seconded by: Warden Corinna Smith-Gatcke, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

WHEREAS the Federal Government has identified ALTO high-speed rail as a nation-building project with an estimated cost of \$60 to \$90 billion, to deliver faster, more reliable passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS ALTO is advancing plans for a high-speed passenger rail project between the Quebec City-Toronto corridor, cutting through eastern Ontario; and

WHEREAS there is only currently one proposed stop across the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus' (EOWC) 50,000 square kilometre region, benefitting urban residents at the cost of rural residents and lands; and

WHEREAS portions of the proposed project will traverse and impact eastern Ontario communities, infrastructure, residential and agricultural lands, municipal trails, and environmentally sensitive areas, and with no long-term economic benefits; and

WHEREAS the closure and/or dead-ending of roads will have significant ongoing and unknown costs to municipalities, as well as service delivery and emergency response implications to residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS eastern Ontario municipalities and residents have not received sufficient detailed information regarding potential local impacts, including land use, environmental effects, municipal infrastructure interfaces, and long-term financial or operational implications; and

WHEREAS municipal governments are responsible for protecting local interests, ensuring compatibility with existing planning frameworks, as well as safeguarding environmental, community, and resident mental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS the EOWC and its member municipalities are actively trying to engage with ALTO through a truly meaningful consultation process to understand the impacts of both proposed high speed rail train routes to our residents, lands, trails, and businesses; and

WHEREAS the EOWC is eastern Ontario's united advocacy voice representing 103 communities who value and will advocate for the region's beautiful lands that hold deep

agricultural and cultural roots, and that are home to our rural and small-urban communities that will be impacted by ALTO.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC formally opposes the ALTO project in its current form; and

THAT this opposition is based on concerns related to insufficient municipal consultation, unclear rural and small-urban impacts, potential environmental effects, and alignments with existing eastern Ontario planning and infrastructure priorities; and

THAT the EOWC urge our member municipalities, partners, businesses, and residents to share their questions and comments with ALTO and federal representatives as part of the engagement process; and

THAT the EOWC look to gather detailed information from ALTO to more fully understand the project and its impacts across eastern Ontario; and

THAT the EOWC advocates that the Federal Government and ALTO fully explore train route options along existing infrastructure corridors, such as VIA Rail and/or Highway 401; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Steve MacKinnon, Minister of Transportation, Martin Imbleau, President and CEO of ALTO, EOWC Members of Parliament, Premier Doug Ford, EOWC Members of Provincial Parliament, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus, all EOWC municipalities, and Eastern Ontario First Nations partners.

CARRIED

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Clark".

EOWC Chair Bonnie Clark
info@eowc.org

Kaitlyn Wendland

Subject: OWFR THE CURRENTS - March 2026

From: Ottawa West Four Rivers <info@owfr.ca>

Sent: March 30, 2026 9:42 AM

To: Robin Paquette <rpaquette@arnprior.ca>

Subject: OWFR THE CURRENTS - March 2026



The Currents

March 2026

Welcome to **The Currents**. Our newsletter helps keep partners informed about the Ottawa West Four Rivers OHT's latest initiatives and projects, provincial OHT updates, and relevant news from local health and social services partners.

Provincial OHT News



UPDATE: Clearing the Health Care Connect waitlist

OHTs and PCNs continue to play a significant role in supporting Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan. OWFR, in partnership with Ontario Health atHome and its successful Interprofessional Primary Care Team (IPCT) expansion programs, is making progress in reducing the Health Care Connect (HCC) waitlist for people within our communities.

Last spring, OHTs and PCNs were asked to clear the HCC waitlist of any patients waiting prior to January 2025; that represented more than **11,000 patients in our OHT area**. Through the

efforts of our HCC Care Connector waitlist validation, the attachment work of our three successful IPCT Round 1 expansion teams, and local primary care clinicians, that number **now sits at under 2,300 as of March 23, 2026**. This represents a 48% reduction over the past 3 months and referrals completed to more than **35 primary care clinicians within OWFR!** To further support this goal, our Supported Attachment Program continues to work with participating clinicians and offices to help **clear the list by June 20, 2026**.

Ontario announces advancing new province-wide Primary Care Medical Record system

As part of the Primary Care Action Plan, Ontario is advancing a new province-wide **Primary Care Medical Record system** that will integrate patient records, reduce paperwork for doctors, and improve the quality of care received by patients.

The proposed system will be an interoperable, secure system, accessible from across Ontario that will provide clinicians with a more complete view of a patient's health history, improving coordination across the health system while reducing delays caused by missing records.

[Read More](#)

OWFR Project News



New projects

Care Coordinator-Led Newborn Attachment Initiative: Bridging Care, Building Connections

Launched in mid-December, this new pilot program uses a care coordinator-supported strategy to connect unattached newborns discharged from **Queensway Carleton Hospital** and **Almonte General Hospital** with primary care (as part of our Primary Care Access and Attachment plan for 2025-26).

Newborns without a family doctor often face delays in immunizations, developmental screening and essential follow-up care. The care coordinator triages, coordinates referrals with local primary care offices, and ensures unattached newborns and their unattached family members are also added to the Health Care Connect list.

The care coordinator began attaching patients in January 2026. To date, the program has built a **network of more than 35 primary care clinicians** accepting patients and has **attached 196 patients in total** (newborns and their family members). Of these, 181 are permanently attached and 15 are temporarily attached (within the 24-month period).

Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (ACIC)

This project team will complete a baseline ACIC score within the OWFR OHT and develop an associated plan for submission to Ontario Health.

The ACIC helps evaluate the six domains for strong chronic disease care:

1. Health system organization
2. Community linkages
3. Self-management support
4. Delivery system design
5. Decision support
6. Clinical information systems

Thank you to the partners who responded to our callout for participants. The ACIC project team will begin meeting in April. Led by **Erinn Salewski**, Program Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, Injury Prevention & System Integration at Ottawa Public Health, and **Dr. Karen Ferguson**, Primary Care Clinical Lead, the project team will include representation from Lived Experience Partners, diabetes care, community care, home care, community paramedicine, primary care, hospitals, and more.

We look forward to sharing more from this project team in the coming months!

Completed projects

Online Appointment Booking

The project successfully expanded online appointment booking access for primary care in the OWFR region to improve patient experience and operational efficiencies.

The project resulted in **63 new primary care providers** offering online appointment booking, in addition to **118 providers who continue to offer this option** to patients. There was a **12% increase of primary care appointments booked online** in 2025/26 compared to in 2024/25.

Primary care clinics participating: Mosaic Clinic, Manotick Medical Centre, Strandherd Medical Centre, Brightside Medical Clinic, Westend FamilyCare Clinic, Greenbelt Family Health Team, Kemptville Medical Centre, Richmond Medical Centre, Kemptville Health and Wellness Centre, Kanata North Medical Centre, Almonte Family Health Organization, Beckwith (Carleton Place) FHO, West Ottawa Nepean FHO, Med Team, and Rideau Crossing.

Partner Spotlight



North Grenville partners formally collaborate for timely discharge from hospital to home

Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) and **Seniors' Community Services (SCS)** support many of the same older adults in the North Grenville area. Following discussions as part of the OWFR OHT's Careteam project, these two organizations recently formalized their partnership - along with **Leeds Grenville Community Paramedicine Program** and **Ontario Health atHome** - to improve discharge planning for older adults through a collaborative approach, supported by Careteam Technologies.

Careteam Technologies is being used by various OHTs and their partners to improve patient navigation and integrate care pathways for smoother transitions, particularly for people with chronic conditions and those receiving home-based care. As OWFR OHT partners explored how Careteam Technologies could be best leveraged in North Grenville, they discussed the major pain points people face when accessing services and how organizations can work together more effectively to support older adults. These conversations sparked the idea for the formal collaboration across services.

The four partners participate in KDH's weekly virtual discharge planning rounds, strengthening two-way information sharing and enabling community supports to be implemented earlier and more efficiently at the critical point when patients transition from hospital to home. This practice change is supported by Careteam Technologies, enabling ongoing, real-time collaboration between partners, patients, and caregivers, which is critical to safe, sustainable, and timely discharge from hospital.

Primary Care Network



Highlights from the 2026 Primary Care Town Hall

The 2026 OWFR Primary Care Network (PCN) Town Hall welcomed 130 primary care participants from the region, some of whom were new to the PCN. The event shared timely knowledge on topics including the use of AI in primary care, perimenopause, regional cancer care programming, and Family Health Organization billing changes that are underway by the province. It also connected providers with various community resources.

Based on survey results, **96% of participants confirmed they would attend a future OWFR PCN Town Hall**. OWFR will work with our PCN to continue hosting these types of sessions, offering the same high-quality education and resources, and increasing opportunities for networking with local colleagues.

PCN members can access resources from the Town Hall via the **Primary Care Resources - OTTAWA WEST FOUR RIVERS OHT**. Please email **Matthew Graveline** (mgraveline@owfr.ca), OHT Project Manager, if you need the password for this resource.

Primary Care Resources

Committee Callout

Participate in the new Performance Evaluation and Quality Committee

The **Performance Evaluation and Quality (PEQ) Committee Terms of Reference** has been **approved** and the first call out was officially launched at the February All Partners meeting. The committee is looking for partners and their team members with an interest in and experience in project evaluation, data analytics, and quality improvement. We will continue to advertise the new committee to the previous Performance Measures Network prior to the first meeting in April.

If you would like to **join our new PEQ Committee**, please complete the survey below. Email rhindley@owfr.ca to review a copy of the Terms of Reference.

PEQ Committee Survey

Upcoming Training and Education



IFIC Webinar: Advancing Integrated Community-Based Primary Health Care

Hosted by the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) Canada, the webinar will explore how integrated community-based primary healthcare can strengthen coordination across services and improve outcomes for people and the community.

When: Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Time: 12 to 1:30 pm

Location: Virtual

[Register here](#)

OWFR Lunch & Learn: Performance Evaluation Framework Partner Engagement Session

Register for OWFR's upcoming partner-focused Lunch & Learn to share feedback on the draft **Performance Evaluation and Quality (PEQ) Framework**.

When: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Time: 12:05 to 1 pm

Location: Virtual

[Register here](#)

Regional Geriatric Rounds: Engaging Individuals in Navigating MAiD

This session aims to enhance participants' knowledge and skills when helping individuals navigate the MAiD journey. **Through a real-life story**, it will provide an overview of MAiD, information on the psychosocial aspects impacting the decision to pursue MAiD, and highlight ways to mitigate the challenges of supporting individuals through MAiD.

When: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Time: 12 to 1 pm

Location: Civic Campus Amphitheatre or Virtual

[Register here](#)

2026 Primary Care Cancer Connection Lunch & Learn Series

Tune in virtually the last Thursday of every month (except summer and December) to stay connected with the cancer system and get free CME credits.

Upcoming sessions:

FIT 2.0: Colon screening updates

When: April 30

Time: 12:15 to 1 pm

Where: Virtual

HPV and Head and Neck Cancer

When: May 28

Time: 12:15 to 1 pm

Where: Virtual

[Register here](#)

Ottawa Neighbourhood Study (ONS) – Primary Care Neighbourhood Mapping in OWFR

Join us for Session #2, focused on leveraging ONS data to **strengthen primary care and community impact**, and how to use ONS for clinical program planning. Session is Mainpro+ Accredited (primary care neighbourhood planning focus).

When: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Time: 12:05 to 1 pm

Where: Virtual

[Register here](#)

Shared Health Integrated Information Portal (SHIIP) deeper dive session

This session will start with SHIIP learnings from the OWFR OHT pilot work. It will then take a **deeper dive into the visibility of Ontario Health atHome data and notifications for rostered clients**. This initial SHIIP walkthrough will also present how this platform can support information and next steps on medication, mentation and mobility for rostered clients.

When: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Time: 12:05 to 1 pm

Where: Virtual

[Register here](#)

Partner news

Access the schedule for Lanark Integrated Frontline Team's new mobile clinic

The Lanark Integrated Frontline Team's (LIFT) new mobile clinic delivers healthcare, substance use support, and social services to Lanark County residents in community settings (including encampments). The mobile clinic van has a seven-day schedule from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and no appointment is needed.

LIFT's schedule is now available. Please share this schedule within your network to help connect individuals who may benefit from this support.

[Access schedule](#)



Free youth mental health event for parents and caregivers

Help spread the word! Parents' Lifelines of Eastern Ontario (PLEO) is hosting a free event for parents and caregivers. The expert speakers, workshops, and resource fair will help attendees support the mental health of their kids and youth (up to age 25), while supporting their own mental health.

When: Saturday, April 18, 2026

Where: Saint Paul University, 110 Hazel Street, Ottawa

[Register here](#)

What's next for Winning Strategies?

The first phase of the Winning Strategies for serving Francophones project will conclude on March 31, 2026. The project was led by **Kids Come First** and sponsored by the RSSFEO and Archipel OHT since 2023.

Réseau des services de santé en français de l'Est de l'Ontario will take over the project after March 31, 2026, and will continue to promote the project and support organizations in developing their French-language services.



Do you want to **share content from this newsletter** with your organization? Please contact info@owfr.ca



Ottawa West Four Rivers
OHT
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info@owfr.ca

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Email sent to: rpaquette@arnprior.ca



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.

The calendar says it's officially spring and while we wait for Mother Nature to catch up, rest assured the library is working on all sorts of fresh and new ideas!

Our regular lineup of drop-in youth programming is back on track after a busy March Break. Our calendar features a great after school lineup: Monday Moments Yoga with Alex Leslie, Wednesday LEGO Lounge and visits from our canine friends from St. John Ambulance Dog Therapy program throughout the week. All the details are on our [calendar](#) Toddler and preschool programs are scheduled for Fridays and registration for the next session of Baby Rhyme Time opens March 31.

March Break FULL HOUSE meant everyone understood the assignment...



... All you need is a library card to enjoy all the fun!.



Here's something for all ages and all creative types! We've teamed up with the libraries in Renfrew and Greater Madawaska to bring you our version of Small Town Shorts Film Festival. Tell us a story as a short film and you could see your work on the big screen at the O'Brien Theatre in May. There are [guidelines on our website](#).



On Thursday May 14 we've invited Richard Khan for a presentation on Artificial Intelligence. He's an author, guest lecturer and technology leader in Ontario.

Whether you're brand-new to AI or you've experimented with tools like ChatGPT, this session will help you get practical value fast. Richard will show simple ways to use AI for everyday tasks - writing, planning, brainstorming and problem-solving - using clear "prompt recipes" you can reuse. Expect quick live demos and an interactive Q&A. We'll finish with essential tips for verifying results and protecting your privacy when using AI.

[Register early](#), seats are filling up quickly!



Just in time for some spring joy, we're hosting two 2-day workshops on the art of paper quilling. Interest has been keen and the first session filled up within days. There are only a few spots left for the April 20 & 27 workshop.

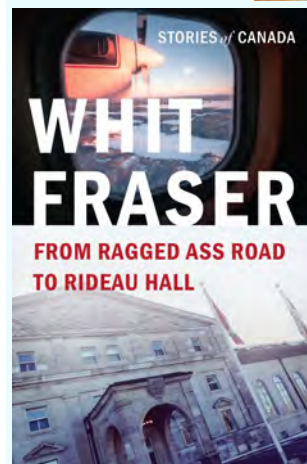


Feel free to add your name to the waiting lists and if numbers warrant, we will ask our expert to return at a later date for another 2-day session.

We've got other partnerships too! Our collaboration with the fine folks from White Pine Books brings us together for three events this spring.

April 15 we're hosting their Truth & Reconciliation Book Club and we will be screening the NFB film Kanehsatake: 270 years of resistance. This is a [free event](#), but we ask you register.

April 18 we're hosting Arnprior Reads: Cookbook edition. This gala event is in support of the Longer Table and tickets are available now through the [book store](#).



On **May 3rd**, come to spend an afternoon with Vice Regal Consort of Canada Whit Fraser as he brings his gift of storytelling to the library in celebration of the release of his new memoir. Whit Fraser is a journalist, broadcaster, author and spouse of Canada's Governor General, Mary Simon.

This is a timely and topical memoir offering essential context from someone who has witnessed first-hand the shifts of Arctic sovereignty, climate change and Indigenous rights. Join us for the conversation and the chance to ask your own question. White Pine will be on hand with books to purchase and you'll have the opportunity to meet with the author and get your copy signed.

[Registration is required, for this free event.](#)



The library is realigning some jobs and responsibilities and we're looking to fill two permanent full time positions to broaden the scope of the programming and services we provide to our community. More information is on our [website](#).

Did you know, more than 6000 area residents are active members and last year signed out nearly 148,500 materials from the Arnprior Public Library. We are proud to be such a vibrant community hub.

In the last year we've added more than one thousand new members to our library and many of them just recently received their first Library Newsletter.

If you would like to receive an electronic version of our newsletter, you can [sign up here](#)

To that end, we'd like to keep you in the loop about everything we offer beyond the traditional library services of books, magazines, virtual resources, streaming services, Homebound Delivery service, Interlibrary Loans, museum and other access passes, device loans such as radon detectors, thermal imaging equipment and WiFi hotspots. We have programs and events galore!

REMINDER

You can drop off your spent batteries for recycling. Please remember to put the batteries into plastic bags before you add them to the cardboard collection box in our foyer.

If you're a participant in the municipal FoodCycler program, did you know that you can drop off the by-product at the library? There's a drop-off in the outer foyer. It is then picked up by a local farmer who uses the by-product in his operation!

We participate in the Terracycle program for all brands of snack pouches and caps.

And finally we are also collecting used pens and markers for recycling through Staples Canada.

We like to do our part in reducing waste at the library. When your group books one of our meeting rooms, you are welcome to use the library's glassware, cutlery and dishes. Simply rinse and leave them in the designated tray. We will clean them in our commercial dishwasher!

There's always room to join some of our drop-in programs for adults.

MONDAYS at 10am there's the Whatknots Knitting Group. Bring your current project and feel the creative vibes. Intermediate ESL learners meet at 5pm in our downstairs board room while in the Scharf Hall you can join the French Conversation group that gets underway at 5:45pm

The Scrabble Meet-up happens every **TUESDAY** from noon—2pm in the downstairs Art Corridor. We provide the boards, you provide the enthusiasm. The Garden Club/Seed Library volunteers meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 6pm.

The library's Chess Club meets in the lower level Art Corridor every **WEDNESDAY** at noon.

On **THURSDAYS**, the library hosts Mahjong from 1pm –3pm in the upstairs Scharf Hall. All skill levels are welcome. We're also expanding our English as a Second Language supports with weekly meet-ups for newcomers on Thursdays throughout April, May and June from 10:30am to 2:30pm. All levels are welcome to join this group facilitated by the Renfrew County District School Board. While drop-ins are welcome, it would be helpful to pre-register so the instructor can prepare. Please see our [online calendar](#) for all the dates. On the first Thursday of each month, the library hosts Hospice Renfrew for their Grief Support Group.

FRIDAYS at 12:30, it's Bridge Club. There's no fee to attend, but we ask for a small donation to help our partnership with the High School's Teens in Need program. More ESL training also happens on Fridays. These beginner English learners meet in the downstairs Gaumont Room at 10am.

The last **SUNDAY** afternoon of the month, the Busker's Café brings live music to the main community hall with a different performer each month September to June. This program is supported by Tim Hortons, Arnprior with free refreshments for all in attendance.

You'll want to check out our calendar regularly to find out when we schedule the next drop-in visit from OnTrac Arnprior, Service Canada and the Outreach Nurse from the Renfrew County District Health Unit. These organizations come with loads of information about their resources and services.

And don't forget about our fantastic **Puzzle Swap Station** in the downstairs Book Sale /Café area. Puzzle are bring one/take one. You'll always find a treasure in the ongoing used **Book Sale** (at just \$1 or \$2 each!) and check out our great little self serve **Coffee Station** at just \$2/cup!

See you at the library!

Sincerely,
Jodie Sonnenberg,
Prior Chest Net Cancer
Survivor Dragon
Boat Team

To the town of Arnprior council,

On behalf of the Prior Chest Net
Dragon Boat team, we'd like to
express our sincere gratitude for
the generous in kind donation of
the pool rental.

The support allows our athletes
to focus on essential technical drills
as we prepare to compete and
represent our team in the upcoming
competition in France this summer.
Your commitment and support
does not go unnoticed! Many thanks

From: OSUM Events <events@osum.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 5:36 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Nominations for the 2026 OSUM Executive Committee now Open



Call for the 2026 - 2028 OSUM Executive Committee Election

Celebrating 70 years of Ontario's Small Urban Municipalities

[The Call for Nominations](#) for the 2026 Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) Executive Committee election is now open.

Those interested in running for the 2026-2028 OSUM Executive Committee term are required to fill out the attached [nomination form](#) and return by **4:00 p.m. on April 10, 2026**. Forms must be returned to **Larry J. McCabe, Administrative Officer, OSUM, larryjmccabe@gmail.com**.

The election will take place during the April 29–May 1 OSUM Conference and Trade Show, hosted by the Town of Parry Sound and held at the Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts/Bobby Orr Hall of Fame.

Voting is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To be eligible to run and vote, your municipality must be in good standing as an Association of Municipalities of Ontario member.

[Register today.](#) [Book your accommodations.](#)

Conference Program Highlights

The OSUM conference is the only place where issues such as housing and homelessness, infrastructure challenges, incivility, weakened journalism, and strong mayor powers are addressed and discussed from the **unique small urban municipal perspective**.

Attend the conference for the opportunity to network and collaborate with other small urban elected officials in solution-driven discussions.

Opening Keynote Speaker: [Althia Raj](#), Award-Winning Journalist

Join Ms. Raj, a national columnist with the *Toronto Star*; the host/producer of the podcast, *It's Political*; and a regular weekly panelist on CBC's *At Issue* panel in conversation exploring today's political landscape and the implications for Ontario's small urban municipalities.

Strong Mayor Powers – Building Homes or Demolishing Democracy?

Almost half of all municipalities in Ontario now have strong mayor powers. Although purportedly enacted to advance new housing and infrastructure to support housing,

have these powers really led to new construction starts? John Mascarin will review of the strong mayor powers and how they are being used. He will also provide some tips to stay out of traps when using strong mayor powers.

Presented by: [John Mascarin](#), Partner, Aird Berlis

For more information on Althia Raj and this year's **exciting program line-up** [click here](#).

[Register Here](#)

About OSUM

OSUM is the small urban voice of the province. It is an integral part of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and includes a number of Board members who serve on the AMO Board of Directors. OSUM provides an important forum for elected and appointed municipal officials to share information and examine pressing and emerging issues facing small urban communities. OSUM is the vehicle by which matters of common interest can be addressed through collective action to improve local government service across Ontario.

Contact: events@osum.ca.

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