



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: April 27th, 2026
Correspondence Package No. I-26-APR-08**

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-26-APR-08 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Memorandum to Municipal Chief Administrative Officers – Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive
- b) Stakeholder Distribution List – Proposed Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) amendments to improve the comprehensive environmental assessment (EA) process
- c) Ontario Adds New Power 73 Per Cent Lower Than Former Government
- d) Province Lowering Costs and Streamlining Training to Support More Teachers in Ontario Classrooms
- e) Ontario Increasing WSIB Benefits to Protect Injured Workers
- f) Ontario Introduces Legislation to Hold School Boards Accountable and Support Student Achievement
- g) Ontario Relaxing Alcohol Restrictions in Provincial Parks
- h) Ontario Launches New Program to Strengthen Electricity Grid and Reduce Costs for Consumers
- i) Ontario Introducing Legislation to Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape and Supporting Workers
- j) HOC's Stormwater Fees Regulations

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) Advancement of the Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Improvement Project
- b) Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Launches Tourism Development & Sponsorship Fund in Petawawa
- c) Enterprise Renfrew County Digital Discovery Series – Brand, Engage, Impact
- d) Enterprise Renfrew County Digital Discovery Series – From Invisible to in Demand
- e) Enterprise Renfrew County Digital Discovery Series – Unlock SEO Success
- f) Enterprise Renfrew County Digital Discovery Series – Google Ad Basics
- g) Enterprise Renfrew County – Legal Bootcamp with ownr
- h) Enterprise Renfrew County – Youth Entrepreneurship Intake Now Open Summer Company 2026
- i) Enterprise Renfrew County – Partnering With Your Credit Union
- j) Enterprise Renfrew County – Free Business Training Information Sessions 2026

3. Correspondence from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit

- a) RCSHU Recommends Safety Precautions as Flood Waters Rise
- b) Yellow Ribbon Campaign

4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) AMO's Free Campaign Readiness Workshops
- b) Preventing Escalated Behaviours: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces
- c) Watchfile – April 9, 2026
- d) Watchfile – April 16, 2026

5. Correspondence from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

- a) Newsletter – April 10, 2026
- b) Newsletter – April 17, 2026

6. Correspondence from Other Municipalities

- a) Township of Madawaska Valley – Farmland Resolution
- b) Township of Madawaska Valley – Provincial Bail Notification Resolution
- c) Township of Madawaska Valley – AORS Support Resolution
- d) Municipality of South Huron – Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments, Health and Safety Concerns
- e) Hastings County – Motion Regarding Alto High Speed Rail
- f) Municipality of Waterloo – Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
- g) City of Pickering – Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry
- h) Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan – Support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025
- i) Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan – Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems
- j) Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan – Provincial Bail Notification Program
- k) Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Resolution #8
- l) Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Resolution #10
- m) Municipality of Shuniah – Resolution No. 167-26 Extend OCIF
- n) City of Sarnia – Strengthening Municipal Accountability and Public Trust (Bill 9)

7. Correspondence from Association of Municipal Manager, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario

- a) Advocacy Update: Follow-Up to Budget Update on Proposed MFIPPA Changes

8. Correspondence from Centre for Workforce Development

- a) Centre for Workforce Development Selected to Expand Services to Renfrew and Lanark Counties

9. Correspondence from Municipal Engineers Association

- a) [Municipal Engineers Association Comments/Concerns Regarding: OPS Harmonization](#)
- b) [MEA Comments to MTO Regulatory Registry](#)
- c) [MEA Letter to MTO March 29, 2026](#)
- d) [MEA Briefing Note](#)

10. Correspondence from Ontario's Small Urban Municipalities

- a) [Celebrating 70 Years of Ontario's Small Urban Municipalities](#)

11. Correspondence from Rural Ontario Municipal Association

- a) [ROMA April Board Highlights](#)

April 10, 2026

Memorandum to: Municipal Chief Administrative Officers, City Managers

Subject: Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive – Phased Implementation Dates

In the fall of 2025, the Ontario government introduced and enacted the *Buy Ontario Act (Public Sector Procurement), 2025*. This Act allows the government to issue procurement directives that require prioritizing Ontario/Canadian goods and services in public sector procurements.

To leverage public sector procurement spending to support Ontario's economy, workers and key sectors, municipalities and municipal entities—including local boards and wholly-owned municipal services corporations—are now prescribed as public sector entities under the Act. As a result, all these organizations will have to comply with the newly released Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive.

We recognize the significant work municipalities do to deliver services and build infrastructure in your communities, and we appreciate your partnership as these new requirements are introduced.

Timelines for effective dates

The new Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive will include requirements related to fleet vehicles and capital infrastructure. This applies to municipalities, local boards, and municipal services corporations on the following phased timeline:

Municipalities

- Fleet vehicles requirements: April 13, 2026
- Capital infrastructure requirements: May 15, 2026

Local boards and municipal services corporations (MSCs)

- Capital infrastructure and fleet vehicles requirements: June 1, 2026

To assist with implementation, guidance materials and other support resources are available on [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca) and [Supply Ontario's website](#) to help your organization understand the requirements and apply them consistently.

Actions required of municipalities

1. Municipalities should begin preparing procurement teams and internal stakeholders in advance of these effective dates. Additional guidance and supports, such as training sessions, will be provided to facilitate implementation.

2. Municipalities should inform applicable local boards and municipal services corporations of the Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive and the phased effective dates above.

Questions related to implementation and support can be directed to doingbusiness@supplyontario.ca.

Yours truly,

Original Signed by

Martha Greenberg
Deputy Minister of Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Samantha Poisson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public and Business Service
Delivery and Procurement
Lindsay Jones, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario – AMO

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Environmental Assessment
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April 20, 2026

TO: Stakeholder Distribution List

RE: Proposed *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) amendments to improve the comprehensive environmental assessment (EA) process

Today, Ontario introduced the [Protecting Ontario's Workers and Economic Resilience Act, 2026 \(POWER Act\)](#) in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. If made, the changes would support a more efficient comprehensive EA process and make it easier to navigate by removing certain steps while maintaining strong environmental protections and other consultation opportunities.

The proposed legislation would, if passed, amend the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) to make three key changes to the comprehensive EA process:

- Remove the requirement to publish and consult on a Ministry Review
- Remove the opportunity for the public to request a hearing before the Ontario Land Tribunal (Tribunal) while maintaining the Minister's authority to refer an application or matter related to an application to the Tribunal for a hearing and decision on their own initiative
- Remove the requirement for Cabinet approval of the Minister's decision, while providing the Minister discretion to refer an application to Cabinet for a decision

In addition, we also proposed minor updates to improve clarity and flexibility in the EAA.

If the proposed EAA amendments are made, the regulation that sets out deadlines for certain steps in the comprehensive EA process (Ontario Regulation 616/98 (Deadlines)) would be adjusted to align with the changes.

The proposal has been posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for public comment. More information is available [here](#). Input is being accepted until **May 20, 2026**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca. Any comments on the proposal can be submitted through the ERO posting via the link above, or by email to us.

We are committed to keeping you apprised about EA modernization and working with you to build a strong EA program for Ontario. We value your perspectives on the EA program and look forward to your further participation. More information on our other efforts to modernize the EA program can also be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

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

Annamaria Cross
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ontario Adds New Power 73 Per Cent Lower Than Former Government

Province delivering the largest energy procurement in Ontario's history to power 350,000 homes

April 09, 2026

[Energy and Mines](#)

HAMILTON — As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the government is taking the next step to deliver the affordable, reliable, and clean energy the province needs to build homes and power the most competitive economy in the G7. In August 2024, the province launched the largest competitive public procurement to secure new power in Ontario's history. The Independent Electricity System (IESO) has executed on that direction competitively procuring more than 1,300 megawatts (MW) of new electricity supply by approving [14 projects](#) across the province. Each successful project received strong municipal support and includes First Nations partners that have 50 per cent or greater equity ownership, ensuring communities share directly in the economic benefits of growth, with new generation coming online before May 1, 2030.

Unlike the former government, Ontario is following the Auditor General's recommendation on competitive procurements resulting in a 73 per cent cost reduction for ratepayers when compared to the previous Feed-in-Tariff contracts and 21 per cent lower than the Large Renewable Procurement (LRP). These results have proven more affordable than similar procurements in comparable jurisdictions across North America, including 20 per cent less than Quebec, 14 per cent less than British Columbia, and 35 per cent less than New York State.

"To keep up with fast rising demand, Ontario successfully completed Canada's largest competitive procurement bringing online new electricity generation 73 per cent lower than the previous governments," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. "Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan is focused on keeping power flowing and costs down, with shorter term renewables, storage, and natural gas bridging the gap as we expand nuclear and hydro over the medium term. A pragmatic all-of-the-above strategy that has positioned Ontario as the best and most stable jurisdiction for electricity in North America."

With electricity demand projected to increase by as much as 90 per cent, the province is taking decisive action now to bring new power online and keep it affordable for families and businesses. Ontario continues to attract investment because of its long-term integrated energy plan anchored by around-the-clock nuclear power supported by other sources such as natural gas, hydroelectricity, and renewables. Together, this mix will strengthen the grid's reliability while leveraging the full value of Ontario's nuclear fleet.

The [14 successful projects](#) will deliver enough energy to power around 350,000 homes. The projects were selected with robust criteria, including sole Canadian ownership, no impact on Prime Agricultural Areas and being located on lands that are already zoned for industrial energy projects.

"Today's announcement shows that Ontario is taking decisive action to secure our energy future," said Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries. "By bringing new generation online through a transparent, competitive process, we are not only keeping electricity reliable and affordable for families and businesses but also creating good-paying jobs and supporting Indigenous communities as true partners in growth. This is how Ontario leads, combining innovation, strong partnerships, and homegrown energy to power our province for decades to come."

Before 2018, the former government locked the province into expensive, sole-sourced contracts, often as high as 10x above market rates that drove up costs for families and businesses. Today, Ontario is using transparent, competitive, and technology-agnostic procurements to secure the lowest-cost power for ratepayers from available technologies. By relying on competition, the government is delivering affordable electricity in the short-term as the province builds out other medium and long-term solutions such as:

- Exploring up to 16,000 megawatts of new nuclear generation at [Wesleyville](#), Bruce C and the small modular reactors at the Darlington New Nuclear Project
- Expanded generation through the [LT2 Capacity Stream](#), with results anticipated in summer 2026
- Supporting up to [430 MW of new hydroelectric generation](#) in Northern Ontario

"Today's announcement reinforces that our competitive approach to procurement is delivering cost-effective results as we expand Ontario's electricity system to meet future demand," said Lesley Gallinger, President and CEO of the Independent Electricity System Operator. "Through the first LT2 energy window, we met our

procurement target by leveraging robust competition to secure renewable supply at lower prices for ratepayers. These 14 projects will position the grid to support economic growth across Ontario into the 2030s and beyond.”

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

Quick Facts

- In [August 2024](#), the Ontario government announced the LT2, the largest competitive energy procurement in Ontario’s history.
- The LT2 builds on the success of recent competitive procurements such as the First Long-Term Procurement (LT1) and Expedited Long-Term Request for Proposals (E-LT1).
- The newly procured renewable projects have been awarded 20 year-contracts.
- These resources must be able to start commercial operations by May 1, 2030.
- In [December 2024](#), the government announced an increase to the LT2 procurement target to up to 7,500 MW. The government also asked the IESO to report back on new competitive procurements for long-lead resources and re-contracting existing distribution connected generation to help meet the province’s growing energy demand.
- The LT2 competitive procurement process required municipal support resolutions to ensure local support and consent, protected prime agricultural areas, and incentivized projects in northern Ontario and those with or by Indigenous communities on whose traditional territory the projects were proposed.
- Results from the LT2 first submission window for capacity projects are expected in summer 2026.

Additional Resources

[Energy for Generations](#)

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Province Lowering Costs and Streamlining Training to Support More Teachers in Ontario Classrooms

New one-year program would reduce costs for students training to be teachers by up to \$3,000

April 10, 2026

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

The Ontario government will soon introduce legislation that, if passed, would modernize teacher education and strengthen the pipeline of highly skilled K-12 teachers. The proposed changes include condensing teacher education programs to 12 months over three consecutive semesters, as opposed to the current model of four semesters spread out over two years. The proposed changes would reduce financial barriers to launching a successful teaching career by saving students up to \$3,000 in tuition. The province is also exploring options to recognize prior learning and enhancing in-classroom supports for student teachers. These changes deliver on the government's plan to protect Ontario by building a robust workforce of teachers for Ontario classrooms and helping train students for successful careers and good-paying, in-demand jobs.

"Ontario is building a robust workforce of highly skilled teachers to give students the best possible start to their education," said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security. "These changes would allow our pipeline of exceptional, passionate teachers to start their careers sooner and at a lower cost to support growing communities for generations to come."

If passed, all 14 public universities in Ontario that offer a teacher education program, along with three private universities, would transition to the new one-year model, with the first cohort starting in May 2027. The one-year model would prioritize practical, in-classroom learning by establishing a minimum practicum length, to be determined through consultation with the sector, so students graduate with the hands-on learning they need to thrive in the classroom. If passed, the government would work with the Ontario College of Teachers and postsecondary partners to implement the new program model while minimizing disruption for students and institutions.

The legislation would also enable the government to explore opportunities to recognize relevant prior learning and work experience for individuals pursuing a teaching career, including early childhood educator diplomas or youth work experience.

To further support future teachers, Ontario is providing \$16.8 million to increase the honorarium for Associate Teachers, experienced classroom teachers who mentor, supervise and evaluate student teachers during practicum placements. This would help expand placement opportunities and recognize the important role these teachers play in training the next generation.

“This is about supporting the next generation of teachers and the experienced educators who help prepare them,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. “Ontario’s teachers are dedicated professionals who go above and beyond for students every day. By improving teacher education, reducing barriers to entering the profession, and recognizing the classroom teachers who mentor new educators, we are helping ensure students have access to the teachers and support they need to succeed.”

These proposed changes are part of a suite of changes being introduced in the coming days to support students and build on the government’s historic \$6.4 billion investment to support the long-term sustainability of the postsecondary sector. This includes \$150 million in teacher education programs to add 4,000 additional seats and increase per-student funding by 27 per cent.

Quick Facts

- Applications for the updated teacher education program will open at [participating institutions](#) in September 2026. The first full-time cohort is expected to begin studies as early as May 2027 and graduate by May 2028, better aligning the program completion date with the K-12 school year.
- Current research indicates that a high-quality practicum, focused on mentorship and reflective practice, matters more for teacher preparation than program length.
- Approximately 4,800 teacher candidates enter the workforce every year through Ontario’s Initial Teacher Education program.
- Under the new [historic funding model](#), Ontario will invest over \$100 million annually to train teachers for classrooms across the province.
- Through Budget 2025, the Ontario government invested [\\$55.8 million](#) to train up to 2,600 new teachers by 2027, expanding the province’s talent pipeline of English and French-language teachers.

- On [March 11, 2026](#), the Ontario government launched the Classroom Supplies Fund to provide elementary school homeroom teachers with direct access to \$750 in funding each school year for classroom supplies. This will make it easier for elementary teachers to order what they need, ensuring consistent access to supplies in every classroom across the province.
-

Quotes

"We appreciate the investment in education announced by Minister Quinn and Minister Calandra today. The \$150 million investment and 4,000 new seats represent a significant step for the sector, and we are grateful that the government has recognized the importance of training the next generation of educators. The University of Windsor has a proud history of preparing outstanding teachers for classrooms in our region and beyond, and we welcome changes that would reduce financial barriers for aspiring teachers, strengthen the practicum experience, and recognize the Associate Teachers who mentor them. A change of this scale is an opportunity to get teacher education right for decades to come, and we know the government shares that ambition. The expertise of our Faculty of Education and faculties of education across the province will be essential in shaping the details of implementation, from curriculum and practicum redesign to supporting students currently in the pipeline, to ensuring this new model delivers on its full potential from day one. We look forward to bringing that expertise to the table alongside the government and our sector partners, and we are confident that this collaboration will produce graduates who are fully prepared to shape the minds of generations to come."

- Dr. J.J. (John-Justin) McMurtry
President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Windsor

"This change responds to the growing need for highly qualified teachers who can support students, families, and school communities across Ontario. Brock University remains deeply committed to providing an exceptional teacher education experience—one that equips future educators with the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to thrive in today's classrooms. We value our ongoing partnerships and look forward to working together to support the evolving needs of the education sector."

**- Mary-Louise Vanderlee
Dean, Faculty of Education, Brock University**

"Ontario Tech's Frazer Faculty of Education has championed quality accelerated teacher education programming that combines immersive practicum and emerging digital technologies to support learning. We welcome the Province's initiative to move to a 12-month model to reduce the time and costs for students to enter high-demand teaching careers. We look forward to working with the Ministry to ensure this accelerated pathway maintains the high standards of excellence expected of Ontario's educators."

**- Dr. Steven Murphy
President and Vice-Chancellor, Ontario Tech University**

"Ontario's universities share the government's goal of ensuring a strong and sustainable pipeline of well prepared teachers. We look forward to working closely with government to implement the proposed changes in a way that supports students, maintains system capacity, and continues to deliver high quality teacher preparation for Ontario's classrooms."

**- Steve Orsini
President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities**

Additional Resources

- [Current qualifications for teaching in Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Investing \\$6.4 Billion to Support Postsecondary Sector's Long-Term Success and Sustainability](#)
- [Ontario College of Teachers](#)
- [Ontario teacher education providers](#)

Related Topics

Education and apprenticeship

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

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Ontario Increasing WSIB Benefits to Protect Injured Workers

Proposed changes would give injured workers more income support and update rules to reflect today's workforce

April 13, 2026

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

SCARBOROUGH — The Ontario government is delivering on its plan to protect Ontario workers by proposing the first increase in nearly 30 years to income replacement benefits workers receive through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) if they are injured on the job. The proposed changes would also update the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* to ensure workers continue to receive supports if they are planning to work past the age of 65. As Ontario continues to face economic uncertainty and impacts from U.S. tariffs, the government is taking bold and decisive action to protect workers and ensure they have the supports they need to stay financially secure if they are injured on the job.

“No worker should have to worry about paying their bills while they recover from a workplace injury,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “By proposing the first increase to income replacement benefits in nearly 30 years, our government is helping ensure injured Ontarians can focus on getting better. Ontario’s workers built this province, and we will always have their backs.”

These proposed changes would, if passed, increase WSIB Loss-of-Earnings (LOE) benefits to 90 per cent of a worker’s take-home pay, up from 85 per cent, meaning workers would keep more of their income while they recover. This increase would help injured workers manage the rising cost of living while maintaining the long-term stability of the WSIB. For example, a worker earning \$60,000 a year would receive \$2,411 more in benefits over one year.

Ontario will also be introducing changes in recognition that more workers are choosing to work past the age of 65. If passed, the changes would allow eligible workers to continue receiving LOE benefits after age 65 if they planned to keep

working, instead of automatically losing those benefits at age 65 under the current rules. Giving the WSIB discretion to continue paying LOE benefits past that age helps ensure older workers who are injured do not lose income they were counting on for their retirement.

These proposed changes are part of a broader package of measures the government will introduce in the coming days to continue delivering on its plan to cut red tape, protect workers and make Ontario the most competitive place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

Quick Facts

- Since 2023, the average retirement age in Canada has exceeded age 65.
- According to Statistics Canada, about 444,000 Ontarians aged 65 and older remained in the workforce in 2025 (about 5.4 per cent of Ontario's labour force that year).
- Proposed changes would, if passed, apply to eligible workers on or after the date the legislation is proclaimed.
- The WSIB adjusts benefits annually for cost-of-living increases based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- LOE benefits were reduced in 1998 when the WSIB faced significant financial pressures. Since 2018, the WSIB has eliminated its unfunded liability and continues to maintain a strong financial position.
- The WSIB's current average premium rate is \$1.23 per \$100 of insurable earnings, the lowest in over 50 years.

Quotes

"At a time of global economic uncertainty, our government is protecting Ontario by making government work better for people and smarter for businesses. By cutting red tape, we are saving families and businesses nearly \$1.3 billion and 1.8 million man hours every year. Our government's practical reforms ensure Ontario's economy remains the most competitive, resilient, and self-reliant in the G7."

- Andrea Khanjin
Minister of Red Tape Reduction

"For workers here in Scarborough, this is about fairness and dignity. When someone is injured on the job, they shouldn't have to worry about falling behind on rent, putting food on the table, or supporting their family. Increasing benefits to 90 per cent of take-home pay delivers real support that reflects today's cost of living. It's about making sure hardworking people across Scarborough and beyond have the stability they need to recover and get back on their feet. These proposed changes show that our government under the leadership of Premier Ford is listening and taking action to better support injured workers in our community. "

- David Smith

Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough Centre

"As our workforce changes, our support for injured workers must change too. That's why we are taking bold, meaningful steps to ensure they have the stability and security they deserve, now and in the years ahead. By modernizing the system and strengthening supports, we are making sure no worker is left behind."

- Vijay Thanigasalam

Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough–Rouge Park

"From day one of our government coming into power, we have consistently stood up for the hardworking men and women who build Ontario every day. Today's critical announcement is another step our government is taking to ensure that we are there for injured workers by providing more benefits and modernizing our laws to not punish those who want to work longer. It is policies like these that ensure that Ontario continue to be the best place to live, work and raise a family."

- Aris Babikian

Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough–Agincourt

"Workers should not be financially penalized as a result of being injured on the job, we support increasing Loss-of-Earnings benefits so injured workers can focus on recovery, while also ensuring those who choose to work past age 65 continue to access the support they need."

- Steve Chaplin

Senior Vice President of Health, Safety and Environment at EllisDon Corporation

"One of the most important services we provide is income replacement for people who miss work because of an injury or illness. Raising income replacement to 90 per cent would help give people peace of mind so they can focus on their recovery and have a safe and timely return to work. "

- Jeff Lang

President and CEO, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

"As a designated safe workplace association, IHSA shares a mandate with our system partners - including the MLITSD and WSIB - to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. Prevention is always the priority, but when incidents do occur, workers and their families need reliable support. I commend Minister Piccini and WSIB's Jeff Lang for their efforts to improve the WSIB Loss-of-Earnings benefit and extend it beyond age 65. These initiatives will ensure that injured workers can continue to support themselves and their families throughout their recovery. Measures like these strengthen the safety net for workers when they need it most."

- Enzo Garritano

President & CEO, IHSA

"Thanks to Minister Piccini and the Ontario government for resolving a long-standing fairness issue raised by many CFIB members who help fund the WSIB. Businesses will now get their full money's worth for the WSIB premiums they pay for their employees aged 65+, as these employees will now be entitled to Loss-of-Earnings coverage."

- Julie Kwiecinski
**Director of Provincial Affairs (Ontario), Canadian Federation of
Independent Business**

"The Ontario Workers Network (OWN) is pleased that the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Labour are taking meaningful action to strengthen protections for injured workers. The enhancements to the Loss-of-Earnings benefit recognize the real financial realities workers face after a workplace injury. These changes help provide injured workers with greater stability and peace of mind, allowing them to focus on their care, recovery, and long-term well being."

- Aaron Slingerland
Executive Director, Ontario Workers Network

"A work-related injury can have devastating, wide-ranging impacts on workers and their families. Reducing the financial impacts through increased benefits will allow these families to focus on recovering from the physical, emotional and psychological impacts. At Threads of Life we know how crucial this is for individuals and their loved ones to be able to move towards healing."

- Eugene Gutierrez
**Executive Director, Threads of Life - Association for Workplace Tragedy
Family Support**

"Workers who are hurt or injured on the job need strong benefits and a modern workplace insurance system. Extending Loss-of-Earnings benefits beyond age 65 recognizes the realities many workers face today, while increasing the benefit rate to 90 per cent helps provide greater financial stability during recovery. These changes represent a meaningful step toward strengthening protections for workers when they need it most, and we look forward to continued efforts that keep the system fair, sustainable and responsive to workers' needs."

- Ian DeWaard
Provincial Director, CLAC

"The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs applaud the government's support for injured workers. By improving benefits and expanding coverage, these changes will support those injured on the job."

- Jeremy Parkin
Fire Chief and President, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

"The Heat and Frost Insulators, Local 95 welcomes the proposed WSIB changes as a meaningful step toward a fairer and more modern approach for injured workers across Ontario. Increasing benefits to 90 per cent and extending support beyond age 65 will provide greater financial security for injured workers across the province. These updates recognize the realities of today's workforce and help ensure workers have the stability they need to focus on recovery without added financial stress. "

- David Gardner
Business Manager, Ontario Insulators, Local 95

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Expanding WSIB Coverage to More Frontline Care Workers](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance Board](#)

Related Topics

Jobs and employment

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

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Ontario Introduces Legislation to Hold School Boards Accountable and Support Student Achievement

Proposed changes would strengthen oversight, ensure consistent learning resources and direct every dollar into classrooms

April 13, 2026

[Education](#)

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

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the [Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026](#), to strengthen school board oversight and accountability and ensure more consistent learning experiences for students to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow. The proposed changes would move Ontario toward a more accountable, consistent and modern model of high-quality education that better serves students, families and educators across the province.

“Ontario’s education system must remain focused on its core responsibility: student success. In some school boards, that focus has been lost, and students are paying the price,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. “Ontario’s teachers and education workers are dedicated professionals who work tirelessly every day to support students, often under challenging circumstances. They deserve stable, accountable leadership that supports their work and puts learning first. If further action is required to protect students and reinforce respect for the professionals who teach them, we will not hesitate to act.”

Despite Ontario’s record investments in education, too many boards are facing financial mismanagement, weak governance and decision making that prioritizes politics over student outcomes. Since 2025, eight school boards have been placed under provincial supervision and the recent Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results show that while there has been progress in reading, writing and math, there is still more work to be done.

Ontario is taking decisive action to put an end to ongoing governance breakdowns and financial mismanagement in English public and English Catholic district school boards by proposing changes that would clearly define roles, strengthen

accountability and close the gaps that have allowed failures in oversight. Through the *Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026*, the government is putting students first by proposing changes that would:

Strengthen governance and accountability

- Limit trustee discretionary expenses and honoraria, standardize the number of elected trustees to a maximum of 12, require trustees to pay out-of-pocket for certain external organization membership fees and improve oversight over school board subsidiaries and their use of public funds.
- Equip English-language district school boards with qualified leadership by establishing two new roles: the Director of Education would become known as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who would be responsible for financial and operational oversight and required to have business qualifications; and a Chief Education Officer, who would be appointed by the CEO to focus on student achievement and required to hold pedagogical qualifications, including Ontario College of Teachers membership or equivalent.
- Strengthen school board budget oversight and accountability by requiring the CEO to lead budget development, while referring budget matters to the Minister for decision when trustees are unable to reach an agreement and ensuring that the termination of the CEO requires Minister approval to help prevent reprisals and dismissals while they are carrying out their responsibilities.
- Professionalize school board bargaining by designating the Council of Ontario Directors of Education as the central employer bargaining agency for English public and English Catholic boards to ensure collective bargaining is led by professional school board staff who have expertise in the board's operational matters.
- Set clear expectations for school board communications to ensure communications on official channels are focused on important day-to-day functions.

Ensure more consistent learning experiences

- Mandate the use of ministry-approved learning resources in classrooms across the province to support greater consistency in delivering the new curriculum while making it easier for teachers to access high-quality materials, ensuring students have an equal chance to succeed no matter where they live.
- Prepare students for postsecondary pursuits by introducing mandatory written exams on official exam days in Grades 9-12 and providing greater clarity on how students' final marks are calculated.

- Encourage improved engagement in the classroom by requiring attendance and participation to be part of the final mark for students in Grades 9-12, with attendance worth 15 per cent for Grades 9-10 and 10 per cent for Grades 11-12.

This proposed legislation builds on the government's work to strengthen school board oversight and accountability to help ensure they deliver high-quality education, with every dollar spent focused on preparing students with practical skills for good-paying, stable careers.

Quick Facts

- Ontario is providing historic levels of education funding in 2025-26, with an investment of \$30.3 billion in Core Education Funding to focus key resources where they matter most: on student success.
- The government is [providing](#) \$16.8 million over three years to support Associate Teachers with an honorarium, recognizing their role in mentoring teacher candidates and expanding practicum opportunities.
- On [March 11, 2026](#), the Ontario government launched the Classroom Supplies Fund to provide elementary school homeroom teachers with direct access to \$750 in funding each school year for classroom supplies. This will make it easier for elementary teachers to order what they need, ensuring consistent access to supplies in every classroom across the province.
- The government [requires](#) all school boards to establish the Student and Family Support Offices by September 1, 2026, to provide parents and guardians with a clear way to get help on their child's education and help resolve concerns that require escalation beyond the teacher and principal.
- In November 2025, Ontario passed the [Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025](#), which amended the *Education Act* to simplify, streamline and broaden the Minister of Education's powers of oversight, including over school board finances, governance and program performance.
- When school boards fail to meet their responsibilities, the government has not hesitated to act. [Eight school boards](#) are currently under supervision to address concerns regarding growing deficits, depleting reserves and ongoing cases of mismanagement.
- [As announced on April 10](#), to further focus K-12 education on the needs of students and families, this legislation would enable the shortening of teacher programs from a two-year program to a one-year, consecutive program that is focused on in-classroom learning.
- Following the introduction of a historic \$6.4-billion new funding model, the government has modernized and strengthened the province's Strategic

Mandate Agreements with each postsecondary institution to include stringent performance metrics. To reduce duplication and administrative burden, the government is proposing to absorb the accountability and performance mandate of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario into the ministry through this legislation.

Quotes

"Amid unprecedented times, our government's focus has never wavered: equipping students with in-demand skills to thrive in their careers and protect Ontario. If passed, this legislation would build a stronger, more efficient postsecondary system that is focused on meeting the needs of Ontario's students, communities and economy."

- Nolan Quinn

Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

Additional Resources

- [Technical Briefing Deck](#)
 - [Province lowering costs and streamlining training to support more teachers in Ontario classrooms](#)
 - [Ontario providing record education funding while ensuring school board accountability](#)
 - [Education funding for school boards, 2025-2026](#)
 - [Ontario strengthening governance, accountability and transparency in school boards, postsecondary institutions and Children's Aid Societies](#)
 - [School board oversight](#)
 - [Financial accountability in the education system](#)
 - [Your child's education: a parent guide to our school system](#)
-

Related Topics

Education and apprenticeship

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

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Ontario Relaxing Alcohol Restrictions in Provincial Parks

Province giving adults more freedom to responsibly enjoy alcohol throughout park grounds and beaches

April 15, 2026

[Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

OAKVILLE — Just in time for summer, the Ontario government is making it easier for people to enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends by allowing adults to responsibly consume their favourite alcoholic beverages throughout provincial parks. As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by building a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy, this change means alcohol will no longer be restricted to individual campsites, making it easier for people to relax and spend time with family and friends while supporting a stronger tourism industry that creates jobs and drives economic growth across the province.

"Ontario Parks are some of the province's most sought-after destinations for day trips and overnight camping, offering people a chance to connect and spend quality time together," said Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "As families and friends gather for picnics or unwind after a long day on the trails, updated rules around where alcohol can be consumed are intended to improve the overall park experience and support local tourism, while continuing to prioritize safety. Ontario Parks are a key part of what makes our province a travel destination and we are supporting experiences that attract more visitors, strengthen communities and grow the economy."

As parks [open this spring and summer](#), adults aged 19 and older can now enjoy alcohol responsibly in most areas of provincial parks that are open and staffed for the 2026 season, such as picnic areas, beaches and other day use areas across the park. Park users will not receive tickets or fines for responsibly consuming alcohol in permitted areas outside of individual campsites. Existing rules still apply for unsafe or unlawful behaviour, including public intoxication, underage possession or consumption, and having open or improperly stored alcohol in a motor vehicle or boat.

Parks will post clear signage to identify areas that will remain alcohol-free, such as sites of cultural or historical significance, buildings where food and drink are already restricted and areas that may pose significant safety risks.

Park staff will continue to enforce rules to ensure Ontario Parks remain safe, family-friendly and enjoyable for everyone, including:

- consuming alcohol only where it is allowed
- respecting other park users
- disposing of containers properly
- never driving or boating while impaired

This change builds on the government's broader efforts to modernize alcohol rules and support local tourism, including expanded "bring-your-own" permits for outdoor public events that give communities more flexibility to host festivals and cultural gatherings that support local economies. It is part of the government's broader plan to protect Ontario by boosting the tourism sector, promoting Ontario as a global travel destination and helping create jobs across the province.

Quick Facts

- Ontario Parks sees more than 13 million visits each year, connecting millions of people with nature across Ontario.
 - Overall, these visits contributed an estimated \$1.2 billion to Ontario's tourism industry in 2025.
 - Alcohol sales will continue at select Ontario Parks stores, including Bonnechere, Presqu'île, Pinery and Halfway Lake provincial parks. Sales are also expanding to Fitzroy, Earl Rowe, Emily and Murphys Point provincial parks for the 2026 operating season.
 - Ontario's tourism sector supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and contributes billions of dollars to the provincial economy each year.
-

Quotes

"Ontario's provincial parks are a cornerstone of our communities and a key driver of local tourism and economic activity. By modernizing the rules to allow responsible alcohol consumption in more areas, we're making it easier for families and friends to enjoy everything our parks have to offer while maintaining a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for all visitors."

- Stephen Crawford

MPP for Oakville and Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

"This is a positive step that makes it easier for families and friends in Oakville North-Burlington to fully enjoy everything our beautiful provincial parks have to offer. Whether it's a day trip to Bronte Creek Provincial Park or a relaxing picnic near Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area, giving adults the flexibility to responsibly enjoy a drink in more areas helps create a more relaxed and welcoming outdoor experience. Our community values time spent outdoors, and this update not only enhances those moments, but also supports local tourism and the small businesses that benefit from visitors exploring our region and beyond."

- Effie Triantafilopoulos

MPP for Oakville North-Burlington

"Oakville is proud to host Bronte Creek Provincial Park as a local recreation and tourist destination. I'm confident that Ontario's updated rules will increase everyone's enjoyment."

- Rob Burton

Mayor, Town of Oakville

"Ontario has been on a mission to provide more choice and convenience for craft beer lovers, and today's announcement is another great step in that direction. Nothing goes together better than a day outdoors with craft beer from one of Ontario's 330 locally owned breweries. Supporting local has never been more important. This summer we encourage everyone to grab their favourite local craft beer—whether from Ontario Parks stores or local shelves—and enjoy our provincial parks. It's a win-win for craft beer lovers and local brewers. Cheers!"

- Scott Simmons
President, Ontario Craft Brewers Association

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Permitting "Bring-Your-Own" Alcoholic Beverages at Outdoor Public Events | Ontario Newsroom](#)
- [Ontario Cutting Red Tape to Protect Workers, Families and Jobs | Ontario Newsroom](#)
- [Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019](#)
- [Learn more about Ontario Parks](#)

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Ontario Launches New Program to Strengthen Electricity Grid and Reduce Costs for Consumers

New Peak Performance program will incentivise businesses to lower electricity use during high demand periods, protecting grid reliability and keeping costs down

April 17, 2026

[Energy and Mines](#)

STONEY CREEK — As part of its plan to build a more self-reliant energy system, the Ontario government is further expanding its offerings under the [Energy Efficiency Framework](#) by introducing the new [Peak Performance program](#). The new initiative will use financial incentives to encourage commercial and institutional properties to reduce heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) use during periods of high demand. This change will protect the reliability of Ontario's electricity grid, reduce costs for consumers and businesses while delivering up to 100 megawatts of peak-demand reduction in 2026 and scaling up to 230 megawatts in 2027.

"Our government is taking action to help consumers and businesses keep costs down while ensuring Ontario's electricity system remains reliable during periods of high demand," said Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries. "The new Peak Performance program will give commercial and institutional buildings a new way to manage electricity use during the summer and support a stronger, more efficient grid."

With electricity demand projected to increase by up to 90 per cent over the next 25 years, maximizing existing grid capacity is essential to reducing strain and keeping energy costs down. Large buildings such as offices, retail centres and universities contribute significantly to peak electricity demand in the summer season while occupancy is often lower during these periods.

Starting today, eligible facilities will be able to participate by signing up to reduce HVAC use for up to three hours on business days, between June 1 and September 30, in response to high system demand. Participants must be able to reduce at least 500 kilowatts or contribute to a portfolio of aggregated load reduction of at least 500 kilowatts to be eligible and will receive a \$20 per kilowatt incentive to offset the cost of monitoring and control equipment.

"In this tariff war, Premier Ford is laser-focused on protecting affordability for Ontario families and businesses", said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. "That is why our government cut the gas tax by 10 cents per litre, opposed the carbon tax, and introduced Ontario's largest energy savings program. Our government is taking another step forward unveiling another financial incentive for businesses, reducing their energy bills and saving the grid electricity."

Ontario's Energy Efficiency Framework is forecasted to reduce the province's peak demand by 3,000 megawatts by 2036, the equivalent of taking three million homes off the grid. By lowering operating costs for households and businesses and freeing up electricity capacity, these measures help strengthen Ontario's competitiveness on the global stage and support the government's goal of making Ontario one of the most competitive economies in the G7.

Peak Performance is part of Ontario's \$10.9 billion, 12-year [Energy Efficiency Framework](#), a key component of [Energy for Generations](#), the province's first integrated energy plan. The Framework, which launched in January 2025 and [expanded offerings in November 2025](#), is designed to reduce electricity demand, lower costs for customers and support Ontario's growing economy.

Quick Facts

- Large buildings such as offices, retail centres and universities are some of Ontario's largest untapped resources for demand response, contributing significantly to peak electricity demand during the summer cooling season.
 - Ontario's [Energy Efficiency Framework](#), which launched in January 2025 and expanded offerings in November 2025, is designed to reduce electricity demand, lower costs for customers and support Ontario's growing economy. New and expanded programs under the Framework include the [Home Renovation Savings Program](#) and the [Save On Energy XRate Program](#).
 - The Framework is estimated to result in \$23.1 billion in nominal electricity system benefits, thereby saving ratepayers \$12.2 billion in electricity system costs by helping to avoid the build out of new generation.
 - Peak Performance builds on the success of Peak Perks, Ontario's demand response program for homes and small businesses. Peak Perks is Canada's largest virtual power plant, with more than 300,000 participants and over 200 megawatts of peak demand reduction delivered in summer 2025 — with even larger savings expected in 2026.
-

Quotes

"This is another step in our government's plan to help hardworking small business owners across the province manage energy costs and stay competitive while supporting a more reliable electricity grid. The new program will provide small businesses with real savings they can reinvest in growing their operations, creating good-paying jobs, and building a stronger Ontario economy."

- Nina Tangri
Associate Minister of Small Business

"The announcement in Hamilton today is providing targeted investments in the places Ontarians rely on every day-including hospitals, schools, and workplaces in Hamilton-while helping meet growing electricity demand. By upgrading high-demand HVAC systems, we are reducing peak use, strengthening grid reliability, and keeping energy costs down for families and businesses."

- Monica Ciriello
MPP Hamilton Mountain

"This is great news for families and businesses right here in our community. When large buildings like offices and shopping centres reduce their energy use during peak hours, it takes pressure off the entire grid — and that means lower costs for everyone. Programs like Peak Performance are about making Ontario's energy system work smarter, so families can keep more money in their pockets."

- Neil Lumsden
MPP for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek

"As Ontario transitions towards a more dynamic and resilient electricity grid, Save On Energy demand side management programs like Peak Performance will play a critical role in ensuring grid reliability, reducing peak demand, and supporting the integration of new technologies. This new program for commercial and industrial participants will build on the success of Peak Perks, the Save On Energy demand response program for residential and small business consumers, which has more than 320,000 participants."

- Chuck Farmer
**Executive Vice-President of Power System Development, Independent
Electricity System Operator**

"Ontario's universities are committed to being strong partners in building a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy system. Universities are playing a leadership role in the installation of energy management systems and incentives such as Peak Performance will provide additional practical tools to reduce peak demand, control operating costs and support system reliability as electricity needs in the province grow."

- Steve Orsini
President and CEO, Council of Ontario Universities

"The Commercial HVAC Demand Response program is a smart, practical solution that benefits both the electricity grid and commercial buildings. BOMA Toronto is pleased to collaborate with the Province to support our members in participating in this important initiative."

- Susan Allen
President and Chief Executive Officer, BOMA Toronto

"The launch of Ontario's HVAC Demand Response Program comes at a pivotal time to help consumers manage energy costs. Local electricity distribution companies are key partners in supporting these programs and look forward to working with their commercial and institutional customers to optimize the benefits of this initiative and to enhance Ontario's economic competitiveness."

- Teresa Sarkesian

President & Chief Executive Officer, Electricity Distributors Association

"Through the use of modern demand-response control technology, as outlined in this New Peak Performance Program, Ontario's HVACR contractors, like Arvin Air Systems, can help reduce peak electricity demand from commercial and institutional buildings, providing greater reliability to the province's electrical system while enhancing efficient operation of these buildings. This is good for the offices, colleges, malls and other large users of electricity engaged in the program; and it is also very good for all Ontario residents. We will all benefit from enhanced reliability in our electrical grid."

- Joe Muchynski

Chair, HRAI; Vice President, Arvin Air Systems

"HVAC systems represent a significant proportion of a commercial or institutional building's energy-use profile. This New Peak Performance Program makes use of technology to maintain the reliability of the electrical grid in the province during times of elevated energy demand, while delivering the ventilation and cooling requirements needed in these buildings. HRAI member companies are well positioned to advise building owners and managers about equipment maintenance and the use of smart technologies, like the controls used in this program."

- Sandy MacLeod

President & CEO, HRAI

"The Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce supports initiatives that help businesses turn energy management into a competitive advantage. Ontario's new Commercial HVAC Demand Response Program provides a clear, actionable way for organizations to reduce peak demand, improve operational efficiency, and contribute to a more reliable electricity system. We see strong potential for this program to complement ongoing efforts to support energy innovation and collaboration across our business community."

- Brenda Wilson
Executive Director, Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce

"As electricity demand grows, helping businesses manage peak usage is an important way to keep the system reliable and costs competitive. This Program gives large electricity users more flexibility to reduce demand when it matters most, while complementing the long term investments Ontario will need to power economic growth."

- Vincent Caron
Vice President, Policy, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Additional Resources

[Energy for Generations: Ontario's Integrated Plan to Power the Strongest Economy in the G7](#)

[Ontario Launches New Energy Efficiency Programs to Save You Money](#)

[Ontario Protecting Ratepayers by Expanding Energy Savings Programs](#)

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Ontario Introducing Legislation to Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape and Supporting Workers

Province taking next step to reduce delays and regulatory burdens to build a stronger, more competitive and more resilient economy

April 20, 2026

[Red Tape Reduction](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the [Protecting Ontario's Workers and Economic Resilience Act, 2026 \(POWER Act\)](#). This legislation and associated policies would, if passed, take the next step in the government's plan to cut red tape and streamline provincial permits and approvals so projects can move forward faster and with greater certainty, while supporting businesses and helping workers transition more quickly into high-demand jobs.

"This legislation is the next chapter in our government's work to help build a more resilient and self-sustaining economy that can withstand disruption and make Ontario the best place in the G7 to invest, do business and create jobs," said Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction. "By cutting red tape, we're creating the certainty and confidence businesses need to invest and grow here in Ontario."

Since the introduction of the *Building a More Competitive Economy Act* in fall 2025, Ontario has made significant progress in addressing key business permitting issues, including reducing and streamlining permissions, simplifying system navigation and improving accountability. With over 150 permits completed or currently under review, the province is on track to eliminate or streamline at least 35 per cent of all business-facing permits by the end of 2028.

Next steps for streamlining permits and approvals include:

- Regulation changes to clarify and improve service standards for business permit applications
- Supporting One Project, One Process (1P1P) mining proponents by leveraging AI to inform project plans, identify relevant permits required for specific 1P1P projects as well as any regulatory barriers to effective project planning

- Through the Heritage Framework Transformation, launching a new IT system to strengthen accountability and compliance while improving customer service and expediting project delivery

By reducing unnecessary delays and regulatory burden, Ontario is building a predictable, investment-ready environment that supports job creation, boosts economic competitiveness and secures long-term growth.

The *POWER Act* and associated measures would also bring forward a series of changes that would protect workers' health and safety in Ontario, support harmonization of health and safety training across provinces and help put more money back into the pockets of Ontario workers. These initiatives would support a stronger, more flexible workforce by harmonizing requirements to improve labour mobility across Canada and by expanding worker protections and benefits.

In addition, measures contained in the act would increase access to [Ontario medical residency positions for Ontario-connected international medical graduates](#), helping protect the future of Ontario's physician workforce, particularly in communities that need doctors the most. Legislative changes would also amend [the *Ombudsman Act* to require the Ombudsman to be proficient in English and French](#).

Quick Facts

- *Protecting Ontario's Workers and Economic Resilience Act, 2026 (POWER Act)* and related measures include 23 initiatives to protect workers, safeguard our economy by getting workers into high-demand jobs faster, improve labour mobility and streamline approvals while maintaining strong protections.
 - Since 2018, Ontario has taken approximately 700 actions to eliminate unnecessary red tape, saving people, businesses, municipalities, hospitals, universities, colleges and not-for-profit organizations an estimated \$1.3 billion.
-

Quotes

"Workers are the backbone of our economy, and the POWER Act is about making sure they are protected, prepared and positioned to succeed. These proposed changes will strengthen workplace health and safety, reduce unnecessary barriers to labour mobility and help more people move quickly into good-paying, in-demand jobs. That is how we protect workers while building a more competitive and resilient province. "

- Hon. David Piccini

Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

"Now more than ever, government needs to find ways to support our growing communities and secure the investment and jobs that will keep our economy thriving for generations to come. By streamlining processes and speeding up approvals, we are making it possible for housing and infrastructure projects to get started faster, while maintaining key environmental protections."

- Hon. Todd McCarthy

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

"Our government is protecting Ontario's health-care system by taking bold action to strengthen Ontario's physician workforce now, and into the future. By prioritizing medical residency spots for Ontario students, this proposed change would make it easier for Ontarians studying medicine abroad to return home and have a career as a doctor back here in Ontario."

- Hon. Sylvia Jones

Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

"We are fortifying our economy by eliminating needless red tape, boosting our productivity and strengthening our economic resilience, meeting the global challenges we face head-on. By reducing unnecessary delays, supporting labour mobility and making it easier for projects to move forward, we are giving workers and employers the certainty they need to invest, grow, and do business here in Ontario."

- Joseph Racinsky

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Red Tape Reduction

"The POWER Act is about making government work better for people and smarter for businesses. From helping workers keep more of what they earn, to improving pathways into in-demand jobs, to making approvals more efficient, these are practical reforms that cut red tape, lower barriers, and help keep Ontario strong, competitive and ready for the future."

- Logan Kanapathi

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Red Tape Reduction

Media Assets

[Media Briefing: Protecting Ontario's Workers and Economic Resilience Act, 2026](#)

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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234-2026-1390

April 22, 2026

Dear Head of Council:

I am writing to update you on amendments to Ontario Regulation 584/06 under the *Municipal Act, 2001* (MA) and O. Reg 595/06 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (COTA) that were filed on April 17, 2026. These changes come into force on July 16, 2026.

As you know, since spring 2024 the province has encouraged municipalities designing stormwater fees and charges to ensure that there are no unintended consequences that would disproportionately impact farmers and greenhouse operators.

In the province's 2025 Fall Economic Statement, our government stressed the importance of the agri-food sector and that protecting Ontario's local agriculture and food industry is essential to ensuring a strong, self-sufficient food supply chain.

Agricultural properties generally have invested in their own stormwater-mitigating measures and have large areas of green space that contribute significantly to stormwater runoff management.

In this respect, the province is making changes to remove the authority for municipalities to impose stormwater fees and charges on portions of properties that are classified in the farm or managed forests property class, if they are not connected to a municipal storm sewer.

As we continue to work together to build up our communities, I look forward to our continued collaboration in investing in key infrastructure projects while making life more affordable for members of the agri-food sector and supporting the viability of their operations. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack".

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

- c. Municipal Chief Administrative Officer and/or Treasurer
Hon. Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ryan Puviraj, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Laurie Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division,
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April 8, 2026

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon
Minister of Transport
Transport Canada
Tower C, Place de Ville, 330 Sparks St
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5
Via email: tc.ministeroftransport-ministredestransports.tc@tc.gc.ca

Dear Minister MacKinnon,

RE: Advancement of the Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Improvement Project

The Government of Canada has introduced the Trade Diversification Corridors Fund to support strategic infrastructure investments that enhance the efficiency, reliability, and overall resilience of the national transportation system. The program is intended to advance initiatives that strengthen trade routes, improve supply chain performance, address congestion points that impact the movement of goods, enhance interregional connectivity, and contribute to broader regional economic development.

Highway 17 forms a vital link within Canada's broader transportation network and serves as a key route supporting economic activity throughout Northern Ontario, the Ottawa Valley, and into Québec. Upgrading the segment between Meath Hill and Deep River presents an opportunity to address identified infrastructure challenges while also reinforcing supply chain reliability and supporting continued economic growth in the region. The Trade Diversification Corridors Fund represents a potential avenue for federal participation in advancing this important corridor improvement initiative.

The Municipal Corporation of the County of Renfrew passed the following resolution on April 8, 2026:

THAT County Council endorse the advancement of the Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Improvement Project and direct staff to work with federal, provincial, and regional partners to pursue funding through the Government of Canada's Trade Diversification Corridors Fund (TDCF) for improvements to the Highway 17 corridor between Meath Hill and Deep River, as amended;
AND THAT staff be directed to prepare and submit the necessary expressions of interest, project documentation, and funding applications required to position the project for federal investment;
AND THAT Council reaffirm its support for strategic investments in the Highway 17 corridor as a critical component of Canada's national transportation and trade network;

AND THAT this recommendation be circulated to all County of Renfrew lower-tier municipal councils, Garrison Petawawa, and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) for endorsement.

Attached is a report that was presented to Council providing additional background information in support of this endorsement.

We respectfully request that this matter be given consideration and look forward to your endorsement.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Murphy
Warden
warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

Attach.

- c. Renfrew County Municipalities
- City of Pembroke
- Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
- Garrison Petawawa



Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Improvement Project

The Government of Canada has established the Trade Diversification Corridors Fund to support infrastructure investments that improve the efficiency and resilience of Canada's transportation system. The program focuses on projects that:

- strengthen national trade corridors
- improve the reliability of supply chains
- reduce bottlenecks affecting freight movement
- enhance connectivity between economic regions
- support regional economic growth

Projects eligible for funding typically involve improvements to transportation infrastructure that support the movement of goods across Canada and to international markets.

Highway 17 forms part of the Trans-Canada Highway system, one of Canada's most important national transportation routes. The corridor connects Western Canada and Northern Ontario resource economies with the National Capital Region, Québec manufacturing markets, and eastern export gateways.

Within Renfrew County, the section of Highway 17 between Meath Hill and Deep River remains a two-lane highway, creating a significant capacity constraint along the corridor. Addressing this constraint has long been identified as a priority for transportation safety, regional connectivity, and economic development.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction to advance the Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Initiative, a strategic infrastructure project focused on improving the Highway 17 corridor between Meath Hill and Deep River. This report outlines an opportunity to pursue federal funding through the Government of Canada's Trade Diversification Corridors Fund (TDCF), which supports

transportation infrastructure projects that strengthen Canada's supply chains, improve national trade corridors, and support regional economic development. Council support will enable staff to work with provincial and regional partners to position this project for federal funding consideration.

Strategic Opportunity

Federal infrastructure programs such as the TDCF present a significant opportunity for regions to advance strategic transportation investments that support Canada's national economy.

The Highway 17 corridor plays a critical role in moving goods and services between Northern Ontario, the Ottawa Valley, and Québec markets. Improvements to this corridor would not only enhance safety and mobility for residents and businesses in Renfrew County but also strengthen a key segment of Canada's national transportation network.

Positioning this corridor as part of a broader Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Initiative would allow Renfrew County and regional partners to advance a coordinated infrastructure proposal that aligns with federal priorities related to supply chain resilience, economic growth, and trade competitiveness.

Discussion

Highway 17 serves as a critical transportation corridor connecting multiple economic regions across Canada.

The route supports the movement of goods and services between:

- Northern Ontario mining and resource industries
- forestry and agricultural sectors across Northern Ontario
- the Ottawa Valley regional economy
- the National Capital Region
- manufacturing sectors in Québec
- Eastern export markets

The section of Highway 17 between Meath Hill and Deep River represents one of the remaining two-lane segments along this corridor in Eastern Ontario. This configuration creates several challenges:

- limited passing opportunities for commercial vehicles

- reduced reliability for freight transportation
- increased safety concerns associated with heavy truck traffic
- congestion during peak travel periods
- constraints on future economic growth along the corridor

As freight volumes increase across Canada's transportation system, these limitations affect the efficiency of supply chains and increase transportation costs for businesses that rely on reliable trucking routes. Upgrading this section of Highway 17 to a four-lane divided highway would remove a key bottleneck along the Trans-Canada Highway and improve the movement of goods across the corridor.

Economic and Supply Chain Benefits

Several important sectors rely on the Highway 17 corridor for the movement of goods and services. These include:

- a. Mining and Resource Industries – Mining operations and supply chains based in Northern Ontario depend on reliable highway transportation for equipment, materials, and refined products.
- b. Forestry and Wood Products – Forestry operations rely on transportation corridors such as Highway 17 to move products to processing facilities and export markets.
- c. Agriculture and Food Production – Agricultural products and inputs move along this corridor between Western Canada, Ontario, and Québec markets.
- d. Manufacturing and Technology – Manufacturers in Ottawa and Québec rely on national trucking networks supported by the Trans-Canada Highway.

Improving this corridor would enhance supply chain reliability, reduce transportation delays, and improve overall trade efficiency.

Regional and National Benefits

In addition to regional transportation benefits, improvements to the Highway 17 corridor would contribute to broader economic objectives. Potential benefits include:

- improved reliability for commercial freight movement
- reduced transportation costs for industry

- stronger connections between regional economies
- improved safety along the Trans-Canada Highway
- greater resilience within Canada's national transportation network

Infrastructure investments of this scale also generate economic activity during construction and support long term economic growth across the region.

Partnerships

Advancing the Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Initiative will require collaboration among multiple partners. Potential partners include:

- Government of Canada
- Province of Ontario
- County of Renfrew and local municipalities
- Regional economic development organizations
- Industry stakeholders and transportation operators

Organizations such as the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus have long advocated for strategic investments in transportation infrastructure that support regional economic development and supply chain efficiency.

Financial Considerations

The total cost of upgrading the Meath Hill to Deep River section of Highway 17 will be determined through detailed engineering and design work led by the Province of Ontario. Major highway expansion projects of this nature typically involve cost sharing between federal and provincial governments. The Trade Diversification Corridors Fund provides a potential opportunity to secure federal participation in this project.

Strategic Alignment

Advancing improvements to the Highway 17 corridor aligns with several County priorities, including:

- supporting economic development and regional prosperity
- strengthening transportation infrastructure
- advocating for investment in rural and regional communities
- improving connectivity between communities and markets

The project also aligns with regional priorities identified through work led by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus related to strengthening regional transportation networks.

Conclusion

The Highway 17 corridor is a critical component of Canada's national transportation network and plays an important role in supporting economic activity across Northern Ontario, the Ottawa Valley, and Québec. Improving the section of highway between Meath Hill and Deep River represents an opportunity to address long standing infrastructure needs while strengthening Canada's supply chains and supporting regional economic development. The Trade Diversification Corridors Fund provides a potential pathway for federal participation in advancing this important transportation project.

Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Launches Tourism Development & Sponsorship Fund in Petawawa

Posted on Monday, April 13, 2026

Pembroke, ON – April 9, 2026 – The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA), in partnership with the Town of Petawawa, is pleased to announce the launch of the **Tourism Development & Sponsorship Fund**, a new funding program designed to support local tourism initiatives and strengthen the community’s visitor economy.

Funded through revenues generated by the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) collected in the Town of Petawawa, the program will provide financial support to eligible OVTA members in Petawawa undertaking projects that enhance visitor experiences, increase tourism promotion, and attract visitors to the community.

The fund is divided into two streams:

- **Event Sponsorship Stream**, supporting festivals, events, and programming that drive visitation
- **Tourism Development Stream**, supporting projects that enhance visitor experiences and tourism marketing

Together, these streams are designed to encourage collaboration, support local tourism operators, and elevate Petawawa’s profile as a destination within the Ottawa Valley.

“The Town of Petawawa is supportive of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) in its role overseeing and launching a grant application process funded through revenues generated by its portion of the Petawawa Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT),” said Colin Coyle, Manager of Recreation, Culture & Tourism for the Town of Petawawa. “The Town views this initiative as a strategic and collaborative approach to reinvesting tourism dollars directly into the development and enhancement of tourism-based special events across our community. By administering these funds through a structured and transparent grant program, the OVTA is well positioned to support event organizers, foster innovation, and elevate the overall visitor experience. The Town is confident that this model will not only strengthen regional partnerships but also drive increased visitation, economic impact, and long-term tourism growth within Petawawa and the broader Ottawa Valley.”

Applications for the Tourism Development & Sponsorship Fund are open from **April 7 to April 24, 2026**, with funding available on a limited basis. Applicants must be OVTA members in good standing and located within the Town of Petawawa. For more information about the fund, including program guidelines and application, visit: <https://ottawavalley.travel/industry/tourism-landscape/tourism-development-sponsorship-fund/>

Successful projects will demonstrate strong tourism impact, including the ability to attract visitors, enhance the visitor experience, and contribute to the promotion of Petawawa as a tourism destination.

In 2025, the Town of Petawawa introduced a 3% Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) on overnight stays of less than 30 days at five local hotels. That same year, the City of Pembroke introduced a 4% MAT on overnight stays of less than 30 days at hotels, motels, inns, and campsites at Riverside Park. Both communities identified the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association as the eligible tourism entity to receive 50% of the collected revenues to support tourism development and marketing in Petawawa and Pembroke.

The Municipal Accommodation Tax legislation, introduced in the Province of Ontario in December 2017, is a revenue generation tool that grants municipalities the authority to implement a tax on accommodation stays of 30 days or less. A minimum of 50% of the revenue collected must be shared with an eligible tourism entity for the purpose of tourism development and marketing.

The OVTA is the destination marketing organization for the Upper Ottawa Valley and proudly represents over 350 tourism businesses, comprised of attractions and outfitters, accommodation, food, beverage and retail establishments, artists and galleries, municipalities and community organizations, as well as media and industry suppliers. The OVTA is supported by the County of Renfrew, Renfrew County municipalities and the City of Pembroke.

-30-

For more information, contact:

[Erin Norris](#)

Tourism Industry Relations & Digital Marketing Coordinator

613.732.4364, x416

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

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Growth Manager at Ownr

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INFORMATION SESSIONS 2026



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11AM to 12PM

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virtual



April 9

1PM to 2PM

For more information, visit:
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Ontario



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, April 17, 2026)

RCDHU Recommends Safety Precautions as Flood Waters Rise

The Ministry of Natural Resources has issued a Flood Warning for [Pembroke District](#). Rising water levels may pose risks to the health and safety of residents. Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is advising residents to take precautions to protect their drinking water, septic systems, and personal safety.

Drinking Water Safety

Flood water and standing water around wells can contaminate drinking water. RCDHU recommends that residents with wells affected by floodwater do one of the following:

- boil water at a rolling boil for one minute before using it for drinking, food preparation, or brushing teeth;
- use bottled water; or
- use an alternate potable water source.

Well water should be tested for bacteria after flood waters recede. For water sample bottle pick up and drop off locations, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-water/>.

Septic System Safety

During floods, the ground can become saturated, preventing proper operation of septic systems. If your septic system has been affected, avoid using the septic system if possible, or reduce the amount of water used by limiting toilet flushing, dishwashing, washing clothes, and showering.

Do not pump your septic system when the ground around it is still saturated. High ground water levels may cause an empty septic tank to float out of the ground and damage the inlet and outlet fittings.

Flood Safety

Flood waters can be contaminated with sewage and cause illness. If your property is at higher risk of flooding, consider the following preventive steps.

- Keep your family members and pets out of flood water.
- Wash or sanitize your hands after contact with flood water or handling items contaminated by flood water (e.g., sandbags).
- Building materials, clothing and furniture exposed to flood waters may be contaminated with sewage or other hazards and can support the growth of mould. Some hard-surface items can be cleaned and disinfected; others may need to be thrown out.
- DO NOT enter areas where electrical systems have been affected by flood water, as there is a risk of electrocution. Always wait for clearance from an electrical authority before entering these areas.
- Ensure drainage ditches and similar features are clear and functioning.
- Clearly label shut-off valves and note how to turn off gas, water, and power.
- If evacuation is required, turn off utilities before leaving if safe to do so.
- Move valuables and items that could be damaged to higher areas.
- Maintain a stocked emergency kit with documents, cash, safe drinking water, food, and medications.
- Do not drive through, stand, or walk in any moving water. Never underestimate the swiftness of the water – flooded rivers and streams are unpredictable.
- Do not attempt to drive in flood water. Six inches of fast-moving water can knock over an adult, and two feet of rushing water can carry away a vehicle.

Visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/be-flood-ready/> for more information on what to do before and during flooding events.

Visit the Government of Ontario: [Flood Forecasting and Warning Program \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.gov.on.ca/flood/) daily to view your community flood risk.

Visit the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board at <https://ottawariver.ca/> to stay up to date on Ottawa River flows and levels.

For more information, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/>, call 1-800-276-1097 extension 505, or email environmentalhealth@rcdhu.com.

Kaitlyn Wendland

Subject: FW: You're Invited

From: Environmental Health <EnvironmentalHealth@rcdhu.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 1:12 PM
To: Environmental Health RCDHU <Environmentalhealth@rcdhu.com>
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

· D

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
Fax : 613-735-3067
www.rcdhu.com

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From: AMO Education <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO's Free Campaign Readiness Workshops



Step Up, Stand Out: Your Journey to Municipal Office Starts Here.

AMO's Free Campaign Readiness Workshops

As Ontario prepares for the October 2026 municipal elections, AMO is offering a dynamic lineup of information sessions and workshops to support aspiring candidates and current elected officials.

Whether you're planning your first campaign, seeking re-election, representing an underrepresented community, or stepping forward as a young candidate, these programs are designed to meet you where you are—and help you move forward with confidence.

[Find the right workshop for you](#)

Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities

New June 2026 session dates have been added—don't miss your chance to participate.

Dates:

- Session 1 - June 16 (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)
- Session 2 - June 23 (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)
- Session 3 - June 25 (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)
- Session 4 - June 30 (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)

This engaging four-part online series is designed **for first-time candidates** preparing to run in the 2026 municipal elections.

Participants will build the skills, resilience, and confidence needed to lead in today's municipal environment through sessions focused on finding your purpose, managing conflict and building effective relationships, prioritizing mental health and wellbeing, and turning values into action through movement-building.

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

Workshop for Underrepresented Candidates

Additional June 2026 workshop date now available.

Date: June 9 (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)

Led by former municipal leaders, this session provide practical guidance and insider perspectives for those from underrepresented communities, while remaining open to all participants.

The workshop explore what it takes to become a candidate, key strategies for running a successful campaign, how to develop effective messaging, and ways to use community engagement to build visibility and support.

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

Youth Information Sessions

New June 2026 session date just announced.

Date: June 2 (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)

Facilitated by currently elected officials, these sessions are designed to empower young people considering public office.

Participants will gain insight into what it's like to run for office as a young candidate, learn how to build a strong campaign, understand candidate requirements, and explore 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 Education <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Preventing Escalated Behaviours: Build Safer Municipal Workplaces



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, April 9, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - April 9, 2026



April 09, 2026

In This Issue:

- AMO Board of Directors Elections.
- Building a Culture of Civility: AMO's Using Social Media and Online Platforms Handguide.
- Call for Nominations for the 2026 - 2028 OSUM Executive Committee Election.
- Explore AMO's one-of-its-kind candidate resource catalogue!
- Applications Open for EASE Grant.
- Northern Rideshare Framework.
- MMAH 2026 Election Guides.
- Ontario Webinar on Build Canada Homes.
- Mayor-Cao Relationship Series.
- OSUM 2026: The Small Urban Approach to Municipal Challenges.
- Preventing Escalated Behaviours Workshop: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces.
- Introducing AMO Conference 2026 Keynote: Curse of Politics.
- Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office – Join us April 9.
- Free Information Session for Youth Interested in Running for Municipal Council in October 2026.
- Is a Facility Lighting Upgrade in your budget?
- LAS Webinar: Introducing Road Patrol.
- Save on Your Employee Group Benefits Costs.
- Building Linkages in Emergency Management - June 2-3.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

Nominations for the AMO Board of Directors election will open on April 21st. [Click here for more election information](#) and timelines or email elections@amo.on.ca if you have any questions.

Through its Healthy Democracy and Workforce Development Projects, AMO has developed practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility. Our [Leading with Respect Handguides](#) offers resources over a series of seven key municipal areas of leadership. This week, we are profiling [Using Social Media and Online Platforms Handguide](#) that includes practical tools and guidance related to moderating online platforms, navigating personal and official accounts and social media policies.

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.

Through its [Healthy Democracy Project](#), AMO has launched a candidate attraction and voter turnout campaign: If You Believe. They Believe. In the [Get Started section of the website](#) you can view a one-of-its-kind catalogue of candidate resources for every phase of the campaign journey. Please explore the resources and share with your networks!

Provincial Matters

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](#).

MTO is proposing a pilot to establish provincial requirements for rideshare operators, drivers, and vehicles operating along the Northlander passenger train corridor. [Provide feedback by April 10](#).

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing have released their [guidance materials for the 2026 municipal elections](#) including the Voter's Guide, Candidate's Guide and Third-Party Advertiser's Guide.

Federal Matters

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

Join your small urban colleagues in the Town of Parry Sound, April 29-May 1, for the 70th Ontario Small Urban Conference. We have built a program featuring key issues small urban municipal leaders are facing today from the impact of strong mayor powers, housing and homelessness, infrastructure challenges, incivility, weakened local journalism and more. [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](#).

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 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. Facilitated by current and former 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. [Register here for one of three sessions](#).

Through AMO's Healthy Democracy Project, we are offering a series of free workshops for young people thinking about running for municipal office in the October 2026 elections. Facilitated by three current municipal leaders, these sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and running a campaign. [Register for the April 15 session here](#).

LAS

As budgets get approved, our [Facility Lighting Service](#) gets busy. Be sure to [let LAS know](#) if an LED Upgrade is in your future. We have a simple turn-key solution for that!

Building on our proven assessment program, LAS partner Citylogix is launching a [Road Patrol application](#) that delivers continuous visibility into road conditions — automatically, consistently, and in real time. Join our webinar on April 28th to learn how this new technology would work for your community. [Register Here](#).

The [LAS Group Benefits program](#) offered by Mosey & Mosey helps reduce your employee group benefit costs. The plan offerings are customizable to your municipality's needs. For more information, you can visit Mosey & Mosey at the OMHRA Conference, April 14 to 16 in Niagara Falls.

Municipal Wire*

[Building Linkages in Emergency Management](#) is an event that you won't want to miss, dedicated to advancing emergency management practices. It provides a unique opportunity to network with a diverse group of professionals, including emergency managers, first responders, municipal leaders, and others with a role in emergency management.

Careers

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

[Senior Planner \(Land Use Planning\) - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#). Closing Date: April 24, 2026.

[Field Officer - City of Greater Sudbury](#). Closing Date: April 17, 2026.

[Waste Program Coordinator - Town of Newmarket](#). Closing Date: April 23, 2026.

About AMO

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

AMO Contacts

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[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

[ONE Investment](#)

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - April 16, 2026



April 16, 2026

In This Issue:

- AMO Board Elections nominations open next week.
- Building a Culture of Civility: AMO’s Handguide for Municipal Leaders and Staff.
- Election 2026-Candidate workshops and support programs.
- MMAH 2026 Election Guides.
- Ontario Webinar on Build Canada Homes.
- Keynote Added to OSUM: Dr. Eileen de Villa on Navigating the Future of Public Health.
- New Dates - AMO Candidate Support Workshops.
- Preventing Escalated Behaviours Workshop: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces.
- Campaign Support for Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office - May 6.
- Next installment in the Mayor-CAO Relationship series.
- LAS Webinar: Introducing Road Patrol.
- Don’t forget to apply for the All Risk Municipal Grant.
- Help homeowners reduce expensive water repair costs.
- Energy reporting made easy with LAS.
- OGA26: Turning the Shift into Results - May 20, 2026.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

Nominations for the 2026-2028 AMO Board of Directors election open Tuesday, April 21st. Whether you’re considering running or encouraging someone else to step forward, visit the [AMO Elections Webpage](#) for more information.

Through its Healthy Democracy and Workforce Development Projects, AMO has developed practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility. Our [Leading with Respect Handguides](#) offer resources over a series of seven key municipal areas of leadership. This week, we are profiling the [Self-Care for Municipal Leaders and Staff Handguide](#), which offers strategies to recognize the early signs of burnout and provides practical guidance to support prevention, protection, and recovery.

Through its [Healthy Democracy Project](#), AMO has launched a candidate attraction and voter turnout campaign: [If You Believe. They Believe](#). On the campaign site, you can learn about the various candidate support organizations ready to help candidates running for the first time and seeking re-election. They offer tremendous resources, campaign schools and peer support to help you all the way along the campaign road.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing have released their [guidance materials for the 2026 municipal elections](#), including the Voter’s Guide, Candidate’s Guide and Third-Party Advertiser’s Guide.

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

OSUM is pleased to announce Dr. Eileen de Villa, who will provide insight into key strategic and operational considerations for successfully navigating current public health reforms. Following her remarks, a panel discussion will be held with municipal leaders who will share their experiences in merging public health units. [View the full program and register now](#).

Through its [Healthy Democracy Project](#), AMO is offering a dynamic lineup of information sessions to support aspiring candidates and current elected officials in their journey toward municipal office. Whether you're planning your first campaign, seeking re-election, representing an underrepresented community, or stepping forward as a young candidate, these programs are designed to meet you where you are—and help you move forward with confidence. [Register for one of these free workshops today.](#)

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.](#)

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. Facilitated by current and former 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. [Register here for one of two sessions.](#)

AMO and OMAA are delivering the next installment of the well-received Mayor–CAO Relationship Series. This session focuses on upper-tier governance, featuring experienced CAO–Warden teams. This will be a session you don't want to miss! [Register here.](#)

LAS

Building on our [proven assessment program](#), LAS partner Citylogix is launching a Road Patrol application that delivers continuous visibility into road conditions — automatically, consistently, and in real time. Join our webinar on April 28th to learn how this new technology would work for your community. [Register Here.](#)

The All Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency recognizes and supports innovative risk management practices within Ontario municipalities. [Submit your ideas by May 1](#) for a chance to receive \$10,000 towards your project.

The LAS endorsed [Sewer & Water Line Warranty service](#), offered through SLWC, helps residential property owners avoid expensive repair costs for clogs, leaks, and breaks to the water and sewer lines running from their home to the municipal connection. Learn how your municipality can offer this optional service to your residents.

LAS makes your annual Energy Reporting easy with its [Energy Planning Tool](#), especially if you are part of our [Electricity](#) and/or [Natural Gas](#) programs. [Contact Christian](#) for more info. Learn more about your obligations in the Ministry's webinar. Join [April 28](#) or [May 26](#) from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Municipal Wire*

Ontario's premier geothermal conference featuring expert insights, emerging technologies, and collaborative networking. Learn best practices, connect with industry leaders, and find what drives results. AMO members save 20% off registration.

Careers

[Communications & Public Affairs Specialist - Middlesex-London Paramedic Service.](#) Closing Date: May 8, 2026.

[Specialist, Records and Information Management - City of Peterborough.](#) Closing Date: May 4, 2026.

About AMO

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

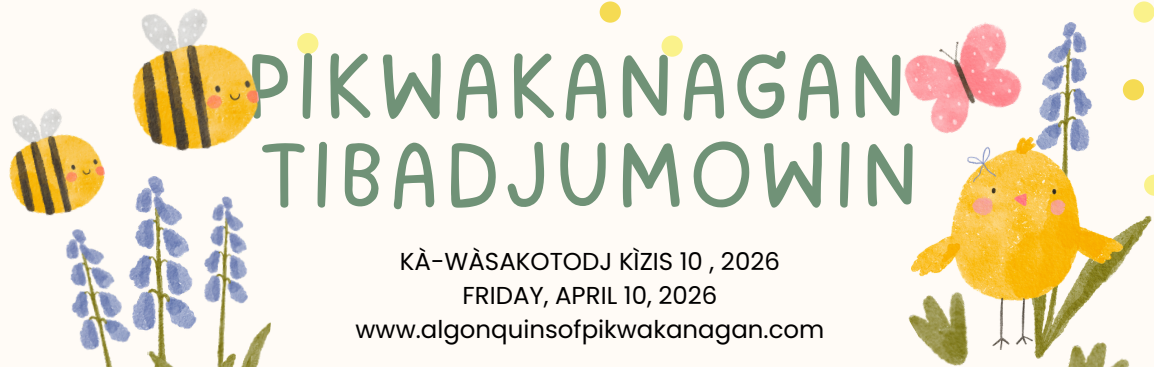
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PIKWAKANAGAN TIBADJUMOWIN

KÀ-WÀSAKOTODJ KÌZIS 10 , 2026
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026
www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com

Content

- Updates & Notices
 - Mindiwin Manido Message
 - Elder's Notice
 - Elder's Dinner
- News & Events
 - Letter fm EDO
 - Spring Home Maintenance
 - Rattray Survey
- Health Updates
 - Thoughts of the Month
 - Strong & Steady
 - Breakfast Club
- Employment Opportunities
 - Registered Nurse-Home & Community
 - Registered Nurse-Casual
 - Home Care Registered Nurse
- Community info & Resource #'s
 - Resource Numbers
 - Volunteer & Facilitator Event
 - Legal Clinic

Membership Notice

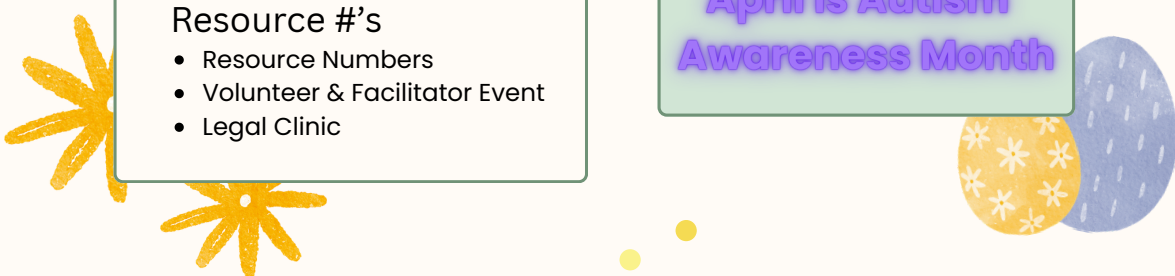
Please update your mailing address with Lands, Estates & Membership to ensure you get the latest news and upcoming events & info

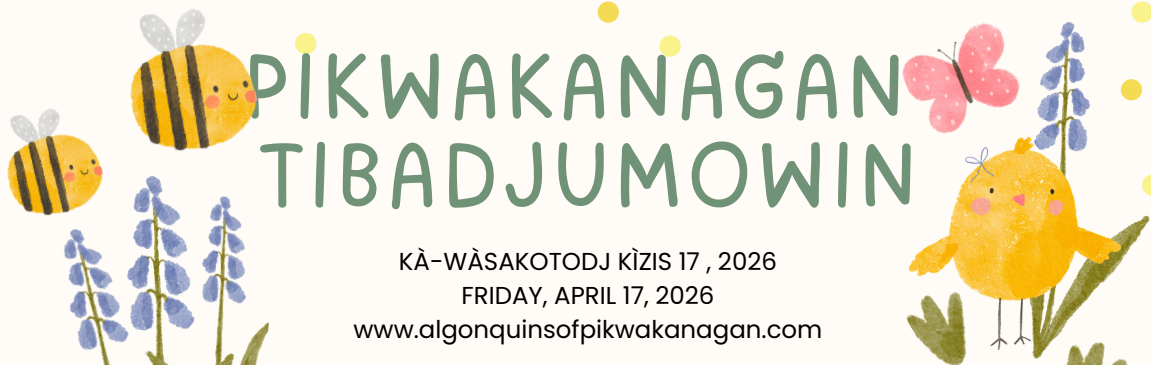
Contact - Curtus Jahn at 613-625-2800 ext. 231
e-mail - coordinator.lem@pikwakanagan.ca

Website Information

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

**April is Autism
Awareness Month**





PIKWAKANAGAN TIBADJUMOWIN

KÀ-WÀSAKOTODJ KÌZIS 17 , 2026
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026
www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com

Content

- Updates & Notices
 - Water Treatment Update
 - Guardians
 - Elder's Meeting Announcement
- News & Events
 - Elder's Dinner
 - Tai Chi
 - Spring Home Maintenance
- Health Updates
 - Mosquito
 - Tick-borne illness
- Employment Opportunities
 - Cultural & Public Art
 - Operator in Charge
 - PSW & Health Care Aide
- Community info & Resource #'s
 - Resource Numbers
 - How to Subscript - Website
 - Membership Additions

Membership Notice

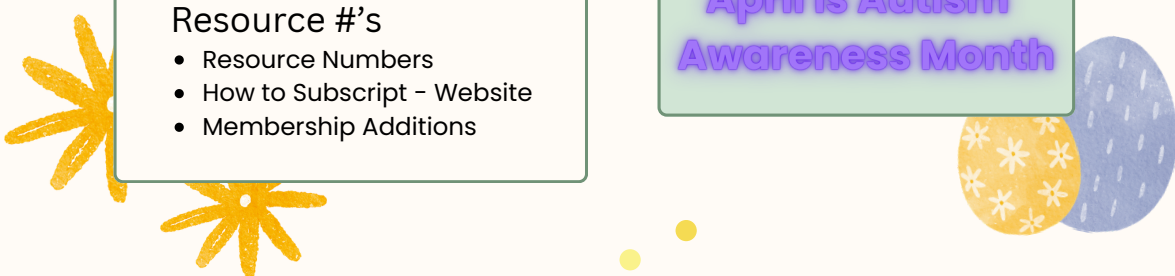
Please update your mailing address with Lands, Estates & Membership to ensure you get the latest news and upcoming events & info

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April is Autism
Awareness Month





**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF MADAWASKA VALLEY**

P.O. Box 1000
85 Bay Street
Barry's Bay ON K0J 1B0
Ph 613-756-2747 Fax 613-756-0553
info@madawaskavalley.ca

Moved by: Joseph Cybulskie
Seconded by: Shelley Maika

06-RC-21 Apr 2026
21 April 2026

BE IT RESOLVED

Council for the Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley supports the Resolution of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

WHEREAS arable land is a critical and finite resource and;

WHEREAS Ontario loses as much as 319 acres off farmland a day and;

WHEREAS Ontario's farmland provides food, fiber and fuel to all of Ontario and beyond;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Madawaska Valley support Bill21, Protect Our FoodAct,2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations and;

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, MPP Billy Denault, Senator Rob Flack, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario

X CARRIED

Suzanne Klatt

Suzanne Klatt, CAO/Clerk

Replies to this correspondence can be forwarded electronically to dclerk@madawaskavalley.ca



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF MADAWASKA VALLEY**

P.O. Box 1000

85 Bay Street

Barry's Bay ON K0J 1B0

Ph 613-756-2747 Fax 613-756-0553

info@madawaskavalley.ca

Moved by: Mary Blank
Seconded by: Shelley Maika

07-RC-21 Apr 2026
21 April 2026

BE IT RESOLVED

**Council for the Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley supports the
Resolution of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan**

Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley supports the resolution from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan supporting correspondence received from James Bay East regarding a Provincial Bail Notification Program. And further that this resolution be forwarded to the all OPP Detachment Boards and all municipalities in Ontario.

X CARRIED

Suzanne Klatt

Suzanne Klatt, CAO/Clerk

**Replies to this correspondence can be forwarded
electronically to dclerk@madawaskavalley.ca**



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF MADAWASKA VALLEY**

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Ph 613-756-2747 Fax 613-756-0553

info@madawaskavalley.ca

Moved by: Shelley Maika
Seconded by: Linda Neuman

08-RC-21 Apr 2026
21 April 2026

BE IT RESOLVED

Council for the Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley supports the Resolution of the Township of Oro-Medonte

THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley supports the resolution from Township of Oro-Medonte regarding the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors and their 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 Billy Denault, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) , Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors (AORS) , Ontario municipalities

X CARRIED

Suzanne Klatt

Suzanne Klatt, CAO/Clerk

Replies to this correspondence can be forwarded electronically to dclerk@madawaskavalley.ca



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

April 9, 2026

Via email: david.piccini@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
14th Floor, 400 University Ave
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

Dear Hon. David Piccini,

Re: Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments, Health and Safety Concerns

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their April 7, 2026, Regular Council Meeting:

160-2026

Moved By: Ted Oke

Seconded by: Jim Dietrich

That South Huron Council supports the March 13, 2026, correspondence of the Township of Oro Medonte regarding a Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments, Health and Safety Concerns; and

That this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Infrastructure, MPP Lisa Thompson, AORS, 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 Transportation, Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org; the Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Kinga Surma, kinga.surma@pc.ola.org; MPP Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; AORS, admin@aors.on.ca; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca; and all municipalities in Ontario.



Office of the Warden, C.A.O. & Clerk
Hastings County

235 Pinnacle St. Postal Bag 4400,
Belleville ON K8N 3A9

Tel: (613) 966-1311

Fax: (613) 966-2574

www.hastingscounty.com

April 8, 2026

Sent via email

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Steve MacKinnon, Minister of Transportation
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
M.P. Shelby Kramp-Neuman
M.P. Chris Malette
M.P.P. Ric Bresee
M.P.P. Tyler Allsopp
Martin Imbleau, President and CEO of Alto
Mayors and Councils of 14 Hastings County Municipalities
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Eastern Ontario Mayors
Eastern Ontario Municipalities
Eastern Ontario First Nations Partners

RE: Hastings County Motion regarding Alto High Speed Rail

At a meeting held on March 26, 2026, Hastings County Council approved the following resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Claire Kennelly
Seconded by: Councillor Loyde Blackburn

WHEREAS the federal government has identified Alto High Speed Rail as a nation-building project with an estimated cost of \$60-\$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 one proposed stop across 50,000 square kilometres 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 wellbeing; and

WHEREAS the County of Hastings and its member municipalities are actively trying to engage with Alto through a truly meaningful consultation process to understand the impacts of both high speed rail train routes to our residents' lands, trails and businesses; and

WHEREAS the County of Hastings is an eastern Ontario advocacy voice representing 14 municipalities 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, let it be resolved that the County of Hastings 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 County of Hastings 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 County of Hastings look to gather detailed information from Alto to more fully understand the project and its impacts across eastern Ontario; and

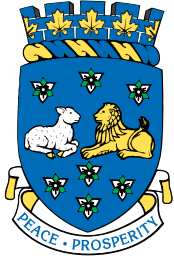
THAT the County of Hastings advocates that the federal government and Alto fully explore train route options along existing corridors such as via rail and or Highway 401; and

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, Mayors and Councils of 14 Hastings County Municipalities, Premier Doug Ford, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus Members of Provincial Parliament, Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus Members of Parliament, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Eastern Ontario Mayors, All Eastern Ontario municipalities and Eastern Ontario First Nations partners.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cathy Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Bradley, Clerk and Director of Legislative Services
Hastings County



April 2, 2026

Hon. Sean Fraser

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Legislative Building
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Minister Fraser:

Re: Notice of Motion, Councillor C. James re: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on March 25, 2026, approved the following motion:

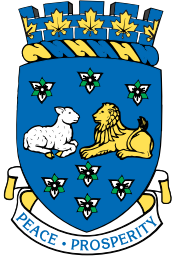
Whereas the Region of Waterloo's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, developed under the requirements of the Community Safety and Policing Act, identifies systemic racism, hate, and discrimination as critical risk factors impacting community safety, belonging, and well-being;

And whereas the display of a noose is widely recognized as a symbol of racial terror, violence, and intimidation, particularly against Black communities, rooted in the history of anti-Black racism;

And whereas symbols of hate, when displayed publicly, contribute to fear, trauma, and exclusion, and undermine the Region's commitments to equity, inclusion, and proactive prevention within its Community Safety and Well-Being Plan;

And whereas the Government of Canada has introduced Bill C-9 to strengthen tools to address hate-motivated offences, including provisions related to the public display of certain hate symbols;

And whereas the current draft of Bill C-9 does not explicitly include the noose as a prohibited symbol, despite its well-



documented use as an instrument of racial intimidation and its direct relevance to community safety and well-being outcomes;

And whereas addressing hate symbols through federal legislation complements municipal efforts by strengthening upstream prevention, reducing harm, and supporting safer, more inclusive communities;

Therefore be it resolved that:

- 1. The Regional Municipality of Waterloo formally request that the Government of Canada amend Bill C-9 to explicitly include the noose as a prohibited hate symbol within the legislation;**
- 2. This motion be circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for endorsement and support as a measure that strengthens community safety and well-being across jurisdictions.**

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions, please contact Councillor C. James, CJames@regionofwaterloo.ca.

Regards,

Michael Oliveri
Legislative Services Specialist
Region of Waterloo

cc: All Ontario Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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. 02-26
Tonia Bennett, Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk, Northumberland County
Re: Correspondence, 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry'

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. 02-26, from Tonia Bennett, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk, Northumberland County, dated February 24, 2026, regarding Correspondence, 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry', 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
County of Northumberland**
555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6



Northumberland County Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

February 24, 2026

The Right Hon. Mark Carney (Prime Minister of Canada)
Honourable Sean Fraser (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada)
Honourable Gary Anandasangaree (Minister of Safety)
Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
Honourable Doug Downey (Attorney General of Ontario)
Honourable Michael S. Kerzner (Solicitor General of Ontario)
Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
and MPP for Northumberland Peterborough-South)
Member of Parliament for Northumberland Clarke, Philip Lawrence
Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Correspondence, 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry'

At a meeting held on February 18th, 2026 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2026-02-18-122, adopting the below resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Lucas Cleveland
Seconded by: Councillor John Logel

"**Whereas** item 7.a from the February 3, 2026 Corporate Support Committee was held by Council for separate discussion at this meeting, the item being 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry'; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That County Council adopt the following:

- **That** County Council support the correspondence and send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders."

Council Resolution # 2026-02-18-122

Carried



**The Corporation of the
County of Northumberland**

555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6

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,
Tonia Bennett

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonia Bennett".

Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By L. Cleveland

Seconded By d. Logel

Agenda Resolution Number
Item 12.b. 2026-02-18- 122
(1)

Council Date: February 18, 2026

“Whereas item 7.a from the February 3, 2026 Corporate Support Committee was held by Council for separate discussion at this meeting, the item being 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry'; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That County Council adopt the following:

- **That** County Council support the correspondence and send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders.”

Recorded Vote
Requested by _____
Councillor's Name

Deferred _____
Warden's Signature

Carried  _____
Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
Warden's Signature



December 19, 2025

Honorable Mark Carney

Sent via email: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Dear Honorable Mark Carney:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council, at its meeting held December 16, 2025 adopted the following:

12.2.7 Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry - Councillor Samwell

WHEREAS the community of Welland and the surrounding communities were deeply impacted by a recent heinous crime that highlighted critical gaps in Canada's criminal justice and offender-management systems; and

WHEREAS on September 4, 2025, Mayor Frank Campion of the City of Welland wrote to the Premier of Ontario urging comprehensive reform to strengthen sentencing, parole, and bail provisions for violent sexual offenders, and to enhance public safety protections; and

WHEREAS on September 12, 2025, Mayor Mat Siscoe of the City of St. Catharines wrote to the Prime Minister of Canada expressing strong support for these reforms and calling for immediate federal action to strengthen sentencing, parole, and accountability measures for violent sexual offenders; and

WHEREAS the City of Thorold, at its meeting of September 9, 2025, adopted Resolution 14.2 requesting the Province of Ontario to amend Christopher's Law (Sexual Offenders Registry), 2000 to make Ontario Sex Offender Registry publicly accessible; and

WHEREAS several Niagara municipalities; including Grimsby, Fort Erie, Port Colborne, and St. Catherines have subsequently endorsed this call for greater transparency and reform; and

WHEREAS municipal councils, though not responsible for criminal law or parole, play a vital role in advocating for the safety and well-being of their residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Council of the City of Brantford hereby supports the City of Thorold's Resolution calling for the Publication of the Sexual Offender Registry and the City of Welland's correspondence dated September 4, 2025, calling for reform to sentencing, parole, and registry provisions concerning violent sexual offenders; and
- B. THAT the Province of Ontario be urged to amend Christopher's Law (Sexual Offender Registry), 2000 to make the Ontario Sex Offender

Registry publicly accessible, subject to appropriate privacy and safety safeguards; and

- C. THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:
- i. The Right Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
 - ii. The Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada;
 - iii. The Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety;
 - iv. The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
 - v. The Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario;
 - vi. The Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario;
 - vii. Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock;
 - viii. Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma;
 - ix. The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
 - x. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and
 - xi. All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier City Clerk,
cgauthier@brantford.ca

CC - The Honorable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada; - Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

The Honorable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety
Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca

The Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; - premier@ontario.ca

The Honorable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; -
Doug.Downey@ontario.ca

The Honorable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org

Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock; -
larry.brock@parl.gc.ca

Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma; -
will.bouma@pc.ola.org

The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) amo@amo.on.ca

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) FCMInfo@fcm.ca

All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support



**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

April 1, 2026

RE: Support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025

Dear Leaders,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on April 1st, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan approved the following:

Resolution No: 2026-04-01-06

Moved by: Councillor Keller

Seconded by: Councillor Quade

WHEREAS arable land is a critical finite resource; and

WHEREAS Ontario loses as much as 319 acres of farmland a day; and

WHEREAS Ontario's farmland provides food, fiber and fuel to all of Ontario and beyond;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, MPP Billy Denault, Senator Rob Black, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson

Deputy Clerk

Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



**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

April 1, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
Province of Ontario

RE: Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems

Dear Leaders,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on April 1st, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the correspondence from the Municipality of North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board.

Resolution No: 2026-04-01-05
Moved by: Councillor Banks
Seconded by: Councillor Kauffeldt

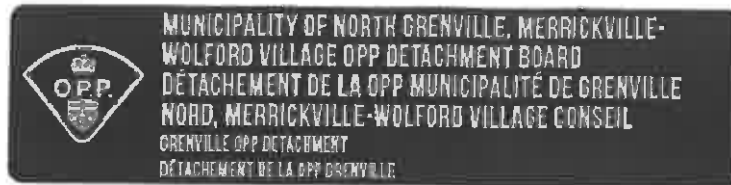
"Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Municipality of North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board regarding Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems, as attached.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader, AMO, and all municipalities in Ontario."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



285 County Road 44, Box 130
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
T: 613) 258-9569
clerk@northgrenville.on.ca

January 2, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
Province of Ontario

RE: Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria,

On behalf of the Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board, we are writing to express our strong support for enhanced school bus safety measures across Ontario, including the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and other child-safety technologies.

Illegal passing of stopped school buses remains a persistent and dangerous problem in Ontario, occurring an estimated 30,000 times per day. These violations place children at serious risk and continue to result in preventable injuries and fatalities. Municipalities require additional tools to address this issue effectively and consistently.

The Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board supports provincial investment in and expansion of school bus stop-arm camera systems under Part XIV.3 (School Bus Camera Systems) of the Highway Traffic Act. These systems have proven effective in deterring dangerous driving behaviour, improving compliance, and enhancing accountability. Provincial funding and support would enable municipalities to implement these technologies equitably and at scale.

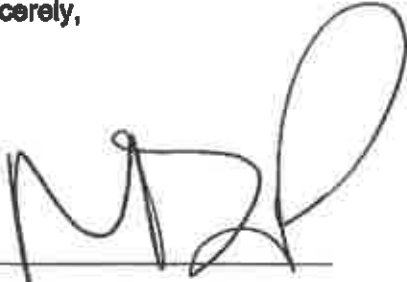
Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board also proudly supports the Let's Remember Adam – Stop for the School Bus campaign, launched in memory of Adam Ranger, a five-year-old child who tragically lost his life when a driver failed to stop for a school bus displaying its flashing lights and stop arm. Adam's story underscores the urgent need for stronger enforcement, public education, and modern safety solutions to protect children travelling to and from school.

We respectfully call on the Province of Ontario to continue advancing this life-saving work by providing municipalities with the funding mechanisms, legislative support, and implementation guidance necessary to deploy stop-arm cameras and complementary safety technologies province-wide.

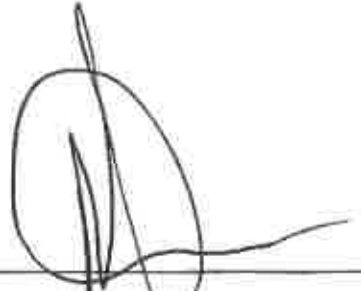
Protecting children is a shared responsibility. With provincial leadership and municipal partnership, we can take meaningful action to prevent further tragedies and ensure Ontario's roads are safer for students and families.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to road safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a large, looped 'P' and a trailing flourish.

Mayor N. Peckford (Co-chair)
Municipality of North Grenville

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, circular loop followed by a vertical stroke and a trailing flourish.

Mayor M. Cameron (Co-chair)
Village of Merrickville-Wolford

cc:
The Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipalities

Enclosed: Co-signing Template



**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

April 1, 2026

The Honourable Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

The Honourable Zee Hamid
Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

MPP Billy Denault
84 Isabella St. #6,
Pembroke, ON K8A 5S5

RE: Provincial Ball Notification Program

Dear Leaders,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on April 1st, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the correspondence from the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East.

Resolution No: 2026-04-01-04
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 OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East regarding a Provincial Bail Notification Program as attached.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the all OPP Detachment Boards, and all municipalities in Ontario.”

Carried.

Sincerely,

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

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

OPP DETACHMENT BOARD-JAMES BAY EAST

Cassandra Child, AOMC, Dip.L.M.A. – Secretary-Treasurer

171 Fourth Avenue

Cochrane, Ontario, Canada, P0L 1C0

T: 705-272-4361 | F: 705-272-6068

E: cassandra.child@cochraneontario.com



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER OPP DETACHMENT BOARD-JAMES BAY EAST

February 20, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

The Honourable Zee Hamid
Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

MPP John Vanthof
Pinewood Centre, Unit 5
247 Whitewood Avenue
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

Dear Leaders,

On behalf of the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East I am pleased to offer this letter in strong support of Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) agencies across the province and the development of a coordinated Provincial Bail Notification Program.

VCAO organizations are essential partners in community safety and well-being. They provide immediate, trauma-informed support to individuals and families affected by crime and tragic circumstances, often at the most vulnerable moments in their lives. Their staff and volunteers work closely with police services to ensure survivors receive timely safety planning, crisis intervention, and connections to critical supports. This partnership enhances our ability to respond effectively, reduces risk, and strengthens trust with those we serve.

Timely and reliable bail notification is a vital component of victim safety. The current system is inconsistent across jurisdictions and leaves survivors at risk when they are not informed of release conditions or bail decisions that may impact their safety planning. A province-wide bail notification program, led in partnership with VCAO agencies, will ensure victims receive clear, coordinated, and rapid notification, regardless of where the offence occurred or where the accused is released. This is not only a matter of safety but also an essential part of ensuring victims' rights, dignity, and confidence in the justice system.

The OPP Detachment Board- James Bay East fully supports:

1. Strengthened investment in VCAO agencies, recognizing them as critical frontline partners in community safety and in supporting survivors of crime.

2. A standardized, province-wide bail notification system, designed in partnership with police services, VCAOs, and Justice partners to promote timely communication, reduce risk, and improve outcomes for victims.
3. Ongoing collaboration between police and VCAO, including shared training, coordinated response models, and information pathways that improve both public safety and victim care.

VCAO agencies deliver high-quality services that directly complement police response. A provincial bail notification program will further enhance our collective ability to keep communities safe and uphold the rights of survivors. We urge the Government of Ontario to move forward with the development, implementation, and sustainable funding of this program.

Thank you for your consideration. The OPP Detachment Board-James Bay East is committed to working collaboratively and constructively with our VCAO partners and with provincial ministries to support this important and urgently needed initiative.

Yours truly,

OPP DETACHMENT BOARD-JAMES BAY EAST



Cassandra Child, AOMC, Dipl.M.A.
Secretary/Treasurer

/crc

c.c.

All Ontario municipalities
All Ontario OPP Detachment Boards



Date: 11 March 2026 8

Moved By: Councillor Kristen Rodrigues

Seconded By: Councillor Bob Woolvett

That Council support correspondence item 'a' from Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding Swim to Survive.

✓
Carried Defeated Deferred

	Yay	Nay
Gary L. Atkinson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Netty McEwen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alex Boughen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kristen Rodrigues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John van Klaveren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Vasey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Woolvett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH

Date: Apr 14, 2026

Resolution No.: 167-26

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

WHEREAS the Municipality of Shuniah 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 Municipality of Shuniah 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 Municipality of Shuniah 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

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 Municipality of Shuniah supports the February 23rd, 2026 resolution of the Township of North Glengarry regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

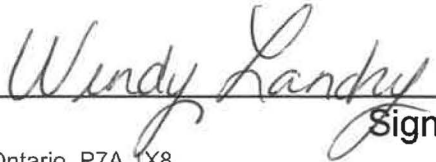
FURTHER THAT this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local MPP's, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities. *NOMA*

Carried

Defeated

Amended

Deferred



Signature

Municipality of Shuniah, 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 1X8

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

March 25, 2026

Re: Time-Sensitive: Strengthening Municipal Accountability and Public Trust (Bill 9)

Dear Premier Ford,

When we met in Sarnia last August, we discussed Bill 9 and its intent to strengthen municipal accountability. At that time, I affirmed my support for the province's effort to move this legislation forward. The fundamental principles of Bill 9 are sound and provide an important foundation; however, the Bill requires a significant change before it becomes law.

The introduction of a standardized code of conduct and the proposed integrity commissioner reforms are positive and necessary steps forward. However, based on more than four decades of experience in municipal politics, I believe the Bill's greatest flaw lies in its mechanism for removing councillors in **serious cases of misconduct**. Requiring local councils to participate in the removal of a peer, particularly through unanimous agreement, places councils in an inappropriate and untenable position. On matters of serious contention, unanimity is rarely achievable, rendering the mechanism effectively futile. This approach undermines both fairness and public confidence and fails to provide municipalities with a meaningful ability to act in extreme cases.

In circumstances of this magnitude, decisions should not rest with a council. Instead, such matters should be heard and ruled upon by an independent, non-partisan authority, removed from local political dynamics and capable of making impartial determinations in the public's interest.

If the provincial government intends to maintain municipal councils' responsibility for adjudicating such decisions, the threshold for action must be revised. A two-thirds majority, or a simple majority of council excluding the subject member, would provide a more reasonable, fair, and workable standard.

This is a time-sensitive issue, and the need for action is becoming more urgent as municipalities continue to encounter situations they are powerless to address. Without meaningful change, the current conditions and lack of adequate protection will have a chilling effect on those considering public office at the municipal level. Capable, community-minded individuals may be discouraged from seeking election if there is no effective independent mechanism to address extreme misconduct, protect the integrity of council and the well-being of the community.

I am copying this letter to mayors and councils across Ontario in the hope that they will also raise their voices on this matter before the legislation is finalized, to ensure this serious flaw is addressed in what is otherwise an important and necessary piece of legislation for the Province of Ontario and its municipalities for the 2026-2030 council term of office.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns and possible paths forward at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Mike Bradley
Mayor, City of Sarnia



Cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
John Fraser, MPP, Interim Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
Marit Stiles, MPP, Leader of the Official Opposition, Ontario NDP Party
Bob Bailey, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Mayor and Council for municipalities across Ontario
Sarnia City Council
Lambton County Council
City of Sarnia Senior Management

255 Christina St N
Sarnia ON N7T 7N2

P: 519-332-0330 ext. 3312 F: 519-332-3995 mayor@sarnia.ca www.sarnia.ca

Subject: Advocacy Update: Follow-Up to Budget Update on Proposed MFIPPA Changes

From: AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2026 11:48 AM

To: Kaila Zamojski <kzamojski@arnprior.ca>

Subject: Advocacy Update: Follow-Up to Budget Update on Proposed MFIPPA Changes

Submit your privacy-related resources by Monday, April 20

View this email [in your browser](#).



[About AMCTO](#) | [Professional Growth](#) | [Advocacy & Policy](#) | [Network & Community](#)



April 10, 2026

Advocacy Update: Follow-Up to Budget Update on Proposed MFIPPA Changes

As a follow-up to our previous [advocacy update](#) outlining proposed changes to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990* (MFIPPA) made through the budget bill, we want to highlight our concerns regarding the scope and depth of proposed changes on the privacy side. These changes align the Act with similar changes made previously to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1989* (FIPPA), but do not consider municipal staff capacity or financial constraints.

Privacy-related changes include:

- Requiring that the head of an institution ensure that a written assessment is prepared and contains certain information respecting any Personal Information (PI) that is to be collected. This includes but is not limited to:
 - The purpose, intended use, and explanation for collection
 - Who will have access to the PI
 - Limitations or restrictions on collection, use or disclosure
 - Safeguard practices to protect the PI

- Steps taken to prevent the likelihood of theft, loss, unauthorized use, or disclosure of the PI
- Requiring that risks are mitigated by ensuring the above steps are implemented before collecting PI
- Requiring that institutions provide access to the written assessment to the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC)
- Reporting any breach of privacy safeguards to the IPC and notifying affected individuals
- Outlining factors to determine the real risk of significant harm
- Removing the definition of personal information bank
- Imposing a right of access to PI
- Authorizing the IPC to review information practices of an institution where the IPC has received a complaint, with authorization to resolve the matter through mediation, conciliation, and other informal means.
- Requiring an institution to assist the IPC in conducting a review

While we acknowledge that many of these proposals are important best practices moving forward, we would like to offer the following recommendations to the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery for consideration:

- Over 80% of Ontario municipalities have populations under 50,000. In many municipalities, the administrative function is performed by a single employee, often the municipal clerk, who manages FOI and privacy programs along with 80 other **statutory responsibilities**, which can include council governance, bylaw enforcement, and elections.
- As 2026 is a municipal and school board election year, wherein municipal budget processes are disrupted with councils inaugurated in November, requests for resources to support new requirements may not be contemplated until 2027. This timing makes it extremely challenging to transition to new rules that are proposed to be in effect by January 1, 2027.
- The January 1 deadline for privacy impact assessments is too short a timeframe for municipalities to address new requirements and seek new resources, including staff and funding support to action the new requirements.
- The scope of the privacy impact assessments is exceptionally broad. It is not clear whether these would apply to information collected going forward or would also retroactively apply, which would be an insurmountable task for already overburdened municipal staff.
 - If retroactively applied, this will likely result in substantial costs for institutions and take years for many municipalities to come into compliance, given the above-noted limitations.

Given the varying levels of capacity and maturity across MFIPPA institutions, we want to understand what resources the Ministry and the Information and Privacy Commissioner are developing to support municipalities in this transition and when they will be made available.

In the meantime, we have prepared the following redline version of the Act, which shows the amendments Bill 97 proposes. We hope this makes it easier for members to see the exact changes that are being proposed.

REVIEW REDLINE VERSION OF THE ACT

We also invite you to send us your templates, policies, procedures, and other relevant resources related to:

- Privacy impact assessments
- Information management best practices

- Risk and breach management
- Job advertisement requirements for staffing
- Budget/business cases for more resources

Over the coming weeks, we will be reviewing materials to determine the best next steps for how to support members, municipal clerks, and their staff with implementing the proposed new requirements.

Please provide any resources you'd like to share with our [policy and advocacy team](#) by **Monday, April 20**.

Our team will be continuing to evaluate the proposals to determine the full impacts on municipal administration and service delivery, and welcomes feedback from members with expertise in FOI and privacy.

We will also be applying to speak at Standing Committee where your feedback will help inform our submission. Please [provide your feedback](#) as soon as possible.

We will be seeking clarity with the Ministry over the coming days and will provide updates as appropriate.



AMCTO | The Municipal Experts

5090 Explorer Drive, Suite 510, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 4T9

(905) 602-4294 | amcto.com

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Kaitlyn Wendland

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: CFWD SELECTED TO EXPAND SERVICES TO RENFREW AND LANARK COUNTIES

From: Sandi Ramsay <sandi@cfwd.ca>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 2:12 PM

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: CFWD SELECTED TO EXPAND SERVICES TO RENFREW AND LANARK COUNTIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 20, 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

CENTRE FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SELECTED TO EXPAND SERVICES TO RENFREW AND LANARK COUNTIES

The Centre for Workforce Development (CFWD) is pleased to announce the expansion of its Local Board services to include the Renfrew and Lanark Counties area for the 2026–2027 fiscal year, in addition to its longstanding catchment area of Hastings, Prince Edward, and Lennox & Addington Counties.

Following a ministry assessment to ensure continuity of Local Board services in the Renfrew and Lanark area, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development selected CFWD to expand service delivery by establishing an additional site for the region for the period April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027.

“CFWD and its Board of Directors are very pleased to be extending our local labour market expertise into the Renfrew and Lanark Counties region,” says Sandi Ramsay, CEO for the Centre for Workforce Development. “This expansion reflects our organization’s proven experience and capacity to conduct labour market research and implement workforce development services in a timely manner, deliver mandated functions consistently and equitably across service areas, and foster strong community partnerships.”

With this expansion, CFWD looks forward to working closely with local employers, partner agencies, educators, governments, and other stakeholders across Renfrew and Lanark Counties, while continuing its strong commitment to Hastings, Prince Edward, and Lennox & Addington. Through this work, CFWD aims to support informed workforce planning, strengthen labour market responsiveness, and help foster a strong and resilient workforce across the region.

As CFWD moves forward under this new service delivery agreement, the organization welcomes the opportunity to build meaningful partnerships and support the workforce development needs of communities throughout this expanded service area.

About the Centre for Workforce Development

The Centre for Workforce Development (CFWD) is a non-profit organization that supports workforce development through labour market research, community planning, partnership development, and evidence-based strategies that respond to local employment and training needs. Funded in part by the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario, it operates as one of 25 Local Boards across Ontario with a focus on local labour market research and workforce development. For more information about the Centre for Workforce Development and upcoming community initiatives, please visit www.cfwd.ca.

###

Image Attached: Workforce Planning Ontario Map – identifying CFWD expansion area

Sandi Ramsay

Chief Executive Office (CEO)

Centre for Workforce Development

Office: 613-969-0720

Cell: 613-848-5665

www.cfwd.ca



This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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.

To: clerktreasurer@visitmachin.com; christine.goulet@redlake.ca;
bmackinnon@siouxlookout.ca; kballance@ear-falls.com; clerktreasurer@ignace.ca;
townclerk@picklelake.org; mhanson@snnf.ca; sue.bates@atikokan.ca;
rrcao@tbaytel.net; lisa.sheppard@alberton.ca; gilesp@tbaytel.net; cao@emo.ca;
cao@lavallee.ca; gilesp@tbaytel.net; townshipofmorley@gmail.com;
krista.power@thunderbay.ca; kristina.miousse@greenstone.ca; clerk@neebing.org;
wayne.hanchard@oliverpaipoonge.on.ca; clerk@shuniah.org; cao@marathon.ca;
conmee@conmee.com; mavis@doriontownship.ca; gillies@gilliestownship.com;
clerk@manitouwadge.ca; twpoconn@tbaytel.net; cao@schreiber.ca; cao@terracebay.ca

Cc: MEA President

Subject: Municipal Engineers Association Comments/Concerns Regarding: OPS Harmonization

Attachments: MEA Comments to MTO Regulatory Registry.pdf; MEA letter to MTO March 29 2026.pdf; Briefing Note.pdf

Dear Municipal Clerk:

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) recently provided comments to the Province's plan to Harmonize Ontario Provincial Standards (OPS). The MEA's comments included:

1. Response dated March 29, 2026 to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003 - *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards*. Attached.
2. Letter to the Ministry of Transportation dated March 29, 2026 re: *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards and Associated Governance Model*. Attached.
3. Delegation to MTO senior staff during the Good Roads Conference on March 31, 2026 (attached briefing note summarizes MEA's concerns).

The MEA Board of Directors recently passed a motion that all Ontario Municipalities be made aware of the MEA's comments and significant concerns regarding *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards*.

We respectfully request that you please provide this email and the three attachments to your Municipal Council.

Sincerely,



D.M. (Dan) Cozzi P.Eng,
Executive Director



www.municipalengineers.on.ca

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March 29, 2026

Municipal Standards Harmonization Office (MSHO)

Subject: MEA Comments to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003

We are writing to respond to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003 - Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards.

Municipal engineers play a vital role in planning, maintaining, renewing, and constructing municipal infrastructure. Their expertise spans all aspects of municipal infrastructure services - from design and construction to project management and leadership – ensuring the successful delivery of both small and large-scale capital infrastructure projects.

Through its membership, MEA provides specialized knowledge in all areas of municipal engineering in Ontario. In partnership with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO), MEA co-manages the Ontario Provincial Standards & Specifications (Municipal) and delivers training on Ontario Provincial Standards.

While we support the intent of the regulation to promote consistency, quality, and efficiency across municipal road construction projects, we recommend that additional consideration be given to the time and administrative burden associated with preparing, reviewing, and obtaining exemptions, as well as the cumulative impacts on project delivery arising from project-by-project assessments.

Exemption requests that require detailed technical justification across multiple evaluation criteria can take a considerable amount of time to prepare, particularly for complex or large-scale projects. This work frequently requires the involvement of senior engineering, technical, legal, and procurement resources, diverting limited capacity away from active project delivery. The time required to assemble a complete exemption request should therefore be recognized as a potential schedule, cost, and resourcing risk in its own right.

Equally important is the duration and predictability of the Minister's review and response timelines. When exemptions are assessed on a project-by-project basis without defined service standards or response timelines, projects may experience material delays while awaiting decisions. These delays can produce cascading impacts, including missed construction windows, contractor demobilization and remobilization costs, loss of price certainty, and increased exposure to supply-chain volatility. For time-sensitive or critical

infrastructure projects, even relatively short delays in regulatory decision-making can result in disproportionate impacts to project schedules and budgets.

To better reflect these realities, we recommend that the exemption framework explicitly consider additional criteria, including:

- Administrative and decision-cycle timelines, including the anticipated time required for review and approval and the impact of uncertainty on project planning and procurement;
- Cumulative impacts across multiple projects, particularly where similar exemption requests are repeatedly submitted for comparable project types or conditions;
- Schedule dependency and critical path impacts, including whether delays in exemption approval would directly affect construction sequencing, seasonal work constraints, or contractual obligations; and
- Consistency and precedent considerations, whereby prior approvals for similar circumstances could support streamlined or standardized decision-making, rather than requiring repetitive project-level analysis.

Incorporating these considerations would help ensure that the exemption process supports timely and efficient project delivery while still meeting regulatory objectives. Clear expectations regarding submission requirements and response timelines, as well as opportunities for programmatic or category-based exemptions where appropriate, would significantly reduce risk to project schedules and budgets without compromising safety, performance, or sustainability outcomes.

Looking ahead, and assuming the Ministry is able to successfully deliver the current list of harmonized standards within the proposed timeframe, we agree that the remaining OPSS.MUNI standards should be prioritized for future harmonization based on where the greatest time, cost, and administrative efficiencies can be achieved. In our view, this would include:

- Standards with the highest frequency of use across municipalities, where harmonization would reduce repetitive project-specific reviews, municipal deviations, and contract amendments;
- Standards that routinely generate exemptions, interpretations, or disputes, indicating inconsistency or misalignment that drives additional design effort, approval cycles, or delays;
- Standards that significantly affect project schedules or cost certainty, including those related to materials, construction methods, or inspection requirements that influence procurement and delivery timelines;



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- Standards that overlap or interact closely with those already harmonized, where alignment would enhance system coherence and reduce unintended conflicts or inefficiencies; and
- Standards that affect regional or multi-jurisdictional projects, where inconsistent requirements currently increase coordination challenges and administrative complexity.

A transparent, phased approach, supported by demonstrated progress on the initially harmonized standards, would help ensure that future harmonization efforts are achievable and deliver tangible benefits. Clearly articulating how the Ministry will complete the current scope, and how lessons learned will inform the prioritization of remaining standards, will be essential to achieving intended efficiency gains without overextending implementation capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important initiative. We would welcome continued engagement as the regulation is refined and implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Penelope Palmer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Penelope Palmer, P. Eng.,
MEA President 2025 – 2026
(Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Strategic Capital Coordination Office
City of Toronto)

March 29, 2026

Municipal Standards Harmonization Office (MSHO)

Subject: Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards and Associated Governance Model

On behalf of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) and our municipal members, we acknowledge the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario's (MTO) ongoing efforts to maintain and modernize the Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications (OPSS). As partners and co-stewards of the OPSS, the MEA recognizes the importance of ensuring these standards remain current, effective, and responsive to the evolving needs of infrastructure delivery across Ontario.

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) is a non-profit organization representing more than 1,300 professional engineers working across 110+ Ontario municipalities, along with engineers from provincial agencies, conservation authorities, and consulting firms serving smaller municipalities. With a history spanning over 60 years, MEA was formed through the amalgamation of the City Engineers Association and the County Engineers Association. The association supports excellence in municipal engineering, recognizing the critical role municipal engineers play in planning, delivering, maintaining, and renewing infrastructure. The MEA provides specialized expertise across all areas of municipal engineering and, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), co-manages the Ontario Provincial Standards & Specifications (Municipal) and delivers related training across the province.

The long-standing success and credibility of the OPSS has been built on a collaborative partnership between the MTO and the MEA, grounded in co-stewardship, shared accountability, and balanced provincial and municipal technical expertise. The recent unilateral actions by the Ministry are inconsistent with the principles of partnership, and collaboration that have historically underpinned the success of the OPSS. Successful change and adoption cannot be achieved without first defining the problem, evaluating solutions and their consequences, and engaging partners through meaningful consultation.

The MEA has significant concerns regarding both the process and substance of the proposed harmonization of standards, including the lack of meaningful engagement with MEA and other municipal stakeholders, and the absence of a clear, shared understanding of the issues driving these proposed changes. These concerns are material and must be addressed if the changes are to be successfully implemented, broadly adopted, and supported over the long term.

Problem Definition, Need for Evidence and Supporting Data

At present, it is unclear what problems or deficiencies the MTO perceives to exist within the current OPSS framework. The MEA and its members are not aware of systemic failures or performance issues that would warrant the breadth, scale, or urgency of the changes being proposed. It is also unclear how these changes are expected to lead to reduced costs, improved efficiency, or better outcomes.

The MEA respectfully requests that the MTO clearly identify the concerns with the current framework, and share any analysis, metrics, benchmarking, or other evidence used to justify the anticipated benefits of the proposed modernization. Municipalities are concerned that the proposed changes will likely increase administrative burden, project complexity, and overall costs rather than achieve the intended efficiencies.

There are legitimate questions being raised about how a one-size-fits-all approach can successfully address the diversity of municipal conditions and requirements across Ontario. There is also apprehension that additional approval steps, reporting requirements, and governance layers will likely introduce project delays, uncertainty, and higher delivery costs without demonstrated public or operational benefit.

Clarification on the Modernized Governance Framework

The MEA respectfully requests clarification on how the proposed governance framework differs in a meaningful way from the current model. Municipal and industry engagement, along with technical input into standards development and review, already occurs through established existing technical committees, working groups, and consultation processes.

To build understanding and confidence, MTO must clearly articulate the added value of the proposed approach, including:

- What new roles, authorities, or decision-making structures would be introduced;
- What changes are anticipated in how standards are prioritized, approved, or updated; and
- How the proposed model will measurably improve efficiency, cost-efficiency, transparency, or consistency compared to the existing framework.

Annual Reporting, Exemptions and Compliance

The MEA understands the proposed framework would require mandatory annual reporting to the MTO including the introduction of a new approval process for exemptions. There are significant concerns related to the administrative burden these processes will put on municipalities, which will in turn affect their ability to deliver

projects and programs successfully in any given budget cycle. The administrative effort this approval process creates, without understanding the process, review requirements or timelines, is not demonstrative of an overall benefit. Clarity on these matters is essential. An opaque or slow exemption process introduces material risk to project delivery, schedules, costs, and contractual certainty.

Further clarification on annual reporting collection is essential to understanding the purpose and anticipated outcomes. Specifically, the MEA is requesting more information on the following:

- The specific purpose of the reporting;
- How the data will be used to inform decisions or policy;
- How reporting will account for local context and project complexity; and
- Will the reporting be the basis to track compliance.

Further clarification on the exemption process is perhaps even more essential, as it presents an even greater risk to successful project delivery if the process is overly burdensome, lengthy and lacks defined service standards. Expectations and timelines will need to be factored when municipalities are building programs for infrastructure renewal and rehabilitation. Even at these early stages, municipalities are flagging risks with their ability to deliver Council approved commitments if the exemption process is not clearly defined, and is not well supported. It is imperative that the MTO clarify the following:

- How exemptions will be reviewed and approved;
- Who will sit on the review panel and how municipal representation will be ensured;
- What service standards or timelines will apply to exemption decisions;
- Would an Ontario municipality continue to be recognized as a sponsor for new or revised standards when requests originate from a non-member; and
- What penalties or consequences are contemplated for non-compliance.

A one-size-fits-all approach does not reflect the realities of infrastructure delivery across Ontario. Municipalities operate under widely differing conditions, including climate, geography, asset profiles, operational constraints, material and labour market availability. Effective standards must allow flexibility to account for these differences if they are to be practical, efficient, and consistently applied province-wide.

In this context, the MEA and several municipalities have raised the need for blanket or standing exemptions in certain circumstances where efficiency can be demonstrably improved without compromising safety or performance. Requiring repeated case-by-case exemption requests for well-understood, low-risk municipal practices is viewed as inefficient and counterproductive. A model that combines clear standards

with appropriate flexibility and blanket approvals would better reflect local conditions and established municipal engineering practices while maintaining safety and performance.

Broader Impacts Across the Infrastructure Delivery Sector

While municipalities are directly affected, it is important to underscore that these proposed changes have far reaching implications beyond municipal owners alone. Designers, consulting engineers, contractors, suppliers, and other industry partners will also be impacted through changes to standards, approvals, contract administration, project schedules, and risk allocation. Successful modernization must therefore consider the full infrastructure delivery ecosystem, not solely municipal compliance obligations.

Partnership, Co-Stewardship, and Governance

The absence of the MEA from MTO's proposed development, roll-out and implementation of a standardized OPSS has raised concerns that the framework will shift toward a centralized, MTO-led model and will no longer function as a true partnership or co-stewardship.

The MEA requires clarity on how our role as co-steward will be explicitly protected and embedded within the proposed governance structure. Without a clearly defined, formalized role in decision-making and oversight, municipal confidence in the governance framework will be significantly undermined.

Further, the MEA seeks immediate clarification on the future role of the existing MTO/MEA specialty committees. These committees provide critical technical review, municipal insight, and issue resolution. It is uncertain whether they will be replaced, duplicated, or marginalized under the new framework, and how authority and accountability will be allocated going forward.

Path Forward and MEA's Ongoing Role

In the spirit of collaboration, the MEA offers the following constructive proposal to support a more effective and broadly supported outcome:

- Pause implementation to allow time for a shared understanding of the issues MTO is seeking to address and to explore whether alternative, more effective solutions exist;
- Pursue targeted harmonization, recognizing that some alignment is beneficial while preserving local flexibility. This should include the use of standardized

requirements where appropriate, complemented by blanket or standing approvals to reduce repetitive exemption requests;

- Map proposed review, approval, and reporting processes in detail and work collaboratively to identify and address pressure points before implementation;
- Establish a provincial working group, with representation from MEA members, MTO staff, and subject matter experts across Ontario, to identify priorities, risks, and opportunities from multiple perspectives;
- Engage consultants and contractors to understand how proposed changes will affect design, construction, procurement, and risk allocation and
- Ensure the process is not rushed, recognizing that thoughtful, inclusive development is essential to achieving sustainable and credible outcomes.

The MEA remains committed to the success of OPSS and to working collaboratively with MTO. However, meaningful partnership requires transparency and evidence-based decision-making, appropriate inclusion in governance, and genuine shared stewardship aligned with municipal realities.

Should the MEA continue to be excluded from the governance model or from substantive decision-making related to OPSS, the MEA will need to re-evaluate its role, partnership, and level of support for the framework moving forward. Our strong preference is to address these issues proactively through dialogue, collaboration, and shared clarity around roles and objectives. Providing the requested data, clarifying governance roles, addressing exemption and compliance concerns, and slowing implementation to allow proper consultation are necessary first steps.

The MEA welcomes the opportunity for prompt discussion and looks forward to working collaboratively to ensure any changes to OPSS strengthen—rather than undermine—the confidence, effectiveness, and partnership that have long defined its success.

Sincerely,



Penelope Palmer, P. Eng.,
MEA President 2025 – 2026
(Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Strategic Capital Coordination Office
City of Toronto)

BRIEFING NOTE
**OPSS Modernization &
Harmonization Concerns**



TO: Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)

FROM: Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2026

PURPOSE

To convey the MEA's significant concerns regarding the process and substance of MTO's proposed harmonization of the Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications (OPSS), and to request meaningful engagement before implementation proceeds.

BACKGROUND

The OPSS has long been grounded in a collaborative co-stewardship model between MTO and the MEA. Recent unilateral actions by MTO, without prior consultation with municipal stakeholders, are inconsistent with that partnership and risk undermining confidence in the framework. Successful change cannot be achieved without first defining the problem, evaluating solutions, and engaging partners through meaningful consultation.

KEY CONCERNS

1 LACK OF PROBLEM DEFINITION & EVIDENCE

The MEA is unaware of systemic failures in the current OPSS framework justifying the scale or urgency of proposed changes. MTO has not shared analysis, metrics, or benchmarking to support anticipated benefits. Municipalities expect the changes will increase, not reduce, administrative burden and project costs.

2 GOVERNANCE CLARITY & CO-STEWARDSHIP

It is unclear how the proposed model meaningfully differs from the current one, or how the MEA's co-stewardship role will be formally protected. The future of existing MTO/MEA technical committees, which provide critical municipal insight and issue resolution, remains uncertain.

3 EXEMPTIONS & ANNUAL REPORTING

Mandatory reporting and a new exemption approval process introduce material risk to project delivery. Without defined timelines and service standards, municipalities cannot reliably plan Council-approved programs. Blanket exemptions should be available for well-understood, low-risk practices.

4 ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL LIMITATIONS

Ontario municipalities operate under widely varying conditions including climate, geography, asset profiles, and labour markets. Effective standards must allow appropriate local flexibility to be practical and consistently applied province-wide. A uniform approach risks being neither efficient nor effective.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

- ▶ **Pause implementation** to allow shared problem definition and evaluation of alternatives before proceeding.
- ▶ **Share supporting evidence** including analysis, metrics, and benchmarking used to justify the proposed changes.
- ▶ **Clarify the governance model** and formally embed the MEA's co-stewardship role within the new structure.
- ▶ **Define the exemption process** including review timelines, panel composition, and measurable service standards.
- ▶ **Establish a joint provincial working group** with municipal, MTO, consultant, and contractor representation.

CONCLUSION

The MEA remains committed to the OPSS and to working collaboratively with MTO. Should the MEA continue to be excluded from substantive governance decisions, it will need to re-evaluate its role and level of support for the framework. Transparent, evidence-based, and inclusive engagement is essential to any modernization that strengthens, rather than undermines, the credibility and effectiveness of the OPSS.

From: OSUM Events <events@osum.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 2:01 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: Solutions to Municipal Challenges from the Small Urban Perspective



Celebrating 70 years of Ontario's Small Urban Municipalities

Network and collaborate with small urban leaders in solution-driven discussions

Town of Parry Sound

April 29-May 1, 2026

Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts

Hello OSUM Member,

As the connection between urban and rural Ontario, small urban municipalities are familiar with the social, economic, and legislative challenges facing Ontario.

Small urban municipalities are dealing with it all. Celebrating its 70th year, OSUM is pleased to bring its members some really timely programming and conversations. See below for one example.

Program Announcement:

OSUM is pleased to announce **Dr. Eileen de Villa** on **Navigating the Future of Public Health in Ontario**

As Ontario undergoes a significant shift toward a more integrated, 'connected' healthcare system, the public health sector faces a critical turning point. Join Dr. Eileen de Villa for important considerations and her insight into key strategic and operational considerations for successfully navigating current reforms—as municipalities can balance provincial standards with local needs and fostering the inter-sectoral partnerships necessary to improve population health outcomes and ensure long-term system sustainability.

Following Dr. de Villa's remarks, a **Navigating Public Health Mergers** panel discussion will feature Nathan Townend, Southeast Public Health Board Chair and Bonnie Clark, Committee Member, Lakelands Public Health, who will share their experiences and key considerations in merging of public health units. Join us as we explore how to make these structural shifts all in the aim to improve population health outcomes and create a more resilient, public health system for all Ontarians.

For more information on this year's exciting program that includes topics on housing, homelessness, strong mayor powers, and weakened local journalism [click here](#).

[Register Here](#)

Contact: events@osum.ca.

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From: ROMA Communications <roma@roma.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:55 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: ROMA April Board Highlights



ROMA April Board Highlights

Developing a Rural Health Strategy

ROMA is continuing work from its [2024 “Fill the Gaps Closer to Home” report](#), which identified key challenges in rural healthcare delivery and provided recommendations to improve outcomes.

AMO staff will be supporting ROMA in developing a Rural Health Strategy that reflects the current realities of access to healthcare in rural Ontario. This will include engaging partners and experts from across the health system to:

- Foster cross-sector collaboration
- Align priorities and approaches
- Support the development of coordinated, and implementable solutions to support ROMA’s advocacy

Community Safety Well-Being Plans Advocacy

Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plans play a critical role in improving outcomes and addressing service gaps in rural communities. However, municipalities across Ontario lack the capacity to fully implement this unfunded mandate. Rural communities, in particular, face great difficulty in delivering CSWB Plans without a sustainable funding arrangement. ROMA continues to advocate for a dedicated funding stream to resource plans to enable their implementation.

Provincial Update

The Board discussed recent provincial actions including the [2026 Budget](#), proposed [regional governance changes \(Bill 100\)](#), [new housing legislation \(Bill 98\)](#), and final Buy Ontario directives for the municipal sector. Additional information about these changes including a link to provincial training can be found [here](#).

Consultation on AMO’s New Councillor Education

The Board had an opportunity to provide input into the development of AMO’s new local leadership foundations program to support newly elected officials following the October election. AMO has partnered with the Institute on Governance (IOG) to develop education programming that equips councillors for a successful first term and is currently seeking input from members on essential aspects of the program.

Questions? Please reach out to roma@roma.on.ca.

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Rural Ontario Association (ROMA)

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