



Township of Douro-Dummer Agenda for a Regular Meeting of Council

Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers in the Municipal Building

Please note, that Council may, by general consensus, change the order of the agenda, without prior notification, in order to expedite the efficiency of conducting business.

Hybrid Meetings

Regular and Special meetings of Council are being held in person and electronically. Regular Meetings are recorded and live-streamed on the Township YouTube channel. Special Meetings will be recorded and live-streamed where feasible.

To watch the meeting live or access a recording please visit the Township's YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPpzm-uRBZRDjB89o2X6R_A

Please contact the Clerk if you require an alternative method to virtually attend the meeting.
mchaithartwig@dourodummer.ca or 705-652-8392 x210

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
2. Land Acknowledgement	
3. Moment of Silent Reflection	
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:	
5. Adoption of Agenda:	
6. Adoption of Minutes and Business Arising from the Minutes	
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7. Consent Agenda (Reports voted upon by ONE motion) - No Debate	
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8.	Delegations, Petitions, Presentations or Public Meetings: None	
9.	Public Comment Period - No Debate or Decision	
	A list of registered speakers will be released no later than Monday at 4:30 p.m. The deadline to register is 12-noon on Monday prior to the meeting.	
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12.3	Peterborough County Staff Report - Comments on Bill 17 - Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025	95
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12.5	City of Pickering - Resolution regarding Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	129
12.6	District of Perry Sound Municipal Association - Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education	132
13.	By-laws: None	
14.	Reports derived from previous Notice of Motions	
15.	Notices of Motion - No Debate	
15.1	Proposal to Reduce Speed Limit on Douro Second Line (Councillor Johnston) (June 3, 2025)	
	That staff be requested to investigate and report back on the possibility of reducing the speed limit to 60 km/h on Douro Second Line Road between County Road 8 and Division Road.	

15.2 Review Processes related to Building and Planning Department

Whereas the Township of Douro-Dummer completed a Service Delivery and Organizational view in 2020 which provided recommendations to the way in which building and planning services are delivered; and

Whereas the Council of the Township of Douro-Dummer adopted a new Strategic Plan in 2024 which laid out Core Values of Service Excellence and Transparency and Strategic Pillars of Service Modernization and Innovation along with Business Attraction, Expansion and Retention; and

Whereas there has been a change in the operations of the Building and Planning Department due to the retirement of the Township Planner; and

Whereas the delivery of Economic Development Services has been moved from the former Peterborough and Kawartha Economic Development Corporation to the County of Peterborough;

Now therefore it be resolved that the Council of the Township of Douro-Dummer direct staff to engage a third part consultant to review the processes related to Building and Planning Department along with the Economic Development portfolio with the goal of improving efficiency and customer service; and

Be it further resolved that the review process include consultation with staff and members of the community; and

Be it further resolved that the outcome of this review include, but not be limited to:

1. Finding efficiencies that do not compromise public safety.
2. Increasing communication and processes between Township Departments.
3. Including metrics by which community satisfaction can be measured and monitored.
4. Producing "plain language" models of understanding for the general public.

16. Announcements:

17. Closed Session: None

18. Rise from Closed Session with or without a Report: None

19. Matters Arising from Closed Session: None

20. Confirming By-law: 2025-25

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21. Next Meeting

Committee of the Whole - June 18, 2025 - 10 a.m.

Regular Council Meeting - August 5, 2025 - 5 p.m.

22. Adjournment

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of the Township of Douro-Dummer

**June 3, 2025, 5:00 PM
Council Chambers in the Municipal Building**

**Member Present: Mayor Heather Watson
Deputy Mayor Harold Nelson
Councillor Thomas Watt
Councillor Ray Johnston**

Member Absent: Councillor Adam Vervoort

**Staff Present: C.A.O. - Todd Davis
Clerk - Deputy C.A.O. - Martina Chait-Hartwig
Treasurer - Paul Creamer
CBO - Don Helleman
Emily Fitzgerald - Planner**

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of Council being present, the Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and Mayor introduced Emily Fitzgerald and welcomed her to her first Council Meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Mayor recited the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Moment of Silent Reflection

Council observed a moment of silent reflection.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:

The Mayor reminded members of Council of their obligation to declare any pecuniary interest they might have. None were declared.

5. Adoption of Agenda: June 3, 2025

Resolution Number 162-2025

Moved by: Councillor Watt
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting, dated June 3, 2025, be adopted, as circulated. Carried

6. Adoption of Minutes and Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - May 20, 2025

Resolution Number 163-2025

Moved by: Councillor Johnston
Seconded by: Councillor Watt

That the minutes for the Regular Council meeting, dated May 20, 2025, be received and adopted, as circulated. Carried

7. Consent Agenda (Reports voted upon by ONE motion) - No Debate

7.1 Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) - 2024 Financial Statements and Annual Report

7.2 City of Peterborough - Notice of Adoption of an Official Plan Amendment - Affordable Housing Community Improvement Project Area

7.3 City of Peterborough - Request for Extension to Draft Plan of Subdivision Approval File Number 15T-17502

7.4 Ministry of Natural Resources - Notification Letter Reintroduction of the Geologic Carbon Storage Act

7.5 CAMSafe - Enhancing Community Safety Through Camera Registration

Resolution Number 164-2025

Moved by: Councillor Johnston
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

The Consent Agenda for June 3, 2025, be received and that item 7.5 be moved to Section 12 – Correspondence – Action Items for discussion. Carried

8. Delegations, Petitions, Presentations or Public Meetings:

8.1 Delegation – Eric DeCou - Ice Storm Response and Cleanup Efforts:

Did not attend meeting.

9. Public Comment Period - No Debate or Decision: None

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Zoning By-law Amendment R-11-24 (Parkhill Storage) - Planning-2025-08

Resolution Number 165-2025

Moved by: Councillor Watt

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That the report Planning-2025-08, dated May 20, 2025, regarding R-11-24 (Parkhill Storage) – Planning-2025-08 be received, that Council receives all comments related to File R-11-24; and that the By-law to enact the Zoning By-law Amendment be passed at the appropriate time in the meeting.

Carried

10.2 Bill 17 - Council Update - Building Department-2025-06

Resolution Number 166-2025

Moved by: Councillor Johnston

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That the report Building Department-2025-06, dated June 3, 2025, regarding Bill 17 be received.

Carried

11. Committee Minutes and Other Reports: None

12. Correspondence – Action Items:

12.1 Douro-Dummer Local Taxpayers - Correspondence regarding Alternative Voting Methods

Resolution Number 167-2025

Moved by: Councillor Watt

Seconded by: Councillor Johnston

That the correspondence from the Douro-Dummer Local Taxpayers regarding alternative voting methods be received with thanks. Carried

12.2 CAMSafe - Enhancing Community Safety Through Camera Registration

Resolution Number 168-2025

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

Seconded by: Councillor Watt

That the letter from CAMSafe regarding enhancing community safety through camera registration be received and supported. Carried

13. By-laws:

13.1 By-law 2025-22 - To amend By-law Number 10-1996, as amended, otherwise known as "The Township of Douro-Dummer Comprehensive Zoning By-law" File R-11-24 Roll No. 1522-010-004-10500

Moved by: Councillor Johnston

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That the By-law 2025-22 to amend By-law Number 10-1996, as amended, otherwise known as "The Township of Douro-Dummer Comprehensive Zoning By-law" File R-11-24 Roll No.1522-010-004-10500, be passed, in open Council this 3rd day of June 2025 and that the Mayor and the Clerk be directed to sign same and affix the Corporate Seal thereto. Carried

13.2 By-law 2025-23 - Authorize Vote and Vote-Counting Equipment and Alternative Voting Methods

Moved by: Councillor Watt

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That the By-law 2025-23 to authorize vote and vote-counting equipment and alternative voting methods be passed, in open Council this 3rd day of June 2025 and that the Mayor and the Clerk be directed to sign same and affix the Corporate Seal thereto. Carried

15. Notices of Motion

15.1 Redirecting Bottle Return Proceeds to Support Local Youth Sports (Mayor Watson) (May 6, 2025)

Resolution Number 169-2025

Moved by: Mayor Watson

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

Whereas the beginning in 2015 the Township of Douro-Dummer has collected returnable bottles at the Transfer Station with proceeds, typically around \$1,500 annually, donated to United Way Peterborough; and

Whereas United Way Peterborough is a well-respected organization that provides meaningful support across the region, helping improve lives through a wide range of programs and services; and

Whereas the Township recognizes the value of investing in local initiatives where even modest funds can make a significant difference to residents, especially young people; and

Whereas many youth sports organizations in Douro-Dummer, such as hockey, baseball, and soccer, operate with limited budgets and rely on community support to keep programming accessible and inclusive; and

Whereas participation in sports contributes to the physical, mental, and social development of young people and fosters a strong sense of community, belonging, and leadership; and

Whereas United Way Peterborough raises approximately \$1.2 million annually, and the Township's contribution may now have greater impact when directed to grassroots initiatives in our own community; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That beginning in June of 2025, the proceeds from the Township's returnable bottle collection program be redirected to support youth sports and recreation programs within the Township; and

Be It Further Resolved That Council request that staff bring forward a report outlining option for the process to award the bottles and/or funds annually along with timelines and a communication strategy to the first Council meeting in August.

Carried

15.2 Proposed Township Road Tour (Councillor Johnston) (May 6, 2025)

Resolution Number 170-2025

Moved by: Councillor Johnston

Seconded by: Councillor Watt

That staff be requested to coordinate and schedule a Council Road Tour within the Township of Douro-Dummer in September. Carried

15.3 Proposal to Reduce Speed Limit on Douro Second Line (Councillor Johnston) (June 3, 2025)

That staff be requested to investigate and report back on the possibility of reducing the speed limit to 60 km/h on Douro Second Line Road between County Road 8 and Division Road.

16. Announcements:

Ray Johnston – The annual Douro-Dummer Canada Day Parade will take place on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, starting to form at 2:00 p.m., with the parade starting at 2:30 p.m. heading south on Douro Fourth Line Road.

Heather Watson – The Lemonade & Listening Community Engagement Event will take place on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Millennium Park.

17. Closed Session:

17.1 Approval Closed Session Minutes:

Closed Session Minutes - January 21, 2025

Closed Session Minutes - March 18, 2025

Resolution Number 172-2025

Moved by: Councillor Johnston

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That the minutes for the Closed Session meetings held on January 21, 2025, and March 18, 2025, both be received and adopted, as circulated.

Carried

Resolution Number 173-2025

Moved by: Councillor Watt

Seconded by: Councillor Johnston

That Council enter into Closed Session for the following reasons under Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees (Personnel), (Building Department Matters);

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;

(e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;

(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; (Legal Matters)

(k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (5:37 p.m.)

Carried

17.2 Report to Council - C.A.O.-2025-10

18. Rise from Closed Session with or without a Report

Resolution Number 174-2025

Moved by: Councillor Watt

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That Council rise from Closed Session with a report (6:11 p.m.).

Carried

19. Matters Arising from Closed Session

Resolution Number 175-2025

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

Seconded by: Councillor Watt

That Council authorize an increased scope of work for Cambium Engineering and Engage Engineering to allow for both firms to act as project management consultants on the Joint PW/Fire Facility.

Carried

20. Confirming By-law 2025-24

Moved by: Councillor Watt
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That By-law Number 2025-24, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council, held on the 3rd day of June 2025, be passed in open Council and that the Mayor and the Clerk be directed to sign same and affix the Corporate Seal thereto. Carried

21. Next Meeting

Regular Council Meeting - June 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
Committee of the Whole - June 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

22. Adjournment

Resolution Number 176-2025

Moved by: Councillor Watt
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Nelson

That this meeting adjourn at 6:13 p.m. Carried

Mayor, Heather Watson

Clerk, Martina Chait-Hartwig



Birchcliff Property Owners Association of Douro-Dummer, Inc.
858 Birchview Road, Douro-Dummer, Ont, K0L 2H0, www.BPOA.ca
bpoa.manager@gmail.com

June 9, 2025

Mayor Heather Watson and Members of Council
Township of Douro-Dummer
894 South Street
P.O. Box 92
Warsaw, ON K0L 3A0

Dear Mayor Jones and Members of Council,

Re: AGM Invitation

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Birchcliff Property Owners Association of Douro-Dummer, Inc. ("BPOA"), I want to take this opportunity to invite members of Council to attend our Annual General Meeting. **The AGM will be held at Camp Kawartha on Saturday July 26th, 2025, at 9:30am.**

I attach the draft agenda for the AGM for your information and I have included as part of the agenda a presentation from DD Council to update our membership on items of interest affecting residents in the Birchview Road area.

Kindly RSVP.

Sincerely

Murray H. Miskin , President (contact email murray@miskinlaw.ca and cell 705-313-5515)

Birchcliff Property Owners Association of Douro-Dummer, Inc

Annual General Meeting at Camp Kawartha

Agenda -Saturday July 26, 2025, Starting at 9:30 AM

1. President's Welcome & Review of 2024-25 year - Murray H. Miskin
2. 9:40 AM Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting -Daniel Miskin
 - a) discussion/questions
 - b) motion for adoption of Minutes; and
3. 9:50 AM Address by Representatives of Douro-Dummer Council; updates on road safety and other issues
4. 10:20 AM Road Safety and speed sign report
5. 10:35 AM Watersheds Canada Presentation by Executive Director Robert Pye
6. 10:55 AM Director Reports:
 - a) Treasurer – Steve Cooper presentation of financial statements for period ending Dec. 31, 2024 and Budget for 2025. Motions to Approve
 - b) Financial Reviewer's Report – John McGregor. Motion to dispense with Audit
 - c) Lake Steward/Environment – Jeff Chalmers and Kari Lie;
 - d) Membership – Bill Ratcliff
 - e) Website and social media - Daniel Miskin
 - f) Current Status on Lake Associations and Development Projects on Stoney, Clear and Lovesick Lakes -John McGregor
7. 11:15 AM Election of Directors: slate of members willing to stand for election as Directors for 2-year term -Jim Coyle
6. 11:25 AM Camp Kawartha Update and discussion of on site defibrillator – Sue Ramey
7. 11:40 Motion to Ratify Acts of the Executive
8. Other Business
9. 11:50 AM Adjournment followed by Camp Tour (by Sue), Barbecue and Social.

Newsletter

June 2025

EOWC Advocacy Update

The EOWC's Queen's Park Advocacy Day: Advancing Eastern Ontario's Priorities



Left-to-Right: Left-to-Right: Connor Dorey, CAO, County of Hastings; Gerald Lichty, Warden, County of Frontenac; Doug Elmslie, Mayor, City of Kawartha Lakes; Tyler Allsopp, MPP, Bay of Quinte; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington; Martin Lang, Warden, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry; Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC; Toby Randell, Warden, County of Lanark; Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; Peter Emon, Warden, County of Renfrew; Brenda Orchard, CAO, County of Lennox and Addington; Sheridan Graham, Secretary Treasurer, EOWC; Kevin Farrell, CAO, County of Frontenac; Maureen Adams, CAO, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Craig Kelley, CAO, County of Renfrew; Gary Dyke, CAO, County of Haliburton; Stephanie DiNucci, Strategic Advisor, Atlas Strategic Advisors; Graydon Smith, Associate Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; John Jordan, MPP, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston; Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Rob Flack, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Doug Ford, Premier, Ontario; Vic Fedeli, Minister, Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; David Piccini, Minister, Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; Steve Clark, MPP, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands; Stéphane Sarrazin, MPP, Glengarry-Prescott-Russell; Dave Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha.



Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.



Left-to-right: David Piccini, Minister, Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Jill Dunlop, Minister, Emergency Preparedness and Response; Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair, EOWC.

The EOWC had an impactful Queen's Park Advocacy Day on May 13, beginning with a Breakfast Reception that highlighted our key strategic priorities: housing, infrastructure, and our newly introduced focus — **economic resilience**.

A sincere thank you to Minister David Piccini for sponsoring the event, and to Minister Rob Flack and MPP Ted Hsu for joining us and offering their perspectives.

We were also proud to be joined by local business leaders from Charlotte Products, Heat-Line, Cavanagh Concrete, and Freymond Lumber, who showcased the strength and innovation of Eastern Ontario's economy.

Doug Ford, where we were honoured to present the EOWC's vision and progress. We extend our appreciation to the Premier and the following leaders for taking the time to engage with us:

- Minister Nolan Quinn (Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security)
- Minister Vic Fedeli (Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade)
- Minister David Piccini (Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development)
- Minister Rob Flack (Municipal Affairs and Housing)
- Associate Minister Graydon Smith (Municipal Affairs and Housing)
- MPP Matt Rae (Perth—Wellington)
- MPP Steve Clark (Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes)
- MPP Stéphane Sarrazin (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell)
- MPP Billy Denault (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke)
- MPP Dave Smith (Peterborough—Kawartha)
- MPP Tyler Allsopp (Bay of Quinte)
- MPP John Jordan (Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston)

Additional meetings throughout the day included productive discussions with:

- Minister Jill Dunlop (Emergency Preparedness and Response)
- Minister Kinga Surma (Infrastructure)
- Staff from the office of Minister Neil Lumsden (Sport)
- MPP Ted Hsu (Kingston and the Islands)
- MPP Mike Schreiner (Guelph)
- Staff from the office of Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy (Finance)
- Associate Minister Kevin Holland (Forestry and Forest Products)

These valuable conversations reflect our shared commitment to building stronger communities across the province. The EOWC is proud to represent the voice of Eastern Ontario and remains focused on solutions that drive growth, resilience, and prosperity in our region.

[Read the EOWC's Queen's Park Advocacy Day News Release Here.](#)

The EOWC Attends Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Conference



Left to right: Jon Altenberg, CEO, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Indicative; Matt Sisco, Mayor, St. Catherine's; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Brian Ostrander, Warden, Northumberland County; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington.

The EOWC was proud to attend the annual [Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative](#) (GLSLCI) conference in Milwaukee, where leaders from across the region gathered to address critical issues of water security and climate resilience.

Chair Bonnie Clark joined Warden Nathan Townend (Lennox and Addington County), and Warden Brian Ostrander (Northumberland County), for a special signing ceremony, formalizing a joint Memorandum of Understanding between the EOWC and the GLSLCI. Many thanks to Mayor Matt Sisco and CEO Jon Altenberg for their partnership and leadership.

Chair Clark also had the opportunity to connect with Ontario colleagues and congratulated Mayor Tom Mrakas from the Own of Aurora on receiving the Rob Ford Community Leader Award, presented by Ontario Agent-General Earl Provost.

A conference highlight was visiting the Biinaagami Great Lakes–St. Lawrence watershed map installation in downtown Milwaukee—an inspiring reminder of our shared responsibility to protect the world's largest freshwater system.

The EOWC remains dedicated to cross-border collaboration and innovative solutions for a more resilient Eastern Ontario and beyond.

[Read about the EOWC's initiatives amid U.S. tariff threats.](#)

The EOWC Attends 2025 Grow Ontario Food Summit: "Protecting Ontario's Agri-Food Industry"



Left-to-right: Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC; Trevor Jones, Minister, Food and Agri-Business; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington; Rob Flack, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Christa Lowry, Chair, ROMA.

On Friday April 10, the EOWC attended the Grown Ontario Food Summit, hosted by Minister Trevor Jones, where leaders from across the agri-food sector came together to tackle today's challenges and shape the future of Ontario's agri-food system.

As a key contributor to Ontario's economic engine, the agri-food industry continues to face uncertainty due to global challenges and trade disruptions. The Summit's theme, "Protecting Ontario's Agri-Food Industry," emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovation in sustaining this vital sector.

The event featured engaging speakers, insightful panel discussions, and valuable networking opportunities—all focused on strengthening Ontario's food supply chain and ensuring long-term resilience and global competitiveness.

The EOWC remains committed to supporting our rural communities and advocating for a strong, sustainable agri-food industry that drives economic growth across Eastern Ontario and beyond.

The EOWC Attends CAMA Conference, and CAO Brenda Orchard, Named CAMA President



The EOWC attended the 51st Annual CAMA Conference and Annual General Meeting held in beautiful Mont Tremblant, Québec, from May 26 to 28. Hosted in Mont Tremblant, delegates gathered to connect, learn, and celebrate.

The EOWC extends its congratulations to Brenda Orchard, Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Lennox & Addington, on her appointment as [President of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators](#).

Orchard, who also serves as the CAMA Representative for Ontario, assumed the role from her previous position as First Vice-President during the association's Annual General Meeting held on May 27.

"One of the greatest privileges of my career has been serving on the CAMA Board. As an Association we work hard to promote excellence in our profession and to support our colleagues in their challenging roles," said Orchard. "It is a rewarding experience to work alongside such passionate and committed leaders from across the country to help make our communities vibrant and strong."

The EOWC also extends its congratulations to Craig Kelley, CAO of the County of Renfrew, for receiving recognition of 20 years of service in the municipal service sector.

The EOWC Releases New Economic Resilience Strategic Priority and Data

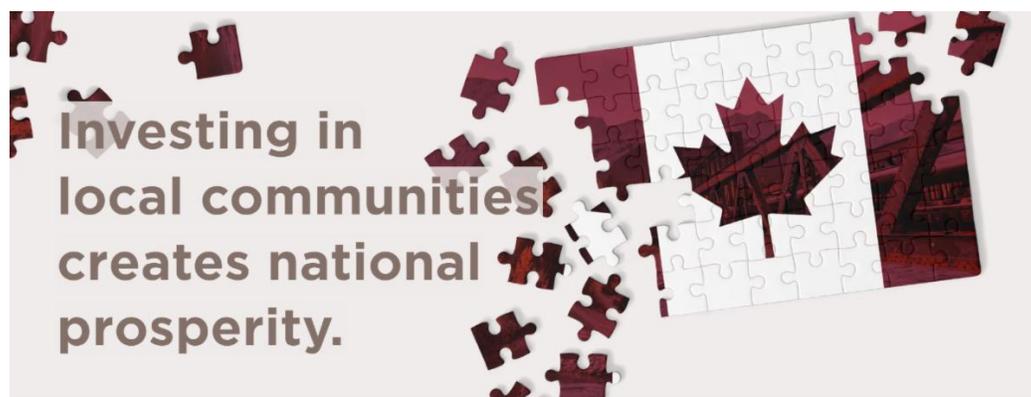
The EOWC has introduced economic resilience as a new strategic priority, recognizing the critical need to safeguard the region's economy against future disruptions. With annual sales across Eastern Ontario averaging \$124 billion—including \$115 billion from the private sector—strengthening the economic foundation has never been more vital.

Manufacturing leads the region's economy with \$43.9 billion in annual sales. In particular, five key sectors—manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, electrical equipment, and residential construction. These sectors represent \$24 billion in economic activity and support nearly 49,000 jobs, making up 21% of the regional economy.

By focusing on these areas, the EOWC aims to proactively address risks, support long-term growth, and ensure the region remains economically strong and competitive.

See more of the [EOWC's data on Eastern Ontario Economic Resilience here](#).

The EOWC Congratulates and Encourages Newly Elected Federal Government to Prioritize National Prosperity Partnership with Municipalities



Following the recent federal election and the election of Prime Minister Mark Carney, the EOWC extends its congratulations and looks forward to working collaboratively with the new government to address the pressing needs of local communities across Canada.

As we move forward, it is essential that we adopt a long-term approach that not only addresses these unique needs but also sets the country on a path to a stronger, more sustainable future.

The EOWC, proudly supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and respectfully encourages the newly elected federal government to prioritize the establishment of a [National Prosperity Partnership](#) between the federal government and municipal governments across the country.

This partnership presents an important opportunity to engage in a national dialogue about how Canada can best fund and support economic growth, while ensuring that the needs and aspirations of local communities are at the forefront of decision-making.

Key areas of focus for this proposed partnership include:

- Supporting local economic growth and resilience
- Investing in infrastructure renewal
- Achieving housing affordability
- Addressing homelessness with locally-driven solutions
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of communities
- Building climate-resilient communities
- Fostering the development of thriving rural, remote, and northern communities

[Read more about the National Prosperity Partnership here.](#)

Premier Ford Visits Peterborough County After Ice Storm



Left to right: Doug Ford, Premier, Ontario; Dave Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha; Jill Dunlop, Minister, Emergency Preparedness and Response; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.

Premier Doug Ford, Minister Jill Dunlop and MPP Dave Smith visited the Peterborough County Douro Depot in the Township of Douro-Dummer to witness firsthand the devastating impact of the recent ice storm on the community.

During the visit, residents had the opportunity to speak directly with the Premier and Minister, sharing their experiences and ongoing challenges. Following time spent clearing debris and engaging with residents, Premier Ford, Minister Dunlop, and MPP Smith met with Warden Clark to discuss the next steps in Peterborough County's recovery efforts.

County officials expressed deep gratitude for the visit and the continued support from the Province, acknowledging the commitment shown to the well-being of residents and the recovery of the region.

EOWC In The Media

Community Futures Peterborough and Partners Launch 'Tariff Toolkit' for Local Businesses

Community Futures Peterborough, alongside local government and business partners, has launched a Tariff Toolkit to help businesses navigate economic challenges tied to ongoing U.S. - Canada trade tensions. The free guide, Navigating Tariff Impacts with Strategy, offers practical steps for managing risk, diversifying supply chains, and exploring new markets

[Download the toolkit here.](#)

County of Renfrew Featured in Ontario Newsroom for Expanded Emergency Department

The County of Renfrew was recently featured in the Ontario Newsroom, highlighting St. Francis Memorial Hospital's largest redevelopment in history. With an \$18.6 million investment from the Ontario government, the expansion will add 6,000 square feet to the hospital's emergency department and renovate the ambulatory care clinic, significantly improving access to high-quality care for local residents.

Once complete in 2027, the new emergency department will feature a dedicated ambulance entrance, a quiet room for mental health patients, an upgraded trauma area, and enhanced infection control measures.

The expanded facility will handle 11,900 visits annually, ensuring faster, more efficient care for families in the community. Construction will not interrupt 24/7 emergency services, and the project is part of Ontario's broader efforts to modernize healthcare facilities across the province.

Read more about [the redevelopment here.](#)

EOWC's Partnership with U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Coalition Gaining Recognition

On March 27, the EOWC and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking a new chapter in cross-border collaboration. This partnership aims to strengthen border relations and share best practices to build resilient, thriving communities on both sides of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region.

The agreement has already gained media attention, with coverage in the [Penticton Herald](#), [KawarthaNow](#), and [The Badger Herald](#).

This media recognition highlights the importance of the agreement and the growing interest in cross-border efforts to support sustainable, connected communities.

The EOWC's Historic Queen's Park Advocacy Day Makes Headlines



On May 13, the EOWC hosted a Queen's park Advocacy Day including a breakfast reception and meetings with various ministers. The highlight of the day was the historic meeting for the EOWC - a meeting with Premier Doug Ford.

Premier Ford was accompanied by Ministers Nolan Quinn, Vic Fedeli, Rob Flack, Graydon Smith, David Piccini; Parliamentary Assistants and MPPs Matthew Rae, Steve Clark, Stephane Sarrazin, Dave Smith, Tyler Allsopp, John Jordan, Billy Denault. The EOWC feels immense gratitude for the Premier, Ministers and MPPs taking time out of the day to hear about the advocacy efforts, plans and data the EOWC has gathered.

The historic moment for the EOWC has been making media waves as the EOWC's meeting has been shared on [Renfrew County's page](#), [Kawartha Lakes' page](#), [QuinteNews](#), [Municipal Information Network](#), [Peterborough County's page](#), and [Napanee Today](#).

This media recognition highlights this significant milestone for the EOWC and advocacy efforts for Eastern Ontario.

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

Canada 

Hon. Right Mark Carney Elected Prime Minister

The EOWC would like to congratulate Honourable Right Mark Carney on a federal election victory and extend our appreciation to all who ran in the recent election.

The EOWC remains '**Ready to Work and Ready to Grow**', focused on economic resilience, infrastructure development and maintenance, creating housing, and supporting increased health care access.

The EOWC looks forward with the new federal government working to strengthen the communities amongst eastern Ontario.

Ontario 

Ontario Moves to Unlock Internal Free Trade

The Ontario government is taking bold steps to boost the economy and cut red tape with the introduction of the Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act.

If passed, the legislation will remove internal trade and labour mobility barriers, helping Ontario businesses grow and workers move more freely across provinces.

Key initiatives include:

- Recognizing certified workers from other provinces "As of Right,"
- Enabling direct-to-consumer alcohol sales across provinces, and
- Launching a \$50M Ontario Together Trade Fund.

Ontario is also partnering with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to enhance trade and labour collaboration—setting a national precedent for stronger economic unity.

Learn more about the [Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act here.](#)

Ontario Expanding Strong Mayor Powers to 169 Additional Municipalities

Starting May 1, Ontario plans to extend strong mayor powers to heads of council in 169 additional municipalities.

This move supports provincial priorities like building homes,

infrastructure, and transit faster by cutting red tape and streamlining decision-making.

Already in place in 47 municipalities, these powers provide mayors with new tools—like proposing budgets and reorganizing departments—while maintaining oversight and accountability through council checks and balances.

Read [more here](#) and see [the list of the additional 169 municipalities here](#).

Donna Skelly Becomes Ontario’s First Female Speaker

[MPP Donna Skelly has been elected as the 43rd Speaker of the Ontario Legislature](#)—making history as the first woman to hold the role.

A former broadcast journalist and current representative for Flamborough—Glanbrook since 2018, Skelly previously served as deputy Speaker.

She succeeds Ted Arnott, who retired after nearly seven years. Skelly aims to bring a more professional tone to the chamber as members return for the new legislative session.

Ontario Strengthens Local Governance with New Legislation

Ontario is reintroducing the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 to enhance municipal governance and accountability. [The proposed legislation](#) aims to create a standardized municipal code of conduct, establish consistent integrity commissioner inquiry processes, and mandate training for council members and certain local boards. If passed, the act could enforce penalties, including removal from office for serious violations, upon the recommendation of municipal integrity commissioners.

Minister Rob Flack emphasized that strong local governance begins with accountability, while AMO President Robin Jones praised the bill for holding elected officials to higher standards of conduct. This legislative move promises to empower municipal leaders to uphold the trust residents place in them.

Ontario Invests \$1.3 Billion to Support Manufacturing Jobs

The Ontario government is enhancing the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, committing an additional \$1.3 billion over three years to help manufacturers lower costs and invest in buildings, machinery, and equipment.

As part of the upcoming 2025 Budget, the proposed changes will:

- Increase the tax credit rate from 10% to 15% for Canadian-controlled private corporations
- Extend the credit to non-Canadian-controlled private corporations as a non-refundable tax credit;

- Allow eligible businesses to receive up to \$3 million annually.

The move comes amid growing concerns over job losses linked to U.S. tariffs. The government says this investment will help safeguard Ontario's 830,000 manufacturing workers and attract new investment to strengthen the province's economy.

Read more about [Ontario's investment in manufacturing jobs here](#).

Ontario Introduces More Convenient Care Act to Strengthen Health System

The Ontario government has re-introduced the More Convenient Care Act, 2025—a key step in its commitment to building a more connected, transparent, and patient-focused health care system.

This legislation supports better access to care, enhances hospital governance, modernizes digital health tools, and empowers health professionals across the province. From streamlining emergency services to giving Ontarians secure access to their health records online, the Act ensures the right care is delivered in the right place, at the right time.

Learn more about [how Ontario is protecting and modernizing health care for the future](#).

Ontario Accelerates Home and Infrastructure Development with New Legislation and Funding

The Government of Ontario is taking bold steps to address the housing crisis and improve infrastructure by introducing the [Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025](#). This legislation aims to cut red tape, lower development costs, and fast-track construction, in close partnership with municipalities across the province.

As part of this initiative, the province is boosting its investment in housing-enabling infrastructure with an additional \$400 million, bringing the total to nearly \$2.3 billion over four years through the

Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) and Municipal Housing Infrastructure Fund (MHIP).

Key measures include:

- Simplifying development charges and municipal approval processes
- Reducing construction costs by encouraging innovation
- Harmonizing building and road standards
- Expanding fast-track approvals for transit and housing projects

Ontario is also working closely with local governments to streamline planning and unlock more housing near transit. These changes aim to get homes built faster, create jobs, and build a more affordable, efficient future for all Ontarians.

Ontario Permanently Cuts Gas Tax and Ends Tolls on Highway 407 East

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As part of its ongoing effort to help families and businesses manage

rising costs, the Ontario government is making two major cost-saving moves: [permanently cutting the gas tax and removing tolls from Highway 407 East](#).

Premier Doug Ford announced that the province will lock in its current 9-cent-per-litre gas and fuel tax rate, saving households an average of \$115 annually. Since the temporary cut was introduced in 2022, Ontarians have saved \$1.7 billion at the pumps.

In a move to improve affordability and reduce gridlock, tolls on the provincially owned section of Highway 407 East (from Brock Road to Highway 35/115) will be eliminated effective June 1, 2025. This change is expected to save commuters up to \$7,200 a year, and follows the earlier removal of tolls on Highways 412 and 418.

These initiatives are part of Ontario's broader strategy to:

- Lower the cost of living
- Support economic growth
- Improve transportation access and affordability

Ontario and Manitoba Unite to Break Down Trade Barriers

Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew have signed a new [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) aimed at eliminating interprovincial trade barriers](#).

The agreement will boost the flow of goods, services, investment, and workers between the two provinces—strengthening economic ties and reducing costs for families and businesses. This is the latest in a series of efforts by Ontario to enhance free trade within Canada, including MOUs with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the landmark Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act.

With over \$19.5 billion in trade between Ontario and Manitoba in 2021 alone, this partnership signals a major step toward a more unified and resilient Canadian economy.

Ontario Releases 2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario

[Ontario's 2025 Budget, A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), outlines bold steps to strengthen the province's economy and safeguard jobs, businesses, and families amid global economic uncertainty. Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy announced measures to unleash economic growth through targeted investments in workers, critical minerals, infrastructure, and Indigenous partnerships—all while maintaining a responsible path to balance by 2027–28.

Key highlights include:

- A \$500M Critical Minerals Processing Fund to boost domestic production.
- A \$3B expansion of the Indigenous Opportunities Financing Program.
- A proposed expansion of the Ontario Made Manufacturing Tax Credit, providing \$1.3B in support.
- A new \$5B Protecting Ontario Account to shield businesses from tariff shocks.
- Permanent cuts to gas and fuel taxes, saving households an

- average of \$115 annually.
- Over \$200B in infrastructure investments over 10 years, including highways, public transit, health care, and schools.

The budget reflects the government's commitment to building a resilient, self-reliant economy that protects Ontarians today and strengthens the province for the future.

Ontario Government Moves Forward with New Campbellford Memorial Hospital in Northumberland County

As part of the 2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario, the provincial government has announced the start of [planning for the construction of a new Campbellford Memorial Hospital In Northumberland County](#). This investment will significantly improve access to high-quality, modern health care for residents in Trent Hills and across Northumberland, Peterborough, and Hastings Counties.

The project marks a major step toward building a state-of-the-art facility that will expand programs and services, increase inpatient capacity, and improve emergency and community care through a new health care campus. The new hospital will also include enhanced infection control measures and support services tailored to the needs of the region's growing and aging population.

This initiative is part of Ontario's nearly \$60 billion investment to build and upgrade more than 50 hospitals across the province, ensuring families can access care when and where they need it—close to home.

Ontario Launches Trade-Impacted Communities Program to Support Local Resilience

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade has launched the Trade-Impacted Communities Program (TICP)—a new, competitive funding initiative aimed at helping Ontario communities and industries navigate economic challenges caused by U.S. trade disruptions.

With up to \$40 million in funding available, the TICP supports local projects aligned with Ontario's economic priorities, including:

- Economic resiliency – Building local competitiveness and growth opportunities
- Supply-chain diversification – Strengthening key sectors like manufacturing, agri-food, and critical minerals
- Trade partnerships – Expanding export markets and reducing reliance on the U.S.
-

The program includes two streams:

- Stream 1: Community Economic Development – Supporting local strategies and immediate resiliency efforts
- Stream 2: Transformational Projects – Backing large-scale, collaborative projects to grow and modernize key industries

Eligible applicants include municipalities, economic development organizations, business incubators, and industry associations.

Upcoming Info Webinars:

- Program Orientation: May 28, 2025

- Stream 1 Overview: June 4, 2025
- Stream 2 Overview: June 11, 2025

For more information or to register, contact Amanda Wouters at amanda.wouters@ontario.ca, or direct general inquiries to ticip@ontario.ca.



AMO Launches Municipal Health Survey

Following the successful release of our homelessness report, AMO is launching a new survey to better understand the health care challenges municipalities face. With many communities using property tax dollars to fill system gaps, your input is vital.

Heads of Council and treasurers have been sent details—your participation will help strengthen evidence-based advocacy across Ontario.

AMO Welcomes the Reintroduction of Municipal Codes of Conduct Legislation

AMO welcomes the reintroduction of long-awaited legislation to strengthen accountability standards for elected municipal officials. Promised after extensive public consultations in 2021, the proposed legislation aims to:

- Standardize municipal codes of conduct and integrity commissioner processes;
- Introduce a formal role for Ontario’s Integrity Commissioner in local matters; and
- Establish a process to remove or disqualify council members and certain board members for serious violations.

In April, AMO recommended amendments to address concerns, including a too-high threshold for removal from office and the need for progressive penalties.

Upcoming Events



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P3s for Municipalities: 6-Part Webinar Series

The EOWC is excited to build its partnership with the [Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships](#) (CCPPP). CCPPP is offering the free P3s for municipalities webinar series available for municipal and Indigenous employees and elected officials across Canada.

Designed for those new to or seeking a refresher on P3 infrastructure delivery, the series covers fundamentals, opportunities, challenges, and tools for successful P3 procurement.

CCPPP is also introducing the Council's new municipal P3 recommendations and insights from the updated [Public-Private Partnerships: A Guide for Municipalities](#).

Upcoming webinars: June 3, and September 16. Webinars will continue to be available on the CCPPP site.

[Sign up for the webinars](#)



AMO Strategic Leadership Workshops

AMO is offering two strategic leadership workshops designed to support elected municipal officials as they navigate increasing pressures—from provincial interventions and council cohesion challenges to ethical concerns, staff relations, and growing constituent expectations.

These interactive, expert-led sessions will provide practical tools and insights to strengthen leadership and improve municipal governance:

Strategic Thinking, Planning, and Leading **June 4 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

This session offers tools and strategies to strengthen leadership effectiveness, including approaches to stewardship, strategic planning, and fiscal sustainability.

[Register now for Thinking, Planning, and Leading](#)

The Value of Community Engagement: Insights and Approaches **June 25 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

This workshop emphasizes the importance of clear communication and meaningful engagement with the public, particularly around local budgets and strategic plans. It highlights how elected officials can lead more impactful community conversations.

[Register now for The Value of Community Engagement: Insights and Approaches](#)

AMO Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum

On June 6, 2025, AMO will host a forum to bring together members, stakeholders, and partners to assess the impacts of tariff and trade disruptions on Ontario Municipalities and the business sector. The forum will focus on identifying strategies to address and mitigate these challenges, fostering new alliances and relationships to support effective economic advocacy.

Key topics will include:

- What the trade war means for municipalities
- Building Ontario in uncertain times
- Changing approach to procurement
- seizing opportunities to strengthen Ontario

[Find more information and register for the forum here.](#)

AMO Rural Healthy Democracy Forum

On June 11, 2025, AMO will host its Rural Healthy Democracy Forum. AMO's Healthy Democracy Project is an initiative aimed at improving local democracy through respectful and diverse civic engagement. It's all about collaboration and working together to strengthen democracy in Ontario.

This full-day event will bring together municipal leaders, experts, and academics to discuss the state of democracy in rural Ontario.

[Find more information and register for the forum here.](#)



ROMA's Teeny Tiny Summit

On June 17th, 2025, the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) will host the Teeny Tiny Summit.

This summit focuses on the challenges and opportunities faced by

Ontario's smallest rural communities. With practical tools, examples, and insights from community leaders, the Summit offers valuable economic development strategies tailored for small towns.

[Find more information about ROMA's summit here.](#)



Crisis Communication in Action: The Mayor-CAO Dynamic During Disasters

Join AMO and OMAA on June 24 from 12–1 PM for a free dynamic virtual session on effective leadership during municipal emergencies. Hear from leaders in Huntsville and Red Lake as they share real-life lessons on navigating crises like wildfires, floods, and cyberattacks.

Strengthen your approach to communication, collaboration, and public trust when it matters most.

[Sign up for the free webinar here.](#)



AMO and TMU Present: Cybersecurity Training for Municipal Councillors

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in collaboration with Toronto Metropolitan University's Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, is hosting a vital training session to support municipal councillors in understanding and addressing today's cybersecurity threats.

As cyber-attacks on municipalities become more frequent and sophisticated, elected officials have a critical role to play in ensuring their organization's cyber resilience. This half-day virtual session will help councillors prepare for, prevent, and respond to cyber incidents with confidence and clarity.

On October 21, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., participants will engage in expert-led lectures, guided discussions, and practical activities that explore the evolving cyber threat landscape, highlight best practices in prevention, and clarify the leadership role of elected officials during a cyber event.

Sign up for the training session here.

Connect With Us on LinkedIn, Facebook and X



About the EOWC

The EOWC is a regional non-profit organization representing 13 upper and single-tier municipalities across Eastern Ontario. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of 103 municipalities and nearly 800,000 residents. The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers from Northumberland County to the Québec border.

The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with government, business leaders, the media, and the public.

Visit the EOWC's website at eowc.org.

Connect with the EOWC

2025 Chair, Warden of Peterborough County, Bonnie Clark

2025 Vice-Chair, Mayor of Prince Edward County, Steve Ferguson

Director of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson

info@eowc.org





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Martina Chait-Hartwig

From: Salisko, Holly <HSalisko@ptbocounty.ca>
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Township Clerks; clerks@peterborough.ca
Cc: Stevenson, Kari
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Peterborough County Council Resolution RE: Canada's National Observer article
Attachments: Canadas National Observer Article.pdf

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside the organization. **PLEASE BE MINDFUL** of links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.

Good morning,

Please note at their meeting on June 4, 2025, Peterborough County Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 105-2025

Moved by Councillor Amyotte
Seconded by Councillor Lambshead

That the Canada's National Observer article regarding weaponized AI chatbot be received and that this article be shared with the City of Peterborough and our eight lower-tier municipalities.

Carried

Please see attached the referenced article for your information. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Kari Stevenson, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk at kstevenson@ptbocounty.ca.

Thanks!

Holly Salisko

Administrative Services Assistant | Clerk's Division/Planning
Peterborough County
(705) 743-0380 Ext. 2105

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A weaponized AI chatbot is flooding city councils with climate misinformation

By

- [Rory White](#)
- [Investigations](#)

May 28th 2025

#16 of 16 articles from the Special Report: [The Takeover](#)

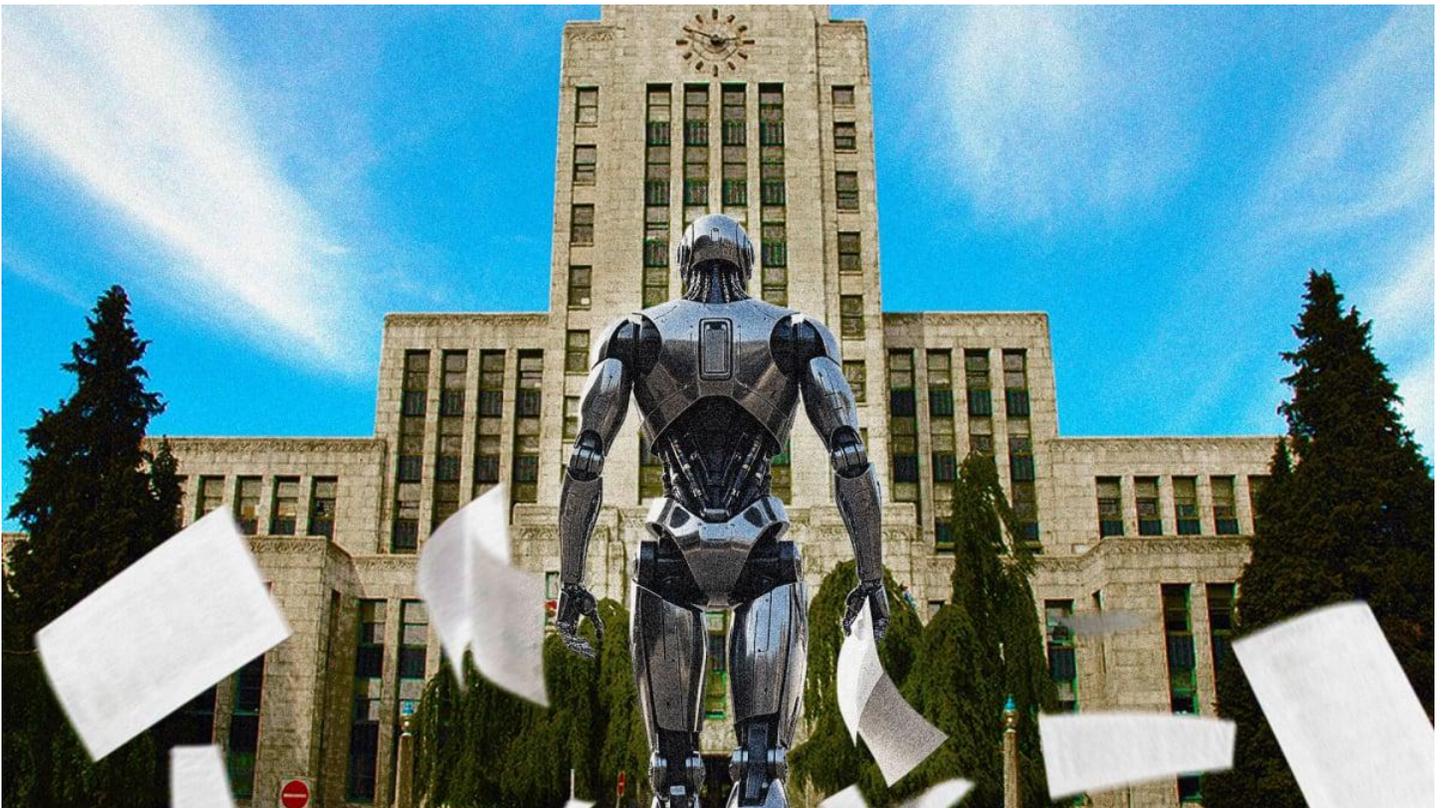


Illustration by Ata Ojani.

One morning in October of 2024, Fredericton city councillor Margo Sheppard received an email with the subject line: “The Real Policy Crisis: Prioritizing ‘Nature’ Over People.” It was polished — almost algorithmically smooth — and it calmly urged her to reconsider Fredericton’s net-zero policies.

Over the next month, a flood of similar emails followed, all aimed at getting Fredericton to abandon global climate targets. Sheppard is used to emails from organizations on all kinds of issues, but not this many, not on this issue — and not so well crafted. She grew suspicious.

“If we’re getting them in Fredericton,” Sheppard thought, “councillors all across the country must be getting them too.”

She was right. Thousands of councillors in more than 500 municipalities have received these emails, according to KICLEI, the group behind them, whose name mimics the international environmental network [ICLEI](#). Screenshots of KICLEI’s internal database show the email addresses of local officials nationwide.

An investigation by *Canada’s National Observer* has now traced the digital infrastructure behind KICLEI’s campaign: a custom AI chatbot designed to express fears about United Nations control using moderate, civic language — messaging that is now shaping real decisions in town halls across Canada.

At least 14 municipal halls have received KICLEI presentations, with Thorold, Ont., already voting to withdraw from Canada’s flagship municipal net-zero scheme, [Partners for Climate Protection](#). This month, Lethbridge, Alberta, voted to cut its governmental emissions reduction target in half. These decisions followed receipt by the town councillors of letters, presentations and reports from KICLEI members. Some of these materials contain misinformation, according to three climate scientists interviewed by *Canada’s National Observer*.

The consequences for the communities and climate action are significant — but climate plans might be just the first target. These AI-enabled tactics could scale, according to Shane Gunster, an expert in environmental communication at Simon Fraser University, who warned that artificial intelligence “enables the cost of misinformation to come close to zero.”

The chatbot’s instructions tell it to “de-emphasize the climate catastrophe narrative,” to focus on “real pollution, not CO2.” The bot is told to frame these arguments in the most reasonable possible way.

The Canadian Civic Advisor

KICLEI (‘Kicking International Council out of Local Environmental Initiatives’) was founded in 2023 by Freedom Convoy activist [Maggie Hope Braun](#) with a singular aim: to convince towns and cities to quit the voluntary net-zero

program Partners for Climate Protection, due to its ties to the UN through its co-organizer, ICLEI Canada.

To achieve this, it has created its own custom AI chatbot: the “Canadian Civic Advisor,” powered by OpenAI’s ChatGPT. [Internal instructions](#) accessed by *Canada’s National Observer* show that the chatbot produces tailored scripts, petitions, reports and even speeches for council chambers. The messaging is often framed to resonate with municipal officials’ duty to represent local interests.

The chatbot’s instructions tell it to “de-emphasize the climate catastrophe narrative,” to focus on “practical environmental protection measures” and “real pollution, not CO2.” The bot is told to frame these arguments in the most reasonable possible way, “emphasizing collaboration” and “encouraging diplomacy and mutual understanding between citizens and elected officials.”

One prompt instructs the chatbot to draft critiques of a local Climate Action Plan based on KICLEI’s centralized materials. The latest version is provided with KICLEI’s Substack posts and scientific positions — content that, according to some of the scientists cited, contains climate misinformation.

Subject: Request for Council to Withdraw from the PCP Program

To: Mayor

Output of the Canadian Civic Advisor, shared by Maggie Hope Braun on Facebook with the prompt “Write a letter to the council in Peterborough to withdraw from PCP”

Many advocacy groups use AI but the potential for it to amplify inaccurate information is “disturbing,” even if real constituents are sending the messages, according to Gunster. He argues that the chatbot allows KICLEI to centralize local messaging and make it maximally persuasive for policymakers.

“You can tailor that communication so specifically to a particular region, to a particular individual, to a particular value set,” said Gunster. It is the first case Gunster has seen of AI being used to target municipal governments in Canada.

KICLEI founder Maggie Hope Braun refused Canada’s National Observer’s interview requests, choosing instead to respond to written questions. She rejected concerns that KICLEI’s chatbot was amplifying misinformation, describing it as “democracy in action.” She explained the chatbot helps citizens who are genuinely concerned about global agendas to “understand local policy and draft respectful, informed communications.”

Braun published her responses online, with reworded versions our [original questions](#).

‘A gross misrepresentation of our work’

Since April 2024, KICLEI has published 172 Substack posts — about one every two days — which are sent to councillors across Canada. Titles include “Extreme Weather Events Are Not Increasing: Separating Fact from Fiction” and “CO2 Is Not the Primary Driver of Climate Change.”

Three prominent climate scientists told *Canada’s National Observer* that some of these posts contain misinformation about their research.

In March, 2024, Braun gave a deputation to Thorold, Ont.’s city council where she claimed that there is only a 0.3 per cent consensus among climate scientists that humans are the primary driver of climate change. In reality, the consensus is around 99.9 per cent, according to a 2021 review of over 88,000 papers.

The 0.3 per cent statistic is attributed to a 2013 study by John Cook, an expert on climate misinformation at the University of Melbourne, who spoke to *Canada’s National Observer* from his office in Melbourne, Australia.

“It’s a gross misrepresentation of our work, clearly designed to mislead the public,” Cook said. The figure comes from a widely-debunked paper that he claims distorted his data to “minimize the consensus as much as possible” by counting only studies that used very specific language.

Using this methodology, he argues, “you would say that there's zero per cent consensus that the Earth is revolving around the Sun.”

Thorold councillors ultimately voted 7–1 to withdraw from the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. *Canada’s National Observer* covered this decision in a [recent investigation](#) into an anonymous oil and gas ad campaign targeting the same town.

The motion to withdraw from PCP was introduced by councillor David Jim Handley, listed as a KICLEI member on Facebook. He described KICLEI’s role in shifting council opinion as “instrumental” and described Maggie Hope Braun as a “catalyst” who guided his thinking.

“You could replicate it, easily,” he said. “You gotta find one city councillor that’s on your side.”

At least 14 other municipalities — primarily in Ontario and Alberta — have received KICLEI presentations. Among them is Lethbridge, Alta., which voted on May 13, 2025, to cut its 2030 operational greenhouse gas reduction target in half. This decision followed a presentation from a KICLEI member, coordinated emails from constituents, and an unrelated staff recommendation.

The scale of KICLEI’s email campaign is even greater. Maggie Hope Braun recently [claimed in an interview](#) with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy that KICLEI is sending reports to 8,000 elected officials. [Screenshots reveal an internal KICLEI database](#), packed with the email addresses of mayors, councillors, clerks, and chief administrative officers nationwide.

Microsoft Excel - Current Partners Of The PCP From East To West & When They Joined - March 13, 2024 - Mark Selomon.xls

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

Q433

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
2	Canadian Mayors & Councillors (From East To West)						
3	Location	Province	2024 Mayor/Reeve/Warden	M/R/W Email	Councillor 1 (Deputy Mayor)	C1 Email	Councillor 2
356	Municipality of Emerson-Franklin	Manitoba	David Carlson (Reeve)	dcarlson@emersonfranklin.com	Dennis Weiss (Deputy Reeve)	dennis@emersonfranklin.com	Todd Nichols
357	Municipality of Lorne	Manitoba	Aural Pantel (Reeve)	apantel@lornemunicipality.com	Doris Olinstead	lorne@lornemunicipality.com	Jackie Jenkinson
358	Municipality of Norfolk-Treherne	Manitoba	Gilles Guerin (Reeve)	gguerin@norfolk-treherne.com	Ryan Gauthier (Deputy Reeve)	ryan_gauthier@hotmail.com	Rick Van Kemmer
359	Municipality of North Cypress-Langford	Manitoba	Ray Drayson (Reeve)	ray.drayson@northcypresslangford.ca	Brad Braun	brad.braun@northcypresslangford.ca	Brad Wiebe
360	Municipality of Rhineland	Manitoba	Don Wiebe (Reeve)	don.wiebe@rhineland.ca	Estha Baseley	estha@rhineland.ca	Wes Anderson
361	Municipality of Russell-Biscanath	Manitoba	Judy Sintysky (Reeve)	jsintysky@russell-biscanath.com	Randy Halgason (Deputy Reeve)	halgason@russell-biscanath.com	John Bezemer
362	Municipality of West Interlake	Manitoba	Arthur Jonsson (Reeve)	ajonsson@westinterlake.com	Mac Kington	mac.kington@westinterlake.com	Gordon Kaye
363	Rural Municipality of Assiniboia	Manitoba	Jack Brice	jack.brice@assiniboia.com	Dan Bouchard (Deputy Reeve)	daniel.bouchard@assiniboia.com	James Kraft
364	Rural Municipality of Carleton Place	Manitoba	Christa Yarn Mitchell (Reeve)	christa.yarnmitchell@carletonplace.ca	Louis Coucoulles (Deputy Reeve)	coucoulles@carletonplace.ca	Bruno Hilbert
365	Rural Municipality of De Sablebery	Manitoba	Daniel Cook (Reeve)	dcook@desablebery.mb.ca	Orast Horachko	orast.horachko@desablebery.com	Brian Imhoff
366	Rural Municipality of East St. Paul	Manitoba	Carla Devin	carla.devin@eaststpaul.com			
367	Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie	Manitoba					
368	Rural Municipality of Etton	Manitoba					
369	Rural Municipality of Hanover	Manitoba					
370	Rural Municipality of La Broquerie	Manitoba	Ivan Normandeau (Reeve)	inormandeau@labroquerie.ca			
371	Rural Municipality of Minto-Odessa	Manitoba	Doug Dawstait (Reeve)		Ron Cas		Barry Cook
372	Rural Municipality of Montclair	Manitoba	Paul Gilmore	pgilmore@montclair.com	Merin Ducek (Deputy Reeve)		Rick Giesbrecht
373	Rural Municipality of Morris	Manitoba	Scott Siemens	siemens@morris.com	Shane Peitler	shane@morris.com	Jason Botnarчук
374	Rural Municipality of Richelieu	Manitoba	Chris Ewen	chris.ewen@richelieu.com			
375	Rural Municipality of Saint-François Xavier	Manitoba	Delmer Holt (Reeve)	delmer.holt@stfrancoisxavier.com	Glen Fuhl	glen.fuhl@stfrancoisxavier.com	Andy Kuczynski
376	Rural Municipality of Springfield	Manitoba	Patrick Theman	patrick.theman@springfield.com	Ken Doornbos	ken@springfield.com	Chris Monitor
377	Rural Municipality of St. Andrews	Manitoba	Joy Sol	jsol@standrews.com			
378	Rural Municipality of St. Clements	Manitoba	Debbie Fabelsson	dfabelsson@stclements.com			
379	Rural Municipality of St. Laurent	Manitoba	Richard Chantard (Reeve)	richard.chantard@stlaurent.com	Pete Frosse (Deputy Reeve)	pfrosse@stlaurent.com	Ray Unrau
380	Rural Municipality of Stanley	Manitoba	Ira Friesen (Reeve)	irafriesen@stanley.com	Randy Eros (Deputy Reeve)	eros@stanley.com	Sarah Normandeau
381	Rural Municipality of Site Anne	Manitoba	Richard Peitler (Reeve)	richard.peitler@siteanne.com	Dan Bode (Deputy Reeve)	dan.bode@siteanne.com	Dylan Garman
382	Rural Municipality of Stuartburn	Manitoba	Michelle Gawronsky (Reeve)	mgawronsky@stuartburn.com	Clayce McGregor	cmcgregor@stuartburn.com	Steven Bosker
383	Rural Municipality of Tache	Manitoba	Armand Poirier	apoirier@tache.com			
384	Rural Municipality of Thompson	Manitoba	Brian Carlson	bcarlson@thompson.com	Rag Margaret (Deputy Reeve)		Rick Lee
385	Rural Municipality of Victoria	Manitoba	Ray Huggart (Reeve)	rhuggart@victoria.com	Val Cariveau (Deputy Reeve)	v.cariveau@victoria.com	Diana MacDonald
386	Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth	Manitoba	Clayton Canart (Reeve)	ccanart@wallace-woodworth.com	Mike Pagdahan	mpagdahan@wallace-woodworth.com	Peter Campbell
387	Rural Municipality of West St. Paul	Manitoba	Peter Trugen	ptrugen@weststpaul.com	Denna Rosing-Wilkins	denna.rosing-wilkins@weststpaul.com	Jordan Simons
388	Town of Altona	Manitoba	Hans Schneider	hans.schneider@altona.ca	Bill Kalenouch	bill.kalenouch@altona.ca	Mike Suda
389	Town of Carleton Place	Manitoba	Ray McWhorter	ray.mcwhorter@carletonplace.ca			
390	Town of Carleton Place	Manitoba	Kan Cameron	kan.cameron@carletonplace.ca			
391	Town of Morris	Manitoba	Scott Chick	scott.chick@morris.com	Chris Hamblin	chris.hamblin@morris.com	Dave Funk
392	Town of Neepawa	Manitoba	Brian Hedley	bhedley@neepawa.ca	Murray Paroff	paroff.murray@gmail.com	Daryl Genard
393	Town of Neveville	Manitoba	Myron Dych	myron.dych@neveville.com	Chris Wehrle	chris.wehrle@neveville.com	Hanson Ducek
394	Town of Pownsepp-Pine Falls	Manitoba	Les Barclay	lesbarclay@pownsepp-pinefalls.com	Elija Picher	elijah.picher@pownsepp-pinefalls.com	Judy Letourneau
395	Town of Stonefall	Manitoba	Sandra Smith	sandrasmith@stonefall.ca	Peter Bulward	pbulward@stonefall.ca	Walter Badger
396	Town of Swan River	Manitoba	Lance Jacobson	ljacobson@swanriver.com	David Monahan	dmonahan@swanriver.com	Dan Boback
397	Town of The Pias	Manitoba	Andre Murphy	amurphy@thepias.com			
398	Town of Virdom	Manitoba	Tina Williams	twilliams@virdom.com	Marc Savy	msavy@virdom.com	Tara Cowan
399	Village of Dumont - Mayor's Email Submitted From Structures Of C	Manitoba	Richard Gamble	richard.gamble@dumont.ca			
400	Village of St-Pierre-Jolys	Manitoba	Raymond Maynard	raymond.maynard@st-pierre-jolys.ca	Michel Forest	michel.forest@st-pierre-jolys.ca	Suzanne Jolicoeur
401	City of Iqaluit	Nunavut	Solomon Awa		Kim Smith		Hary Flaherty (Alternative Deputy Mayor)

PCP Mayors, Clerks, CAO's, PCP Mayors & Councillors / Past Mayoral Candidates / Additional Helpful Info /

Screenshot of KICLEI’s database with email addresses of mayors, councillors, clerks and CAOs in all PCP member municipalities, screen-captured from a KICLEI meeting recording from May 2024

One of KICLEI’s published reports, “CO2 is not the Primary Driver of Climate Change” cites the work of NASA atmospheric scientist Andrew Lacis on the logarithmic impact of CO2, claiming “this diminishing effect challenges the assumption that rising CO2 levels alone will result in catastrophic global warming.”

Lacis says this is “disinformation.” Far from rising CO2 not being a concern, he explained that CO2 accumulates in the atmosphere, causing a “virtually permanent increase” in the Earth’s heat absorption. That drives long-term global warming and may trigger powerful feedback loops which pose “an existential threat.”

The same KICLEI report cites Kevin Trenberth, a prominent climate scientist at the US National Center for Atmospheric Research, to claim that “water vapour is far more influential [than CO2] in regulating global temperatures.”

This is not accurate, according to Trenberth: “Water vapour is an important feedback but not a cause or primary driver,” he said. “If there is no CO2 then there is no water vapour.”

In her emailed response to Canada’s National Observer, Braun rejected the concerns of the three scientists, calling them a “disagreement over interpretation.” She denied that KICLEI’s reports contain misinformation or disinformation. “Our references to water vapour, CO2 forcing, and consensus data are grounded in published research,” she said, despite being informed that the authors of those peer-reviewed studies directly contradict her assertions.

A firehose of emails

Councillors in several provinces say they feel overwhelmed by KICLEI’s outreach. Late in 2024 in Simcoe County, Ont., local officials described a “firehose” of correspondence, according to Adam Ballah, policy and communications lead at the [Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition](#).

“It makes their jobs really difficult, having to wade through this stuff,” Ballah explained. In response, he wrote a [detailed blog post](#) rebutting KICLEI’s claims.

In one municipality, Tiny Township, a KICLEI deputation told councillors that the costs of the PCP program were “unsustainable.” Alarmed, councillors ordered a [review](#) — which found the township was paying \$12,700 a year.

Tiny Township has reached Milestone 3 of the PCP program, creating a Climate Action Plan, which gives it access to grants from the [Green Municipal Fund](#). KICLEI estimates that implementing all five milestones costs between \$8 million and \$212 million dollars, including up to \$50 million for a “15 Minute City Model.”

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), which co-organizes the PCP program, did not provide alternative figures when asked directly. Instead, it released a statement from its President Rebecca Bligh, saying “to combat misinformation spread by KICLEI, FCM is proactively communicating results and progress.”



Councillor Margo Sheppard was targeted by KICLEI's emails Photo by Patty Smith

In New Brunswick, Fredericton councillor Margo Sheppard attempted to block incoming KICLEI emails but was advised by the city solicitor that they couldn't be filtered.

She reported the messages as spam to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) — but never received a response. The CRTC declined to comment on the complaint, or whether they had received it.

“It's very distressing,” said Sheppard. “I don't have time in the day to research people who are peddling misinformation or disinformation.”

She was surprised to find out that KICLEI is using AI. “I wouldn't know how to detect it,” she said.

Whether or not we can detect it, AI has entered the conversation — and local councillors like Sheppard, once peripheral to digital politics, are now on the front lines of a new era of persuasive misinformation.

“This is the beginning,” Sheppard said. “We’re in for a deluge.”

Rory White is an independent investigative journalist who builds technical systems to uncover coordinated campaigns targeting democratic processes. He has contributed to a Bellingcat investigation by geolocating sports betting operations in Russia, and published research analyses in The Lancet Psychiatry and Nature Mental Health. He holds a Masters in Data Science from the University of British Columbia and an M.Sc in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

May 28th 2025



[Rory White](#)



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 29th, 2025, Peterborough

Smoke-Free Summer: The Air is Shared

Health Unit Celebrates World No Tobacco Day

For nearly forty years, May 31st has been celebrated as World No Tobacco Day. The day both commemorates the decades of work that public health agencies have engaged in to fight the tobacco epidemic and highlights the work that is yet to be done.

Locally, Peterborough has long been a provincial leader in tobacco-wise policies working to curb commercial tobacco use. The first local by-law was enacted in 1972, prohibiting smoking in workplaces; this preceded provincial smoke-free laws by nearly 35 years. In 2012, Peterborough once again was a leader in creating a by-law protecting park and playground users from harmful secondhand smoke. Since then, most of Ontario has become protected by the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), 2017*, which prohibits smoking or vaping in many areas that children, youth, families, and athletes gather across the province – indoors and out.

Despite these laws being long-standing, some residents and visitors need a reminder that parks, playgrounds, beaches, and sports fields are smoke, vape, and cannabis-free.

“Peterborough and the Kawarthas are home to some of the best outdoor spaces in the province,” said Julie Bromley, Manager of Environmental Health at Peterborough Public Health. “From Musicfest concerts all summer, to baseball and soccer tournaments, to local farmers’ markets and street festivals, to beaches and playgrounds – we need people to know that the air is shared, and they can’t smoke or vape there.” **Failure to comply with these laws could cost \$305.**

“When it comes to secondhand smoke, there are no safe levels of exposure,” said Dr. Thomas Piggott, Medical Officer of Health for PPH. “Likewise, nicotine from vapes impacts the developing teenage brain, affecting everything from mood, to memory, to concentration. When youth see people smoking or vaping, it normalizes it, undoing the decades of work that we are celebrating on World No Tobacco Day,” he added. “The SFOA is designed to protect everyone from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke and from vapour products”.

This winter, Tobacco Enforcement Officers (TEOs) from Peterborough Public Health worked in partnership with recreation staff in the City and County at local arenas to enforce the SFOA. Over a six-week blitz, the following infractions were addressed by TEOs:

- Charges: 6
 - Healthy Planet Arena (1)
 - Memorial Centre (3)

- North Kawartha Community Centre (1)
- Otonabee Memorial Community Centre (Keene) (1)
- Educational conversations: 42
- Formal warnings: 22

TEOs are also responsible for ensuring that Specialty Vape Shops and convenience stores don't sell tobacco or vape products to minors. Since November 1, 2024, the following infractions have been addressed:

- Convenience stores: 6 charges; 4 warnings
- Specialty Vape Stores: 1 charge

With the change of season, TEOs and park staff will double down on their efforts to focus on parks, sports fields, patios, beaches, and other outdoor spots to ensure compliance with the SFOA and local bylaws. Residents can report smoking or vaping violations by calling 705-743-1000 or online at www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/report-secondhand-smoke-vapour.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Media Relations

media@peterboroughpublichealth.ca

MEMORANDUM

To: All user groups of municipal community recreational facilities and sports fields
From: Tobacco Enforcement Team
Date: June 2025
Subject: Smoke-Free Ontario Act enforcement at local parks, playgrounds, beaches, and sports fields

Coaches, athletes, team supporters, and outdoor enthusiasts:

We want to remind you about the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and your role in protecting all Ontarians from secondhand smoke and vapour.

Since 2018, [it has been illegal to smoke or vape on or within 20m of many outdoor locations, including playgrounds, sports fields and beaches.](#) Plainly, [there is to be no smoking or vaping at these outdoor venues.](#) Tobacco Enforcement Officers will be completing surveillance and inspections of various locations around the City and County of Peterborough throughout the summer.

Failure to comply with these rules can result in a \$305.00 fine.

It's worth noting that:

- Most people DON'T smoke; only 9.9% of Ontarians smoke
- Nearly half of all people that smoke, want to quit smoking; smoke-free spaces help people with their quit attempts
- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke
- Secondhand vapour contains heavy metals and ultrafine particles that are dangerous when inhaled
- "When youth and young adults see others smoking, it can influence them to start smoking and gives the perception that it is acceptable." ([Health Canada](#))

Resources for parents and guardians:

- [Talking with your teen about vaping: A tip sheet for parents](#)
- [Don't treat your health like an experiment](#), talk about vaping with your athlete
- [What's in a vape](#), and [how to have a conversation with your teens about it](#)

Resources to quit smoking or vaping:

- [Smokers' Helpline](#) provides both cessation counselors and trial nicotine replacement therapy, and [STOP on the Net](#) is an online program to help you quit smoking that also comes with free nicotine replacement therapy.

Thank you for your help in protecting the health of our community – especially those that are going to a sports field to participate in an activity that they love or spend time outside in the fresh air.

Sincerely,

Tobacco Enforcement Team
environmentalhealth@peterboroughpublichealth.ca

cc: CAO's of each Township in the County of Peterborough
Municipal recreation managers and supervisors in the City and County of Peterborough

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Sincerely,

Tobacco Enforcement Team
environmentalhealth@peterboroughpublichealth.ca

cc: CAO's of each Township in the County of Peterborough
Municipal recreation managers and supervisors in the City and County of Peterborough



COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL APPRAISAL FORM

APPLICANT: Roger Maloney & Helen Lynett

FILE B - 29-25

LOT: 11, 12 & 13, CON.: 4 MUNICIPAL WARD: Douro

911 address: 936 Douro Third Line, Roll #: 1522-010-002-18100, Island # or other: _____

APPLICATION FOR: Creation of a new lot Residential

RECOMMENDATION:

Application conforms to the Official Plan. Severed parcel conforms to the Zoning By-Law. Retained parcel conforms to the Zoning By-Law. The Township recommends this application. If the application is approved, the following conditions are requested:

- 1. [X] \$1250 Cash-in-lieu of parkland fee be paid to the Municipality.
2. [] Rezoning of the severed parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
3. [] Rezoning of the retained parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
4. [] Minor Variance for the severed parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
5. [] Minor Variance for the retained parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
6. [X] A 3-metre strip of frontage from the severed parcel be deeded to the Township for road widening purposes. Cost to be incurred by the applicant.
7. [] The applicant be responsible for the costs of upgrading _____ Road to Municipal Standards to provide a minimum of 150' of frontage to the satisfaction of the Manager of Public Works.
8. [X] The Manager of Public Works confirm that a safe entrance is possible.
9. [X] A Mitigation Measures Agreement is to be entered into between the Owner and the Municipality and registered on title at the owner's expense, which would recognize the recommendations outlined in Section 7.0 of the Natural Heritage Evaluation prepared by Cambium dated September 14, 2022.
10. [] An Agreement is to be entered into between the Applicant & the Municipality and registered on title at the applicants expense which would _____.
11. [] A Merger Agreement is to be entered into between the Transferor, Transferee and Municipality, pursuant to Section 51(26) and Section 53(12) of the Planning Act, R.S.O, 1990, and registered on title to merge the severed parcel with the abutting (or separated) land identified by property roll # _____, such that these 2 parcels shall be considered as one lot and shall not be dealt with separately. (To be used in the case of an addition to a lot which was previously created by severance, plan of subdivision or is physically separated). OR
12. [] The solicitor for the applicant is to provide an undertaking, whereby he informs the Committee, in writing, that the lands are being conveyed to an abutting property owner and a merger of title shall take place. (To be used in the case of an addition to a lot which had not been created by severance - usually created before subdivision control began in 1979).
13. [] A test hole for the septic system be inspected, there is a fee to inspect test holes to ensure a septic system would be viable - current fees are \$150 per severed lot severed and applicant is responsible for the digging of the test holes.
14. [] An up-to-date site plan survey be completed on the retained and severed (after the lot is merged with the adjacent property) lots to assist with the rezoning process.
15. [] An Ontario Land Surveyor provide a measurement of the frontage on the retained portion to assist with the rezoning.
16. [] A Right-of-way be obtained to provide access to the newly merged lot.
17. [] The depth of the severed lot be increased to ensure that the lot is a minimum of 0.4 ha (1 acre) in size (which does not include the 3-metre strip of frontage deeded to the municipality).
18. [] An Easement be granted by the County of Peterborough to allow access to the severed parcel over the County Trail.
19. [] The existing buildings and setbacks from the new lot lines be shown on the draft R-Plan and if any deficiencies are found then a rezoning/minor variance will be required.
20. [] _____
21. [] _____
Comments: _____

OFFICIAL PLAN:

Application conforms to the Township Official Plan policies, Section(s) 6.2.2.2, 6.2.2.3, 6.2.2.5 (d), 6.1.1 & 7.12.

Severed Parcel:

- a) Proposed Use: Residential.
b) Land Use Designation(s): Rural.
c) The proposed use is a permitted one.
d) Special policies affecting the severed parcel (i.e. OPA): _____.

Retained Parcel(s):

- a) Proposed Use: Agricultural.
b) Land Use Designation(s): Rural.
c) The proposed use is a permitted one.
d) Special policies affecting the retained parcel (i.e. OPA): _____.

ZONING BY-LAW:

2025-06-09

This document is available in 12 pt. font for accessibility.



COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL APPRAISAL FORM

Severed Parcel:

- a) The severed parcel **conforms** to the Township Zoning By-Law provisions, Section(s) **9.1.5, 9.2.4 (a) & (b)**.
- b) A rezoning **is not** required for the severed parcel.
- c) A minor variance **is not** required for the severed parcel.
- d) The existing zoning of the severed parcel is: Rural (RU).
- e) The recommended zoning of the severed parcel would be: _____.

Retained Parcel(s):

- a) The retained parcel **conforms** to the Township Zoning By-Law provisions, Section(s) **9.1.1, 9.2.1 (a) & (b)**.
- b) A rezoning **is not** required for the retained parcel.
- c) A minor variance **is not** required for the retained parcel.
- d) The existing zoning of the retained parcel is: Rural (RU).
- e) The recommended zoning of the retained parcel would be: _____.

General:

- a) If the severed and/or retained parcel(s) do not conform to the Zoning By-Law, Council **supports** a rezoning and/or minor variance.

Completed By: Kate Steele, Junior Planner,

DM Wills Associates Limited, on behalf of the Township of Douro-Dummer

Date: May 27, 2025

Amended Date: _____



COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL APPRAISAL FORM

APPLICANT: Roger Maloney & Helen Lynett

FILE B - 30-25

LOT: 11, 12 & 13, CON.: 4 MUNICIPAL WARD: Douro

911 address: 936 Douro Third Line, Roll #: 1522-010-002-18100, Island # or other: _____

APPLICATION FOR: Creation of a new lot Residential

RECOMMENDATION:

Application conforms to the Official Plan. Severed parcel conforms to the Zoning By-Law. Retained parcel conforms to the Zoning By-Law. The Township recommends this application. If the application is approved, the following conditions are requested:

- 1. [X] \$1250 Cash-in-lieu of parkland fee be paid to the Municipality.
2. [] Rezoning of the severed parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
3. [] Rezoning of the retained parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
4. [] Minor Variance for the severed parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
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7. [] The applicant be responsible for the costs of upgrading _____ Road to Municipal Standards to provide a minimum of 150' of frontage to the satisfaction of the Manager of Public Works.
8. [X] The Manager of Public Works confirm that a safe entrance is possible.
9. [X] A Mitigation Measures Agreement is to be entered into between the Owner and the Municipality and registered on title at the owner's expense, which would recognize the recommendations outlined in Section 7.0 of the Natural Heritage Evaluation prepared by Cambium dated September 14, 2022.
10. [] An Agreement is to be entered into between the Applicant & the Municipality and registered on title at the applicants expense which would _____.
11. [] A Merger Agreement is to be entered into between the Transferor, Transferee and Municipality, pursuant to Section 51(26) and Section 53(12) of the Planning Act, R.S.O, 1990, and registered on title to merge the severed parcel with the abutting (or separated) land identified by property roll # _____, such that these 2 parcels shall be considered as one lot and shall not be dealt with separately. (To be used in the case of an addition to a lot which was previously created by severance, plan of subdivision or is physically separated). OR
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14. [] An up-to-date site plan survey be completed on the retained and severed (after the lot is merged with the adjacent property) lots to assist with the rezoning process.
15. [] An Ontario Land Surveyor provide a measurement of the frontage on the retained portion to assist with the rezoning.
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17. [] The depth of the severed lot be increased to ensure that the lot is a minimum of 0.4 ha (1 acre) in size (which does not include the 3-metre strip of frontage deeded to the municipality).
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19. [] The existing buildings and setbacks from the new lot lines be shown on the draft R-Plan and if any deficiencies are found then a rezoning/minor variance will be required.
20. [] _____
21. [] _____
Comments: _____

OFFICIAL PLAN:

Application conforms to the Township Official Plan policies, Section(s) 6.2.2.2, 6.2.2.3, 6.2.2.5 (d), 6.1.1 & 7.12.

Severed Parcel:

- a) Proposed Use: Residential.
b) Land Use Designation(s): Rural.
c) The proposed use is a permitted one.
d) Special policies affecting the severed parcel (i.e. OPA): _____.

Retained Parcel(s):

- a) Proposed Use: Agricultural.
b) Land Use Designation(s): Rural.
c) The proposed use is a permitted one.
d) Special policies affecting the retained parcel (i.e. OPA): _____.

ZONING BY-LAW:

2025-04-21

This document is available in 12 pt. font for accessibility.



COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL APPRAISAL FORM

Severed Parcel:

- a) The severed parcel **conforms** to the Township Zoning By-Law provisions, Section(s) **9.1.5, 9.2.4 (a) & (b)**.
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- d) The existing zoning of the severed parcel is: Rural (RU).
- e) The recommended zoning of the severed parcel would be: _____.

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- a) The retained parcel **conforms** to the Township Zoning By-Law provisions, Section(s) **9.1.1, 9.2.1 (a) & (b)**.
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- d) The existing zoning of the retained parcel is: Rural (RU).
- e) The recommended zoning of the retained parcel would be: _____.

General:

- a) If the severed and/or retained parcel(s) do not conform to the Zoning By-Law, Council **supports** a rezoning and/or minor variance.

Completed By: Kate Steele, Junior Planner,

DM Wills Associates Limited, on behalf of the Township of Douro-Dummer

Date: May 27, 2025

Amended Date: _____



COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL APPRAISAL FORM

APPLICANT: Brian Leahy (Agent: Karl Moher)

FILE B - 34-25

LOT: 6, CON.: 2 MUNICIPAL WARD: Douro

911 address: 482 Douro First Line, Roll #: 1522-010-002-06300, Island # or other: _____

APPLICATION FOR: Creation of a new lot _____

RECOMMENDATION:

Application conforms to the Official Plan. Severed parcel does not conform to the Zoning By-Law. Retained parcel conforms to the Zoning By-Law. The Township recommends this application. If the application is approved, the following conditions are requested:

- 1. [X] \$1250 Cash-in-lieu of parkland fee be paid to the Municipality.
2. [X] Rezoning of the severed parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
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13. [] A test hole for the septic system be inspected, there is a fee to inspect test holes to ensure a septic system would be viable - current fees are \$150 per severed lot severed and applicant is responsible for the digging of the test holes.
14. [] An up-to-date site plan survey be completed on the retained and severed (after the lot is merged with the adjacent property) lots to assist with the rezoning process.
15. [] An Ontario Land Surveyor provide a measurement of the frontage on the retained portion to assist with the rezoning.
16. [] A Right-of-way be obtained to provide access to the newly merged lot.
17. [] The depth of the severed lot be increased to ensure that the lot is a minimum of 0.4 ha (1 acre) in size (which does not include the 3-metre strip of frontage deeded to the municipality).
18. [] An Easement be granted by the County of Peterborough to allow access to the severed parcel over the County Trail.
19. [X] The existing buildings and setbacks from the new lot lines be shown on the draft R-Plan and if any deficiencies are found then a rezoning/minor variance will be required.
20. [X] The northern side lot line of the retained parcel be located a minimum of 22 metres from the northern wall of the existing dwelling to accommodate minimum setback distance from a raised septic system.
21. [] _____

Comments: Condition #20 is requested as the applicant has not provided a sketch to assess zoning compliance of the existing dwelling to be located on the retained lot.

OFFICIAL PLAN:

Application conforms to the Township Official Plan policies, Section(s) 6.2.2, 7.12.

Severed Parcel:

- a) Proposed Use: Agricultural
b) Land Use Designation(s): Rural.
c) The proposed use is a permitted one.
d) Special policies affecting the severed parcel (i.e. OPA): N/A.

Retained Parcel(s):

- a) Proposed Use: Residential
b) Land Use Designation(s): Rural.
c) The proposed use is a permitted one.
d) Special policies affecting the retained parcel (i.e. OPA): N/A.



COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL APPRAISAL FORM

ZONING BY-LAW:

Severed Parcel:

- a) The severed parcel **does not conform** to the Township Zoning By-Law provisions, Section(s) **9**.
- b) A rezoning **is** required for the severed parcel.
- c) A minor variance **is not** required for the severed parcel.
- d) The existing zoning of the severed parcel is: RU and EC(P).
- e) The recommended zoning of the severed parcel would be: S.D. XXX and EC(P).

Retained Parcel(s):

- a) The retained parcel **conforms** to the Township Zoning By-Law provisions, Section(s) **9**.
- b) A rezoning **is not** required for the retained parcel.
- c) A minor variance **is not** required for the retained parcel.
- d) The existing zoning of the retained parcel is: RU.
- e) The recommended zoning of the retained parcel would be: RU.

General:

- a) If the severed and/or retained parcel(s) do not conform to the Zoning By-Law, Council **supports** a rezoning and/or minor variance.

Completed By: Emily Fitzgerald

Date: June 9, 2025

Amended Date: _____



COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL APPRAISAL FORM

APPLICANT: Peter Milne (Agent: Ken Currie)

FILE B – B-35-25

LOT: 25-27, CON.: 5 MUNICIPAL WARD: Dummer

911 address: 2035 Fifth Line Road North Dummer, Roll #: 1522-020-004-22700, Island # or other: _____

APPLICATION FOR: Creation of a new lot

RECOMMENDATION:

Application **conforms** to the Official Plan. Severed parcel **conforms** to the Zoning By-Law. Retained parcel **conforms** to the Zoning By-Law. The Township **recommends** this application. If the application is approved, the following conditions are requested:

1. **\$1250** Cash-in-lieu of parkland fee be paid to the Municipality.
2. Rezoning of the severed parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
3. Rezoning of the retained parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
4. Minor Variance for the severed parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
5. Minor Variance for the retained parcel to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
6. A 3-metre strip of frontage from the severed parcel be deeded to the Township for road widening purposes. Cost to be incurred by the applicant.
7. The applicant be responsible for the costs of upgrading _____ Road to Municipal Standards to provide a minimum of 150' of frontage to the satisfaction of the Manager of Public Works.
8. The Manager of Public Works confirm that a safe entrance is possible.
9. A Mitigation Measures Agreement is to be entered into between the Owner and the Municipality and registered on title at the owner's expense, which would recognize the recommendations outlined in Section _____ of the _____ prepared by _____ dated _____.
10. An Agreement is to be entered into between the Applicant & the Municipality and registered on title at the applicants expense which would _____.
11. A Merger Agreement is to be entered into between the Transferor, Transferee and Municipality, pursuant to Section 51(26) and Section 53(12) of the *Planning Act, R.S.O, 1990*, and registered on title to merge the severed parcel with the abutting (or separated) land identified by property roll # _____, such that these 2 parcels shall be considered as one lot and shall not be dealt with separately. *(To be used in the case of an addition to a lot which was previously created by severance, plan of subdivision or is physically separated)*. **OR**
12. The solicitor for the applicant is to provide an undertaking, whereby he informs the Committee, in writing, that the lands are being conveyed to an abutting property owner and a merger of title shall take place. *(To be used in the case of an addition to a lot which had not been created by severance – usually created before subdivision control began in 1979)*.
13. A test hole for the septic system be inspected, there is a fee to inspect test holes to ensure a septic system would be viable – current fees are \$175 per severed lot severed and applicant is responsible for the digging of the test holes.
14. An up-to-date site plan survey be completed on the retained and severed (after the lot is merged with the adjacent property) lots to assist with the rezoning process.
15. An Ontario Land Surveyor provide a measurement of the frontage on the retained portion to assist with the rezoning.
16. A Right-of-way be obtained to provide access to the newly merged lot.
17. The depth of the severed lot be increased to ensure that the lot is a minimum of 0.4 ha (1 acre) in size (which does not include the 3-metre strip of frontage deeded to the municipality).
18. An Easement be granted by the County of Peterborough to allow access to the severed parcel over the County Trail.
19. The existing buildings and setbacks from the new lot lines be shown on the draft R-Plan and if any deficiencies are found then a rezoning/minor variance will be required.
20. _____
21. _____

Comments: Test hole fees required by Condition # 13 have been paid.

OFFICIAL PLAN:

Application **conforms** to the Township Official Plan policies, Section(s) **6.2.2, 7.12**.

Severed Parcel:

- a) Proposed Use: Residential.
- b) Land Use Designation(s): Rural.
- c) The proposed use **is** a permitted one.
- d) Special policies affecting the severed parcel (i.e. OPA): N/A.

Retained Parcel(s):

- a) Proposed Use: Retired farm.
- b) Land Use Designation(s): Rural.
- c) The proposed use **is** a permitted one.
- d) Special policies affecting the retained parcel (i.e. OPA): N/A.

ZONING BY-LAW:

Severed Parcel:

- a) The severed parcel **conforms** to the Township Zoning By-Law provisions, Section(s) **9.1, 9.2.4**.

2025-06-09

This document is available in 12 pt. font **Page 51 of 134** for accessibility.



COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL APPRAISAL FORM

- b) A rezoning **is not** required for the severed parcel.
- c) A minor variance **is not** required for the severed parcel.
- d) The existing zoning of the severed parcel is: RU.
- e) The recommended zoning of the severed parcel would be: RU.

Retained Parcel(s):

- a) The retained parcel **conforms** to the Township Zoning By-Law provisions, Section(s) **9.1, 9.2.1**.
- b) A rezoning **is not** required for the retained parcel.
- c) A minor variance **is not** required for the retained parcel.
- d) The existing zoning of the retained parcel is: RU.
- e) The recommended zoning of the retained parcel would be: RU.

General:

- a) If the severed and/or retained parcel(s) do not conform to the Zoning By-Law, Council **supports** a rezoning and/or minor variance.

Completed By: Emily Fitzgerald

Date: June 9, 2025

Amended Date: _____



Township of Douro-Dummer

894 South Street
PO Box 92
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Clerk's Department

Martina Chait-Hartwig, AOMC

Clerk

Ph 705-652-8392 Ext. 210

F 705-652-5044

martinac@dourodummer.on.ca

June 17, 2025

Registered Speaker – Public Comment Period for June 17, 2025

The following person(s) have registered to speak during the Public Comment Period taking place at the June 17, 2025 Council Meeting:

- Adam Vervoort – Item 10.4 - Township Council Vacancy Declaration - Dummer Ward - Clerk's Office - 2025-17
- Mike Mazzacato – Item 10.6 – 2025 Ice Storm Wrap Up and MDRA Funding Report - C.A.O. - 2025-11

Township of Douro-Dummer

Report and Capital Project Status

- Directed by Council and/or CAO
- Directed by the Province/legislation
- Directed by an Agency
- New items and updates are highlighted in Yellow

Report Status

Department	Date Requested	Directed By	Resolution/Direction	Est. Report Date
Corporate	May 3, 2022	Council	Future Gravel Resources	2025
Finance/Clerk	February 21, 2023	Council	Policy to allow for multi-year budgets	Summer 2024
Public Works/CAO	March 7, 2023	Council	Indacom Drive Lot 3	Deferred
CAO		Council	Elevator Repair	Ongoing
Building Department	May 6, 2025	Council	New Septic Report - will need to update website and create info for community	Summer 2025
Finance	May 6, 2025	Council	Procurement - Roads Needs Study	Summer 2025

Capital Project/Program Status

Department	Capital Project List	Status
Council	Council Chamber A/V Upgrades	In progress
CAO Office	Computer Hardware – Corporate IT Requirement	Summer 2025
CAO Office	Consultant Fees – Facility Maintenance Plan	2025
CAO Office	Land Improvement – Tree Program	In progress – Pick up day in September
Clerk	Computer Software – Record Management Software	Fall 2025
Clerk	Township Website Migration	Start date: Q2 2025
Finance	Asset Retirement Obligation Cost Study	Received February 2025
Finance	Asset Management Study and Data Updates	Summer 2025
Fire	Station 1 Building Review and Drawings	Due 2025
Fire	Protection Service Station 4 Pick-up Truck (2020)	Summer 2025

Fire	Pumper 1 and 4	Due 2026 - Delivery
General Government	New Sloped Roof – Town Hall	Under Investigation
General Government	Computer Modernization	Ongoing
General Government	Finance Modernization	In progress – will continue into 2025
General Government	Computer IT Hardware Replacements	In progress
General Government	Storage Room Exterior Door Replacement	Due 2025
Parks and Recreation	Lime Kiln Restoration – 2022 Budget	Spring 2023
Parks and Recreation	Consultant Fees – Arena Facilities Future Ad-Hoc Committee	Fall 2023
Parks and Recreation	Energy Audit	In progress
Parks and Recreation	Equipment – Picnic tables and Tennis Court Wind Screens	In Process
Parks and Recreation	Floor Machines for Douro and Warsaw Community Centre	In progress
Parks and Recreation	North Park Parking Lot Expansion	Summer 2025
Planning	Zoning By-Law Update	On hold until Province Approves OP

Public Works	Gravel Pit Purchase	Ongoing
Public Works	Plow Truck	RFP Awarded – 2025 Delivery
Public Works	Consultant Fees – Road needs study incl Condition Assessment	RFP Awarded
Public Works	Equipment - Water Tank for Roads Vehicle	Due 2025
Public Works	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gravel</u></p> <p>12th Line from forced Rd section to private lane</p> <p>12th Line Rd from Hwy 7 to 12th Line S, Dummer</p> <p>12th Line Rd from Hwy 7 to North limit</p> <p>Centre Dummer Road from 4th Line to Cty Rd 40</p> <p>Centre Road from Douro 3rd line to Douro 5th line</p> <p>Centre Road from Douro 5th Line Rd to Highway 28</p> <p>Cooney Island Rd from Douro 4th line to East limit</p> <p>Douro 4th Line Rd from Division Rd to Cooney Island Rd</p> <p>Douro 5th Line Rd from Centre Rd to Cty Rd 4</p> <p>Douro 7th Line Rd from Centre Rd to Hickey Rd</p> <p>Douro 8th Line Rd from Cty Rd 32 to Nassau Rd</p>	Due 2025

	<p>Douro Third Line from County Rd 4 to Cedar Cross Rd</p> <p>Douro Third Line from County Rd 4 to south limit</p> <p>Hickey Rd from Douro 7th to Cty Rd 32</p> <p>Hickson Rd from County Rd 40 to west limit</p> <p>Oke Rd from Cty Rd 4 to Payne Line Rd</p> <p>Rusaw Lane from Cty Rd 40 to east limit</p>	
Public Works	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Surface Treatment</u></p> <p>4th Line Road South Dummer from Clifford Rd to Cty Rd 8</p> <p>Banks Avenue from County Rd 38 to east limit</p> <p>Campline Rd from Henderson to Birchview Rd</p> <p>Campline Rd from Henderson to Cty Rd 6</p> <p>Caves Road from Cty Rd 4 to Cooper Rd</p> <p>Clifford Road from South St to 3rd Line Mid Dummer</p> <p>Mill Line Road from Cty Rd 40 to Bridge</p> <p>Rock Rd from Cooper Rd to Douglas Rd</p> <p>Rock Rd from Douglas Rd to Rock Rd</p>	Due 2025

Report to Council

Re: Proposed 2026 Budget Meeting
Schedule Treasurer-2025-17

From: Paul Creamer

Date: June 17, 2025

Recommendation:

That the report Treasurer-2025-17, dated June 17, 2025, regarding the 2026 Budget Schedule be received and that the budget schedule be approved.

That Council provide direction to staff regarding a target for the 2026 Budget.

Overview:

Each year Township Staff and Council complete the annual budget process which sets out the direction of the Township for the upcoming fiscal year. The following schedule sets out a timeline for the 2026 Budget:

Staff Preparation	
July	Provide template to managers
August 29	Managers to complete first draft of Capital and Operating Budgets
September 2-5	Budget Review with Treasurer, CAO and Managers
September 8-12	Treasurer to compile budget and apply funding to capital projects
September 17	Treasurer to Present complete first draft to management team
September 22 – October 7	Treasurer to finalize first draft, write report and create the presentation
Council Presentations and Public Meetings	
October 14 @ 10am – 3pm	First Draft - Presentation of first draft to Council
October 21 at 5pm. (During Council)	Public Meeting – The Treasurer will make a 15-20-minute presentation summarizing the first draft of the budget. The Public will be able to attend and provide any feedback during this time.
November 18 (During Council)	Second Draft – this meeting will be for Council to deliberate the budget while considering any feedback the public provided during the public meeting.
December 16 (During Council)	Final budget/budget approval. Staff will then be directed to prepare the final budget documents for January.

For the 2025 Budget, staff were directed to prepare the budget with an increase equivalent to September CPI. Staff presented the budget at CPI plus the impacts from other Boards and Agencies. Staff also included a list of projects that were not able to be completed given the lower target of CPI.

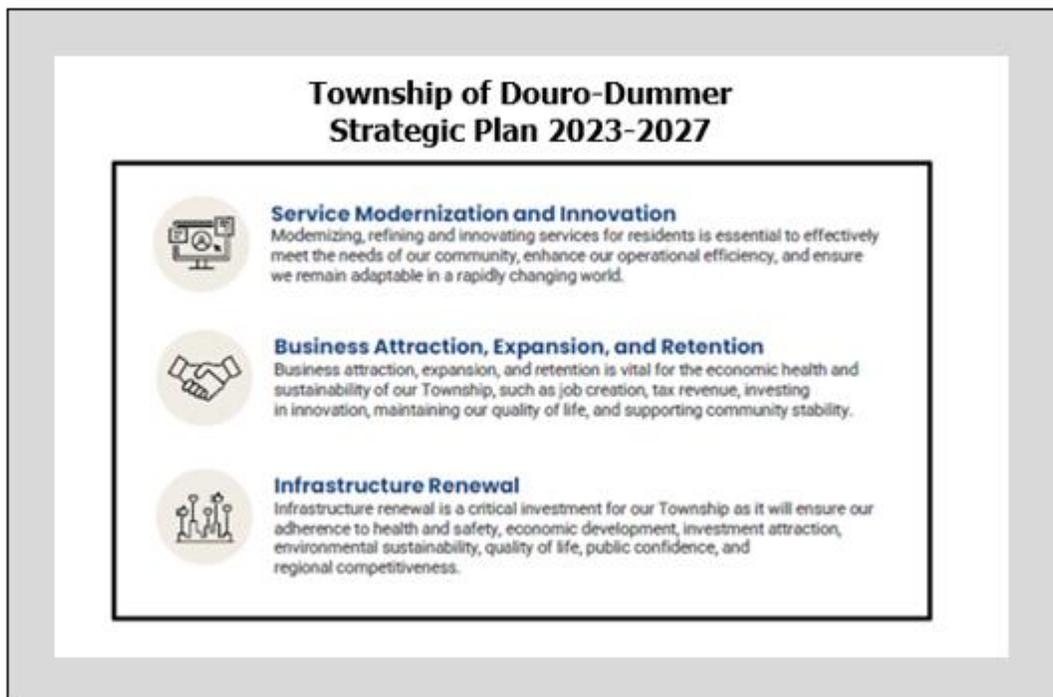
For 2026 staff require Council direction on whether they want to provide staff a target for development of the 2026 Budget. There are two items that Council should be aware of and consider, the first is that Council previously adopted a funding strategy for the Joint Building that will see a 1% levy added this year. The second is an expected increase from the OPP budget which was delayed from 2025.

Conclusion:

This schedule allows for a budget passage prior to year end. This is the preferred approach as it sets the priorities for the Township heading into the new year. This also enable staff to begin the new projects immediately in January.

Financial Impact:

N/A



Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2026 Budget Schedule - Treasurer-2025-17.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 11, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Martina Chait-Hartwig

Todd Davis

Recommendation:

That the report Treasurer-2025-18, dated June 17, 2025 regarding the 2024 Development Charge Statement be received and posted to the Township website.

Overview:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the activity and yearend balance of the Development Charge Deferred Revenue accounts for the period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024 as per the *Development Charges Act* requirement.

Reserve Fund	Opening Balance	Withdrawals	Proceeds	Ending Balance	Project Details
General Government	13,450.23	44,142.00	1,124.61	- 29,567.16	DC Study
Fire	78,597.43		8,868.01	87,465.44	
Parks and Recreation	6,835.69		4,685.89	11,521.58	
Library	15,972.44		2,753.48	18,725.92	
Roads	56,374.67		33,350.85	89,725.52	

Conclusion:

This report meets the requirements of Development Charges Act.

Financial Impact:

None.



Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2024 Development Charge Statement - Treasurer-2025-18.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 11, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Martina Chait-Hartwig

Todd Davis

Recommendation:

That the report Clerk's Office-2025-17, dated June 17, 2025 regarding the vacancy on Township Council be received and that Council declare the seat of Councillor Adam Vervoort, Dummer Ward Councillor, to be vacant per Section 262 of the Municipal Act, 2001.

Overview:

[Section 259](#) of the Municipal Act outlines the conditions under which the office of a member of Council becomes vacant. Councillor Vervoort submitted a letter to the Clerk on May 30, 2025, announcing his resignation from Township Council.

As soon as a Member resigns in writing to the Clerk, their resignation is considered effective immediately. Following this, Council must declare that Member's seat vacant at their next meeting. Declaring the seat vacant requires Council to simply pass a resolution identifying the same. [Section 262\(1\)](#) of the Act states:

If the office of a member of a council becomes vacant under section 259, the council shall at its next meeting declare the office to be vacant, except if a vacancy occurs as a result of the death of a member, the declaration may be made at either of its next two meetings.

Once the seat on Council is declared vacant, Council is required to decide on how to fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the term. The Act provides two options to fill a vacancy on Council. [Subsection 263 \(1\)](#) notes those options to be:

- a. Fill the vacancy by appointing a person who has consented to accept the office if appointed; or
- b. Require a by-election to be held to fill the vacancy in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act.

[Section 264](#) of the Act provides that a person appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall hold the office for the remainder of the term of the person they replaced.

Conclusion:

The Clerk will provide a separate report to Council outlining the options available to fill the vacancy and estimated costs and timelines for the options.

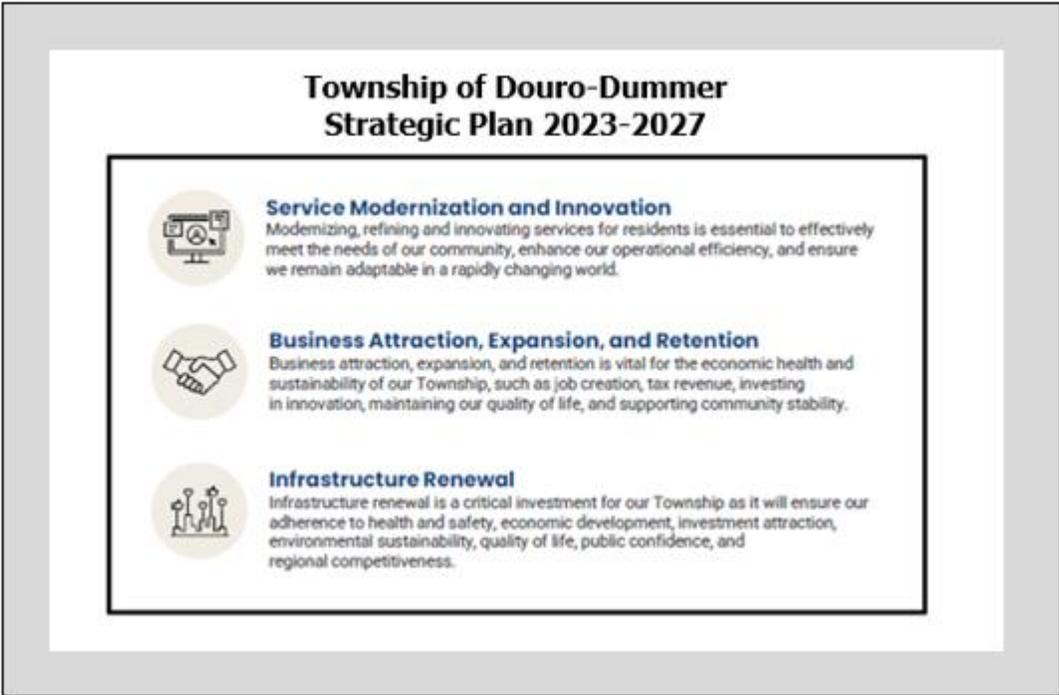
Section 263(5) of the Act establishes the rules applying to filling vacancies. Rules applying to filling vacancies 263(5):

Within 60 days after the day a declaration of vacancy is made with respect to the vacancy, the municipality shall,

- a. appoint a person to fill the vacancy or
- b. pass a by-law requiring a by-election be held to fill the vacancy

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact in declaring the seat vacant.



Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Township Council Vacancy Declaration - Dummer Ward - Clerk's Office-2025-17.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 11, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Todd Davis

Report to Council

Re: Method to Fill a Vacancy for Office of Councillor, Dummer Ward Clerk's Office-2025-19

From: Martina Chait-Hartwig

Date: June 17, 2025

Recommendation:

That the report Clerk's Office-2025-19, dated June 17, 2025 regarding methods to fill the Dummer Ward Councillor vacancy be received and that Council direct Staff to proceed with Option # ___ (Option) in order to fill the Vacancy for Office of Councillor, Dummer Ward and if needed that a Special Council meeting be called.

Overview:

At the June 17, 2025 Council Meeting, Council will receive notice that the Dummer Ward Councillor seat should be declared vacant as Councillor Adam Vervoort has resigned from Council for personal reasons.

When a vacancy on Council occurs, Council determines how to fill the vacant seat, within the provisions of the Municipal Act for the remainder of the term. Rules applying to filling vacancies, [Section 263\(5\)](#) of the Act:

The following rules apply to filling vacancies:

1. Within 60 days after the day a declaration of vacancy is made with respect to the vacancy, the municipality shall,
 - a. appoint a person to fill the vacancy or
 - b. pass a by-law requiring a by-election be held to fill the vacancy.

[Section 256](#) of the Act sets out the eligibility requirements for persons qualified to be elected or to hold office as a member of a Council of a local municipality. To be an elector, the person under consideration must, on voting day:

- a. reside in the municipality or be the owner or tenant of land there, or the spouse of such owner or tenant,
- b. be a Canadian Citizen, c. be at least 18 years old, and
- d. not be prohibited from voting.

Under [Section 258\(1\)](#) of the Act, the following are not eligible to be elected as a member of a council or to hold office as a member of a council:

- an employee of the municipality;
- a person who is not an employee of the municipality but who is the clerk, treasurer, Integrity Commissioner, Auditor General, Ombudsman, registrar or an investigator of the municipality;
- a person who is not an employee of the municipality but who holds any administrative position of the municipality;
- a judge of any court;
- a member of the Legislative Assembly or of the Senate or House of Commons of Canada;
- and a public servant, with certain exceptions set out in Part V of the Public Services of Ontario Act, 2006.

[Section 264](#) of the Act provides that a person appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall hold the office for the remainder of the term of the person they replaced. In the current situation, Council must fill the vacancy either by appointing a person who has consented to accept the office or by passing a by-law declaring a by-election prior to August 15, 2025. Leaving the seat vacant for the remainder of the term is not an option as filling the seat is required by law. In making its determination, Council should consider the costs and timelines associated with filling a vacancy by appointment or by by-election.

Dummer Ward has approximately 4035 qualified electors as defined by legislation. In the 2022 Municipal Election, Dummer Ward had 1328 voters cast ballots, a turn out of approximately 41.7%. Two options to cast ballots were provided to electors. 81.6% of Dummer Ward voters cast their ballot using internet voting, whereas 13.1% used the telephone to cast their vote, the remaining 5.3% cast their ballot using a Township kioks. The overall election turnout for the entire Municipality for the 2022 Municipal election was 36.9%.

The following provides further details on the options to consider in filling a vacancy of Office of Councillor, Ward Dummer.

Option 1 – Appointment Process

The Act does not set out specific requirements relating to the appointment of an individual to fill a Council vacancy other than meeting the qualification requirements outlined in the Act, noted earlier in this report. In accordance with best practices, there are a number of sub-options within the Appointment option:

1A – Appointment from 2022 Municipal Election Candidates

Council can appoint the next runner up, or any other candidate from the 2022 Municipal Election. The results from the 2022 Municipal Election for the Dummer Ward are attached as Appendix A.

Municipalities have done this in the past under the rationale that this person was previously judged by the electorate and had in the past consented to the Office. The Clerk would need to contact the person and confirm their eligibility still remains and that they consent to the office. If so, an Appointment By-law, attached as Appendix B, could be approved at a following Council meeting.

Considerations for Option #1A:

- Results in the earliest filling of the vacancy through appointment process.
- The Clerk would seek written confirmation and qualification and confirm the individual is interested in accepting the appointment.
- An appointment by-law and Oath of Office could be administered to the new Councillor by the early August 2025.

- Results in no financial impact to the Municipality, with the exception of staff time.
- A democratic process was undertaken in October 2022, but due to the time elapsed may not be seen as filling the vacancy through a democratic process.

1B – Appointment by Call for Applications

Council may approve an appointment process which would permit interested eligible persons to submit an application for appointment to Council. This open call for applications would be advertised on multiple platforms and in keeping with best practices, would include a process including an application, declaration of qualifications, and an interview/presentation with Council at a public meeting. At that public meeting, residents would have an opportunity to submit questions for the candidates to respond, at the discretion of Council. Staff have developed sample procedures, to be attached as Appendix C (due to emergency will be provided prior to the Council meeting), in line with other municipalities who have chosen this option.

The following provides an overview of a tentative timeline to facilitate an appointment through the application process described above:

- June 17, 2025 – Declaration of vacancy, Office of Councillor Dummer Ward 2 and Council considers methods to fill vacancy and appointment by Call for Applications selected
- June 30, 2025 – Application period begins
- July 31, 2025 at 2 p.m. – Application period ends
- First or Second Week of August, 2025 – Applications considered by Council at Special meeting
- Prior to August 16, 2025 – New Councillor Sworn into Office at Special Council meeting

Should Council decide to pursue the appointment by call for applications, staff would recommend that an additional clause be added to the recommendation to adopt the Appointment Procedures for Filling a Council Vacancy, attached as Appendix C to this report to give effect to the necessary procedures to be conducted.

Considerations for Option #1B:

- Results in the earlier filling of the vacancy through the appointment process. An appointment by-law and Oath of Office could be administered to the new Councillor by mid-August 2025.
- Open call for interested eligible candidates ensures every interested and qualified individual is provided the opportunity to be considered by Council and may reach more individuals than the election process.
- Transparent process as the presentations and questions of all eligible candidates must be conducted in an open Council meeting.

- Provides members of the public an opportunity to ask questions or attend the presentations of the applicants in order to learn more about their platform.
- Provides an opportunity to identify and select an individual possessing a skillset that may not currently be represented on Council.
- Cost effective method that invites candidates who may otherwise be concerned with financial requirements, to conduct a campaign, which would eliminate barriers to participation.
- Would require a communications plan to ensure the public and potential candidates are made aware of the appointment process.
- Does have financial implications of approximately \$3,000 for advertising costs which could be paid for by the Clerk's Office operational budget.
- There will be a financial implication from staff overtime that will be needed to ensure that the staff are available to receive nominations while also completing previously scheduled work plan items and day to day responsibilities.
- Transparent selection of the candidate may not be seen as filling the vacancy through a democratic process.

1C – Direct Appointment by Council

Council can choose to appoint an eligible individual without a public process as the Act does not prescribe any process. The Clerk would still need to ensure that any appointed person meets the eligibility requirements, and this person would need to consent to the appointment to Office. In order to make a direct appointment, a Council Member would have to nominate a candidate for appointment. The nomination would require a seconder. The motion would then be considered by Council and voted on. If there is a majority vote, then that person would be appointed the Dummer Ward Councillor.

Considerations for Option #1C:

- Results in the earlier filling of the vacancy through appointment process. An Oath of Office could be administered to the new Councillor at the at the August 5, 2025 Council meeting.
- Does not include financial implications other than staff time.
- May not be seen as filling the vacancy through a transparent or democratic process.

Should Council choose to proceed with one of the Appointment options outlined, staff will ensure additional communication and advertising is provided related to the option selected.

Option 2 – By-election

Council can choose to fill the vacancy by directing a by-election be held in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act (MEA). [Section 65](#) of the Municipal Elections Act governs by-elections requiring that the by-election be conducted as far as possible in the same way as regular elections, that nomination day must be not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days after the seat is declared vacant and voting day shall be 45 days after nomination day.

All election planning must ensure the principles of the MEA serve as a benchmark and guide for the conduct of municipal elections:

- secrecy and confidentiality of the voting process;
- fair and non-biased;
- accessible to voters;
- integrity of the voting process;
- results of the election reflect votes cast;
- voters and candidates shall be treated fairly and consistently.

If this option is selected, Council would be required to pass a by-law to ensure the Clerk can carry out the by-election. Further, if a by-election is the preferred choice to fill the vacancy, then pursuant to [Section 42](#) of the MEA, Council must also pass a by-law for the use of internet and telephone voting, as an alternative voting method. Council may wish to add on paper ballots with tabulators on voting day as has been decided for the 2026 election. A draft by-law to carry out the by-election along with a draft voting methods by-law can be presented to Council at a Special meeting in June if Council wishes.

Typically, by-elections employ the same method of voting as the preceding elections, and staff recommend that internet and telephone voting be employed as an alternate method of voting for this by-election. Staff have already spent a considerable amount of time in 2022 creating administrative processes, training and procedures for internet and telephone voting. This is also the method that voters are accustomed to, as it was most recently used in the 2022/2018 elections.

If the method of voting is changed or paper ballots with , it would result in significant delays and additional costs as staff would be required to procure new vendors for the paper ballots and tabulators and develop new procedures, training and communication plans.

The Clerk shall be responsible for conducting the by-election in accordance with the MEA and all applicable policies and procedures. The MEA purposefully gives the Clerk the authority to set Nomination Day in any by-election to permit the time required to prepare for and conduct a legislatively compliant election. Because a by-election for the Office of Councillor, Dummer Ward would be for one single Ward, preparations will still be extensive but not as wide-ranging as a municipality-wide election.

Accessible Elections:

Under both the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the MEA, the Clerk is required to ensure that municipal elections, including by-elections, are accessible to people with disabilities, including both electors and candidates. If Option 2

is selected, Staff would review and revise the Election Accessibility Plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and would make the plan available to the public before voting day.

Timelines: When setting dates, staff will strive to adhere to the proposed timeline to ensure prompt representation for Dummer Ward residents on Council. Additionally, they aim to allow for an ample campaign period, provide sufficient time for voters to cast their votes, and ensure compliance with all legislated deadlines. The following provides an overview of a tentative timeline and options for methods to deliver a by-election should Council pass a by-law to hold a by-election:

- June 17, 2025 – Council considers methods to fill vacancy – By-election selected
- Late in Fourth Week of June – Special Council meeting to pass the by-election By-law and Voting methods by-law
- August 11, 2025 – Nomination Period begins
- September 8, 2025 – Nomination Day (2 p.m.)
- October 6, 2025 – Advance Voting Days
- October 16, 2025 – Voting Day (ends at 8:00 p.m.)
- October 20, 2025 – Official Results
- November 4, 2025 – New Dummer Ward Elected Official Sworn in at Council Meeting
- December 19, 2025 – Financial Filing Deadline (2 p.m.)

Choosing to fill the vacancy for Office of Councillor, Dummer Ward by by-election means that the Office of Councillor, Dummer Ward will be vacant for approximately four months from the date that Council declared the vacancy.

Supports and Resources Required:

Typically for the general election, the Council and Committee Calendar is developed such that committee and council meetings are not held the month of the election due to the resources required to support logistics, training of election workers, and facilitate advance voting and election day. These preparations are extensive and require the full resources of the Clerk's office. Should Council decide to pursue a by-election, staff will bring a report to change the Council meetings in October 2025.

In addition, an Election Support worker may be necessary to execute and deliver the objectives in compliance with the legislation. In addition to Clerks staff, assistance would be required from IT staff for preparation and administration of the by-election. Staff from other departments may also be seconded to act as Deputy Returning Officers during advance voting days or voting days. Typically in an election year, the full resources of the Clerk's Department are dedicated to election planning as it is a large corporate project. Although a by-election would be on a smaller scale, it would still require considerable resourcing, and will impact other deliverables for the Department.

Communications:

Should Council pass a by-law to hold a by-election in the Dummer Ward, staff will build a communication plan to ensure that a Dummer Ward by-election is advertised to potential candidates and to voters. Given the tight timelines of the by-election and the limited availability of print newspaper for information dissemination, staff will craft a plan incorporating various print and digital communication methods. While time and resource constraints may limit extensive outreach efforts compared to a regular municipal election, staff will create a comprehensive communication plan for the by-election.

Budgetary Considerations: Staff have reached out to the City of Kawartha Lakes who recently held a by-election. Their costs were approximately \$70,000 for around 12,000 voters. The Town of Port Hope held a by-election in 2024 and their costs were \$25,000 for approximately 4000 eligible voters. Should Council wish to hold a by-election staff will reach out to our vendors from the 2022 election to received quotes for the necessary services. These costs will include the costs to retain the internet and telephone voting provider and Canada Post to mail the Voter Information Letters.

Though the by-election would be for a single vacant council seat, many of the cost requirements would be similar to the previous election as the same steps are required, including mailing the voter information letters and updating the Voter's List. It is anticipated that for the Dummer Ward by-election, the approximate total cost will be \$25,000. The outlined costs do not include salaries and wages for an Election Support Position and/or overtime costs related to election workers and municipal staff. Due to resourcing constraints in the Clerk's Department, it is anticipated that overtime costs for the by-election may be significant.

Following a legislative change made recently by the Province, any by-election conducted after January 1, 2024 will use the services of Election Ontario for the preliminary list of electors (PLE) as its voters' list, as opposed to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's (MPAC) preliminary list of electors used in the general election. As this is a new process, there may be additional fees and/or processes to be established to integrate the PLE into the Municipality's voter's list management system, DataFix, for recording electors.

Considerations for Option #2 (By-election):

- Lengthy and more labour-intensive process, thereby leaving a vacancy for a longer period.
- Significant costs arising from voting provider, communications materials and voters' list/auditor services requirements.
- Ensures a democratic process is employed for all electors.

- Requires a more extensive communications plan to ensure the public and potential candidates are made aware of key election materials and candidate information.
- Results in electors going to the polls in October 2025.
- By-election voter turnout is historically lower than a general election.

Conclusion:

As a result of Council declaring a vacancy for the Office of Councillor, Ward 2 on June 17, 2025, Council must select a method to fill the vacancy. Due to the time remaining in the term before the next election in October 2026 and due to the possible costs required to hold a by-election staff are recommending one of the appointment options.

Details for appointment or by-election processes are outlined in this report and staff seek direction from Council on how to proceed.

Financial Impact:

The 2025 Budget does not include funding for the costs of an unplanned appointment or by-election. If Council chooses to fill the vacancy by by-election, it is estimated that the costs will be approximately \$25,000, which does not include costs related to staff overtime. This estimate is based on the costs for by-elections recently held in City of Kawartha Lakes and Town of Port Hope as well as the number of estimated eligible electors in Dummer Ward. If this unplanned cost is not offset by savings elsewhere in the Clerk's Office Budget through the remainder of the year, it would result in a need to draw from the Election Reserve. This would result in the Reserve being underfunded which would require a large increase to the annual transfer to cover the costs of the 2026 Election.

**Township of Douro-Dummer
Strategic Plan 2023-2027**



Service Modernization and Innovation
Modernizing, refining and innovating services for residents is essential to effectively meet the needs of our community, enhance our operational efficiency, and ensure we remain adaptable in a rapidly changing world.



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Business attraction, expansion, and retention is vital for the economic health and sustainability of our Township, such as job creation, tax revenue, investing in innovation, maintaining our quality of life, and supporting community stability.



Infrastructure Renewal
Infrastructure renewal is a critical investment for our Township as it will ensure our adherence to health and safety, economic development, investment attraction, environmental sustainability, quality of life, public confidence, and regional competitiveness.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Method to Fill a Vacancy for Office of Councillor, Dummer Ward - Clerk's Office-2025-19.docx
Attachments:	- Form EL08 - 2022 - DOURO-DUMMER - digital.pdf - Draft By-law - Appointment of Person representing Dummer Ward.docx
Final Approval Date:	Jun 11, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Todd Davis

Certificate of Election Results*

Municipal Elections Act, 1996, s.11.4(3)

I hereby certify that during the municipal election held on Monday, October 24, 2022, for the offices listed below, the certified candidates received the votes that follow their respective names:

Name of Candidate	Office	Votes
Jim Coyle	Mayor	1124
Heather Watson	Mayor	1501
Harold Nelson	Deputy Mayor	1499
Marc Trudeau	Deputy Mayor	1010
Marie Howran	Councillor – Douro Ward	383
Ray Johnston	Councillor – Douro Ward	530
Mark Porter	Councillor – Douro Ward	356
Shelagh Landsmann	Councillor – Dummer Ward	561
Adam Vervoort	Councillor – Dummer Ward	703
Frank Doyle	Trustee, English Separate School Board	167
Jennifer Leahy	Trustee, English Separate School Board	257
Kristine Dandavino	Trustee, French Public School Board	1
Serge Paul	Trustee, French Public School Board	0

Dated this 27 day of October , 2022.

Original Signed by Martina Chait-Hartwig

Municipal Clerk or designate

**This form may be used to report elections results from one municipal to another municipality for candidates elected across more than one municipal jurisdiction. While Section 11 deals with Police Villages, this form may also be used by Clerks involved with shared School Trustee positions.*

Corporation of the Township of Douro-Dummer

By-law Number 2025-XX

Being a By-Law to Provide for the Appointment of a Person in the Office of a Member of Council representing Dummer Ward in the Township of Douro-Dummer

WHEREAS Section 263 (1) (a) the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended (the Act) allows a council to fill a vacancy in the office of a member of council by appointing a person who has consented to accept the office if appointed;

and WHEREAS a vacancy was declared in the Office of a Member of Council representing Dummer Ward in the Township of Douro-Dummer on Jun 17, 2025;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Douro-Dummer enacts as follows:

1. That the vacancy in the Office of a Member of Council representing Dummer Ward be filled by appointing a person who has consented to accept the office if appointed.
2. That the vacancy must be filled by someone who is eligible under the Act to hold office provided, they:
 - a) reside in the local municipality or are the owner or tenant of land in the Municipality or the spouse of such owner or tenant;
 - b) are a Canadian citizen;
 - c) are at least 18 years old; and
 - d) are not prohibited under subsection (3) of the Municipal Elections Act, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched or otherwise by law.
3. That _____, who has signified in writing that they are legally qualified to hold office and has consented to accept the office, is hereby appointed to the position of a Member of Council representing Dummer Ward for the Township of Douro-Dummer, for the duration of the 2022- 2026 term of Council.
4. That this By-law shall come into full force and effect on the day it is passed.

Passed in open Council this xx day of xxx, 2025.

Mayor, Heather Watson

Clerk, Martina Chait-Hartwig

Recommendation:

That the report C.A.O.-2025-11, dated June 17, 2025 regarding the 2025 Ice Storm Recovery be received; and

That Council pass a resolution that supports the Township of Douro Dummer applying to the Province of Ontario's Municipal Disaster Relief Assistance program seeking financial assistance for the recovery of extraordinary costs associated with this natural disaster.

Overview:

On Friday, March 28, 2025, the Township of Douro Dummer declared a Significant Weather Event in anticipation of the impending freezing rain / ice storm anticipated to impact the community the following day and through-out the weekend. As predicted the storm arrived and, in its wake, significant damage was done that resulted in blocked roads, fallen trees and limbs, downed utility lines, and widespread power outages that impacted 100% of our community. In consultation with the Fire Chief and CAO, the Mayor declared a State of Emergency Sunday, March 30. Shortly after the emergency was declared, the Emergency Operations Centre was established as per protocol and staff identified the following objectives to both continue municipal operations throughout the State of Emergency and to guide our clean-up efforts:

- Protect the public from harm
- Keep residents informed about what is available from the Township and County
- Clear roads for emergency response, followed by a complete clearing and clean-up once emergency access is available on all public roads
- Maintain service availability as best as possible via generators
- Protect municipal buildings from cold weather (water lines)
- Plan for debris receipt as residents move to recovery phase
- Record costs for emergency response and advocate for assistance from the Province of Ontario

The following is a chronology of the Township's response to the 2025 Ice Storm:

- **March 31 to April 6** - Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) established and regular meetings commence.
 - Website and social media kept up to date with regular postings of relevant information for residents
 - All Public Works and Parks staff with support from volunteer firefighters begin to clear brush and debris from roads, staff secured 2 rental chippers to expedite cleanup.
 - Extended operating hours at the Transfer Station with additional staff. Accepting storm-related brush and spoiled food waste at T. Station.

- Contractor with excavator and 2 dump trucks started removing brush at White Lake Road hauling to Transfer Station.
 - Assessments of parks revealed extensive damage across all parks, most notably at the Robert Johnston EcoForest Trails.
 - County opens depots for free brush drop off.
 - Townhall space opened in Warsaw for warming and device charging during regular office hours.
 - Removed significant weather event, and maintained the state of emergency
- **April 7 to 13** – EOC meetings continue.
 - Website and social media kept up to date with regular postings of relevant information for residents
 - All roads, including private are now open for emergency access
 - All staff continue to clear brush from roads.
 - Extended operating hours at the Transfer Station with additional staff.
 - Contractor with excavator and 2 dump trucks continues removing brush from roads, hauling to Transfer Station.
 - Tenth Line Road Dummer closed April 8 due to culvert failure. Culvert repaired, road reopened afternoon of April 9.
- **April 14 to 20** – EOC meetings continue.
 - Extended operating hours at the Transfer Station with additional staff.
 - Staff continue to clear brush from roads, utilizing 2 chippers, excavator and trucks.
 - Contractor with excavator and 2 dump trucks continues removing brush from roads, hauling to Transfer Station.
- **April 21 to 27** – EOC meetings continue.
 - April 23 state of emergency ended clean-up to continue.
 - Extended operating hours at the Transfer Station with additional staff.
 - Staff continue to clear brush from roads.
 - Contractor with excavator and 2 dump trucks continues removing brush from roads, hauling to Transfer Station.
 - Contractor with grinder moved into the Transfer Station to start grinding brush piles.

- **April 28 to May 4**
 - Extended operating hours at the Transfer Station with additional staff until May 1st (summer hours).
 - Staff continue to clear brush from roads.
 - Contractor with excavator and 2 dump trucks continues removing brush from roads, hauling to Transfer Station.
 - Contractor finished grinding brush piles at Transfer Station.
- **May 5 to 11**
 - Staff continue to clear brush from roads.
 - Contractors finished roadside cleanup May 7th.
- **May 12 – 18**
 - Staff finished clearing brush from all public roads. Roadside cleanup complete.
- **June 1** – Last day accepting brush at Transfer Station

Conclusion:

Based on the extensive public and private property damages associated with the 2025 Ice Storm, the Township was under a declared state of emergency for 24 days. Once Township staff were confident that more than 95% of our residents had power returned, road conditions were acceptable to begin minimum maintenance standards, the state of emergency was terminated. From April 24 through June 1, 2025 staff continued to both actively work towards recovery removing trees, brush and debris from our public roads and properties while providing on-going assistance to residents through free brush drop-offs at our Transfer Station.

Financial Impact:

The Province of Ontario offers a Municipal Disaster Relief Assistance (MDRA) program. The program helps municipalities recover from extraordinary costs after a natural disaster.

Municipalities typically only qualify for the program if expenses related to the disaster are greater than 3% of own purpose taxation levy. Therefore, the Township's threshold for this program is \$221,927. The current estimate of eligible expenses is \$231,801.41 so the Township would meet the threshold. However, the Township did receive notification that the threshold was removed by the province for expenses related to the ice storm.

The province will reimburse the municipality at 75% for expenses up to the first three per cent of the municipality's own purpose taxation levy. The municipality would be responsible for the remaining 25% of these expenses. For eligible expenses incurred beyond 3% of a municipality's own purpose taxation levy, the province will reimburse the municipality at 95 per cent, and the municipality would be responsible for the remaining five per cent. This means that we expect the province to provide \$175,825 of funding to the Township through MDRA.

The following table summarises the expenses incurred to date; staff will be reviewing the program criteria in further detail in the coming weeks as we prepare the claim and expect these figures to change slightly.

Expense Type	Ineligible Expenses	Eligible Expenses	Notes
Equipment Rentals	-	15,697.24	Chippers
Contracted Services	-	156,994.40	Assistance with brush cleanup and tree removal
Misc Materials and Supplies	3,567.35		Protective equipment and supplies for machinery. Preliminary review shows that these costs are ineligible.
Internal Machine Time Allocation	24,795.67	16,530.44	This is the machine time spent on cleanup. We will need to compare our internal chargeout rates and allowable rates from the province.
Labour	<u>53,299.97</u>	<u>42,579.33</u>	The MDRA Program only provides funding for costs that would not have otherwise been incurred, ie. Overtime, backfilling, temporary staff.
Total	80,937.48	231,801.41	
Grant Breakdown:			
Provincial Share			
75% up to 3% of Levy		166,445.25	3% of our levy is \$221,927
95% over 3% of Levy		<u>9,380.69</u>	
Total Provincial Share		175,825.94	
Total Municipal Share	80,937.48	55,975.47	

**Township of Douro-Dummer
Strategic Plan 2023-2027**



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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2025 Ice Storm Wrap Up and MDRA Funding Report - C.A.O.-2025-11.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 11, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Chuck Pedersen was completed by workflow administrator Martina Chait-Hartwig

Chuck Pedersen

No Signature found

Paul Creamer

(APPROVED)

Minutes of the Township of Douro-Dummer Public Library Board Meeting

May 13, 2025, 4:00 PM

Present: **Thomas Watt**
 Darla Milne
 Georgia Gale-Kidd
 Diane Bonner
 Tina Fridgen

Staff Present **Maggie Pearson**

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the Board being present, the Secretary called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

2. Disclosure of any Pecuniary Interest

The Chair reminded members of the Board of their obligation to declare any pecuniary interest they might have. None were declared.

3. Approval of March 11, 2025 Minutes

Resolution Number 12-2025

Moved by: Darla Milne

Seconded by: Diane Bonner

That the March 11, 2025 draft minutes be approved.

Carried

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

4.1 Friends of the Library

Verbal report from Georgia Gale-Kidd: the annual book, seed & plant sale was a community building and fundraising success; the Friends of the Library earned approx. \$800.00 for the library to put towards improving the library grounds with the goal of expanding usable, outdoor accessible space for library users. Friends of the Library programming will pause for the summer as per usual while they use the time to develop fall programming including Culture Days.

4.2 Art Gallery Committee

Verbal report from Tina Fridgen: the art gallery committee has reached out to and spoken with several local high schools including Thomas A. Stewart, Holy Cross, and St. Peter's Secondary School about a Summer Student Art Show which is planned to run for July and August. The Lakefield Creative Arts Group will hang their show for September/October and Brian Nichols for November/ December. The Board also discussed the need to grow the membership of the Art Gallery Committee.

Resolution Number 13-2025

Moved by: Darla Milne

Seconded by: Tom Watt

That these committee reports be accepted for information.

Carried

4.3 Policy Committee

4.3.1 DDPL-Per-007

4.3.2 DDPL-PER-008

4.3.3 DDPL-PER-009

4.3.4 DDPL-PER-011

Resolution Number 14-2025

Moved by: Tina Fridgen

Seconded by: Tom Watt

That policy no. DDPL-PER-007, DDPL-PER-008, DDPL-PER-009, and DDPL-PER011 be adopted as is.

Carried

5. Financial Report Dated May 9, 2025

Resolution Number 15-2025

Moved by: Darla Milne

Seconded by: Diane Bonner

That the financial report be accepted for information.

Carried

6. Librarian Reports:

6.1 Report to Board: Operations & Projects

6.2 Report to Board: Stats March & April

Resolution Number 16-2025

Moved by: Diane Bonner

Seconded by: Tina Fridgen

That these librarian reports be accepted for information.

Carried

Resolution Number 17-2025

Moved by: Darla Milne

Seconded by: Tina Fridgen

That, following their annual performance review, the Library Clerk be moved to Step 1 of band 400-499.

Carried

7. New Business:7.1 Board Assembly Attendee Nomination**Resolution Number 18-2025**

Moved by: Darla Milne

Seconded by: Tina Fridgen

That Diane Bonner represents the Board at the Board Assembly Thursday, May 29th
Carried

7.2 Douro 200th Anniversary

Verbal report from Maggie Pearson: Library staff will support a local history/ genealogy program in the library together with the Douro 200th Committee on May 31st and June 14th. Library volunteers are also developing an in library local history display with interactive programming for the weekend of the anniversary event (July 5th).

Resolution Number 19-2025

Moved by: Georgia Gale-Kidd

Seconded by: Diane Bonner

That the library CEO continue to support the Douro 200th Anniversary Committee
Carried

8. Adjournment**Resolution Number 20-2025**

Moved by: Diane Bonner

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:51 PM

Carried

9. Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 10th, 2025 at the Douro-Dummer Public Library

Chair, Georgia Gale-Kidd

Secretary, Maggie Pearson

June 4, 2025

Please be advised that, at their regular meeting on June 3, 2025, Council of the Municipality of North Grenville adopted the following resolution:

Title: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario By Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

Date: June 3, 2025

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced *Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of North Grenville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes;

AND WHEREAS Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of North Grenville urges the Government of Ontario to recommit to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in Canadian law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and engage in transparent inclusive consultations with Indigenous Nations and civil society before tabling new development legislation;

AND WHEREAS Special Economic Zones would allow the Province to unilaterally override municipal decision-making by exempting Special Economic Zones from Municipal By-laws;

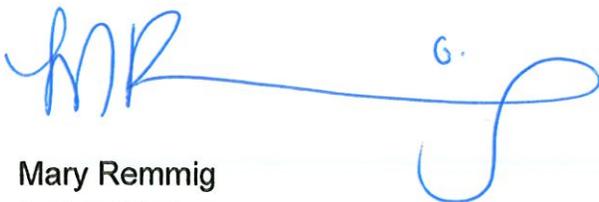
AND WHEREAS the use of Special Economic Zones to bypass local deliberation on proposed projects may not deliver on the promise of supporting economic growth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Municipality of North Grenville:

1. Opposes all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of endangered species, that override the rule of law and that nullify Municipal planning authority;
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;
3. Urges the Province of Ontario to conduct robust consultation on Bill 5: Protecting Ontario By Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025;
4. Urges the Province of Ontario not to use Special Economic Zones to exempt projects from By-laws that impacts revenue including development charge By-laws, property tax By-laws, or fees and charges By-law;
5. Requests the Province of Ontario consider the feedback submitted for Bill 5 by the Associations for Municipalities in Ontario (AMO) which highlights protecting Municipal autonomy and fiscal sustainability and Ontario's Environment and Indigenous Cultural Heritage; and,
6. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to:
 - o The Minister of Energy and Mines;
 - o The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
 - o The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
 - o The Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism;
 - o The Premier of Ontario;
 - o The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and,
 - o All Ontario Municipalities.

The above resolution, adopted by the Municipal Council, is forward for your information and action as required.

Thank you,



Mary Remmig
Acting Clerk

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE
285 COUNTY ROAD 44, PO BOX 130, KEMPTVILLE, ON K0G 1J0 T(613)258-9569 EXT 219 F(613)258-9620
clerk@northgrenville.on.ca

**Resolution of Council
City Council Meeting**

Title: Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025
Date: May 20, 2025

WHEREAS:

- 1. A municipality's parks and open spaces are critical infrastructure that support a strong community, and the public's shared and safe use of the municipality's parks and open spaces is integral to ensuring that support.**
- 2. Ontario's municipalities are struggling to maintain their parks and open spaces for their shared and safe use by the public as a result of the increasing proliferation of encampments and illicit activities related thereto.**
- 3. Municipalities that enforce their standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in their parks and open spaces must have regard to the availability of shelter space for those who need shelter.**
- 4. On January 27, 2023, Justice Valente of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice rendered his judgment in Waterloo (Regional Municipality) v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained (2023), [2023] O.J. No. 417 (Waterloo Decision) which declared that the municipality's by-law violated section 7 of the Charter and was therefore inoperative insofar as it applied to prevent encampment residents from erecting temporary shelters on a site when the number of homeless individuals in the region exceeded the number of accessible shelter beds.**
- 5. The Waterloo Decision's analysis of the adequacy of shelter beds suggests an unworkable and unclear standard that goes beyond the number of shelter spaces and that includes the requirement to provide shelter spaces that must accommodate illicit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk. The result is that municipalities are impaired in their enforcement of their standards and have lost or are losing control of their parks and open spaces.**
- 6. On December 12, 2024, the provincial government introduced Bill 242, Safer Municipalities Act, 2024. Among its various initiatives, Bill 242 proposed to amend section 2 of the Trespass to Property Act by adding aggravating factors that must be considered in the court's determination of a penalty under that section. However, the key challenge was that a municipality's exercise of its rights at common law and under section 9 of the Trespass to Property Act to remove encampments from the municipality's parks and open spaces remained potentially subject to the unworkable and unclear standard for the adequacy of shelter space suggested by the Waterloo Decision.**
- 7. On January 13, 2025, Council of the City of Peterborough resolved to request the provincial government to amend Bill 242 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.**
- 8. Bill 242 died on the order paper as a result of the recent provincial election.**
- 9. On April 30, 2025, the provincial Government re-introduced the legislation in the form of Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025. Bill 6 is substantively the same as Bill 242.**
- 10. In these circumstances, municipalities continue to need provincial legislation that clearly defines a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.**

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved:

1. That the provincial government be respectfully requested to amend Bill 6 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
2. That, without limitation, Bill 6 provide that a municipality will have met the standard for shelter space for the purposes of the municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces:
 - a) despite the establishment and enforcement of shelter rules including rules that prohibit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk; and
 - b) if an official designated by the municipality is satisfied that the number of available shelter spaces is at least equal to the aggregate of the number of individuals actually seeking shelter and the number of individuals against whom the municipality is planning to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to:
 - a) Peterborough - Kawartha MPP Dave Smith;
 - b) Honourable Doug Ford, Premier;
 - c) Honourable Robert Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
 - d) Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General;
 - e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and to
 - f) Councils of each of Ontario's municipalities.

The above resolution, adopted by City Council is forwarded for your information and action, as required. Thank you.

John Kennedy

John Kennedy, City Clerk



Staff Report

Meeting Date: June 4, 2025

To: County Council

Report Number: PDPW 2025-19

Title: Comments on Bill 17 - Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025

Author: Keziah Holden, General Manager of Planning
Jennifer Stover, CFO/CIO/Deputy CAO

Approved by: Sheridan Graham, CAO/Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

Recommendation: That Report PDPW 2025-19, Comments on Bill 17 – the Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025, be received;

That staff be directed to submit Report PDPW 2025-19 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting number 025-0461 as the formal response from Peterborough County on the proposed Bill; and

That a copy of the report be forwarded to each local Township and to our local MPPs for their information.

Overview

On May 13, 2025, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing sent a letter to heads of Council introducing the Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 (Bill 17). The letter states that the legislation is intended to make it easier and faster to build new homes and infrastructure in the Province. These changes will impact the Building Code Act, Development Charges Act, Planning Act, Ministry of Infrastructure Act, Transit-Oriented Communities Act, Building Transit Faster Act and the Metrolinx Act. This report focuses primarily on changes proposed to the Planning Act ([ERO posting 025-0461](#)), particularly those changes which have potential to impact County land use



Council Report

planning applications and/or processes. The commenting period remains open until June 11, 2025, for this posting.

The Ministry is also seeking comments on associated regulatory changes through Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) postings [025-0462 \(Proposed Regulations – Complete Application requirements\)](#) and [025-0463 \(Proposed Regulations – As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements\)](#).

Analysis

There are several key changes proposed to the Planning Act. The first is intended to streamline approvals for new schools by permitting them as-of-right on lands that are designated or zoned for residential uses and prevents municipalities from adopting Official Plan Amendments or passing zoning amendments that would prohibit a school use in a residential designation/zone. This includes elementary and secondary schools as well as any childcare centre located within the school. Within the County of Peterborough this would impact the four serviced settlement areas the most, since all other settlement areas are designated to allow a wide variety of uses as-of-right. Serviced settlement areas such as Lakefield and Norwood have more specific land use designations to direct development. There are no concerns from County staff with respect to this change as new school sites are typically identified through the processing of subdivision applications, in which case the school boards work directly with the applicant and County to secure appropriate lands. To identify a site that is not subject to a Planning Act application such as this, a school use would not be deemed incompatible with residential development. The new County Official Plan already permits school uses within the Residential designation so there is no conflict with this policy moving forward. Local municipalities may need to update their Zoning By-Laws to include provisions in residential zones for school uses.



Council Report

Bill 17 is also proposing to make changes relating to studies that are required to deem an application complete and also require municipalities to accept studies at face value from certain certified professionals. Specifically, the change will limit the information and material that can be required by a municipality to support an Official Plan amendment, Zoning By-Law amendment, site plan control, plan of subdivision or consent application by excluding the following types of studies:

- Sun/Shadow
- Wind
- Urban Design
- Lighting

Within Peterborough County, the above studies are not typically required as part of a complete application simply because development in the area is not constructed to the height or scale associated with these types of studies. The County has no concerns from excluding these studies from complete application requirements. That said, the County requests that the Ministry continue to permit the following studies, and any others that are listed in the existing or new County Official Plan, as part of a complete application:

- Functional Servicing and Stormwater Management
- Hydrogeological
- Traffic Impact
- Environmental Impact
- Planning Justification
- Geotechnical
- Archaeological

To improve consistency among municipalities, the Province may wish to consider a standardized terms of reference for common studies as they relate to specific types of applications. Environmental Impact Studies, as a local example, are regularly required to support development applications but the scope of the study varies significantly depending on the geographic location of the property and author of the study. As such there is no consistent 'yard stick' by which to evaluate the studies by application type or across municipalities.



Council Report

Relating to study requirements is a proposed change to the Planning Act which requires approval authorities to accept studies where the information or material is prepared by a “person authorized to practise a prescribed profession”. It is unclear whether the provisions proposed to be added to the Planning Act are intended to curtail the use of peer reviewers acting on behalf of Municipalities or whether it is solely to be used for the purposes of deeming an application complete. Furthermore, Bill 17 does not define a “person authorized to practise a prescribed profession”. The County agrees that supporting information and material should be completed by a certified professional but strongly objects to these changes if the intent is to eliminate a Municipality’s ability to conduct an independent review of any or all supporting studies. The peer review process ensures that all applicable legislation and regulations are followed, that the recommendations are reasonable and in the interests of the public, and that there will be no undue burden placed on the Municipality or existing taxpayers. Particularly where infrastructure will ultimately be assumed by the Municipality or where recommendations relate to public health and safety, the peer review process is critical for protecting against any liability.

Lastly, Bill 17 has introduced as-of-right variations to setback requirements. The County is not approval authority for and does not process minor variance applications. These changes do, however, have potential to impact all eight Municipalities within the County as the Bill is proposing to allow a 10% variation to setback requirements established in local Zoning By-Laws. The intent is to reduce the volume of minor variance applications and permit more development as-of-right. The County does have high level concerns that allowing these variances as-of-right may have the unintended consequence of negatively impacting the natural environment or allowing a noxious use to negatively affect nearby sensitive uses.



Council Report

The Technical Briefing, attached as Appendix B to this report, alludes to the possibility of the Province introducing legislation which would establish simplified, standardized and inclusive land use designations with more permitted uses. The contents of Bill 17 do not currently address this matter. Any future legislation changes in this regard should be carefully considered as it would have overarching implications across all Municipalities in Ontario, and what is appropriate for major urban areas such as Toronto may not be appropriate in the Peterborough County context.

Financial Impact

Bill 17 proposes four key changes to the Development Charges Act, each of which could have a financial impact to the County.

1. Development charges will be exempt on long term care homes. Where they are being built as part of a mixed-use development, only the residential component will be exempt. Development charges will still apply to the commercial space.

The current Development Charges Act (DC Act) requires municipalities to complete an amended background study and hold a public meeting when amending the development charge by-law.

2. Bill 17 proposes waiving the requirement for a background study and public meeting if the amendment results in the development charges decreasing or if the amendment repeals the provision for indexing of the development charge rates.
3. Currently, development charges are payable at issuance of a building permit.

The proposal under Bill 17 is to defer the payment of residential development charges until the earlier of: the date the occupancy permit is issued; or the actual occupancy date.



Council Report

This will have a cash flow implication to the County as the receipt of development charges will be delayed. This is of particular concern as the majority of the County's growth-related projects are for infrastructure that is generally required to be in place prior to the growth (i.e. roads and bridges).

The current DC Act requires development charges to be paid prior to the issuance of a building permit therefore there is a mechanism to ensure payment is received.

With the proposed change deferring the payment of development charges to occupancy, the lower tier municipalities will need to somehow secure payment of development charges from the developer (i.e. letter of credit). This will add an additional administrative burden to the lower tiers.

4. Under the current subsection 26.2 (5) of the Development Charges Act, DC rates are frozen at the time of application for rezoning or site plan approval, provided building permits are not issued within 18 months of application approval.

Bill 17 proposed that the development charges payable would be the lower of the frozen amount (including any interest applied or the development charges in effect at the time of building permit issuance.

This change is intended to prevent frozen DCs from being higher than current rates.

Anticipated Impacts on Local and/or First Nations Communities

None.

In consultation with:

1. Iain Mudd, Director of Planning, Development and Public Works



Council Report

Communication Completed/required:

Submission of this report to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing via the relevant ERO postings.

Attachments

Appendix A – Bill 17 Letter from Hon. Robert Flack, MMAH

Appendix B – Technical Briefing prepared by MMAH

Respectfully submitted,

Keziah Holden, B.A., MCIP, RPP

General Manager of Planning, Peterborough County

Phone: (705) 743-0380 ext. 2402

Jennifer Stover

CFO/CIO/Deputy CAO

Phone: (705) 743-0380 ext. 2116

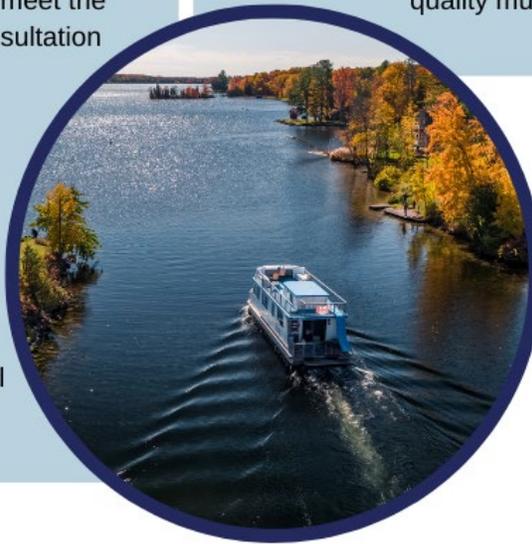
Council Report

MISSION

Peterborough County is an upper tier municipal government serving residents, visitors, and eight townships to meet the needs of our community, in consultation with First Nations. The County provides paramedic services (emergency and community); public works and land use planning services as well as partnered services including public health, economic development and tourism, municipal long-term care, social and children's services, and housing support.

VISION

Working together with our townships and service delivery partners to provide high quality municipal services to our communities.



**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

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Tél. : 416 585-7000

234-2025-2204

May 13, 2025

Dear Head of Council,

On May 12, 2025 I introduced the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 (Bill 17)*. Through this legislation, and other changes, we are responding to recommendations and requests from municipal leaders to make it easier and faster to build new homes and infrastructure Ontario needs like transit, roads, water, and wastewater systems.

The bill contains bold actions to protect Ontario from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Transportation. Details about the range of measures can be found in the [news release](#).

Building Code Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedule 1 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Building Code Act* which include:

- Adding a provision to clarify that municipalities do not have the authority to create or enforce their own construction standards.
- Eliminating the requirement for a secondary provincial approval of innovative construction products for products that have already undergone a “Canadian Code Compliance Evaluation” by the federal Canadian Construction Materials Centre ([25-MMAH0042](#)). Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RR) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025.

Development Charges Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedule 4 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, to standardize the development charge (DC) methodology and framework and improve predictability of costs, include:

- Creating a regulation-making authority to merge service categories for DC credits.
- Creating a regulation-making authority to specify what constitutes a “local service.”
- Expanding the DC deferral to non-rental residential developments. Related changes include:

.../2

- Providing municipalities authority, in circumstances set out in regulation, to require financial security for payment of deferred DCs for non-rental residential developments; and
- Removing authority for municipalities to charge interest on any legislated DC deferral amounts.
- Enabling municipalities to make any changes to their DC by-laws for the sole purpose of reducing DCs or removing indexing without undertaking certain procedural requirements.
- Creating a regulation-making authority to prescribe exceptions, including conditional exceptions, to capital costs that are eligible to be recovered from DCs.
- Providing that the frozen DC rates on a development would not be applicable if the current DC rates in effect would result in a lower payment.
- Exempting long-term care homes within the meaning of subsection 2 (1) of the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* from municipal DCs.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed measures. Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RR) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- [RR 25-MMAH003](#): Changes to the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, to Simplify and Standardize the Development Charge (DC) Framework.

Planning Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedules 3 and 7 of the Bill propose changes to the *Planning Act* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* that would help streamline and standardize municipal development processes. If passed, the proposed changes would:

- Provide authority for regulations to limit municipal complete application studies and provide greater recognition of planning reports prepared by prescribed certified professionals,
- Remove the need for certain minor variances,
- Give the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the authority to impose conditions on a use permitted by a Minister's zoning order, and
- Streamline planning approvals for publicly funded kindergarten to grade 12 schools.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed measures. Comments can be made through the Environmental Registry of Ontario from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- [ERO 025-0461](#): Proposed Planning Act and City of Toronto Act, 2006 Changes (Schedules 3 and 7 of Bill 17- Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025).

We are also interested in receiving any comments you may have on associated regulatory changes. The government is undertaking 45-day consultations on the following proposals from May 12, 2025, to June 26, 2025:

- ERO 025-0462: Proposed Regulations – Complete Application (seeking feedback on proposed regulations to address complete application requirements (study/report requirements) and submissions from certified professionals)
- ERO 025-0463: Proposed Regulation – As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements (seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would allow variations to be permitted “as-of-right” if a proposal is within 10% of requirements for setbacks from property lines applicable to specified lands)

The Environmental Registry postings provide additional details regarding the proposed changes.

Ministry of Infrastructure Act – Ministry of Infrastructure

Schedule 6 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Ministry of Infrastructure Act, 2011* (MOIA), to provide the Minister of Infrastructure with the authority to request information and data from municipalities and municipal agencies, where needed to support provincially funded infrastructure projects. This would help speed up the delivery of critical infrastructure that our growing communities need, while also supporting jobs and economic growth. Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RR-25MOI003) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025.

Transit-Oriented Communities Act – Ministry of Infrastructure

Proposed changes to the *Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Act, 2020*, would reduce barriers to implementing the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) by:

- Amending the definition of a “Transit Oriented Communities project” to include projects along the GO and LRT network more efficiently,
- Removing OIC approval requirements for any agreements between the Minister (or an entity with delegated powers) and a municipality, and
- Enabling the Minister to delegate certain responsibilities to Infrastructure Ontario for the purpose of developing TOCs.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed changes. Comments can be made through the Environmental Registry of Ontario from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- ERO 025-0504: Proposed *Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020*, changes to reduce barriers to implementing municipal agreements.

Ministry of Transportation

Schedule 2 of the bill proposes a change to the *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020* (BTFA) that, if passed, would extend the use of the BTFA measures to all provincial transit projects. This change would remove barriers to building transit faster and get shovels in the ground quicker to build major provincial transit projects that connect communities.

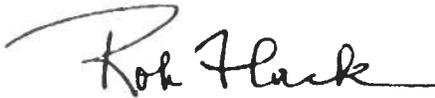
A proposed amendment to the *Metrolinx Act, 2006*, permits the Minister of Transportation to request certain information and data from municipalities or municipal agencies necessary to support the development of provincial transit projects or Transit-Oriented Communities projects.

You may provide your comments on the proposed change to the BTFA through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) notice [ERO 025-0450](#) and the Ontario Regulatory Registry notice ([RR 25-MTO005](#)) and the *Metrolinx Act* ([RR 25-MTO006](#)) from May 12, 2025 to June 11, 2025.

The government invites you to review the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) and [Regulatory Registry of Ontario](#) posting links provided above and share any feedback you may have. If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, Tanner Zelenko, at Tanner.Zelenko@ontario.ca.

In the face of economic uncertainty, we must protect Ontario by speeding up construction so we can lower housing costs and keep workers on the job. I look forward to continued collaboration with you, our municipal partners, to create the homes that Ontario need today, tomorrow, and in the decades to come.

Sincerely,



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

- c. The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
The Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Laura Smith, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Brian Saunderson, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Municipal Chief Administrative Officers

TECHNICAL BRIEFING

*Protect Ontario by
Building Faster and
Smarter Act, 2025*



**PROTECT
ONTARIO**

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
May 12, 2025



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- 14** Streamlining/standardizing development charges framework

If you need this information in an alternative format, please contact mma.media@ontario.ca



Protect Ontario by building faster and smarter

The Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025, if passed, would remove unnecessary barriers to building, so Ontario can get shovels in the ground faster for vital projects and protect Ontario workers during this time of increasing U.S. tariffs. The package includes legislative and related initiatives to fuel growth, create the conditions for investment, open up new markets and create good-paying jobs, and is the next step in the government's plan to protect Ontario by building a stronger, more resilient economy that can withstand whatever comes our way.

Accelerating transit and provincial infrastructure development

Faster Transit Project Delivery

- Proposed amendments by the Ministry of Transportation to the Building Transit Faster Act (BTFA) would expand the definition of priority transit projects and BTFA measures to all provincial transit projects.

Accelerating Transit-Oriented Community projects

Expanding the scope of TOC projects and reducing red tape to support delivery of the program

- Ontario is proposing to amend the Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020 to match similar changes proposed to the Building Transit Faster Act, 2020, to include transit projects along the GO Heavy Rail and Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines as priority transit projects.

Enabling authorities to speed up transportation permitting

Building roads faster

- Ontario will consult with municipalities and stakeholders to develop a framework that will standardize road building specifications and design across the province. That will speed up construction while reducing costs.

Speed up corridor management permits

- By reviewing MTO's corridor management permitting process Ontario will modernize MTO's corridor management approvals process and accelerate the review and issuance of highway corridor management permits.

Streamlining/standardizing municipal development processes and development charges framework

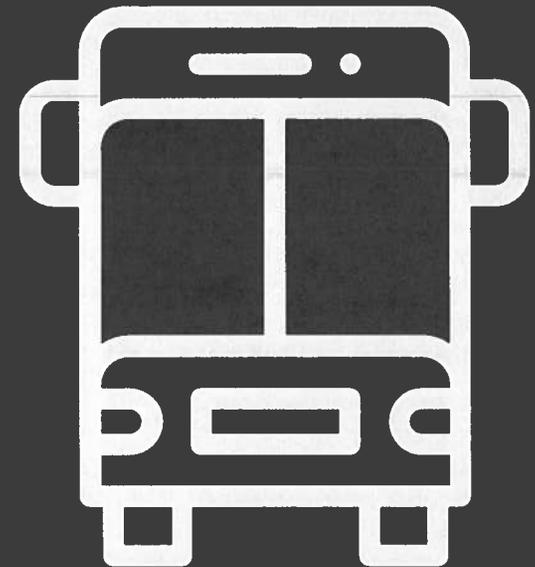
Reduce municipal requirements that impede housing development

- Ontario is proposing measures that, if passed, would: clarify that municipalities do not have jurisdiction to create construction requirements for buildings; reduce the scope and studies municipalities can require for new developments; allow for some variations from zoning by-laws without additional approvals; improve development charges standardization, predictability and transparency.

In the face of economic uncertainty, Ontario is doubling down on its **\$200 billion plan** to build by proposing changes to make it easier and faster to build new homes, and infrastructure like transit, roads, water and wastewater. This will help protect Ontario jobs and communities by encouraging new investment, creating jobs, and increasing Ontario's economic competitiveness.

Accelerating transit and provincial infrastructure development

Ontario is significantly accelerating the delivery of major transit projects by extending measures in the *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020* to all provincial transit projects.



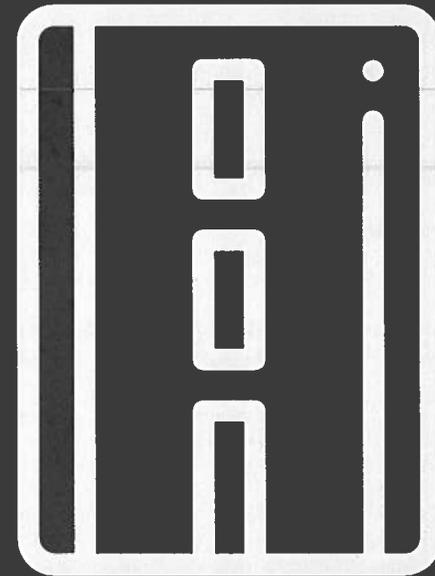
Accelerating transit and provincial infrastructure development

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Changes for Faster Transit Project Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Building Transit Faster Act, 2020</i> (BTFA) was introduced to provide the province with the tools to expedite Priority Transit Project prescribed via regulation. There are currently challenges in meeting project timelines, land access issues, and lengthy approval and notification periods that prevent transit from being built faster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An amended BTFA and <i>Metrolinx Act, 2006</i> would, upon Royal Assent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the applicability of the BTFA measures to all provincial transit projects without needing to prescribe projects via regulation, and Provide the Minister of Transportation, through an amendment to the <i>Metrolinx Act</i>, with the authority to request information and data from municipalities or municipal agencies required to support provincial transit projects or Transit-Oriented Communities projects..
Accelerating Transit-Oriented Communities (TOCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) authority needed to address certainty in land use planning matters affecting TOCs are currently under the authority of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, splitting accountability for TOC deliverables between ministries. The current definition of TOC is narrowly scoped to priority transit projects, and therefore does not cover, for example, the broader GO network. OIC approval is required to enter into ancillary TOC agreements, which can slow down execution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By providing this authority to the Minister of Infrastructure, decision-making authority would be better aligned with the Minister accountable for the TOC Program, Amending the <i>Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020</i> to match similar amendments proposed to the <i>Building Transit Faster Act, 2020</i> that will include projects on GO transit and LRT lines and enable the designation of TOC lands to apply more broadly. Amending the <i>Transit Oriented Communities Act, 2020</i> to exempt ancillary TOC agreements from requiring OIC approval.
Accelerating provincially funded projects delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Ministry of Infrastructure Act, 2011</i> (MOIA) was introduced to provide the scope of work that would fall within the purview and authorities of the Ministry to accelerate and deliver on government infrastructure projects. There are currently challenges in meeting project timelines, resulting in costly delays in meeting project delivery timelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An amended MOIA, upon Royal Assent, would provide the Minister with the authority to request information and data from a municipality or municipal agency needed to support infrastructure projects funded in whole or in part by the province.

Enabling authorities to speed up transportation permitting and harmonizing road construction standards

Ontario is reviewing MTO's corridor management permitting process and standards to confirm that the processes and standards are aligned with government policies.

Ontario is also looking to standardize road building standards across the province and consult with municipalities and industry stakeholders on road construction standards.



Enabling authorities to speed up transportation permitting and harmonizing road construction standards

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Reviewing Corridor Management Permitting Process and Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act</i> (PTHIA) governs the protection and management of provincial highway corridors. • MTO's corridor management requirements, standards and processes are based on a balanced risk-based approach that prioritizes public safety, mobility and protecting for future needs of highway corridors. The standards and processes conflict at times with a proponent's preferences for proposed developments. • Approximately 2-3% of the 2,000 development proposals processed annually are escalated internally as the developer's preferences conflict with ministry standards, and a mutually acceptable solution is elusive. In these cases, file resolution periods are extended, and projects can be delayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTO to undertake a review of the current Corridor Management process and standards. The purpose of the review is to confirm that the processes and standards are aligned with government priorities and supporting policies. The Ministry will provide options and recommendations, including on highway corridor setback standards, building and land use permits, encroachment permits and access management permits and a proposed implementation plan by the end of July 2025.
Harmonization of Road Construction Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road construction industry has advocated for the harmonization of certain road building standards which can differ amongst Ontario's 444 municipalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTO will consult with municipalities and stakeholders by fall 2025 on a framework for greater harmonization and clarified governance of municipal standards, which will lead to cost savings through more efficient design and technical review, greater construction efficiencies, and streamlined procurement processes.

Streamlining/standardizing municipal development processes and development charges framework

Ontario is proposing to reduce red tape, municipal requirements that impede housing development, and increase accountability and encourage innovation.



Streamlining municipal development processes

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Ensuring Municipalities Abide by Building Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Building Code Act</i> requires that municipalities adhere to the provincial standards outlined in the Code, and they cannot pass by-laws respecting the construction of buildings. However, despite this, builders are having to comply with different construction requirements depending on the project location and municipal preferences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same set of rules for everyone in Ontario. Clarity that municipalities do not have the authority to require their own unique standards beyond the Building Code, helping to provide consistency, reduce costs, and increase uniformity of technical standards for builders. These changes would help standardize construction requirements, resulting in faster approvals and reduced costs to help build more homes faster. It also prevents developers from having to re-design their products and designs from one jurisdiction to another saving money and time.
Study Requirements and Certified Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, there is inconsistency in the scope, type and number of studies required for planning applications across Ontario. Municipalities are currently requiring various studies and reports that are not identified within their official plans and these requirements are not consistent across jurisdiction, leading to delays and complications in the application process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through legislative changes to the <i>Planning Act</i> and the <i>City of Toronto Act, 2006</i> effective upon Royal Assent, municipalities would no longer have the ability to require new complete application studies/reports beyond what is currently identified in their official plans except where/if MMAH approves new requirements. As well, MMAH would have the regulation-making authority to create rules to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List topics that can't be required for a complete application Specify the only studies that can be required for a complete application. Require municipalities to accept studies from certified professionals. This will create more consistent and predictable requirements across municipalities.
As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements (Minor Variances) –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minor variance is a small change from a zoning by-law. Currently, approval for a minor variance can only be given by a committee of adjustment who must consider 4 tests when making their decision – whether it: 1) Is minor, 2) Meets the intent of the official plan, 3) Meets the intent of the zoning by-law, 4) Is desirable for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through an amendment to the <i>Planning Act</i> effective upon Royal Assent MMAH would have the regulation-making authority to allow variations to be permitted "as-of-right" if a proposal is within a prescribed percentage (e.g., 10%) of setback requirements in specified lands (e.g., urban residential lands), there will be a reduced necessity for planning applications for minor variances, streamlining processes and reducing barriers for development. The ministry would have flexibility to adjust rates in future. The measure would reduce red tape and address barriers to getting homes and renovations built faster. Fees for a minor variance application can help save approximately \$1,000 to \$5,000 per development and can help eliminate 12-15 months to a development project.

Streamlining municipal development processes

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Minister's Zoning Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MZOs are used to fast-track development projects in Ontario, often bypassing municipal zoning decisions. This has raised concerns about transparency and environmental impacts. The Auditor General, proponents, municipalities and stakeholders have recommended that the Minister should have authority to make MZOs subject to the fulfillment of conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through legislative changes to the <i>Planning Act</i> effective upon Royal Assent, the Minister would have authority to impose conditions that must be met before a use permitted by an MZO comes into effect. These conditions could involve actions for municipalities and/or proponents, helping to improve accountability and ensure projects meet provincial objectives.
Streamline Planning Approvals for Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, the placement of school portable classrooms on public school sites that existed after 2007 can be subject to site plan control under the <i>Planning Act/City of Toronto Act, 2006</i>. Education stakeholders, including school boards, identified this as an impediment to school capacity planning School boards have noted that municipal zoning by-laws are generally not permissive, adding to a lengthy process for new schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced barriers and length of approvals for school boards to expand capacity through amendments to the <i>Planning Act</i> and the <i>City of Toronto Act, 2006</i> to exempt the placement of portable classrooms on all school sites from municipal site plan control; and Amending the <i>Planning Act</i> to provide explicit permission to allow for publicly funded schools (kindergarten to grade 12) and associated childcare on urban lands zoned for residential uses.
Streamline Approvals for Construction Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently a secondary provincial approval for innovative construction products through a Minister's Ruling is required, even if has already been evaluated by the federal agency, the Canadian Construction Materials Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative and regulatory changes to the <i>Building Code Act</i> and the 2024 Building Code to eliminate the need for a secondary provincial approval would speed up the process. Manufacturers would have one less approval to obtain, thereby streamlining approvals and providing early access to Ontario's construction market. Manufacturers would be able to save up to almost \$800 in application fees and access the Ontario market approximately 90 days sooner in the process.
Preferential Treatment for Canadian Manufacturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturers must apply to the Building Materials Evaluation Commission (BMEC) for an authorization of their innovative construction product (e.g., fiberglass rebars, which are known to perform the same as steel rebars but half the cost), before it can be used in Ontario. Applicants pay a fee of \$11,000 + tax totaling approximately \$12,000. Canadian applicants do not have any advantage over international applicants in this process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Minister's regulation, MMAH would amend the 2024 Building Code to eliminate application fees for Canadian manufacturers. MMAH will work with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and BMEC to explore opportunities to prioritize Canadian manufacturers. This would have a positive impact on domestic supply, innovation and economic growth. The elimination of the BMEC fee would save manufactures of innovative building materials approximately \$12,000.

Streamlining municipal development processes

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Inclusionary Zoning (IZ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IZ was enabled in Ontario in 2018 under the <i>Planning Act</i> and an associated regulation (O. Reg. 232/18) as a way for municipalities to require affordable residential units in developments (of 10 or more units) • IZ can only be used in Protected Major Transit Station Areas (PMTSAs), in a community planning permit system area ordered by the Minister, or in a municipality prescribed by the Minister. • Currently, municipalities can establish set-aside rates (how many units) and affordability periods (how long the units need to be affordable) at their discretion, as long as they first complete an assessment report and economic study. • Recent economic shifts already impacted the homebuilding sector. If IZ requirements are set too high, this is likely to stall the development of both market units and affordable IZ units, leading to lower housing starts overall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through amendments to the Minister's IZ regulation, MMAH would establish a 5% maximum set-aside rate and a 25-year maximum affordability period in PMTSAs. • This change would help to ensure that IZ does not prevent housing projects from proceeding as a result of market conditions and economic viability. • Economic modelling has demonstrated that IZ capped at 5% could result in more projects being viable in the current market conditions. This percentage could be adjusted based on market conditions in future.
Provincial Policy Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the current system, outside of the Greenbelt Area, Minister's Zoning Orders are not required to be consistent with provincial policy. However, official plan decisions and some minister's orders are required to be consistent with the provincial planning statement and conform with provincial plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMAH would consult on opportunities for making provincial policy tests inapplicable with respect to all of the Minister's decisions under the <i>Planning Act</i> (e.g., approval of municipal official plans), on a case-by-case basis to enable priorities. • This reform could support increased flexibility for the Minister in decision making, thereby enabling faster, and potentially strategic, decisions aimed at increasing housing supply. It would not be intended for broad, routine use. A transparent and accountable oversight framework, would be developed to support implementation.
Streamlining Official Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns have been raised that municipal official plans have become lengthy, complicated, and highly restrictive planning documents that take multiple years to prepare and update. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMAH would consult with municipalities on proposed legislation/regulatory changes needed to establish simplified, standardized and inclusive land use designations with more permitted uses. This would be more predictable and faster for developers and approvers, especially if coupled with moving toward a permit-based system for zoning.

Streamlining municipal development processes

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Official Plan Population Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent MOF forecasts indicate that some areas will experience higher growth than previously estimated. MMAH assessed that some of the 50 large and fast-growing municipalities official plans (OPs) are outdated or misaligned with the new projections The provincial growth planning guidance hasn't been updated since 1995. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake targeted outreach to municipalities where additional population growth is projected to surpass previous estimates in their current official plans (OPs). Require those municipalities to update their plans to align with the Ministry of Finance's October 2024 population forecast, or approved upper tier forecasts, whichever is higher. The updates would be informed by updated provincial growth planning guidance (i.e., Projection Methodology Guideline IPMGI). The PMG is currently undergoing its first update since 1995. The PMG plays a vital role in helping municipalities plan for growth in a manner consistent with provincial priorities. Through this action, municipalities will have updated OPs that reflect current population projections, ensuring better planning for future growth.
Planning, Data, and Building Code IT Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is currently no provincial land use IT/data system when a municipality is the approval authority. The Building Code is currently not digitized hence its utility in expediting permitting applications is limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMAH would explore the standardization of municipal data tracking in the land use planning, building code and permit applications spaces, and leverage technology (e.g., Artificial Intelligence, enhanced digitization of Building Code) to better automate planning and permitting processes and improve transparency. The Ministry would also publish municipal planning data on an Ontario webpage.
Providing More Flexible Design and Construction Options for Four-Storey Townhouse Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, four-storey townhouses are permitted under the Ontario Building Code and Ontario Fire Code, but they often require an Alternative Solutions pathway, similar to a custom and targeted approach, for approval. This process can be complex and costly, impacting the economic viability of such projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation will consider whether amendments to the Ontario Building and Fire Codes could improve economic viability of single-unit four storey townhouses, coupled with a focused package of compensating measures for fire and life safety requirements. These changes may allow houses with more living area or bedrooms to be developed on small footprints and more predictable and transparent construction requirements, which could improve the economic viability of these projects to incent more development, contributing to more family-sized units.

Streamlining municipal development processes

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Streamlining the Development of Communal Water/Sewage Systems and Permissions for Distributed, Modular "Off-Grid" Water Treatment Facilities -</p>	<p>Communal Water/Sewage Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation requires municipal consent for the construction of communal water/sewage systems. These systems are built and operated by private owners in low density developments and they are not tied to the municipal water and wastewater system. At this time, there is no uniform process to seek municipal consent and there may be barriers to receiving it (e.g., ongoing operating costs, environmental impairment resulting from operator or system failure). Beyond use of own-source revenues (e.g., property taxes), some municipalities (small and rural) have little resources to mitigate any potential risks. <p>Modular "Off-Grid" Water Treatment Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring modular "off-grid" water treatment facilities (including proponent funded)-as a potential tool to help underserved rural communities with low-cost options for water/sewage servicing as part of a communal system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations will consider potential approaches to streamline municipal consents for communal water/sewage systems and modular "off-grid" water treatment facilities to support greater adoption, where appropriate and unlock housing supply in underserved rural communities.
<p>Exploring a Public Utility Model for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerating housing supply requires expansion in water and wastewater infrastructure capacity across the province. Municipal water and wastewater services are facing pressures related to both aging infrastructure and growth needs. As noted by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Local Authority Services, the cost of expansion is not generally recovered from water and wastewater user rates. In municipalities that collect development charges. These charges are used to fund growth-related infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province is exploring the use of a public utility model (e.g., establishing a new type of municipal service corporations) for water and wastewater to provide opportunities to enable infrastructure expansion. Targeted changes to the existing municipal services corporation-model could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance: Appointing a skills-based municipal services corporation board with municipal representation to enable timely and effective decision-making. Financial: Access to favourable financing opportunities for municipal services corporations to pay for-water and wastewater investments. Water and wastewater systems would remain publicly-owned.

Streamlining/standardizing development charges framework

Ontario is proposing to simplify and standardize development charges and work with municipalities to reduce fees that can add to the cost of a new home.

The majority of the proposed changes are based on feedback from the municipal and building sectors. If passed, many of the proposed changes would require implementing regulations that will be consulted on by the province.



Streamlining/standardizing development charges framework

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Create regulation-making authority to merge DC service categories for credit purposes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the <i>Development Charges Act, 1997</i>, builders can recoup costs for eligible infrastructure that they build in the form of a credit to be used towards their payable DCs. • However, unless the municipality provides an exemption through an agreement, these credits can only be used towards DCs for the same service (e.g., DC credits for road infrastructure can only be applied to road DCs). • This current structure limits the amount of DC credit room for developers to receive reimbursement for work performed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposed legislative change would give the province regulation-making authority to merge related service categories for the purpose of DC credits (for example, road credits could be applied to transit DCs). • If a regulation is made, it would allow developers to receive credit for work that they perform over a broader range of categories. This would also enhance consistency with municipal plans such as Transportation Master Plans. • This proposal was identified by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Home Builders' Association.
<p>Create regulation-making authority to define a local service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local services are infrastructure that a municipality may require a developer to build, as a condition of their development. These capital services may be installed and/or paid for by the developer. • The <i>Development Charges Act, 1997</i>, prohibits municipalities from levying DCs on "local services," but there is no definition of "local services" in the Act. • This lack of a definition for local service infrastructure has led to disputes between municipalities and developers about what infrastructure is deemed to be a local service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposed legislative change would provide the province with regulation-making authority to define local services to assist in standardizing what infrastructure services are captured under municipal local service infrastructure policies compared to infrastructure services captured by DCs. • This would help to reduce disputes between developers and municipalities causing delays in housing and other developments proceeding. • This proposal was identified by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Home Builders' Association.

Streamlining/standardizing development charges framework

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Defer payment of DCs for all residential developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the <i>Development Charges Act, 1997</i>, only rental housing and institutional developments (e.g., retirement homes) are subject to a mandatory payment deferral. For developments subject to the DC deferral provisions, DCs are paid in annual installments beginning at building occupancy, rather than at the time of municipal building permit issuance. This provides more cashflow flexibility for these developments as they pay their DC rates much later in the development approvals process. Municipalities may charge interest on deferred DCs to help offset deferred revenues. Non-rental residential developments generally pay DCs at the building permit issuance and do not benefit from the current DC deferral provisions. The <i>Building Code</i> only requires occupancy permits (OP) for certain residential developments where developers want occupancy to begin prior to construction being completed. To receive an OP, the Code requires developers must meet certain health and safety standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A builder could elect that DCs for any residential development be deferred from building permit issuance, until building occupancy to provide greater cash flow flexibility. If a residential development is not subject to an occupancy permit, a municipality may require a financial security (e.g., a letter of credit) to secure payment of DCs at the time of building. Municipalities would not be able to charge interest on any legislatively-deferred payments. Proposed regulation-making authority would enable the government to prescribe the instruments (i.e., financial securities) a municipality could require to secure payment of DCs. For consistency across all types of developments subject to the DC deferral provisions, it is proposed that interest payments would also be removed from the existing deferral for rental and institutional developments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, in a large central Ontario municipality, this could reduce costs for rental housing development by approximately 11 percent. This proposal was a recommendation in Mississauga's <i>Partners in Homebuilding: Mayor's Housing Task Force Report</i>.
Help enable by-laws to be amended to reduce DC rates without certain procedural requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a municipality wishes to amend their DC by-law to provide new developments relief from increases due to planned indexing of rates, introduce exemptions or discounts, or introduce an annual phase-in of rate, the municipality would need to undertake steps such as developing a new background study. DC background studies can take up to a year to produce and be quite costly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipalities would be enabled to make any changes that would only have the effect of reducing DCs without having to amend or undertake a new background study, hold public consultations, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, municipalities could remove annual indexing, allow for annual phasing-in of DCs, and provide exemptions or discounts without the need to undertake certain lengthy procedural requirements. This would save time and improve cost certainty for new developments. Potential savings would vary based on municipal size, DC by-law complexity and amendment sought. Analysis of a small, central Ontario municipality illustrated potential financial savings of up to \$60,000 and more than 6 months saved in staff time spent. This proposal was identified by the City of Toronto.

Streamlining/standardizing development charges framework

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Help enable use of the Non-residential Building Construction Price Index (BCPI) for London</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, only the Toronto and Ottawa-Gatineau StatsCan Non-Residential Building Price Index is available for use for the purpose of indexing DCs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that the new StatsCan Non-residential Building Construction Price Index for London would be prescribed as additional option for the purposes of indexing DCs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would provide Southwestern Ontario municipalities that use DCs to use an index that more closely reflects their costs (instead of the Toronto index). This proposal is aligned with a request from the City of London to the province to provide local flexibility to reduce their DC by-laws rates from indexing.
<p>Create regulation-making authority to prescribe limits on recoverable capital costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Development Charges Act, 1997</i>, lists eligible capital costs, such as land, buildings, and computer equipment, to be recovered from DCs. Currently there is regulation-making authority to prescribe the services for which only land would be an ineligible capital cost for DCs. According to a recent report by BILD/OHBA, while land costs are a reasonable eligible DC cost, the eligible land values being estimated and included in DC background studies can significantly inflate municipal DC rates across eligible services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed legislative change would create a regulation-making authority to prescribe limits and exceptions to the eligible capital costs, including land costs. This proposal would help make DC costs more predictable across all municipalities and DC services. This proposal was identified by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Home Builders' Association.

Streamlining/standardizing development charges framework

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Help enable developments to benefit from the lowest applicable DC rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DCs on a particular development are frozen when a site plan application or zoning application is made and typically payable at the time of building permit issuance at that frozen rate, plus municipal interest. If a homebuilder is issued their building permit within 18 months of the relevant application being approved, they pay the DC frozen rate. Otherwise, they pay the DC rate in effect at that time. In some circumstances, the DC rate in effect at the time can be lower than the frozen rate at the time of payment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A development receives either the frozen DC rate or a lower DC if the rates have been reduced during the freeze period. This will help to create predictability. In the future, frozen developments could benefit from this change, which could result in DCs being as much as \$45k lower for a single-detached home, as seen in the City of Vaughan.
Exempt long-term care homes from municipal DCs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCs paid by long-term care homes (non-profit and "for profit" entities) are not paid at building permit issuance (as they are for most other developments) but are instead deferred and paid in 6 annual installments over five years beginning at the time of issuance of an occupancy permit. Municipalities may charge these types of developments interest on the amounts deferred, which may increase costs further. However, even though LTC developments benefit from the existing DC deferral, payment of DCs for these institutions can serve as a financial barrier for the building of this provincial priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a legislative amendment to make long-term care homes exempt from municipal development charges on a go-forward basis. This would remove a financial barrier for LTC developments and could incent more builders to construct LTC homes for Ontario's aging population. Removal of development charges will contribute to achieving the government's 58,000 LTC bed commitment by removing costs that can total over \$30,000/bed.

Streamlining/standardizing development charges framework

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Prescribe methodologies for calculating the benefit of new infrastructure to existing development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the <i>Development Charges Act, 1997</i>, municipalities are required to deduct the costs for the share of infrastructure that would benefit existing development from the total capital cost that can be recovered from DCs. • In determining DCs, "benefit to existing" (BTE) reflects the portion of a project's costs that are deducted from the total project's costs to account for the value that infrastructure provides to those already living in the area. • This deduction ensures that DCs are used to cover the costs directly attributable to growth. • There is no consistent formula or definition for calculating BTE development in the legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Calculations are made at the discretion of municipalities based on local circumstances. ○ The BTE is typically calculated as a percentage of the total cost of each project or piece of infrastructure. This percentage reflects the proportion of the project's benefit. ○ The BTE deduction reduces the amount of the infrastructure cost that can be recovered from new development through DCs. • A regulation-making power exists to prescribe methodologies for calculating the benefit to existing development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending feedback from consultations with the development industry and municipalities, the government could prescribe a methodology, through LGIC regulation, for calculating the benefit of new infrastructure on existing development. • This would provide homebuilders with better clarity and cost certainty and make municipalities more transparent on the methodology used to determine their DCs. • This proposal was identified by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Home Builders' Association

Streamlining/standardizing development charges framework

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Increased Transparency Through Annual Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the <i>More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022</i> (Bill 23), legislative changes were made to require that municipalities must spend or allocate 60% of the money collected from DCs in a reserve fund for select services (i.e., water, wastewater, and roads) at the beginning of each year. • Municipal treasurers must prepare a financial statement accounting for the DC funds collected and in reserves each year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ This statement has to be made publicly available on the municipality's website, if the municipality has one. • Additionally, regulatory changes were made to require, beginning in 2023, the statement to set out whether the municipality anticipates incurring the capital costs projected in the background study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If not, an estimate of the anticipated variance from that projection needs to be provided along with an explanation for it. • There has been criticism that information on the municipal collection and use of DCs (e.g., annual treasurer statement) is not made readily accessible on municipal websites and is difficult to obtain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make regulatory changes to expand the DCA requirement that municipalities must spend or allocate 60% of the money in a reserve fund for select services (i.e., water, wastewater, and roads) at the beginning of each year to all services (e.g., libraries, fire, police, childcare, etc.); for example, municipalities would have to spend or allocate 60% of the money in a reserve fund for recreation at the beginning of each year. • Consult on use of existing regulation-making authority for additional requirements to enhance municipal DC information transparency. • Additionally, the Ministry will explore amendments to standardize DC background studies and improving public accessibility of annual municipal treasurer DC statements, using an existing authority. • This will lead to increased transparency to the public on the municipal collection and use of DCs towards infrastructure investment

May 30, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Premier:

**Re: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council Resolution of May 7, 2025, Re:
Correspondence from York Region, re: Provincial Funding Shortfall of
Human and Health Programs and Services**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on May 7, 2025, and Council passed the following resolution:

That Council receive and endorse the correspondence from York Region, re: Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services as attached.

Davneet Sandhu

Davneet Sandhu
Council/Committee Coordinator

Copy: Hon. Paul Calanda, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
All York Region MPP's
All Ontario municipalities

From: [Regional.Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 12:39:46 PM

On April 24, 2025 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Chairman and all nine mayors, send a joint letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Long-Term Care, and Health, and York Region MPPs requesting a meeting to:
 - a. Discuss the \$77 million shortfall in health and human services funding arrangements for mandated health and human services, taking into account population growth, socio-economic shifts and increased costs, and establish permanent sustainable provincial funding solutions to ensure York Region receives the funding needed to deliver these important programs.
 - b. Request the Province to improve the funding arrangements for mandated human and health services to reduce the burden on property taxpayers.
2. York Region staff work with community partners, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and other public sector organizations to advocate to provincial counterparts for sustainable funding to ensure services delivered by municipalities can meet growing and changing community needs.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate the report, to local municipalities, local hospitals, Human Services Planning Board, Newcomer Inclusion Table, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, United Way Greater Toronto, AdvantAge Ontario, Ontario Long-Term Care Association, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs, Association of Public Health Business Administrators, Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness, Ontario Health Teams in York Region and local Members of Provincial Parliament requesting they join in the Region's advocacy efforts.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following link:

[Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services - Committee of the Whole - Week 1 - April 10, 2025](#)

Please contact Monica Bryce, (A) Director, Integrated Business Services at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72096 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**

Sent by Email

June 4, 2025

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
MPP Pickering-Uxbridge
1550 Kingston Rd., Suite 213
Pickering, ON L1V 1C3
peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Subject: Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on May 26, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS individuals and families receiving income support through Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) are facing increasing challenges in meeting basic needs due to rising costs of living;

And Whereas Statistics Canada notes that people with disabilities have a higher poverty rate and a lower rate of employment than the overall population;

And Whereas the annual income support for Ontario Works is currently \$8,796.00 and \$16,416.00 for Ontario Disability Support Program. These supports have not increased sufficiently to keep up with inflation and the cost of living. Such costs are anticipated to continue increasing;

And Whereas the low income measure for a single person in Greater Toronto Area is estimated to be approximately \$27,343 annually, and the deep income poverty threshold is determined to be \$20,508;

And Whereas Food Banks, including our local Food Banks, provide a necessary service with increasing demands in our communities;

And Whereas the Pickering Food Bank served 1,722 adults, and 1,054 children in February 2025;

And Whereas food banks are already reducing their distribution capacity; and it is anticipated that due to developing economic circumstances, such as the current tariff war, there will be increased unemployment, increased food prices, and a heightened demand for food distribution, while donations continue to decline;

And Whereas these economic trends will continue to erode the purchasing power of OW and ODSP recipients, increasing reliance on food banks and placing additional pressure on municipalities and community organizations;

Now therefore it be resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering directs through the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. That staff send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, to strongly urge that the Ontario Provincial Government significantly raise the payments of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program and the increases be reflected in the upcoming Provincial Budget and that the increased amount aligns with inflationary costs and thereby decrease the pressure on food banks and the reliance on municipalities and taxpayers to supplement the gap in financial need; and,
2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Regional Municipality of Durham, all Municipalities in the Province of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy: Robert Cerjanec, MPP Ajax
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby
Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa
Todd McCarthy, MPP Durham
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock
Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, Region of Durham
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

All Ontario Municipalities

Chief Administrative Officer



District of Parry Sound Municipal Association

c/o Township of McKellar, 701 Hwy 124 McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

President: Lynda Carleton **Secretary-Treasurer:** Karlee Britton

RE: Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education

The District of Parry Sound Municipal Association (DPSMA), representing the twenty-three Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound, held its Spring 2025 meeting on May 23, 2025, in the Municipality of Callander. At this meeting, the following resolution was carried:

Moved by: Kathy Hamer (Municipality of McDougall)

Seconded by: Daniel O'Halloran (Township of McMurrich Monteith)

Whereas democracy is an open process – one that requires ongoing engagement between citizens and their elected officials; and

Whereas ethics and integrity are at the core of public confidence in government and in the political process; and

Whereas proper policies and procedures protect the democratic process; and

Whereas sections 223.2 and 223.3, Municipal Act, 2001 state all municipalities are required to adopt a Code of Conduct for members of Council and to appoint an Integrity Commissioner; and

Whereas it is the role of the Integrity Commissioner to educate member of Council on the Councillor Code of Conduct policy as well as to investigate alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, at the municipality's expense; and

Whereas there are many new elected officials each term of Council who need access to information and proper training in order to do the work effectively and responsibly; and

Whereas Municipal Affairs and the Ombudsman's Office are hesitant to give information, so there is nowhere to ask questions and learn; and

Whereas the only source of information is to pay for fee-for-service on a case-by-case basis from the Integrity Commissioner which is very cost-prohibitive for small municipalities; and

Whereas Council is expected to oversee the management of taxpayers money and taxpayers deserve to know where their tax dollars are being spent;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association calls upon the Ontario government to provide free access to information so that Councils can be effective in their role in our democratic system; and

Further That the DPSMA hereby requests that Municipal Affairs and/or the Ombudsman's Office and/or the Integrity Commissioner provide, if requested by a municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each investigation.

Further That this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka and to all Ontario Municipalities for support.

Forwarded on behalf of the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association; For questions and/or inquires, please contact:



Karlee Britton | Secretary-Treasurer
District of Parry Sound Municipal Association
clerk@mckellar.ca
(705) 389-2842 x4

cc:

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound
All Ontario Municipalities

The Corporation of the Township of Douro-Dummer

By-law Number 2025-25

Being a By-law of The Corporation of the Township of Douro-Dummer to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of Council held on the 17th day of June 2025

The Municipal Council of The Corporation of the Township of Douro-Dummer Enacts as follows:

1. **That** the action of the Council at its Regular Council Meeting held on 17th June 2025, in respect to each motion, resolution, and other action passed and taken by the Council at its said meeting is, except where prior approval of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal is required, hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed.
2. **That** the Mayor and the proper officers of the Township are hereby authorized to do all things necessary to obtain approvals where required, and to execute all documents as may be necessary in that behalf and the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to affix the Corporate Seal to all such documents.

Passed in Open Council this 17th day of June 2025.

Mayor, Heather Watson

Clerk, Martina Chait-Hartwig