

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024**

**A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

- p. 1        1. Correspondence from the Essa Public Library to Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson dated December 2, 2024, re: Ontario Digital Public Library Proposal from the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.
- p. 2        2. Essa Building Department Report, November 2024.
- p. 3        3. Correspondence from the Ministry of Infrastructure dated November 28, 2024, re: Ontario Investing \$1 Billion to Help Municipalities Build More Homes.
- p. 5        4. Correspondence from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility dated November 29, 2024, re: Seniors Community Grant Program Applications Now Open.
- p. 7        5. Correspondence from the City of Guelph dated November 29, 2024, re: Resolution – Enable Municipalities to Charge Fees for use of Municipal Property by Gas Utilities.
- p. 9        6. Correspondence from the Mothers Against Drunk Driving dated December 6, 2024, re: Support MADD Canada in the Fight Against Impaired Driving - Message Yearbook.
- p. 10       7. Correspondence from the Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat dated December 9, 2024, re: Ontario Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Emergency Management.
- p. 12       8. Media Release from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority dated December 10, 2024, re: NVCA’s New Conservation Areas Engagement Working Group Creates a Chance to Help Shape the Future of our Natural Spaces.
- p. 14       9. Media Release from the Premier of Ontario dated December 12, 2024, re: Ontario Restoring Safety to Parks and Public Spaces.
- p. 24       10. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:  
a) December 28, 2024 – Notice of Decision – Township of Clearview Official Plan (CV-OP-2401)
- p. 26       b) November 28, 2024 – Release – County Launches New Affordable Housing Dashboard Tool.
- p. 27       c) November 29, 2024 – Release – County Archives to Temporarily Shut Down Starting December 1.
- p. 28       d) November 26, 2024 – Council Meeting Highlights.
- p. 37       e) December 4, 2024 – Correspondence – Municipal Insurance Pool Startup.
- p. 39       f) December 4, 2024 – Release - County Implements Another Rapid Re-Housing Support in the City of Barrie.
- p. 41       g) December 10, 2024 – Release – County Creates Resources Sheet Supporting Unhoused Individuals Across Region.
- p. 45       11. Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:  
a) November 28, 2024 - Correspondence – Additional Residential Units.
- p. 47       b) December 3, 2024 - News Release - Ontario Appoints Third-Party Advisor to Lead Review of OMERS.

12. Correspondence from AMO:

- p. 49 a) November 29, 2024 – Policy Update – OPP Billing, Bills.
- p. 50 b) Correspondence – AMO Pre-Budget Submission 2025.
- p. 52 c) Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, Advocacy on Water, Recent Bills and Building Officials.

13. Correspondence from Minister of Solicitor General:

- p. 56 a) November 29, 2024 – Correspondence – OPP Billing.
- p. 58 b) November 29, 2024 – Release – Ontario Offsetting OPP Cost Increases for Small and Rural Municipalities.

**B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION**

None

**C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND REPORT TO COUNCIL**

None.

AI



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essalibrary.ca | 705-424-6531

December 2, 2024

Brian Saunderson, MPP  
Simcoe-Grey  
180 Parsons Road, Suite 28  
Alliston, Ontario  
L9R 1E8

Ontario Digital Public Library proposal from the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Dear MPP Saunderson,

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is currently highlighting an initiative that would make access to reference, research and health material equitable across the province, called the Ontario Digital Public Library.

Presently, individual library systems purchase access to digital content independently according to their available budgets. Some smaller library systems are at a disadvantage due to a smaller taxpayer base. To provide equitable access to information for all Ontarians, regardless of geographic location, an Ontario Digital Public Library is proposed. In this model, Digital Resources would be acquired at a provincial level and made available to all Ontarians.

A provincial purchase would represent the ultimate in "consortium" pricing and result in savings for library systems across the province and bridge the "Digital Divide" to make equitable resources available.

We hope you will consider and support this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Judith Hunter,  
Chair, Essa Public Library Board\  
[judith@essalibrary.ca](mailto:judith@essalibrary.ca)

cc Laura Wark, CEO ([ceo@essalibrary.ca](mailto:ceo@essalibrary.ca))  
Township of Essa Council members via Consent Agenda  
Michael Mikael, CAO, Township of Essa

1

Nov-24						
Current						
Permits Issued	# Permits Issued	# Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Construction Value of Permits Issued	Construction Value of Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Building Permit Fees	Building Permit Fees YTD
Residential	17	245	\$550,100.00	\$40,993,648.00	\$8,025.75	\$532,465.85
Commercial	4	18	\$943,000.00	\$2,133,560.00	\$3,731.00	\$18,725.00
Industrial		6		\$6,299,000.00		\$12,659.27
Institutional		7		\$788,600.00		\$3,796.50
Public Utilities		0		\$0.00		\$0.00
Agricultural		12		\$2,356,000.00		\$12,552.88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>\$1,493,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,570,808.00</b>	<b>\$11,756.75</b>	<b>\$ 580,199.50</b>
Y.O.Y.	19	341	\$3,302,378.00	\$ 64,219,786.00	\$41,533.10	\$ 684,177.37 <b>-15.20%</b>

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NEW SFD CONSTRUCTION				
Dwelling Units Created				
Type	Current Month	YTD	Dwelling Const. Value	Dwelling Const. Value YTD
SFD/SEMI/ROW	1	74	\$200,000.00	\$31,787,887.00
Mult Res Bldgs		0		\$0.00
Accessory Apt within Existing Res Bldg		0		\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>\$31,787,887.00</b>
Y.O.Y	6	75	\$ 2,745,378.00	\$ 25,472,635.00
	<b>-83.33%</b>	<b>-1.33%</b>	<b>-92.72%</b>	<b>24.79%</b>

Reviewed by Chief Building Official Pedro Granes



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NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Investing \$1 Billion to Help Municipalities Build More Homes

New loan program will help expand drinking water, wastewater and stormwater capacity

November 28, 2024

[Infrastructure](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing up to \$1 billion in loans to provide municipalities with more financing options for water infrastructure projects that enable the construction of more homes. The new Housing-Enabling Water Infrastructure (HEWI) lending stream, under [Infrastructure Ontario's \(IO\) Loan Program](#), will support the construction, expansion and rehabilitation of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects that enable new homes. Infrastructure Ontario will begin accepting applications from municipalities on December 2, 2024.

"We continue to hear from our municipal partners that one of the greatest barriers to building more homes is the need for new and expanded drinking water, wastewater and stormwater management facilities," said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. "I know there are communities across the province that want to get new homes built but need to expand their water capacity first. This new flexible financing option will help more municipalities get shovels in the ground on much-needed water infrastructure projects and more homes."

The new IO HEWI lending stream complements existing provincial programs, such as the [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#), and delivers on the government's commitment outlined in the [2024 Ontario Budget](#) to improve flexibility on loans for water infrastructure projects. The lending stream will provide municipalities, including small, rural and northern municipalities, with more flexible loan options during both the construction and repayment phases of the project. Municipalities will be able to take advantage of flexible borrowing terms that allow them to defer interest payments during the construction phase until projects are substantially complete, select longer debenture repayment terms of up to 40 years, choose more flexible repayment terms and incur lower administration costs.

A3

“The affordable, long-term financing available to municipalities through IO’s lending program has supported the modernization and renewal of public infrastructure in 335 municipalities across the province,” said Michael Lindsay, President and CEO, Infrastructure Ontario. “We look forward to working with our municipal partners to realize the potential of this lending stream, ultimately to enable the construction of more housing to benefit the people of Ontario.”

The government is also investing nearly \$2 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure funding through the [Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund](#) and the [Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program](#), in addition to the provincial [Building Faster Fund](#), to help municipalities deliver the core infrastructure needed – such as roads, bridges, drinking water and wastewater facilities – to build more homes across the province. This investment is part of the most ambitious capital plan in Ontario’s history, with more than \$191 billion over the next decade to build and improve transit, highways, hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities and other critical public infrastructure, while strengthening the economy for the future.

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#### Quick Facts

- The [Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program](#) helps municipalities and other public sector partners to build and renew public infrastructure by providing short-term construction financing and long-term fixed interest-rate loans at affordable interest rates. As of October 2024, the program has supported over 3,800 local infrastructure projects valued at more than \$22 billion.
  - Under the first intake of the \$1.22 billion Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, the province is investing \$970 million in 54 water infrastructure projects across 60 municipalities that will help enable the construction of approximately 500,000 new homes.
  - Ontario is also providing \$400 million in funding to municipalities under the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing stream of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program to build, maintain and repair core assets such as municipal roads, bridges and culverts that will enable the construction of new homes.
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NEWS RELEASE

## Seniors Community Grant Program Applications Now Open

Community organizations can apply for funding to help deliver programs and services benefiting Ontario's seniors

November 29, 2024

[Seniors and Accessibility](#)

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**TORONTO** — Applications are now being accepted for the 2025-26 Ontario [Seniors Community Grant Program](#) which supports local community groups and not-for-profit organizations to deliver programs and learning opportunities for Ontarians aged 55+.

"Our government is committed to improving the well-being of Ontario's seniors by providing learning opportunities and social and physical activities in their communities," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "That's why we're proud to support the Seniors Community Grant Program, which gives so many people the opportunity to learn new skills, socialize and take part in community life."

Every year, the Ontario government provides hundreds of [Seniors Community Grants](#) ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 for projects that help older adults live independently, ensure their safety and security, connect them to their community, and help them achieve greater financial security and social connections.

The 2025-26 Seniors Community Grants Program will focus on the following three key priority areas:

- Providing opportunities for older adults to stay active and connected in their communities, such as weekly physical activities and social engagements.
- Developing technology and digital solutions to support seniors' social engagement and access to programs and services.
- Increasing access to information and supports for health prevention and promotion.

Organizations can apply online through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#) until January 16, 2025.

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Since 2018, the government has invested over \$34 million in the Seniors Community Grants Program, supporting over 1,800 grassroots projects that help seniors stay socially and physically active in their communities.

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#### Quick Facts

- The Seniors Community Grant Program is dedicated to promoting health, community engagement and well-being for Ontarians aged 55+.
  - Applications are open now and will be accepted until 5 p.m. on January 16, 2025.
  - Seniors are Ontario's fastest growing demographic.
  - Eligible organizations must apply for a Seniors Community Grant through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#).
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#### Additional Resources

- [Find more information about applying for a Seniors Community Grant](#)
  - [View a list of past Seniors Community Grant recipients](#)
  - [A guide to programs and services for Seniors](#)
  - [Age-Friendly Communities Planning Guide](#)
- 

#### Media Contacts

##### Wallace Pidgeon

Minister's Office

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##### Media Desk

Communications Branch

[Msaa.Media@ontario.ca](mailto:Msaa.Media@ontario.ca)

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[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy](#)

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November 29, 2024

**Sent via email to:** [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca); [minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca);  
[MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca](mailto:MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca)

**Premier of Ontario**

Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**The Honourable Paul Calandra**

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**The Honourable Stephen Lecce**

Minister of Energy and Electrification  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, 77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

**RE: Guelph City Council Resolution to Enable Municipalities to Charge Fees for use of Municipal Property by Gas Utilities**

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Calandra and Minister Lecce,

Guelph City Council at its meeting held on November 26, 2024 passed a resolution regarding the ability of municipalities to charge gas utilities for their use of municipal property, which included the following motions:

1. That Council request the Province of Ontario to amend section 9 of Regulation 584/06 under the Municipal Act, 2001, to permit municipalities to charge fair fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property, as municipalities do in most other provinces.
2. That Council direct staff, to the satisfaction of the DCAO of IDE, to negotiate a Franchise Agreement with the gas distribution company that:
  - a. will allow the City of Guelph to charge fees for use of public property if and when Ontario Regulation 584/06 is amended to allow such charges,
  - b. will ensure that the City of Guelph is not liable to pay for any gas infrastructure relocations needed due to conflicts with municipal infrastructure, and
  - c. will ensure future charges for use of municipal property is not passed on to Guelph customers of the gas distribution company.
3. That the City of Guelph supports, in principle, the Bill 219, "No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024" tabled November 4, 2024 by Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner.

**City Hall**  
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Canada  
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TTY 519-826-9771

[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca)

A5



Across most of Canada, municipalities charge for-profit gas utilities fees for the use of municipal property. This revenue supports municipalities in managing abandoned gas distribution infrastructure and any conflicts with municipal infrastructure without increasing the financial burden on property taxpayers. However, in Ontario, Section 9 of *O.Reg. 584/06* under the *Municipal Act, 2001* prohibits municipalities from charging for-profit gas utilities these fees. If the charging of these fees is permitted, revenues would provide much needed funding towards essential City services and programs, and support the City in funding any future work associated with gas distribution infrastructure.

As Guelph seeks to renew its Franchise Agreement, which sets out the conditions for the use of municipal property by the gas distribution company, there is an opportunity to review the compensation framework for municipalities across Ontario. Many sectors and individuals are increasingly transitioning away from natural gas in favour of cleaner and carbon-free technologies, and Guelph Council believes municipalities should not be locked in to long-term agreements which limit the ability of municipalities to receive fair compensation from for-profit gas distribution companies.

As such, Guelph City Council requests the Province of Ontario amend section 9 of *O.Reg. 584/06* under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to permit municipalities to charge fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property. Additionally, Guelph City Council would like to express its support, in principle, for Bill 219 – the *No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024*, which would enshrine the right of municipalities to charge fees under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*.

Sincerely,

**Intergovernmental Services on behalf of Guelph City Council**

Chief Administrative Office

[Intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca](mailto:Intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca)

City Hall, 1 Carden Street, Guelph ON N1H 3A1

519-822-1260 x5602

**TTY:** 519-826-9771

CC: Mike Schreiner, Member of Provincial Parliament for Guelph;  
Ontario's Big City Mayors  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities

AL

**Sarah Corbett**

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**Subject:** FW: Support MADD Canada in the Fight Against Impaired Driving

-----Original Message-----

From: message@maddmessage.ca <message@maddmessage.ca>  
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 11:10 AM  
To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>  
Subject: Support MADD Canada in the Fight Against Impaired Driving

[You don't often get email from message@maddmessage.ca. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Council, c/o Lisa

We are hoping to add our request to the agenda as correspondence for an upcoming Council meeting. I hope this message finds you well.

I'm reaching out on behalf of MADD Canada regarding the MADD Message Yearbook-our annual publication dedicated to raising awareness and funds for MADD Canada's essential programs, such as educational seminars in schools aimed at young, new drivers. (<https://maddyouth.ca/school-program>)

This free publication will be distributed in high-profile public locations and mailed directly to all of our business advertisers. By placing an advertisement, your company can show its support for stopping impaired driving, while also demonstrating your commitment to this important cause to the public.

For more information, to view a recent edition, or to check our advertising rates, please visit [www.maddmessage.ca](http://www.maddmessage.ca). Your support is crucial, and we couldn't produce this impactful publication without the backing of the business community.

Feel free to reach out via email or call us at 1-866-767-1736 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time. We hope to have your support in this important initiative!

Sponsorship Advertising Rate/Size Chart.

Back Covers \$2200.00  
Inside Covers \$1600.00  
Full page \$1300.00  
1/2 page \$899.00  
1/4 page \$699.00  
Banner \$599.00  
1/8th page \$419.00  
Business Card \$319.00  
Honour Roll Listing \$199.00 (three lines-non-graphical)

Yours Truly,  
Stacey Biekx  
T: (866) 767-1736  
E: message@maddmessage.ca

9

NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Emergency Management

Government proposing to modernize legislation for the first time in more than 15 years

December 09, 2024

[Treasury Board Secretariat](#)

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TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is taking steps to better prepare Ontario for floods, wildland fires and other emergencies with the introduction of the *Emergency Management Modernization Act*. The proposed legislation aims to update and strengthen the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA), ensuring a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to provincial and municipal emergency prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

"The rise of extreme weather events and cyber-attacks means the nature of modern emergencies has changed," said Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. "By modernizing our emergency management legislation, we will ensure Ontario remains ready to respond to these new challenges and keep people and communities safe."

If passed, the new EMCPA amendments — the first comprehensive updates in more than 15 years — would modernize Ontario's emergency management framework by strengthening provincial leadership and coordination. Emergency Management Ontario would enhance its role as the central hub, or "one window," for coordinating provincial emergency management efforts, streamlining communication and resources. The proposed legislation also prioritizes community-led approaches, helping municipalities design emergency management programs that reflect their unique needs and capacities.

Additionally, the process for municipalities to declare local emergencies would be clarified, including procedures for emergency declarations and requests for assistance.

A7

The legislation builds on the government's Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan (PEMSAP). Introduced in 2023, the PEMSAP highlights key actions the province is taking to ensure communities across Ontario are safe, practiced and prepared before, during and after emergencies.

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#### Quick Facts

- This proposed legislative modernization is informed by valuable feedback from partners, best practices in emergency management, and lessons learned from past emergencies. Over the summer, Emergency Management Ontario engaged with more than 480 partners, including municipalities, First Nations communities, and emergency management organizations during 45 engagements. Ninety written submissions were also received on a publicly posted discussion guide.
- 

#### Additional Resources

- [Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan](#)
  - [Emergency Management Ontario](#)
  - [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- 

#### Related Topics

##### Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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#### Media Contacts

##### Andrew Hartmann

Minister's Office

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##### EMO Communications

Communications Branch

[EMO.media@ontario.ca](mailto:EMO.media@ontario.ca)

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NVCA’s new Conservation Areas Engagement Working Group creates a chance to help shape the future of our natural spaces!**

UTOPIA, Ontario (December 10, 2024) – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is inviting community members with a passion for nature to join its new Conservation Areas Engagement Working Group. This exciting opportunity is perfect for those who want to roll up their sleeves, share creative ideas, and help shape the future of the region’s most beloved natural spaces.

NVCA’s 11 Conservation Areas offer many opportunities for visitors to connect with nature. Visitors can enjoy self-guided activities such as hiking, snowshoeing, canoeing and fishing. Special events and education programs offer a more interactive way to explore nature. These spaces are worth celebrating and protecting.

“This isn’t your typical committee,” said Elise Barr-Klouman, Community Engagement Facilitator at NVCA. “We are looking for volunteers who are passionate about protecting nature, connecting with others, and creating lasting change to join us. The group will play a key role in supporting NVCA’s fundraising efforts and increasing public awareness about the importance of natural spaces.”

The new working group will focus on increasing the profile of these Conservation Areas, starting with Fort Willow Conservation Area and Tiffin Centre for Conservation, and potentially extending to other locations like Edenvale, Minesing Wetlands, Nottawasaga Bluffs, and Petun Conservation Areas.

With a special focus on shaping future events at Fort Willow Conservation Area, members will explore innovative programming ideas, work with heritage and community partners, pursue sponsorship opportunities and support funding initiatives to expand the event’s reach and impact.

Members will meet quarterly or more often during key planning periods. This volunteer opportunity offers plenty of flexibility for members to lead individual projects or assist at events. Don’t miss out on the chance to leave a legacy in the natural spaces that make our region special.

A8

Are you ready to make a difference? Applications are open until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, and selected candidates may be invited for an interview.

For more information or to apply, visit [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca) or contact NVCA at [lands@nvca.on.ca](mailto:lands@nvca.on.ca).

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**About NVCA:** The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

**Media contact:** Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist at 705-424-1479 ext.254, [mleung@nvca.on.ca](mailto:mleung@nvca.on.ca)

NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Restoring Safety to Parks and Public Spaces

Province taking action to end encampments and crack down on public use of illegal drugs while investing \$75.5 million in homelessness prevention

December 12, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

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**TORONTO** — The Ontario government will introduce legislation today that will, if passed, better protect community safety by providing municipalities and police with new resources and enforcement tools to address the growing problem of homeless encampments and crack down on illegal drug use in parks and public spaces. Ontario is also investing \$75.5 million to further support homelessness prevention and provide people living in encampments with access to reasonable alternative accommodation. This is in addition to the province's ongoing \$700 million investment in homelessness prevention programs each year, as well as the \$378 million the province is investing in 19 Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs.

"Mayors and residents from communities across Ontario have been clear that enough is enough when it comes to encampments and illegal drug use in our parks and public spaces," said Premier Doug Ford. "Families deserve to enjoy their local parks and playgrounds without fearing for their kids. People facing homelessness or addiction and mental health challenges should be supported in the right settings. The federal government's approach of legalizing dangerous drugs for use in our communities has failed and it needs to end."

The province is dedicating \$75.5 million for programs that provide more long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments, including:

- \$5.5 million to top up the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) to immediately free-up emergency shelter spaces for people living in encampments by helping people living in shelters move into longer-term housing, building on the nearly \$400 million Ontario and the federal government invested in COHB between 2023 and 2024.



A9

- \$20 million to expand shelter capacity and create additional temporary accommodation spaces, like tiny modular units and climate-controlled semi-permanent structures, to provide people living in encampments with accessible alternative living options.
- \$50 million in funding designated for ready-to-build affordable housing projects across the province. This funding will be allocated based on how close a project is to completion, as well as its value for money, to help projects near completion but in need of targeted additional funding to open their doors faster.

This investment includes \$44.5 million in new provincial funding and \$31 million from the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative.

Service managers who receive funding will be required to report back to the province on the number of individuals moved from encampments into new accommodations. They will also be required to submit spending plans to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for review and approval, to ensure the province's \$654 million yearly investment in the Homelessness Prevention Program is being used effectively and in line with the shared provincial and municipal goal of ending encampments by providing safe and stable housing for people at risk of homelessness.

To help clear parks and public spaces of encampments, the *Safer Municipalities Act, 2024* includes amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act*, which applies to private business, offices, stores, hotels, parks and vacant land. These amendments, if passed, will enhance penalties for people who deliberately and continually break the law by adding the new aggravating factors of continuous trespassing and the likelihood to reoffend. In cases where these factors are present, these new tools will be applied by the court during sentencing.

The government is further protecting communities by introducing the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2024* that will, if passed, allow police officers and other provincial offences officers to direct individuals to stop using illegal substances or to leave the public space. This will allow them to issue a ticket or arrest someone who does not comply, providing an important additional tool to stop the consumption of illegal drugs in public spaces. People found guilty of violating this legislation, including those doing so in encampments, could face fines of up to \$10,000 or up to six months in prison.

As part of the province's focus on long-term treatment and recovery, the government is exploring new judicial approaches that provide the option of rehabilitation as an alternative to incarceration in the event of minor or non-violent drug crimes.

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**Quick Facts**

- The [Trespass to Property Act](#) provides property owners and occupiers with tools to deal with trespassing on their property.
  - As of October 2024, service managers report approximately 3,300 people in about 1,000 encampment locations across Ontario.
- 

**Quotes**

"We have heard from the people of Ontario that they want their communities to be safe and clean. Encampments are a public safety concern and not a solution to homelessness. Mayors have asked us for help in managing this complex issue and we are ready to provide more funding for those municipalities that show results in winding down these sites so they can address the specific needs of people in encampments and quickly move them from crisis into safer accommodation and ultimately stable, long-term housing."

- Paul Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"Using illegal drugs in public is unacceptable. Everyone should feel safe when going to a park, riding transit, or walking through their neighbourhoods. Public safety is our top priority and that is why we are providing police with the tools they need to confidently keep our communities safe, knowing we stand with them every day."

- Michael Kerzner  
Solicitor General

AA

"Encampments are a serious issue in communities across the province. Our government's proposed changes to the Trespass to Property Act will provide additional tools to support restoring public order. These amendments are one facet of a balanced broader strategy to address this difficult issue and support both communities and those currently living in encampments."

- Doug Downey  
Attorney General of Ontario

"Illicit drugs and particularly opioids such as fentanyl used in public spaces in encampments are a serious community safety threat. There is a clear risk to families and children that live around the growing number of encampments in Ontario. I am very pleased Premier Ford is taking bold action to address this."

- Patrick Brown  
Mayor of Brampton

"Today's announcement represents an important step in addressing the interconnected challenges of health, homelessness and public safety. By investing in pathways to stable housing and expanding the supports available to those in need, we can ensure people receive the care they require while respecting the use of public spaces for everyone, which includes new tools to restrict the prevalence of open drug use."

- Josh Morgan  
Mayor of London

"I am encouraged once again by the provincial investments and commitment to address the most complex health care issue our nation has faced. Today's announcement will provide vulnerable individuals who are living in encampments with safe, stable accommodations as well as ensure that our public spaces are safe for everyone to enjoy. All levels of government need to continue to work together as partners to find innovative solutions to address this national humanitarian crisis."

- Dan Carter  
Mayor, City of Oshawa

AP

"Premier Ford has found a sensible balance to deal with a complex issue. Adding resources to support more housing solutions while providing municipalities tools to enhance public safety will help make a positive difference in communities across Ontario."

- Drew Dilkens  
Mayor of Windsor

"The actions in this legislation are what we asked for. It feels great to work with a government that listens. We are united to support our most vulnerable and create safer environments for everyone."

- Rob Burton  
Mayor, Town of Oakville

"Premier Ford's announcement of additional funding for more shelter spaces, temporary housing and affordable housing units is welcome news. This approach prioritizes the dignity and well-being of individuals in need, while balancing other residents' right to feel safe in public spaces."

- Paul Lefebvre  
Mayor of Greater Sudbury

"The legislation being brought forward today by Premier Ford is going to help municipalities maintain safety for residents while providing supports for those who are seeking help. We can't thank the Ford government enough for supporting municipalities in these very difficult times."

- Alex Nuttall  
Mayor of Barrie

"This much needed funding to help transition those in encampments to safer shelter or housing is key and I applaud the Premier for this focus. Guelph is ready to partner with our Social Services Manager and with the government to ensure we have positive outcomes for those struggling with addictions, mental health and housing needs in our community. A top complaint I receive as mayor from citizens and businesses alike is about the open illegal drug use in our parks, downtown cores and other public spaces. This legislation looks to tackle these challenges head on and are most welcome."

- Cam Guthrie  
Mayor, City of Guelph

"This issue affects the families, community and professionals who have been struggling for a long time without enough financial resources and legislative tools. The proposed legislation will curb the loss of lives and destruction of families, keep the peace and provide supports to those in need. Almost two decades ago, the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions made recommendations, that all parties could get on board with, to solve our ever-escalating mental health and addictions crisis. After successive governments, I am pleased that the Premier is introducing legislation that will make a difference in the lives of many."

- Jan Liggett  
Mayor of Cambridge

"I am happy that Premier Ford and the provincial government have taken action that prioritizes the health and well-being of the residents of St. Catharines. The additional funding and focus will help provide the services the most vulnerable members of our community desperately need and the new legislation around open drug use protects the members of our community who know this illegal activity can't continue in public. The issues our cities face are complicated and all levels of government must work together to build more supportive housing units, expand shelter capacity and clean up encampments."

- Mat Siscoe  
Mayor of St. Catharines

"The health and safety of our residents is critical and its no secret municipalities across the province are grappling with large unsafe encampments and increasing drug use in public spaces. All levels of government need to continue to come together to help those suffering with mental health and addictions challenges, while also ensuring our parks and public spaces are safe for everyone to enjoy. Today's announcement is an important step in addressing a very complex and challenging issue for municipalities."

- Bryan Paterson  
Mayor of Kingston

"I am glad to see the Premier responded to our group's plea for help by providing enhanced funding for shelter and housing diversion programs and strengthening trespass and open drug use laws. This is a good first step in helping municipalities deal with the issues of homelessness and public disorder on our streets and in our parks."

- Kevin Davis  
Mayor of Brantford

"Vulnerable people need help to navigate drug addiction, mental health and social supports. It's time for tough love and definitive action to help them achieve that and to restore dignity and safety to public spaces."

- Jim Diodati  
Mayor of Niagara Falls

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"We thank the Government of Ontario for its decisive actions and meaningful investments in addressing the complex and pressing issue of homelessness and encampments. This significant funding will provide much-needed support for those experiencing hardship - enabling us to create safer and more vibrant communities for the benefit of all residents, visitors and businesses. We are committed to working with the province to ensure these vital resources are used effectively to help people transition into stable housing and access the essential support services they need."

- Kevin Ashe  
Mayor, City of Pickering

"Orillia Council's top priorities are looking at ways to help support our most vulnerable and ensuring public safety. We would like to thank the province for listening to us and taking action to provide further support to service providers as we all work together to address homelessness in our communities. The initiatives announced today by Premier Ford go a long way to support us as we partner together to navigate these difficult issues."

- Don McIsaac  
Mayor of Orillia

"As a growing small urban municipality with hundreds of people experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health issues, this new funding for shelters, supportive and transitional housing aligns with the housing first principles that will help us safely transition people out of encampments and connect them to the social and health services they need while also ensuring greater accountability. Today's announcement provides meaningful funding, actionable tools, compassion and a commitment to helping us keep our communities and public spaces safe for everyone."

- Bill Gordon  
Mayor of Midland

"Emergency shelters are a critical part of the housing spectrum. Outreach and shelter are the first points of contact where we build trust and spark hope for individuals experiencing homelessness. Additional funding enhances The Salvation Army's capacity to connect with individuals and welcome them into a dignified spaces with comprehensive wrap around support services that meet their unique needs. Together, we can help more Ontarians start their journey towards home."

- Lt. Col. Brian Armstrong  
Ontario Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army

"Drug paraphernalia and encampment health and fire issues are among the top community safety concerns for Ontario's small business owners. Many have told us about having to clean used needles and other garbage off their property, often on a daily basis. This is unsafe and unsustainable for small business owners, their employees and their customers. Our members across Ontario overwhelmingly agree that all levels of government should work together to address these multi-faceted challenges."

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

**Related Topics**

**Government**

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works.

[Learn more](#)

**Health and Wellness**

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

**Home and Community**

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn more](#)

**Law and Safety**

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)



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Accessibility

Privacy

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File No: CV-OP-2401  
 Municipality: Township of Clearview  
 Location: Township of Clearview

Date of Decision: November 26, 2024  
 Date of Notice: November 28, 2024  
 Last Date of Appeal: December 18, 2024

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**NOTICE OF DECISION**  
**With Respect to an Official Plan**  
**Subsection 17(35) and 21 of the *Planning Act***

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A decision was made by County of Simcoe Council on November 26, 2024 to approve an Official Plan for the Township of Clearview, as adopted by Township of Clearview By-law No. 2024-38, and modified as per Schedule 3 to Item CCW 2024-253, save and except for the following non-decision noted below:

**Non-Decisions**

That the County's approval does not apply to the following Non-Decision:

- A Non-Decision applies to various sections of the OP that reference the 2051 planning horizon for growth and development of the plan.

The specific partial policies include the '2041' and '2051' column data in the following tables within policy section 1.2.3:

Table 1.1: Target distribution of population growth to 2051;

Table 1.2: Projected employment Growth in Clearview;

Table 1.3: Target distribution of new dwelling units;

Table 1.4: Target share of housing density types per Settlement Area.

**Purpose and Effect of the Official Plan**

It is a legislative requirement under Section 26 (1) of the *Planning Act*, for the council of a municipality to revise their official plan as required every 10 years to ensure that it: conforms with provincial plans or does not conflict with them, has regard to the matters of provincial interest, and is consistent with policy statements issued under Section 3 (1) of the *Planning Act*. This constitutes the provincial plan conformity exercise identified in Section 26 (2.1) of the *Planning Act*. As such, the County of Simcoe is the approval authority for local municipal official plans as per Section 17 of the *Planning Act*.

This decision is consistent with policy statements issued under the *Planning Act* and conforms and is consistent with Provincial and County plans. To digitally view Item CCW 2024-253, visit [CCW 2024-253 - Clearview OP Approval.pdf \(civicweb.net\)](#). A hardcopy of Item CCW 2024-253 will be made available for viewing upon request to the Clerk's Department (contact information noted below). In the event that you wish to view the full report online and cannot access the above link, please visit <https://simcoe.ca/services/planning/local-official-plans/> Township of Clearview.

**Public Input** in the form of oral and written submissions were received from the public and agencies and were incorporated into the adopted version of the Official Plan as appropriate. The effect of any further comments and associated modifications to the Official Plan since adoption are included in Schedule 3 to Item CCW 2024-253. The County is satisfied that these comments were considered and/or addressed to the greatest extent possible prior to approval of the Township's new Official Plan.

**When and How to File an Appeal**

Any appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal must be filed with the Clerk of the County of Simcoe no later than 20 days from the date of this notice, shown above as the last date of appeal.

An appeal may only be made on the basis that the part of the decision to which the notice of appeal relates is inconsistent with a policy statement, fails to conform with or conflicts with a

provincial plan or, in the case of the official plan of a lower-tier municipality, fails to conform with the upper-tier municipality's official plan.

The notice of appeal should be sent to the attention of Jonathan Magill, County Clerk, at the address shown below and it must:

- (1) set out the specific part of the proposed official plan or official plan amendment to which the appeal applies;
- (2) set out the reasons for the request for the appeal;
- (3) include a completed Tribunal Appellant Form (A1); and,
- (4) be accompanied by the fee charged under the *Ontario Land Tribunal Act, 2021* in the amount of \$1,100.00, payable by certified cheque to the Minister of Finance, Province of Ontario.

Please refer to the Tribunal website for the Appellant Form (A1) and more information on filing an appeal <https://olt.gov.on.ca/the-ontario-land-tribunal/>.

#### **Who Can File an Appeal**

Only the applicant, specified person and public bodies as defined in the *Planning Act*, and registered owners of lands to which the by-law will apply and who made submissions at the public meeting or who have made written submission to the municipality before the by-law was passed, will be able to appeal the decision of the County of Simcoe to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the plan was adopted, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

#### **When the Decision is Final**

The decision of the County of Simcoe is final if a Notice of Appeal is not received on or before the last day for filing a notice of appeal (please refer to the Last Date of Appeal noted above).

#### **Getting Additional Information**

Additional Information about the application is available for public inspection during regular office hours at the County of Simcoe at the address noted below, from the office of the municipality noted above, or by contacting the County of Simcoe Planning Department at (705) 726-9300.

#### **Mailing and Email Address for Filing a Notice of Appeal**

County Clerk  
County of Simcoe  
Administration Centre,  
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6  
Email: [clerks@simcoe.ca](mailto:clerks@simcoe.ca)  
Telephone: (705) 726-9300



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## County of Simcoe launches new Affordable Housing Dashboard tool

**Midhurst/November 28, 2024** – The County of Simcoe is proud to announce the launch of its new Affordable Housing Dashboard, now available on <https://open.simcoe.ca>. This innovative tool is designed to help users explore and understand housing trends within their communities through a comprehensive selection of population insights and affordable housing metrics, available at the local-municipal level (census sub-division).

“The launch of the Affordable Housing Dashboard marks yet another significant step forward in our commitment to informed decision-making in regard to affordable housing,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “By providing accessible and comprehensive data, we empower our community to better understand and address the housing challenges we continue to face. This dashboard will prove extremely useful in helping everyone in the County to gain a better understanding of our housing market.”

The Affordable Housing Dashboard aims to support elected officials, civil servants, media, local service providers, academics and residents in answering critical questions about the local housing continuum. By providing access to key data indicators, the dashboard helps users assess the health of the housing market through the following questions:

1. Is the supply of housing keeping up with demand?
2. How affordable is housing?
3. How much choice is there in the housing market?
4. What is the level of Core Housing Need?

This dashboard is a County-specific replication of a previous design by the Community Data Program (CDP), and we extend our gratitude to the CDP for their invaluable contribution to making this dashboard a reality. Data sources include Statistics Canada and the Community Program Data.

The dashboard itself is now live and can be accessed at <https://open.simcoe.ca>

### **About the County of Simcoe**

The County of Simcoe is composed of 16 member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

- 30 -

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# Advisory

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO  
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6  
simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Simcoe County Archives to temporarily shut down starting December

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**Midhurst/November 29, 2024** – Simcoe County’s Archives will be closed to the public from December 1, 2024 until June 30, 2025. This closure includes Reading Room appointments and donation drop-offs.

During this period, some staff will remain on-site to handle transfers and reference requests from the lower-tier municipalities. However, donations and reference requests from the public will not be able to be accommodated during the closure.

If you have an urgent and time-sensitive donation, please contact the Archives directly to discuss possible accommodations.

For more information on available services during the closure, or if you have any other inquiries, please reach out to the Archives via email at [archives@simcoe.ca](mailto:archives@simcoe.ca).

### About the County of Simcoe

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

- 30 -

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Sarah Corbett

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Subject:

FW: County Council Highlights - Meeting Held November 26, 2024



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Joint Council Meeting on November 26, 2024** and the **Committee of the Whole Meetings on November 12 and 26, 2024**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of these sessions is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

- Service Simcoe



## **Council approves 2025 County of Simcoe Budget**

Council approved a \$962 million budget for 2025, which focuses on the resources necessary to maintain existing services and address significant growth in communities across the region. The 2025 budget also includes strategic allocations that enable the County to continue to invest in services and assets such as infrastructure, long-term care, paramedic services, museum, transit, affordable housing, the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport, waste collections, economic development, tourism, and enhancements to our road network.

At the direction and approval of County Council, residents will see a 3.625% increase (1.625% per cent increase for operating and a 2 per cent increase for infrastructure and asset management) on the County portion of their municipal property taxes in 2025.

The County's 2025 budget includes key projects to continue building up Simcoe County, including:

- New LINX Transit route to serve south Simcoe communities
- Continued progress at the Simcoe Village Campus redevelopment
- A large affordable housing build in Barrie and completion of other sites
- Phased road work on CR4, 21 and 22
- A new Paramedic Station in Waubauskene
- Museum expansion for the C. Matthews Innovation and Transportation Gallery
- Redevelopment of the Bradford West Gwillimbury waste drop-off facility

To view the full report, please click [here](#).

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## **Council approves YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka funding**

The YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka is requesting \$5 million total from the County of Simcoe for a new multi-use facility in Barrie – this includes the original \$2.5 million that was approved by Council in 2019, plus an additional \$2.5 million due to inflationary considerations and increased construction costs since then.

Council approved the request based on staff's report after it was deferred to the November 12, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Staff's recommendation was to approve the full \$5 million requested from the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka contingent on the development of a multi-use facility to service the City of Barrie that includes transitional housing for youth and enabling the leadership of a multicultural centre in partnership

with the Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership. The \$5 million would be paid in installments that coincide with continued construction progress: \$500,000 in 2024, \$1.5 million in 2025 and \$3 million in 2027 upon completion of construction.

The project has already received \$29.9 million in construction funding from the provincial government, and a 50-year land lease from the City of Barrie.

To view the full report, please click [here](#).



## **Council May Reconsider Previous Decision on Council Composition**

A Notice of Motion to reconsider a previous decision of Council was introduced at the November 26, 2024 meeting. The motion proposes a past decision that addresses Council composition be reconsidered.

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The Notice of Motion will be considered at the next meeting of Committee of the Whole in January where Council will vote on whether to reopen the question of Council composition.

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## **Council Approves Joining the Municipal Insurance Pool and Supporting Startup**

Council authorized signing the Form of Subscription in the Municipalities in the County of Simcoe Subscribers' Agreement to join the Municipal Insurance Pool. In addition, Council approved financial support for the startup of the municipal insurance pool.

The report outlined the proposed insurance pool structure, financial projections, governance and administration to startup the Municipal Insurance Pool.

Each participating municipality is requested to complete and submit the Form of Subscription within the subscribers' agreement by March 1, 2025, to allow time to set up the advisory board and then become one of the Founding Subscribers effective June 1, 2025.

The Municipal Insurance Pool will allow subscribers to gain greater control of and reduce an existing substantial expense by 13 to 20% immediately, and then by 19 to 27% after set-up. Representing 1 to 2 million dollars in savings over the next 10 years for each municipality.

Opportunities such as this are extremely rare. Staff are hopeful that all municipalities will recognize this and join as Founding Subscribers. Waiting is not likely a viable option since any potential new member will need to buy into the established reserve and be approved by the existing members.

To view the full report, please click [here](#).

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## Paramedic Services Facility Plan

The update on the Paramedic Services Facility Plan highlights significant progress, including the optimization of the Barrie Simcoe Emergency Services Campus (BSESC), completion of the Bradford Station, ongoing construction of the Springwater South (Midhurst) post, and planning for new stations in Waubaushene, Severn, Wasaga Beach, and additional posts in Barrie.

Evaluations are ongoing for optimal locations for future facilities, including the Innisfil facility and the Perkinsfield post, which may be relocated to enhance response times. Staff are also reviewing options for posts in Tottenham, Everett, and Horseshoe Valley Resort, and planning additional posts in Barrie. Strategic land acquisition is being monitored to reduce long-

term costs, with funding requirements included in the Long-Term Financial Plan.

To view the full report, please click [here](#).

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## County of Simcoe Community Paramedicine Program Update

Over the past few years, the County of Simcoe has developed and implemented several innovative Community Paramedicine programs aimed at providing proactive healthcare and support to vulnerable populations.

The Vulnerable Population Wellness Clinics, the Community Paramedicine Home Visit Program, the Community Alternative Response Engagement (CARE) Pilot, the 911 Referral Program and the Paramedic Patient Follow-Up



County of Simcoe  
Clerk's Department  
1110 Highway 26,  
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

Main Line (705) 726-9300  
Toll Free (866) 893-9300  
Fax (705) 725-1285  
simcoe.ca



December 4, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Simcoe County Member Municipalities and City of Orillia  
See Distribution List

**Re: Municipal Insurance Pool Startup**

Following a meeting of CAOs and Treasurers held on Friday, October 25, 2024, at which the County's consultant Axxima covered the benefits of the Municipal Insurance Pool, report CCW 2024-307 Municipal Insurance Pool Startup was brought forward to County Council. The attached report, provided for your information, sets out the proposed insurance pool structure, financial projections, governance and administration. At the November 26, 2024 County Council meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

"That Item CCW 2024-307, dated November 26, 2024, regarding the Municipal Insurance Pool Startup, be received; and

That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to sign the Form of Subscription in the Municipalities in the County of Simcoe Subscribers' Agreement substantially in the form attached; and

That the General Manager of Corporate Performance, or the Treasurer, or appropriate designate assigned by the General Manager, Corporate Performance, be authorized to represent the County of Simcoe on the Municipal Insurance Pool Advisory Board; and

That financial support for the startup of the municipal insurance pool, as outlined in this Item, be approved; and

That the County Clerk circulate this report to all member municipalities and the City of Orillia for information."

The Municipal Insurance Pool will reduce a substantial expense for subscribers in the anticipated amount of 13 to 20% immediately and 19 to 27% after it is set up. Over the next ten years this represents a major savings of 1 to 2 million dollars for each municipality that subscribes. As opportunities for these savings are rare, your municipality is strongly encouraged to join the Municipal Insurance Pool now as a founding member. Joining the Insurance Pool at a later date may not be feasible as members will need to buy into the established reserve which must first be approved by existing members.

Attached as Schedule 1 to report CCW 2024-307, included with this letter, is the Subscribers' Agreement for the Insurance Pool program. The agreement establishes an Advisory Board responsible for directing decisions regarding the Insurance Pool. The Advisory Board will be composed of one Member appointed by each subscriber municipality and each Member will have one vote. In addition, a Council may authorize a staff member to represent the

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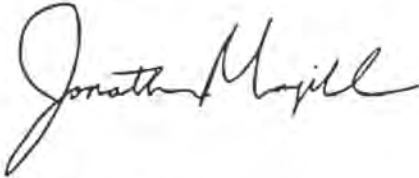
municipality on the Insurance Pool Advisory Board. The agreement further sets out the conditions of the Insurance Pool, operations of the Advisory Board, the funding arrangement for the purchase of insurance, accounting and financial reporting, subscriber terms, operation of the fund and other general provisions.

To join the Insurance Pool, the Council of each municipality will need to approve and authorize signing of the Subscribers' Agreement, as exemplified in the County's above resolution. Participating municipalities will need to complete and submit the Form of Subscription within the Subscribers' Agreement by **March 1, 2025**. Please forward a copy to [Clerks@Simcoe.ca](mailto:Clerks@Simcoe.ca). This will allow time to set up the Advisory Board for Founding subscribers in advance of a June 1, 2025 launch. A five-year minimum commitment is required to join the Insurance Pool.

Our consultant Axxima and County staff are available to assist municipal staff as needed to present Insurance Pool information to respective Councils to achieve agreement. We look forward to working collaboratively with each of you to bring forward this extremely valuable and rare opportunity to generate significant efficiencies and savings for our respective municipalities.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please reach out to Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance by email to [Trevor.Wilcox@simcoe.ca](mailto:Trevor.Wilcox@simcoe.ca) or Lealand Sibbick, Treasurer at [Lealand.Sibbick@simcoe.ca](mailto:Lealand.Sibbick@simcoe.ca).

Sincerely,



Jonathan Magill  
County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives  
County of Simcoe

Encl. CCW 2024-307 Municipal Insurance Pool Startup

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio  
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury  
Town of Clearview  
Town of Collingwood  
Township of Essa  
Town of Innisfil  
Town of Midland  
Town of New Tecumseth  
City of Orillia  
Township of Oro-Medonte  
Town of Penetanguishene  
Township of Ramara  
Township of Severn  
Township of Springwater  
Township of Tay  
Township of Tiny  
Town of Wasaga Beach

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## County implements another rapid re-housing support in the City of Barrie

**Midhurst/December 4, 2024** – The County of Simcoe is implementing another Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP) within the City of Barrie. Based on the pilot program that the County successfully implemented in the city, this renewed SRRP program is anticipated to help address housing needs for at-risk seniors (55+) chronically using emergency shelters and in need of supportive housing in the City of Barrie. This new program is another additional service being added to broad system of services at no additional cost and is a major step towards ending chronic homelessness for seniors living in shelters in the County of Simcoe.

The Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP) provides services, housing and support to individuals who have fallen on difficult times and helps to place them into permanent housing quickly. These individuals are ones who have been identified as situationally homeless (i.e., due to a recent life event, rather than chronically homeless). This SRRP provides seniors (55+) with wrap around housing with integrated supports to find and integrate into permanent housing successfully. This is NOT a shelter, it's a temporary home for individuals as they prepare for more independent living situations.

The site's initial modular, pre-built housing structure will be moved from its current location on Rose Street to the County's new property acquisition at Blake Street and Penetanguishene Road in Barrie in the coming weeks. Once placed, the County will enter into a contract with a qualified agency to provide comprehensive, 24/7 on-site services, staffed with trained professionals. Future use of the site will be communicated following further review with service partners to ensure the services provided continue to support the County's system of services and meet the goals set out by its [10-Point Homelessness Prevention Strategy](#).

The program is expected to resume operations in winter 2024/25 (*subject to change*) and provide support for approximately 14 people at a time (excluding staff and support teams). This is a temporary structure, and it is anticipated that the program will run for approximately four months.

This is part of the County of Simcoe's efforts to expand the support for and availability of supportive housing while alleviating pressure on the local shelter system. This strategy will now result in a total of 48 current shelter beds, all being made available throughout the winter months. This is thanks to various strategies including [SRRPs](#) and new [permanent accommodations for seniors in a domiciliary care environment](#) which enable shelter beds to be freed up with the creation of additional spaces. By creating net new permanent and rapid re-housing programs for those at-risk seniors who have been living in the emergency shelter system and moving these individuals from the shelter system to other forms of supportive and assisted housing, the County is able to enhance its winter response strategy while creating permanent housing outcomes for vulnerable individuals.

The County's [10-Point Homelessness Prevention Strategy](#) creates capacity in the system to better transition individuals who have been identified as situationally homeless into permanent housing while alleviating pressures on regional shelter systems.

Previously, a similar program in the City of Barrie resulted in many successful outcomes, with no known negative impact on the surrounding neighbourhood. Based on its success, the County opened a youth-based SRRP program in Orillia and a seniors-based SRRP program in Collingwood. All three programs have utilized similar modular, pre-built structures.

**About the Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP)**

The County's Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP) is a temporary program designed to assist individuals who are facing homelessness transition into permanent housing within a short period of time (typically 180 days). Clients are considered low-risk individuals who have been impacted by situational homelessness.

People who live in the SRRP units are supported through all aspects of the move-in process, including:

- unit viewings
- reviewing leases
- furnishing apartments
- establishing connections

On-going follow-up supports are provided to ensure clients are adapting well and support they require is available. During the SRRP housing period, residents will be provided full wrap-around services including mental health, addiction, employment supports and other needs.

A program FAQ is available online at [simcoe.ca/SRRP](http://simcoe.ca/SRRP).

**About the County of Simcoe**

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

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# Release

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO  
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6  
simcoe.ca

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## County creates resource sheet supporting unhoused individuals across region

**Midhurst/December 10, 2024** – The County of Simcoe has created a new resource sheet supporting unhoused individuals across the region. This sheet includes details on various programs that are available throughout winter 2024-2025 and will be regularly updated on the County's [website](#) as supports continue to open for the region's most vulnerable individuals.

The resource sheet outlines investments in unhoused individuals across the region made through the County's [10-point homelessness prevention strategy](#), which provides significant investments and resources to help unhoused individuals across the region. It includes recent announcements, such as expansions to the County's Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP), expanded domiciliary care agreements housing more vulnerable seniors, warming centres, and more.

The 10-point homelessness prevention strategy makes affordable housing even more attainable by increasing supply, creating "deep rent subsidies", increasing eviction prevention services, and improving available shelter. It commits the County to find new opportunities, enhance community shelter services, and improve safety throughout the community.

Those in need of shelter or warmth can always call 2-1-1 to connect with a nearby shelter. The County's Winter Warming Supports 2024-25 Resource Sheet is attached.

### **About the County's 10-point homelessness prevention strategy**

The County of Simcoe's 10-point Homelessness Prevention Strategy provides a strong, data-driven plan to help vulnerable residents and our communities. The strategy includes a considerable added investment toward the goal of preventing and ending chronic homelessness. For further details and ongoing updates to the homelessness prevention plan, visit [simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem](http://simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem).

### **About the County of Simcoe**

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

- 30 -

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# BUILDING UP

## Winter Warming Supports 2024-25

### Available Resources

#### Winter warming strategy

- While it is not within its legislated provincial and federal mandate, the County of Simcoe facilitates a winter warming strategy on behalf of member municipalities and the two separated cities that opt to offer differing levels of resources.
- The County issued a Request for Proposal in June 2024 for a multi-year funding opportunity for warming and cooling services. Since then, the County has been in negotiations with a number of different service providers to secure more warming options for those staying outside.
- Currently, the winter warming services strategy offers regional options during inclement weather from October 15, 2024, to April 30, 2025.

#### Alternate Space Activation

- Alternative Space Activation is a newer option introduced last winter that **created approximately 110 spaces in our emergency shelter locations** when the weather drops below -10 degrees Celsius.
- This is not a bedded program but an overnight drop-in option for those staying outside. It provides space throughout each location that could include cafeterias, boardrooms, offices, and lounges.
- Clients who choose to use this activated space would not need to go through the regular intake process, but the service provided would capture capacity counts to adhere to the fire code and give the County a better understanding of the overall service need.
- The service providers would offer something warm to drink and time to rest. These spaces could be operated during the day or night. **Last year, the program was activated approximately 20 times.**
- When activated, Alternate Space Activation is available 24/7.

#### Motel Voucher Program

- Recently, the County centralized the Motel Voucher Program through Community Connections' 211 services.
- **This program allows spaces to dynamically expand as needed.** It gives access to adults and families with children, along with those who cannot access the shelter system for varying reasons, an opportunity for alternative accessible space.
- This service also assists with transportation to participating motel locations throughout the County, as currently, homelessness outreach services do not provide client transportation. *Clients utilizing this option are required to complete full intake.*

More information on the County's supports for individuals experiencing homelessness can be found at

[simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem](https://simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem)

## Winter Warming Centres

- All six of the County Social & Community Services offices are available to anyone who needs to come inside and stay warm between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Locations can be found at [simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem](http://simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem)
  - All offices have on-site Ontario Works staff, along with various community agencies such as ODSP, Employment Ontario, CMHA, etc.
    - *Please note, times and availability of community partners will vary by date and location.*
  - Additional services (*varies by location*) include access to winter clothing (i.e. hats, gloves, Jackets, etc), light snacks, and access to computers and phones.
  - The Orillia SCS office is home to a primary health care clinic, available every Tuesday and Wednesday, for individuals without a primary health care provider.
    - The Clinic's Nurse Practitioners are able to: diagnose illnesses and injuries, perform routine checkups, order procedures/diagnostic tests, assist in completing social assistance-related medical-related forms, refer to other health professionals, and prescribe medications.
- As the System Service Manager, the County of Simcoe funds five libraries, three food banks, two housing resource centres and a larger breakfast program in the City of Barrie, that all provide different daytime indoor services for those experiencing homeless.
- All of these **year-round programs** remain available for those who choose to utilize them.
- Warming centre locations can be found at [simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem](http://simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem)
- **Overnight warming spaces:** The County has overnight night warming programs in Orillia, Bradford and Barrie – this includes two new programs in the City of Barrie.
  - These four programs offer a total of **58 overnight warming spaces**.
  - Ten of the spaces in Barrie are activated during inclement weather, while the other ten are offered specifically for those with additional needs and accommodations throughout the winter.
- **Future spaces in Barrie:** The County has also secured two new locations in the City of Barrie that will offer **an additional 30 spaces for daytime** and overnight services.
  - These two new programs are anticipated to be ready in the next few weeks and will be available until April 30, 2025.
- **Future spaces in additional communities:** The County is also planning for new, additional warming programs in several additional communities across the region.

More information on the County's supports for individuals experiencing homelessness can be found at

[simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem](http://simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem)

### Supporting vulnerable seniors

- Since November 2024, the County of Simcoe has begun **permanently transitioning 48 seniors (55+)** living in emergency shelters to assisted living programs and modular rapid rehousing programs.
- The three new programs located in Barrie open up an additional 48 emergency shelter beds that would have previously been used by these individuals.

### Outreach Services

- The County funds nine outreach services that will continue to offer support to those who may choose to remain outside.
- Enhanced street outreach services provide **outreach to those experiencing homelessness 365 days a year, seven days a week**, with increased emphasis during extreme winter temperatures.
- Outreach teams facilitate access to shelter or respite beds and offer individualized supports to help with accessing a range of services such as income supports, mental health and addiction services, health care services and assisting individuals to develop plans to transition from to more permanent housing options.

### Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP)

- The County's Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP) is a temporary program designed to assist individuals who are facing homelessness **transition into permanent housing** within a short period of time (typically 180 days).
- Clients are considered low-risk individuals who have been impacted by situational homelessness.
- People who live in the SRRP units are supported through all aspects of the move-in process, including:
  - unit viewings
  - reviewing leases
  - furnishing apartments
  - establishing connections
  - Social service system navigation
  - Intensive case management supports
- On-going follow-up supports are provided to ensure clients are adapting well and support they require is available.
- During the SRRP housing period, residents are provided full wrap-around services including mental health, addiction, employment supports and other needs.

More information on the County's supports for individuals experiencing homelessness can be found at

[simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem](https://simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem)

Alla

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
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Bureau du ministre

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



234-2024-5434

November 28, 2024

Dear Head of Council:

Through the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, changes were made to the *Planning Act* to accelerate implementation of the province's additional residential unit (ARU) framework. These changes allowed "as-of-right" (without the need to apply for a rezoning) the use of up to 3 units per lot in many existing residential areas (i.e., up to 3 units allowed in the primary building, or up to 2 units allowed in the primary building and 1 unit allowed in an ancillary building such as a garage).

To support implementation of ARUs, the *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024*, made further changes to the *Planning Act* to provide me, as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, with broader regulation-making authority to remove municipal zoning by-law barriers that may be limiting the development of ARUs.

Following consultation on the Environmental Registry of Ontario, our government has taken further action to tackle the housing supply crisis and reach our goal of building more homes by amending [Ontario Regulation 299/19 – Additional Residential Units](#) to remove certain municipal zoning by-law barriers. These changes took effect upon filing.

These changes will help to facilitate the creation of ARUs, such as basement suites and garden suites, by eliminating barriers including maximum lot coverage, angular planes, floor space index (FSI), minimum separation distances and minimum lot sizes on parcels of urban residential land subject to the ARU framework in the *Planning Act*. More information on these changes can be found through [Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 019-9210](#).

It is my expectation that municipalities will respect these regulatory changes and the intent behind them. I will not hesitate to use my available powers to ensure these changes to the *Planning Act* are allowed to support our goal of building more homes.

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We will continue working with our municipal partners to achieve our goal of building the homes that Ontarians need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Calandra', written in a cursive style.

Hon. Paul Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c. Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
- Jessica Lippert, Chief of Staff to Minister Calandra
- Chief Administrative Officer
- Office of The Clerk



NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Appoints Third-Party Advisor to Lead Review of OMERS

Robert Poirier to undertake pension plan governance review

December 03, 2024

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

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TORONTO — Ontario has appointed a third-party advisor to undertake a governance review of the Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System (OMERS), the first review since 2012, to ensure that its governance model is serving the interests of plan members in a fair, equitable, and transparent manner that supports the plan's long-term financial sustainability.

Former Metrolinx board member and former chair of the Toronto Port Authority Robert Poirier will oversee the review. As third-party advisor, he will offer recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to help deliver the best pension plan possible for plan members.

"We are committed to strengthening OMERS governance to ensure that it works in the best interests of its members," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "This review will ensure important decisions that impact members continue to be made in a transparent way."

The review will look at various aspects of the OMERS Sponsors Corporation and the OMERS Administration Corporation, such as board representation and the effective delivery of their mandates. This includes how plan assets are managed and how investment decisions are made by the Administration Corporation. It will also look at best practices in pension governance that could potentially be implemented by OMERS.

The review will not focus on any financial details or decisions regarding contribution rates, fairness of plan benefits, or the supplemental plan.

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### Quick Facts

- OMERS is one of the largest defined benefit pension plans in Canada with more than 1,000 participating employers and more than 600,000 active, deferred, and

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retired employees of municipalities, local agencies, public utilities, firefighters, police, paramedic, and non-teaching school board staff across the province.

- In 2006, the *Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act, 2006* came into effect, transferring sponsor responsibilities such as making changes to the OMERS pension plan from the Province of Ontario to the OMERS Sponsors Corporation.
- In 2012, the government appointed a third-party advisor to conduct a governance review in line with requirements set out in the *OMERS Review Act, 2006*. The advisor identified areas where OMERS governance should be improved at that time.

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### Related Topics

#### Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works.

[Learn more](#)

#### Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn](#)

[more](#)

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**Sarah Corbett**

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**Subject:** FW: AMO Policy Update – OPP Billing, Bills

**From:** AMO Policy <[policy@amo.on.ca](mailto:policy@amo.on.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, November 29, 2024 4:15 PM

**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – OPP Billing, Bills



## AMO Policy Update – OPP Billing, Bills

AMO and municipalities across Ontario have loudly advocated for provincial action to address the unmanageable increase in Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) costs for next year. AMO is proud to have worked closely with the government to address these concerns raised by municipalities. Today, the provincial government proposed more than \$77 million in 2025 to provide municipal budget relief and invest in Ontario's communities.

The majority of Ontario's municipalities proudly partner with the Ontario Provincial Police to keep their communities safe. Ontarians already pay the highest policing costs in the country, and these additional costs were beyond municipal fiscal capacity to absorb. While AMO appreciates the provincial action to address this specific issue, a broader solution to the weakening foundations of municipal fiscal sustainability is critically needed. AMO continues to call on the province for a comprehensive review of the municipal-provincial fiscal framework that helps provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day, including policing.

AMO looks forward to continuing to work closely with the provincial government as they look forward to reviewing the OPP billing model to ensure it continues to meet the needs of communities across the province.

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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## AMO Pre-Budget Submission 2025

On behalf of its members, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is continuing to advance its advocacy on the urgent, province-wide need for a comprehensive review of provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements.

The provincial-municipal fiscal framework is broken. As municipal councils work through their budget processes, it's clear that municipalities across the province are facing immense pressure created by growing costs in areas of provincial jurisdiction.

For almost a year, municipalities across the province have been calling on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and collaboratively engage on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. More than 170 municipalities across Ontario joined the call and passed a resolution asking the provincial government to respond to these concerns.

Unfortunately, the provincial government has not agreed to come to the table. But a lack of provincial engagement hasn't changed the critical need for a new fiscal framework.

AMO will be evolving its advocacy through its upcoming 2025 pre-budget submission, which will be released in mid-January. In this submission, AMO will be calling for provincial action on three key areas that would support municipal fiscal sustainability in order to improve the quality of life in communities across Ontario, including:

1. **Long-term and predictable investments in municipal infrastructure:** Ontario municipalities are planning to invest more than \$250B in capital expenditures over the next ten years to meet growth needs, improve transportation and adapt to climate changes, but the current funding approaches are insufficient.

The provincial and federal governments are under-investing in

infrastructure, funding programs are often piecemeal and short-term, and infrastructure funding programs do not grow with the economy.

2. **Reducing the province's reliance on municipal property taxes** to fund health and social services programs. In 2022, municipal expenditures subsidized health services, housing and social and family services by \$4B. That is \$4B taken away from core municipal priorities and it only continued to grow in 2023.

Responsibility for funding community housing should be uploaded to the province and provincial funding for health services, like public health and long-term care, should be sufficient to meet legislative requirements and standards for quality of care so municipalities don't have to step in to fill the gaps.

3. **Addressing the systemic causes of homelessness** through investment in income security, and mental health and addictions treatment services, taking the pressure off police and paramedics and improving public safety.

In early January, AMO along with key partners, will be releasing the results of an ambitious research project on the scope and scale of homelessness across Ontario, and the provincial investments needed to truly address it. AMO will be sharing more information on the key outcomes of this work as well as communications tools with members before it is released in early January.

While each municipality faces unique local circumstances, so many of the fundamental challenges caused by unsustainable fiscal arrangements are the same. AMO will be following-up with additional resources to support unified messaging across membership, including:

- Key messages regarding municipal fiscal sustainability to support delegations at the ROMA Conference in January.
- A communications toolkit (e.g., social media, key messages, template press releases) early in the new year that will provide members with more support in bringing a united message to the provincial government on the need for municipal fiscal sustainability to enhance quality of life for all Ontarians.

We know that municipalities across Ontario are under pressure to respond to increasing budget pressures, but the municipal sector is strongest when it speaks with one strong and united voice.

**Subject:**

FW: AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, Advocacy on Water, Recent Bills and Building Officials

## **AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, Advocacy on Water, Recent Bills and Building Officials**

### **AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission Preview**

AMO understands that the provincial-municipal fiscal framework is broken. Municipalities across Ontario are facing immense pressure this budget season, largely created by growing costs in areas of provincial jurisdiction. For almost a year, AMO has been calling for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. Unfortunately, the provincial government has not come to the table. However, we know the problem remains and we are evolving our strategy.

AMO sent a letter to all elected AMO members, CAOs, and Treasurers highlighting the key elements of our upcoming 2025 pre-budget submission. That submission will be released in mid-January and will call for provincial action in three key areas that would support municipal fiscal sustainability and improve quality of life for Ontarians:

- Long-term and predictable provincial investments in municipal infrastructure
- Reducing the province's reliance on municipal property taxes to fund health and social services
- Addressing the root causes of homelessness, building off an ambitious research project on homelessness that AMO and key partners will release in January

We know our sector is strongest when speaking with one unified voice. AMO will be following up in the coming weeks with a variety of communications

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tools to support member's participation in ROMA delegations, and advance municipal fiscal sustainability and homelessness priorities.

## **\$1 Billion Loan Program for Water Systems**

The province recently [announced](#) a new Infrastructure Ontario financing program for water infrastructure projects that enable the construction of more homes.

This program will complement the existing provincial infrastructure funding programs that AMO has advocated for to achieve the province's ambitious goal of 1.5 million new homes by 2031. This new financial tool for municipalities offers the following features:

- Flexible borrowing terms with deferred interest payments during construction
- Longer debenture repayment terms of up to 40 years
- More flexible repayment terms, and
- Lower administration costs

Applications will be open in early December and more details are available in a short [newsletter](#).

## **Omnibus Red Tape Reduction Bill**

Bill 227, Cutting Red Tape, Building Ontario Act, 2024 was [introduced](#) on November 20 and includes a broad range of proposals from most ministries. Those impacting municipalities the most include:

- A new allowance for minor errors on forms and changes to prevent delays in decision-making could help reduce the Landlord and Tenant Board backlog
- Providing credit agencies access to Landlord and Tenant Board orders related to missed payments, which could help landlords make more informed decisions about prospective tenants
- Recent regulatory changes in support of Ontario One Call streamlined the dedicated locator model for broadband projects, potentially

speeding up implementation and reducing costs. In response to feedback from our sector, some municipal underground infrastructure owners can now conduct their own locates instead of the broadband project owner. The province is seeking input on implementing these changes

- Proposals to streamline the release of Ontario Heritage Trust lands without heritage value and the approval process for brownfield development could help unlock more land for development. AMO has long advocated for the province to review its own processes and approvals to enable development and welcomes these efficiencies

Many other proposals are housekeeping amendments or have no direct impact on the municipal sector.

The bill was fast-tracked, bypassing public hearings. AMO will be commenting on some elements of the bill posted to the Environmental Registry.

## **Environmental Bill**

Bill 228, Resource Management and Safety Act, 2024, was introduced on November 25 including a range of environmental proposals along with a proposal to help attract more surveyors to the profession in support of building safe and affordable housing options.

AMO will comment on elements of the Bill posted in various Environmental Registry proposals, focusing on:

- Changes that could impact municipalities' activities in wildland fire management and require new resources. AMO will advocate for the province to absorb any new costs
- Commending the province for taking action on climate change with its proposal for commercial carbon storage projects. AMO will support the proposed municipal role in decision-making for these projects
- Support for protecting communities from the hazards of deteriorating oil and gas wells

## **Support for Removing Barriers for Qualified Building Officials**



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AMO supported the government's proposal to streamline the process for qualified Manitoba building officials to work in Northern Ontario in its Environmental Registry [comments](#). AMO also continued to advocate for measures that will attract and retain building officials to address the shortage across the province.

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*This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).*

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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**[EXTERNAL]**

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November 29, 2024

Her Worship Sandie MacDonald  
Mayor  
Township of Essa  
[smacdonald@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:smacdonald@essatownship.on.ca)

Dear Mayor MacDonald:

Our government is proud to have a strong working relationship with both our municipal partners and the police services that keep our communities safe. The collective agreement that was reached between the province and the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA) earlier this year reflects this strong relationship and will support our brave women and men in uniform across Ontario.

At the same time, we understand the impact these changes are having on the budgets of municipalities that are served by the OPP, including your own, which is why we are stepping up with additional provincial support. With that in mind, I am pleased to share with you the following proposed billing changes:

- A 3.75 per cent reduction of the total 2023 reconciled costs to all communities to approximate the full (100 per cent) impact of the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA) salary increases, excluding the 1 per cent increase that was built into the 2023 estimates; and
- A 44 per cent reduction on overtime 2023 reconciled costs to all communities;
- A 10 per cent reduction of 2025 invoice amounts to all communities to approximate the full (100 per cent) impact of the OPPA salary increases excluding the 1 per cent increase that was already built into the 2023 estimate.

These changes would provide over \$77 million in relief to OPP-policed municipalities.

The total billing statement that was initially provided to you for 2025, inclusive of the increases resulting from the new collective agreement, was \$3,622,314. Today's proposed billing changes will provide an estimated \$535,184 in financial relief for your municipality, bringing the new total for OPP services being billed to your municipality in 2025 to \$3,087,130.

In addition to these changes, the Government of Ontario is continuing its annual \$125 million Court Security & Prisoner Transportation Transfer Payment Program for the 2025 calendar year.

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The province will also be examining options for reviewing the OPP billing model to ensure that it meets the needs of communities across the province.

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Whealy, Deputy Director of Issues and Legislative Affairs, at [Ryan.Whealy@ontario.ca](mailto:Ryan.Whealy@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your continued collaboration, valuable relationship, input and dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of your community.

Sincerely,



Michael Kerzner  
Solicitor General

NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Offsetting OPP Cost Increases for Small and Rural Municipalities

Provincial investment would support police and community safety

November 29, 2024

[Solicitor General](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government is proposing to provide over \$77 million in financial relief to municipalities to help offset the increased cost of municipal police services provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). This investment will help these predominantly small and rural communities address the budget impacts resulting from the collective bargaining agreement that was reached between the province and the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA) in July 2024.

“Our government is working closely with our municipal partners and our women and men in uniform to keep communities across Ontario safe,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “The financial relief we are proposing will help municipal leaders balance their budgets and invest in their communities while ensuring no change to the policing provided by the OPP that keeps families and businesses safe.”

The Ontario government’s proposal would support small and rural municipalities by offsetting the 2025 impacts of OPP salary increases. This includes:

- A 3.75 per cent bill reduction on 2023 total reconciled costs,
- A 44 per cent bill reduction on 2023 reconciled overtime costs, and
- A 10 per cent bill reduction on amounts invoiced for 2025 policing costs.

In addition to these changes, the Government of Ontario is continuing its annual \$125 million Court Security & Prisoner Transportation Transfer Payment Program for the 2025 calendar year.

The province will also be examining options for reviewing the OPP billing model to ensure that it meets the needs of communities across the province.

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- The OPP provides municipal policing services to 330 municipalities across Ontario.
- The OPPA and the provincial government ratified a new uniform and civilian collective agreement in July 2024 that included general salary increases for 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

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**Quotes**

"AMO is pleased that the government has listened to concerns about the increase in Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) billing recovery costs with this proposal. Without the provincial action, the rise in OPP costs would have significantly impacted small, rural, and northern communities serviced by the OPP. Municipal fiscal sustainability is under pressure across Ontario, and municipalities struggle to balance their budgets. This proposition is an important recognition of this challenge and will help support quality of life for residents across the province."

- Robin Jones  
President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

"ROMA welcomes provincial action to reduce the impact of increasing Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) costs on rural municipalities. In the context of inflation, infrastructure pressures, and a growing homelessness crisis, rural municipalities simply cannot afford a 20% increase in OPP costs. This provincial investment acknowledges the escalating fiscal challenges municipalities face. We look forward to ongoing partnership to put rural municipalities on a sustainable path."

- Christa Lowry  
Chair of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and Mayor of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

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**Related Topics**

**Law and Safety**

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)