



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Committee of the Whole Agenda

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

Note: This meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format with electronic and in-person participation. Committee meetings may be [viewed via live streaming](#).

	Pages
1. Roll Call	
2. Declarations of Interest	
3. Statutory Public Meetings	
There are no statutory public meetings	
4. Presentations	
4.1 Robert Bell, Co-Founder, Intelligent Community Forum Re: Intelligent Communities Update (2023-COW-4) [Item 7.3]	
5. Delegations	
There are no delegations	
6. Correspondence	
7. Reports	
7.1 Report #2023-COW-1 Request for Funding from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for the Acquisition of Land Adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area in the Municipality of Clarington	3
7.2 Report #2023-COW-2 Development of a Regional Public Art Program	8
7.3 Report #2023-COW-4 Intelligent Communities Update	15
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7.4 Report #2023-COW-5
Durham Region Government Relations Update

8. Confidential Matters

8.1 Report #2023-COW-3
Confidential Report of the Commissioner of Social Services – Closed
Matter under Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy
Act with respect to a Capital Project Submitted under the Rapid Housing
Initiative (RHI) Round 3

Under Separate Cover

9. Adjournment



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: The Committee of the Whole
From: Commissioner of Finance and Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-COW-1
Date: January 18, 2023

Subject:

Request for Funding from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for the Acquisition of Land adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area in the Municipality of Clarington

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That in response to the request for funding from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, that funding in the amount of \$309,135, representing 40 per cent of the estimated eligible acquisition costs for approximately 29.2 hectares (72.14 acres) of land located adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area in the Municipality of Clarington, be approved and financed from the Region's Land Conservation and Protection Reserve Fund subject to the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Board of Directors' approval of the land purchase at their meeting on January 17, 2023; and
 - B) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to adjust the total payment amount to Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority pending a review of the eligibility of final costs incurred pursuant to the Region's Land Acquisition Funding Policy.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Council of, and seek approval for, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's request for funding under the Durham Region Land Acquisition Funding Policy for Conservation Authorities for the purchase of approximately 29.2 hectares (72.14 acres) of land adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 2.1 In October 2007, Regional Council adopted the recommendations of Report 2007-J-36 entitled “Durham Region Land Acquisition Funding Policy for Conservation Authorities”. This report identified a process and eligibility requirements by which the Region’s five Conservation Authorities could apply for funding from the Region’s Land Acquisition Reserve Fund to finance the acquisition of properties for conservation purposes.
- 2.2 A goal of this policy is to ensure that land acquisition efforts of Regional Council in partnership with Conservation Authorities in Durham Region, will contribute to the protection, enhancement and restoration of the natural environment in Durham Region.

3. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority’s Request for Funding

- 3.1 Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is requesting approval for \$309,135 in funding from the Region, representing 40 per cent of the total estimated eligible acquisition costs of \$772,838 as outlined in Table One. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has been awarded \$415,400 in funding from Canada Nature Fund towards the acquisition of this property.

Table One

Description	Total Estimated Cost \$	Recommended Estimated Regional Portion (40 per cent) \$
Purchase Price	745,000	298,000
Survey, Legal Fees, Appraisal Cost, Land Transfer Tax, Environmental Site Assessment costs	27,838	11,135
Total	772,838	309,135

- 3.2 Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has negotiated an agreement of purchase and sale for the acquisition of a 29.2 hectare (72.14 acre) parcel, known as Part Lot 7, Concession 9 in the Municipality of Clarington (former Darlington Township - PIN No: 26743-0081), adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area. Portions of this property are identified as a Key Natural Heritage Feature and Key Hydrologic Feature in the Regional Official Plan. It is located within the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System and is designated as Oak Ridges Moraine (Natural Core and Natural Linkage) in the Regional Official Plan.

3.3 Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Board of Directors is reviewing the proposed acquisition of this property at their January 17, 2023 Board meeting and as such the Region's financial contribution towards the acquisition of this property is contingent on the approval of the land purchase by the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Board of Directors.

4. Advancing Regional Planning Objectives

4.1 In accordance with the Land Acquisition Funding Policy for Conservation Authorities, Regional Planning staff have reviewed Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's request and concluded that the request meets the primary planning criteria for eligibility.

4.2 Specifically, the acquisition of this property meets the objectives of the Durham Regional Official Plan as this property:

- is being purchased for conservation purposes;
- is located within or contributes to the enhancement of the Regional Official Plan Greenlands System outside of urban areas;
- contains key natural heritage and/or key hydrological features; and
- supports the long-term planning and growth management of the Region.

5. Financial Considerations

5.1 The Region of Durham has established the Land Conservation and Protection Reserve Fund to, in part, make funding available to the Region's five Conservation Authorities for the purpose of acquiring environmentally sensitive lands.

5.2 The request from Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for \$309,135 in funding towards the eligible acquisition costs meets the maximum amount allowed within the Council approved Conservation Land Acquisition Funding Policy that limits the Region's maximum contribution for land purchases for conservation properties to 40 per cent of the total eligible costs.

5.3 There are sufficient uncommitted funds available in the Land Conservation and Protection Reserve Fund to finance the recommended funding of \$309,135 for Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's land acquisition.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1.3 Environmental Sustainability – to protect, preserve and restore the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, parks, trails, and farmlands; and

- Goal 5.1 Service Excellence – to provide exceptional value to Durham taxpayers through responsive, effective and financially sustainable service delivery.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The request from Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for \$309,135 in funding for the acquisition of approximately 29.2 hectares (72.14 acres) of land adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area is recommended for approval as it meets the requirements of the Durham Region Land Acquisition Policy for Conservation Authorities.

8. Attachments

Attachment #1: Map from Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority identifying the subject property

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance

Original Signed By

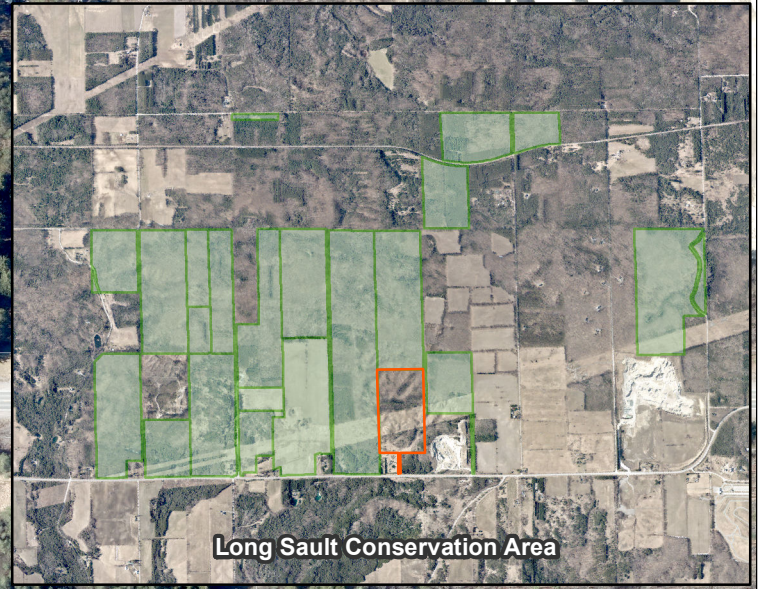
Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner of Planning and Economic
Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original Signed By

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

29.2 HA
72.14 AC



Long Sault Conservation Area



(c) Copyright. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, 2022.

Map Compiled by the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, 100 Whiting Ave., Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 3T3

This map is for information purposes only and the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority takes no responsibility for, nor guarantees, the accuracy of all the information contained within the map.

Source: CLOCA, 2022; Regional Municipality of Durham, 2022; Ortho Photo: First Base Solutions, April 2021

Projection: NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1983 UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR (6 DEGREES) PROJECTION, ZONE 17, CENTRAL MERIDIAN (81 DEGREES WEST)

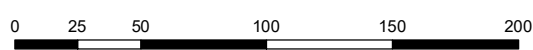
Date Printed: December 8, 2022



Craig Property Long Sault Conservation Area 2830 Regional Road 20, PT LOT 7 CON 9 Municipality of Clarington

Legend

-  Craig Property
-  Assessment Parcel
-  Long Sault Conservation Area



If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2009



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: The Committee of the Whole
From: Chief Administrative Officer
Report: #2023-COW-2
Date: January 18, 2023

Subject:

Development of a Regional Public Art Program

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That Regional Council endorse the establishment of a Regional Public Art Program to provide a framework for incorporating public art on Regional infrastructure, land, and other projects with opportunity for creative placemaking;
 - B) That a Public Art Working Group be created and comprised of local experts from the creative community to support the development and maintenance of the Public Art Policy and provide recommendations for ongoing public art projects.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the implementation of the Pilot Public Art Project; and
- 1.2 To recommend that a Regional Public Art Program be developed to support regional public art projects, provide opportunities for area municipal and community collaboration, and support Regional strategic goals.

2. Background

- 2.1 Public art elevates community identity and is often a mechanism for cultural connection and social inclusion. It creates thought provoking, energized spaces, and contributes to a unique regional identity.
- 2.2 Public art will elevate Durham's cultural, social, and economic potential and drive Regional objectives. Benefits of public art align with Inclusive Tourism and Quality

of Place goals as outlined in the recently endorsed Ready Set Future Economic Development and Tourism strategy and contribute to Durham's distinct cultural identity.

- a. Public art improves community image and enhances vibrancy of downtown cores. This attracts visitors, residents, and investors, and drives traffic to local business in surrounding areas.
 - b. Public art is a mechanism of cultural expression, is reflective of and represents various communities and diverse populations. It celebrates diversity, is inclusive and accessible for both residents and visitors.
 - c. Public art can reflect local voices, often using input from residents and people with lived experiences to inform art projects.
- 2.3 In Durham, area municipalities lead public art within their respective Arts, Culture, and Heritage divisions. Most Durham lakeshore municipalities have an established public art policy to advance broader public art and/or culture priorities.
- a. The Region has a process in place for the use of Regional infrastructure for public art purposes (see [Report 2017-COW-285](#)).
- 2.4 Comparable regional municipalities are also investing in public art policies to enhance creative placemaking, elevate a sense of identity, and raise cultural profile.
- a. The Region of Waterloo has an established public art policy and program. One notable project is the ION public art collection along the ION light rail corridor. This work enhances the transit experience and improves cultural components of the community.
 - b. Niagara Region's Culture Plan identifies an action to establish standard guidelines and processes to support a public art program that can be used by the region and guide local municipalities. The region supports public art through initiatives such as the Public Realm Investment Program to support local municipality enhancement to regional roads.
- 2.5 A Regional Public Art Program would be a conduit for creative synergy; non-profit organizations and our creative industries across the region are working with arts and culture groups to strengthen the art community and support more coordination and collaboration with the Region.
- 3. Pilot Public Art Project**
- 3.1 In 2021, the Region partnered with Durham College Fine Art students to create artwork representative of the community through its established Community Collaborative Project program.
- 3.2 A working group with staff from Economic Development, Works, Finance, and the CAO's Office informed the process, developed selection criteria, and reviewed artwork.

- 3.3 Residents were engaged to inform the theme of the pilot project. An engagement survey posted on YourDurham.ca and shared through social media captured 160 responses, with majority showing an interest in art that celebrates diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Additional feedback indicated a desire to see more public art in the community.
- 3.4 Students completed the artwork in April 2022. The selected pieces will be installed in the courtyard area at Regional Headquarters, displaying 14 unique expressions of diverse identities and experiences (see Attachment 1).
- 3.5 Knowledge gained through the successful pilot will support the development of a Regional Public Art Program. Staff who participated in the pilot will inform the policy and broader program planning.

4. Municipal Environmental Scan

- 4.1 Staff conducted an environmental scan of nearby municipalities with experience in public art to learn of best practices.
- 4.2 Regional, local, and single tier municipal perspectives were captured through a review of existing policies and eight informational interviews.
- 4.3 Through this research, the following elements were identified as requirements to a successful public art program:
 - A public art policy outlining procedures for art acquisition, selection, maintenance, collections management, and de-accession;
 - Governance bodies to support development, maintenance, and review of the policy and make recommendations; and
 - Budget allocation to support projects, with a portion reserved for ongoing maintenance.
- 4.4 Additional insights gathered through the research included:
 - Identifying a clear role for Councillors to provide community expertise;
 - Considering equitable distribution of art so it is accessible in communities beyond downtown cores (e.g., priority neighbourhoods);
 - Placing value on smaller scale projects which produce tangible outcomes in a shorter turnaround time; and
 - Identifying opportunities to partner or consult with area municipalities early into projects where appropriate.

5. Proposed Regional Public Art Program

- 5.1 Municipal best practices and outcomes from the Region's pilot public art project informed the proposed Program. It will act as a framework for incorporating public art on a regional scale. Key components of the proposed Program include:

a. Vision

- The vision will provide Regional context for public art, and reflect Regional commitments to collaboration, economic investment, and social inclusion.
- The vision will demonstrate how implementation of public art drives outcomes of Regional priorities. Public art aligns with Strategic Plan priorities in Community Vitality and Economic Prosperity, creating opportunities for creative placemaking to support complete neighbourhoods and building Durham's cultural identity to advance economic development goals in the Ready Set Future strategy.

b. Governance

- Regional Council will be responsible for the review and approval of the Regional Public Art Program and Policy, review and approval the annual budget, and review individual projects as needed. Regional staff will manage the administration and art selection through the Working Group and Juries described below.
- Cross-departmental staff will support the program and policy development. Expertise from this group will be consulted on future projects as required.
- The following governance bodies will be established to support the Regional Public Art Program.
 - (a) A Public Art Working Group to support policy development, review proposals, and make recommendations. The Working Group will be recruited through an open call to members of the local creative industries and community members at large. Regional staff will facilitate meetings and group activities.
 - (b) Juries to support art selection and review submissions. Juries are established by the Working Group on a case-by-case basis.
- The Region recognizes recent community efforts to advocate for a Regional Arts and Culture Council and would seek expertise from this group to support development of the Public Art Advisory Committee and potential selection jury members for future projects.

c. Site Selection

- Site selection for public art installations will be determined as part of the review of project proposals and as determined by Regional staff (asset owners) in consultation of the Working Group. It is recommended that criteria for priority locations and infrastructure to guide this process be established by Regional staff with input from the Working Group.

d. Acquisition

- Commissions will follow a competition process as recommended by the Advisory Committee. Other avenues of acquisition should be considered including donations, loans, and direct purchases.
- e. Regional Public Art Policy will define key components of the Program in more detail, including:
- Acquisition scenarios and different selection processes will be defined.
 - Governance groups, roles and purposes will be defined, including Terms of Reference.
 - Collections management will outline ownership, inventory processes, installation, maintenance and conservation, insurance, storage, disposal and de-accessioning.
 - Funding sources will include operating budgets, senior government funding, and private and community sector contributions.
 - Existing requirements for permits, licenses and permissions for the installation of public art on Regional infrastructure will be incorporated into the Public Art Policy.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Funding for the Public Art Program can be accommodated within the CAO's Office community relations budget. Should the initial Public Art Program expand in the future, staff will request additional funds through the annual Business Planning and Budgets process.
- 6.2 Maintenance costs for public art installations will be included within the operating budget of the department responsible for the ongoing maintenance of art installations once in place.

7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 7.1 This report aligns with the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 2: Community Vitality. Objective: To foster an exceptional quality of life with services that contribute to strong neighbourhoods, vibrant and diverse communities and influence our safety and well-being.
- Objective 2.1- Revitalize existing neighbourhoods and build complete communities that are walkable, well-connected, and have a mix of attainable housing.
- b. Goal 3: Economic Prosperity. Objective: To build a strong and resilient economy that maximizes opportunities for business and employment growth, innovation, and partnership.

- Objective 3.2- Leverage Durham's prime geography, social infrastructure, and strong partnerships to foster economic growth.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 Public art strengthens community identity, supports a thriving creative industry, and bolsters local economy and tourism.
- 8.2 Many area municipalities in Durham have an established public art policy and nearby regional municipalities are developing programs to support broader culture goals.
- 8.3 A Regional Public Art Program would bring opportunities to collaborate with area municipalities and drive cultural and economic priorities.
- 8.4 It is recommended that a Regional Public Art Program be established to guide governance and policy for incorporating public art on Regional infrastructure and development projects.
- 8.5 It is recommended that a Public Art Advisory Committee be established to support the development of the Program and Policy and oversee ongoing projects once the Program is established.
- 8.6 This report has been reviewed by the CAO's Office, Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Works Departments.
- 8.7 Report prepared by: Linnea Veloce, Policy Advisor, and Alison Burgess, Manager Corporate Initiatives.
- 8.8 Report approved by: Sandra Austin, Director, Strategic Initiatives.

9. Attachments

Attachment #1- Public Art Pilot Project Installation.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment 1 for Report #2023-COW-2
Public Art Pilot Project Installation



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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Chief Administrative Officer
Report: #2023-COW-4
Date: January 18, 2023

Subject:

Intelligent Communities Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an overview of the Intelligent Communities initiatives underway in Durham Region.

2. Background

2.1 In 2018, the Region of Durham hosted the Hello Tomorrow: Smart Cities Durham Forum.

- a. More than 300 residents, community partners, businesses, academics, students, government officials and tech industry leaders in Durham Region and beyond registered to attend the forum to share feedback on, and learn more about, smart cities approaches and technologies.
- b. Presentations and panel discussions on innovation in Durham Region (including transit, energy, income stability and information technology), smart city innovation, education, leadership in a connected community, and automotive technology and mobility innovation.

2.2 Staff leveraged the extensive public consultation process used to inform the development of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 and aligned the smart city goals to the strategic plan goals.

- 2.3 An environmental scan of other municipal smart cities was led by the Canadian Urban Institute. In addition, a series of focus groups and surveys were conducted with leaders from Durham's eight local municipalities and community partners to solicit feedback.
- 2.4 Most of the feedback focused on the importance of collaboration, engagement, and innovation in creating smart city initiatives. Two additional themes were clear.
 - a. The first was that the term 'smart city' did not resonate with collaborators. It was stated that Durham Region is not a city, but instead, it is a series of smart and caring communities (including cities, towns, and rural areas).
 - b. The second was that the focus should not be solely on technology and smart sensors, what people often envision a smart city to be. Instead, Durham should focus on projects and initiatives that address community challenges and better the lives of our residents and businesses.
- 2.5 Regional staff prepared a framework to guide the next steps of creating a smart city. The initiative was renamed the [Intelligent Communities Framework](#).
- 2.6 Staff learned of the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF), a think tank at the centre of a global network of cities and regions. The mission of the ICF is to help communities in the digital age find a new path to economic development and community growth – one that creates inclusive prosperity, tackles social challenges, and enriches quality of life. The ICF uses a method to support communities on their journey to becoming Intelligent.
- 2.7 The Intelligent Community Method supports communities with evidence-based strategies for growing the local economy, sustaining growth, and solving the problems that accompany growth.
 - a. The ICF method focuses on six critical factors that support a competitive and inclusive community:
 - Connect – digital connectivity and services is the new essential utility
 - Work – building a knowledge workforce that creates economic value through its knowledge, skills, and ability to use information effectively
 - Innovate – helping keep the economic benefits of innovation local and creates culture that engages the entire community in positive change
 - Engage – educating and engaging citizens, businesses, and institutions
 - Include – promoting inclusion by creating policies and funding programs that provide everyone with access to digital technology and connectivity
 - Sustain – improving local quality of life and creates greater liveability
- 2.8 The ICF hosts an annual Intelligent Community Awards competition to recognize communities on the path to becoming Intelligent Communities.
 - a. Following an application submission deadline in January, ICF announces the top 21 Smart Communities of the year in February. The field is then narrowed

to the top 7 Intelligent Communities of the year, announced in June. The Top 7 exemplify best practices in broadband deployment and use, workforce development, innovation, digital inclusion, and advocacy that offer lessons to regions, cities, towns around the world. In October of each year, the ICF announces the top Intelligent Community of the Year at the annual ICF conference.

- 2.9 To develop an application, staff collected projects and accomplishments from across the region and applied to the Intelligent Community Awards in 2021.
 - a. Durham Region was named to top 21 Smart Communities in 2021.
 - b. In 2022, Durham Region was again named to the top 21 Smart Communities and in June of 2022, Durham Region was named global Top 7 Intelligent Community in 2022 along with communities from Vietnam, Brazil, Taiwan, and Australia.
 - c. At the annual ICF conference in October of 2022, New Taipei City, Taiwan was announced the most Intelligent Community of the Year.

3. Intelligent Communities Key Accomplishments

- 3.1 To prepare for the Intelligent Communities Awards application, staff collected stories and initiatives happening across the region and put them into the six ICF categories. Below are examples of some of the exciting Intelligent Community initiatives from across Durham.

3.2 Connect

- a. The Regional Broadband Strategy, approved by Council in 2019, outlined significant steps to realize the vision for a Regional Broadband Network as an extensive fibre optic backbone along regional roads to bring the digital infrastructure into communities in need. Service providers would then be able to tap into the backbone and build out local connections inside the communities. The Region developed partnerships with local internet service providers and applied for significant funding from the provincial and federal governments to realize this vision.
 - The Region's first municipally owned broadband infrastructure project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. The construction took seven months to complete 36 km of fibre between Uxbridge and Pickering. This provides necessary infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities in the region. Phase 2 is currently underway.

3.3 Work

- a. Durham's three post-secondary institutions each place significant value on experiential and work-integrated learning opportunities for students. These activities enrich student learning and prepare them for their future careers. For the organizations who work with them, it is a valuable and effective way to

access the fresh thinking, skills, and capabilities that students offer while also building a network of future employees.

- The Region launched the CityStudio Durham partnership in 2020. CityStudio is a proven model of experiential learning and civic engagement focused on developing tomorrow's leaders by bringing municipal government to the classroom. In Durham, the Region has partnered with Durham Regional Police Services and our post-secondary schools in Durham: Ontario Tech University, Durham College and Trent University Durham GTA and have hosted more than 300 students to date.
- b. Access IO is an invitation-only, high-energy, and high-impact event series focused on sourcing new technologies, investing, and making connections, telling stories, promoting the investor ecosystem, supporting innovation, and growing the economy. The events are supported by regional and municipal economic development teams, Durham's angel investor network and Durham's accelerator/incubator programs.
 - The Access IO events are a great example of a program hosted by the Durah ecosystem leading to successful outcomes for local businesses and start-ups. The event in 2021 included 75 angel investors, 200 industry professionals and 15 start-ups. The success led to the creation of three Access IO events in 2022.

3.4 Engage

- a. Community engagement is critical component of any municipal program development or service delivery. A project that will impact the entire community is myDurham 311. It will modernize the customer experience by consolidating all call centres into one and offering residents various methods to engage including online, phone, website, chat or in person. The myDurham 311 program is coordinated with the local area municipalities to improve overall engagement with the community.
 - To enhance the myDurham 311 service, the Region partnered with an innovative small business to leverages smart home devices as a method to provide residents with information. Now residents can find out when the next bus is arriving or when their recycling will be picked up by simply saying "Hey Google" or "Hey Alexa, talk to myDurham 311."

3.5 Innovate

- a. With 10 per cent of Durham's population in a rural area, regularly scheduled public transit service was not cost effective to operate or sufficient to meet the mobility needs. Durham Region Transit's On Demand program meets the needs of rural residents and those located in urban areas that are difficult to serve by conventional transit. It is a flexible service delivery model that

provides customers with public transit options based on their trip needs, whether it's travelling stop-to-stop or facilitating connections to frequent routes. Durham is one of only two jurisdictions in Ontario that have buses available every 30 minutes 7 days a week.

3.6 Sustain

- a. Durham Region's greenhouse gas emissions are mostly attributed to transportation and the existing built environment. The Durham Greener Homes program was launched with overwhelming interest from the community. It is a residential energy retrofit that is stimulating homeowner demand for energy efficient and renewable energy retrofits. The program was launched in April 2022 for an initial four-year implementation period. By 2026 more than 1,000 deep energy retrofits are expected to be completed and close to 250 jobs will have been created.

3.7 Include

- a. Literacy goes beyond the ability to read and write, and now includes the computational skills. Students who live in low-income families and underserved communities can be disadvantaged if they don't have access to technology and educational programs to build these skills. The STEAM 3D Maker lab at Ontario Tech University allow underserved communities to have access to technology and educational programs to build their digital literacy skills. Students learn how to tinker collaboratively with a problem and keep working until they find a solution. They learn to be innovators, thinkers, and problem-solvers. These programs help to reduce the digital divide among communities.

4. Intelligent Communities Event

- 4.1 On November 29, 2022, Durham Region hosted an Intelligent Communities event to celebrate Durham being named a global top 7 Intelligent Communities of the year.
 - a. Durham Region was recognized as one of the world's leading [Intelligent Communities](#). More than 50 community members from post-secondary, local area municipalities, and businesses attended to hear from our keynote speaker, Robert Bell share the Region's journey to the top 7.
 - b. 18 local intelligent community initiatives were showcased with short presentations or posters.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability Objective: To protect the environment for the future by demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change
 - 1.1 Accelerate the adoption of green technology and clean energy solutions through strategic partnerships and investments
 - 1.4 Demonstrate leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change
- b. Goal 2: Community Vitality Objective: To foster an exceptional quality of life with services that contribute to strong neighbourhoods, vibrant and diverse communities, and influence our safety and well-being.
 - 2.1 Revitalize existing neighbourhoods and build complete communities that are walkable, well-connected, and have a mix of attainable housing
 - 2.3 Influence the social determinants of health to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations
 - 2.4 Support a high quality of life for all through human services delivery
 - 2.5 Build a healthy, inclusive, age-friendly community where everyone feels a sense of belonging
- c. Goal 3: Economic Prosperity Objective: To build a strong and resilient economy that maximizes opportunities for business and employment growth, innovation and partnership
 - 3.1 Position Durham Region as the location of choice for business
 - 3.3 Enhance communication and transportation networks to better connect people and move goods more effectively
- d. Goal 4: Social Investment Objective: To ensure a range of programs, services and supports are available and accessible to those in need, so that no individual is left behind.
 - 4.2 Build awareness and community capacity to address poverty
- e. Goal 5: Service Excellence Objective: To provide exceptional value to Durham taxpayers through responsive, effective and fiscally sustainable service delivery.
 - 5.4 Drive organizational success through innovation, a skilled workforce, and modernized services

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Durham Region is a place where connections are made. The Region will continue along the path to an Intelligent Community in collaboration with community organizations, local area municipalities, businesses, not-for-profits, incubators, and post-secondary institutions.

6.2 Durham is a place where big challenges are addressed. Durham's achievements show our collective commitment to creating a connected network to improve economic competitiveness, engage citizens and increase connectivity to support smarter, healthier, more equitable and sustainable communities.

6.3 Report prepared by: Lindsay Beyger, Policy Advisor and Alison Burgess, Manager, Corporate Initiatives.

6.4 Report approved by: Sandra Austin, Director of Strategic Initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Chief Administrative Officer
Report: #2023-COW-5
Date: January 18, 2023

Subject:

Durham Region Government Relations Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Regional Council:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on key government relations activities and outcomes for 2022.

2. Background

2.1 The Region undertakes intergovernmental advocacy to advance regional priorities. Advocacy priorities are guided by the Strategic Plan, Regional Council direction, emerging issues, and funding opportunities.

2.2 Government relations activities support a framework with three key objectives:

- a. Align and Communicate Regional Priorities
- b. Build Awareness and Support with Upper Levels of Government
- c. Create Alignment with Local Municipalities

2.3 Intergovernmental exchanges occur at an elected official to elected official level (e.g., regional elected officials engaging with MPPs and MPs, including Ministers) or through staff-to-staff meetings and discussions (e.g. CAO to Deputy Ministers).

- Engagement can include meetings, letters, and official feedback (e.g., pre-budget submissions, Environmental Registry of Ontario submissions).
- 2.4 Government relations activities are supported and strengthened through staff and Regional elected official participation in associations such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Mayors and Chairs, and others.
- 2.5 The execution of government relations activities is coordinated between the Regional Chair, members of Council, the CAO, and staff. In 2022, Strategy Corp, a governmental relations consulting firm, continued to work as a registered lobbyist on the Region's behalf to advance key provincial files.
- 2.6 On an annual basis, the actions and performance metrics to support each of the three key objectives of the government relations framework are determined. At the end of the year, the data is analyzed to understand the impact of the actions in achieving the government relations objectives.
- 2.7 Regional Council is updated on key government relations activities through the CAO's monthly update briefing note and through periodic Council reports as appropriate.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 An update of 2021 government relations activities was provided in [#2021-INFO-134](#).

4. Highlights of 2022 Government Relations Activities

- 4.1 The Regional Chair and Regional staff cultivated effective working relationships with municipal, provincial, and federal counterparts to build awareness and support of the Region's key priorities with upper levels of government.
- 4.2 In 2022, key Regional advocacy issues included:
- The Lakeshore GO East extension to Bowmanville and planning for Transit Oriented Communities;
 - Social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - Support for the most vulnerable including funding for supportive housing, addressing homelessness, mental health and addictions;
 - Removal of tolls on 412/418 highways;
 - Support for paramedic services including continued funding for community paramedicine programs, dedicated offload nursing programs and addressing paramedic offload delays in Durham;
 - Increased capacity for long-term care; and

- Provincial housing plans including Bill 23 and development in the Greenbelt.

There were 25 priorities identified in 2022 including those identified at the beginning of the year and those added throughout the year due to policy changes, arising issues or new funding opportunities. The Region advanced 15 priorities with the provincial and federal governments in 2022. Advocacy was primarily focused on areas of provincial responsibility. The target was to advance 10 priorities and this metric was achieved despite the timing of the provincial and municipal election cycles that impacted the ability to advocate.

Provincial Engagement

4.3 The Regional Chair and Regional staff met formally with MPPs, Ministers and their staff on 15 occasions throughout the year in addition to the many informal discussions at meetings, announcements, and events. This exceeded the target of 11 formal engagements with Durham MPPs and Ministers. The Region also issued ten letters to provincial representatives. Highlights of advocacy outcomes include:

- Engaged with AdvantAge Ontario and directly advocated to the Minister of Long-Term Care for increased sector funding to address construction cost escalations for long-term care home projects.
- Met with the Minister of Infrastructure to advance work on planning the stations for the Lakeshore GO East Extension to Bowmanville.
- Increased awareness of the challenges resulting from increasing paramedic offload delays by arranging a presentation from the Paramedic Chiefs of Ontario to MARCO and Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM) and through a Regional delegation with the Ontario Minister of Health.
- Communicated Regional waste management priorities through a meeting with Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- Fostered positive working relationships with MPPs through regular staff-level meetings. Strengthened relationships are evident through the inclusion of Regional representatives at provincial funding announcements hosted in Durham Region.
- Presented Durham Region's clean energy investment potential to the Ministry of Energy to increase awareness of the Region as the Clean Energy Capital of Canada. The Minister of Energy subsequently referred to Durham Region as the Clean Energy Capital of Canada in Question Period, demonstrating traction of the Region's messaging.
- Provided feedback on the implications of Bill 23 and changes to the Greenbelt including letters to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. There was active participation in various professional and municipal associations to ensure Durham Region's concerns with the policy changes were documented.

- Aligned with other local voices resulting in the removal of tolls on the 412/418 highways.

Federal Engagement

4.4 The Regional Chair and staff also work to build effective working relationships at the federal level. In 2022, fewer of the Region's priorities were related to federal responsibilities, however, the Regional Chair and CAO continue to meet formally with MPs, Ministers and their staff and send advocacy letters to support the Region's priorities. Highlights of these advocacy efforts include:

- Additional \$562.2 million in the 2022 federal budget provided over two years, beginning in 2024-25, to maintain Reaching Home's 2023-24 funding levels, reflecting the Region's pre-budget submission to maintain funding.
- Advocated for flexible funding through the consultation process for the permanent public transit fund.
- Created alignment with other municipalities through staff-level engagement in joint GTHA advocacy efforts to secure pandemic recovery funding and increased federal supports for Ukrainian newcomers.
- Advocated to the federal government for funding for broadband initiatives.
- Collaborated with the City of Pickering to develop a strategic business case for a High Frequency Rail stop in north Pickering.
- Through the GTHA Regional Prosperity Alliance, met with the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and senior staff from Infrastructure Canada and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to discuss greater collaboration on housing and homelessness.
- Raised awareness of the Durham Greener Homes program with federal MPs and highlighted the support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

5. Government Relations Priorities for 2023

5.1 Based on Council-approved strategies and current challenges, the Region's government relations activities for 2023 will focus on the following priorities:

a. Responding to provincial housing plans, including Bill 23:

- Continuing to seek opportunities to meaningfully engage in consultation with the province;
- Securing financial supports to mitigate the financial impacts of Bill 23 and increased infrastructure funding required to achieve housing targets;

- Confirming the commitment from the province that the Upper York Sewage Solution decision is revenue neutral to Durham Region ratepayers and taxpayers; and
 - Confirming with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that the Region can extend its existing Development Charges By-Law.
- b. Continuing to advance the Lakeshore GO East Extension to Bowmanville including the Station Implementation Strategy.
- c. Partnering with local area municipalities to provide input to provincial facilitators on Bill 39.
- d. Advocating for supports to deliver on the goals of the community safety and well-being plan including support for homelessness, mental health and addictions, and community safety.
- e. Requesting funding to support transit service expansion through Durham Region Transit and higher order transit projects including the bus rapid transit and the high frequency rail stop.
- f. Investing in paramedic services including permanent paramedicine funding and support for addressing offload delays.
- g. Advancing the Region's long-term waste management strategy with the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks.
- h. Continuing to advocate and monitor ongoing priorities including long-term waste management, support for Ukrainian arrivals response, broadband expansion, and action on climate change.
- 5.2 Identified priorities will inform the Region's overall advocacy strategies in 2023, however, staff will continue to respond to emerging issues and funding opportunities as they arise.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 5: Service Excellence. Objective: To provide exceptional value to Durham taxpayers through responsive, effective, and fiscally sustainable service delivery.
- 5.1 Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.
 - 5.3 Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 In 2022, significant progress was made towards advancing key files and increasing the provincial and federal governments' awareness of Durham Region's unique strengths.
- 7.2 Regional staff will continue to work with local, provincial, and federal counterparts to advance shared priorities and achieve positive economic and social impacts for Durham residents in 2023.
- 7.3 Regional staff will continue to monitor updates in the local, provincial, and federal landscapes and respond to emerging issues and opportunities.
- 7.4 Report prepared by: Bronwyn Hannelas, Policy Advisor and Alison Burgess, Manager, Corporate Initiatives.
- 7.5 Report approved by: Sandra Austin, Director, Strategic Initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer