



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, October 11, 2024

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

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Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at clerks@durham.ca, if you wish to pull an item from this CIP and include on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee. Items will be added to the agenda if the Regional Clerk is advised not later than noon the day prior to the meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2024-INFO-62
Date: October 11, 2024

Subject:

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2024 Farm Tour, File: A01-38-02

Recommendation:

Receive for Information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the 22nd annual Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Farm Tour event, which was held at the Scugog Community Recreation Centre in Port Perry (Scugog) on September 26, 2024.

2. Background

2.1 Since its inaugural tour in 2003, DAAC has showcased more than 40 farms and other agricultural facilities across Durham Region to more than 1,700 participants.

2.2 The 2024 tour was originally scheduled to take place at Twin Erin Farm and Two Blokes Cidery. Due to unforeseen issues in the late summer, the tour was moved to the Scugog Community Recreation Centre, bringing the elements of the Farm Tour directly to the participants.

3. Event Overview

3.1 Over 130 participants representing municipal and provincial governments, public agencies including conservation authorities, school boards, post-secondary institutions, municipal advisory and economic development committees, the financial and insurance industry, the agricultural community and media attended the event. The tour highlighted the importance of Durham's agricultural sector, Durham's agricultural heritage as well as some of the issues and challenges faced by the industry.

3.2 The theme for this year's tour was "Forward Thinking Agriculture in Durham Region". A variety of topics were covered including:

- The challenges of operating and establishing an on farm-diversified use (OFDU);
- The experience of farmers obtaining permits and permissions for OFDU's on their farms;
- The realities of operating a family farm;
- Agriculture as a complex, competitive market that requires innovation;
- The importance of marketing to farm businesses;
- Environmental management on farms;
- How Trent University's experimental farm operates; and
- The variety of agricultural transportation equipment for transporting goods;

3.3 At the event, there were several displays for attendees to visit and learn from, staffed by several organizations, including:

- District 12 Grain Farmers of Ontario;
- Durham College Galen Weston Centre for Food and Barrett Centre;
- Durham Farm Connections;
- Durham Region Federation of Agriculture;
- Durham West 4-H;
- Durham Workforce Authority;
- Greenbelt Foundation;
- Invest Durham;
- Kawartha Conservation Authority;
- Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority;
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness; and
- Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association;

3.4 At the event lunch, DAAC Vice-Chair Dave Risebrough welcomed attendees to the event and introduced the themes of the tour.

3.5 Regional Chair and CEO John Henry then spoke about:

- The success of the food products grown in Durham;
- The important contributions of farming and agriculture in Durham;
- How farmers feed our community and economy; and
- Progressive and innovative farms in the Region

3.6 Township of Scugog Mayor Wilma Wotten the spoke about:

- How agriculture is critical to Scugog's identity;
- The economic importance of the agriculture industry in Scugog;
- Her deep appreciation for the agricultural way of life and appreciation for the land; and
- The importance of agricultural innovation.

3.7 Adam Hayes and Don King of the Soil Resource Group provided the keynote address on the ONFarm program and the importance of soil health to agriculture.

3.8 Participants attended presentation stations featuring the following speakers:

- a. Matt Porter, Trent University - Trent University Experimental Farm and Modern Challenges in Agriculture;
- b. Jordan and Alyson McKay, Willowtree Farms & Pingles Farm Market - Diversifying Farm Operations;
- c. Matt Sommerville, Sommerville Farms - The Opportunities and Challenges of On Farm Diversified Uses and Family Farms; and
- d. Agriculture Transportation Display and Presentation

4. Event Feedback

4.1 Each year, participants are asked to complete a survey that is used by DAAC to evaluate the success of the tour and to help plan for future events. This year, an electronic survey was circulated to attendees following the event, along with paper surveys that were available at the tour. From the responses received, almost all agreed that the tour met or exceeded their expectations. Some general comments were:

- Excellent presentations! Something for everyone, loved the format as well;
- Great day. Speakers were fantastic and the transportation display was great. Food was amazing! Excellent location; and
- The organizing committee did an excellent job pivoting from the planned farm tour by bringing in several interesting speakers.

4.2 Participants were asked what the “Take Home” message was for them. Responses included:

- That our farming community is filled with innovators. They are a great resource for understanding not only the complexities of the land and doing day to day business, but the economics and social dynamics involved in such a competitive market;
- Agriculture is an important industry in Durham. Agriculture is quite varied, and policies need to adapt to the changing face of agriculture. Environmental management is a key part of agriculture; and
- Farmers have a unique perspective and understanding of the land that is invaluable, and we need to work together to protect our environment. Exchanging knowledge with opportunities like this can be very helpful.

5. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 5.1 In January 2024, Council considered DAAC’s 2024 Workplan through Commissioner’s Report [#2024-P-1](#). The Farm Tour is a major component of the DAAC Workplan.
- 5.2 In October 2023, [#2023-INFO-87](#) was released, summarizing the 2023 DAAC Farm Tour.

6. Relationship to the Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Environmental Sustainability - Protect, preserve and restore the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, parks, trails, and farmlands.
 - b. Economic Prosperity - Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 DAAC is once again commended for its continued efforts in advancing the knowledge of the agricultural industry in Durham. The annual farm tour continues to be a valuable element of the Council approved work plan for the Committee.
- 7.2 A copy of this report will be forwarded to the Area Municipalities, the Durham Federation of Agriculture, Durham Farm Fresh, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and DAAC.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Chief Administrative Officer
Report: #2024-INFO-63
Date: October 8, 2024

Subject:

Durham Region to test the nuclear public alerting system on October 29, 2024 and October 30, 2024.

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To advise Council of the upcoming test to Durham Region's nuclear public alerting system.

2. Background

2.1 As a designated municipality under the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP, 2017), Durham Region to test the nuclear public alerting system as part of its regular maintenance program and to raise public awareness.

2.2 Durham Region's nuclear public alerting system is tested annually.

2.3 Durham Region's test will take place over two days:

- a. On Tuesday, October 29, 2024, landline phones in the Durham Region within ten kilometres of the Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations will receive an automated phone message. The message will advise that it is a test and will provide notice that the sirens will be tested the following day within three kilometres of the Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations. The message will include where to locate more information about the tests and emergency preparedness.
- b. On Wednesday, October 30, 2024, thirty-four sirens located within three kilometers of the Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations will be sounded for approximately one minute.

- 2.4 Messages will be posted to the Region's social media accounts confirming when the tests have commenced and when they have been completed.
- 2.5 To increase public awareness, Durham Region has developed a comprehensive communications plan to let residents, businesses and other community stakeholders know about the test. The communications campaign will include, but is not limited to, the following:
- a. Social media
 - b. Mobile signs
 - c. Advertisements for radio, print and online newspapers.
 - d. Our partners, the Local Area Municipalities, Toronto Office of Emergency Management and Ontario Power Generation, will help share our messages
 - e. Collaboration with Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce to help notify businesses in Durham Region.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 In 2023, Council was provided with the following information related to the nuclear public alerting system test:
- a. Council Information Report, May 26, 2023 - Report #2023-INFO-44

4. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 4.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Enhance community safety and well-being

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The next test of the nuclear public alerting system is scheduled for the spring of 2024.

Prepared by: Mary La Chapelle, Deputy Director, Emergency Management, at 905-668-4113 extension 6261

Approved by: Jessica Eng, Director, Emergency Management at 905-668-4113 extension 6262

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

From: Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
Report: #2024-INFO-64
Date: October 9, 2024

Subject:

CityStudio Durham – Update

Recommendation:

That this progress report of the CityStudio Durham initiative be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress of the CityStudio Durham initiative since 2020. Specifically, this report will provide:
 - a. Information highlighting the success of the CityStudio Durham partnership between the Regional Municipality of Durham, Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS), the Towns of Ajax and Whitby, and Durham Region’s local post-secondary institutions (Durham College, Ontario Tech University, and Trent University Durham-GTA).

2. Background

- 2.1 Under a license agreement with [CityStudio Vancouver](#), staff from the CAO’s office run CityStudio Durham. The program gathers project ideas from municipal staff who would like to collaborate with postsecondary faculty and students. Project ideas are posted on a [public web portal](#) where they are advertised to local postsecondary students and faculty. The CityStudio Durham coordinator then connects staff and faculty/students with similar interests to support project initiation. At the conclusion of the winter academic semester, a live “Hubbub” event is held to showcase the successful collaborations.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 The outcomes and impacts of CityStudio Durham projects have been highlighted in a variety of presentations and reports, including:
- a. [#2020-COW-22](#): CityStudio Durham was endorsed as part of the [Regional Recovery Framework and Action Plan](#).
 - b. [#2021-F-5](#): Expanding the CityStudio Durham initiative was endorsed as a strategic priority in the [2021 Durham Budget](#).
 - c. [#2021-INFO-55](#): The number of completed CityStudio Durham projects was highlighted in the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan Year One Progress Update.
 - d. The CityStudio Durham project “Barriers to Accessing Services for People with Disabilities” was mentioned at several Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings ([AAC 03232021](#), [AAC 01262021](#), [AAC 11242020](#), [AAC 10012020](#)).
 - e. The CityStudio Durham project “Trail Safety in Durham Region” was mentioned at the [DATC 03112021](#) Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting.
 - f. Other CityStudio Durham projects have been mentioned in previous Council Information Reports and in Committee meetings ([#2020-INFO-110](#), [#2020-INFO-84](#), [DEAC 11182021](#), [FAC 020822](#)), including a previous Council Information Report showing initial progress on the CityStudio Durham initiative ([#2021-INFO-69](#)).

4. Outcomes of CityStudio Durham

- 4.1 CityStudio Durham has been running for over four years, from Fall 2020 to the present. The program has supported over 90 projects, involving over 90 staff across all Regional Departments, Durham Regional Police Service and the Town of Ajax, 50 postsecondary faculty and staff, and 800 postsecondary students from all three of Durham’s local postsecondary institutions.
- 4.2 To evaluate the experience of participating in a CityStudio Durham project, staff, faculty and students were surveyed in the Fall of 2023 about their work with the program. Responses to the survey were overwhelmingly positive, with **89%** of participants indicating they would recommend CityStudio Durham to a colleague. Further information and metrics on the outcome of the CityStudio Durham feedback survey can be found in **Attachment #1**.

5. Other Accomplishments

- 5.1 Six funding applications to support research projects were submitted to Mitacs, a Canadian non-profit funding agency. All six applications were successful, bringing in \$127,500 to support research collaborations.

- 5.2 Regional staff have hosted seven virtual Hubbub events, one or twice per year at the conclusion of the fall and winter academic semesters. At these events students share the outcomes of their projects to an audience of municipal staff, postsecondary faculty and staff, and other postsecondary students. The first five of these events were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the last two held in person at Durham College.
- 5.3 Project summaries have been posted on the [CityStudio Durham website](#), where the community can learn about past collaborations. Numerous news releases and social media posts [announced the start of the program](#) and have also celebrated successful projects.

6. Future Plans

- 6.1 Staff in the CAO's Office are actively looking for ways to improve the CityStudio Durham program and will work to leverage the program to support priorities identified in the new Strategic Plan.

7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 7.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. 5:1 Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value
 - b. 5.2: Collaborate for a seamless service experience
 - c. 5.4: Drive organizational success through innovation, a skilled workforce, and modernized services

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The first four years of the CityStudio Durham initiative have been a success, with high levels of engagement from Regional staff, postsecondary faculty, and students.
- 8.2 Over 90 projects were completed between September 2020 and April 2024, with more underway or planned to start in the Fall and Winter of 2024.

9. Attachments

Attachment #1: CityStudio Durham Evaluation Summary 2020-2023

Prepared by: Daniel Sparks, Research and Program Coordinator – Innovation, at 289-830-7625

Approved by: Sandra Austin, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, at 905-668-7711, extension 2449.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



Evaluation Summary 2020 to 2023

We surveyed municipal staff, postsecondary faculty and students who participated in CityStudio Durham projects between September 2020 and September 2023 to obtain feedback on their experience working on a CityStudio Durham project.

This feedback will help us understand and enhance our program for future students, faculty and staff.

What is CityStudio Durham?

CityStudio Durham is partnership program involving Durham Region, Durham Regional Police Service, Durham College, Ontario Tech University, Trent University Durham-GTA, the Town of Ajax and Town of Whitby.



The programs seeks to strengthen and facilitate partnerships and collaboration between municipal government and Durham Region's postsecondary institutions through developing collaborative projects relevant to the Durham Region community.

Since it's launch in September 2020, over **80** collaborative projects have taken place through CityStudio Durham, involving over **600** students, over **50** faculty and over **90** municipal staff.

Key Outcomes

89% of participants indicated they would recommend CityStudio Durham to a fellow student, staff or faculty.

Diversity and collaboration

63% of projects brought together two or more areas of municipal/postsecondary expertise.

72% of participants made connections with two or more sectors outside of their own.

82% of faculty and students felt their CityStudio Durham collaboration helped strengthen their network of collaboration and interdisciplinary expertise.

"This was an exciting opportunity and was a fantastic experience for all involved. I would do it again, recommend it continue, and would recommend/encourage others to be involved." – **Postsecondary faculty**

Evaluation Summary 2020 to 2023

Support innovative projects

“Thank you for the opportunity to work on CityStudio Durham projects; I will continue to do so because this work gives me great satisfaction, knowing that I am helping not only the current, but future generations.”

– **Municipal staff**

94% of municipal staff felt that their CityStudio Durham collaboration provided them with resources to advance municipal goals and priorities.

88% of municipal staff felt that their CityStudio Durham collaboration added value to their innovation project.

Experiential learning in a municipal setting

89% of students felt that their CityStudio Durham collaboration:

- increased their interest in municipal government as a career path
- allowed them to apply what they learned in the classroom to a real-world problem

“City Studio Durham gave me the possibility of working in a municipality, something that as a Political Science student, provided me with the experience and knowledge for future roles”

– **Postsecondary student**

Project highlights

[Ready to Learn: Improving Children’s Development and Readiness for School \(Ontario Tech University\)](#)



The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a tool used to stay informed about a child’s development and help determine their readiness for school. Students used EDI data to develop evidence-based communication and instructional products for the early learning and childcare community.

[Improving Municipal Customer Service \(Durham College\)](#)



The Service Durham group at Durham Region wanted to understand customer service expectations and demographic changes in Durham Region in the next 10 years. Students developed a customer service strategy by conducting surveys, analyzing data, and incorporating findings to help the Region meet the changing needs of the community.

[Human Trafficking project \(Trent Durham-GTA\)](#)



Students developed a screening tool to identify perpetrators who have themselves been victimized by human trafficking. The tool was designed to create a better understanding of victim-perpetrators and their experiences, to help women who face criminal charges to identify if they were victims of human trafficking.



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2024-INFO-65
Date: October 11, 2024

Subject:

Economic Update - More Interest Rate Cuts Anticipated as the Economy Stalls and Geopolitical Risks Heighten

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 This report updates Regional Council on the economic environment, as monitored by the Finance Department, including key economic indicators and their impacts on the local economy and Durham Region programs.

2. Bank of Canada Interest Rate Decrease

2.1 As reported in September (Report 2024-INFO-53), on September 4, 2024, the Bank of Canada (BOC) again lowered its overnight interest rate by 25 basis points to 4.25 per cent, continuing its path of easing monetary policy and balance sheet normalization. At the previous two interest rate meetings on June 5th and July 24th, 2024, the BOC began this easing cycle, also with 25 basis point rate cuts at each of these meetings. The next scheduled date for announcing the overnight target rate is October 23, 2024

2.2 The BOCs decision in September was supported by declining inflation, weak household spending, and an increasing unemployment rate. On September 24th 2024, at an “Institute of International Finance and the Canadian Bankers Association” Forum in Toronto, BOC Governor Tiff Macklem noted in his speech that “...as inflation gets closer to target (currently sits at BOC 2.0% target), we want to see economic growth pick up to absorb the slack in the economy...and keep inflation close to the centre of the one per cent to three percent inflation control band. We need to stick the landing.” There are increasing economist and market predictions that the BOC will cut the overnight policy interest rate by 50-basis points on October 23rd, but consensus is more solid for at

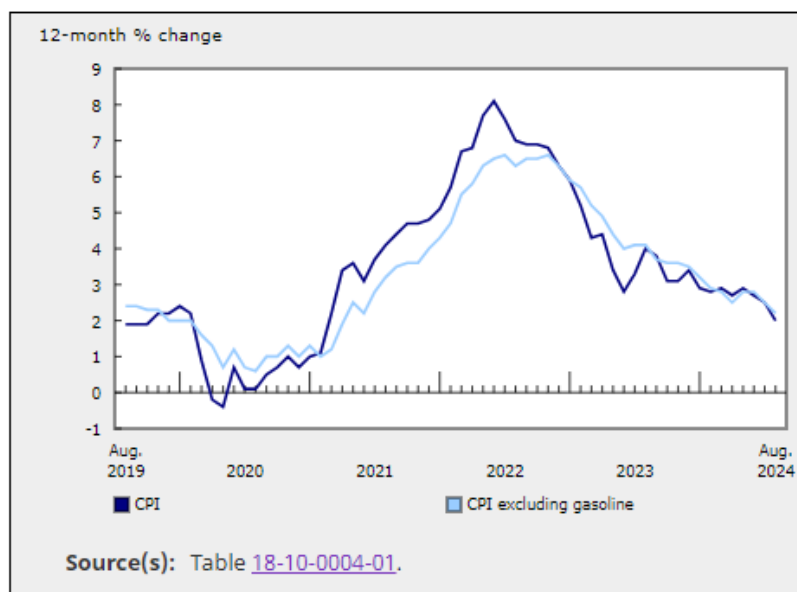
least another 0.25 per cent cut in October and December of 2024.

- 2.3 On September 18, 2024, the Federal Reserve, the United States central bank dropped its comparable federal funds rate by 0.5 per cent to 4.75 per cent, after holding it at a 23-year high of 5.5 per cent since July 2023 in order to subdue post-covid inflation.

3. Inflation

- 3.1 Statistics Canada released its August 2024 update on Consumer Price Indices on September 17, 2024. Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 2.0 per cent on a year-over-year basis, compared to August 2023. This was down 0.5 per cent year-over-year compared to July when 2.5 per cent was recorded. While mortgage interest costs and rent remained the largest contributors to the CPI inflation rate, lower gasoline prices drove the all-items CPI down. Although mortgage interest inflation remained high at 18.8 per cent year-over-year in August 2024, this is way off the 30.9 per cent year-over-year recorded in August 2023.
- 3.2 According to Statistics Canada, "year over year, clothing and footwear prices fell for an eighth consecutive month, down 4.4 per cent in August following a 2.7 per cent decline in July."
- 3.3 Food purchased from stores increased 2.4 per cent compared to August 2023, 0.3 per cent higher than the year-over-year inflation reported in July 2024 and despite some relief due to the seasonal decline in the cost of fresh vegetables.

**Chart 1: Consumer Price Index 12-month Percentage Change
Aug 2019 – Aug 2024**



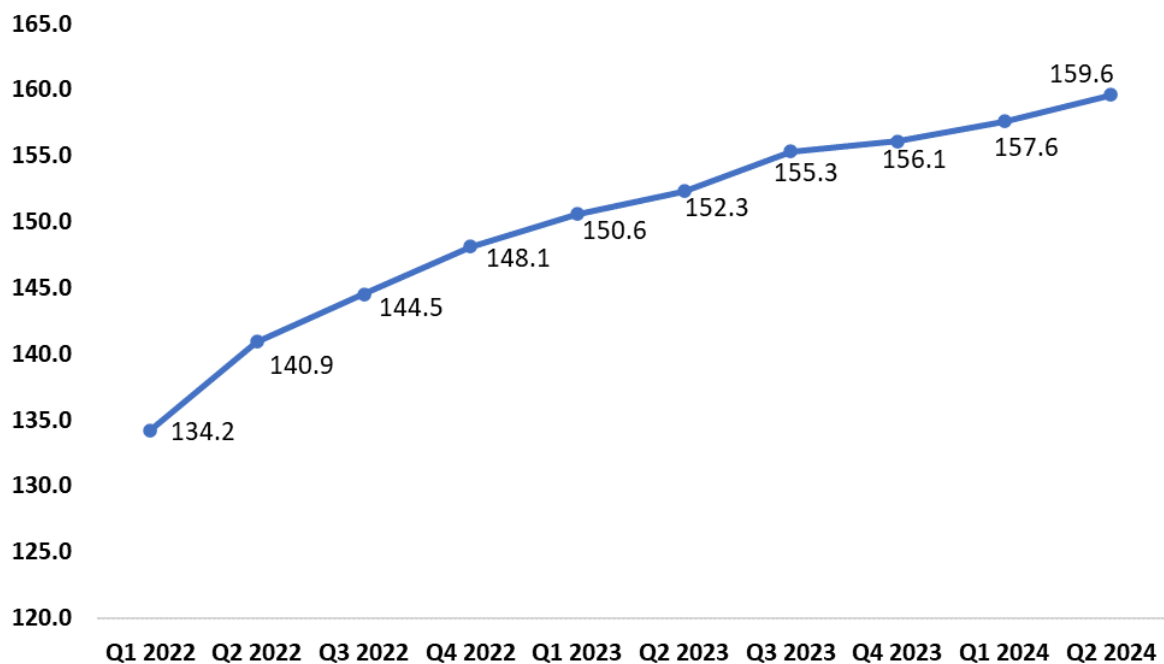
Source: Statistics Canada

- 3.4 Ontario's CPI fell similar to the national rate, to 2.1 per cent year-over-year, compared to 2.7 per cent reported in July 2024 year-over-year.
- 3.5 Canadian CPI data will again be updated by Statistics Canada on October 15, 2024.

4. Construction, Commodity and Fuel Prices

- 4.1 The Statistics Canada Toronto non-residential construction building cost index, at the end of the second quarter 2024, had increased 18.9 per cent since the first quarter of 2022, although the average increase since the first quarter of 2023 was only 1.3 per cent quarterly, as inflation and supply chain issues subsided.
- 4.2 Statistics Canada noted factors still impacting the construction sector by mid-2024, included skilled labour shortages, labour rate increases, interest rate pressures and building code updates which add to cost. Chart 2 below, provides the Toronto CMA composite non-residential building construction price index, since the first quarter (Q) of 2022.

**Chart 2: Statistics Canada, Non-residential Building Construction Price Index
Toronto, Ontario CMA
(Quarterly Increases Q1 2022 to Q2 2024)**



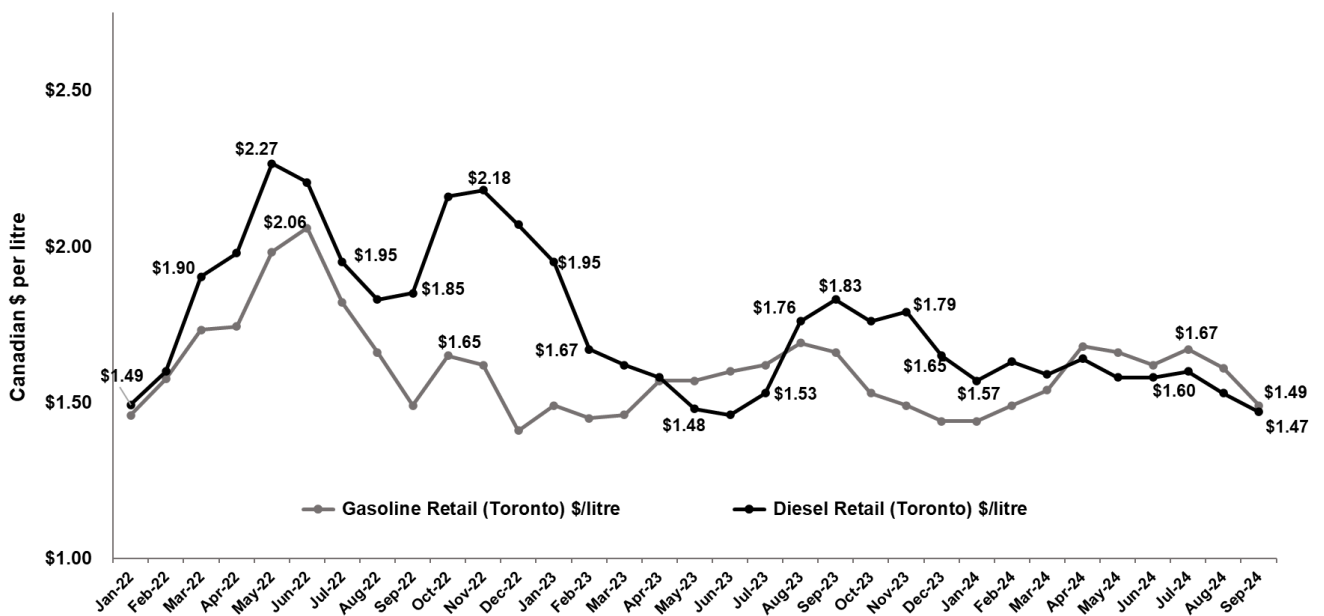
Source: Statistics Canada, 18-10-0276-01, July 30, 2024 (latest available)

- 4.3 Fluctuating commodity and fuel prices have direct implications for Regional

program areas. They are largely driven by North American and global markets, beyond the direct control of the Region. The following provides trends and context for fuel and other commodity pricing deemed relevant to Regional operational and capital planning.

- 4.4 After Toronto Benchmark average monthly pricing for regular gasoline and diesel peaked during the Covid pandemic at \$2.06 per litre and \$2.27 per litre, respectively (in May/June 2022), average monthly prices were recently back close to the range of pricing seen during the first quarter of 2022 (when regular gasoline averaged \$1.59, and diesel averaged \$1.67 per litre). September 2024 pricing was at \$1.49 per litre for regular gasoline and \$1.47 per litre for diesel.
- 4.5 While retail fuel prices are anticipated to continue to weaken with slowing economic growth, geopolitical tensions and risks are heightened and could have significant inflationary impacts. Any worsening of regional conflicts abroad, labour disruptions, or climate events, could affect global oil, retail fuel, commodity and food prices, supply chains, and inflation.

Chart 3: Diesel and Regular Gasoline Toronto Benchmark Monthly Averages (CDN \$/litre from January 2022 – September 2024)

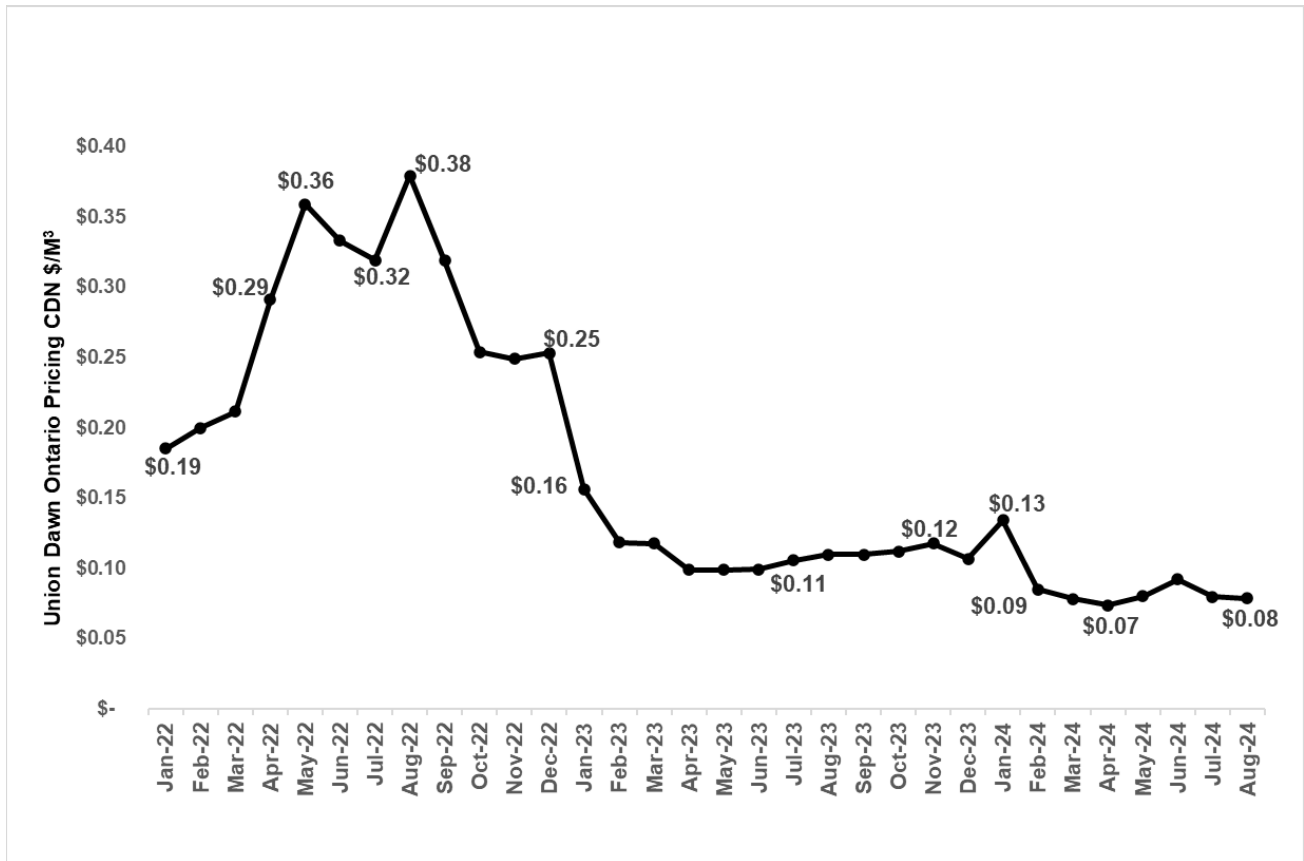


Source: Natural Resources Canada

- 4.6 Chart 4 below demonstrates, based on historical data compiled by Sproule Holdings Limited, that Union Dawn hub (Ontario) natural gas prices have decreased 79.2 per cent in the 24 months since August 2022, and 28.3 per cent in the 12 months since August 2023, to a level of eight cents per cubic meter for August 2024 (natural gas supply costs only - excludes pipeline transportation tolls)

and other distribution charges). The drop in pricing for this commodity reflects U.S. production surpassing demand growth, high storage inventory and warmer weather in the last couple of winters, which reduced demand. The 2022 spike was related to several factors, including market impacts from Russia’s war on Ukraine, soaring European prices and higher Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) exports which drew down North American inventories.

**Chart 4: Monthly Average Natural Gas Prices
(Union Dawn Ontario Price CDN \$/cubic meter (M³))**



Source: Sproule Holdings Limited, September 26, 2024

- 4.7 The Statistics Canada Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) measures price changes for products manufactured in Canada. It reflects 22 industrial product price categories. Chart 5 below demonstrates year-over-year changes in industrial product pricing in manufacturing, industrial processes, and construction between August 2023 and August 2024. Industrial product prices affect Regional material processing and construction costs but can also impact Regional revenues.
- 4.8 The total IPPI index reached a high of 132.7 in May of 2022, amid the Ukraine war, and supply shortages and disruptions (IPPI base year January 2020 = 100).

Chart 5: Statistics Canada Industrial Product Price Index Price Levels by IPPI Product Category (August 2023 to August 2024)

Product Category	IPPI Price Index		
	August 2023	August 2024	Yr over Yr %
Primary Ferrous Metal Products	147.2	138.2	-6.1%
Primary Non-ferrous Metal Products	137.0	156.9	14.5%
Lumber & Wood Products	126.8	122.7	-3.2%
Energy and Petroleum Products	148.3	129.8	-12.5%
Fabricated Metal Products & Construction Materials	142.0	139.9	-1.5%
Cement/glass/non-metallic minerals	126.5	137.8	8.9%
Electric/electronic/audiovisual/telecommunication Products	129.5	133.1	2.8%
Machinery & Equipment	117.4	121.0	3.1%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	121.0	125.4	3.6%
Packaging Materials and Containers	129.3	132.1	2.2%
Total Industrial Product Price Index	126.5	126.8	0.2%

Note: January 2020 = 100

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Table 18-10-0268-01, September 20, 2024

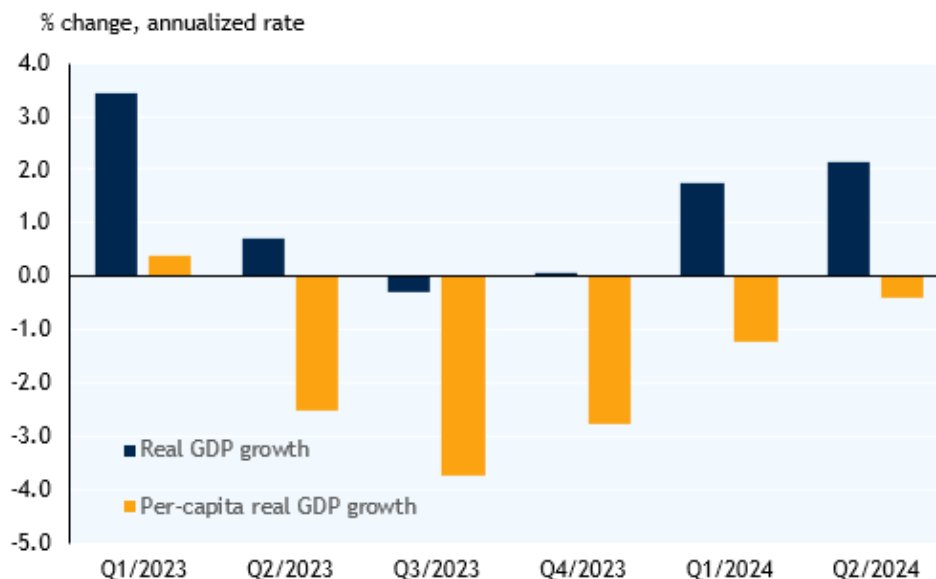
- 4.9 While each commodity reflects its own market supply and demand characteristics, by August 2024 the overall IPPI had fallen -4.4 per cent from the 2022 peak. Within the basket of products however, there remain significant price increases and decreases over the same period. In August 2024, year-over-year prices have fallen for fabricated metal and construction materials, energy and petroleum products, lumber and wood products and primary ferrous metal products. However, significant product price increases are still apparent for non-ferrous metal products, and cement, glass and non-metallic minerals.

5. Economic Growth

- 5.1 Economic growth, as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP), increased 0.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2024 after rising 0.4 per cent in the first quarter. On an annualized basis, Q2 2024 GDP growth was reported at 2.1 per cent, following a slight upward revision to the Q1 figure of 1.8 per cent (previously 1.7 per cent). Growth was primarily concentrated in higher government expenditures, business investment in engineering structures and machinery and equipment, household spending on services. Declines were noted in exports, residential construction and household spending on goods.
- 5.2 On a per capita basis, GDP fell 0.1 per cent in the second quarter – the fifth consecutive quarterly decline.

Chart 6:

Canadian per-capita GDP declined for another quarter



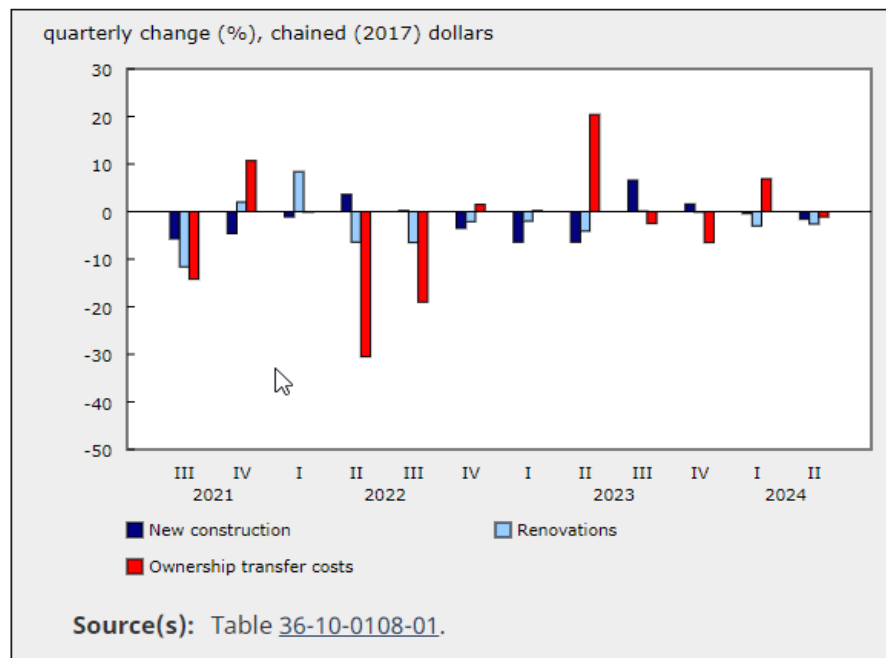
Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics

- 5.3 Government expenditures rose 1.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2024, due to increases in compensation to employees and hours worked across all levels of government. According to RBC Economics, the surge in government spending accounted for 80 per cent of the Q2 GDP increase. Purchases of goods and services in the federal, provincial and municipal governments also rebounded in the second quarter, following a decline in the first quarter.
- 5.4 Business spending on machinery and equipment increased 6.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2024, led by higher spending on aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts. This coincided with increased imports of aircraft and ships. Business investment in non-residential structures increased 0.5 per cent in the second quarter due to higher spending on engineering structures, primarily in the oil and gas sector. Business investment in non-residential building construction fell 1.2 per cent, as investment in commercial and industrial structures declined.
- 5.5 Growth in household spending slowed to 0.2 per cent in the second quarter after rising 0.9 per cent in the first quarter. Higher expenditures for rental fees for housing, food and electricity led the increase in the second quarter. Meanwhile, fewer purchases of new trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles as well as reduced expenditures by Canadians abroad tempered overall growth.
- 5.6 Exports of goods and services fell 0.4 per cent in the second quarter after rising 0.5 per cent in the first quarter. In the second quarter, lower exports of unwrought gold, silver, and platinum group metals, as well as of passenger cars and light trucks and refined petroleum energy products were moderated by higher exports

of crude oil and bitumen.

- 5.7 Imports of goods and services edged down 0.4 per cent in the second quarter after recording no change in the first quarter. Lower imports of industrial machinery, equipment and parts, commercial services and refined petroleum energy products led the decrease in the second quarter, while higher imports of passenger cars and light trucks tempered the overall decline.
- 5.8 On an annualized basis, residential investment declined 1.9 per cent for another quarter, and at a much faster speed, in line with weaker home sales. This represents the largest decline since the first quarter of 2023. The decrease in the second quarter of 2024 was driven by lower investment in new construction, as work put in place for single-family dwellings and apartments fell, primarily in Ontario. Renovations fell 2.6 per cent, and ownership transfer costs, which represent the resale market, declined 1.1 per cent, led by less activity in Ontario.

Chart 7: Residential Investment



- 5.9 Compensation of employees rose 1.6 per cent in the second quarter after increasing 1.5 per cent in the first quarter. Growth in the second quarter was led by increased wages in health care and social assistance, educational services and finance and insurance. Retroactive payments associated with arbitration decisions for members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario were a large contributor to the wage growth in educational services. Among all industries, wages and salaries in mining and oil and gas extraction (+5.6 per cent) had the strongest growth in the second quarter.
- 5.10 The household savings rate reached 7.2 per cent in the second quarter, as gains in disposable income outpaced increases in nominal consumption expenditure.

Disposable income gains were mainly from wages and salaries. Growth in investment income slowed in the second quarter, rising 2.8 per cent, mainly on higher interest received and dividends. At the same time, household property income payments, comprised of mortgage and non-mortgage interest expenses, rose at a faster pace (+5.7 per cent) compared with the first quarter (+4.1 per cent). The Bank of Canada announced a cut to the policy interest rate at the beginning of June, followed by a further cut in July; however, many mortgage borrowers are still facing relatively higher renewal costs following the rate hikes that began in early 2022.

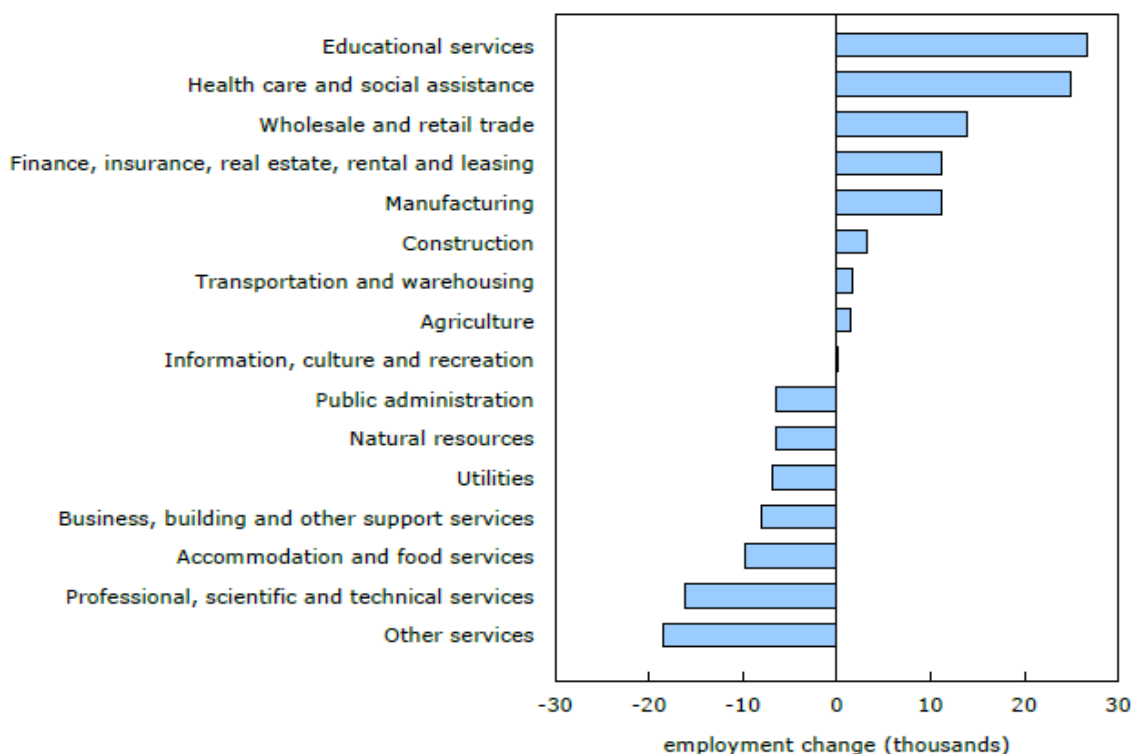
- 5.11 Higher income households tend to earn greater share of investment income than lower income households, while lower income households tend to have interest expenses that represent a greater share of their disposable income.
- 5.12 Recent economic data indicate that inflationary pressures have broadly eased, with breadth of goods impacted by abnormally high inflation narrowing to pre-pandemic levels, and the softening economic backdrop should reinforce the Bank of Canada's view that the economy has softened enough to keep inflation on a downward trajectory.

6. Labour Market

- 6.1 Employment in Canada was little changed in August, as gains in part-time work were largely offset by a decline in full-time work. This was the fourth consecutive month of little overall employment change.
- 6.2 Across Canada, employment increased by 22,000 in August 2024, after edging lower in each of the two prior months. Employment grew by 20,000 (+0.3 per cent) among core-aged women (25 to 54 years old) in August and held steady across other major demographic groups. Employment gains were realized in educational services (+27,000; +1.7 per cent), health care and social assistance (+25,000; +0.9 per cent), and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+11,000; +0.8 per cent). Employment declined in "other services" (-19,000; -2.3 per cent), professional, scientific and technical services (-16,000; -0.8 per cent), utilities (-6,800; -4.5 per cent) and natural resources (-6,500; -1.8 per cent).
- 6.3 The number of private sector employees rose by 38,000 (+0.3 per cent) in August, largely offsetting a similar-sized decrease in the previous month (-42,000; -0.3 per cent). The increase in private sector employment in August was the first since April. Public sector employment and self-employment were both little changed in August.
- 6.4 On a year-over-year basis, the employment rate was down for youth as well as for people in the core working age in August. Declines were larger for young men (-4.5 percentage points to 52.3 per cent) and young women (-3.5 percentage points to 55.2 per cent), reflecting relatively strong population growth and virtually no employment growth for the youth population.
- 6.5 In August, employment rose by 27,000 (+1.7 per cent) in educational services, the

first increase since January. There were 75,000 (+5.1 per cent) more people employed in this sector compared with 12 months earlier. In health care and social assistance, employment increased by 25,000 (+0.9 per cent) in August. In the 12 months to August, employment gains in health care and social assistance (+157,000; +5.8 per cent) were the largest of any sector and accounted for nearly half (49.6 per cent) of total net employment growth.

**Chart 8: Employment Change - Canada
August 2024**

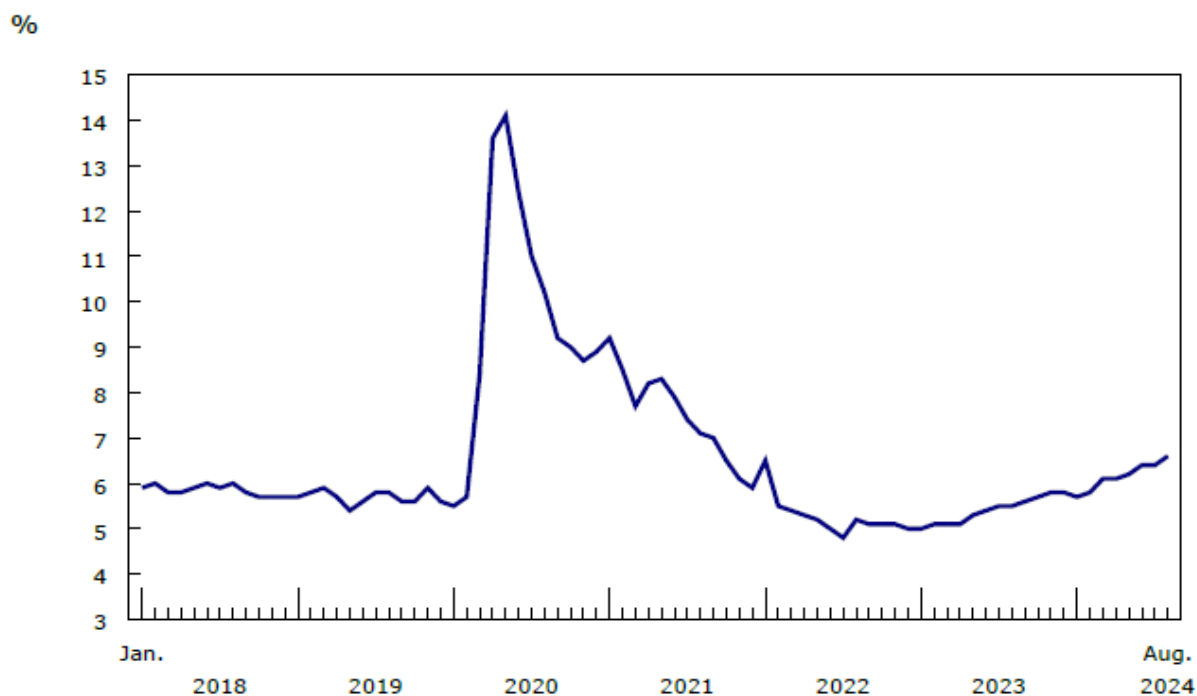


Source: Statistics Canada

- 6.6 Year-over-year employment growth in health care and social assistance was recorded both in the private sector (+94,000; +8.6 per cent) and in the public sector (+77,000; +6.1 per cent). Self-employment in health care and social assistance was little changed over the period (not seasonally adjusted).
- 6.7 In August, employment decreased in "other services" (which includes personal and repair services) (-19,000; -2.3 per cent) following five months of little change. Employment also fell in professional, scientific and technical services (-16,000; -0.8 per cent) in August. Despite the monthly decline, employment in the industry was up by 47,000 (+2.5 per cent) on a year-over-year basis.
- 6.8 The unemployment rate also ticked higher (to 6.6 per cent from 6.4 per cent in July) with an increase in the number of available workers again outpacing job growth. The unemployment rate in August was the highest since May 2017,

outside of 2020 and 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The unemployment rate has generally trended up since April 2023, rising 1.5 percentage points over this period.

Chart 9: Unemployment Rate - Canada



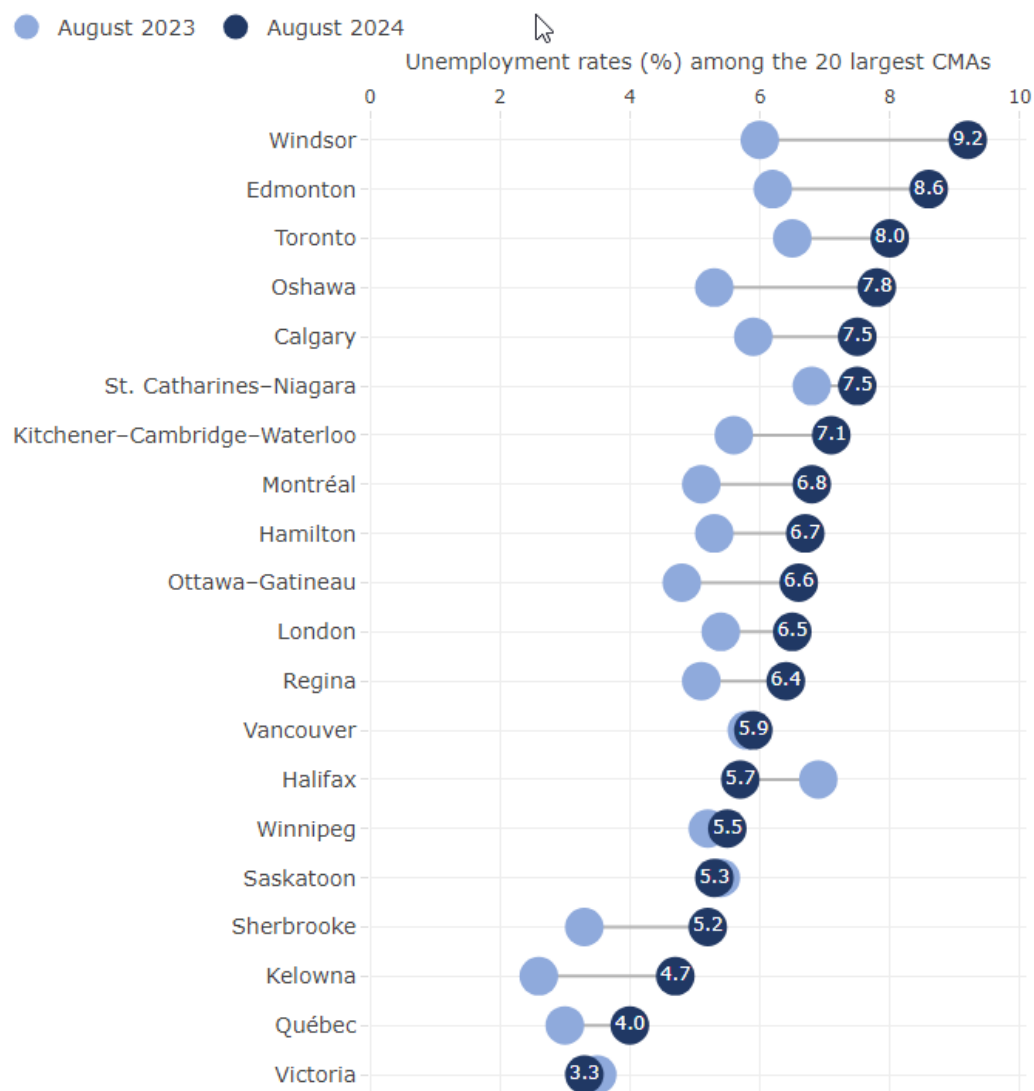
Source: Statistics Canada

- 6.9 There were 1.5 million unemployed people in August 2024, an increase of 60,000 (+4.3 per cent) from July and an increase of 272,000 (+22.9 per cent) from August 2023.
- 6.10 Among those who were unemployed in July, 16.7 per cent had transitioned to employment in August (not seasonally adjusted). This was lower than the corresponding proportion in August 2023 (23.2 per cent), an indication that unemployed people may be facing greater difficulties finding work.
- 6.11 On average from May to August 2024, the unemployment rate for returning full-time students aged 15 to 24 was 16.7 per cent, up from 12.9 per cent in 2023. The unemployment rate for the summer of 2024 was the highest since 2012 (when it was 17.6 per cent), excluding the summer of 2020.
- 6.12 The unemployment rate of returning students over the summer months of 2024 was up for both young men (+4.5 percentage points to 18.1 per cent) and young women (+3.3 percentage points to 15.5 per cent) compared with the same period in 2023.
- 6.13 The unemployment rate increased for returning students across all age groups in

the summer of 2024 compared with the summer of 2023. Among the youngest—those aged 15 and 16—more than one-quarter (27.0 per cent) were unemployed this summer (up from 22.1 per cent in 2023). For returning students aged 17 to 19, the unemployment rate was 17.7 per cent, up from 12.5 per cent in 2023. For older returning students—those aged 20 to 24—the unemployment rate was 11.1 per cent, up from 8.3 per cent in 2023.

- 6.14 The unemployment rate in Ontario increased 0.4 percentage points to 7.1 per cent in August 2024, as more people searched for work. In the Oshawa CMA, the unemployment rate increased to 7.8 per cent for the month of August; this represented an annual increase of 2.5 per cent compared to August 2023, when the unemployment rate stood at 5.3 per cent.

Chart 10: Unemployment Rates of Large Canadian CMAs



Source: Labour Force Survey (August 2024), Statistics Canada

6.15 Overall, labour markets continue to soften. Much of the unemployment rate increases to date have come from longer job searches for new labour market entrants (particularly students), but layoffs are also rising under the surface. In addition, a down-drift in job vacancies signals that hiring demand from businesses continues to slow. From the Bank of Canada's perspective, higher unemployment coupled with persistent declines in per-capita GDP will reinforce that inflation will continue to drift lower and may prompt further interest rate cuts.

7. Housing Trends

7.1 On September 16, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the following changes to mortgage rules with the intention to make mortgages more affordable for Canadians:

- Increasing the \$1 million price cap for insured mortgages to \$1.5 million. This measure would take effect on December 15, 2024.
- Expanding eligibility for 30 year mortgage amortizations to all first-time homebuyers and to all buyers of new builds. This measure would also take effect December 15, 2024.

7.2

7.3 In addition, the new cap on the value of homes that qualify for insurance means anyone buying a home that costs between \$1 million and \$1.5 million will no longer need a 20 per cent downpayment. Homeowners may now qualify for an insured mortgage, which typically requires a downpayment of only five per cent.

7.4 The impact of these changes mean that homebuyers will be carrying mortgage payments longer, which may tempt purchasers to spend more than they can afford because the monthly payments will be cheaper than they were under the old rules. In addition, mortgagees will also pay interest on their mortgages for longer. The changes may also have the unintended consequence of increasing home prices by stimulating demand, which may exacerbate the supply issues that these measures are trying to alleviate.

7.5 On October 3, 2024, the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB) reported that Greater Toronto Area (GTA) home sales increased year-over-year for the month of September. Buyers were starting to take advantage of more affordable market conditions brought about by interest rate cuts and lower home prices. Going forward, it is anticipated that home sales will steadily increase in relation to population growth, as home buyers take advantage of changes to mortgage

lending guidelines and borrowing costs trend lower.

- 7.6 According to TRREB, there were 4,996 home sales in September 2024, which represented an increase of 8.5 per cent compared to 4,606 sales reported in September 2023. There were 18,089 new listings in September – up by an even greater 10.5 per cent year-over-year. On a seasonally adjusted basis, September sales increased on a monthly basis compared to August, along with new listings.
- 7.7 The average resale price in the GTA was \$1,107,291, representing a decrease by one per cent compared to the September 2023 average of \$1,118,215. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the average selling price edged up slightly compared to August. The annual improvement in September home sales was more than matched by the increase in new listings over the same period. This resulted in a better-supplied market and increased negotiating power for buyers re-entering the market. The ability to negotiate on price, led to moderate year-over-year price declines.
- 7.8 The ability for existing mortgage holders to shop around for the best rate without facing the stress test may result in more affordable renewals. Longer amortization periods and the ability to insure mortgages for purchases over \$1 million dollars may give home buyers more options as the GTA housing market recovers.
- 7.9 The Regions of Durham and York continued to see monthly resale price declines, with Duram reporting an average resale price of \$894,399 and York with an average resale price of \$1,263,790.

**Table 1: Toronto Regional Real Estate Board:
Summary of Select Existing Home Transactions
(All Home Types – Average Price in Canadian \$)**

	Year-over-Year		Monthly Change			
	23-Sep	24-Sep	24-Jun	24-Jul	24-Aug	24-Sep
Durham	907,359	894,499	956,428	915,636	907,997	894,499
York	1,330,636	1,263,790	1,385,139	1,305,476	1,297,868	1,263,790
Peel	1,049,968	1,058,346	1,077,628	1,065,043	1,029,214	1,058,346
Halton	1,245,146	1,255,112	1,252,642	1,246,352	1,217,477	1,255,112
Toronto	1,119,452	1,113,671	1,173,781	1,087,436	1,029,069	1,113,671

Source: Toronto Regional Real Estate Board

- 7.10 On a year-over-year basis, Durham, York and Toronto saw average resale price declines of 1.4 per cent, 5.0 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively. Both the Regions of Peel and Halton saw modest average price increases of 0.8 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively.

8. Risks, Uncertainties and Potential Volatility

- 8.1 There remains considerable risk in the near term for global and Canadian markets as Canada (and the world) transition to a slower economy, and as fears increase related to the potential for economic shocks, risks related to climate change impacts, a greater than anticipated downturn and increasing geo-political tensions in the Middle East. As with Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, drastic geopolitical events can shift global markets considerably. If wider escalation of the middle eastern war cannot be averted there could be significant inflationary impacts, beginning with oil price shocks, but potentially spreading to other goods and services. As the Bank of Canada noted in its previous Monetary Policy report, "...global geo-political developments could also renew international trade tensions (e.g., tariff threats) and disruptions stemming from geopolitical tensions and conflicts which can impede supply of goods and increase commodity prices (e.g. attacks on key shipping routes)."
- 8.2 With labour tensions higher, labour disruption impacts and risks are also front and centre. Although in August 2024, the Canada Industrial Relations Board ordered work stoppages to stop at Canada's largest railways, signaling an end to an unprecedented service disruption that threatened Canada's export-driven economy, Port of Montreal Longshore workers initiated a three-day strike September 30th, 2024, related to ongoing disputes in collective bargaining. This port (two terminals) is key to Canadian imports and exports, handling over 40 million tonnes of goods per year and representing close to 40 per cent of Canada's container traffic. Worse yet, US port shutdowns (almost 40 ports affected) could significantly affect North American and even global supply chains. On October 1, 2024, approximately 45,000 workers within the International Longshoremen's Association also went on strike, threatening an economy just coming off peak inflation and already slowing due to still relatively higher interest rates (despite a recent 0.5 per cent reduction by the US Federal Reserve). Canadian and US port strike actions will affect fuels, retail goods, automotive goods, industrial products, chemicals and perishable fruits and vegetables, with impacts depending on how long strike action continues.
- 8.3 The Finance Department will continue to monitor the economic environment and key indicators and report on implications as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: October 11, 2024
To: Health & Social Services Committee
From: Dr. Robert Kyle
Subject: Health Information Update – October 6, 2024

Health
Department

Please find attached the latest links to health information from the Health Department and other key sources that you may find of interest. Links may need to be copied and pasted directly in your web browser to open, including the link below.

You may also wish to browse the online Health Department Reference Manual available at [Board of Health Manual](#), which is continually updated.

Boards of health are required to “superintend, provide or ensure the provision of the health programs and services required by the [Health Protection and Promotion] Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board” (section 4, clause a, HPPA). In addition, medical officers of health are required to “[report] directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act” (sub-section 67.(1), HPPA).

Accordingly, the Health Information Update is a component of the Health Department’s ‘Accountability Framework’, which also may include program and other reports, Health Plans, Quality Enhancement Plans, Durham Health Check-Ups, business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

*“Service Excellence
for our Communities*

UPDATES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
October 6, 2024

Health Department Media Releases/Publications

tinyurl.com/mryph9cb

- Health Department releases report on extreme heat in Durham Region (Sep 23)

tinyurl.com/32unjh7w

- Health Equity Series – Improve Health Trough Financial Empowerment (Sep 23)

tinyurl.com/56s77zsp

- Health Department encourages parents to book eye examinations for school-aged children (Oct 1)

tinyurl.com/yc5fuw3y

- COVID-19 Vaccine Fall Recommendations (Oct 2)

tinyurl.com/ztwvyky8

- Influenza Vaccine Available for High-Risk Groups Only (Oct 2)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Canadian Heritage

tinyurl.com/5ajrr24y

- Statement by Minister Qualtrough to mark Concussion Awareness Week (Sep 23)

Environment and Climate Change Canada

tinyurl.com/f9aed4ab

- Climate change fuels August heat waves across Canada (Sep 25)

tinyurl.com/5n7audf3

- Strengthening protections from pollution and the right to a healthy environment (Oct 2)

Health Canada

tinyurl.com/k2xm949s

- Government of Canada and Partners Pave Way for Standardized Mental Health and Substance Use Care (Sep 26)

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

tinyurl.com/2267dav4

- Federal government launches Health Emergency Readiness Canada to strengthen preparedness for future health emergencies (Sep 24)

Natural Resources Canada

tinyurl.com/mr3zmfc5

- Government of Canada Advances Small Modular Reactor Research and Development With \$13.6-Million Investment (Oct 3)

Public Health Agency of Canada

tinyurl.com/bdhthesp

- Government of Canada launches Framework for Autism in Canada, Canada's Autism Strategy, and National Autism Network call for applications (Sep 26)

tinyurl.com/2as4wnry

- Statement from Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, and Dr. Mary Jane Ireland, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, on the release of the Pan-Canadian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance Year 1 Progress Report (Sep 26)

tinyurl.com/ym2ynd3d

- Public Health Notice: Outbreak of Salmonella Muenchen infections linked to geckos (Sep 27)

Public Safety Canada

tinyurl.com/yy274vrc

- Statement by Minister Sajjan on Fire Prevention Week (Oct 6)

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Ministry of Sport

tinyurl.com/2vnzhdss

- Ontario Commemorates Sixth Annual Rowan's Law Day (Sep 25)

tinyurl.com/bd2585rz

- Ontario Helping Kids Stay Active and Healthy (Oct 2)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

tinyurl.com/2uwvr6m8

- Closing the gap: Two national networks secure \$10M in funding for women's heart and brain health research (Sep 23)

Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc.

tinyurl.com/76bn252c

- Life and health insurers paid a record \$128 billion in benefits in 2023, helping Canadians live healthier, more affordable lives (Sep 24)

Canadian Medical Association

tinyurl.com/3v4z5y2d

- Canadian Medical Association recognized National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sep 30)

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

tinyurl.com/msutmtzw

- Keynote address by Pierre Tremblay, President and CEO of CNSC at the 5th International Conference on Generation IV and Small Reactors (Oct 3)

Heart and Stroke Foundation

tinyurl.com/mr2cfext

- Canadian research teams hope to transform women's heart and brain health over next five years (Sep 23)

tinyurl.com/2u8xcapx

- Heart & Stroke applauds Ontario government for initiating the province's first Automated External Defibrillator (AED) registry (Oct 4)

Office of the Fire Marshal

tinyurl.com/xw756rex

- Only Working Smoke Alarms Can Save Lives (Oct 4)

Quebec Coalition for Tobacco Control

tinyurl.com/42fmke7r

- Youth vaping in Canada – Tobacco Control Groups to Minister Saks: Ban Flavours Now or Resign (Oct 4)

World Health Organization

tinyurl.com/3725rapx

- World leaders commit to decisive action on antimicrobial resistance (Sep 26)

tinyurl.com/yb5ascz4

- Recommendations announced for influenza vaccine composition for the 2025 southern hemisphere influenza season (Sep 27)



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg


Resolution

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

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

Delivered via email

Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 07, 2024 8:34 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

October 4, 2024

RE: Motion from Mayor Lucas Cleveland regarding Support of Involuntary Care for
Individuals with Severe Mental Health and Addictions Issues

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on September 25, 2024, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has announced the creation of highly secure facilities to provide involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues under the Mental Health Act, including dedicated mental health units in correctional centres and regional secure care facilities; and

WHEREAS the Town of Cobourg, along with municipalities across Ontario, are facing growing challenges in addressing the complex needs of individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues, which place a significant strain on local emergency services, healthcare systems, community resources, and public safety; and

WHEREAS individuals experiencing severe mental health and addictions issues often cannot voluntarily seek the care they need, and involuntary care, provided with compassion and appropriate safeguards, can ensure they receive the necessary treatment to help stabilize their condition and improve community safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobourg supports the BC government's approach to providing secure, involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions challenges, as a compassionate and necessary intervention for those unable to seek help on their own; and

FURTHER THAT the Town of Cobourg urges the Province of Ontario to implement similar measures to ensure that individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues in Ontario have access to secure, involuntary care when necessary; and



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

FURTHER THAT this motion be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Premier, Honourable David Piccini, MPP, all other Members of Provincial Parliament and all Ontario municipalities to seek their endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM);
Honourable, David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills
Development and Northumberland – Peterborough South MPP;,
All other Members of Provincial Parliament; and
All Ontario Municipalities

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 07, 2024 11:36 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

September 20, 2024

BY E-MAIL

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Khanjin:

Ontario Deposit Return Program

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally address the recent discussions surrounding the Ontario Deposit Return Program, particularly regarding our community residents asking us about the recycling of nonalcoholic beverage plastics.

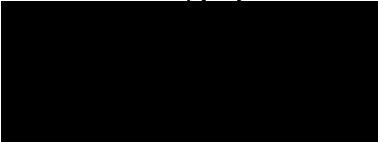
Whereas the Ontario Deposit Return Program has successfully incentivized the recycling of alcoholic beverage containers, resulting in the removal of over 204,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, we recognize the potential for similar success with nonalcoholic beverages.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks highlighted in their June 2023 letter that they are considering the adoption of a deposit-and-return system for nonalcoholic beverages. This initiative presents a unique opportunity to further promote recycling, reduce litter, and encourage sustainable practices among consumers.

Therefore, I am proud to announce that our Council endorses the expansion of the Ontario Deposit Return Program to include nonalcoholic beverage containers. We believe that this expansion will not only enhance environmental stewardship but also foster a culture of sustainability within our community.

We encourage all stakeholders to support this initiative and work collaboratively towards its implementation. Together, we can make a significant impact on our environment and set a positive example for future generations.

Yours truly,



Mayor James Leduc
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

CC:
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Member of Provincial Parliament for York-Simcoe
MPP Sandy Shaw, Opposition Environment, Conservation and Parks Critic
Ontario's Municipal Councils and Conservation Authorities

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

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 17, 2024

A meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:13 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Crawford, Chair
A. Ali*, Ajax
M. Bonk, Brock
R. Claxton-Oldfield, Member at Large
P. Gunti*, Clarington, Vice-Chair
W. Henshall*, AAC, attended the meeting at 7:11 PM
J. McEwen*, AAC
A. Mujeeb, Pickering, attended the meeting at 7:12 PM
R. Smith, Community Group, Durham Association for Family Resources
*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: A. Andrus, Community Group, Participation House
I. Giffin, Uxbridge
T. Ralph, Whitby
T. Smale, Member at Large
J. Westerman, Oshawa

Staff

Present: F. Amin, Administrative Assistant, Durham Region Transit
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
D. Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit, Durham Region Transit
B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
J. Kilgour*, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
A. Pezzetti*, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit
J. Phelan*, Manager, Policy and Planning, Durham Region Transit
M. Rippin*, Eligibility Coordinator, Special Service, Durham Region Transit
*** denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by R. Claxton-Oldfield, Seconded by J. McEwen,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory
Committee meeting held on Tuesday May 21, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) David Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit, re: Rapid Transit Project

D. Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Rapid Transit Project.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT)
- Intersection Design
- Median Shelter Platform Design
- Median Shelter Design
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
- Pickering Project Status
- Ajax and Whitby Project Status
- Simcoe Street Rapid Transit
 - Visioning and Initial Business Case Study
 - Why Simcoe Street?
- Rapid Transit Benefits
 - Ridership
 - Economic
- Transit Infrastructure Options
 - PIC#3 Options
 - Current Preferred Options
 - At-Grade Bus Rapid Transit
 - Aerial Cable Car
 - Aerial Cable Car Information
 - Existing Urban Aerial Cable Cars
 - Future Urban Aerial Cable Cars
- Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Study – Next Steps

D. Dunn responded to questions from the Committee regarding the accessibility measures being implemented during the DSBRT project; the accessibility practices being proposed for the aerial cable car option, and how it will impact the community's appearance; how the aerial cable car option manages maximum weight for safety purposes; whether the DSBRT project includes new off-street parking; whether the Simcoe Street rapid transit project owner and manager is the Region of Durham or Metrolinx; whether the Region of Durham is reviewing established models before making a final decision on which option to adopt; the number of aerial cable cars that could be used on the line; if the aerial cable car

option will connect to Toronto; and the economic differences between increasing the bus fleet and choosing the aerial cable car option.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Correspondence Items

There were no communication items to be considered.

7. Information Items

There were no information items to be considered.

8. Discussion Items

A) Transit Advisory Committee – Survey Summary

F. Amin asked the Committee whether they would prefer a special meeting to further define key recommendations and priority focus areas, more time to review the survey, or to use these recommendations for future meetings by adding them as agenda items.

Moved by J. McEwen, Seconded by R. Smith,
That the practical vision and priority focus areas from the Transit Advisory Committee Survey Summary be included as items on future Transit Advisory Committee agendas.
CARRIED

9. Other Business

A) Divisional Court of Ontario decision on April 12, 2022

R. Smith asked that this topic be added to the next Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) agenda for further discussion.

B. Holmes advised that the outcome of this case was specific to the eligibility decision of the applicant/individual involved and it did not impact DRT policies or processes in delivering specialized transit services. B. Holmes also advised that DRT operates and complies with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Integrated Transportation Standard.

B. Holmes suggested that the Committee could consider a discussion on eligibility for specialized services at the next TAC meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding challenges with the specialized service eligibility process.

B) Bus Rapid Transit Lanes

R. Smith raised concerns with regards to On Demand transit vehicles being unable to use the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes designated for buses.

B. Holmes advised that the BRT lanes are for buses only and there is no current plan to revise the by-law to enable other vehicles to access BRT lanes.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

11. Adjournment

Moved by M. Bonk, Seconded by A. Ali,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

M. Crawford, Chair, Transit Advisory Committee

Sarah Dessureault, Committee Clerk

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 19, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:12 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: B. Basztyk, Brock
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
M. Nasir, Ajax
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student
J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair

Staff

Present: R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
I. McVey, Manager, Sustainability, Office of the CAO
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***all staff members participated electronically**

In the absence of J. Cuthbertson, Chair, K. Murray, Second Vice-Chair assumed the Chair.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by W. Basztyk, Seconded by K. Lui,
That the agenda for the September 19, 2024 Durham Environment and
Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Widner, Seconded by M. Nasir,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, June 20, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

A) Ontario Energy Board Decision on Sandford Gas Expansion Project, Elizabeth Carswell, Durham Resident

E. Carswell, participating electronically, appeared with respect to the Ontario Energy Board Decision on Sandford Gas Expansion Project and advised she has observed climate change over the past 40 years in Sandford, which is in the Northwest corner of Uxbridge.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Project Budget of over 7 million
- Project Cost and Economics
- Excerpt of Enbridge Advertisement
- Annual Energy Costs & Savings Versus Natural Gas, Including SES
- Footnote
- Email of draft response to Elizabeth Carswell
- Status Today
- Letter from Township of Uxbridge to Ontario Energy Board
- Thank-you for your support to Northern Municipalities

E. Carswell advised of making presentations to the Township of Uxbridge Council, going door-to-door in Sandford, having coverage in the local paper and making a presentation to the Uxbridge Environment and Sustainability Committee advocating for a motion to request that the Ontario government find a more flexible way to use the \$4 million and withdraw support for the project as it is one of the requirements to receive funding. E. Carswell stated that Uxbridge sent a letter on September 10, 2024 advising they do not agree with her request to stop construction until the review is completed.

E. Carswell thanked the Committee for allowing her presentation and requested more support for the Northern municipalities.

E. Carswell responded to questions from Committee members.

6. Presentations

- A) Sustainable Built Form, Dr. Shoshanna Saxe, PhD, P. Eng., Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Infrastructure, University of Toronto

Dr. Shoshanna Saxe, PhD, P. Eng., Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Infrastructure, University of Toronto, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Building More Housing and Infrastructure with Less GHG Emissions.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Two Large Crises
- Safe Operating Space for Humanity
- Safe Operating Space for Architecture, Engineering and Construction Industry
- How much GHG do we emit constructing buildings and infrastructure?
- Emissions from Construction in Canada by Sector (Consumption)
- Commodity Type – Construction Sector – Consuming Province/Territory
- Tensions Between Building More and Polluting Less
- How much is enough?
- Pathways to fit between housing need and climate need?
 1. What drives the embodied GHG of housing and related infrastructure in Canada?
 - Distribution of emissions across every neighbourhood in Canada if they were built new
 - Total neighbourhood emissions (houses, roads, water)
 - Examples in Toronto, Edmonton, Montreal
 - Southern Ontario typical suburb
 - Examples throughout Canada
 2. What can we do to reduce embodied emissions in the future?
 - Yearly emissions in 2030
 - Strategies for reducing embodied emissions
 - Reducing emissions – to 2030
 - Embodied emissions from new Canada housing and infrastructure construction in 2030 if we build enough housing to restore affordability
 - Continuing to build housing the way we do now is incompatible with a sustainable future
 - So what?
 - Co-benefits
 3. How can we build enough housing without overshooting our climate commitments?

Dr. Saxe responded to questions from the Committee regarding collaborating with building associations on the research project; lowering GHG emissions using pre-

fabricated materials; how low density homes compare to high-rise building in terms of sustainability; whether there is a demand for high density buildings; how to deal with stormwater management in high density areas; how the district energy system plays a factor in the research; ways to design roads to help meet green development standards; how materials can add value when building new homes; how provinces across Canada are responding when considering changes to building codes and master plans; communities around Durham Region that follow the green development standards outlined in the research project; and other community groups the presentation has been provided to.

7. Items for Discussion

A) Regional Official Plan (Envision Durham) Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that the Regional Official Plan (Envision Durham) has been approved by the Province. The following links were provided within the Agenda:

- Regional Official Plan Approval
2024-INFO-57 – Council Information Report on Provincial Decision
Notice of MMAH’s Decision dated September 3, 2024 regarding the Region of Durham 2023 Official Plan
- Regional Response to MMAH’s Proposed Modifications to the Durham Regional Official Plan (second submission) on June 27th
- MMAH’s Draft Decision on the Council-adopted Regional official plan on May 6th and Preliminary Response to MMAH’s Proposed Modifications to the Durham Regional Official Plan (first submission) on May 15th

B) Home EnergySaver Program (I. McVey)

A link to the Home EnergySaver Program webpage was provided to Committee members.

I. McVey advised there is a new program offering incentives for electrically heated homes to purchase an air source heat pump. He stated it is only available in certain postal codes, none of which are in Durham Region, and there is a campaign to advocate the province to make it available to anyone with an electrically heated home.

I. McVey responded to a question from the Committee regarding if the Home EnergySaver Program will offer incentives for homes that currently have heat pumps attached to them that need to be replaced.

C) Fall Pollinator Plots on Regional Property Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman updated the committee on progress of pollinator plantings resulting from a grant that Durham Region was awarded earlier in 2024. Throughout the summer, staff identified plots of land near the Scugog Works Depot, that will be prepared, solarized, and seeded in the fall, and left to “overwinter” and bloom in the Spring. A. Luqman stated that the plots will be maintained by staff at the Scugog Works Depot.

D) Fall Durham Climate Forum Update (DCF Subcommittee)

A. Luqman provided an update on behalf of the Durham Climate Forum subcommittee and advised that they have developed a description, judging criteria, categories and contest rules for the Art from Garbage contest. A. Luqman added that the online form is available and will be provided to school boards and posted on the website next week.

K. Murray advised that the Durham Climate Forum is taking place on October 19, 2024.

Discussion ensued with regards to Committee members providing help to judge the contest; a social media post that can be shared; a DECAC booth at the event; and the annual update on carbon emissions and climate action in Durham Region.

8. For Information

A) Information Report #2024-INFO-51: New Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-51 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

B) Information Report #2024-INFO-49: Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessments

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-49 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

C) Information Report #2024-INFO-42: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Pollinator Giveaway Project

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-42 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

D) Commissioner Report #2022-COW-30: Region of Durham’s 2024 to 2029 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan

A copy of Report #2024-COW-30 of the Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Works and Chief Administrative Officer was received.

E) Commissioner Report #2024-COW-23: Durham Region's 2025 Strategic Plan
Community Engagement Summary

A copy of Report #2024-COW-23 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.

F) Whitby Staff Report #CAO-16-24: Town of Whitby 2023 Annual Sustainability and
Climate Change Report

A copy of Town of Whitby Staff Report #CAO-16-24 was received.

G) New Virtual Home Energy Assessment Tool (v-HEAT) launches in Durham Region
– links to news release and v-HEAT webpage

Links to the New virtual home energy assessment tool (v-HEAT) launches in Durham Region news release and v-HEAT webpage was received.

H) "Grow and Flourish": Durham Alternative Schooling Greening Downtown Oshawa

A link to the "Grow and Flourish"; Durham Alternative Schooling Greening Downtown Oshawa article was received.

I) Town of Ajax and University of Toronto Address Invasive Phragmites in Ajax

A link to the Town of Ajax and University of Toronto address invasive phragmites in Ajax article was received.

J) Ontario Supporting Wetland Restoration in Ajax

A link to the Ontario supporting wetland restoration in Ajax article was received.

K) Minutes of the June 11, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC)
Meeting

A copy of the June 11, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

Moved by D. Stathopoulos, Seconded by M. Nasir,
That Information Items 8. A) to 7. K) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

9. Other Business

A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Farm Tour

W. Baszyk advised that the DAAC Farm Tour is taking place on September 26, 2024. A. Luqman advised 5 or 6 Committee members will be attending this year's farm tour.

B) Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LRSCA) Watershed Hero Award Reception

A. Luqman advised that the award ceremony is taking place on October 8, 2024 and asked Committee members to advise if they wish to attend.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

K. Murray, Second Vice-Chair, Durham
Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk

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

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:00 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

At the request of R. Purnwasie, Chair, J. McEwen, Vice-Chair assumed the Chair.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgment

J. McEwen, Vice-Chair, read the following land acknowledgement:

The Region of Durham exists on lands that the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg inhabited for thousands of years prior to European colonization. These lands are the traditional and treaty territories of the Nations covered under the Williams Treaties, including the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and the Chippewa Nations of Georgina Island, Beausoleil and Rama.

We honour, recognize, and respect Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and stewards of the lands and waters on which we have the privilege to live. In our efforts towards reconciliation, we continue to build and strengthen relationships with First Nations, as well as the growing Inuit communities and large Métis communities and here in Durham. We commit to learning from Indigenous values and knowledge, building opportunities for collaboration, and recognizing that we are all connected.

2. Roll Call

Present: D. Campbell, Whitby
P. Chandwani*, Whitby
W. Henshall*, Whitby
Councillor McDougall*
J. McEwen, Clarington, Vice-Chair
R. Purnwasie*, Ajax, Chair, left the meeting at 2:02 PM
S. Sones, Whitby
L. Williams*, Pickering
***denotes members of the committee participating electronically**

Absent: M. Lloyd, Oshawa

Staff

Present: N. Dash, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
P. Hines, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***denotes staff participating electronically**

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by Councillor McDougall,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on
Tuesday, June 25, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Presentations

There were no presentations.

6. Discussion Items

A) AAC Award Update and Nomination Process

P. Hines advised that in years past, the Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee awards process was done by nominating and awarding only one person by each of the local Accessibility Advisory Committees and asked Committee members for their feedback to ensure a more fair, transparent and equitable award process.

Discussion ensued with regards to incorporating guidelines for the eligibility criteria; allowing nominations outside of the electing municipality; accepting nominations from members of the public; reviewing how other advisory committees nominate candidates; providing a broader audience to select from; and developing a formal nomination process.

B) Canadian Accessibility Network

D. Campbell advised that the Canadian Accessibility Network (CAN) is a network that has representation from 117 collaborative organizations and 220 members of the public across Canada. D. Campbell further advised that CAN has communities of practice that provide inclusive, creative opportunities for members to drive accessibility forward in education and training, employment, policy and research, design and innovation. D. Campbell stated they are now a member of CAN and encouraged Committee members to see if they would like to join.

W. Henshall advised of being invited to join CAN because of a background with employment at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

P. Hines advised of joining CAN and being part of two communities of practice.

C) AAC Workplan

N. Dash asked Committee members to consider what their areas of focus would be moving forward with the priority focus areas being facilities and site plan review, outreach and communications, advice to council, and committee education and development and advised that communication regarding the subcommittees will be coming out shortly. N. Dash further advised that the Accessibility Report will be discussed in the next meeting and asked Committee members to advise how they would like to be involved.

Discussion ensued with regards to how Durham Region is involved or can be involved in site plan reviews for projects happening at the lower tier municipalities; ways for the Accessibility Advisory Committee to collaborate with lower tier municipalities on projects; and collaboration between Durham advisory committees.

In response to a question from D. Campbell, N. Dash advised that there are regular meetings with the Accessibility Coordinators within Durham Region and updates will be provided at future meetings.

N. Dash further advised that a report will be sent out regarding the September 19, 2024 Annual Region of Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee Awards Celebration.

P. Hines advised that the AAC Workplan will be sent to Committee members to identify the projects Committee members would like to work on and an update can be provided at the next Committee meeting.

D) International Day of Persons with Disabilities

N. Dash advised that International Day of Persons with Disabilities is on December 3, 2024 and asked Committee members for input on what they would like to do to showcase the day.

Discussion ensued with regards to making a request to the Regional Chair to provide a proclamation for International Day of Persons with Disabilities; having the day promoted on social media platforms; collaborating with the lower tier municipalities to promote the day; providing a meet and greet for interaction with the disabled community; and providing a presentation or lunch and learn for Regional staff and members of the public.

N. Dash advised there will be a meeting with the Accessibility Coordinators next week and an update will be provided on how the lower tier municipalities are raising awareness for International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

7. Correspondence

A) Correspondence from the City of Stratford, re: Resolution – Call to Action to Meet the Deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025

Correspondence from the City of Stratford, re: Resolution – Call to Action to Meet the Deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025 was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda and received.

Discussion ensued with regards to supporting the motion from the City of Stratford; asking the Province to create a municipal accessibility fund to assist municipalities with developing, implementing and enforcing the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards; how to put forward a motion before Regional Council for their support; and how the letter from the City of Stratford was brought forward to the agenda.

N. Dash advised they would find out how other Durham Region municipalities are supporting this topic.

8. Information Items

A) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

J. McEwen advised that at the September 17, 2024 meeting, TAC was advised that the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit construction phase one will begin in 2025 and the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit study has been narrowed down to two options.

Discussion ensued with regards to accessibility concerns around the accessibility practices being proposed for the aerial cable car option and whether accessibility concerns were being communicated well.

The September 17, 2024 Transit Advisory Committee meeting update from J. McEwen will be emailed to Committee members following the meeting.

Moved by W. Henshall, Seconded by D. Campbell,
That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that accessibility be a heavily weighted factor when selecting a solution for the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Study.

CARRIED

B) Accessibility Coordinator Update

N. Dash provided the following update:

- The Accessible Taxi Survey launched on September 9, 2024 and Committee members were asked to share it within their communities.
- The 20th Annual Durham Region AAC Awards took place on September 19, 2024 and had 85 people in attendance. The Durham AAC awarded Grandview Kids for this year's winner.
- Durham Region Transit specialized services will begin offering a fleet of buses that have accessibility features to serve those living with

disabilities and will be offering a combination of both conventional and unconventional services.

- The Sunflower Hidden Disabilities Program will be launching once 80% of operators have received training. No specific date has been provided yet.

Discussion ensued with regards to incorporating a separate night from the awards ceremony to allow for networking; difficulties with accessibility at the venue for the awards ceremony; and utilizing more than one person during a final walk through of the venue.

In response to a concern from a Committee member, N. Dash advised they would communicate to Durham Region Transit staff to ensure that education around engaging people with a disability is strongly encouraged.

9. Reports for Information

There were no reports to consider.

10. Other Business

A) Subcommittee Working Groups

P. Chandwani requested an update on how the subcommittee working groups will be meeting and to better understand the scope of each group.

N. Dash advised that an update will be provided on the subcommittees through email shortly and P. Hines further advised that a description of each subcommittee will also be provided to understand the expectations.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

12. Adjournment

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by P. Chandwani,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

J. McEwen, Vice-Chair, Accessibility Advisory
Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Energy From Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

A meeting of the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:05 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: G. Gordon, Whitby, Chair
M. Cannon, Oshawa
G. Baswick, Clarington
G. Best, Whitby
R. Fleming, Pickering
J. Vinson, Clarington

***all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: P. Haylock, Clarington, Vice-Chair
K. Palinka, Oshawa
T. Shomar, Clarington

Non-Voting Members

Present: Councillor Elhajjeh, Local Councillor, Municipality of Clarington
B. Parayankuzhiyil, Facility Manager, Covanta

***all non-voting members of the Committee participated electronically**

Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Dykman, Supervisor, Waste Services
A. Evans, Director, Waste Management Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist – Information Technology
R. Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works
L. Saha, Manager, Waste Services
D. San Juan, Environmental Health Specialist, Health Department, Durham Region
N. Williams, Project Manager, Waste Services
***all staff members participated electronically**

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by G. Best, Seconded by M. Cannon,
That the minutes of the EFW-WMAC meeting held on Tuesday, May
28, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

There were no presentations heard.

5. Delegations

A) Wendy Bracken, Clarington Resident, re: Information Report #2024-INFO-55:
Durham York Energy Centre 2024 Compliance Source Test Update

Wendy Bracken, Clarington resident, appeared electronically before the Committee and provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding her concerns with Information Report #2024-INFO-55: Durham York Energy Centre 2024 Compliance Source Test Update.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Pay Careful Attention to Statements Made in Reports
- Stack Testing Issues are Identified in STANTEC Oversight Report dated August 15, 2024, for the DIOXIN/FURAN Test
- Critical to Understand
- Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Emits Thousands of Pollutants but Just a Handful are Monitored at Stack Continuously
- Most Pollutants (Including the Most Toxic) are Stack Tested Less Than 0.5% of Annual Operating Time through Pre-Arranged Stack Tests Conducted Under Optimal Operating Conditions or are Not Monitored at All
- Unclear Whether CEMS Data was Also Excluded During Problematic Period of Low Steam Production
- STANTEC Auditing Process Involved, “Eliminating Data that May Have Been Influenced by Calibration or Purging Events that Took Place This Time.”
- Boiler 1 Temperature Below ECA Requirement, Boiler 2 Steam Production Below Criteria
- ECA: Absolute Temp Requirement of 1000°C
- Serious Concerns with Durham’s Reporting
- Conclusion

W. Bracken stated that in conclusion, better monitoring/reporting is needed that includes testing during other than normal operating conditions (OTNOC) conditions that is now required by the EU; and environmental monitoring (flora, fauna, and agriculture).

B) Wendy Bracken, Clarington Resident, re: the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Long-Term Sampling System (LTSS) Quarterly Report Q1-2024 and Related September 13, 2024, Memorandum from the Commissioner of Works

Wendy Bracken, Clarington resident, appeared electronically before the Committee and provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding her concerns with the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Long-Term Sampling System (LTSS) Quarterly Report Q1-2024 and related September 13, 2024, memorandum from the Commissioner of Works.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Memorandum dated September 13, 2024, from Ramesh Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works, re: Durham York Energy Centre Quarterly (Q1 – 2024) Long-Term Sampling System Report
- Durham York Energy Centre Long-Term Sampling System Quarterly (Q1) Report January 2024-May 2024
- Table 1: AMESA Cartridge Replacement Schedule
- 7.1 Investigation
- More Issues at the DYEC with Dioxins/Furans: Long-Term (Monthly) Sampling of Dioxins/Furans Reporting is Very Incomplete, and it is Neither Traceable nor Transparent
- Many Hours and Months of Dioxin/Furan AMESA Data Have Already Been Invalidated/Omitted/Missing From 2020 to 2023
- DYEC has had Major Dioxin and Furan Emissions Exceedances
- ToxicoWatch Study of Paris Incinerator; French Government Warns Millions Not to Eat Backyard Chicken Eggs
- More Concerns: DYEC 2023 Soil Testing Report Shows 2023 Dioxin Concentrations More than Double 2013 Pre-DYEC Levels

W. Bracken responded to questions from the Committee.

6. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence considered.

7. Administrative Matters

A) EFW-WMAC Work Plan (2023-2024) – Working Group Appointments

A. Evans reminded the committee members of the three areas of the workplan that could be further investigated:

1. Plan and Program Implementation (as it relates to the Long-Term Waste Management Plan, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and changes and enhancements to the Region's Organics Program);
2. Diversion Program Assessment (review and assess opportunities for the Region to optimize and increase diversion opportunities within Durham Region); and
3. Technology and Facility Review (reviewing key technologies which are or may be utilized by the Region in delivery of waste management services).

Discussion ensued regarding whether a working group should be formed with respect to standardizing procedures regarding the testing and reporting at the DYEC.

Further discussion ensued regarding reviewing the materials presented by the delegate in order to have a more fulsome discussion at a subsequent EFW-WMAC meeting.

8. Other Business

A) Update by Lipika Saha, Manager, Waste Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding 2024 Community and Outreach Activities

L. Saha highlighted community and outreach activities across the Region such as the 50th anniversary of the Region and the Open Doors event held at the DYEC, as well as 2 curbside giveaway days, that were all well attended.

L. Saha advised that on October 19, 2024, staff will focus on in-house food waste production, and they have a few more events in the works for the remainder of the year.

A. Evans advised that battery collection week will occur October 7-11, 2024, and that the batteries can be placed on top of the green bins now instead of the blue bins.

B) Update by Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Extended Producer Responsibility

A. Evans advised that the Region transitioned on July 1, 2024, and that the Region is no longer collecting directly and that it has moved over to the producer organizations where Green for Life (GFL) and Miller have been contracted within the community for collection. He advised that there was some backlog initially but that the transition went well overall. He further advised that staff remain very engaged in the local business communities with respect to how the transition will affect the local businesses in the BIAs and downtown cores.

- A. Evans responded to questions from the Committee regarding what will happen to the local businesses that will now have no recycling pick up; and when Durham’s transitional recycling pick-up will stop.
- C) Update by Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Expanded Green Bin Program
- A. Evans advised that the expanded Green Bin Program rolled out July 1, 2024, and that it went relatively well. He advised that staff talked to the service providers regarding the material coming in and were advised that the materials were a bit wetter than in other jurisdictions, which was expected for the program, and that it will take some time to build momentum.
- A. Evans advised that staff would provide a more detailed update to the Works Committee and the EFW-WMAC towards the end of the year, and that staff will continue a promotion campaign to ensure residents know that additional green bins are currently on sale at a reduced rate.
- D) Update by Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Automated Cart-Based Garbage Collection Pilot Project
- A. Evans advised that the Automated Cart-Based Garbage Collection Pilot Project occurred in mid/late July 2024 and that the residents are currently going through their 3rd/4th pick-up with the cart system. He advised that staff are continuing to educate residents on how the carts work and will be reaching out to the residents in the next couple of months to collect additional feedback through various pre, mid, and post surveys.
- A. Evans also advised that staff will be looking into completing time and motion studies to see how the collection efficiency has changed, and how fast the bins can be picked up and put in the truck as opposed to manual collection.
- E) Update by Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Durham York Energy Centre
- A. Evans advised the Committee that the requests to elevate the expansion application to a full Environmental Assessment were denied and was presented to the Works Committee where there were additional questions from members of the public. As a result, the Works Committee asked staff for an update report that will be presented to the Works Committee in November 2024.
- A. Evans advised that the source test results from the first quarter are now published to the website and that there were no issues from a plant perspective with respect to meeting the compliance limits. The ECA limits were also met during the tests with no violations.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding whether there was a way to receive the reporting data in a less technical manner so the public can better understand the information being released.

9. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EFW-WMAC will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, in Council Chambers, at 7:00 PM, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by R. Fleming, Seconded by M. Cannon,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

G. Gordon, Chair, Energy from Waste – Waste
Management Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk