



## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### Health and Social Services Committee Revised Agenda

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

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

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

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There are no statutory public meetings	
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**8. Social Services**

8.1 Correspondence

- \*a. Information Report #2024-INFO-71 of the Commissioner of Social Services  
Changes to Child Care Resulting from the 2025 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Funding Model Update

**Pulled from the November 1, 2024 Council Information Package by Councillor Neal**

Recommendation: Receive for information

8.2 Reports

There are no Social Services reports to be considered

**9. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There are no advisory committee resolutions to be considered

**10. Confidential Matters**

10.1 Reports

- a. Report #2024-SS-11  
Confidential Report of the Commissioner of Social Services - Closed Matter with respect to information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency or any of them, regarding Capital Projects Submitted under the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

Under Separate Cover

**11. Other Business**

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 9:30 AM

**13. Adjournment**

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**The Regional Municipality of Durham**

**MINUTES**

**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, October 3, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, October 3, 2024 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Councillor Roy, Chair  
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Foster  
Councillor Jubb\*  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\* denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also  
Present: Councillor Neal\*  
Councillor Schummer\*  
Councillor Wotten\*  
Councillor Woo\*  
**\* denotes visiting Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Brenner  
Councillor Carter

Staff  
Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services  
A. Burgess, Director, Communications & Engagement  
A. Di Pietro\*, Director, Health Protection, Health  
J. Dixon, Director, Business Affairs and Financial Management, Social Services  
J. Gaskin, Director, Children’s Services, Social Services  
W. Holmes\*, Deputy General Manager, Durham Region Transit  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health  
M. Laschuk\*, Director, Family Services, Social Services  
C. Leeder, Manager, Population Health Division  
L. MacDermaid, Director, Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors, Social Services  
L. McIntosh, Director, Income & Employment Support, Social Services

P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health  
R. Mills, Manager, Population Health Division  
G. Muller, Director, Affordable Housing Development & Renewal  
V. Olmstead, Assistant Director, Population Health  
H. Patel, Public Health Resident,  
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
C. Taylor, Manager, Budgets & Finance, Social Services  
T. Tyner Cavanagh, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships  
E. Valant\*, Director, Housing Services  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
C. Wilmot, Manager, Employment Service System, Income, Employment and Homelessness Support Division  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(31) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, September 5, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

**5. Presentations**

5.1 Christa Leeder, Manager, Population Health Division, and Rebekah Mills, Manager, Population Health Division, re: Durham Region Health Department Home Visiting Programs

Christa Leeder, Manager, Population Health Division, and Rebekah Mills, Manager, Population Health Division, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham Region Health Department Home Visiting Programs.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Home Visiting Programs
- Community Collaboration & Service Coordination
- Healthy Babies Healthy Children
  - Objective
  - Services
  - Estimated Reach for 2024

- Infant & Child Development Program
  - Objective
  - Services
  - Estimated Reach for 2024
- What families are saying

Staff responded to questions with regards to whether data is collected to identify if early intervention is an effective method; and the impact on families in the community given the lack of primary healthcare providers available to families.

5.2 Christine Wilmot, Manager, Employment Service System, Income, Employment and Homelessness Support Division, re: Employment Services Transformation Service System Manager Update (2024-SS-9) [Item 8.2 a.]

Christine Wilmot, Manager, Employment Service System, Income, Employment and Homelessness Support Division, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Employment Services Transformation Service System Manager Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Background
- Program Evaluation
- Program Design
- Governance Model
- Employment Service Providers in Durham
- System Capacity Improvements
- Current Network Data Overview
- Community Engagement
- Integrated Employment Services
- Key Priorities and Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,  
(32) That the agenda be altered to consider Item 8.2 A) Report #2024-SS-9: Employment Services Transformation Service System Manager Update, next.

CARRIED

8.2 Reports

A) Employment Services Transformation Service System Manager Update (2024-SS-9)

Report #2024-SS-9 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

C. Wilmot responded to questions with regards to the total number of successful clients becoming employed with assistance through Employment Services; how

priority services are identified within the community; how the Employment Services program is being advertised and offered to those in the community, specifically those unsheltered; and what factors are being gauged to determine if the Employment Services program is providing good outcomes to clients.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,  
(33) That Report #2024-SS-9 of the Commissioner of Social Services be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Foster,  
(34) That Christine Wilmot, Manager, Employment Service System, Income, Employment and Homelessness Support Division, provide the PowerPoint presentation with regards to Employment Services Transformation Service System Manager Update at the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 9, 2024.

CARRIED

## 6. Delegations

### 6.1 Colin Barnard, Scugog Resident, re: Striking a Communication Sharing Committee for a Housing Co-op in the Township of Scugog

Colin Barnard, Scugog Resident, was not in attendance.

## 7. Health

### 7.1 Correspondence

#### A) Correspondence from the City of Pickering, re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on June 24, 2024, endorsing the resolution by the Town of Amaranth regarding Water Testing Services for Private Drinking Water

Councillor Neal requested that the correspondence from the City of Pickering be endorsed by the Committee and that a copy be sent to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC).

Discussion ensued with regards to endorsing the recommendations in the correspondence from the City of Pickering; and providing information and education to Durham residents to advise that there are no changes happening to water testing services for private drinking water.

Dr. Kyle advised he would prepare a communication plan to Durham Region residents to be made aware there are no changes happening to water testing services for private drinking water.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(35) That the Correspondence from the City of Pickering regarding a resolution passed at their Council meeting held on June 24, 2024,

endorsing the resolution by the Town of Amaranth regarding Water Testing Services for Private Drinking Water, be received for information and that a copy of the correspondence be sent to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC).

CARRIED

7.2 Reports

There were no Health reports to consider.

8. **Social Services**

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

A) Employment Services Transformation Service System Manager Update (2024-SS-9)

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This item was considered earlier in the meeting. [See pages 3 and 4 of these minutes]

B) Unbudgeted Provincial Funding from the Ministry of Education for the Canada-Wide learning and Child Care System (2024-SS-10)

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Report #2024-SS-10 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Staff responded to a question with regards to how Durham Region recognizes and thanks the Province when additional unbudgeted funding is received from the Province.

J. Gaskin advised that an information report will be prepared to provide additional information on the new funding formula, and they can provide a presentation to the Committee at that time.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,  
(36) That we recommend to Council:

That unbudgeted Provincial funding from the Ministry of Education in the amount of \$9,066,415, be expended in accordance with the 2024 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Guidelines and as further detailed in Section 5 of Report #2024-SS-10 of the Commissioner of Social Services.

CARRIED

**9. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

**10. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**11. Other Business**

**11.1 Transitional Housing for Unsheltered Residents**

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Discussion ensued with regards to working with the Provincial and Federal levels of government regarding providing transitional housing for unsheltered residents; preparing a communication letter from the Regional Chair's office to the Premier regarding proper distribution of transitional housing across a number of municipalities; and Mayors and Councillors speaking with MPPs to convey the message.

E. Baxter-Trahair advised that at a recent regional and lower tier municipality CAO meeting, there was no discussion regarding a program to help with transitional housing.

Chair Henry advised that in conjunction with Corporate Communications, he will prepare a letter to the Premier regarding the concerns raised by Committee members.

Chair Roy called upon Delegation 6.1, Colin Barnard, Scugog Resident, for a second time. C. Barnard was not in attendance.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Foster,  
(37) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM



Respectfully submitted,

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E. Roy, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk



# **CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH IN DURHAM REGION: Assessing the Impacts of Extreme Heat**

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**November 7, 2024**

**Alex Swirski and Tara Zupancic  
Durham Region Health Department**



## Presentation overview

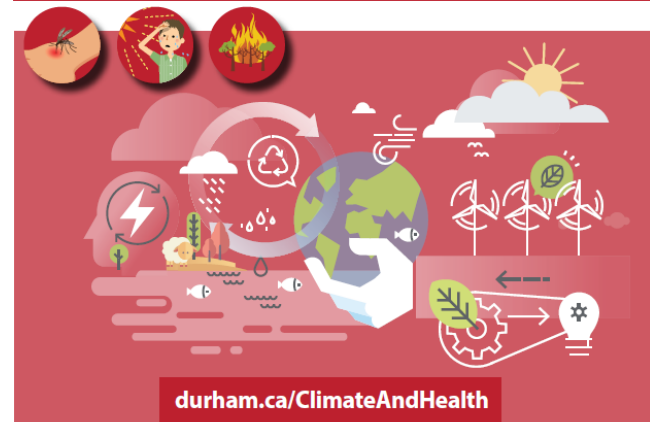
- Assessment mandate and report series
- Extreme heat vulnerability assessment
  - Assessment framework
  - Key findings
  - Knowledge gaps
  - Regional strengths
  - Next steps



2024

### CLIMATE CHANGE *and* HEALTH *in* DURHAM REGION

Assessing the impact of extreme heat





## Why assess climate and health vulnerability?



**Ontario Public Health  
Standards mandate**



**Health impacts of  
climate change are  
on the rise**



**Many health impacts  
and health inequities  
are preventable**



# Report Series: 2024 -2025

## Primer



Understanding the local health impacts of climate change

## Vulnerability Assessments



Assessing the impact of extreme heat



Assessing the impact of access and quality of food and water



Assessing the impact of extreme weather



Assessing the impact of poor air quality



Assessing the impact of vector borne disease



Assessing the impact of ultraviolet radiation



# Report features



Current and future health impacts



Equity-focussed



Guidance from the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation



# 2024

## CLIMATE CHANGE and HEALTH in DURHAM REGION

Assessing the impact of extreme heat



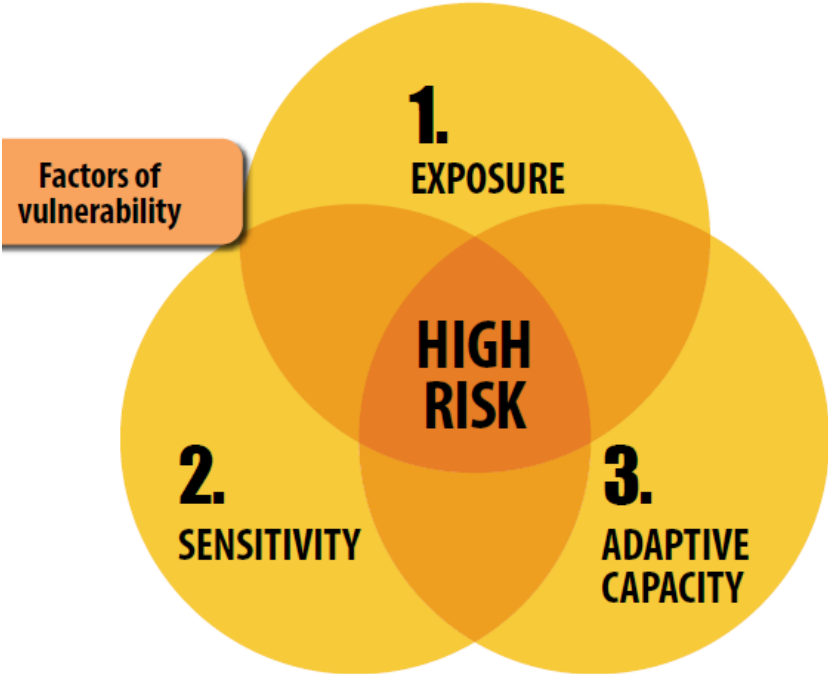


# What is extreme heat vulnerability?

## Priority Populations

- Older adults, 60 years+
- Infants and young children
- Pregnant individuals
- Indigenous Peoples
- Chronic health challenges
- Socially or materially disadvantaged
- Newcomers
- Work or are physically active outdoors

## Factors of heat vulnerability





## Overview of extreme heat in Durham Region



Extreme heat events in Durham Region are expected to more than double in the coming decades

	Baseline (1971 to 2000)	2050s	2080s
Extreme heat days (max >30°C)	16	27	47
Summer days (max >25°C)	42	78	100
Tropical nights (min >20°C)	101	132	148





## Overview of extreme heat in Durham Region



Processes such as deforestation and land-use change have contributed to local extreme heat vulnerability



Strain on natural environment points to need for heat tolerant, nature-based solutions that can cool neighborhoods and increase heat resilience



## What is known about local health impacts?

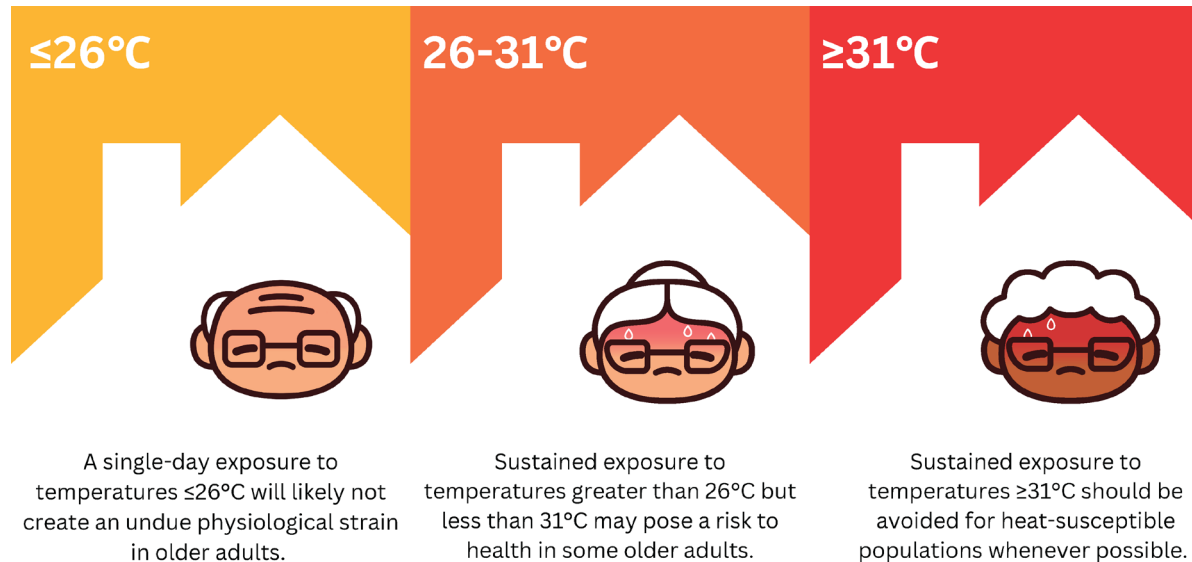


Figure used with permission from G.P. Kenny, University of Ottawa (2023)

- $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  + associated with increased emergency room visits
- Increased health risks from overnight heat
- Increased risk of illness and death at beginning of heat season
- Health burden likely underreported among older adults



# Where are more severe health impacts expected?

Building characteristics associated with high indoor temperatures	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face south (with south facing windows that increase solar heat gain) [32]</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack mechanical cooling: a lack of mechanical cooling is associated with:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Living alone [41]</li> <li>◦ Living in a low-income or materially deprived neighbourhoods [40]</li> <li>◦ Living in a rented home [41]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in an urban heat island [34, 35, 36, 23]</li> </ul>

- The seven **priority Health Neighbourhoods**
- Urban **heat islands**
- Homes at risk of **hot indoor temperatures**

“  
*It's super-hot, there are trails with no trees, it's not walkable.*  
 ”  
 - Ajax SNAP Resident



## Who should be prioritized?

Durham Region has:

- A large and growing older adult population
- Higher prevalence of some chronic illnesses compared to the provincial average

**High Risk: Priority populations that live alone, with a low/no income and/or dependent on caregiver(s)**



Children, older adults and pregnant people



Socially or materially disadvantaged



Outdoor workers



People with health challenges or barriers



## What are our strengths and resources?



Existing forests, wetlands, and grasslands; crucial to mitigating extreme heat



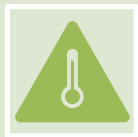
Tree planting incentive programs



Strong shade policies



## What are our strengths and resources?



DRHD's Heat Warning and Information System (HWIS)



Region-wide Durham Greener Homes Program



The Region's energy efficiency and resilience strategy for the Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC)



## What are our knowledge gaps?



Local health burden of heat-related illness



Improved understanding of Durham Region residents living with disabilities



Methods for identifying and reaching isolated individuals during heat wave



## What are our knowledge gaps?



Information on residents without cooling systems and their heat coping barriers and needs



Distribution, accessibility, and use of cooling centres



Community spaces with high-need for shade, green space and/or water features





## Next steps





## Key messages



Durham Region should be prepared for increasing frequency and intensity of extreme heat events due to climate change



Health impacts can overwhelm local health systems



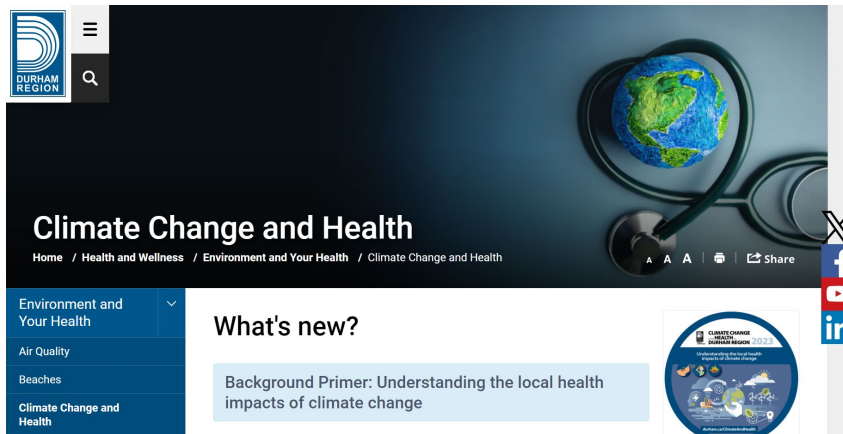
Need to engage with community to support prevention; especially those at risk of indoor overheating



Health impacts are severe but often preventable



# Thank you



[www.durham.ca/ClimateAndHealth](http://www.durham.ca/ClimateAndHealth)

Tara Zupancic,  
[Tara.Zupancic@durham.ca](mailto:Tara.Zupancic@durham.ca)

Alex Swirski,  
[Alex.Swirski@durham.ca](mailto:Alex.Swirski@durham.ca)



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Health & Social Services Committee  
From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health  
Report: 2024-MOH-4  
Date: November 7, 2024

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**Subject:**

Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS): Two Ford Explorers to support Community Program for Long Term Care (CPLTC)

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**Recommendation:**

That the Health & Social Services Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the unbudgeted purchase of two Ford Explorers, at an estimated upset cost of \$109,344, be approved to address the need in Durham Region and financed 100 per cent from savings within Provincial funding of the Community Program for Long Term Care.
- 

**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for an unbudgeted capital request allowing RDPS to secure two Ford Explorers to be utilized in the CPLTC.
- 1.2 Purchase of two Ford Explorers will allow Community Programs to continue to be operational and service the community with various types of visits: initial visits, follow up visits and exacerbation visits.
- 1.3 We require these vehicles to continue to expand and perform community paramedicine work in Durham Region to reduce 911/ED utilization while keeping the population in their homes as safely and independently as possible.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Community Programs perform proactive, safe, 24/7, diagnostic testing and assessments to keep older adults living safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible while avoiding 911/ED utilization.

- 2.2 All Community Programs vehicles purchased for use by RDPS CP staff must be compliant with the current HTA and operated safely while following the internal Policy & Procedure Vehicle Operations #3.010.
- 2.3 All Community Programs fleet will be upfitted to allow appropriate equipment storage in, and standardized by RDPS CP, to the extent possible, throughout the CP fleet for risk management and clinical care purposes.
- 2.4 Tender 605-2024 was issued and closed on September 3, 2024. Two unit of the 8 units in the tender are to be allocated to RDPS CP program and subject to the approval of this report will be awarded in accordance with the Purchasing By-law.
- 2.5 The estimated cost to purchase two unbudgeted Ford Explorers for use in the Community Programs is \$109,344. Earlier this year, Regional Council approved the adoption of the Ford Explorer Interceptor as the standard vehicle for use by RDPS Community Programs.

### **3. Previous Reports**

- 3.1 Report [Report#2024-MOH-3](#) provided an update on the vehicle standardization and upfitting.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There is a surplus of funding within the CPLTC for the 2024/25 fiscal year that would be re-directed to fund the addition of two Ford Explorers vehicles. The Province has approved a revision of the 2024/2025 budget for CPLTC to permit the redirection of funding. To ensure this purchase can be applied to the CPLTC funding, a purchase order must be issued prior to the provincial year end of March 31, 2025.
- 4.2 Section 14.2 of the Budget Management Policy requires Regional Council approval of unbudgeted capital expenditures in excess of \$50,000.
- 4.3 Operational costs of the additional vehicles will be covered within the CPLTC.

### **5. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goal and priority in the Durham Region Strategic Plan including Community Paramedicine:
  - a. Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability: adoption of clean energy solutions through strategic investment of vehicles.
  - b. Goal 5: Service Excellence: Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.

**6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the two Ford Explorers be purchased to support CPLTC to work together to deliver service excellence to the Durham Region residents.
- 6.2 This report has been reviewed by the Finance Department and the Commissioner of Finance concurs with the financial recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

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Nancy Taylor  
Commissioner of Finance



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Social Services  
Report: #2024-INFO-71  
Date: November 1, 2024

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**Subject:**

Changes to child care resulting from the 2025 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Funding Model Update

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information.

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To provide an overview of upcoming changes to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding model (2025) and the impact to families, child care operators and educators.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement in Ontario, signed in March 2022, aims to make child care more affordable and accessible. Here are the key developments from its inception to now:

- a. Fee Reductions: The agreement set a goal to reduce child care fees to an average of \$10 per day by 2026. Initial reductions began in 2022, with further decreases planned annually.
- b. Funding and Expansion: Ontario received significant federal funding to support the expansion of child care spaces and improve the quality of care. This funding is part of a six-year, \$13.2 billion agreement.
  - From March 2022 to December 31, 2022, all licensed child care operators had the choice to opt-in or opt-out of the CWELCC system. This was known as the 'open enrollment' phase.
  - Starting January 1, 2023, CWELCC expansion is capped through Provincially mandated, annual growth targets.

- New and expanding child care operators are eligible to apply for growth targets and join CWELCC if their location aligns with the Municipal child care expansion plan and fits within the Provincially mandated growth caps/targets.
- c. Support for Operators: Licensed child care operators who opted into the CWELCC system receive financial support to help them reduce fees and maintain quality services.
- Beginning in 2022, funding for CWELCC was provided on a 'revenue replacement' model and intended to be temporary. This funding model will be replaced in 2025 with a "cost based' funding model.
- d. Workforce Initiatives: Efforts have been made to support early childhood educators through wage enhancements and professional development opportunities.
- e. Implementation and Monitoring: The province has been working with Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) to implement and monitor the program, ensuring compliance and effective use of funds.
- 2.2 The CWELCC funding model is undergoing significant updates starting in 2025. These changes aim to enhance affordability, accessibility, and quality of child care across Canada. The key changes and their anticipated impacts on families, child care providers, and the broader community are outlined below.

### **3. Current and future status**

- 3.1 Licensed Child Care is Changing: Changing from a collection of independent businesses who receive provincial/municipal grants to help lower fees for families, to a system of independent businesses who must choose to either operate within the provincial financial framework or choose to operate outside of the funding system.
- 3.2 Starting January 2025, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM's) for Child Care will have several key responsibilities in the child care system:
- a. Planning and Administration: CMSM's will continue to play a central role in planning and administering early years and licensed child care services. This includes:
- Developing and implementing local child care service plans that align with provincial policies and priorities.
  - Approving or declining all new applications for CWELCC enrollment or expansion.
  - Ensuring system expansion is in alignment with Provincially mandated expansion caps.



- b. **Funding Distribution:** CMSM's will distribute funding to child care operators under the new cost-based funding model. This involves reviewing financial and operational details of all child care centers and ensuring that funds are allocated based on the true costs of operating child care services.
  - c. **Monitoring and Compliance:** CMSM's will oversee compliance with provincial regulations and standards and monitor child care operators to ensure they meet the requirements of the CWELCC program and other relevant regulations.
  - d. **Support and Capacity Building:** CMSM's will support child care operators by providing guidance and resources to help them adapt to the new funding model and other changes. This includes offering training and professional development opportunities for owners, operators, boards of directors and early childhood educators.
  - e. **Data Collection and Reporting:** CMSM's will collect and report data on child care services to provincial government. This data will be used to inform policy decisions and ensure accountability in the child care system.
- 3.3 These changes aim to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of child care services, making them more accessible and affordable for families across Ontario.

#### **4. Benefits and Challenges of CWELCC**

##### 4.1 Benefits for Families: The CWELCC system and new funding formula benefits families through lower monthly costs for child care:

- a. For example, when CWELCC began in 2022, families paid on average \$16,443 per year (\$63/day) for an infant space. In 2025, the average cost to families will be only \$5,742 per year (\$22/day) and finally down to \$2,610 in 2026 when parent fees reach an average of \$10/day. That represents a savings of almost \$14,000 annually.

##### 4.2 Benefits for operators and educators:

- a. Operators will receive stable, predictable funding that supports the actual cost of operating a child care center in Ontario.
- b. CWELCC funding ensures registered early childhood educators (RECE's) receive a decent wage and annual wage increases. This supports the recruitment and retention of educators and helps to address the critical staffing shortage being experienced in the child care sector. The minimum hourly salary for a RECE will move from \$18/hr in 2022 to \$25.86/hr in 2026.

##### 4.3 Challenged to CWELCC: insufficient supply to meet the increasing demand:

- a. In Durham, there are currently enough licensed child care spaces to serve approximately 10% of all children aged 0-3 in Durham and about 60% of all children aged 4-5 years.
  - b. All CWLECC funded spaces are available to any family who enrolls their children in a CWELCC eligible center: there is no eligibility criteria to receive a funded space.
  - c. The lower fees have drastically increased the demand for child care. Currently families are waiting more than 2 years for a child care space in Durham Region.
  - d. The province is limiting expansion of CWELCC system spaces through annual Growth Caps. Durham was given only 2,029 growth spaces – representing a 12% increase in the number of CWELCC spaces from 2022 to 2026.
  - e. Current operator requests for CWELCC growth spaces exceeds Durham's cap by more than 1500 spaces. An increase to Durham's growth cap could go a long way to reducing child care wait lists.
- 4.4 Challenge due to profit caps, increased accountability, and Government oversight:
- a. Child care operators, notably the for-profit child care operators' groups in Ontario have voiced their concerns over the CWELCC funding model (see 4.5 below).
  - b. The province has stated that participation in the CWELCC system is voluntary and that the updated funding model allows for guaranteed funding, including a profit level that ensures accountability for the use of public funds.
- 4.5 Funding Model: Revenue for child care programs serving children under 6 years of age will be funded primarily through CWELCC:
- a. CWELCC revenue will be calculated using Provincial benchmarks and eligible top-ups.
  - b. Profit/Surplus is capped at a maximum of 7.75% of eligible expenditures.
  - c. Eligible and ineligible expenses are determined by provincial guidelines.
  - d. Only eligible expenditures such as rent, food costs, and salaries will be funded as part of CWELCC. Year-end reconciliations and recoveries will occur where to ensure funding is used for its intended purpose.
- 4.6 Some for-profit operators within the system have indicated that the cap on profit is too low. This may mean some operators choose to leave CWELCC. Should licensees choose to leave CWELCC, we would redistribute the CWELCC spaces to

other operators. This would keep the spaces in Durham but pose an extreme hardship to families who lose a funded space.

## 5. Advocacy and Next Steps:

- 5.1 Staff within the Social Services Department are taking steps to increase the number of available CWELCC spaces by:
- a. Advocating to the Province for additional CWLECC growth spaces.
  - b. Working with operators to redistribute existing but unused licensed capacity.
  - c. Providing advice and input through Provincial Technical table meetings, the Ministers advisory table, Urban Commissioners meetings, OMSSA Networks and directly through Qs and As to the Ministry of Education.

**Note: The Ministry of Education has indicated that a full review with potential province-wide space redistribution will occur in late 2024 or early 2025.**

- 5.2 Families can find child care through updated information and program locator map on our [Finding Quality Child Care](#) web page.
- 5.3 Operators are provided with information through virtual and in-person group sessions and one-on-one meetings, working to seamlessly to transition operators into the new funding model.

## 6. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 6.1 The following report provided information on the initial (temporary) funding model, operator enrollment details and implementation timelines of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system.
- a. [2022-SS-6](#): Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System
  - b. [2024-SS-4](#): Unbudgeted Provincial funding from the Ministry of Education for the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System
  - c. [2024-SS-10](#): Unbudgeted Provincial funding from the Ministry of Education for the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System

## 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. Goal 2: Community Vitality – To foster an exceptional quality of life with services that contribute to strong neighbourhoods, vibrant and diverse communities, and influence our safety and well-being.
  - b. Goal 4: Social Investment – to ensure a range of programs, services and supports are available and accessible to those in need so that no individual is left behind.

- c. Goal 5: Service Excellence – To provide exceptional value to Durham taxpayers through responsive, effective, and fiscally sustainable service delivery.

## **8. Conclusion**

- 8.1 The Children’s Services Division continues to work with the province and child care operators to ensure the success of the CWELCC implementation and to expand CWELCC spaces in Durham.
- 8.2 The CSD also continues to provide advice and information to Durham residents and members of council to increase understanding of this new system.

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Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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