



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, January 31, 2025

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

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2. Confidential Reports Authorized for Release	
There are no Confidential Reports.	
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There is no Staff Correspondence.	
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There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence.	
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5.1 Town of Halton Hills	64
• Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on January 20,	

2025, requesting the Provincial Government to redistribute a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

5.2 Town of Halton Hills

67

- Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on January 20, 2025, regarding Sovereignty of Canada

6. Miscellaneous Correspondence

There is no Miscellaneous Correspondence.

7. Advisory / Other Committee Minutes

There are no Advisory/Other Committee Minutes

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 & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2025-INFO-07
Date: January 31, 2025

Subject:

Program Reports

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) programs and services for the period October – December 2024.

2. Highlights

2.1 DRHD reports for October – December 2024 include the following key highlights:

- a. Health Analytics, Policy & Research – Health Analytics Information Products and Health Policy & Equity updates;
- b. Health Protection – Emergency Management, Food Safety, Healthy Environments, Part 8 Ontario *Building Code* (Sewage Systems) and Safe Water updates;
- c. Healthy Families – Durham Health Connection Line, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Healthy Families and Infant & Child Development updates;
- d. Healthy Living – Healthy Living, Oral Health and *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* updates;
- e. Infectious Diseases – Immunization and Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control updates; and

- f. Paramedic Services – Community Paramedicine, Logistics, Operations and Quality & Development updates.
- 2.2 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 DRHD’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.

3. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 3.1 This report and the program updates included align with the following strategic goals and priorities in the 2020 – 2024 Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 1 – Environmental Sustainability:
- 1.4 Demonstrate leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.
- b. Goal 2 – Community Vitality:
- 2.2 Enhance community safety and well-being.
 - 2.3 Influence the social determinants of health to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.
 - 2.4 Support a high quality of life for all through human services delivery.
- c. Goal 5 – Service Excellence:
- 5.1 Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.
 - 5.2 Collaborate for seamless service experience.
 - 5.3 Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Program Reports are provided to update Regional Council (DRHD's board of health) on public health programs and activities as a component of DRHD's Accountability Framework.

5. Attachment

Program Reports for the period October – December 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

ABBREVIATIONS

- AIDS – Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- AEFI – Adverse Events Following Immunization
- AWQI – Adverse Water Quality Incidents
- CCC – Child Care Centres
- CP – Community Paramedicine
- DHCL – Durham Health Connection Line
- DoPHS – Diseases of Public Health Significance
- DPZ – Detailed Planning Zone
- DRHD – Durham Region Health Department
- DRSSD – Durham Region Social Services Department
- ED – Emergency Department
- EPDS – Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale
- HBHC – Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- HC – Health Canada
- HCP – Healthcare Providers
- HH5 – Hedgehog 5
- HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HPD – Health Protection Division
- HPE – Health Policy & Equity
- HPPA – *Health Protection and Promotion Act*
- HPV9 – Human Papillomavirus 9
- ICD – Infant & Child Development
- iGAS – Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease
- IPAC – Infection Prevention & Control
- ISPA – *Immunization of School Pupils Act*
- KI – Potassium Iodide

2024 Q4 Program Reports – DRHD

- LH – Lakeridge Health
- LTCH – Long-Term Care Homes
- MOH – Ontario Ministry of Health
- NFB – Nutritious Food Basket
- NORS – National Overdose Response Service
- OHD – Oral Health Division
- OPHS – *Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability*
- PCOP – Primary Care Outreach Program
- PHN – Public Health Nurses
- PSS – Personal Service Settings
- Q&D – Quality & Development
- RDPS – Region of Durham Paramedic Services
- RSV – Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- SDWS – Small Drinking Water Systems
- SHC – Sexual Health Clinics
- STBBI – Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections
- TAMI – Talking About Mental Illness
- TEO – Tobacco Enforcement Officers
- WHO – World Health Organization



Report for October – December 2024

Health Analytics Information Products

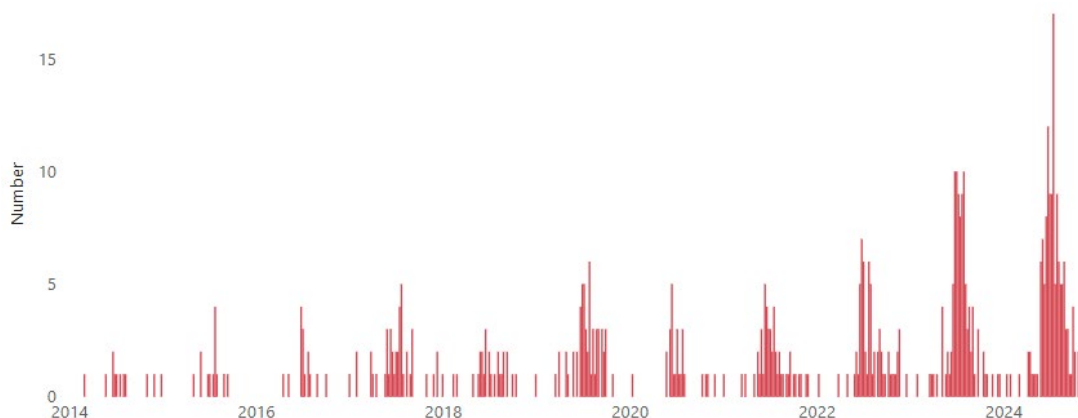
The Infectious Diseases Data Tracker is a new interactive dashboard for monitoring infectious DoPHS including diseases that are designated by the [HPPA](#) as reportable in Ontario.

The dashboard supports data-informed action on infectious diseases in Durham Region and replaces internal monthly infectious disease reports. Updated weekly, the dashboard provides more timely monitoring of information made possible by automation of the associated data processing and epidemiologic analysis. Additional improvements include the interactive features allowing more data to be presented with flexibility to meet the needs of infectious disease investigators.

Although this dashboard is for internal use only, it facilitates communication with HCP and will contribute to public reporting of relevant infectious disease trends. Key Durham Region trends are consistent with provincial trends:

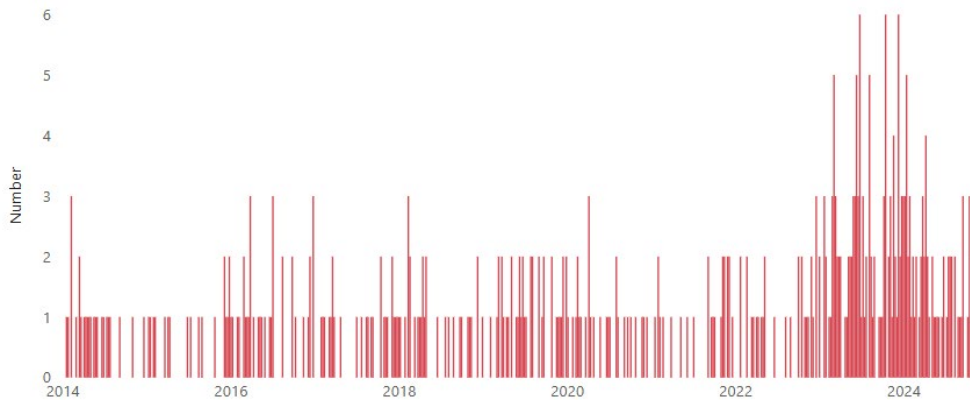
Lyme disease has increased since 2014, especially in the last two years.

Confirmed and Probable Lyme Diseases Cases in Durham Region



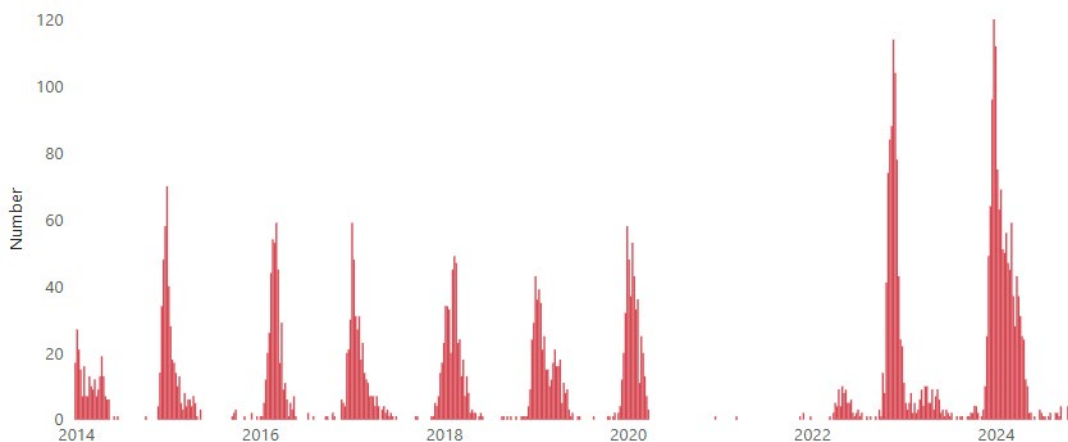
In 2023 and 2024, iGAS activity has increased.

Confirmed Invasive Group A Streptococcal (iGAS) Cases in Durham Region



Influenza activity was very low during pandemic years and has increased in 2023 and 2024.

Reported Influenza Cases in Durham Region



Health Policy & Equity

Health equity work supports DRHD staff by building capacity across all programs to apply a health equity lens to programs and approaches, establishing internal and external collaborative partnerships to advance health equity initiatives, supporting priority populations in cross-program initiatives, and developing departmental policies and processes intended to advance health equity.

The HPE team completed the following activities from October to December:

- Collaborated with DRSSD staff by attending **six** Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hubs across local municipalities, including Ajax, Clarington, Oshawa, Pickering, Port Perry,

and Whitby. At the hub events, HPE staff provided residents with information and resources to support healthy families and healthy living.

- Hosted **two** virtual learning sessions in partnership with DRSSD, which was attended live or viewed as a recording afterwards by over **187** staff. The purpose of the sessions was to share information about organizations that support residents experiencing low income. Presenters included Feed the Need in Durham, Girls Inc., Mental Health Outreach Program, PCOP and the Regional Street Outreach Team.
- Continued working towards a capacity building strategy for staff to enhance a health equity approach to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health services, programs, and policies. This included working in partnership with the Health Analytics & Research Team on the development and analysis of a staff electronic survey. The purpose of the survey was to assess the baseline health equity knowledge of staff. The survey was open from June 27 to August 30, and **205** DRHD staff members completed the survey. HPE staff also developed a focus group plan to complement the survey and further assess staff learning needs through focus groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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



Report for October – December 2024

Emergency Management

The [Emergency Management Guideline, 2024](#) highlights the importance of developing and conducting emergency exercises. These activities help staff stay prepared and ready to handle emergencies effectively. In accordance with the guideline, emergency notification testing for DRHD was successfully completed on November 26. This testing ensured the reliability and effectiveness of DRHD's emergency notification system. The results confirm that the systems are functioning as intended and ensures DRHD staff is ready to respond in an actual emergency. A total of **464** notifications were sent via text, phone call, and email to work and personal contacts through the Rave Notification System. Staff used the polling feature to confirm receipt of messages.

Potassium Iodide Tablet Program

Planning for the 2025 KI campaign is underway, starting in January. The first of three campaigns aims to encourage residents and businesses within 50 km of the Pickering or Darlington Nuclear Generating Stations to get their free KI tablets from preparetobesafe.ca. The January campaign will use displays at community centres and libraries to promote KI tablets, enhance residents' knowledge, and keep residents safe in the highly unlikely event of a nuclear accident. Anyone living or working within 50 km of Pickering or Darlington Nuclear Generating Stations can order their free supply of KI tablets from preparetobesafe.ca.

DRHD continues to pre-distribute KI tablets to institutions (CCC, hospitals, LTCH, schools, and youth detention centres) and first responders located within the DPZ (formerly known as the primary zone). The DPZ is a 10 km radius around each of the two nuclear generating stations.

Food Safety

Staff worked diligently on completing food safety inspections as per the [Food Safety Protocol, 2019](#) and were successful in achieving **100 per cent** completion of all

mandatory inspections for 2024. Between October to December, staff completed **609** high-risk inspections, **752** moderate-risk inspections, and **398** low-risk inspections. A total of **258** re-inspections were completed, and **41** inspections/re-inspections generated by complaints were completed. Staff did a tremendous amount of work to achieve these numbers and complete all mandatory inspections as required by the [OPHS](#).

Staff processed **60** new special events and farmers' market co-ordinator applications and had **139** new special event vendor applications during this quarter. Using the risk assessment tool and updated special events procedure, staff inspected **six** special events that were deemed higher risk.

Food safety continued to be a huge draw on HPD's DHCL, accounting for **2,198** inquiries out of **5,911** overall during 2024. Calls to DHCL have grown by **10 per cent** over the last five years and it is a great source of information for residents and community partners.

Healthy Environments

Climate Change and Health

As part of DRHD's mandate under the OPHS to conduct health vulnerability assessments related to climate change, DRHD completed its third report in a special series entitled, Climate Change and Health in Durham Region, available at durham.ca/ClimateAndHealth. This report titled, Assessing the Impact of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation explores the current and future health impacts of solar ultraviolet radiation with a special focus on health equity and prioritizing those who may be worst affected and least protected. The report will be released in February 2025.

In addition to finalizing this third report, DRHD completed a knowledge exchange and promotion campaign on the climate change and health series, with a special focus on key findings of the extreme heat vulnerability assessment. Presentations were made to a broad range of community partners and decision makers including Durham Region's department heads, Health & Social Services Committee, the Senior Climate Change Leadership Committee, Durham Nuclear Health Committee, Durham Region Indigenous Planning Table, the Durham Natural Environments Climate Change Collaborative, and DRHD's Research & Knowledge Exchange Speaker Series. DRHD also shared and promoted its new Heat Hacks resource for staying safe during extreme heat events at the Durham Climate Roundtable Fall Forum.

Cold Warning & Information System

HPD provides cold warning notification to community partners and the public during the cold season from November 15 to March 31.

A cold weather alert is declared when the temperature is expected to reach -15°C or less, and/or the windchill is expected to meet -20 or less, and/or an extreme winter weather event (e.g., an ice storm) is forecasted.

Since cold weather alert criteria are most often met overnight, HPD targets its response to community partners who provide vital services to at-risk populations by notifying them directly via email of the upcoming cold weather event. Notification of a cold weather event triggers community partners to mobilize cold response plans once criteria are met. Currently, HPD maintains a list of over 520 individuals, institutions, community service agencies and local businesses.

When cold alert criteria are met during the day, HPD will also issue social media posts and provide webpage updates to remind the public of ways to stay warm and stay safe during cold weather. Durham's cold warning notification system meets the requirements of the [Healthy Environments and Climate Change Guideline, 2018](#) under the OPHS.

Radon Action Month: Social Media Campaign

In Canada, radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and the second leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking. November is Radon Action Month and it is the best time to begin testing a home for radon. In November 2024 and January 2025, HC mailed postcards to encourage radon testing in several targeted areas, including Durham Region.

To increase awareness of radon and promote radon testing, HPD launched its annual radon social media campaign to provide residents with information on radon, how to test for it, what to do if levels exceed HC guidelines, and where to find certified radon experts that can assist with testing and remediation. HPD also produced a Facts About, which provided additional resources for financial support for low-income homeowners and Tarion Warranty coverage for radon mitigation in new homes. Program information was disseminated to HCP. More information can be found at durham.ca/radon.

Part 8 Ontario *Building Code* (Sewage Systems)

From October to December, HPD conducted the following activities related to Part 8 of the Ontario *Building Code*. A total of **84** building permit applications for sewage systems were received. **Twelve** building addition applications were processed and **16** planning applications were reviewed. HPD's inspectors investigated **two** complaints related to private sewage systems. No Orders to Comply were issued this quarter.

A total of **309** inspections related to sewage system building permits and installations were conducted. HPD staff also attended pre-consultation meetings in each municipality regarding planning applications. From October to December, HPD staff attended or provided comments for **11** pre-consultation meetings. Staff also responded to questions from the public and sewage system installers regarding sewage systems and planning applications.

The 2024 Lake Simcoe Maintenance Inspection program was completed for the year with the last **four** outstanding inspections completed in Uxbridge in October.

Safe Water

Drinking Water

HPD now documents AWQI in HH5. This process follows information management policies, serving as the official record. It helps management report on AWQI and allows staff to quickly find, review, and address issues. Additionally, storing records in HH5 improves their integrity and security.

In October, the MOH requested additional information from HPD on a required survey to be completed on SDWS. This survey was completed and asked specific questions about DRHD's process for receiving calls on AWQI, on-call procedures, processes for responding to calls during after-hours and during business hours, communications with laboratories and Durham Region's SDWS operators, and the process for resolving or closing an AWQI report. HPD staff prioritized completing this request and provided the necessary information directly to the MOH by October 18, the required deadline. In addition, on December 17, the MOH requested that all local public health agencies complete a review of the new Draft Drinking Water Haulage Reference Document (formerly guidance document) on the MOH's SharePoint site. HPD staff completed this request and provided input on December 21.

HPD continues to promote access to free private well water testing in Ontario through boosted social media posts and its [website](#). HPD's messaging includes information on free well water testing, interpretation of sample results, and other related topics. In response to recent inquiries, HPD has strengthened its communication strategy to emphasize that this free service remains available to local residents. This service tests for indicator bacteria in well water and directs residents to a link where they can pick up and drop off water sample bottles. This information has been shared and amplified by other Durham Region departments and with the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and its members.

[O. Reg. 319/08: Small Drinking Water Systems](#) is enforced by HPD staff. SDWS are inspected based on a MOH risk assessment tool. Moderate and low risk systems are inspected at least once every four years, and high-risk systems are inspected every two years. Inspectors look for mandatory required water sampling and testing frequency, water treatment equipment and maintenance, operational checks, record keeping, physical well inspections and environmental examinations that may impact water quality, as well as operator knowledge and required training needed to operate SDWS safely. In 2024 HPD staff completed **77** inspections to ensure compliance with MOH requirements.

Recreational Water

In 2024, HPD focused on fulfilling all mandatory recreational water inspection targets as outlined by the [Recreational Water Protocol, 2019](#). From October to December, HPD conducted **102** routine recreational water inspections as required by the MOH. By the

end of the year, HPD successfully met the MOH annual targets, conducting **537** routine inspections, addressing **25** complaints, and issuing **48** Section 13 Orders under the HPPA due to the presence of health hazards.

In December, the MOH announced an amendment to [R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 565: Public Pools](#), set to take effect on January 1, 2025. This amendment brings changes to the operation of public swimming pools, spas, modified pools, and wading pools. Moreover, the revised regulations introduce parameters and requirements for new types of recreational water facilities, including hot water pools, cold water pools, floatation pools, and floatation tanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro
Director, Health Protection Division



Healthy Families

Report for October – December 2024

Durham Health Connection Line

DHCL provides access to public health information to the community. PHN provide assessment, health education, counselling, and referrals to community services for residents or those looking for local services. Inquiries are addressed on the telephone or through email.

From October to December, DHCL responded to **2,542** inquiries.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The HBHC program is a voluntary home visiting program to support families with identified risk factors from the prenatal period up until school entry. PHN and family visitors work in partnership with at-risk families to provide supportive intervention, and to identify and address goals to promote optimal child development and positive parenting.

This year, the HBHC implemented strategies to ensure information and referral to the program was readily accessible and seamless for Durham Region residents. In July, HBHC launched an online self-referral process to make it easier for Durham Region residents to access the program. Families are now able to submit an online self-referral to the HBHC program. From October to December, the program has received **92** self-referrals for a total of **147** self-referrals for the year. Additionally, in October, a new “HBHC postcard” was developed. The postcard contains a QR code linking clients to the HBHC webpage and to other child health and parenting information. This postcard is being used by community partners, including local hospitals to promote the HBHC program.

Healthy Families

Breastfeeding Clinics

Breastfeeding is the optimal method of infant feeding, recommended by major health organizations like the WHO and UNICEF. It provides essential nutrients and protection against diseases for infants, while also benefiting maternal health.

Infants benefit as breast milk is the most complete and balanced source of nutrition, containing proteins, fats, vitamins, and antibodies. Long-term health outcomes of breastfeeding include a reduced likelihood of developing chronic diseases later in life for the breastfeeding parent and infant. The breastfeeding parent can also see improvement in their emotional well-being, positive attachment, and connection with their infant.

While breast milk is natural, the art of breastfeeding is a skill that both parent and baby need to learn. At times, barriers occur that can impact the success and long-term outcomes of breastfeeding. DRHD offers breastfeeding support at **two** clinic locations: one in Port Perry and one at the Oshawa Centre. From October to December, PHN provided **350** breastfeeding appointments to clients in the clinic and **187** breastfeeding appointments in the home. In the 2024 calendar year, **1,432** appointments were provided in clinic and **720** appointments in clients' homes.

Perinatal Mental Health

Postpartum mental illness affects as many as one in four mothers nationwide. Of local residents who gave birth in 2021, 22 per cent reported at least one mental health concern during pregnancy. Between 2013 and 2021, there has been a 7.6 per cent increase in residents reporting maternal mental health concerns during pregnancy.

Maternal depression is considered an Adverse Childhood Experience, with known impacts on childhood development. Improving access to perinatal mental health services for families can improve both parent and child outcomes and supports the growth and development of children at an early stage by minimizing their experience of adversity.

From October to December, PHN in Healthy Families implemented **two** series of a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy program called Steps to Wellness: Before and After Baby, serving **14** clients. In 2024, **six** series were held, serving **53** clients. Of the clients that were evaluated post-group for the October to December period, **100 per cent** experienced a reduction in their depression scores on the EPDS, compared to their scores prior to participation in the group. For all groups held in 2024, **76 per cent** of clients experienced a reduction in their EPDS scores following the group. As part of anonymous post-series feedback, clients reported that they felt better able to apply skills learned in the program to modify their behaviour.

Supporting Healthy Growth and Development

The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound negative impact on children's mental health and wellbeing. It is important for parents/caregivers to model positive ways of coping with stress and other setbacks, so their child can learn to not only survive but thrive.

Parents' and caregivers' emotional regulation and mental health is highly correlated with their child's mental health and stress. Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing is an important way to support children, as well as their parents and/or caregivers.

Healthy Families used results from a 2023 situational assessment about effective parenting strategies for a DRHD social media campaign called Empowered Parents Empower Kids, and a resource series called Connecting with your Child. DRHD's campaign ran from September 4 to 27 on Facebook, Instagram and X. It contained messaging on how parents can positively connect with and support their child, pre-teen, young teen, or teenager's development. Each week the campaign shared messaging focused on parenting strategies for a particular age group.

The campaign involved **12** social media posts. Many of the posts during the campaign potentially reached over **15,400** residents in the target population. Engagement with the posts were between **one to three per cent**, with posts from a total of **441** users. This level of engagement is considered average to above average performance.

Infant & Child Development

The ICD program is a voluntary service that partners with families to promote the healthy growth and development of children from birth to school entry who have a developmental concern. Durham residents can self-refer to the program or be referred by a service provider. ICD consultants partner with families to plan developmental goals and establish ways to achieve these goals within the child's routines using a family-centered, strengths-based approach. Early intervention and occupational therapy consultation services may include:

- Home visiting to provide modeling and parent coaching.
- Support with transition to early learning and care and/or kindergarten.
- Formal and informal assessments.
- Connecting families to community programs and services.
- Family education.

From October to December, the ICD program offered services to approximately **459** children and provided approximately **980** appointments to support modeling, parent coaching, and family education.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by
Kavine Thangaraj
Director, Population Health Division
Chief Nursing Officer



Healthy Living

Report for October – December 2024

Healthy Living

Alcohol

Alcohol is the most widely used substance in Ontario. The [2023 Annual Report](#) of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario identifies the rise in substance use and related harms as a significant challenge for public health, threatening the health of Ontarians and the well-being of communities.

Alcohol is a leading cause of preventable death in Ontario and a significant cause of serious health harms. In an average year in Ontario, about **4,330** deaths, **22,009** hospitalizations, and **195,693** ED visits among people aged 15 and older can be attributed to alcohol use. Most alcohol-attributable deaths in Ontario are from cancers (e.g., breast, colon, throat, mouth, larynx, esophagus, and liver), most hospitalizations are for neuro-psychiatric conditions (e.g., alcohol withdrawal, amnesic syndrome, and other mental and behavioural disorders), and most ED visits are for unintentional injuries such as falls or alcohol poisoning. Even a small amount of alcohol per week (i.e., more than **two** standard drinks) can be damaging to health. As well, the risk of alcohol-related harm increases with how frequently people drink and the amount they drink at one time.

In addition, alcohol is frequently associated with violent and aggressive behaviour, including intimate partner violence, male-to-female sexual violence, and other forms of aggression and violence between adults. Alcohol plays a significant role in injuries and accidental deaths, including those that occur when people are driving under the influence. Economically, alcohol and its related harms cost Ontario **\$7.1 billion** in 2020 – significantly more than other substance use including tobacco (**\$4.1 billion**) and opioids (**\$2.7 billion**).

In October, DRHD launched an awareness campaign to promote [Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health](#) and amplify key messages from [Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction](#). The campaign entitled Drink Less, Live More aimed to encourage

Durham Region residents to reflect on their alcohol use. Campaign materials refer residents to durham.ca/alcohol for updated information on the health and social risks associated with alcohol use as well as strategies to reduce personal use. During the campaign period, there were **1,209** page views on durham.ca/alcohol, a **1,215 per cent** increase from the same time period the previous month.

Amidst the Ontario government's [expansion of alcohol sales](#) to big box stores, grocery stores, convenience stores, and other retail outlets, the campaign seeks to counterbalance the increased accessibility of alcohol with messages of moderation. The awareness campaign encourages local residents to be mindful of, and perhaps reframe their drinking habits.

To ensure a wide reach, campaign messages were promoted across the region during the months of October and November as follows:

- **Six** social media posts resulting in **196,504** impressions, **93,258** reach and **4,327** engagements.
- Digital advertisements throughout the Oshawa and Pickering Town Centres.
- **11** gas station and billboard advertisements located in Clarington, Newcastle, Oshawa, Pickering, Port Perry and Whitby.
- **100** interior advertisements in Durham Region Transit buses.
- **Three** bus shelter advertisements in Ajax, Clarington and Whitby.
- **Two** billboards at the Oshawa and Pickering GO Stations.
- **Two** ice rink advertisements in Oshawa and Port Perry.
- **Two** digital advertisements at Landmark Cinema in Whitby.

DRHD also recognizes the importance of prevention efforts targeted toward youth to delay the age of initiation and reduce teen patterns of use. Accordingly, throughout the fall staff continued to work with local school boards and schools to provide evidence-based [curriculum support tools and youth engagement strategies](#) related to alcohol use prevention.

Cannabis

DRHD has continued to promote a public health approach to cannabis following the legalization of cannabis in 2018. This is done through ongoing collaboration with community partners and providing the community with the most current, evidence-based information regarding the risks of cannabis use and harm reduction strategies.

According to the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (2022), young adults are among the highest age group who use cannabis. In response to these findings, DRHD has had regular meetings with **two** post-secondary schools (Ontario Tech University and Durham College) to assess needs, discuss collaboration ideas, share supports for students, as well as build capacity of the Peer Wellness Educators. As a result, DRHD supported **two** student outreach events in campus residence in fall 2024, reaching approximately **60** students.

DRHD also ran an online harm reduction campaign for six weeks from October to November called Mindful Consumption. The campaign sought to increase the public's awareness of the potential risks when consuming cannabis edibles. Campaign metrics indicate that **393,362** people saw the campaign messages through online ads and **524** individuals engaged with the ads. Lastly, over the course of the campaign, the web traffic for durham.ca/cannabis increased by **78 per cent**.

Mental Health Promotion

Mental health promotion is the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals and communities to increase control over their lives and improve their mental health ([Mental Health Promotion Guideline, 2018](#)). Mental health plays a significant role in school communities, contributing to everyday wellness and enhancing student mental health literacy and leadership. Data from the 2023 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey included in the [Mental Health and Well-Being of Ontario Students](#) report indicated that **38 per cent** of Durham students in Grades 7 to 12 rate their mental health as fair or poor.

DRHD is a member of the TAMI Coalition which provides a forum for community partners to develop and deliver mental health education to Durham elementary and secondary students. This partnership includes collaboration with **11** partners from a variety of sectors including education, health, community-based mental health and addictions services, child protection and children's mental health services.

Each year, TAMI hosts summits where students learn about mental health and wellness, mental health promotion, and stigma. PHN attend the annual summit to assist their assigned school with developing an action plan of health promotion initiatives to implement throughout the school year.

From October to December, a total of **24** elementary schools and **16** secondary schools participated in the summits and approximately **200** students and educators from **three** school boards attended. An evaluation is scheduled for spring 2025, where schools will share their successes, learnings and celebrate their achievements.

To address opioid related overdoses in Durham Region, DRHD staff continues to partner with **40** community agencies, service providers, community members and people with lived experience on the Durham Region Opioid Task Force. DRHD on-boarded **six** new agencies to the task force in 2024. In 2024, the task force held **six** meetings to review local treatment services, assessment tools, Indigenous health, and the client experience. These discussions assisted community agencies to collaborate and leverage existing services locally.

Nutritious Food Basket

Food insecurity is a significant public health issue impacting many Durham residents. Household food insecurity is defined as "inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints". People who are food insecure are much more likely than others to

experience increased rates of chronic disease and mental health problems such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, and mood and anxiety disorders.

Monitoring food affordability is one of the most meaningful tools available to raise awareness about the cost of healthy eating and assess the adequacy of social assistance and minimum wage rate. Monitoring food affordability supports DRHD and community planning to address food insecurity locally.

Food affordability is monitored by surveying the cost of nutritious foods from local grocery stores using the provincial [Monitoring Food Affordability Reference Document, 2018](#). The NFB contains a variety of foods that are consistent with [Canada's Food Guide](#) and are commonly consumed by Canadians including, fruit, vegetables, protein, and whole grains.

Food data were collected and calculated for approximately **61** foods that represent a nutritious diet for individuals in various age and gender groups, from **nine** grocery retailers located throughout Durham Region. Results determined the cost of the 2024 Durham Region NFB for a family of four (two adults aged 31 to 50, a boy aged 14 and a girl aged eight) was **\$284.50** per week or **\$1,231.88** per month - including an additional five per cent added to the food basket cost to cover miscellaneous foods used in meal preparation such as condiments, coffee, etc.

DRHD implemented a NFB awareness campaign in November and December to promote the most recent NFB data. This included revisions to DRHD's new food insecurity web page at durham.ca/foodpoverty, which promotes important public information on food insecurity, including downloadable access to spreadsheets, a variety of income scenarios, infographics, relevant weblinks and helpful information. This information can also be readily used by community partners to support their advocacy work. Additionally, the website was promoted through Ontario Works cheque inserts in collaboration with DRSSD, reaching more than **10,500** Durham Region residents living with low-income. A food insecurity promotion campaign was implemented to promote the new website, and ran on DRHD's Facebook, Instagram, and X accounts.

Opioids

DRHD routinely monitors opioid-related data and information to better understand the impact of opioid-related poisonings at the local level. Data are uploaded weekly into an interactive dashboard called the [Durham Region Opioid Information System](#). Currently, there are **75** webpage subscribers and from January to December, there were **2,312** page views. Data show that from January to December, RDPS received **739** calls related to suspected opioid overdoses.

DRHD administers the Opioid Overdose Early Warning and Surveillance System, which includes monitoring the RDPS response calls related to suspected opioid overdoses, suspected overdose ED visits based on registration and triage data, suspected drug-related death data from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, and data shared from

local community partners about current trends. Data are monitored weekly and when an alert is triggered, DRHD completes a situational analysis and if warranted, issues a drug alert. Currently there are over **30** community agencies that receive the drug alerts. Throughout 2024, **seven** drug alerts were issued.

In fall 2024, DRHD conducted an evaluation of the Opioid Overdose Early Warning and Surveillance System to assess the impact of this service, confirm the service is meeting the needs of the community partners and identify opportunities for improvements. The survey was sent to **91** alert recipients from over **30** organizations and service agencies. From the **26** survey responses received, results indicated that the early warning system is an effective tool to share timely and relevant information with clients and colleagues related to the local toxic drug supply.

Evaluation results of the early warning system indicated:

- **96 per cent** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that the information in the alert is relevant to their work.
- **100 per cent** agree or strongly agree that the information in the drug alert is important to share with people accessing their services.
- **100 per cent** agree or strongly agree that the information in the drug alert is important to share with their colleagues.
- **92 per cent** agree or strongly agree that the information is received in a timely manner.
- After receiving the alert, respondents acted by sharing the information with colleagues (**92 per cent**), shared the information with people who use drugs (**62 per cent**), and/or indicated that they took other actions (e.g., reminding clients about harm reduction supports, ensuring that naloxone kits are fully stocked, and ensuring staff is updated and prepared) (**12 per cent**).
- Respondents who indicated they shared alert information with people accessing services did so mainly by email (**69 per cent**); in person appointments (**56 per cent**); or through outreach services/workers (**56 per cent**).
- **81 per cent** indicated that the alerts correspond with what they are encountering in the community.
- **96 per cent** of respondents indicated that the alerts contain just the right amount of information.

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when given in a timely manner. Through the [Ontario Naloxone Program](#), public health is required to provide eligible organizations with naloxone kits to distribute to their clients at risk of opioid overdose and to their family and/or friends. DRHD continues to act as a central distributor for naloxone in Durham Region. In 2024, DRHD distributed **4,930** naloxone kits, **902** naloxone refills and onboarded **four** new eligible organizations.

The [NORS](#) is a peer-run, peer-led, overdose prevention hotline, funded by a contribution from HC. Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Individuals can call or text from anywhere in Canada before using substances. As a harm reduction strategy, DRHD began promoting NORS in

October. From October to December, **3,795** promotional resources were provided to community agencies that service people who use drugs. NORS was also promoted within naloxone kits. An evaluation of the promotional materials was conducted in November with agency staff. Evaluation results indicated that:

- **75 per cent** of respondents' clients were not aware of NORS prior to the interaction.
- **100 per cent** of respondents indicated they promoted NORS with clients using the promotional items they received and felt that DRHD should continue to produce these promotional items.
- **100 per cent** of respondents indicated they agreed or strongly agreed that the NORS information was relevant to their clients.
- **75 per cent** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the clients they spoke with were interested in the NORS service.
- **75 per cent** of respondents indicated that clients reported they planned to use the NORS service.

To further promote NORS, a FAX About was sent to family physicians, nurse practitioners, community and mental HCP, walk-in clinics, and local ED.

Oral Health

For October to December, OHD noted the following achievements, demonstrating a commitment to improving oral health outcomes and delivering exceptional services to the community.

Comprehensive Dental Services: OHD served over **1,060** unique clients. The DRHD Dental Clinic provided services to **175** Healthy Smiles Ontario clients and **890** Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program clients through **2,381** appointments. Delivery of dental care services in Durham Region's four LTCH is on hold at this time, but it is anticipated that this will resume in early 2025. The Brock Community Health Centre project has been postponed until spring 2025, but preparations have been started with various partners.

Dental Benefits Claims: OHD processed **908** dental benefit claims between October and December, amounting to **\$245,283** in fees paid. These efforts facilitate the smooth provision of dental care and ensure financial support for those in need.

Dental Estimates: OHD received **479** estimates and identified **293** that were eligible to be processed for approval.

Dental Care Needs: OHD identified **2,196** children with urgent dental needs and **2,334** children with non-urgent dental needs.

Denture Lab: Denturists delivered over **390** services in the Dental Clinic's denture lab.

Oral Health Education and Promotion: Staff provided dental screening to **266** children and oral health education to over **1,800** children.

School Screening: OHD screened **10,250** students and identified **692** children with urgent dental needs and **989** children with non-urgent dental needs.

Social Media Engagement: To reach a wider audience, OHD effectively utilized social media platforms to promote oral health information and program updates. OHD reached **66,555** individuals, achieved **82,715** impressions, and **1,604** engagements on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

These accomplishments reflect OHD's dedication to improving oral health outcomes and its commitment to education and collaboration. By leveraging resources effectively, DRHD continues to make a positive impact on the oral health of residents.

Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017

TEO completed all required inspections and investigations for 2024 as mandated by the OPHS. TEO are required to conduct inspections at all tobacco and vapour product retailers. Their inspections include display and promotion inspections, as well as youth access test shops conducted by students under the age of 19 who attempt to purchase tobacco or vapour products. If a vendor sells tobacco or vapour products to a minor, the operator and owner of the store may be charged with selling or supplying tobacco or vapour products to a person who is under 19 years old. Two or more tobacco-related convictions may lead to an automatic prohibition, issued by the MOH, prohibiting the vendor from selling tobacco products for a minimum of six months. TEO also completed the required secondary school inspections and all display and promotion inspections for all tobacco and vapour product retailers.

TEO respond to all complaints received with respect to smoking and vaping in all enclosed workplaces and other prohibited areas that are included in the [Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017](#) or the [Durham Region Smoking and Vaping By-law #28-2019](#). These areas include multi-unit dwellings, schools, hospitals, outdoor recreation playground areas, hookah lounges, etc.

From October 1 to December 31, TEO conducted **three** youth access test shop inspections for vapour products and **17** display and promotion inspections at vapour product retailers. TEO continue to observe non-compliance with stores selling products with high levels of nicotine and flavours. These investigations require different enforcement strategies due to the seriousness of non-compliance observed. In response, TEO have conducted evening youth access test shop and display and promotion inspections which has resulted in legal activity and successful outcomes in court. At one retail establishment, fines related to sales of vapour products to minors exceeded \$10,000.

TEO conducted **three** youth access test shop inspections for tobacco products and **20** compliance inspections for display and promotion for tobacco retailers. In total, **one** charge was issued for tobacco related offences.

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TEO conducted **140** inspections in enclosed workplaces and other prohibited areas and **five** charges were issued for non-compliance.

TEO continue to respond to complaints regarding students vaping on school property. From October to December, TEO investigated **29** complaints, issued **eight** warning letters, and served **two** charges to a student vaping on school property.

The Smoke Free Enforcement Coordinator and the TEO are collaborating with both the Durham District School Board and the Durham Catholic District School Board, along with internal DRHD colleagues, to support the implementation of [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 128](#). This policy focuses on student health as it relates to electronic cigarettes, recreational cannabis, and tobacco in schools. Joint visits were conducted to provide information and support to secondary schools in Durham Region. Additionally, an electronic form is being created and will soon be available to secondary schools to report students smoking or vaping on school property to improve efficiency.

Specialty vape stores and tobacconist stores continue to operate in Durham Region. As of December 31, there are **68** registered specialty vape stores and **four** tobacconist stores.

The Smoking and Vaping By-law #28-2019 has been in effect since June 24, 2019, and TEO continue to enforce the by-law within prohibited facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro
Director, Health Protection Division

Original signed by

Maryam Pezeshki
Director, Oral Health Division

Original signed by

Kavine Thangaraj
Director, Population Health Division
Chief Nursing Officer



Report for October – December 2024

Immunization

In accordance with the OPHS, DRHD promotes and provides provincially funded immunization programs and services to eligible persons, including underserved and priority populations, to reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases.

Adverse Events Following Immunization

AEFI are defined as any untoward medical occurrences that follows immunization and do not necessarily have a causal relationship with the vaccine. DRHD is responsible to monitor, investigate, and document all suspected cases of AEFI that meet provincial reporting criteria, and to promote reporting by HCP throughout Durham Region. Following AEFI investigations, individualized vaccine recommendations are provided to HCP and clients. In 2024, **136** AEFI were investigated. These investigations and recommendations promote vaccine confidence and the continuation of immunizations.

COVID-19 Vaccines

From October to December, **234** COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered through DRHD immunization clinics and the homebound program to Durham Region residents with limited access to pharmacies and HCP. A total of **809** COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered in 2024.

School-Based Vaccine Clinics

DRHD is required to enforce the [ISPA](#) and assess the immunization status of students attending schools in Durham Region. The purpose of ISPA is to increase protection of students attending public and private schools in Ontario against the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal, and varicella. Parents/guardians are required to follow the provincial [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule](#) to ensure their children are up to date on immunizations. If

students are unable to be immunized or parents/guardians choose to exempt their children from required immunizations, a medical exemption or statement of conscience or religious belief must be filed with DRHD.

PHN attended **190** schools twice during the 2023/2024 school year to provide immunizations. In addition, catch-up doses were offered to Grade 8 students unable to complete their vaccine series in Grade 7. Hepatitis B (two dose series), HPV9 (two dose series) and meningococcal-C-ACYW-135 (one dose series) vaccines remain an effective strategy for reducing the incidence of diseases. A total of **28,612** vaccines were administered to eligible Grade 7 students and **4,180** vaccines were administered to eligible Grade 8 students.

A total of **9,869** hepatitis B vaccine doses were administered to eligible Grade 7 students and as a result **60 per cent** were fully immunized. An additional **1,612** hepatitis B vaccine doses were administered to Grade 8 students. By the end of the 2023/2024 school year, **76 per cent** of Grade 8 students completed their vaccine series.

A total of **7,523** doses of meningococcal-C-ACYW-135 vaccines were administered to eligible Grade 7 students and as a result, **80 per cent** of eligible Grade 7 students were fully immunized. An additional **645** doses were administered to Grade 8 students. By the end of the 2023/2024 school year, **88 per cent** of Grade 8 students were fully immunized.

A total of **11,220** doses of HPV9 vaccines were administered to eligible Grade 7 students and as a result, **51 per cent** of eligible Grade 7 students were fully immunized. An additional **1,923** HPV9 vaccine doses were administered to eligible Grade 8 students. By the end of the 2023/2024 school year, **71 per cent** of Grade 8 students completed their vaccine series.

Vaccine Storage and Handling

DRHD managed the vaccine storage and handling for all publicly funded vaccine in Durham Region. In 2024, PHN inspected **480** vaccine fridges storing publicly funded vaccine and ensured all sites upheld vaccine storage and handling requirements as per the MOH. PHN provided education to HCP who administer publicly funded vaccine on waste and cold chain incident reduction strategies. To ensure vaccine provided to local residents remains safe and effective, PHN followed up on **12** cold chain incidents from October to December, for a total of **56** cold chain incidents in 2024. PHN responded to **four** after-hours fridge alarms for DRHD vaccine fridges, and a total of **six** after-hours alarms for the 2024 year. DRHD distributed **312,337** doses of publicly funded vaccine from October to December to HCP for administration to residents, and a total of **313,783** doses were distributed in 2024.

In fall 2024, DRHD supported the distribution, storage, and handling of publicly funded influenza vaccines for individuals six months of age and older, distributing **59,231** doses of influenza vaccine, with a total of **60,486** doses administered in 2024. For the fall COVID-19 campaign, DRHD distributed and supported inventory management for **6,727**

doses, with a total of **9,487** doses in 2024. Additionally, the Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Prevention Program was implemented, which included the distribution of two new RSV products to help prevent RSV infections in infants. The Older Adult High-Risk RSV Prevention Program continued to develop with expanded eligibility and a new RSV vaccine. DRHD distributed **6,914** doses of RSV vaccine to HCP, with a total of **8,386** doses distributed in 2024.

Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccine administration is available through primary HCP, community health centres, hospitals, LTCH and retirement homes. Influenza and COVID-19 vaccine administration is also available at local pharmacies.

DRHD supports individuals experiencing difficulty accessing publicly funded vaccines, including fall respiratory vaccines. To increase knowledge about influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines, and promote vaccine uptake within Durham Region, staff created a social media campaign that ran throughout the season and reached over **193,734** Durham Region residents. Additionally, a [news release](#) was distributed to promote the influenza and COVID-19 vaccine to increase vaccine uptake.

Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control

Animal Diseases

One chipmunk tested positive for *Echinococcus multilocularis* in November. Continued education to local physicians and veterinarians occurred in October and November regarding animal diseases that could affect humans, including avian influenza, which was identified in a British Columbia teen in November. Neither avian influenza nor avian chlamydia were identified in Durham Region between October to December.

Child Care Centres

Between October to December, a total of **306** inspections were completed in CCC. Staff completed **109** CCC environmental inspections and **197** CCC kitchen inspections. All mandatory inspection requirements were completed as per the [Infection Prevention and Control Protocol, 2019](#) and [Food Safety Protocol, 2019](#) of the OPHS.

The Wee Care newsletter 2024 fall/winter edition was sent to CCC operators in mid-October with information focusing on outbreak reporting and illness management resources.

A survey was launched to CCC regarding staff knowledge of the CCC IPAC online learning course. The survey is still open for CCC operators and staff to respond. From the survey results, the CCC IPAC course will be updated with the addition of pretest questions to further evaluate the knowledge gained and the effectiveness of the course.

Diseases of Public Health Significance

In accordance with the OPHS and [O. Reg. 135/18: Designation of Diseases](#), HPD is responsible for the management of cases and contacts of DoPHS.

From October to December, **294** DoPHS were reported to HPD. These include in descending order: influenza A (**159**), Lyme disease (**33**), campylobacter (**25**), salmonellosis (**25**), carbapenemase-producing enterobacteriaceae (**12**), giardiasis (**10**), cryptosporidiosis (**four**), shigellosis (**four**), yersiniosis (**four**), anaplasmosis (**three**), influenza B (**three**), legionella (**two**), amebiasis (**two**), listeriosis (**two**), verotoxin-producing *E. coli* (**two**), blastomycosis (**one**), cyclosporiasis (**one**), paratyphoid fever (**one**), typhoid fever (**one**), and **zero** cases for all other DoPHS not mentioned above.

Infection Prevention and Control Education and Lapses

Continued education in IPAC occurred from October to December. An IPAC Education Day was held on October 9 to educate the IPAC leads of LTCH, retirement homes, acute care facilities, and other congregate living settings. This was a joint venture with HPD and the Durham IPAC Hub. Also, Infection Control Week (October 14 to 18) was acknowledged with a display at Durham Region headquarters as well as on social media. Global Handwashing Day (October 15) and World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (November 18 to 22) were also promoted with social media campaigns. High skills major courses offered by some high schools have once again requested IPAC education to their students and **one** session was delivered in December.

There were **13** IPAC lapse investigations. Of those investigations, **six** were confirmed IPAC lapses and posted, with **five** for PSS and **one** for health facilities. In addition, all DRHD clinics have been audited with minor or no IPAC issues.

Outbreak Summary

Outbreaks are investigated in accordance with the OPHS. From October to December, **120** outbreak investigations were conducted; **55** of these were COVID-19 (**19** LTCH, **26** retirement homes, **10** hospitals). The other **65** outbreaks were respiratory (**43**) and enteric (**22**). The number of respiratory outbreaks by type of facility is: **34** LTCH, **four** in hospitals, **two** in retirement homes, and **one** in a correctional facility. The number of enteric outbreaks by type of facility is: **13** enteric in CCC, **four** retirement homes, **three** shelters and **two** LTCH. Some confirmed causative agents identified included: coronavirus (non-COVID-19), enterovirus, influenza A, metapneumovirus, norovirus, parainfluenza, rhinovirus, rotavirus, and RSV. Seventeen outbreak audits were completed by public health inspectors with support from the Durham IPAC hub.

Personal Service Settings

Between October to December, **247** inspections were completed in PSS. All mandatory inspection requirements were completed as per the [Infection Prevention and Control Protocol, 2019](#), of the OPHS.

For PSS inspections, common infractions included improper cleaning, disinfection and/or sterilization of re-usable items, not preparing and using the approved disinfectants appropriately, using work contact surfaces that are not easily cleanable, and premises not maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. Unapproved devices and new services being offered continue to involve more staff resources. DRHD issued **two** charges for violations of [O. Reg. 136/18: Personal Service Settings](#). Staff issued **two** Section 13 Orders for unapproved devices found at the facility.

A large Tattoo & Piercing Expo occurred at the Pickering Casino Resort from October 25 to 27. The Tattoo & Piercing Expo traveled to multiple municipalities from May to October, with Durham Region being the last stop on the tour. The special event was attended by DRHD and there were **59** PSS vendors offering tattoos and piercings. DRHD inspected all the tattoo and piercing vendors on the first day of the event and identified minimal issues. DRHD will be in contact in the future with the event coordinator to discuss any concerns prior to their next tour in 2025.

Rabies Prevention and Control

From October to December, DRHD investigated **399** animal bite reports which is an increase from 359 reports investigated for the same time period in 2023. During this time, DRHD provided **56** local residents with anti-rabies treatment, an increase from 42 for this period in 2023. DRHD submitted **seven** animals involved in human exposures for testing and **zero** were positive for rabies.

One charge was issued to animal owners for failing to immunize their pet against rabies, pursuant to the [R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 567: Rabies Immunization](#).

Sexual Health

DRHD SHC in Oshawa and Pickering provide virtual and in-person support to clients with a focus on STBBI testing and treatment, health education and counselling related to sexual health practices and high-risk vaccinations.

A SHC evaluation was conducted which has been instrumental in assessing what clients learned, anticipated behaviour change, outcomes, and effectiveness of interventions provided at clinics. Evaluation data collected between January 2023 to October 2024 demonstrated the following impact to clients who received SHC services:

- **96 per cent** felt more confident in making sexual health decisions.
- **95 per cent** are considering changes to lower their risk of STBBI.
- **93 per cent** found the health education from nurses helpful.
- **90 per cent** learned new information about their sexual health from nurses.

The positive outcomes of this evaluation demonstrate the importance of DRHD SHC in providing inclusive, non-judgemental, safe, and confidential services to Durham residents.

Vector-Borne Diseases

The vector-borne diseases season has ended and DRHD is working with Corporate Services – Information Technology colleagues to build a new and more efficient system to track mosquito surveillance data. The new system is expected to be online by May 2025.

Also, online complaint submission forms have been created for the public to report areas of stagnant water, backyard catch basin treatment requests and for municipal by-law officers to refer any complaints to DRHD for escalated follow-up with Section 13 Orders. These will be activated at the start of the 2025 season.

World AIDS Day

DRHD recognized World AIDS Day on December 1, 2024. The day focuses on spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS and shows support for people living with HIV/AIDS. World AIDS Day also provided an opportunity to highlight DRHD's role in reducing the transmission of STBBI through timely case and contact follow-up as well as testing and treatment services at DRHD SHC.

A FAX About for World AIDS Day was sent to local HCP on November 29, which highlighted:

- The *“Take the rights path: My health, my right!”* theme identified by WHO for 2024
- Current statistics of HIV infections in Durham Region
- Providing HCP with resources on testing and treatment of STBBIs.

DRHD continues to manage elevated levels of HIV infections. From January – December, **63** HIV infections were managed (compared to **50** for the same time period in 2023).

Respectfully submitted,
Original signed by

Kavine Thangaraj
Director, Population Health Division
Chief Nursing Officer

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro
Director, Health Protection Division



Report for October – December 2024

Community Paramedicine

RDPS launched the LTCH+ pilot project, which aims to bring diagnostic testing to select LTCH. As part of the pilot, RDPS completed the first diagnostic testing case study in October. From October to December, RDPS onboarded **two** LTCH, (Orchard Villa and Fairview Lodge) into the program. RDPS is now working with **six** LTCH with point of care bloodwork, ultrasound, and urinalysis to avoid unnecessary patient transports to the ED for diagnostic testing.

RDPS's northern CP team began spirometry training to enable in-home patient testing six to eight weeks after exacerbation. Spirometry testing will support medication adjustments if required in partnership with LH's chronic obstructive pulmonary disease virtual clinic.

RDPS's CP team hosted **nine** CP@clinics at various locations, including 155 King St., and 1880 and 1890 Valley Farm Rd. The CP team also supported homebound COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations.

Each quarter, RDPS is adding approximately **200** new clients to the CP program.

PCOP completed the following activities from October to December:

- Performed wound care in the PCOP ambulance, which served as a safe, sterile, and warm space to perform medical care for the unsheltered population during the colder months.
- Held **six** mobile clinics at Christian Faith Outreach Centre and 1635 Dundas St. shelters to help support medical and social needs.
- Expanded the PCOP team's wound care expertise by completing additional education with a national wound care nurse who rode with the PCOP team members to see the challenging wounds they care for in the community. RDPS is looking forward to future educational opportunities for advancing wound care.
- Completed multiple withdrawal management supports with the administration of Suboxone.
- Toured the new Beaverton Heights transitional housing property.

Logistics

Five new command vehicles (Ford Explorers) have been ordered to supplement the command fleet, including replacements of aging vehicles. These are hybrid units which will align with Durham Region's green fleet goals of reducing emissions. The vehicles are expected to be delivered in June 2025 and will be upfitted thereafter.

Demers Ambulances continue to deliver new ambulances from the 2023 capital purchase. **Five** were delivered in the fourth quarter of 2024. The ambulances are being prepared for commissioning and will be used to replace existing vehicles in the aging fleet.

The hiring process for **two** Logistics staff members, is currently ongoing. The addition of these staff members will help bolster RDPS resources and allow continued enhancements of the services provided by the Logistics team moving forward.

The new Seaton Paramedic Station is expected to be substantially completed by April or May 2025.

Operations

RDPS continued collaborating with Scarborough Health Network - Centenary Site to ensure a seamless transfer of patients identified with ST-elevation myocardial infarction from the field directly to the catheterization laboratory.

RDPS also implemented new tracking mechanisms for external violence reporting to enhance safety and accountability measures.

To prepare for the upcoming roll-out of the Medical Priority Dispatch System, RDPS developed a dispatch matrix to improve call identification and created a comprehensive deployment plan.

RDPS also celebrated the grand opening of the temporary helipad in Bowmanville to improve emergency response capabilities.

RDPS partnered with Simcoe County to explore a narcotic control inventory tracking software for improved management of controlled substances.

RDPS also continued working with LH to address and improve offload delays, ensuring timely patient care transfer.

Quality & Development

RDPS staff performed the following Q&D activities:

- Completed an Ambulance Call Report, reviewing **400** calls.

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- Facilitated return to practice education for **12** paramedics returning from extended leaves of absence.
- Conducted fall continuing education threat management training on 36 dates over 11 weeks to all staff.
- Conducted P100 mask fit testing.
- Attended **19** community outreach events.
- Hosted **50** Grade 9 students for “Take Your Kids to Work” day.
- Completed six-month probationary reviews on **44** recent hires.
- Successfully recruited **one** permanent Q&D Facilitator.
- Coordinated field placement for **46** Primary Care Paramedic students from eight neighbouring community colleges.
- Rostered **65** clients with home and community care for the Palliative Treat and Refer program.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Troy Cheseboro
Chief/Director

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2805



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Social Services
Report: #2025-INFO-08
Date: January 31, 2025

Subject:

1635 Dundas Street East: Phase 2 Community Engagement

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Phase 2: 1635 Dundas Street East Community Engagement Feedback.

2. Background

2.1 The Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) is legislated by the province of Ontario as a Service System Manager for Housing and Homelessness and designated by the federal government as the Community Entity.

2.2 The 1635 Dundas Street East project is a multi-phase initiative aimed at providing safe and inclusive housing support solutions to help people who need it most.

2.3 Phase 1 implementation of the project was approved as part of the initial Regional Council approval to purchase the site in June 2023. Phase 1 includes a 45-bed low barrier, pet friendly shelter. This modernized emergency shelter site allows patrons 24-hour access to the site. The shelter is operated by Christian Faith Outreach Centre (CFOC). There are support services onsite to help patrons reach their goals.

2.4 The Region and CFOC welcomed the first patrons on March 20, 2024. In 2024, the shelter provided a safe and supportive environment to over 100 unique individuals. The occupancy rate has been at capacity since opening.

- 2.5 On June 26, 2024, Social Services Department and LGA Architectural Partners presented at Regional Council to share an overview of the current program use at 1635 Dundas Street East, [Phase 1 Community Engagement](#) results and future engagement strategies, and to share conceptual design for future phases.
- 2.6 Phase 2 focuses on implementing the community feedback received in Phase 1 by creating housing units with health and social supports and services.
- 2.7 A Phase 2 Community Engagement Survey was created in collaboration with the 1635 Dundas Community Liaison Committee and was available to residents on [Your Durham](#), from June 27 to September 27, 2024. Residents were able to provide feedback and insights with suggestions while informing the design and implementation of the facility.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 In June of 2023, Regional Council approved Report #2023-COW-31, directing staff to negotiate the acquisition of 1635 Dundas Street East in the Town of Whitby.
- 3.2 On November 29, 2023, Durham Region and the Town of Whitby reached an agreement related to 1635 Dundas Street, Report [# 2023-A-18](#).

4. Marketing and Communications

- 4.1 During Phase 2 engagement, residents were notified of the survey through various channels to help reach a broader audience and ensure everyone had an opportunity to provide input.
- 4.2 A Public Service Announcement (PSA) was issued on June 27, to all Durham Region channels and shared with media.
 - a. The PSA was picked up by Durham Radio News and shared on the radio news segment for 107.7FM and 1580 AM on June 28.
 - Your Durham was updated to include the survey for participants to fill out.
 - A Briefing Note was shared with Council members on June 27.
- 4.3 Durham Radio News ads ran from September 9 to 13, 2024. This includes the ads played on several radio stations:
 - a. 107.7 FM, CKDO – The ad was played 15 times to 42,000 listeners.
 - b. 94.9 The Rock – The ad was played 15 times to 121,900 listeners.
 - c. KC 96 FM – the ad was played 15 times to 184,800 listeners.
- 4.4 Digital ads ran on Metroland from September 9 to 15, 2024:

- a. Ads were delivered to a total of 50,502 targeted displayed impressions to a Region of Durham news audience.
 - b. 44,312 users interacted with the ads, demonstrating strong engagement.
 - c. 94 users took immediate action by clicking through to Your Durham.
- 4.5 The final Click-Through Rate of 0.18 per cent exceeded the Canadian average benchmark.
- 4.6 A colour print ad was placed in Brooklin Town Crier and distributed to 8,000 residents.
- 4.7 A community flyer was mailed to 1,337 Whitby residents.
- 4.8 Social media messages were shared on X (Twitter), Facebook and LinkedIn until September 27 and resulted in the following engagement:
- a. 54 per cent engagement rate.
 - b. 77.1 per cent impression rate.
 - c. 82.3 per cent clicked on the post link.
- 4.9 Newsletter articles were shared in Durham Region's Corporate Newsletter and This Week in Durham. This Week in Durham's newsletter is distributed to 1,374 subscribers in Durham Region.
- 4.10 Durham.ca included a banner on the homepage to promote the survey.

5. Phase 2 Community Engagement Survey Results

- 5.1 The Phase 2 Community Engagement Survey received a total of 353 survey responses.
- a. A majority of responses were from homeowners (69 per cent).
 - b. A majority of responses lived in Whitby, ON (71 per cent).
 - c. A majority of responses were from 65 to 69 years of age (27.3 per cent).
- 5.2 The feedback received noted:
- a. The concept plans in the video were helpful and informative.
 - b. The following programming and services were identified the most by respondents as missing in Phase 1 that should be expanded or included in Phase 2:
 - Addictions and substance use (recovery, rehab programming);
 - Supports for specific populations (seniors, women, children, victims of human trafficking); and
 - Life skills (obtaining ID, education)
- 5.3 Several respondents asked for volunteer and donation opportunities.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

a. Goal 2 – Community Vitality:

- Revitalize existing neighbourhoods and build complete communities that are walkable, well-connected, and have a mix of attainable housing.
- Enhance community safety and well-being.
- Influence the social determinants of health to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.
- Support a high quality of life for all through human services delivery.
- Build a healthy, inclusive, age-friendly community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

b. Goal 4 – Social Investment

- Revitalize community housing and improve housing choice, affordability and sustainability.
- Build awareness and community capacity to address poverty.
- Demonstrate leadership in poverty prevention.
- Expand access to existing life stabilization programs.

c. Goal 5 – Service Excellence

- Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.
- Collaborate for a seamless service experience.
- Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results.

7. Conclusion

7.1 As per the Regional Municipality of Durham and Town of Whitby agreement, 1635 Dundas Community Engagement Feedback updates are provided to Regional and Town of Whitby Councils on community engagement strategies. The feedback is a component of the information used to develop the 1635 Dundas Street East Phase 2 plans.

7.2 The Phase 2 Community Engagement report will be presented at the Town of Whitby Council on February 3, 2025.

8. Attachments

Attachment #1: 1635 Dundas Street East: Phase 2 Community Engagement Feedback Report

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou
Commissioner of Social Services



1635 Dundas Street East: Phase 2

Community Engagement Feedback



Background

The 1635 Dundas Street East project is a multi-phase initiative aimed at providing safe and inclusive housing support solutions to help people who need it most. As part of the Housing Continuum, the low barrier shelter at 1635 Dundas Street East plays a pivotal role in facilitating the transition of individuals through various stages of housing, offering not only immediate shelter, but also access to support services that help move people toward stable, long-term housing and self-sufficiency.

The Housing Continuum



Figure 1. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2024.

In August 2023, Durham Region began preparing the former Sunnycrest Nursing Home, now referred to as 1635 Dundas, to be a location for temporary housing with wraparound supports. The building has several residential rooms with washroom facilities, common areas for support programs and services, and a private outdoor space. A 45-bed low barrier shelter with wraparound supports opened in the building at the end of March 2024, as part of the Phase 1 implementation of the project. The occupancy rate has been at or near capacity since opening. Operated by Christian Faith Outreach Centre (CFOC), the shelter has provided a safe and supportive environment to 150 unique individuals as of September 2024. CFOC provides a wide range of on-site supports and services that aims to help patrons get back on their feet, including:

- Mental health and addictions supports;
- Harm reduction support services, housing, and employment assistance;
- Medical support services;
- Arts programming; and
- Life skills programming.

To ensure the ongoing success and positive impact of the project, the 1635 Dundas Community Liaison Committee was established and meets monthly to share information, identify issues, and create mitigation strategies to promote successful integration of the low barrier shelter, and its patrons, into the broader community. This committee plays an essential role in fostering communication, addressing any emerging challenges, and strengthening community relationships.

As part of Durham Region's ongoing commitment to ensuring that the 1635 Dundas project aligns with the needs and priorities of the community, Phase 1 of the engagement process gathered valuable input from community members (see [1635 Dundas Phase 1: Community Engagement Infographic](#)). During Phase 1 engagement, the community identified areas of need including:

- Individual housing options;
- Programming supports to ensure physical, mental and addiction health needs are met; and
- Partnerships with service providers to support growth opportunities for people including life skills and employment options.

Phase 2 now focuses on implementing the feedback from community engagement in Phase 1 by creating housing units with health and social supports and services. By building a continuum of housing on site, 1635 Dundas Street East will provide transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness, supportive housing for those requiring specialized services, and accommodations for independent living.

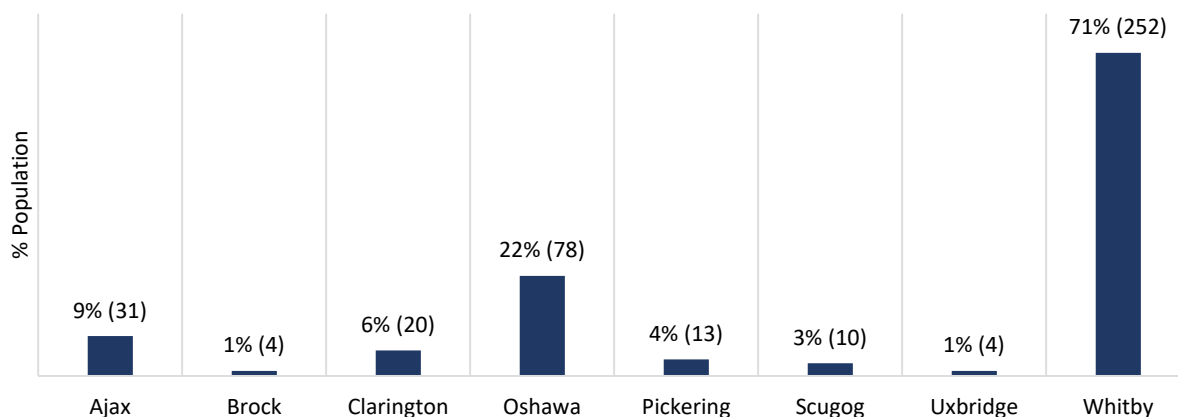
Phase 2 Community Engagement Survey

As the project transitions to Phase 2, a Community Engagement Survey ([Appendix A](#)) was launched to gather input from the community that will inform the planning and development of the next phase for 1635 Dundas Street East. The survey was created with the Community Liaison Committee. It was made available on Durham Region's [Your Durham](#) platform, and paper copies were also distributed throughout the community to ensure broad participation. Residents were notified of the survey through various channels including news, radio, digital and print advertisements, newsletters, community flyers, and social media to help reach a broader audience and ensure everyone was informed and had an opportunity to provide input. The survey included both qualitative and quantitative questions and was made available from June 27 to September 27, 2024.

Demographics

The Phase 2 Community Engagement Survey received a total of 353 survey responses. The survey aimed to capture a broad range of perspectives from individuals with a connection to the area. The majority of responses were from the Whitby community (71 per cent, n = 252), either residing, working, or attending school within the community. Additionally, a significant number of survey responses were from neighbouring municipalities, including Oshawa (22 per cent, n = 78) and Ajax (9 per cent, n = 31) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Community Identity: Residents' Connection to Durham Region



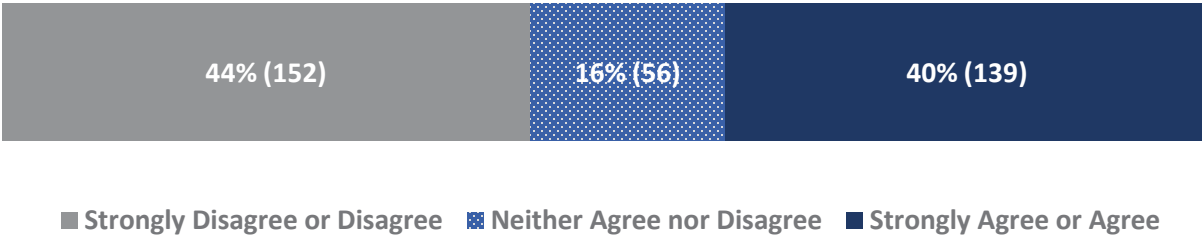
*Respondents could select multiple answers, therefore the total percentage exceeds 100 per cent.

A majority of survey responses were from homeowners (69 per cent, n = 242), followed by renters (18 per cent, n = 64), business owners (3 per cent, n = 12), unsheltered individuals (3 per cent, n = 9), and living in supportive or affordable housing (2 per cent, n = 7). A total of 7 per cent of responses (n = 26) indicated “Other.”

Phase 1 Implementation

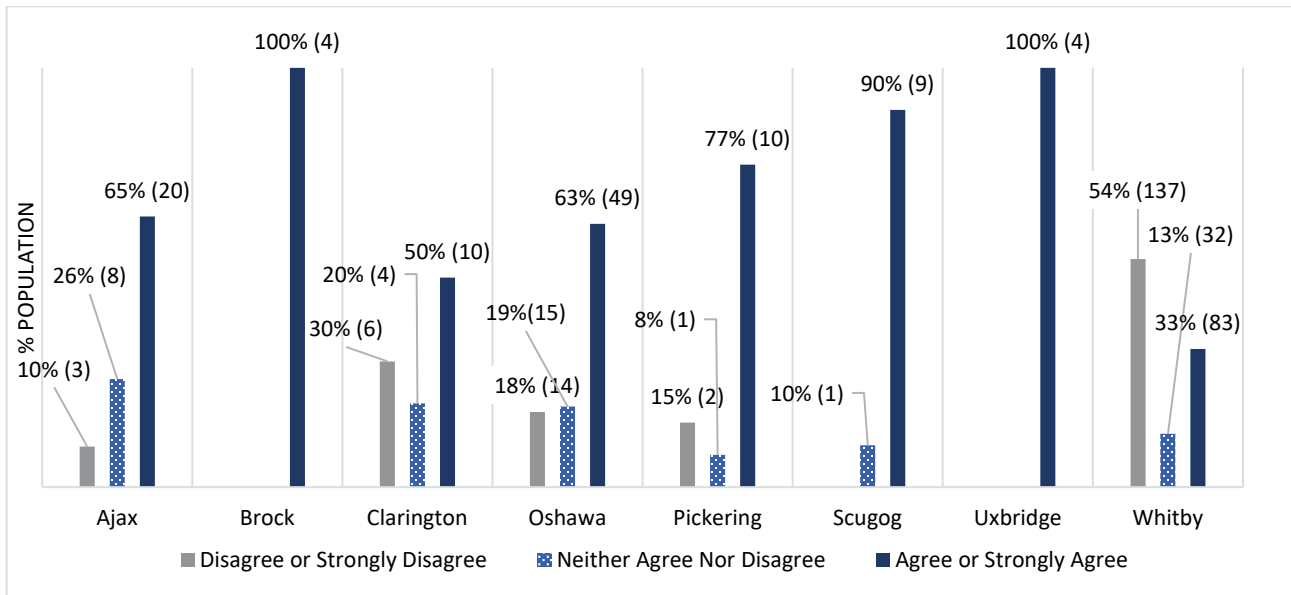
As part of the engagement process, it was important to understand community members' perceptions of Phase 1 and how well the low barrier shelter at 1635 Dundas Street East has integrated into the local area. Community member responses to the question, “I feel that the low barrier shelter at 1635 Dundas Street East has integrated well into the community,” showed a mixed outlook. 40 per cent (n = 139) of responses either strongly agreed or agreed, and 16 per cent (n = 56) were neutral, indicating a good level of support or openness to the shelter's integration. 44 per cent (n = 152) expressed some level of disagreement, providing an opportunity for continued engagement and efforts to enhance understanding and community support.

Figure 3. “I feel that the low barrier shelter at 1635 Dundas Street East has integrated well into the community...” n = 347



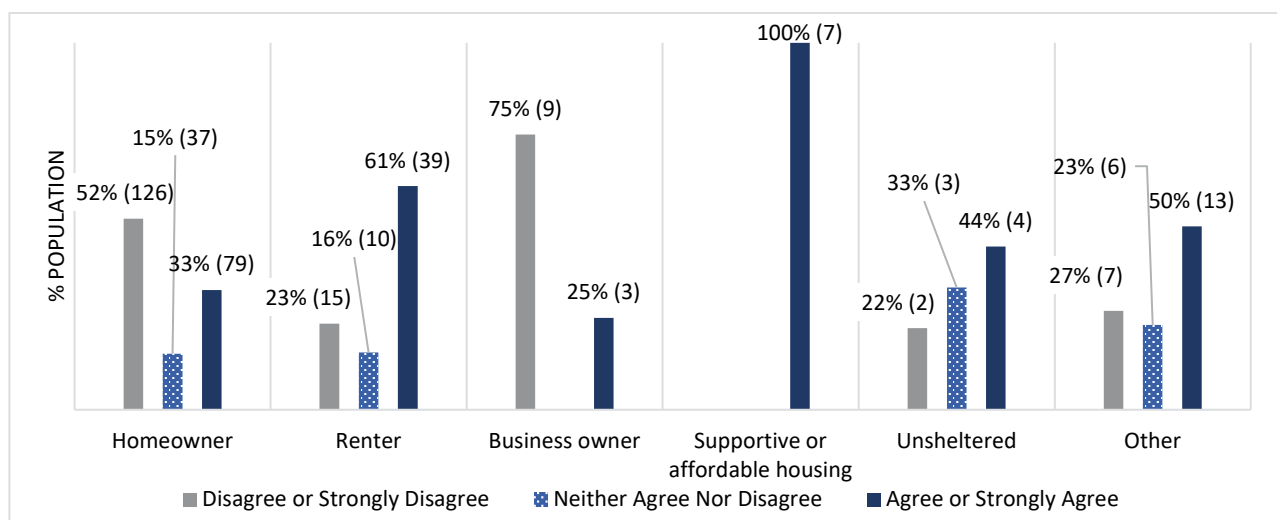
When further analyzed by municipality, there were notable differences in how residents perceived the shelter’s integration (Figure 4). In Whitby, where the shelter is located, 54 per cent (n = 137) of responses expressed disagreement with the statement, indicating opportunity for further communication and community outreach to address local concerns. However, responses from other municipalities in Durham Region showed a more positive outlook, with lower levels of disagreement. These variations in perception, particularly in Whitby, illustrate an opportunity to continue to provide ongoing tailored information to address specific local concerns. This can be addressed and leveraged through ongoing communication resources and the 1635 Dundas Community Liaison Committee, which has been established to facilitate communication, address neighbourhood concerns, and implement strategies to mitigate any potential impacts on the surrounding community.

Figure 4: The low barrier shelter at 1635 Dundas Street East was well integrated into the community - by municipality



Similarly, there were differences in how individuals perceived the integration of 1635 Dundas Street East into the community, particularly based on their “community identity” (Figure 5). Notably, business owners (75 per cent, n = 9) expressed more levels of disagreement compared to other groups, indicating that there is an opportunity to engage this group further to address their specific needs and questions. Conversely, renters (61 per cent, n = 39) expressed more positive views on the low barrier shelter’s integration. Homeowners had a mixed response, with 52 per cent (n = 126) expressing disagreement and 33 per cent (n = 79) expressing agreement. While these responses reflect a range of opinions, they also present a valuable opportunity to enhance communication and build stronger connections.

Figure 5: The low barrier shelter at 1635 Dundas Street East is well integrated into the community - by community identity



Phase 2: Community needs and implementation

As the project transitions to Phase 2, it is important to continue to prioritize community input to ensure the program evolves in a way that meets critical needs. To build on the feedback from Phase 1, participants were asked to identify any additional services or supports they feel are missing from Phase 1 to be included in Phase 2 (Table 1).

“Emphasis on substance abuse and rehab services. The community has been seeing many individuals use substances in bus sheds, nearby parks, the Whitby mall.”

-Survey respondent

“I think this covers many areas needed, but I hope multiple agencies and access points will be provided to the individuals seeking assistance, so they can determine the supports best suited to them (i.e. not providing all the supports through a few individuals/agencies).”

-Survey respondent

Table 1: Top 10 identified by respondents for expanding or enhancing programming**

Rank	Program
1.	Addictions and substance use (recovery, rehab programming)
2.	Supports for specific populations (seniors, women, children, victims of human trafficking)
3.	Life skills (obtaining ID, education)
4.	Forming connections with the community (volunteering, public education)
5.	Transition supports (followup supports for clients after they leave the shelter)
6.	Housing (finding permanent housing)
7.	Health care (clinic services, dental care)
8.	Employment services (job searching, interviews)
9.	Safety and security (community safety programs)
10.	Wraparound supports (hosting multiple services on site)

**Ranked by highest frequency, with 1 indicating the most mentioned desired services and supports.

Overall, the feedback gathered in Phase 2 reinforced the needs identified in Phase 1 and provided a deeper understanding of specific gaps in services. Many respondents expressed a desire for more comprehensive, accessible, and community-centred programming to address a broad range of social, economic, and personal challenges.

Respondents also had the opportunity to watch the June 2024 Regional Council meeting that presented plans for Phase 2, including concept drawings and information. The video clip was posted on the Your Durham website and survey page. Respondents were asked if they had any thoughts they would like to share regarding the development and implementation of 1635 Dundas Street East. Respondents provided valuable feedback on the development and implementation of the project, focusing on several key themes. These included understanding the impact of the low barrier shelter on the broader community, particularly related to safety and integration, as well as the need for enhanced supports for addiction and substance use. Additionally, suggestions were made to ensure the design and use of space will better serve residents and promote a positive relationship with the surrounding neighbourhood.

Most frequently cited thoughts on concept plans for Phase 2:



“What I’ve seen in the past and the current videos and what the community saying is things have gone well it’s in a great location which doesn’t interfere with a lot of other parts of the community that need to thrive and continue to succeed I think it’s a great use of a building and I think better things will come up as things go along.”

-Survey respondent

“Yes - I think it’s very optimistic to think that it will be safe to house recovering addicts, families, seniors and human trafficking victims all under one roof. Sounds like a great concept but I think much more consideration needs to be given to the safety of the residents and the community by putting all of these people together in one common space.”

-Survey respondent

Key questions were also raised by respondents via the survey. Many of these questions have been thoughtfully considered and addressed in the development and planning of 1635 Dundas Street East. In response, several key strategies have been implemented to ensure that concerns are proactively managed and incorporated into the design and operations. The following table outlines the specific questions raised by respondents, along with the corresponding strategies developed to address them (Table 2).

Table 2: Key respondent questions and implementation strategies

Question	Strategy
What will the impact be on the broader community around 1635 Dundas Street East?	A 1635 Dundas Community Liaison Committee has been established to facilitate communication, address neighbourhood concerns, and implement strategies to mitigate any potential impacts on the surrounding community.

Question	Strategy
<p>What is being done to ensure community safety and mitigate crime?</p>	<p>Appropriate safety and security measures implemented that align with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles (e.g. security cameras, lighting, privacy fence, staff support). Additionally, the 24/7 Regional Street Outreach program connects unsheltered residents with essential services. A dedicated email (Homelesshelp@Durham.ca) and phone line (311 extension 5510) (monitored 24/7) has been established to address community inquiries and concerns.</p>
<p>What supports are in place for addiction and substance use?</p>	<p>1635 Dundas Street East offers wraparound services tailored to the individual needs of residents, including counselling, health services, employment support, financial assistance, food security, life skills training, and mental health programming. Formal collaborations with community partners have been developed to provide a wide range of on site supports and services to help patrons get back on their feet, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and addictions support provided by Lakeridge Health/Pinewood; • Harm reduction support services, housing, and employment assistance provided by John Howard Society; • Medical support provided by Durham Community Health Centre (DCHC); • Social assistance and life skills training; • Arts programming; and • We Grow Food Gardening project. <p>As the development of 1635 Dundas Street East continues, additional supports and services will be introduced to further enhance access.</p>
<p>What is the most effective way to design this space?</p>	<p>The Phase 2 conceptual design prioritizes the creation of individual and specialized supportive housing units, tailored to community needs such as palliative care, recovery, and rehabilitation programs.</p>

Conclusion

1635 Dundas Street East is part of a broader, innovative approach to homelessness—focused on a “housing-first” model that offers not only shelter, but also access to critical health and social supports. This approach provides residents with the tools and resources they need to regain stability, secure employment, and transition to long-term housing solutions.

As the initiative moves forward, it is important to acknowledge the diverse perspectives within the community. While feedback has been generally balanced, some residents, particularly in Whitby where 1635 Dundas Street East is located, have expressed concerns about the shelter’s integration. Additionally, homeowners and business owners have voiced mixed opinions, with some feeling more apprehensive than those who rent, unsheltered, or living in supportive or affordable housing. Many of these concerns stem from misconceptions or lack of awareness about homelessness. These varying viewpoints highlight the importance of ongoing dialogue and continued engagement with all community members.

Since its opening on March 20, 2024, Phase 1 has been successfully providing much-needed support to our community, operating at capacity with 45 beds available for individuals experiencing homelessness. Between March and September 2024, 20 individuals at 1635 Dundas Street East moved into stable housing and are connected with housing retention workers to help them to maintain their housing. This marks a significant step forward in addressing the Region’s homelessness crisis. With planning for Phase 2 of the project now started, the community engagement will be applied, expanding the project to include a variety of supportive and transitional housing units and wraparound supports, such as health services, social programs, and employment assistance.

Appendix A

1635 Dundas Street East Phase 2 Community Engagement Survey

1. Please select the descriptor that best describes your community identity. I live, work or attend school in Durham Region:
 - Ajax
 - Brock
 - Clarington
 - Oshawa
 - Pickering
 - Scugog
 - Uxbridge
 - Whitby
 - I live outside of Durham Region

2. Please select the descriptor that best describes your community identity. I am a:
 - Homeowner
 - I rent my home
 - I am a business owner
 - I live in supportive or affordable housing
 - I am currently unsheltered and am staying outdoors, in my car, with a friend or family member
 - Other (please specify)

3. With the 45-bed low barrier shelter now open, we want to hear your feedback about how the shelter has integrated into the community. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:
 - Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree

4. The program services listed below are what we heard from the Phase 1 community engagement as a need in our community. Please list any programming supports you feel are missing:
 - Case management for patrons.
 - Counselling and mental health services.
 - General Counselling services.
 - Addiction and substance use treatment.

- Health care services.
- Life Skills Training (e.g., budgeting, cooking, job readiness). Employment services.
- Literacy and educational support.
- Food supports and nutritional programs.
- Community engagement and social activities (e.g., wellness activities, community gardening).
- Housing placement and retention support.
- Peer support and mentorship.

5. Have you viewed the concept plans in the video shared on the Your Durham website? Please provide any comments you may have:



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2025-INFO-09
Date: January 31, 2025

Subject:

Economic Update – Key Geopolitical and Trade Risks could Disrupt Economic Recovery

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. Consumer Price Index

2.1 Statistics Canada released its December 2024 update on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on January 21, 2024. Overall Canadian CPI rose by 1.8 per cent year-over-year in December 2024, slightly lower inflation than the 1.9 per cent increase on a year-over-year basis recorded the month prior. While November 2024 demonstrated largely broad-based price alleviation led by lower travel and mortgage costs, in December it was lower food and alcoholic beverage prices which led the charge. However, these goods were impacted by the Goods and Services and Harmonized Sales Tax exemptions (GST/HST) implemented by the federal government and effective December 14th. The sales tax exemption will continue to affect approximately 10% of the CPI basket of goods until it ends on February 15th.

2.2 So, while prices for food in restaurants decreased 1.6 per cent largely due to the exemption, prices for food overall, including food purchased from grocery stores still increased marginally by 0.6 per cent compared to December 2023. If we compare food costs to December 2021, prices are still up 16.3 per cent in December 2024, compared to three years ago. Likewise, shelter costs are up 18.5 per cent overall over the last three years, including an increase December 2023 to December 2024 of 4.5 per cent.

-
- 2.3 The province of Ontario's CPI fell in December 2024 from 1.8 per cent in November to 1.7 per cent year-over-year.
 - 2.4 It should be noted that if there is a broadly applied 25 per cent US tariff, including on energy, along with retaliatory Canadian measures, these will immediately impact the price of imported and exported goods, with eventual flow-through to all consumer prices. Higher energy and fuel prices alone, would impact the production and delivery of all goods, (as an input product of production and overhead for all business).
 - 2.5 Economists are currently predicting that a US-Canada trade war, based on an initial 25 per cent across the board tariff, could lead to a seven per cent jump in Canadian All-items CPI within months and a Canadian recession within six months.

3. Bank of Canada Interest Rate Decrease

- 3.1 On January 29, 2025, the Bank of Canada (BOC) again lowered its overnight interest rate by 25 basis points to 3.0 per cent. This follows a 50-basis point drop December 11th and continues BOC's path of easing monetary policy and balance sheet normalization. At the previous five interest rate meetings the BOC implemented rate cuts with 0.25 per cent reductions the first three meetings and a 0.5 per cent reduction October 23rd and December 11th.
- 3.2 The BOC's decision was supported by weaker than anticipated growth, hampered by reduced business investment, falling exports and lower Canadian productivity. The unemployment rate also rose to 6.8 per cent (before falling to 6.7 per cent in December) with wage growth easing. The risks to employment and growth from geopolitical and trade uncertainties also weighs on the BOC's decision and the outlook, and like everyone else, central banks across the globe will be monitoring the US Trump administration's trade policies very closely.
- 3.3 On December 18, 2024, the US Federal Reserve announced its third interest rate cut of 2024, reducing the benchmark rate from 4.5 per cent to 4.25 per cent. A slower pace of cuts is anticipated by the Federal Reserve over 2025, given the US inflation rate still hovering between 2.5 per cent and 3.0 per cent, and that at the time, then President-elect Donald Trump, had already begun to make tariff threats on many global economies including China, Canada and Mexico. Tariff and trade wars are anticipated to drive inflation up and depending on the scope and magnitude of any eventual tariff, interest rate setting by central banks on both sides of the border may need to respond with interest rate increases to again contain inflationary forces.
- 3.4 The US Federal Reserve is expected to hold interest rates at its meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, as it awaits further inflation and jobs data and more clarity on the economic impact of US trade policies before deciding whether to cut borrowing costs again. Preliminary data released on January 29th showed the U.S. monthly goods trade deficit may have increased nearly 18 per cent in December to \$122.1 billion, with a surge in imports of industrial supplies,

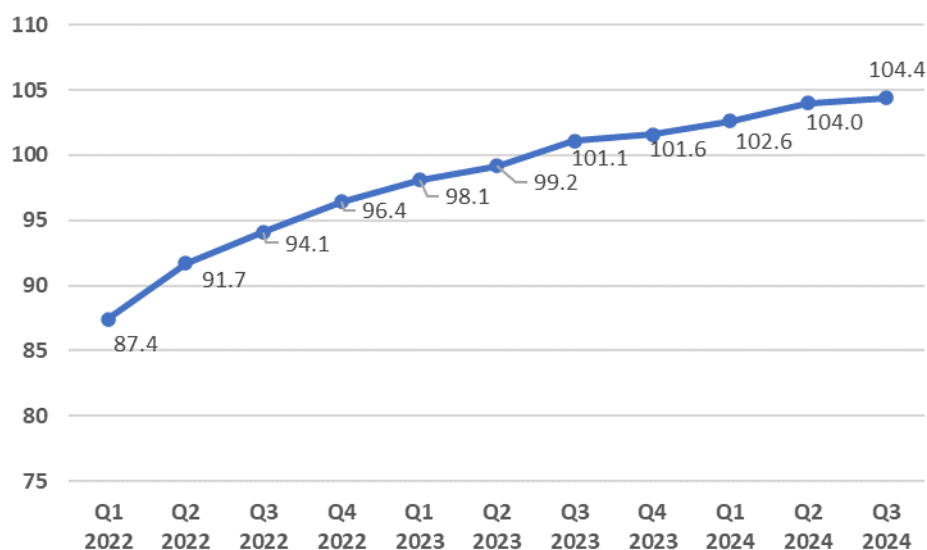
suggesting companies may be trying to front-run expected new import tariffs.

- 3.5 Investors and economists alike expect the Fed to reduce interest rates later in 2025, but policymakers may exercise caution until they are more certain inflation will fall to the central bank's two per cent goal and the details of US tariffs, tax and spending plans are known.

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, increased only 1.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2024, despite having increased 18.9 per cent since the first quarter of 2022, as inflation and supply chain issues subsided.
- 4.2 Statistics Canada noted in its November 5, 2024, release that non-residential building construction costs increased 0.5 per cent in the third quarter of 2024 following an increase of 1.4 per cent in the second quarter. The fourth quarter 2024 was the slowest quarterly growth in non-residential construction prices since the fourth quarter of 2020.

**Chart 1: Statistics Canada, Non-residential Building Construction Price Index
Toronto, Ontario CMA
(Quarterly Increases Q1 2022 to Q2 2024)**



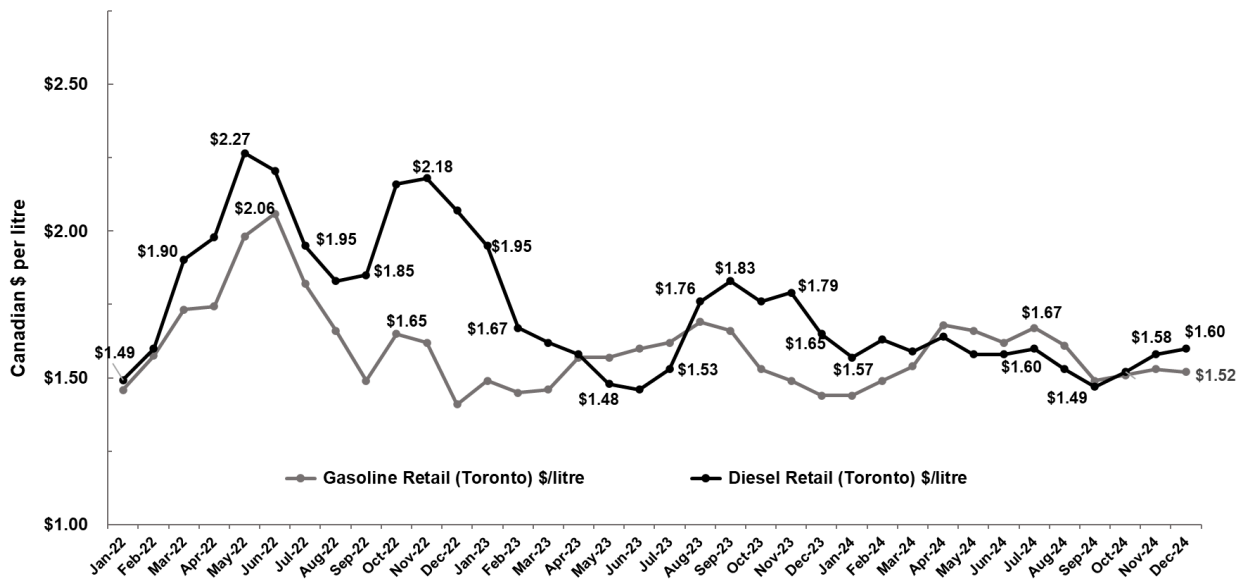
Source: Statistics Canada, table 18-10-0289-02, November 5, 2024 (latest available)

- 4.3 Fluctuating commodity and fuel prices have direct implications for Regional costs. Driven by North American and global markets, commodity and fuel prices are beyond the direct control of the Region and can be volatile. The following provides trends and context for fuel and other commodity pricing deemed relevant to Regional operational and capital planning. It should be noted that potential tariffs

as threatened by US President Trump could result in both direct and indirect impacts related to both operational and capital programs, including volatile and rising commodity and fuel pricing and supply chain disruptions.

- 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 by the end of 2024 were below the average pricing seen over the first quarter of 2022 (when regular gasoline averaged \$1.59, and diesel averaged \$1.67 per litre). December 2024 pricing was at \$1.52 per litre for regular gasoline and \$1.60 per litre for diesel.
- 4.5 While retail fuel prices are anticipated to continue to weaken with slowing global economic growth, geopolitical tensions and risks are heightened and could have significant inflationary impacts. Any worsening of regional conflicts abroad, labour disruptions, U.S. tariffs on Canadian oil imports, or climate events, could affect global oil, retail fuel, commodity and food prices, supply chains, and inflation.

**Chart 2: Diesel and Regular Gasoline
Toronto Benchmark Monthly Averages
CDN \$/litre from January 2022 – December 2024)**



Source: Natural Resources Canada

- 4.6 Based on historical data compiled by Sproule Holdings Limited, Union Dawn hub (Ontario) natural gas prices have decreased 43.4 per cent in the 24 months since December 2022. However, the market is increasingly volatile. In the month from November 2024 to December 2024, Union Dawn natural gas prices surged 46.6 per cent, from 10 cents per cubic meter to 14 cents per cubic meter (natural gas

supply costs only - excludes pipeline transportation tolls and other distribution charges).

- 4.7 The significant monthly December price increase is related to several factors, including reduced North Sea natural gas production, heightened cold weather forecasts, and a surge in demand for North American liquefied natural gas (LNG) destined for both Asia and Europe, where low storage levels and the end of Russian oil supply transport to Europe through Ukraine play a part (the Ukraine – Russia gas transit agreement expired, increasing European reliance on North American LNG). More turbulence in natural gas markets is anticipated, due to supply-demand imbalances anticipated throughout 2025.
- 4.8 The Statistics Canada Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) measures price changes for products manufactured in Canada. It reflects 22 industrial product price categories. Table 1 below demonstrates year-over-year changes in industrial product pricing in manufacturing, industrial processes, and construction between December 2023 and December 2024. Industrial product prices affect Regional material processing and construction costs.
- 4.9 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). While each commodity reflects its own market supply and demand characteristics, by December 2024 the overall IPPI had fallen 3.3 per cent from this peak. Year over year the IPPI index is 4.1 per cent higher than December 2023. Within the basket of products however, there remain significant price volatility year-over-year.
- 4.10 In December 2024, year-over-year prices have fallen significantly for fabricated metal and construction materials (-28.7 per cent), with energy and petroleum products also down by 2.9 per cent and primary ferrous metal products down a marginal 0.6 per cent. However, significant product price increases are still apparent for non-ferrous metal products (+ 22.3 per cent), lumber and wood products (+11.5 per cent), electric, electronic and audiovisual and telecommunications products (+8.7 per cent), and cement, glass and non-metallic minerals (+7.1 per cent).

Table 1: Statistics Canada Industrial Product Price Index Price Levels by IPPI Product Category (December 2023 to December 2024)

Product Category	IPPI Price Index		
	Dec-23	Dec-24	Yr over Yr %
Primary Ferrous Metal Products	137.2	136.4	-0.6%
Primary Non-ferrous Metal Products	136.6	167.0	22.3%
Lumber & Wood Products	122.9	137.0	11.5%
Energy and Petroleum Products	128.5	124.8	-2.9%
Fabricated Metal Products & Construction Materials	139.2	99.3	-28.7%
Cement/glass/non-metallic minerals	127.8	136.9	7.1%
Electric/electronic/audiovisual/telecommunication Products	128.1	139.3	8.7%
Machinery & Equipment	117.0	122.9	5.0%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	119.8	123.4	3.0%
Packaging Materials and Containers	128.7	135.1	5.0%
Total Industrial Product Price Index	123.3	128.3	4.1%

Note: January 2020 = 100

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Table 18-10-0268-01, January 22, 2025

5. Economic Growth - GDP Totals

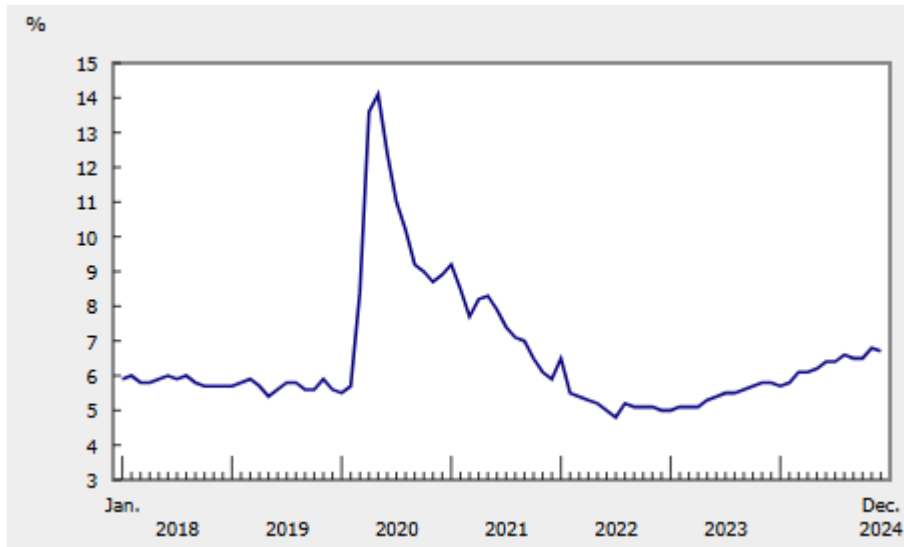
- 5.1 Economic growth, as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP), increased by 0.3 per cent overall in the third quarter of 2024 for Canada, after rising 0.5 per cent in the second quarter, according to Statistics Canada's latest release November 29, 2024.
- 5.2 However, on a per capita basis Canada GDP fell for the sixth consecutive quarter, by 0.4 per cent in the third quarter, 2024 (compared to a decrease of 0.1 per cent in the second quarter). Per capita GDP only increased in one quarter of the last nine quarters, pointing to continuing softness in the nation's economy.
- 5.3 Third quarter GDP growth was primarily concentrated in higher household and government expenditures, with declines noted in inventory accumulation, business capital investment (-7.8 per cent) and exports (-0.3 per cent). On an annualized basis GDP rose one per cent in the third quarter of 2024, lower than the Bank of Canada's 1.2 per cent forecast October 23rd and slower than the pace of population growth.
- 5.4 The Bank of Canada reported in its January 29, 2025, press release that the Bank "... forecasts GDP growth will strengthen in 2025. However, with slower population growth because of reduced immigration targets, both GDP and potential growth will be more moderate than was expected in October. Following growth of 1.3% in 2024, the Bank now projects GDP will grow by 1.8% in both 2025 and 2026..." The Bank of Canada forecasts currently exclude consideration of tariff threats proposed by the US Trump Administration, although they continue to monitor US trade policy closely.

- 5.5 Compensation of employees rose 1.7 per cent in the third quarter led by increased wages in finance, real estate and company management.
- 5.6 The household savings rate reached 7.1 per cent in the third quarter, up from 6.2 per cent in the second quarter, as gains in disposable income (+2.3 per cent) grew at double the pace of spending (+1.2 per cent) and interest payments on mortgages and consumer credit declined for the first time since the third quarter of 2021 (-0.6 per cent).

6. The Labour Market

- 6.1 Statistics Canada reported on January 10, 2025, that the December 2024 employment rate in Canada was up by 0.4 per cent, rising to 60.8 per cent. Employment increases were recorded for men aged between 25 and 54 years old (+30,000 or +0.4 per cent), and women 55 years or older (+21,000 or +1.1 per cent). The unemployment rate declined by 0.1 per cent to 6.7 per cent.
- 6.2 Employment rose in educational services (+17,000), transportation and warehousing (+17,000), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+16,000) and health care and social assistance (+16,000). In Ontario employment also increased by 23,000 (0.3 per cent).
- 6.3 Statistics Canada reports that public sector employment increased by 40,000 (+0.9 per cent) in December, the second consecutive monthly increase and in the year to December 2024, public sector employment increased by 156,000 (+3.7 per cent), driven by education services, health care and social assistance. Meanwhile private sector employment was up 191,000 (+1.4 per cent) on a year-over-year basis.
- 6.4 Total hours worked rose 0.5 per cent in December and were up 2.1 per cent compared with 12 months earlier.
- 6.5 Average hourly wages among employees were up 3.8 per cent (+\$1.32 to \$35.77 per hour) on a year-over-year basis in December, following growth of 4.1 per cent in November 2024 (not seasonally adjusted).
- 6.6 The unemployment rate fell in December to 6.7 per cent but has generally trended up since March 2023 when it was 5.0 per cent.
- 6.7 Provincially, the unemployment rate in Ontario fell in December 2024 to 7.5 per cent compared to 7.7 per cent the month prior and is 2.5 per cent higher than in April 2023 when it was at 5.0 per cent.

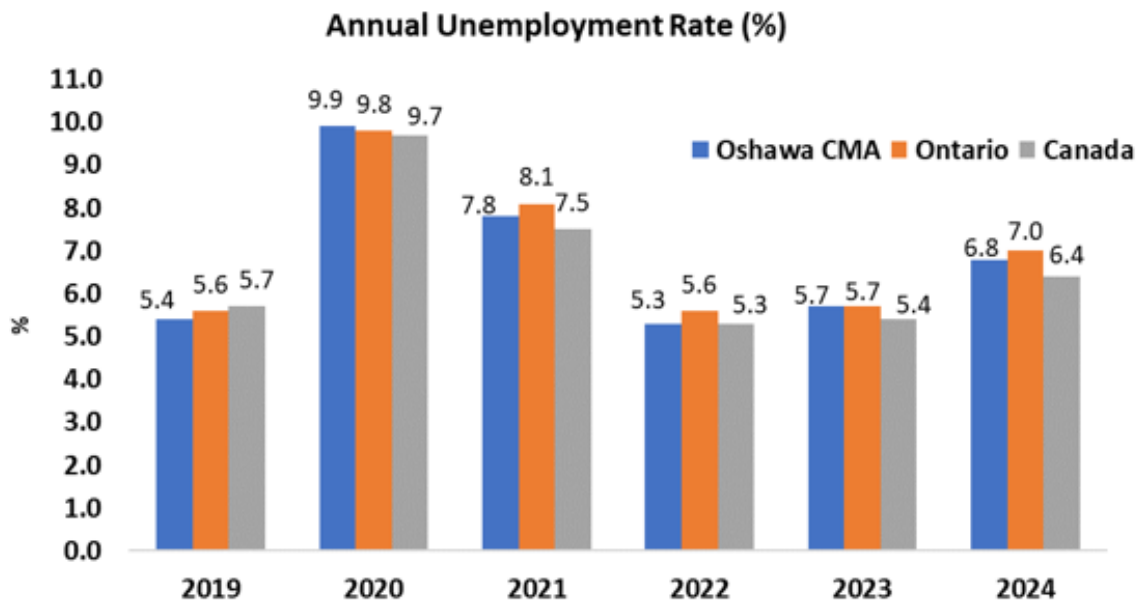
**Chart 3: Unemployment Rate – Canada
(January 2018 – December 2024)**



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (3701), table 14-10-0287-01.

6.8 Annual unemployment rates including 2024 as noted in chart 7 below, demonstrate that the Oshawa CMA continues to trend with the provincial and national rates of unemployment.

**Chart 4 Unemployment Rates
in Canada, Ontario and the Oshawa CMA (2018 to 2024)**



7. Housing Trends

- 7.1 On January 7, 2025, the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB) reported that total Greater Toronto Area (GTA) home sales decreased 1.8 per cent year-over-year for the month of December, but total annual sales in 2024 were up 2.6 per cent to 67,610 compared to full year 2023. New listings were up significantly which benefited buyers with more negotiating power on price, especially in the condominium market. Average selling prices in December 2024 dipped by 1.6 per cent in comparison to December 2023 as a result, although still at a relatively unaffordable average GTA price of \$1,067,186.
- 7.2 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. TRREB President Elechia Barry-Sproule noted, "All else being equal, further rate cuts in 2025 and home prices remaining below their historic peaks should result in improved market conditions over the next 12 months."
- 7.3 In December 2024 Durham Region had an average home resale price of \$930,207 compared to \$904,226 in November 2024 and \$860,622 in December 2023. This was an anomaly compared to other GTA Regions which had downward price pressures, especially in the condominium market as noted by TRREB. Where Durham's home resale market in December 2024 had a sales-to-active listings ratio that was relatively balanced putting some pressure on price, other Regions maintained similar sales levels to December 2023, but with significantly high jumps in active listings, which put downward pressure on their prices. Halton's active listings for example jumped 75 per cent December 2023 to December 2024, with sales increasing only 5.0 per cent.
- 7.4 Despite Durham's pricing trending in the opposite direction year-over-year compared to GTA peers, Durham still maintains relative home resale affordability compared to peers. Durham's average home resale price in December 2024 was between 5.6 per cent and 36.3 per cent less expensive than other GTA Regions.

**Table 2: Toronto Regional Real Estate Board:
GTA Average Home Resale Selling Price
(All Home Types)**

	December 2024	Relative Affordability	Year-over-year Price Change
Durham	\$930,207	-	+8.1%
York	\$1,268,118	+36.3%	-1.0%
Peel	\$982,456	+5.6%	-3.7%
Halton	\$1,139,611	+22.5%	-12.5%
Toronto	\$1,033,742	11.1%	-2.7%

Source: Toronto Regional Real Estate Board, December Market Watch report

8. Risks, Uncertainties and Potential Volatility

- 8.1 While past updates have noted concerns with geopolitical risks, volatile pricing, potential trade disruptions, slow Canadian growth and productivity and rising unemployment, top of mind for Canadians in early 2025 are potential tariffs and retaliations that could result, due to threats being made by US President Donald Trump. Although as yet hypothetical, Trump's threats for an across the board 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian trade would have severe economic and financial impacts including inflationary pressures and risks, supply chain disruptions, reduced employment, and worsened affordability. Canada's annual goods and services exports to the United States, according to Statistics Canada, total over \$700 billion in goods and services. Similarly, US imports exceed \$600 billion in goods and services.
- 8.2 President Trump's tariff threats may be partly posturing, not only to achieve additional negotiated trade concessions during his term, but also other ends, including enhanced security along the US-Canadian and US-Mexican borders, reduced illegal drug trade, and in Canada's case, additional NATO funding commitments. The official January 20, 2025 "America First Trade Policy" memorandum from President Trump to nine offices of his new government, does not actually recommend a specific tariff, nor include anything radical in terms of trade policy review. The policy order directs trade reviews, investigations, findings, identifications, and recommendations which are to be delivered to the President in a consolidated report by April 1, 2025. The current Canada-United States- Mexico Agreement is scheduled for a joint review commencing July 1, 2026, although any country can leave the agreement, according to the agreement, with six months written notice.

- 8.3 Regardless of whether tariffs are immediate or implemented in some form later, the threat of tariffs cannot be ignored, and the uncertainty is already having an impact on the Canadian dollar exchange rate, business investment, inventory levels and supply chains, as producers and importers adjust their stock and seek alternative markets to minimize damage.
- 8.4 The Canadian Chamber of Commerce currently predicts the proposed 25 per cent tariff could shrink Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2.6 per cent and cost \$1,900 per Canadian household annually. US GDP is anticipated to fall a still significant 1.6 per cent, costing US households \$1,300 per year. While trade dependent industries would be the hardest hit, everything would become more expensive for Canadians as higher costs, including energy, flow through all goods and services costs. Inflationary effects could lead to another interest rate hiking cycle to contain it, and the housing crisis and food insecurity would likely worsen. This is a worst-case scenario as there is some recent experience to be drawn on. President Trump during his first term in office implemented tariffs on steel (25 per cent), aluminum (10 per cent) and softwood lumber (20 per cent) ahead of the July 1, 2020, implementation of the current trade agreement to which Canada retaliated with tariffs on close to \$17 billion of Canadian goods. It took until the following year for the two countries to lift these tariffs and the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement was subsequently ratified on July 1, 2020. Canada in anticipation of US tariffs this time, has earmarked up to \$37 billion of U.S. imported goods for retaliation during President Trump's second term, and is considering an additional \$110 billion of US goods to tariff, subject to consulting with various domestic stakeholders.
- 8.5 The Finance Department will continue to monitor the economic environment, US trade policy and key indicators and report on implications as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

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

January 23, 2025

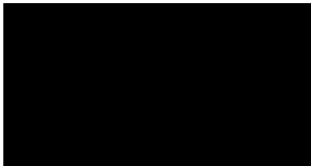
The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Via Email

Re: Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday, January 20, 2025, adopted Resolution No. 2025-0009 regarding Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding.


Attached for your information is a copy of Resolution No. 2025-0009.

Respectfully,



Melissa Lawr, AMP
Deputy Clerk – Legislation

- cc. Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- Leaders of the Opposition Parties
- Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
- Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Local MPs
- Local MPPs
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- All 444 Municipalities of Ontario

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	January 24, 2025 11:11 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2025-0009

Title: **Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding**

Date: January 20, 2025

Moved by: **Mayor A. Lawlor**

Seconded by: **Councillor C. Somerville**

Item No. 12.1

WHEREAS municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development;

AND WHEREAS the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs;

AND WHEREAS redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers;

AND WHEREAS a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax

and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Town of Halton Hills Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT Town of Halton Hills Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, Leaders of the Opposition Parties, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs);

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Mayor Ann Lawlor

January 29, 2025

All Municipalities in Ontario
Via Email

Re: Sovereignty of Canada


Please be advised that Council of the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday, January 20, 2025, adopted Resolution No. 2025-0010 regarding Sovereignty of Canada.

Attached for your information is a copy of Resolution No. 2025-0010.

Respectfully,



Melissa Lawr, AMP
Deputy Clerk – Legislation

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	January 30, 2025 8:51 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2025-0010
Title: Sovereignty of Canada
Date: January 20, 2025
Moved by: Councillor D. Keene
Seconded by: Councillor J. Brass

Item No. 12.2

WHEREAS incoming President Trump has suggested that with the use of "economic force" such as tariffs, Canada should become the 51st state of the United States, and further he suggests that many Canadians would agree;

AND WHEREAS residents of our community, known as Canada's Most Patriotic Town, have demonstrated passion for and loyalty to our nation by opposing past "Buy America" trade measures; by celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary by simultaneously flying over 57,000 Canadian flags and along with other activities, by annually hosting popular Canada Day festivities throughout our municipality; and

AND WHEREAS Canada is a sovereign nation with a peaceful history of self-governance dating to its Confederation in 1867; and

AND WHEREAS the Canadian identity is marked by a deep-rooted pride in its heritage and culture founded by French and British settlement, enriched by Indigenous culture and traditions and by more than a century and a half of multi-cultural immigration;

AND WHEREAS Canada has significant global standing, consistently supporting its allies, including the United States, in global conflicts such as two world wars, and wars in Korea and Afghanistan; and in international coalitions and in being consistently recognized as among the top countries in the world for quality of life;

AND WHEREAS the shared history of the United States and Canada has been one of friendship, respect and neighbourly relations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Halton Hills categorically rejects any efforts by incoming President Trump or any others to undermine the sovereignty of Canada. We stand united with our Ontario Premier Doug Ford and our Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for a Canada that remains strong, free, independent, and characterized by peace, order, and good government.

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor prepare correspondence containing this resolution for circulation to the office of the American president through our Canadian diplomatic channels with copies to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, MP Michael Chong, Premier Doug Ford, The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade of Ontario, MPP Ted Arnott, Leaders of the Opposition Parties, AMO, FCM, and all municipalities in Ontario.



Mayor Ann Lawlor