



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Health and Social Services Committee Agenda

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

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

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

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5.2 Lisa McIntosh, Director, Income, Employment and Homelessness Supports Re: Durham Region Encampment Strategy (2025-SS-2) [Item 8.2 a.]	35
5.3 Tracy Greig, Chief Executive Officer, Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation, and Katherine Sansom, Manager, Tenant & Housing Services, Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation Re: Successful Partnerships - Acknowledging Key Partners	47
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Corporation, and Katherine Sansom, Manager, Tenant & Housing Services, Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation
Re: Complex Tenant Challenges Pilot

- 5.5 Erin Valant, Director, Housing Services Division, and Alyssa Skan, Manager, Housing Services Division 69
Re: Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation - Continued Growth, Continued Need

6. Delegations

- 6.1 Maria Papaioannoy, Director, Rights4Vapers (In-Person Attendance)
Re: Concern about the misinformation that Durham Public Health is sharing to the Community regarding vaping
- 6.2 Shelley Mayer, CMO & VP Eastern Region (In-Person Attendance) and Jolene Livingston, Founder & CEO (Virtual Attendance), Partners for Affordable Housing
Re: Community Housing / Housing & Homelessness Plan

7. Health

- 7.1 Correspondence
- 7.2 Reports
- a. Report #2025-MOH-2 82
Update to Fees for Region of Durham Paramedic Services
Special Events Coverage

8. Social Services

- 8.1 Correspondence
- a. Correspondence from Susan Cassel, City Clerk, City of Pickering 84
Re: Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
Recommendation: Motion to Endorse
- 8.2 Reports
- a. Report #2025-SS-2 87
Durham Region Encampment Strategy

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There are no advisory committee resolutions to be considered

10. Confidential Matters

There are no confidential matters to be considered

11. Other Business

12. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 9:30 AM

13. Adjournment

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

Written information (either paper or electronic) that you send to Durham Regional Council or Committees, including home address, phone numbers and email addresses, will become part of the public record. This also includes oral submissions at meetings. If you have any questions about the collection of information, please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 6, 2025

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, February 6, 2025 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Roy, Chair
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Brenner*
Councillor Carter*
Councillor Jubb* attended the meeting at 9:31 AM
Councillor Neal* attended the meeting at 9:55 AM
Regional Chair Henry
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also
Present: Councillor Foster*
Councillor Garrod*
Councillor McDougall* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Woo* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Wotten*
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff
Present: E. Baxter-Trahair*, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
A. Di Pietro, Director, Health Protection, Health
J. Dixon, Director, Business Affairs and Financial Management, Social Services
L. Fleury, Deputy Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
J. Gaskin, Director, Children's Services, Social Services
R. Hirstwood-Judd, Supervisor, Family Services, Social Services
B. Holmes, Deputy General Manager, Durham Region Transit
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle*, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
L. MacDermaid, Director, Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors, Social Services

L. McIntosh, Director, Income & Employment Support, Social Services
P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health
G. Muller, Director, Affordable Housing Development & Renewal
J. Svanda*, Acting Deputy Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Health
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Thangaraj*, Director, Population Health and Chief Nursing Officer, Health
T. Tyner Cavanagh, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
E. Valant, Director, Housing Services
T. Zupancic, Climate Change and Health Specialist, Health Protection, Health

*** denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Election of Health and Social Services Committee Vice-Chair

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,

- (1) That Councillor Dies be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,

- (2) That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

The Chair asked if Councillor Dies wished to stand. Councillor Dies indicated she would stand.

Councillor Dies was acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,

- (3) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, December 5, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

6. Presentations

6.1 Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, and Tara Zupancic, Climate Change and Health Specialist, re: Climate Change and Health in Durham Region – Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation

Tara Zupancic, Climate Change and Health Specialist, appearing virtually, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Climate Change and Health in Durham Region – Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Presentation Overview
- Why assess climate and health vulnerability?
- Report Series: 2024-2025
- What are the report objectives?
- What is solar UVR vulnerability?
- Overview of solar UVR exposure in Durham Region
- Where are risks of exposure higher?
- Climate change and local solar UVR exposure
- What are the health impacts of solar UVR?
- Solar UVR Protections
- What actions can support sun-protection?
- What are our strengths and resources?
- Next Steps
- Key Messages

T. Zupancic responded to questions with regards to education being provided within the community to new parents on sun protection for their children.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(4) That Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, and Tara Zupancic, Climate Change and Health Specialist, be invited to present at a future Committee of the Whole meeting with regards to Climate Change and Health in Durham Region – Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation.

CARRIED

7. Delegations

7.1 Ben Earle, Chief Executive Officer, Feed the Need in Durham, re: Update on Food Insecurity and Response in Durham

Ben Earle, Chief Executive Officer, Feed the Need in Durham, appeared before Committee in-person with regards to Community Food Security Update.

B. Earle advised that Feed the Need in Durham was established in 2008 as the regional food distribution hub to gather large quantities of food, helping local food banks to nourish communities. Feed the Need in Durham works with 70 food

programs and 55 organizations and has distributed \$8.8 million worth, which is 2.5 million pounds of fresh and non-perishable food annually.

B. Earle stated there is an escalating crisis of food insecurity and has increased the growing demand for community food programs. From 2022 to 2023, the number of households that are food insecure has increased by 10.9%, with food prices increasing by 22.5% from January 2020 to January 2024 and housing prices increasing by 21.9%. In 2023, 37,887 visited a food bank in Durham Region which is an increase of 60% since 2021.

B. Earle stated that food banks are not the answer to food insecurity and the focus needs to be on policy change and working on income insecurity. Feed the Need in Durham has started their first round of production in a 3,000 sq. ft. vertical farming facility to provide fresh produce to those in need.

B. Earle responded to questions from the Committee.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,

- (5) That Ben Earle, Chief Executive Officer, Feed the Need in Durham, be invited to present at the March 19, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting with regards to a Community Food Security Update.

CARRIED

7.2 Patricia Conlin, re: Foundations for Healthier Communities

Patricia Conlin appeared before Committee in person with regards to Foundations for Healthier Communities.

P. Conlin expressed concerns with focusing on the health of communities and the shifts in public health that need attention by Council and the community. All over the world a message of urgently needed health reform is being echoed to tackle the growing chronic disease epidemic and corruption within public health agencies. She is reaching out to Regional Council as a partner to look at the root causes of this crisis and take steps to address them.

P. Conlin also expressed concerns with the fluoridation policies in Durham Region as what was accepted in the past is now understood through new science to not be good for human health. She stated that many nations and regions are taking steps to remove toxic chemicals from public water to improve public health.

P. Conlin also stated that she has heard concerns from farmers in the community regarding sewage sludge (biosolids) being put on farmlands. She stated biosolids being created from anaerobic digestion plants are misleading and are being sold as ecofriendly fertilizer to farmers. She stated that biosolids should not be spread on fields where edible food is grown.

P. Conlin also expressed concerns with respect to the use of toxic chemicals such as RoundUp and some sunscreen products and stated they can be harmful to human health and other methods should be considered.

P. Conlin raised concerns with respect to Durham Region's policy regarding net zero carbon emissions by 2050 as she feels it is unachievable. She stated the Region should consider implementing alternative health policies and views even if they may be disagreed with.

P. Conlin stated she would like to see the following actions taken to address current health policies:

- Investigate fluoridation in Durham Region
- Withdraw covid vaccines from pharmacies and drug stores
- Reducing materials that go into green bins
- Study incineration for future use
- Prohibit residential use of RoundUp and other toxic herbicides
- Withdraw from partners for climate protection, ICLEI, local governments for sustainability, and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Focus on physical food and health by supporting local farmers and educate the public on growing their own food
- Promote safe remedies during flu season and provide Vitamin D at little cost in elderly care homes.

8. Health

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

There were no Health reports to consider.

9. Social Services

9.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

9.2 Reports

There were no Social Services reports to consider.

10. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

11. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

12. Other Business

12.1 Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs

Councillor Carter raised questions to staff with respect to the announcement of a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub being allocated to Durham Region; the potential location of the HART Hub; Durham Community Health Centre (DCHC) being awarded as the lead agency for the HART Hub who will be leading the planning and development of the project; which community the HART Hub has been allocated to; the launch date for the HART Hub in Durham Region; DCHC managing the deliverables of the HART Hub including the responsibility of the day-to-day operations; and services being provided within the HART Hub.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Dies,
(6) That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM

Respectfully submitted,

E. Roy, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Health & Social Services Committee
From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2025-MOH-1
Date: March 6, 2025

Subject:

Amending By-laws 18-98 and 19-98 to Update Fees for Health Protection Regional Activities and Ontario Building Code Activities

Recommendations:

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

- A) That a by-law, generally in the form included as Attachment #1, that amends Regional By-law 18-98 (as last amended by By-laws 16-2022), which establishes a tariff of fees on applications for and issuance of permits under the *Building Code Act, 1992*, effective April 1, 2025, be approved; and,
 - B) That a by-law, generally in the form included as Attachment #2, that amends Regional By-law 19-98 (as last amended by By-law 17-2022), which establishes a tariff of fees and charges for certain services provided by the Health Department, under the *Planning Act*, effective April 1, 2025, be approved.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval of the attached amending by-law which amends By-law 18-98, a by-law to prescribe a tariff of fees on applications for and issuance of permits under the *Building Code Act, 1992* (see Attachment #1).
- 1.2 To seek approval of the attached amending by-law which amends By-law 19-98, a by-law to impose fees for services provided by the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) (see Attachment #2).

2. Background

- 2.1 The *Building Code Act, 1992* allows an upper-tier municipality to enter into an agreement with a local municipality to delegate to the upper-tier the administration and enforcement of the *Building Code Act, 1992* and the Ontario *Building Code* (OBC) as it relates to private sewage systems.
- 2.2 Since 1998, Region of Durham has entered into Sewage System Management Agreements for the administration and enforcement of the OBC for private sewage systems with the Town of Ajax, Township of Brock, Municipality of Clarington, City of Pickering, Township of Scugog, Township of Uxbridge and Town of Whitby.
- 2.3 As part of the delegation of OBC administration and enforcement for sewage systems, applications under the *Planning Act* are circulated to DRHD by the area municipalities for developments that require private sewage servicing.
- 2.4 Section 7 of the *Building Code Act, 1992* provides that the Council of an upper-tier municipality that has entered into an agreement with a local municipality may, by by-law, require the payment of fees for services provided under OBC and may prescribe the amounts of such fees.
- 2.5 DRHD fees for the administration and enforcement of the OBC and the review of related *Planning Act* applications involving private sewage systems have been included in By-laws 18-98 and 19-98. The fees have been typically updated every three years.

3. Current Status

- 3.1 The fees set forth in Regional By-law 18-98 (as amended) are the fees which are charged to the public for the administration and enforcement provided by the Region of Durham under the Sewage System Management Agreements and the OBC.
- 3.2 The fees set forth in Regional By-law 19-98 (as amended) are the fees which are charged to the applicants for reviewing *Planning Act* applications involving private sewage servicing regulated under the OBC.
- 3.3 The updated 2025 fees set forth in the amending by-laws reflect a 3.75 per cent increase from the 2024 fees in current By-law 16-2022 and By-law 17-2022. The 2026 and 2027 fees reflect a 3.25 per cent annual increase, respectively. These adjustments are designed to better reflect the cost of providing our services and to ensure continued quality and efficiency.
- 3.4 The updated 2025 fee structure also introduces five new fees for services provided under the OBC. These additions are intended to align with current industry practices and trends, address existing gaps in our fee structure, and ensure consistency with other OBC Regulatory Authorities. It is important to note that the new fees will only

be applicable to those who require additional services beyond what is covered by the required application fee.

- 3.5 The estimated annual costs of DRHD to provide the related services under the OBC is approximately \$409,000. The fees are set by using a user-payer approach to cover the costs to DRHD of providing the services.

4. Previous Reports

- 4.1 Report [#2022-MOH-2](#), approved by Regional Council on March 23, 2022 authorized that:
- a. A by-law, generally in the form included as Attachment #1 to Report #2022-MOH-2 of the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, that amends Regional By-law 18-98 (as amended by By-laws 14-2007, 01-2016 and 16-2019), which establishes a tariff of fees on applications for and issuance of permits under the *Building Code Act, 1992*, effective April 1, 2022, be approved; and
 - b. That a by-law, generally in the form included as Attachment #2 to Report #2022-MOH-2, that amends Regional By-law 19-98 (as amended by By-laws 31-98, 15-2007, 02-2016 and 17-2019), which establishes a tariff of fees and charges for certain services provided by the Health Department, under the *Planning Act*, effective April 1, 2022, be approved.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with the following strategic direction and pathway in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
- a. Strategic Direction: Strong Relationships
 - Pathway S5: Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is recommended that the fees and increases for 2025 to 2027 for Health Protection activities relating to OBC for private sewage systems be updated and that the amending by-laws, generally in the form included in Attachment #1 and Attachment #2, be approved.

7. Attachments

Attachment #1: By-law to amend Regional By-law 18-98 as amended.

Attachment #2: By-law to amend Regional By-law 19-98 as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment #1

By-law Number **-2025 of The Regional Municipality of Durham

Being a by-law to amend By-law 18-1998 as amended, to prescribe a tariff of fees on applications for and issuance of permits under the Building Code Act.

Now therefore, the Council of The Regional Municipality of Durham hereby enacts as follows:

1. That By-law 18-1998 as amended is hereby amended by deleting the chart contained in Schedule A and replacing it with the following chart:

Health Protection: Ontario Building Code (OBC) Activities

Grouping	Description	Unit	Rate \$ Excludin g HST	HST Applicable (Y/N)	Invoice (I) / Direct Charge (D)	Effective Date
Building Permit for a Private Sewage System	Residential Occupancy		\$1,082	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$1,117	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$1,153	N	D	April 1, 2027
	Non- Residential/Institutional	<4,500 L/day	\$1,082	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$1,117	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$1,153	N	D	April 1, 2027
	Large Commercial/Industrial	>4,500 - 10,000 L/day	\$2,303	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$2,378	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$2,455	N	D	April 1, 2027

Building Permit for Class 2 and 3 septic systems and treatment unit/septic Tank Replacement Only			\$552	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$570	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$589	N	D	April 1, 2027
Amendment to Building Permit			\$200	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$207	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$214	N	D	April 1, 2027
Additional Inspection			\$295	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$305	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$315	N	D	April 1, 2027
Transfer of Permit			\$100	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$103	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$106	N	D	April 1, 2027
Alternative Solution Application (In addition to the permit fee)			\$225	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$232	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$240	N	D	April 1, 2027

Building Additions			\$262	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$271	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$280	N	D	April 1, 2027
Building Permit for sewage system extensions (1year)		Per application	\$203	N	D	April 1, 2025
			\$210	N	D	April 1, 2026
			\$217	N	D	April 1, 2027

This By-law Read and Passed on the ----th day of -----, 2025.

J. Henry, Regional Chair and CEO

Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk

Attachment #2

By-law Number **-2025 of The Regional Municipality of Durham

Being a by-law to amend By-law 19-1998 as amended to impose fees for services provided by the Health Department of The Regional Municipality of Durham.

Now therefore, the Council of The Regional Municipality of Durham hereby enacts as follows:

1. That Schedule A of By-law 19-1998 as amended, be amended by removing the existing Schedule A and replacing it with the following:

Health Protection: Regional Activities

Description	Unit	Rate \$ Excluding HST	HST Applicable (Y/N)	Invoice (I) / Direct Charge (D)	Effective Date
Lot Consents (Severances)	Per lot	\$609	N	D	April 1, 2025
		\$629	N	D	April 1, 2026
		\$649	N	D	April 1, 2027
Draft Plans of Subdivision (new)	Per lot creation	\$440	N	D	April 1, 2025
		\$454	N	D	April 1, 2026
		\$469	N	D	April 1, 2027
Draft Plans of Subdivision requiring reassessment	Per lot creation	\$440	N	D	April 1, 2025
		\$454	N	D	April 1, 2026
		\$469	N	D	April 1, 2027
Rezoning, Official Plan Amendments, Minor Variances, Site-servicing Plans	Per application	\$303	N	D	April 1, 2025
		\$313	N	D	April 1, 2026
		\$323	N	D	April 1, 2027

Septic Record Search	Per property	\$55	N	D	April 1, 2025
		\$57	N	D	April 1, 2026
		\$59	N	D	April 1, 2027
Lawyers' Written Requests	Per application	\$55	N	D	April 1, 2025
		\$57	N	D	April 1, 2026
		\$59	N	D	April 1, 2027
Peer Review	Per initial report	\$303	N	D	April 1, 2025
		\$313	N	D	April 1, 2026
		\$323	N	D	April 1, 2027
	Per follow-up report(s)	\$129	N	D	April 1, 2025
		\$133	N	D	April 1, 2026
		\$137	N	D	April 1, 2027

This By-law Read and Passed on the -----th day of -----, 2025.

J. Henry, Regional Chair and CEO

Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk



Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control (IDPC)

Health & Social Services Committee
March 6, 2025

Jazin Bond, Manager, Population Health Division
Marina Lee, Manager, Health Protection Division



Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control



Reduce the spread of infectious diseases



Follow up and monitor the spread and identify outbreaks



Protect the public



Legislative requirement



Diseases of Public Health Significance

The following diseases are reportable to the local Medical Officer of Health (Ontario Reg 135/18) under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. **Bolded** diseases must be reported **immediately**. All other diseases may be reported on the next work day.

Report diseases listed below to: Population Health Division

605 Rossland Road East, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 730, Whitby, ON L1N 0B2
Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2996
Confidential Fax: 905-666-6215
After Hours: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104
Online Reporting: durham.ca/DophsReport

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)
Chancroid
Chickenpox (Varicella)
Chlamydia trachomatis infections

Coronavirus, novel, including

- **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**
- **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome**
- Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Diphtheria

Encephalitis, including:

1. Primary, viral
2. Post-infectious
3. Vaccine-related
4. Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis
5. Unspecified

Report diseases listed below to: Health Protection Division

101 Consumers Drive, 2nd Floor, Whitby, ON L1N 1C4
Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 7369 press option 2
Confidential Fax: 905-666-1833
After Hours: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104
Online Reporting: durham.ca/DophsReport

Amebiasis

Anaplasmosis

Anthrax

Babesiosis

Blastomycosis

Botulism

Brucellosis

Campylobacter enteritis

Candida auris

Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE),
infection or colonization

Cholera

Clostridium difficile Infection (CDI) outbreaks in public hospitals

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, all types

Cryptosporidiosis

Cyclosporiasis

Echinococcus multilocularis



Sporadic Communicable Diseases

Rapid
Investigation

Targeted
Interventions



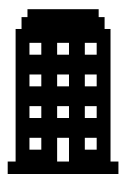


Case and Contact Management



Identify and investigate the case

Contact tracing and monitoring

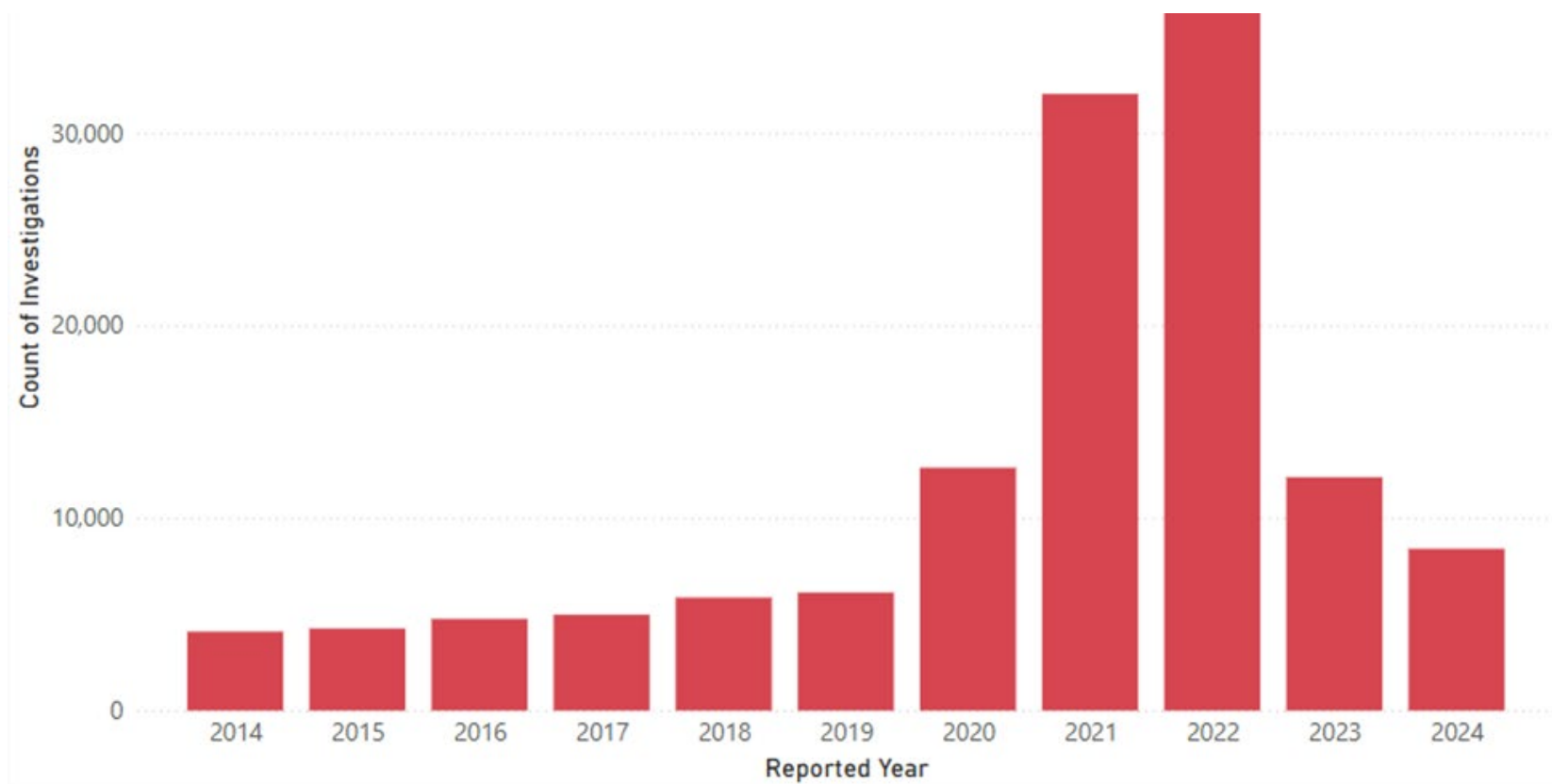


Isolation and infection control

Outbreak management

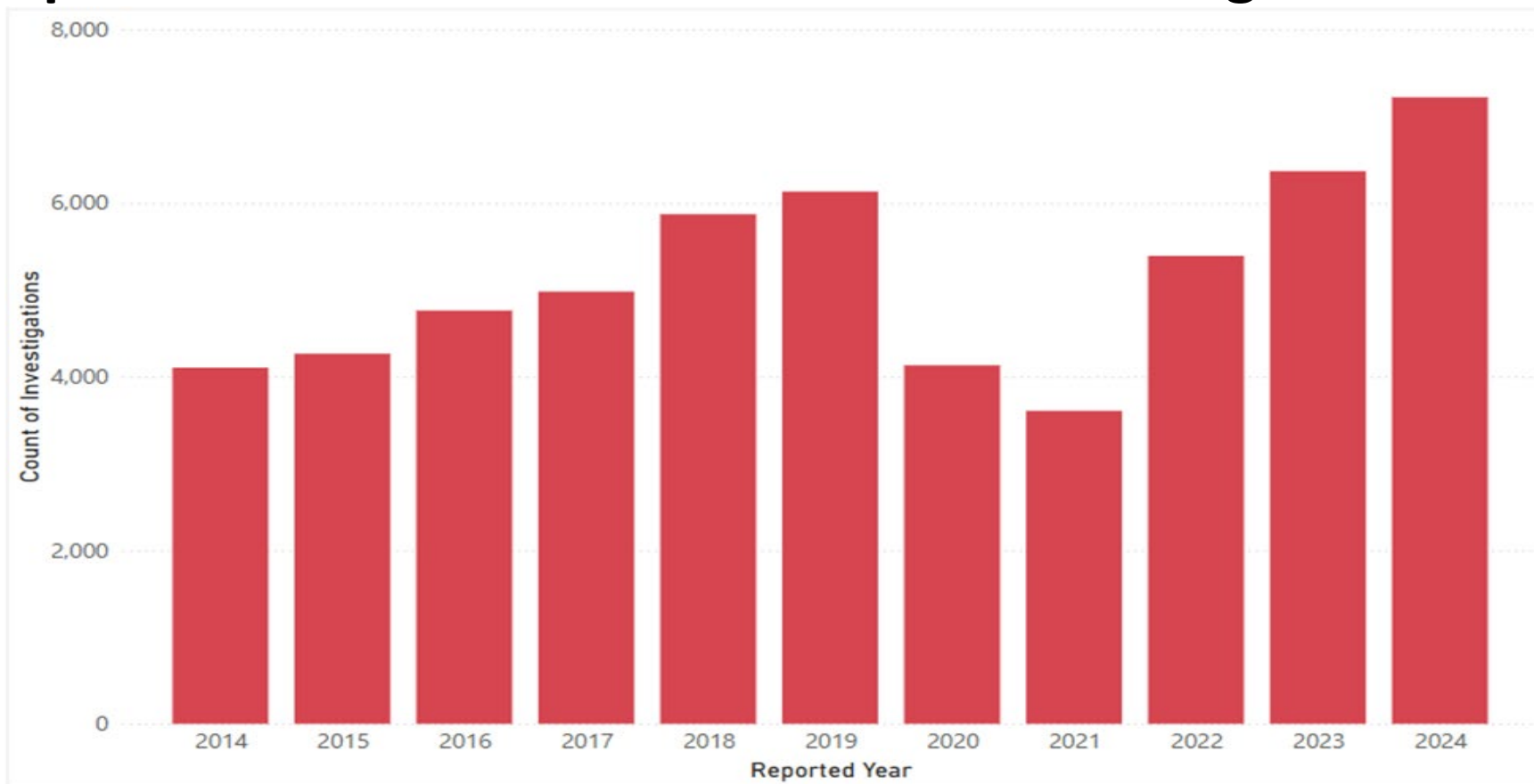


Sporadic Disease Trends 2014-2024 Including COVID-19





Sporadic Disease Trends 2014-2024 Excluding COVID-19





Tuberculosis (TB)

Active TB

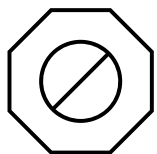
TB contacts

Latent TB
Infection

Immigration
Medical
Surveillance



Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections



Prevent and Control



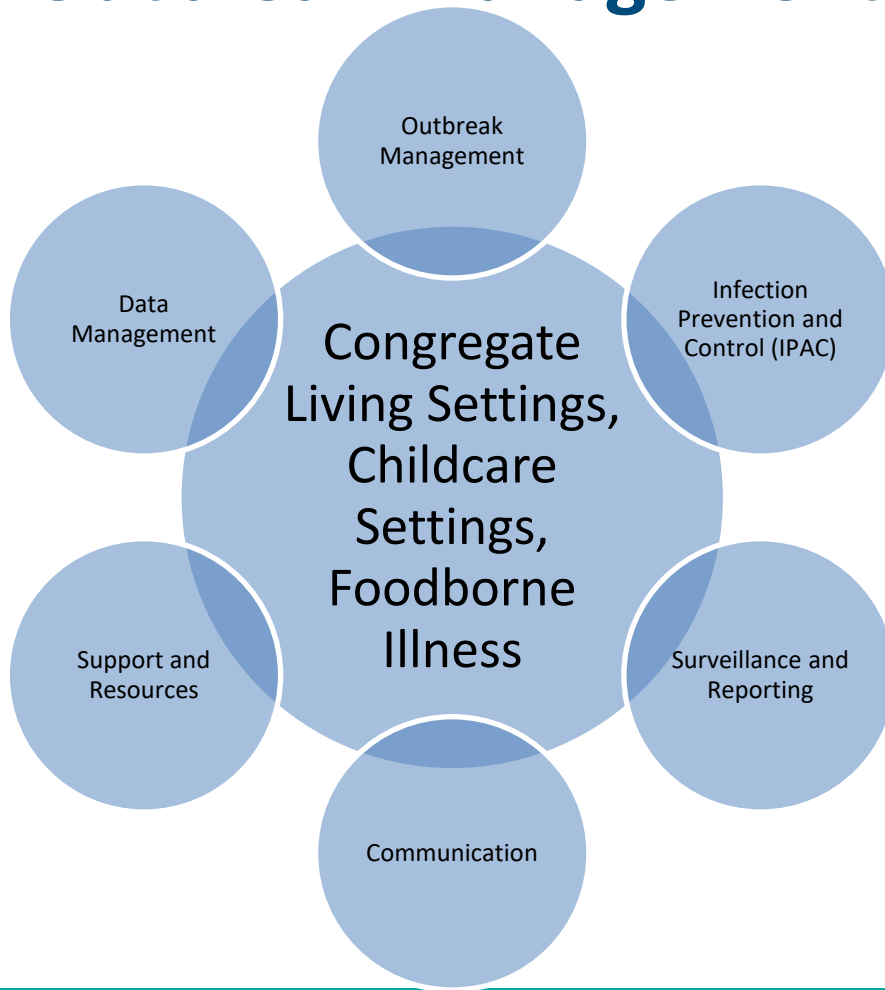
Manage



Offer



Outbreak Management





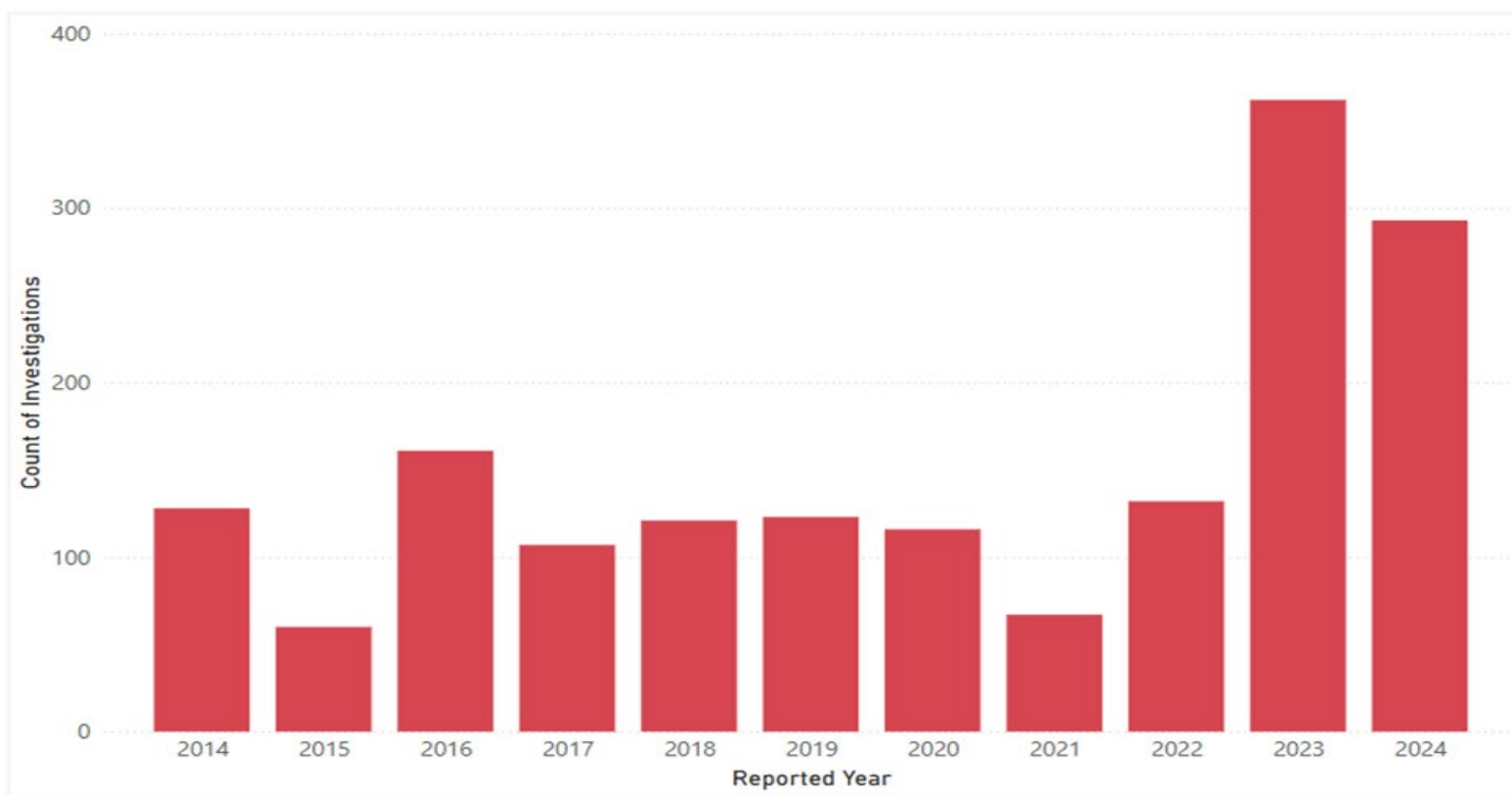
After Hours Response

24/7
availability

689 after
hours calls

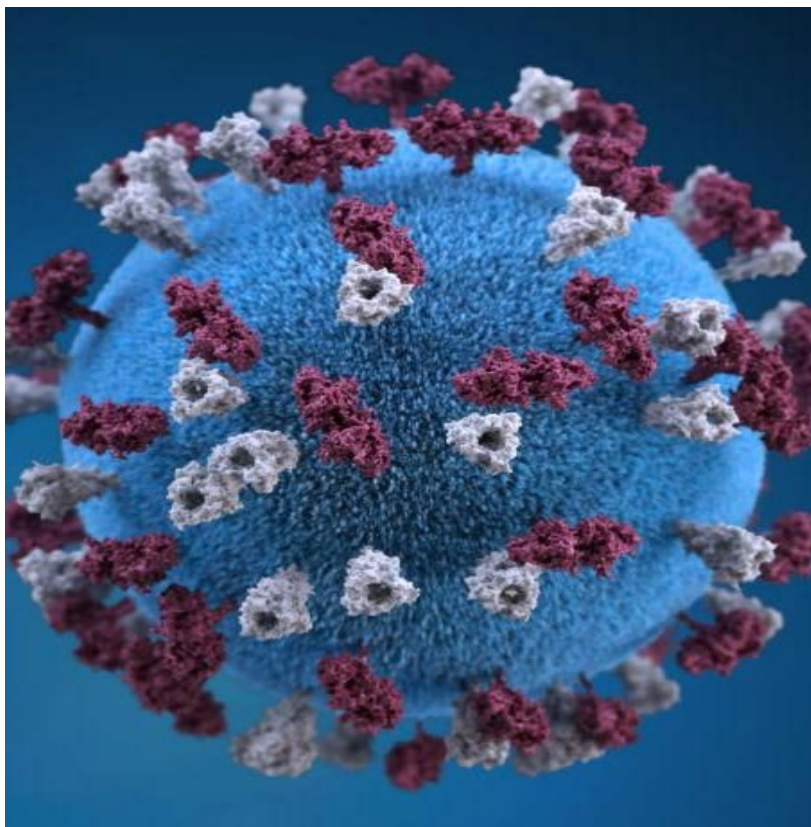


Investigations for Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)





Trends



Measles

Increased activity globally

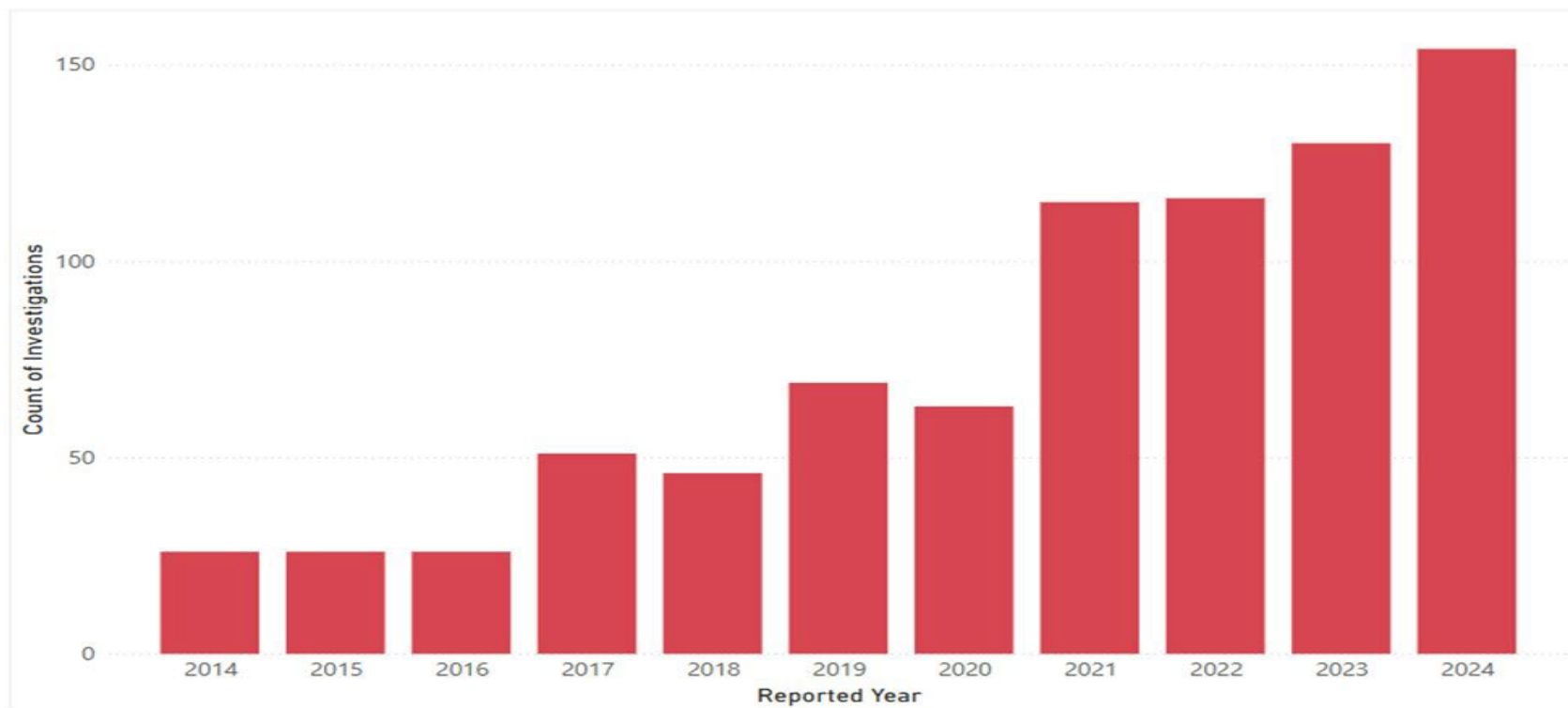
Ontario has begun to see more cases

Durham Region had one case last year



Trends

Investigations for Lyme Disease





Future Directions



2023 - 3 new tickborne diseases (**anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus**) were added as diseases of public health significance

2025 - *Candida auris* is a new disease of public health significance



Thank you!



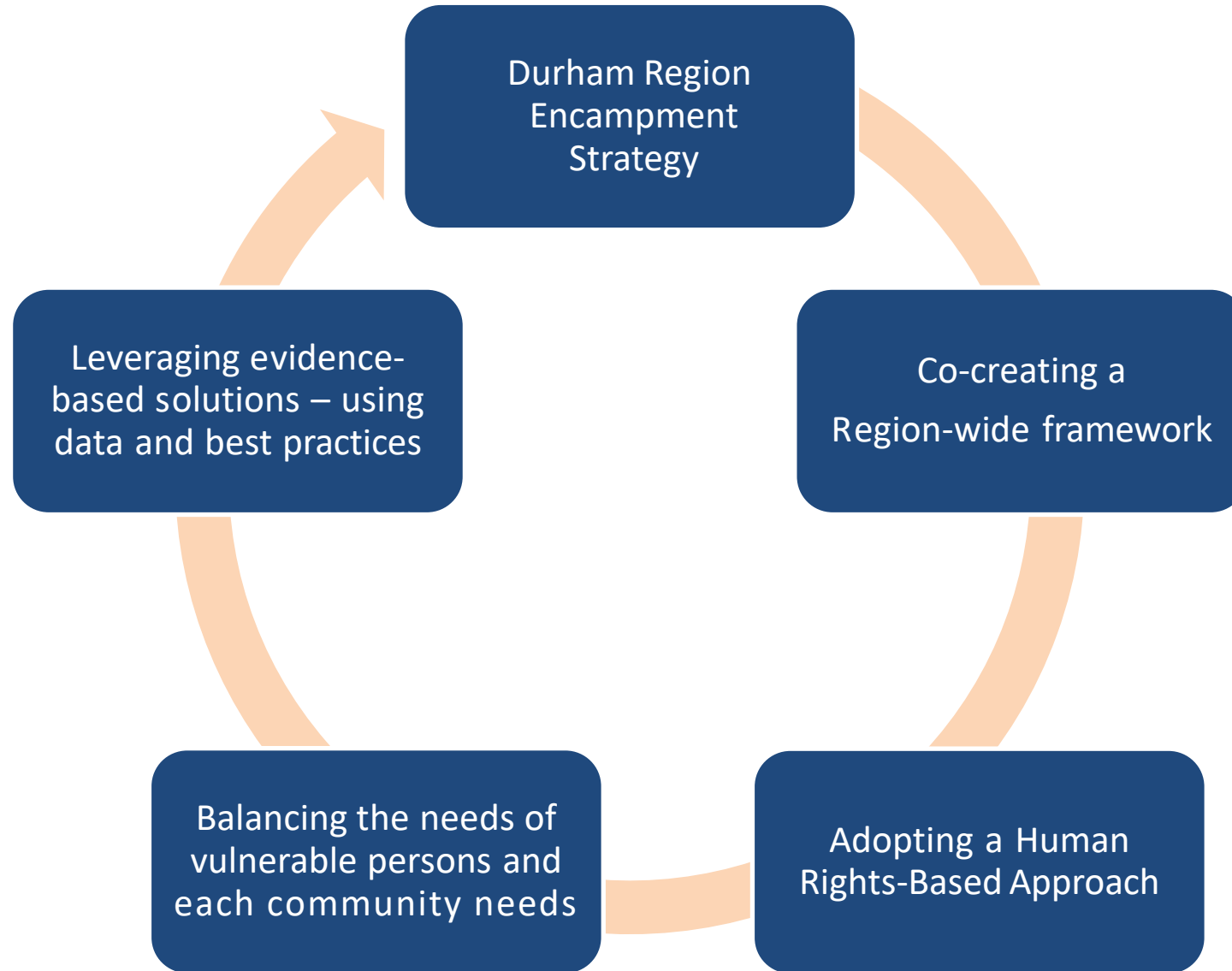
Durham Region Encampment Strategy

Health and Social Services Committee
March 6, 2025

Lisa McIntosh

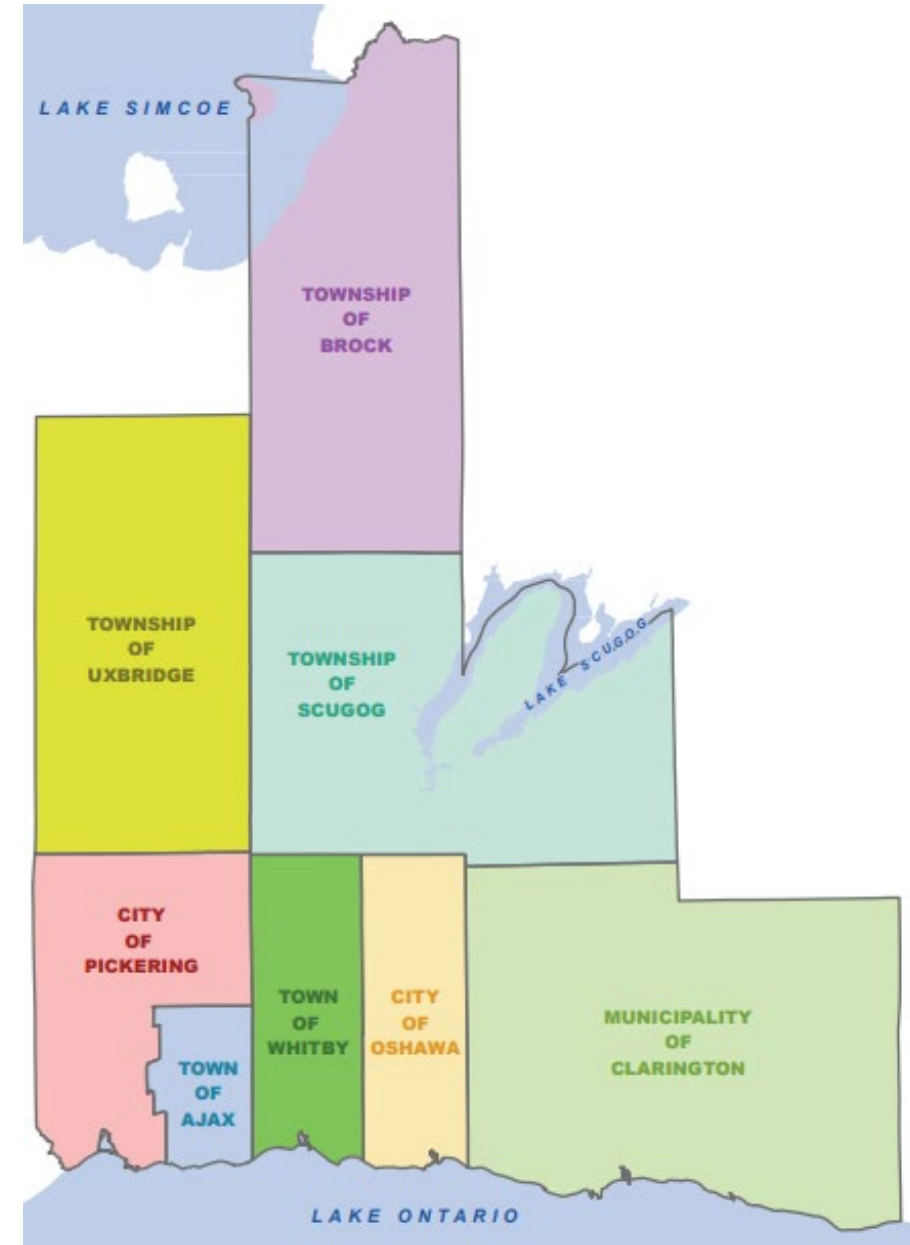
Director - Income, Employment & Homelessness Supports

Objective and Approach for Encampment Strategy



Engagement Process Overview

- Extensive community consultation was conducted
- Key informant interviews and focus groups with local area municipal staff, regional services, and the unhoused community – The Gap Committee
- Key messages gathered included:
 - Need to protect human rights
 - Lack of clarity regarding roles
 - Negative community stigma
 - Lack of housing options
 - Inadequate shelter facilities
 - Structural violence
 - Mental health and addiction support



Managing the Current State

Homeless encampments are a reality due to the lack of affordable housing.

Encampments are **not endorsed as a solution** but are managed to support the unhoused individuals with an **aim to eliminate them**.

A human rights-based approach is adopted to ensure that individuals' rights are upheld. Services are offered to help individuals move along a continuum to end their homelessness.



Durham Region Encampments

Homeless encampment is defined as *encroaching or making exclusive occupancy of a space, constituting one or more people with personal belongings that have a high degree of mobility.*

Municipality Breakdown: Active Encampments in 2024



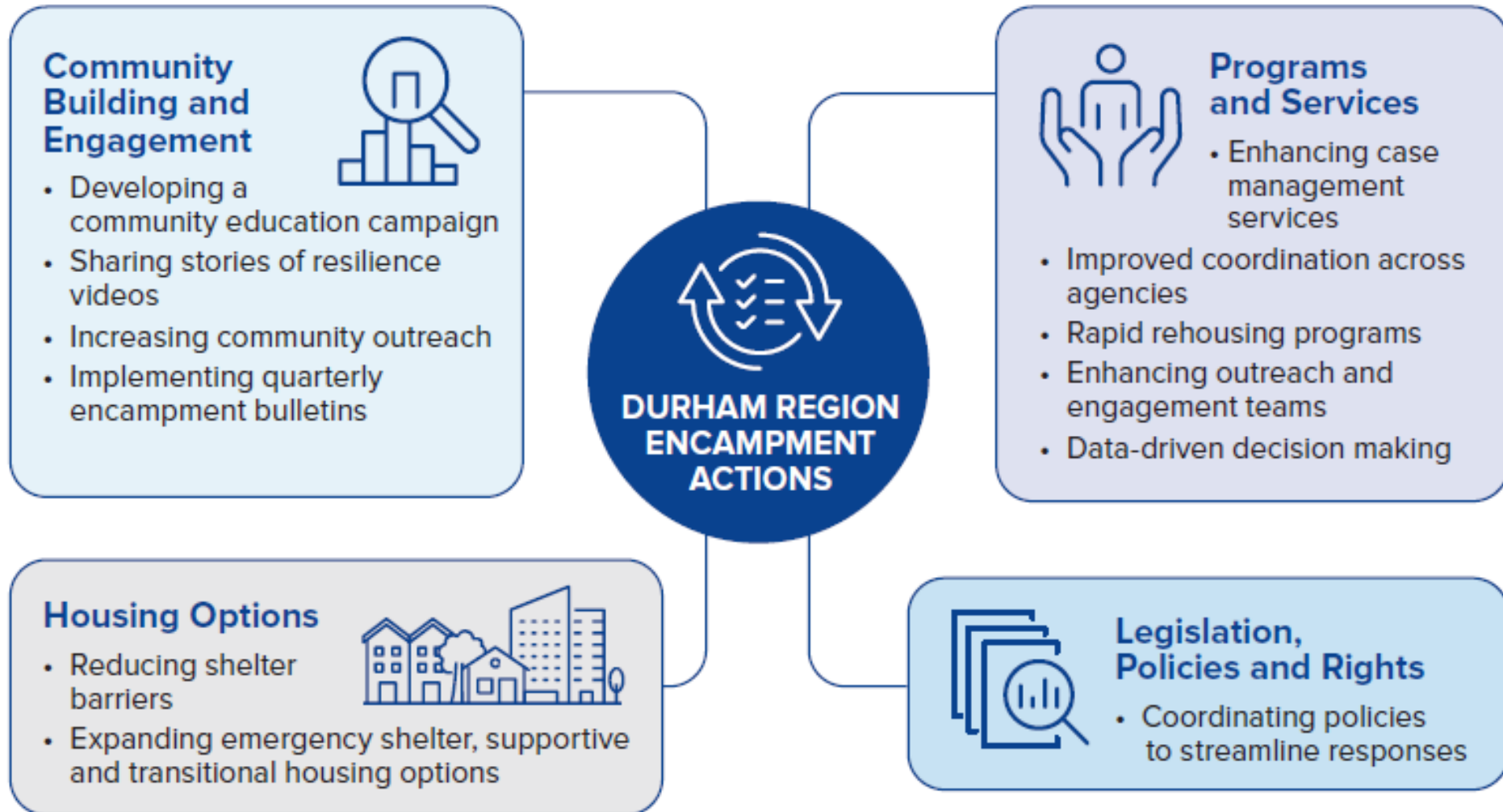
Total **98** encampments with
53 Abandoned
44 Active



80 individuals present

Ajax: 14 active with **34** people present
Clarington: 5 active with **7** people present
Oshawa: 15 active with **26** people present
Pickering: 3 active with **3** people present
Whitby: 7 active with **10** people present
Unknown: 1

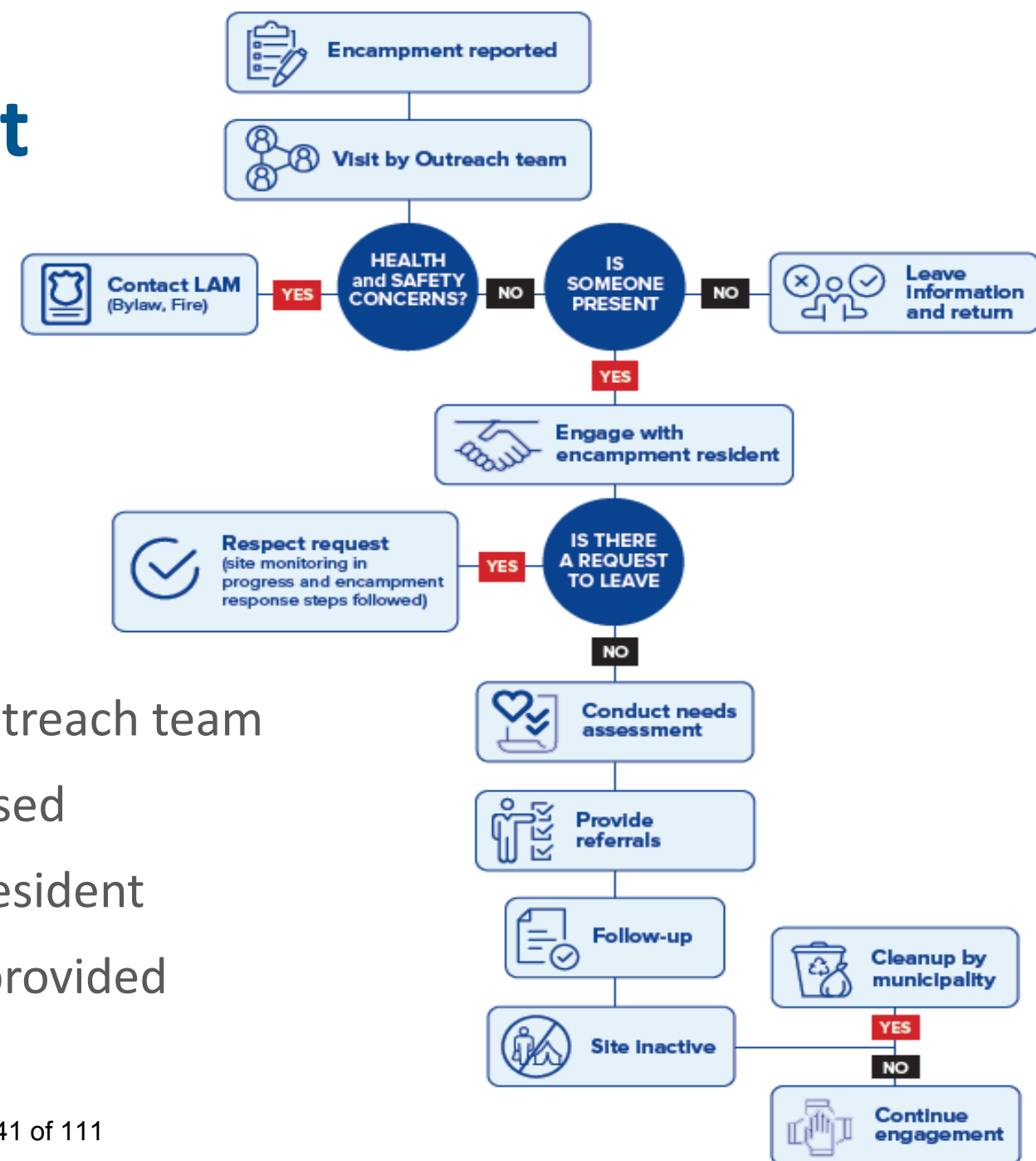
Current Actions in Progress



Homeless Encampment Reporting Process

Process Overview:

- Encampment reported
- Visit by Durham Region Street Outreach team
- Health and safety concerns assessed
- Engagement with encampment resident
- Needs assessment and referrals provided
- Follow-up and site monitoring





Encampments on Public Land

Roles, Responsibilities & Resources

Durham Region Social Services:

- Track encampment locations and monitor health and safety issues
- Collaborate with Fire, By-law, Paramedics, and Primary Care Outreach Program to support the unhoused community
- Lead safety education initiatives for encampment residents
- Offer housing-focused supports and lead initiatives for housing solutions

Local Area Municipalities (including By-law):

- Identify and track encampment locations, monitoring health and safety issues
- Provide notice of encampment removals
- Respond to breaches of local By-laws
- Lead active clean-up of encampment sites and surrounding debris
- Support dismantling and cleaning of abandoned sites, collaborating with Regional Street Outreach Program (RSOP)
- Communicate community By-laws, rights, and policies to the public

Local Area Municipalities Fire:

- Provide fire-specific safety education to those living in encampments

Durham Region Police Services:

- Will respond to requests for assistance in accordance with the law and operational considerations

Primary Care Outreach Program:

- Track health/safety issues
- Support the mental health and well-being of encampment residents



Encampments on Private Land

Roles, Responsibilities & Resources

Private Property Owners:

- Identify and inform Region of encampments
- Provide notice for removal
- Clean-up and dismantle abandoned encampments

Durham Region Social Services:

- Track and identify encampments, address health/safety issues
- Collaborate with Fire, By-law, Paramedics, and PCOP to support the health and well-being of the unhoused community
- Lead safety education and housing support initiatives
- Lead in offering housing focused supports

Local Area Municipalities Fire:

- Provide fire-specific safety education to those living in encampments

Durham Region Police Services:

- Will respond to requests for assistance in accordance with the law and operational considerations

Primary Care Outreach Program:

- Support in tracking and recording any health and safety issues in encampments
- Support the mental health and well-being of encampment residents

Local Area Municipalities (including By-law):

- Respond to by-law breaches
- Communicate By-law, policies and rights
- Coordinate joint inspections, if necessary, with RSOP and DRPS
- Notify property owners of violations and removal
- Support relocation or removal of individuals

Moving Beyond Encampments

Expedite Action Plan Recommendations

Implementing the Integrated Homelessness System Action Plan to enhance temporary and supportive housing.

Collaborate on Service Planning

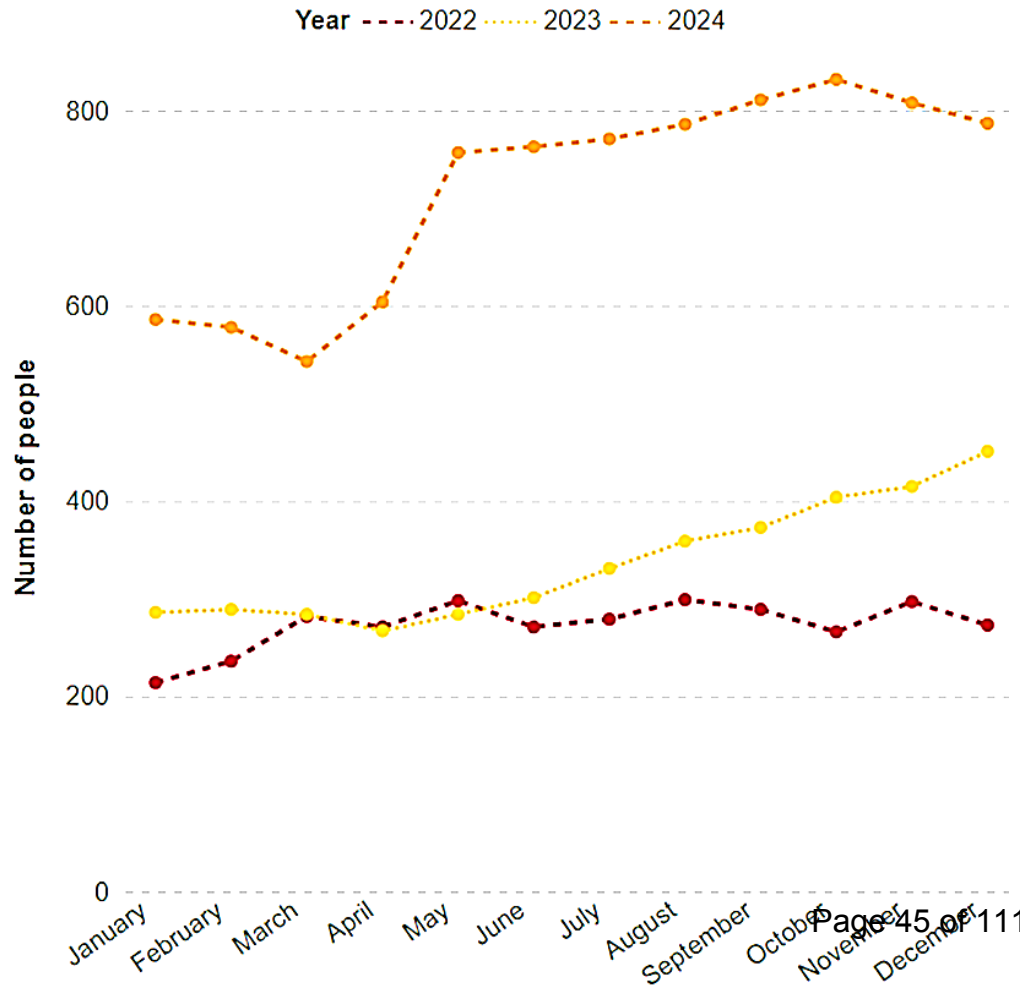
Working with municipalities to ensure service planning meets community needs.

Partner with Municipalities for Land Use

Collaborating with local municipalities to expedite planning approvals and utilize surplus land for housing.

Durham Homelessness Numbers

Annual Number of People on the By-Name List 2021 – 2024



January 2025
By-Name List

At least
806

Over
93% with
Mid to High
Acuity

Municipality Breakdown: Actively Homeless January 2025

Ajax: 175
Clarington: 29
North Durham (Brock 7, Scugog 12, Uxbridge 11): 30
Oshawa: 388
Pickering: 31
Whitby: 124
*Other/ Unknown: 29

Refers to people who may have not been living in Durham but have a meaningful connection to Durham, or who are working with the homelessness support system to complete intake information.



Questions

Lisa McIntosh

Director - Income, Employment & Homelessness Supports
Social Services Department

durham.ca

[@RegionofDurham](#)





SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

ACKNOWLEDGING KEY PARTNERS

MARCH 6, 2025





DRNPHC

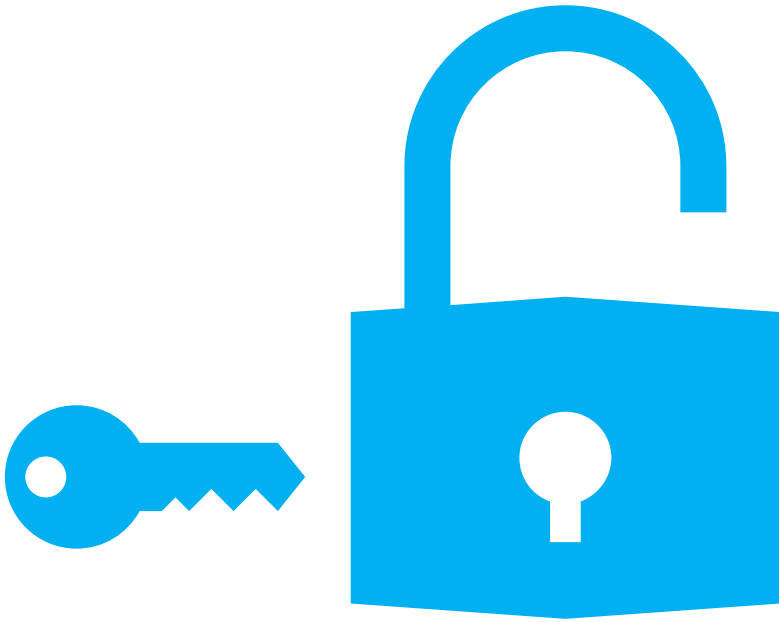
- 18 townhouse and apartment complexes throughout Durham Region
- ~1,200 rental units
- Serving 3,000+ tenants/occupants
- Seniors, families, persons with disabilities, singles
- 50%+ rent-geared-to-income, subsidized
- 50% low affordable market rent



DRNPHC



KEY TO SUCCESS?





A partnership is about a relationship that is more than just transactional—one partner cares about, supports, and provides value to the other and vice versa.

Community Housing Partnerships

- Not just physical housing – also social and economic factors
- Achieve stability
- Improve quality of life in community
- On-site support services
- Collaboration with community organizations



Partnerships

A few of “Our Partners”

- Co-located to deliver services at several properties
- Or providing programs and/or supports as needed on site





Partnership: Food Security

John Wildebore – jgwild@me.com

- Provides free breakfasts and packable lunches to children during the school year on Tuesday and Thursday mornings
- Encourages children to go to school
- Encourages community engagement through partnership and collaboration
- DRNPHC provides common space, kitchen
- Co-located at Bowmanville Heights and Normandy Heights Oshawa

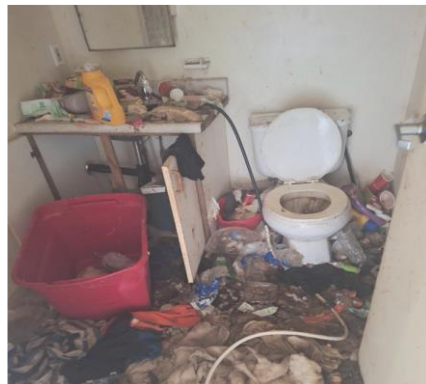


Mearns Meadows - Bowmanville



Every time I speak with a client, I have the opportunity to help them make a positive change in their life. I feel a sense of accomplishment after finishing working with a client, knowing they are in a more comfortable and safe environment, or no longer at risk of eviction.

— Annette, Extreme Cleaner



Partnership: Eviction Prevention, Extreme Clean

- Ian Griffiths - igriffiths@vha.ca
- *Restored Home: Extreme Cleaning*
- Team of extreme cleaners who are trained and experienced to work with clients at risk of eviction due to the conditions of their home
- Use a compassionate care approach
- Make the home a healthy and safe environment with the goal of housing stabilization
- Support with discarding unwanted items, cleaning and preparation for treatments of infestations.



Partnership: Mental Health

- **Connie Spencer** – cspencer@lh.ca
- DMHS Seniors Program is a comprehensive support service for individuals aged 55+ who have mental health and addiction concerns.
- “Hub’ model, multi-disciplinary team, co-located at Whitby & Cannington sites
- Enhance and extend independence and improve overall physical and mental health.

THANK YOU, PARTNERS!



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COMPLEX TENANT CHALLENGES PILOT

A SUCCESS STORY

MARCH 6, 2025



One tenants story





COMPLEX TENANT CHALLENGES

- Mental Health and Addictions
- Crime: shootings, stabbings, drugs, theft, rape, vandalism
- Violence
- Domestic Abuse
- Poverty
- Food insecurity
- Unit sanitation/safety
- Physical health problems
- Neighbor conflicts
- Unsupervised children
- Risk of eviction
- Cognitive impairments
- End of life struggles
- Isolation/loneliness
- Hoarding

INITIAL DATA

1 DRNPHC Site

2023 Total Emergency Calls May to August 2023

Unit #	EMS		Police		Fire		Total	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
1 unit only	43	\$ 11,642	7	\$ 2,912	5	\$ 2,040	55	\$ 16,594
Others	62	\$ 12,275	21	\$ 2,151	9	\$ 5,700	92	\$ 20,126
Total Calls	105	\$ 23,917	28	\$ 5,063	14	\$ 7,740	147	\$ 36,720

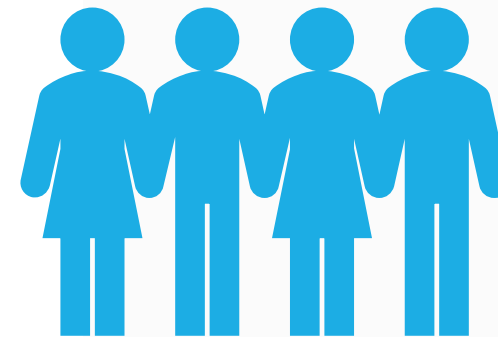
3 tenants only





COMPLEX TENANT CHALLENGES PILOT

- Durham Region - Housing Services partnership
- Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Funding
- 1 year pilot program - \$300,000
- Contract staff plus DRNPHC resources
- Serving DRNPHC, DRLHC plus other non-profit housing providers in our Region



THE SPECIALIST TEAM



Community Support Specialists

- Mental health and addictions education
- 10 to 20+ years experience each
- Outreach, housing and homelessness work

Community Life Skills Specialist

- Mental health and addictions education
- Experience in life skills and group facilitation
- Housing and outreach experience



GOALS & METHODS

- Tenant Engagement
- Complex needs case management
- Individualized/goal-oriented preventative supports
- Group services and activities
- Build community
- Partnerships, on site services
- Support other housing providers
- community hubs/resource banks

OUTCOMES

137 individual support
112 complex

27 tenants receiving individual life skills assistance

976 participants at tenant engagements events

18 tenants from other community housing providers are receiving supports

410 participants in group programming
75 groups

32% decrease in N4 notices

17 established community partnerships

7 community partners offering on site services to our tenants

37 successful service referrals/linkages

- Reduced emergency service calls
- Reduced RGI terminations
- Eviction prevention
- Lower acuity of complaints/conflicts
- Tenants know where to go for help
- Tenant connected to community resources
- Tenants connected to their own communities
- Tenants participating in positive activities and events

OUTCOMES

Successful Factors - Measurables	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Comments
	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	
tenants receiving individual support	25	93	137		47.3% steady increase from Q2, request submitted for additional funding
number of complex tenant issues	25	80	112		96.5% increase from previous quarter
tenants receiving life skills assistance	0	23	27		building trend from last quarter
other non-profits tenants receiving support	0	9	12		building trend from last quarter
participants at tenant engagement events	0	976	218		more engagement events in Q2 due to introduction of service and summer months
tenants in group programming	0	313	410		31% increase in group participation
number group programs run at sites	0	45	75		increase in groups provided based on common tenant interest and needs
collaborations with community partners	0	12	17		Existing partnerships continue to evolve and develop
successful referrals/linkages	0	37	27		total of 64 linkages for tenants that would otherwise not have these supports
Complaints Received - Severity	0	43%	8%		Number of complaints consistent but severity has dropped considerable, shows impact, shows connections
Non Payment Rent Notices (N4) Issued	0	503	337		33% decrease due to supports provided to tenants with rent payment issues
Eviction Applications (L1)	0	118	100		18% decrease due to hands on supports for eviction prevention
Calls to EMS	0	TBD	TBD		24% improvement as reported by tenant feedback
Calls to Police	0	TBD	TBD		29% improvement as reported by tenant feedback

Reduction in Police Calls to Site				
City	Site	Pre Pilot	Post Pilot	
		Jan-June	July-Dec	% change
Pickering	Orchard Valley	73	53	-27%
Oshawa	Wilson Village	131	61	-56%
Bowmanville	Mearns Meadows	19	9	-57%



NEXT STEPS

Next Steps....

Partnerships +++

Community hubs

Volunteer programs

Growth and expansion



KEY MESSAGE

- Housing with help
 - Meeting people where they are at
 - Community building
 - Eviction prevention
 - Emergency services reduction
-
- Take home....

THANK YOU!



Tracy Greig, Chief Executive Officer

Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation

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Katherine Sansom, Manager Tenant & Housing Services

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905-436-6610 x210



Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation

Continued growth,
Continued need



Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation

- DRLHC is Durham Region's largest community housing provider.
- 1300 units located across 23 sites in Ajax, Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa, Bowmanville, Port Perry, Uxbridge, Cannington and Beaverton.
- Currently units are 100% Rent-Geared-to-Income and filled through the Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) wait list.
- There are 3 Property Managers who manage the DRLHC properties
- There are 2 Housing Program Coordinators who support DRLHC tenants

History of the Housing Program Coordinator

- Two new housing coordinator positions created in 2017
- Created as a response to an identified gap in service and a need for dedicated staff to meet the support and service navigation needs of tenants
- Roles assist in a variety of ways including supporting tenants through the annual review process, connecting with services, coordinating external supports and services, managing issues, general eviction prevention
- Positions have changed and evolved as the service and support needs of tenants evolve

Day in the Life

- Provide direct support to tenants including warm connections to community-based supports
- Conduct regular home visits to promote housing stability
- Assist in complex system navigation
- Coordinate with property managers and act as liaison between landlord and tenant
- Eviction prevention and education on tenants' rights and responsibilities
- Coordinate tenant community events to facilitate community building
- Plan, coordinate and implement onsite programming for tenants through partnership building
- Mediate conflicts between tenants
- Completion of RGI Annual Review packages
- Identify, organize or create community development opportunities

Challenges

- System Navigation
 - Applying for ID and replacement ID
 - Assistance applying for and understanding income sources
 - Advocacy and intensive service navigation support
- Health Supports
 - Needs are more complex and systems can be hard to navigate
 - Facilitated referrals for mental health & counselling supports
 - When tenants hit a road block, that's where we come in!
- Digital Literacy
 - Financial access to computers, tablets, cell phones
 - Need to promote digital financial education
 - Improve accessibility
 - Tenants often require one on one assistance



Community Partnerships & Collaboration

Page 74 of 111

Collaboration

- Tax clinics
- Food security
- Vision care
- Health fairs
- Service Canada information booths
- Wills and Powers of Attorney
- Dental care
- Paint nights
- Mobile library programs
- Paramedicine program
- Art programs
- Babysitting courses
- Mobile vaccination clinics
- Learning Bond events
- Backpack and school supply drives
- Community clean-ups
- Employment assistance
- Holiday events
- Performance arts programs
- Exercise classes
- Social activities
- Community building events
- Jiu Jitsu
- Community gardens
- Supporting tenant led initiatives
- Nurse Practitioner clinics
- School lunch programs

155 King St. East

- Largest senior building in the DRLHC portfolio
- 165 units
- Community Care Hub in the building
- Paramedicine program
- Ongoing building revitalization



Lakeview Harbourside

- Lakefront property in south Oshawa
- 173 Townhomes
- 15-unit apartment building
- Began community development project with the residents in 2018



Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- In-person clinics at most DRLHC sites
- Began a pick-up/drop-off service during COVID but continue due to popularity
 - Ensures residents have the proper paperwork for their annual RGI review but also ensures that tenants are receiving all monetary benefits that they are entitled to
 - Highlights the importance of building and preserving relationships with volunteers who continue to support year over year
- In 2024 we have filed over 400 returns



Future Planning

Where do we go from here?

Supporting the Community Housing Sector

- Expanding supports to wrap around all community housing sites
- Partnering with community organizations and services to create more tenant-centered programming
- Partnering with community organizations and services to bring more services and supports into community housing sites
- Focus on community building to maintain strong and vibrant communities



Alyssa Skan

Housing Manager, Housing Services

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Health & Social Services Committee
From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2025-MOH-2
Date: March 6, 2025

Subject:

Update to Fees for Region of Durham Paramedic Services Special Events Coverage

Recommendations:

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

That the current fees for special events coverage by Region of Durham Paramedic Services be increased to \$205.50 per hour (3 hour minimum), representing a 3.75 per cent increase from the current rate, to be effective April 1, 2025, be approved.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval of an increase to the current Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) fees for special events coverage, representing an increase of 3.75 per cent.

2. Background

- 2.1 Organizations can contract RDPS for local events to provide medical coverage, emergency response and transport to hospital.
- 2.2 RDPS fees for special events coverage are included as part of Health Department fees, available on the [Fees and Charges](#) webpage on durham.ca.

3. Current Status

- 3.1 Regional staff conduct annual reviews of fees and charges to ensure appropriate cost recovery, maximization of revenues to the extent possible and at a minimum, that all fees are updated to reflect changing circumstances, including inflationary pressures and legislative compliance.

- 3.2 The current RDPS rate for special events coverage of \$198 per hour (3 hour minimum) has been in effect since April 1, 2023.
- 3.3 Fees are established to cover the costs of providing paramedic services. An increase in fees of 3.75 per cent, resulting in a rate of \$205.50 per hour (rounded to the nearest \$0.50), is required to address inflationary pressures related to vehicle costs, medical supplies and increases in paramedic compensation rates. This adjustment is designed to better reflect the cost of providing services and to ensure continued quality and efficiency.
- 3.4 From April 2023 to April 2024, approximately 1,200 hours of special events coverage was provided by RDPS at local events.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The 2025 Paramedic Services Business Plans and Budgets include revenues of \$273,000 for special events coverage.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 It is recommended that the current fees for special events coverage by RDPS be increased to \$205.50 per hour, representing approximately a 3.75 per cent increase from the current rate.
- 5.2 It is recommended that the updated rates come into effect April 1, 2025.
- 5.3 This report has been reviewed by the Finance Department and the Commissioner of Finance concurs with the recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Sent by Email

January 31, 2025

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
777 Bay Street – 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Subject: Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on January 25, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Pickering and Durham Region are facing a rapidly aging population with complex health and wellness needs;

And Whereas, caregivers, faced with the inordinate challenge of securing, coordinating and overseeing the care of their loved ones from a multitude of providers, are experiencing burnout and increasing sense of hopelessness;

And Whereas, the vast majority of Ontarians want to age in place in their own home and community, but are challenged finding the supports to do so;

And Whereas, while Durham residents wish to age in place, a lack of resources is pressing residents to institutional care, such as hospitals and long-term care. In the next 10 years, the demand for long-term care in Durham Region is projected to increase by 38%. In Durham Region, the median number of days people are waiting to move into a long-term care home was 260 days – 30% higher than the provincial median;

And Whereas, Community Care Durham has been a long-standing and trusted non-profit health and social services provider in Pickering offering a vast array of services such as Assisted Living, Transportation, Day Programs, Meal and Food Security, Mental Wellness supports, and others;

And Whereas, Community Care Durham is seeking Provincial and Regional support to implement a new program – OneConnect – that is modeled after the United States of America's Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). This program coordinates comprehensive health and wellness services around high-risk clients (e.g.,

those awaiting placement in long-term care) living in the community in order to help them and their caregivers live optimally at home, in the community;

And Whereas, other Ontario municipalities are looking to support the adoption of PACE like models, including municipalities in Durham Region (Ajax, Scugog, Whitby);

And Whereas, implementation of Community Care Durham's OneConnect program in Pickering would benefit residents, while alleviating demands on local hospitals and related healthcare institutions;

And Whereas, Community Care Durham is publicly funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through the Central East Local Health Integration Network, requires new funding to implement OneConnect;

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering directs through the Office of the CAO:

1. That Pickering Council supports Community Care Durham's vision for implementing OneConnect in Pickering, and the Region of Durham;
2. That Pickering Council encourages the Government of Ontario to provide the necessary funding to Community Care Durham to implement, evaluate and scale OneConnect to meet the growing needs of the Region of Durham;
3. That staff from the City of Pickering assist the Region of Durham and Community Care Durham to support the expansion of Day Program services, and identification of Pickering neighbourhoods where there are a high proportion of at risk adults that could benefit from this comprehensive model; and,
4. That a copy of this motion be sent to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and MPP for Pickering-Uxbridge, the Honourable Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care, John Henry, Regional Chair & CEO of the Regional Municipality of Durham, Durham Regional Health and Social Services Committee, Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation, all Durham Region lower tier municipalities, Cynthia Davis, President and CEO of Lakeridge Health, Lisa Kitchen, Director of the Durham Ontario Health Team, and Matt Anderson, President & CEO of Ontario Health.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan Cassel'.

Susan Cassel
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy: The Hon. Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care;
The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP Pickering-Uxbridge;
John Henry, Regional Chair & CEO of the Regional Municipality of Durham;
Durham Regional Health and Social Services Committee;
Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation;
Cynthia Davis, President and CEO of Lakeridge Health
Lisa Kitchen, Director of the Durham Ontario Health Team
Matt Anderson, President & CEO of Ontario Health;
Jaclyn Grossi, Clerk, Town of Ajax;
June Gallagher, Municipal Clerk, Municipality of Clarington;
Chris Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby;
Fernando Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock;
Debbie Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge;
Mary Medeiros, City Clerk, City of Oshawa;
Blair Labelle, Clerk, Township of Scugog.
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Health and Social Services Committee
From: Commissioner of Social Services
Report: #2025-SS-2
Date: March 6, 2025

Subject:

Durham Region Encampment Strategy

Recommendation:

That the Health and Social Services Committee recommends to Regional Council: That the Durham Region Encampment Strategy, as included in Attachment #1 to this report, be endorsed.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Durham Region Encampment Strategy as recommended in the Durham Integrated Homelessness System Action Plan. This report focuses specifically on the development, management, and implementation of the Durham Region Encampment Strategy. It highlights actions taken to address homelessness, including the complex dynamics of encampments on both public and private land from a regional perspective.
- 1.2 The Encampment Strategy establishes that the Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) does not endorse or approve of encampments. The Region aims to address encampments by expanding shelter, supportive and deeply affordable housing options; coordinating health, social and justice system services to support community wellness and following human rights legislation and expectations set out by upper levels of government and the Human rights commission to support people experiencing active homelessness.
- 1.3 The strategy is designed to clarify the process for addressing encampments while respecting the unique By-Laws across the eight Local Area Municipalities. Encampments often arise due to the limited availability of affordable housing options. The plan emphasizes a collaborative, human rights-based approach to ensure the dignity and well-being of individuals in encampments while transitioning

them into more stable accommodation solutions and dismantling encampments from communities.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Region serves as the Service System Manager, legislated by the province, and as the Community Entity, designated by the federal government, responsible for the planning and coordination of homelessness support services.
- 2.2 Despite ongoing efforts, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness continues to rise, with escalating complexities such as mental health challenges and addiction. Encampments have become a visible reality due to the ongoing shortage of affordable housing.
 - a. The Regional By-Name List has reached 787 based on the [December 2024 Built for Zero Report Card](#), with 80% of those individuals considered to have mid to very high acuity.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 [Presentation: January 2024 – Integrated Homelessness System Action Plan](#)
- 3.2 [2023-INFO-11: A Review and Renewed Homelessness Support and Coordinated Access System for Durham Region](#)
- 3.3 [2023-SS-6: Homelessness Support and Coordinated Access System Update](#)
- 3.4 [2023-SS-9: A Second Updated on Durham Region Homelessness Support and Coordinated Access System](#)
- 3.5 [2024-INFO-40: Update on Durham Region Integrated Homelessness System Action Plan](#)

4. Encampments on Public and Private Lands

- 4.1 Homeless encampments are found across both public and private lands in Durham. While encampments are not considered a solution to homelessness, the Region has implemented strategies to stabilize these encampments, address immediate needs, and provide pathways to permanent solutions. A human rights-based approach ensures that individuals are treated with respect and dignity.

Summary of Encampment Management

4.2 Encampment on Public Land

- a. Durham Region Social Services:
 - Track encampment locations and monitor health and safety issues

- Collaborate with Fire, By-law, Paramedics, and Primary Care Outreach Program to support the unhoused community
 - Lead safety education initiatives for encampment residents
 - Offer housing-focused supports and lead initiatives for housing solutions
- b. Local Area Municipalities (including By-law):
- Identify and track encampment locations, monitoring health and safety issues
 - Provide notice of encampment removals
 - Respond to breaches of local By-laws
 - Lead active clean-up of encampment sites and surrounding debris
 - Support dismantling and cleaning of abandoned sites, collaborating with Regional Street Outreach Program (RSOP)
 - Communicate community By-laws, rights, and policies to the public
- c. Local Area Municipalities Fire:
- Provide fire-specific safety education to those living in encampments
- d. Durham Region Police Services:
- Responding to reports of potential criminal activity in or around encampment sites
 - Enforcement of trespass notices issued by by-law
- e. Primary Care Outreach Program:
- Support in tracking and recording any health and safety issues in encampments
 - Support the mental health and well-being of encampment residents

4.3 Encampment on Private Land

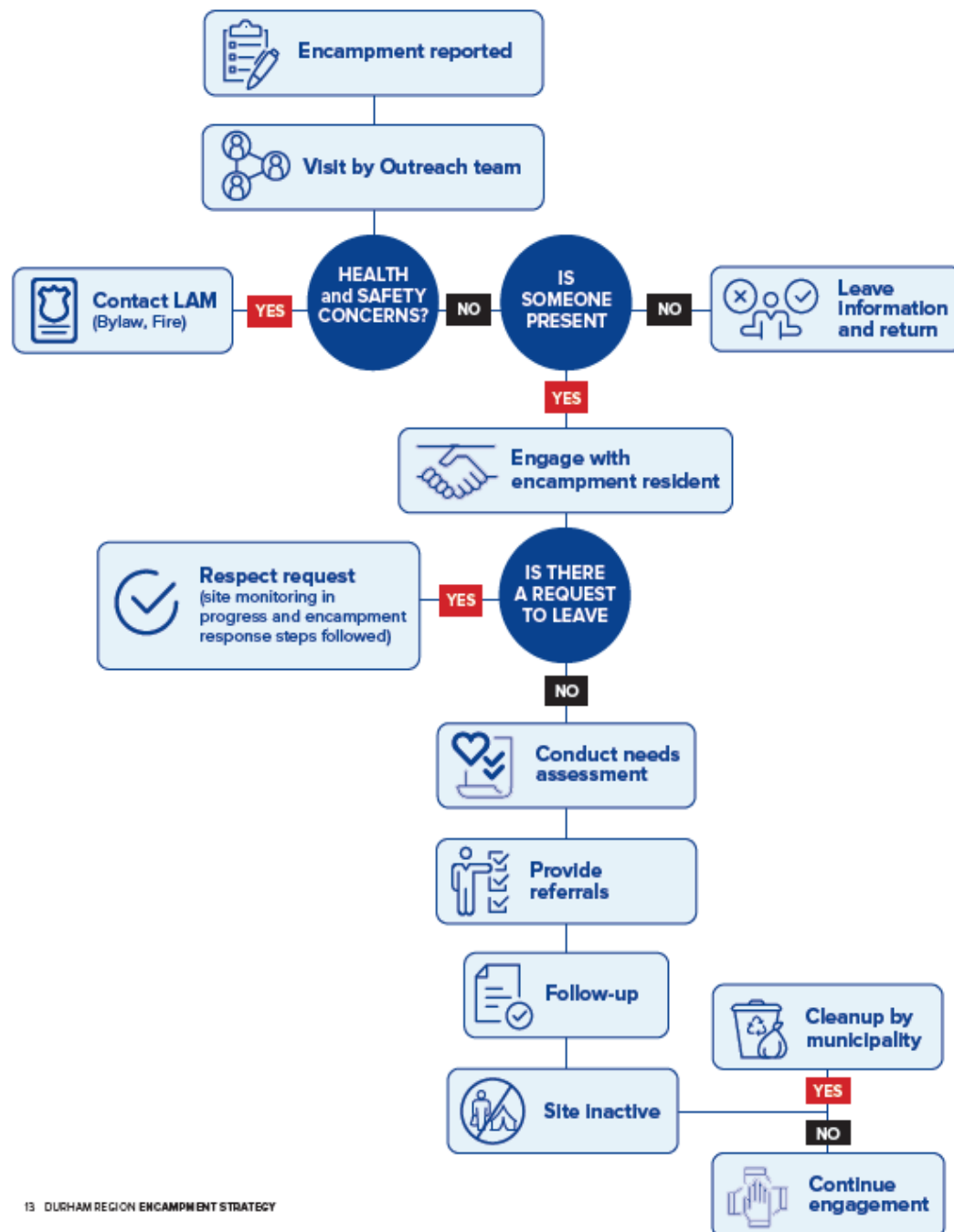
- a. Private Property Owners:
- Identify and inform the Region of encampments
 - Provide notice for removal
 - Clean-up and dismantle abandoned encampments
- b. Durham Region Social Services:
- Track and identify encampments, address health/safety issues
 - Collaborate with Fire, By-law, Paramedics, and PCOP to support the health and well-being of the unhoused community
 - Lead safety education and housing support initiatives
 - Lead in offering housing focused supports

- c. Local Area Municipalities (Including By-law):
 - Respond to breaches in local By-laws
 - Mass communication of community by-laws, rights, and policies
 - Coordinate joint inspection of the encampment with RSOT and DRPS, if necessary
 - Notify the registered owner of municipal by-law contravention(s) on the property to have the encampment removed
 - Provide basic information to the property owner on how to deal with people experiencing homelessness on private property
 - If necessary, work with or without property owner to relocate individuals on private property
 - Cleaning of debris and garbage in areas surrounding the private property
- d. Local Area Municipalities Fire:
 - Provide fire-specific safety education to those living in encampments
- e. Durham Region Police Services:
 - Responding to reports of potential criminal activity in or around encampment sites
- f. Primary Care Outreach Program:
 - Support in tracking and recording any health and safety issues in encampments
 - Support the mental health and well-being of encampment residents

5. Encampment Reporting Process

5.1 Process Overview

- a. Encampment reported
- b. Visit by Region of Durham Street Outreach team
- c. Health and safety concerns assessed
- d. Engagement with encampment resident
- e. Needs assessment and referrals provided
- f. Follow-up and site monitoring



6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic directions and priorities in the Durham Region 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Healthy People, Caring Communities – which includes implementation of preventive strategies to support community health, collaborate with partners to address complex social issues, and integrate and coordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes. Strong Relationships – which includes

enhancing inclusive community engagement, collaborate with local municipalities and partners for coordinated services and ensure accountable, transparent decision-making while responsibly managing resources. .

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Durham Region's homelessness response continues to evolve, with the implementation of this encampment strategy playing a crucial role in stabilizing the unhoused population and reducing the visibility of encampments. This strategy does not endorse encampments as a solution but manages the unhoused individuals with an aim to eliminate the need for encampments.
- 7.2 Durham Region will continue to support individuals experiencing homelessness in a respectful and dignified manner.
- 7.3 The endorsement of this strategy is essential to ensuring that the encampment response is consistent, coordinated, and effective in creating pathways to stable housing for all individuals in need.

8. Attachments

Attachment #1: Durham Region Encampment Strategy

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou
Commissioner of Social Services

Recommended for Presentation to
Committee,

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



Durham Region

Encampment Strategy

January 15, 2025



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Introduction

Homeless encampments are a complex social issue impacting personal, social and economic facets of life in Canada. Responding to homeless encampments is a priority for The Regional Municipality of Durham to support the well-being of all residents of the community. Hence an evidence-based Encampment Strategy will offer a road map to addressing the current reality and moving beyond in Durham Region.

This Strategy will present a twofold approach. First, **managing the current situation**. Whether ideal or not, encampments are a reality with the growing unhoused community and Durham Region is committed to managing the current state with area municipalities and community partners to stabilize and decrease the unhoused population while ensuring people's human rights are respected and protected. Second, the next steps will be recommended focusing on how Durham Region can **move beyond encampments** and support all community members to have a form of adequate housing available to them.

Part A:

Managing the current state

Homeless encampments are an unacceptable housing option, and ensuring affordable housing for all Durham residents is a priority and goal for the Region. However, homeless encampments are a current reality until sufficient affordable housing options are available.

First and foremost, encampments are a problem. This strategy does not endorse encampments as a solution, nor does it promote outdoor living. Homeless encampments are a symptom of a greater systemic issue across Canada, and Durham Region is no exception. The lack of affordable and attainable housing across the housing spectrum in Canada is a social and economic crisis that leaves many individuals unhoused and in need of support. This Encampment Strategy, while not endorsing encampments, takes a human-centred approach and endorses the well-being of all people in Durham Region.

What is an encampment?

The Canadian Human Rights Commission defines encampments as “temporary outdoor campsites on public property or privately owned land. These informal settlements result from a lack of accessible, affordable housing.”¹ While this federal understanding of a homeless encampment lays the foundation for defining an encampment, through further engagement across the region, and in consideration of regional policies and goals, it is essential to provide a regional definition of homeless encampments.

Through engagement with the community, several notions were raised regarding what an encampment entails. First, the question was raised as to whether an encampment constitutes a single tent, a community of tents, the encroachment of public space, repurposing public space for the purpose of shelter, or even a vehicle. Moreover, does the number of people within these structures stipulate whether it is an encampment? Does the structure itself, whether a tent or semi-permanent structure decide what is an encampment? All questions were raised and discussed to best arrive at a regional definition.

Based on research and consultation feedback, it is recommended that for the purposes of this Homeless Encampment Strategy, a homeless encampment is defined as encroaching or making exclusive occupancy of a space, constituting one or more people with personal belongings that have a high degree of mobility. The structure type does not influence if it is an encampment, whether it is a tent or a more semi-permanent structure. A homeless encampment entails a degree of mobility of personal items, that an individual can gather and transport with them. Due to federal and provincial definition differences, some data variations may occur in the reporting of encampments.

A homeless encampment is defined as encroaching or making exclusive occupancy of a space, constituting one or more people with personal belongings that have a high degree of mobility.

The problem

Background

One of the most pressing issues currently faced by municipalities across Ontario and Canada is encampments. Homeless encampments have always existed. They predate the pandemic, opioid crisis and housing crisis. There is an underlying, historical and structural cause of homelessness. However, the pandemic has exacerbated the severity of public health concerns, making encampments increasingly visible across the country.² In a survey conducted, in 2022 by Infrastructure Canada, results indicated that 68 of 72 (94 per cent) of the communities who responded, reported having homeless encampments.³

Due to the lack of adequate housing available, people are choosing to create shelters outdoors for them to live.⁴ According to a study conducted by OrgCode in 2023, Durham Region had a shortfall of over 200 beds with space and services appropriate to meet individuals' needs.

The crisis of homeless encampments has individuals' rights brought to the attention of the federal government through the Federal Housing Advocates report published in February 2024.⁵ The report further illustrates the need to uphold Canada's human right to housing to systematically combat the broader systemic failures to provide safe, affordable, adequate housing to unhoused individuals; both market and non-market housing, with the necessary support systems. This is echoed by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), which reported that in 2023, over 1,400 homeless encampments were documented across various communities, reflecting systemic failures in housing, health and social

services.⁶ The report emphasizes the need for substantial investment and policy changes from provincial and federal governments, as municipalities struggle to manage the crisis with limited resources. AMO advocates for a balanced approach that respects human rights while addressing public safety concerns, stressing that municipalities must comply with legal obligations while managing the unique challenges posed by encampments.

In Durham Region, there have been varying approaches to addressing encampments. Each local area municipality (LAM) has developed by-laws regulating public spaces and parks to direct where, when and what types of activities and actions are permissible in public spaces. Responses have varied across the Region, from highly enforced by-laws regarding encampments (including immediate dismantling), to a more human rights-focused approach, concentrating on supporting the transition of individuals out of the encampment. In any situation, due to the human right to housing passed into federal legislation, and several recent case law decisions surrounding encampments, Durham Region and LAMs need to review their approaches to address the legal and policy obligations dictated by the courts and federal law.

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The data

Durham Region system data, including the Built for Zero updates, indicates a continuous increase in homelessness and encampments. As of September 2024, there were 811 people experiencing homelessness, 419 of them identified as being chronically homeless (homeless for six months or longer).⁷ From January 2024 to September 2024, the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness has increased by 64 per cent.⁸ It is important to note that these figures are drawn from Durham Region’s By-Name List (BNL), which includes only the people who have consented to their names being added. The actual figures for homelessness and chronic homelessness are much larger.

Specific to encampments, Durham Region continues to see more people joining and/or creating new encampments. As of September 2024, Durham Region has identified 35 known active encampment locations: 10 in Ajax, six in Bowmanville, 14 in Oshawa, one in Pickering and four in Whitby. The number of active encampments across Durham Region continuously fluctuates and these figures only represent this specific point in time. Based on Durham Outreach feedback, most sites range from two to five people. Moreover, observations of the sites include a significant amount of garbage and a number of sites with an open fire. The 35 active sites do not include 28 additional sites that were deemed abandoned or those identified as living in vehicles.

Moreover, from January to September 2024, the Region of Durham Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP) services supported 426 unique clients (up 62 per cent from 2023), 160 of them being new clients. Most clients with age data available are between 30 to 49 years old (113 individuals) and are male (153 individuals). Overall PCOP services to the unhoused community in Durham

have increased drastically, aligning with the increased number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the community.

Durham Outreach Services, from January 2024 through August 2024, accounted for a total of 6,808 interactions. Specific to encampments, there were 302 interactions with 405 individuals.

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A Human Rights-Based Approach

Taking a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to address homeless encampments is crucial to pursuing a human-centred homeless encampment response, as it ensures that the dignity, autonomy, and fundamental rights of individuals experiencing homelessness are respected and protected. By prioritizing individuals' human rights, the Durham Region Encampment Strategy will be compassionate and effective at addressing the root causes of homelessness rather than merely its visible symptoms. This approach also fosters an inclusive society, promoting social justice and equity by ensuring that the most vulnerable populations are not marginalized or criminalized. It encourages the development of long-term, sustainable solutions that integrate the needs and rights of individuals experiencing homelessness within the broader community, ultimately leading to more humane and just outcomes for all.

In 2019, the Government of Canada enacted the National Housing Strategy Act,⁹ which made it the policy of the federal government to recognize housing as a human right in line with Canada's international commitments.¹⁰

Court decisions have recognized a limited right to shelter on public lands in specific circumstances, subject to reasonable limits prescribed by law. By implementing a HRBA, this Encampment strategy effectively supports the federal National Housing Strategy to progressively realize the right to housing in Durham Region.

A Human Rights-Based Approach is a policy framework that promotes human rights standards to help ensure everyone's rights are respected.

What is a Human Rights-Based Approach?

A Human Rights-Based Approach is a policy framework that promotes human rights standards to help ensure everyone's rights are respected.¹¹ A HRBA helps a policy focus on fairness and prevent inequitable treatment of vulnerable groups, by emphasizing people's empowerment and recognizing individuals as inherent rights-holders.¹²

Moreover, a HRBA to this Encampment Strategy comprises of five key human rights-based values: human dignity, non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability.¹³

Human Dignity means recognizing individuals as rights-holders and grounding practice in human rights.¹⁴

Non-discrimination protects individuals, in similar cases, from being treated differently without valid or reasonable justification, or when the means used are disproportionate to the intended goal.¹⁵

Participation entails private citizens getting involved in, directly or indirectly, activities to influence government action.¹⁶

Transparency is the process of information sharing.¹⁷

Accountability refers to actions or interventions that hold government officials responsible to their people.¹⁸

Individual rights and community interests

Protecting individual rights and community interests is especially pertinent when addressing the issue of homeless encampments in Durham Region. Individuals experiencing homelessness possess the same fundamental human rights as everyone, including the right to personal safety, privacy and dignity, which are fundamental in a HRBA. These rights ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness can access essential services, legal protection, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives without discrimination or harassment. Upholding these rights is crucial for fostering a compassionate and equitable society where every individual's worth is recognized.

As we see currently in communities across Durham Region and other municipalities, the rights of individuals experiencing homelessness often come into tension with those of others and the interests of society (such as the interest of the community in clean, safe public spaces). For instance, the presence of homeless encampments in public spaces can raise concerns about public health, safety and the use of communal resources. Communities have a legitimate interest in maintaining clean and safe environments, which sometimes leads to policies that restrict where individuals experiencing homelessness can sleep or congregate. These measures, while intended to protect the community, can inadvertently infringe upon the rights of those experiencing homelessness, limiting their freedom of movement and access to public spaces.

From one perspective, policies should not criminalize homelessness or impose undue hardships on those already vulnerable. Measures such as providing adequate shelter, health care and social services respect the dignity and rights of encampment residents while addressing their immediate needs.

Reasonable limits to advance society's interests involve regulating the use of public space in a manner that is respectful of all citizens.

The legal and policy framework plays a critical role in mediating these conflicts. Courts often have to interpret whether laws aimed at regulating homelessness are constitutional, ensuring they do not disproportionately violate individual rights. Legislation should aim to protect the rights of those experiencing homelessness while promoting the welfare of the broader community.

As well, courts in Canada have been clear that the public is entitled to enjoy safe public spaces including parks, downtowns and sidewalks. The presence of an encampment in spaces used by the public is not permitted and Courts have upheld the rights of municipalities, acting on the part of their residents to preserve public spaces for public use. Where the public, through their municipality, seeks to preserve public spaces they must take reasonable steps to ensure that anyone who is displaced from their shelter to preserve a public space has access to an adequate and accessible alternative for shelter.

By respecting the dignity of individuals in homeless encampments and addressing their needs through inclusive and supportive policies, society can create a more equitable environment for the Durham community.

Building the encampment strategy

Community Engagement and Consultation

In preparing this Strategy, extensive community consultation has driven the approach and Regional actions. The engagement process included key informant interviews and focus groups with local municipal staff (fire, by-law, community services, elected officials) Regional services (social services, legal, health, Durham Regional Police Service), and The Gap Committee in connection with the unhoused community. Key messages gathered during the consultation process included:

- The need to protect people's basic human rights.
- A lack of clarity regarding roles and responsibilities.
- Growing negative community stigma and perceptions.
- A lack of available housing options.
- Inadequate shelter facilities.
- Growing structural violence in institutions.
- A lack of adequate housing across the housing cycle.
- The need for more community-based support.
- A critical need for more mental health and addiction support.

Best Practices

Through the consultation process, recommendations and action items were developed and are based on evidence gathered by and with the community, and informed by an analysis of best practices from across Canada. Highlights of best practices include the following communities:

- The Region of Waterloo's Erbs Road Shelter and Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.
- The City of Kingston and Hamilton's Encampment Response Teams.
- The City of Hamilton's plan to deliver a sanctioned encampment.
- The City of London's Encampment Implementation Table.
- The City of Toronto's Encampment Office and interagency approach.
- The City of Brantford's Encampment Network Housing By-law Pilot Program.

Common themes noted in the best practices review include:

- The importance of holistic system transformation through a broad housing continuum with supports.
- Integrated systems planning.
- Community and lived expertise leadership.
- Collaborative leadership.
- Focus on human rights and addressing root causes.
- Focus on improving system connections.
- Comprehensive support services and delivery options.

Encampment response process

As part of its immediate efforts to support encampment residents and surrounding communities, Durham Region has created encampment responses to inform processes and standards for local actions (see Encampment Reporting Process, Page 13). The encampment response protocols are initiated whenever **a report is made by emailing homelesshelp@durham.ca or calling 311 ext. 5510, or the Regional Street Outreach Team (RSOT) identifies an encampment in person**. Similarly, LAMs will follow the same reporting procedures when they identify a homeless encampment.

The current response to a public property encampment includes:

1. The RSOT, in coordination with the local area municipal team, visits the site to connect with the resident(s) of the encampment.
2. **Upon arrival, RSOT will evaluate the health and safety** of the encampment, whether the site is in a dangerous or inappropriate space. If they observe any immediate threats or harm (criminal activity, fire hazards, access to basic needs, whether the site impedes public use of transit shelters or playgrounds, is on a floodplain or snow route), then Outreach will work to expedite contact and address immediate concerns.
 - a. If there is an identified breach in by-law, local area municipal by-law enforcement will be contacted.
3. **If there is no one present at the time of the visit**, the RSOT will leave one of the Homeless Help magnets or flyers and often a bottle of water. The team will add the location to shift notes for the next team to continue to try to engage with resident(s).
 - a. If there was no one present in the encampment upon the initial visit, the second RSOT visit will gauge if the site is active or abandoned based on the contents of the site and whether the information or water that was left is still there the next day. If the previously left contents are still there, the RSOT will continue to monitor the site over the next few days to see if the information and water stay in the same place and for other forms of activity. If RSOT indicates the site is abandoned, they will notify LAM for cleanup.
 - b. If the information or water is not there, or there are other signs of activity that indicate someone is likely staying there, Outreach will continue attending the site in hopes of connecting with the resident(s).

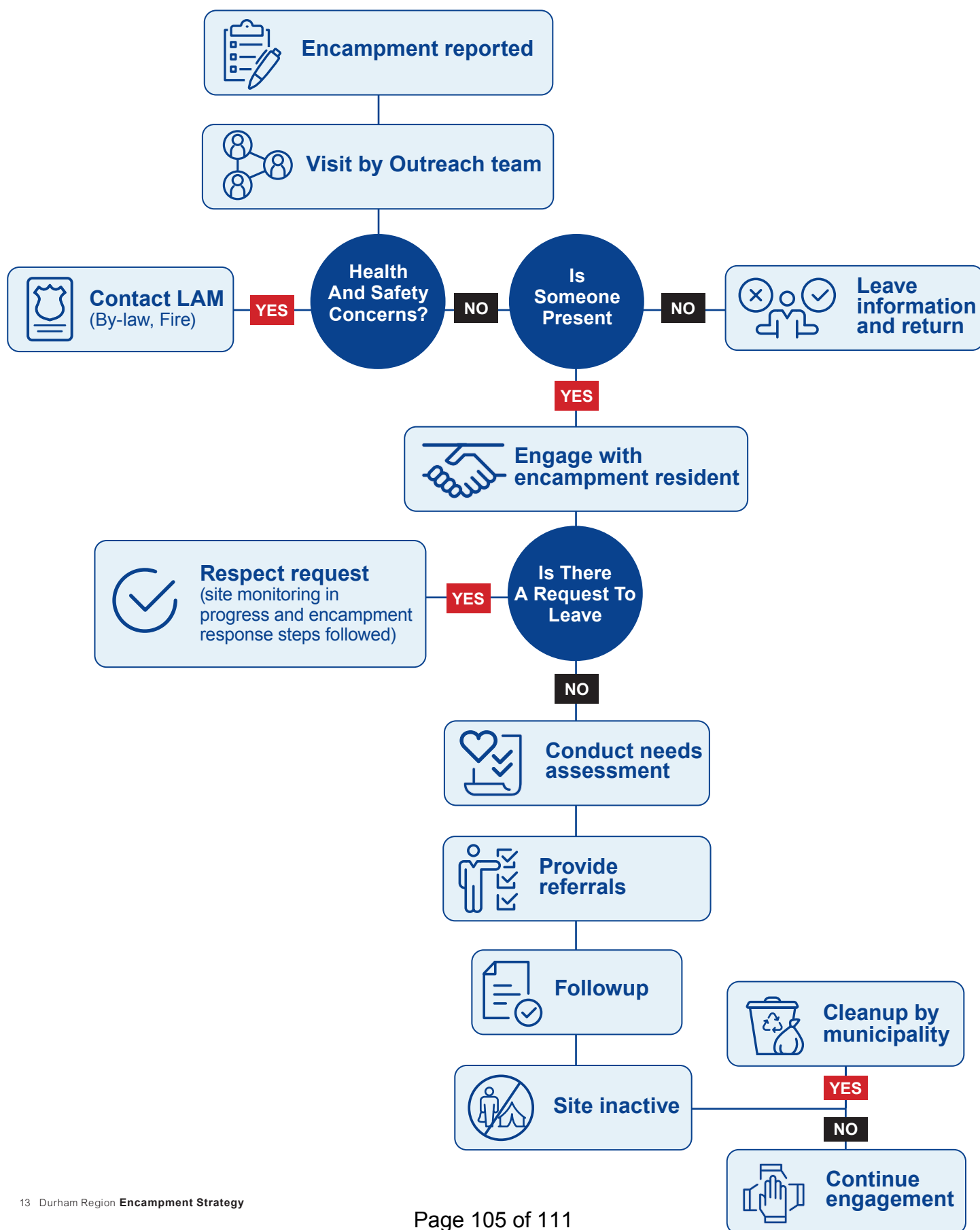
4. **If someone is present and is welcoming of the team**, the team engages to introduce themselves, begin establishing rapport, and conduct a short needs assessment to determine the appropriate referrals and supports required. Based on individual(s) goals and requested supports, the RSOT will work with PCOP, the Mental Health Outreach Program and community partners to complete referrals. The RSOT will continue to meet with resident(s) to complete wellness checks and assessment of circumstances. These ongoing efforts focus on supporting the overall mental health and well-being of those living in encampments.
 - a. As well, the Outreach team will complete Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and By-Name List (BNL) intake for anyone present, explain that Durham Region is a housing-focused community, and provide information on available resources to help people exit homelessness.
 - b. The RSOT will share their initial assessment with LAMs and recommend interim services needed at the site, suggest timelines to relocate people and co-ordinate dismantling of the encampment.
5. **If someone is present and asks the RSOT to leave**, the team will respect their choice and leave. If the request to leave is friendly, the team will attempt to briefly state who they are and ask if the residents are open to them returning in the future to discuss supports.
 - a. If yes, the team returns to the site another time and continues to share information about supports they provide and makes attempts to build trust/rapport.
 - b. If no, the team respects their wishes and may leave contact information should they require anything. The team will continue to monitor the site and may return if circumstances change or requests from by-law/LAM for support in attending the site are received.
6. **If a request to leave is aggressive in nature**, the team will leave immediately without discussion for safety reasons. The site will be monitored from a distance.
 - a. Durham Region Police Service may only be called if there is a report of potential criminal activity in or around the encampment site.
7. **If a request to support the relocation of an encampment is received**, the RSOT will follow the above steps but provide the message to residents that they have been asked to leave by by-law/municipality and provide information/referrals for local shelters. The team does not enforce any requests to relocate but provides information and supports for potential alternative accommodations. The RSOT will also make attempts to co-ordinate to attend sites with by-law at the time they plan to clear the site.

8. **If a followup is required**, the RSOT will provide an update to supervisors after visiting the site to ensure it is inactive.
9. **Encampments will only be dismantled** when there is a clear, human rights-based reason, and when all reasonable efforts to offer alternatives, including shelter, have been exhausted. The RSOT will do an assessment of available services and support to ensure that individuals are not displaced without appropriate alternatives.
 - a. If an individual refuses shelter, the process will involve ongoing engagement, offering additional support, and exploring all available resources. In cases where housing cannot be found immediately, alternative solutions will be explored, including temporary safe spaces and additional case management support. Dismantling will not occur without ensuring that individuals are provided with options for safety and stability, and efforts will be made to maintain ongoing communication and support.¹⁹
10. **Once deemed inactive**, and individuals have been safely relocated, the LAMs will lead the effort of cleaning up the site and debris in the surrounding vicinity. LAMs, RSOT, John Howard Society, and On Point Program (On Point) support SHARPs and hazardous waste disposal.

The current response to an encampment on private property includes:

1. Same steps one to six as the public property encampment.
2. **If a request to support the relocation of an encampment is received**, the property owner will provide a notice of encampment removal. Working with the property owner, the RSOT will make attempts to co-ordinate to attend sites with bylaw at the time they plan to clear the site.
3. **Once deemed inactive**, the property owner will lead the effort of cleaning up the site and RSOT will co-ordinate with the LAM to clean up the debris in the surrounding vicinity. LAMs, RSOT and On Point support SHARPs and hazardous waste disposal.

Homeless encampment reporting process



Roles, responsibilities and resources

This Strategy aims to offer guidance and structure for encampment response in Durham Region. The Regional Municipality of Durham, as the Service System Manager, values partnership and the extensive work being undertaken by local municipalities and community partners to address homeless encampments, and this strategy seeks to support those efforts and inform policy action. An extensive policy review was completed and outlined federal, provincial, regional and local government action to inform the best course of action in responding to homeless encampments while respecting the jurisdictional boundaries of other levels of government.

Through this analysis and a review of activities in Durham Region, a summary is provided below of roles and responsibilities. Responses require collaboration and coordination of several parties, as noted, for effective interventions.



This Strategy aims to offer guidance and structure for encampment response in Durham Region. The Regional Municipality of Durham, as the Service System Manager, values partnership and the extensive work being undertaken by local municipalities and community partners to address homeless encampments, and this strategy seeks to support those efforts and inform policy action.

Roles and Responsibilities Summary

	Encampments on Public Land	Encampments on Private Land
Private property owners		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and informing the Region of a homeless encampment on their land. Provide notice of encampment removal. Cleanup area on private property, including the dismantling and removal of an abandoned encampment.
Durham Region Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and tracking of encampment locations, including health and safety issues. Work alongside Fire, By-law, Paramedics and PCOP, to support the health and well-being of the unhoused community. Lead Regional initiatives to provide safety education for those living in encampments. Lead in offering housing-focused supports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking and documenting encampment locations, and any health and safety issues. Work alongside Fire, By-law, Paramedics and PCOP, to support the health and well-being of the unhoused community. Lead Regional initiatives to provide safety education for those living in encampments. Lead in offering housing-focused supports.
Local Area Municipalities (including By-law)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and tracking of encampment locations, including health and safety issues. Provide notice of encampment removal. Respond to breaches in local by-laws. Lead in active encampment site cleanup, including debris in the surrounding area. Upon request, support dismantling and cleaning of abandoned encampment sites, with the help of Durham Outreach. Mass communication of community by-laws, rights and policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to breaches in local by-laws. Mass communication of community by-laws, rights and policies. Co-ordinate joint inspection of the encampment with RSOT and Durham Region Police Service (DRPS), if necessary. Notify the registered owner of municipal by-law contravention(s) on the property and have the encampment removed. Provide basic information to the property owner on how to deal with people experiencing homelessness on private property. If necessary, work with or without property owner to relocate individuals on private property. Cleaning of debris and garbage in surrounding areas surrounding the private property.
Local Area Municipalities Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide fire-specific safety education to those living in encampments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide fire-specific safety education to those living in encampments.
Durham Region Police Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will respond to requests for assistance in accordance with the law and operational considerations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will respond to requests for assistance in accordance with the law and operational considerations.
Primary Care Outreach Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in tracking and recording any health and safety issues in encampments. Support the mental health and well-being of encampment residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in tracking and recording any health and safety issues in encampments. Support the mental health and well-being of encampment residents.

Durham Region current actions in progress

In response to the growing challenges posed by encampments, Durham Region has implemented a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach, highlighting four strategic priorities: legislation, policies and rights, community-building and engagement, programs and services, and housing options. These strategic priorities guide Durham's efforts to address the needs of those living in homeless encampments.

Actions in Progress Responding to Homeless Encampments

Community-building and engagement



- Developing a community education campaign.
- Sharing stories of resilience videos.
- Increasing community outreach.
- Implementing quarterly encampment bulletins.



Programs and services

- Enhancing case management services.
- Improved co-ordination across agencies.
- Rapid rehousing programs.
- Enhancing outreach and engagement teams.
- Data-driven decision making.

Housing options



- Reducing shelter barriers.
- Expanding emergency shelter, supportive and transitional housing options.



Legislation, policies and rights

- Co-ordinating policies to streamline responses.



Community-building and engagement

initiatives include the development of a community education campaign for both housed and unhoused residents to reframe discussions around homeless encampments and provide information on available supports for the unhoused. Information will be accessible on the Region of Durham's Homeless Shelters website, and a "Stories of Resilience" video series has been launched to reduce stigma. Community engagement will also involve presentations, visits to local businesses, and monthly bulletins for LAMs to share updates on regional, provincial, and national efforts and data related to homelessness and encampments. Additionally, quarterly meetings with local area municipal staff are scheduled throughout 2024 and beyond.

Housing options initiatives include reducing barriers in shelters to improve accessibility and safety, with the introduction of coed and pet-friendly sites in Durham. Regional staff are actively exploring opportunities to expand emergency shelter, supportive and transitional housing.

Programs and services are increasing with ongoing efforts to enhance services to support people with mental illness and addictions by expanding existing services and applying for new provincial initiatives. Furthermore, staffing capacities are growing through expanded outreach services, added training opportunities, and the creation of a new role dedicated to co-ordinating community supports.

Legislation, policies, and rights efforts are underway to collaborate with LAMs to co-ordinate policies and streamline responses to encampments, enhancing their efficiency and effectiveness.

Part B:

Moving beyond encampments

In co-ordination with the Integrated Homelessness System Action Plan for Durham Region, the following steps will guide the Region in supporting the unhoused community as they transition away from encampments.

In collaboration with the LAMs and community housing providers, the Region recognizes the need to provide supportive housing options that address known issues for some residents, including individuals with disabilities, who would be unable to access the traditional model of community housing. As well, residents with mental health conditions need further support to transition to housing. There is a structural barrier to housing that exists for persons with a disability related to their mental health and new models for housing, like shelters with access to care and supportive housing with appropriate treatment options, are a fundamental part of a lasting solution to homeless encampments.

Steps to Move Beyond Homeless Encampments in Durham Region

Expedite Action Plan recommendations

Implementing the Integrated Homelessness System Action Plan to enhance temporary and supportive housing.

Collaborate on service planning

Working with municipalities to ensure service planning meets community needs.

Partner with municipalities for land use

Collaborating with local municipalities to expedite planning approvals and utilize surplus land for housing.

Conclusion

Addressing homeless encampments requires a comprehensive and balanced approach that not only manages the immediate needs of the unhoused community but also works towards long-term solutions. The recommendations provided in this strategy focus on stabilizing and supporting individuals currently living in encampments while respecting their human rights. At the same time, the Region of Durham must accelerate efforts to create affordable and supportive housing options through collaborative partnerships with the federal and provincial governments, LAMs and community partners. By integrating these two components - managing the present challenges and building for the future - Durham Region can work toward eliminating encampments and ensuring that all residents have access to safe, adequate housing.

PREPARED BY:

TWC
tim welch
consulting inc

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