



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, March 21, 2025

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

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2025-INFO-16
Date: March 21, 2025

Subject:

Economic Update –Trade War and Uncertainty are Significant Economic Threats

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

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

2. Tariffs, Impacts and Uncertainties

2.1 Geopolitical events and uncertainties can result from war, political tension, and protectionism/isolationism, each of which can negatively affect economic stability and growth, supply chain efficiencies, trading and political relationships, consumer spending and global investments. In 2025, several external risk factors are currently in play simultaneously. Top of mind for Canada, the United States (US) Trump administration's constantly changing tariff actions, rhetoric and continuing threats have elevated impacts and uncertainties for Canada but also for governments, businesses and households on a global scale. Resulting retaliations against the US further heighten inflation, recession and other economic risks and compound uncertainty.

2.2 During US President Trump's first term, President Trump also imposed tariffs on Canada and Mexico, including on solar panels (30 per cent), washing machines (20 to 50 per cent), steel (25 per cent) and aluminum (10 per cent), as well as ordering investigation of automotive trade, with threats to impose tariffs of up to 25 per cent. It then took over a year before, in May of 2019, both US tariffs and retaliatory measures were lifted as part of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) negotiations. The agreement came into effect July 1, 2020, replacing the 1994-2020 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

CUSMA is up for official review again commencing July 1, 2026.

- 2.3 President Trump's second term is proving to be even more turbulent. In President Trump's first months in office, he has announced plans for 25 per cent tariffs on steel and 10 per cent tariffs on aluminum, energy and potash imports, citing unfairness and national security concerns. On March 5, 2025, President Trump announced an exemption for automakers from the 25 per cent tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico, but this is set to expire in April 2025. On March 7, 2025, President Trump announced reciprocal tariffs would come April 2nd and threatened related impacts to Canadian dairy and lumber just days later.
- 2.4 On March 12th, US 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminum went into effect, with Canada maintaining its previously announced retaliatory tariffs of 25 per cent on close to \$30 billion (US \$20.7 billion) worth of goods (e.g. orange juice, peanut butter, alcohol, appliances, pulp and paper and targeted consumer goods) and also adding surtax provisions of 25 per cent on steel products worth \$12.6 billion, aluminum products worth \$3 billion and another \$14.2 billion of other US imported goods.
- 2.5 Trump had previously given the US federal agencies until April 1st to make their trade recommendations to him in a comprehensive report. Meanwhile Canada continues to work with stakeholders regarding additional retaliatory measures, that could be ready by late March (e.g. vehicles, boats, aerospace products, agricultural products etc.).
- 2.6 In addition to the federal action, Ontario and British Columbia pulled liquor produced in the US from provincial stores and prioritized Canadian businesses for provincial procurements. Ontario on March 10th imposed a 25 per cent tax on electricity exports to the US, prompting the Trump threat of 50 per cent tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum, with subsequent negotiations leading Ontario to drop the retaliation on March 11th and with Premier Ford vowing to retain the measure as a future option should trade talks break down.
- 2.7 As previously reported, the current trade war is anticipated to reduce Canada's growth, increase costs, risks and unemployment, and cause supply chain disruptions on both sides of the border. A recession is predicted with the consensus view that this trade war and related economic uncertainties could persist for months or even years.

3. Consumer Price Index

- 3.1 Statistics Canada released its February 2025 Consumer Price Index (CPI) data on March 18, 2025. All-items Canadian CPI rose by 2.6 per cent year-over-year in February, a significant jump from the 1.9 per cent year-over-year in January 2025. As taxes paid by consumers are included in the CPI, a contributor to the monthly increase compared to January was the end of the federal government exemption on the harmonized sales and general sales taxes (HST/GST) on February 15th. Month over-month impacts for restaurant and alcohol purchases were especially significant, but overall, approximately 10 per cent of the CPI basket was impacted

by the exemption according to Statistics Canada. With travel season upon us, Canadians also paid more for travel in February (+18.8 per cent year-over-year, compared to +8.3 per cent in January). Overall prices for food were up +1.3 per cent in February after falling -0.6 per cent year-over-year in January, the first year-over-year decline since May 2017 (but January's figure also being partly related to the sales tax exemption).

- 3.2 In February, rising shelter (+4.2 per cent), gasoline (+5.1 per cent) and recreation prices (+3.7 per cent) also pushed the overall Canadian CPI index higher.
- 3.3 The province of Ontario's CPI increased in February 2025 also, from 1.7 per cent to 2.7 per cent year-over-year, largely driven by services sector spending. Recreation and education spending was up year-over-year (+4.4 per cent), however year-over-year Ontario shelter cost escalation declined slightly from an increase of 4.2 per cent in January to 4.0 per cent in February year-over-year.
- 3.4 It should be noted that broadly applied US tariffs and retaliatory Canadian measures will continue to directly impact imported and exported goods' pricing for both Canadians and Americans, with flow-through to general consumer prices and inflation, including the Canadian CPI inflation indicator. The international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released a report on March 17, 2025, noting that with persistent wage pressures and the current trade war, headline inflation in Canada is projected to rise to 3.1 per cent in 2025 before moderating to 2.9 per cent in 2026.

4. Bank of Canada Interest Rate Decrease Amid Trade Uncertainties

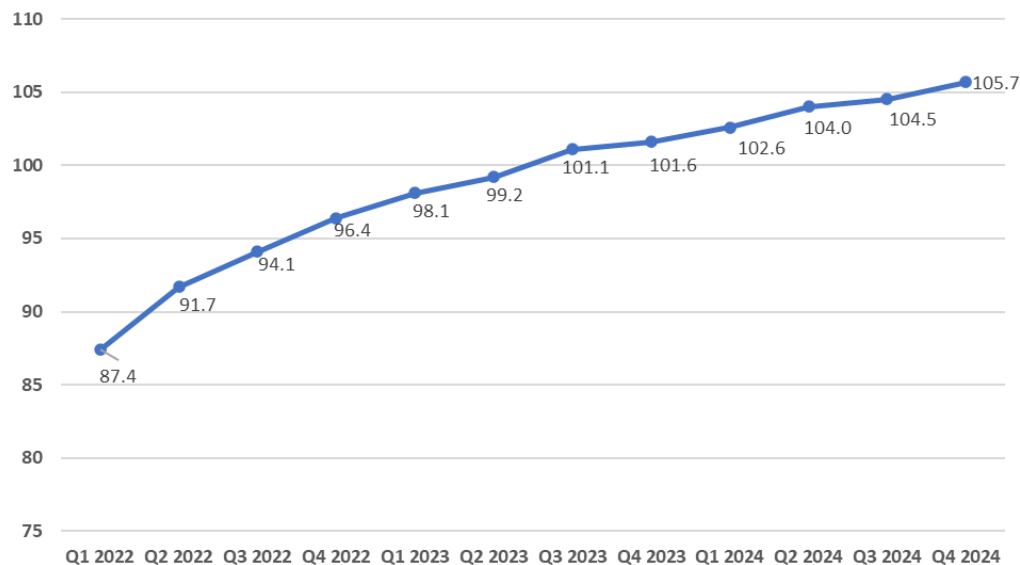
- 4.1 On March 12, 2025, the Bank of Canada (BOC) again lowered its overnight interest rate by 25 basis points to 2.75 per cent. This followed a 25-basis point drop on January 29th, 2025, and continues the BOC's path of easing monetary policy. At each of the previous six interest rate meetings the BOC has implemented rate cuts, four at 0.25 per cent and two at 0.5 per cent.
- 4.2 The BOC noted with the March announcement that, "...while economic growth has come in stronger than expected, the pervasive uncertainty created by continuously changing US tariff threats is restraining consumers' spending intentions and businesses' plans to hire and invest. Against this background, and with inflation close to the 2 per cent target, Governing Council decided to reduce the policy rate by a further 25 basis points." The BOC Governing Council will continue to carefully assess the timing and strength of both the downward pressures on inflation from a weaker economy and the upward pressures on inflation from higher costs.
- 4.3 On March 19, 2025, the US Federal Reserve is anticipated to announce it will maintain the current interest rate after making three interest rate cuts during 2024 and reducing the benchmark rate floor to 4.25 per cent from 4.5 per cent. A slower pace of cuts is anticipated by the Federal Reserve over 2025, given the US inflation rate is still hovering between 2.5 per cent and 3.0 per cent (it was at 2.8 per cent for the 12 months ending February 2025) and given uncertainty due to

President Trump's tariff actions and threats on several global economies including China, Canada and Mexico. Investors and economists alike expect the Federal Reserve to reduce interest rates later in 2025, but policymakers may exercise caution until they are more certain inflation will fall to the central bank's two per cent goal and when details of US tariffs, tax and spending plans are more defined.

5. Construction, Commodity and Fuel Prices

- 5.1 Statistics Canada noted in its February 4, 2025, release that non-residential building construction costs (Toronto CMA) increased 1.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2024, compared to a 0.8 per cent increase in the previous quarter. This is very close to the average quarterly increase of 1.2 per cent since the first quarter of 2023.

**Chart 1: Statistics Canada, Non-residential Building Construction Price Index
Toronto, Ontario CMA
(Quarterly Increases Q1 2022 to Q4 2024)**



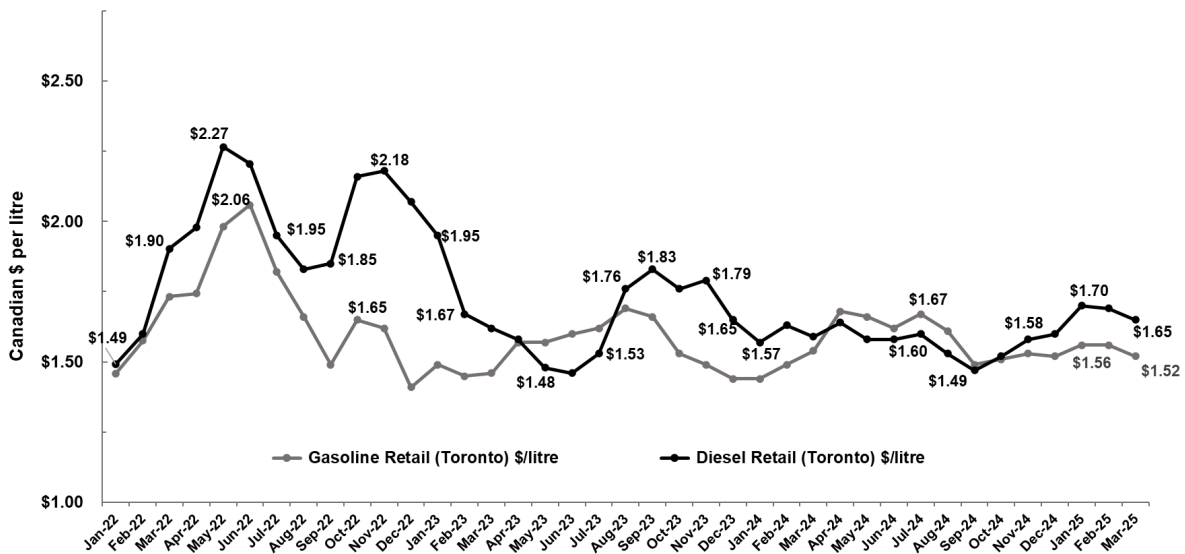
Source: Statistics Canada, table 18-10-0289-02, February 4, 2025.

- 5.2 Fluctuating commodity and fuel prices have direct implications for Regional costs. Driven by North American and global markets, commodity and fuel prices are beyond the control of the Region and can be volatile, especially within the current climate of heightened geopolitical tension and risk. The following provides trends and context for fuel and other commodity pricing deemed relevant to Regional operational and capital planning. US tariffs, whether already imposed or threatened will result in direct and indirect impacts to operational and capital programs, including escalated costs, price risk premiums and supply chain disruptions. As previously reported, the Region and local stakeholders are taking

proactive and collaborative steps to address potential implications for procurement, business plans and budgets, service delivery and broader economic impacts.

- 5.3 The Toronto Benchmark average monthly pricing for regular gasoline and diesel peaked during the Covid pandemic at \$2.06 per litre and \$2.27 per litre, respectively in May/June 2022. In March 2025, average monthly prices were at 1.52 per litre (26.2 per cent below the peak) for regular gasoline and \$1.65 per litre (27.3 per cent off the peak) for diesel. On a year-over-year basis compared to March 2024, Toronto benchmark regular gasoline was one per cent (two cents per litre) lower, and diesel was four per cent (six cents per litre) higher.
- 5.4 While retail fuel prices were expected to continue to weaken with slowing global growth, the US 10 per cent tariff on oil, and continuing geopolitical tensions and risks could have off-setting inflationary impacts in 2025 and possibly into 2026.

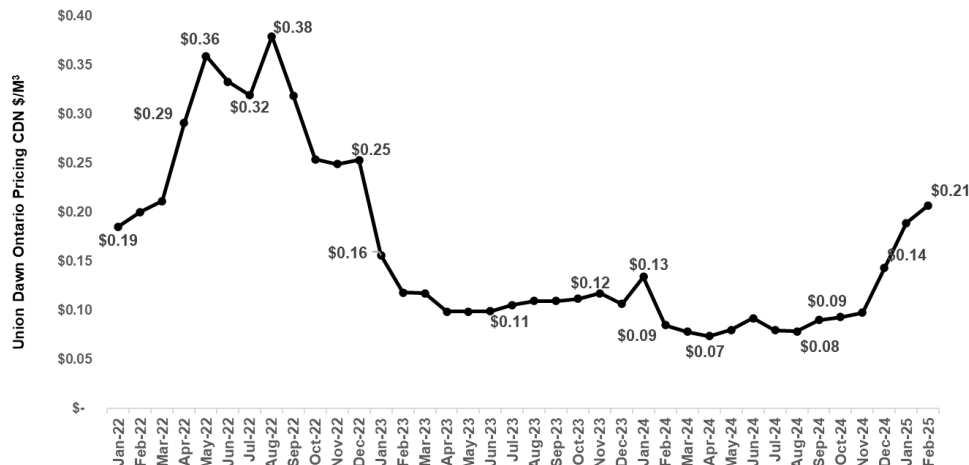
**Chart 2: Diesel and Regular Gasoline
Toronto Benchmark Monthly Averages
CDN \$/litre from January 2022 – March 2025)**



Source: Natural Resources Canada

- 5.5 Based on historical data compiled by Sproule Holdings Limited, Union Dawn hub (Ontario) natural gas prices have increased 9.5 per cent in February 2025 compared to January 2025 (19 cents to 21 cents per cubic metre), and 143.2 per cent since February 2024 (nine cents to 21 cents per cubic metre). The significant increases in the prices for Ontario bound natural gas include demand-side conditions like the relatively colder winter, a surge in demand for North American liquified natural gas (LNG) for export to Europe and increased domestic natural gas demand due to higher Ontario electricity generation requirements.

**Chart 3: Union Dawn (Ontario) Natural Gas Prices
(January 2022 to February 2025)**



Source: Sproule Holdings Limited

- 5.6 The Statistics Canada Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) measures price changes for products manufactured in Canada. It reflects 22 industrial product price categories. Table 1 below demonstrates year-over-year changes in industrial product pricing in manufacturing, industrial processes, and construction between January 2024 and January 2025. Industrial product prices affect Regional material processing and construction costs.
- 5.7 The total IPPI index reached a high of 132.7 in May of 2022, amid the Ukraine war, and supply shortages and disruptions (IPPI base year January 2020 = 100). While each commodity reflects its own market supply and demand characteristics, the January 2025 overall IPPI is now only 1.7 per cent off this peak. Year-over-year the IPPI index is 5.8 per cent higher than January 2024 and has gained 1.6 per cent in the month since December 2024.
- 5.8 While primary ferrous metal product prices (e.g. steel) fell -2.7 per cent year-over-year in January 2025, product price increases are rising in January 2025 for other products acquired by the Region, including significant price increases year-over-year for non-ferrous metal products (e.g. aluminum), lumber and wood products, electric, electronic, audio-visual and communications products, chemicals and chemical products, machinery and equipment.

Table 1: Statistics Canada Industrial Product Price Index Price Levels by IPPI Product Category (January 2024 to January 2025)

Product Category	IPPI Price Index		
	Jan-24	Jan-25	Yr over Yr %
Primary Ferrous Metal Products	141.4	137.6	-2.7%
Primary Non-ferrous Metal Products	135.5	169.0	24.7%
Lumber & Wood Products	125.1	136.7	9.3%
Energy and Petroleum Products	127.6	133.7	4.8%
Fabricated Metal Products & Construction Materials	139.4	142.3	2.1%
Cement/glass/non-metallic minerals	130.6	137.7	5.4%
Electric/electronic/audiovisual/telecommunication Products	130.1	141.3	8.6%
Machinery & Equipment	118.0	123.6	4.7%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	120.1	126.3	5.2%
Packaging Materials and Containers	128.6	135.3	5.2%
Total Industrial Product Price Index	123.3	130.5	5.8%

Note: January 2020 = 100

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Table 18-10-0268-01, February 20, 2025

6. Economic Growth - GDP

- 6.1 Canada's economy grew by 2.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2024, a level stronger than was expected by many financial institutions, including the BOC. Past cuts to interest rates have boosted economic activity, particularly consumption and housing. However, economic growth in the first quarter of 2025 will likely slow as the intensifying trade conflict weighs on sentiment and investment activity. Recent surveys suggested a sharp drop in consumer confidence and a slowdown in business spending, as companies postpone or cancel investments. The negative impact of slowing domestic demand has been partially offset by a surge in exports in advance of tariffs being imposed.
- 6.2 According to the OECD, tariff hikes will drag down growth in Canada, Mexico and the United States while driving up inflation, cutting its global economic outlook. They warn that a broader trade war would sap growth further. In the case of a generalized trade shock, not only will US households pay a high direct price, but the likely economic slowdown will cost the United States more than the extra income the tariffs are supposed to generate, the OECD estimated in its interim outlook.
- 6.3 Global growth is on course to slow slightly from 3.2 per cent in 2024 to 3.1 per cent in 2025 and 3.0 per cent in 2026, the OECD said, cutting its projections from 3.3 per cent for both this year and next in its previous economic outlook, issued in December. The proliferation of tariff hikes would weigh on global business investment and boost inflation, leaving central banks little choice but to keep interest rates higher for longer than was previously expected.
- 6.4 The organization updated its forecasts assuming tariffs between the United States and its neighbours are raised an extra 25 percentage points on almost all goods

imported from April. As a result, US economic growth was seen slowing this year to 2.2 per cent before losing more steam next year to only 1.6 per cent, the OECD said, cutting its forecasts from 2.4 per cent and 2.1 per cent previously. But the Mexican economy would be hit hardest by the tariff hikes, contracting 1.3 per cent this year and a further 0.6 per cent next year instead of growing 1.2 per cent and 1.6 per cent as previously expected. Canada's growth rate would slow to 0.7 per cent this year and next, well below the 2 per cent previously forecast for both years.

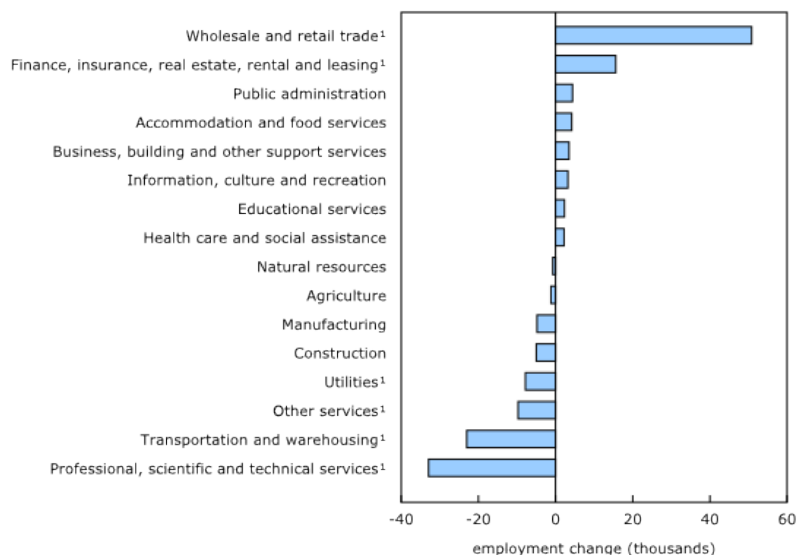
- 6.5 These unfortunate impacts expected from a 2025 trade war with the US will follow higher employee compensation levels, household savings rates, investments and disposable incomes in Canada in 2024. Canadian household spending increased 1.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2024, the strongest growth since the second quarter of 2022 and for the year was up 2.4 per cent compared to 2023. The largest contributors to the rise in household spending in 2024 were vehicle purchases, rent, telecommunication and financial services.
- 6.6 Residential construction was little changed for full-year 2024 (+0.1 per cent), after falling in the two previous years, but grew 3.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to the third, the largest quarterly increase since the first quarter of 2021. Investment in non-residential structures for 2024 was down 1.8 per cent, with declines in construction, machinery and equipment.
- 6.7 In 2024, exports of goods and services rose 0.6 per cent, led by higher energy, travel and pharmaceutical and medicinal products, with total imports also rising 0.6 per cent led by travel, clothing, footwear and textiles.

7. The Labour Market

- 7.1 The labour market showed early signs that the intensification of uncertainty from US tariff threats, and pull back in measures of business confidence, had an impact on hiring on the more trade-sensitive goods-producing side of the economy, with offsetting growth in more domestically focused services jobs.
- 7.2 On its own, the improvement in Canadian economic data (upside surprise in Q4 GDP growth, unemployment rate still below its peak late last year, and upside inflation surprises in recent months) would probably have been enough to warrant a pause in the BOC's rate cutting cycle, but those positive developments continue to be overshadowed by the trade war started by the US.
- 7.3 According to Statistics Canada, Canadian employment held steady in February (+1,100; +0.0 per cent), following three consecutive monthly increases totaling 211,000 (+1.0 per cent) from November 2024 to January 2025. On a year-over-year basis, employment was up by 387,000 (+1.9 per cent) in February 2025.
- 7.4 The employment rate - the proportion of the population aged 15 and older who are employed - was unchanged at 61.1 per cent in February. This follows three consecutive months of increases. The employment rate had previously

fallen 1.7 percentage points from April 2023 to October 2024, as employment growth was outpaced by population growth.

- 7.5 Growth in the population aged 15 and older in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) has slowed in recent months. Growth in February 2025 (+47,000; +0.1 per cent) was less than half that recorded 12 months earlier (+97,000; +0.3 per cent), and the slowest since April 2022. According to the most recent official population estimates, the third quarter of 2024 saw the slowest quarterly population growth since the first quarter of 2022.
- 7.6 Employment increased by 27,000 (+0.4 per cent) among women in the core-age group (25 to 54 years old) in February 2025, building on an increase in January (+36,000; +0.5 per cent). The employment rate of core-aged women held steady at 80.5 per cent in February and was up 0.4 percentage points from a recent low in December 2024.
- 7.7 The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.6 per cent in February, following decreases in December (-0.2 percentage points) and January (-0.1 percentage points) after previously trending up (rising from 5.0 per cent in March 2023 to reach a recent high of 6.9 per cent in November 2024).
- 7.8 Among youth, the unemployment rate fell 0.7 percentage points to 12.9 per cent in February, following a similar-sized decline in January (-0.6 percentage points). Over this two-month period, the number of young unemployed job searchers fell by 41,000 (-9.3 per cent), while youth employment rose by 22,000 (+0.8 per cent). The youth unemployment rate had previously touched a 12-year high (excluding the years 2020 and 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic) of 14.2 per cent in August and December 2024, following a strong upward trend throughout most of 2023 and 2024.
- 7.9 As shown in the following chart, in February, employment increased most significantly in wholesale and retail trade (+51,000; +1.7 per cent), and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+16,000; +1.1 per cent), but employment fell most significantly in professional, scientific and technical services (-33,000; -1.6 per cent) and transportation and warehousing (-23,000; -2.1 per cent) during the same month.

Chart 4: Employment Change By Industry

8. Housing Trends

- 8.1 The Greater Toronto Area (GTA)'s housing market continued to struggle in February 2025, with home sales plunging more than 25 per cent year-over-year. This decline is particularly stark given that 2024 was already a sluggish year for real estate. The key factor weighing on the market is economic uncertainty fueled by the impact of US tariffs on Canada. With volatile and unpredictable trade policies creating instability, many prospective homebuyers have opted to wait for a clearer economic outlook before making a major financial commitment, like buying a home.
- 8.2 At the same time, the number of homes and condominiums available for sale has surged by 50 per cent compared to last year. New listings are far outpacing sales activity, leading to a growing supply of homes on the market. However, this has not translated into major price corrections in the current market.
- 8.3 One area of the market that continues to lag is the condo sector, particularly small condos that are typically dominated by investors. Demand for these units has been considerably weaker compared to low-rise homes, as higher borrowing costs and shifting investor sentiment have led to a slowdown in activity. With a growing supply of available condos and fewer buyers in the market, this segment remains one of the softest in the GTA's real estate landscape.
- 8.4 Despite the broader slowdown, not all segments of the market are struggling. The demand for well-priced, low-rise homes in the City of Toronto and the Region of Durham remains relatively strong. In fact, roughly 50 per cent of sales in these areas are still selling for more than the list price, indicating that buyers remain willing to compete for desirable properties.
- 8.5 Mortgage rates continue to drop in Canada and may continue to trend lower

before the year is out. The Bank of Canada's decision to trim its benchmark rate to 2.75 per cent on March 12, 2025 seems unlikely to be its last rate reduction of the year, with Governor Tiff Macklem describing the ongoing trade war as a "crisis" and major banks predicting further cuts in the coming months. Although there appears little chance of a housing market meltdown this year, the ongoing trade conflict with the US looks set to heavily influence its performance in the coming months.

- 8.6 As a mainly domestic industry in Canada, housing remains one of the sectors least directly affected by a trade war. However, the housing market is not completely immune because large employment disruptions, layoffs and job losses would likely have significant spillover effects on the homebuying front. While uncertainty due to global trade conflicts may somewhat dissipate in the months ahead, lower interest rates could start to play a bigger role in spurring housing market activity.
- 8.7 On March 5, 2025, the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB) reported that total Greater Toronto Area (GTA) home sales decreased 27.4 per cent year-over-year for the month of February. New listings were up 5.4 per cent on a year-over-year basis which continues to benefit homebuyers with more negotiating power on price. The average selling price in February 2025 dipped by 2.2 per cent in comparison to February 2024 as a result, at an average GTA price of \$1,084,547.
- 8.8 In February 2025, Durham Region had an average home resale price of \$897,759 compared to \$896,611 in January 2025 and \$919,017 in February 2024.
- 8.9 Despite Durham's pricing trending lower year-over-year, Durham still maintains relative home resale affordability compared to peers. Durham's average home resale price in February 2025 was between 15.4 per cent and 38.7 per cent less expensive than other GTA Regions.

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

	February 2025	Relative Affordability	Year-over-year Price Change
Durham	\$897,759	-	-2.3%
York	\$1,245,086	+38.7%	-6.0%
Peel	\$1,035,784	+15.4%	-0.1%
Halton	\$1,191,539	+32.7%	-6.0%
Toronto	\$1,087,077	+21.1%	+3.5%

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

- 8.10 Going forward, uncertainty about the trade relationship between Canada and the US will likely prompt some households to take a wait and see attitude towards buying a home. However, according to TRREB Chief Market Analyst Jason Mercer, “If trade uncertainty is alleviated and borrowing costs continue to trend lower, we could see much stronger home sales activity in the second half of this year.”
- 8.11 Overall, the GTA housing market is facing a challenging start to 2025, with high inventory levels, falling sales, and economic uncertainty shaping buyer behavior. While sellers in certain geographic areas of the market are still seeing competitive offers, the broader trend points to a housing market that remains in flux, waiting for stability before a clearer direction emerges.

9. Risks, Uncertainties and Potential Volatility

- 9.1 Canada’s current economic environment is highlighted by higher inflation, slowed growth and business investment, risk and uncertainty, primarily driven by a trade war initiated by the US on its largest trading partners, and which President Trump announced he plans to escalate as soon as April 2nd.
- 9.2 Ongoing geopolitical tensions and protectionist, isolationist policies, including in the realm of trade and security, will impact global economies, leading to reduced growth and employment, worsened affordability, higher costs, heightened economic instability and potential for a 2025 recession. Considering the ten-fold US economy’s size relative to Canada’s, there is no doubt Canada and Canadians will be most impacted and most at risk entering a potentially prolonged trade war with the US.
- 9.3 The Bank of Canada's recent interest rate cut reflected the uncertainty created by US tariffs and threats, that are expected to offset the economic recovery increasingly seen over the second half of 2024. Likewise, the US Federal Reserve's cautious approach to US interest rate adjustments highlights the ongoing uncertainty and economic volatility caused by the new US administration’s trade policy and approach. Most recently, the OECD has warned that the proliferation of tariffs will weigh on global business investment and boost inflation, leaving central banks with little choice but to maintain higher interest rates for longer periods.

- 9.4 The Finance Department will continue to monitor the economic environment, US trade policy and Canadian responses as well as key indicators and will report on implications as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

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

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



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Social Services
Report: #2025-INFO-17
Date: March 21, 2025

Subject:

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services – Ontario Works Centralized Intake Expansion

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an overview of Ontario’s Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) – Ontario Works (OW) Centralized Intake Expansion that was implemented in Durham Region as of February 18, 2025.

2. Background

2.1 In an effort to streamline and standardize the application process for social assistance across the province, MCCSS has established a centralized intake process for OW applications to be implemented by all municipalities across Ontario throughout 2025.

2.2 On February 18, 2025, the Income, Employment and Homelessness Support Division (IEHSD) of the Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) implemented MCCSS OW Centralized Intake Expansion, as per provincial direction.

a. Prior to the OW Centralized Intake Expansion, the Region’s IEHSD team was authorized to receive locally, verify information provided, determine eligibility

and offer ongoing case management for OW Assistance applications for residents of Durham Region locally.

3. Previous reports and decisions

- 3.1 [#2020-INFO-116](#): Ontario Modernizing Application Process for Social Assistance. December 4, 2020.
- 3.2 [#2021-SS-4](#): Recovery and Renewal: Ontario's Vision for Social Assistance Transformation. March 4, 2021.

4. Central Intake Expansion's impact on Durham Region residents

- 4.1 With the implementation of OW Centralized Intake Expansion, MCCSS's Ontario Works Intake Unit (OWIU) has assumed responsibility for receiving the application, the initial eligibility determination decision-making, and payment authorizations for most OW assistance applications.
 - a. Most Durham Region residents will be required to complete their OW assistance application with the provincial MCCSS OWIU either online [Social assistance | ontario.ca](#), or by phone at 1-888-999-1142.
 - Residents of Durham seeking information about pending OW applications will need to contact the provincial OWIU team for information.
- 4.2 IEHSD is now only authorized to receive and process applications for Temporary Care Assistance, Trusteed Youth, Emergency Assistance, and reapplications within three months of file closure. IEHSD will continue to offer ongoing case management, financial verification and eligibility services to OW clients, once applications are approved by the province and transferred to our local offices.

5. IEHSD service delivery enhancements

- 5.1 IEHSD is proactively updating its policies and procedures to address any potential service barriers resulting from the OW Centralized Intake Expansion. This ensures the Division's continued commitment to providing a welcoming, high-quality, and integrated environment that positively impacts and supports everyone.
- 5.2 IEHSD is developing comprehensive training and information sessions for internal staff and community partners to educate service providers on effectively assisting Durham Region residents with completing OWIU online applications. This initiative will support access to OW assistance for applicants in Durham.
- 5.3 IEHSD continues to provide immediate wraparound supports to survivors of intimate partner violence, gender-based violence and human trafficking.

- a. IEHSD Family Violence Policy, Human Trafficking Protocol and Emergency Assistance policies are being updated to ensure that survivors continue to receive quick access to Emergency Assistance during a crisis or emergency situation.

6. Definitions

6.1 Temporary Care Assistance.

- a. Temporary Case Assistance supports adults who are providing care for a temporary period of time for a child under the age of 18 who is not their dependent. Residents of Durham Region can complete a Temporary Care Assistance application online at [Ontario Works \(Social Assistance\) - Region of Durham](#) or by phone 1-888-721-0622.

6.2 Trusted Youth

- a. Trusted Youth assistance supports youth between 16 and 17 years old who are living outside of the parental home based on the administrator's determination of eligibility according to the individual's circumstance. Residents of Durham Region can complete a Trusted Youth application online at [Ontario Works \(Social Assistance\) - Region of Durham](#) or by phone 1-888-721-0622. [Ontario Works \(Social Assistance\) - Region of Durham](#)

6.3 Emergency Assistance

- a. Emergency Assistance enables the immediate provision of financial assistance to an applicant in a crisis or emergency situation. Residents of Durham Region can complete an Emergency Assistance application with a designated IEHSD Case Coordinator, online at [Ontario Works \(Social Assistance\) - Region of Durham](#) or by phone 1-888-721-0622.

7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

7.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025 to 2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Healthy People, Caring Communities
 - H2. Collaborate with partners to respond to complex social issues that improve community safety and well-being, including mental health and addictions.
- b. Strong Relationships
 - S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.

7.2 This report aligns with the following Foundation in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.

8. Conclusion

8.1 Region of Durham staff will continue to collaborate with Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to ensure potential barriers resulting from the implementation of the Ontario Works Centralized Intake Expansion are mitigated to ensure residents of Durham Region receive support to access services to address their needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou
Commissioner of Social Services



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: March 21, 2025

To: Health & Social Services Committee

From: Dr. Robert Kyle

Subject: Health Information Update – March 16, 2025

Health
Department

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

*“Service Excellence
for our Communities”*

UPDATES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 16, 2025

Health Department Media Releases/Publications

tinyurl.com/nhh9e9wj

- Make informed decisions using Check&Go! Durham (Mar 7)

tinyurl.com/4zrx5r75

- Measles Preparedness (Mar 11)

tinyurl.com/mv6yf7t8

- It's Time to Spring Forward and Change Your Batteries (Mar 13)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Employment and Social Development Canada

tinyurl.com/muyfvfb9

- The Government of Canada is investing up to \$14.3 million to help address labour shortages in the health sector (Mar 4)

tinyurl.com/2fra46xd

- Drawing more doctors and nurses to rural and remote communities through Canada Student Loan forgiveness (Mar 6)

Environment and Climate Change Canada

tinyurl.com/27d4f85t

- Minister of Environment and Climate Change responds to NetZero Advisory Body's second annual report (Mar 4)

tinyurl.com/3bj9255k

- Protecting Canadians' health and Canada's environment from "forever chemicals" (Mar 5)

Global Affairs Canada

tinyurl.com/3d4k23uc

- Minister Hussen renews Canada's pledge for global health and lifesaving vaccines (Mar 7)

Health Canada

tinyurl.com/55d2ah42

- Combatting fentanyl production and supporting law enforcement action (Mar 4)

tinyurl.com/ms3cj8zv

- Government of Canada funds new initiatives to prevent family and gender-based violence (Mar 5)

tinyurl.com/45hkhysy

- Government of Canada announces two initiatives to combat tobacco-related harms (Mar 7)

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

tinyurl.com/2zxpndrb

- Government of Canada optimizes approaches to support the next generation of researchers (Mar 12)

Natural Resources Canada

tinyurl.com/yc8prwph

- Canada Invests in the Next Generation of Canadian-Made, Clean, Affordable Nuclear Energy (Mar 5)

Prime Minister's Office

tinyurl.com/mv4rsxf3

- Swearing-in of the 30th Canadian Ministry (Mar 14)

Public Health Agency of Canada

tinyurl.com/yc7syrb2

- Message from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health – Black Mental Health Week 2025 (Mar 3)

tinyurl.com/3bh2ht9n

- Statement from the Minister of Health (Mar 4)

tinyurl.com/y6xwuafe

- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on the Increase in Measles Cases and the Risk to People in Canada (Mar 6)

tinyurl.com/yc68hssm

- Helping communities prevent substance-use related harms among youth (Mar 6)

tinyurl.com/9etejapp

- Message from the Minister of Health and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health on International Women's Day (Mar 8)

Public Safety Canada

tinyurl.com/25mwexmj

- Government of Canada takes further action to combat firearms violence and intimate partner violence involving a firearm (Mar 7)

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Health

tinyurl.com/mvk9yrbt

- Statement from the Chief Medical Officer of Health (Mar 14)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Canada Research Coordinating Committee

tinyurl.com/577x96ra

- Canada continues to invest to advance research and innovation projects across the country (Mar 13)

Canada Water Agency

tinyurl.com/a5k53u78

- Canada invests over \$1 million to protect and restore Lake Simcoe (Mar 6)

Canadian Cancer Society

tinyurl.com/24u36crs

- Canadian Cancer Society praises federal regulations for cost recovery fee on tobacco companies (Mar 7)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

tinyurl.com/ymv2aast

- Government of Canada commits \$10 million in support for Canada Gairdner Awards (Mar 5)

tinyurl.com/y2n5ubyn

- World-leading expert in youth substance use and mental health appointed CIHR Scientific Director (Mar 13)

Heart and Stroke Foundation

tinyurl.com/5n8cm2mf

- Cigarette companies to pay for national tobacco control strategy (Mar 7)

Office of the Patient Ombudsman

tinyurl.com/4e36czbs

- Annual Report 2023/24 (Mar 13)

Quebec Coalition on Tobacco Control

tinyurl.com/58wzzprx

- CQTS/Blais Class Action Against Tobacco Companies: Ontario Superior Court Approves the Plans of Compromise and Arrangement (Mar 6)

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

tinyurl.com/4tya9pnb

- International Women's Day: A Call to Defend and Advance Women's Rights in Canada (Mar 8)

World Health Organization

tinyurl.com/ymt8pcpd


- Many pregnancy-related complications going undetected and untreated – WHO (Mar 7)

tinyurl.com/25n7p799

- UN Commission approves WHO recommendations to place psychoactive substances under international control (Mar 13)

March 6, 2025

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 17, 2025 9:57 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Re: Carbon Tax

Dear Prime Minister,

At the meeting of Sarnia City Council held on March 3, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

That given the advent of the US tariffs and the economic impact on Canadians it is even more critical at this time to petition our own Federal liberal government to put a stop the 20 percent increase to the carbon tax scheduled to be implemented April 1, 2025. The vast majority of Canadians do not support the carbon tax, and the timing could not be worse for the impact to our citizens; and

That the resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, his Cabinet, Leaders of Opposition, our MP, and All Ontario Municipalities.

Your consideration of this matter is respectfully requested.

Yours sincerely,



Amy Burkhart
City Clerk

Cc: Cabinet Ministers
The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, M.P.
The Honourable Marilyn Gladu, M.P.
All Ontario Municipalities

The Corporation of the Township of Laird
Incorporated 1891

Clerk
Jennifer Errington, Dipl.M.A.

Mayor
Shawn Evoy

Right Hon. Prime Minister, Mark Carney
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

March 14, 2025

Re: Carbon Tax

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

At the Council meeting held on March 13, 2025, Laird Township Council approved Council Resolution 74-25, supporting the letter submitted by the Municipality of Ontario regarding the Carbon Tax.

Motion 74-25

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Matt Frolick

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Township of Laird supports the Municipality of Sarnia resolution to petition the Federal Liberal government to put a stop to the 20 percent increase to the carbon tax scheduled to be implemented on April 1, 2025.

AND FURTHER THAT the resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, his Cabinet, Leaders of the Opposition, and All Ontario Municipalities.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail at clerk@lairdtownship.ca.

Sincerely,




Jennifer Errington
Clerk Administrator

cc: Cabinet Ministers
Hon. Pierre Poilievre, M.P.
Hon. Marilyn Gladu, M.P.
All Ontario Municipalities



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 14, 2025 8:40 am
Original To:	_____ CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

March 5, 2025

ALL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

Re: Resolution regarding “Buy Local and Canadian”

At its regular meeting of Council held on March 5, 2025, the Township of Amaranth Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution #: 10

Moved by: B. Metzger

Seconded by: G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

All Township residents be encouraged to “Buy Local and Canadian”;

That a “Buy Local and Buy Canadian” approach for municipal procurement be implemented where feasible and in line with best value principles;

That staff be directed to review current procurement practices and identify opportunities to enhance local purchasing in response to recent U.S. tariffs and economic pressures; and

That staff be directed to prohibit procurement of U.S. goods and services where possible; and

That staff be directed to report back on any opportunities found to modify procurement policies and practices to support “Buy Local and Buy Canadian” where practical.

CARRIED

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.

CAO/Clerk

C: AMO

Township of Frontenac Islands

WOLFE ISLAND OFFICE
PO BOX 130, 1191 ROAD 96
WOLFE ISLAND, ON KOH2Y0
PH: 613-385-2216




HOWE ISLAND OFFICE
50 BASELINE RD, R.R. #4
GANANOQUE, ON K7G 2V6
PH: 613-544-6348

Sent via Email

March 10, 2025

Alexander Harras
Director of Legislative Services and Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of Durham
605 Rossland Road East
Whitby, Ontario L1N 6A3

Dear Alexander,

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 17, 2025 10:37 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

RE: Regional Municipality of Durham – Resolution Support – Ban the Nazi Swastika in Canada

Please be advised of the resolution the Township of Frontenac Islands Council approved at the March 10, 2025 regular meeting.

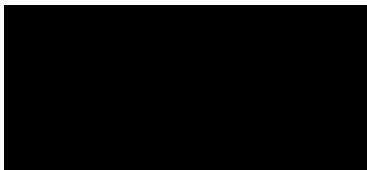
Resolution#034-25

THAT the request for support received from the Durham Region Council regarding supporting B'Nai Brith's call to the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning, with exceptions for certain educational and artistic purposes, the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography, including the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze) be endorsed.

Carried.


Please let me know if you require any further information regarding the resolution. I can be reached at 613-544-6348 or vlatimer@frontenacislands.ca

Respectfully,



Vanessa Latimer, AMCT
CAO/Clerk



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 19, 2025 8:33 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

p.705-639-5343 2357 County Road 45
 f. 705-639-1880 P.O. Box 29
 info@antownship.ca Norwood, ON
 www.antownship.ca K0L 2V0

March 18, 2025

Sent by E-mail
 mcu@justice.gc.ca

The Honourable Arif Virani
 Minister of Justice

Re: Motion regarding Protecting Canadian Values: Ban the Nazi Swastika in Canada

At its regular meeting held on March 11, 2025, the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood passed a resolution expressing its support for the Region of Durham. The resolution includes the following key points:

Whereas in recent years, Nazi iconography has surfaced with alarming frequency in the public sphere, used by an increasing number of groups and individuals to promote hate and instill fear within Canadian society; and

Whereas since the atrocities of WWII, the Nazi swastika, also known as the hakenkreuze, has become universally synonymous with systematic violence, terror and hate. Its growing presence in our country poses a threat to every single Canadian citizen, undermining the core values of equality, diversity, and inclusion that define our nation, and

Whereas eighteen countries have already taken action to ban these symbols, it is imperative that Canada follow suit;

Therefore be it resolved, that Durham Region Council supports B’Nai Brith’s call to the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning, with exceptions for certain educational and artistic purposes, the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography, including the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze). Specifically, demanding that the Government of Canada immediately:

1. Ban the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze)
2. Ban all Nazi symbols and iconography

Durham Region Council agrees that the people of Canada are counting on the federal government to ensure a future free from hate, where every Canadian is protected, valued, and respected.

Trusting Council’s support will be beneficial in advancing this request.

Sincerely,




, Clerk

Township of Asphodel-Norwood



Council Meeting

Resolution Number: 2025.07.02
Date: March 12, 2025

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 18, 2025 10:17 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Moved by: A. Drouillard
Seconded by: H. Dryfhout

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich supports the resolution from the Region of Durham calling on the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning with exceptions for certain educational and artistic purposes, the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography, including the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze);
AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Rob Flack - MPP, Karen Vecchio - MP and the Region of Durham.

Motion: CARRIED



February 28, 2025

The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Virani:

**RE: Motion regarding Protecting Canadian Values: Ban the
Nazi Swastika in Canada, Our File: C00**

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 1
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102

durham.ca

**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on February 26, 2025, adopted the following recommendations of the Committee of the Whole, as amended:

“Whereas in recent years, Nazi iconography has surfaced with alarming frequency in the public sphere, used by an increasing number of groups and individuals to promote hate and instill fear within Canadian society; and

Whereas since the atrocities of WWII, the Nazi swastika, also known as the hakenkreuze, has become universally synonymous with systematic violence, terror and hate. Its growing presence in our country poses a threat to every single Canadian citizen, undermining the core values of equality, diversity, and inclusion that define our nation, and

Whereas eighteen countries have already taken action to ban these symbols, it is imperative that Canada follow suit;

Therefore be it resolved, that Durham Region Council supports B’Nai Brith’s call to the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning, with exceptions for certain educational and artistic purposes, the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography, including the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze). Specifically, demanding that the Government of Canada immediately:

1. Ban the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze)

If you require this information in an accessible format, please call 1-800-372-1102 extension 2097.

2. Ban all Nazi symbols and iconography

Durham Region Council agrees that the people of Canada are counting on the federal government to ensure a future free from hate, where every Canadian is protected, valued, and respected; and

That a copy of this motion is sent to all Canadian Municipalities.”

Alexander Harras


Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/tf

c: B'nai Brith Canada
All Canadian Municipalities

The Corporation of the Township of Laird
Incorporated 1891

Clerk
Jennifer Errington, Dipl.M.A.

Mayor
Shawn Evoy

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 17, 2025 9:51 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

March 14, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queens Park,
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A1
Delivered via e-mail: premier@ontario.ca

Re: U.S. Tariffs on Canadian Goods.
Supporting the letter from Peterborough County dated February 5, 2025.

Dear Premier Doug Ford,

At the Council meeting held on March 14, 2025, Laird Township Council approved Council Resolution 75-25, supporting the resolution of Peterborough County, regarding U.S. Tarrifs on Canadian Goods.

Motion 75-25

Moved by: Matt Frolick

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Township of Laird supports the resolution from Peterborough County, regarding U.S. Tarrifs on Canadian Goods.

AND FURTHER THAT letters of support be sent to All Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Premier and the associated Provincial Minsters.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail at clerk@lairdtownship.ca.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Errington
Clerk Administrator

cc: Ho. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and All Municipalities of Ontario.



February 5, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Proposed U.S. tariffs on Canadian Goods

Please note at their Regular meeting held on February 5, 2025, Peterborough County Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 19-2025

Moved by Deputy Warden Senis
Seconded by Warden Clark

Whereas the federal government is currently in negotiations with the U.S. government on their proposed 25% tariffs on Canadian goods exported to the U.S.; and

Whereas Premier Doug Ford has outlined several plans to combat the impact the proposed tariffs would have on Ontario including Fortress Am-Can which focus on strengthening trade between Ontario and the U.S. while bringing good jobs back home for workers on both sides of the border; and

Whereas the federal government has also outlined several ways to address the current relationship with the U.S. including establishing the Council on Canada-U.S. relations to support the federal government as it negotiates with the U.S on tariffs; and

Whereas trade between Ontario and the United States is very important to our residents and local economies and requires all levels of government to work together in the best interest of those residents; and

Whereas according to data from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, across Ontario municipalities are expected to spend between \$250 and \$290 billion on infrastructure in the next 10 years; and



Whereas municipalities have traditionally treated all procurements from trade partners equally and fairly; and

Whereas municipalities can assist in the Team Canada effort to combat tariffs and support businesses in our procurement for capital and infrastructure programs; and

Whereas there are trade barriers between Canadian provinces.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the County of Peterborough supports the provincial and federal governments on the measures they have put in place in response to the proposed U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods and ask that they take any and all measures to protect the interests of Ontario in any upcoming trade negotiations;

And that federal and provincial governments remove any impediments to municipalities preferring Canadian companies and services for capital projects and other supplies;

And that the provincial and federal governments take action to remove trade barriers between provinces as a response to US tariffs and support Canadian businesses.

And that the CAO be directed to bring back a report detailing a temporary purchasing policy that integrates and addresses these concerns;

And that County Economic Development & Tourism Division be directed to implement a “Buy Local Peterborough County, Buy Canadian” campaign to encourage residents and businesses to purchase locally made and Canadian goods and services.

Be it further resolved, that copies of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Hon. Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Rebecca Bligh, President, FCM and Councillor, City of Vancouver




- Robin Jones, President, AMO and Mayor of Westport
- Bonnie Clark, Chair, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
- Jeff Leal, Chair, Eastern Ontario Leadership Council
- John Beddows, Chair, Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus
- All provincial and territorial Premiers.
- All local MPs and MPPs,
- All Ontario Municipalities for their support.

Carried

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Kari Stevenson, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk at kstevenson@ptbocounty.ca.

Yours truly,

Holly Salisko
Administrative Services Assistant – Clerk's Division/Planning
hsalisko@ptbocounty.ca

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 20, 2025 9:23 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



DURHAM REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE BOARD

S. Collier, Chair * G. Cubitt, Vice-Chair
D. Carter, Member * J. Fahey, Member * K. Fisher, Member
M. Welch, Member * W. Woo, Member

March 19, 2025

Chair John Henry and Members of Durham Regional Council

By email: clerks@durham.ca

Dear Chair Henry and Members of Council,

At its meeting on March 17, 2025, the Police Service Board considered the motion referred to it by Council on February 26, 2025 regarding a possible gun amnesty.

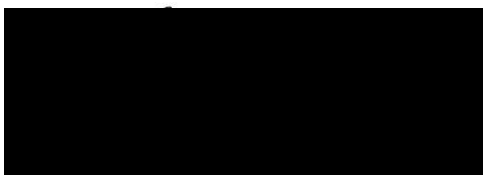
The Board and the DRPS are committed to reducing incidents of gun violence in our community. Unfortunately, the prevalence of illegal firearms has caused an increase in shootings, and related deaths and injuries, with 50 shootings or firearms discharges in 2024 across the Region. Addressing this violence, through investigation, enforcement, and prevention, remains a critical operational priority for the DRPS.

The DRPS, like all Police Services in Ontario, enables members of the public to turn in unwanted firearms on a year-round basis. In 2024, 126 firearms were turned in to DRPS through this program. The term “amnesty”, however, is not used to promote the opportunity to turn in firearms. This term offers a false impression to citizens who surrender their firearms that they will not be subject to legal repercussions in the event the firearm was used in a criminal offence. All firearms are investigated to determine if they were involved in the commission of a crime and, if so, individuals possessing these weapons could potentially face criminal charges. Academic research has concluded that time-limited amnesty programs have not been shown to reduce gun violence or attract the types of firearms used in crime and the offer of an amnesty may also create an expectation of compensation by citizens who turn in their firearms.

605 Rossland Road East, Box 911, Whitby, ON L1N 0B8
 Phone: 905-579-1520, Ext. 4307 * Fax: 905-721-4249
 Email: alongo@drps.ca

In order to ensure that there is greater community awareness of the existing program, the DRPS will enhance its education and communication efforts to encourage members of the public to contact the police regarding unwanted weapons that are in their possession. More regular and consistent engagement with residents will occur in the future on how they can turn in unwanted firearms year-round and the process and legalities associated with this program. We would be pleased to report to Council on the number of firearms turned in to the Service on an annual basis.

Sincerely,



Shaun Collier
Chair

c.c.: Chief Moreira, DRPS

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

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION ANTI-RACISM TASKFORCE

Thursday, February 27, 2025

A meeting of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:01 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, PG Case, Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgment

Vice-Chair Case read the following land acknowledgement:

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

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

Vice-Chair Case acknowledged, as Black History Month comes to a close, the importance of honouring and celebrating the peoples who have contributed to Black history and recognized the essential contribution that Black history has made to the overall shared history of our society.

2. Roll Call

Present: S. Bookal, Community Member attended the meeting at 7:02 PM
PG Case, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Vice-Chair
R. Coelho, Community Member
A. Frempong, Community Member
B. Goodwin, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Councillor Lee, Regional Council
N. Samuel, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Chair, attended the meeting at 7:08 PM

Councillor Shahid, Regional Council
J. Williamson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative
G. Wilson-Beier, Community Member
*** all members participated electronically**

Absent: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Munawa, Community Member
B. Nelson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative

Staff

Present: P. Hines, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
H. Mohammed, Policy Coordinator, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
A. Sharma, Policy Advisor, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
*** all staff participated electronically**

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
That the minutes of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting
held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

6. Presentations

There were no presentations to be heard.

7. Information Items

There were no information items.

8. Discussion Items

A) Member Recruitment – Update

P. Hines provided an update with respect to the ongoing member recruitment and stated that there are several vacancies for both community members and industry representatives. She advised that applications to join the Committee will be accepted up to end of day on March 7, 2025, at which time staff will review all

applications and begin the process of scoring and selecting qualified applicants. P. Hines encouraged members to continue sharing this opportunity among their networks.

P. Hines responded to questions from the Committee with regards to whether any applications for youth members or Indigenous persons have been received.

B) Municipal Diversity Plan for the Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) Board

A. Sharma stated that the Community Safety and Policing Act that came into effect on April 1, 2024 requires municipalities to create a diversity plan for its police services board for the purpose of ensuring appointed board members represent the diversity of the municipality's residents.

A. Sharma advised that Regional Council approved the Municipal Diversity Plan and Recruitment Policy for the Durham Region Police Services Board (DRPSB) at its February meeting. She stated that the plan was developed by the Region's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) team in consultation with the Legal Division, Legislative Services, and the Communications and Engagement Division, and advised that DRPS and the DRPS Board had an opportunity to review the plan, ask questions, and provide feedback before it was presented to Regional Council.

A. Sharma provided a comprehensive overview of the Municipal Diversity Plan and Recruitment Policy that is comprised of the following sections:

- Statement
- Purpose
- Definitions
- Guiding Principles
 - Respect
 - Community Engagement
 - Innovation
 - Continuous Improvement
- Board Composition
- Promoting Board Appointment Opportunities
- Application Process and Selection Criteria
- Term of Office
- Equity-Specific Recommendations for All Members of the DRPSB
- Application
- Review Schedule
- Information Sharing

A. Sharma responded to questions from the Committee with regards to whether the Community Safety and Policing Act prescribes any guidelines for the selection of provincial appointees; the structure of police services boards in neighbouring municipalities; the process and requisite qualifications for board member

appointments; who is responsible for conducting the four (4) year review and how it is carried out; whether appointments coincide with the term of Council; whether DRPS' strategic plan aligns with the Region's strategic plan; and how often DRPS develops a new strategic plan.

Discussion ensued with regards to the importance of a non-partial body appointing board members; the composition and ratios of board members as outlined in the Community Safety and Policing Act; and the extent of the influence of elected officials who serve as members of police boards.

C) 2024 Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce (DRART) Workplan Review

P. Hines recognized the importance the DRART plays in advising Council on anti-racism matters and conducting anti-racism work within local communities. She also recognized the rise in criticism of DEI initiatives from various political entities and sectors and stated the importance of the work being accomplished by the Committee.

P. Hines stated that staff has used the feedback collected from Committee members as part of the recent mid-term review survey to develop a new approach to the Committee's structure. She advised that the current formation is a sub-committee style, and the proposed approach will structure the Committee in a project-style formation.

P. Hines identified the following project sub-groups under the proposed new structure:

- Engaging with DRPS;
- Community Connections;
- Protocol for Reporting Non-Criminal Hate Activity; and
- Key Messages – Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

H. Mohammed provided a detailed overview of the core goals for each of the above sub-groups and advised that other applicable projects could be undertaken as directed by the Committee.

Committee members were encouraged to share input on the proposed new structure and select which project they would be interested in working on. It is expected that all members would be connected to a project sub-group.

Detailed discussion ensued with regards to a motion brought to Regional Council at its February meeting with respect to combatting antisemitism and developing a protocol for reporting non-criminal acts of hate; the contribution that a sub-group can take to assist Regional Council in its development of a protocol; whether the recently developed tool for reporting hate can be useful to the development of a

protocol; and the need for further direction from the CAO with respect to the Committee's prospective role.

Further discussion ensued with regards to the similarities between the current committee structure to the proposed project-style structure; and postponing the need for members to select a project until the Committee reaches its full compliment.

D) International Women's Day Celebration

P. Hines advised that the Region is hosting the following International Women's Day events:

- A community event is being held on March 5th from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex in Pickering. The event has been organized in partnership with 13 community partners and the theme of the event is "The Time is Now – Women Driving Change". The event will include performances and a panel discussion with Susan Byrne, Indigenous Liaison to the Employment System Service Manager, Durham Region & Crisis Intervention Counsellor – Victim Services, Umwali Sauter, Director of Organizational Development & IDEAA at Lakeridge, and Matisse Hamel-Nelis, Communications and Digital Accessibility Consultant.
- A staff event is being held on March 4th from 12:30-2:30 PM and will include a panel discussion and performances.

P. Hines invited members to attend and promote the events with their networks.

E) Sub-Committee Updates

1. DRPS Working Group

S. Bookal and Councillor Lee provided an update on behalf of the DRPS Working Group.

S. Bookal stated that the DRPS Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) has recently undergone some changes to alter the DAC's structure to have a leadership committee consisting of the chair, vice-chair and secretary, and four (4) sub-committees. She advised that the leadership committee is to meet separately with DRPS officers and the sub-committees, however, plans for the committee to meet as a whole have not been announced. S. Bookal added that a lack of communication from the leadership committee surrounding the changes has led to some confusion among DAC members. Councillor Lee stated that a letter from the DRART advocating for more transparent changes is being considered and may be discussed further at the next meeting.

Councillor Lee advised that Sergeant D. Peden has moved to a new position and at this time a diversity officer replacement has not been announced. He further advised that this will be raised at the next standing meeting the Working Group has with DRPS.

Councillor Lee stated that the Working Group is arranging a meeting with S. McLellan, CAO, DRPS, a representative from DRPS' human resources department, and B. Goodwin, the Region's Commissioner of Corporate Services, to gather insights into DRPS' hiring process.

Councillor Lee advised that the Working Group is also arranging a meeting with Councillor Collier, Chair of the DRPS Board, to get a better understanding of the Board's recruitment, training and general policies and will report back to the Committee once the meeting has taken place.

2. School Board EDI Working Group

There were no new updates shared from the School Board Working Group.

3. EDI Working Group

There were no new updates shared from the EDI Working Group.

4. Education Working Group

There were no new updates shared from the Education Working Group.

9. Other Business

A) Durham Local Immigration Partnership 2025-2030 Inclusion Plan

H. Mohammed stated that Regional Council approved the Durham Local Immigration Partnership 2025-2030 Community and Inclusion Plan at its February meeting. She added that consideration is being given to inviting Local Immigration Partnership staff to present at a future DRART meeting so that further information about the plan and work being accomplished can be shared with the Committee.

B) Promote Voting Campaign

H. Mohammed stated that a poster was created for the promote voting campaign to encourage community members to vote in the provincial election on February 27th and recognized A. Sharma, N. Samuel, R. Coelho, A. Frempong, and H. Mohammed as contributors to this initiative, in collaboration with the communications team. She advised that the slogan for the poster was "You Matter. Your Community Matters. Democracy Matters."

H. Mohammed stated that the poster was published on the Committee's website and the Region's social media channels and shared statistics of the campaign's impressions on the different platforms the poster was shared to.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

11. Adjournment

Moved by S. Bookal, Seconded by A. Frempong,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,

PG Case, Vice-Chair

V. Walker, Committee Clerk