



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, May 30, 2025

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There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence.

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There is no Miscellaneous Correspondence.

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

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

From: Commissioner of Social Services
Report: #2025-INFO-43
Date: May 30, 2025

Subject:

Key Findings from 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Durham Region

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present key findings from the 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count conducted in Durham Region in November 2024.
- 1.2 The PiT Count is a national effort to measure and better understand homelessness. Communities organize their local PiT Count for one 24-hour period, to count and survey people experiencing homelessness within a geographical area.
- 1.3 The goal of the PiT Count is to better understand the scope of national homelessness and gain deeper insight on how to support those experiencing it.
- 1.4 The Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) collaborated with community partners to conduct the 2024 PiT Count from November 18 to 19, 2024. The information gathered through the PiT count will be used to understand the profile of those experiencing homelessness, inform evidence-based programming and service planning, and provide individuals experiencing homelessness the opportunity to vocalize what supports and services will help them the most.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Region serves as the provincially legislated Service System Manager (SSM) and the federally designated Community Entity, with responsibility for the planning and coordination of homelessness support services.
- 2.2 The previous [PiT Count](#) was conducted in 2021 by Community Development Council Durham (CDCD), a funded community partner. While CDCD delivered the count effectively, the decision was made as the SSM to bring the coordination of the 2024 PiT Count in-house. This shift aims to enhance internal capacity, strengthen system oversight, and ensure closer alignment with strategic priorities.

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 Update on Durham Region Homelessness Support and Coordinated Access System.](#)
- 3.5 [2024-INFO-40: Update on Durham Region Integrated Homelessness System Action Plan.](#)
- 3.6 [#2025-SS-2: Durham Region Encampment Strategy.](#)

4. Summary of Key Findings from the 2024 PiT Count

- 4.1 Durham Region's 2024 PiT Count identified 1,345 individuals experiencing homelessness, marking a 134 per cent increase since 2021 (n=573). Of these, 540 individuals completed the survey, a 63 per cent increase from 2021 (n=332), offering deeper insights into the scope and nature of homelessness in the region.
 - a. Demographics: Most individuals experiencing homelessness were working-age adults (25 to 49 years, 64 per cent), followed by older adults (50 to 64 years, 24 per cent). Survey respondents were 59 per cent men, 40 per cent women and 1 per cent other genders. 12 per cent of all respondents' self-identified as Indigenous, showing significant overrepresentation in comparison to the documented Indigenous population across Durham Region.
 - b. Health and well-being: High rates of mental health challenges (57 per cent), substance use issues (50 per cent), and physical mobility limitations (38 per cent) were reported.

- c. Living situations: 45 per cent of individuals were in sheltered spaces (emergency shelters and regionally funded hotels), while 33 per cent were in unsheltered spaces (public spaces, encampments or vehicles
- d. Income and employment: 55 per cent relied on social assistance, including Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program, with low levels of formal employment reported.
- e. Chronic homelessness: 57 per cent of individuals had been homeless for six to 12 months highlighting a growing trend of chronic homelessness.
- f. Household composition: While 83 per cent were single, families with children, partners and pets were also documented.
- g. Duration and causes: 36 per cent lost housing within the last 6-12 months, while 33 percent had been homeless for greater than a year and less than 5 years.
- h. Systemic vulnerabilities: 15 per cent had prior involvement in the foster care system, and 14 per cent were refugees or asylum claimants, highlighting the importance of targeted supports for youth and newcomers.
- i. Refer to appendix A for more information.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

- a. Connected and Vibrant Communities
 - C2. Enable a full range of housing options, including housing that is affordable and close to transit.
 - C5. Improve digital connectivity and multi-channel access to information, resources, and service navigation.
- b. 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.
 - H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.
 - H4. Support the development of healthy children and youth, including access to affordable and quality child care.
 - H6. Collaborate with partners to co-ordinate settlement supports for newcomers.
- c. Strong Relationships

- S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
- S2. Build and strengthen respectful relationships with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities.
- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.

d. Resilient Local Economies

- R3. Develop, attract, and support a skilled and qualified workforce, including youth and newcomers.

5.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- People: Making the Region of Durham a great place to work, attracting, and retaining talent.
- Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.
- Technology: Keeping pace with technological change to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The 2024 PiT Count findings highlight an urgent and growing need for expanded shelter capacity, affordable and supportive housing, and comprehensive health and social services across Durham Region.
- 6.2 The data reflects a 134 per cent increase in homelessness since 2021, with particularly high rates of chronic homelessness, mental health and substance use challenges, and the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples and newcomers. While the Point-in-Time (PiT) count provides valuable insight, it is important to recognize that despite our best efforts, some individuals experiencing homelessness may not have been captured. As a result, the actual number of people experiencing homelessness is likely even higher than reported.
- 6.3 These trends reflect growing pressures on the homelessness system and reinforce the urgent need for sustained investment, cross-sector collaboration, and data-driven planning. A coordinated response is essential to effectively address the complex needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and to promote long-term housing stability and community well-being.
- 6.4 A comprehensive report will be released in early summer 2025, which will provide a detailed analysis of the full scope of the findings, including key trends, system-wide impacts, and recommended actions to support informed decision-making and future planning.

7. Attachment

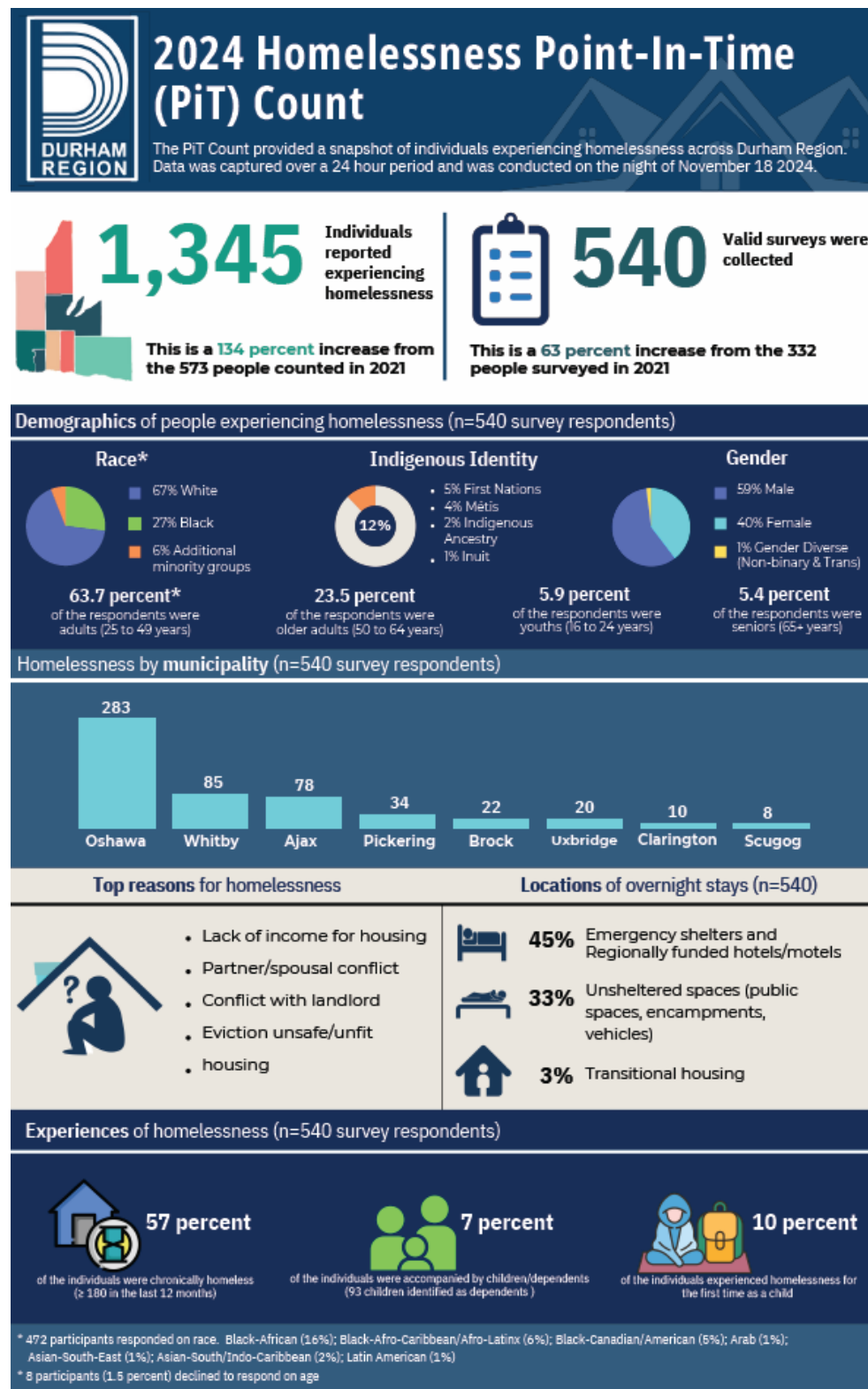
7.1 Attachment #1: 2024 Homelessness Point-In-Time (PiT) Count

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou
Commissioner of Social Services

Attachment 1





The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2025-INFO-44
Date: May 30, 2025

Subject:

Child and Youth Mental Health

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on a data publication entitled [Child and Youth Mental Health](#), released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) on May 1, 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 [CIHI](#) prepares data and information products that are used to improve healthcare, health system performance, and public health.
- 2.2 This CIHI data publication examines children and youth aged five to 24 in Canada who received care for mental health disorders, including visits to the emergency department (ED), hospitalizations, visits to physicians, and medication use. It also examines how age, sex, income, geography, and diagnosis affect patterns of care.
- 2.3 Child and youth mental health continues to be a concern. By age 25, approximately one in five Canadians are diagnosed with a mental illness and the majority (70 per cent) experienced symptoms before age 18.
- 2.4 Data suggest that the prevalence of mental health disorders, particularly mood and anxiety disorders may be increasing over time.
- 2.5 Many organizations and governments across the country are investing in mental health care. Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments have agreed to

work together to improve health care and to measure progress in priority areas, including improving access to mental health and substance use services.

3. Key Findings

Where Mental Health Care is Occurring

3.1 Where children and youth get mental health care is changing. Data suggest a shift towards receiving care by physicians, moving away from care in EDs and hospitals. Data are reported by fiscal year.

- a. In 2023/2024, the rate of children and youth who visited the ED for mental health disorders was 1,090 people per 100,000. This is 31 per cent lower than in 2018/2019.
- b. In 2023/2024, the rate of children and youth who were hospitalized for mental health was 368 people per 100,000. This rate is 23 per cent lower than in 2018/2019.
- c. In 2023/2024, the rate of children and youth who visited a physician for mental health was 16,029 people per 100,000. This rate is eight per cent higher than in 2018/2019. There was a sharp increase in this rate starting in 2021, and prior to that (2018 to 2021), this rate was stable.
 - More than half of mental health–related physician visits were with general practitioners or family medicine doctors (63 per cent), followed by pediatricians (23 per cent) and psychiatrists (12 per cent).

3.2 Seeing patterns of where young people get mental health care shift away from EDs and hospitals and towards primary care settings may reflect trends in the practice patterns of family physicians. Family physicians are increasingly providing care for complex conditions outside of typical primary care services. This shift may also reflect the benefits from a sustained effort by federal, provincial and territorial governments to improve access to mental health services. Although EDs and hospitals play an important role in mental health care (i.e., during emergencies), these are not optimal places for non-emergency care. For this reason, access to quality community-based mental health services is critical.

Medication Use Trends

3.3 Psychotropic medications are used to treat mood disorders (e.g., depression and bipolar disorder), anxiety disorders and schizophrenia. For children and youth experiencing mental health disorders, medications may be an effective first-line intervention when combined with other treatment such as community-based psychosocial therapy.

3.4 In 2023/2024, the rate of children and youth who were dispensed medications for mood/anxiety disorders was 7,836 per 100,000. This rate was 6,659 people per 100,000 in 2018/2019. That represents an 18 per cent increase over six years.

- 3.5 In 2023/2024, the rate for antipsychotic medication dispensed was 1,788 per 100,000. This rate was 1,576 per 100,000 in 2018/2019. That represents a 13 per cent increase over six years.

Sociodemographic Trends

3.6 Sex:

- a. ED visits for mental health disorders by children and youth were higher among females than males. The rate was almost 50 per cent higher for females than males in 2023/2024. Similar patterns were observed for hospitalizations.
- b. In part, the difference between female and male rates reflects the prevalence of mental health disorders and may also in part be related to stigma and males being less likely to seek help.

3.7 Age:

- a. The highest rates of ED visits and hospitalizations for children and youth occurred in those aged 15 to 24.
- b. Among females in this age range, the highest rates were among those with mood, trauma and stressor-related disorders and anxiety disorders.
- c. Among young males specifically, those aged 18 to 24 had the highest rates of ED visits and hospitalizations. These rates were associated with substance-related disorders (for ED visits) and schizophrenic and psychotic disorders (for hospitalizations).
 - These trends can be linked to the incidence of certain mental health disorders and the age when symptoms generally begin.

3.8 Income:

- a. Although young people are generally moving toward community-based care over hospital care for mental health supports; this is not the case for those living in the lowest-income neighbourhoods.
 - In 2023/2024, rates of hospitalization for children and youth living in the lowest-income neighbourhoods were almost twice as high as rates for those living in the highest-income neighbourhoods. Similar results were seen for ED visits.
 - In contrast, rates of physician visits for mental health disorders, as well as prescriptions for mood and anxiety medications, were lower among children and youth living in the lowest-income neighbourhoods compared with those living in the highest-income neighbourhoods.
- b. Individuals and their families living in the lowest-income neighbourhoods may seek care at a hospital if services in the community, particularly those resulting in out-of-pocket expenses, are less accessible.

Eating Disorders

- 3.9 It is important to track care for eating disorders over time, since previous research has indicated that eating disorders increased substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eating disorders are complex and potentially life-threatening conditions involving an obsession with food, weight and/or appearance that negatively affect people's health and daily living.
- 3.10 Both hospitalizations and ED visits for eating disorders spiked in 2021/2022, and although they have been decreasing slowly since the spike, the rates remain higher than pre-pandemic levels.
- a. In 2023/2024, ED visits were 16 people per 100,000, and hospitalizations were at 19 people per 100,000.
 - b. These rates are highest among females aged 10 to 17.

4. Local Initiatives

- 4.1 DRHD provides mental health resources and supports, including information on crises, available at durham.ca.
- 4.2 All Durham Region elementary and secondary schools have an assigned public health nurse to deliver health promotion and support comprehensive school health, which could include strategies related to substance use and mental health. Strategies are based on school needs and planned in collaboration with school communities.
- 4.3 Data and local trends related to mental health indicators are available on DRHD's [Health Stats](#) webpage.

5. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 5.1 Report [2023-INFO-74](#) provided information on DRHD's school-based health promotion services, including mental health promotion and substance use prevention.
- 5.2 Report [2024-INFO-84](#) provided an update on the report: [The State of Mental Health in Canada, 2024](#).

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction and Pathways in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
- a. Healthy People, Caring Communities
 - H1. Implement preventive strategies to support community health, including food security.

- H2. Collaborate with partners to respond to complex social issues that improve community safety and well-being, including mental health and addictions.
- H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.
- H4. Support the development of healthy children and youth, including access to affordable and quality child care.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Child and youth mental health continues to be a public health issue in Canada. Healthy emotional and social development in a person's early years lay the foundation for mental health and resilience throughout the lifespan.
- 7.2 While CIHI's latest data publication does not signal that mental health among young people is improving, it does at least signal improvements in access to mental health care, which is a positive shift.
- 7.3 CIHI's data publication brings attention to disparities in mental health care that need to be addressed, especially access to mental health care among young people in the lowest income neighbourhoods.
- 7.4 It is important to continue to monitor trends in mental health among children and youth so that the mental health system, including public health, can respond to this population's unique needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2025-INFO-45
Date: May 30, 2025

Subject:

2025 Health Plan

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on Durham Region Health Department's (DRHD's) priorities for 2025.
- 1.2 The [2025 Health Plan](#) has been posted on durham.ca.

2. Background

- 2.1 The aim of the Health Plan is to report DRHD's annual priorities, according to its families of programs and services. Priorities are based on DRHD's vision, mission, mandate, and programs.
- 2.2 Priorities are reported under the following program categories: Health Analytics & Business Affairs; Health Information Systems and Quality Assurance & Improvement; Health Protection; Healthy Families; Healthy Living; Infectious Diseases; and Paramedic Services.
- 2.3 The Health Plan is a key component of DRHD's 'Accountability Framework' that also includes: Program Reports; Health Information updates; Quality Enhancement Plans; Durham Health Check-Ups; business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

3. Highlights

- 3.1 The 2025 Health Plan highlights the 2025 approved budget, full-time staff positions by program and identifies 90 priorities which reflect rigorous program and evaluation plans and reviews.

4. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 4.1 The 2025 Health Plan aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

a. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

- E3. Prepare for and respond to severe weather impacts.

b. Healthy People, Caring Communities

- H1. Implement preventive strategies to support community health, including food security.
- H2. Collaborate with partners to respond to complex social issues that improve community safety and well-being, including mental health and addictions.
- H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.
- H4. Support the development of healthy children and youth, including access to affordable and quality child care.
- H5. Provide services for seniors and work with community partners to support aging in place.
- H7. Prepare for and respond to local health emergencies in partnership with the community.

c. Strong Relationships

- S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
- S2. Build and strengthen respectful relationships with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities.
- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.
- S4. Advocate to the federal and provincial government and agencies to advance regional priorities.
- S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

4.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

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

5. Conclusion

5.1 The 2025 Health Plan includes a compilation of program priorities. The implementation of these priorities will be monitored in accordance with DRHD's program planning cycle and reported in 2026 in the 2025 Health Check-Up!, which will be posted on the [Health Check-Up! Reports and Health Plans](#) webpage.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2025-INFO-46
Date: May 30, 2025

Subject:

World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the report entitled [World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity](#), released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on May 6, 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 Health inequalities are the measurable differences in health across population subgroups, and health inequities are those differences that are avoidable and unjust.
- a. Health inequities are the result of political, cultural, social and economic systems that shape daily living conditions. These societal factors are referred to as the social determinants of health, or WHO's preferred term, the social determinants of health equity (SDOHE).
 - b. In 2005, WHO assembled the [Commission on the Social Determinants of Health](#) ("the Commission"). Its goal was to support countries in tackling the SDOHE to improve health equity globally. The [Commission's 2008 Final Report](#) identified policy options and opportunities for action to close the health gap in a generation (between 2000 and 2040). The Commission's three targets were:
 - Halve the gap in life expectancy at birth (LEB) between countries and between social groups within countries.

- Halve adult mortality rates in all countries (probability of dying between 15 and 60 years of age).
- Achieve 90 per cent and 95 per cent reductions in child and maternal mortality, respectively.

2.2 The WHO report reviews global progress towards health equity since the Commission's 2008 Final Report. It draws on updated evidence to provide recommendations for further action on the SDOHE.

3. Report Findings

Progress against the Commission's targets

- 3.1 Chapter one of the report demonstrates that, although progress has been made against all three targets, the current rates of improvement are insufficient for the targets to be met by 2040:
- The gap in LEB between the third of countries with the highest LEB and the third of countries with the lowest, has declined by 5.6 years between 2000 and 2021, from a gap of 18.2 years in 2000 to 12.5 years in 2021. This marks important progress, however, to achieve the 2040 target, an additional reduction of 4.4 years is needed.
 - Where data are available, LEB gaps between the most and least advantaged groups within countries have often widened during the past two decades.
 - Globally, the adult mortality rate fell by 14 per cent between 2000 and 2021. To meet the 2040 target, the adult mortality rate needs to decline by 58 per cent to reach 91 per 1,000 population.
 - Within countries, marginalized or disadvantaged population subgroups in relation to race and ethnicity, education, income and immigrant status tend to have higher adult mortality rates than more advantaged populations. In some countries with available data, inequalities within countries have widened. For example, the gap in life expectancy between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population is 12.5 years for the Inuit in Canada.
 - Between 2000 and 2023, the global rate of under-five child mortality dramatically improved, halving from 77 to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births. Meeting the 2040 target will require a further reduction to eight deaths per 1,000 live births. In 2023, the rate of under-five mortality in low-income countries was still 13 times higher than in high-income countries.
 - Maternal mortality fell by 40 per cent globally between 2000 and 2023, from 328 to 197 deaths per 100,000 live births. This rate needs to fall to less than 16 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2040 to meet the target.
 - Women from disadvantaged or marginalized groups are still far more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than their more advantaged counterparts in countries at all income levels.
- A population-based cohort study evaluated more than 1.8 million births in Ontario, Canada. Compared to women without a disability, the

adjusted relative risk of severe maternal morbidity or death was 14 per cent higher among women with a sensory disability, 29 per cent higher among women with a physical disability, 57 per cent higher among women with an intellectual/developmental disability, and 74 per cent higher among women with two or more disabilities.

- 3.2 Recent global crises – including conflict, climate change, inflation and the COVID-19 pandemic – have exposed even more starkly the consequences of unequal societies and the poor conditions experienced by a large proportion of the world's population, amplifying existing health inequities and creating new ones.

The social determinants of health equity

- 3.3 Chapter two describes the pathways and mechanisms through which the social determinants impact health equity.
- 3.4 Structural determinants create unequal distributions of money, power and resources according to a person's social status, as defined by gender, age, education, income, race or ethnicity, disability status and other characteristics. The structural determinants that drive health inequities, referred to as the upstream SDOHE, include:
- a. Economic systems (e.g., income inequality, taxation systems, labour markets, industrial and trade policies, financial systems, informal economy, commercial determinants).
 - b. Social infrastructure (e.g., universal social policies and public services adapted to urbanization and demographic transitions).
 - c. Structural discrimination (e.g., racism, gender inequality, disability discrimination, ageism, class privilege and other divisions in society).
 - d. Conflict, forced migration and displacement.
 - e. Mega-trends (e.g., climate change and digitalization).
- 3.5 The structural determinants create inequities in the conditions of daily life that shape health. The conditions of daily living that impact health, referred to as the downstream SDOHE, include:
- a. Early childhood development, adolescent support, and education.
 - b. Social connection.
 - c. Work and employment conditions.
 - d. Food environments and access to nutritious food.
 - e. Housing quality, affordability, and safety.
 - f. Access to basic amenities (water, sanitation, and clean energy).
 - g. Quality, safe and affordable public transport systems and mobility.
- 3.6 While there has been some global progress in improving health and reducing inequities, progress has not been widespread enough to meet the Commission's targets. This is largely due to insufficient structural-level action to address the upstream SDOHE outlined in this chapter.

Actions recommended by WHO

- 3.7 In chapters three to five, WHO shares evidence-based strategies and recommendations for further action on the SDOHE. WHO identifies target action areas, which are listed below.
- a. Address economic inequality and invest in universal public services. The recommendations are to:
 - Invest in accessible, high-quality universal public services. Use progressive taxation (tax rate that increases as taxable income level rises) to expand funding for income transfers and equitable infrastructure and services.
 - Ensure that approaches to taxation, development financing, and debt relief include funding to address the SDOHE.
 - Use the public sector to provide incentives for commercial activities that positively affect health equity and regulate health-harming activities by commercial actors.
 - Expand coverage of universal social protection systems, income guarantees and care throughout the life course. Establish and broaden paid leave benefits for all workers.
 - b. Tackle structural discrimination and the determinants and impacts of conflict, emergencies and migration. The recommendations are to:
 - Address structural discrimination by repairing discrimination embedded in policies, laws, institutions and social norms. Redress the negative impacts of colonization by developing standards for reparative justice that measure health impacts. Acknowledge Indigeneity as a SDOHE.
 - Promote health equity during emergencies, migration and conflict by ensuring access to health and social services. Ensure emergency preparedness and responses incorporate the SDOHE, including additional social protection measures.
 - c. Steer action on climate change and digitalization towards health equity. The recommendations are to:
 - Implement climate change mitigation and adaptation policies that maximize health equity benefits and preserve biodiversity. Support Indigenous communities in their stewardship of land and natural resources.
 - Ensure that digital transformations and artificial intelligence promote health equity and public good. Address the digital divide, which describes the disparities in access to digital technologies between populations.

- 3.8 Chapters six to eight discuss the ways in which new approaches to governance in a variety of sectors can enable more equitable health outcomes. WHO makes the following recommendations:
- a. Empower local governments to address the SDOHE through community-centred actions that support age-friendly communities and combat social isolation. Ensure healthy housing and built environments, including through universal design principles.
 - b. Incorporate representative community engagement and social participation in policy processes and delivery. Create conditions that maximize the capabilities of independent and inclusive civil society organizations.
 - c. Achieve universal health coverage through progressive health financing and primary health care approaches. Improve equitable access to a continuum of quality primary health services addressing both physical and mental health.
 - d. Build and retain a health and care workforce capable of delivering equity. Develop human capacity in health, social protection, education, labour, local government and service organizations, to enhance intersectoral efforts.
 - e. Integrate addressing the SDOHE in all health strategies, policies, emergency preparedness and response plans, and public health laws. Establish mechanisms for intersectoral collaboration and community engagement for health at all levels of government.
 - f. Strengthen statistical infrastructure and build capacity for the use of disaggregated data to measure progress on health equity.
- 3.9 Chapter nine outlines the roles required of interest groups, including national and local governments, health leaders, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations, global financial institutions, research institutions, and WHO.
- a. Local governments must lead with strong policies, integrating action on the SDOHE into strategies, supported by intersectoral governance structures and investments.

4. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 4.1 The reports [#2024-INFO-49](#), [#2024-INFO-58](#), and [#2025-INFO-13](#) provided updates on Durham Region Health Department's (DRHD) Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessments.
- 4.2 Report [#2024-INFO-79](#) provided an update on the report: [A Time for Urgent Action: The 2024 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty](#), which was released on October 29, 2024.
- 4.3 Report [#2025-INFO-33](#) provided an update on the report: [Food Insecurity and Food Affordability in Ontario](#), released by Public Health Ontario on April 9, 2025.

5. Local Initiatives

Health Equity

- 5.1 The [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#) (OPHS) articulate the expectations for public health programs and services to be delivered by boards of health.
- 5.2 The Health Equity Standard of the OPHS requires that boards of health engage in public health practice that results in decreased health inequities across all programs and services.
- 5.3 In accordance with the OPHS, DRHD incorporates a health equity lens in program planning, engages with priority populations to address public health needs, and works with community partners to address the social determinants of health.

Poverty

- 5.4 Locally, Durham Region Social Services Department and DRHD, with the support of Davis Pier Consulting, are working on development of a Poverty Response Program (PRP). The PRP will outline actions to address poverty across the region. The PRP will be informed by and developed with the community, service providers, community partners and individuals with lived experience. The PRP aims to better understand poverty in Durham Region and create actionable solutions.

Food Insecurity

- 5.5 DRHD uses the Ontario Nutritious Food Basket to monitor local food insecurity. DRHD found that in June 2024, the price of a basic healthy diet for a reference family of four in Durham Region was \$286 per week or \$1,232 per month. Additionally, in 2024, one in four households were food insecure. These statistics are similar to Ontario. Information about local food insecurity is available in the [Food Poverty in Durham](#) infographic.
- 5.6 DRHD also maintains a webpage on food insecurity on durham.ca. The webpage includes information about what food insecurity is and who is most impacted, monitoring information, policy solutions, and other relevant resources.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Directions and Pathways in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
 - a. Healthy People, Caring Communities
 - H1. Implement preventive strategies to support community health, including food security.

- H2. Collaborate with partners to respond to complex social issues that improve community safety and well-being, including mental health and addictions.
- H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.
- H4. Support the development of healthy children and youth, including access to affordable and quality child care.
- H5. Provide services for seniors and work with community partners to support aging in place.
- H6. Collaborate with partners to co-ordinate settlement supports for newcomers.
- H7. Prepare for and respond to local health emergencies in partnership with the community.

b. Strong Relationships

- S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
- S2. Build and strengthen respectful relationships with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities.
- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.
- S4. Advocate to the federal and provincial government and agencies to advance regional priorities.
- S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

6.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

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

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 In its report, WHO presents evidence-based strategies and policy recommendations to guide governments, civil society and international organizations in addressing the SDOHE to produce equitable health outcomes.
- 7.2 WHO recognizes that improvements in health equity have been too slow and, alarmingly, inequities between social groups within countries are often deepening.
- 7.3 Implementing WHO's recommendations would lead to better health, greater health equity and progress on the global [Sustainable Development Goals](#), adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-INFO-47
Date: May 30, 2025

Subject:

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Spring 2025 Pollinator Seed Giveaway Project

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Spring 2025 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Pollinator Seed Giveaway Project.

2. Background

- 2.1 The role of DECAC is to provide advice to the Region on environmental and climate related matters. The Committee also has a role in implementing and participating in community outreach programs and stewardship that support environmental awareness and appreciation, as outlined in the [2025 DECAC Workplan](#).
- 2.2 The annual Pollinator Seed Giveaway Project is intended to raise awareness about the important role that pollinators (e.g., bees and butterflies) play in supporting ecosystems, global food production, and sustainability.

- 2.3 Since the inception of the Pollinator Giveaway Project in 2022, seed packets were distributed to residents attending the Region's Spring Compost Giveaway events for the past three years.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 Regional Council considered DECAC's 2025 Workplan and Terms of Reference through [Report #2025-CG-2](#).
- 3.2 An overview of the 2024 Pollinator Giveaway Project was provided through [Report #2024-INFO-42](#).

4. Pollinator Giveaway Project

- 4.1 For this year, DECAC wanted to reach the Region's youngest "green thumbs" by engaging Durham educators at school boards across the region, including:
- a. Durham Catholic District School Board;
 - b. Durham District School Board;
 - c. Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board;
 - d. Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board;
 - e. Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir; and
 - f. Conseil scolaire Viamonde.
- 4.2 Throughout the months of April and May, seed packets were delivered to educators across Durham for use in classroom lesson plans, pollinator garden planting on school property, and to send home with students to plant at home.
- 4.3 An online form was developed for educators to request seed packets and outreach was conducted to school board communications staff. In less than one week, DECAC's inventory of 2,700 seed packets had been claimed by over 80 teachers and school administrators.
- 4.4 The seed packets included a wildflower mix of annual and perennial native, pollen-producing plant species that are attractive to bees. Bulk seeds were obtained from a local Ontario seed supplier and assembled into individual packets.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with the following Strategic Directions and Pathways in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
 - E5. Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands.
- b. Healthy People, Caring Communities
 - H1. Implement preventive strategies to support community health, including food security.
- c. Resilient Local Economies
 - R4. Protect and strengthen the local agriculture sector and food supply chains.
- d. Strong Relationships
 - S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.

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

- a. People: Making the Region of Durham a great place to work, attracting, and retaining talent.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Due to the success of this year's distribution, DECAC plans to continue to offer the Pollinator Giveaway Project to Durham educators in 2026.

6.2 For additional information, contact: Colleen Goodchild, Director of Community Growth at 905-668-7711, extension 2580.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: May 30, 2025

To: Health & Social Services Committee

From: Dr. Robert Kyle

Subject: Health Information Update – May 25, 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

May 25, 2025

Health Department Media Releases/Publications

tinyurl.com/27s46vz4

- Region of Durham Paramedic Services celebrates Paramedic Services Week, May 18-24 (May 12)

tinyurl.com/4f6k8zrw

- Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Reporting (May 15)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Prime Minister's Office

tinyurl.com/yc8hdyjf

- Prime Minister announces new Ministry (May 13)

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Ministry of Finance

tinyurl.com/52ertetj

- A Plan to Protect Ontario (May 15)

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

tinyurl.com/ywduy2yb

- Ontario Protecting Workers on Construction Sites (May 23)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Local Public Health Agencies

tinyurl.com/4u5p5n6e

- Bill 11 Letter (May 15)

Canadian Institute for Health Information

tinyurl.com/msksm7z6

- Shift toward community care for young people living with mental health disorders in Canada signals cautious optimism for the future (May 5)

Canadian Medical Association

tinyurl.com/mr2yvfm7

- Statement – With new federal Health Minister installed, it's time to get to work: CMA (May 13)

Canadian Safe Boating Council

tinyurl.com/2aetvkpw

- Embark Safely: Canadian Safe Boating Council Launches Annual Safe Boating Awareness Week Canada-wide May 17 to May 23, 2025 (May 15)

College of Nurses of Ontario

tinyurl.com/yrnkfcj2

- CNO Honours Diversity and Dedication for Nursing Week (May 12)

Electrical Safety Authority

tinyurl.com/ywxhba3a

- Electrical Safety Authority Reminds Ontarians to Keep a Safe Distance from Powerlines (May 12)

IC/ES

tinyurl.com/y6pssdjf

- Coordinated primary, palliative, and specialty care improve outcomes for organ failure patients at end of life, studies show (May 14)

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

tinyurl.com/ypwnw23m

- The Nuclear Waste Management Organization chooses vendors to design and plan Canada's deep geological repository (May 12)

Ontario Hospital Association

tinyurl.com/4cmvacac

- OHA Debunks Report on Purported Use of Private Agency Staff (May 15)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

tinyurl.com/4bmczpf2

- RNAO unveils ECCO 4.0 report: A roadmap to transform Ontario's health system through community care (May 12)

Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario (WeRPN)

tinyurl.com/m8wbsa66

- From Breaking Point to Turning Point, Five Years of Data Signal Signs of Positive Change in Ontario's Nursing Crisis (May 12)

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

tinyurl.com/3te48z7n

- SOGC Congratulates New Cabinet, Urges Action on Women's Health (May 13)

World Health Organization

tinyurl.com/yc53e7mj

- Nursing workforce grows, but inequities threaten global health (May 12)

tinyurl.com/3sjcnxdc


- Statement on the antigen composition of COVID-19 vaccines (May 15)

tinyurl.com/ypy647f2

- WHO warns of slowing global health gains in new statistics report (May 15)

tinyurl.com/yc8n3xc2

- World Health Assembly adopts historic Pandemic Agreement to make the world more equitable and safer from future pandemics (May 20)

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	May 22, 2025 3:09 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



The Regional Municipality of Halton

The following resolution was approved by Regional Council at its meeting held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments

WHEREAS the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow in municipalities across Ontario with 3,432 drug related deaths and over 1,400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023;

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in partnership with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) recently released a ground-breaking report, Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis which highlights the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments;

WHEREAS the report reflects data and insights from all 47 service managers responsible for housing and homelessness across Ontario, including Halton Region;

WHEREAS the report found that more than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25% since 2022, and municipal spending on housing and homelessness programs has grown to more than \$2.1 billion;

WHEREAS in 2024 Halton Region invested \$69 million dollars into housing and homelessness solutions, 63% of which was funded directly by municipal taxpayers;

WHEREAS the report concludes that an additional investment of \$11 billion over 10 years is needed to end chronic homelessness in Ontario and \$2 billion over 8 years is needed to ensure all encampment residents are appropriately housed;

WHEREAS in its 2024 Budget, the Federal Government announced funding of \$250 million to address the urgent issue of encampments and unsheltered homelessness with the intention of a fifty-fifty cost sharing agreement with provincial governments;

WHEREAS discussions between the Federal and Provincial Governments have not led to meaningful progress on a cost-shared funding agreement to date;

WHEREAS the Federal Government will work directly with municipalities if necessary, but without the involvement of the Provincial Government, Ontario municipalities will receive only half of the potential funding available, while the additional costs to respond to this crisis continue to be borne by municipal taxpayers;

WHEREAS in December 2024, the Provincial Government announced an investment of \$75.5 million in funding for municipalities for programs that provide long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments which is welcomed but insufficient to address the growing need;

WHEREAS a collaborative approach across all levels of government is urgently required to provide municipalities with long-term sustainable funding to respond to the growing need for housing and homelessness solutions including mental health and addictions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council supports the findings and recommendations of the AMO / OMSSA / NOSDA homelessness report, and joins these organizations in urging the Provincial and Federal Governments to take significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services and income supports to address homelessness and improve the economic foundations and quality of life in communities;

THAT Halton Region continue to maximize all provincial and federal housing and homelessness funding opportunities as appropriate;

THAT the Regional Chair write a letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing encouraging the Province to re-engage with the Federal Government to ensure that Ontario municipalities have access to fully funded support for encampments and unsheltered homelessness initiatives;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Halton's MPs and MPPs, Halton's Local Municipalities, all municipalities across Ontario with a population of 100,000 or more, Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM), Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).



Office of the Regional Chair
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

VIA EMAIL

May 21, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario – premier@ontario.ca
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing -
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Re: Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments

On behalf of Halton Regional Council, I am writing to express our support for the importance of provincial and federal collaboration to respond to the growing need for housing and homelessness solutions and to ensure that municipalities have access to fully funded support for encampments and unsheltered homelessness initiatives.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in partnership with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) recently released a ground-breaking report, [Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis](#) which highlights the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments. The report reflects data and insights from all 47 service managers responsible for housing and homelessness across Ontario, including Halton Region. The report found that more than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25% since 2022, and that municipal spending on housing and homelessness programs has grown to more than \$2.1 billion. The report concludes that an additional investment of \$11 billion over 10 years is needed to end chronic homelessness in Ontario and \$2 billion over 8 years is needed to ensure all encampment residents are appropriately housed.

In its 2024 Budget, the Federal Government announced funding of \$250 million to address the urgent issue of encampments and unsheltered homelessness with the intention of a fifty-fifty cost sharing agreement with provincial governments. The Federal Government will work directly with municipalities if necessary, but without the involvement of the Provincial Government, Ontario municipalities will receive only half of the potential funding available, while the additional costs to respond to this crisis continue to be borne by municipal taxpayers.

Halton is appreciative of your recently announced investment of \$75.5 million in funding for municipalities for programs that provide long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments, however this funding will not sufficiently address the growing need. In 2024, Halton Region invested \$69 million dollars into housing

Regional Municipality of Halton

HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 | Toll free: 1-866-442-5866

and homelessness solutions, 63% of which was funded directly by municipal taxpayers.

Accordingly, at its meeting held January 22, 2025, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments

1. THAT Halton Regional Council supports the findings and recommendations of the AMO / OMSSA / NOSDA homelessness report, and joins these organizations in urging the Provincial and Federal Governments to take significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services and income supports to address homelessness and improve the economic foundations and quality of life in communities;
2. THAT Halton Region continue to maximize all provincial and federal housing and homelessness funding opportunities as appropriate;
3. THAT the Regional Chair write a letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing encouraging the Province to re-engage with the Federal Government to ensure that Ontario municipalities have access to fully funded support for encampments and unsheltered homelessness initiatives;

A collaborative approach across all levels of government is urgently required to provide municipalities with long-term sustainable funding to respond to the growing need for housing and homelessness solutions, including mental health and addictions supports. With your help, I am hopeful that we can continue to work together to support Halton's most vulnerable residents and keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,



Gary Carr
Halton Regional Chair

Attachment: Halton Resolution – Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments

Cc:

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

The Honourable Vijay Thanigasalam, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
The Honourable Karina Gould, MP, Burlington
The Honourable Adam van Koeverden, MP, Burlington North-Milton West
The Honourable Anita Anand, MP, Oakville East
The Honourable Michael Chong, MP, Wellington-Halton Hills North
Kristina Tesser Derksen, MP, Milton East-Halton Hills South
Sima Acan, MP, Oakville West
The Honourable Zee Hamid, MPP, Milton
The Honourable Stephen Crawford, MPP, Oakville
Natalie Pierre, MPP, Burlington
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP, Oakville North-Burlington
Joseph Racinsky, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Michelle Baker, Executive Director, Ontario's Big City Mayors
Margot Cragg, Executive Director, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Carole Saab, Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Samantha Yew, City Clerk, City of Burlington
Valerie Petryniak, Clerk and Director of Legislative Services, Town of Halton Hills
Meaghen Reid, Director, Legislative and Legal Services/Town Clerk, Town of Milton
Andrea Holland, Acting Town Clerk, Town of Oakville
Municipalities across Ontario with a population of 100,000 or more

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	May 22, 2025 11:41 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Council Meeting

Motion # 05/14/2025 - 14
Title: Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Moved by: Jennifer Prenger
Seconded by: Beth Blackwell

Whereas the Ontario government has fast-tracked Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 (Bill 5), such that it was referred to the Standing Committee on the Interior on May 6, 2025, after being first read on April 17, 2025, and

Whereas the written submission deadline for participation on Bill 5 is May 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM (EDT), and

Whereas Bill 5 would enact the Special Economic Zones Act, 2025; amend/repeal the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and replace it by enacting the Species Conservation Act, 2025; and amend various Acts including the Ontario Heritage Act, the Mining Act, the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, and the Electricity Act, 1998 and to revoke various regulations in relation to development and procurement, and

Whereas Bill 5 will allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to create zones anywhere in Ontario where municipal and provincial laws will not apply, and where projects or proponents can be exempted from requirements under provisions of an Act or of a regulation, including environmental and heritage laws, and

Whereas the provisions of Bill 5 as written include anti-democratic principles and risks undermining civil liberties, Indigenous rights, the environment and local government oversight, and

Whereas the Municipality of Kincardine believes that the provincial priorities of housing, resource development and economic development can be achieved without subverting existing laws, undermining municipal authority, threatening the environment, restricting industry growth, or undermining informed consent with Indigenous communities; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Kincardine hereby opposes Bill 5; and
 That Council formally express its opposition to Bill 5 in favour of preserving democracy, transparency, accountability, the environment, civil liberties, and Indigenous rights; and

That Council encourage the province to prioritize democratic principles and governance systems that support responsible development, environmental preservation, and acknowledge our responsibility to future generations; and

That Council formally request that the Ontario government reject Bill 5; and


That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, ; the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; MPP Lisa Thompson; all Ontario municipalities; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and the Standing Committee on the Interior.

Carried.

Jennifer Lawrie

Clerk

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative
Building Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	May 26, 2025 8:32 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Re: Ontario Works Rates

At its regular meeting held on May 20, 2025, the Council of the Township of Assiginack passed the following resolution expressing support of the increasing Ontario Works rates:

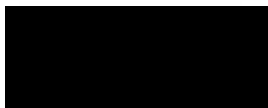
#099-05-2025 J Hooper - D Elliott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we support the Town of Cobourg to urge the Province to increase the Ontario Works rate to match ODSP rate increases which are indexed to inflation and commit to ongoing cost of living increases above their rate of inflation to match years where rates were frozen.

Carried

We respectfully request your consideration of this resolution.


Sincerely,



Stasia Carr, Clerk
Township of Assiginack

THE TOWNSHIP OF ASSIGINACK

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative
Building Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	May 26, 2025 8:25 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Re: Strong Mayor Powers

At its regular meeting held on May 20, 2025, the Council of the Township of Assiginack passed the following resolution expressing support of the numerous municipalities that are in opposition of the strong mayor powers:

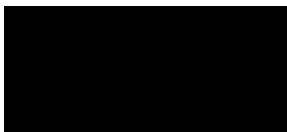
#098-05-2025 J Hooper - D Elliott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of Assiginack does not support the Strong Mayor Powers and correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

Trusting Council's support in joining the numerous Ontario municipalities on opposing the issue will urge a return to local democratic governance.

Sincerely,



Stasia Carr, Clerk
Township of Assiginack



Office of the City Clerk

May 21, 2025

Via email

All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Kingston City Council Meeting, May 20, 2025 – Resolution Number 2025-197; Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

At the regular Council meeting on May 20, 2025, Council approved Resolution Number 2025-197 with respect to Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 as follows:

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight; and

Whereas the City of Kingston supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans; and

Whereas the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human health, and vulnerable members of the Ontario public, including Indigenous peoples, who may otherwise be harmed by the amendments contained in the various schedules; and

Whereas the Canadian Civil Liberties Association finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents”

The Corporation of the City of Kingston

216 Ontario Street, Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3

Phone: (613) 546-4291 extension 1207

cityclerk@cityofkingston.ca


from compliance with municipal and provincial law within the special economic zones, promotes abandonment of the rule of law subjecting Ontario's lands and peoples to the possibility of arbitrary and non-transparent decision-making and effectively nullifying decades of legacy law-making in those zones;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Kingston oppose all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority; and

That the Council of the City of Kingston urge the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools; and

That a copy of this motion be sent to The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P. Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Stephen Lecce, M.P.P. Minister of Energy and Mines, The Honourable Rob Flack, M.P.P. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, M.P.P. Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ted Hsu, M.P.P., Kingston & the Islands, John Jordan, M.P.P., Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, and all Ontario municipalities.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Jaynes
City Clerk
/nb

The Town Of PLYMPTON-WYOMING



Date:

26 May 2025

1

Moved By:

[Redacted Name]

Seconded By:

[Redacted Name]

Whereas the province has introduced Bill 5, Protect Ontario by unleashing our Economy 2025 which is intended to speed up housing and economic development in Ontario.

And whereas the proposed legislation will include the repeal the Endangered Species Act of 2007 and replace it with the Conservation Species Act of 2025.

And whereas the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks primarily manages the Act, The Committee on the Status of Species in Ontario (COSSARO) is responsible for assessing and classifying species.

And whereas COSSARO is comprised of experts with scientific and traditional knowledge and operates independently from the government ensuring impartial assessments of species at risk, the provincial cabinet will now decide what species will remain or be removed from endangered, concerned or at-risk status.

And whereas the current law considers the habitat to be all the areas that the species relies on for living, gathering food, migrating, hibernating and reproducing. The new law however, narrows that definition to "a dwelling place, such as a den, nest or other similar place, that is occupied or habitually

Carried

Defeated

Deferred

Con't... →

Yay Nay

Gary L. Atkinson

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Netty McEwen

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Alex Boughen

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Kristen Rodrigues

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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John van Klaveren

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Mike Vasey

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Bob Woolvett

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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5:00pm Planning Council 5.1

occupied by one or more members of a species for the purposes of breeding, rearing, staging, wintering or hibernating".

And whereas the legislation would gut environmental assessment processes, speed mining and infrastructure development and take a "register-first, ask-questions-later" approach that would allow developers to begin projects before their environmental implications are fully known and allow for economic zones which will eliminate any environmental mitigation measures or protections.

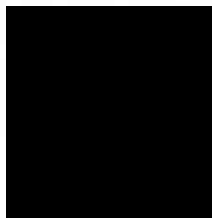
And whereas the legislation would eliminate provincial responsibility for federally listed migratory birds and aquatic species because it says such birds and species are under federal jurisdiction, even though the province has historically administered such duties.

And whereas the government will enhance funding for the Species Conservation Program, which will see contributions more than quadruple to \$20 million each year for on the ground projects that directly support efforts to conserve and protect listed species, the funding will only go to projects in regions that would otherwise not be considered viable for housing priorities, essentially allowing for the extirpation of local ecoregions in Ontario.

And whereas while development is necessary for human progress, Bill 5 will pose significant challenges to mitigating water, soil and air pollution; will overexploit natural resources, and increase invasive species in each uniquely identified ecoregion in Ontario.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of Plympton-Wyoming urges the government to pause the proposed legislation and maintain strong environmental laws that prevent extinction of species and protect local ecoregions.

And furthermore, the Council of Plympton-Wyoming asks that the government recognize and give meaningful consideration to ecoregions in Ontario through their unique perspectives and preserve Ontario's natural heritage systems in the application of any proposed updated provincial legislation for the long-term growth, sustainability and well-being of our communities.



Carried

Defeated

Deferred

Yay Nay

Gary L. Atkinson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Netty McEwen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alex Boughen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kristen Rodrigues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John van Klaveren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Vasey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Woolvett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Premier of Ontario, The Honorable Doug Ford (sent by email, premier@ontario.ca)

Provincial Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. MPP, Todd McCarthy (sent by email, todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org)

Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP, Rob Flack (sent by email, rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

Sarnia Lambton Bkejwanong Provincial MPP, Bob Bailey (sent by email, bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org)

Sarnia Lambton Bkejwanong Federal MP, Marilyn Gladu (sent by email, marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca)

AMO (sent by email, amo@amo.on.ca)

All Municipalities (sent by email)

May 27th, 2025

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its Planning Council meeting on May 26h, 2025, passed the following motion calling for a pause of the enactment of BILL 5 PROTECT ONTARIO BY UNLEASHING OUR ECONOMY ACT 2025:

MOTION TO PAUSE BILL 5 PROTECT ONTARIO BY UNLEASHING OUR ECONOMY ACT 2025

Whereas the province has introduced Bill 5, Protect Ontario by unleashing our Economy 2025 which is intended to speed up housing and economic development in Ontario.

And whereas the proposed legislation will include the repeal of the Endangered Species Act of 2007 and replace it with the Conservation Species Act of 2025.

And whereas the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks primarily manages the Act, The Committee on the Status of Species in Ontario (COSSARO) is responsible for assessing and classifying species.

And whereas COSSARO is comprised of experts with scientific and traditional knowledge and operates independently from the government ensuring impartial assessments of species at risk, the provincial cabinet will now decide what species will remain or be removed from endangered, concerned or at-risk status.

And whereas the current law considers the habitat to be all the areas that the species relies on for living, gathering food, migrating, hibernating and reproducing. The new law however, narrows that definition to "a dwelling place, such as a den, nest or other similar place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more members of a species for the purposes of breeding, rearing, staging, wintering or hibernating"

And whereas the legislation would gut environmental assessment processes, speed mining and infrastructure development and take a "register-first, ask-questions-later" approach that would allow developers to begin projects before their environmental implications are fully known and allow for economic zones which will eliminate any environmental mitigation measures or protections.

And whereas the legislation would eliminate provincial responsibility for federally listed migratory birds and aquatic species because it says such birds and species are under federal jurisdiction, even though the province has historically administered such duties.


And whereas the government will enhance funding for the Species Conservation Program, which will see contributions more than quadruple to \$20 million each year for on the ground projects that directly support efforts to conserve and protect listed species, the funding will only go to projects in regions that would otherwise not be considered viable for housing priorities, essentially allowing for the extirpation of local ecoregions in Ontario.

And whereas while development is necessary for human progress, Bill 5 will pose significant challenges to mitigating water, soil and air pollution; will overexploit natural resources, and increase invasive species in each uniquely identified ecoregion in Ontario.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of Plympton-Wyoming urges the government to pause the proposed legislation and maintain strong environmental laws that prevent extinction of species and protect local ecoregions.

And furthermore, the Council of Plympton-Wyoming asks that the government recognize and give meaningful consideration to ecoregions in Ontario through their unique perspectives and preserve Ontario's natural heritage systems in the application of any proposed updated provincial legislation for the long-term growth, sustainability and well-being of our communities.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.



Mackenzie Baird
mbaird@plympton-wyoming.ca
Planning Technician
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

9-1-1 MANAGEMENT BOARD

April 29, 2025

A regular meeting of the 9-1-1 Management Board was held in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 10:02 AM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: G. O'Blenes, Durham Regional Police
T. Cheseboro, Region of Durham Paramedic Services*
B. Garrod, Durham Regional Council
M. Simpson, Director of Risk Management, Economic Studies and Procurement, Durham Region*
W. Spindler, Oshawa Central Ambulance Communications Centre*
J. Wichman, Communications/9-1-1 Technical Manager
***denotes members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Regional Chair Henry left the meeting at 10:35 AM
A. Cowan, Acting Inspector, 9-1-1 Communications Unit
A. Naeem, Solicitor, Legal Department*

Absent: S. Boyd, Fire & Emergency Services

Staff

Present: R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Legislative Services Division – Corporate Services Department

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by M. Simpson, Seconded by Councillor Garrod,
(3) That the minutes of the 9-1-1 Management Board meeting held on February 11, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week (NPSTW) – April 13 to 19, 2025

Chair O'Blenes advised that National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week was April 13 to 19, 2025 and marks a week that is set aside every year as a time to express thanks and appreciation to public safety telecommunicators across the country. He advised that several initiatives were taken throughout the week to help highlight the communicators, educate the public, and raise awareness. He shared messages received from Premier Doug Ford, Regional Chair Henry, Councillor Garrod, and Mayor Barton.

Chair O'Blenes, on behalf of the 9-1-1 Management Board and DRPS, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the communicators and dispatchers with DRPS, CACC and Fire Services for being such a dedicated team of professionals and the lifeline of the community. He also thanked the board members for their support and for providing lunch and gifts of appreciation to the three agencies.

Regional Chair Henry suggested that a presentation be provided to the Committee of the Whole in 2026 to advise council members of National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week. Councillor Garrod expressed his gratitude for being able to attend the call centre.

5. Report #BG-03/25 submitted by Councillor Garrod to the Administration and Emergency Services Committee of Uxbridge on March 17, 2025 re: Year-end 911 call volume data (Attachment #2)

Councillor Garrod stated that Report #BG-03/25 was provided to the Administration and Emergency Services Committee of the Township of Uxbridge as an education piece to draw attention to the 2024 call volumes and the outstanding support received within Uxbridge and the Region of Durham by the call takers of the 911 call response call centre.

6. NG9-1-1 Current State in Canada

J. Wichman shared the ESWG NG9-1-1 Migration Dashboard created by Esri Canada. He advised that the CRTC has extended the end-of-life date for the current E911 network to 2027 due to the fact that other PSAPs in Canada are not where they need to be for the original cutoff date. He advised that the dashboard was created to provide a visual tracking of the transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 and provided an overview of the statistics shown on the dashboard.

J. Wichman also shared the NG9-1-1 Change Management Roadmap prepared by the CRTC Emergency Services Working Group. He advised that the Roadmap is an overview of the features and possibilities with NG9-1-1. He stated that NG9-1-1 is not going to be a drastic change for most and that the first stage will be replacing the antiquated backup phone which is analog or digital with an IP based network. He provided an overview of some the improvements that will be seen in 2027.

J. Wichman responded to questions with regards to possible changes to the workload and processes, and staffing and computer resources for the project as well as cybersecurity.

7. NG9-1-1 GIS Readiness Assessment by ESRI Canada

J. Wichman provided an overview of the Durham Region NG9-1-1 GIS Readiness Assessment prepared by ESRI Canada. He stated this will change the way calls are routed for 9-1-1. He also stated that it will provide more accuracy and reliability in the way calls are transferred to the proper PSAP.

J. Wichman advised that the assessment was done to determine how ready Durham Region is for the change in 2027 and noted that Durham Region was assessed to be in an almost ready state.

J. Wichman stated that the study focused on 5 areas of GIS data management operations, as follows:

1. Data model comparisons
2. Data quality assessment
3. GIS Information Technology
4. Information Management
5. Organizational Awareness and Readiness

It was requested that J. Wichman provide a high-level risk assessment update at the next meeting and that high-level summaries on the subject be provided at subsequent meetings.

8. 9-1-1 Call Statistics

J. Wichman stated that the 2025 call volume is so far very similar to 2024. He advised that the biggest change is due to the amalgamation of Oshawa Fire and Ajax/Pickering Fire dispatch as the numbers are now falling under the purview of Oshawa Fire.

J. Wichman stated that the number of no answer wireless hangups is better but staff will continue to focus on media and education pieces.

9. DRPS Update re: 9-1-1 System

J. Wichman stated that there are currently 36 trunks at primary sites so the call centre can receive 36 calls at one time. He advised that if there are any minor issues, staff, together with Bell Canada, have been quick to identify and mitigate any issues with the trunks.

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters.

Other Departments - Comments/Concerns

1. Comments/Concerns – Regional Council

Councillor Garrod advised that positive attention was brought to the 9-1-1 call takers and to DRPS with regards to call volumes and the additional resources being committed to the Township of Uxbridge. He advised that he has reached out to Chief Cheseboro to discuss possibilities to also raise awareness of paramedic services.

2. Comments/Concerns – Durham Police

J. Wichman advised the Emergency Services Steering Committee has been working on a 9-1-1 public education program called When Every Second Counts. He stated the program is scheduled to launch on April 30th and is great program to educate people on when to call 9-1-1 and what to do when you accidentally call 9-1-1.

3. Comments/Concerns – Fire Departments

S. Boyd was absent.

4. Comments/Concerns – Oshawa Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC)

W. Spindler advised that the renovations at the CACC are almost done. He advised that 2 new consoles have been added for a total of 10 on the floor; and there are 8 new call takers. He also advised that the CACC has transitioned to MPDS this month, which is the new call taking protocol, and advised that the CACC will be down for a period of 3 to 4 hours for the upgrade to the new MPDS protocol on May 21, 2025.

5. Comments/Concerns – Durham Finance

There were no comments/concerns.

6. Comments/Concerns – Region of Durham Paramedic Services

T. Cheseboro stated that they are looking forward to the MPDS roll out and anticipate a very significant improvement with regards to the ability to manage call volume as it will change the prioritization of some calls.

T. Cheseboro thanked the CACC as they have endorsed having RDPS management staff in the Communications Centre on a regular basis to help facilitate the management of the fleet.

T. Cheseboro also advised that some equipment is about 8 years old and getting to end of life. He requested that J. Wichman provide the cost of replacing these devices.

11. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was the consensus of the Board to reschedule the June 24th meeting to June 17, 2025 at 2 PM to accommodate scheduling conflicts. The meeting will be held at the Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. **Adjournment**

Moved by J. Wichman, Seconded by M. Simpson,
(4) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM

G. O'Blenes, Durham Regional Police

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to
Council

DURHAM NUCLEAR HEALTH COMMITTEE (DNHC) MINUTES

Location

Virtual

Date & Time

April 25, 2025 at 1:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Durham Nuclear Health Committee was held on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 1:00 PM via Microsoft Teams.

Comments and questions from members of the public observing the meeting can be emailed to dnhc@durham.ca.

Attendance

Members

Dr. Robert Kyle, Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) (Chair)
Anthony DiPietro, DRHD
Raphael McCalla, Ontario Power Generation (OPG)
Loc Nguyen, OPG
Deborah Kryhul, Public Member
Veena Lalman, Public Member
Dr. Lubna Nazneen, Public Member
Susan Ebata, Public Member
Jane Snyder, Public Member
Alan Shaddick, Alternate Public Member
Bill Rattan, Alternate Public Member

Presenters & Staff

Dianne San Juan, DRHD (Secretary)
Helen Tanevski, DRHD
Roger Inacio, Region of Durham, IT- Service Delivery
Andrew Parmenter, Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)
Heather Rambukkana, OPG
Dr. Kirk Atkinson, Ontario Tech University (OTU)
Lindsay Hamilton, OPG

Regrets

Caitlyn Paget, DRHD
David Keene, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Philip Dunn, MECP
Hardev Bains, Public Member
Dr. Seewoosunkur Gopaul, Public Member
Madisen Wood, Youth Public Member

Madison Kidd, Youth Public Member

Dr. Robert Kyle opened the virtual meeting and welcomed everyone.

Land Acknowledgement by Dr. Kyle.

Dr. Kyle mentioned that observers who have questions concerning presentations should email or discuss their requests with Dianne San Juan, DNHC Secretary, at dnhc@durham.ca.

Dianne will follow-up with each of the presenters after the meeting with the observers' questions. Dianne will report back to Dr. Kyle the outcomes of the questions received.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the February 7, 2025 meeting were adopted as written.

3. Correspondence

3.1 Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (DNGS) and Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (PNGS) Community Advisory Council (CAC)

Agenda and minutes from the joint PNGS/DNGS CAC meeting of December 3, 2024 were emailed to DNHC members on March 10, 2025.

3.2 Update on the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP)

The updates were emailed to DNHC members on March 3, 2025. Updates included January's Licence to Construct (LTC) regulatory hearing, recent site progress and a look back at the important progress made in the last 12 months.

For questions about the project, contact the project phone line (1-800-461-0034), [email](#) or by having a conversation at our public information centre (1855 Energy Drive, Courtice, open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.).

3.3 Whitby resident inquiry regarding OPG application to amend the Pickering Waste Management Facility (WMF) Operating Licence to construct and operate the Pickering Component Storage Structure (CSS)

Resident is requesting OPG provide a plain language explanation of this project, the anticipated doses, the shielding system, the anticipated lifespan of the structure, how long "interim" storage is in years and exactly where this material is expected to end

up for final disposal. This inquiry was forwarded to OPG for a response. OPG has directed the resident to their presentation for the [April 19, 2024 DNHC meeting](#), which starts on pg 24. There is also additional information provided in the [video recording](#) of the meeting and on [opg.com](#) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission [CNSC website](#).

Additional content on the Pickering WMF licence amendment will be included in their presentation for this meeting.

3.4 Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) 2024 Annual Report and 2025-29 Implementation Plan

2024 Annual Report available at [NWMO-Annual-report-2024.ashx](#).

2025-29 Implementation Plan available at [Implementation-plan-2025-29.ashx](#).

Share your thoughts on the Implementation Plan by completing their [survey](#) by June 6, 2025.

3.5 Committee member follow-up questions and comments received after the February 7, 2025 meeting

- Regarding the KI tablet presentation, a suggestion was received to promote the information on our local Roger's TV station DRPS segment; this suggestion was forwarded to Paulo Correia, Manager, Health Protection, DRHD. It was received with thanks and will be considered for a future campaign.
- Regarding the Durham Emergency Management (DEM) nuclear emergency preparedness program presentation, 2 questions were received: Do they have an RTO (Recovery Time Objective) for the recovery process during offsite centre testing? Are the OPG emergency management plans and processes aligned with DEM plans? Mary LaChapelle, Acting Deputy Director, DEM, responded "During the offsite testing, the recovery time objective will be based on the direction received from the Provincial Emergency Operations Center/Province. All stakeholders prepare, plan, respond and exercise in a coordinated effort aligning our plans and processes."

4. Presentations

All meeting presentations will be made available on the [Council and Committee Meetings Calendar](#). PDF files for each presentation can be accessed using the agenda HTML link and a video recording of the meeting can be viewed using the webstreaming link that will be provided approximately two weeks after this meeting date.

4.1 Canada's Plan for the Management of Used Nuclear Fuel: Confidence in Safety

Presented by Andrew Parmenter, Director, Geoscience, NWMO

Highlights of the presentation

- Overview of the NWMO
- November 2024: NWMO selected a site for the Canada's used nuclear fuel, in the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, the Township of Ignace
- Safety elements at the Revell Site (southeast of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and northwest of the Township of Ignace) discussed, including the geologic setting, suitability of the barrier system, ability to transport fuel to site, etc.
- Favourable Setting: the rock is old and stable; experience operating an underground lab in a similar setting; relatively low seismic activity
- Stations installed to record seismic information to ensure assumptions remain valid
- Low natural resources potential; no mineral claims in site
- Engineering components of multiple barrier system discussed
- Engineering proof testing discussed
- Used nuclear fuel transportation discussed; will begin in the 2040s when the repository is operational
- [Transportation Framework](#) document released in 2021; will continue to undergo review and public reporting
- Radiation dose rates discussed; dose expectation will be similar to living near a nuclear site such as Bruce Power
- Lessons learned from partner organizations discussed; sites in Finland and Sweden have been recognized for their suitability for hosting used fuel repositories in crystal and rock similar to what we have at our site
- Estimates of timelines: Centre of Expertise to be built at or near the repository site, opening in 2028; expect to break ground in 2030s and beginning operations in 2040s; multigeneration infrastructure project
- Integrated strategy for radioactive waste (low, intermediate, and high-level waste) discussed
- More information and reports are available at <https://www.nwmo.ca/A-safe-approach>

Questions

Dr. Kirk Atkinson: It was stated that the repository will be closed in the 2090s. What are the assumptions for this - what happens if nuclear generating stations are still online then?

Andrew Parmenter: The NWMO is required to manage and store ALL of Canada's used nuclear fuel, even from new and emerging technologies and will be adaptive as things happen in the future; plans and timelines could change.

Dr. Robert Kyle: Is the preferred site deemed to be Crown land? If so, is it provincial Crown land and will it need to be transferred to NWMO? What is the status of the land that is the preferred site?

Andrew Parmenter: It is federal Crown land, but it is also traditional Indigenous territory. There is a lot of work taking place to explore this question, and a more detailed answer will be provided to the Committee.

Correction: The following information was received from the NWMO on May 28, 2025 regarding this question:

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization further notes that the land in question is provincial Crown land that has been withdrawn from mineral exploration and development. The NWMO is working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to formally acquire the land for the Adaptive Phased Management project and will provide an update on its status at a future presentation to DNHC

4.2 Progress Report by OPG's Nuclear Sustainability Services Division concerning its handling and management of radioactive materials and waste

Presented by Heather Rambukkana, Director Operations and Maintenance – Nuclear

Sustainability Services Eastern, OPG

Highlights of the presentation

- Provided an overview of nuclear sustainability services and what they do
- Primary focus of waste management: preventing the generation of low-level waste materials, managing the long-term safety of spent fuel and harnessing the waste discussed
- Harvesting radioactive isotopes from reactors such as cobalt 60 and molybdenum 99, powering quantum computing, and medical tracer technology provided as examples of giving waste new life
- 3 waste management facilities (WMFs): Western WMF (licensed to 2027), Darlington WMF (licensed to 2033), and Pickering WMF (licensed to 2028; a letter has been sent to the regulator to seek an early renewal for this licence and have it consolidated with the existing Pickering power reactor operating licence)
- 2023 Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste report; educational campaign available
- Low, intermediate and high-level waste management and disposal discussed
- Low-level waste disposal solution is with the waste generators; OPG is implementing a near surface disposal facility for low-level waste; planning and consultations are underway
- Intermediate-level waste stored in in-ground storage containers at the Western WMF
- Used fuel/high-level waste cooled underwater, and after a period of cooling, it goes into specialized dry storage containers and final disposal is with the NWMO
- Pickering WMF – 80 dry storage containers (DSCs) loaded and transferred in 2024; under current licence, are able to build up to 2 more used fuel storage buildings on the site (for a total of 6 storage buildings); able to accommodate used fuel until a deep geological repository (DGR) is in place
- Darlington WMF – 57 DSCs loaded and transferred in 2024
- Safety analysis verifies public and worker dose is within CNSC regulatory limits, even under accident conditions such as fire or extreme weather events; strive to keep doses as low as reasonably achievable

- CNSC recently approved loading of 6-year cooled fuel into DSCs at the Pickering WMF; will support the refurbishment of Pickering units 5-8, as they look to defuel those units for refurbishment
- Storage building 5 at Pickering WMF is required to accommodate the interim storage of used fuel until the DGR is available (will be available for service by 2027)
- Pickering component storage structure (CSS): to support refurbishment of Pickering units 5-8 by providing additional interim storage for reactor components and low-level waste; letter of intent to construct this building submitted to CNSC in February 2024; a licence amendment was needed for this and was completed in May 2024; expecting a CNSC hearing in July 2025 for this building; intervention deadline is May 6, 2025; if approved, this building will have an April 2027 service date
- Dose to the public from the Pickering CSS complies with derived release limits under the Pickering nuclear generating station (NGS), which is defined by a CSA standard and remains below CNSC regulatory limits
- Decommissioning Pickering NGS units 1-4 discussed; by 2028 all 4 units will be in “storage with surveillance”; detailed decommissioning plan for Pickering NGS was submitted to the CNSC in Dec 2024
- Decommissioning strategy currently under review by the CNSC and Indigenous Rights Holders; detailed decommissioning plan (DDP) is updated every 5 years at minimum; decommissioning timelines discussed
- Radioactive isotopes production and use discussed
- For more information and access to reports, please go to opg.com

Questions

Dr. Kirk Atkinson: It was stated that storage building 5 will be the last such building as the DGR should then be ready. I assume this means that OPG will empty buildings 1-5 in sequence, but what happens if the DGR is delayed?

Heather Rambukkana: There is some buffer in storage building 5, there is additional storage room in that building. OPG has full confidence in NWMO's process and it's ability to execute its statutory responsibility to design and implement Canada's plan for the long-term management of this used fuel and is on track to be completed by the mid-2040s. If there was an unlikely situation that would significantly delay this, OPG would seek required regulatory approvals to continue to safely manage and store used fuel on site on an interim basis until a permanent solution is implemented.

Andrew Parmenter: NWMO will be adaptive but have confidence in the site and that this will move forward.

Susan Ebata: What is the volume of low-level waste compared to used fuel? How much is generated per year and how much has to be stored? Has a site been picked for the storage of low-level waste?

Heather Rambukkana: Any of the waste generated is fairly dense and is compacted. We have a storage building with intermediate-level waste at the Darlington site and we have a storage

building with low energy level waste at the Pickering site. Majority of low-level waste is situated at our Western WMF, with the exception of steam generators being stored at the Pickering site. The number of storage buildings we have for low-level waste compared to used fuel at the Western site is actually fairly similar. When you factor in the storage of the high-level waste at Pickering and Darlington, the volume of low-level waste is actually smaller because we have the ability to reduce the volume (60% volume reduction with low-level waste). So in comparison to high-level waste, low-level waste has a smaller volume.

If you were to store all the high-level waste that has been generated in Canada (beyond OPG's operations), it would fill 9 hockey rinks.

Majority of the waste generated is low-level waste, and it undergoes a volume reduction. Each year OPG looks for ways to shrink the footprint of low-level waste.

A site has not been selected for a near-surface disposal facility for low-level waste. Based on feedback from Indigenous nations, before OPG starts the process of siting a potential near-surface disposal facility, information about this waste is being made publicly available so potential host communities are making informed decisions.

Andrew Parmenter: 6 hockey rinks filled to the top of the boards, stacked one on top of each other, is the volume of high-level waste (used fuel).

Dr. Kyle: With regard to intermediate-level waste, what is the volume compared to used nuclear fuel? Does the integrated strategy include legacy intermediate-level waste? Is there a storage medium that is already invented that is suitable for transport of intermediate-level waste to the DGR (assuming that this media will be placed directly into the DGR rather than just the waste itself)? Will the intermediate-level waste stored at the NGSs be transported to the DGR?

Heather Rambukkana: There is a conceptual plan for how the high-level waste will be transported to a DGR; in terms of intermediate-level waste, they will be packaged and transported according to Transport Canada and CNSC requirements. There are transportation packages that exist today that can transport intermediate-level waste. OPG is working with the NWMO on the transportation plans for intermediate-level waste to the DGR. A conceptual plan for how this material would be potentially moved has not been developed.

There is currently intermediate-level waste already in specialized containers that could potentially make their way to the DGR. OPG is working with the NWMO to make decisions on the existing package or any new packages that need to be developed to accommodate all the intermediate-level waste forms.

Dr. Kyle: For the intermediate-level waste currently stored at the nuclear generating stations, will this be transferred to the DGR? Or would it only be new waste at the time the DGR is commissioned?

Heather Rambukkana: It will take both, what's in existing storage, as well as any new waste forms that are generated.

Andrew Parmenter: The mandate of managing intermediate-level waste was given to the NWMO; all legacy and future intermediate-level waste is part of NWMO's plan.

4.3 Update from Ontario Tech University (OTU), Nuclear Engineering program

Presented by Dr. Kirk Atkinson, Director, Centre for Small Modular Reactors, Associate Professor & Industrial Research Chair, Department of Energy & Nuclear Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science, OTU

Highlights of the presentation

- Challenges facing the university to address the dual threats of climate change and energy security discussed
- What does the OTU have to do to be able to address the need for a larger and suitably qualified and experienced nuclear energy workforce?
- OTU prepares students and industry professionals across the spectrum to work in the nuclear sector, build new nuclear systems, and be able to operate them safely
- Range of programs offered discussed
- Challenges with enrollment and funding for higher education discussed
- 1/3 of enrollment is female in nuclear engineering
- OTU is in the top 3 largest provider of nuclear engineering undergraduates in North America
- New* - Nuclear Career Accelerator program; 12-week hybrid program for mid-career professionals; micro-credentials towards Ontario Tech certificate, components include understanding the regulatory framework and project management
- Tuition is subsidized by federal government; for more information: ontariotechu.ca/nca
- Research and development at OTU discussed
- Subcritical assembly project discussed – a type of reactor on campus that will not be able to undergo a self-sustaining fission chain reaction (so it cannot have a runaway event and is safe)
- Students able to do experiments and support new nuclear research under this project
- This is considered a class 1A facility; CNSC licensing process for class 1A operating licence discussed
- OTU already holds 2 CNSC licences and operates a radiation safety program subject to regular CNSC and IAEA inspections to ensure compliance; all inspections have been passed
- Project Arrow for Nuclear – a design exercise with George Brown College, resulting in a nanoreactor concept launched at the G4SR-5 Conference in October 2024 called the Canadian Uranium Energy Bridge; explores electricity generation for communities

Questions

Dr. Kyle: There was a recent news release for funding for new STEM student seats in universities and colleges. Will OTU benefit from this funding?

Dr. Atkinson: All Ontario universities will benefit from this, and science, health, and engineering faculties at OTU will benefit from this. With the changing economic climate, many colleges have had to close programs, while OTU is in a very fiscally secure position. There are some

challenges facing the university sector, so this money is in part to protect the sector in the critical need areas and hopefully help bolster the industry as a whole in Ontario.

Dr. Kyle: Are investments into small modular reactors (SMRs) and nuclear energy seen as part of Canada's plan for combatting climate change and reducing greenhouse gases? Are you seeing an increase in funding in the nuclear sector from a research perspective, as part of the climate action philosophy? Any comments regarding federal investments in nuclear energy?

Dr. Atkinson: There is recognition of energy's impact to climate and the importance of energy security. The funding for research in the nuclear space has gotten better, and is probably as good as it's ever been in the post-secondary sector. The challenge is that there is so many things we want to do, and nuclear facilities and support activities are not always there now (it takes time to develop). Another challenge is workforce, most of the funding is for development of people, and it has been a challenge to find people to do the research work with universities.

5. Communications

5.1 Community Updates at Pickering Nuclear and Darlington Nuclear

Lindsay Hamilton, Senior Manager, Corporate Relations and Projects, Corporate Affairs, OPG, provided community updates for Pickering and Darlington NGS:

- Community engagement activities discussed such as the various March Break events
- Neighbors Newsletter distributed in March across homes and businesses in Durham Region
- Darlington NGS update: OPG presented and participated in part 1 of the CNSC hearing on their power reactor operating licence application renewal; part 2 of the hearing will be on June 24-26th at the Chestnut Hill Recreation Complex in Pickering; members of the public may submit interventions by the May 8th deadline; public information sessions and workshops are planned in May and June and will be advertised on social media and on the OPG website

6. Other Business

1) Dates for the remaining 2025 DNHC meetings are as follows:

- June 20, 2025, 1:00 pm
- September 26, 2025, 1:00 pm
- November 28, 2025, 1:00 pm

Meetings will continue to be held virtually via the TEAMS platform and available for the general public to observe via livestream at www.durham.video.

2) The revised [DNHC Terms of Reference](https://durham.ca/DNHC) has been posted on our webpage, durham.ca/DNHC

3) Reminders:

- All meeting presentations will be made available on the Regional Council and Committee Meetings Calendar. This can be navigated to via the “DNHC meetings, agendas, presentations and minutes” tab on our webpage durham.ca/dnhc. A video recording of meetings can also be viewed using the webstreaming link in the Regional calendar. The presentation files for this meeting will be made available approximately three weeks after this meeting.

7. Next Meeting

Date & Time

June 20, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Virtual via Teams

8. Adjournment

2:58 PM