



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, July 18, 2025

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

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There is no Miscellaneous Correspondence.

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There are no Advisory/Other Committee Minutes

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

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information: Written information (either paper or electronic) that you send to Durham Regional Council or Committees, including home address, phone numbers and email addresses, will become part of the public record. If you have any questions about the collection of information, please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services.



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner, Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-INFO-60
Date: July 18, 2025

Subject:

Innovation and Design Services Program Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Regional Council:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides Council with an update on the Innovation and Design Services program, highlighting key outcomes from 2024 and early 2025. It outlines how the service is advancing strategic priorities, enhancing innovation capacity, and accelerating the delivery of complex, cross-divisional projects.

2. Background

- 2.1 Launched in April 2024 by the Innovation team in the Office of the CAO, Innovation and Design Services is part of the Region's Innovation Strategy to build internal capacity for innovation.
- 2.2 The program was developed in response to a clear organizational need expressed by staff and leaders across departments. Many teams shared that advancing innovative ideas, especially those requiring cross-departmental input or new ways of working, can be difficult due to competing priorities, limited time, and the absence of structured internal supports to build alignment through collaborative solution development. As one staff member shared, "It sometimes feels like you're pitching an idea out of thin air... it gets kicked from one division to another, and there's no framework." A manager noted, "Staff want to engage in innovation, but they need more support to do so."
- 2.3 Innovation and Design Services responds to these challenges by providing practical tools and tailored facilitation that help teams move collaboratively from complex challenges to actionable solutions. The service draws on core methods such as Design Sprints, systems mapping, rapid prototyping, and user testing, supported by leading practices in facilitation, strategy design, foresight, evaluation, and agile project management.

- 2.4 The service supports a broad spectrum of innovation domains, including process, digital, service, policy, organizational, and social innovation. By providing a structured approach, Innovation and Design Services helps teams reduce risk, strengthen alignment, collaborate, and advance ideas across all areas of innovation.
- 2.5 Innovation and Design Services is currently delivered by a small core team comprising a 0.5 FTE manager and two policy advisors totaling 1.2 FTE. Despite its small size, the team delivers high-value support across the organization. Continued and growing interest in the service reflects its growing relevance and impact on departmental priorities.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 There are no previous reports and decisions.

4. Innovation and Design Services Program Impact and Highlights

Program Impact

- 4.1 Since its launch, Innovation and Design Services has supported a total of 30 strategic projects—some of which are ongoing and others completed—across areas such as health, transit, social services, data and analytics, housing, emergency preparedness, and corporate planning (Attachment #1).
- 4.2 Over 400 staff and external partners have been engaged in 34 innovation workshops. Using Design Sprint methodologies, teams move from early-stage problem identification to tested solution prototypes in a matter of days. These sessions integrate human-centred design, systems thinking, and tangible, results-focused facilitation to help teams align quickly and build confidence in their solutions.
- 4.3 The program delivers a strong return on investment (ROI) by offering in-house services that would otherwise require external consulting support at significantly higher cost. ROI estimates are calculated by comparing the internal delivery costs of Innovation and Design Services to average market rates for equivalent services—including facilitated design workshops, strategy development, and solution prototyping. In 2024, the program delivered an estimated \$261,000 in market value for \$89,000 in internal costs, yielding an ROI of 190%. In the first half of 2025, it delivered approximately \$404,000 in value for \$118,156 in costs, resulting in an ROI of 242%. This equates to \$2.90–\$3.42 in value generated for every \$1 invested.
- 4.4 The service accelerates progress on new initiatives that may otherwise stall or face significant delays due to challenges activating alignment across internal teams or external partners. As one team member noted, “We’d been working on this for three years—the Design Sprint helped us breakthrough in a week.” Others noted that their projects “would have taken months” or “wouldn’t have moved forward without the workshop.” As one participant shared, “We gained a lot of clarity in a short amount of time.”
- 4.5 Innovation and Design Services strengthens cross-departmental collaboration, with each project engaging an average of three or more divisions. The facilitated format

fosters shared ownership, builds trust, and enables more integrated, coordinated solutions, whether across departments or with external partners.

- 4.6 The program is also helping to foster a culture where innovation is seen as everyone's role—not just leaders or specialists. The program is also building internal leadership capacity. Among participants, 23% were formal leaders who used the workshops to role-model innovation, while 77% were frontline or specialist staff empowered to lead through the design process. Ninety-seven percent of participants felt included, reinforcing the program's commitment to inclusive innovation.
- 4.7 By providing in-house design and facilitation expertise, departments are avoiding costly consultant fees and accelerating progress on complex challenges. Teams report greater confidence in decision-making, supported by evidence-informed, risk-aware methods rooted in innovation, strategy, and evaluation best practices.

Program Highlights

- 4.8 Durham Region Transit (DRT) has partnered with Innovation and Design Services on a range of operational and strategic initiatives, including the advancement of Transit Advisory Committee priorities, talent growth initiatives, optimization in transit operations, and data analytics automation. The work aligns with the Region's strategic goals of improving public transit system performance, connectivity, and responsiveness.
- 4.9 Social Services has engaged the program to support several high-impact initiatives addressing complex social challenges. These include the development of the Emotional Model of Care in Long-Term Care, integration models for the Durham Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub, homelessness portfolio planning, and strategic work on the Durham Employment Advisory Network and Poverty Reduction Action Plan. These efforts advance the Region's Strategic Plan priorities by fostering coordinated, people-centered services and integrated, data-informed planning.
- 4.10 The Innovation team is currently delivering the Region's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Design-a-thon, supporting 12 cross-departmental teams to prototype AI-enabled solutions. Co-led with Finance and Corporate Services–Information Technology (IT), this initiative ensures alignment with governance, financial, and technology frameworks. Final pitches will be presented to a panel of judges on June 18–19, 2025.
- 4.11 To grow internal capacity, the program launched a mini secondment model, currently in its pilot phase with two active placements. These short-term secondments—approximately 50–60 hours of participant time—provide hands-on training in solution design and facilitation, enabling participants to co-lead Design Sprints. This approach extends internal service delivery while building sustainable innovation talent that departments can leverage long after the engagement ends.
- 4.12 A new Sparking Regional Innovation program is in development to incentivize and empower frontline staff to propose solutions that enhance service delivery and operational efficiency. Supported by seed funding and Innovation and Design

Services, this initiative will further embed a culture of bottom-up innovation across the organization.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

5.1 Innovation and Design Services align with/address the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

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

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Innovation and Design Services has become a valued and trusted internal partner—helping teams across departments accelerate timelines, improve collaboration, and deliver on strategic goals.
- 6.2 In its first year, the program has demonstrated measurable impact, strong uptake, and a high return on investment. Its structured, tangible, results-based approach has helped staff tackle complex challenges faster and more effectively. It is also contributing to a culture of innovation that empowers both leaders and frontline staff to lead change across the organization.
- 6.3 With growing demand and demonstrated success, the program is well-positioned for continued growth—supporting a more innovative, strategically-driven, and future-ready organization.

7. Attachments

Attachment #1: [Innovation and Design Services, List of Projects](#)

Attachment #2: [Innovation and Design Services, At-a-Glance Program Snapshot](#)

Prepared by: Emma McGarry Ware, Manager, Innovation

Approved by: Sandra Austin, Commissioner, Community Growth and Economic Development

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by

Elaine C Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment #1: Projects Supported Since Program Launch in April 2024

The list below includes a selection of innovation projects supported through the Innovation and Design Services program. Some initiatives are not listed due to their sensitive or internal nature. Projects are grouped by theme and include the lead department requesting support.

Social Services and Community Well-Being

- Emotional Model of Care Guiding Principles (Social Services)
- HART (Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment) Hubs Service Integration (Social Services)
- Homelessness Supports – Planning Days and Portfolio Planning (Social Services)
- Durham Employment Advisory Network (Social Services)
- Poverty Reduction Action Plan – Partnership Engagement Strategies (Social Services)
- Durham Child and Youth Advocacy Centre Strategy (Social Services)

Transit and Transportation

- Transit Advisory Committee Priorities (Durham Region Transit)
- Talent Growth (Durham Region Transit)
- Optimization in Transit Operations (Durham Region Transit)

Corporate Innovation and Planning

- Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE) Conflict of Interest Process (Office of the CAO)
- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (Office of the CAO)
- Data and Analytics Strategy (Corporate Services)
- Interdepartmental Planning Working Group Refresh (Community Growth and Economic Development)

AI Design-a-thon Projects

(Led in partnership with Finance, Corporate Services–IT, and the Office of the CAO)

- Streamlining Job Descriptions and Evaluation (Corporate Services – HR)
- FIMS Information Request Automation (Finance)
- Financial Reporting Automation (Finance)
- myDurham Water Customer Support Automation (Finance)
- Grant Discovery Acceleration (Finance / Office of the CAO)
- Digital Twins for Emergency Preparedness (Office of the CAO)
- Housing Regulation Navigation (Social Services)
- Social Services Data Synthesis and Storytelling (Social Services)
- Enhanced EMS Chart Audit Process (Health)
- Transit Data Processing Optimization (Durham Region Transit)
- Waste Transfer and Sorting Automation (Works)
- Rust Prediction in Water Infrastructure (Works)

Attachment #2: Innovation and Design Services – Program Snapshot (April 2024 – June 2025)

This snapshot highlights the reach, impact, and capacity-building efforts of Innovation and Design Services during its first year—demonstrating how the program is supporting strategic priorities across the organization.

Core Services

- Facilitated Design Sprints and Strategy Workshops
- Innovation Process Design and Mapping
- Prototyping and User Research / Testing
- Cross-functional Collaboration Support
- Capacity Building through Coaching and Training

Key Program Metrics

- Projects Supported: 30
- Staff / External Partners Engaged: 400+
- Workshops Delivered: 34
- Divisions Engaged Per Project: 3+ (average)
- Participant Inclusion Rating: 97%
- Return on Investment (ROI): 190% - 242%

Notable Outcomes

- Helped resolve a 3-year stalled project in one week
- All Design Sprint participants agreed the process added value
- Teams reported months of time saved on complex initiatives

Strategic Areas Supported

- Transit modernization and workforce planning
- Housing and homelessness service design
- Data and analytics strategy development
- AI and data innovation
- Streamlining financial processes
- Accessibility and equity planning
- Environmental infrastructure optimization

Building Capacity for Innovation

- Mini secondments for in-house facilitation training
- AI Design-a-thon engaging 12 teams, 100+ staff
- Sparking Regional Innovation Program for frontline-led ideas



**The Regional
Municipality
of Durham**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Street Address
605 Rossland Rd. E.
Whitby ON
Canada

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 730
Whitby ON
Canada L1N 0B2


Tel: 905-668-7711
Fax: 905-666-6214
1-800-841-2729

durham.ca

**An Accredited
Public Health Agency**

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durhamregionhealth

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durhamhealth

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 14, 2025 11:21 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

July 10, 2025

Mr. Alexander Harras
Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
The Regional Municipality of Durham
P.O. Box 623
605 Rossland Road East
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3

Dear Mr. Harras:

Pursuant to Section 72 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, I am submitting the attached notice regarding funding for public health programs and services to the Corporation of the Regional Municipality of Durham.

I would appreciate it if you could bring this notice to the attention of the Regional Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Robert Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

cc Nancy Taylor, Commissioner of Finance

**NOTICE TO THE
CORPORATION OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM**


RE: *FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES*

Pursuant to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA), the Corporation of the Regional Municipality of Durham is hereby given notice by the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Durham pursuant to the Council's duties under the HPPA as the Board of Health for the Durham Regional Health Unit, that the estimated Regional funding required for the 2025 fiscal year is \$29,502,191. The corresponding annualized Regional funding is estimated to be \$29,668,191. This funding is required to enable Council to fulfill its obligations under the HPPA including to provide or ensure the provision of public health programs and services and to otherwise comply with the HPPA and the regulations.

The Corporation of the Regional Municipality of Durham is further given notice that it is obligated to ensure that this funding is made available to the Council to fulfill its duties under the HPPA throughout the course of the 2025 fiscal year.

July 11, 2025

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

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 14, 2025 8:55 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



Come for a visit. Stay for a lifestyle.

Re: Correspondence dated May 1, 2025, from the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: Strong Mayor Powers.

At its meeting of July 8, 2025, council considered the Correspondence dated May 1, 2025, from the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: Strong Mayor Powers and passed the following motion.

Motion No. THC-250708-12

Moved by Deputy Mayor Michael Metcalf
Seconded by Councillor Rob Pope

Whereas the Province of Ontario initially introduced Strong Mayor Powers in 2022 with the stated intent of expediting housing development across municipalities; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario arbitrarily expanded the Strong Mayor Powers legislation to include an additional 169 municipalities, including the Municipality of Trent Hills, in May 2025; and

Whereas municipalities across Ontario have demonstrated a commitment to addressing the housing crisis through local planning approvals and community-led solutions; and

Whereas Strong Mayor Powers fundamentally alter local democratic governance by concentrating decision-making authority in a single individual, thereby weakening the role of elected Councils and disrupting the principles of collaboration and shared leadership; and

Whereas these powers may create uncertainty within municipal organizations, negatively affect staff morale, and risk undermining the trust that is fundamental to effective and transparent municipal governance; and

Whereas there are currently no provincial checks and balances or independent oversight mechanisms in place to ensure Strong Mayor Powers are being used appropriately and as intended, and the legislation itself has been described by some as "open to interpretation," creating a fundamental flaw in the responsible application of these potentially dangerous powers; and

Whereas the primary barriers to housing construction are not rooted in municipal decision-making processes, but in broader market conditions, infrastructure constraints, and the lack of effective provincial and federal policy supports to stimulate affordable and attainable housing development;

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Trent Hills formally request the Province of Ontario to rescind the Strong Mayor Powers legislation in its entirety; and

That should the legislation not be repealed, that the Province immediately remove the Municipality of Trent Hills from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor Powers framework; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
- All Ontario municipalities for their information and support

Carried.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipality.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Crate', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Crate
Mayor

cc: The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
All Ontario municipalities for their information and support



PORT COLBORNE

Legislative Services

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • www.portcolborne.ca

T 905.228.8031 F 905.834.5746

E charlotte.madden@portcolborne.ca

July 10, 2025

Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Toronto, ON M7A 1A5


Email: peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy

Minister of Finance

7 Queen's Park Cres.

Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 10, 2025 12:22 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Dear Honourable Doug Ford and Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy:

Re: City of Port Colborne Supports the City of Pickering regarding Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Please be advised that, at its meeting of July 8, 2025 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne supported the resolution received from the City of Pickering regarding Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

The City of Pickering resolution is attached for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Madden

City Clerk

ec: Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Raymond Sung Joon Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility
Niagara Region MPPs, Jeff Burch, Wayne Gates, Sam Oosterhoff, Jennifer Stevens
Christine Clark Lafleur, Executive Director, Port Cares
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
The Association of Municipalities (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

Sent by Email

June 6, 2025

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
MPP Pickering-Uxbridge
1550 Kingston Rd., Suite 213
Pickering, ON L1V 1C3
peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Subject: Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on May 26, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS individuals and families receiving income support through Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) are facing increasing challenges in meeting basic needs due to rising costs of living;

And Whereas Statistics Canada notes that people with disabilities have a higher poverty rate and a lower rate of employment than the overall population;

And Whereas the annual income support for Ontario Works is currently \$8,796.00 and \$16,416.00 for Ontario Disability Support Program. These supports have not increased sufficiently to keep up with inflation and the cost of living. Such costs are anticipated to continue increasing;

And Whereas the low income measure for a single person in Greater Toronto Area is estimated to be approximately \$27,343 annually, and the deep income poverty threshold is determined to be \$20,508;

And Whereas Food Banks, including our local Food Banks, provide a necessary service with increasing demands in our communities;

And Whereas the Pickering Food Bank served 1,722 adults, and 1,054 children in February 2025;

And Whereas food banks are already reducing their distribution capacity; and it is anticipated that due to developing economic circumstances, such as the current tariff war, there will be increased unemployment, increased food prices, and a heightened demand for food distribution, while donations continue to decline;

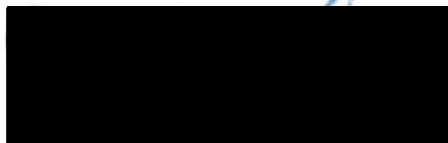
And Whereas these economic trends will continue to erode the purchasing power of OW and ODSP recipients, increasing reliance on food banks and placing additional pressure on municipalities and community organizations;

Now therefore it be resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering directs through the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. That staff send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, to strongly urge that the Ontario Provincial Government significantly raise the payments of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program and the increases be reflected in the upcoming Provincial Budget and that the increased amount aligns with inflationary costs and thereby decrease the pressure on food banks and the reliance on municipalities and taxpayers to supplement the gap in financial need; and,
2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Regional Municipality of Durham, all Municipalities in the Province of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

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

Yours truly



Susan Cassel
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy: Robert Cerjanec, MPP Ajax
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby
Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa
Todd McCarthy, MPP Durham
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock
Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, Region of Durham
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

All Ontario Municipalities

Chief Administrative Officer



Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 14, 2025 9:17 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

The Corporation of the Town of Aylmer
46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 1J7
Office: 519-773-3164 Fax: 519-765-1446
www.aylmer.ca

July 10, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Re: Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

At their Regular Meeting of Council on July 9, 2025, the Council of the Town of Aylmer passed the below resolution:

WHEREAS the Town of Aylmer recognizes the selfless service and enduring sacrifices made by Canadian Armed Forces veterans in the defence of our country and values;

WHEREAS the 2021 Census, conducted by Statistics Canada, identified more than 460,000 veterans residing across Canada, a significant population segment deserving of comprehensive, accessible, and modernized federal support;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) currently administers income support programs to assist veterans in need, including the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program;

WHEREAS the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program which was created in 2019 – set at \$20,000 annually for a single-person household – fails to reflect today's economic reality, particularly in light of inflation, soaring housing costs, and the general increase in cost of living;

WHEREAS such low eligibility thresholds may disincentivize employment and community participation by penalizing veterans for earning beyond an outdated benchmark, thereby discouraging reintegration and contribution to civic life;

WHEREAS it is the duty of all levels of government to stand in unified support of our veterans and to advocate for policy changes that enable them to live with dignity and financial stability;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the Town of Aylmer formally calls on the Government of Canada and all federal parties to increase the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program from \$20,000 to no less than \$40,000 annually for a single-person household; and

THAT Council urges Veterans Affairs Canada to review all income support programs with the intent to modernize eligibility criteria in line with the current cost of living across Canada;

THAT this motion be formally endorsed and sent to:

- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
- The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs;
- The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition;

- Andrew Lawton, Member of Parliament for Elgin-St. Thomas-London South;
- All 444 municipalities across the Province of Ontario;
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for broader distribution and endorsement; and,

Regards,

Owen Jaggard
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
519-773-3164 ext. 4913
ojaggard@town.aylmer.on.ca

CC: The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs
Honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting leader of the Official Opposition
Andrew Lawton, MP Elgin-St. Thomas-London South
All Ontario Municipalities
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



The Corporation of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand

PO Box 70, 10836 County Road 2, Grafton, ON K0K 2G0

905-349-2822 | info@ahwp.ca | www.ahwp.ca

Mr. Alexander Harras, Director of Legislative Services / Regional Clerk

The Regional Municipality of Durham

605 Rossland Rd. E


Level 1

PO Box 623

Whitby, ON L1N 6A3

July 10, 2025

Re: Banning of Nazi Swastika in Canada

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 11, 2025 10:58 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Dear Mr. Harras,

At its May 13, 2025 meeting, the Council of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand passed the following resolution in support of Durham Region's correspondence to Minister Virani regarding the Banning of Nazi Swastika in Canada (enclosed):

RES:20250513-28

Moved by Deputy Mayor Joan Stover, seconded by Councillor Mike Ainsworth

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand enacts as follows:

That the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand supports Durham Region's request to call on the Canadian government to ban the public display of Nazi symbols of hate and iconography.

CARRIED.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,



Emily Cartlidge, CMO, AOMC
Municipal Clerk





**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

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

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

durham.ca

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

March 27, 2025

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

Dear Minister Virani:

RE: Motion to amend prior motion presented to Regional Council on February 26, 2025, re: Banning the Nazi Swastika in Canada, to remove references to "Swastika" from the motion and replace them with "Nazi symbols of hate", Our File: C00

As a follow-up to our previous correspondence sent on February 28, 2025, please be advised that the Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on March 26, 2025, adopted the following recommendations of the Finance & Administration Committee:

- A) That subject to a 2/3rds majority vote, the resolution with respect to Banning the Nazi Swastika in Canada, adopted at the February 26, 2025 Regional Council meeting, be reconsidered; and
- B) That subject to Part A) being approved, that the resolution be amended to replace all references to Nazi swastika(s) with the words "Nazi symbols of hate", and make any necessary associated grammatical revisions.

For your reference, the resolution now reads as follows:

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

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

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

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

1. Ban the Nazi hakenkreuze
2. Ban all Nazi symbols of hate and iconography

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

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

Alexander Harras

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

c: B'nai Brith Canada
All Canadian Municipalities

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 16, 2025 3:43 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Good morning,

At their regular Council meeting held on July 14, 2025, the Council for the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan passed the following resolution:

R191-2025

Moved by Councillor Terry Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Mark Allen

WHEREAS Bill C-2 proposes to amend the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act by adding section 77.5 (1), making it a criminal offense for any business, profession, or charitable entity to accept cash payments, donations, or deposits of \$10,000 or more in a single transaction or related transactions, regardless of their lawful nature;

WHEREAS this blanket ban criminalizes legitimate business transactions using legal tender, punishing businesses and law-abiding citizens solely for choosing to use cash, a fundamental right in Canada;

WHEREAS small businesses, charities, and individuals in Otonabee-South Monaghan and across Canada, including farmers, car dealers, and community organizations, rely on cash for lawful high-value transactions, and this restriction will impose unnecessary hardship, stifle economic activity, and deter charitable giving;

WHEREAS the \$10,000 threshold is arbitrarily low, capturing routine legal transactions while creating compliance burdens that disproportionately harm small businesses, rural communities, and those without digital banking access;

WHEREAS municipalities must stand up for the economic freedom and financial inclusion of their residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Otonabee-South Monaghan:

- Condemns Bill C-2, section 77.5, as an unacceptable overreach that criminalizes lawful cash transactions and undermines the use of Canadians' right to use legal tender;
- Demands the federal government to withdraw this amendment and engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, businesses, and charities to develop targeted anti-crime policies that do not penalize legitimate cash transactions;
- Instructs the Municipal Clerk to send this resolution to all Canadian municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Ontario Municipal Association, the Minister of Finance, Emma Harrison, our local MP, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and First Nations, calling for unified opposition;
- Urges other municipalities to pass similar resolutions to protect the rights of their residents and businesses

CARRIED.

Sincerely,

Liz Ross, Deputy Clerk

Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan