



## The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, July 25, 2025

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

---

	<b>Pages</b>
1. Information Reports	
1.1 2025-INFO-61 Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health	4
• From Loneliness to Social Connection	
1.2 2025-INFO-62 Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health	9
• Program Reports	
1.3 2025-INFO-63 Commissioner of Community Growth& Economic Development	44
• 2025 Annual Climate Change Progress Report	
2. Confidential Reports Authorized for Release	
There are no Confidential Reports.	
3. Staff Correspondence	
3.1 Memorandum from Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health	64
• Health Information Update – July 20, 2025	
4. Durham Municipalities Correspondence	
There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence.	
5. Other Municipalities Correspondence/Resolutions	

5.1	Municipality of South Huron	67
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on May 5, 2025, in opposition of the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers</li> </ul>	
5.2	Municipality of South Huron	69
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on June 16, 2025, in support of the resolution by the Township of Black-River Matheson regarding Firefighter Certification Requirements</li> </ul>	
5.3	Township of Puslinch	75
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on July 9, 2025, in support of the resolution from Northumberland County regarding Procurement and Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions</li> </ul>	
5.4	Municipality of Huron Shores	83
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on July 9, 2025, in opposition to Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements</li> </ul>	
5.5	Municipality of South Huron	85
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on July 14, 2025, in support of the resolution from the Municipality of Tweed regarding producer responsibility for Blue Boxes</li> </ul>	
5.6	Town of Orangeville	88
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on July 14, 2025, in support of the H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) Elect Respect Campaign</li> </ul>	
5.7	Village of Burk's Falls	90
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on July 15, 2025, in opposition to the proposed installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility</li> </ul>	
5.8	Town of Aurora	92
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution passed at their Special Council meeting held on July 15, 2025, in opposition to provisions in Bill 5, Protecting Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025</li> </ul>	

- Resolution passed at their Special Council meeting held on July 15, 2025, in opposition to provisions in Bill 17, Protect Ontario By Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025

## 6. Miscellaneous Correspondence

### 6.1 Durham Regional Police Services Board (DRPSB)

- Public Agenda – Wednesday, July 30, 2025

## 7. Advisory / Other Committee Minutes

### 7.1 Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce (DRART) minutes

100

- June 26, 2025

Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at [clerks@durham.ca](mailto: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.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3111



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

---

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health  
Report: #2025-INFO-61  
Date: July 25, 2025

---

## **Subject:**

From Loneliness to Social Connection

---

## **Recommendation:**

Receive for information

---

## **Report:**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an update on a report entitled [From Loneliness to Social Connection](#), released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on June 30, 2025.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 WHO is a United Nations agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health and respond to public health emergencies so everyone can attain the highest level of health.
- 2.2 This report was written by WHO's Commission on Social Connection (2024 to 2026). The Commission's aim is that relevant organizations and funders recognise and resource loneliness and social isolation as global public health priorities. WHO released this report to make a case for action against social isolation and loneliness, raise the visibility of the topic, and build momentum towards implementing solutions and measuring progress.
- 2.3 Social health is a vital but often overlooked pillar of health, alongside physical and mental health. Social connection is about the many ways we relate to and interact with others. It includes family, friends, classmates, coworkers, and neighbours. Social connection can reduce the risk of disease, lengthen life expectancy and strengthen the fabric of communities and society.
- 2.4 The WHO report describes social isolation and loneliness as follows:

- a. Social isolation is the objective state of having few roles, relationships and social interactions with others.
- b. Loneliness is a negative, subjective emotional state resulting from a discrepancy between one's desired and actual experience of connection.
  - It is important to recognize these two terms as unique, as someone who experiences social isolation may not experience loneliness. Each concept/issue will require its own interventions and solutions.

### 3. Key Findings

#### The Issue

- 3.1 Data from 2014 to 2023 show that loneliness affects nearly one in six people globally and causes about 871,000 deaths annually. WHO estimates that this has probably been the case for years, but the COVID-19 pandemic and growing concern about digital technology brought more attention to the issue.
- 3.2 Loneliness is widespread, impacting people in all regions and all age groups. However, those with the highest burden of loneliness include adolescents and young adults (approximately 21 per cent and 17 per cent respectively), and people in low-income countries (approximately 24 per cent).
- 3.3 Social isolation estimates show that 25 to 34 per cent of older people (1990 to 2022 data) and 27 per cent of adolescents (2003 to 2018 data) are socially isolated.
- 3.4 Groups of people that are marginalized are more likely to experience loneliness or social isolation. This includes people with disabilities, refugees and migrants, Indigenous Peoples, ethnic minorities, and individuals that are Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or sometimes questioning), intersex, asexual, and others.
- 3.5 Risk factors for social isolation or loneliness include poor physical or mental health, less education, living with low income, certain personality traits (e.g., neuroticism), being without a partner/unmarried, living alone, and poor access to transportation.
- 3.6 Currently, what we know about the impact of digital technology on social isolation and loneliness is limited, and the benefits and consequences depend on various factors. One thing that experts agree on, however, is that we should be concerned about how digital technology affects young people's mental health.
- 3.7 The consequences of loneliness and social isolation are severe and underrecognized, impacting mortality, physical health (e.g., cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes), mental health (e.g., depression and anxiety), well-being, education, the economy, and wider society.
- 3.8 The economic cost of social isolation and loneliness is felt by individuals, employers, and the healthcare system.

## Solutions

3.9 WHO performed background research to learn about solutions to reduce loneliness and social isolation that were being implemented globally. The following solutions emerged from the research:

- a. Advocacy, communication campaigns, and networks and coalitions to coordinate activities and advocate for solutions.
- b. Policies to influence social connection have been implemented which focused on public awareness campaigns, reducing stigma and shame, funding more research, and involving people with lived experience in policy development.
- c. Community strategies (e.g., creating safe, equitable, and inclusive community spaces and services to promote socialization, investing in community events and group activities, and social prescribing).
- d. Individual and relationship strategies (e.g., skills training, social engagement facilitation, therapy and psychological support).

## The Way Forward

3.10 WHO proposes five strategic areas to address social isolation and loneliness. Each strategic area is supported by three actions, which are described below.

- a. Policy
  - Governments should develop, adopt, fund, implement, and monitor a national policy, strategy, or framework to promote social connection involving all sectors.
  - Leaders from governments, the WHO, the United Nations, schools, universities, and non-profits should come together often to talk, share ideas, and lead the way on promoting social connection.
  - WHO should build a shared online platform in partnership with others so that policymakers around the world can share and learn from policies that are helping to improve social connection.
- b. Research
  - Global and national research capacity should be built to improve understanding of social connection/disconnection and find better solutions.
  - Identify and fund research priorities.
  - Launch a Grand Challenge initiative focused on generating social connection ideas to foster innovation and teamwork across sectors.
- c. Interventions
  - WHO should create clear, science-based guidance on what works to promote social connection.

- Launch an intervention accelerator to test and develop cost-effective interventions that work in countries regardless of their income-level.
- Countries should be supported to put proven interventions into action and scale them up.

d. Measurement and data

- Governments should collect better data to track social connection, social isolation, and loneliness.
- A global “social connection index” should be created to measure how connected people feel on a global scale.
- A ten-year effort should begin to collect this data on a regular basis to better understand patterns and to support decision-making.

e. Engagement

- Social connection should be a top priority in politics and policy.
- Large public campaigns should be run in countries to raise awareness using a unified global message.
- A lasting movement should be built by working across sectors and securing ongoing funding.

#### **4. Local Initiatives**

- 4.1 DRHD provides mental health resources and supports, including information on connection, available at [durham.ca](https://durham.ca).
- 4.2 Data and local trends related to mental health are available on DRHD’s [Health Stats](#) webpage.
- 4.3 Public health nurses play a vital role in promoting positive mental health, resiliency, and social connection among school-aged children by collaborating with school communities to deliver health education and making connections to community partners for supportive services.

#### **5. Previous Reports and Decisions**

- 5.1 Report [2024-INFO-84](#) provided an update on the report: [The State of Mental Health in Canada, 2024](#).
- 5.2 Report [2025-INFO-44](#) provided an update on the report: [Child and Youth Mental Health](#).

#### **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. Connected and Vibrant Communities

- C6. Continue to revitalize and transform downtowns into hubs of economic, social, and cultural connection.
- C7. Create accessible, lively, and culturally welcoming spaces, including opportunities to access nature.

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 coordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty reduction, 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.

## 7. Conclusion

7.1 Social disconnection is an issue that impacts everyone and can occur at any point across a person's lifespan.

7.2 The issue of social disconnection has received growing attention following the COVID-19 pandemic, and there is need for multi-sectoral approaches and investments to reduce loneliness and social isolation and to promote social connection.

7.3 WHO believes that if the actions recommended in their report are put into practice, mental and physical health would be improved, lives would be saved, social disconnection would be reduced, and societies would be happier, more fulfilled, and more productive.

Respectfully submitted,



---

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-62  
Date: July 25, 2025

---

**Subject:**

Program Reports

---

**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

---

**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an update on Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) programs and services for the period April – June 2025.

**2. Highlights**

- 2.1 DRHD reports for April – June 2025 include the following key highlights:
- a. Health Analytics, Research & Policy – Health Analytics Information Products and Health Policy & Equity updates;
  - b. Health Protection – Emergency Management, Food Safety, Healthy Environments, Part 8 Ontario *Building Code* (Sewage Systems) and Safe Water updates;
  - c. Healthy Families – Durham Health Connection Line, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Healthy Families and Infant & Child Development updates;
  - d. Healthy Living – Healthy Living, Oral Health and *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* updates;
  - e. Infectious Diseases – Immunization and Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control updates; and

- f. Paramedic Services – Community Paramedicine, Logistics, Operations and Quality & Development updates.
- 2.2 Boards of health are required to “superintend, provide or ensure the provision of the health programs and services required by the [Health Protection and Promotion] Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board” (section 4, clause a, HPPA). In addition, medical officers of health are required to “[report] directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act” (sub-section 67.(1), HPPA). Accordingly, Program Reports are a component of DRHD’s ‘Accountability Framework’, which also may include Health Information Updates, Health Plans, Quality Enhancement Plans, Durham Health Check-Ups, business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

### **3. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 3.1 This report 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 investment 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.

b. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

- E2. Collaborate with partners on the low-carbon transition to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions across Durham Region.
- E3. Prepare for and respond to severe weather impacts.
- E5. Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands.

c. Strong Relationships

- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.
- S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

3.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundations 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.

#### **4. Conclusion**

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

#### **5. Attachment**

Program Reports for the period April – June 2025

Respectfully submitted,



---

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

## ABBREVIATIONS

- AIDS – Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- AP – Automatic Prohibition
- CCC – Child Care Centres
- CLB – Canada Learning Bond
- CLS – Congregate Living Setting
- CPE – Carbapenemase-producing Enterbacteriaceae
- DCDSB – Durham Catholic District School Board
- DDSB – Durham District School Board
- DHCL – Durham Health Connection Line
- DoPHS – Diseases of Public Health Significance
- DPZ – Detailed Planning Zone
- DRHD – Durham Region Health Department
- DRSSD – Durham Region Social Services Department
- DYHG – Durham Youth Health Group
- HSSC – Health & Social Services Committee
- HCP – Healthcare Providers
- HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HOC – Health Operations Center
- HPD – Health Protection Division
- HPV9 – Human Papillomavirus 9
- HSO – Healthy Smiles Ontario
- ICD – Infant & Child Development
- iGAS – Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infection
- IPAC – Infection Prevention & Control
- ISPA – [\*Immunization of School Pupils Act\*](#)
- KI – Potassium Iodide
- LH – Lakeridge Health

- LTCH – Long-Term Care Homes
- MOH – Ontario Ministry of Health
- MPDS – Medical Priority Dispatch System
- MSIFN – Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- OAGO – Office of the Auditor General of Ontario
- OHD – Oral Health Division
- OPG – Ontario Power Generation
- OPHS – *Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability*
- OSDCP – Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program
- PCOP – Primary Care Outreach Program
- PHI – Public Health Inspectors
- PHN – Public Health Nurses
- PHU – Public Health Units
- PRP – Poverty Response Program
- PSS – Personal Service Settings
- RDPS – Region of Durham Paramedic Services
- RH – Retirement Homes
- SFOA – [Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017](#)
- SIN – Social Insurance Numbers
- TB – Tuberculosis
- TEO – Tobacco Enforcement Officers
- WNV – West Nile virus



## Health Analytics, Research & Policy

Report for April – June 2025

### Health Analytics Information Products

Results from the 2022 to 2024 Client Experience Survey were released in May, supporting all DRHD programs and services. The Client Experience Survey was launched in late 2022, with ongoing collection of client feedback.

Key findings include:

- **Nine in 10** clients are satisfied with their overall experience with DRHD services.
- Clients are very likely to recommend DRHD services with an average score of **8.9** out of **10**.
- Most (**98 per cent**) clients were satisfied with environmental factors: giving top ratings for cleanliness, culturally inclusive and safe spaces, as well as infection prevention.
- Most (**95 per cent**) were satisfied with the provider-client interaction, reporting that staff communicated clearly or used a translator when needed, maintained privacy, and interacted respectfully and inclusively.
- Most (**93 per cent**) were satisfied with their service delivery, with appreciation for the well-organized services, appropriate referrals and that staff communicated in the client's preferred way.
- Suggestions from clients include: improving online registration, appointment access, and outreach through media.

Survey highlights are available in an [infographic](https://durham.ca/YourExperience) published on the survey home page at [durham.ca/YourExperience](https://durham.ca/YourExperience).

### Infectious Diseases Infographic Updates

**Six** infectious disease infographics were updated with the most recent data. These infographics summarize disease trends and case characteristics among Durham Region residents, and are often used as a quick summary resource for HCP and other community partners. Recent trends on the following topics are summarized below:

- [Hepatitis C](#): Tattoo or body-piercing and injection drug use are the two most common risk factors reported by hepatitis C cases.
- [HIV and AIDS](#): There were almost **five times** more HIV cases in 2024 (**59**) than in 2020 (**12**), higher than pre-pandemic levels.
- [iGAS](#): The number of iGAS cases reported in 2023 (**107**) was the highest number ever reported in a single year.
- [Invasive Pneumococcal Disease](#): The two most common risk factors were underlying medical conditions and being unimmunized or partially immunized.
- [Lyme disease](#): There were **three times** more cases of Lyme disease in 2024 (**153**) than in 2020 (**53**).
- [TB](#): Active TB disease can be treated and cured with appropriate antibiotics. All active TB cases in Durham Region started treatment, and the majority completed treatment successfully.

## Health Policy & Equity

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

Durham Region has begun the work to develop a PRP and this work is being led collaboratively by DRHD and DRSSD. On May 21, DRHD and DRSSD hosted a Poverty Response Community Workshop at the Ajax Community Centre. Developing a PRP must be done in partnership with community, working together with community leaders, service providers and people with lived experience of poverty. Community partners were invited to join the community workshop to discuss poverty in Durham Region, learn from each other and work towards developing actionable solutions. Approximately **90** people attended the workshop, representing community partners from a variety of different sectors and people with lived experience of poverty. Discussions focused on how to address some of the areas that impact those living with poverty the most (e.g., housing, income, access to technology, mental health and addictions, transportation, service navigation, and food insecurity). The information, advice, guidance, and recommendations that were gathered during the workshop are currently being compiled into a “what we heard” report. This report will help inform next steps and will be shared broadly. There will be ongoing opportunities for community partners to be engaged in the process and the work going forward.

The Health Policy & Equity team works with DRSSD to plan and host virtual learning sessions throughout the year to build staff capacity and improve access for staff to resources that address the social determinants of health. A virtual learning session on the topic of fraud prevention was presented by Durham Regional Police Service. The

session was attended by **87** staff members across DRHD and DRSSD. On June 23, a virtual learning session about supports for seniors was presented by staff of Brock Community Health Centre and the Durham Elder Abuse Network as well as Older Adult Safety Advisors with Durham Region. The session was attended by **122** staff members. Virtual learning sessions have been well attended and continue to be planned throughout the year.

The team also hosted **eight** Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hub events in collaboration with DRSSD to facilitate CLB sign up and access to identification. The events occurred in April and May at the following locations: Ajax, Beaverton, Bowmanville, Brooklin, Oshawa, Pickering, Uxbridge, and Whitby.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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





# Health Protection

Report for April – June 2025

## Emergency Management

DRHD, in collaboration with Durham Emergency Management, continues to plan with other departments for OPG's nuclear exercise ExUCom 2025, which is planned for October 22 and 23. DRHD's objectives for the exercise include testing the capabilities of the HOC, enabling HOC members to practice their roles and responsibilities in the Incident Management System, and assessing interoperability and communications with other Durham Region departments and organizations, as well as external communications with partners.

## Potassium Iodide Tablet Program

DRHD launched its second and largest 2025 KI campaign during Emergency Preparedness Week on May 5. Staff leveraged a variety of platforms, including radio, social media, dedicated webpages, and out-of-home advertising at Durham Region Transit stations, GO stations, and local shopping malls. The May Medical Officer of Health message was "[Prepare to be safe during Emergency Preparedness Week](#)" and included messages regarding the availability of KI pills as a precautionary measure in the event of a nuclear emergency. The awareness campaign concluded on June 5, achieving over **46,000** impressions through social media. To date, the 2025 social media campaign has reached more than **129,000** impressions, with the September campaign still to come. Additionally, DRHD's Spotify advertisement generated over **80,000** impressions.

The KI program was highlighted at Ajax's Sustainability Home Expo on April 4, providing a valuable opportunity to connect directly with residents living near the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station. "Did You Know?" informational pamphlets were distributed to raise awareness about the importance of keeping KI tablets readily accessible at home in the event of a nuclear emergency.

On April 30, the KI program was highlighted at OPG's Realtor Event, held at its Welcome Centre. This presentation targeted local real estate professionals, informing them about the availability of KI tablets for new residents in Durham Region. It also

highlighted DRHD's triannual awareness campaigns. The objective was to equip realtors with the knowledge needed to inform prospective homeowners about this important public safety measure.

DRHD began preliminary discussions with OPG and Toronto Emergency Management in anticipation of next year's KI tablet replacement initiative. This effort is being undertaken in preparation for the expiration of the currently pre-distributed KI tablets within the 10-kilometre DPZ in 2027. The DPZ encompasses a 10-kilometre radius surrounding the two nuclear generating stations in Durham Region.

DRHD continues to pre-distribute KI tablets to institutions (LTCH, hospitals, schools, CCC, and youth detention centres) and to first responders located within the DPZ. Anyone living or working within 50 kilometers of Pickering or Darlington Nuclear Generating Stations can order their free supply of KI tablets from [preparetobesafe.ca](https://preparetobesafe.ca).

## Food Safety

Staff has been working diligently on completing food safety inspections, as mandated by the [Food Safety Protocol, 2019](#). From April 1 to June 30, staff completed **505** high-risk inspections, **655** moderate-risk inspections, and **440** low-risk inspections. PHI also completed **212** re-inspections, and **55** inspections/re-inspections generated by a complaint. The team completed **100 per cent** of required moderate-risk inspections in this round and are on track for completing inspections of all high-risk premises by the end of August.

Food Safety staff also processed **302** special event and farmers' market vendor applications and **135** special event and farmers' market co-ordinator applications (a growth of **six per cent** over last year, which already was a new benchmark for the program). The program is on track to review the largest number of applications to date. Using a risk assessment tool and updated special event procedure, staff inspected **12** special events and farmer's markets that were deemed higher risk. Food safety continued to be a popular topic on the DHCL, accounting for over **one-third** of the **1,803** calls received. DHCL also experienced a **10 per cent** growth year-over-year from 2024 during this same quarter.

In April, the Food Safety program filmed a new video highlighting best practices for special events, including application tips, helpful tricks, and the essential elements of a successful event. To enhance authenticity and reflect local character, staff captured additional footage, photos and short videos at inspected events. The final version is currently undergoing post-production editing and will be available soon.

## Healthy Environments

### Check&Go! Public Health Disclosure Portal

The [Check&GO! Durham](#) disclosure portal has been redesigned to improve user experience and accessibility. The portal provides up-to-date, online access to health inspection results, confirmed IPAC lapses, legal activity, and complaints related to inspected facilities. The updated platform introduces an improved landing page featuring a streamlined and visually engaging design. Enhanced organizational controls allow for greater flexibility in customizing page layouts, visual elements, and display settings for public users. Advanced search, filter, and sort capabilities facilitate efficient navigation and management of inspection information. Furthermore, the portal now enables the public to submit complaints or inquiries directly via the [Check&GO! Durham](#) disclosure page. These improvements serve to assist Durham Region residents in making informed decisions and protecting their health.

### Climate Change and Health

As part of the mandate under the OPHS to conduct health vulnerability assessments related to climate change, DRHD has released the fourth report in a special series on [Climate Change and Health in Durham Region](#). The latest report, [Assessing the Impact of Vector-borne Disease](#), examines current and projected local health impacts of vector-borne diseases, with a particular focus on health equity and priority populations. It was promoted through a news release, social media, relevant listservs, and a presentation to the HSSC.

Staff also delivered **two** climate change and health presentations: one was to share information about the DRHD report, [Assessment of the Impact of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation](#) to the Durham Region Natural Environments and Climate Change Collaborative in April, and the second was about the effects of extreme heat, presented to the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee in June. Staff is honoured to be invited to present each completed report in the series, reinforcing DRHD's commitment to transparent and impactful communication with municipal stakeholders.

The next vulnerability assessment, which focuses on air quality, is currently under review by the MSIFN and is expected to be released in the fall.

### Heat Warning & Information System

To mark the start of the heat season, HPD hosted its annual Summer Readiness Forum for community partners. The event included an overview of the Heat Warning & Information System and other related alert protocols. During the event, staff also presented key findings from DRHD's vulnerability assessment on solar ultraviolet radiation and its health impacts in Durham Region. A panel discussion followed, featuring representatives from the Town of Ajax, DDSB, and the PCOP, who shared

experiences and lessons learned in supporting at-risk populations during periods of extreme heat.

From May 15 to September 30, DRHD, in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada issues heat warnings when forecasted temperatures are expected to reach 31 degrees Celsius or higher, or when the humidex is 40 or above for two consecutive days. These advance notifications are shared with municipalities, community partners, and the public to prepare for and stay safe during periods of elevated health risks due to heat.

Demand continues for DRHD's [Heat Hacks for Keeping Cool](#) resource, which focuses on preventing, recognizing, and responding to heat-related illness. **Five hundred** copies of the resource have been distributed through DRSSD's Mobile ID and Benefit Hubs, Healthy Living programs, and public events in Orono, Port Perry, and Uxbridge.

## **Municipal By-law Coordination**

On April 28, municipal by-law managers from across Durham Region convened for a collaborative meeting aimed at strengthening inter-agency coordination. A key outcome of the session was a collective agreement to meet semi-annually to enhance communication and mutual support.

The meeting included focused discussions on a range of issues, with an emphasis on improving collaboration between by-law enforcement and public health to address shared concerns. A roundtable segment provided an opportunity for participants to exchange insights on various topics, laying the groundwork for improved cooperation and proactive strategies to move forward.

## **Part 8 Ontario *Building Code* (Sewage Systems)**

From April to June 2025, HPD conducted the following activities related to Part 8 of the Ontario *Building Code*:

- Received **59** building permit applications for sewage systems, processed **18** building addition applications, and reviewed **23** planning applications. PHI investigated **four** complaints related to private sewage systems. No Orders to Comply were issued this quarter.
- Conducted **172** inspections related to sewage system building permits and installations. HPD staff also attended pre-consultation meetings in each municipality regarding planning applications. Staff also attended or provided comments for **20** pre-consultation meetings and responded to questions from the public and sewage system installers regarding sewage systems and planning applications.
- Completed **23** inspections for Lake Simcoe Maintenance Inspection Program in Uxbridge and **33** in Brock. Scugog inspections will begin later in the season.

Additionally, HPD staff for the Part 8 program provided the keynote address at the Scugog Lake Stewards' Science Social held on June 4. The event was well-attended by members of Scugog Council, including the mayor, representatives from various agencies, and members of the public. The keynote address focused on the importance of proper maintenance of private sewage systems to ensure their efficient operation and to mitigate potential impacts on the health of Lake Scugog. The presentation emphasized the critical role that well-maintained systems play in protecting water quality and supporting long-term environmental sustainability.

## Safe Water

### Beach Monitoring Program

As per the [Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guideline, 2018](#), HPD collects bacteriological water samples from public beaches to determine if they are safe for swimming.

Currently, HPD is monitoring and sampling **14** beaches throughout Durham Region on a weekly basis. **Three** advisories have been issued to date.

As part of DRHD's commitment to public health and transparency, the beach monitoring program has been modernized to improve how beach water quality information is communicated to residents and visitors. This initiative includes upgraded beach signage and online disclosure of beach water sampling results through [Check&Go Durham](#) and through newly redesigned beach signage that features graphic icons, clear and concise language, and a QR code that links directly to the online disclosure page. The [Check&Go Durham](#) disclosure page provides real-time updates and additional context, including easy-to-understand visuals indicating whether it is safe to swim, along with explanations for advisories or closures such as elevated bacteria levels, confirmed blue-green algae presence, or other environmental hazards. These enhancements aim to increase transparency, promote public safety, and empower the community with timely, accurate information about local beaches.

### Drinking Water

HPD has completed a review of the 2025 OAGO performance audit report, titled: [Safety of Non-Municipal Drinking Water](#). A summary of Ontario's current compliance status identifies that:

- Provincially, there are several systemic concerns, particularly regarding the fragmented nature of data management systems maintained by the MOH.
- Additionally, the report noted that many PHU are not meeting the required inspection frequencies.

In contrast, DRHD's HPD continues to meet or exceed the requirements in the OPHS annually with respect to inspection completion. Staff also maintains a robust

enforcement framework to address non-compliance among small drinking water system operators and owners.

While many of the OAGO's recommendations for improvement are directed at provincial ministries, DRHD will continue to monitor developments throughout 2025 and adapt practices as needed to align with evolving provincial guidance.

## **Recreational Water**

Between April and June, HPD focused on meeting all prescribed recreational water inspection targets as outlined by the [Recreational Water Protocol, 2019](#). During this time, PHI conducted **218** routine facility inspections, responded to **seven** complaint investigations, and issued **18** *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, section 13 Orders in response to the identification of a health hazard.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro  
Director, Health Protection Division



# Healthy Families

Report for April – June 2025

## Durham Health Connection Line

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

From April to June, DHCL responded to **3,437** inquiries.

## Healthy Babies Healthy Children

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

Between April to June, **917** new clients were screened, **475 (52 per cent)** were screened with risk for compromised parenting and/or child development, while the remaining clients screened without risk. Those families that screened without risk were sent information about DRHD programs, services and links to parenting resources on [durham.ca](http://durham.ca). Telephone calls were made to all clients that screened with risk. PHN were able to reach **329 (69 per cent)** of these clients to offer an in-depth assessment in the home, **164 (50 per cent)** accepted this offer. The clients that PHN were not able to reach by phone received a mailout to invite them to connect. In depth assessments were completed with **140 (85 per cent)** clients and of those, **108 (77 per cent)** were confirmed with risk and offered a referral to the HBHC home visiting program. Currently, **311** families are actively participating in the program, and **1,555** visits took place with families from April to June.

## Healthy Families

## Baby Steps

Baby Steps is a collaborative program between DRHD and Durham Community Health Centre. It is a free weekly program that supports vulnerable new parents with infants aged zero to 12 months. Health education and support around maternal mental health, infant sleep, nutrition, growth and development and connection to community agencies is offered in an informal supportive environment.

From April to June, **two** five-week Baby Steps programs were held in Oshawa and Ajax, reaching **23** parents and their infants.

## Online Prenatal Classes

During the prenatal period it is important to have evidence-based information to assist in having a healthy pregnancy and preparing for labour and birth. Since 2019, DRHD has offered free online prenatal classes for residents. From April to June, **372** new users have accessed the InJoy online prenatal classes. The online classes cover topics including health during pregnancy, nutrition and exercise, labour and birth, substance use, mental health, intimate partner violence, caring for a newborn, how to get a good start with breastfeeding, and newborn safety. The classes are available in eight languages including English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Arabic, Japanese, and Chinese. The images and videos used in the online classes include diverse family structures, gender inclusive language, and additional interactive activities.

The online prenatal classes are promoted monthly through social media and on the Durham Region website. In addition, community partners promote the online prenatal classes to Durham residents.

## Infant & Child Development

The ICD program is a voluntary service that partners with families to promote the healthy growth and development of children between the ages of birth to school entry and who have a developmental concern. Durham residents can self-refer to the program or be referred by a service provider.

ICD staff partners with families to plan developmental goals and establish ways to achieve these goals within the child's routines using a family-centered, strengths-based approach. Early intervention and occupation therapy consultation services may include:

- Home visits to provide modeling, resources, and parent coaching.
- Formal and informal developmental assessments.
- Service coordination to connect families to community programs and services.
- Guidance with transition to early learning and care and/or kindergarten.



## 2025 Q2 Program Reports – DRHD

Between April to June, the ICD program offered service to approximately **416** children and provided approximately **1,226** appointments to support modeling, parent coaching, and family education.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Kavine Thangaraj  
Director, Population Health Division  
Chief Nursing Officer



# Healthy Living

Report for April – June 2025

## Healthy Living

### Comprehensive School Health

Schools are important settings for comprehensive health promotion among children and youth as education and health are closely linked. Good health supports successful learning and successful learning supports health. A healthy school refers to any school that is using multiple strategies to influence students choosing healthy options and establishing lifelong healthy behaviors. These behaviors may reduce heart disease, cancer, obesity, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, stroke and depression, bike and traffic injuries, and injuries related to substance misuse.

PHN work closely with local school communities to promote the health and wellbeing of children and youth by supporting them to adopt a healthy school approach. Schools are encouraged to identify health topics of relevance and are supported in developing and implementing a comprehensive plan using strategies and activities in five broad areas that contribute to a healthy school. The five areas include: curriculum teaching and learning; school and classroom leadership; student engagement; social and physical environments; home, school and community partnerships.

Embracing the healthy school approach benefits the entire school community, including students, staff and parents. Benefits for the children include: improved academic success; better physical, psychological and social health; better school attendance; improved relationships with teachers and peers; more parent involvement in school activities; and the development of skills that support healthy choices. Through this comprehensive approach, individual health behaviours are influenced and the environment where children, staff and parents live and learn is improved.

During the 2024 to 2025 school year, PHN supported schools on a variety of health topics, the most prevalent topics being mental health promotion, vaping, healthy eating and physical activity. All **five** components of the comprehensive school health approach were used in addressing these health topics and PHN also utilized strategies including

building capacity of educators, building capacity of students and student leaders, collaboration with community partners, meetings with administrators and educators, parent engagement activities, school team meetings and policy review and development.

For the 2024 to 2025 school year, **1,568** school interactions occurred representing significant and meaningful collaboration between PHN and members of school communities. A total of **228** public schools in Durham Region utilized PHN services this year, including all the **187** elementary schools, **34** secondary schools and **seven** alternative schools.

PHN completed school assessments with **224** schools at the beginning of the school year. Assessments provided relevant data to support the planning and implementation of healthy school strategies. PHN also completed **76** health action plans during the school year. The health action plans serve as a road map to guide each school team throughout the year. Topics most frequently identified within comprehensive plans were mental health promotion and vaping.

Kindergarten readiness was supported by PHN through planning and implementing welcome to kindergarten events. The focus was to enhance parent engagement and support student transition to school. PHN provided information and interactive educational activities for families to learn about relevant health topics. A total of **325** school interactions occurred related to kindergarten readiness initiatives and **150** welcome to kindergarten events were supported. PHN also supported **ten** events to help kids transition to high school.

Ongoing collaboration occurred with school board partners this year. **Six** advisory committee meetings occurred with DCDSB and DDSB, while **three** teleconferences occurred with Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board and Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board. **One** meeting was held with the Conseil Scolaire Viamonde French school board. PHN and managers attended **eight** joint PHU meetings to collaborate with the two eastern PHU to plan/coordinate collaboration on school focused projects and address emerging school needs.

## **Durham Catholic District School Board Symposium**

On March 31, DRHD staff participated in a DCDSB staff symposium. The event was held at five different high schools and the theme was “Living in Hope”. Health topics covered by PHN included mental health, substance use and healthy eating. The audience included both elementary and high school educators.

A total of **373** educators were reached at the staff symposium. DRHD staff reported the audiences at the symposium were receptive to the information shared during the presentation and overall had a positive experience at the event.

## Durham Youth Health Group

DRHD continues to support positive youth development and meaningful youth engagement through the DYHG. The purpose of the DYHG is to engage local youth aged 12 to 18 to work towards positive health outcomes for themselves and their peers. The DYHG offers a foundation for youth to have a voice in their community through implementation of youth-led strategies. To date, the group has held **13** meetings to plan and complete their objectives. With the support of the youth engagement coordinators, the youth have completed the following activities:

- Identified mental health as their priority health topic to address with their peers.
- Developed the DYHG logo, slogan and biography to be featured on their Instagram page.
- Created and produced a video introducing the group, their reasons for joining and what initiatives they are working on.
- Attended **two** community engagement events to facilitate peer to peer discussions, provide health information and engage peers in interactive health activities that support positive mental health.
- Consulted on the development of a poster presentation that was highlighted at the Ontario Public Health Convention on April 2, by the youth engagement coordinators entitled, The Durham Youth Health Group: A Youth-Led Strategy to Identify Youth Health Priorities and Elevate the Youth Voice.

## Health Equity in Schools

The likelihood of pursuing higher education significantly increases for students who have savings set aside for post-secondary education. While post-secondary school education in Ontario is not free, evidence shows that children from low- and moderate-income households with as little as \$500 in education savings are three times more likely to enroll in post-secondary education and four times more likely to graduate. However, as of 2023, fewer than half (45 per cent) of eligible children in Durham Region have accessed the CLB. In alignment with the [Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol](#), PHU are required to identify local strategies and implement interventions that engage priority populations and reduce health inequities through collaboration with community partners.

To support this mandate, PHN partnered with local community agencies to promote financial empowerment within priority neighborhood school communities. The initiative aimed to address systemic barriers related to income, employment, education, and access to essential services. Schools reported a high number of transient students and families who had lost, and not replaced, critical identification documents such as birth certificates and SIN. These documents are necessary to open Registered Education Savings Plans and access both the CLB and the Canada Education Savings Grant.

During the 2024 to 2025 school year, **six** Oshawa priority neighbourhood schools identified health equity as their priority health topic and expressed interest in financial and educational support services. Collaborative efforts with community partners

facilitated free identification and tax services directly within schools and nearby libraries. These initiatives resulted in the issuance of **50** birth certificates and **six** SIN, **13** students self-filing their taxes with total returns of **\$772**, and **20** students received tax education.

All **six** schools received educational materials and presentations from PHN regarding the CLB and the Mobile ID and Benefits Hubs. Evaluation surveys from the birth certificate clinics identified “cost” as the primary barrier to obtaining or replacing identification. Furthermore, **100 per cent** of participants reported being either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the services provided.

## Mental Health

Mental health promotion enhances individuals’ and communities’ capacity to manage their well-being and improve outcomes. Within schools, mental health literacy and leadership are critical to fostering supportive environments. The [2023 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey](#), reports that **38 per cent** of Grade 7 to 12 students in Durham Region rate their mental health as fair or poor.

Activities that DRHD participated in from April to June to promote mental health included:

- Collaborating with DDSB who hosted a conference called ‘Leading the Way to Wellness’ for Grade 7 students and staff, which aimed to equip students with tools and strategies for social-emotional learning and healthy decision-making, with a specific focus on substance use prevention. At the conference, PHN facilitated breakout sessions, providing students and staff with interactive mental health activities designed for implementation in schools. The conference offered a structured environment to empower young leaders to advocate for mental wellness within their school communities. In total, **25** schools, **125** students, and **25** educators participated in **five** breakout sessions.
- In partnership with the Talking About Mental Illness Coalition, two spring summits were held to reinforce mental health education and wellness initiatives. The coalition is a collaborative network of **11** community partners representing education, health, mental health services, addictions support, child protection, and youth services. The spring summits provided opportunities for participating schools to showcase successes, share learnings, and celebrate achievements. Approximately **200** students and educators from **24** elementary schools and **16** secondary schools across three school boards attended.

## Physical Activity and Active Travel

The Canadian [24-Hour Movement Guidelines](#) recommend that children and youth engage in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily. In Durham Region, **26 per cent** of youth and **55 per cent** of adults were active in accordance with the Canadian physical activity guideline. In Durham, only **one-third (36 per cent)** of

Durham Region elementary school students used active transportation to get to school, limiting their opportunities to be physically active.

DRHD fosters healthy, physically active communities by promoting the following initiatives:

- The Active and Sustainable School Travel initiative encourages Durham Region's school-aged children and youth to walk or wheel to school safely, improving not only their physical activity levels, but also reducing emissions near school zones and reducing traffic congestion.
- PHN promoted DRHD's [Let's Walk and Wheel to School](#) resource to all **228** schools. The purpose of this resource is to promote the benefits of active school travel as well as provide practical ideas for how school communities can incorporate active school travel in their Comprehensive School Health plans. Social media communication campaigns for active school travel, included Winter Walk Day and Bike to School Week posts, published on all DRHD social media platforms to raise awareness on active travel initiatives.
- The School Travel Planning Project was implemented in **five** schools in Durham Region, supported by DRHD and the Community Growth Division. The program brings together school and community partners to address transportation issues and increase active modes of school travel. Walkabouts were implemented to assess safety, traffic patterns, and school environmental factors to improve traffic volumes and student safety. All participating schools involved in the project implemented active school travel initiatives.
- The Grade 5 Action Pass is a collaborative initiative with all Durham Region municipalities and DRHD. This initiative provides all Grade 5 students with free access to municipal recreation facilities across Durham Region, along with the Oshawa YMCA. The goal is to remove barriers to participation and create lifelong physical activity habits. Physical activity often declines in Grade 5, so the pass encourages continued engagement in physical activity into adolescence and adulthood. PHN promoted the pass in all elementary schools and through a media release and social media platforms. During the 2023 to 2024 school year, **1,390** passes were issued to Grade 5 students.
- "June is Recreation and Parks Month" is an initiative that celebrates the role that recreation and green spaces play in promoting physical, mental and social health. DRHD participated in a passport initiative, which involved a partnership between all eight Durham Region municipalities, Durham Tourism and DRHD. Residents were invited to participate in free community events across Durham Region through the passport initiative, which included free outdoor fitness sessions, community yoga, hiking tours, public swimming, and various drop-in sports programming. In total, **84** events were held. This initiative was promoted by PHN in **228** schools throughout Durham Region, and through a media release.

Collectively, these initiatives encourage families and school-aged children and youth to increase their physical activity, improve mental health and wellbeing, and decrease

traffic congestion in school zones which increases safety and improves air quality for everyone.

## Oral Health

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

**Comprehensive Dental Services:** OHD served over **1,152** unique clients. The Dental Clinic provided services to **165** HSO clients and **987** OSDCP clients through **1,469** appointments. Dental care services in Durham Region's **four** LTCH is on hold at this time, but OHD anticipates that services will resume later in 2025.

**Dental Benefits Claims:** OHD processed **1,035** dental benefit claims, amounting to **\$219,892** in fees paid. These efforts facilitate the smooth provision of dental care and ensure financial support for those in need.

**Dental Care Needs:** Through screenings conducted of **9,608** students at schools, OHD identified **444** children with urgent dental needs and **828** children with non-urgent dental needs.

**Dental Estimates:** OHD received **572** estimates and entered **311** that were eligible to be processed for approval.

**Denture Lab:** Denturists delivered **319** services in the denture lab.

**Oral Health Education and Promotion:** Staff provided dental screening to **69** children and oral health education to **2,797** children.

These accomplishments exemplify OHD's enduring commitment to enhancing oral health outcomes through a comprehensive and strategic approach. Central to this mission is the provision of direct clinical care to eligible populations via provincially funded programs such as HSO and OSDCP. In parallel, OHD advances oral health promotion through targeted educational initiatives, strategic partnerships, and sustained community engagement. By optimizing resources and cultivating innovative collaborations, DRHD consistently delivers impactful programs that contribute meaningfully to the oral and overall health of the communities it serves.

## ***Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017***

TEO are required to complete inspections and complaint investigations as mandated by the OPHS. TEO conduct inspections at all tobacco and vapour product retailers including display and promotion inspections, and youth access test shops where students under the age of 19 attempt to purchase tobacco or vapour products. If a vendor sells tobacco or vapour products to a minor, the operator and owner of the store may be charged with selling or supplying tobacco or vapour products to a person who is

under 19 years old. TEO have completed the **first** of two rounds of youth access inspections at tobacco retailers.

Two or more tobacco-related convictions may lead to an AP, issued by the MOH, prohibiting the vendor from selling tobacco products for a minimum of six months. Currently, there are **two** establishments in Durham Region that are under a six-month AP, and **one** establishment under a 12-month AP. Durham Region is the first PHU in the province to have a facility that was issued a 12-month AP. This facility received convictions under both the SFOA and the *Tobacco Tax Act*.

TEO respond to all complaints received regarding smoking or vaping in enclosed workplaces and other prohibited areas included in the SFOA and Durham Region [Smoking and Vaping By-law](#). These areas include multi-unit dwellings, schools, hospitals, outdoor recreation playground areas, hookah lounges, and more.

From April 1 to June 30, TEO conducted **three** youth access test shop inspections for vapour products and **131** display and promotion inspections at vapour product retailers. TEO continue to observe non-compliance as stores sell products with high levels of nicotine and flavours. TEO issued **one** warning letter, and **12** charges for vapour-related offences.

TEO conducted **two** youth access test shop inspections for tobacco products and **124** compliance inspections for display and promotion for tobacco retailers. In total, **one** warning letter and **three** charges were issued for tobacco-related offences.

TEO conducted **179** inspections in enclosed workplaces and other prohibited areas, and **one** charge was issued for tobacco-related offences.

TEO continue to respond to complaints regarding students vaping on school property. From April 1 to June 30, TEO have investigated **15** complaints, issued **10** warning letters, and served **seven** charges to students vaping on school property.

Specialty vape stores and tobacconist stores continue to operate in Durham Region. As of June 30, there are **71** registered specialty vape stores (which is an increase of **two** since March 31) and **four** tobacconist stores.

The Durham Region Smoking and Vaping By-law has been in effect since June 24, 2019, and TEO continue to enforce the by-law within prohibited facilities. Currently, **four** restaurants in Durham Region continue to operate in non-compliance with the by-law by permitting hookah smoking indoors. TEO are attending these facilities regularly to enforce both the by-law and the SFOA. Charges have been issued to the corporations/owners and directors of these establishments to gain compliance. At this time, court outcomes include fines and probation orders issued to the directors of the facilities.

DRHD gave a presentation at the Provincial SFOA Protection and Enforcement Practice Sharing meeting about enforcement actions taken against a facility in Durham Region that remained egregiously non-compliant with the SFOA by selling vapour products to



minors. The presentation provided information relevant to TEO in other PHU who are also encountering similar non-compliance issues.

DRHD created a new “Notice of Offence” online form for school boards when reporting instances of students smoking and vaping on school property. DDSB piloted the new online form which will be available to all other school boards in Durham Region in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro  
Director, Health Protection Division

Original signed by

Maryam Pezeshki  
Director, Oral Health Division

Original signed by

Kavine Thangaraj  
Director, Population Health Division  
Chief Nursing Officer



# Infectious Diseases

Report for April – June 2025

## Immunization

### Immunization Catch Up Clinics

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

In Durham Region, immunization catch-up clinics are provided for residents who are experiencing challenges to accessing publicly funded routine vaccines, including residents without OHIP coverage or who have limited access to HCP. Immunization catch-up clinics are offered throughout the year, including evening and weekend clinics. There was an increased number of catch-up clinics offered by DRHD from January to June to support students requiring routine vaccines as per the ISPA.

Between January to June, DRHD provided **45** immunization catch-up clinics. At these clinics, a total of **2,639** vaccines were administered to **1,331** residents.

### *Immunization of School Pupils Act*

DRHD is required to enforce the ISPA and assess the immunization status of students attending schools in Durham Region. The purpose of ISPA is to increase protection of students attending public and private schools in Ontario against the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal, and varicella. Parents of students are required to follow the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario to ensure students are up to date with immunizations for each of the ISPA designated diseases. If students are unable to be immunized, they are required to file a statement of conscience or religious belief or submit a medical exemption with DRHD.

For the 2024 to 2025 school year, ISPA was enforced with students in Grades 2, 3, 4, and 9. Immunization notices and orders were sent to **14,080** elementary and secondary school students. This included **10,398** notices and orders sent to Grade 2, 3, and 4

students and **3,682** notices and orders sent to Grade 9 students. These notices and orders explained ISPA, the role of the parent in complying with ISPA, and that students who remain non-compliant with ISPA are at risk of suspension from school attendance for up to 20 days. Included with each notice and order was a multilingual resource which informed parents in **36** different languages that the information they were receiving was important and to contact DRHD if translation support was needed.

In total, **470** secondary school students were suspended from school attendance as they remained overdue for ISPA required vaccines, with **441** of these students returning to school prior to the end of the suspension period. For elementary schools, **1,377** elementary students were suspended from school attendance, with **1,305** of these students returning to school prior to the end of the suspension period.

During the 2024 to 2025 school year, **925** ISPA exemptions were processed for conscience or religious beliefs and **35** exemptions were processed for medical reasons such as evidence of immunity, record of disease, or clinical decision related to the health status of the student.

As a result of ISPA enforcement, ISPA compliance and vaccine coverage increased in elementary and secondary school students. As of May 30, **95 per cent** of Grade 2, 3, and 4 students and **81 per cent** of Grade 9 students were compliant with ISPA, with an overall compliance of **77 per cent** for all elementary and secondary school students. In addition, ISPA vaccine coverage increased to **90 per cent** for Grade 2, 3, and 4 students and **74 per cent** for Grade 9 students, with an overall coverage of **70 per cent** for all elementary and secondary school students.

## School-Based Immunization Clinics

In accordance with the OPHS, DRHD is responsible for promoting and delivering provincially funded immunization programs to eligible students through school-based clinics. The goal of school-based clinics is to reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases by providing hepatitis B, meningococcal-C-ACYW-135 and HPV9 vaccines to eligible Grade 7 and 8 students. These vaccines are administered through immunization school-based clinics at their designated schools.

PHN hosted **379** school clinics during the 2024 to 2025 school year in the fall and in the spring. A total of **30,958** vaccines were administered to eligible Grade 7 students and **3,347** vaccines were administered to eligible Grade 8 students who were unable to receive the vaccines in their Grade 7 year. Below, staff have summarized immunization completion rates for Grade 7 students.

- Hepatitis B vaccines: nearly **70 per cent**, which is nearly a **10 per cent** increase from the previous year.
- Meningococcal-C-ACYW-135: **87 per cent**, which is a **seven per cent** increase from the previous year.
- HPV9: approximately **62 per cent**, which is an **11 per cent** increase from the previous year.

Below, staff have summarized immunization completion rates for Grade 8 students.

- Hepatitis B vaccines: **79 per cent**, which is about a **three per cent** increase from the previous year.
- Meningococcal-C-ACYW-135: **89.5 per cent**, which is about a **1.5 per cent** increase from the previous year.
- HPV9: **74 per cent**, which is a **three per cent** increase from the previous year.

## Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control

### Child Care Centres

Between April and June, **248** compliance inspections were completed in CCC for both environment and food safety. The Child Care Wee Care spring/summer newsletter was sent out to operators of CCC in April with a focus on power outages, most common infractions observed during inspections, outdoor safety and play areas/activities and information on measles.

### Diseases of Public Health Significance

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

Between April and June 2025, **362** DoPHS were reported to HPD. These include in descending order: influenza A (**124**), influenza B (**103**), salmonellosis (**44**), Lyme disease (**24**), campylobacter (**19**), CPE (**15**), giardiasis (**eight**), cyclosporiasis (**four**), typhoid fever (**four**), cryptosporidiosis (**three**), amebiasis (**two**), listeriosis (**two**), paratyphoid fever (**two**), WNV (**two**), shigellosis (**one**), yersiniosis (**one**), blastomycosis (**one**), hepatitis A (**one**), legionellosis (**one**).

Comparing the number of DoPHS reported in the first quarter of 2025 (January to March) to the second quarter (April to June), there was a **74 per cent** decrease in infectious disease reports. This can be explained by the seasonal nature of influenza. Influenza is highly seasonal, with peak activity typically occurring during the colder months (late fall through early spring). This usually means the period of January to March has the highest number of flu cases. By the second quarter, the respiratory virus season was over, and influenza activity dropped sharply. This pattern is consistent with typical public health surveillance trends and highlights the impact of seasonal respiratory viruses on overall infectious disease statistics.

Lyme disease cases more than doubled from **11** cases in the first quarter to **24** cases in the second quarter of the year. This rise is expected, as Lyme disease is typically more prevalent in warmer months when ticks are active.

## Infection Prevention and Control Education and Lapses

From April to June, there were **three** IPAC lapse investigations in healthcare facilities (**one** posted), **one** in a shelter and **one** was a sports club, and **12** in PSS (**seven** posted). Most confirmed lapses have been due to reprocessing issues. Referrals were made to the College of Nurses of Ontario and College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. **Two** section 13 Orders were issued to HCP.

## Measles

DRHD implemented a proactive response strategy to address increased measles transmission across Ontario and Canada. This included management of all suspected and confirmed measles cases, as well as identified contacts of cases reported by neighbouring PHU.

DRHD focused on strengthening partnerships and maintaining consistent collaboration with primary HCP, school boards, and acute care partners. Between March to June, **three** “Fax Abouts” were issued to local HCP regarding measles preparedness and measles testing. Preparedness checklists for CLSs and HCP were developed in partnership with the local IPAC Hub. Measles was also highlighted in a presentation by the Associate Medical Officer of Health at the Durham Ontario Health Team Grand Rounds on April 1. DRHD participated in bi-weekly measles preparedness meetings with LH. These meetings supported timely information sharing, coordinated response efforts, and enhanced capacity to identify, report, and manage measles activity within Durham Region.

Resources were routinely updated to reflect evolving guidance from the MOH, and Public Health Ontario. The public-facing [Measles Case and Contact Information Hub](https://durham.ca/measles) at [durham.ca/measles](https://durham.ca/measles) received **3,951** views from January to June, indicating strong community and provider engagement.

Local measles statistics highlighted by case and contact management staff include:

- There are **zero** confirmed cases of measles in Durham Region.
- There were **85** suspected cases managed, which is an **80 per cent** increase compared to 2024.
- There were **99** contacts managed, which is a **266 per cent** increase compared to 2024.

## Outbreak Summary

Outbreaks are investigated in accordance with the OPHS.

Between April and June, **56** outbreak investigations were conducted. There were **36** respiratory outbreak investigations (**25** LTCH, **five** RH, **three** hospitals and **three** CLSs). The agents that were identified in most outbreaks included metapneumovirus (**31 per cent**), and COVID-19 (**19 per cent**).

There were **20** enteric outbreak investigations (**12** CCC, **four** RH, **two** suspected foodborne illness, **one** LTCH, and **one** CLS). Almost all **90 per cent (18)** of the enteric outbreaks have no agent identified and only **10 per cent (two)** were confirmed norovirus outbreaks.

Overall, there was a decrease in outbreak investigations from the first to second quarter of the year (**80 per cent to 76 per cent**). This decline aligns with the natural end of the respiratory virus season. As temperatures rise in the spring, people tend to spend more time outdoors and there is less indoor crowding, both of which reduce the transmission of respiratory viruses like influenza, COVID-19, and metapneumovirus. Similarly, enteric outbreaks often also tend to decrease in the spring and summer months, likely due to improved hygiene, fewer indoor gatherings, and reduced transmission in institutional settings.

## Personal Service Settings

Between April and June, **225** compliance inspections were completed in PSS. Common infractions include not having work and contact surfaces that are smooth, non-absorbent and easily cleanable, not preparing or using disinfectants appropriately along with not maintaining the appropriate records, improper cleaning and disinfection of reusable items and/or equipment, and single-use items not discarded after use. New devices and services being offered in PSS continue to evolve and involve more staff resources. DRHD issued **two** charges for repeat violations of the PSS regulation. **Two** HPPA section 13 Orders were issued for no water, no dedicated handwashing sinks at the facility, and an unapproved device found at the facility.

DRHD is preparing for another large special event from October 24 to 26. The Tattoo Expo events travel across Ontario to multiple regions from May to October, with Durham Region being the last stop on the tour. The special event will be held at the Pickering Casino. Last year this event had over **60** personal service vendors offering tattoos and piercings. DRHD has started to prepare to ensure the event meets the requirements of DRHD.

## Rabies Prevention and Control

From April to June, DRHD investigated **515** animal bite reports, which is an increase from the **485** reports investigated for the same period in 2024. A total of **56** Durham Region residents were provided with anti-rabies treatment, which is the same number of people reported during this period last year.

DRHD submitted **four** animals involved in a human exposure for testing and **none** were positive for rabies. **Zero** charges to animal owners were issued for failing to immunize their pets against rabies, pursuant to the [R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 567: Rabies Immunization](#). This is down from **one** charge last year for this period.

DRHD hosted the Rabies Interagency Seminar on May 7, bringing together members from **three** different ministries that have responsibilities related to rabies control, **five**

Durham Region municipalities, representatives from the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians, as well as the vaccine manufacturer for updates related to rabies prevention and control and networking opportunities. Not only did DRHD educate staff, but this event also attracted interest from **eight** PHU across the province.

## Vector-Borne Diseases

The vector-borne diseases prevention and control program began its season May 8 and 9 with tick dragging throughout Durham Region's public park spaces. Blacklegged ticks capable of transmitting many tickborne diseases were identified at every single location that was dragged. A robust social media campaign was launched in the spring and will continue into the fall and summer to educate and remind the public to use preventive measures to protect themselves. Tick dragging will continue over the next few years in areas that have not been flagged as established risk areas yet.

WNV surveillance activities completed between May 12 to June 28 included:

- Visiting **1,207** surface water sites and **97** of those required larviciding.
- Treating **79** backyard catchbasins and **413** Regionally-owned catchbasins.
- **Two** rounds of larviciding (a total of **four** rounds of treatment are planned for 2025).
- Managed adult mosquito trapping and **15** traps per week have captured **9,437** mosquitoes, which DRHD sent to the contracted lab for analysis. The types of mosquitoes capable of transmitting diseases like WNV were captured, but none have been identified as positive for WNV to date. Adult trapping will continue into mid-September.

The new online request at [durham.ca/BYCBlarvicide](https://durham.ca/BYCBlarvicide) for larviciding on private property catch basins has generated **79** requests. This new form has simplified the request process. Additionally, the new [complaint intake form](#) for stagnant water on public property, has received **six** requests since it was launched in March.

On June 18, a new mobile application was officially launched to support mosquito and larvae surveillance efforts. The application provides an intuitive and user-friendly interface, enabling staff and pest control operators to efficiently update surveillance data for regularly monitored sites and larviciding activities. To complement this enhanced data collection, an internal Power BI dashboard has been developed, offering real-time visualization and analysis of the collected data. Looking ahead, additional features are planned for the application to further strengthen data collection capabilities and support more robust vector control strategies.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

## 2025 Q2 Program Reports – DRHD

Kavine Thangaraj  
Director, Population Health Division  
Chief Nursing Officer

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro  
Director, Health Protection Division





Report for April – June 2025

## Community Paramedicine

The Community Paramedicine program continues to support remote patient monitoring in the community to catch an exacerbation before it happens. From April to June, the program achieved the following:

- Shared skin tear pathway education, training, and best practices with staff and actively provided skin tear treatment within the program.
- **Four** community paramedics completed their Independent Practitioners Certification for Point of Care Ultrasound.
- A staff member received the Tammy Rankin Legacy Award from the Durham Elder Abuse Network for their advocacy work for seniors in the North.
- Delivered a presentation titled, “From Pilot to Project: Diagnostic Testing in Long-Term Care”, at HSSC for Seniors Month in collaboration with a nurse practitioner.
- Held a clinic at MSIFN in collaboration with diabetes nursing staff from the North Durham Family Health Team, where staff attended and completed **13** A1C tests to measure average blood sugar over three months to help support medication reconciliation and management alterations.

The PCOP completed the following activities:

- Held monthly mobile clinics in Beaverton and Ajax.
- Ran location statistics for PCOP for medical services, treatment, and wound care, finding that Christian Faith Outreach Centre in Ajax was the leader, followed by a shelter in Whitby and Back Door Mission.
- Participated in workshops for Community Safety Well-Being, contributing to the topics of homelessness and basic needs, mental health, and victimization.

## Logistics

RDPS completed the following logistics activities:

- Received **five** new command vehicles (Ford Explorers), which are expected to be upfitted in fall 2025. These are hybrid vehicles and will replace existing gas vehicles.
- Commissioned **three** ambulances, one of which was an addition to the fleet and two of which replaced existing vehicles.
- Hired **two** summer students for the logistics program.
- Issued substantial performance and occupancy for the newly constructed Seaton Paramedic Base and Training Facility in June 2025. Operational occupancy was also completed for the Paramedic Base portion.
- Continued with the cyclical replacement of Stryker power loads and stretchers as older units reach end-of-life.
- RDPS has officially transitioned all fire services within the Region to cost recovery on medical supplies (e.g., bandages, collars, oxygen supplies). All services were notified in the fall of 2024 of this change and appreciated the notice. RDPS does not supply any medications as this falls outside its authority.

## Operations

RDPS transitioned to the MPDS on May 21 to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of emergency call responses. RDPS also developed and implemented a new deployment strategy to align with MPDS protocols and provided orientation sessions to hospitals to support the transition to MPDS-based transfer prioritization. Call reprioritization under MPDS led to a **41 per cent** reduction in lights-and-siren responses, improving safety and resource allocation. Missed meal breaks among staff decreased by 40 per cent, contributing to improved working conditions.

RDPS also completed the following operational activities:

- Partnered with Oshawa Dispatch to place a RDPS superintendent on the dispatch floor, enabling real-time decision-making and immediate issue resolution.
- Continued to improve offload delays at LH sites, which are now consistently under 60 minutes.
- Hired **two** new Commanders of Operations.
- Began 911 operations at the newly occupied Seaton Paramedic Response Station and Training Facility.
- Relocated operations from the Uxbridge Paramedic Response Station to a leased facility at the Uxbridge Fire Hall.

## Quality & Development

RDPS completed the following quality and development activities:

- Completed **593** ambulance call evaluation reviews.
- Developed educational content for the Fall 2025 Central East session.
- Attended **45** community outreach events.

## 2025 Q2 Program Reports – DRHD

- Developed and delivered onboarding education for new hires.
- Conducted a “Recruitment Recognition” ceremony in Council Chambers.
- Monitored field placement for **24** primary care paramedic students.
- Rostered **138** clients with home and community care for the Palliative Treat and Refer program.
- Participated in the London Health Sciences Center PRIME Trial.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Troy Cheseboro  
Chief/Director

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3802.



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

---

From: Commissioner, Community Growth & Economic Development  
Report: #2025-INFO-63  
Date: July 25, 2025

---

**Subject:**

2025 Annual Climate Change Progress Report

---

**Recommendation:**

Receive for information.

---

**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

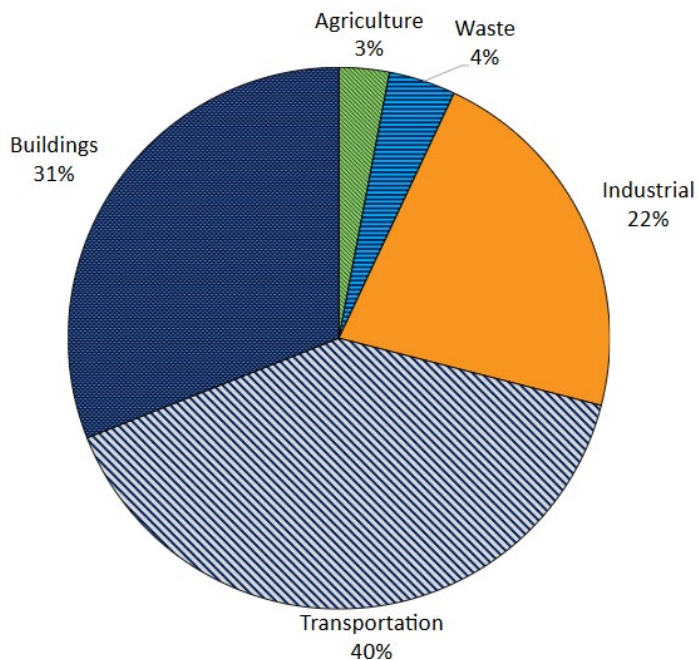
- 1.1 Leadership in climate action is a key strategic priority for the Region as reflected in [Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan](#). This annual progress report provides an overview of progress in 2024 implementing the Region's council endorsed climate action plans:
- a. Section 2 provides an update on initiatives recommended in the [Durham Community Energy Plan](#), approved by Council in 2019.
  - b. Section 3 provides an update on initiatives recommended in the [Durham Region Corporate Climate Action Plan](#), approved by Council in 2021.
  - c. Section 4 provides an update on initiative recommended in the [Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan](#), approved by Council in 2016.
- 1.2 This is the fifth annual climate progress report since Regional Council's 2020 climate emergency declaration. Previous annual climate update reports can be found on the [Region's website](#).
- 1.3 Appendix A provides a summary of external funding received in 2024 in support of corporate and community climate action initiatives outlined in this report. A total of \$9,731,479 of external grant funding was approved in 2024.

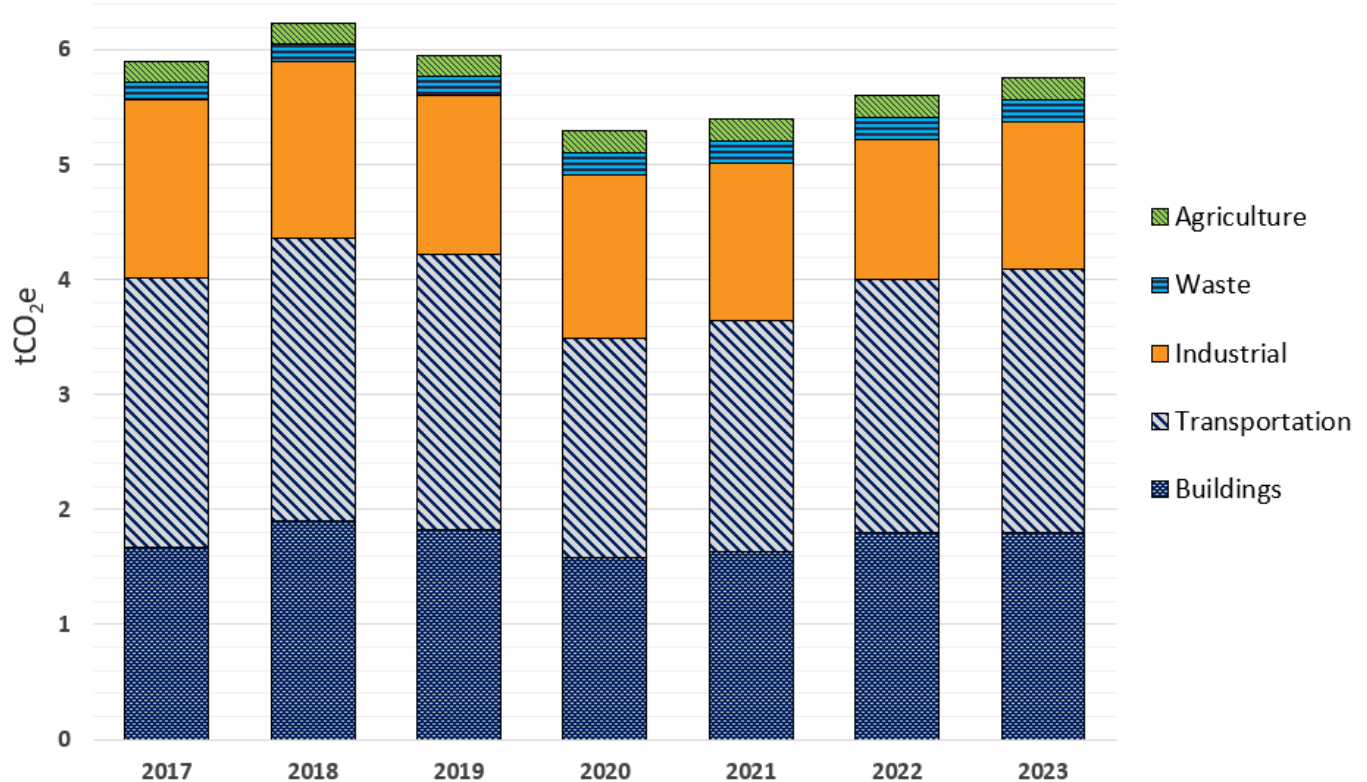
## 2. Durham Community Energy Plan Update

### Community-wide GHG emissions update

- 2.1 In late 2024 The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) published the annual [carbon emissions inventory report](#) for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). The report covers 2023 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data across the four regional municipalities (Halton, Peel, York, and Durham) and two single tier municipalities (Hamilton and Toronto) that make up the GTHA. TAF estimated that GHG emissions across the GTHA increased by 2 per cent in 2023, with emissions increasing across all six jurisdictions. Transportation and buildings remain the two highest-emitting sectors in all jurisdictions except Hamilton, where steel manufacturing makes industry the highest emitting sector.
- 2.2 TAF estimates that Community-wide GHG emissions across Durham Region increased by 1.9 per to a total of 5.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2023. This is the third straight year of emissions increases since the drop in emissions in 2020 that coincided with the start of the COVID pandemic. The increase was mostly due to a 3.6 per cent increase in transportation sector emissions, which continues to be the largest source of GHG emissions overall in Durham Region (see Figures 1 and 2 below). Natural gas consumption decreased year-over-year by 2.9 per cent in the industrial sector and 5.8 per cent in the building sector, due in part to a relatively warmer winter that resulted in less demand for heating-related natural gas use.

**Figure 1: 2023 Durham Community GHG Emissions by Sector**



**Figure 2:** Total Community Emissions for Durham Region – 2017 to 2023 tCO<sub>2</sub>e

2.3 The Region continues to support the implementation of the DCEP in partnership with local area municipalities, energy utilities, and other organizations with influence over energy use and emissions in the community. Updates across key areas of the DCEP low carbon pathway are provided below.

#### 2.4 Home Energy Retrofits

- a. Launched in April 2022, the [Durham Greener Homes](#) (DGH) program helps residents facilitate the process of completing a home energy renovation. Residents have access to a free energy coach who provides information on applicable incentives and can provide expert advice to support the resident's decision-making process regarding a home energy renovation. The program also provides support for residents wishing to access rebates and financing to help implement their renovation project.
- b. In June 2024, DGH launched a virtual home energy audit tool (vHEAT) that uses data from over 200,000 historical energy audits to generate customized analysis of a home's energy performance and recommended retrofit initiatives. The tool is free to Durham Region residents and has been advertised through a direct mail marketing campaign using water bill inserts. Since the launch of vHEAT participation in the DGH program has increased dramatically. In 2024, the tool had been used more than 700 times by 455 unique users.

- c. The performance of the program is actively measured to assess the degree to which it is meeting the Region's objectives of increasing the awareness and capacity for residents to complete home energy renovations. By year-end 2024, more than 1,800 Durham Region residents had registered to participate in the DGH program, and the program's energy coaching service had delivered close to 1,300 calls to support residents on their home energy renovation journey. While many of these participants completed light and medium complexity renovation projects that reduced home energy use and GHG emissions, the program tracking database includes 159 homes deep energy retrofit projects as of year-end 2024. Figure 3 below, provides metrics on the DGH participants to date which demonstrate the impact of the program in terms of enabling participants to achieve greater levels energy and emissions reductions.

**Figure 3: 2022 to 2024 Metrics for Durham Greener Homes (DGH) Participants**

DGH Participants who <b><u>received</u></b> program incentives for a deep energy home retrofit	Average reduction for DGH Participants	Associated Percent reduction
Emission Reduction (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/yr)	4.27	71.18%
Energy Use Reduction (GJ/yr)	68.40	49.43%
All DGH Participants who <b><u>completed a</u></b> home retrofit but not a deep retrofit	Average reduction for DGH Participants	Associated Percent reduction
Emission Reduction (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/yr)	3.52	58.90%
Energy Use Reduction (GJ/yr)	55.90	39.86%
Average home retrofit in Durham Region (EnerGuide data 2023-present)	Average reduction for DGH Participants	Associated Percent reduction
Emission Reduction (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/yr)	2.68	48.79%
Energy Use Reduction (GJ/yr)	35.10	25.71%

- d. In Fall 2024, the Region and Windfall conducted home energy education sessions in partnership with libraries across all eight local area municipalities which drew 111 participants. These sessions promoted the DGH program and the value and benefits of installing heat pumps.
- e. Following Regional Council approval in April 2025 through [Report #2025-COW-17](#), Regional staff are in the process of developing and implementing two major enhancements to the DGH program:
- Weather-ready retrofit services: These services aim to reduce the impacts and potential costs associated with extreme weather events on



homes through expert advice, program funding supports, industry training, and community engagement.

- Municipal Financing: introduction of a direct municipality-to-homeowner loan financing program for eligible retrofits under the DGH program.

## 2.5 Durham Greener Buildings

- a. The [Durham Greener Buildings](#) (DGB) program, launched in January 2024 following Regional Council adoption of recommendations in Report [#2023-COW-16](#), supports owners and managers of large buildings that are 50,000 sq. feet or larger in complying with [Ontario's Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking \(EWRB\) Initiative](#). The program features a Help Desk and capacity building training on use of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager (ESPM) platform, encouraging energy efficiency improvements across the large building sector. The program also further promotes energy benchmarking of municipally owned buildings to demonstrate local leadership on climate action. Municipalities also use ESPM platform for annual tracking and reporting of energy consumption data.
- b. A total of 487 buildings participated in the DGB program in 2024, which aligns with program targets for the first year. However, most of these buildings are public sector (municipalities, universities, schools, and health care), and there have been challenges engaging private sector building owners in the program. The second-year target of 800-1000 participating buildings may be challenging to achieve given these ongoing difficulties.
- c. On November 13, 2024, the DGB program hosted its first [Evening of Recognition](#) to celebrate large buildings owners and managers in Durham Region that excelled in improving energy efficiency. The event featured a panel discussion focusing on the challenges and opportunities of electrification. Awards were also presented across twelve categories to recognize large buildings owners and managers for their energy performance, data quality, and early data submission.

## 2.6 New Construction – Durham Green Development Program

- a. DCEP emphasizes high energy performance in new building construction as essential for Durham's low carbon pathway. It calls for local municipalities to implement energy and emissions performance standards through the planning approval process, with a mandatory first-tier of energy and emissions performance and voluntary upper tiers supported by incentives.
- b. Since the DCEP was endorsed, the [Town of Whitby](#), [City of Pickering](#), and [Town of Ajax](#) have adopted green development standards with tiered energy and emissions criteria. However, recent changes under Bill 17, which limit municipalities' ability to mandate green standards through site plan control, may impact the scope and enforceability of these requirements.



- c. Given expected population growth in Durham Region and the need for thousands of new homes annually, the Region has been coordinating industry training and capacity-building initiatives with the Durham Region Home Builders' Association and Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Local Energy Efficiency Partnerships team. Together, they have hosted technology forums for builders and developers focused on high-performance new construction, with sessions continuing into 2025. This work is critical, as building to the minimum allowed under the Ontario building code locks in higher energy use and GHG emissions over the long term, while also potentially exposing building occupants to climate hazards like extreme heat and poor air quality.
- d. In 2024, Regional staff began working to develop a Green Development Program with an aim of aligning local municipal green development standards the new national model energy code tiers and changes to the Ontario Building Code (OBC). The program also supports the voluntary adoption of higher energy performance tiers.
- e. Following Regional Council's endorsement in principle of the program design proposal, staff are working towards implementing the program in collaboration with area municipalities and the development industry. This includes implementing an integrated community design charette at a pilot site to explore cost-effective low carbon solutions as part of the overall community design. Further information on the program development process is detailed in [Report #2024-COW-49](#).

## 2.7 District Energy

- a. DCEP identifies district energy (DE) as a key decarbonization strategy for Durham Region. District energy systems are suitable for compact, mixed-use communities, offering reliable, low-carbon heating and cooling. For developers, this can simplify the design of individual building systems, while residents can benefit from stable utility costs, reduced in-unit mechanical equipment, and access to resilient, low carbon infrastructure. The following sections outline the work undertaken to advance DE initiatives across the Region in 2024.
- b. Courtice DE - Initial DE efforts have focused on Courtice, leveraging waste heat from the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC), and planned high-density development around the Courtice GO Station Major Transit Station Area (MTSA). A preliminary business case was presented to Council in January 2024 through Report [#2024-COW-1](#). Following Regional Council's endorsement in principle, staff assessed service delivery options and updated the preliminary business case, with recommendations and next steps for potential project implementation, presented to Council in May 2025 through [Report# 2025-COW-19](#).

- c. Ajax DE Feasibility Study - In 2024 staff initiated a DE feasibility assessment for the Ajax Downtown Regional Centre, an area undergoing significant redevelopment and historically served in-part by a World War II-era DE system. The feasibility assessment will evaluate the potential for a modern DE system to support anticipated growth, including a load forecast based on projected residential, commercial, and institutional development, while considering the impact of municipal development standards on building energy demand and associated GHG emissions. Results and recommendations from the preliminary business case analysis are expected in Q3 2025.
- d. Pickering DE Feasibility Study - In 2024 staff initiated a DE feasibility study for the Pickering City Centre and adjacent Employment Lands. The study assesses the potential to utilize low-carbon waste heat from nearby sources, including the OPG Pickering Nuclear Generating Station and the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP), to support future high-density development and municipally owned facilities. Results and recommendations from the preliminary business case analysis are expected in Q3 2025.
- e. Durham Region Heat Master Plan - This initiative builds on the ongoing DE feasibility studies and will focus on identifying and prioritizing DE and waste heat opportunities across strategic growth areas. The initiative aims to build municipal capacity and foster integrated, cross-sector planning for low-carbon development. Key project components include a GIS-based analysis to map regional waste heat sources and prioritization of Heat Planning Areas, development of a policy framework, creation of a governance model, stakeholder engagement, as well as strategic partner solicitation.

## 2.8 Electric Vehicle Adoption

- a. The transportation sector is a key area of focus within the DCEP, where electric vehicle (EV) adoption will help to drive GHG reductions across the Region. The Region has led collaborative federal funding applications with local area municipalities and other public sector organizations through several rounds of Natural Resources Canada Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) funding calls. In total, the Region's share of conditionally pre-approved funding is over \$2.9 million to support the potential implementation of over 170 Level 2 and 3 EV chargers across Regional locations to support public and/or corporate fleet charging activities.
- b. Community-wide, Durham saw a considerable increase in EV registrations over the past two years, from 2022 to 2024, with 1,887 Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) purchased - up 31 per cent, and 5,849 EVs purchased - up by 56 per cent. According to TAF, this is the highest increase across the GTHA, noting that registrants in Brock Township led with a remarkable growth of 111 new EVs registered compared to 63 in 2023 which is a 76 per

cent increase, followed by registrants in the City of Oshawa with 1,058 EVs compared to 649 registered in 2023 for a 63 per cent increase.

## 2.9 Climate Governance and Public Reporting

- a. The second annual Durham Climate Forum was hosted at Durham Region Headquarters on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The event brought together close to 150 participants for a day of inclusive discussions, hands-on activities, and networking focused on building a resilient, climate-conscious future. A key highlight was the panel discussion, "50 Years Forward: Building a Strong and Sustainable Durham Community," featuring leaders from academia, government, industry, and civil society. The forum also included a Repair Café, and exhibitor booths showcasing the work of local sustainability-based organizations, community partners, and student-led projects, informing community members about initiatives such as DGH. Planning is underway to deliver the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Durham Climate Forum in the Fall of 2025.
- b. Durham Climate Dashboard - Launched in April 2024, the [Durham Climate Dashboard](#) is an online platform designed to track the progress of the DCEP in meeting the Region's climate targets. The dashboard presents local energy use and GHG emissions data, allowing community members to monitor the progress and impact of climate action initiatives led by the Region and area municipalities. In 2025, the dashboard was updated to include adaptation-focused actions and initiatives. These updates also incorporated new data on municipal climate efforts, such as the rollout of EV charging infrastructure, energy retrofits in municipally owned facilities, and other best practices that highlight climate action across the Region.

## 3. Durham Region Corporate Climate Action Plan Update

- 3.1 In 2021, following Regional Council's declaration of a climate emergency, Council approved the [Corporate Climate Action Plan](#) with a goal for the Region to achieve net zero corporate GHG emissions by 2045. To accomplish this goal, a 2019 baseline level was established, accompanied by short- and medium-term targets to ensure a sustained and measurable commitment to GHG reductions over time, namely:

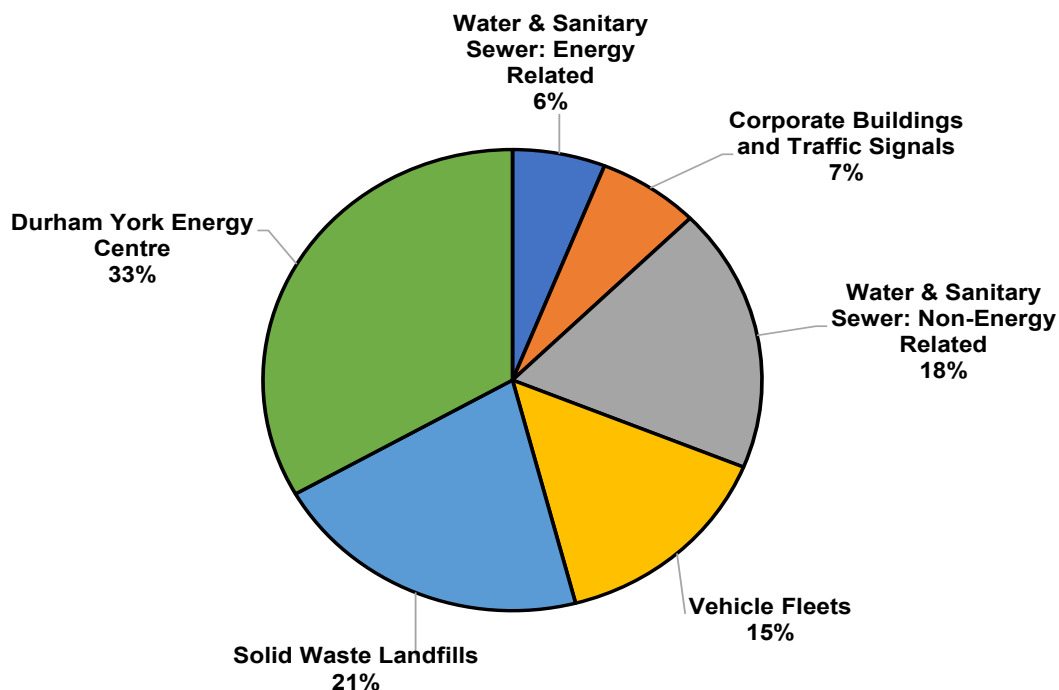
- 20 per cent GHG emissions reduction by 2025,
- 40 per cent GHG emissions reduction by 2030, and
- 100 per cent GHG emissions reduction by 2045.

## 3.2 Durham Region Corporate GHG Emissions Inventory

- a. Durham Region's corporate GHG emissions include energy consumption in regional buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure (e.g. water, wastewater, and solid waste management), as well as non-energy GHG emissions associated with the Region's solid waste management (closed landfill and DYEC emissions) and wastewater operations (process fugitive emissions).

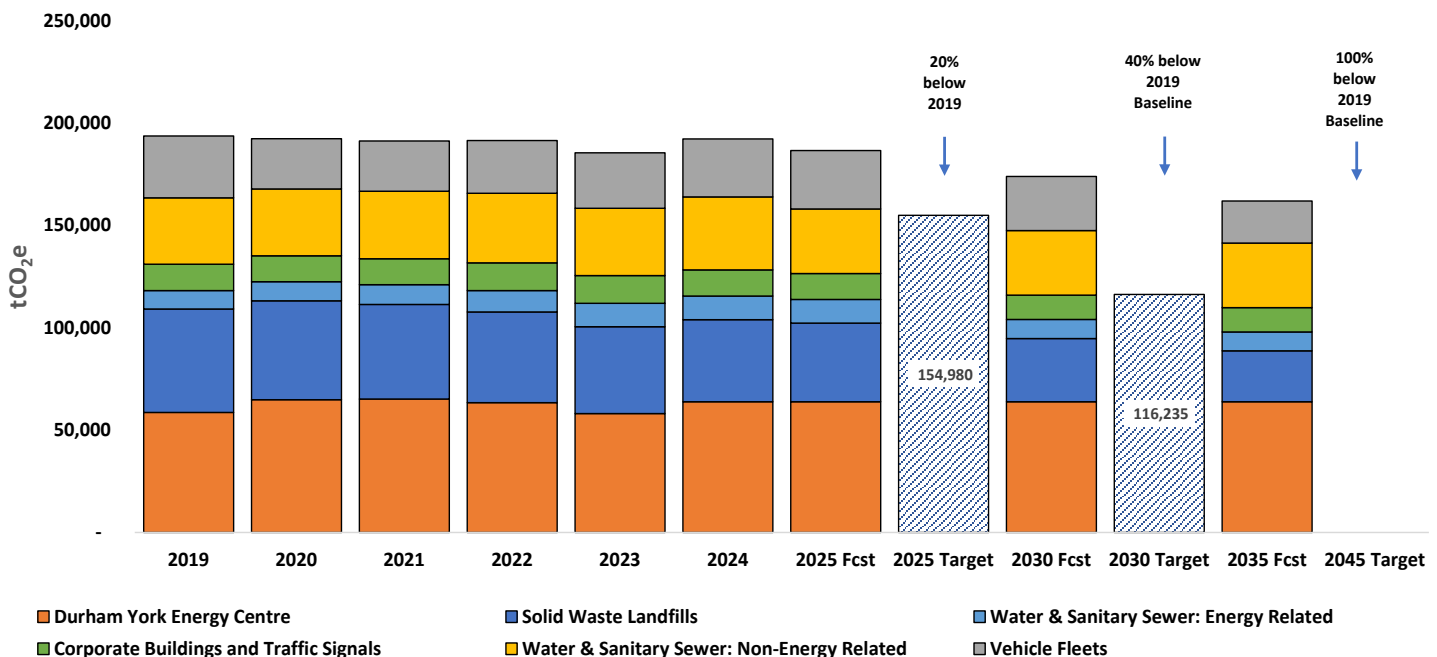
- b. The 2024 corporate GHG emissions are estimated at approximately 192,300 tonnes (tCO<sub>2</sub>e, rounded), which represents a 3.7 per cent increase from the 2023 total of 185,500 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The more notable contributing sources to the net year-over-year GHG increase include:
- Increased consumption of diesel fuel in corporate fleet operations, namely transit fleet operations (transit makes up over 90 per cent of corporate road diesel usage) driven by expanded transit operations. During this time transit ridership increased by 21 per cent;
  - Increase in DYEC-related GHGs due in part to a greater share of non-biogenic waste materials compared to prior year (e.g. plastics and non-recyclable products that are not biodegradable); and
  - Increase in non-energy related emissions in wastewater operations (including Duffin Creek WPCP, net estimated Durham share) including, but not limited to, process emissions from wastewater treatment and biosolids incineration.
- c. Non-energy related emissions in solid waste management and wastewater treatment operations continue to represent the largest share of total corporate emissions (over 70 per cent of corporate totals). GHG emissions from other corporate operating areas are associated with fossil fuel consumption in fleets (e.g. gasoline and diesel fuel) whereas GHG emissions in corporate buildings are mainly related to natural gas use for space and water heating.

**Figure 4:** Corporate GHG Emissions by Operational Area for 2024



- d. In 2024, the Region saw varying levels of progress in the overall reduction of GHG emissions through facility upgrades, greening of fleets, advancement of comprehensive studies to further building retrofit activity and other decarbonization initiatives. Factors limiting advancement included:
- slower and limited senior government funding for large scale retrofits and transit electrification
  - increase in the emissions intensity of electricity due to a ramp up in the share of Ontario's electricity generated by natural gas over the past several years as the province's fleet of nuclear reactors is refurbished.
- e. Figure 5 provides a projection of anticipated GHG reductions based on information contained within departmental 10-year capital plans. Based on current information and assumptions, reductions will be realized through fleet operations, including the planned electrification of transit service and through the natural decline of methane generation in closed landfills.
- f. As reported in 2024, there remains a significant gap between forecasted emissions and Council endorsed corporate GHG reduction targets. Staff expect that this gap will narrow through capital planning for corporate building decarbonization following completion of GHG Emission Reduction Pathways studies for corporate facilities. However, there is a clear risk that the Region's corporate GHG targets for 2025 and 2030 will not be achieved without the identification and implementation of new GHG reduction initiatives in corporate operations.

**Figure 5:** Durham Region Total Corporate Emissions, 2019 to 2024 Actuals and Forecast versus Targets (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)



### 3.3 Corporate Buildings

- a. Corporate buildings account for seven per cent of total corporate GHG emissions. However, they contribute to a significantly larger share of the energy-related emissions at just over 24 per cent.
- b. Corporate decarbonization projects underway and new buildings commissioned in 2024 include:
  - Traffic Operations/Health Protection at 101 Consumers Dr. in Whitby: deep retrofit will lead to the phase out of on-site fossil fuel consumption resulting in a greater than 70 per cent reduction in annual GHG emissions. This project is due for completion in 2026,
  - Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC) 155 King Street East in Oshawa: deep retrofit includes improved building envelope and upgrades to building heating, cooling, and ventilation systems including a hybrid heat pump ventilation system which alone is estimated to reduce natural gas usage by almost 39,000 m<sup>3</sup> (or 75 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e). This project is due for completion in 2025,
  - DRLHC 655 Harwood Avenue South in Ajax: deep retrofit includes improved building envelope and upgrades to building heating, cooling, and ventilation systems resulting in a greater than 50 per cent reduction in annual GHG emissions. This project is due for completion in 2026,
  - Region of Durham Paramedic Services' new Seaton Station and Training Facility: project includes a geothermal system that will provide heating and cooling for the building and a rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) system that will contribute to making this a near zero-carbon building, resulting in a greater than 70 per cent reduction in annual GHG emissions as compared to a similar building built to the Ontario Building Code. This new build project will be completed in 2025,
  - Beaverton Heights Transitional Supportive Housing Facility features all-electric building systems and a rooftop solar PV system which will offset approximately 50 per cent of the building's electrical consumption. This zero-carbon building will be almost 20 per cent more energy efficient than a similar building built to the Ontario Building Code. The facility opened in 2024,
  - Seaton Long-Term Care, scheduled for completion in 2026, is the first new building designed following adoption of the [Durham Standard](#) in 2023. The building has been designed to perform 25 per cent more efficiently than the minimum requirements under the OBC, resulting in an estimated 70 per cent reduction in annual GHG emissions compared to the Ontario Building Code standard). Future upgrades will be

required to retrofit the building to meet the Region's net zero target by 2045,

- Clarington Police Complex Phase 2 buildings, scheduled for completion in 2025, is designed to include a geothermal field for heating and cooling resulting in estimated reductions of over 70 per cent in GHG emission intensity when compared to the Ontario Building Code base standard. Natural gas will remain on site as a backup system required by DRPS for operational emergency redundancy, and
- The DRT Thornton Road Transit Maintenance Facility in Oshawa, the Raleigh Transit Facility (both admin and bus storage), and the Whitby Paramedics Station are currently in the design phase, whereas the Clarington Police Complex Phase 2 and the Seaton Long Term Care Facility are currently under construction, all aiming for net zero GHG emissions.

### 3.4 Corporate Fleet

- a. Corporate fleet vehicles made up 15 per cent of overall corporate emissions in 2024, but more than half of energy-related emissions.
- b. In February 2023, Council approved Durham Region [Transit's 2023-2032 Transit Service and Financing Strategy \(Report #2023-DRT-05\)](#) which outlines a 10-year investment in DRT services, including increases in revenue services, significant capital investments to implement the [DRT Fleet Electrification Plan](#), and priorities for infrastructure, accessibility, and passenger amenities. In 2024, DRT achieved its highest ever number of annual revenue rides at 13 million.
- c. DRT's first six battery electric buses were delivered in 2024. Through the 2023 and 2025 budget an additional 25 electric buses have been purchased and will be delivered in 2026 (7 in Q1 2026, and 18 in Q4 2026). Purchase quantities of electric buses in 2024 and 2025 were reduced from the original forecast due to the lower than anticipated federal funding support.
- d. In April 2023, Regional Council adopted a [Light Duty Fleet Electrification Plan](#) which outlines preliminary target years for 100 per cent electrification by fleet group. The Plan established 2024 as the first reporting year. A total of 33 electric vehicles are in the Region's light duty fleet as of end of 2024, with the majority being plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) in the Works fleet.

### 3.5 Solid Waste Management

- a. Durham's residential solid waste management serves a growing region of over 250,000 households. Closed landfills and DYEC operations account for over 54 per cent of corporate emissions. In 2024, solid waste emissions



declined by nearly two per cent due to a decrease in estimated annual methane generation at the Region's closed landfills.

- b. Following Regional Council's decision to pause the procurement process for the Mixed-Waste Pre-Sort and Anaerobic Digestion Project in 2022, staff enhanced the Region's organics management program in 2024 with the addition of more organic materials. Residents can now put pet waste, diapers, incontinence and menstrual products in the Green Bin which is processed at an anaerobic digestion facility to create biogas and nutrient rich fertilizer.
- c. The 10-year Source Separated Organics (SSO) processing contract with a third-party anaerobic digestion facility was initiated in July 2024. The Green Bin will also be expanded to multi-unit residential buildings where the Region collects waste, which will add 125 buildings to the Region's Green Bin program starting in June 2025. This enhanced program is designed to maximize waste diversion and increase convenience while achieving compliance with Ontario's Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement.
- d. In October 2023, a pilot consisting of two different types of biological methane oxidation systems known as a biowindow and biocover were installed at the closed Oshawa landfill site. The pilot included monitoring throughout 2024 until February 2025, to evaluate its effectiveness as a methane emissions reduction method from closed landfill sites. Data collected during the pilot showed that the systems were effective in reducing methane. Following a review of the data, staff are considering a second phase to the pilot that would assess the performance of the biocover under increased methane flows and to identify potential areas of the landfill for further expansion of the biocover system.

### 3.6 Water and Wastewater

- a. In 2024, water and wastewater operations accounted for over 25 per cent of total corporate emissions. These emissions, stem from the treatment, storage, and pumping of drinking water and wastewater, serving residents, businesses, and institutions across the Region. Combined, these operations produced approximately 47,200 tCO<sub>2</sub>e primarily due to wastewater treatment activities, including biosolids incineration at Duffin Creek WPCP, non-energy process-related emissions from wastewater operations and plant natural gas usage. As major electricity consumers, water and wastewater operations have been materially impacted by an increase in the Ontario-wide electricity grid emission intensity.
- b. Following the development of the [Water and Wastewater GHG Emission Management Strategy](#) in 2023, staff initiated measures outlined in the roadmap towards decarbonization across the Region's water and sanitary sewer treatment plants, storage facilities, and pumping stations. The Strategy



identified measures such as fugitive nitrous oxide monitoring and mitigation, renewable natural gas generation from wastewater treatment plants, and thermal heat recovery from the Region's sewer network as key opportunities to align corporate leadership with community-wide decarbonization.

- c. The Strategy also made recommendations for the inclusion of additional emissions within the Region's corporate emissions inventory, mainly related to Regional wastewater process emissions not previously quantified and reported. The Region's emissions reporting protocols and boundaries for GHG reporting have been expanded for the 2025 Corporate Climate Action Plan update to include these four additional Scope 1 emission sources, adding about 8,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to corporate totals (including to the 2019 baseline value).

#### **4. Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan Update**

- 4.1 This section provides an update on climate adaptation and resilience measures, and highlights implementation progress that occurred in 2024. This work is guided by the Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan (DCCAP) endorsed by Regional Council in 2016 through [Report #2016-COW-103](#).

#### **4.2 Corporate Resilience**

- a. Following significant progress made on implementation of DCCAP recommendations since 2016, Regional staff have applied for FCM funding to undertake a DCCAP progress update, strategic refresh, and implementation plan. This will support coordinated and accelerated corporate resilience efforts and clarify regional roles in community resilience in collaboration with local area municipalities and Indigenous communities.
- b. Sustainable Infrastructure Policy and Guidelines - The Works Department, supported by the CAO's Office, is leading the development of a Sustainable Infrastructure Design Policy and Standard, which will operationalize sustainability for the Region's transportation, water and wastewater, and waste infrastructure projects. Phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2024, including consultant procurement, staff engagement, draft sustainability guidelines for transportation projects, draft policy development, and FCM funding application for Phases 3 and 4 (water, wastewater, and waste management). More details on this initiative have been shared with Council through Council Information [Report #2025-INFO-55](#).
- c. The Region's [2024 Asset Management Plan](#) details the state of the Region's climate change risks and adaptation initiatives to protect the Region's assets in accordance with Ontario Regulation 588/17 requirements. The Plan outlines measures to proactively adapt assets to a changing climate and address potential risks through specific risk mitigation strategies.

- d. Staff from the CAO's Office Sustainability team joined 15 other Canadian municipalities in participating in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Canada Cohort, facilitated by ICLEI Canada. The Cohort is a transformative initiative funded by the European Union to empower municipalities in the crucial phase of implementing climate mitigation and resiliency efforts. The Region received tailored support to help realize climate goals with a focus on (1) identifying and securing capital and operational funding, (2) working across municipal departments and community partners, and (3) maintaining, monitoring, and evaluating the impact of municipal climate initiatives. ICLEI Canada worked with staff to develop a draft set of adaption indicators to be used in future tracking efforts.

#### 4.3 Building Sector

- a. DGH Climate Resilience Enhancements – As noted previously in Section 2.2, the Region is working to expand the DGH program to include weather-ready home renovations that reduce the impact and potential costs associated with extreme weather events. Program design work in 2024 included support from Ontario Research Centre for Climate Adaptation Centre and Windfall Ecology Centre, scoping with local area municipalities and conservation authorities, as well as community and industry engagement through online survey, resident focus groups, community organization meetings, and interviews. This program enhancement was endorsed by Regional Council in April 2025 through [Report #2025-COW-17](#).
- b. Regional staff provided input to improve resilience of new developments, including through review of local area municipal secondary plans and Durham Region Local Housing Corporation redevelopment plans.

#### 4.4 Flooding and Roads Sector

- a. Flood Hazard Mapping – In 2024, the Region partnered with Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) to update 46-year-old floodplain mapping for watersheds within the eastern portion Durham Region. Building on this work, the Region supported GRCA initiation of a Flood Vulnerable Road and Crossing Hydraulic Capacity Assessment to increase the transportation system resilience. This work is scheduled for completion in 2025.
- b. Decision-making support - Works Department staff are working to internally share and operationalize the results of the above-mentioned Flood Vulnerable Road and Crossing Hydraulic Capacity Assessment to support decision making and asset management. Flood risk assessment results are now available to Regional staff through the Works Department Data Portal, and staff are working on developing additional resilience design guidance for priority projects.

- c. FCM Sustainable Communities Award - Durham Region was awarded an FCM Green Municipal Fund [Sustainable Communities Award](#) for "Moving Towards a Flood Resilient Transportation System" under the category of reconciliation, anti-racism, equity, and inclusion. Led by the Works Department, this award recognized the series of flood risk assessments undertaken by Durham Region in collaboration with conservation authorities, incorporating future climate data and an innovative social equity lens. This project supports informed infrastructure investments that withstand future climate conditions and address potential flooding impacts.
- d. Watershed Planning – In 2024, Kawartha Region Conservation Authority launched a watershed planning update, partially funded by the Region. Another watershed planning project will be launched in 2025.
- e. Floodplain Mapping Project – In 2025, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority will initiate a 2-year project for Beaver River and Whites Creek Floodplain Mapping updates.

#### 4.5 Human Health Sector

- a. To help learn, prepare for, and act against climate change, Durham Region Health Department has launched a [series on climate change and health](#) to examine the health-related impacts of climate change. In 2024, the background primer entitled [Understanding the Local Health Impacts of Climate Change Report](#) was issued, followed by the first in a series of seven reports, entitled [Extreme Heat and Health Report](#). The series will include reports on vector-borne disease, poor air quality, air pollution, extreme weather, solar ultraviolet radiation, and food and water impacts.

#### 4.6 Natural Environment Sector

- a. Durham TREES – In 2021, Durham Region and its five conservation authority partners launched [Durham TREES](#), a subsidized rural tree-planting program for a 3-year implementation period. Approximately 525,000 trees have been planted under the program by year end 2024. Planning is underway for a second phase, as well as a partnership with Trees for Life to support the federal government's [2 Billion Trees Program](#) across the Region.
- b. LEAF - Since 2020, the Region and local area municipalities have partnered with Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) to plant approximately 1,300 native trees and shrubs. LEAF planting program offers a subsidized rate through the Backyard Tree Planting Program for residents, multi-unit, and commercial properties in participating municipalities. LEAF community tree plantings have added an additional 4,300 trees and shrubs.

- c. Pollinator Gardens along Regional Roads - Roads and Facilities staff successfully secured funding from the [Canadian Wildlife Federation \(CWF\)](#) to implement pilot pollinator gardens at 1442 Lakeridge Road in Uxbridge and at the Scugog Works Maintenance Depot. A third site at the northwest corner of Ninth Concession and Lakeridge Road in Uxbridge will be planted in Spring 2025. The process and outcomes will continue to be monitored to inform a broader strategy for pollinator plantings on a larger scale.
- d. Region-wide Phragmites Management – In 2024, a new Durham-wide phragmites collaborative created the Durham Region Phragmites Management Area Working Group consisting of representatives from all five local conservation authorities, local area municipalities, Ontario Power Generation, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, and other governments to launch stakeholder mapping, management, and coordinating strategic actions on the management of this invasive species. Durham Region staff are participating to support mapping and management. The Working Group is facilitated by Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA).
- e. Natural Environment Climate Change Collaborative (NECCC) - In 2024, Regional staff assumed the role of NECCC chair to support knowledge and information sharing in support of natural system resilience across the Region, member municipalities, conservation authorities, and Indigenous organizations. This collaborative meets virtually twice a year.

#### 4.7 Cross-Sector Resilience

- a. The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) is led by Conservation Authorities in collaboration with local area municipalities and the Region. The Region plays a supportive role, participating in development of community-based plans and projects that advance regional climate and community health and well-being objectives and increase visibility of Regional programs. There are two active SNAPs in Durham that enhance community resilience and promote sustainable practices:
  - Ajax SNAP – Led by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Town of Ajax, 2024 work included Ajax Council approval of the neighbourhood SNAP Action Plan, delivery of a targeted residential retrofit program increasing uptake in the DGH program, and community engagement in the development of a neighbourhood resilience strategy to proactively address extreme weather events.
  - Whitby SNAP – Led by CLOCA and Town of Whitby, 2024 work included Whitby Council approval to develop a SNAP for West Lynde neighbourhood based on a strategic selection process and alignment with Whitby, CLOCA, and Durham priorities, and establishment of a Project Management Team to guide the project.

#### 4.8 Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

- f. Goal: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
  - E2. Collaborate with partners on the low-carbon transition to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions across Durham Region.
  - E3. Prepare for and respond to severe weather impacts.

#### 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Following Durham Region's climate emergency declaration, staff have been implementing Council-endorsed plans to position the municipality as a leader in community-wide climate action. This report updates Council on the status of three climate action plans: community-wide energy transitions (DCEP), climate resilience initiatives (DCCAP), and corporate climate leadership. It also highlights key challenges, opportunities, and next steps to align efforts with the Council's vision, goals, and targets.
- 5.2 The DCEP focuses on energy retrofits for existing homes and buildings, enhancing the Durham Greener Homes program with digital technologies, and implementing the Durham Greener Buildings program. Exploring district energy as a utility created from waste heat is an excellent opportunity to create a resource from an under-utilized product. Reducing transportation-related emissions requires sustained investment in public transit, active transportation infrastructure, light-duty fleet, and EV charging infrastructure.
- 5.3 Corporately, based on current estimates of quantifiable emissions, the Region is not on track to meet Council-endorsed GHG reduction targets. However, key initiatives are being advanced including fleet electrification investment, deep energy retrofits at region-owned facilities, and capital investment in measures to decarbonize wastewater infrastructure operations while accommodating planned capacity growth.
- 5.4 Implementation of adaptation measures through the Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan is progressing well, led by the Region, local municipalities, and conservation authorities. In 2024, the focus was on designing resilience retrofit enhancements for the DGH program, development of a Durham Sustainable Infrastructure Design Policy, and completing Public Health climate vulnerability assessments. These efforts will integrate equity considerations, leverage collaborations, and employ strategic monitoring and evaluation to track progress and demonstrate success.
- 5.5 For additional information, contact: Ian McVey, Director, Environment & Climate at 905-668-7711, extension 3803.

Respectfully submitted,

XXX

---

Sandra Austin,  
Commissioner, Community Growth &  
Economic Development

Appendix A: Summary of Approved External Funding Programs secured in 2024

**Appendix A:** Summary of Approved External Funding Programs secured in 2024

<b>Funding Program</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value of Approved funding in 2024</b>
ZEVIP Round 5	NRCan –Grant	Installation of EV Chargers	\$1.13 million total conditionally pre-approved grant
Affordable Housing Multi-Residential Program	Enbridge - Grant	GHG Pathways Studies for DRLHC	\$22,479 grant
Study: Community Energy System	FCM GMF – Grant	Courtice District Energy System	\$100,000 grant
Lighting Retrofit	IESO	Lighting Retrofit HQ	\$8,460,000 grant
Energy Treasure Hunt	SaveOnEnergy & Enbridge	Hillsdale Estates LTC Energy Treasure Hunt, October 2024	\$11,000 grant
Energy Treasure Hunt	SaveOnEnergy & Enbridge	Central East Division DRPS Energy Treasure Hunt, Nov 2024	\$8,000 grant
Total			\$9,731,479 grant



# Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** July 25, 2025

**To:** Health & Social Services Committee

**From:** Dr. Robert Kyle

**Subject:** Health Information Update – July 20, 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**

### **July 20, 2025**

#### **Health Department Media Releases/Publications**

**[tinyurl.com/mr32mzrd](https://tinyurl.com/mr32mzrd)**

- Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile virus disease in Durham Region (Jul 7)

**<https://tinyurl.com/dc8rdp35>**

- Pediatric Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Eligibility Update (Jul 11)

**[tinyurl.com/mr3esp49](https://tinyurl.com/mr3esp49)**

- Blue-green algae found in water samples from eastern shore of Lake Scugog (Jul 11)

**[tinyurl.com/yc5vtah2](https://tinyurl.com/yc5vtah2)**

- Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile virus in Oshawa (Jul 17)

#### **GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

##### **Environment and Climate Change Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/3meyymv](https://tinyurl.com/3meyymv)**

- Climate scientists calculate role human-caused climate change plays in shifting weather extremes (Jul 17)

##### **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/yk348k8m](https://tinyurl.com/yk348k8m)**

- Government of Canada announces support for over 9,700 leading researchers and projects nationwide (Jul 9)

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO**

##### **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services**

**[tinyurl.com/mr27dcpb](https://tinyurl.com/mr27dcpb)**

- 2024 annual report: Poverty Reduction Strategy (Jun 20)

#### **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

##### **Canadian Automobile Association**

**[tinyurl.com/5ducfvv3](https://tinyurl.com/5ducfvv3)**

- Road safety laws lag adoption of personal e-bikes and e-scooters, CAA study finds (Jul 16)

##### **Canadian Institutes of Health Research**

**[tinyurl.com/ybjk8msp](https://tinyurl.com/ybjk8msp)**

- Dr. Rae Yeung appointed Scientific Director of CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (Jul 14)

### **Canadian Medical Protective Association**

**[tinyurl.com/3p95bprp](https://tinyurl.com/3p95bprp)**

- CMPA 2024 Performance Results Demonstrate Support to Members and Advancements in Safe Medical Care (Jul 11)

### **College of Nurses of Ontario**

**[tinyurl.com/yc58z7xx](https://tinyurl.com/yc58z7xx)**

- Nursing by the Numbers: The Latest Nursing Trends and Patterns in Ontario (Jul 17)

### **IC/ES**

**[tinyurl.com/mrxx58ju](https://tinyurl.com/mrxx58ju)**

- Underserved youth less likely to visit emergency department for concussion in Ontario, study finds (Jul 11)

### **Inspectorate of Policing**

**[tinyurl.com/yxwa8afn](https://tinyurl.com/yxwa8afn)**

- Inspector General of Policing releases his annual report: Ontario's policing system is strong overall, with areas that require attention to meet evolving public safety complexity and demand (Jul 15)

### **World Health Organization**

**[tinyurl.com/5em9tahd](https://tinyurl.com/5em9tahd)**

- New WHO guidelines for clinical management of arboviral diseases: dengue, chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever (Jul 10)

**[tinyurl.com/b5hmj6c7](https://tinyurl.com/b5hmj6c7)**

- Global childhood vaccination coverage holds steady, yet over 14 million infants remain unvaccinated – WHO, UNICEF (Jul 15)



**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON**

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

July 18, 2025

Via email: [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5



Corporate Services Department  
Legislative Services Division

Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 10:41 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Dear Hon. Doug Ford,

**Re: Formal Opposition of the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers**

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their May 5, 2025 Regular Council Meeting:

195-2025

Moved By: Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

Seconded by: Aaron Neeb

**The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of South Huron ("Council") formally opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, that were announced April 9, 2025 and took effect May 1, 2025; and**

**That Council requests O.Reg 530/22 Expanding Strong Mayor Powers be amended to remove the Municipality of South Huron; and**

**That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Lisa Thompson, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.**

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator  
Municipality of South Huron

[kwebster@southhuron.ca](mailto:kwebster@southhuron.ca)  
519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Rob Flack,  
[rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org); MPP Lisa Thompson, [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org);  
AMCTO, [amcto@amcto.com](mailto:amcto@amcto.com), AMO, [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca), and all  
Ontario Municipalities.



**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON**

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6


Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

June 17, 2025

Via email: [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 10:14 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Dear Premier Ford,

**Re: Exemption to O. Reg. 343/22 - Firefighter Certification Requirements**

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their June 16, 2025 Regular Council Meeting:

**Motion:** 265-2025

**Moved:** A. Neeb

**Seconded:** T. Oke

**That South Huron Council supports the Township of Black-River Matheson's June 10, 2025 correspondence and resolution regarding Exemption to O. Reg. 343/22 - Firefighter Certification Requirements; and**  
**That this supporting resolution and originating documentation be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Solicitor General, MPP Thompson, Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, Township of Black River-Matheson and all Ontario municipalities.**

**Result:** Carried

The originating correspondence is also attached for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
Sue Johnson  
Administrative Assistant  
Municipality of South Huron  
[sjohnson@southhuron.ca](mailto:sjohnson@southhuron.ca)  
519-235-0310 x225

Encls

cc: The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General – [michael.kerzner@ontario.ca](mailto:michael.kerzner@ontario.ca)  
MPP Lisa Thompson - [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org);  
Jon Pegg, Fire Marshal of Ontario – [Jon.Pegg@Ontario.ca](mailto:Jon.Pegg@Ontario.ca)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario; [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)  
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities – [admin@fonom.org](mailto:admin@fonom.org)  
Township of Black River-Matheson - Hong Ji Lei [hlei@twpbrm.ca](mailto:hlei@twpbrm.ca)  
All Ontario municipalities



CORPORATION OF THE  
**TOWNSHIP OF BLACK RIVER – MATHESON**  
367 FOURTH AVE, P.O. BOX 601, MATHESON, ON P0K 1N0  
TELEPHONE (705) 273-2313 EMAIL : [brm@twpbrm.ca](mailto:brm@twpbrm.ca) WEBSITE: [www.twpbrm.ca](http://www.twpbrm.ca)

---

**Jon Pegg**  
**Fire Marshal of Ontario**  
**Office of the Fire Marshal**  
**25 Morton Shulman Avenue**  
**Toronto, ON M3M 0B1**

**June 10, 2025**

**Via Email: [Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca](mailto:Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca)**

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg:

**Subject: Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (O. Reg. 343/22)**

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the mandatory firefighter certification requirements under Ontario Regulation 343/22.

At its meeting held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, Council passed the attached resolution formally opposing the implementation of these requirements. While we recognize and support the importance of firefighter training and safety, the regulation as it stands does not adequately reflect the operational realities of small, rural, and northern municipalities.

Communities such as ours rely heavily on volunteer and composite fire departments that already face critical challenges in recruitment, training accessibility, and financial capacity.

Specifically, we are burdened by:

- Geographic barriers and long travel distances to accredited training centres,
- Inconsistent access to instructors and scheduling options,
- Limited budgets and competing capital demands,
- Difficulty in retaining and replacing volunteers due to increased regulatory pressures.

Without additional support, flexibility, or exemption mechanisms, the implementation of O. Reg. 343/22 will severely compromise our ability to provide consistent, timely, and effective fire protection to our residents.

Accordingly, the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson respectfully requests that the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General:

1. Defer full implementation of the certification regulation for rural and northern municipalities,
2. Provide exemptions or alternative compliance pathways tailored to the needs and limitations of small, remote fire services,
3. Increase funding and training supports for municipalities outside major urban centres.

We believe that a one-size-fits-all regulatory model will disproportionately and unfairly affect communities like ours. A more flexible, consultative approach is urgently needed. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would welcome further discussion and are open to participating in any future consultations or working groups aimed at resolving these challenges collaboratively.

**Sincerely,**

**Dave Dymont, Mayor**

/hjl

On behalf of the Council of Black River-Matheson

**Encl.:** Resolution No.2025-214 – Council Opposition to O. Reg. 343/22

**CC:**

The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General – michael.kerzner@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario – premier@ontario.ca

John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming—Cochrane – jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – amo@amo.on.ca

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) – admin@fonom.org

All Ontario Municipalities





**Corporation of the Township of Black River - Matheson**  
367 Fourth Avenue  
P.O. Box 601  
Matheson, Ontario  
P0K 1N0

**ITEM # 2025-10.b)**  
**RESOLUTION**

DATE: June 10, 2025

2025-214

Moved by Councillor Steve Campsall  
Seconded by Councillor Alain Bouchard

WHEREAS the Ontario government has enacted O. Reg. 343/22, establishing mandatory certification requirements for firefighters under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Black River-Matheson acknowledges the importance of standardized firefighter training and safety;

AND WHEREAS these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers, and reliance on volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of these requirements without additional flexibility or support may negatively impact the Township's ability to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and provide adequate fire protection to its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Black River-Matheson formally opposes the mandatory firefighter certification requirements as currently outlined in O. Reg. 343/22;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, MPP John Vanthof, the Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities

☒ CARRIED      ☐ DEFEATED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR SIGNATURE**

☐ Original    ☐ Amendment    ☐ Refer    ☐ Defer    ☐ Reconsider    ☐ Withdrawn

**Recorded Vote-TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERK ONLY**

	YEAS	NAYS
Mayor Dave Dymont		
Councillor Allen		
Councillor Charbonneau		
Councillor Campsall		

Councillor McCutcheon		
Councillor Gadoury		
Councillor Bouchard		



Hong Ji Lei  
Town Manager/Clerk



Corporate Services Department  
Legislative Services Division

Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 1:03 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



Hon. Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
VIA EMAIL:  
[mark.carney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mark.carney@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
VIA EMAIL:  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34  
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
[www.puslinch.ca](http://www.puslinch.ca)

July 17, 2025

Hon. Victor Fedeli  
Minister of Economic  
Development, Job Creation  
and Trade  
VIA EMAIL:  
[vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org](mailto:vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
and Housing  
VIA EMAIL:  
[rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

RE: Correspondence from Northumberland County dated June 25, 2025, regarding "Township of Mulmur 'Procurement and Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions'"

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on July 9, 2025 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2025-226:**

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and  
Seconded by Councillor Hurst

**That the Consent Agenda item 6.17 be received for information; and,**

**Whereas the Township of Puslinch is in receipt of correspondence from Northumberland County dated June 25, 2025, regarding "Correspondence, Township of Mulmur 'Procurement and Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions"; and**

**Whereas the Township of Puslinch also recognizes that tariffs may increase the costs of goods and services sought by the Township;**

**And whereas the Township of Puslinch also recognizes the importance of supporting Canadian businesses and workers through responsible procurement practices;**



**And whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power but are bound by international trade agreements;**

**And whereas trade agreements such as the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) impose restrictions on municipalities, and prevent municipalities from giving preference to Canadian suppliers in procurement decisions above certain thresholds;**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Township of Puslinch also commits to considering Canadian suppliers for goods and services when it is feasible and fiscally responsible to do so for procurements under trade agreement thresholds:**

**And that the Township of Puslinch also commits to continue to utilize cooperative purchasing groups to explore cost-saving measures and Canadian suppliers when it is feasible and fiscally responsible to do so.**

**And that the Township of Puslinch also calls upon the Canadian federal and provincial governments to enact legislative changes to exempt municipalities from trade agreement restrictions while tariffs are imposed, allowing them to give preference to Canadian suppliers for goods, services, and infrastructure projects.**

**And further that a copy of this resolution be sent to:**

- The Prime Minister of Canada
- The Premier of Ontario
- The Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Leader of the Opposition
- MP Michael Chong
- MPP Joseph Racinsky
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- All Ontario municipalities

**CARRIED**



As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston  
Municipal Clerk

CC: The Leader of the Opposition, MP Michael Chong, MPP Joseph Racinsky, AMO, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) & All Ontario Municipalities



# Northumberland County Council Resolution

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**June 25, 2025**

Right Honourable Mark Carney (Prime Minister of Canada)  
Honourable Philip Lawrence (MP for Northumberland-Clarke)  
Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)  
Honourable Victor Fedeli (Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade)  
Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)  
Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
Northumberland County's 7 Member Municipalities  
All Ontario municipalities

**Re: Correspondence, Township of Mulmur  
'Procurement and Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions'**

At a meeting held on June 18, 2025 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2025-06-18-508, adopting the below recommendation from the June 3, 2025 Finance and Audit Committee meeting:

**Moved by:** Councillor John Logel  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Scott Jibb

"**That** the Finance and Audit Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Mulmur regarding 'Procurement Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders, including the stakeholders listed in the correspondence, as well as the MP for Northumberland - Clarke, MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South, and Northumberland County's 7 Member Municipalities."

**Council Resolution # 2025-06-18-508**

**Carried**

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at [matherm@northumberland.ca](mailto:matherm@northumberland.ca) or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

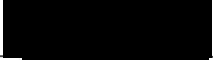

Sincerely,  
Maddison Mather



Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk  
Northumberland County

## Council Resolution

---

Moved By J. Logel   
Seconded By S. Dibb 

Agenda  
Item 10

Resolution Number  
2025-06-18- 508

**Council Date: June 18, 2025**

"That Council adopt all recommendations from the six Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held June 2, 3 and 4, 2025).

Recorded Vote  
Requested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor's Name

Deferred \_\_\_\_\_  
Warden's Signature

Carried   
Warden's Signature

Defeated \_\_\_\_\_  
Warden's Signature

## Finance & Audit Committee Resolution

---

Committee Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

Agenda Item: 7.a

Resolution Number: 2025-06-03- 444

Moved by: M. Martin

Seconded by: B. Ostrander

Council Meeting Date: June 18, 2025

---

"**That** the Finance and Audit Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Mulmur regarding 'Procurement Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders, including the stakeholders listed in the correspondence, as well as the MP for Northumberland - Clarke, MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South, and Northumberland County's 7 Member Municipalities."

Carried 

Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Chair's Signature





758070 2<sup>nd</sup> Line E  
Mulmur, Ontario  
L9V 0G8

Local **(705) 466-3341**  
Toll Free from 519 only **(866) 472-0417**  
Fax **(705) 466-2922**

April 11, 2025

## **Procurement & Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions**

---

At the meeting held on April 2, 2025, Council of the Township of Mulmur passed the following resolution:

### **Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Cunningham**

Whereas the Township of Mulmur recognizes that tariffs may increase the costs of goods and services sought by the Township;

And whereas the Township of Mulmur recognizes the importance of supporting Canadian businesses and workers through responsible procurement practices;

And whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power but are bound by international trade agreements;

And whereas trade agreements such as the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) impose restrictions on municipalities, and prevent municipalities from giving preference to Canadian suppliers in procurement decisions above certain thresholds;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Township of Mulmur commits to considering Canadian suppliers for goods and services when it is feasible and fiscally responsible to do so for procurements under trade agreement thresholds:

And that the Township of Mulmur commits to continue to utilize cooperative purchasing groups to explore cost-saving measures and Canadian suppliers when it is feasible and fiscally responsible to do so.

And that the Township of Mulmur calls upon the Canadian federal and provincial governments to enact legislative changes to exempt municipalities from trade agreement restrictions while tariffs are imposed, allowing them to give preference to Canadian suppliers for goods, services, and infrastructure projects.

And further that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Prime Minister of Canada
- The Premier of Ontario
- The Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- All Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.


**Carried.**

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Roseann Knechtel.

Roseann Knechtel, Clerk



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 9:56 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**Municipality of Huron Shores**  
7 Bridge Street, PO Box 460  
Iron Bridge, ON P0R 1H0  
Tel: (705) 843-2033 Fax: (705) 843-2035

July 15, 2025

Attention: Office of the Fire Marshal  
Ministry of the Solicitor General  
25 Morton Shulman Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M3M 0B1

**Subject:** Opposition to Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores passed Resolution #25-18-17 at the Regular Meeting held Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as follows:

*"WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has enacted O. Reg. 343/22, mandating firefighter certification requirements, which present significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities—particularly those relying on volunteer fire departments with limited access to training and funding;*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Huron Shores supports the Township of Black River-Matheson's resolution regarding O. Reg. 343/22;*

*AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Fire Marshal, the Solicitor General, the Premier of Ontario, MPP Bill Rosenberg, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities."*

Should you require anything further in order to address the above-noted resolution, please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the undersigned.

Natashia Roberts

CAO/Clerk

NR/KN

Cc: Office of the Fire Marshal, the Solicitor General, the Premier of Ontario, MPP Bill Rosenberg, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities



**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON**

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

[www.southhuron.ca](http://www.southhuron.ca)

---

July 18, 2025

Via email: [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Hon. Doug Ford,

**Re: Producer Responsibility for Blue Boxes**

---

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their July 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting:

286-2025  
Moved By: Ted Oke  
Seconded by: Aaron Neeb

**That South Huron Council support the June 10, 2025 resolution from the Municipality of Tweed regarding producer responsibility for Blue Boxes; and**

**That South Huron hereby requests that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources; and**

**That this resolution and originating documents be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Thompson, and all Ontario Municipalities.**

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator  
Municipality of South Huron  
[kwebster@southhuron.ca](mailto:kwebster@southhuron.ca)  
519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Hon. Todd McCarthy, [todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org](mailto:todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org); Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Hon. Kevin Holland, [kevin.holland@pc.ola.org](mailto:kevin.holland@pc.ola.org); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Graydon Smith, [graydon.smith@pc.ola.org](mailto:graydon.smith@pc.ola.org); MPP Lisa Thompson, [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org); AMCTO, [amcto@amcto.com](mailto:amcto@amcto.com), AMO, [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca), and all Ontario Municipalities.

**Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting  
Council Meeting**



**Resolution No.**

274

**Title:**

Notices of Motion

**Date:**

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

---

**Moved by**

D. DeGenova

**Seconded by**

J. Palmateer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

WHEREAS under Ontario Regulation 391/21:Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only;

AND WHEREAS 'ineligible' sources, which producers are not responsible for, include businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks;

AND WHEREAS failure to include 'ineligible sources under the Ontario Regulation 391/21:Blue Box program is in essence a provincial tax on ineligible sources;

AND WHEREAS should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the cost which amounts to yet another provincial municipal download;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Tweed Council hereby request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21:Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling product from all sources;

AND FURTHER THAT Council hereby request the support of all Ontario Municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ric Bresse, Member of Provincial Parliament for Hastings-Lennox and Addington, Minister of Affairs and Housing, Rob Flack and all Ontario Municipalities.

**Carried**

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 11:42 am
<b>Council Resolution</b> CIP	
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**Council Meeting Date:** July 14, 2025  
**Letter of Support for H.E.R. Elect Respect Campaign**  
**Council Resolution:** 2025-140  
**Moved:** Mayor Post  
**Seconded:** Councillor Andrews

WHEREAS democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community;

AND WHEREAS we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS Ontario's municipally elected officials are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment;

AND WHEREAS social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office;

AND WHEREAS better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office;

AND WHEREAS in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against harassment and negativity in politics and called on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct;

AND WHEREAS H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials that encourages individuals to participate in the political process;

AND WHEREAS on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a non-partisan "Parliamentary Civility Pledge" to encourage all parliamentarians to commit to end workplace harassment and increase civility on Parliament Hill, modelled after the pledge developed in Halton by representatives of H.E.R.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Orangeville Council supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:



- Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online,
- Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,
- Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,
- Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,
- Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and
- Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct.

AND THAT Orangeville Council calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at [www.electrespect.ca](http://www.electrespect.ca).

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, relevant MPs and MPPs, Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**Result:** Carried Unanimously



The Municipality of the  
**VILLAGE OF BURK'S FALLS**

Moved By: Ashley Brandt Date: July 15, 2025

Seconded By: Ryan Baptiste Resolution # 2025- 244


Be it resolved;

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Village of Burk's Falls, together with residents from surrounding municipalities, has expressed strong and united opposition to the proposed installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, citing significant concerns regarding public safety, environmental risk, land use compatibility, and insufficient local economic benefit; and

**WHEREAS** the perceived risk associated with BESS installations significantly outweighs any demonstrated local advantage, and further, the lack of established, province-wide planning policies has led to avoidable conflict and uncertainty for municipalities and residents alike;

**Now therefore be it resolved that:**

1. The Council of the Village of Burk's Falls respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario immediately suspend the approval and development of all new BESS installations until a comprehensive, science-based study is completed. Such a study should result in the development of robust, province-wide policies and regulations governing the operation, and risk mitigation of BESS facilities.
2. The Province of Ontario be urged to provide clear policy guidance to municipalities and industry stakeholders recommending that BESS installations be permitted only on lands currently zoned for industrial use, recognizing that:
  - a) such lands have been previously evaluated and approved for industrial development; and
  - b) the limited economic return provided by BESS projects does not justify rezoning lands designated for other uses.

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 11:08 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

3. The Province of Ontario be further requested to disseminate the results of this study and any associated policy or regulatory recommendations to all Ontario municipalities, thereby preventing unnecessary and costly legal challenges, public opposition, and community division related to the siting of future BESS projects.
4. The Council of the Village of Burk's Falls calls upon Solar Bank Corporation to immediately withdraw its application for the proposed BESS facility at Pegg's Mountain, in the interest of fostering constructive community relations and acknowledging that this situation closely parallels the circumstances in Gravenhurst, where similar concerns led to widespread opposition and rejection of a comparable project.
5. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to members of parliament (MPP's) and all municipalities in the province of Ontario.

Recorded Vote requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Ryan Baptiste	for / opposed
Ashley Brandt	for / opposed
Sean Cotton	for / opposed
Chris Hope	for / opposed
Nancy Kyte	for / opposed


Pecuniary Interest declared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Y                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
Carried                      Defeated                      Deferred

Mayor



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 1:23 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Legislative Services  
Ishita Soneji  
905-726-4768  
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora  
100 John West Way, Box 1000  
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

July 17, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario

**Delivered by email**  
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Energy and Mines

ministerenergy@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Lecce:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of July 15, 2025  
Member Motion 7.1 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025***

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its special meeting held on July 15, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and**

**Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and**

**Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and**

**Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and**

**Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and**

**Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;**

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in Bill 5, but expresses serious concerns with Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local**

**planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and**

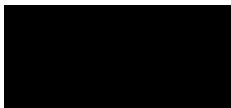
**2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council urges the Government of Ontario to consider the following:**

- **Collaboration with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones;**
- **Ensure environmental protections and heritage safeguards are strengthened;**
- **Include municipalities and Indigenous partners in shaping regulations; and**
- **Preserve legal recourse for affected communities; and**

**3. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Ishita Soneji  
Deputy Town Clerk  
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

IS/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities



## 7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion

### 7.1 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*

#### **Main motion as amended**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gaertner

Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and

Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and

Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and

Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and

Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in Bill 5, but expresses serious concerns with Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council urges the Government of Ontario to consider the following:

- Collaboration with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones;
  - Ensure environmental protections and heritage safeguards are strengthened;
  - Include municipalities and Indigenous partners in shaping regulations; and
  - Preserve legal recourse for affected communities; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).


Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

**Carried (4 to 0)**





 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 1:25 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Legislative Services  
Ishita Soneji  
905-726-4768  
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora  
100 John West Way, Box 1000  
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

July 17, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario

**Delivered by email**  
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of June 24, 2025  
Member Motion 7.2 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act*, 2025**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its special meeting held on July 15, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and**

**Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity; and**

**Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and**

**Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and**

**Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term effects on communities; and**

**Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and**

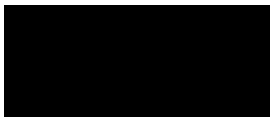
**Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local planning decisions;**



1. **Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council recognizes the intent of Ontario Bill 17 to streamline housing and infrastructure development; however, expresses significant concerns with Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends:**
  - **Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;**
  - **Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;**
  - **Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;**
  - **Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;**
  - **Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and**
2. **Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Ishita Soneji

Deputy Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

IS/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

All Ontario Municipalities



## 7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion

### 7.2 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*

#### **Main motion as amended**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gallo

Whereas Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity; and

Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and

Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and

Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term effects on communities; and

Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and

Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local planning decisions;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council recognizes the intent of Ontario Bill 17 to streamline housing and

infrastructure development; however, expresses significant concerns with Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends:

- Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;
- Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;
- Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;
- Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;
- Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

**Carried (4 to 0)**

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM REGION ANTI-RACISM TASKFORCE**

**Thursday, June 26, 2025**

A meeting of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce was held on Thursday, June 26, 2025 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:02 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### **1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgment**

Chair Samuel read the following land acknowledgement:

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

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

#### **2. Roll Call**

Present: S. Bookal, Community Member  
PG Case, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Vice-Chair  
R. Coelho\*, Community Member  
A. Frempong, Community Member  
Councillor Lee, Regional Council  
J. Munawa, Community Member  
B. Nelson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative  
N. Samuel, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Chair  
Councillor Shahid, Regional Council  
J. Williamson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative  
G. Wilson-Beier, Community Member  
**\* denotes members participating electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Anderson\*, Regional Council Alternate

Absent: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

Staff

Present: K. Allore-Engel, Manager, Community Safety and Well-Being, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
P. Hines, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
A. Sharma, Policy Advisor, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

**3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by S. Bookal,  
That the minutes of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting  
held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations to be heard.

**6. Presentations**

A) Kiersten Allore-Engel, Manager, Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB), Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Regional Municipality of Durham, re: CSWB Violence Prevention and Intervention Activities

Kiersten Allore-Engel, Manager, Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB), Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Regional Municipality of Durham, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to CSWB Violence Prevention and Intervention Activities.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan
  - Mental Health
  - Substance Use
  - Criminal Involvement
  - Social Isolation
  - Victimization
  - Homelessness and Basic Needs
  - Experiences of Racism

- CSWB Context
- Four Levels of Risk Mitigation
- Cost Benefits of CSWB Planning
- Current Violence Prevention and Intervention Initiatives
- Violence Interruption
  - Murray McKinnon Foundation
- Violence Intervention
  - Durham Community Action Group
  - Ifarada Institute
- Violence Prevention
  - Afiwi Groove School
  - Durham Family Cultural Centre
  - First Nations
  - Micro-Grants

K. Allore-Engel responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether any overlap exists between the programs; how the success rate of the programs are measured; the total amount of grant funding available through the micro-grants program, and which level of government is providing the funding; whether Durham Region Police Services (DRPS) has an association with any of the programs; whether any connections exist between program partners and the Youth in Policing (YIP) program; whether a presentation will be delivered to any school boards in the Region to connect students with appropriate programming; whether any of the program partners assist racialized youth with attaining relevant certifications to support successful job placement; the potential impacts that Bill 33: Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025, as proposed, may have on programming as it relates to mandated police access in schools; and strategies to support youth navigating the court system.

Discussion ensued with regards to the importance of connecting teachers and school staff with the necessary supports and resources to respond to the needs of students and connect them to appropriate programs to support their development and success; the essential role that community engagement plays in achieving that objective; the existing barriers that deters individuals from seeking relevant support services; and the partnerships that school boards have with various mental health service providers.

## **7. Information Items**

There were no information items.

## **8. Discussion Items**

### **A) Emancipation Day Celebrations**

---

P. Hines stated that the Region is hosting an Emancipation Day event on July 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Esplanade Park in Pickering. She advised that the theme of the event is “Rooted in Resilience: Embracing Empowerment” and outlined the event programming which will include an educational component, speeches, activities for children, and celebratory festivities. P. Hines noted that the Ajax Anti-Racism Taskforce and Pickering Anti-Black Racism Taskforce will be present at the event and stated that representation from the DRART is recommended and would strengthen its visibility within the community.

P. Hines advised that there will not be a dedicated entry point to the event but road blockages will be in place as part of a new security protocol established by the City of Pickering.

P. Hines responded to questions from the Committee with regards to food vendors; whether there will be a controlled gate entry; whether tents will be available for event partners; how the Committee can contribute to the event; whether information relating to this event will be shared with the other diversity committees in the Region; and whether there is an opportunity for Durham Region Transit (DRT) to provide transit services to the event for newcomers to the Region and shelter residents.

B) Community-based Hate Reporting

---

A. Sharma provided an overview of Council’s recent direction to staff to investigate the development of a framework for sharing incidences of hate with relevant human rights organizations, and the subsequent research activities undertaken by staff to explore suitable approaches to fulfil the directive. She advised that staff concluded there is a larger role they can play in the collection of data relating to hate-motivated incidents, which will drive the development of a community-based hate reporting program. A. Sharma explained the framework of the program draws on models used in other municipalities where Victim Services is the dedicated first point of contact for reporting due to their staff being trained in trauma response and their ability to provide appropriate supports.

A. Sharma stated that a two-year pilot project for the community-based hate reporting program has been approved by the Finance and Administration Committee and Council and advised that next steps include building out the program, with specific timelines and benchmarks to be determined. A. Hector-Alexander added that the first phase of the project will be funded through the Community Safety and Well-Being Fund.

A. Sharma shared samples of the posters that were publicized as part of Mississauga’s anti-hate campaign that features the tagline “Embrace and Celebrate our Diversity”, as examples of how this project may be promoted.

A. Hector-Alexander and A. Sharma responded to questions from the Committee with regards to whether the referenced community partners have already been

engaged in discussions or will be engaged as the project progresses; potential risks and outcomes associated with data transfer to police services or third party organizations; effective communication strategies to explain the process to the community to encourage more individuals to report incidences of hate; and whether consideration has been given to offering mediation services to repair or restore relationships in the community affected by adversity.

Discussion ensued regarding the reasons for hate motivated incidences being underreported; the importance of incorporating an educational element to support the program's goals and long-term impact; the benefit of collecting and reporting related data at community events to generate useful insights; and the perceived connection one may make between Victim Services and law enforcement that may deter individuals from reporting hate activity.

C) Community Connections

---

A. Hector-Alexander stated that the Region's first community connections event was a success and effectively provided a space for communities to come together and share experiences and ideas. She advised that the event generated interest in organizing future gatherings.

A. Hector-Alexander responded to a question from the Committee with regards to whether other diversity committees were invited to attend the event.

General discussion ensued with members providing positive feedback about the event; and suggestions for strategic direction for future events, including promotional strategies, expanding on educational elements, and approaches to building collaborative networks in the community.

D) Subcommittee Updates

---

1. EDI Working Group

A. Frempong provided an update on behalf of the EDI Working Group and stated that a survey was recently sent out to various community partners and Committee members to collect information as part of the coalition building phase of the Together Against Hate Campaign. She advised that monthly meetings will take place with coalition partners, with the first meeting scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. A. Frempong emphasized the importance of having representation from the DRART at these meetings and encouraged members to participate.

P. Hines added that the survey contains essential information that will guide the coalition and provide insights to guide next steps. She stated that responses from some community partners have not been received and suggested if any members have direct contacts within any of these organizations, that may assist with obtaining additional responses.



P. Hines responded to questions from the Committee with regards to the timing of the event; whether the event will be held in a virtual format; and whether specific deliverables are expected as a condition of the funding allocation.

2. DRPS Working Group

S. Bookal provided an update with regards to the DRPS Working Group and advised that the staffing changes within the DRPS leadership team have concluded. She stated that Deputy Chief Kirkpatrick will now be responsible for overseeing the Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) and advised that the Working Group's monthly meetings with DRPS will likely take place with Deputy Chief Kirkpatrick going forward.

S. Bookal also noted that Jill Locke has been assigned as the Inspector for the Equity and Inclusion Unit, and Mark Pillman has been assigned as the Staff Sergeant.

3. School Board Working Group

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

4. Education Working Group

There were no new updates from the Education Working Group

9. **Other Business**

A) Canadian Race Relations Foundation Fund

---

A. Frempong announced that the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) recently invited community partners in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) to attend a community development day to engage in dialogue relating to anti-hate strategies and initiatives across the province. She advised that she submitted an application on behalf of the Committee, and two members of the Committee have been accepted to attend the event, which will take place virtually on July 11 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. A. Frempong further advised that due to scheduling conflicts, she is unable to attend the event and inquired whether any members would be available to participate.

A. Sharma added that the CRRF is accepting applications from organizations that are planning and implementing anti-racism projects and stated that expressions of interest that identify an anti-racism initiative can be submitted up to August 29<sup>th</sup>.

B) Whitby MP Ryan Turnbull's Pre-Canada Day BBQ

---

S. Bookal stated that Whitby MP Ryan Turnbull is hosting a Pre-Canada Day BBQ on June 28<sup>th</sup> at Cullen Central Park in Whitby. She suggested this may be an opportunity to show support and network and encouraged members to attend.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

---

N. Samuel, Chair

---

V. Walker, Committee Clerk