



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, August 1, 2025

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

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There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence.	
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7. Advisory / Other Committee Minutes

There are no Advisory/Other Committee Minutes

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

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

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



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2025-INFO-64
Date: August 1, 2025

Subject:

2024 Annual Report: Poverty Reduction Strategy

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the report titled [2024 Annual Report: Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), released by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) on June 20, 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2020, the Government of Ontario committed to reduce poverty through a five-year strategy titled [Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario \(2020-2025\)](#).
- a. The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on Ontario's economy, most notably on service sector jobs. The health, social and economic impacts on the province have been widespread.
 - Ontario experienced record levels of unemployment in May 2020.
 - People who already faced barriers to opportunity and well-being were among those who faced the greatest challenges. Low-wage workers, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, Black people and people from other racialized groups were disproportionately impacted by job losses.
 - b. The poverty reduction strategy outlined a cross-government plan, which built on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to prevent people from falling

into poverty and dependence on social assistance, while supporting economic recovery.

- c. The target was to get more social assistance recipients into meaningful employment and financial stability. The government aimed to provide the right supports and services with the goal of increasing the number of social assistance recipients moving to employment each year from 35,000 in 2019 to 60,000 by 2024.

2.2 In its 2024 Annual Report, MCCSS reviews Ontario's progress on the 2020-2025 poverty reduction strategy.

3. Report Findings

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Pillars

3.1 The first section of the report describes the targeted efforts that the government has made in 2024 within each of the four pillars of the poverty reduction strategy.

3.2 Pillar one: encouraging job creation and connecting people to employment.

- a. This pillar focuses on the creation of new jobs and connecting people to meaningful employment within in-demand sectors, meeting the needs of local job markets. These initiatives aim to remove employment barriers for Ontarians and provide targeted supports for priority groups, while enhancing employment and skilled trades opportunities.
- b. Key initiatives for this pillar include:
 - Expanding integrated employment services.
 - Enhancing skills for better employment outcomes.
 - Employment supports for priority groups.
 - Preparing Ontarians to work in the skilled trades.
 - Supporting employment in the health care sector.
 - Helping people start businesses.

3.3 Pillar two: connecting people with the right supports and services.

- a. This pillar focuses on targeted supports to connect individuals and families with the services they need, ensuring timely access and better long-term outcomes. These efforts focus on priority populations, helping more people achieve financial stability through enhanced social assistance, affordable housing, training opportunities, and stable employment, while also expanding access to mental health services and violence prevention programs.
- b. Key initiatives for this pillar include:
 - Fostering an effective and efficient social assistance system.
 - Improving housing stability.

- Improving health outcomes for Ontarians.
- Supporting student learning and development with nutritious meals.
- Supports and services for victims and survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking.
- Enhancing the well-being and long-term outcomes of children and youth in care.
- Supporting non-profit organizations through the [Resilient Communities Fund](#).

3.4 Pillar three: making life more affordable and building financial resiliency.

- a. Rising costs continue to impact many Ontarians, especially those facing financial strain. This pillar focuses on initiatives to reduce costs and improve affordability for all Ontarians, including individuals with disabilities, families with children with severe disabilities, seniors, Veterans, and low-income households.
- b. Key initiatives for this pillar include:
 - Improvements to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program.
 - Increasing minimum wage.
 - Investing in schools and child care for families.
 - Cap on rent increases.
 - Energy cost savings.
 - Cutting the gas and fuel tax rates.
 - Tax credits for workers and families.
 - Financial support for low-income seniors.
 - Financial support for low-income Veterans.
 - Reducing transit costs with the [One Fare Program](#).

3.5 Pillar four: accelerating action and driving progress.

- a. This pillar focuses on collaborating with communities and sector partners to support economic recovery and improving service connectivity and accessibility.
- b. Key initiatives for this pillar include:
 - Accelerating housing in Ontario.
 - Expanding roads, highway and public transit.
 - Bringing reliable access to broadband (high-speed internet connection) to every community.
 - Achieving Indigenous prosperity and well-being.

Indicators Measuring Progress

- 3.6 The second section of the report provides the latest available data for 17 indicators that measure the province's progress on the poverty reduction strategy.
- The latest available data is compared to data from the previously recorded year and the baseline year to track progress.
 - The indicators draw data from multiple sources. As a result, the availability of data varies across the indicators, and the indicators have different baseline years and timeframes for when updates can be released.
 - In this report, "priority groups" include youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, Black people and people from other racialized groups.
- 3.7 The strategy's target indicator is the total number of social assistance cases that exited to employment.
- In 2024, exits to employment increased by 22 per cent, rising to 34,994 from 28,599 in 2023.
 - This indicator continues on an upward trend since 2021 but remains below the 2019 baseline of 35,983 exits and the 2024 goal of 60,000 exits.
- 3.8 The following indicators measure the employment rate, how many jobs were created, the extent to which people on social assistance are becoming employed and training results:
- The employment rate for the general population decreased by 1.6 percentage points from 2023 to 2024, from 74.8 per cent to 73.2 per cent, displaying a return to the 2019 baseline.
 - The employment rate for all priority groups also decreased from 2023 to 2024:
 - Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve experienced a decrease of 4.2 percentage points, from 67.6 per cent to 63.4 per cent.
 - Youth experienced a reduction of 4.1 percentage points, from 54.5 per cent to 50.4 per cent.
 - The employment rate of Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve still had a 0.8 percentage point increase over the 2019 baseline; however, the employment rate of youth was 4.8 percentage points lower than baseline.
 - Women's employment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points, from 71.6 per cent to 70.4 per cent, returning to the 2019 baseline.
 - In 2024, a total number of 140,000 net new jobs were created. This was a reduction from 242,000 net new jobs in 2023 and 172,500 at the 2019 baseline.

- d. Through Employment Ontario (EO), the province provides workers and job seekers with training, skills and experience to meet their employment goals. In 2023-24, there were 45,107 EO completions of skills or work-experience-related interventions, representing a 12 per cent decrease from 51,432 EO completions in 2022-23. This is also decreased from the 2019-20 baseline of 62,232 EO completions.
 - e. In 2024, the percentage of ODSP cases reporting employment earnings remained stable at 10.1 per cent, essentially unchanged from 10.3 per cent in 2023. However, the percentage of Ontario Works cases reporting employment earnings decreased to 7.3 per cent in 2024 from 8.5 per cent in 2023. Both programs remained below the 2019 baseline.
- 3.9 The following indicators measure progress on high school graduation rates and credit accumulation, as well as post-secondary graduation rates:
- a. In 2022-23, 89.5 per cent of students graduated within five years of starting Grade 9. This represents a slight increase in the high school graduation rate from the 2021-22 school year (89.1 per cent) and an improvement from the 2017-18 baseline (87.1 per cent).
 - b. In the 2022-23 school year, the percentage of Grade 9 students on track to graduate decreased slightly by one percentage point (84 per cent) compared to the previous school year (85 per cent). Similarly, the percentages of Grade 10 (78 per cent) and Grade 11 (82 per cent) students on track to graduate decreased by two and one percentage points, respectively. All three grades decreased from their 2018-19 baseline levels.
 - c. Ontario's university graduation rate in 2022-23 was 78.2 per cent, which was 0.7 percentage points lower than the graduation rate for the 2021-22 reporting period (78.9 per cent) but still 1.3 percentage points higher than that of the 2018-19 baseline (76.9 per cent).
 - d. Ontario's college graduation rate increased to 74.7 per cent in 2022-23. This was 1.3 percentage points higher than the graduation rate for the 2021-22 reporting period (73.4 per cent) and 4.5 percentage points higher than that of the 2018-19 baseline (70.2 per cent).
- 3.10 The following indicators measure the province's progress in supporting low-income individuals and families to move towards financial independence:
- a. In 2024, 6.2 per cent of Ontario's population received social assistance, slightly up from 6.1 per cent in 2023, but 0.7 percentage points below the 2019 baseline.
 - The slight increase in the percentage of the population on social assistance between 2023 and 2024 corresponded with a rise in the unemployment rate.

- b. The average number of months it takes for new cases on Ontario Works and ODSP to become employed or exit social assistance has remained stable since the 2018 baseline, at eight and nine months, respectively.
 - c. In 2023, the percentage of cases exiting Ontario Works that return within one year was 31 per cent, displaying an improvement from 32 per cent in 2022 and 33 per cent at baseline.
 - d. The proportion of Ontario's low-income households assisted by community housing programs has increased by 1.1 percentage points since the 2018-19 baseline. The proportion has trended upwards for a second straight year, increasing from 24.3 per cent in 2022-23 to 24.6 per cent in 2023-24.
- 3.11 The following indicators measure the province's progress in reducing the number of people with low incomes, with a focus on the priority populations:
- a. In 2022, the poverty and deep poverty rates increased for the general population and all priority groups, when compared to 2021.
 - The increase in poverty and deep poverty rates in 2022 was anticipated, given the reduction in federal COVID-19 benefits and government transfers that had contributed to lowering poverty rates in 2020 and 2021.
 - b. The overall poverty rate for the general population increased by 3.2 percentage points, rising from 7.7 per cent in 2021 to 10.9 per cent in 2022. This continues the trend towards the pre-pandemic rates, while remaining below the 2018 baseline of 11.6 per cent.
 - Poverty rates among all priority populations also saw an increase. Specifically, the poverty rates for youth, women, Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve and visible minorities increased by 4.6 percentage points, 3.2 percentage points, 1.4 percentage points and 3.7 percentage points, respectively, from 2021 to 2022.
 - The poverty rate remained below the 2018 baseline for all priority groups, except Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve, whose rate increased from 14.4 per cent to 17.7 per cent.
 - c. In 2022, the deep poverty rate for the general population was 5.6 per cent, representing an increase from the 2021 rate of 3.8 per cent and a return to the 2018 baseline.
 - The deep poverty rate refers to the percentage of individuals with disposable family incomes below 75% of the Market Basket Measure (MBM) threshold for their family size and region. The MBM threshold is the disposable income required for a family to purchase a specific basket of goods and services defined as the minimum needed to meet a basic standard of living.

- All priority groups experienced increases in the deep poverty rate. Specifically, the deep poverty rates for youth, women, Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve and visible minorities increased by 2.5 percentage points, 2.0 percentage points, 1.4 percentage points and 2.5 percentage points, respectively, from 2021 to 2022.
- The deep poverty rate increased from the 2018 baseline for most priority groups, except for youth, whose rate remained below the baseline.

4. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 4.1 Report #2025-INFO-33 provided an update on the report titled [Food Insecurity and Food Affordability in Ontario](#), released by Public Health Ontario on April 9, 2025.
- 4.2 Report #2024-INFO-79 provided an update on [A Time for Urgent Action: The 2024 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty](#), released by the Government of Canada on October 29, 2024.

5. Local Initiatives

- 5.1 Locally, Durham Region Social Services Department (DRSSD) and Durham Region Health Department (DRHD), are working on development of a Poverty Response Program (PRP). The PRP will outline actions to address poverty across the region and will be grounded in a collaborative, community-based approach that includes local leaders, service providers, and individuals with lived experience of poverty. The PRP aims to better understand poverty in Durham Region and create actionable solutions.
 - a. On May 21, DRHD and DRSSD co-hosted a Poverty Response Community Workshop at the Ajax Community Centre. Community partners were invited to attend the Community Workshop to discuss poverty in the region, learn from each other and work towards co-creating actionable solutions.
 - b. Approximately 90 people attended the workshop, including community partners from diverse sectors and individuals with lived experience of poverty. Discussions focused on identifying and addressing key areas that impact those living with poverty the most (e.g., housing, income, access to technology, mental health & addictions, transportation, service navigation, and food insecurity).
 - c. 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 in the development of the PRP and will be shared broadly with community. Community partners will continue to have opportunities to engage in the process and contribute to the work going forward.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

a. Healthy People, Caring Communities

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

b. Strong Relationships

- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.

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

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

7. Conclusion

7.1 In its 2024 Annual Report, MCCSS discusses Ontario's progress on its 2020-2025 poverty reduction strategy by highlighting the investments made to initiatives within the strategy's four pillars and reporting on key indicators.

- a. The province has made some progress towards the strategy's target; however, it has not been achieved in the set timeframe.
- b. Some of the strategy's indicators show improvement in 2024, yet many have worsened since the previous reporting period.

7.2 As Ontario reaches the conclusion of its current poverty reduction strategy, the government remains committed to reducing poverty through collaboration with all levels of government, as well as non-profit and private sector partners.

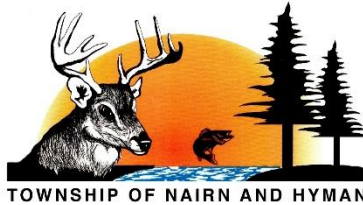
- a. Efforts are focused on equipping individuals experiencing poverty with the skills and supports needed for stable employment and financial independence.
- b. Looking ahead, Ontario will continue to support vulnerable populations, provide economic stability and invest in essential public services to ensure all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

7.3 Ontario will develop a new poverty reduction strategy in 2025, under the Poverty Reduction Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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



64 McIntyre Street • Nairn Centre, Ontario • P0M 2L0 ☎ 705-869-4232 📠 705-869-5248
Established: March 7, 1896 Office of the Clerk Treasurer, CAO E-mail: belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca

July 17, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines
College Park, 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sent via email : stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org and MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca

The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sent via email: mtinfo@ontario.ca and prabmeetsarkaria@pc.ola.org


The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sent via email: todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org and minister.mnrf@ontario.ca

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9
Sent via email: cnsccsn@nsc-ccsn.gc.ca and patrick.burton@cnsccsn.gc.ca

RE: Opposition to the Transportation and Disposal of Niobium Tailings at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area

Please be advised that the Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman has passed a formal resolution opposing the proposed transport and disposal of approximately 18,600 cubic metres of niobium mine tailings from the Nova Beaucage Mine and associated MTO gravel pit to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALMA), located within our municipal boundaries.

This resolution follows the independent review by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. conducted on behalf of the Township of the technical documents submitted by the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of Transportation, including the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA)

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 29, 2025 9:31 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

and the Conceptual Site Model (CSM). The findings of Hutchinson's review have raised significant concerns regarding the sufficiency of the risk assessment, groundwater and surface water monitoring, leachability modeling, baseline data gaps, and long-term containment and environmental management plans. These issues pose unacceptable risks to public health, the surrounding watershed, and the long-term environmental integrity of our region.

Further, it has come to the Township's attention that the Ministry of Transportation has transported a portion of the niobium tailings to Clean Harbors, a licensed hazardous waste treatment facility near Sarnia. This action raises a serious question as to why all the material is not being disposed of through the same secure and regulated channel, instead of being placed at an aging tailings management site adjacent to sensitive ecosystems and communities.

The Township of Nairn and Hyman also wishes to acknowledge and support the position of the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising (UCCMM), who have issued a letter voicing their firm opposition to this project. Their concerns are rooted not only in environmental impact, but also in the Ministry's failure to conduct meaningful consultation with the impacted UCCMM First Nations, whose traditional territory includes the Agnew Lake area. Their letter is attached for your review and inclusion in the public record.

This resolution passed at the Council Meeting of the Township of Nairn and Hyman on July 14, 2025, calls upon your government and relevant ministries to halt any further actions related to the transportation of this hazardous product to the ALTMA site.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION # 2025-8-152

DATED: July 14, 2025

MOVED BY: Wayne Austin

SECONDED BY: Karen Richter

WHEREAS the Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Transportation has proposed the transportation and placement of approximately 18,600 cubic metres of niobium mine tailings from the Nova Beaucage Mine and associated MTO gravel pit to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area, located within the Township of Nairn and Hyman;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry has submitted technical documentation, including a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) and Conceptual Site Model (CSM), which have been independently reviewed by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. on behalf of the Township;

AND WHEREAS Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. report raises serious concerns regarding the adequacy of risk modeling, leachability assessments, hydrogeological characterization, biological monitoring, and long-term containment of radionuclides and toxic metals;

AND WHEREAS the Township has recently learned that the Ministry of Transportation intends to transport an existing stockpile of niobium tailings to Clean Harbors, a licensed hazardous waste treatment facility in Sarnia, Ontario, raising the question as to why all of the niobium tailings are not being managed in the same manner;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman formally opposes the transportation or placement of niobium tailings at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Stephen Lecce, the Minister of Energy and Mines; the Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Ontario Ombudsman; the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; MP Jim Belanger; MPP Bill Rosenberg; MPP France Gelinas; the Association of Ontario Municipalities and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

We respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter and urge the Province of Ontario to prioritize the protection of our community's health, safety, and environmental integrity.

For more information regarding this matter, please contact our municipal office by email at belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca or by phone at (705) 869-4232.

Sincerely,

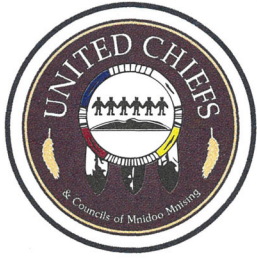


Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO Clerk Treasurer
Township of Nairn and Hyman
64 McIntyre Street,
Nairn Centre, ON P0M 2L0

Attachments: UCCMM Letter – Agnew Lake Tailings Management, Chief Patsy Corbiere, July 14, 2025

Cc:

Chief Patsy Corbiere and the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Council Members
The United Chiefs and Council of Mnidoo Mnising
Ontario Ombudsman
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Canadian Environmental Law Association
MP Jim Belanger
MPP Bill Rosenberg
MPP France Gelinas
Association of Ontario Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities
Maria Magdalene Healy, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Adam Levine, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Marc Stewart, Ministry of Energy and Mines
Rob Schryburt, Ministry of Energy and Mines
Eric Cobb, Ministry of Energy and Mines
Kristin Franks, Ministry of Transportation
Andrew Healy, Ministry of Transportation



UNITED CHIEFS and COUNCILS OF MNIDOO MNISING

July 14, 2025

Hon. George Pirie
Minister of Mines
minister.mines@ontario.ca

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
minister.mto@ontario.ca

Adam Levine Team Leader,
Indigenous Consultation and Participant Funding Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
adam.levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca

Re: Lack of First Nations engagement regarding Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area

We are writing to express our serious concerns about the lack of engagement with the impacted UCCMM First Nations regarding the ongoing monitoring and management of the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area, including but not limited to the decision in 2020 to expand the scope of the existing licence to allow for the depositing of large quantities of radioactive material from the former Beaucage Mine (WNSL-W5-3102.01/2025), as well as the proposed renewal of the licence for the site.

In the fall of last year UCCMM raised serious concerns with you and your staff about depositing large quantities of radioactive material at the site and the impacts of this on the UCCMM First Nations' rights, interests and well-being.

The Tailings Management Area is in close proximity to areas actively used for the exercise of our treaty protected s. 35 rights, including fishing and trapping. Despite this, there appears to have been no adequate engagement with our First Nations either about the decision to add more radioactive site to the Tailings Area, or about ongoing monitoring and management of the Tailings Area.

After a meeting with UCCMM last fall we were promised more detailed information about the project to add new radioactive materials to the site and the management of the site. While we have received some information from CNSC, we have received no further information or communication from Ontario. While we are aware of Ontario's communications with Whitefish River First Nation, as far as we are aware, the detailed information promised to WRFN by Ontario in December of 2024 was also never provided. In any event, WRFN is not the only UCCMM First Nation impacted, a point that was made clear in our meeting with Ontario officials last fall. Despite

this, UCCMM was not even notified directly by Ontario about its further plans to move ahead with this project.

It is entirely contrary to the Honour of the Crown and the Crown's obligation for the Crown to move ahead with plans that will likely have a significant negative impact on the UCCMM First Nations where the Crown has repeatedly failed to be forthcoming with its promises to provide information.

UCCMM must have adequate information, as well as time and resources to review that information to assess the level of impact on our rights, and what alternatives are available.

Please confirm that Ontario will pause any further plans to move ahead with a renewal or to move any additional radioactive material to the site until appropriate consultation and accommodation – including the provision of adequate data – is completed.

Please contact Saul Bomberly sbomberly@uccmm.ca at the Tribal Council to arrange a meeting with UCCMM and provide him the relevant information immediately.



Chief Patsy Corbiere
Tribal Chair

cc. Eric Cobb, MINES
Marc Stewart, MINES
UCCMM First Nations Chief and Councils
Township of Nairn and Hyman

July 30, 2025

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
155 University Ave | Suite 800
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

Sent via email: resolutions@amo.on.ca

**Re: Elect Respect Pledge
Our File 10.12.1**

To Whom it May Concern,

At its meeting of July 14, 2025, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

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

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 31, 2025 10:13 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

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 City of St. Catharines 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That City of St. Catharines Council calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Donna Delvecchio, Acting City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
:av

cc: Ontario Big City Mayors
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario
MPs and MPPs
Regional Police
The Ontario Provincial Police
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

From: Metrolinx <noreply@community.metrolinx.com>

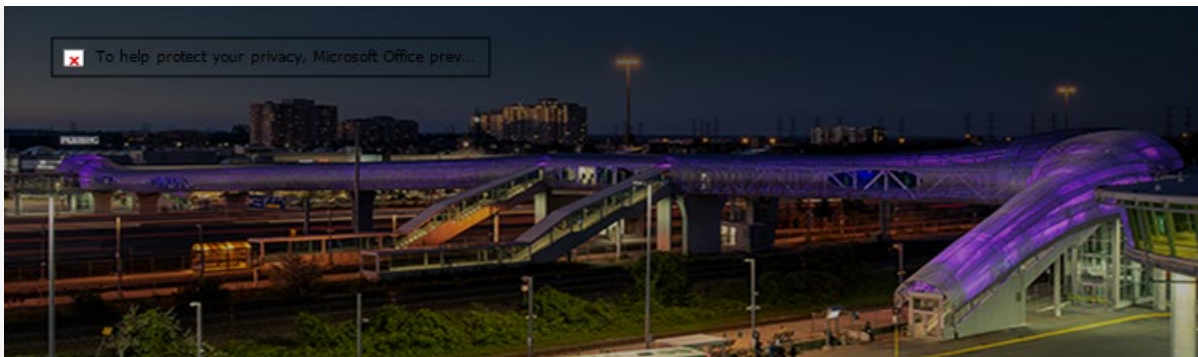
Sent: July 28, 2025 11:31 AM

To: Clerks <Clerks@durham.ca>

Subject: Your July Durham Region Monthly Newsletter

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Durham

Let's GO to The Ex - Save big with PRESTO Perks



The Canadian National Exhibition runs from August 15 to September 1, 2025, at Exhibition Place in Toronto.

The best way to get to 'The Ex' is by taking the GO Train.

Exhibition GO is just steps from Exhibition Place and with the Weekend Day Pass and Weekday Group Passes it's also the most economical way to get there.

Whether it's the rides, the games, or the food building, people tend to have a favourite thing about 'The Ex' – but one thing everyone can agree on is a good deal.

PRESTO users can save up to 47% on CNE admission and Ride All Day tickets until August 14 with PRESTO Perks.

Grab your tickets early as after August 15, PRESTO cardholders can save up to 41% on event admission and ride tickets.

If you're planning on visiting, be sure to plan your trip, view schedules, and compare fare options on our website, www.gotransit.com.

[Get more details](#)



CONSTRUCTION NOTICES

Overnight grade crossing enhancements and temporary lane closures at Rodd Avenue.

Three days from July 30, 2025, to August 1, 2025, approximately.

Monday-Friday 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Overnight work with temporary lane closures.

[Get construction details](#)

Geotechnical investigative work on Thickson Road near the Lakeshore East rail corridor

July 28, 2025, to July 30, 2025, approximately.

Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Lane restrictions in place.

[Get construction details](#)

Bowmanville Extension corridor geotechnical investigations

July 16, 2025, to December 2025, approximately.

Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Various locations across the Bowmanville Extension alignment.

[Get construction details](#)

Soil Characterization Work at Farewell Street Bridge

July 7, 2025, to August 7, 2025, approximately
Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Temporary bridge closures during work hours..

[Get construction details](#)

✓ CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Albert Street watermain installation from Fisher Street to Albany Street

Work ongoing until September 12, approximately.

[Get more details](#)

Soil characterization work at Simcoe Street and Albert Street bridge

Work ongoing until August 18, approximately.

[Get more details](#)

Event Highlights



Thank you for stopping by!

It is always great having the opportunity to speak with local residents about transit projects and services within their community.

Thank you for visiting us at the Pickering and Whitby Farmers' Markets on July 22 and July 23 respectively.

We can't wait to see you at our future events.

Upcoming Events



Pop on down to our Pickering GO pop-up!

Are you heading Downtown on the evening of August 15 for opening night of the Canadian National Exhibition – or are you going to see the Blue Jays play against the Texas Rangers at the Rogers Centre?

If so – while waiting for your train, consider stopping by our community engagement pop-up at Pickering GO Station to ask questions, share feedback, and learn about transit projects and programs underway in Durham Region.

We'll be on site from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and we hope to see you there!

[Find us here](#)

General Updates

!Welcome, Newcomers

To help you get settled in the Greater

Toronto & Hamilton Area (GTHA), we have easy-to-follow welcome kits that make riding on GO Transit comfortable, safe and convenient. Welcome kits are .available in multiple languages



Please visit one of the settlement agencies listed on our website to receive your Welcome Kit with a free PRESTO card that includes 50% off adult GO Transit fares through to September 30, .2025. Conditions apply

[Learn more here](#)

?Going to Rogers Stadium

Have tickets to see Oasis, Blackpink or another awesome music act at Toronto's newly opened Rogers Stadium in ?summer 2025



Transit will be your best bet! To help get you get there, we've outlined detailed instructions on how to reach the stadium from the nearby Downsview Park GO .Station

We hope you enjoy the show and travel !safe

[Learn more here](#)

Quick Links

 [Durham-Scarborough BRT](#)



 [Union Station](#)



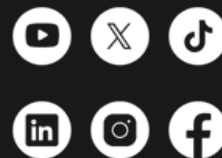
 [Lakeshore East Line](#)



 [View all projects](#)



97 Front Street West, Toronto, ON M5J 1E6,
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 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 30, 2025 8:22 am
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Notes/Comments:	

Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD
Page No: 1 of 4
Agenda Item No: 2 BOD-04-25

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Don Goodyear, General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management

Date: July 25, 2025

Subject:

Recommendation for Winter Road and Parking Lot Maintenance

Recommendation:

That Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD regarding recommendations for winter road and parking lot maintenance be received and the following resolution adopted:

Whereas: Chloride concentrations measured in Lake Simcoe have steadily increased since the 1970's and, if unchecked, could exceed the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Chronic Guideline by approximately 2069; and

Whereas: Chloride concentrations in urban tributaries are routinely above that Chronic Guideline, occasionally above the Acute Guideline and have recently exceeded the concentration of ocean water in one urban tributary, and continue to increase everywhere due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots; and

Whereas: These concentrations are lethal to some species of fish and benthic invertebrates, and decreasing the amount of winter salt use throughout the watershed is critical to the near-term health of urban tributaries and long-term health of Lake Simcoe; and

Whereas: A barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is the scarcity of trained and certified winter maintenance contractors; and

Whereas: A more substantial barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is concern over liability; and

Whereas: Businesses in the winter maintenance sector are seeing insurance and legal costs escalate to the point where many have failed, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors; and

Whereas: The limited liability framework in practice in New Hampshire is based on the Canadian Smart About Salt guidelines and has been successfully defended in the higher courts.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors requests that the Attorney General of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks establish and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the Province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and

Further That the Board of Directors requests that technical standards and a Provincial regulatory framework be established that limits liability for winter maintenance contractors following best practices to ensure public safety, business sustainability, and environmental protection; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed lead by example by ensuring staff and/or winter maintenance contractors that maintain municipal parking lots obtain certification through the Smart About Salt program as a condition of working for the municipality; and

Further That this resolution be circulated to Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities and Lake Simcoe watershed members of Provincial Parliament; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed implement best management practices for municipal roads management; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed collaborate with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority on an outreach campaign to raise awareness of this issue, manage expectations from the public regarding salt usage, and inspire positive action.

Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD is to enact direction from the Board of Directors to formalize recommendations from the Conservation Authority around winter road and parking lot maintenance.

Background:

Chloride concentrations in the surface waters of the Lake Simcoe watershed continue to increase due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots. This trend is not unique to the Lake Simcoe watershed and is mirrored in the lakes and streams in much of southern Ontario and the northeastern United States. In Lake Simcoe itself concentrations have shown a consistent increase since the 1970s with concentrations currently sitting at approximately 61mg/l. While this concentration is below the Canadian Water Quality Guideline of 120mg/l, this threshold will be crossed if the current trend continues.

In tributaries, a similar increasing trend in chloride concentrations is observed at most monitoring stations on both urban and rural rivers. In urban rivers, the majority of sampled concentrations sit above the chronic guideline of 120 mg/l with many sampled concentrations exceeding the acute guideline of 640mg/l. At concentrations in excess of the acute guideline, lethal effects can occur for some aquatic species. Decreasing the amount of winter salt use throughout the watershed is critical to the long-term health of Lake Simcoe but more immediately critical to the ecological health of the urban streams and rivers.

In addition to the environmental concerns over escalating chloride concentrations, there is also a business sustainability crisis in the winter maintenance industry. Many contractors are seeing insurance costs escalate substantially which, combined with the frequency of slip and fall legal

settlements, is creating a significant challenge for these small businesses across the province. Many businesses have failed due to these challenges, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors.

Since 2022, senior staff from the Conservation Authority have engaged private sector stakeholders, other environmental agencies, as well as provincial and federal counterparts to highlight the importance of this issue and the potential win-win scenario that a limited liability framework could bring.

Issues:

Research, including local studies on a large commercial parking lot in the Lake Simcoe watershed, has demonstrated that adopting best practices like the limited liability approach used in New Hampshire can reduce salt use by 40% without any increase in slips and falls. In fact, in some cases, the over-application of salt can create a slipperier surface for walking on.

The barriers to reducing salt application are concern over liability, limited availability of trained and certified contractors, initial municipal costs to implement best practices, and political reaction to complaints.

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:

The Conservation Authority's work in understanding and addressing the increasing chloride concentrations in the watershed is in support of strategic directions 2.1 (Knowledge of watershed health and management decisions are improved through comprehensive, leading-edge science) and 3.2 (Mutually beneficial partnerships leverage knowledge and resources for watershed health outcomes).

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:

This work has historically been funded by member municipalities, as well as the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, through its Lake Simcoe Protection Plan funding.

Summary and Recommendations:

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD regarding recommendations for winter road and parking lot management be received and the following resolution adopted:

Whereas: Chloride concentrations measured in Lake Simcoe have steadily increased since the 1970's and, if unchecked, could exceed the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Chronic Guideline by approximately 2069; and **Whereas:** Chloride concentrations in urban tributaries are routinely above that Chronic Guideline, occasionally above the Acute Guideline and have recently exceeded the concentration of ocean water in one urban tributary, and continue to increase everywhere due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots; and

Whereas: These concentrations are lethal to some species of fish and benthic invertebrates, and decreasing the amount of winter salt use throughout the watershed is critical to the near-

term health of urban tributaries and long-term health of Lake Simcoe; and **Whereas:** A barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is the scarcity of trained and certified winter maintenance contractors; and **Whereas:** A more substantial barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is concern over liability; and **Whereas:** Businesses in the winter maintenance sector are seeing insurance and legal costs escalate to the point where many have failed, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors; and **Whereas:** The limited liability framework in practice in New Hampshire is based on the Canadian Smart About Salt guidelines and has been successfully defended in the higher courts.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors requests that the Attorney General of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks establish and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the Province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and **Further That** the Board of Directors requests that technical standards and a Provincial regulatory framework be established that limits liability for winter maintenance contractors following best practices to ensure public safety, business sustainability, and environmental protection; and **Further That** municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed lead by example by ensuring staff and/or winter maintenance contractors that maintain municipal parking lots obtain certification through the Smart About Salt program as a condition of working for the municipality; and **Further That** this resolution be circulated to Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities and Lake Simcoe watershed members of Provincial Parliament; and **Further That** municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed implement best management practices for municipal roads management; and **Further That** municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed collaborate with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority on an outreach campaign to raise awareness of this issue, manage expectations from the public regarding salt usage, and inspire positive action.

Pre-Submission Review:

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Don Goodyear
General Manager, Integrated Watershed
Management

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Item 2 BOD-04-25 – Recommendation for Winter Road and Parking Lot Maintenance

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-076-25 Resolved That Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD regarding recommendations for winter road and parking lot maintenance be received and the following resolution adopted:

Whereas: Chloride concentrations measured in Lake Simcoe have steadily increased since the 1970's and, if unchecked, could exceed the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Chronic Guideline by approximately 2069; and

Whereas: Chloride concentrations in urban tributaries are routinely above that Chronic Guideline, occasionally above the Acute Guideline and have recently exceeded the concentration of ocean water in one urban tributary, and continue to increase everywhere due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots; and

Whereas: These concentrations are lethal to some species of fish and benthic invertebrates, and decreasing the amount of winter salt use throughout the watershed is critical to the near-term health of urban tributaries and long-term health of Lake Simcoe; and

Whereas: A barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is the scarcity of trained and certified winter maintenance contractors; and

Whereas: A more substantial barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is concern over liability; and

Whereas: Businesses in the winter maintenance sector are seeing insurance and legal costs escalate to the point where many have failed, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors; and

Whereas: The limited liability framework in practice in New Hampshire is based on the Canadian Smart About Salt guidelines and has been successfully defended in the higher courts.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors requests that the Attorney General of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks establish and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the Province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and

Further That the Board of Directors requests that technical standards and a Provincial regulatory framework be established that limits liability for winter maintenance contractors following best practices to ensure public safety, business sustainability, and environmental protection; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed lead by example by ensuring staff and/or winter maintenance contractors that maintain municipal parking lots obtain certification through the Smart About Salt program as a condition of working for the municipality; and

Further That this resolution, along with Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD, be circulated to Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities and all current members of Provincial Parliament; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed implement best management practices for municipal roads management; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed collaborate with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority on an outreach campaign to raise awareness of this issue, manage expectations from the public regarding salt usage, and inspire positive action. **Carried**