



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Community Growth and Economic Development Committee Agenda

Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

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

Note: This meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format with electronic and in-person participation. Committee meetings may be [viewed via live streaming](#).

	Pages
1. Roll Call	
2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest	
3. Adoption of Minutes	
3.1 Community Growth and Economic Development Committee meeting - June 3, 2025	3
4. Statutory Public Meetings	
There are no statutory public meetings	
5. Presentations	
5.1 Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Maylene Broderick, Manager, Business Development & Investment, Jessica Rhynas, Economic Development Coordinator, and Alona Topolnisky, Program Assistant re: Hannover Messe 2025 Final Outcomes and Metrics Report (#2025- EDT-13) [Item 8.2 a.]	9
5.2 Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Brooke Edward, Economic Development Specialist, Lisa MacKenzie, Economic Development Specialist, and Alona Topolnisky, Program Assistant re: Durham Relocation Guide and Discovery Guide	43
6. Delegations	
7. Community Growth	
7.1 Correspondence	

7.2	Reports	
	a.	Report #2025-CG-9 Letter of Support for funding application to FCM Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) grant program
8.	Economic Development	
8.1	Correspondence	
8.2	Reports	
	a.	Report #2025-EDT-13 Hannover Messe 2025 Final Outcomes and Metrics Report
9.	Advisory Committee Resolutions	
9.1	Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee	
	a.	Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Easements
10.	Confidential Matters	
		There are no confidential matters to be considered
11.	Other Business	
12.	Date of Next Meeting	
		Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 9:30 AM
13.	Adjournment	
		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. This also includes oral submissions at meetings. If you have any questions about the collection of information, please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

COMMUNITY GROWTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

A regular meeting of the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Pickles*, Vice-Chair
Councillor Collier*
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Woo* attended the meeting at 9:33 AM
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also
Present: Councillor Carter* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Crawford* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor McDougall
*** denotes visiting Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Shahid

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Broderick, Manager, Business Development & Investment, Economic Development
D. Culp, Project Planner, Transportation Planning
A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Economic Development
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development & Tourism
C. Goodchild, Director of Community Growth
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
J. Kelly, Manager, Integrated Growth Management & Policy
C. Leitch, Manager, Transportation Planning
L. Lovery, Director, Rapid Transit & Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
A. Luqman, Acting Manager, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

J. Severs, Manager, Marketing & Tourism, Economic Development
T. Shaver, Manager, Small Business Enterprise Centre, Economic
Development & Tourism
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Economic
Development
N. Taylor*, Commissioner of Finance
L. Trombino, Manager, Development Advisory Services
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Woon, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
*** denotes Staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(32) That the minutes of the regular Community Growth & Economic
Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, be
adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Danielle Culp, Project Planner, and Chris Leitch, Manager, Transportation
Planning, re: Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024
(2025-CG-8) [Item 7.2 a.]

Danielle Culp, Project Planner, and Chris Leitch, Manager, Transportation
Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham Region's
Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Active Transportation Vision
- Active Transportation Snapshot
- Growing the Network
- Increasing Cycling Mode Share
- Enhancing Education and Awareness
- Looking Ahead: Future Projects and Next Steps for the Network
 - Upcoming Projects for 2025
 - Next Steps

D. Culp and C. Leitch responded to questions from the Committee with regards to the anticipated timeframe for constructing a multi-use path (MUP) bridge over the Oshawa Creek at Simcoe Street, north of Glovers Road, in Oshawa to safely connect other active transportation networks in the area; whether the Region coordinates with the local area municipalities and provincial government to construct MUPs; whether staff collaborate with accessibility committees in the Region to enhance active transportation networks to accommodate persons with accessibility requirements; and whether there is a possibility that cyclist counters may double or triple count the same cyclist whose route passes several counter locations.

6. Delegations

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(33) That the rules of procedure be suspended to permit the delegations by Ursula Kressibucher (Item 6.1) and Gary Jarosz (Item 6.2) to each be extended by five minutes.

CARRIED ON A 2/3rds VOTE

6.1 Ursula Kressibucher, Chair, Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association, re: Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week (2025-EDT-11) [Item 8.2 a.]

Ursula Kressibucher, Chair, Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association (DFFMA), appeared virtually before the Committee with regards to Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week.

U. Kressibucher stated that DFFMA is a not-for profit membership-based organization established in 1993 that promotes the production and consumption of local food and markets local products to the local community.

U. Kressibucher provided an overview of DFFMA's accomplishments in 2024 which included an update to its brochure design; a complete website redesign; receipt of the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant which led to the hiring of a part-time coordinator; and hosting of three (3) culinary demonstrations in partnership with Durham Tourism.

U. Kressibucher stated that DFFMA's goals for 2025 include additional enhancements to the website; increased workshops and training with a focus on farm business skills and marketing; expanding the number of offerings of culinary demonstrations to further promote local food; strengthening collaborations with local and regional partners; and increasing media exposure from radio advertising to enhance visibility across the Region.

U. Kressibucher identified challenges that local zoning by-laws present with respect to diversification of operations and stated that DFFMA continues to advocate for policies that support farm businesses and diversification plans.

6.2 Gary Jarosz, Interim CEO, Spark Centre, re: Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024 (2025-EDT-12) [Item 8.2 b.]

Gary Jarosz, Interim CEO, Spark Centre, appeared in-person with regards to the Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Sectors We Serve
 - Information Technology & Digital Media
 - En3: Energy, Environment & Engineering
 - Advanced Manufacturing & Materials
 - Agriculture & Food Development
 - MedTech Health & Life Sciences
- Full Year 2024 Key Performance Indicators & Full Year 2025 Trends
- Economic Development Investment in Durham & Eastern Ontario
- Regional Investment Impact
- Periodic Table of Durham Region Tech

G. Jarosz responded to questions from the Committee with regards to what strategies can be implemented to encourage more start-up investments to remain in Canada; whether other innovation network organizations in Ontario work with angel investors that help keep companies in Ontario; and whether the Spark Centre also maintains a global client base.

7. **Community Growth**

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

7.2 Reports

A) Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024 (2025-CG-8)

Report #2025-CG-8 from the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,

(34) That Report #2025-CG-8 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

8.2 Reports

A) Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week ([2025-EDT-11](#))

Report #2025-EDT-11 from the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(35) That Report #2025-EDT-11 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024 ([2025-EDT-12](#))

Report #2025-EDT-12 from the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(36) That Report #2025-EDT-12 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Community Growth & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(37) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

V. Walker, Committee Clerk



Outcomes from Hannover Messe 2025

Community Growth and Economic Development
Committee

September 2, 2025



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

HANNOVER MESSE

The future's here.



Canada

Partner Country 2025

Partner country 2025



Pays partenaire 2025

Partner country 2025



Pays partenaire 2025





Invest Durham Partners at HM25





Invest Durham Delegation at HM25





Staff Delegation Leads at HM25



Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer
Regional Municipality of
Durham



Brian Bridgeman
Commissioner,
Community Growth &
Economic Development
Invest Durham



Simon Gill
Director,
Economic Development &
Tourism
Invest Durham



Paul Pirri
Senior Manager, Economic
Development
Municipality of Clarington



Hailey Wright
Director, Business &
Economic Development
City of Oshawa



Karol Murillo Corrigan
Senior Manager, Economic
Development Strategic
Initiatives
Town of Whitby



Laraib Arshad
Manager, Economic
Development and
Marketing
City of Pickering



Kassandra Brownridge
Manager, Strategic
Initiatives
Town of Ajax



Maylene Broderick
Manager,
Business Development &
Investment Attraction
Invest Durham



Invest Durham

Booth

Hall 2, Stand B42

Kiosk

Hall 12, Stand B80

HANNOVER MESSE

31 MARCH – 4 APRIL 2025



HALLS 4–9, 11
SMART MANUFACTURING

Drive & Fluid Technology
Automation & Sensor Technology
Robotics & Logistics Automation

HALLS 14–17
DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS

Business Management Software
Digital Platforms, Data & Cloud
Engineering Software
IT/OT Security
Wireless Technology & 5G

HALLS 11, 13
ENERGY FOR INDUSTRY

Power Engineering
Energy 4.0
Hydrogen & Fuel Cells

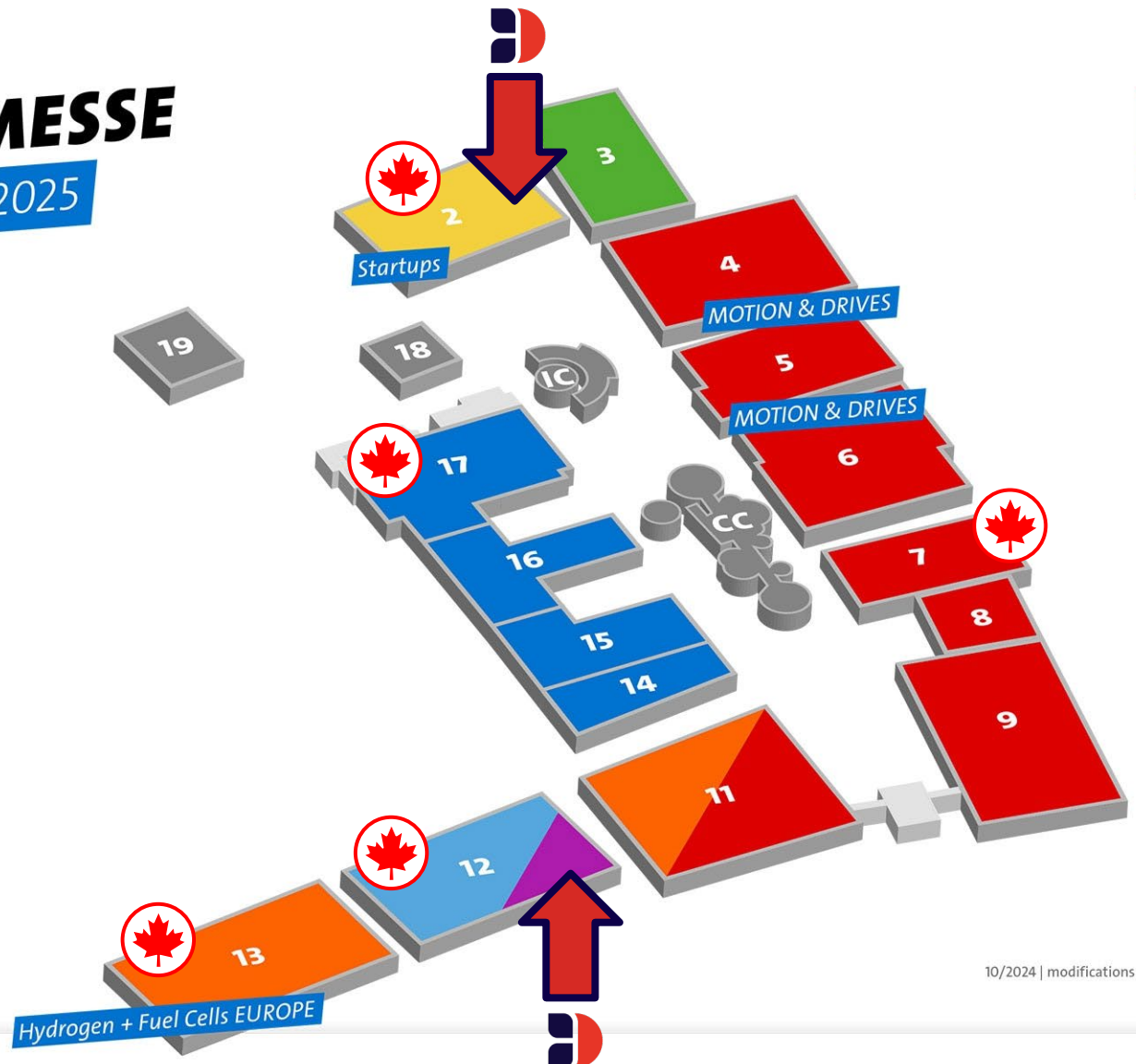
HALL 12
COMPRESSED AIR & VACUUM

HALL 3
ENGINEERED PARTS & SOLUTIONS
Plastics & Innovative Materials
Lightweight Construction
Metal Parts, Components & Solutions

HALL 12
INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT

HALL 2
FUTURE HUB
Research & Technology Transfer
Quantum Technologies
Startup Area

HALLS 19, 18, IC, CC
CONFERENCES & EVENTS



10/2024 | modifications reserved | 241017

Marketing





Project Arrow

Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association (APMA)

- The first, original, full-build, zero-emission concept vehicle.
- An all-Canadian effort.
- Engineered and built at **Ontario Tech University**.
- **Project Arrow 2.0**
Announcement made at Durham Booth.



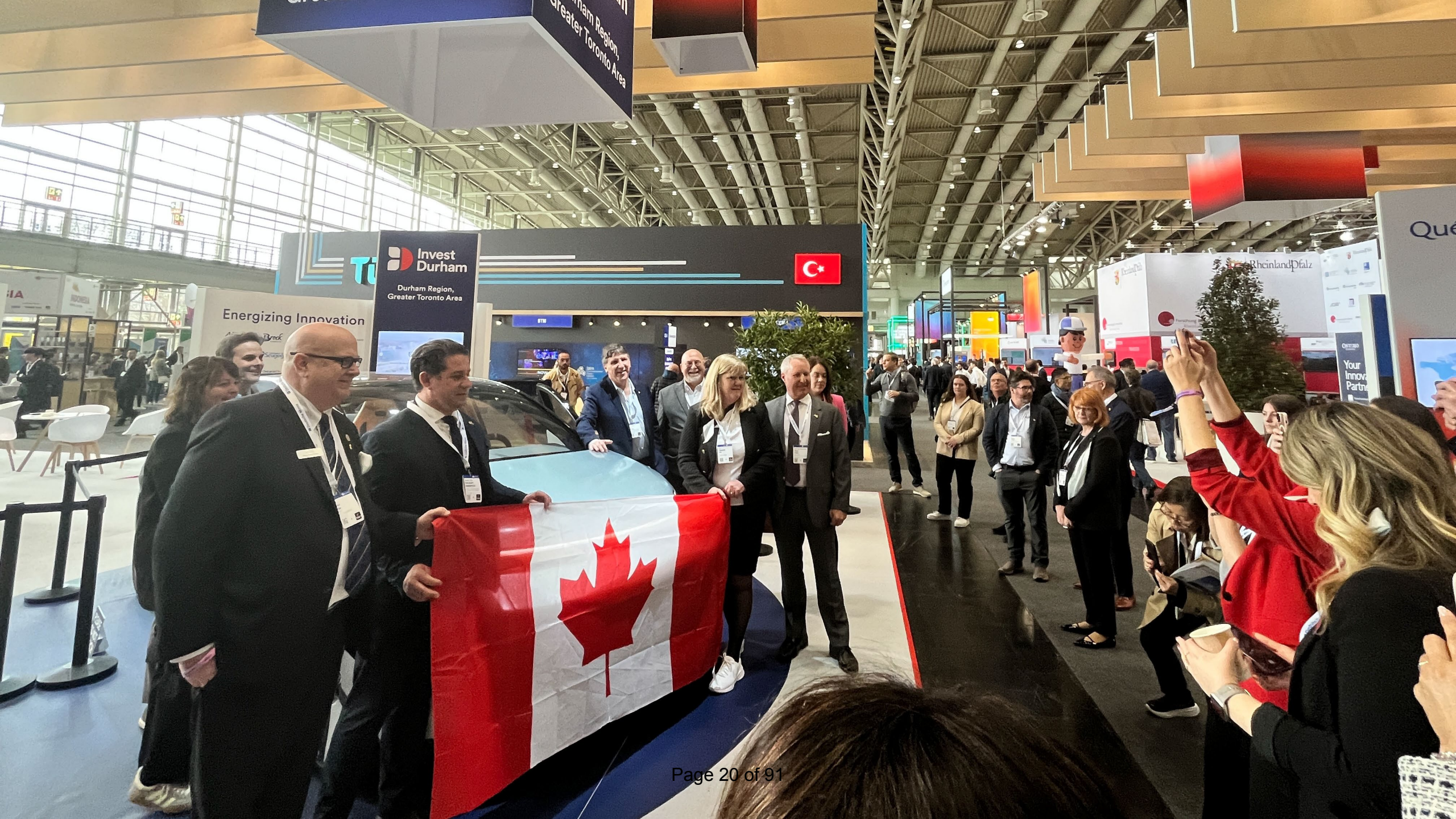
 **Invest
Durham**
Durham Region,
Greater Toronto Area

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Greater Toronto Area

Engerizing Innovation

STARTUP
AREA

Canada



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türkiye



Energizing Innovation

- Aptix
- Brook
- Clarifast
- Clarus
- Flexing
- Scagag
- Whale
- Spark
- VAPMA
- LABOV

WE SCALE RTU(S)

DINAMIKCRM

With DinamikCRM Easy Fast



Durham Region

Türkiye

Invest Durham

Durham Region,
Greater Toronto Area

Invest Durham

Durham Region,
Greater Toronto Area

Canada

DURHAM COLLEGE
SUCCESS MATTERS



TRENT UNIVERSITY **DURHAM UNIVERSITY**



OntarioTech UNIVERSITY



Energizing Innovation



Energizing Innovation

- Ajax
- Brock
- Clarington
- City of PICKERING
- Scugog
- DURHAM COLLEGE
- OntarioTech
- TRENT UNIVERSITY
- Whitby
- Spark
- APMA
- PROJECT ARROW



Invest Durham
Durham Region,
Greater Toronto Area

Invest Durham
Durham Region, Greater Toronto Area, Canada



Montreal.
Ottawa.

Durham Region

Toronto.
Niagara Falls.

Energizing Innovation



Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa
Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby
Durham College	OntarioTech	Trent University	Spark
APMA	Project Arrow		



Energizing Innovation

Durham Region, Greater Toronto Area, Canada



International Key Messages

Strategic Messages

Durham Region is in the Greater Toronto Area, Canada.

Durham Region is where clean energy and automotive innovation connect.

Durham Region is home to rare engineering talent.

Durham Region is where Toronto gets green.



Marketing Campaign Highlights

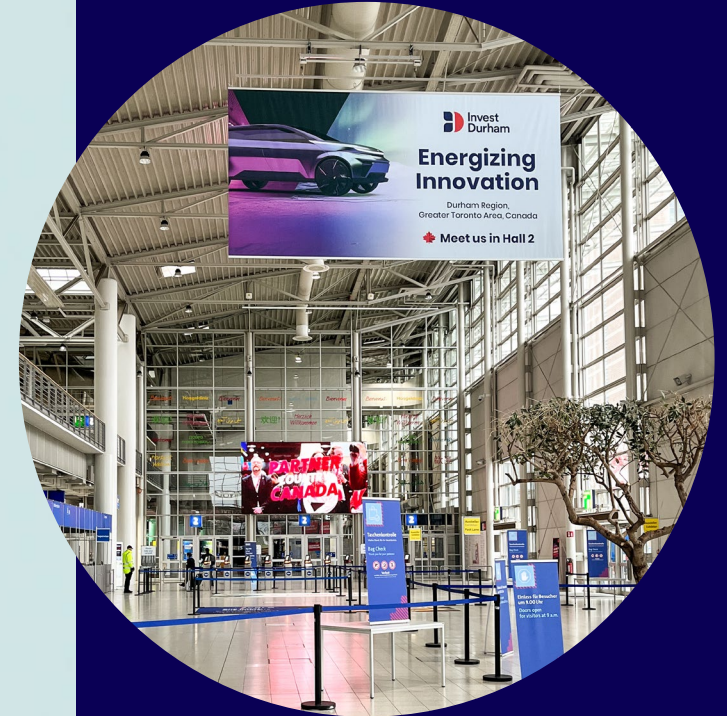


 Invest
Durham

Energizing Innovation

Durham Region,
Greater Toronto Area, Canada

 **Meet us in Hall 2**



Logistical Preparation & Investment Attraction



Home

Invest Durham

Lead Generation

Latest Updates

Dates

Documents

FAQ

Recycle bin

Edit



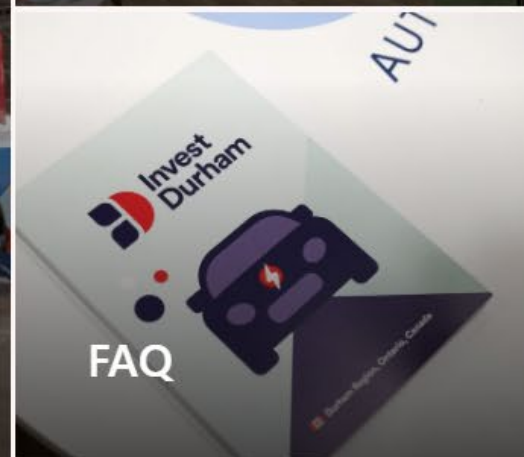
Latest Updates

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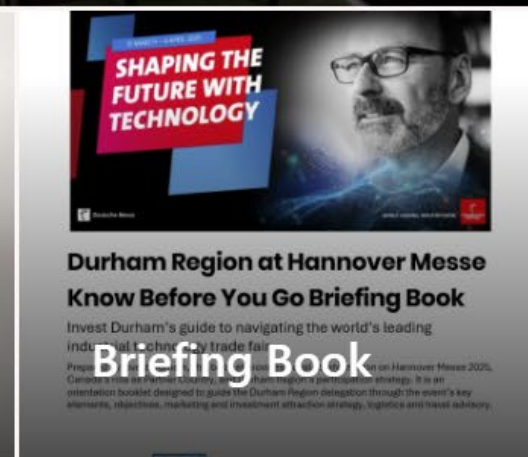


Invest Durham's Participation

[Visit Page →](#)



FAQ

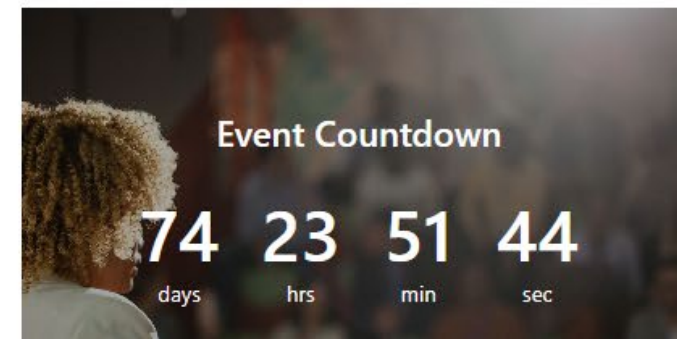


Briefing Book

Hannover Messe 2025

Hannover Messe is an advanced manufacturing tradeshow like no other in the world. It is a showcase for global companies and SMEs leading the way in advanced manufacturing, industrial and clean technologies, establishing resilient global supply chains, and opening into new markets.

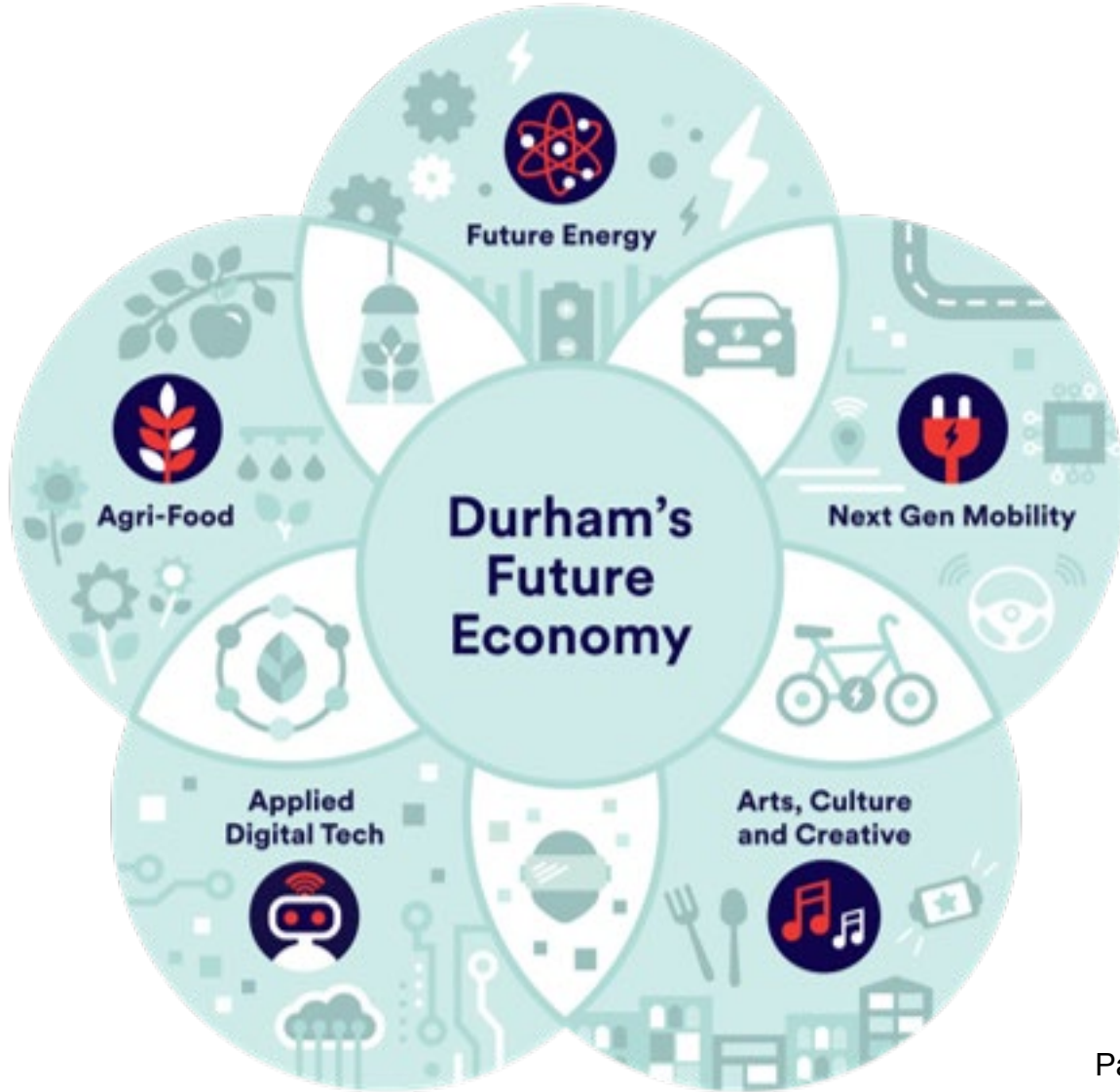
Governments, academic institutions and businesses, from startups to large corporations, gather to share their leading edge innovations with a global audience to bring investment and strengthen



Event Countdown

74 days 23 hrs 51 min 44 sec

Pre-Qualified Meetings



Budget & Metrics



Budget & Expenditures (\$000)

Budget Item	%
\$ 590 Approved Budget	100 %
Registration Costs: \$5	
\$ 5 Exhibitor Registrations	
Business Development: \$83	13%
\$ 3 Joint Businesses Networking Event with City of Nuremberg, Germany	
\$ 4 NGen HM25 Roadshow & Business Recruitment Session	
\$ 76 Lead Generation Services	
Travel & Booth Logistics: \$148	23%
\$ 51 Project Arrow Car Freight Forwarding & Booth Handling Logistics	
\$ 129 Travel, Accommodation, Logistics, Other	
Marketing & Booth: \$239	37%
\$ 98 Exhibition Booth Fees & Costs	
\$ 122 International Marketing Campaign	
\$ 19 Promotional Materials, Booklets, Booth Supplies	
-\$ 93 Partner Cost-Sharing (including DEDP)	
\$ 414 Total Project Costs	73%
\$ 176 Under Budget	27%

Metrics Summary

Target Outcome	Target	Outcome
New Connections	500	Approx 1,300
New Leads	50	59
Clients Needing Site Selection Support	5	6
Senior Government Relationships Advanced	20	28
% "the booth was effective and represented Durham Region as a whole."	90% or higher	100%
% " <i>somewhat to very valuable</i> to achieving their organization's goals"	80% or higher	100%
Ministers that visited the booth	5	8
Campaign Digital Impressions	350,000	2,843,566
Clicks / Website Visits	4,000	10,296
Mentions in major media	5	17



#HM25 Outcomes





Outcomes - #HM25





Outcomes - #HM25

- **The primary objectives for Durham Region:**
 - Investment attraction & brand awareness generation for the purpose of investment attraction.
 - Over 90 meetings with businesses, key international, federal & provincial stakeholders
 - 10,000 visitors to the Invest Durham website.
 - 1,300 new connections made.

- **'Smart Solutions for a Common Future'.**
 - We co-hosted a networking event for German & Canadian companies with the **City of Nuremberg**, Economic Affairs and Science Department and **Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce**.
 - Over 100 people registered to attend.



Outcomes - #HM25





Outcomes - #HM25

- **German Chancellor Olaf Schulz** visited our booth & we had coverage from several international & domestic news feeds, including CBC.
- We hosted the announcement that Ontario Tech will be the build partner for **Project Arrow 2.0**.
- **Ekstera, a Durham Region based Canadian start-up**, went on to win the NGen Canadian Start-Up Award at the HM25 pitch competition.
- **Durham's universities and college** also met with many international organizations to explore research and development partnership opportunities.



Outcomes - #HM25





Outcomes - #HM25

- **Six** companies are exploring site selection opportunities, one of which will be in Durham in November 2025.
- Notable meetings included:
 - **Canada:**
 - ✓ Invest in Canada
 - ✓ Invest Ontario
 - ✓ Business Council of Canada
 - ✓ Trade Commissioner Services: GAC
 - **International:**
 - ✓ Berlin Secretary of State Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises;
 - ✓ Finland's Ambassador to Canada & Business Tampere Executives,
 - ✓ Abu Dhabi Investment Office
 - ✓ State of Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Germany.



Questions

Durham Relocation Guide and Discovery Guide

**Update to:
Community Growth and Economic Development Committee**

September 2, 2025

Simon Gill, Brooke Edward, Alona Topolnisky, Lisa MacKenzie

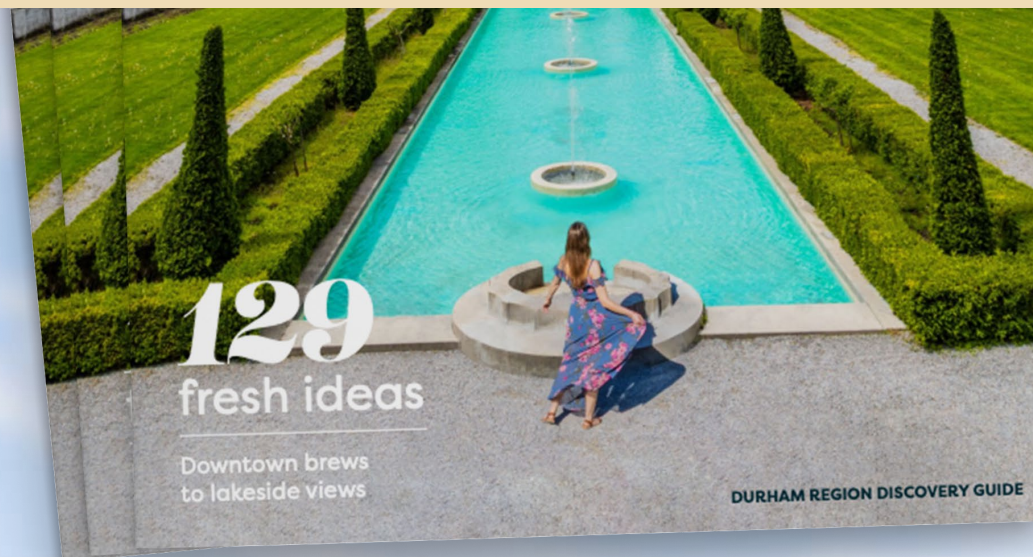




Relocation Guide



Discovery Guide 2025/26



Durham Tourism Strategic Action Plan

Goal 4.1

Build the brand of urban excitement and country charm.

4.1.4

Develop a modern and bold concept that uses striking photography to convey Durham's scenic urban and rural destinations, visually immersing readers in Durham's experiential offerings.





Get in on the good vibes.
Keep your calendar full with this lineup of music, arts and culture festivals.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Springtide Music Festival, Uxbridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Sweet Home Festival, Whitby
<input type="checkbox"/> Convergence Music & Art Festival, Oshawa	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiesta Week Street Festival, Oshawa
<input type="checkbox"/> Durham Region International Film Festival	<input type="checkbox"/> Winding Roads Music Festival, Port Perry
<input type="checkbox"/> Pickering Village Jam Fest, Ajax	<input type="checkbox"/> Artfest, Pickering
<input type="checkbox"/> Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation Powwow	<input type="checkbox"/> North Durham Pride

"Best day ever!" - your kids
Honour your inner child by chasing thrills at these attractions.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEB's Fun World, Oshawa	<input type="checkbox"/> Flying Squirrel, Whitby
<input type="checkbox"/> Volt Raceway, Bowmanville	<input type="checkbox"/> Treetop Eco-Adventure Park, Oshawa
<input type="checkbox"/> Archers Battleground, Pickering	<input type="checkbox"/> Durham Escape Rooms, Whitby
<input type="checkbox"/> 9-Bit Boons, Whitby	<input type="checkbox"/> Fly Indoor Skydiving, Whitby
<input type="checkbox"/> Joey's World Playground, Clarington	<input type="checkbox"/> Ajax Rock Oasis

14 Explore more at DurhamTourism.ca/events 15 Explore more at DurhamTourism.ca/entertainment

Design

- Developed in-house with a striking, photography-based and industry leading design that builds on the success of the last Discovery Guide edition.
- Available as a printed magazine and digital flipbook online at **DurhamTourism.ca/discover**.
- Includes 129 fresh ideas for adventures across Durham Region's eight municipalities.



Distribution

Over 100,000 guides will be distributed to trusted partners and homes across Ontario.

- Toronto Life
- Maclean's
- Chatelaine
- Toronto Star
- Travel centres and hotels
- Local events and businesses

Advertising

Seasonal advertising campaign throughout 2025-26.

Print placements:

- Food and Drink magazine
- Translated ads
- Metroland
- Publications



Advertising

Shared online across a variety of digital marketing channels:

- Social Media Ad Campaign
- Influencer Marketing
- Metroland
- Narcity Toronto
- BlogTO
- Podcasts (Spotify, Apple Music)



Thank you!

DurhamTourism.ca • @DurhamTourism



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



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Community Growth & Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner, Community Growth & Economic Development
Report: #2025-CG-9
Date: September 2, 2025

Subject:

Letter of Support for funding application to FCM Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) grant program

Recommendation:

That the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

That Durham Region provides a letter of support for Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests' (LEAF) funding application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Growing Canada's Community Canopies grant program.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 Durham Region has partnered with local area municipalities and non-profit organization Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) to deliver community-based tree planting programs since 2020. LEAF is applying for funding through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) grant program to expand its partnership with the Region and local area municipalities to support tree planting on community housing properties. LEAF requires a letter of support endorsed by Regional Council as part of a complete application to the FCM GCCC program.

2. Background

- 2.1 Durham Region began its partnership with LEAF in 2020, launching a subsidized tree planting initiative in partnership with local area municipalities that aims to enhance climate resilience, biodiversity, and community engagement. The collaboration has been focused on the [Backyard Tree Planting Program](#), which offers residents expert advice on tree selection and planting locations, as well as a full planting service through a cost-sharing model that reduces costs to participating homeowners.
- 2.2 From 2020 and 2024, the partnership resulted in the planting of 5,761 native trees and shrubs across the Region. These efforts were aligned with Durham's climate adaptation priorities and supported by local municipalities across the Region. The proposed expansion of the LEAF partnership to support tree planting on community housing properties builds on this foundation by shifting focus to community housing sites.

3. Program Overview

- 3.1 LEAF has submitted a grant application to FCM under the GCCC program for a new initiative titled Growing Urban Tree Canopies on Community Housing Properties in Durham Region. This three-year project, scheduled to begin late in 2025 and continue through 2028, will result in the planting of 80 native trees and 150 native shrubs across 15 social housing sites in the Region.
- 3.2 This initiative is designed to advance equity by focusing planting in priority neighbourhoods identified by the Durham Region Health Department. These neighbourhoods are typically lower income, and also have lower tree canopy cover than average, which exacerbates the urban heat island effect. This combination of socio-economic, and demographic factors with the urban heat island means that residents in these areas often experience disproportionate health impacts from extreme weather events like heat waves. The proposed project aligns with Durham Region's Strategic Plan and Community Climate Adaptation Plan.
- 3.3 Led by LEAF, the project is in collaboration with Durham Region serving as the municipal lead. Key partners include the Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation (DRNPHC), Durham Region Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC), the City of Oshawa, and the Town of Whitby. The total project cost is \$135,000, with \$67,500 requested from FCM and a matching contribution from Durham Region funded through the approved 2025 operating budget.

3.4 LEAF will oversee all aspects of community engagement, planting, and stewardship. This includes outreach to tenants and housing staff, development of site-specific planting plans by certified arborists, and the use of high-quality native species to enhance biodiversity and climate resilience. A key feature of the program is the formation of Tree Care Teams composed of tenants and housing staff at each site. These teams will receive hands-on training, stewardship resources, and ongoing support to ensure the long-term health and survival of the trees. The project also includes monitoring and maintenance protocols, including tree health assessments, corrective pruning, and replanting strategies.

4. Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

a. Connected and Vibrant Communities

- C7. Create accessible, lively, and culturally welcoming public spaces, including opportunities to access nature.

b. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

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

c. Healthy People, Caring Communities

- H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.

5. Conclusion

5.1 LEAF's proposed *Growing Urban Tree Canopies on Community Housing Properties* initiative represents a collaborative, equity-focused project that will enhance climate resilience, biodiversity, and community well-being in Durham Region. A resolution letter of support from Regional Council is a requirement of the FCM GCCC program and affirms the Region's commitment to environmental sustainability and inclusive community development.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Sandra Austin
Commissioner of Community Growth and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Community Growth and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-EDT-13
Date: September 2, 2025

Subject:

Hannover Messe 2025 Final Outcomes and Metrics Report

Recommendation:

That the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary to Committee and Council of the achievements and metrics of exhibiting and showcasing Durham Region at the Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Fair, led by Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism Division (Invest Durham), in collaboration with the Durham Economic Development Partnership (DEDP), post-secondary institutions, and regional innovation community partners.

2. Background

2.1 Invest Durham is responsible for:

- a. Generating and sourcing leads for potential new investment into Durham Region, including investment attraction missions, in-market lead generation services, and hosting investor tours and delegations;

- b. Responding to investment inquiries and delivering specialized services and advice to prospective investors;
 - c. Promoting the Region for new investment, including among key international business audiences;
 - d. Cultivating relationships with community partners, post-secondary institutions, and senior government agencies, to promote investment attraction to Durham.
- 2.2 Hannover Messe Industrial Technology Trade Fair is the world's leading annual trade fair for industrial technology. It welcomes exhibiting companies from all sectors related to advanced manufacturing, including mechanical and electrical engineering, research & development, digital industries, automotive, the energy sector, automation technologies, machinery, aviation & transport, and more.
- 2.3 Approximately 4,000 businesses and organizations exhibit at the show annually with a booth. There are 1,870 speakers, and 130,000 attendees.
- 2.4 At Hannover Messe Trade Fair, there is a large concentration of decision-makers from businesses from all over the world, with a large percentage of these being based in Europe. Over 70 per cent of professional visitors to the trade fair state that their attendance benefitted their professional activity significantly or very significantly, in comparison to a visit to other industrial trade fairs. For a third of those attendees surveyed, it is the only trade show they visit each year.
- 2.5 Each year, one country is selected to be the primary sponsor country for the trade fair. The partner country has a large pavilion area for themselves, and there is a spotlight throughout the fair in materials and hall decoration for this partner country. In 2025, Canada was the partner country, and this influenced the scale of Invest Durham's participation.
- 2.6 The Canadian delegation, including Durham Region's delegation, consisted of 244 exhibitors, 38 universities and colleges, and over 1,000 Canadians. A summary report of the Canadian presence at Hannover Messe 2025 (HM25) can be found here: [Hannover Messe 2025 - EN](#)
- 2.7 As partner country for 2025, Canada aimed to strengthen its European relationships and forge partnerships between Canadian businesses and global companies focused on digital technologies, industrial transformation, clean technologies and resilient supply chains.

- 2.8 In 2025, more than 250 Canadian companies across key industrial sectors, such as automation, robotics, digital technologies, hydrogen and fuel cells, and e-mobility, attended. Representatives of companies participating had the opportunity to meet face to face with international investors and potential customers from Germany, Europe and beyond, creating opportunities, opening markets and creating jobs.
- 2.9 Invest Durham had historically only traveled to Hannover Messe Trade Fair for the purposes of meeting directly with companies that had expressed an interest in exploring an expansion into Canada. This was the first instance of Invest Durham exhibiting with a large booth space internationally.
- 2.10 In 2025, with Canada as the Partner Country, Invest Durham saw this as a prime opportunity to serve as a flagship event, offering a premier platform to showcase Durham's investment-readiness and its compelling value proposition. The event provided a strategic opportunity to support the implementation of Ready Set Future, to drive sustained economic development and international collaboration as follows.
- a. Reinforce Durham's image as an innovation leader on a global stage.
 - b. Attract significant domestic and international investment.
 - c. Forge valuable partnerships that further the region's economic growth and competitiveness.
 - d. Position Durham as a dynamic hub for solving global challenges through technological and industrial innovation.
- 2.11 HM25 is made up of 17 trade halls across 5,340,000 square feet, making it 12 times larger than Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Each hall averaged 183,000 square feet. Invest Durham exhibited at HM25 in two booths: a large booth in Hall 12, and a smaller booth in Hall 2. See Attachment #1 for images of the Invest Durham Booth.
- 2.12 Included as Attachment #2 is the custom marketing booklet created for this mission.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 [#2022-EDT-15](#) Ready Set Future: Five Year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.2 [#2024-EDT-10](#) Hannover Messe 2025 – Participation
- 3.3 [#2024-F-13](#) Hannover Messe 2025 – Financial Commitment

4. Hannover Messe 2025

4.1 HM25 presented an opportunity for Regional and area municipal economic development staff to connect with the Canadian and global industrial technology industry and ecosystem. Invest Durham led the project, and collaboration partners included Durham College, Ontario Tech University, Trent University Durham GTA, Spark Centre, the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association (APMA) – Project Arrow, and the Durham Economic Development Partnership (DEDP) consisting of the Cities of Pickering and Oshawa, the Towns of Whitby and Ajax, the Municipality of Clarington, and the Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge (with the latter three represented by Invest Durham).

5. Alignment with Ready Set Future

5.1 Participation at HM25 advances Goal 3.3 of Ready Set Future – to build Durham’s reputation for innovation to solve global challenges, as well as Goal 3.4 – to attract domestic and international inward investment into Durham’s priority sectors.

5.2 Specifically, HM25 was a flagship event for Invest Durham to showcase the Region’s investment-readiness and value proposition for investment. It was coupled with a comprehensive marketing campaign designed to build the region’s reputation for innovating to solve global challenges.

5.3 Since Canada was the Partner Country, staff from senior investment attraction agencies in Ontario and Canada participated, presenting an unparalleled opportunity to develop and grow partnerships with these senior agencies including Invest Ontario, Invest in Canada Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED), the Canadian Foreign Trade Commissioner Service (FTCS), and the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT).

5.4 Additionally, collaboration by the DEDP to exhibit at HM25 aligned with the 2023-2026 DEDP Action Plan. Priority #4 of the DEDP Action Plan is ‘Marketing and Investment Promotion’, which includes the following planned actions:

- a. Collaborate to showcase Durham at flagship events such as Collision Conference, Realtor & Developer Events, major clean energy conferences, etc.
- b. Collaborate to develop and deliver creative promotional campaigns showcasing Durham’s value proposition and innovation community.

- c. Campaigns to showcase Durham's strength in key priority clusters (Clean Energy; Next-Gen Mobility; Agri-Food; Applied Digital Tech; Arts, Culture and Creative.).
- 5.5 The federal government, through ISED, led planning for the HM25 Canadian pavilion. The federally funded Canada Global Innovation Super-Cluster for Advanced Manufacturing (NGen) was the project leader responsible for recruiting a target of 200 Canadian businesses to exhibit in the Canadian pavilions at HM25. The Province of Ontario also exhibited, along with several economic development agencies from Ontario and the rest of Canada. Economic development agencies from Ontario included Invest Ontario, Invest Hamilton, Invest Niagara, and York Region.
- 5.6 The Durham Regional delegation consisted of 38 participants. The delegation included:
- a. Regional Council:
 - Mayor Kevin Ashe, City of Pickering, and Regional Chair's delegate
 - Mayor Shaun Collier, Town of Ajax
 - Mayor Elizabeth Roy, Town of Whitby
 - Regional and City Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, City of Oshawa
 - b. Region of Durham:
 - Chief Administrative Officer and Head of Delegation, Elaine Baxter-Trahair
 - Commissioner, Community Growth and Economic Development, Brian Bridgeman
 - Director, Invest Durham, Simon Gill
 - Additional members of the Invest Durham team representing the Business Development and Investment, Marketing & Tourism, and Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Sections.
 - c. Partner Delegations:
 - Economic Development staff from the area municipalities of Ajax, Clarington, Oshawa, Pickering, and Whitby
 - An Ontario Tech University delegation led by the Vice-President, Research and Innovation

- A Trent University delegation led by the Vice President and Head of Trent University Durham GTA
 - A Durham College delegation led by the Associate Vice-President, Innovation and Research
 - A Spark Centre delegation headed by the Acting Chief Executive Officer
 - A delegation by the Automotive Parts Manufacturing Association (APMA): Project Arrow, headed by the Chief Operating Officer
- 5.7 Invest Durham exhibited with two booths at HM25 to maximize exposure to attendees, achieve target metrics, and build relationships with partner agencies:
- a. Hall 2 - International Trade & Investment (small booth within Invest Ontario section)
 - b. Hall 12 - National Ecosystem and Innovation (large booth)
- 5.8 The main booth in Hall 12, shown in Attachment #1, showcased Durham's key strengths in Future Energy, Next Generation Mobility, and Applied Digital Technology, and was anchored with the Project Arrow concept car and the Automotive Parts Manufacturing Association team as a central part of the booth.
- 5.9 A lead generation service provider was engaged to secure at least 50 meetings with prequalified companies interested in exploring an expansion to Canada. The meetings were concentrated in Durham Region's five key priority clusters: Future Energy; Next Generation Mobility; Arts, Culture and Creative; Applied Digital Technology; and Agri-Food.
- 5.10 A second lead generation service provider was engaged to secure at least 20 meetings with international governments and institutions (including research and academic) to explore potential collaboration and partnerships. The primary objective was to increase bilateral trade relationships by forging partnerships with key stakeholder organizations including foreign federal, provincial, state, local government, Economic Development offices, Investment Promotion agencies, trade associations and academic and research institutions.
- 5.11 Invest Durham staff also coordinated closely with ISED, NGen, and MEDJCT to ensure that regional efforts supported and were coordinated with the broader Canadian efforts and objectives at HM25.
- 5.12 Invest Durham and NGen co-hosted an event in advance of HM25 to recruit Durham-based companies to exhibit and showcase. There were three Durham-based companies exhibited at HM25. The roadshow was attended by over 50

business representatives and key stakeholders, and photographs of the event are attached as Attachment #3.

5.13 A staff working group was established, chaired by Invest Durham and comprised of the DEDP and Regional innovation ecosystem partners. The working group met regularly in the months leading up to HM25. The meeting topics included project planning, marketing, lead generation, and logistics.

5.14 Invest Durham also created an online portal for all delegates to find up-to-date information on the Region's attendance at HM25, including the latest Team Canada information, NGen information, Invest in Canada information, Invest Ontario information, Working Group presentations, and team logistics.

5.15 Invest Durham arranged a 'Know Before You Go' workshop for the broader regional delegation to ensure all delegates were prepared and informed prior to participation.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

a. Resilient Local Economies

- R1. Attract and retain quality employers that strengthen key economic sectors, including energy and technology.
- R2. Support the growth of new business startups and small to medium local businesses.

b. Strong Relationships

- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.
- S4. Advocate to the federal and provincial government and agencies to advance regional priorities.

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

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

7. Outcomes

- 7.1 Durham's joint mission to HM25 was a great success. Jointly with partners, Invest Durham met with dozens of companies to discuss expansion into Durham Region, expansions which could strengthen Durham's economy and create jobs for residents. Durham's universities and college also met with many international organizations to explore research and development partnership opportunities. The booth welcomed over one thousand individuals from the international business community, building awareness of Durham Region's value proposition for new investment. Invest Durham also advanced the Region's relationships with senior government agencies.
- 7.2 In addition to offering the opportunity to build global business partnerships and attract investment into Durham Region's priority sectors, HM25 also presented an opportunity to explore the diversification of trade between Durham exporters and importers and the European Union. Invest Durham even welcomed the Chancellor of Germany to the booth, a country with whom Canada must work quickly to strengthen two-way trade and investment, as tariffs and uncertainty affect industry here in North America. Durham's participation in that regard was timely.
- 7.3 The primary objectives for Durham Region were lead generation for the purpose of investment attraction, and brand awareness generation for the purpose of investment attraction. Secondary objectives included supporting the Canadian efforts to recruit local companies to participate (in promotion of global expansion and international trade), as well as forming and strengthening relationships with senior government investment attraction agencies.
- 7.4 Upon the announcement of tariffs by the U.S. on Canadian products, an additional objective for HM25 emerged, to promote and explore the expansion of trade and export opportunities between Durham-based and European companies.
- 7.5 Outcomes Metrics are as follows:

Target Outcome	Target	Outcome
Number of new connections with individuals	500	Approx. 1,300*
Number of qualified new Leads for prospective investment in Durham Region	50	59

Target Outcome	Target	Outcome
Number of resulting requests by prospective investors for site selection support within 3 months	5	6
Number of relationships advanced with staff from senior investment attraction agencies in Ontario and Canada	20	28
Percentage of Durham and partner participants surveyed that felt the booth was very effective or effective at representing Durham Region as a whole	90% or higher	100%
Percentage of Durham and partner participants surveyed that felt exhibiting at Hannover Messe 2025 was somewhat to very valuable to achieving their organization's goals	80% or higher	100%
Number of domestic or international federal or provincial/state Ministers that visited the booth to learn about Durham Region	5	8
Paid and organic digital impressions for the dedicated promotional campaign	350,000	2,843,566
Deeper engagements (click-throughs) to website content	4,000	10,296
Mentions in major media	5	17

*Note: Total new connections were estimated based on daily booth visits

7.6 The Durham Regional delegation participated in 59 meetings with prospective investors either in-person at HM25 or via virtual meetings affiliated with HM25. To-date, six of these companies are working with Invest Durham to explore site selection opportunities in the Region. One of the companies will be in Durham in November 2025 to visit prospective sites. The list of businesses is not included in this report due to the confidential nature of corporate expansion decisions.

- 7.7 There were over 20 meetings held with foreign federal, provincial, state, local government, Economic Development offices, Investment Promotion agencies, trade associations and academic and research institutions.
- 7.8 Notable meetings including meetings with Invest in Canada; Invest Ontario; Business Council of Canada; Berlin Secretary of State Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises; Business Tampere Executive; Finland's Ambassador to Canada; Abu Dhabi Investment Office; and the State of Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Germany.
- 7.9 Project Arrow is a concept vehicle that is a demonstration of Canadian innovation and engineering prowess. The car was engineered and built in Durham Region at Ontario Tech University, and the innovative collaboration between the university and APMA was showcased at the Invest Durham booth in Hall 12. In addition, there was an announcement at the Invest Durham Booth that the build partner for Project Arrow 2.0 will be Ontario Tech University. Please see Attachment #4 for photographs of this announcement.
- 7.10 Invest Durham arranged for a targeted networking session co-hosted with one of Durham's European partner geographies, the City of Nuremberg, Germany's Economic Affairs and Science Department and Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce. The event, 'Smart Solutions for a Common Future', was primarily a networking event for German and Canadian companies. The objectives of the event were to position Durham as a key investment destination due to its integrated investor ecosystem, and to ensure improved brand recognition and awareness for Durham Region with the German industrial technology business community. Over 100 people registered to attend the networking session.
- 7.11 Some of the many insightful presentations at this networking session included:
- a. the value proposition for investing in Durham Region
 - b. how academic institutions work with the private sector, showcasing the collaborative efforts of Ontario Tech and Ontario Power Generation
 - c. how the Durham Region ecosystem supports innovation and start-ups for R&D to commercialization, showcasing business venture Ekstera
- 7.12 Ekstera, a Durham Region based start-up, went on to win the NGen Canadian Start-Up Award at the HM25 pitch competition. Please reference Attachment #5 for photographs of the announcement.

- 7.13 Ontario Tech University co-exhibited in the Invest Durham booth as part of the Durham delegation and made many excellent new connections creating opportunities in academic collaboration, and partnerships in research and development.
- 7.14 Durham College also co-exhibited in the booth as part of the Durham Delegation. Durham College participated in 23 meetings arranged by Invest Durham. Debbie McKee Demczyk, Associate Vice President, Innovation and Research, Office of Research Services, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ORSIE), participated in a panel discussion. Durham College reported 25 interesting leads that they are currently following up on. Since HM25, Durham College has held 23 post-event meetings with organizations, hosted four organizations for tours whom they met at HM25, and there is an international research project that is in the discovery process.
- 7.15 Trent University Durham Campus also attended the HM25 Trade Fair as part of the Durham Delegation. Trent participated in 21 meetings arranged by Invest Durham and four additional meetings arranged by themselves. They have since held a follow-up meeting with one of the Fraunhofer Institutes: Hydrogen, Clean energy, Cleantech, Collaborative R&D, Commercialization, and are in the process of arranging an additional three meetings with various Fraunhofer groups.
- 7.16 Invest Durham has engaged two Durham-based companies that staff met with at HM25, and staff are in the process of working with them on potential expansion plans.
- 7.17 Invest Durham has sent six organizations site selection information packages. Follow-up messages have been sent to all 75 organizations with whom Invest Durham met.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Funding for participation in HM25 was approved by Regional Council at their meeting June 26, 2024, through [report #2024-F-13](#). It was resolved that one-time funding of up to \$590,000 be provided from any available savings in the 2024 Planning and Economic Development Business Plans and Budget, with the balance from the Economic Development Reserve Fund.
- 8.2 The project was delivered at a total net cost to the Region of \$414,056, which was considerably under the approved budget by approximately \$176,000. Note that at the time of finalizing this report, there remain some final minor expenses that are in the process of being coded and processed, and the final value may change slightly.

8.3 The entire amount of the Region's contribution was sourced from available savings in the 2024 Departmental Budget, and no reserve funds or additional levies were required.

8.4 The final budget breakdown is as follows (\$000s):

Amount	Item
\$590	Approved Budget
\$98	Exhibition Booth Fees & Costs
\$3	Joint Business Event at HM25 with Nuremberg, Germany
\$4	NGen Business Recruitment Session
\$76	Lead Generation Services
\$19	Promotional Materials, Booklets & Print, Booth Supplies
\$122	Comprehensive International Marketing Campaign
\$129	Travel, Accommodation, Logistics, Other
\$51	Project Arrow Car Freight Forwarding & Booth Handling Logistics
\$5	Exhibitor Registrations
-\$93	Partner Cost-Sharing Revenue (including DEDP)
\$414	Total Project Costs (Preliminary)
\$176	Under Budget

9. Conclusion

9.1 Invest Durham's participation in Hannover Messe 2025 has been a landmark achievement in the Region's efforts to position itself as a global destination for innovation, investment, and collaboration. As part of Canada's official Partner Country delegation, Durham's combined presence, including partners the area municipalities, three post-secondary institutions, Spark Centre, and the APMA Project Arrow, showcased the strength and readiness of Durham's economy and innovation ecosystem to more than 130,000 attendees from the international world

of industrial technology.

- 9.2 This initiative served as a catalyst for economic development, generating significant results that exceeded expectations. Invest Durham successfully engaged with dozens of prospective investors and international organizations, resulting in 59 meetings focused on business expansion. Six companies are now in active discussions with Invest Durham, with one confirmed visit this fall. Durham's post-secondary institutions established promising connections for research and development partnerships, contributing to the broader goal of innovation-driven growth.
- 9.3 Over 1,300 new connections are estimated to have been created over the course of HM25, furthering awareness of Durham's unique value proposition and reinforcing its reputation as a hub for clean energy, next-generation mobility, and applied digital technologies.
- 9.4 HM25 also presented a timely opportunity to strengthen relationships with senior government agencies, advance trade diversification, and support Durham-based companies in exploring new markets across Europe. In this way, the initiative not only advanced local economic interests, but firmly placed Durham Region on the map both nationally and globally throughout the industrial technology sector.
- 9.5 The project was delivered at a total cost of approximately \$414,000, well under the approved budget. This fiscally responsible and strategically impactful initiative demonstrated the power of regional collaboration and the benefits of aligning local strengths with global opportunities.

10. Attachments

- Attachment #1: Invest Durham Booth at HM25
- Attachment #2: Invest Durham HM25 Marketing Booklet
- Attachment #3: NGen HM25 Roadshow Event
- Attachment #4: Project Arrow 2.0 Announcement
- Attachment #5: Ekstera Participation at HM25

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Sandra Austin
Commissioner of Community Growth and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Invest Durham booth





Energizing Innovation



A map of Eastern Canada with a dark blue background. The Durham Region is highlighted in a lighter blue. A red star is placed over Toronto. Other cities marked with white dots are Ottawa, Montreal, and Niagara Falls. The text 'Durham Region' is in large white font, with 'Toronto' and 'Niagara Falls' below it. 'Ottawa', 'Montreal', and 'Niagara Falls' are also in white font.

Durham
Region

Toronto •
Niagara Falls •

• Ottawa

• Montreal

Canada is open for business and welcomes foreign investment, offering one of the most generous Research & Development (R&D) incentives to businesses in the G7.

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) consistently tops global rankings for livability, safety, and the best and easiest places to do business.

Durham Region's location offers access to Canada's largest consumer market of more than five million people, and 135 million more Canadian and American consumers within 800 kilometers.



Durham Region, Greater Toronto Area, Canada

Industry

- Durham Region is where clean energy and automotive innovation connect. As the Clean Energy Capital of Canada, Durham Region is home to the nation's leading cluster of energy sector businesses.
- Durham Region's on-campus research facilities include 30 labs dedicated to energy and automotive, featuring one of the most sophisticated wind tunnels of its kind in the world, hydrogen production, a small modular reactor simulator, clean energy, microgrids and more.
- Durham Region has a large agricultural sector and connects farm-to-table; is home to innovative agri-tech; and, is the Apple Capital of Canada.
- Durham Region's competitive advantage includes lower development charges compared to other locations in the GTA.

Growth and Innovation

- Durham Region offers world class R&D capabilities, abundant energy and fresh water, and serviced employment lands.
- Durham Region is experiencing booming growth and is forecast to grow from a population of nearly 770,000 to 1.3 million by the year 2051.
- Durham Region has been named one of the top 20 places in Canada to invest by Site Selection Magazine and is a Certified Intelligent Community.

Desirable Lifestyle

- Durham Region is where Toronto gets green. Nestled between three lakefronts, Durham Region is where the city and country connect. With lush forests and protected natural spaces, Durham's lifestyle offers ample parks, trails and community gardens, and activities like hiking, biking, skiing and golf.



Durham Region is made up of eight local municipalities, including:



Town of Ajax



Township of Brock



Municipality of Clarington



City of Oshawa



City of Pickering



Township of Scugog



Township of Uxbridge



Town of Whitby



The Durham Advantage

Invest Durham is here to assist you in navigating your business expansion, relocation, or creation in Durham Region, Ontario, Canada.

Employment Ready Land

- Significant availability of pre-serviced employment land, providing quick access to establish operations.
- More than 1,900 hectares of designated employment area land with a mix of built, vacant, and underutilized options to suit various business needs.

Fresh Water Access

- Access to high-quality drinking water from one of the largest fresh water sources in the world—the Great Lakes, ensuring a reliable supply for industrial and commercial use.
- Durham Region offers sophisticated water treatment systems, guaranteeing safe and clean water.

Affordable and Abundant Clean Power

- Canadian leader in clean energy, supporting renewable energy projects and sustainable practices.
- Competitive electricity rates compared to other G7 countries, alongside a commitment to reducing carbon footprints.

Talent Advantage

- Access to industry-specific talent and top post-secondary graduates; there are 30 university and college campuses within a one- to two-hour drive of Durham Region.
- Overall labour costs in Canada are among the lowest in the G7.

Collaborative Environment

- Various levels of government, Chambers of Commerce, academic partners, and others collaborate to ensure business success and investment support.



Durham College

Durham College (DC) offers responsive and future forward programming and services across two campuses in Durham Region. Investments in technology and continual innovation in industry-responsive programs make DC a valuable collaboration partner for institutions and companies.

- Industry-focused R&D centres specializing in AI, Cybersecurity, Mixed Reality Capture.
- State-of-the-art tech for AI, Cybersecurity, 3D Animation, Video Production, VR, EVs, Food Production and Processing, and Beverage Processing.
- Corporate Training Services (CTS) with a specialty in automotive industry training.

Strong partnerships with other Canadian research institutes, colleges, and universities.

EV Lab for training future EV technicians.

30 years of delivering in-person, virtual and hybrid training solutions to automotive OEMs.

➤ DurhamCollege.ca



Ontario Tech University

Ontario Tech University is a STEM-focused and research-intensive learning institute with students and facilities located across two campuses in Durham Region. Specialized in automotive, manufacturing, mechatronic and nuclear engineering programs, Ontario Tech consistently ranks among top engineering institutions in Canada.

- 11,000 graduate and undergraduate students across 90+ programs in areas of study such as Business, Energy Systems and Nuclear Science, Engineering, Information Technology, and Health Science and Science faculties.
- Canada's #1 Undergraduate Research University of the Year (2023 and 2024) and the national leader in applications of AI in advanced manufacturing.

ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel core research and testing facility at Ontario Tech supports industry product development globally.

80 specialized research laboratories and facilities, 11 Canada Research Chairs, and more than 300 industry partners.

[▶ OntarioTechU.ca](https://OntarioTechU.ca)



Trent University Durham GTA

Trent University Durham GTA has two campuses in Durham Region, and strong connections to Trent University’s primary campus in nearby Peterborough. Specialized programs are industry-responsive and include degree, graduate programs, certificates and micro-credentials.

- Fast gaining a reputation for meaningful community-based research alongside programs in Entrepreneurship, Experiential Learning Opportunities, and Corporate and Community Partnerships.
- One of the top ranked Universities in Canada by reputation.
- 3,000 students studying within undergraduate and graduate programs in Durham Region.

Research leader in Healthy and Sustainable Environments and Communities.

Undergraduate and postgraduate programs include AI, Management, Logistics and Supply Chain.

➤ TrentU.ca/durham



Project Arrow

The Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association (APMA) launched Canada's first, original, full-build, zero-emission concept vehicle named Project Arrow in 2023. The vehicle was designed, engineered and built through the joint efforts of Durham Region's world-class automotive supply sector and post-secondary institutions.

- Project Arrow brings together Canada's best of the best electric-drive, alternative-fuel, connected, autonomous and light-weight technology companies.
- Engineered and built at ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel—Ontario Tech University's research facility—the project brings together innovation from 60 partners and suppliers, and 25 tech innovations.

The next phase, Project Arrow 2.0, will bring together more suppliers and produce a series of 10 to 20 vehicles.

Ontario Tech University has been announced as the Official Build Partner of Project Arrow 2.0.

▶ ProjectArrow.ca



Durham Region's Innovation Supports

Spark Centre is Durham's Regional Innovation Centre (RIC), a provincially-funded centre that provides resources and commercialization services to innovative technology entrepreneurs and businesses. Spark Centre offers local and international entrepreneurs an ecosystem of support to launch and scale their businesses or relocate their company to Durham Region.

Brilliant Catalyst at Ontario Tech University is an innovative tech incubator that accelerates the success of ventures—both student and entrepreneur led.

Angel Investors Durham is an investor group dedicated to empowering visionary entrepreneurs and maximizing returns for investors.

1855 Technology Accelerator supports high-potential technology companies during early growth stages.

Business Advisory Centre Durham (BACD) provides business support for individuals wanting to start or grow an existing business, including funding programs, mentorship and more.



Employment Ready Land

Durham Region's booming growth offers vast opportunity and competitive cost advantages to investors. Our Signature Sites package includes select industrial and commercial properties for sale or lease.

View it online:

[InvestDurham.ca/sites](https://www.investdurham.ca/sites)

Featured site:

Clarington Energy Park

Durham Region is the Clean Energy Capital of Canada. Our business community is at the forefront of energy innovation with a vibrant cluster of future energy businesses—the strongest of its kind in Canada. This property is a 20-acre parcel available now. This prime real estate, for sale by Invest Durham, offers a range of potential development options, including a large fabrication facility or signature gateway office building.



Research and Development

Durham Region offers a collaborative innovation community where research and development facilities, academic institutions and industry work together to solve some of the world's greatest challenges. A partial list of R&D centres is below.



Ontario Tech University

- ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel
- Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre
- Brilliant Energy Institute
- Brilliant Ventures Fund
- Centre for Small Modular Reactors
- Clean Energy Research Laboratory
- Energy Systems and Nuclear Science Research Centre
- Materials Characterization Facility
- Microgrid and Innovation Park
- Software and Informatics Research Centre
- Wind and Geothermal Laboratory

Durham College

- The AI/Hub
- Mixed Reality Capture Studio
- Centre for Cybersecurity Innovation
- Accelerating energy and automotive workforce training through CTS



Trent University Durham GTA

- Cognitive Health Aging Technology Lab
- Research areas including Artificial Intelligence, Business Administration, Communication, Computer Science



Next Generation Mobility

The GTA offers one of the most robust manufacturing supply chains in the world, where hundreds of parts suppliers and tech start-ups converge. Advanced infrastructure and market access, the availability of a high-quality workforce, and a dynamic R&D environment, are major characteristics that attract and support companies.

- Durham Region is an important location for the interplay of energy innovation and advanced mobility through its:
- Strong talent pipeline; home to the only accredited Automotive Engineering Program of its kind in Canada;
- Durham Regional Technology Development Site (DRTDS), a program created to encourage collaboration of industry, academia and government;
- Strength in automotive development and testing;
- Available office and lab space for innovative R&D opportunities;
- EV charger testing facilities;
- Thriving autonomous technology startup ecosystem; and,
- Pipeline of innovative projects.

Invest Durham will support your business expansion in Canada.

Concierge Services to Support Investors:

- Coordinating with other levels of government;
- Connecting with experts for administrative services, such as bookkeeping, payroll, accounting, legal, and start-up;
- Identifying federal, provincial, or municipal financial incentives that may offset capital and development costs, and tax incentives for manufacturers and industrial corporations;
- Coordinating with a dedicated Immigration Referral Services Partner to assist with applications for Work Permits and Permanent Residence;
- Research for local evaluation and risk assessment, including commercial and industrial operation rates (utilities), real estate, labour index, and more; and,
- Resources available in the local ecosystem to support the facility and sector-specific economy.





Contact Us

We are confident our team can help you succeed in Canada.

Invest Durham
The Regional Municipality of Durham
🇨🇦 Durham Region, Ontario, Canada

605 Rossland Road East
Whitby, Ontario L1N 6A3

1-800-706-9857
InvestDurham@durham.ca
InvestDurham.ca



NGen Business Recruitment Roadshow event at ACE



Project Arrow 2.0 announcement



Ekstera Winning Competition



Resolutions from Advisory Committees

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

1. Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Easements

That we recommend to the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That Council be advised of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's support of the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve (DRAP) easements being transferred from the City of Pickering to the Ontario Farmland Trust.