



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Committee of the Whole Revised Agenda

Thursday, November 13, 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. Statutory Public Meetings There are no statutory public meetings	
4. Presentations	
*4.1 Garry Cubitt, Board Vice-Chair, DRPSB and Peter Moreira, Chief of Police, DRPS Re: Durham Regional Police Service Board – Quarterly Update to Council	4
4.2 Kiersten Allore-Engel, Manager, Community Safety and Well-Being Re: Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2025–2029) (2025-COW-35) [Item 7.1]	14
*4.3 Nathaniel Andres, Manager, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Planning; Colleen Goodchild, Director, Community Growth; and Mary Simpson, Director, Risk Management, Economic Studies and Procurement Re: Authorization to Undertake a Comprehensive Review of the Options for Including the Northeast Pickering Lands in the Region’s Development Charge By-laws (2025-COW-36) [Item 7.2]	22
5. Delegations There are no delegations	

6. Correspondence

- *6.1 Correspondence from Doug Glass, Ajax resident 37
Re: Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2025-2029);
Authorization to Undertake a Comprehensive Review of the Options for
Including the Northeast Pickering Lands in the Region's Development
Charge By-laws; Regional Comments on the Proposed Changes to
Ontario Building Code and Proposed Changes in Bill 60, Fighting Delays,
Building Faster Act, 2025; and Motion regarding Property Tax Subclass
Analysis

Recommendation: Refer to consideration of Reports #2025-COW-35
[Item 7.1], #2025-COW-36 [Item 7.2], #2025-COW-37 [Item 7.3], and
Item 8.1
- *6.2 Correspondence from Helen Brenner and Abdullah Mir, on behalf of Stop 40
Sprawl Durham
Re: Authorization to Undertake a Comprehensive Review of the Options
for Including the Northeast Pickering Lands in the Region's Development
Charge By-laws

Recommendation: Refer to consideration of Report #2025-COW-36 [Item
7.2]

7. Reports

- 7.1 Report #2025-COW-35 43
Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2025-2029)
- 7.2 Report #2025-COW-36 117
Authorization to Undertake a Comprehensive Review of the Options for
Including the Northeast Pickering Lands in the Region's Development
Charge By-laws
- 7.3 Report #2025-COW-37 124
Regional Comments on the Proposed Changes to Ontario Building Code
and Proposed Changes in Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act,
2025

8. Members Motions

- 8.1 Motion regarding Property Tax Subclass Analysis 177

9. Confidential Matters

There are no confidential matters to be considered

10. 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.



DURHAM REGIONAL POLICE





Vice-Chair Garry Cubitt

Update on the Strategic Plan 2024-2027

2026 Budget

CHIEF FOR A DAY – Advaita Paliwal



CALLS FOR SERVICE – IN THE NEWS

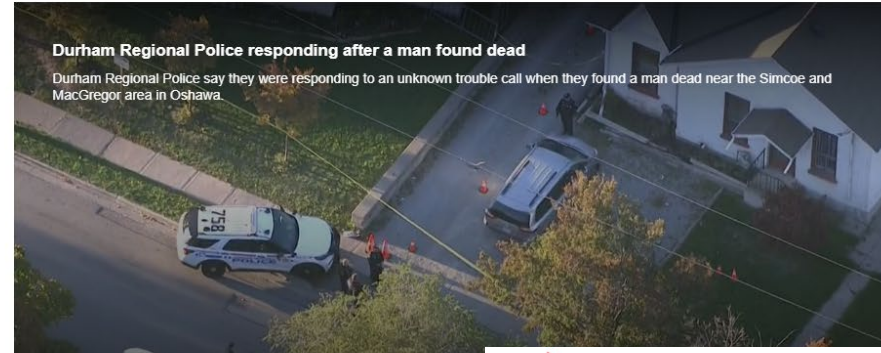


DRPS Homicide Unit investigating after woman found dead in Newcastle

September 16, 2025 | 2:00 pm



Durham police w



Durham Regional Police responding after a man found dead

Durham Regional Police say they were responding to an unknown trouble call when they found a man dead near the Simcoe and MacGregor area in Oshawa.

Video

Durham Regional Police responding after a man found dead

Durham Regional Police say they were responding to an unknown trouble call when they found a man dead near the Simcoe and MacGregor area in Oshawa.

Group of youths arrested after man was robbed at gunpoint in Oshawa: police

By Alex Arsenych

Published: October 13, 2025 at 9:29AM EDT



DRPS warn residents after release of repeat offender in Oshawa

Global News

Thu, October 9, 2025 at 5:01 p.m. EDT



DRPS warn residents after release of repeat offender in Oshawa



Matthew Donald Adlam

Alert issued about high-risk offender in Oshawa

MENTAL HEALTH CALLS



Emergency



CTV NEWS Local CTV News App Trump's Tariffs Watch In Pictures Live CTV News Now

Durham | News

E-scooter rider in critical condition after crash in Oshawa: police

By Phil Tsekouras
Published: October 06, 2025 at 9:34AM EDT



Durham Regional Police respond to a crash involving an e-scooter rider on Oct. 5, 2025. (CP24/Colin Williamson)

An e-scooter rider is fighting for his life in hospital following a crash in Oshawa Sunday night, police say.

Durham police were called to the area of Albert Street and Athol Street East, north of Highway 401, at 7:15 p.m. for reports of a collision.



BUDGET 2026



[Click Here For New Condos And Towns Developments For Sale In Durham](#)



UpperPark Homes At Duffins Village In Ajax | Prices And Floor Plans



Nordeagle Condos Whitby



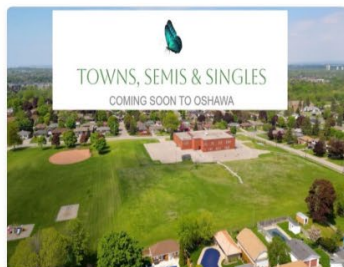
Nordeagle Condos In Whitby | Prices And Floor Plans



Lyric Townhomes In Whitby | Prices And Floor Plans



Tripark Townhomes In Whitby | Prices And Floor Plans



Mackenzie Park Town Homes In Oshawa | Prices And Floor Plans



Dali Urban Towns In Pickering



Dali Towns In Pickering | Prices And Floor Plans



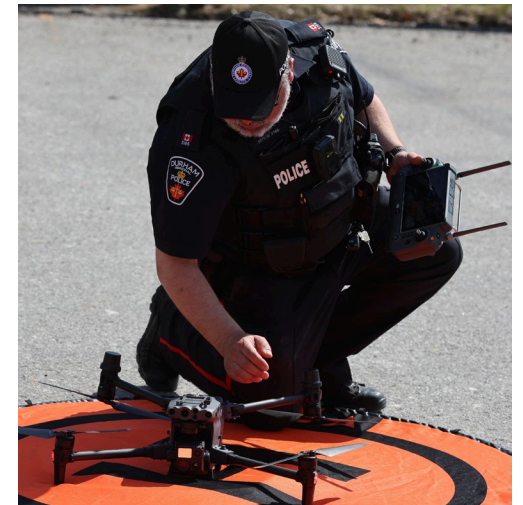
Time Townhomes In Ajax | Prices And Floor Plans



Coppin Forest Estates Homes In Uxbridge | Prices & Floor Plans



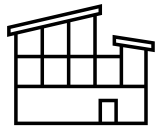
2026 STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS



DRPS 10-YEAR CAPITAL



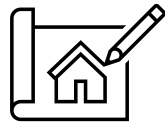
Specialty Unit



Clarington Complex 2



Central East & Central West Renovation



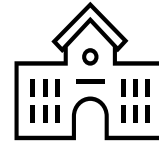
RRC



Police HQ



Education & Training Campus



Ajax Div.



North Div.



West Div.



Forensics



North East Div.



Comms 911 Expansion



East Div. Renovation



QUESTIONS?



Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2025-2029)

Committee of the Whole

November 13, 2025

Community Safety and Well-Being:

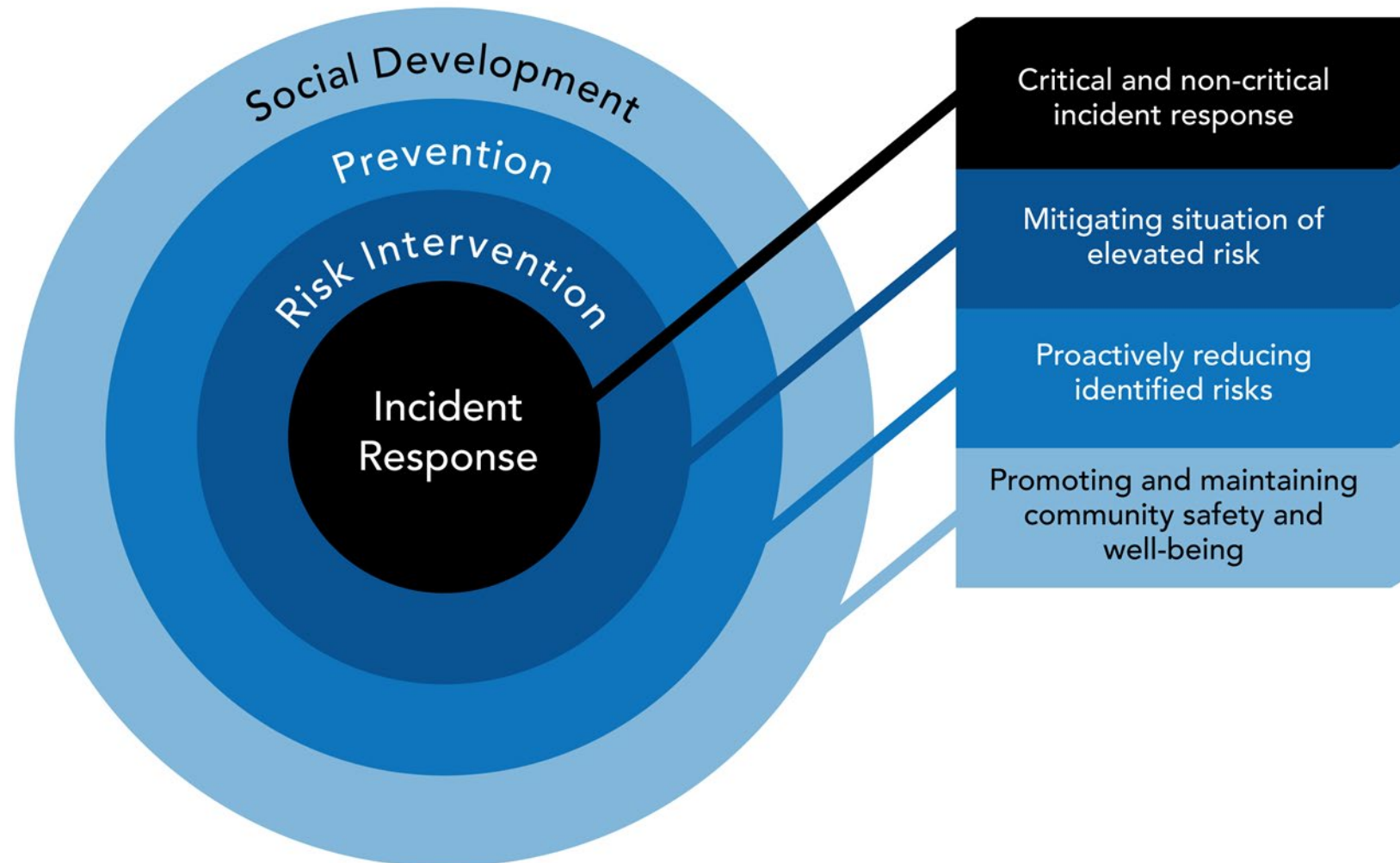
Describes a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.



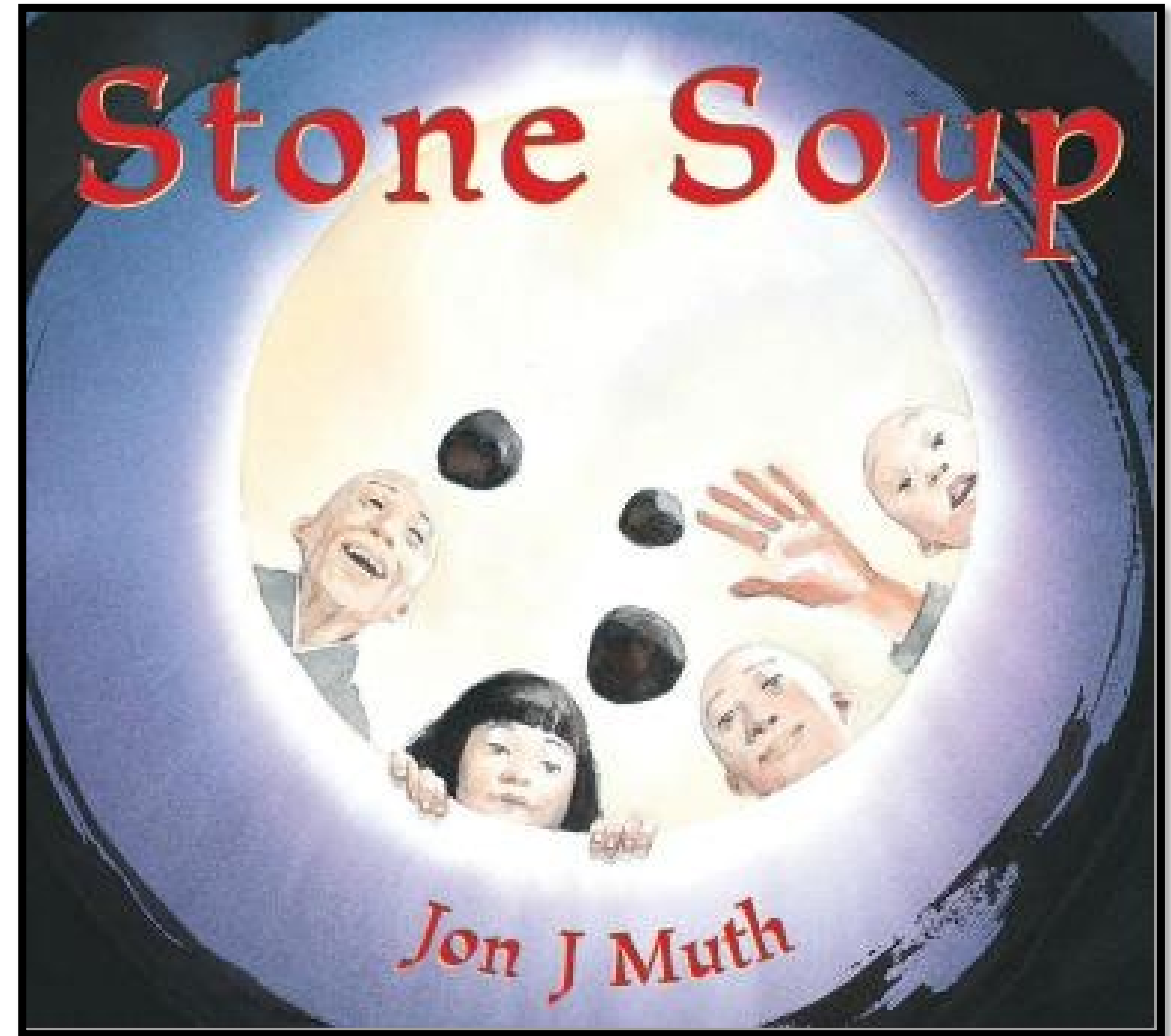
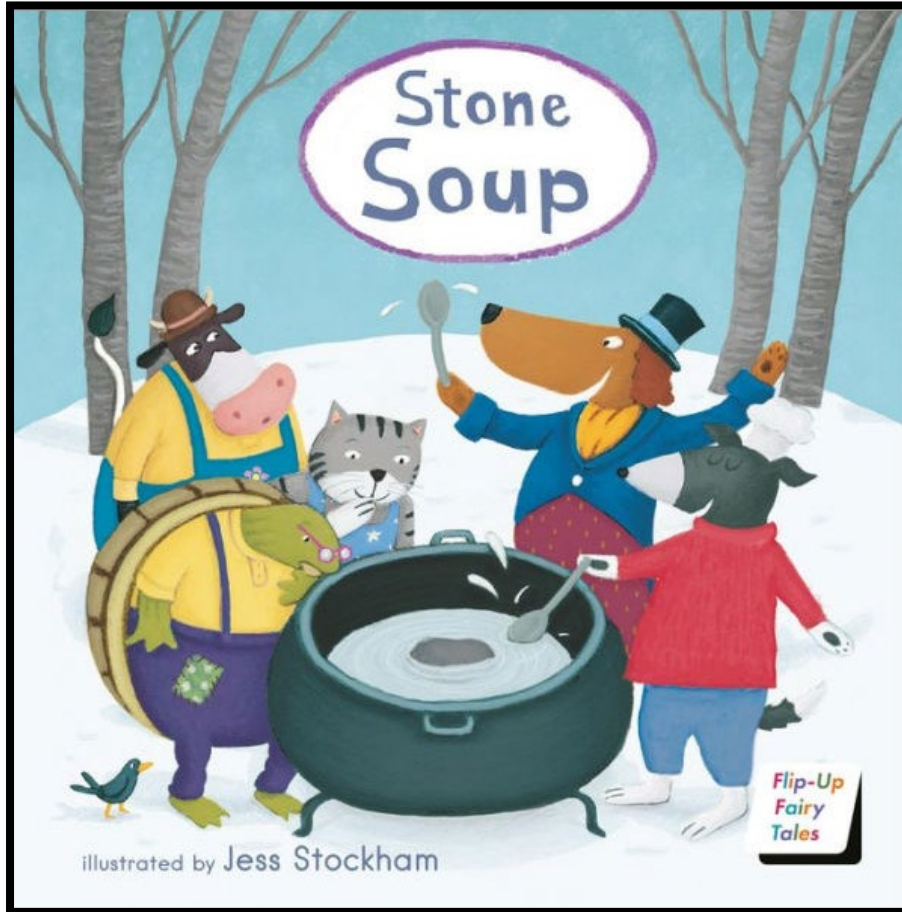
Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (durham.ca/cswb)



CSWB Plan: Framework



Stone Soup: A Story of Collective Impact

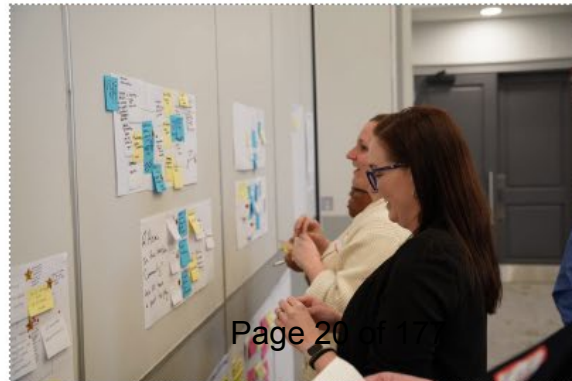




Guide to Community Resources for Seniors and Older Adults



How did we get here?





Thank You

Kiersten Allore-Engel, RPP, MPPAL

Manager, CSWB

Kiersten.Allore-Engel@durham.ca

More Information: durham.ca/cswb

durham.ca

[@RegionofDurham](#)





2025-COW-36

Authorization to undertake a comprehensive review of the options for including the Northeast Pickering lands in the Region's DC By-laws

November 13, 2025

Presentation Overview

- Request from members of Northeast Pickering Landowners group to expedite servicing to Northeast Pickering
- Background/Context
 - Planning for Growth
 - Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Planning
- The Path Forward - planning and funding for growth in Northeast Pickering



Request to service Northeast Pickering

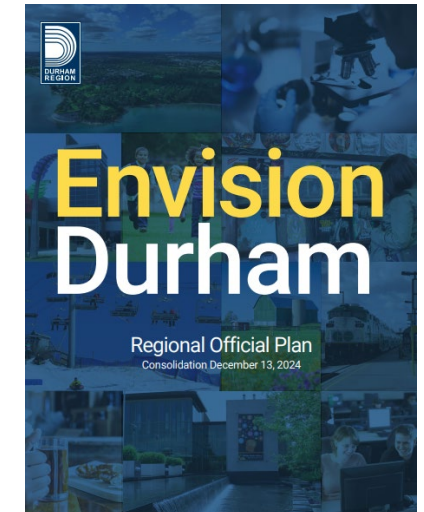
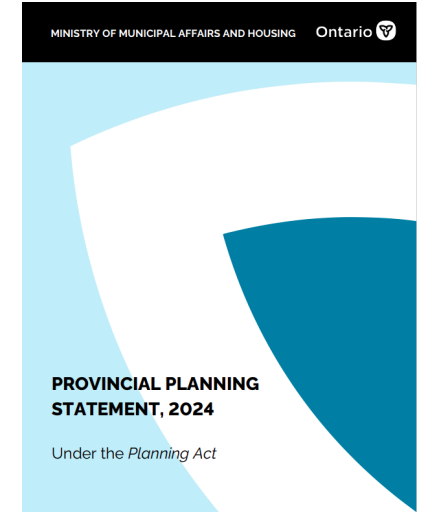
Pickering and members of the Northeast Pickering Landowners Group have requested that the Region advance the planning to extend water and wastewater services to their lands in NEP



Background/Context

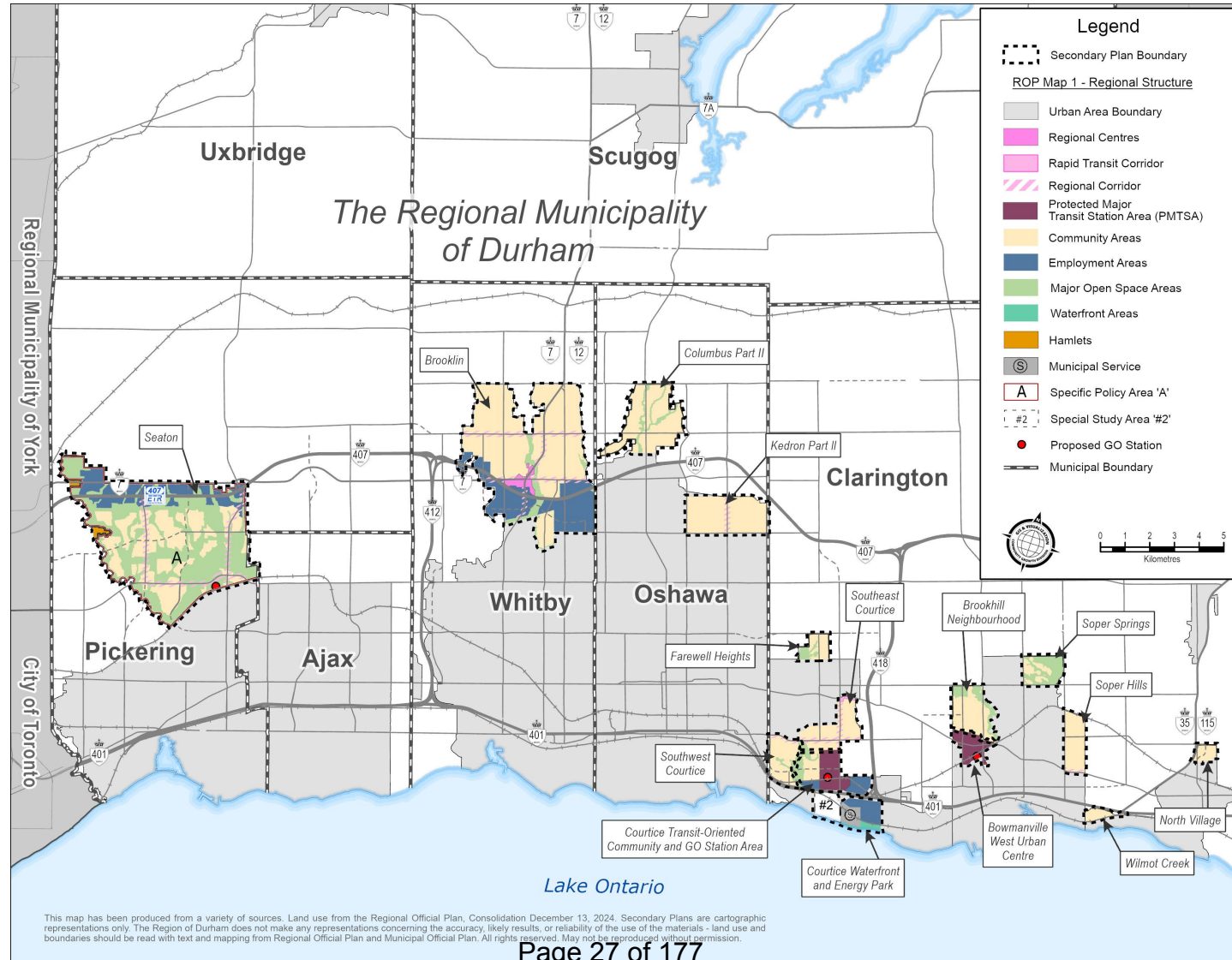
Planning for Growth

- Provincial Planning Statement, 2024
 - Planning for growth is to be integrated with planning for infrastructure
- Envision Durham and local official plans
 - Sequential, orderly and phased development
 - Provide necessary infrastructure to meet current and projected needs for orderly growth
 - Balance of intensification and new growth areas
 - Growth into the 2051 expansion areas





Planning for growth – Active Secondary Plans in 2031 Urban Boundary



Water & Wastewater Planning to support growth

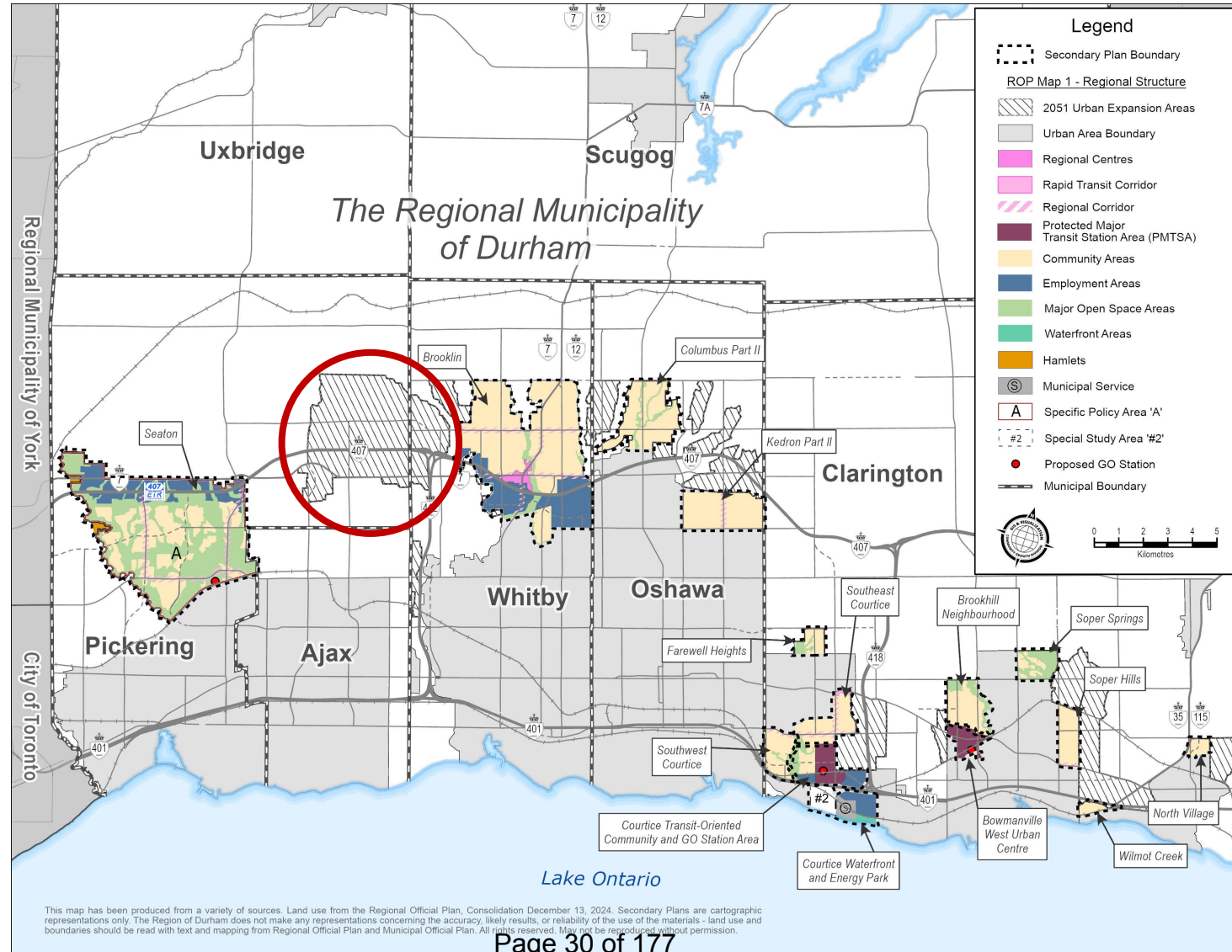
- Water and wastewater infrastructure planning is about technical solutions rooted in financial sustainability.
- Ensure that each municipality continues to have developable lands to meet provincial housing targets and match pace of growth.
- 2023 DC Background Study identified an estimated \$3.5B worth of water and sanitary sewerage infrastructure projects to facilitate development in the 2031 Urban Boundary.
- There is sufficient land within the 2031 Urban Boundary to meet the provincial housing targets of 84,000 units in 10 years.



Water & Wastewater Planning

- 2023 DC Background Study was based on growth forecasts contained within the last Official Plan. The current pace of development is much slower.
- Advancing the servicing of expansion lands would deprioritize lands that were included in the Council approved DC Background Study and would underutilize the infrastructure investments expended within the 2031 Urban Boundary.

2051 Urban Expansion Areas





The Path Forward

The Recommended Path Forward

- The housing targets set by the Province can be met within the 2031 Urban Boundary.
- As part of the settlement negotiations of the 2023 Region-wide DC Bylaw appeal, the Region committed to updating and replacing the Bylaw earlier than would otherwise be required.
- To balance this commitment, and the request from NEPLOG to advance consideration of Northeast Pickering, staff are recommending the following path forward.

The Recommended Path Forward

- The Region's current Development Charges (DC) By-laws, By-law No. 42 2023 for core services and By-law No. 39 2022 for Regional Transit, are based on the previous Official Plan and do not include new growth areas approved in Envision Durham, such as the NEP lands.
- To enable NEPLOG's development, the Region must update its DC By-laws to include the NEP lands and related capital needs, which will involve the development of the necessary servicing plans.
- Updating the DC by-laws will enable financial arrangements including potentially front-ending agreements (e.g. loans from developers).

The Recommended Path Forward

- There are three potential ways to integrate NEP into its DC Bylaws:
 1. Amend the existing Region-wide DC By-laws to include the NEP lands, to include additional servicing costs and the associated population and employment growth.
 2. Establish a NEP area-specific DC By-law for water and sewer services, with corresponding amendments to the Regional DC By-laws for remaining services (e.g., roads, transit, police).
 3. Develop a new DC Background Study and associated By-law to incorporate all new growth areas approved through Envision Durham, including the NEP lands.

The Recommended Path Forward

- Need to align the request from the NEPLOG with Region-wide capital priorities, financial sustainability, potential legislative changes, broader regional housing targets, market absorption concerns, and infrastructure needs.
- Regional Staff are recommending an evaluation of the implementation, development and market, and servicing considerations to determine the Region's best approach to address this request from NEPLOG.
- Regional Staff will report back to Regional Council in Spring 2026 with the recommended approach.



Colleen Goodchild
Director, Community Growth

Nathaniel Andres
Manager, Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Planning

Mary Simpson
Director, Risk Management, Economic Studies & Procurement

durham.ca

[@RegionofDurham](https://www.instagram.com/RegionofDurham)



From: Doug Glass

Sent: November 11, 2025 9:25 AM

To: chair <chair@durham.ca>; Clerks <Clerks@durham.ca>; Sterling Lee

Subject: Durham Committee of the Whole - Nov 13, 2025

Good day. Here are some of the questions and concerns I have prior to the meeting that I hope can get addressed at the meeting. Clerk, please ensure this goes into the public record. Can you also tell me how I can confirm that this happens? Where do I see it? (minutes, etc)

Item 7.1

The updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan sets out a thoughtful and well-intentioned framework to tackle complex issues like homelessness, substance use, mental health, racism, and gender-based violence through coordination rather than silos. Its focus on prevention, data, and collaboration is commendable. But the structure has grown heavy, dozens of committees, sub-committees, and inter-municipal tables involving many of the same senior staff and agencies. While coordination has value, this scale risks becoming symbolic and bureaucratic, consuming time and payroll that could be reaching people directly. The plan itself notes it doesn't fund services or build housing, so the return on administrative effort must be clearly measured. (how will the Region measure success?)

Going forward, I believe Durham would be better served by streamlining governance, publishing annual performance indicators, and redirecting more resources toward proven front-line programs that stabilize lives. The region's strength lies not in how many meetings, but in how many residents see real change because of them. Something that I recently asked Durham Social Services to provide updated data on in a meeting with them.

Item 7.2

As a resident of North Ajax, I'm increasingly concerned by the growing pressure to urbanize the Northeast Pickering lands, an area of sensitive greenspace, forests, and headwaters directly tied to the Duffins Creek watershed. This report makes clear that the push to accelerate servicing has not come from the public, but from the Northeast Pickering Landowners Group and the development industry. Yet, taxpayers are being asked to fund early consulting and legal work while residents, conservation authorities, and environmental experts have been completely left out of the process. That raises real questions about transparency and who this exercise is meant to serve.

Before any decisions are made, Council should clearly state:

1. Who initiated and benefits from this review — was it developer-driven or a Regional growth priority?
2. What environmental protections will be in place to safeguard the Duffins Creek watershed, woodlots, and remaining Greenbelt buffers?
3. What financial exposure do taxpayers face, especially given thousands of unbuilt units already serviced in Seaton?

4. Why residents and environmental groups are not included in the stakeholder consultation phase?

Council should not advance this process, or spend public money on it until those questions are publicly answered and residents have a formal seat at the table. The future of our greenspace and the fiscal stability of this Region deserve nothing less.

Item 7.3

Similar to the above, I'm increasingly alarmed that these policies seem built around meeting provincial development targets, not sustaining livability or affordability for the people already here. This report admits that deferring development charges to occupancy could drain reserves and delay infrastructure, yet there's no commitment that taxpayers won't be left covering the shortfall. It supports new service classes, Local Service Policies, and standardized provincial forecasts that further erode local control—all while Ajax faces density levels already beyond what infrastructure and roads can handle. Now the targets being proposed border on unrealistic and risk turning Ajax into a high-rise corridor without the services or affordability to match.

So I have a few simple questions: How will you ensure these new deferral rules and planning changes don't translate into higher property taxes, utility rates, or service cuts for residents? Why endorse a system that weakens "growth pays for growth" when your own report warns of reserve depletion? And will Council finally re-examine its population and density targets—based on actual infrastructure and cost capacity—rather than provincial pressure and developer expectations?

Residents like me are very troubled with the path being taken and we need to act on our behalf.

Item 8.1

I shared comments in October but the sponsor did not attend. So I am re-submitting them.

This motion may sound helpful on paper, but it risks creating another tax loophole that shifts costs onto regular homeowners and small businesses. The proposed "Affordable Rental Housing Subclass" could reduce property taxes for certain landlords by up to 35%, yet there's no guarantee those savings will ever reach tenants. The Region would lose that revenue, and someone else, ordinary taxpayers would end up footing the bill. Once adopted, it becomes a permanent structural change, with MPAC reclassifying properties and the Region absorbing the loss year after year. This isn't affordability; it's a subsidy for property owners under a label that sounds good politically.

Before council studies or endorses this, members should ask: how will the Region ensure savings actually lower rents? What's the total revenue loss and who makes up the shortfall? Why are landlords being given new tax breaks while homeowners struggling with inflation get none? How will eligibility be verified or clawed back if rents rise anyway? And what prevents this from being quietly expanded to near-market

“affordable” units that benefit developers more than renters? Until those questions are clearly answered at the meeting and real affordability outcomes are guaranteed, Council should vote **no**, even on studying this.

There seems to be a theme here around development.



November 12, 2025

To: Members of the Durham Region Committee of the Whole
c/o Regional Clerk, Region of Durham
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby ON

Re: *Agenda Item 7.2 – Report 2025-COW-36: Authorization to Undertake a Comprehensive Review of the Options for Including the Northeast Pickering Lands in the Region’s Development Charge By-laws*

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of **Stop Sprawl Durham**, a grassroots coalition advocating for sustainable, fiscally responsible growth across our region. We are expressing our **strong objection** to advancing any step toward including the **Northeast Pickering lands** in Durham’s Development Charge (DC) by-laws at this time.

This action is **premature and unacceptable**, as the **Northeast Pickering Secondary Plan remains incomplete and significantly deficient**.

1. Incomplete Planning Framework

Key technical studies—including those related to servicing, transportation, fiscal impact, and watershed management—remain incomplete or unavailable for public review. Equally concerning, the **Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN)** have stated in writing that they have **not been meaningfully consulted**, contrary to claims by the City of Pickering. This failure to uphold the duty to consult contravenes the **Planning Act**, the **Provincial Planning Statement (2024)**, and **Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982**.

Until these legal and policy obligations are fulfilled, **no Regional action**—including a Development Charges review—should proceed. To do so would effectively endorse a planning process that is non-compliant and fiscally unsound.

2. Infrastructure Costs and Fiscal Risk

Servicing the Northeast Pickering lands will require extensive new infrastructure—roads, water, wastewater, stormwater systems, emergency services, and transit—on unserviced rural land. Experience across Ontario shows that **development charges**

rarely recover full infrastructure costs, especially when climate-resilient design, maintenance, and long-term operations are considered. The result is an **ongoing financial liability for regional taxpayers**.

3. Taxpayer Exposure and Financial Accountability

Even where development charges apply, the **gap between growth costs and revenues** often leaves municipalities carrying significant unfunded obligations. Durham's experience with other large-scale growth areas demonstrates how quickly capital costs escalate once full infrastructure, emergency services, and climate-resilience measures are accounted for.

Before any inclusion of Northeast Pickering in the Region's DC by-laws proceeds, taxpayers deserve **clear answers on total lifecycle costs, phasing, and funding responsibilities** associated with this development.

4. Impact on Housing Delivery and Affordability

Premature expansion into unserviced lands will **divert labour, materials, and servicing capacity** from existing urban areas such as Seaton, the City Centre, and the Kingston Road corridor—all of which have ample development potential and existing infrastructure. This fragmentation will **delay near-term housing delivery and increase construction costs**, ultimately undermining the Region's housing affordability objectives.

5. Requests to Committee

We respectfully ask that the Committee recommend that:

1. The Region **defer** any decision to include the Northeast Pickering lands in the DC by-laws until the **Secondary Plan process is complete**, all technical and fiscal studies are finalized, and **meaningful consultation with MSIFN** has occurred;
2. The forthcoming review include an **independent fiscal and servicing analysis** to fully account for lifecycle costs, phasing, and taxpayer exposure; and
3. Regional Council reaffirm its commitment to **prioritizing growth within existing serviced urban areas** before extending DC coverage to costly, unserviced lands.

Moving forward with this review before the underlying plan meets basic legal, technical, and consultation standards would not only be fiscally reckless but would undermine public trust. We urge the Committee to demonstrate leadership by ensuring that **responsible planning, fiscal accountability, and reconciliation obligations** guide all future decisions.

Thank you for your attention and your continued service to Durham residents.

Sincerely,

Helen Brenner
Abdullah Mir
On behalf of **Stop Sprawl Durham**
StopSprawlDurham@gmail.com

CC: Mayor Ashe and Members of Council (via Pickering City Clerk)



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Chief Administrative Office
Report: #2025-COW-35
Date: November 13, 2025

Subject:

Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2025-2029)

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That Regional Council endorse Attachment 1 as the Region of Durham's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan (2025-2029);
 - B) That Regional Council direct staff to submit the approved CSWB Plan (2025-2029) to the Ministry of the Solicitor General in accordance with the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019; and
 - C) That Regional Council support staff advocacy efforts to secure sustained provincial and federal funding to enable implementation of the CSWB Plan.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that Regional Council endorse the updated Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan (2025-2029) contained in Attachment 1. Once endorsed by Regional Council, the CSWB Plan (2025-2029) will be submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

2. Background

- 2.1 In January of 2019, legislative amendments to the Community Safety and Policing Act (the Act) mandated communities across the province to develop CSWB Plans. The province describes community safety and well-being as a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, where individuals and families can

meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.

- 2.2 Durham Regional Council adopted the first CSWB Plan in November 2021. The CSWB Plan (2021-2025) has served as a framework for collective action, working to support community members across the Region.
- 2.3 The Act requires municipalities to review and update their CSWB Plans every four years. The review process involved extensive engagement with rights holders, municipal partners, and community agencies. During this process, it was confirmed the original risk factors remain critical. The updated CSWB Plan highlights the ongoing urgency of these risk factors:
 - a. Criminal Involvement
 - b. Experiences of Racism
 - c. Homelessness and Basic Needs
 - d. Mental Health
 - e. Social Isolation
 - f. Substance Use
 - g. Victimization
- 2.4 The updated CSWB Plan also introduces a new component: Roadmaps for Collective Impact, including key actions. These provide an implementation framework, to be advanced collaboratively, with community serving organizations (e.g., police, healthcare, education, child welfare, housing, etc.), who are working to support all communities across Durham Region.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 The CSWB Secretariat (Region of Durham staff responsible for the development and implementation of the CSWB Plan) have worked closely with partners to advance the original CSWB Plan objectives and to develop the updated plan. As part of this work, a number of reports have been prepared:
 - a. [#2022-INFO-71 GTHA CSWB Symposium Summary](#)
 - b. [#2023-A-15-Community Safety and Well-Being Plan \(CSWB\) Update](#)
 - c. [#2024-A-9 Community Safety and Well-Being \(CSWB\) Plan Update](#)
 - d. [Memo to Council - Intimate Partner Violence](#)
 - e. [#2024-INFO-81 Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence 2024](#)
 - f. [#2025-INFO-25 Community Safety and Well-Being \(CSWB\) Update: Youth Action Group \(YAG\) Activities and Achievements](#)

4. Discussion

- 4.1 The CSWB Plan calls on different sectors, institutions and service delivery agents to share in the collective responsibility of creating the type of community we want to call home. The CSWB Plan acknowledges this work must extend beyond the system of policing to address complex social issues that often contribute to crime and poor health outcomes.
- 4.2 Since the adoption of the first CSWB Plan in 2021, the Region has achieved significant milestones. Highlights of this work include:
- a. The [CSWB Online Information Hub](#), including the [CSWB Data Dashboard](#) was successfully launched.
 - b. The CSWB Fund, including the Micro-Grant Program, was established. To date, almost \$1,000,000 has flowed directly to rights holders, community agencies and resident-led initiatives to deliver local programming, reaching over 5,000 individuals in Durham Region, including children, youth and families with complex needs.
 - c. The CSWB Capacity Training Series was launched. To date, it has provided training to 350 staff across 45 organizations in topics identified by community as critical, including ASIST, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Harm Reduction, Human Trafficking, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Trauma Informed Practices, Board Governance, Project Management, Indigenous Cultural Safety, and Grant Writing.
 - d. In partnership with Durham Community Action Group, the CSWB Secretariat established the Youth Action Group (YAG) to build leadership and civic engagement skills among Durham Region youth. YAG members, who themselves were youth, worked to curate and display artwork from 23 youth artists aged 13 to 21, from across the region. The YAG project demonstrated the resilience of youth in Durham Region and showcased their talents as ambassadors and leaders in their communities.
 - e. The CSWB Secretariat established the CSWB Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), comprised of almost 40 youth serving organizations who meet monthly to focus on ways to prevent violence in our communities.
 - f. With key guidance and in collaboration with YAG, SAG and other partners, including Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS), the CSWB Secretariat is developing a Youth Violence Prevention Strategy.
 - g. The Region and DRPS are partnering to relaunch a situation table (Durham Connect) in early 2026. Durham Connect will be a collaborative, multi-sectoral effort to connect vulnerable individuals to resources in the community.
 - h. The CSWB Secretariat is developing a Community Healing Toolkit, informed by 17 interviews, five focus groups and guidance from networks such as the Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (VPCC) of Durham. The Guide will be released in early 2026 to support recovery, healing and reduce retaliatory violence.

- i. With partners, the CSWB Secretariat developed the Guide to Community Resources for Seniors and Older Adults. To date, over 6,700 printed copies have been distributed across more than 130 locations throughout Durham Region.
- j. The CSWB Secretariat has partnered with violence against women serving agencies on two community walks to raise awareness and end Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The first walk was in 2024 and had over 200 participants. The second walk is scheduled for November 1, 2025.
- k. The CSWB Secretariat, in partnership with Social Services, secured a Proclamation and the Flag Raising for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 2024 and 2025.
- l. The CSWB Secretariat launched the IPV and Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response Fund to support agencies and non-profit organizations doing critical work.
- m. In collaboration with the VPCC of Durham, the CSWB Secretariat will complete a GBV and IPV Action Plan by the end of 2025.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Implementation of the CSWB Plan has been funded primarily by Public Safety Canada's Building Communities Fund (BSCF). The Region of Durham acknowledges, with appreciation, the support to advance violence prevention and intervention priorities.
- 5.2 BSCF funding is set to end in March 2026. The Region remains committed to advocating for provincial and federal support to maintain momentum and advance critical CSWB initiatives.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Directions and Pathway in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
 - a. Connected and Vibrant Communities
 - C2. Enable a full range of housing options, including housing that is affordable and close to transit.
 - b. Healthy People, Caring Communities
 - H1. Implement preventive strategies to support community health, including food security.
 - H2. Collaborate with partners to respond to complex social issues that improve community safety and well-being, including mental health and addictions.
 - H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.

- H4. Support the development of healthy children and youth, including access to affordable and quality child care.
 - H5. Provide services for seniors and work with community partners to support aging in place.
- c. Resilient Local Economies
- R3. Develop, attract, and support a skilled and qualified workforce, including youth and newcomers.
- d. Strong Relationships
- S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
 - S2. Build and strengthen respectful relationships with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities.
 - S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.
 - S4. Advocate to the federal and provincial government and agencies to advance regional priorities.
 - S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.
- 6.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation 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 The Region of Durham would like to express deep appreciation to the many partners who took the time to participate in shaping this work. Without their lived experience, sector knowledge and subject matter expertise, the updated CSWB Plan and associated outcomes would not have been possible.
- 7.2 The updated CSWB Plan (2025-2029) positions Durham Region as a leader in collaborative, evidence-informed approaches to community safety and well-being. Approval of this plan will enable compliance with legislation, strengthen partnerships, and advance collective impact strategies that promote safety, equity, and well-being.

8. Attachments

Attachment #1: Updated Durham Region CSWB Plan (2025-2029)

Prepared by: Kiersten Allore-Engel, MCIP, RPP, MPPAL. Manager CSWB,
at 905-668-7711, extension 2321.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Mental Health

Substance Use

Criminal
Involvement

Social
Isolation

Victimization

Homelessness
and Basic Needs

Experiences
of Racism



**Community
Safety and
Well-Being
Plan**



November 2025

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

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

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

Labour Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Durham Region has profited from the free labour of enslaved people of African descent who were uprooted from their homelands and forced into labour to generate wealth for this nation. We also acknowledge the labour of immigrants - voluntary, forced, or undocumented - whose work has shaped this land. This includes the Chinese railway workers, whose efforts in building the transcontinental railway continue to underpin so much of our prosperity today.

We offer these acknowledgments with respect and gratitude, along with the intention to affirm fundamental human rights and improve equity and justice in all our programs and services.

Table of Contents

<u>Page 2 - Indigenous Land Acknowledgement</u>
<u>Page 3 - Labour Acknowledgement</u>
<u>Page 5 - Message from the Regional Chair and CAO</u>
<u>Page 6 - Message from Durham Regional Police Service Chief Peter Moreira</u>
<u>Page 7 - Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan Introduction</u>
<u>Page 8 - CSWB Plan Purpose</u>
<u>Page 9 - Benefits of the CSWB Plan</u>
<u>Page 9 - CSWB Plan Framework</u>
<u>Page 11 - Previous CSWB Plan (2021-2025)</u>
<u>Page 12 - Progress Report: Accomplishments to Date</u>
<u>Page 20 - 2025 Priority Risk Factors</u>
<u>Page 29 - Overview of Process to Update</u>
<u>Page 30 - Project Timeline: CSWB Plan Update (2023-2025)</u>
<u>Page 34 - Looking Forward - Going Further Together</u>
<u>Page 35 - Conclusion</u>
<u>Page 36 - Appendices</u>

Message from the Regional Chair and Chief Administrative Officer

At the heart of every strong community is a shared belief: that everyone deserves to feel safe, supported and valued. We are pleased to share our vision for a safer, healthier and more inclusive Durham Region through the updated Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan.

This update builds on the strong foundation established in 2021 and takes an important step forward by deepening co-ordination across sectors and introducing clear roadmaps for collective impact. These roadmaps will guide our efforts, ensuring that actions are aligned, measurable, and focused on outcomes that matter most to residents and community partner organizations.

We know that no single organization can do this alone. Real change happens when we come together—local government, police services, community partners and residents—sharing our strengths, our knowledge and our compassion.

This plan is the outcome of extensive engagement, research and co-creation with nearly 350 partners across the region. It reflects the voices and the expertise of those who work every day to make Durham a better place to live. These contributions have been invaluable in ensuring that the plan is grounded in lived experience and informed by local priorities.

By working hand in hand, we can move beyond reacting to crises and instead focus on preventing them. Through partnership, we can help prevent harm before it happens, support those who need us most and build a future where no one is left behind.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the many partners who contributed their time, knowledge and passion to this work.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism and determination. The updated CSWB Plan provides the tools and strategies needed to align efforts, amplify community voices and build a stronger, more resilient region.



Message from Durham Regional Police Service Chief Peter Moreira

On behalf of the dedicated members of the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS), I am proud to partner and support the Region of Durham Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan.

Every day, our officers work hand-in-hand with community agencies and organizations to support residents in need and strengthen the systems that contribute to the safety and well-being of our residents. Through strategic partnerships—with mental health professionals, educators, social service providers, and local organizations—we are building coordinated responses that help address the underlying factors that contribute to harm and vulnerability.

Durham Region is fortunate to have many capable partner agencies and organizations working tirelessly to address the social and systemic challenges that too often appear in crime statistics. As critical as law enforcement is to the welfare of our residents, we know that true community safety requires a coordinated and sustained effort—one that brings together police, first responders, social service agencies, healthcare professionals, educators, and community organizations.

At DRPS, we are proud to work closely with our partners on initiatives such as Durham Connect, the Mental Health Response Unit, and De-escalation Training –programs that demonstrate the power of collaboration in creating meaningful change. These partnerships allow us to connect residents with the right support at the right time and to address the conditions that can lead to crisis, victimization, or harm.

We are committed to strengthening and expanding these strategic partnerships and identifying new strategies that are measurable and will lead to better outcomes to advance community safety and well-being across the Region. The CSWB Plan provides an important opportunity to align our collective efforts, improve communication and coordination, and develop innovative, people-centered approaches that promote equity, inclusion, and trust.

Together—with compassion, collaboration, and commitment—we can ensure Durham remains a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for everyone.



Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan Introduction

As the eastern economic gateway to the Greater Toronto Area, Durham offers prime access to a consumer market of more than five million people. The broader region provides a wide range of programs and services to a growing and increasingly diverse community of residents, businesses, and visitors. Today, the region is home to over 750,000 people and that number is expected to grow to 1.3 million by 2051 ([Region of Durham Official Plan, 2024](#)).

As shown in **Figure 1.1**, Durham is made up of eight area municipalities.

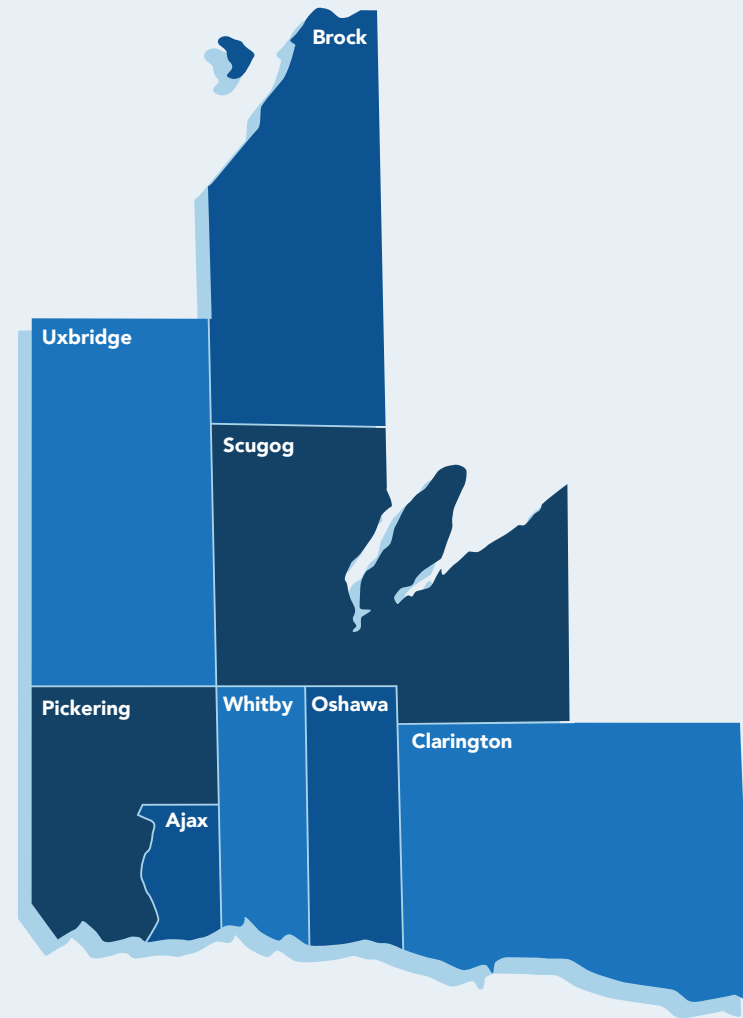


Figure 1.1: Region of Durham

As Durham continues to grow, the importance of maintaining high levels of safety and well-being is a top priority. Durham Region is performing well against many indicators of safety and well-being. However, there are areas for improvement that require targeted, collaborative and intentional solutions ([Durham Region's Profile, 2024](#)).

CSWB Plan Purpose

The Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, mandated communities across the province to develop a CSWB Plan ([Government of Ontario, 2019](#)). The Region of Durham's first CSWB Plan was adopted by Durham Regional Council on November 24, 2021. This legislation also requires the Region to review and submit a revised CSWB Plan to the Ministry of the Solicitor General every four years.

In preparation for this deadline, the Region of Durham CSWB Secretariat (Region of Durham staff responsible for the development and implementation of the CSWB Plan) worked closely with partners to conduct data analysis, research and community engagement to support the review and development of the updated CSWB Plan 2025-2029.

The goal of the CSWB Plan is to outline a framework for collective action that works to ensure residents of Durham Region feel safe and have a sense of belonging, and their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression are met. The CSWB Plan outlines a collaborative approach for integrated service delivery, working with community partners to support upstream intervention and investment to address priority risk factors.

For more information, please visit the [CSWB Online Information Hub](#).

“We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the many people who took the time to participate in shaping this plan. Without their lived experience, sector knowledge and subject matter expertise, the updated CSWB Plan and associated outcomes would not have been possible. - Region of Durham, CSWB Secretariat”

Benefits of the CSWB Plan

No one organization or sector holds the sole responsibility for community safety and well-being. Building robust community capacity to ensure residents have access to the right services at the right time is a shared responsibility across all sectors. The CSWB Plan provides an opportunity to make the best use of resources, avoid duplication, learn best practices, facilitate and support effective cross-sectoral collaboration.

Residents, organizations, institutions and municipal partners in the Region of Durham will benefit from the CSWB Plan. It will serve as an umbrella document, creating the opportunity for alignment at the regional, municipal and community level. The CSWB Plan creates a formal framework to convene system and sector leaders to share, plan and strategize together. This includes the involvement of persons with lived experience and the not-for-profit community, which is vital to community safety and well-being.

CSWB Plan Framework

The CSWB Plan calls on different sectors, institutions and service delivery agents to share in the collective responsibility of creating the type of community we want to call home. The CSWB Plan acknowledges this work must extend beyond the system of policing to address complex social issues that often contribute to crime and poor health outcomes. **Figure 1.2** (see next page) demonstrates how the CSWB Planning Framework focuses on improving early interventions and upstream services as the key to shifting away from acute care, deep poverty and criminal justice system involvement.

When youth have spaces where people feel safe and can be themselves, the ripple effect extends much further than aiding that specific youth. These spaces strengthen our communities at large, particularly for justice involved youth, whom we deal with daily. These supports create pathways away from cycles of conflict with law enforcement, and towards positive contributions to society. It's a more holistic approach to working with young people.
- Kim Miller Sands, Program Manager, Murray McKinnon Foundation (CSWB Fund Recipient)

”

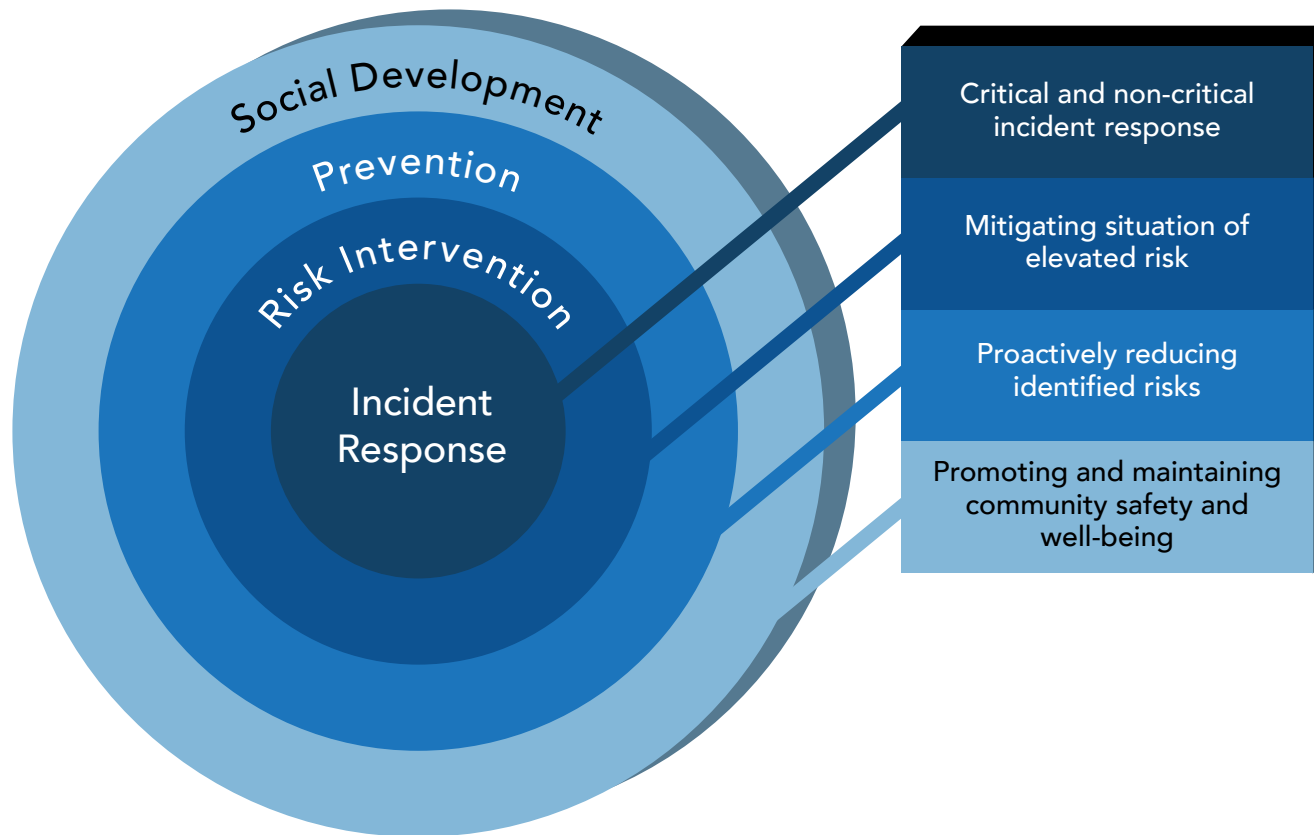


Figure 1.2: CSWB Planning Framework ([Region of Durham, CSWB Plan, 2021](#)).

Figure 1.2 illustrates that by using community-based planning, such as a CSWB Plan, many of the crises and incidents that occur could potentially be avoided or reduced (if collaborative social interventions addressed the originating issue). These rings show the interconnectedness of community challenges and the importance of addressing issues across all four levels. The CSWB Plan focuses primarily on upstream approaches, promoting alignment and integration of services. This approach uses critical community services, such as emergency responders, in a more effective and intentional way. It also gives system users more information about available supports and greater autonomy over their options.

Previous CSWB Plan (2021-2025)

Following extensive data analysis, feedback from community partners, and resident engagement, the following risk factors were identified in the 2021 CSWB Plan.

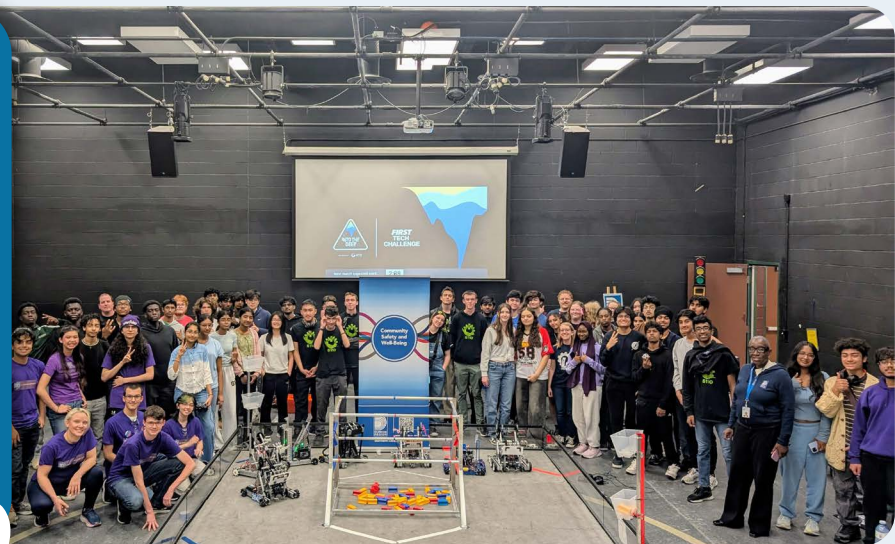


During the review of the 2021 CSWB Plan, it was confirmed these original risk factors remain relevant, critical and highly interconnected, with compounding impacts. The updated 2025 CSWB Plan highlights the ongoing urgency of these risk factors and the need to attract attention, investment, and drive collective action toward common goals.

“

This event was more than just a robotics competition. It was a powerful example of youth leadership and the impact that meaningful opportunities can have when supported by the community. Your [CSWB] investment in this initiative directly contributed to student growth, engagement, and well-being—and for that, we are truly grateful.

”



Progress Report: Accomplishments to Date

Since the adoption of the CSWB Plan, the Region of Durham CSWB Secretariat has been hard at work to mobilize programs and initiatives in collaboration with community partners across Durham (Appendix B, Appendix C). These initiatives were funded primarily by Public Safety Canada - Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) ([Government of Canada, 2023](#)). BSCF funding has allowed Durham to mobilize local resources and partnerships in a way that aligns efforts and optimizes the impact of local initiatives. The impact of this work in our community cannot be overstated.

The Region of Durham acknowledges, with appreciation, the important contribution of Public Safety Canada toward advancing violence prevention and intervention priorities in Durham Region. As the current funding period comes to a close, the Region remains committed to sustaining progress under the CSWB Plan. Ongoing collaboration with federal and provincial partners is essential to securing stable, long-term funding and continuing this vital work that supports safer, more resilient communities.

“

We are a group of friends that want to teach youth sport skills and [the] importance of staying away from bad influences. Our goal is to improve the skills and confidence of each of our kids while relieving the pressure of cost on the parents.

”



Phoenix Football Club (CSWB Fund Recipient)

Following the adoption of the CSWB Plan in 2021, the Region met the following objectives:

- Establish the CSWB Secretariat
- Host Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) Community Safety Symposium ([#2022-INFO-71](#)).
- Transition from Planning to Implementation: Steering Committee and Working Groups (Appendix B)
 - CSWB Steering Committee:
 - Co-chaired by the Regional Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Durham Regional Police Service Chief, this group includes leaders from health, justice, education, and child protection sectors. It focuses on addressing CSWB Plan risk factors, including youth violence and gang involvement through system-level collaboration.
 - CSWB Area Municipal Working Group:
 - Includes CAOs or delegates from all eight Durham municipalities. It supports collaborative implementation of the CSWB Plan, addressing local safety and well-being priorities.
 - CSWB Internal Working Group:
 - Includes representation from all Regional departments (e.g., Health and Social Services) to support opportunities for cross- departmental information sharing, guidance and strategic alignment.
 - CSWB Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) - Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention:
 - Composed of 30 experts and agency leaders from across the region, this group guides youth violence prevention initiatives, supports advocacy and capacity-building for youth-serving organizations.
 - CSWB Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) Working Group:
 - Includes representation from GTHA municipalities to leverage best practices and ensure alignment across municipal boundaries.
- Identify and participate on existing tables and working groups across the Region, working to mobilize collective work in alignment with the CSWB Plan Risk Factors.
- Manage funding reporting requirements to multiple levels of government.
- Advance advocacy efforts to raise awareness and increase supports addressing CSWB Plan Risk Factors.

In addition to these structural components, the following **highlights key accomplishments to date**. This work aligns with the CSWB Plan Risk Factors and responds directly to community needs.

Community told us: Information about the CSWB Plan and associated initiatives should be communicated in different formats and easy to find online. In response:

- Launch of the [CSWB Online Information Hub](#).
- Development of communication materials and resources (e.g. CSWB Information Video, awareness materials - including poster board and postcards, presenting at community-led tables and attending community events).
- Highlight best practices in Durham Region by presenting on CSWB work at provincewide conferences: Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (2024) and Ontario Professional Planning Institute (2021).

Community told us: Data needs to be made available for use by community partners. In response:

- The CSWB Plan reports on data points for all Risk Factors, available publicly on the [CSWB Data Dashboard](#). This information is intended to provide a community wide snapshot of publicly available, regularly updated data points to guide decision making, inform strategic planning efforts, support grant applications and other purposes as determined by partners.

“We are a group of fathers looking to create a safe space to support one another in the challenging journey of raising children. Our mission is not only to [be] better fathers, but to redefine what it means to be a father in today’s world.”



Dads Discuss (CSWB Fund Recipient)

Community told us: More funding needs to flow into community to address priority risk factors. In response:

- The CSWB Fund, including the Micro-Grant Program, was established and to date, \$1,000,000 has flowed directly to community agencies and resident-led initiatives to deliver local programming, reaching over 5,000 individuals in Durham Region, including children, youth and families with complex needs. Together, these programs capture the full spectrum of violence prevention activities, from social development and violence prevention to intervention and interruption. Specialized services that are being provided include reintegration, complex case management, counselling, and crisis support. Culturally responsive social development, leadership and mentorship programs are also being delivered.
- This included \$70,000 that has flowed to seven Williams Treaty First Nations to support initiatives that foster pride in cultural identity, pro-social connections, and sense of belonging in children and youth.

Community told us: Agency staff need access to training opportunities to increase capacity to support more community members. In response:

- The CSWB Community Capacity Training Series was launched. This series has provided training to nearly 350 people from almost 45 organizations in topics identified by community as critical, including ASIST, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Harm Reduction, Human Trafficking, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Trauma Informed Practices, Board Governance, Project Management, Indigenous Cultural Safety, and Grant Writing.

“

We are a small group of teens who host events and activities in seniors' homes, hence our name Senior Buddies! We believe that youth should get the opportunity to learn from and engage with seniors in our communities.

”



Senior Buddies (CSWB Fund Recipient)

Community told us: Youth is a priority population. In response, the following was advanced:

- In partnership with Durham Community Action Group (DCAG), the CSWB Secretariat established the Youth Action Group (YAG) to build leadership and civic engagement skills among Durham Region youth. YAG members, who themselves were youth, worked to curate and display artwork from 23 youth artists aged 13 to 21, from across the region. Using a variety of mediums, their artwork promoted anti-violence, healing, resilience, and included themes of bullying, racism, mental wellness and more. The YAG project demonstrated the resilience of youth in Durham Region and showcased their talents as ambassadors and leaders in their communities.
- The CSWB Secretariat established the CSWB Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), comprised of almost 40 youth serving organizations who meet monthly to focus on ways to support youth across the risk mitigation framework.
- With key guidance and in collaboration with YAG, SAG and other partners, including DRPS, the CSWB Secretariat is developing a Youth Violence Prevention Strategy. Recent community engagement on this strategy involved 36 community service providers representing 22 organizations, and 49 youth who attended four youth-focused engagement sessions.

“

It makes a profound difference when community organizations, local government and residents work together under a shared plan for community safety and well-being. When we all share this responsibility, we bring together a wide range of skills, expertise, and knowledge that no single group has on its own. This collective approach allows us to proactively reduce risk and make sure vulnerable groups don't fall through the cracks. It also reduces recidivism, strengthens trust between young people, community partners, and institutions, and increases overall community safety and well-being. - Suzette Lewis, Chief Executive Director, Murray McKinnon Foundation, (CSWB Fund Recipient).



Community told us: Launch Durham Connect – a Situation Table in Durham. In response:

- With partners in DRPS, the CSWB Secretariat engaged community to hear about how this Table can be of value and received feedback from 50 organizations. As a result of this guidance, the Region and DRPS are on track to relaunch the Table in early 2026, to address situations of Acutely Elevated Risk (AER).

Community told us: Increase access to information and support following violent or traumatic events. In response:

- The CSWB Secretariat is developing a Community Healing Toolkit, informed by 17 interviews, five focus groups and guidance from networks such as the Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (VPCC) of Durham. The Guide will be released in early 2026 to support recovery, healing and reduce retaliatory violence in Durham Region.

Community told us: Seniors and older adults need support accessing local programs and supports. In response:

- With partners, the CSWB Secretariat developed the Guide to Community Resources for Seniors and Older Adults, and over 6,700 printed copies have been distributed to date across more than 130 locations throughout Durham Region. An accessible online version is also available at durham.ca/agefriendly. The Guide highlights services offered by 109 non-profit organizations, organized into ten key categories: Food and Clothing, Health, Mental Health, Housing, Income, Legal, Safety, Settlement, Social and Recreation, and Transportation.

“

It is very important to start early prevention and intervention for young people so that we can create a solid foundation for them. When we introduce young people to their roots, especially in our community, they feel rooted, just like a tree that has strong roots.

-Sanaaj Mirrie, Executive Director, Afiwi Groove School (CSWB Fund Recipient).

”



Community told us: IPV is an urgent priority and has been declared an epidemic by Durham Regional Council. In response, the following was advanced:

- The CSWB Secretariat has partnered with Violence Against Women serving agencies on two community walks - the first walk was on September 21, 2024, which had over 200 participants (#2024-INFO-81). The second walk is scheduled for November 1, 2025, and the Region expects even greater participation this year.
- The CSWB Secretariat, in partnership with Social Services, secured a Proclamation and the Flag Raising for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 2024 and 2025.
- In collaboration with the VPCC of Durham, the Region will complete a GBV and IPV Action Plan by the end of 2025.
- The CSWB Secretariat launched the Intimate Partner Violence and Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response Fund to support agencies and non-profit organizations doing critical work to provide supports and services to persons experiencing GBV and IPV in Durham Region.

“

I think when we create a society that invests in our young people, we really see the value of our own community. And the future – young people who are excited, who are connected to their communities, have just better outcomes. They can sustain jobs; they are able to start their own families. So, by investing in young people, we see a huge ripple effect within our communities. -Nicole Perryman, Executive Director, Ifarada Centre for Excellence (CSWB Fund Recipient).

”



2025 CSWB Micro-Grant Program Launch

“ The Community Safety and Well-Being collective in Durham Region has become a vital force in fostering collaboration, accountability, and proactive solutions to complex social challenges. Northstar sees great value in bringing together diverse community partners, from youth justice organizations and mental health providers to educators and municipal leaders, to create a unified space for dialogue, innovation, and coordinated action.

This collective approach ensures that safety is not just about enforcement, but about equity, prevention, and belonging. For Northstar, participating in this committee means being part of a regional movement that prioritizes upstream interventions, addresses root causes like social isolation and victimization, and builds a network of support around youth and families. It’s a model that doesn’t just respond to crises, it works to prevent them, making Durham a safer and more resilient community for all.

- Jai Sahak, Executive Director, Northstar (CSWB Steering Committee Member)





CSWB Plan,
2025 Priority Risk
Factors

Criminal Involvement

Criminal involvement includes participating in behaviours, acts or conduct prohibited by law. As a priority risk factor, it includes theft, assault, gang activity, use of guns and other illegal activities.

There are often multiple complex and interconnected factors that can result in a person becoming involved with criminal activity (Criminal Involvement NOR, 2025). These factors are often categorized into individual (e.g., mental health, trauma), family (e.g., unsafe family environment), community (e.g., poverty, unaffordable housing, barriers/lack of employment) and systemic factors (e.g., racism and marginalization). Knowledge of these factors can provide necessary context and awareness for the importance of early intervention and prevention initiatives.

Protective factors in a person's life help prevent criminal involvement (Criminal Involvement NOR, 2025). These may include equitable and sufficient access to community services, supports, programming, opportunities and employment, family support, adequate and appropriate physical and mental health care, positive relationships with mentors and peers, equitable and culturally appropriate service in schools, health care, police and justice systems.

Key Data Insights

- As of 2021, approximately 7 per cent of Durham Region residents live in poverty; slightly fewer than the Ontario average (10 per cent) (Criminal Involvement NOR, 2025).
- Food bank use increased by 52 per cent from 2022 to 2023 in Durham Region (Homelessness and Basic Needs NOR, 2025).
- One in 10 (11 per cent) Durham Region elementary school students and 17 per cent of secondary school students seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year (Criminal Involvement NOR, 2025).
- The most recent data from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health survey OSDUHS (2016-17) indicates that one-third (31 per cent) of Durham Region elementary school students and almost half (47 per cent) of all high school students reported that they rarely or never talk to a parent about their problems (Criminal Involvement NOR, 2025).
- The most recent data from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health survey (OSDUHS) indicates that 24 per cent of grade 7 and 8 students and 13 per cent of high school students in Durham Region state they are bullied at school (OSDUHS, 2016-17).

Experiences of Racism

Racism is an ideology that directly or indirectly asserts that one group of people is inherently superior to others. Racism can be expressed openly through racial slurs, jokes, or hate crimes. It may also live in the everyday attitudes, values, and stereotypes people hold and operate at various levels, such as individual, systemic and societal.

Racism has profound consequences for individuals, influencing their safety, justice system involvement, health, economic outcomes, and access to education and housing. Individuals with intersecting identities often experience compounded effects of racism.

Key Data Insights

- Canada's population has become increasingly diverse in recent decades due to immigration. As of 2021, 26.5 per cent of Canadians identified as racialized and 5 per cent as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) (Experiences with Racism NOR, 2025). This proportion is expected to rise to nearly 43 per cent by 2041 (Experiences with Racism NOR, 2025).
- The 2024 Durham Region Profile shows that one-in-four residents are immigrants to Canada, and 70 per cent of new residents moving into the Durham Region in the last five years are immigrants. Visible minorities make up 36.3 per cent of the Region's population, over one-third of whom are South Asian (36.7 per cent), 26.3 per cent are Black, 8 per cent Filipino, and 6.5 per cent Chinese ([Durham Region Profile, 2024](#)).
- In 2024 DRPS reported 55 hate-motivated incidents based on race/ethnicity (Experiences with Racism NOR, 2025).

Homelessness and Basic Needs

Homelessness refers to the state of individuals or families who do not have a fixed, regular, and/or adequate place to live within the geographical boundaries of Durham Region. Homelessness can be characterized by a lack of stable housing options, which may include living on the streets, in emergency shelters, or in temporary accommodations such as cars or makeshift dwellings. Basic needs include anything that people or households need to survive, such as belongings, food and shelter. It can also include what is needed to move from survival to well-being, such as transportation, clothing, healthcare and education.

Food insecurity is another common outcome of unmet basic needs and is the result of not having enough income to buy food. Food insecure households struggle and must choose between paying for food, rent, bills and other basic needs. In more concrete terms, food insecurity can mean: worrying that food will run out; having to compromise on the type of food they eat, or eat less food than they need; skipping meals; eating the same few foods for all their meals; going without eating so their children can eat (Homelessness and Basic Needs NOR, 2025).

Key Data Insights

- 4,377 people accessed the shelter system in 2024 (this includes shelter admission, winter warming, hotel stays). ([Durham Region, 2025](#)).
- In August 2025, there were 1,003 people on the Durham Region's By-Name List, up almost 25 per cent from August 2024 (786 people). ([Durham Region, 2025](#)).
- 362 people experiencing homelessness on Durham Region's By-Name List moved into housing in 2024 and 293 people have moved into housing by August 2025. ([Durham Region, 2025](#)).
- 1 in 4 households are experiencing food insecurity in Durham Region ([Durham Region, 2024](#)).

Mental Health

Mental health is the state of psychological and emotional well-being and is influenced by social, biological, psychological and economic factors. It is a necessary resource for living a healthy life and a main factor in overall health.

There are several factors that influence mental health and mental well-being. These factors can be broadly categorized as structural, social, environmental and psychological, and biological and physical in nature (Mental Health NOR, 2025).

Social media has also become a key environmental factor that offers virtual spaces for individuals to engage and form inter-personal relationships. Although the shift from face-to-face to online communication has made sharing information easier, there is evidence that social media can have negative impacts on mental health (Mental Health NOR, 2025). The mental-health impact grows when exposure includes hostile interpersonal content. Social media has also created a potentially harmful space for cyberbullying, especially among the youth (Mental Health NOR, 2025).

Key Data Insights

- Between 2013 and 2022, self-reported “excellent” or “very good” mental health declined from 71 per cent in 2013 to 56 per cent in 2022. The sharpest decline occurred in 2021, when only 53 per cent of individuals reported “excellent” or “very good” mental health ([Region of Durham CSWB Dashboard](#)). The sharp decline in 2021 is closely linked to the COVID-19 pandemic (Mental Health NOR, 2025).
- 18 per cent of surveyed Durham Region adults are very satisfied with the availability of mental health services ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- 56 per cent of Durham Region adults rate their mental health as very good or excellent ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).

Social Isolation

Social isolation, loneliness, and/or lack of belonging can be experienced by any person and at any age, but are more commonly experienced by those who face barriers to social engagement such as systemic discrimination (e.g., racism, ageism, ableism); physical separation from social activity (lack of physical access to activity due to physical distance and/or lack of transportation options); mental health, health, mobility or accessibility challenges; living with low income; having caregiving responsibilities.

Key Data Insights

- In Durham Region, the latest Census data (2021) found that 16 per cent of the population was aged 65 or older (Social Isolation NOR, 2025).
- 77 per cent of surveyed Durham Region adults have a strong sense of community belonging (2022) ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- 20 per cent of surveyed Durham Region seniors live alone (2016) ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).

Substance Use (e.g., cannabis, opioids, alcohol, vaping/e-cigarettes)

Substance use refers to the consumption of alcohol, cannabis, opioids or other legal and illegal drugs. Substance use may lead to substance use disorders, overdose, infectious diseases or other complications. Reducing the harms associated with substance use can prevent injury, illness or death.

Factors associated with substance use and addiction are multi-faceted and complex. In addition to risk factors, there are also protective factors, these include physical safety, positive school environments, good relationships with parents/caregivers, and social inclusion (Substance Use NOR, 2025).

Key Data Insights

- In 2021, the rate of opioid toxicity deaths was 18 per 100,000 population ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- In 2021, the rate of emergency department visits for conditions entirely caused by alcohol was 428 per 100,000 population ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- In 2021, the rate of emergency department visits for cannabis-related harms was 130 per 100,000 population ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- In Durham Region, 81.3 per cent of people reported drinking alcohol in the past 12 months in 2019-2020, slightly above the rate for Ontario (75.8 per cent). The rate of self-reported binge drinking in Durham Region was 17.7 per cent, which was comparable to the rate for similar areas across Ontario (17.1 per cent) (Substance Use NOR, 2025).
- Evidence from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Mental Health Survey shows an increase in the percentage of middle and high school students (grades 7 to 12) using e-cigarettes from 2015 to 2019. In 2015, 11.7 per cent used e-cigarettes, rising to 22.7 per cent in 2019 (Substance Use NOR, 2025).

Victimization (e.g. Gender Based Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Human Trafficking)

A victim is a person who has suffered physical or emotional harm, property damage, or economic loss as a result of a crime. Victimization often impacts people on an emotional, physical, financial, psychological, and social level. Victimization as a priority risk factor includes sexual and/or physical assault, domestic violence and human trafficking.

Anti-violence efforts exist on a spectrum, ranging from preventing violence before it occurs (primary prevention) to meeting the immediate needs of victims and mitigating long-term impacts (tertiary prevention). Across this spectrum, addressing the root causes of violence requires changing social norms and policies, in addition to individual behaviour.

In 2023, Durham Regional Council approved a motion to formally declare IPV as an epidemic and encourage that prevention of IPV be integrated into every municipality's CSWB Plan. Following this motion, the CSWB Secretariat and the VPCC of Durham have been developing a joint action plan outlining the regional response to the IPV epidemic.

To date, recommended priority areas within the plan include the following:

- Expanding GBV and IPV awareness and prevention initiatives.
- Enhancing outreach and engagement with populations disproportionately affected by GBV and IPV.
- Securing sustainable funding for GBV and IPV prevention and response efforts.
- Improving access to safe and affordable housing for GBV and IPV victims and survivors to help them escape abusive situations.
- Strengthening data collection and monitoring of GBV and IPV prevalence and trends.

Key Data Insights

- In Q3 2024, there were 460 criminal incidents involving an older adult victim/complainant ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- In Q3 2024, the two-year violent intimate partner violence revictimization rate was 10 percent ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- In 2023, there were 235 identified victims and at-risk individuals of human trafficking ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- In 2023, the DRPS human trafficking unit launched 289 investigations ([Region of Durham CSWB Data Dashboard](#)).
- In 2024, 624 individuals were referred to the [Region of Durham Partner Assault Response Program \(PAR\)](#) by the courts for charges related to IPV (496 men; 128 women).
- In 2024, 56 victims/survivors were provided safety planning and other supports for IPV through the [PAR Program](#).





Overview of
Process to Update

Project Timeline: CSWB Plan Update (2023-2025)



Engagement with Rights Holders (throughout 2023-2025)

- **Action:** Invited the seven Williams Treaty First Nations to engage and participate in dialogue.
- **Focus:** Prioritizing Indigenous perspectives and leadership.



Alignment with Community Partners (throughout 2023-2025)

- **Action:** Engaged service providers and agencies across the human services system.
- **Focus:** Leveraging subject matter expertise and organizational influence to drive system-level change.



Public Engagement Integration (2023)

- **Action:** Incorporated findings from the Region's 2023 Strategic Plan Community Engagement Summary.
- **Focus:** Ensuring community voices shape priorities and outcomes.



Ongoing CSWB Framework Group Engagement (throughout 2023-2025)

- **Groups Engaged:**
 - CSWB Steering Committee
 - Area Municipal Working Group
 - Internal Working Group
 - Strategic Advisory Group - Youth Violence Prevention
 - Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Working Group
- **Focus:** Continuous feedback and alignment across sectors.



Community Partner Workshops (2023)

- **Action:** Over 100 community partners attended two workshops to provide input on priority projects and initiatives.
- **Focus:** Emphasized the need for a more detailed and actionable plan.



Research and Analysis (2023-2024)

- **Action:** CSWB Secretariat oversaw the development of Needs Overview Reports and Theories of Change for each Priority Risk Factor.
- **Focus:** Academic research and integration of engagement findings to inform recommendations.



Internal Sub-Committee Formation (2025)

- **Action:** Established seven sub-committees to ensure alignment across the organization, including acknowledging the role of system managers (e.g., Housing and Homelessness) and incorporation of existing strategies (e.g., Poverty Response Program).
- **Focus:** Cross-sector collaboration, resource alignment, and co-creation of draft outcomes and actions.



Community Partner Workshops (2025)

- **Action:** Almost 300 community partners attended seven workshops (one for each priority risk factor) to inform and validate draft outcomes, actions, and data points.
- **Focus:** Strengthen collaboration and co-creation of finalized recommendations.



Finalization of CSWB Roadmaps for Collective Impact (2025)

- **Action:** Developed updated roadmaps for collective action.
- **Focus:** Clearly defined outcomes, actions, and data points to guide implementation and drive collective action across the region.

Looking Forward - Going Further Together

Achieving community safety and well-being is a shared responsibility—no single organization or sector can do it alone. It requires collective action, rooted in strong partnerships and a common vision. The Region of Durham plays a critical role as a convenor and backbone agency, driving collective impact forward by providing a community-informed roadmap, supporting capacity building, and mobilizing actions identified in the updated CSWB Plan (Appendix A).

Our co-collaborators at the local area municipal level are essential to this work, bringing deep local knowledge and leadership that strengthens alignment and implementation. Across the region, incredible collaboration is already underway, demonstrating the energy and willingness to do great things together. At the same time, engagement with partners has surfaced areas for improvement—opportunities to deepen coordination, clarify roles, and enhance impact. As we navigate a complex and evolving landscape, including an uncertain funding environment, we need each other more than ever. The next chapter begins with renewed commitment, robust engagement, and a shared belief that together, we can go further.

As outlined in the timeline above, in 2025 almost 300 people attended seven workshops with a shared goal to collaboratively develop plans for where we want to go (outcomes) and how we want to get there (actions). **Following steady community engagement, deep academic research and critical guidance from partners, the updated CSWB Plan now includes CSWB Roadmaps for Collective Impact (Appendix A).** This work will serve as a starting point, to guide next steps for CSWB Plan implementation and lay the groundwork for meaningful change in Durham Region.



Conclusion

This CSWB Plan reflects our shared commitment to collective impact, upstream intervention, and prevention initiatives that foster community stabilization and support strong economic development. Moving forward, the success of this plan will rely on sustained core funding, meaningful community engagement, and the active participation of partners, including DRPS.

We will continue to engage the public using clear roadmaps to shape messaging and manage expectations – recognizing that while the CSWB Plan does not directly fund services, reduce waitlists, build housing, or direct sector mandates, it plays a vital role in aligning efforts and amplifying community voices.

To strengthen governance and ensure alignment with local priorities, the Region will review CSWB Framework groups and collaborate with existing tables to develop clear work plans, roles, responsibilities, and indicators for success. With community support and engagement, together we will identify new opportunities for collaboration while remaining nimble and responsive to emerging priorities.

Key initiatives will continue, including the CSWB Fund and Microgrant Program, the Capacity Strengthening Training Series, and the completion and launch of several strategic efforts such as the IPV/GBV Action Plan, Situation Table, Youth Violence Prevention Strategy, and the Community Healing Toolkit.

Ongoing engagement with community-led tables and working groups will ensure that this plan remains grounded in lived experience and local expertise. Together, we will build a safer, healthier, and more connected Durham Region.



Appendices

Appendix A: CSWB Roadmaps for Collective Impact

Appendix B: 2025 CSWB Committee Members List

Appendix C: CSWB Participating Agencies

Appendix D: Acronyms and Glossary

Appendix E: References



Community Safety and Well-Being Plan



If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator by emailing accessibility@durham.ca or calling 311 extension 2009.



Criminal Involvement: Roadmap for Collective Impact

If we continue to plan and work together as a community to...

Social development

- Work collaboratively to develop strategies to address underlying factors that contribute to criminal involvement (e.g., systemic inequities, marginalization, trauma, and poverty).
- Support early intervention and family-focused programs that help prevent or reduce adverse childhood experiences, using culturally responsive approaches (e.g., youth spaces).
- Work together to advocate for stable, long-term funding from provincial and federal governments to sustain violence prevention and community stabilization efforts.
- Support efforts to expand coordinated programs and services (e.g., income assistance, housing-related supports, access to education and health care) that strengthen social determinants of health.
- Support investment in community advisory groups to identify local gaps and co-create solutions for crime prevention and community safety.

Prevention

- Bring together partners to co-design and implement place-based prevention and community healing programs in areas with the greatest need.
- Collaborate on crime prevention through environmental design (e.g., lighting, public spaces, transit access, etc.).
- Prevent criminal activity by proactively identifying and responding to emerging crime trends (e.g. trends in cybercrime, theft, etc.).
- Support youth-led and school-based prevention initiatives that use evidence-informed approaches to build resilience and reduce risk.
- Coordinate shared data collection across community partners to inform planning and service delivery.

Risk intervention

- Work together to deliver tailored programs and supports (e.g., conflict resolution, life stabilization and distress lines) for individuals at risk of justice system involvement.
- Collaborate to strengthen wraparound supports and reduce barriers for individuals transitioning out of the justice and child welfare systems (e.g., employment, counselling, peer support, housing, reintegration services, etc.).
- Raise awareness of referral pathways for existing programs to ensure timely access to appropriate supports.
- Support initiatives that leverage lived experience through violence interruption models and expand access to diversion and community-based rehabilitation programs.

Incident response

- Collaboratively deliver a range of community-based response programs (e.g., conflict mediation, restorative justice, crisis debriefing, and healing supports).
- Support investment in youth diversion programs that are tailored to the needs of young people, supporting their positive development.
- Work in partnership with community policing and service providers to develop tools and resources, such as referral lists, that improve service navigation and build trust in the community.
- Coordinate efforts to support transitions from correctional facilities, ensuring continuity of care and access to reintegration supports.

We expect to see change for our community members and service providers...

- Strengthened capacity across service providers to deliver trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive programs that reflect the diverse needs of individuals and communities.
- Stronger referral networks that connect individuals and families to timely, high-quality, multi-sectoral services and resources.
- Improved collaboration across sectors, leading to enhanced service integration and shared care planning that supports holistic well-being.
- Greater involvement of residents and people with lived experience in shaping, designing, and guiding programs and services that affect their lives.
- Expanded access to diversion and restorative justice programs, especially for youth and equity deserving groups.
- Reduced recidivism through evidence-based interventions that support rehabilitation, reintegration, and long-term stability.

Leading to community-wide outcomes of:

- Improved health and social outcomes for persons involved in the criminal justice system.
- Reduced stigma and increased compassion for people involved in the criminal justice system.
- Strengthened protective factors and reduced risk factors associated with criminal involvement across all stages of life.
- Reduced frequency and severity of crime in Durham Region.
- Greater sense of purpose, inclusion, and engagement in community life among Durham residents.





Proposed Key Actions and Risk Factor Data Points: Criminal Involvement

Proposed Key Actions by CSWB Risk Mitigation Level

Social development	Prevention	Risk intervention	Incident response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate collectively for sustainable funding to support equitable access to basic needs and support across the lifespan. • Align messaging across organizations to increase public knowledge of the complex factors that can contribute to criminal involvement (e.g., systemic inequities, marginalization, trauma, and poverty). • Identify opportunities to increase knowledge and capacity across system partners to close systemic gaps and support coordinated, informed decision-making. • Strengthen institutional programming and social safety nets, with a focus on communities experiencing the greatest need. • Support investment in community advisory groups to ensure service delivery is informed by local voices, lived experience, and community expertise. • Enhance access to school-based prevention initiatives to support the development of healthy coping strategies (e.g., conflict resolution, resilience, character development, emotional awareness, social media literacy, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring together community partners, including those with lived experience, to co-design and implement place-based prevention and healing programs that reflect the unique needs and strengths of each community. • Collaborate to ensure prevention programming is trauma-informed, strengths-based, and culturally responsive, by integrating community insights and lived experiences. • Support inclusive outreach and engagement strategies to ensure programs reach equity deserving populations. • Work with partners to strengthen access to protective factors such as education, job training, and recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together to strengthen referral pathways for individuals at high risk of justice system involvement, improving access to timely and appropriate supports (e.g., trauma informed, culturally responsive). • Establish a collaborative, multi-sector Situation Table (Durham Connect) to connect individuals to resources and supports in the community. • Enhance wraparound supports for individuals transitioning out of the justice and child welfare systems, including case management, life skills development, mental health care, and employment support. • Support initiatives that leverage lived experience, such as violence interruption models, and expand access to diversion and community-based rehabilitation programs. • Support collaborative investment in diversion programs, including those for youth, that promote accountability, healing, and reduced recidivism through restorative justice approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with community policing and service providers to co-create navigation tools and resources (e.g., referral lists) that build trust and improve access to services. • Build capacity for community-led healing and de-escalation focused incidence response (e.g. through community ambassadors, educators, mentors, family members, youth outreach workers etc.).

Risk factor data points

- Crime severity index
- Property crime rate per 100,000 people
- Violent crime rate per 100,000 people
- Number of auto thefts



Experiences of Racism: Roadmap for Collective Impact

If we continue to plan and work together as a community to...

Social development

- Strengthen partnerships and opportunities for collective action to embed racial equity into policies, planning, training, evaluation, and data governance across public and private sectors.
- Work across systems to remove systemic barriers and expand equitable access to social and economic opportunities for racialized and Indigenous community members.
- Collaborate with culturally responsive, community-based organizations to support their sustainability and capacity through long-term investment strategies and partnership opportunities.
- Co-create inclusive public facing narratives by engaging diverse communities in communication strategies that reflect cultural diversity and actively challenge harmful stereotypes.
- Support opportunities to strengthen data sharing practices with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit partners to ensure alignment with Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP®) principles, ensuring respectful and community-led data governance.

Prevention

- Co-create multi-faceted public awareness campaigns to foster community dialogue to challenge racism and shift social norms.
- Work in partnership with service providers, community members and persons with lived experience to expand equitable access to culturally safe spaces and programs that foster inclusion and belonging.
- Collaboratively identify opportunities to strengthen equity-informed policies and practices across sectors.
- Coordinate efforts to enhance pathways to civic participation and leadership for racialized and Indigenous community members, ensuring diverse voices shape prevention and response efforts.

Risk intervention

- Collaborate with service providers and persons with lived experience to identify opportunities to reduce experiences of racism and improve sense of safety among racialized and Indigenous communities (e.g., tailored programs, peer networks, hate reporting and advocacy).
- Work across systems to improve coordination among service providers to ensure seamless supports for individuals and families impacted by hate, racism, and discrimination.

Incident response

- Coordinate efforts to improve access to safe, timely, culturally responsive, trauma informed supports (e.g., counselling, crisis response services, advocacy) for individuals and families impacted by hate, racism, and discrimination.
- Co-create accessible, multilingual, and community-based hate crime reporting systems and protocols to address non-criminal hate incidents.

We expect to see change for our community members and service providers...

- Systems and institutions consistently deliver equitable services and outcomes.
- Increased sustainability and capacity of community members, volunteers, and organizations to address experiences of racism in culturally responsive, trauma informed ways.
- Increased leadership from racialized and Indigenous community members in policy and program development, including representation in formal leadership roles.
- Increased participation of persons with lived experience and equity deserving groups in the development and delivery of community services.
- Increased sense of safety and belonging among racialized and Indigenous community members.
- Increased awareness and understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Leading to community-wide outcomes of:

- Increased public commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Reduced incidents of racism, discrimination and hate.
- Enhanced social and economic well-being of racialized and Indigenous community members.

Ultimate impact:

Durham Region is a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.



Proposed Key Actions and Risk Factor Data Points: Experiences of Racism

Proposed Key Actions by CSWB Risk Mitigation Level

Social development	Prevention	Risk intervention	Incident response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboratively identify opportunities to embed racial equity into planning, evaluation, and data practices, such as co-developing and consistently applying equity-focused tools across budgeting, policy design, and service planning. • Work together to identify and address inequities in access to employment, housing, health care, child care, and education, through coordinated strategies and shared response plans. • Advocate for and help secure stable, long-term funding and practical supports for organizations leading racial equity efforts. • Work in partnership with racialized and Indigenous communities, as well as culturally responsive organizations, to increase public education and shift narratives toward empathy, shared values, and inclusion. • Work collaboratively to identify opportunities to expand racialized and Indigenous representation in leadership roles (e.g., boards, councils, senior management) across public and for-profit services. • Co-develop inclusive engagement and communication strategies (e.g., outreach, community events) that emphasize shared values, build empathy, and encourage reflection. • Strengthen race-based data practices and implementation of First Nations principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP®), including data collection, disaggregated data analysis and reporting, community-led research, and the development of community-informed data governance strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design and deliver multi-platform campaigns, intergroup dialogue opportunities, and educational initiatives that promote empathy, solidarity, and belonging. • Collaboratively identify ways to strengthen investment in and expansion of culturally responsive, community-led initiatives which build positive identity and foster inclusion, including youth-focused programs. • Work across sectors to integrate anti-racism tools into planning, budgeting, and evaluation processes so disparities are identified early and mitigated before they escalate and cause harm. • Work with system leaders to strengthen professional learning pathways in anti-racism and equity across public services. • Work with partners to develop accountability measures to ensure appropriate responses to acts of racism, discrimination, and hate. • Collectively identify opportunities to support mentorship, governance training, and leadership development programs so that diverse voices are represented in civic decision-making, and prevention efforts are community-led. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alongside community partners, identify opportunities to support investment in and expansion of community-led initiatives that address both systemic and immediate impacts of racism, discrimination, and hate. • Collaborate to address racism and harassment in public transit settings and other prioritized public spaces (e.g., libraries, parks, schools, etc.). • Work proactively with faith communities to better understand the unique challenges they are facing and identify opportunities to support their safety and well-being. • Co-develop and implement toolkits for community response and healing in the aftermath of a hate-motivated incident. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together to deliver safe, timely, culturally relevant, and trauma-informed wraparound supports for victims of hate-motivated activities (e.g. hate crimes and incidents). • Enhance hate crime and hate incident reporting systems by co-designing accessible, multilingual platforms that are community-based and responsive to diverse needs.

Risk factor data points

- Number of hate-motivated incidents based on race/ethnicity



Homelessness & Basic Needs: Roadmap for Collective Impact

If we continue to plan and work together as a community to...

Social development

- Work in collaboration with leaders to strengthen system coordination across mental health, substance use, and housing services, to address interconnected challenges.
- Join efforts to reduce poverty and strengthen income security through housing stabilization programs (including low-barrier options), employment initiatives, and advocacy for sustainable provincial and federal supports.
- Support efforts to build a resilient food security network through coordinated programs, partnerships, and community-led initiatives.
- Work with partners to identify ways to enhance equitable access to basic needs (e.g., life stabilization) for priority populations.
- Work collaboratively with the Homelessness and Housing System Manager and community partners to enhance housing affordability by expanding rent supplements, housing benefit programs, and innovative housing development partnerships.
- Advance strategies that enable service providers to deliver person-first and culturally affirming care through targeted capacity building.
- Support compassionate approaches for addressing encampments, including the implementation of the Region's Encampment Strategy.

Prevention

- Work collaboratively with partners and direct service providers to expand stabilization and pre-employment programs beyond Ontario Works recipients to support low-wage workers and those at risk of housing loss.
- Help advance integrated approaches to embedding prevention messaging and referral pathways in schools, health centres, and workplaces.
- Collaborate with partners to provide specialized support to youth, especially during transitions from child welfare.
- Work collaboratively with the Homelessness and Housing System Manager and community partners to provide and bolster support to maintain and secure new housing (e.g., landlord mediation, eviction prevention, rent and utility arrears support, moving expenses, tax filing, etc.).
- Support ongoing programs that supplement income and help individuals afford stable housing, such as employment and rent supplement initiatives.
- Advance coordinated data collection and distribution to improve planning processes and standardize training across partner organizations.
- Work with partners to improve system navigation by exploring the feasibility of centralized consent and intake processes.
- Advance public facing education and awareness activities about the complex root causes of homelessness to shift perceptions and reduce stigma.

Risk intervention

- Work collaboratively with the Homelessness and Housing System Manager and community partners to support the expansion of transitional and supportive housing options.
- Advance integrated approaches to deliver short-term basic needs support (e.g., food, hygiene, clothing).
- Advance wraparound transition supports for individuals exiting institutional facilities.
- Work across sectors to support intensive case management as well as income, employment, and capacity-building support.

Incident response

- Support the advancement and continuation of low-barrier, long-term wrap-around supports for those experiencing homelessness, including emergency shelter, primary health care, and mental health care (e.g., Homeless and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs (HART Hubs)).
- Support advocacy efforts to increase available shelter space and essential amenities (e.g., showers, indoor spaces, bathrooms, beds).
- Support advocacy efforts to increase shelter capacity and broaden eligibility criteria to support individuals with complex needs.

We expect to see change for our community members and service providers...

- Stronger collaboration and resource sharing across service providers in responding to homelessness and poverty.
- Improved data quality and consistency across the homelessness response system.
- Increased capacity to prevent and respond to immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- Increased equitable and timely access to:
 - Affordable housing options
 - Stable and sufficient income
 - Emergency services that meet the immediate needs of people in need of shelter
 - Supports to secure and maintain housing
 - Support for other basic needs (e.g. food, health care, transportation).

Leading to community-wide outcomes of:

- Increased housing stability, food security, and capacity to meet other basic needs (e.g., clothing, transportation).
- Consistent and coordinated transition supports.
- Improved physical and mental health.
- Greater engagement in education, employment, and community life.
- Reduced stigma and increased compassion for people experiencing homelessness.

Ultimate impact:

Durham Region is a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.



Proposed Key Actions and Risk Factor Data Points: Homelessness & Basic Needs

Proposed Key Actions by CSWB Risk Mitigation Level

Social development	Prevention & Risk intervention	Incident response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in collaboration with leaders and people with lived experience to strengthen systems coordination across mental health, substance use, and housing services, to address interconnected challenges. • Join efforts to reduce poverty and strengthen income security through housing stabilization programs, employment initiatives, and advocacy for sustainable provincial and federal supports. • Support efforts to build a resilient food security network through coordinated programs, partnerships, and community-led initiatives. • Work collaboratively with the Homelessness and Housing System Manager and community partners to enhance housing affordability by expanding rent supplements, housing benefit programs, and innovative housing development partnerships. • Increase public education and awareness to reduce stigma and increase compassion for people experiencing homelessness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in collaboration with system leaders and service providers to enhance cross-sectoral coordination and performance through collaborative governance. • Promote education and awareness to improve equitable access to housing and homelessness supports and services across the Region. • Support the advancement of coordinated, data-driven planning and equity-informed research to guide decision-making and strengthen efficiencies (e.g., tracking housing indicators, wraparound service utilization, and collecting equity-focused, community-based data). • Collaborate with the Homelessness and Housing System Manager and community partners to identify and implement strategies that expand Housing First initiatives and enhance supportive services for individuals facing complex challenges. • Support advocacy efforts for deeply affordable and supportive housing options. • Advance integrated approaches to expand access to stabilization and wraparound supports (e.g., case management, life skills development, mental health care and help managing income) for individuals during and beyond transitions (e.g., from institutional facilities). • Explore opportunities to invest in early intervention strategies to prevent homelessness and food insecurity before it starts (e.g., youth transitions, family/caregiver supports, school-based free meal programs). • Establish a Situation Table (Durham Connect) in Durham Region as a collaborative, multi-sectoral effort to connect individuals to resources in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Homelessness and Housing System Manager to work collaboratively with community partners to assess the feasibility of expanding access to targeted financial supports to prevent housing loss (e.g., eviction prevention, one-time assistance). • Advocate for the expansion of direct outreach services and supports, such as Mental Health Outreach Program (MHOP), Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP) and Regional Street Outreach Program to meet rising demand. • Strengthen system navigation supports and reduce barriers to access services (e.g., operating hours, requirement to have a fixed address, overlapping intake processes, etc.) • Support the Homelessness and Housing System Manager to co-create solutions with partners to increase availability of amenities for people living unsheltered (e.g., indoor spaces, bathrooms, showers). • Support advocacy efforts to increase shelter spaces for families, single young men, seniors, and those not eligible for hospital care. • Support advocacy efforts to strengthen shelter supports to better serve individuals with complex needs (e.g., unmanaged mental illness, substance use) seeking shelter.

Risk factor data points

- Per cent of Durham Region households experiencing food insecurity (Stats Can).
- Number of people who accessed the shelter system.
- Number of people experiencing homelessness from Durham Region's By-Name List who moved into housing.
- Average number of people on Durham Region's By-Name List experiencing homelessness per month.



Mental Health: Roadmap for Collective Impact

If we continue to plan and work together as a community to...

Social development

- Work across sectors to strengthen systems coordination, especially at the intersection of multiple risk factors, by increasing awareness of available supports and associated referral pathways.
- Support efforts to provide coordinated programs, services, and supports (e.g., income assistance, housing-related supports, and access to education) to enhance social determinants of health.
- Collaborate with partners, including people with lived/living experience, to develop a regional care plan that prioritizes primary care capacity, equitable access, cultural safety, trauma-informed and person-centred approaches.
- Advance advocacy to address the underlying factors that contribute to mental health challenges (e.g., housing insecurity, structural discrimination, exposure to trauma).
- Secure sustainable funding to implement strategies across the risk mitigation framework.
- Support the capacity, sustainability, and well-being of direct service providers.

Prevention

- Support efforts to provide mental health programs and supports for children, youth, and families, through both school-based and community-led initiatives.
- Advance integrated approaches to expand tailored supports for individuals with complex needs (e.g., older adults, youth, people with disabilities, newcomers, people living with low income, and Indigenous populations).
- Promote public awareness and education around mental health (e.g., mental well-being, crisis intervention, suicide prevention).

Risk intervention

- Coordinate efforts to expand access to counselling, case management, peer support, and specialized mental health services (including residential and psychiatric care) with an emphasis on underserved populations and geographic areas.
- Work collaboratively with the Homelessness and Housing System Manager and community partners to advance housing-related supports, including Housing First initiatives and transitional and supportive housing programs.

Incident response

- Work in collaboration with police services and other community partners to provide timely, dignified support for immediate mental health needs through primary care and mental health outreach, crisis lines, and mental health safe beds.
- Support advocacy efforts to increase resources for community-based response programs.
- Advance discharge planning, coordination, and support during transitions (e.g., from institutional facilities).

We expect to see change for our community members and service providers...

- Increased collaboration and coordination across sectors (e.g., health, education, housing, substance use/addictions, legal services, etc.) for training, planning, and service delivery.
- Mental health service providers are better supported to deliver coordinated, accessible and appropriate supports that meet individual needs, close gaps in care, and respond effectively to crises.
- Expanded access to early mental health promotion programs, including school-based, community-led, and family-focused activities that foster resilience, healthy relationships, and social development.
- Increased awareness of and improved access to timely, equity-focused, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, mental health supports and services.
- Improved continuity of care during critical life transitions (e.g. from institutional settings to community-based supports).
- Reduced stigma among community members regarding mental health.
- Greater trust and confidence in accessing available mental health resources among community members (e.g., culturally appropriate care).

Leading to community-wide outcomes of:

- Reduced frequency and severity of mental health challenges and crises.
- Greater mental and emotional well-being, with individuals feeling more connected, hopeful, and empowered.

Ultimate impact:

Durham Region is a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.



Proposed Key Actions and Risk Factor Data Points: Mental Health

Proposed Key Actions by CSWB Risk Mitigation Level

Social development & prevention	Risk intervention	Incident response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in collaboration with partners to deepen cross-sectoral awareness and coordination of available supports and services. • Collaborate with school boards and other community partners to increase early intervention supports for families, caregivers and schools to support child and youth mental wellness and initiatives that enhance positive social development and relationships. • Collaborate with partners, including people with lived/living experience, to develop a regional care plan that prioritizes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary care capacity ▪ Equitable access (e.g., for northern and rural Durham communities, aging populations, etc.) ▪ Cultural safety ▪ Trauma-informed practices ▪ Person-centred approaches ▪ Building systems collaboration mechanisms that allow for collective review of data trends and gaps • Advance integrated approaches to expand tailored, trauma-informed supports for equity deserving populations with complex needs, including case management and housing-related interventions. • Advocate for short- and long-term sustainable funding to implement the proposed key actions. • Deepen support for the capacity, sustainability, and well-being of direct service providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage partnership opportunities across sectors to expand Durham Region's integrated mental health care system to improve coordination among individuals, service providers, families, and relevant medical professionals. • Advocate for the expansion of direct outreach services and supports, such as Mental Health Outreach Program (MHOP) and Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP) to meet rising demand. • Collaborate with service providers to strengthen discharge planning, coordination and support (e.g., housing, community supports) during transitions from institutional facilities. • Establish a Situation Table (Durham Connect) in Durham Region as a collaborative, multi-sectoral effort to connect individuals to resources in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for increased resources for community-based response programs (e.g., crisis response programs, access to training opportunities, after hours supports, and community stabilization activities). • Collaborate with partners to improve public navigation tools to access mental health supports. • With support from system leaders, work across sectors to advance discharge planning, coordination, and support during transitions (e.g., from institutional facilities).

Risk factor data points

- Per cent of Durham Region adults who are very satisfied with the availability of mental health services
- Per cent of Durham Region adults who rate their mental health as very good or excellent
- Rate of emergency department visits for self-harm per 100,000 population



Social Isolation: Roadmap for Collective Impact

If we continue to plan and work together as a community to...

Social development

- Collaboratively deliver coordinated programs and services (e.g., income assistance, housing-related supports, health care, and access to education and employment opportunities) to enhance social determinants of health.
- Work together to develop strategies to address underlying factors that contribute to social isolation (e.g., systemic inequities, marginalization, trauma, and poverty).
- Collaboratively identify opportunities to increase investments in infrastructure that reduces barriers to social connection (e.g., improved public transit, accessible community spaces, reliable digital connectivity, reduced financial and administrative burdens).
- Co-develop a renewed Age-Friendly Durham Strategy and Action Plan that aligns with local efforts and community priorities.

Prevention Risk intervention

- Work together to increase public awareness of available programs, services, and opportunities, especially among communities most at risk for social isolation.
- Co-design programs with community members, especially those most at risk for social isolation, to ensure cultural relevance and responsiveness to lived experiences.
- Work in partnership to plan and deliver public education campaigns to reduce stigma related to social isolation.
- Co-develop sustained outreach models that proactively support individuals particularly during life transitions, helping prevent social isolation from escalating into crisis.
- Support community members, first responders and medical professionals with relevant tools and training to recognize signs of social isolation and connect individuals to appropriate supports.
- Continue to collaborate with charitable and nonprofit organizations that offer inclusive services, particularly for individuals and communities facing systemic barriers.

Incident response

- Work with first responders and service providers to explore ways to expand crisis support for individuals experiencing social isolation (e.g., connections to mental health services, short-term shelter options for older adults).
- Work with first responders and service providers to explore ways to expand and strengthen non-emergency response pathways to ensure timely and appropriate support.
- Work with first responders and partners to identify opportunities to receive specialized training to recognize and respond to social isolation.

We expect to see change for our community members and service providers...

- Reduced barriers to participation in programs and services (e.g., improved transportation, reduced/no fees, simplified processes, increased accessibility and language supports).
- Increased public awareness of available programs, services, and opportunities to foster meaningful connections.
- Broader community participation in community events and civic life that promote social inclusion.
- Stronger collaboration among community-serving organizations and equity-deserving groups to identify gaps and reach those most at risk for social isolation.
- Enhanced capacity of first responders, service providers, community partners and others to identify and connect socially isolated individuals to supports.
- Decreased number of non-urgent 911 calls related to social isolation.

Leading to community-wide outcomes of:

- Reduced stigma, increased community empathy and social acceptance of those at higher risk for social isolation.
- Reduced incidents of elder abuse.
- Improved quality of life including improved physical and mental health for Durham residents.
- Increased feelings of social connection, inclusion, and emotional well-being.

Ultimate impact:

Durham Region is a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.



Proposed Key Actions and Risk Factor Data Points: Social Isolation

Proposed Key Actions by CSWB Risk Mitigation Level

Social development	Prevention & Risk intervention	Incident response
<p>Building enabling infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate to invest in infrastructure that reduces barriers to social connection (e.g., improved public transit, accessible community spaces, reliable digital connectivity). Work together to enhance transportation options for Durham residents, particularly in rural/northern communities through coordinated services and user-friendly supports. Support the development of, and reduction of barriers to, broader social service infrastructure that meets basic needs, such as safe, affordable housing, employment opportunities, and poverty reduction. Work together to address financial and administrative barriers to participation in community and recreation programs by exploring opportunities to reduce fees and simplify registration processes. Strengthen partnerships among service providers, community members, post-secondary institutions, and government partners to foster meaningful community connections across the region. Co-develop a renewed Age-Friendly Durham Strategy and Action Plan that aligns with local efforts and community priorities. 	<p>Fostering inclusion and reducing stigma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with community partners to identify ways to encourage civic engagement and community leadership by supporting grant programs, advisory groups, and opportunities for residents, especially those from equity-deserving communities, to help shape municipal decisions and lead local initiatives. <p>Outreach, engagement, and awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboratively implement tailored outreach and communication strategies to increase awareness of programs, services, and opportunities among individuals and communities at risk for social isolation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-develop sustained outreach models, particularly for older adults during key life transitions, using volunteers and/or staff to maintain regular contact and prevent isolation from escalating. Identify opportunities to provide mobile, low-barrier administrative and digital support services (e.g., pop-up clinics in libraries or recreation centres) to assist residents with filing taxes, and computer/technology training. Strengthen informal safety nets and frontline outreach, by equipping community members and first responders with relevant tools and training to recognize signs of social isolation and connect individuals to appropriate supports. Identify risk factors and responsive strategies for equity deserving groups experiencing social isolation in all age groups. Work together to identify and address communication gaps by understanding preferred outreach channels for socially isolated populations. Co-create and maintain a comprehensive inventory of programs and services that support those experiencing social isolation in Durham Region (e.g., ongoing support for the Guide to Community Resources for Seniors and Older Adults). <p>Programs, services, and opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborate with charitable and non-profit organizations that offer inclusive services, particularly for individuals and communities facing systemic barriers. Co-design programs with community members, especially those most at risk for social isolation, to ensure cultural relevance and responsiveness to lived experiences. Co-create programs with community members and partners that support relationship-building and inclusion, such as neighbour-to-neighbour initiatives, intercultural events, and safe spaces for dialogue and shared experiences. Work together to identify ways to embed dedicated navigation and case management supports within trusted community settings to help older adults access health care, housing supports, financial assistance, and daily living supports. Work with residents and service providers to explore ways to expand caregiver peer support networks and promote social prescribing to connect caregivers with emotional support and tailored community resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work across systems to investigate ways to expand and strengthen non-emergency response pathways across the lifespan by increasing capacity for timely follow-up (e.g., through community paramedicine) to prevent crises and reduce non-urgent hospital readmissions. Work collaboratively to develop a communication plan that increases public awareness of non-urgent supports available. Work across systems to investigate ways to expand proactive post-discharge programs that support recovery and social connection. Work with the Housing and Homelessness System Manager and community partners to support efforts that work to provide emergency and short-term shelter options for older adults, including designated beds within existing facilities to support individuals facing eviction, hospital discharge, or unsafe living situations.

Risk factor data points

- Per cent of Durham Region adults who have a strong sense of community belonging.
- Per cent of Durham Region seniors who live alone.



Substance Use: Roadmap for Collective Impact

If we continue to plan and work together as a community to...

Social development

- Strengthen collective action and system coordination, especially where substance use, mental health, and homelessness intersect, to ensure individuals receive wraparound supports.
- Support implementation of the Durham Region Opioid Response Plan.
- Advocate for systemic change to address underlying factors that contribute to substance use, including poverty, trauma, and housing instability.
- Support efforts to prevent or reduce adverse childhood experiences through early intervention and family-focused culturally responsive programs.
- Advocate for sustainable funding for treatment services and strengthen health system capacity.
- Raise awareness of the impacts of restrictive harm reduction policies with all levels of government.
- Support advocacy efforts for a provincial alcohol strategy and stronger regulation of cannabis and vaping products.

Prevention

- Work collaboratively across systems to foster equitable access to prevention supports (including mental health and addiction services) across the lifespan, especially for underserved populations.
- Support efforts to deliver public education and awareness campaigns focused on substance use and harm reduction.
- Support school-based and youth-led prevention initiatives using evidence-based approaches.
- Coordinate shared data collection across community partners to inform planning and response.
- Expand awareness of substance use guidelines.

Risk intervention

- Strengthen early intervention supports for underserved populations.
- Provide mobile outreach for mental health and primary care through programs such as Mental Health Outreach Program (MHOP) and Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP).
- Support community partners in their efforts to deliver harm reduction.
- Collaborate with partners on programs and services that offer low/no-cost treatment services, including stabilization supports such as housing.
- Collaborate with partners to increase awareness of existing data collection systems, including opioid toxicity alerts and local drug trend tracking.

Incident response

- Work in collaboration with police services and other community partners to disrupt illegal drug supply.
- Support ongoing efforts related to transitions from correctional facilities, with a focus on continuity of care and access to supports.
- Work with community partners to support programs that integrate peer support workers in emergency departments to support individuals in crisis.
- Support advocacy efforts to increase resources for community-based response programs.
- Advance discharge planning, coordination, and support during transitions (e.g., from institutional facilities).

We expect to see change for our community members and service providers...

- Increased awareness and access to mental health, addiction, and social support services.
- Safer substance use practices, supported by harm reduction education and resources.
- Enhanced health, life stability, and socioeconomic outcomes, including housing security and employment supports.
- Strengthened cross-sector collaboration, improving service integration and shared care planning.
- Increased public understanding of substance use risk factors and prevention strategies.
- Greater empathy and compassion towards individuals impacted by substance use disorders.
- Reduced stigma around substance use disorders.

Leading to community-wide outcomes of:

- Increased protective factors and reduced risk factors associated with substance use across the lifespan.
- More equitable, person-focused, evidence-based, and timely access to treatment and harm reduction services for individuals affected by substance use disorders.
- Improved coordination across systems of care resulting in more integrated and responsive service delivery.
- Decreased frequency and intensity of substance use among residents.
- Reduced substance use-related harms, including overdoses and infections.
- Strengthened public and institutional support for evidence-informed substance use policies and practices.

Ultimate impact:

Durham Region is a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.



Proposed Key Actions and Risk Factor Data Points: Substance Use

Proposed Key Actions by CSWB Risk Mitigation Level

Social development	Prevention	Risk intervention	Incident response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with community partners to strengthen holistic, low barrier, supports to prevent substance use harms (e.g., mental health care, addiction services, housing, poverty reduction, and community stabilization activities). Support collective efforts to enhance service integration across mental health, addiction, housing, and case management through cross-referrals and shared care plans. Continue to foster cross-sector collaboration among local teams and community partners to improve coordination and service delivery. Engage community partners and people with lived experience to advocate for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased provincial funding for treatment Evidence-informed harm reduction policies A provincial alcohol strategy Stronger regulation of cannabis and nicotine-based vaping products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with service providers to improve equitable access to trauma-informed and culturally responsive services and treatment across the lifespan. Expand awareness of substance use guidelines, including integration into school-based education. Co-create solutions with partners to support school-based, and beyond school-based, prevention programs for youth focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigating external or influential pressures (e.g., peer pressure, social media). Accessing health education, social opportunities, and skill-building. Increase harm reduction awareness/education and reduce stigma through targeted training and public education campaigns for local politicians, service providers, community organizations, business owners and residents. Build community and political support for evidence-based prevention strategies. Adopt innovative approaches to monitor and proactively address substance use trends. Support education and awareness initiatives regarding the health impacts of substances (e.g., cannabis, vaping, nicotine patches). Work with partners to develop strategies to address emerging addictive behaviour trends (e.g., online gambling, video games, social media). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support collective efforts to expand culturally relevant, trauma-informed early interventions for underserved populations (e.g., youth, older adults, individuals with developmental disabilities, dual diagnoses, etc.). Establish a Situation Table (Durham Connect) in Durham Region as a collaborative, multi-sectoral effort to connect individuals to resources in the community. Provide coordinated training for service providers to recognize and respond to signs of substance use challenges. Leverage local knowledge to enhance awareness of existing harm reduction services. Advance efforts through coordinated action to ensure community members have access to adequate, low/no cost treatment options, including culturally responsive care and reduced wait times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the expansion of direct outreach capacity through programs such as Mental Health Outreach Program (MHOP) and Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP). Advance discharge planning, coordination, and support during transitions (e.g., from institutional facilities). Increase awareness of best practices for supporting community members experiencing a crisis.

Risk factor data points

- Rate of opioid toxicity deaths per 100,000 population
- Rate of emergency department visits for conditions entirely caused by alcohol per 100,000 population
- Rate of emergency department visits for cannabis-related harms per 100,000 population



Victimization: Roadmap for Collective Impact

If we continue to plan and work together as a community to...

Social development

- Strengthen partnerships and collective action across sectors to address all forms of gender-based violence (GBV)¹ (e.g. co-development of GBV and IPV Action Plan that reflects shared priorities, aligned activities, and key indicators/metrics).
- Collaboratively deliver coordinated programs and services (e.g., income assistance, housing support, healthcare, and access to education) that address social determinants of health.
- Advocate together for core and long-term sustainable funding from provincial and federal governments to support prevention and response efforts.
- Work in partnership to advocate for changes to the systems, structures, and cultural norms that reinforce gender and social inequities.

Prevention

- Co-create public education and awareness campaigns/initiatives that deepen understanding of harmful influences of GBV using a coordinated community-based approach.
- Coordinate efforts to integrate GBV education into public health, education, housing, and employment services.
- Leverage shared data to support prevention efforts, identify service gaps, improve coordination, and strengthen advocacy.
- Support economic empowerment and leadership opportunities for women and girls.
- Partner with community members, organizations, and leaders to actively engage men, male youth, and boys in conversations and initiatives that help reshape social norms and promote healthy, respectful relationships.

Risk intervention

- Work in partnership with health and social service providers to integrate IPV screening into routine primary care and service delivery, ensuring early identification and support for individuals at risk.
- Work together to prioritize housing access for survivors at risk of homelessness, including rent supplements and long-term housing supports.
- Support evidence-based programs for individuals who have caused harm to reduce recidivism and promote accountability.

Incident response

- Work together to expand access to inclusive, wraparound services that support individuals and families affected by GBV. These services may include:
 - Trauma-informed and culturally responsive crisis supports and counselling.
 - Emergency shelter and housing supports.
 - Specialized police services and legal assistance.
 - Sexual assault care and coordinated hospital discharge planning.
- Support investment in youth diversion programs that are tailored to the needs of young people involved in GBV, with the goal of preventing future harm and supporting their positive development.

We expect to see change for our community members and service providers...

- Strengthened multi-sectoral partnerships that advance shared priorities and measurable progress.
- Greater awareness and engagement in prevention efforts, with community members demonstrating greater knowledge of resources.
- Improved access to timely, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive care, for survivors and families.
- Reduced recidivism among individuals who have caused harm through effective evidence-based interventions.

Leading to community-wide outcomes of:

- Decreased frequency and severity of all forms of GBV.
- Reduced risk factors and strengthened protective factors that influence both perpetration and victimization.
- Improved mental, emotional, and physical health outcomes for all community members.

Ultimate impact:

Durham Region is a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.

¹ Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts of physical, economic (financial), sexual, emotional (psychological) abuse based on someone's gender and unequal power dynamics. It can take many forms such as sexual abuse and/or harassment, exploitation, human trafficking, femicide, stalking, intimate partner violence, family violence, and technology-facilitated violence.



Proposed Key Actions and Risk Factor Data Points: Victimization

Proposed Key Actions by CSWB Risk Mitigation Level

Social development	Prevention & Risk intervention	Incident response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboratively develop and advance an advocacy strategy that engages all levels of government to influence policy and secure core and sustainable funding for preventing and responding to all forms of gender-based violence (GBV) in Durham Region. • Co-create and implement a GBV and IPV Community Action Plan that reflects shared priorities, coordinated activities, and meaningful indicators to track progress. • Continue working together to invest in safe, affordable housing and social development services, recognizing their foundational role in preventing and responding to GBV. 	<p>Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collectively with community partners, including DRPS, to enhance data collection, monitoring, analysis and sharing, to deepen understanding of GBV and IPV impacts across the community and inform responsive action. <p>Awareness, Education & Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design the delivery of public education and awareness initiatives that build understanding of GBV and IPV using a coordinated community-based approach. • Work together to provide consistent training, tools, and resources to front-line staff and service providers (e.g., caseworkers, public health nurses, paramedics, early learning and child care professionals) who are often first to recognize and respond to the signs of GBV and IPV. • Continue fostering partnerships with child care and education sectors to expand prevention programming that challenges harmful norms and promotes healthy relationships among children, youth and young adults. • Support inclusive outreach and engagement strategies that centre the voices and needs of diverse and priority populations (e.g., women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQI+, Black and racialized people, newcomers, persons with disabilities, older adults/seniors, youth, people living in rural or remote communities). <p>Coordinated Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage survivors and community experts in the design and planning of programs to ensure services are responsive, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive. • Work together to strengthen referral pathways so individuals and families impacted by GBV can access timely and appropriate supports. • Establish a Situation Table (Durham Connect) in Durham Region as a collaborative, multi-sectoral effort to connect individuals to resources in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboratively support investment in diversion programs for individuals who have caused harm, including youth and older adults, to support accountability and reduce recidivism. • Alongside community partners, identify opportunities to coordinate efforts to prioritize housing access for survivors at risk of homelessness (e.g., provide rent supplements and long-term housing supports). • Advocate for the expansion of direct outreach services and supports, such as Mental Health Outreach Program (MHOP), Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP), Older Adult Safety Advisors (OASA) and Regional Street Outreach Program to meet rising demand.

Risk factor data points

- Number of criminal incidents with an older adult victim/complainant
- Two-year violent intimate partner violence revictimization rate
- Number of identified victims and at-risk individuals of human trafficking
- Number of investigations launched by the human trafficking unit

Appendix B: 2025 CSWB Committee Members List

CSWB Steering Committee

- Co-chair: Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Regional Municipality of Durham
- Co-chair: Chief Peter Moreira, Durham Regional Police Service
- Chief Kelly LaRocca, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- Councillor Marilyn Crawford, Regional Council
- Councillor Maurice Brenner, Regional Council
- Alison Burgess, Regional Municipality Durham
- Allison Hector-Alexander, Regional Municipality of Durham
- Amber Crowe, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services
- Andrea Cant, Alzheimer Society of Durham Region
- Anita Longo, Durham Regional Police Service
- Beth Brannon, Lakeridge Health
- Bill Clancy, Durham Regional Police Service
- Chief Troy Cheseboro, Region of Durham Paramedic Services
- Cindy Murray, United Way Durham
- Gill Lock, Durham Regional Police Service
- Dr. Robert Kyle, Regional Municipality of Durham
- Elaine Knox, City of Pickering
- Enez Perkins, City of Oshawa
- Garry Cubitt, Durham Regional Police Service Board
- Helen Giacchetta, Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council
- Jai Sahak, Northstar
- James Meloche, Community Care Durham
- Janet McPherson, Brock Community Health Centre
- Kayode Akomolafe, Durham Catholic District School Board
- Keishia Facey, RFW Consulting
- Krista MacNeil, Victim Services of Durham Region
- Mary George, Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle
- Michael Bowman, Durham District School Board
- Mona Emond, North House

- Ramona Chereches, Durham Children's Aid Society
- Sandra Austin, Regional Municipality of Durham, Community Growth and Economic Development Department
- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Vivian Curl, Durham Community Foundation

CSWB Area Municipal Working Group

- Chair: Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Regional Municipality of Durham
- Christie McLardie, Town of Ajax
- Mikaela Malcolm, Town of Ajax
- Shane Baker, Town of Ajax
- Michelle Willson, Township of Brock
- George Acorn, Municipality of Clarington
- Justin MacLean, Municipality of Clarington
- Steve Myers, Municipality of Clarington
- Adam Grant, City of Oshawa
- Ron Diskey, City of Oshawa
- Tracey Adams, City of Oshawa
- Elaine Knox, City of Pickering
- Warren Mar, Township of Scugog
- Mark Berney, Township of Scugog
- Mike Matthews, Township of Scugog
- Kristi Honey, Township of Uxbridge
- Matt Gaskell, Town of Whitby
- Renee Dupuis, Town of Whitby
- Sarah Klein, Town of Whitby
- Jennifer Shaw, Durham Regional Police Service

Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area CSWB Working Group

- Chair: Kiersten Allore-Engel, Regional Municipality of Durham
- Jennifer Shaw, Durham Regional Police Service
- Kendra Habing, Regional Municipality of Halton

- Samantha Jackson, Regional Municipality of Halton
- Ashley Lilliman, Halton Regional Police Service
- Amy Manjani, City of Hamilton
- Kristy Tadeson, City of Hamilton
- Mohammad Al Khateb, City of Hamilton
- Rachelle Ihekwoaba, City of Hamilton
- Sarah Van Sickle, City of Hamilton
- Jessica Thompson, Regional Municipality of Niagara
- Ingra Pedra, Regional Municipality of Peel
- Jasmine Tung, Regional Municipality of Peel
- Jenny Burgess, Regional Municipality of Peel
- Michelle Johnston, Regional Municipality of Peel
- John Versluis, Peel Regional Police
- Christina Alexiou, City of Toronto
- Clara Ganemtoré, City of Toronto
- Scott McKean, City of Toronto
- Jenna Dolly, Regional Municipality of York
- Jennifer Hancock, Regional Municipality of York
- Jason McIlveen, York Regional Police

Internal Working Group

- Chair: Kiersten Allore-Engel, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Allison Hector-Alexander, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Andrew Wismer, Regional Municipality of Durham, Finance Department
- Anna Rosquita, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Azeez Simisaye, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Charmalee Harris, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Christian Closs, Durham Regional Police Service (Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department Department)
- Craig McInall, Durham Regional Police Service
- Danon Morey, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Erin Valant, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Heather Thompson, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department

- Janisha Kamalanathan, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Joanne Iacono, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Liam Hatch, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Lisa McIntosh, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Lori Talling, Regional Municipality of Durham, Community Growth and Economic Development Department
- Marusia Laschuk, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Pam DeWilde, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Rob Clayton, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Sandra Austin, Regional Municipality of Durham, Community Growth and Economic Development Department
- Sangeetah Pabla, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Tineka Levy, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Tracey Tyner Cavanagh, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Zareen Butt, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department

Region of Durham Internal Sub-Committees - Subject Matter Experts by Risk Factor

- Chair: Kiersten Allore-Engel, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO

Criminal Involvement:

- Anjali Pandya, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Christian Closs, Durham Regional Police Service (Regional Municipality of Durham Social Services Department)
- Craig McInall, Durham Regional Police Services
- Dawn Hopps, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Erin Valant, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Jennifer Shaw, Durham Regional Police Services
- Vidal Chavannes, Durham Regional Police Services

Experiences of Racism:

- Allison Hector-Alexander, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Amanda Thompson, Regional Municipality of Durham, Durham Region Transit

- Ameera Alhiraki, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Anu Sharma, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Caitlyn Paget, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Debbie Ellis, Regional Municipality of Durham, Community Growth and Economic Development Department
- Hanna Mohammed-Diallo, Regional Municipality of Durham, Community Growth and Economic Development Department
- Melissa Beaucaire, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Nabeel Patel, Regional Municipality of Durham, Durham Region Transit
- Nilo Honarbakhsh, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Patricia Hines, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Zareen Butt, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department

Homelessness and Basic Needs:

- Caitlyn Paget, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Charmalee Harris, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Jennifer Bishop, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Jessica Clark, Regional Municipality of Durham, Region of Durham Paramedic Services
- Jocelyn Siciliano, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Lisa McIntosh, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Sahar Foroutani, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department

Mental Health:

- Anjali Pandya, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Christine Gianoutsos, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Jessica Clark, Regional Municipality of Durham, Region of Durham Paramedic Services
- Katie Hill, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Stacey MacNeil, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department

Social Isolation:

- Alyssa Skan, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Daidra Richards, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Danielle Pineda, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO,
- Jaclyn Fraser, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Joanne Iacono, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Kaitlin Bradley, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Keith Rew, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Morgan Denby, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Rob Clayton, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Rosalie Saynor, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Sharon Woods, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Tracey Tyner Cavanagh, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department

Substance Use:

- Heather Thompson, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Jessica Clark, Regional Municipality of Durham, Paramedic Services
- Kaitlin Bradley, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Michele Brolly, Regional Municipality of Durham, Region Health Department
- Wendy Beales, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department

Victimization:

- Anjali Pandya, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Christian Closs, Durham Regional Police Service (Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department)
- Craig McCabe, Durham Regional Police Services
- Jennifer Shaw, Durham Regional Police Services
- Jessica Clark, Regional Municipality of Durham, Paramedic Services
- Jocelyn Siciliano, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- John Kimmerly, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Kellie Flynn, Regional Municipality of Durham, Health Department
- Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department

Building Safer Communities Fund Strategic Advisory Group - Community Partner Organizations

- Chair: Kiersten Allore-Engel, Regional Municipality of Durham, Office of the CAO
- Aaron Wood, Durham Regional Police Service
- Audrey Isenor, Community Justice Alternatives of Durham Region
- Candice Correa, Durham Youth Services
- Charmalee Harris, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Colleen McCulloch, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag
- Devon Nation-Williams, Regional Municipality of Durham, Social Services Department
- Dr. Kanika Samuels-Wortley, Ontario Tech University
- Edna Ucanda, Community Development Council Durham
- Gloria Small, Durham Community Action Group
- Irena Kropman, Durham Community Health Centre
- Jai Sahak, Northstar
- Jeff Dart, Durham Community Health Centre
- Jennifer Shaw, Durham Regional Police Service
- Jessica Hanson, United Way Durham Region
- Jill Dallaire, BGC Durham
- Kevin Anderson, Durham Children's Aid Society
- Kim Miller-Sands, Murray McKinnon Foundation
- Krista MacNeil, Victim Services of Durham Region
- Marcy Davis, Durham Community Action Group
- Margaret Parsons, Durham Community Action Group
- Marnie Smith, BGC Durham
- Michael Menheere, Durham District School Board
- Monica Tembo, Community Development Council Durham
- Nicole D'Ornellas, Durham Children's Aid Society
- Nicole Perryman, Ifarada Centre for Excellence
- Paula Sorhaitz, Durham Catholic District School Board
- Pita-Garth "PG" Case, DurhamONE
- Rawle Elliot, Durham Community Action Group

- Sanaaj Mirrie, Afiwi Groove School
- Stacey Beaveridge, Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC Durham)
- Stephen Linton, Black-Led Engagement Network of Durham (BLEND)
- Sydney Marcoux, Victim Services Durham Region
- Veronica Breen, John Howard Society of Durham Region
- Vidal Chavannes, Durham Regional Police Service



If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator by emailing accessibility@durham.ca or calling 311 extension 2009.

Appendix C: CSWB Participating Agencies

- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- Afiwi Groove School
- B.R.A.V.E. (Black Resilient Advocates for Vibrant Empowerment)
- Bethesda House
- BGC Durham
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Durham and Northumberland
- Black-Led Engagement Network of Durham (BLEND)
- Blessed Kutz
- Brock Community Health Centre
- Canadian Council of Muslim Women
- CFSD
- Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC Durham)
- Christian Faith Outreach Centre - Doors of Compassion
- City of Oshawa
- City of Pickering
- City of Toronto
- Clarington Library, Museums & Archives
- Community Development Council Durham (CDCD)
- Community Justice Alternatives of Durham Region
- Community Living Ajax-Pickering Whitby
- Community Living Durham North
- Community Living Oshawa Clarington
- Cultural Expressions for CHANGE
- Dads of Durham
- Dedicated Advocacy Resource Support (DARS)
- Developmental Services Ontario
- Dnaagdawenmag Child and Family Services
- Durham A.C.E.S. Association

- Durham Catholic District School Board
- Durham College, Social Impact Hub
- Durham Community Action Group
- Durham Community Health Centre
- Durham Elder Abuse Network
- Durham Family and Cultural Centre
- Durham Rape Crisis Centre
- Durham Region Transit
- Durham Regional Police Service
- Durham Workforce Authority
- Durham Youth Services
- DurhamONE
- Durham Mental Health Services
- Eastern Basketball Association
- Grandview Kids
- Herizon House
- Ifarada Centre for Excellence
- Impact Over Intention
- John Howard Society of Durham Region
- Keep Ya Head Up
- Kujenga Wellness Project
- Lakeridge Health
- Luke's Place
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Municipality of Clarington
- Murray McKinnon Foundation
- Muslim Women of Durham Region
- Northstar
- Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences
- Ontario Tech University

- Ordered Steps Dance Academy
- Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council
- Oshawa Public Libraries
- Phoenix All Stars Football Club
- Pickering Public Library
- Prince Albert Basketball Club
- Protect Your Crown Initiative
- Region of Durham - Communications and Engagement
- Region of Durham - Family Services Durham
- Region of Durham - Health Department
- Region of Durham - Income, Employment and Homelessness Supports Division
- Region of Durham - Social Services Department
- Region of Durham
- Revitalized Reintegration Services
- Safety Network Durham
- Salvation Army
- Senior Buddies
- St. Andrew's Youth Group
- Sweet Obsessions by Lyss
- T.H.E. Brotherhood
- Talkin' Tales
- The Barrette Centre
- The Black Girls Society
- The Denise House
- The Nourish and Develop Foundation
- The Participation House (Durham Region)
- Town of Ajax
- Town of Whitby
- Township of Brock
- Township of Scugog

- Township of Uxbridge
- Victim Services of Durham Region
- Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (VPCC)
- Whitby Public Library
- Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham (WMRCC)
- YWCA Durham



If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator by emailing accessibility@durham.ca or calling 311 extension 2009.

Appendix D: Acronyms and Glossary

Acronyms

- **2SLGBTQI+** – Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning and Intersex and additional gender identities and sexual orientations
- **AER** – Acutely Elevated Risk
- **ASIST** – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- **BSCF** – Building Safer Communities Fund
- **CSWB** – Community Safety and Well-Being
- **DCAG** – Durham Community Action Group
- **DRPS** – Durham Regional Police Service
- **GBV** – Gender-Based Violence
- **IPV** – Intimate Partner Violence
- **NOR** – Needs Overview Report
- **OSDUHS** – Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey
- **SAG** – Strategic Advisory Group
- **VPCC** – Violence Prevention Coordinating Council of Durham
- **YAG** – Youth Action Group

Glossary

- **Advocacy** – Covers a range of strategies and tactics designed to move people to action. Advocacy tools can include communications, research, education, personal influence, persuasion, coalition building and organizing. The ways in which these tools are applied are often adjusted for different audiences or targets of influence.
- **Anti-Racism** – An active and consistent process of change to eliminate individual, institutional and systemic racism as well as the oppression and injustice racism causes.
- **Barrier** – An overt or covert obstacle that prevents a person from fully taking part in all aspects of society, including physical, architectural, information or communications, attitudinal, economic and technological. The obstacle can be in the form of policies or practices.
- **Disability** – An umbrella term covering impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Defining disability is complex and evolving.

- **Discrimination** - Treating someone unfairly by either imposing a burden on them, or denying them a privilege, benefit or opportunity enjoyed by others, because of their race, citizenship, family status, disability, sex or other personal characteristics (note: this is not a legal definition).
- **Equal Access** - Recognizing that “one size does not fit all” in diverse urban/rural communities, equal access to health programs and services for all individuals requires the removal of barriers associated with literacy levels, language, culture, geography, social factors, education, economic circumstance and mental and physical ability.
- **Equity** - Equity is a principle and process that promotes fair conditions for all persons to fully participate in society. It recognizes that while all people have the right to be treated equally, not all experience equal access to resources, opportunities or benefits. Achieving equality does not necessarily mean treating individuals or groups in the same way but may require the use of specific measures to ensure fairness.
- **Equity-Deserving Groups or Equity-Priority Groups** - Communities that endure systemic discrimination; face barriers to equal access, opportunities and resources; and actively seek social justice and reparations. Equity-deserving groups experience exclusion based on characteristics not limited to age, citizenship status, disability, ethnicity, economic status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation and race.
- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** - GBV refers to harmful acts of physical, economic (financial), sexual, emotional (psychological) abuse based on someone’s gender and unequal power dynamics. It can take many forms such as sexual abuse and/or harassment, exploitation, human trafficking, femicide, stalking, intimate partner violence, family violence, and technology-facilitated violence.
- **Hate Activity** - Comments or actions against a person or group motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, ancestry, nationality or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, marital status, family status, sexual orientation or any other similar factor. Examples are hate crimes, hate propaganda, advocating genocide, telephone/electronic communication promoting hate, and publicly displaying hate in notices, signs, symbols and emblems.
- **Incident Response** - Critical or non-critical incident response commonly involves immediate and reactive responses and primarily involves emergency response services like police, fire, paramedics and other crisis-driven services.
- **Lived Experience** - Knowledge rooted in direct, first-hand involvement in everyday events and experiences rather than through representations constructed by other people.
- **Newcomer** - An inclusive term for immigrants or refugees who have been in Canada for a short time, usually less than five years. Newcomers contribute greatly to a country’s social and economic prosperity.
- **Prevention** - Applying proactive strategies to known and identified risks that are likely to result in harm to individuals or communities if left unmitigated.
- **Risk Intervention** - Identifying and responding to situations of acutely elevated risk of harm and mobilizing interventions before an emergency or crisis-driven response is required.

- **Situation Table** - A collaborative model for responding to Acutely Elevated Risk (AER) cases through coordinated agency action.
- **Social Determinants of Health** - Forces and systems that shape the conditions of people's daily lives (e.g., income, education, employment) and influence their health and well-being outcomes. These include economic, social, and political policies and systems, as well as social norms.
- **Social Development** - Addressing the underlying causes of social issues through upstream approaches that promote and maintain individual and community wellness.
- **Systemic Barriers** - Obstacles that exclude groups or communities of people from full participation in, and the benefits of, social, economic, and political life. They may be hidden or unintentional but are built into the way society works. Existing policies, practices and procedures, as well as assumptions and stereotypes, reinforce them.



If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator by emailing accessibility@durham.ca or calling 311 extension 2009.

Appendix E: References

- Criminal Involvement Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Roy McMurtry and Alvin Curling, "The Roots of Youth Violence report Volume 1: Findings, Analysis and Conclusions," Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2018, <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/lbrr/archives/cnmcs-plcng/cn30240-vol1-eng.pdf>
- Criminal Involvement Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), "Crime prevention in Ontario: Booklet 1 - A framework for action," January 15, 2024, <https://www.ontario.ca/document/crime-prevention-ontario-booklet-1-framework-action/appendix-1>
- Criminal Involvement Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Tina-Nadia Gopal Chambers, "Look at my life: Sparks for firearm possession among young people in Toronto," City of Toronto, Laidlaw Foundation, Amadeusz, Humber College, 2018, <https://amadeusz.ca/files/research/Firearm-Research-Summary-2.pdf>
- Criminal Involvement Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Durham Community Foundation (2023) Together we thrive: Durham's Vital Signs Report 2023," <https://durhamcommunityfoundation.ca/vital-signs/>
- Criminal Involvement Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Durham Region Health Department (2018, December), "Quick facts: Home life: Students' frequency of talking to a parent, 2016-2017," <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/HealthInformationServices/HealthStatisticsReports/HomeLife-QF.pdf>
- Criminal Involvement Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Durham Region Health Department (2018, September updated). "Quick facts: frequency of being bullied at school, 2016-2017," <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/HealthInformationServices/HealthStatisticsReports/BeingBullied-QF.pdf>
- Criminal Involvement Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Durham Region Health Department (2018, July), "Quick facts: Percentage of students who seriously considered suicide in the past year, 2016-2017." <http://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/HealthInformationServices/HealthStatisticsReports/SuicidalIdeationInStudents.pdf>
- Criminal Involvement Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Statistics Canada (2023, November 15). Census Profile 2021 Census of Population Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001, Ottawa." <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>
- Experiences of Racism Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Statistics Canada, "Canada in 2041: A larger, more diverse population with greater differences between regions". <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220908/dq220908a-eng.htm>
- Mental Health Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Valkenburg, P. M., Meier, A., & Beyens, I. (2022). Social media use and its impact on adolescent mental health: An umbrella review of the evidence. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 44, 58-68. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2021.08.017>
- Mental Health Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Braghieri, L., Levy, R., & Makarin, A. (2022). Social media and mental health. *American Economic Review*, 112(11), 3660-3693. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20211218>

- Mental Health Needs Overview Report (2025), Allcott, H., Braghieri, L., Eichmeyer, S., & Gentzkow, M. (2020). The welfare effects of social media. *American Economic Review*, 110(3), 629-676. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20190658>
- Social Isolation Needs Overview Report (2025). Davide Burnes, "Factors contributing to the risk of elder abuse: Analysis of the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) Module on Elder Abuse," University of Toronto, 2023. https://cnpea.ca/images/prevalence_and_risk_factors_contributing_to_elder_abuse_-_findings_from_the_canadian_longitudinal_study_on_aging_clsa.pdf
- Substance Use Needs Overview Report (Blueprint, 2025), Public Safety Ontario (2025, July 30). Substance Use and Harm Tools. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Substance-Use/Substance-Use-Harms-Tool>



If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator by emailing accessibility@durham.ca or calling 311 extension 2009.



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, Commissioner of Works, and Commissioner of Legal Services
Report: #2025-COW-36
Date: November 13, 2025

Subject:

Authorization to Undertake a Comprehensive Review of the Options for Including the Northeast Pickering Lands in the Region's Development Charge By-laws

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That, in response to the request from members of the Northeast Pickering Landowners Group to advance the servicing of the Northeast Pickering (NEP) lands, Regional Staff undertake a comprehensive review of the options for including the NEP lands in the Region's Development Charge (DC) By-laws, including associated policies. The review will consider the following three options:
- i. Amend the existing Region-wide DC By-laws to include the NEP lands, which would require accounting for additional servicing costs and the associated population and employment growth.
 - ii. Establish a NEP area-specific DC By-law for water and sewer services, with corresponding amendments to the Regional DC By-laws to include remaining services (e.g., roads, transit, police).
 - iii. Develop a new DC Background Study and associated By-law to incorporate all new growth areas approved in the Region's former Official Plan, including the NEP lands.
- B) That the following outside consulting and legal services be retained, at an estimated cost not to exceed \$50,000, with the financing to be determined at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance, to provide technical expertise in the evaluation of the three options for including NEP lands in Regional DC By-laws and advise on implementation requirements, as follows:

- i. The consulting firm of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. be retained to assist with the evaluation of the options for including NEP in the Region's DC By-laws; and
 - ii. The legal firm of WeirFoulds LLP be retained to advise on the requirements of the options studied;
 - C) Staff consult with BILD, DRHBA and staff from each of the eight area municipalities in Durham as part of the comprehensive review of the options to include the Northeast Pickering lands in the Region's Development Charge By-laws;
 - D) Staff to report back with recommendations on including NEP in the Region's DC By-laws that stem from the comprehensive review, including risks and implications of the recommended approach, in spring 2026;
 - E) That this report be forwarded to the Region's eight area municipalities;
 - F) That the Commissioner of Finance and Commissioner of Legal Services be authorized to execute the necessary agreements to retain the consulting and legal services.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a. Inform Regional Council of the request from members of the Northeast Pickering Landowners Group (NEPLOG) to expedite the servicing of the Northeast Pickering (NEP) lands by including the capital works through an amendment to the Region's Development Charges (DC) By-laws; and
- b. To request authorization to undertake the necessary work to evaluate the three options for advancing the inclusion of the NEP lands in the Region's DC By-laws and report back to Regional Council with the recommended approach and a detailed timeline for completion.

2. Background

2.1 The Region's current Residential and Non-residential DC By-law for water supply, sanitary sewerage, roads, regional police services, long-term care, paramedic services, and waste diversion services (By-law No. 42-2023) and Regional Transit DC By-law No. 39-2022 utilized the planning forecast from the previous Region Official Plan. Therefore, the Region's current DC By-laws do not include any of the new growth areas approved in the Region's most recently approved Official Plan (Envision Durham), including the NEP lands.

- 2.2 In January 2025, as part of the settlement of the OLT appeal of the Region's 2023 DC By-law (OLT-23-000888), the Region committed to BILD and DRHBA to:
- a. Use its best efforts to undertake and complete as soon as is reasonably practicable, a comprehensive review of its Region-wide development charges that will result in the enactment of a new by-law, based on the servicing requirements of all the lands added to the Region's urban boundary through its official plan approved by the Province; and
 - b. Establish a development stakeholder liaison committee comprised of Regional Staff and members of the development community, which will be coordinated through BILD and DRHBA, to enable early and multiple consultations.
- 2.3 Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025, was introduced on May 12, 2025, and included immediate and proposed changes to the Development Charges Act, 1997 (DCA). Given the uncertainty surrounding the final form of these proposed changes and their timing, Regional Staff are awaiting further clarity from the province before recommending a preferred approach for including Northeast Pickering lands in the DC By-laws. Effective immediately, the Bill introduced a long-term care homes DC exemption, while also proposing future amendments that the Province is consulting municipalities and stakeholders on that could significantly impact municipal finances. Notable proposed amendments include deferring residential DC payments to occupancy, revising the Benefit to Existing (BTE) methodology and limiting land cost recovery to historical service levels, amongst others.
- 2.4 Pickering and the Northeast Pickering NEPLOG has requested that the Region advance the planning to extend water and wastewater services to their lands in NEP .

3. Key Considerations

Implementation Considerations

- 3.1 To enable the NEPLOG to upfront finance the costs to service their lands and recover these costs through DC credits, the Region must incorporate the NEP lands and associated capital requirements into its DC By-laws and execute an associated agreement. The Region is exploring three options for potentially including these lands:
- a. Amend the existing Region wide DC By-laws to include the NEP lands which would require the additional servicing costs and additional population and employment growth for NEP.
 - b. Develop a NEP area-specific DC By-law for water and sewer services which would still require amendments to the Regional By-laws to include the remaining services (i.e. roads, transit, police etc.).

- c. Develop a new DC Background Study and associated By-law to include all the new growth areas approved in the Region's former Official Plan (Envision Durham), which would include NEP lands.
- 3.2 The Region must balance the request from the NEPLOG to amend the Region's DC By-laws to advance servicing their lands and the commitment made by the Region in the approved Minutes of Settlement to complete a comprehensive new DC by-law that would include all the new growth areas approved in Envision Durham, the Region's former official plan. Advancing work to specifically address the NEP lands may conflict with the Region's commitment under the OLT-approved Minutes of Settlement to complete a comprehensive DC By-law update based on Envision Durham growth forecasts, considering all new growth areas which include NEP, northwest Brooklin (including future Whitby hospital lands), northeast Oshawa, east Courtice, Bowmanville, and north Newcastle, rather than focusing on one area in isolation.
- 3.3 As part of the comprehensive review, the Region will meet with the area municipalities, BILD, DRHBA and other stakeholders to examine the implications and risks of including the NEP lands in the Region's DC By-laws.
- 3.4 On October 23, 2025, the Province released Bill 60: Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act 2025. This act include includes proposed changes to the Development Charges Act, which Regional staff are actively reviewing. These proposed changes may have implications for how the Region approaches discussions with NEP landowners and other stakeholders. As the regulatory direction evolves, staff will continue to monitor and follow provincial guidance in future engagement efforts.

Development Forecasts (Population and Employment)

- 3.5 For all options being considered, new development forecasts (population and employment) will be a required input. The comprehensive review will consider the challenges with generating new development forecasts, given the impacts that came into effect as of January 1, 2025, under Ontario's Bill 23, where Durham Region has been identified as an upper-tier municipality without planning responsibilities. This change transfers approval authority for official plans and amendments to the Region's eight lower-tier municipalities, allowing them to manage their own planning decisions independently.
- 3.6 Regional Staff will continue to meet with Pickering Staff to discuss and gather information on the development of the NEP lands (i.e. work or future work on Secondary Plan and Neighbourhood Plans for NEP and the information within Pickering's Growth Management Study).

Market Considerations

- 3.7 The comprehensive review will consider housing market conditions in Pickering (current and historical growth), the amount of serviced lands and potential supply of

housing within Seaton and future intensification in Pickering and the ability of Pickering to meet the provincial housing targets.

- 3.8 There are approximately 20,000 unbuilt units in Seaton where most of the servicing has already been constructed through a front ending agreement with the Seaton landowners. Given this remaining unbuilt capacity, the introduction of additional residential land supply from the NEP area may not be required from a market absorption standpoint, as both areas are positioned to serve the same regional housing demand.
- 3.9 In addition, Transport Canada recently initiated stakeholder consultations on future plans for the Pickering Lands (approx. 8,700 acres), formerly held by the federal government for a future airport in northwest Pickering.
- 3.10 The comprehensive review will need to consider how the development of the NEP lands may impact the development of the Seaton lands, incorporate the consultations on a Land Use Management Strategy for the federal Pickering Lands, and development in all municipalities within Durham and their ability to achieve the development targets. The Region will need to evaluate the risk to build infrastructure in an area such as NEP that may not be needed for medium to long-term based on current development levels.

Servicing Considerations

- 3.11 The Northeast Pickering area is projected to accommodate up to 72,000 residents and 9,725 jobs. To support this growth, significant infrastructure development is required, particularly in water and wastewater services. Servicing NEP is complex and full buildout is expected to require the expansion of the Ajax WSP and Duffin Creek WPCP, as well as new booster pumping stations, feeder mains, reservoirs, sanitary sewers, and sanitary sewage pumping station and forcemains. The comprehensive review will examine the capital requirements, the timing of the capital improvements, the efficiencies or inefficiencies of advancing the infrastructure needed for NEP and the ability to implement these capital improvements while balancing the capital needs to service the rest of Durham Region. Ongoing secondary plan work indicates considerable road works may be necessary to facilitate development and growth in NEP. In addition, other necessary Regional services will also be explored in the review.
- 3.12 Review of the servicing requirements and adoption of new DC by-laws will be considered in light of the proposed changes under Bill 17 or changes that occur during the review, which may impact several components of the DC calculation.

4. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 4.1 None.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 It is recommended that the external consulting and legal services expenditures estimated at no greater than \$50,000, with the financing to be determined at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance.

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. Connected and Vibrant Communities
 - C1. Align Regional infrastructure and asset management with projected growth, climate impacts, and community needs.
 - b. 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.
 - R3. Develop, attract, and support a skilled and qualified workforce, including youth and newcomers.
- 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.
 - b. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 A comprehensive review to be undertaken by Regional Staff, with the assistance of the recommended consultant and legal counsel, is recommended to ensure that the Region evaluates all information pertaining to the potential inclusion of Northeast Pickering lands in the Region's DC By-laws.
- 7.2 The recommended Regional review will include consultation with the Pickering and the local development industry including BILD and DRHBA.
- 7.3 Staff will report back to the Committee of the Whole and Regional Council after completion of the review with the recommended approach.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

N. Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance

Original Signed By

Sandra Austin
Commissioner of Community Growth and
Economic Development

Original Signed By

Ramesh Jagannathan, MBA, M.Eng.
P.Eng., PTOE
Commissioner of Works

Original Signed By

Jason Hunt
Commissioner of Legal Services &
Regional Solicitor

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original Signed By

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, Commissioner of Works, and Commissioner of Legal Services
Report: #2025-COW-37
Date: November 13, 2025

Subject:

Regional Comments on the Proposed Changes to Ontario Building Code and Proposed Changes in Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Regional Council:

- A. That the letter dated October 17, 2025, found in Attachment #1, be endorsed as the Region of Durham's response to proposed amendments to the Building Code Act, 1992, through Bill 17 (Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025), including the following key messages:
- i. Linking DC Collection to Occupancy Permits: Regional staff support using occupancy permits as a practical enforcement tool for DC collection and recommend legislative amendments to explicitly include Regional DCs and allow local councils to set deferral timing as a temporary measure to manage cash flow impacts and support housing delivery.
 - ii. Establishing First Occupancy as the Payment Trigger: Tying DCs to first occupancy provides a consistent, efficient collection trigger aligned with municipal workflows and simplifies phased development tracking and protects infrastructure funding.
 - iii. Extending Inspection Timelines for Deferred DCs: Regional staff support extending the prescribed inspection timeline from 2 to 10 days, to improve coordination, payment verification, and reduce occupancy delays.
 - iv. Public Education: Regional staff support creating educational materials for homeowners and builders to explain the occupancy process, DC deferrals, and municipal roles.

- v. Transit Station Charges: In addition to the proposed changes, staff recommend amending the Ontario Building Code's definition of "Applicable Law" to include section 9 of the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023, enabling chief building officials to withhold building permits if Transit Station Charges remain unpaid.
- B. That in light of the proposed amendments to the Ontario Building Code, Council authorize the termination of the Region's Medium and High-Density Residential Development Charge Deferral Program as it is redundant with the implementation of Bill 17 legislative updates mandating the deferral of non-rental residential development charge collection until occupancy;
- C. That the letter as found in Attachment #2, be endorsed as the Region of Durham's response to Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 omnibus legislation, including the following key messages:
- i. Development Charges Act – Staff support measures that improve transparency in Development Charge (DC) calculations, creating a separate service class for land acquisition, and requiring disclosure of Benefit to Existing (BTE) methodologies. Additionally, staff are supportive of allowing municipalities to define what constitutes a local service.
 - ii. Municipal Act – Recommend allowing municipalities to decide if corporate utility models are best for their unique context considering local costs, risks, efficiency and housing affordability, rather than applying a uniform provincial approach and inform future policy using lessons learned from Peel.
 - iii. Planning Act – Staff recommend that the province preserve municipal planning autonomy in developing Official Plans, maintain development standards, continue to allow for secondary plans and site specific policies, support local Community Improvement Plans (CIP) to administer the Regional Revitalization Program (RRP) to support much needed housing and rental units in the Region, ensure oversight in Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) decisions with indigenous engagement, and streamline data tracking for infrastructure
 - iv. Highway Traffic Act – Staff recommend that the province replace a blanket ban on reducing vehicles lanes for bike lanes with a more flexible, case-by-case approach so that municipalities can balance climate, safety, and mobility goals while working with the province to expand active transportation infrastructure.
 - v. GO Transit Station Funding Act and Transit-Oriented Communities Act – Staff support legislative changes that enhance municipal flexibility in transit station funding and project reporting, while emphasizing the need for clear guidance on charge collection timing, advisory panel roles, and reporting responsibilities, especially within two-tier municipal frameworks, to ensure effective, locally responsive implementation.
- D. That Council receive for information the latest developments on the implementation of proposed changes to the Development Charges Act contained in Bill 17;

- E. Staff notify BILD, DRHBA and staff from each of the eight area municipalities in Durham of the termination of the Region's Medium and High-Density Residential Development Charge Deferral Program; and
 - F. That this report be forwarded to the Region's eight area municipalities;
-

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a. Inform Regional Council of the feedback Regional Staff provided to the Province on their proposed changes to the Building Code; and
- b. Inform Regional Council of the feedback Region Staff will be providing to the Province on their proposed amendments to several acts within Bill 60, the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025.
- c. Inform Regional Council on the latest information pertaining to Bill 17, which was issued earlier this year and received Royal Assent on June 5, 2025, that non-rental residential development charges are now payable at the earlier of occupancy or issuance of occupancy permit.
- d. To request authorization to end the Region's Medium and High-Density Residential Development Charge Deferral Program as it is redundant with the implementation of Bill 17 legislative updates mandating the deferral of non-rental residential development charge collection until occupancy.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 (Bill 17), which received Royal Assent on June 5, 2025, amended the Development Charges Act to allow developers of non-rental residential buildings to defer development charge (DC) payments from the time of building permit issuance to either the issuance of an occupancy permit or the first occupancy of the building. At the time of Bill 17 receiving Royal Assent, the amendments were set to come into effect on a date to be named by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- 2.2 On October 3, 2025, the Province proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 163/24 under the Building Code Act. The proposed amendments would require occupancy permits for non-rental residential buildings where DCs are deferred, including buildings that currently may not need such permits. Additionally, chief building officials (CBOs) would be prohibited from issuing occupancy permits until municipalities confirm that deferred DCs have been paid in full.
- 2.3 These changes would apply only to non-rental, non-institutional residential developments in municipalities that levy DCs. Municipalities without a DC by-law or for those developments with section 27 agreements would not be affected. The

proposal does not alter technical health-and-safety standards, DC calculation rules, or the ability to add unpaid DCs to the tax roll.

- 2.4 The Province opened the Ontario Regulatory Registry for public comment on the proposed Building Code changes, and the Region submitted its feedback prior to the commenting period deadline of October 17, 2025.
- 2.5 On October 23, 2025, the Province released Bill 60, the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025, which proposed changes to several Acts of importance for the Region, including the Development Charges Act (DCA), the GO Transit Station Funding Act, the Planning Act, the Transit Oriented Communities Act, as well as introduced new legislation in the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act.
- 2.6 Bill 60 contains several amendments to the DCA, including:
 - a. Land Costs: Land acquisition costs for most DC-eligible services be grouped into a new service class exempt from historic service level calculations.
 - b. Local Services Policies: Municipalities must establish Local Service Policies for all applicable DC services, identifying local works and prohibiting unlisted ones, with the policy due within 18 months of the legislation taking effect or upon adoption.
 - c. Transparency and Accessibility: Municipalities must submit DC financial statements to council by June 30 and to the Minister by July 15 annually and provide DC background studies and by-laws to the Minister upon request by the specified deadline.
 - d. Additional Proposed Changes: The province is seeking feedback on merging water and wastewater services for DC credit purposes, increasing transparency of Benefit to Existing (BTE) allocations, and requiring detailed land acquisition costs by service area in DC background studies.
- 2.7 Bill 60 also contains changes to other notable Acts which are immediately relevant to Durham, which include:
 - a. Planning Act: Remove barriers to allow all upper-tier municipalities to adopt and fund Community Improvement Plans (CIPs) without requiring provincial regulation, enable cross-tier CIP funding, and reinstate CIPs for upper-tier municipalities that lost planning authority.
 - b. New Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act: MMAH is proposing new legislation (Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025) to create public corporations for water and wastewater services, allowing the designation of such corporations by regulation and requiring certain municipalities to deliver services exclusively through them by a prescribed date.
 - c. GO Transit Station Funding Act: changes to the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023, to allow the by-law to be structured to allow payment at occupancy and that the municipality can require financial securities to secure payment.

- d. Transit Oriented Communities Act: Establish a TOC Advisory Panel, authorize the Minister of Infrastructure to require progress reporting from senior municipal officials, and allow the Minister to mandate agreements between landowners and municipalities for designated TOC lands, with municipalities required to appoint a contact person to provide related land information.
 - e. Highway Traffic Act (HTA): amendments that would prohibit municipalities from reducing motor vehicle lanes when installing, implementing or marking new bicycle lanes, as well as amendments to create regulation-making authorities to allow the Minister to prescribe additional prohibited activities and to provide exemptions from the prohibition.
- 2.8 A detailed overview of the complete set of amendments contained in Bill 60 is found in Appendix 2.
- 2.9 On October 23, 2025, the Province also released further information relating to outstanding items from Bill 17. These include establishing November 3, 2025, as the day named by order of the Lieutenant Governor in council to allow developers of non-rental residential buildings to defer DC payments from the time of building permit issuance to either the issuance of an occupancy permit or the first occupancy of the building. The Province also initiated consultation surrounding other key Bill 17 proposals, including the merging of service categories for the purpose of DC credit usage, Benefit to Existing (BTE) methodologies, the treatment of land acquisition costs, and improved transparency for DC financial statements.
- 3. Regional Feedback and Commentary – Building Code**
- 3.1 Regional staff support the proposal to require occupancy permits for non-rental residential buildings where DCs are deferred. They also endorse giving CBOs the authority to withhold occupancy permits until municipalities confirm that deferred DCs have been paid in full. Regional Staff's feedback on the proposed changes include:
- a. DC Collection Enforcement: Staff recommend legislative amendments to explicitly include Regional DCs and allow local councils to set deferral timing to manage cash flow and support housing delivery.
 - b. First Occupancy as Trigger: Tying DC payments to first occupancy aligns with municipal workflows and simplifies tracking for phased developments.
 - c. Inspection Timelines: Extending the inspection window from 2 to 10 days would improve coordination and reduce delays.
 - d. Public Education: Staff support developing educational materials for homeowners and builders to clarify the occupancy process and DC deferrals.
 - e. Transit Station Charges: The Region recommends amending the Building Code's definition of "Applicable Law" to include section 9 of the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023, allowing CBOs to withhold building permits if Transit Station Charges are unpaid.

3.2 The changes to the Building Code, which are in effect as of November 3, 2025, provide a more reliable mechanism for ensuring DC payment where payments are deferred beyond the Building Permit stage. By linking the issuance of occupancy permits to confirmation of DC payment, the risk of non-payment is significantly reduced.

4. Regional Feedback and Commentary – Bill 60

4.1 The following sections provide a high-level overview of the key comments that will be submitted to the province prior to the feedback window closing on November 22.

Development Charges Act

4.2 Staff support the proposed addition of a land acquisition service class. While some services will be subject to a 10-year forecast limit, for key regional services like water, wastewater, roads, transit, and police this will not apply, minimizing regional impact. Municipalities will need to manage separate reserve funds for land costs, which may affect financial planning.

4.3 Staff support the proposal to require municipalities to establish Local Service Policies (LSPs) and support allowing municipalities to define what constitutes a local service.

4.4 Staff support the requirement for timely submission of DC financial statements, as it enhances transparency. The Region already publishes the Treasurer's Statement through a Council Information Package (CIP), which is posted online. We recommend the CIP continue to serve as the formal submission to Council. Any additional reporting should remain flexible to avoid unnecessary administrative burden.

4.5 With respect to the unspent Reserve Fund Commitments proposal to identify the amount from each reserve fund that was committed to a project but had not been spent, staff highlight that the information could be presented in aggregate within the reserve fund continuity schedule, aligning with public sector accounting standards and improving clarity to avoid complicating the Treasurer's Statement.

4.6 Staff will meet reporting requirements on the amount of debt that had been issued for a project as of the end of the year by providing a separate annual schedule to the Treasurer's Statement.

4.7 Staff agree that linking projects in the background study to those in the Treasurer's statement through use of a unique identifier is a positive addition to the report.

Municipal Act

- 4.8 The proposed amendments to the Municipal Act would transfer jurisdiction over water and wastewater services to the lower-tier municipalities in Peel Region and introduce a standalone statute to authorize the establishment of public water and wastewater utilities. Municipalities are best positioned to determine whether a public corporate utility model suits their local needs, based on costs, risks, efficiencies, and household affordability. A uniform provincial approach is not recommended. The Province should apply lessons learned from Peel Region to guide future decisions and minimize unintended impacts. While utility models may offer benefits, they can also increase regulatory costs and household rates. Existing municipal systems already deliver strong accountability and efficiency through local governance, particularly in municipalities like Durham Region with high sustained growth projections. Close alignment between local municipal needs for infrastructure to support growth and capital planning for that infrastructure has been demonstrated by the current model in Durham. Durham has demonstrated one of the highest growth rates in Canada and continuously met the infrastructure needs for that growth. This includes the successful delivery of infrastructure for one of the largest new communities in Canada in Seaton, using flexible tools involving unprecedented cooperation between public and private sector where appropriate. Durham's financial planning and governance over utility infrastructure and capital planning has placed the local municipalities in an enviable position to meet the current and future infrastructure needs for their communities.

Planning Act

- 4.9 Staff support the changes being made to allow for a flexible implementation of Community Improvement Plans (CIPs), including enabling upper-tier municipalities to establish Regional CIPs and/or permitting financial participation in lower-tier municipal CIPs. These changes support the continuation of Durham's successful Regional Revitalization Program (RRP). The current RRP is an application-based grant program which provides Regional financial support and/or in-kind Regional services to eligible redevelopment and intensification projects in local municipal Community Improvement Plans.
- 4.10 The Region's comments on Bill 17 emphasized the importance of maintaining municipal autonomy on any changes aimed at simplifying and standardizing the structure, contents, and length of Official Plans (OPs), as local planning needs vary across the province. Municipalities should retain control over designations, structures, and required studies to effectively respond to community needs. Each municipality in the province has unique challenges, and planning documents should be allowed to reflect and react to local circumstances.
- 4.11 Regarding the proposed changes to prohibit the use of secondary plans and site-specific policies, staff emphasize that secondary plans play a critical role in coordinating stakeholders, aligning growth with infrastructure, and engaging

communities. Eliminating them could lead to fragmented development, infrastructure inefficiencies, and delays. To avoid these risks, alternative approaches should preserve the ability to use secondary plans and site-specific policies where needed to support orderly and responsive planning.

- 4.12 The Region is supportive, in principle, of streamlining the tracking of planning data. For infrastructure and service planning purposes, the Region relies on standardization and consistency of data and have committed to working with the area municipalities to achieve standardization in Durham.
- 4.13 The Region has previously expressed concerns about how Minister's Zoning Orders (MZO) have been implemented and the lack of municipal oversight resulting from these provincial decisions. Any changes to the MZO process should respect municipal oversight and allow for meaningful Indigenous engagement.
- 4.14 With respect to the use of enhanced development standards at the lot level (i.e. outside of buildings, generally referred to as "green development standards"), such standards are typically utilized by municipalities to reduce GHG emissions; manage demand on energy and water resources; improve water management; increase greenspace; and improve air quality. They also increase climate resilience; can lower utility costs for residents; create economic opportunities in the green building sector; reduce strain on infrastructure; and improve public health. Municipalities should have the autonomy to apply green development standards that support the implementation of policies and priorities set out within their OPs.

Building Transit Faster Act

- 4.15 The Ministry currently issues municipal service and right-of-way access orders, which require consultation with municipalities. If this authority is delegated, municipal input could be significantly reduced, raising concerns that local issues may not be adequately considered.

Go Transit Station Funding Act

- 4.16 The Region generally supports proposed legislative changes to align the GO Transit Station Funding Act with the Development Charges Act, allowing more flexibility in the timing of Transit Station Charge collection. Regional staff recommend that Section 7.2 of the Act include provisions similar to subsection 26.2(5)(a) and (b) of the Development Charges Act for consistency with the DCA.

Transit Oriented Communities Act

- 4.17 The Region of Durham is generally supportive of proposed amendments to the Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020, which would establish a Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Advisory Panel to assist with dispute resolution. However, the Region is seeking further details regarding the panel's membership and clarification on the specific matters it would address. Additionally, in cases

where the Minister requires a landowner to enter into an agreement with a municipality for the appropriate development of TOC lands, the Region requests clarity on whether such agreements would involve the upper-tier municipality, the lower-tier municipality, or both, particularly within a two-tier municipal framework.

- 4.18 The Region of Durham supports the proposed requirement for municipalities to designate a municipal officer to share information on transit-oriented community (TOC) project implementation. However, clarification is requested on whether this officer should be appointed by the upper-tier municipality, the lower-tier municipality, or both, within a two-tier municipal framework. The Region also requests further details on the type and scope of information that municipalities will be expected to report regularly regarding TOC project progress.

Highway Traffic Act

- 4.19 Staff recommend that the province replace a blanket ban on reducing vehicle lanes for bike lanes with a more flexible, case-by-case approach so that municipalities can balance climate, safety, and mobility goals while working with the province to expand active transportation infrastructure.
- 4.20 The proposed regulation-making authority would allow the Minister to designate additional prohibited activities and grant exemptions. This could include converting general-purpose vehicle lanes into bus-only lanes, on-street parking, or HOV lanes. The Region will seek clarification from the Province on the potential implications of these changes.

5. Regional Feedback and Commentary – Bill 17 items

- 5.1 Merging water and wastewater services for DC credit purposes could impact municipal cash flow by drawing from reserves allocated to other services. This reallocation may delay capital projects or increase borrowing costs if funds are needed to proceed with infrastructure. To mitigate these risks, municipalities should retain flexibility to decide whether to merge service categories, allowing them to support growth while managing financial impacts effectively.
- 5.2 Staff support the proposed changes to clearly outline the methodology and assumptions for Benefit to Existing (BTE) allocations in DC Background Studies, as this will improve transparency and help stakeholders understand how costs are shared between new and existing development.
- 5.3 Staff support the proposed amendment to O. Reg 82/98 to improve transparency in DC Background Studies and establish a new service class for land acquisition costs. As land acquisition becomes a standalone category, municipalities will need to manage separate reserve funds, which could impact financial planning and cash flow.

6. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 6.1 2025-COW-26: Region of Durham Response to Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025

7. Financial Implications

Building Code

- 7.1 Amendments to the Building Code to implement the requirement of an occupancy permit and allowing municipalities to withhold occupancy permits until DCs are paid gives municipalities a mechanism to ensure DCs are collected.
- a. By linking development charge (DC) payments to occupancy permits, the changes enhance payment certainty, reduce the risk of unpaid DCs being passed on to homebuyers, and improve municipal administration and transparency. While the proposal may introduce some administrative costs for both the Region and homebuilders and potential occupancy delays if DCs are unpaid, these impacts are expected to be minimal.

Bill 60

- 7.2 Changes that allow municipalities to merge the water and wastewater service categories for the purpose of credits may impact municipal cash flow by drawing from reserve funds allocated to other services.

Bill 17

- 7.3 The implementation date for DCs for all non-rental residential development to be paid at the earlier of an occupancy permit or occupancy will have cash flow implications for municipalities.
- a. Shifting DC collection from the time of building permit issuance to occupancy, often a delay of 1 to 3+ years depending on the building type, will significantly reduce the Region's near-term cash flow. DC revenues are a key funding source for capital projects that support new development. This delay in collection means less cash is available upfront to build infrastructure outlined in the capital plan. If not addressed, the shortfall could limit the Region's ability to deliver critical infrastructure on schedule, potentially impacting growth and service delivery.
- b. Preliminary analysis suggests that deferring to occupancy can reduce reserve funds to near zero levels in short order, which could significantly reduce the infrastructure being delivered in the near term.

8. Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

- a. Connected and Vibrant Communities
 - C1. Align Regional infrastructure and asset management with projected growth, climate impacts, and community needs.
- b. 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.
 - R3. Develop, attract, and support a skilled and qualified workforce, including youth and newcomers.

8.2 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.
- b. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.

9. Conclusion

9.1 Staff are seeking Council's endorsement of the Region's feedback on the proposed changes to Ontario Regulation 163/24 under the Building Code Act, 1992,

9.2 Given that changes from Bill 17 relating to the deferral of the collection of DCs to occupancy for all non-rental residential development, staff also recommend ending the existing Regional Medium and High-Density Residential Deferral Program due to it now being redundant.

10. Attachments

Attachment #1: Region of Durham Feedback on Ontario Regulatory Registry Proposal 25-MMAH01: 10172025 - Region of Durham - MMAH - 25-MMAH016 Submission - signed.pdf

Attachment #2: Region of Durham Feedback on Bill 60 and Region of Durham Feedback on outstanding Bill 17 items

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

N. Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance

Original Signed By

Sandra Austin
Commissioner of Community Growth and
Economic Development

Original Signed By

Ramesh Jagannathan, MBA, M.Eng.
P.Eng., PTOE
Commissioner of Works

Original Signed By

Jason Hunt
Commissioner of Legal Services &
Regional Solicitor

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original Signed By

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Sent via email: minister.mah@ontario.ca



October 17, 2025

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**
Office of the Chief
Administrative Officer

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 5
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

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

durham.ca

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
B.M. Edu, MBA
Chief Administrative
Officer

Dear Minister Flack:

RE: Ontario Regulatory Registry Proposal 25-MMAH016

The Regional Municipality of Durham shares the Province's goal of increasing housing supply, and we are committed to working together to find collaborative solutions to address housing affordability. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to O. Reg 163/24 under the *Building Code Act, 1992* to require occupancy permits for non-rental residential buildings and provide the chief building official (CBO) the authority to withhold occupancy permits until the municipality confirms that deferred Development Charges (DCs) have been paid in full.

Please find the attached comments from Regional staff in response to the Province's consultations on proposed changes to O. Reg 163/24 under the *Building Code Act, 1992*.

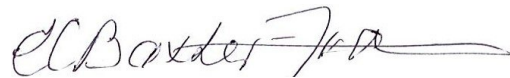
Changes to O. Reg 163/24 – Key Messages

- **Linking DC Collection to Occupancy Permits:** Regional staff support using occupancy permits as a practical enforcement tool for DC collection and recommend legislative amendments to explicitly include Regional DCs and allow local councils to set deferral timing as a temporary measure to manage cash flow impacts and support housing delivery.
- **Establishing First Occupancy as the Payment Trigger:** Tying DCs to first occupancy provides a consistent, efficient collection trigger aligned with municipal workflows and simplifies phased development tracking and protects infrastructure funding.
- **Extending Inspection Timelines for Deferred DCs:** Regional staff support extending the prescribed inspection timeline from 2

to 10 days, to improve coordination, payment verification, and reduce occupancy delays.

- **Public Education:** Regional staff support creating educational materials for homeowners and builders to explain the occupancy process, DC deferrals, and municipal roles.³
- **Transit Station Charges:** In addition to the proposed changes, staff recommend amending the Ontario Building Code's definition of "Applicable Law" to include section 9 of the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023, enabling chief building officials to withhold building permits if Transit Station Charges remain unpaid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Baxter-Trahair', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment 1: Comments on RR 25-MMAH016

Attachment 1 – Region of Durham submission regarding proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 163/24 (the Building Code) (25-MMAH016)

Summary and Comments in support of proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 163/24 (the Building Code)

RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments to be recommended to Council for endorsement
<p>25-MMAH016 October 3, 2025 to October 17, 2025</p> <p>www.regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca/proposal/51914</p>	<p>(1) Practical considerations for requiring and withholding occupancy permits where DCs are deferred under s. 26.1(3.1) of the DCA (including documentation of payment and municipal processes).</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are supportive of the proposed approach, as it provides a practical mechanism to ensure that Development Charges (DCs) are collected without relying on securities or other financial guarantees in situations where occupancy permits are required. • To strengthen the effectiveness of the legislation, staff recommend that the legislation explicitly includes DCs applicable to regional municipalities, which are collected by the area municipalities on behalf of the Region. • Staff also acknowledge the negative impact that payment at first occupancy will have on the municipal cash flow from development charges which may require adjustment to the timing of municipal capital investment, particularly in the services of water and sewer which are required to enable much needed housing supply. Thus, it is recommended that the decision to defer payment of DCs to first occupancy be a local decision of each Council and a temporary measure to address the current economic challenges. • That the proposed changes to the Building Code to require the CBO to withhold issuing the occupancy permit until the municipality confirms the deferred DCs have been paid apply to residential DC deferral agreements executed under section 27 of the DCA which defer payment of residential DCs to occupancy. Some municipalities have already proceeded to enter into section 27 agreements with developers to defer the payment of residential DCs to occupancy and may have required securities to ensure payment. If the proposed changes to the Building Code applied to these recently executed section 27 agreements, this would enable municipalities to return the securities. <p>Staff Comments (regarding Transit Station Charges):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff also recommend parallel amendments to the definition of “Applicable Law” under the Ontario Building Code, to include s. 9 of the <i>GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023</i>. This would allow the chief building official (CBO) to withhold the building permit if the developer has not paid a Transit Station Charge, as applicable.

<p>25-MMAH016 October 3, 2025 to October 17, 2025</p> <p>www.regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca/proposal/51914</p>	<p>(2) Treatment of phased or partial occupancy.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff recommend that DCs be tied to the date of first occupancy. This approach offers a clear and consistent trigger for initiating the DC payment schedule, reducing ambiguity and administrative challenges. First occupancy is a well-established milestone that municipalities already monitor for other regulatory purposes, making it both practical and efficient to align DC collection with existing workflows. • Linking DCs to first occupancy also simplifies the implementation in phased developments, where tracking multiple occupancy events can be complex and resource intensive. A uniform trigger ensures consistent application across all developments, promoting fairness and transparency. • Municipalities rely on timely DC payments to fund infrastructure and services that support growing communities. Delaying DC collection beyond first occupancy would have an even greater negative impact on municipal cashflows.
<p>25-MMAH016 October 3, 2025 to October 17, 2025</p> <p>www.regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca/proposal/51914</p>	<p>(3) Whether there is support for extending the time for municipalities to complete a prescribed inspection to permit occupancy from 2 days after receipt of the notice to 10 days after receipt of the notice where DCs have been deferred.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our understanding based on dialogue with our local municipal counterparts is that the proposed extension of the prescribed inspection timeline from 2 days to 10 days where DCs have been deferred under s. 26.1(3.1) of the Development Charges Act would be helpful. Extending the timeline would provide municipalities with greater flexibility to coordinate inspections alongside the administrative requirements associated with deferring DCs to occupancy. In particular, the additional time would allow staff to verify payment status, ensure that all the required documentation is collected, and facilitate coordination between the regional and area municipal staff. This would help ensure a smooth and compliant transition to occupancy for homeowners while reducing the risk of delays.

<p>25-MMAH016 October 3, 2025 to October 17, 2025</p> <p>www.regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca/proposal/51914</p>	<p>(4) Any consequential improvements to occupancy related provisions and other supports (e.g., templates for occupancy permits or prescribed notices, homebuyer and builder education) that would improve consistency and transparency and minimize disruption for homebuyers.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff support the creation of educational materials for homeowners and builders that clearly explain the occupancy process, the implications of DC deferrals under s. 26.1(3.1), the reporting of the use of DC revenue and the role of municipalities in verifying payment and issuing permits. These resources could be made available through provincial, municipal, and building association webpages.
---	---

Sent via email: minister.mah@ontario.ca



[November 6, 2025]

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**
Office of the Chief
Administrative Officer

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 5
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

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

durham.ca

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
B.M. Edu, MBA
Chief Administrative
Officer

Dear Minister Flack:

RE: Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 (Bill 60)

The Regional Municipality of Durham shares the Province's goal of increasing housing supply, and we are committed to working together to find collaborative solutions to address housing affordability. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation and have enclosed a comprehensive set of remarks prepared by Regional staff which will be recommended for endorsement at the Regional Council meeting on November 26, 2025.

Please find the attached comments from Regional staff in response to the Province's consultations on proposed changes under the *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 (Bill 60)*.

Changes to the Development Charges Act – Key Messages

- **Improving Transparency:** We welcome proposed changes to that strengthen clarity in Development Charge calculations, including the creation of a new service class for land acquisition and requirements to disclose Benefit to Existing (BTE) methodologies.
- **Land Acquisition:** Establishing land as its own service class will require municipalities to manage separate reserve funds, which may impact financial planning and cash flow.
- **Local Service Policies & DC Credits:** Staff support granting municipalities independence to define local service policies and discretion to merge service areas for DC credits. This flexibility will allow local solutions while continuing to advance growth-related infrastructure.

Changes related to the Planning Act – Key Messages

- **Municipal Autonomy:** It is important to continue to allow the municipalities to determine the designation types, structure, schedules and length of official plans to allow for local planners to best respond to the needs of the community. Each municipality in the province has unique challenges, and planning documents should be allowed to reflect and react to local circumstances.
- **Development Standards:** Staff encourage the province to maintain broad-based standards within OPs, along with maintaining secondary plans and allowing for enhanced development standards. Removing these standards may lead to uncoordinated development, increased stakeholder conflicts, and significant infrastructure challenges (e.g., overload/underutilization of servicing infrastructure), which all extend development timelines.
- **Community Improvement Plans (CIP):** Staff welcome the proposed changes to the Planning Act allowing the Region to continue to administer the Regional Revitalization Program (RRP) to assist in funding lower-tier CIP projects to help support much needed housing and rental units throughout the Region.
- **Minister’s Zoning Orders:** Staff recommend that any changes to the MZO process respect municipal oversight and allow for meaningful Indigenous engagement.
- **Streamlining Municipal Planning Processes:** Staff are supportive, in principle, of streamlining the tracking of planning data. For infrastructure and service planning purposes, the Region relies on standardization and consistency of data and have committed to working with the area municipalities to achieve standardization in Durham.

Changes related to the Municipal Act – Key Messages

- **Municipal Service Corporations:** Municipalities should decide if a public utility model fits their unique context considering local costs, risks, efficiencies, and housing affordability. Future policy should be informed by practical lessons, such as those from Peel Region, to avoid unintended impacts.

Changes related to the Highway Traffic Act – Key Messages

- **Balanced Transportation Planning:** Staff recommend that the Province reconsider the full prohibition on reducing vehicle lanes for new bicycle lanes, advocating for a case-by-case approval process and clear criteria to allow municipalities flexibility in

achieving climate, safety, and mobility goals while collaborating with the Province to advance active transportation infrastructure.

Changes related to GO Station Funding Act and Transit-Oriented Communities Act – Key Messages

- **Flexibility in Transit-Oriented Development and Funding:**
Staff support legislative changes that enhance municipal flexibility in transit station funding and project reporting, while emphasizing the need for clear guidance on charge collection timing, advisory panel roles, and reporting responsibilities, especially within two-tier municipal frameworks, to ensure effective, locally responsive implementation.

Housing is the foundation of our communities. Delivering a strong supply of new homes requires well-aligned processes and a shared commitment to collaboration across many sectors. To support this growth, our communities must be thoughtfully planned, properly financed, and fully serviced, with impacts carefully managed.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the recommendations outlined in this letter and the detailed comments provided in the attached documents, as we work together towards our shared goal of increasing housing supply across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment 1: Comments on 25-MMAH018 (Development Charges Act)

Attachment 2: Comments on 25-MTO0019 and 025-1071 (Highway Traffic Act)

Attachment 3: Comments on 025-1140 (Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act)

Attachment 4: Comments on 025-1098 (Municipal Act)

Attachment 5: Comments on 025-1097 (Planning Act)

Attachment 6: Comments on 025-1099 (Planning Act)

Attachment 7: Comments on 025-1035 (Building Transit Faster Act)

Attachment 8: Comments on 025-0900 and 025-0899 (Ontario Water Resources Act)

Attachment 9: Comments on 025-0872 (Environmental Protection Act)

Attachment 10: Comments on 025-1182 (GO Transit Stations Funding Act, Transit-Oriented Communities Act)

Attachment 11: Comments on 025-1100 (Planning Act)

Attachment 12: Comments on 025-1101 (Planning Act)

Attachment 13: Comments on 25-MMAH030 (Development Charges Act)

Attachment 1 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (25-MMAH018)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60.

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought on November 26, 2025)
<p>25-MMAH018 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Changes to the Development Charges Act, 1997 to Enhance Standardization and Streamlining of the Development Charge (DC) Framework regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p>	<p>(1) Land acquisition costs for most DC-eligible services must be included in a new service class, exempt from historic service level limits, to better reflect their impact on development charges.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support the proposed approach to enhance transparency by introducing a new land acquisition service class and removing historical level of service restrictions. • While the 10-year forecast limitation will apply to most services, it does not apply to water, wastewater, stormwater, roads, transit and police services. Since these are primarily regional services, the overall impact on the Region is expected to be limited. • Since land acquisition costs will become its own service class, municipalities will need to manage separate reserve funds for land costs, which could affect financial planning and cashflow.
<p>25-MMAH018 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Changes to the Development Charges Act, 1997 to Enhance Standardization and Streamlining of the Development Charge (DC) Framework regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p>	<p>(2) Municipalities must establish Local Service Policies (LSPs) for each Development Charges Act service partially provided as a local service to clarify cost eligibility and reduce development delays.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support the proposal to require municipalities to establish Local Service Policies (LSPs) and support allowing municipalities to define what constitutes a local service. • If a LSP removes certain projects, the DC Background Study and by-law would need to be amended. In cases where this amendment results in a lower DC rate, it is recommended that the simplified process for reducing charges under s. 19(3.1) of the <i>Development Charges Act (DCA), 1997</i> be applied.

<p>25-MMAH018 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Changes to the Development Charges Act, 1997 to Enhance Standardization and Streamlining of the Development Charge (DC) Framework regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p>	<p>(3) Municipalities must submit DC financial statements to council by June 30 and to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing by July 15 to improve transparency.</p> <p>Staff Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff support the proposed approach to enhance transparency by requiring timely submission of DC financial statements and related documents.• The Region already publishes the Treasurer’s Statements through a Council Information Package (CIP), and it is posted on the Region’s DC webpage (https://www.durham.ca/en/doing-business/development-charges.aspx#Annual-Treasurers-Statement). We support the requirement provided that a publicly available information report continues to be recognized as the formal submission to Council to ensure flexibility in reporting requirements and avoid unnecessary administrative burdens while maintaining transparency.
--	--

Attachment 2 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (25-MTO0019 and 025-1071)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought on November 26, 2025)
<p>25-MTO0019 and 025-1071 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 - Modern Transportation - Prohibiting Vehicle Lane Reduction for New Bicycle Lanes regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Modern Transportation – Prohibiting Vehicle Lane Reduction for New Bicycle Lanes Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Amendments to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) that would prohibit municipalities from reducing motor vehicle lanes when installing, implementing or marking new bicycle lanes.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an upper-tier municipality, the proposed amendment has limited direct impact on the Region. Most of the cycling infrastructure on Regional roads is planned as part of road widening or reconstruction projects, which do not require reducing the number of marked lanes. There are also standalone cycling projects not tied to road widening or reconstruction that address gaps in the network, and these projects are not currently planned to reduce the number of marked lanes either. However, we are concerned that this policy direction would have broader implications for advancing active transportation and achieving broader provincial and municipal climate, safety and mobility goals. It also limits design alternatives for a future road widening or reconstruction project, as a conversion from a general purpose lane to a bicycle lane could be evaluated as a feasible alternative in a corridor study but would have to be precluded with this legislation in place. • While we acknowledge the intent to maintain efficient vehicle movement, a balanced approach is necessary. Municipalities should retain the ability to determine how best to allocate road space based on local needs, traffic conditions and long-term planning objectives. • We respectfully recommend that the Province reconsider Section 195.3 (1) as it places a full prohibition on installing bicycle lanes through a reduction in the number of marked lanes. Preferably, the Region would prefer this and related sections to be removed altogether, but if such as policy were to remain in principle, it should be revised to address the following considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain a case-by-case approval or exemption process under the Highway Traffic Act. ○ Provide clear criteria for when lane reductions may be permitted to support active transportation objectives. ○ Continue collaboration with municipalities to achieve both mobility efficiency and safety for all road users.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The above alternative approaches would better support both the Region’s goals of advancing active and sustainable transportation infrastructure and achieving mode share targets, along with the Province’s stated goals of keeping people moving regardless of travel mode.
<p>25-MTO0019 and 025-1071 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 - Modern Transportation - Prohibiting Vehicle Lane Reduction for New Bicycle Lanes regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Modern Transportation – Prohibiting Vehicle Lane Reduction for New Bicycle Lanes Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(2) Create regulation-making authorities to allow the Minister to prescribe additional prohibited activities and to provide exemptions from the prohibition.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term “[a]ny other prescribed purpose” is not defined in Section 193 (1). This could include activities such as converting general-purpose motor vehicle lanes to dedicated bus-only lanes, on-street parking, or High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. The Durham Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and the Region’s Capital Budget Forecast have identified several corridors where road widening from 4/5 lanes to 6/7 lanes is identified for curbside HOV lanes. The Durham TMP also recommends that these HOV lanes could be converted to bus only lanes in future depending on future transit levels of service. These are allowed under this section. The proposed section, however, precludes the option for the Region to widen a road to have general purpose lanes initially, and then converting one of those lanes per direction to HOV or bus only lanes. Presumably, the proposed section also limits the potential for municipalities to convert a general purpose lane into on-street parking, which may be desirable within an Urban Growth Centre, Major Transit Station Area or other Strategic Growth Area. While the Region does not currently plan to add on-street parking on Regional roads, this section would preclude it to do so in future if deemed necessary. The Region would welcome participation in any working groups formed to determine what the “any other prescribed purpose” would entail for additional prohibited activities, as well as review potential exemptions from the prohibition.
<p>25-MTO0019 and 025-1071 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 - Modern Transportation - Prohibiting Vehicle Lane</p>	<p>(3) Amendments would provide the Minister with greater discretion when determining municipal reimbursement for the existing bicycle lane review framework (related to requested information and support).</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p>

<p>Reduction for New Bicycle Lanes regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Modern Transportation – Prohibiting Vehicle Lane Reduction for New Bicycle Lanes Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No comment.
--	---

Attachment 3 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-1140)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought on November 26, 2025)
<p>ERO 025-1140 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Supporting the Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Proposed amendments to the PTHIA, if passed, would allow the Minister to require technical, industry, and municipal input regarding standards and construction and design matters upon request.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments.
<p>ERO 025-1140 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Supporting the Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(2) Proposed amendments would also allow the Minister to make a regulation to govern contracts pertaining to road and bridge construction (including contracts between municipalities and third-party contractors), establish reporting requirements, and establish a process for requesting an exemption from a standard.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments.

Attachment 4 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-1098)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought on November 26, 2025)
<p>ERO 025-1098 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed amendments to the Municipal Act, 2001 to transfer jurisdiction over water and wastewater to the lower-tier municipalities in Peel Region and a standalone statute to authorize the establishment of water and wastewater public corporations Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Legislative amendments to the <i>Municipal Act, 2001</i> to transfer jurisdiction over water and wastewater to the lower-tier municipalities in Peel Region and the introduction of a new standalone statute to authorize the establishment of water and wastewater corporations</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities are best positioned to determine whether a public corporate utility model is appropriate for their unique circumstances. Decisions should consider local costs, risks, efficiencies, and household affordability rather than applying a uniform provincial approach. • The province should use lessons learned from the changes in Peel Region to inform any future work. This approach ensures that regulatory changes are based on practical experience and data, minimizing unintended impacts. • While corporate utility models may offer benefits in certain contexts, they can also introduce additional regulatory costs and risk higher household rates. Existing municipal and regional systems have already achieved significant efficiencies and accountability through local governance and public input processes. • While MSCs may enhance financial flexibility, especially for smaller municipalities, the benefits are likely more limited for large regional systems like Durham, which already achieve economies of scale, and include multi-regional partnerships which further increase broader system efficiencies.

Attachment 5 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-1097)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought on November 26, 2025)
<p>ERO 025-1097 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the Planning Act (Schedule 10 of Bill 60 - the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Minor Variances (As-of-right Variations from Performance Standards)</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per our submission on Bill 17 (June 4, 2025), while the Region is not primarily responsible for reviewing or commenting on minor variances, the associated development may have the potential to impact Regional infrastructure. There may be instances where setback requirements are established based on recommendations from technical studies in order to accommodate the Region’s ability to plan for, provide, and assess the impacts to municipal water and wastewater servicing, Regional transportation networks, waste management, and/or source water protection. Therefore, the Region requests that minor variance applications that impact Regional infrastructure be exempt from the proposed as-of-right provisions.
<p>ERO 025-1097 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the Planning Act (Schedule 10 of Bill 60 - the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(2) Policy Statements and Minister’s Decisions</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the Region’s submission on Bill 17 (June 4, 2025), the rationale for allowing the Minister’s decisions to supersede provincial policy tests is to allow for a faster, more predictable approvals process for new housing development. This change could allow development in areas that are not currently available for housing development under provincial policy, such as certain environmental features and/or employment areas. It could also result in potential alterations to provincial policy around settlement area boundary expansions, delineated MTSA boundaries, etc. Regional staff are concerned that the potential to forego provincial policy direction would result in non-conforming land uses for area municipal official plans and could lead to a loss of local autonomy related to planning decisions, or a reduction in environmental or community impact safeguards as set out in provincial policy. This could impact growth forecasting and infrastructure planning efforts if sizable areas of land are added into settlement areas or approved for development without paying heed to long range infrastructure and land use planning based on forecast land needs.

<p>ERO 025-1097 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the Planning Act (Schedule 10 of Bill 60 - the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Minister’s Zoning Orders</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through Report #2020-P-30, which was a response to the November 25, 2020, Notice of Motion regarding Minister’s Zoning Orders, the Region previously expressed concerns about how MZO’s have been implemented and the lack of municipal oversight resulting from these provincial decisions. • These concerns include: conformity to provincial policy; effects on the surrounding area; the completion of technical studies; environmental impact of the development; and, the impact on Regional infrastructure. • It is imperative that any changes to the MZO process respect municipal oversight and allow for meaningful Indigenous engagement including, not limited to Duty to Consult taking into consideration of the potential impacts on municipalities and Indigenous communities and treaty rights of Indigenous communities.
<p>ERO 025-1097 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the Planning Act (Schedule 10 of Bill 60 - the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Protected Major Transit Station Areas (PMTSA)</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional staff are generally supportive and do not have any concerns with this proposed change.
<p>ERO 025-1097 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the Planning Act (Schedule 10 of Bill 60 - the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Community Improvement Plans (CIPs)</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2008, the Region of Durham has administered its Regional Revitalization Program (RRP), which is a partnership between the Region and participating area municipalities that aims to strategically target Regional investment towards key areas that advance the goals of achieving positive economic and community objectives and support development that would not otherwise proceed without municipal financial assistance. • Pursuant to Bill 23, upper-tier municipalities without planning responsibilities (such as Durham Region) no longer had the legislative authority under s. 28(7.2) of the Planning Act to provide

grants and loans that assist in funding the programs of the lower-tier municipalities' CIPs. This appears to have been an unintended consequence of Bill 23.

- Therefore, Regional staff welcome these proposed changes to resolve the above noted issue, which will allow the Region to continue to administer the RRP and help fund much needed housing and rental units throughout the Region.
- It is important that [O. Reg. 550/06](#) continue to allow for upper-tier community improvement plans to deal with matters of regional interest such as transit corridors and active transportation networks.

Attachment 6 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-1099)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought on November 26, 2025)
<p>ERO 025-1099 October 23, 2025 – December 22, 2025 (60 days)</p> <p>Consultation on simplifying and standardizing official plans Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Official Plan Structure and Contents</p> <p>What is your perspective on the changes being considered to simplify and standardize the structure and contents of official plans?</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per the Region’s comments on Bill 17, submitted on June 11 2025, while consistency and certainty in the development process are important, municipal interests differ across the province. This proposal will result in a loss of municipal autonomy and control related to specific development-related concerns. • It is important to continue to allow municipalities to determine what designation, structure and studies may be necessary to allow for local planners to best respond to the needs of the community. • In terms of specific changes to the proposed structure, the Natural Heritage/Water Resources should be a standalone chapter. By including this topic with Agriculture and Mineral Resources, as proposed, the importance of environmental protection/conservation is diluted. • Lastly, the climate change and sustainability policies should be included within the ‘General Policies’ section because they are applicable to all other policy sections. <p>What distinctions should be made between the content of upper and lower-tier official plans? What considerations should apply in municipalities where the upper-tier official plan acts as the lower-tier official plan?</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where lower-tier official plans (OPs) are in place, upper-tier OPs could be scoped to matters that are cross-jurisdictional, impacting multiple lower-tiers and/or neighbouring municipalities to the upper-tier municipality. For example, cross-jurisdictional matters of upper-tier interest would include, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transportation networks, including Transit, TOD, and Regional ROW requirements; ○ Water and wastewater (sewage) servicing;

- Growth modelling to support regional infrastructure and service planning, such as the above noted long-term transportation and water/wastewater needs;
- Assisted housing, where the upper-tier is the Service Manager under the Housing Services Act, 2011; and
- Broad-based regional systems planning, such as Natural Heritage and Agricultural Systems. This should include provincial systems planning, such as the Greenbelt Plan Area and Oak Ridges Moraine.

What is your perspective on limiting development standards in official plans? To what extent should development standards be set out in official plans vs in zoning by-laws?

Staff Comments:

- The hierarchical nature of OPs and zoning by-laws (ZBL) is a foundational concept in land use planning in Ontario. OPs should continue to provide development standards, where required to either conform to a provincial plan or policy, or where that standard applies across an OP designation or multiple designations, examples may include setbacks established within the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan; requirements for noise or vibration studies; etc.
- Maintaining broad-based standards within OPs and not transferring all development standards to the detailed level of the ZBL, will help maintain [or reduce] the amount of duplication that would be necessary within a zoning by-law.

What is your perspective on the changes being considered regarding secondary plans and site-specific policies? Are there other ways to address these policies?

Staff Comments:

- Secondary plans are used to coordinate multiple stakeholders within a plan area, align growth with infrastructure, and engage residents on the specifics of how their communities will change.
- Prohibiting the use of secondary plans could lead to uncoordinated development, increased stakeholder conflicts, and significant infrastructure challenges (e.g., overload/underutilization), which all extend development timelines.

What is your perspective on the number and types of standardized schedules, overlays and data proposed to be required? Should any be removed, or are there any other schedules that could help improve official plans?

Staff Comments:

- Additional information is needed on what is intended by an “Estimate of Market Need” in Schedule A1, including clarification on the format (i.e. data table, mapping, etc.). In general, market “need” may not represent a practical or achievable development scenario. As a result, this information is better suited to technical background study that help inform the OP’s policies.
- Schedule C3 should not be titled ‘human made hazards’, rather it should simply be aggregate resource mapping. Additionally, individual pits and quarries should not be included as these sites are licensed and surrendered faster than OP mapping can be updated. Alternatively, OP readers should be directed to the Ministry of Natural Resources’ [Pits and Quarries Online](#) website for information about individual licenses.
- Schedule C4 should explicitly map prime agricultural areas, along with other elements of the agricultural system. It is important to protect prime agricultural areas separately from other uses considered as part of the agricultural system in order to maintain a productive land base for primary agricultural production and to discourage land uses that would sterilize prime agricultural lands.
- Schedule D1 should not be mapped within OPs. These are sensitive areas, and the data should be protected, not publicized. These areas could contain Indigenous cultural heritage places or objects, and are vulnerable to damage and theft.
- Some of the datasets required to build the environmental/water resources maps are vast and, if layered on a single map, are confusing to interpret. It is recommended that multiple maps be used to display this information.

Other Staff Comments:

- To support the province’s stated initiative of streamlining municipal application processes by leveraging platforms and municipal data tracking IT solutions to improve the efficiency of land use planning, efforts should include the digitization of the proposed standardized schedules, overlays and data to increase usability by a wide range of audiences.
- In relation to the proposed Chapter 4, as per the Region’s submission on changes to the Provincial Planning Statement (Report #2023-P-13), it is recommended that the province require that settlement area boundary expansions be permitted only at the time of a comprehensive official plan review or update, informed by a standardized methodology. Within a regional context, the implications of infrastructure and servicing on settlement area boundary expansions collectively, should rest with upper-tier municipalities as the jurisdiction responsible for the infrastructure and servicing, regardless of planning approval responsibility.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, it is recommended that the province require municipalities to develop population and employment forecasts to a common 25 or 30-year time horizon based on a standard methodology provided by the province
<p>ERO 025-1099 October 23, 2025 – December 22, 2025 (60 days)</p> <p>Consultation on simplifying and standardizing official plans Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(2) Limiting the Length of Official Plans</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <p>What is your perspective on the changes being considered to limit the length of official plans?</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language within the Provincial Planning Statement states that the policies of the PPS represent minimum standards. Planning authorities may go beyond these minimum standards to address matters of importance to a specific community. Municipalities should therefore be granted the flexibility to do just that without being constrained by page/word limits. • Rather than broadly limiting the length of all OPs through page and word limits, if there are instances where the province can work collaboratively with a municipality to reduce the size or redundancy within its specific OP, that would be a preferable approach. • Accessibility must remain a priority. Visual elements—such as maps, charts, and graphics—should not be excluded/reduced solely to limit page count, as they are essential for effectively conveying spatial and conceptual information to diverse audiences. <p>Should there be different limits placed on different types of municipalities (e.g., based on population size)?</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Ontario municipalities are regulated by a high volume of complex, overlapping provincial land use planning legislation, policy and plans, such as the PPS, Greenbelt Plan, ORMCP, Niagara Escarpment Plan, etc. These plans often take precedence over OPs, wherein the OPs need to reflect and conform to these provincial requirements. As a result, the OPs for these geographies are naturally going to be larger, more complex documents. <p>Are there other approaches that could be used to limit the length of official plans?</p>

	<p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardizing official plan chapters, as proposed in ERO 025-1099, may help to align official plan lengths across the province. <p>Other Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official plans set out the long-term goals and policies for land use and growth in a municipality. They are intended to reflect both best practices in planning, as well as the community’s collective vision for their community. A document of this scope, scale and importance should not be capped by relatively arbitrary page or word limitations. Furthermore, reduced length does not translate to a more efficient or effective guidance document.
<p>ERO 025-1099 October 23, 2025 – December 22, 2025 (60 days)</p> <p>Consultation on simplifying and standardizing official plans Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(3) Creating Permissive Land Use Designations</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <p>What is your perspective on the changes being considered to standardize the number and type of land use designations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Comments: The proposed change to standardize the number and type of land use designation does not take into account the differences and complexities between municipalities in Ontario. By creating boilerplate designations, it reduces autonomy and the ability for municipalities to be responsive to the development needs in their community. For example, the flexibility needed to encourage growth in downtown Oshawa is vastly different than supporting more rural areas of Durham Region. Municipalities must be able to have the autonomy to create official plans that work for their communities in order to recognize local priorities while still supporting housing goals. <p>Would standardized land use designations between upper-tier and lower-tier official plan improve clarity? Where are the opportunities to reduce duplication between the upper and lower-tier official plans in land use designations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Comments: Prior to Bill 23, there was already substantial coordination and clarity between Durham’s upper-tier and lower-tier official plans; the upper-tier official plan set broad land use permissions and overarching policies for a broad set of land uses (e.g. Community Areas, Employment Areas, Major Open Space), and these were implemented locally and refined into

locally-appropriate, more specific designations such as Medium Density Residential, Mixed Use, Major Commercial, etc.

Are there additional designations that would be required? Are there opportunities to streamline or further combine some of the proposed designations (e.g. Residential I and II, and Mixed Use I and II)?

- No Comment

Are there implications to making land use designations more streamlined and permissive?

- **Staff Comments:** The Region supports efforts to streamline the approvals process in Ontario when it does not come at the expense of safeguarding against environmental and community impacts (as noted in Report #2025-CG-07 on May 28, 2025).
- **Staff Comments:** There will inevitably be local factors that require several site-specific restrictions and permissions. Therefore, it is important that municipalities retain the ability to control area-specific land use permissions based on local needs.

Are there land use designation terminology or descriptions that would be easier to understand?

- **Staff Comments:** If the intent is to standardize land uses within each designation, explicitly defining terms/uses will be required to support consistency in OP interpretation and implementation.

Other Staff Comments:

- Having separate official plans for each lower-tier municipality without a unified, overarching upper-tier official plan is bound to result in different policy directions and interpretations between adjacent municipalities.
- The “Agricultural Areas” designation should be changed to “Prime Agricultural Areas”. The basis for mapping in the rural area should be preservation of Prime Agricultural lands, and the relevant permissions associated with them. As such, the “Rural Areas” designation being established here should clarify that it is only available on lands not considered Prime Agriculture by provincial mapping.
- Based on the proposed changes, it is unclear where major recreational uses (e.g., golf courses) will be permitted.
- The Natural Heritage designation should be for the protection, restoration and enhancement of ecological features and functions. Permissions should not be expanded within this designation.

ERO 025-1099 October 23, 2025 – December 22, 2025 (60 days)

[Consultation on simplifying and standardizing official plans | Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

(4) Transitioning to a New Framework

Discussion Questions:

What is your perspective on the changes being considered to transition to a standardized official plan framework?

Staff Comments:

- The land use planning system in Ontario has been in a near-constant state of flux for several years, largely a result of several omnibus bills, such as Bill 23, Bill 185, this Bill 60, etc., each proposing sweeping changes to the Planning Act.
- These changes create uncertainty and require municipalities to continually adapt their planning frameworks, often amid an OP review/update, zoning by-law consolidation, or other major initiative. As a result, both upper- and lower-tier municipalities are in a continuous cycle of pivoting their efforts and "catching up" to major legislative changes. This has resulted in the inability for local municipalities to focus efforts on zoning by-law updates.
- In the near term, these proposed changes would continue to perpetuate this cycle of changes; over the mid to longer term, there is little evidence that these changes would help alleviate or resolve this cycle.

What is a realistic implementation timeline for your municipality to update its official plan to comply with a standardized framework (e.g., structure, land use designations, page/word limits), and why? Please consider staffing, council cycles, data/mapping updates, public engagement, and statutory review requirements in your response.

Staff Comments:

- Pursuant to Bill 23, the Region of Durham no longer has the responsibility of preparing an official plan. However, given our recent experience with Envision Durham – the municipal comprehensive review of the former Regional OP, creating a new OP is a highly consultative, time- and resource-intensive undertaking.
- Furthermore, several of the Region's lower-tier municipalities are already in advanced stages of their respective OP Reviews, which include integrating Envision Durham and provincial conformity exercises (i.e. PPS 2024).
- While it's reasonable to assume that considerable amounts of the work completed to date could be incorporated into the proposed new framework – pivoting efforts, resources and re-engaging stakeholders and the public, as well as other matters such as educating councils and interested

	<p>parties on the changes being proposed, would most likely take the average municipality over two years to execute.</p> <p>How can the province best support municipalities in transitioning to a simplified and harmonized official plan framework?</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be helpful for the Province to provide guidance and recommendations for data modeling and workflows. Specifically, the Region of Durham would like clarification on the recommended naming conventions for field names, attributes and coded values.
<p>ERO 025-1099 October 23, 2025 – December 22, 2025 (60 days)</p> <p>Consultation on simplifying and standardizing official plans Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(5) Submission of Official Plans through Online Portal</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <p>Do you support the move toward allowing submission of official plan information and documents through an online portal? Why or why not?</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional staff support the proposed transition towards an online portal. • Currently, submissions must be made in both hard copy and in digital form. The use of an online portal would expedite this process, reducing hard copy printing, delivery and longer-term storage costs. <p>What benefits and/or risks do you foresee from transitioning to submission through an online portal?</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary benefits include speed, cost and ease of delivery. • There may be an opportunity to combine spatial information (i.e. Official Plan Schedules) into a combined land use mapping dashboard for greater collaboration between municipalities and other stakeholders. • There is a risk that, without a recommended approach to online portals and data continuity, bringing datasets together from multiple sources could have obstacles. • If there is an expectation of creating/submitting interactive web maps, then data sharing agreements and available resources (programs/staff) need to be considered.

October 23, 2025 – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Technical Briefing – Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025

MMAH – Technical Briefing – Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025

Staff Comments:

- As per The Region’s comments on Bill 17 (June 4, 2025), the Region is supportive, in principle, of streamlining the tracking of planning data. For infrastructure and service planning purposes, the Region relies on standardization and consistency of data and have committed to working with the area municipalities to achieve standardization in Durham.
- However, relying on AI to conduct planning reviews may not be appropriate at this time. Development applications are complex in nature, and present unique challenges in relation to the underlying conditions. Achieving positive results in the development review process requires collaboration between a multitude of professionals and stakeholders, which cannot be achieved solely through the use of AI.
- Standardized application data is currently being reported to the province by prescribed single-tier and lower-tier municipalities as per the Municipal Planning Data Reporting requirements under [O. Reg. 73/23](#). However, this data is also required by upper-tier municipalities to supplement development tracking for growth management and infrastructure planning purposes. The province should use this as a starting point for consulting with municipalities on ways to improve data coordination and standardization.
- Standardizing development planning application requirements and supporting coordinated online application submission platforms may improve coordination, transparency, and efficiency, as well as reduce the amount of municipal staff time required for data entry; this, in turn, helps allow more time for quality control, analysis, and review of the merits of applications.

Attachment 7 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-1035)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought November 26, 2025)
<p>ERO 025-1035 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Amendments to the Building Transit Faster Act, 2020 Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Reducing notice periods for Obstruction Removal and Preview Inspections: The notice period for Obstruction Removal and Preview Inspections to third-party land owners will be reduced from 30 days to 15 days.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>ERO 025-1035 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Amendments to the Building Transit Faster Act, 2020 Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(2) Expanding Corridor Control and Municipal Service and Right of Way Access: Parts II (Corridor Control) and V (Municipal Service and Right of Way Access) of the BTFA will apply not only to construction but also to operations and maintenance of transit projects.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>ERO 025-1035 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Amendments to the Building Transit Faster Act, 2020 Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(3) Expanding the application of Municipal Service and Right of Way Access to other municipal infrastructure: The scope of municipal service and right of way access orders under Part V of the Act will be broadened to include “buildings, bridges, tunnels and life safety systems” which are required for project delivery.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>ERO 025-1035 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Amendments to the Building Transit Faster Act, 2020 Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(4) Expanding Municipal Service and Right of Way Access to add relocation and alteration of, and connections to municipal services, right of way, and infrastructure: Currently Part V of the Act is limited to use, access to and modification of the same.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.

ERO 025-1035 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)

[Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Amendments to the Building Transit Faster Act, 2020 | Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

(5) Providing the Minister the option to delegate its powers under Part V: The Minister will be able to delegate authority to issue municipal service and right of way access orders to Metrolinx, or an MTO official through regulation, upon such delegation conditions as the Minister deems appropriate and depending on the circumstances of the project.

Staff Comments:

- The Ministry currently issues municipal service and right-of-way access orders, which require consultation with municipalities. If this authority is delegated, municipal input could be significantly reduced, raising concerns that local issues may not be adequately considered.

Attachment 8 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-0900 and 025-0899)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought November 26, 2025)
<p>ERO 025-0900 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposal to amend the Ontario Water Resources Act to enable the regulation of additional sewage systems under the Building Code to support construction of on-farm worker housing Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Proposing amendments to the <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i> to allow multiple Building Code sewage systems on a single agricultural property with on-farm housing for workers, up to a cumulative limit of 50,000 litres per day.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments.
<p>ERO 025-0899 October 23, 2025 – December 7, 2025 (45 Days)</p> <p>Policy proposal to regulate additional sewage systems under the Building Code to support construction of on-farm worker housing Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(2) Pre-Consultation: Possible criteria for additional sewage systems to be Building Code regulated</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <p>1. Does the proposed 10 acre (4 hectare) circular clearance from sensitive features, including property lines, greenhouses, etc. strike a reasonable balance between enabling agricultural worker housing and protecting human health, the environment, and neighbouring property values?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments. <p>2. If warranted, for example to account for higher strength sewage or consistency with other land use planning processes, what would be a practical approach to further protecting human health, the environment, and neighbouring property values? Examples could include a hydrogeological assessment; expanding the size of the circular clearance areas from 10 acres to 40 acres for example; or reducing the size of additional individual sewage systems to 2,500 L/d each for example.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Comment: A hydrogeological report would be a good approach but could be a timely and costly requirement and may impede the approvals which these changes are hoping to alleviate. A better approach would be to complete studies prior to updating the Ontario Building Code and establish a conservative measure (either land area or Daily Sewage Flow) that could be prescribed in the Code. This would also assist regulators to ensure there was a timely and consistent approach across the province. <p>3. What maintenance requirements should the proposal consider?</p>

- Staff Comment: The OBC contains maintenance requirements for all sewage systems and requirements for sampling and more stringent maintenance requirements for advanced treatment systems/units. Perhaps requiring advanced treatment for these types of uses/volumes would be helpful to ensure regular maintenance is a requirement.

4. What new or updated guidance could be beneficial towards implementation for applicants; principal authorities; and technical professionals?

Staff Comments:

1. Clear descriptions to ensure a consistent approach to approving these types of applications across the province.
 - What constitutes a migrant farmhouse? Who determines this classification?
 - Are there certain designations a property must have to be subject to this change (e.g. Designated agricultural, currently participating in agricultural activities etc)
2. Guidelines that outline when this new part of the OBC is applicable and when the existing limit of 10000 litres/day on one lot is applicable and if there are limitations on future uses on the lot if this new section of the Code was used for approvals.

Examples:

- If there is an existing use (e.g. dwelling, farm store) does that negate the use of this new change for any migrant farm housing and the existing OBC/OWRA limits apply?
- How do regulators approach an application if there are two migrant farmhouses existing totalling >10 000 litres/day approved under proposed OBC requirements, and the property owner is now proposing another use (e.g. farm store)?

5. What other measures could be taken to protect human health, the environment, and neighbouring property values?

- No comments.

Attachment 9 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-0872)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought November 26, 2025)
<p>ERO 025-0872 October 23, 2025 – December 7, 2025 (45 days)</p> <p>Streamlining environmental permissions for sewage works servicing on-farm worker housing Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) New regulation made under <i>the Environmental Protection Act</i></p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments.
<p>ERO 025-0872 October 23, 2025 – December 7, 2025 (45 days)</p> <p>Streamlining environmental permissions for sewage works servicing on-farm worker housing Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(2) Proposed amendments to <i>Ontario Regulation 287/07</i> made under the <i>Clean Water Act, 2006</i></p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments.

Attachment 10 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-1182)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought November 26, 2025)
<p>ERO 025-1182 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the GO Transit Station Funding Act, Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation Act and Transit-Oriented Communities Act (Schedule 4, 13 and 15 of Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Proposed amendments to the <i>GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023</i> to provide municipalities with greater flexibility in determining when Transit Station Charges are to be paid</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region of Durham has formally expressed its intent to the province to establish a Transit Station Charge (TSC) by-law, enabled through the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023, as a funding tool to contribute towards four new stations along the GO Lakeshore East Extension to Bowmanville. Upon formal confirmation from the province, the Region will be embarking on a TSC Background Study to conduct the analysis and make recommendations on the charge. • The Region of Durham generally supports the proposed changes to align the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023 with the Development Charges Act, 1997, to allow for greater flexibility on the timing of the collection of the TSC, and will incorporate accordingly an analysis of charge collection and financial security in the Background Study. • The proposed Section 7.2 in the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023, provides that the TSC to be collected at occupancy would be determined at an earlier phase, such as site plan approval, zoning by-law amendment approval, or at building permit issuance. It is recommended that provisions similar to subsection 26.2(5)(a) and (b) of the Development Charges Act (DCA), 1997 apply to Section 7.2 of the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023 to align with the language in the DCA.
<p>ERO 025-1182 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the GO Transit Station Funding Act, Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation Act and Transit-Oriented Communities Act (Schedule 4, 13 and 15 of Bill 60 -</p>	<p>(2) Proposed changes to the <i>Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation Act, 2002 (TWRCA)</i> to extend WT’s mandate from 2028 to 2035 with an option to extend up to an additional 5 years and make minor administrative amendments</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable.

<p>Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	
<p>ERO 025-1182 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the GO Transit Station Funding Act, Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation Act and Transit-Oriented Communities Act (Schedule 4, 13 and 15 of Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(3) Proposed amendments to the <i>Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020</i> to enable the establishment of a TOC Advisory Panel</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region is generally supportive of the proposed changes to the Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020, to enable the establishment of a Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Advisory Panel for the purposes of dispute resolution. However, additional information is requested around the membership of the advisory panel, and clarity on the nature of the types of specific matters that the TOC Advisory Panel would address. • In the event that the Minister requires a landowner to enter into an agreement with the municipality to address any matters the Minister considers necessary for the appropriate development of the transit-oriented community land, further clarity is requested in the case of a two-tier municipal framework, whether either the upper- or lower-tier municipality, or both, are required to enter into such an agreement.
<p>ERO 025-1182 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Proposed Changes to the GO Transit Station Funding Act, Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation Act and Transit-Oriented Communities Act (Schedule 4, 13 and 15 of Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(4) Proposed changes to the <i>Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020</i> to give the Minister of Infrastructure authority to require a senior municipal official to provide regular reporting to the Minister on the progress of TOC projects.</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region of Durham generally supports the requirement for municipalities to designate a municipal officer to share information on the implementation of transit-oriented community projects within their jurisdiction. Further clarity is requested in the case of a two-tier municipal framework, on whether a municipal officer should be designated from either the upper- or lower-tier municipality, or both. • Additional clarity is also requested on the nature and type of information that will be required from municipalities as part of the regular reporting on the progress of TOC projects.

Attachment 11 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-1100)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought November 26, 2025)
<p>025-1100 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Consultation on Minimum Lot Sizes</p>	<p>(1) Consultation on Minimum Lot Sizes</p> <p>What are your thoughts on the benefits and/or risks associated with reducing or removing minimum lot size requirements in low-density urban residential areas to encourage gentle density, increase housing supply, broaden housing options and encourage home ownership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Comment: Reducing or removing minimum lot sizes may allow less expensive housing to be developed. This should help provide more affordable housing options, including microhomes/tiny homes. <p>What are best practices observed in other jurisdictions that have introduced minimum lot size reforms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments. <p>Are there any circumstances where having established minimum lot sizes in municipal zoning by-laws for low-density urban residential parcels are absolutely necessary with respect to the provision of transportation, infrastructure, or upholding public health and safety?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Comment: Sufficient space may be required for emergency access to rear yards or accessory structures; however, this should not result in artificially inflated minimum frontage or setbacks if other means exist to access rear yards, such as laneways, walkways, or shared corridors, etc. <p>Given the Ontario context and the government’s permissions for additional residential units, what do you suggest should be the smallest size urban residential lot in terms of lot area, frontage or depth (i.e. six metre frontage, 200 square metre area, etc.) What would be the opportunities and limitations? How would these standards work together?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments. <p>What other zoning requirements or performance standards could be needed to support any reduction or removal of minimum lot size requirements on low-density urban residential parcels (i.e., additional residential units, multiplexes, parking requirements, lot coverage, height and density etc.)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Comment: Allowing up to four units as of right in residential neighbourhoods.

Attachment 12 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (ERO 025-1101)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought November 26, 2025)
<p>025-1101 October 23, 2025 – November 22, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Consultation on Enhanced Development Standards – Lot Level (outside of buildings) Environmental Registry of Ontario</p>	<p>(1) Use of enhanced development standards at the lot level (outside of buildings)</p> <p>What is your interest in and/or experience with the implementation of enhanced development standards at the lot level (outside of buildings)? For example, are you a municipal staff member, homebuilder, planner, Indigenous representative, or member of the public?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Comment: Durham Region staff work with local area municipalities who have green development standards (i.e. Whitby, Ajax, Pickering) that include lot level measures. As an upper-tier government, Durham does not have authority in this area. <p>In your experience, are enhanced development standards applied consistently across municipalities? Please provide examples where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Comment: Enhanced development standards do vary in their criteria and approaches across the province. Staff Comment: Many enhanced development standards are modeled off best practices (i.e., Toronto Green Standard). <p>What types of standards, should municipalities be allowed to apply outside of buildings and how do these requirements maintain the health and safety of the site if at all?</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green development standards are utilized by municipalities to reduce GHG emissions; manage demand on energy and water resources; improve water management; increase greenspace; and improve air quality. They also increase climate resilience; can lower utility costs for residents; create economic opportunities in the green building sector; reduce strain on infrastructure; and improve public health. Municipalities should have the autonomy to apply green development standards that support the implementation of policies and priorities set out within their OPs. Municipalities should be able to apply outdoor green development standards that reduce key climate risks in their jurisdiction (i.e. flood risk, heat stress, severe wind in Durham Region). Example standards include grading, landscaping/trees, downspout disconnection, waterproofing, permeable pavement. These standards improve housing durability and affordability, by reducing

costly future repairs that will be incurred by the homeowner and reduce overall burden on the municipal water infrastructure systems.

- Bicycle parking, transit stops, and publicly-accessible spaces and pathways are important for strategic growth areas to support intensification of existing urban areas into complete communities where there may not be sufficient road width or publicly-owned land available to provide these amenities. It should be up to municipal planning staff to work with their communities and stakeholders to identify local needs and develop locally-appropriate strategies to fulfill those needs.

Do you / your organization have information about the short- and long-term costs of enhanced development standards at the lot level?

- **Staff Comment:** The following tool helps provide more context on the costs of enhanced development standards, specifically around low impact development - Low Impact Development Life Cycle Costing Tool, Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program (STEP) - <https://sustainabletechnologies.ca/lid-lcct/>

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions relating to site plan control or other related subjects?

- **Staff Comment:** The province could adopt or endorse a consistent set of low impact development standards based on best practice (e.g. the STEP manuals) that could be consistently used for tailored application across the province.

Other Staff Comments:

- There are several well-known technical guides that provide consistent design, installation, and inspection guidance for outdoor low impact development that are well-used by municipalities and developers across the province. For example, Sustainable Technology Evaluation Program (STEP) has developed guides and training - <https://sustainabletechnologies.ca/resource-library/water/>
- The selection of outdoor measures used needs to be tailored to the local municipal and site context - they are not a one size fits all solution. Different standards will need to be applied in dense urban, suburban and rural settings, where there are different issues to manage (e.g. water quality, urban flooding, urban heat, lack of permeable surfaces, high ground water, etc.)
- Green standards can support the implementation of energy efficiency measures that can help to reduce energy demand across the province.

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some green development standards include low-cost, passive design measures that could be easily integrated into regular practices while improving stormwater management, energy efficiency, and mitigating heat island effect (i.e. swales, cool roofs, trees for shading, etc.) |
|--|--|

Attachment 13 – Region of Durham Submission on Bill 60 (25-MMAH030)

Summary and Comments in Support of the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 through Bill 60 (“An Act to amend various Acts and to enact the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025”)

ERO/RR Posting and Comment Period	Durham Region Staff Comments (Council endorsement to be sought November 26, 2025)
<p>25-MMAH030 October 24, 2025 – November 23, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Implementing Reforms to the Development Charges Framework regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p>	<p>(1) Merge water supply services and wastewater services for the purpose of DC credits</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merging water supply and wastewater services for the purposes of DC credits could impact municipal cashflow by drawing from reserves allocated to other services. This reallocation could delay capital projects or increase financing costs if the Region needs to borrow funds to proceed with projects in areas where reserves were transferred to another area. • To mitigate these risks, it is recommended that municipalities retain flexibility to determine whether service categories should be merged for DC credit purposes. Allowing this to remain as an optional decision ensures that municipalities can merge reserves while supporting growth-related infrastructure.
<p>25-MMAH030 October 24, 2025 – November 23, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Implementing Reforms to the Development Charges Framework regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p>	<p>(2) Make benefit to existing allocations more transparent in DC Background Studies</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support this proposed change, as providing clear descriptions of the methodology and assumptions for Benefit to Existing (BTE) allocations in DC Background Studies will improve transparency and help stakeholders better understand how costs are shared between new and existing development.
<p>25-MMAH030 October 24, 2025 – November 23, 2025 (30 days)</p> <p>Implementing Reforms to the Development Charges Framework regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca</p>	<p>(3) Details on land acquisition costs to be set out for each service in DC background studies</p> <p>Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support the proposed amendment to O. Reg 82/98 to enhance transparency in the DC Background Study and support the new service class for land acquisition costs. • Since land acquisition costs will become its own service class, municipalities will need to manage separate reserve funds for land costs, which could affect financial planning and cashflow.
<p>25-MMAH030 October 24, 2025 – November 23, 2025 (30 days)</p>	<p>(4) Make information in financial statements relating to DCs more transparent and easily accessible</p>

[Implementing Reforms to the Development Charges Framework | regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca](#)

Staff Comments:

- **Identify the amount from each reserve fund that was committed to a project, but had not been spent, as of the end of the year;**
 - The Treasurer’s Statement currently requires reporting of the funding associated with a capital asset. This proposed change would introduce a spending element in the report and complicate the preparation and readability of the report, especially where the report is already detailing hundreds of active projects. Rather than present the commitments on a project-by-project basis, this information could be presented as part of the statement of continuity of the reserve funds on an aggregate basis. This presentation would then align the Treasurer’s Statement with the public sector accounting standards used in the audited financial statements of a municipality.

- **The amount of debt that had been issued for a project as of the end of the year; and**
 - It is not clear if this proposal is intended to apply to just debt to be repaid from development charges or all debt. Currently debt is already included in the “Other Financing” for a project in the Treasurer’s Statement, without distinguishing between the debt that is to be repaid from development charges and other sources. An annual schedule of debt issued and to be repaid from future development charges collected by DC type (e.g. Residential, Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional) may be a preferred approach.
 - There is a potential timing difference between project spending & debenture issuance – a municipality may choose to upfront debenture financing, issue debt on project completion, finance over multiple debt issues, or finance only a portion of the project from debentures. This timing difference could lead to situations where debt is listed under other financing with no other financing showing on the report.

- **Identify where in the DC background study the project's capital costs were estimated. (This would not apply in circumstances where a municipality uses a unique identifier in both background studies and treasurer's statements to identify each project.)**
 - Linking projects in the background study to those in the Treasurer’s statement through use of a unique identifier is a positive addition to the report. It should be recognized that multiple projects / phases may be undertaken to deliver the infrastructure anticipated in the background study, resulting in the same identifier being used multiple times and over multiple years for some items in the background study.

Motion regarding Property Tax Subclass Analysis

Moved by: Councillor Collier

Seconded by: Councillor Carter

That we recommend to Regional Council:

Whereas the Province of Ontario has given municipalities the option to adopt a new Affordable Rental Housing Subclass, reducing the municipal tax rate by up to 35% for eligible affordable rental housing units;

And Whereas Ontario Regulation 73/25 and 74/25 permit the new Affordable Rental Housing Subclass within the Multi-Residential and New Multi-Residential property classes beginning with the 2026 taxation year;

And Whereas in Durham Region, property tax subclasses are set at the upper tier;

And Whereas the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) will be responsible for classifying eligible properties under this new subclass once adopted;

And Whereas organizations have argued that the resulting savings from the introduction of a new Affordable Rental Housing Subclass could help them to maintain affordable rents and reinvest in their buildings;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Finance Department be directed to review the impacts of the introduction of an Affordable Rental Housing Subclass in Durham Region, including the projected tax increase to the remaining tax base, and report the findings to Council or the appropriate committee in time for consideration for the 2027 taxation year.