



# The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Thursday, April 2, 2026

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

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There are no Advisory/Other Committee Minutes

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

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

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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Social Services  
Report: #2026-INFO-018  
Date: April 2, 2026

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**Subject:**

Conversion of Tenancies to Rent Geared to Income – Maximum Shelter Portion (RGI-MSP) – Impact on Tenants

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an overview of upcoming changes to the Region of Durham (Region) calculation for rent-geared-to-income (RGI), scheduled to take effect beginning in Spring 2026, including the planned pilot within Housing Durham and subsequent broader sector rollout.
- 1.2 To explain the new RGI-Maximum Shelter Portion (RGI-MSP) calculation, which applies the full provincial social assistance shelter benefit before Regional funding, replacing the previous approach where tenants often paid significantly less than the maximum shelter amount.
- 1.3 To confirm that the updated calculation will be implemented through routine tenant annual reviews or upon unit turnover.
- 1.4 To support Regional Councillors by providing key messages and an attached Q&A to assist in responding to inquiries related to this transition.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 When the Housing Services Act (HSA) was updated to permit an alternative calculation to the legislated RGI calculation, the Region developed the Durham Rent Supplement (DRS) calculation.

- 2.2 This calculation is currently used in the Region's rent supplement programs and at select community housing sites, as part of a broader objective to modernize RGI subsidy administration across all programs.
- 2.3 Over time, the DRS calculation has proven administratively complex. To better support housing providers and align with sector best practices, the Region is introducing the RGI-MSP model. This approach streamlines subsidy calculations by applying the full provincial social assistance shelter benefit (Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program) before Regional funding, creating a simpler and more consistent formula.
- 2.4 The RGI-MSP model will be implemented first within the Housing Durham portfolio as Phase One of a Region-wide transition. This phased approach will allow the Region to refine processes and tools prior to expanding the model to all community housing providers in Phase Two, supporting operational efficiency and consistent application of subsidy rules across the sector.

### **3. Overview of the Transition**

- 3.1 A phased approach will guide the implementation of the RGI-MSP model to support a smooth transition for staff, tenants, and the broader sector.
- 3.2 Phase One: Housing Durham Implementation - Existing Housing Durham tenancies will transition to the new RGI-MSP at their annual review or when a new tenant moves in. Housing Durham is well-positioned for early adoption due to its established expertise in RGI administration and strong working relationships with social assistance program staff.
- 3.3 Phase Two: Sector-Wide Rollout - Following Housing Durham's transition, the RGI-MSP model will be expanded to all community housing providers through the End of Mortgage process and the execution of VII.1 Agreements.
- 3.4 This two-step approach enables the Region to evaluate lessons learned, adjust implementation supports, and ensure readiness across the sector.
- 3.5 This phased structure balances modernization with stability, supporting consistent subsidy administration while minimizing impacts on tenants and providers.

### **4. Impact on Tenants**

- 4.1 The transition to RGI-MSP is expected to have minimal impact on tenants. Key tenant-focused considerations include:
  - a. Affordability is preserved. Under RGI-MSP, rent may increase, but social assistance benefits are adjusted accordingly so tenants continue to receive the same total monthly income after all shelter expenses are paid. The calculation is designed to minimize the risk of shelter costs exceeding the amount issued through social assistance.

- b. No immediate rent changes for current tenants. The transition occurs only at annual review or unit turnover, preventing sudden widespread rent adjustments.
  - c. Administrative burden on tenants is minimal. Tenants continue to complete the same annual review process. The only change is that tenants with additional utility costs will be asked to provide utility bills.
- 4.2 Overall, the RGI-MSP approach will improve clarity and consistency while maintaining tenant affordability and minimizing disruption.

## 5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 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
    - C2. Enable a full range of housing options, including housing that is affordable and close to transit.
  - b. Strong Relationships
    - S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The transition to RGI-MSP for the Region of Durham supports a simplified, consistent, and modernized approach to rental subsidy administration. The phased adoption strategy safeguards tenants, ensures affordability, and enables staff to refine the calculation before broader rollout across the community housing sector.

## 7. Attachments

- 7.1 Attachment #1: Frequently Asked Questions about RGI-MSP

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou  
Commissioner of Social Services

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Rental subsidies will now be calculated differently than the current RGI model. This new model is called RGI MSP (Maximum Shelter Portion).

Starting at your next annual review, we will use a new way to calculate your rent called RGI Maximum Shelter Portion (RGI-MSP) under Ontario's Housing Services Act.

This does not change your lease or your rights—only how your rent is calculated.

You will need to sign a lease update so that you are aware of how your rent is being calculated.

### **How Will Your Rent Be Set?**

If you receive social assistance, your rent will be based on the maximum shelter amount in your social assistance monthly benefit.

If you do not receive social assistance, your rent doesn't change and will continue to be based on 30% of your household's adjusted family net income.

### **What Stays the Same?**

Your lease and tenant rights do not change.

If you receive social assistance even though your rent may go up, your social assistance will also increase to cover the change. This means you won't have to pay any extra out of pocket.

You still need to report income and household changes when they occur

### **Why is this changing?**

This change allows us to use a different program under provincial rules to keep your rent affordable and meet housing assistance requirements.

### **Do I need to sign a new lease?**

No. Your original lease stays the same. This addendum only changes how your rent is calculated.

### **Will my rent go up or down?**

Your rent will be based on your income or the shelter allowance for social assistance. It may change slightly, but the goal is to keep your housing affordable.

### **Does this affect my rights as a tenant?**

No. Your tenancy rights and responsibilities remain the same.

### **Do I still need to report changes in income or household members?**

Yes. We need this information to calculate your rent correctly under the new method.

### **What if someone in my household receives OW or ODSP shelter benefit?**

Under RGI MSP, your rent cannot exceed your household's maximum OW/ODSP shelter allowance total.

This protects households receiving social assistance.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2009



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
Report: #2026-INFO-019  
Date: April 2, 2026

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**Subject:**

Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan Implementation Update: 2025 Intimate Partner Violence and Gender Based Violence Initiatives

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan, by providing an overview of community engagement and awareness-raising initiatives focused on the elimination of intimate partner violence (IPV) and gender-based violence (GBV). The majority of these activities took place in November 2025, in recognition of Woman Abuse Prevention month, including the Second Annual Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence.

**2. Background**

2.1 Victimization, including IPV, GBV and human trafficking, is one of the seven priority risk factors in Durham Region's [Community Safety and Well-Being Plan](#).

2.2 Intimate partner violence, also known as spousal or domestic violence, is a prevalent form of gender-based violence. It refers to multiple forms of harm (including physical, economic/financial, sexual, spiritual, emotional/psychological abuse) caused by a current or former intimate partner or spouse.

**3. Previous Reports and Decisions**

3.1 The CSWB Secretariat has undertaken a variety of coordination activities and sector partnerships aimed at strengthening the Region's response to GBV and IPV.

- a. This work has been documented in the following ways: On April 26, 2023, a [motion](#) was approved by Council to: declare IPV an epidemic and call on the Ontario Government to do the same; and encourage that prevention of IPV be integrated into every municipality's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.
- b. On September 21, 2024, the inaugural Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), was held at Durham Region Headquarters ([#2024-INFO-81 Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence 2024](#))
- c. On December 17, 2025, Council adopted the Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence Action Plan for Durham Region (2025 to 2030) ([#2025-COW-39 Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence Action Plan for Durham Region \(2025 to 2030\)](#))

#### **4. Second Annual Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence**

- 4.1 Addressing intimate partner violence requires coordinated leadership and sustained community engagement. Awareness initiatives help residents recognize the signs of abuse, reduce stigma, and ensure those experiencing violence are met with safety and support.
- 4.2 The Second Annual Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence took place on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at Durham Region Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness on the epidemic of intimate partner violence and demonstrate solidarity with survivors.
- 4.3 The event was organized collaboratively by eight GBV responding agencies, in partnership with the Region of Durham. These agencies include:
  - a. Bethesda House
  - b. Herizon House
  - c. Luke's Place
  - d. Safety Network Durham
  - e. The Denise House
  - f. Victim Services Durham Region
  - g. Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham Region
  - h. YWCA Durham
- 4.4 Other key partners included Durham Regional Police Service, Durham Region Transit, and Region of Durham Paramedic Services, who ensured the safety, mobility and health of participants.
- 4.5 A robust communications plan was developed and implemented to ensure awareness of the event, including a social media campaign and bus advertisements. Registrants were encouraged to wear the colour purple at the event, in honour of Woman Abuse Awareness Month.

- 4.6 The event commenced with an Indigenous opening ceremony led by Susan Byrne-Osso, a Crisis Intervention Counsellor with Victim Services of Durham Region and Vice President of Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle. A land acknowledgement was then shared by Hilda Moe, Administration and Community Coordinator, Herizon House, who also served as the event emcee. Opening remarks were delivered by Lily Pourzand, former Executive Director, Luke's Place, and Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, Region of Durham.
- 4.7 Over 400 community participated in the event, a significant increase from the previous year's inaugural event, which drew approximately 200 community members.
- 4.8 The event featured educational displays from various GBV organizations, providing valuable information on support services, and opportunities to make donations. Participating organizations also contributed handmade signs with key messages highlight the prevalence and impact of intimate partner violence, and affirming solidarity with survivors.
- 4.9 Through the generous supports of GBV responding agency sponsors, including Shoppers Drug Mart Bowmanville, nine registered participants were the recipients of prize baskets. Event sponsor Sobey's South Ajax contributed refreshments for participants.
- 4.10 The Event Planning Committee, comprised of representatives from the partnering organizations and the CSWB Secretariat, met post-event to evaluate the event's impact, and identify areas for improvement for the Third Annual Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence in 2026 (date TBD). The following recommendations were identified:
- a. Increase male involvement by engaging community groups such as Scouts Canada and local sports teams.
  - b. Maintain the 2.4 kilometer walk distance.
- 4.11 Event Planning Committee meetings will resume in Summer 2026.

## **5. Additional Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence Awareness-Raising Activities**

- 5.1 The month of November is recognized as Woman Abuse Prevention Month in Canada. November is dedicated to driving awareness, education, and a willingness to help end violence against women in Ontario and globally. It also includes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which is observed on November 25. This date also marks the beginning of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an annual international campaign aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing action to end violence against women and girls. In support of this initiative, the following activities took place with support from the CSWB Secretariat:

## 5.2 Proclamation and Flag Raising Ceremony

- a. On November 25, 2025, a proclamation and flag raising ceremony were held at Regional Headquarters. Regional staff, members of Durham Regional Police Service, and representatives of GBV responding agencies were in attendance.
- b. Remarks were shared by Vanessa Falcon, Executive Director of Herizon House. Whitby Mayor and Regional Councillor, Elizabeth Roy, on behalf of Regional Chair and CEO, John Henry, proclaimed November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- c. Following the proclamation, the [Wrapped in Courage](#) flag remained raised for seven days.

## 5.3 Additional Awareness Activities

- a. In acknowledgement of Woman Abuse Prevention Month and International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, on the evening of November 25, 2025, Regional Headquarters was illuminated purple.
- b. Luke's Place, in partnership with the Region of Durham's CSWB Secretariat, launched a social media campaign, [a three-part webinar series and a community resource toolkit](#). This campaign ran during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, commencing on November 25, 2025 and concluding on December 10, 2025. These resources are aimed at friends, family, and neighbours who want to help someone experiencing intimate partner violence. The webinar series and toolkit cover topics including:
  - Understanding Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
  - Being an Effective Ally
  - Safety Planning and Emergency Preparedness
  - Navigating Family Court

## 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. 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.
  - H7. Prepare for and respond to local health emergencies in partnership with the community.

b. 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.

6.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) 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 Strengthening community engagement and cross-sector partnerships remains essential to addressing the ongoing epidemic of intimate partner violence in Durham Region. Meaningful awareness-raising efforts help residents recognize the signs of violence, reduce stigma, and foster intervention by friends, neighbours, and service providers.

7.2 These initiatives also reinforce a shared regional commitment to prevention and safety, aligning directly with the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and the Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence Action Plan (2025-2030).

7.3 Continued collaboration with community partners, local organizations, and residents will be critical in building safe, responsive, and informed communities where individuals and families can access the right services at the right time.

7.4 For additional information, contact: Tineka Levy. Policy Advisor, at 905-668-7711, extension 1768.

## 8. Attachments

Attachment #1: Photos of Second Annual Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence took place on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at Durham Region Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment #1: Photos of Second Annual Community Awareness Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence took place on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at Durham Region Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby



Participants hear opening remarks prior to commencing the walk.



A Durham Region transit bus, which displayed key statistics highlighting the prevalence of intimate partner violence, was available to support participants with mobility needs.



Participating organizations contributed hand made signs with key messages highlighting the prevalence and impact of intimate partner violence, and affirming solidarity with survivors.



Participants completed a walk of approximately 2.4 kilometers in distance.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2463



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Social Services  
Report: #2026-INFO-20  
Date: April 2, 2026

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**Subject:**

GTHA Community Housing Collaborative – CANCEA Research Project – The Public Housing Dividend: Building Economic Resilience & Social Value

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide Regional Council with information on The Public Housing Dividend: Building Economic Resilience & Social Value, a research initiative being undertaken by the GTHA Community Housing Collaborative, which will assess the macroeconomic and social impacts of public housing investment across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).
- 1.2 The report outlines the scope, objectives, and anticipated outcomes of the research, including how the findings will support evidence-based decision-making related to public housing investment, infrastructure renewal, and long-term system sustainability.

**2. GTHA Community Housing Collaborative**

- 2.1 The GTHA Community Housing Collaborative brings together the six largest public housing providers in the GTHA. Members include Housing Durham, City Housing Hamilton, Halton Community Housing Corporation, Peel Housing Corporation, Toronto Community Housing, and Housing York.
- 2.2 The collaborative represents approximately 40% of the public housing stock in Ontario, including over 81,500 homes, more than \$20B in assets, and housing more than 150,000 tenants.

2.3 Partners are collectively responsible for the stewardship, renewal, and expansion of community housing stock across the GTHA and share the belief that strong community housing infrastructure is essential to affordability, economic prosperity, and community wellbeing for low and middle-income households.

### **3. The Public Housing Dividend: Building Economic Resilience & Social Value**

3.1 A first-of-its-kind research partnership between Canada's largest cluster of public housing providers and Scotiabank (ScotiaRISE), using agent-based modelling to assess the macroeconomic and social impacts of public housing investment.

3.2 The research is being led by the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA) and brings government, housing, development, and finance into a single evidence-based framework, representing the most comprehensive modelling of public housing impacts to date. The project:

- a. Introduces a new economic framework to demonstrate the return on investment of public housing as essential infrastructure, including impacts on productivity, healthcare costs, and long-term economic resilience.
- b. Models multiple investment scenarios across the more than 8M residents of the GTHA, including maintaining, increasing, or reducing investment in capital repairs and new development.
- c. Quantifies system-wide outcomes including economic output, labour force participation, healthcare utilization, and social assistance costs by explicitly modelling trade-offs between upfront capital investment and downstream public expenditures.

3.3 Findings are expected to be published in May 2026.

### **4. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

4.1 This report aligns with/addressess the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) 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
  - H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.
- c. Strong Relationships

- S4. Advocate to the federal and provincial government and agencies to advance regional priorities.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The GTHA Community Housing Collaborative's partnership with CANCEA represents a significant effort to quantify the economic and social value of public housing as essential infrastructure. By applying agent-based modelling across multiple investment scenarios, the research will provide a robust, evidence-based framework to better understand the long-term impacts of public housing investment on economic productivity, health outcomes, and public expenditures.
- 5.2 As a member of the GTHA Community Housing Collaborative, Housing Durham's participation in this initiative supports broader regional and provincial discussions on housing affordability, infrastructure investment, and economic resilience. The findings, expected in May 2026, will offer valuable insights to inform future policy development, funding advocacy, and strategic planning across all orders of government.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou  
Commissioner of Social Services

# Clarington

If this information is required in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Co-ordinator at 905-623-3379 ext. 2131


March 24, 2026

John Henry  
Durham Regional Chair  
Via Email: [chair@durham.ca](mailto:chair@durham.ca)

To John Henry:

**Re:** Request for a Review of Traffic and Safety on Liberty Street

**File Number:** PG.25.06

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 30, 2026 8:52 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

At a meeting held on March 23, 2026, the Council of the Municipality of Clarington approved the following Resolution #GG-057-26:

Whereas concerns have been raised by residents regarding traffic safety at the intersections of Liberty Street with Concession Road 4 and Concession Road 6;

Whereas a recent collision at Liberty Street and Concession Road 4 involved a school bus and resulted in injuries requiring hospital transport, highlighting the potential risks at this location;

Whereas residents have noted specific safety issues including a blind curve on Liberty Street north of Concession Road 6, downhill grades on Concession Road 6, and winter road conditions that regularly include snow blowing from adjacent fields and limited traction due to sanding-only practices;

Whereas Liberty Street currently functions as a through road at these intersections, with no stop control at either location except for a flashing overhead beacon at Concession Road 6;

Whereas community feedback indicates that converting these intersections to all-way stop control may significantly improve safety, with limited impact on traffic volumes north of Concession Road 6;


Whereas these locations may fall under the jurisdiction of the Region of Durham or may be impacted by Regional long-term transportation planning;

Now therefore it be resolved that Council direct staff to liaise with the Region of Durham to:

1. Review the existing safety conditions at the intersections of:
  - Liberty Street & Concession Road 4; and
  - Liberty Street & Concession Road 6;
2. Evaluate the feasibility and warrants for implementing all-way stop control at both intersections, including consideration of maintaining the existing overhead flashing beacon at Concession Road 6 with all approaches converted to flashing red;
3. Assess short-term and long-term opportunities to improve safety at these locations, including roadway geometry, signage, and winter maintenance practices; and
4. Report back to Council with findings, recommendations, and timelines for possible implementation.

That this motion be circulated to the Regional Councillors and Regional Staff for their information and collaboration.

Yours truly,

  
June Gallagher, B.A., Dipl. M.A.  
Municipal Clerk

JG/lh


c: Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham  
Ramesh Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works, Durham  
M. Perini, Director of Public Works  
S. Potrykus, Traffic Supervisor Public Works

The Town of Goderich  
57 West Street  
Goderich, Ontario  
N7A 2K5  
519-524-8344  
townhall@goderich.ca  
www.goderich.ca



Friday, March 27, 2026

Mandy Cannon  
Interim CAO/Clerk  
Township of McNab/Braeside  
2473 Russett Drive  
Arnprior, ON  
K7S 3G8

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 30, 2026 9:26 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

SENT VIA EMAIL: [mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com](mailto:mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com)

RE: Resolution – Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

Dear M. Cannon,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 23, 2026, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Petrie  
Seconded By: Councillor McMillan  
That Goderich Town Council supports the resolution from the Township of McNab/Braeside regarding the Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy.

**CARRIED**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or [afisher@goderich.ca](mailto:afisher@goderich.ca).

Yours truly,

  
Andrea Fisher  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
/js

Enclosed: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy Resolution

cc: Hon. Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, [stan.cho@pc.ola.org](mailto:stan.cho@pc.ola.org)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario, [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)  
All Ontario Municipalities



TOWNSHIP OF  
**McNab/Braeside**

Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: February 17, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 56-2026  
 Moved by Councillor Kevin Rosien Disposition: CARRIED  
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Item No: 14.2

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

**RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS** Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

**WHEREAS** Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

**WHEREAS** Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_  

	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote



**MACKAY CENTRE FOR SENIORS**

March 3, 2026

Deanna Hastie, CPA, CA  
Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer  
Town of Goderich  
57 West Street  
Goderich, Ontario N7A 2K5

Dear Deanna:

Thank you so much for taking time to meet with Larry and myself this past Friday. On behalf of MacKay Centre for Seniors which includes its membership of 540 plus the many volunteers, and the Board of Directors. We are very thankful for receiving a wonderful and significant Bequest of \$25,000.

We respect the Donor is to be confidential and anonymous.

In following up on your direction to have the funds released this letter confirms the funds will be used diligently by MacKay Centre for Seniors in maintaining and managing its ongoing operations. This will go a long way in offering the many venues to its members, to which all of them are so very appreciative.

If there is anything you require further by all means let me know.

I will leave it with you to circulate this letter to Council and to be included in the appropriate Council Agenda.

Yours truly,




Stephanie Hartwick  
Executive Director



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD.,  
BEAMSVILLE, ON L3J 1L3  
905-563-2799

March 25, 2026

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 30, 2026 8:57 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

SENT VIA EMAIL: [graham.mcgregor@pc.ola.org](mailto:graham.mcgregor@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Graham McGregor  
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
10215 Kennedy Rd. N  
Brampton, ON L6Z 0C5

**RE: Town of Lincoln Resolution – Request to the Province of Ontario to Extend the Deadline for Notices of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties**

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Committee of the Whole Meeting held on March 23, 2026, passed the following resolution:

Resolution Number: PED-2026-22  
Moved by: Councillor Lynn Timmers

**WHEREAS** amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act under the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 introduced timelines requiring municipalities to issue Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022, originally requiring action by January 1, 2025; and

**WHEREAS** the Province subsequently amended the legislation through the Homeowner Protection Act, 2024 to extend the deadline to January 1, 2027 in response to concerns raised by municipalities and heritage stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities require sufficient time and resources to undertake research, documentation, consultation, and evaluation to determine whether listed properties warrant designation under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

**WHEREAS** the removal of listed properties from municipal heritage registers if the prescribed timelines are not met may place cultural heritage resources at increased risk of demolition or irreversible alteration before municipalities have the opportunity to properly evaluate their cultural heritage value or interest; and

**WHEREAS** many municipalities, including the Town of Lincoln, do not have dedicated heritage planning staff and must rely on volunteer Heritage Advisory Committee members or external heritage consultants to undertake property evaluations, which can result in additional financial and administrative pressures; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities across Ontario are facing significant workloads associated with evaluating listed properties; and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Lincoln Heritage Advisory Committee, at its meeting of March 12, 2026, recommended that Council advocate to the Province of Ontario for a further extension to the current deadline;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Council of the Town of Lincoln endorse the recommendation of its Heritage Advisory Committee and respectfully request that the Province of Ontario further amend the Ontario Heritage Act to extend the January 1, 2027 deadline for issuing Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022; and
2. The Province consider extending the deadline to January 1, 2030, or another reasonable timeframe that would provide municipalities with adequate time to complete heritage evaluations and make informed designation decisions; and
3. This resolution be circulated to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Heritage Committee Association, and all Ontario municipalities for their information and consideration.

**CARRIED**

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos  
Town Clerk

[jkirkelos@lincoln.ca](mailto:jkirkelos@lincoln.ca)

JK/dp

- c.c. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Niagara West Member of Provincial Parliament
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Community Heritage Ontario
- All Ontario Municipalities
- Manager of Planning and Development
- Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee



Box 608, Little Current, POP 1K0  
705-368-3500

Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 30, 2026 9:08 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Please see below a Resolution passed by the Council of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands.

If your Council supports this motion please share with the appropriate Ministries and Organizations.

Thank You

**Resolution No. 75-03-2026**

Moved by: B. Wood

Seconded by: P. Aelick

**Whereas** the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, like many municipalities, utilizes chip-and-tar surface treatment on a significant portion of its road network; and

**Whereas** the Town has observed a substantial decrease in the length of time these treated roads remain in acceptable condition; and

**Whereas** the quality and durability of the oil used in the surface treatment appears to be a contributing factor; and

**Whereas** the Ministry of the Environment amended its regulations several years ago, permitting only lighter-grade oils for environmental considerations; and

**Whereas** the reduced durability of the lighter-grade product has resulted in more frequent resurfacing cycles and has consequently led to increasing maintenance costs;

**Now therefore be it resolved that** the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands respectfully requests that the Ministry of the Environment reconsider its decision regarding the lighter grade of oil, taking into account the increased number of applications required, as well as the associated additional time, energy, and financial burden placed on municipalities or develops a better alternative oil.

And Further that this motion be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, AMO, Good Roads, FONOM, MPP Bill Rosenberg, and all other municipalities.

Carried



The Corporation of the Township of  
**NORTH STORMONT**  
**RESOLUTION**

Date: March 24, 2026

Resolution No. ~~068~~-2026

Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date Received:	March 30, 2026 11:53 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**MOVED BY:**

Mayor F. Landry  
Deputy Mayor S. Densham  
Councillor A. Bugelli  
Councillor A. McDonald  
Councillor C. Shane

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:**

Mayor F. Landry  
Deputy Mayor S. Densham  
Councillor A. Bugelli  
Councillor A. McDonald  
Councillor C. Shane

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS the Township of North Stormont acknowledges the municipal infrastructure including roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems support public safety, vitality and quality of life in Ontario's rural and small urban communities; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist these communities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenues; and

WHEREAS in 2022, the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF allotment from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five year term, that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of 2026 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope jeopardizing smaller municipalities' ability to sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt; and

WHEREAS predictable multi-year funding indexed to real work costs is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long range asset management plans, reduce emergency repair work and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure funding; and

WHEREAS the Township of North Stormont requires a dedicated provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF funding beyond 2026, ensuring fiscal stability to ensure infrastructure resilience and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Township of North Stormont calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF allotment of not less than \$400 million beyond its five year term ending in 2026 with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the annual OCIF envelope and each individual municipal allotment to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) calculated on a calendar year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five year OCIF funding framework that

guarantees allocation percentages to municipalities enabling long term capital planning and stable cash flow management.

4. The Province undertake a form review of the OCIF allocation at least once every four years incorporating municipal asset management, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.

5. A dedicated contingency reserve of five percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs of project overruns without reallocating core funding.

6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures in a transparent publicly acceptable online dashboard.

FURTHERMORE, that the Council of the Township of North Stormont supports the resolution of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal dated September 29, 2025; the resolution of the Municipality of South Huron dated October 20, 2025, the resolution of the Township of Puslinch dated November 15, 2025; the resolution of the County of North Cumberland dated January 28, 2026 resolution of the Township of North Glengarry dated February 23, 2026 regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

FURTHERMORE that this supporting resolution and be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED     DEFEATED     DEFERRED

  
Chair

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: A. Bugelli

Disclosed His/Her/Their Interest

Vacated His/Her/Their Seat

RECORDED VOTE	
Councillor C. Shane	_____
Councillor A. McDonald	_____
Councillor A. Bugelli	_____
Deputy Mayor S. Densham	_____
Mayor F. Landry	_____

**CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY  
Council Meeting**

**Resolution #** 7

**Date:** Monday February 23, 2026

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**Moved by:** Michael Madden

**Seconded by:** Carma Williams

**WHEREAS** the Township of North Glengarry acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in Ontario’s rural and small urban communities; and

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities; and

**WHEREAS** in 2022, the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026; and

**WHEREAS** fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials, and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities’ ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt; and

**WHEREAS** predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance, and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs, and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing; and

**WHEREAS** the Township of North Glengarry requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability, and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Township of North Glengarry calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.
4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics, and rural equity considerations.

**CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY  
Council Meeting**

**Resolution #**

**Date:** Monday February 23, 2026

5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs, or project overruns without reallocating core funding.
6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments, and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.

**FURTHER THAT** the Council of the Township of North Glengarry supports the September 29, 2025 resolution of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, the October 20, 2025 resolution of the Municipality of South Huron, and the November 19, 2025 resolution of the Township of Pulsinch regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

**FURTHER THAT** this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

**CARRIED**

**DEFEATED**

**DEFERRED**



**MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR**

	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NEA</b>
<b>Deputy Mayor:</b> Carma Williams	—	—
<b>Councillor:</b> Jacques Massie	—	—
<b>Councillor:</b> Brian Caddell	—	—
<b>Councillor:</b> Jeff Manley	—	—
<b>Councillor:</b> Michael Madden	—	—
<b>Councillor:</b> Gary Martin	—	—
<b>Mayor:</b> Jamie MacDonald	—	—

DATE: MONDAY MARCH 23, 2026

RESOLUTION NO: 26-66


### THE CORPORATION TOWN OF MATTAWA

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LAURA ROSS**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MATHEW GARDINER**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council for the Town of Mattawa supports the Township of Papineau-Cameron regarding the Ontario Veterinary College's Enrollment Capacity.

**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College; the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association; the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities.

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 30, 2026 1:35 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Recorded Vote – Yes  No

Recorded Vote Requested by:

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	Yea	Nay
Mayor Bélanger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Gardiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Levesque	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Mick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Thibert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Bigelow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



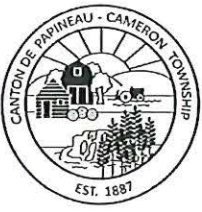
**Mayor Raymond A. Bélanger**

Deferred  Tabled  Lost  Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

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Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote



## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0  
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072  
E-mail: [admin@papineaucameron.ca](mailto:admin@papineaucameron.ca) Website: [www.papineaucameron.ca](http://www.papineaucameron.ca)

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February 26, 2026

The Ontario Veterinary College  
50 Stone Road East  
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

**RE: Ontario Veterinary College expansion of enrollment capacity**

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The Council of The Corporation of The Township of Papineau-Cameron met at their Regular Council Meeting on February 24, 2026 and passed the attached resolution 2026-50 that relates to the Ontario Veterinary College's enrollment capacity.

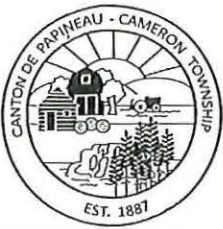
Yours truly,



Venessa Wilson  
Administrative Assistant

Encl: Resolution 2026-50, Township of Papineau-Cameron

Cc: The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness  
The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association  
The Honorable Victor Fedeli, MPP, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
The Honorable Trevor Jones, MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness  
The Honorable Nolan Quinn, MPP, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities



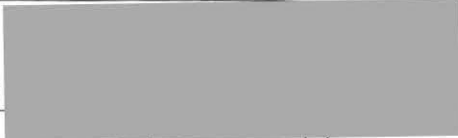
**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON**

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0  
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072  
Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

DATE: **February 24, 2026**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **2026-50**

MOVED BY:



SECONDED BY:



WHEREAS large animal livestock owners in Northern Ontario have extremely limited access to large animal veterinary services;

AND WHEREAS the cost of large animal veterinary services in Northern Ontario is significantly higher due to long travel distances and the limited number of large animal veterinarians available to service the region;

AND WHEREAS it has come to the attention of the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township that three qualified individuals within our community have applied to the Ontario Veterinary College for large animal veterinary, but were denied admission due to limited enrollment capacity;

THAT the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township formally requests that the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association consider expanding enrollment capacity at the Ontario Veterinary College to allow more qualified applicants to pursue certification as large animal veterinarians.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Hon. Victor Fedeli MPP Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Hon. Trevor Jones MPP Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Hon. Nolan Quinn MPP Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Ontario Municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED:



(Mayor)

NOT CARRIED:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Mayor)

Recorded Vote (Upon Request of Councillor \_\_\_\_\_) Section 246 (1) Municipal Act

RECORDED DIVISION VOTE	YES Signature	NO Signature	ABSTAIN Signature
Mayor Robert Corriveau			
Deputy Mayor Shelley Belanger			
Councillor Keith Dillabough			
Councillor Jason Bélanger			
Councillor Mélanie Chenier			

**COPY**

March 26, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier  
Premier's Office  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

And

The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
315 Front Street West, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca); [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Re: Request for Provincial School Board Governance Consultation Process


Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Durham District School Board, I am writing to request that a province-wide consultation process take place before making any governance changes or decisions that would result in the elimination of school board trustees.

The potential elimination of trustees is concerning and represents a significant shift in Ontario's education governance. Trustees serve as a longstanding, essential democratic link between local communities and the public education system. Any change of this magnitude should not be considered without seeking input through evidence-based research and meaningful public engagement.

It is essential that communities have an opportunity to fully understand and respond to the implications of a proposal that would remove school board trustees, which may have unintended negative consequences on the communities that we are elected to serve. We understand you have recently heard from a number of other boards across the province, and we strongly agree with the statement from our colleagues at Avon Maitland DSB that *"transparency regarding the rationale, objectives, and anticipated outcomes of this proposal is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring informed dialogue."*

Durham Region includes diverse, urban, suburban, and rural communities, all with vastly varying histories and needs. Local representation ensures the unique needs of each of our communities are considered and met. As a Board of Trustees, we are firmly and proudly

 Corporate Services Department <b>Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	March 30, 2026 9:15 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	


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committed to promoting meaningful learning, connected communities, and well-being, being responsive to the priorities of the local community in carrying out our duties and responsibilities.

In parallel to this letter, we are also writing to the Ombudsman's Office to request an immediate review of the potential impacts of removing school board trustees with respect to fairness, openness, transparency, and accountability.

We thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tracy Brown  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Durham District School Board


cc.

Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) for Durham Region  
Members of Parliament (MPs) for Durham Region  
Regional Chair, Mayors and Council for Durham Region Municipalities  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association and Members Board  
DDSB Board of Trustees

March 26, 2026

Paul Dubé  
Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario  
483 Bay Street, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, South Tower  
Toronto, ON M5G 2C9

Sent via email: [info@ombudsman.on.ca](mailto:info@ombudsman.on.ca)

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	March 30, 2026 9:15 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Re: Request for Review of the Potential Impacts of Removing English Public School Trustees

Dear Ombudsman Dubé,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Durham District School Board, I am writing to request your office's review of the provincial government's proposal to eliminate democratically elected English public school board trustees. The DDSB recognizes the important role of the Ombudsman in safeguarding the principles of fairness and accountability across Ontario's public institutions, and we also firmly believe that trustees serve as a longstanding, essential democratic link between local communities and the education system. Recent public statements suggesting the possible elimination of trustees would represent a significant shift in Ontario's education governance and we have concerns with the steps taken towards this outcome to date by the Ministry of Education. Specifically the removal of English public trustees could impact:

- **Indigenous Representation and Truth and Reconciliation:** Inclusion of Indigenous voice through our First Nations trustee is essential to uphold the distinct and inherent rights and unique needs and interests of First Nation, Inuit, and Metis students and families and students.
- **Student Representation:** The loss of Student Trustees who are elected from among their peers to advocate and bring student issues forward for awareness and resolution.
- **Fairness:** Different governance structures for English public boards and French and Catholic boards could result in inequitable treatment of students and families depending on the type of education they choose to access.
- **Transparency:** The potential of fewer public meetings would reduce public awareness and transparency in decision making.
- **Accountability:** School board trustees are a direct link between local communities

---


and the education system. Their removal would significantly reduce local accountability in a sector that affects nearly every family in Ontario.

- **Absence of Public Consultation or Evidence of Support:** To date, there has been no indication or effort from the province or the Ministry of Education to consult the public on the potential removal of trustees. We firmly believe that Ontarians value the role of trustees and, if invited to provide feedback, would question whether the proposed changes would have any impact on improving public education.

Alongside our colleagues from other Ontario school boards, we respectfully request that your office undertake a review of the process and potential impacts of removing English public school trustees. Such a review upholds the principles of fairness, openness, transparency, and accountability that Ontarians expect and deserve.

We thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tracy Brown  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Durham District School Board

cc.  
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier  
The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education  
Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) for Durham Region  
Members of Parliament (MPs) for Durham Region  
Regional Chair, Mayors and Council for Durham Region Municipalities  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association and Members Board  
DDSB Board of Trustees