

## **Report #7 of the Committee of the Whole**

For consideration by Regional Council

October 23, 2024

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the following:

1. Revisions to the Seaton Phase 1 Regional Infrastructure Front-Ending Agreement to Enlarge the Phase 1 Prestige Employment Lands, to Allocate Additional Residential Units, and to Allow the Construction of a Seaton Phase 2 Region Constructed Water Supply Project as a Phase 1 Project ([2024-COW-41](#))
  - A) That the Regional Municipality of Durham enters into an amending agreement to the Seaton Phase 1 Regional Infrastructure Front-Ending Agreement (Phase 1 RFEA) with the Seaton Landowners Group to:
    - i) Enlarge the Phase 1 Prestige Employment Lands by 80 ha (196 acres) to accommodate the development of a proposed large water user in the food and beverage industry to be located on two parcels of land north and south of Highway 7 and west of North Road, and to set a revised total limit on all development within the Phase 1 Prestige Employment Lands area to 125 ha (310 acres);
    - ii) Redefine Phase 2 water supply project, Zone 5 Elevated Tank (WR6), as a Phase 1 Region Constructed Project; and
    - iii) Provide sanitary sewage and water supply system allocation for an additional 2,077 Single Detached Equivalent (SDE) residential units for a revised total limit of 11,877 SDE Units (original 9,800 SDE allocation plus recommended additional 2,077 SDE allocation);
  - B) That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the above noted amending agreement to the Phase 1 RFEA in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor;
  - C) That Regional staff be authorized to negotiate and award a sole source agreement with WSP Canada Inc. for the provision of consulting engineering services related to the detailed design and contract administration of the Zone 5 Elevated Tank;
  - D) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute the necessary documents related to the sole source agreement; and
  - E) That a copy of Report #2024-COW-41 of the Commissioners of Works, Finance, and Planning and Economic Development be provided to the City of Pickering.

2. Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario to Support Helicopter Procurement for Joint Air Support Unit and Funding Mechanisms  
[\(2024-COW-42\)](#)

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- A) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) and any ancillary documents or agreements, in a form acceptable to the Regional Solicitor, with the Ministry of the Solicitor General for funding estimated at \$8 million to \$10.5 million to facilitate the acquisition of a police helicopter to form part of the Joint Air Support Unit;
- B) That if the TPA also includes funding for the operations and maintenance of the helicopter, the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute the TPA and any agreements required to facilitate the transfer of the operations and maintenance funding to the Durham Regional Police Service; and
- C) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to make interim financing arrangements for the acquisition of the police helicopter at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance, if necessary due to the timing of the receipt of the Provincial grant funding.

3. Recommended Amendments to the Delegation of Authority By-Law #004-2023  
[\(2024-COW-43\)](#)

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- A) That the Delegation of Authority By-law #004-2023 be amended to permit that the Regional Treasurer be provided with the delegated authority to execute the following related to Development Charges with the approval of the Regional Solicitor and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO):
  - i) Affordable Residential Unit Development Charge (DC) exemption agreements, with the agreements in a format and content satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor;
  - ii) Attainable Residential Unit DC exemption agreements, with the agreements in a format and content satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor; and
  - iii) Any agreements related to the prescribed deferred payment of DCs such as is currently required for rental housing development and institutional development (such as a long-term care, retirement homes or hospices), with the agreements in a format and content satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.

4. Motion Regarding Enhancing Shelter Supports for Women and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

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Whereas there is a nationwide intimate partner violence (IPV) crisis, in which more than 4 in 10 (6.2 million) women and 1 in 3 men have experienced intimate partner violence, and rates increased 19% between 2014 and 2022;

Whereas 78% of victims of police-reported intimate partner violence in 2022 were women and girls, and in 2019 rates were 3.5 times higher among women than men;

Whereas intimate partner violence, in 2009, was estimated to cost \$7.4 billion annually to the public system, impacting municipal budgets for public safety and housing;

Whereas rural, remote, and northern communities experience disproportionate rates of IPV, with risk of IPV 75% higher for women in rural communities than women in urban communities, and 73% of survivors in rural communities at high risk of being in severe or extreme danger of being killed;

Whereas Indigenous women are 3 times more likely to experience IPV than non-Indigenous women, and are 8 times more likely to be murdered by intimate partners than non-Indigenous women, because of the intersections between colonialism, racism, and misogyny;

Whereas IPV is a phenomenon which affects Black and racialized women, women with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people disproportionately;

Whereas women's shelters nationwide consistently struggle with permanent funding to provide essential transitional, family, and permanent housing solutions for women fleeing IPV, and as COVID-oriented funding expires and piecemeal efforts to fund women's shelter systems result in women experiencing IPV being continually at risk;

Whereas the federal government has made gender-based violence (GBV) and IPV priorities across ministries and agencies through the National Strategy to Address Gender-Based Violence and the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence, signing bilateral agreements with provinces and territories, but gaps remain;

Now therefore be it resolved:

- A) That the Regional Municipality of Durham calls on the federal government to create a permanent fund, open to local governments and community organizations, for the construction of shelters and transitional housing for women and survivors of intimate partner violence, including housing appropriate for Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and persons with disabilities, with a dedicated rural, remote, and northern (RRN) stream;
- B) That the Regional Municipality of Durham calls on the federal government to work with the provinces and territories to provide permanent operational funding, open to local governments and community organizations, for shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing for women and survivors of intimate partner violence, including Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and persons with disabilities; and

- C) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Durham Region Federal MPs, and relevant ministers, Provincial MPPs and relevant ministers, local area municipalities and local non-profits supporting victims of IPV.

5. Motion Requesting Immediate Federal Government Support for Asylum Claimants in Municipalities

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Whereas municipalities have been at the forefront of supporting asylum claimants and refugees and providing essential settlement and housing services;

Whereas the rapid and sharp increase of asylum claims in Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton and other municipalities, particularly in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), are putting municipal governments under significant pressure;

Whereas without federal action, asylum claimants will not have permanent shelter and housing options once they leave temporary accommodations, and the current crisis will continue to grow;

Whereas refugees and asylum claimants make up over 40% of Hamilton's population in shelters, and is creating massive pressure on Hamilton's already overwhelmed shelter system that is under resourced to meet the unique and complex needs of asylum claimants;

Whereas the supports provided to municipalities to receive asylum claimants are often short-term and focused on emergency response and shelter, but do not ensure permanent settlement and housing options for asylum claimants, including a focus on homeless prevention and long-term stability;

Whereas the crisis of asylum claimants has inextricable links to the housing, homelessness and mental health crises in Canada and the immense pressure on municipal shelter, transitional and supportive housing systems;

Whereas equity-deserving communities are disproportionately represented in asylum claimant populations seeking immediate necessary support which can also lead to further stigmatization and experiences of racism, discrimination, and harassment;

Whereas action on behalf of the federal government and investing in supports to combat racism, specifically anti-Black racism, is imperative as asylum seekers commonly face racism and other forms of discrimination and hate;

Whereas municipalities across Canada are committed to fostering diverse, inclusive and welcoming communities for all individuals seeking asylum and tackling anti-Black racism and other forms of racism;

Whereas Hamilton, Toronto and other municipalities in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) have been advocating for additional federal supports for asylum claimants over the past year;

Now therefore be it resolved:

That the Regional Municipality of Durham strongly urge the federal government to take immediate action to support asylum claimants in Canadian municipalities by taking the following actions:

- A) Immediately provide financial support and reimbursements directly to municipalities to address the immediate short-term needs of asylum claimants and refugees through top-ups to the Canada Housing Benefit and the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP);
- B) An ongoing commitment of Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) funding to address estimated annual costs for refugees in 2024, and commit to future funding until the demand for shelter returns to sustainable levels;
- C) Collaborate with municipal governments to develop a long-term strategy to enhance capacity of local governments to effectively support asylum claimants and refugees, including through the development of tripartite agreements between municipalities, provinces and territories and the federal government to enhance cross-government coordination in providing immediate supports to asylum claimants;
- D) Recognizing that the rise in asylum seeking populations pursuing refuge in Canada is occurring in the midst of a housing crisis, provide additional funding through National Housing Strategy programs and the Canada Housing Benefit to support asylum claimants in the medium- and long-term;
- E) Broaden the eligibility for federally-funded settlement services to include asylum claimants who currently can only access provincially-funded services and also that settlement services be funded to support newcomers with housing searches as at present they are mostly limited to orientation, language instruction, and employment;
- F) Extend and make permanent the Rapid Housing Initiative with another intake in 2024/25 to enable municipalities to invest in supportive housing on an urgent basis and relieve pressure on the shelter system, and work with the provinces and territories to ensure that supportive units have wrap-around health and social supports and long-term operating funding; and
- G) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Durham Region Federal MPs and relevant ministers, Provincial MPPs and relevant ministers, and local area municipalities.

6. Motion Requesting Federal Government Support for Food Banks

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Whereas financial and affordability pressures related to soaring mortgage and rent costs, inflated grocery costs, stagnating wages, and limited avenues for social assistance have pushed significantly more people toward food insecurity;

Whereas people with fixed incomes, including seniors and social assistance recipients, are at extremely high risk of food insecurity and continue to struggle disproportionately as their dollars are being spread thinner;

Whereas challenges are also continuing to grow for working people, renters, and people living in remote and northern regions of Canada;

Whereas racialized Canadians are disproportionately impacted by each of these factors, as the systemic barriers they face have been further exacerbated by the economic and affordability crisis of the past few years;

Whereas food banks were established as a temporary solution to the increasing cost of food and needs in the community but are now part of a system that government and communities heavily and increasingly rely on;

Whereas it has been more than a full year since Food Banks Canada sounded the alarms in the HungerCount 2022 report, calling for action to be taken immediately to help the millions of struggling Canadians from coast to coast to coast;

Where the Food Banks Canada report from March 2023, indicates that nearly 2 million Canadians accessed food banks across the country, a 32 per cent increase from March 2022 and a 78.5 per cent increase from March 2019, which is the highest year-over-year increase in usage ever reported;

Whereas the “Emergency Food Security Fund” was established by the Federal Government to address urgent needs during the pandemic but food insecurity has only worsened, and the Federal Government no longer has a program to provide ongoing support to Food Banks;

Whereas the majority of support received by food banks is through community fundraising and donations but given financial pressures faced by individuals, these donations are declining;

Whereas in certain communities, people who were donating to food banks are now instead accessing the food bank;

Whereas the need to address the food insecurity crisis touches on many of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) focus areas, including the Inclusive Communities focus area;

Now therefore be it resolved:

That the Regional Municipality of Durham calls on the Federal Government to help address the food insecurity crisis by providing emergency funding for the purchase of locally sourced food products to food banks, food rescue agencies, and farmers markets providing emergency food assistance, and recognize the systemic issues involved in food bank usage, including affordability, inequality, core housing need and insufficient social supports, in order to end food insecurity; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Durham Region Federal MPs and relevant ministers, Provincial MPPs and relevant ministers and local area municipalities.

7. Motion Regarding Harassment of Elected Local Government Officials

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Whereas in recent years, there has been an alarming rise in incidents of harassment, intimidation and acts of violence aimed at elected local government officials, compounding the already strenuous work conditions faced by many local leaders and hindering their retention;

Whereas women, particularly Black and racialized women, are disproportionately targeted by violence and harassment toward elected officials;

Whereas increasing the number of elected women, Black and racialized, and 2SLGBTQIA+ representatives in Canada is a priority for local governments and the federal government;

Whereas severe abuse, both online and in-person, has the potential to discourage underrepresented groups from joining and remaining engaged in local politics, limiting the diversity of opinion needed in healthy democracies;

Whereas all elected officials have an ability to show leadership on this issue by modeling behaviour, and should always strive to elevate debate, embrace differences of opinion, disagree respectfully and focus on issues of policy and substance;

Now therefore be it resolved:

- A) That the Regional Municipality of Durham request that the federal government work with provinces, territories, and local governments, including through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to identify and implement measures to protect elected local government officials, their family members, and staff – especially women, members of Black and racialized communities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous people – from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy; and

- B) That the Region of Durham calls on all elected officials of all orders of government to lead by example, demonstrating civility and mutual respect for their political counterparts; and
- C) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Durham Region Federal MPs, Provincial MPPs, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario and local area municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Henry, Regional Chair and CEO